



Did U Know?

Once every two years England and Australia play a Test series, alternately in England and Australia, called the 'Ashes'. They came to be called the 'Ashes' when Australia first beat England in England, and the balls used were burned, and their ashes were preserved. These ashes are stored at the cricket museum at Lord's cricket ground in London, and a replica of their container serves as a reward for the 'Ashes'.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Football Crazy
Live at 5:00pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline
Live at 8:00pm
US Open Tennis
Live at 9:00pm



Imran Khan
(Pakistan cricket legend)

"ICC should concentrate on disciplining the players, coaches and managers who are directly involved, even the heads of the boards can be checked but restricting officials like selectors is over policing." While lashing out at the game's ruling body's move to bar honorary cricket officials from questioning wrong umpiring decisions.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post **The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 10, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?	Galkina	Devers
2. Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?	India	Pakistan
3. Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title?	Federer	Henman
4. Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey crown?	Usha	MSC
	Army	Bangladesh
Name		
Class	Roll No.	
School Address		
Phone: (if any)		

BKSP's big win

BSS, Dhaka

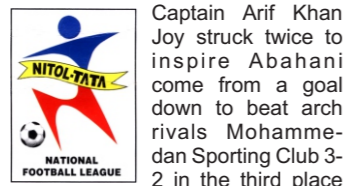
BKSP dumped Udayan School 80-30 in a one-sided match of the AKTEL School Basketball tournament at the Dhanmendi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 36-14. Russel and Shaown were the top BKSP scorers with 19 points each with Imon adding 16 to the total.

In the day's other matches Bangladesh International School beat Fariuddin Siddiqui School 41-12 and St Joseph High School posted a 56-30 win over Maple Leaf.

Abahani Joy in grudge match

SPORTS REPORTER



Captain Arif Khan Joy struck twice to inspire Abahani come from a goal down to beat arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club 3-2 in the third place deciding match of the 4th Nitol-Tata National Football League yesterday.

The victory in the grudge match gave Abahani something to cheer about 24 hours after their heart-breaking defeat against Brother Union, who pulled off an exciting 2-1 win in the second semifinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

For Mohammedan it was a double blow after their 2-0 defeat against holders Mukhtijodha, who are set to take Premier League champions Brothers what promises to be a classic final at the same venue today.

Mohammedan took the lead in the very third minute when their midfielder Amin Rana, just to prove that his omission from the starting line up in the first semis was a tactical blunder