



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A SWIMMING POOL OR A SEWAGE TANK? The National Swimming Pool in Mirpur has been the subject of total indifference by its owner National Sports Council for the last couple of months. With the pump out of order, the otherwise fresh water has become stinky and allowed algae to grow. Not only that due to lack of maintenance the whole complex is unfit for any swimming. Just imagine the national championship is supposed to be staged here in the first week of October.



English League clubs officially used numbers on their jerseys for the first time on 25 August 1928. It proved the simplest and quickest way to identify the players the teams fielded. FIFA would later make the use of numbers obligatory at their Congress in Luxembourg in 1946. At the time, it was commonplace to see players with a number on their back as it not only facilitated refereeing but also the identification of players by watching journalists. It was only over time that the different numbers came to be used to designate positions on the pitch: No 9 became centre-forward, No 2 right back, No 3 left back. Certain numbers also became associated with the stars of the day, but with the subsequent need to allocate a set shirt number to each player in a competition, the symbolic significance of the shirt number gradually passed.



Andrew Flintoff
(England all-rounder)

"I am more confident and I know my game a lot better, the way I play, and I am a bit more mature on and off the pitch."



ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8.30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Magazine show
Taped at 9 pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline
Live at 8 pm
US Open tennis
Live at 9 pm

Harmison harms India



AFP, London

England fast bowler Stephen Harmison took a career-best one-day return of four for 22 as India were bowled out for 204 in the third one-day international at Lord's here Sunday.

India captain Sourav Ganguly, with 90 and Rahul Dravid, 52, were the only batsman to score more than 14 after the left-hander won the toss.

India, already 2-0 down in the three-game series, collapsed to 48 for three before a fourth-wicket stand of 93 between the experienced duo revived the innings in front of a capacity 28,500 crowd soaking up the sunshine.

During the innings veteran quick Darren Gough (two for 41) became the first Englishman and 19th player overall to take 200 one-day international wickets.

Ganguly opened with Venkatsai Laxman, the out-of-form Virender Sehwag dropping down to number four.

Sehwag, who had only made three 50s in his last 21 one-day international innings, was demoted after managing just four and nought in the first two games of this series.

But the re-shaped top order, still without Sachin Tendulkar whose

elbow injury ruled him out of the Champions Trophy which starts in England on Friday, saw three wickets lost in 14 overs.

And two of those fell in left-arm spinner Ashley Giles' first over.

But Laxman (nine) went first, unable to get the bat down in time on a superb yorker from Harmison.

Then Mohammad Kaif, who had made fifties in the seven-wicket and 70 runs defeats at Trent Bridge on Wednesday and The Oval on Friday respectively, fell for just two after a run-out mix-up with his captain.

Kaif's exit brought in Sehwag. But to his second ball and Giles' sixth, Sehwag chipped a tame return catch and was caught and bowled for one.

Ganguly, who had lofted Gough for six over long-on and struck paceman Alex Wharf for four over extra-cover, kept an end going with a 76-ball fifty.

England captain Michael Vaughan, an occasional off-spinner, had brought himself on to bowl on a wearing pitch with all-rounder Andrew Flintoff missing this match to be in hospital with his pregnant girlfriend.

Ganguly swept Vaughan for six but best shot was a high, straight six off medium-pace Paul Collingwood.

However, 10 runs short of his first one-day international hundred since his 111 not out against Kenya in the

World Cup semi-final at Durban in March 2003, Ganguly fell when he smotted Harmison to Vaughan at mid-wicket.

Dravid, whose initial 30 runs had all been singles, then cut an Alex Wharf no-ball for his first boundary before a single off the Glamorgan quick took him to an 85-ball fifty with three fours.

India's last seven wickets fell for 63 runs with Gough reaching the 200-mark when Harbhajan Singh was caught at backward point by Vaughan for nought.

Dravid became Harmison's fourth wicket when he was well caught by the bowler's Durham teammate Collingwood at backward point.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the India innings in the third and final NatWest Challenge one-day international against England at Lord's on Sunday:

INDIA	
Ganguly c Vaughan b Harmison	90
Laxman b Harmison	9
Kaif run out	2
Sehwag c and b Giles	1
Dravid c Collingwood b Harmison	52
Yuvraj c Giles b Wharf	9
Karthik c Jones b Harmison	1
Harbhajan c Vaughan b Gough	0
Pathan b Wharf	14
Kumble c Wharf b Gough	5

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Cricketers play USA today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh play their first official build-up match ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy against newcomers USA at Imber Court in London today.

The Tigers will be desperately looking to put behind the shock four-wicket defeat at the hands of Scotland two days ago.

So far, they have beaten Ireland twice and Scotland once in their build-up for the September 10-25 Trophy.

Rajin Saleh's men are expected to play one more practice match against a Combined Yorkshire Eleven on September 9 in the northern English town of Kimberly.

Bangladesh meet South Africa in their opening ICC Champions Trophy fixture on September 12 at Edgbaston before taking on West

Rajib back to winning ways

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib returned to winning track when he beat Shakil in the eighth round of the Destiny-2000 Open FIDE Rating Chess Tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Rajib, with seven points, shared the lead with IM Abdullah Al Rakib, who beat Parag, and Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, who defeated Javed.

Aminul Islam Palash with a win over Mustafa secured the second position with 6.5 points.

In the other eighth round matches, Monir beat Ali, Monir Khan beat Debaraj, Lavlu beat Tarik, Emon beat Moni, Shabab beat Reza, Uten beat Khurshed and Amin drew with Delwar.

ICC names award after Sir Gary

AFP, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is to rename its player-of-the-year award The Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy after the legendary West Indies all-rounder.

The award will be presented as such for the first time at the annual ICC Awards ceremony in London on Wednesday.

Sobers, who was knighted for his services to cricket in 1975, said: "It is a great honour to have this award named after me."

"I have been fortunate to enjoy a long association with a game that I and millions of others around the world cherish, and I appreciate this

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Bright Bangladesh



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under 17 team made an impressive start to their AFC Under-17 Football Championship campaign in Japan when they held highly rated Uzbekistan to a 1-1 draw at Fukushima yesterday.

Coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo's boys went a goal behind early in the game but they bounced back after the breather and were rather unlucky not to pick up full points as they were twice denied by the woodwork.

Zahid struck the equaliser in the 53rd minute heading home a corner.

Starting the match as underdogs the teenagers from Bangladesh

projected a refreshingly different picture on the field and fought neck to neck with their superior central Asian rivals who are one of the favourites to reach the final round in Peru in 2005.

But it was the Uzbeks who drew first blood in the 10th minute courtesy of a stunning 50-yard scorcher from one of their central defender.

The goal spurred the Bangladeshis into going on the offensive and Zahid was a constant threat. The lanky forward however spoiled two easy chances in either half. After a close miss in the 15th minute, he saw his powerful drive ricochet off the side post minutes before he got the equaliser.

Rajon was also unlucky as his shot rammed the crossbar just before the lemon break.

"This was a fantastic result for us. The boys played extremely well

after conceding the early goal," said Bangladesh manager Imtiaz Sultan Johnny while talking to The Daily Star Sports over telephone.

"It was a pleasure to see them dominating a superior opposition. It is difficult for me to narrate to someone who has not watched the match just how good our youngsters played. But I can tell you one thing, if they are given proper support, Bangladeshi players can compete on par with top Asian nations," said the elated former Bangladesh central defender.

Johnny was just a touch disappointed that no Bangladeshi expatriate was there to cheer the team on at the venue which was around 300 miles from Tokyo.

Coach Shantoo had gone to bed early after an absorbing day in the field and was not available for com-

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Abahani-BU again

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani and Brothers Union ensured a rematch in one of the two semifinals on Tuesday when the two Dhaka giants played out a goalless draw in the final super six match of the Fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League yesterday.

With a place in the last four already guaranteed, both teams, who had been involved in two thrilling Premier League encounters earlier this year, were understandably understrength when they met at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The two heavyweights, in an effort to retain their arsenal for the

knockout phase, fielded second string sides. Still Brothers tried to play positive against a defensive minded Abahani because to them be it the Sky Blues again or the Black and Whites it would have made little difference.

However at the end of the goalless encounter Abahani and their bitter rivals Mohammedan were happy to avoid each other in the semifinals.

Mohammedan will now take on defending champions Mukti Jodha Sangsad in the first semi, starting at 3pm also on Tuesday.

Mukti Jodha finished the six-team finals atop the table with ten points, followed by Brothers (9), Abahani (9) and Mohammedan (6).

Going into the last match, Premier League champions Brothers also held an edge over

Abahani by virtue of scoring more goals after both teams ended on equal goal-difference.

Brothers, who drew 3-3 and lost 2-1 to Abahani in the league, were the stronger team boasting as many as seven national stars and dominated the show against the popular Dhanmondi outfit, which rested three first-team players -- Joy, Shawkat and Pranotosh. Injured Rakib and Colly Barnes were also missing but Nigerian marksman Colly did appear for the last three minutes.

The Oranges, despite enjoying superior ball possession, failed to make any impact on Abahani's inexperienced defence, which was brilliantly marshalled by their energetic sweeper-back Mahmudul Hassan.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

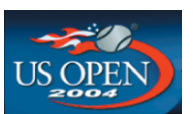


PHOTO: STAR

A goalmouth melee in the Abahani box during yesterday's Fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League match against Brothers Union.

Sharapova shocked

REUTERS, New York



Roger Federer and Andre Agassi stayed on course for a quarterfinal showdown at the US Open on Saturday, but Maria Sharapova and Carlos Moya were heading home after shock third-round exits.

As the year's final Grand Slam began to heat up women's top seed Justine Henin-Hardenne also advanced to the fourth round where she was joined by in-form Lindsay Davenport who notched her 20th consecutive victory.

World number one Federer oozed class against unorthodox Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, winning 6-0, 6-4, 7-6 to move closer to becoming the first man to win three major titles in the same year since Mats Wilander in 1988.

After a blip in the previous round against Cypriot qualifier Marcos Baghdatis, Federer was back to his flowing best to reach the last 16 where he will face Romanian Andrei Pavel.

"Today I was feeling good, my forehand was working and my serve was there when I needed it," said Federer, who is looking for revenge over Agassi after he was thrashed by the American in the fourth round in 2001.

"It's still a match away from it but it would be nice to play him here, at the Open, to get my revenge

because he got me badly the last time," added Federer, who has never been beyond the fourth round.

Agassi, the oldest man in the draw at 34, demolished Czech Jiri Novak 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 to reach the fourth round for the 14th time of his extraordinary career.

The sixth seed dished out a 92-

minute lesson to Novak, who had no answer to the sixth seed's laser-guided groundstrokes.

"I turned a corner I needed to turn going into the second week," Agassi said.

"To beat a player like Novak in straight sets is a very good match for me.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP

SAD DAY: Wimbledon queen Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return during her match against France's Mary Pierce at the US Open on September 4.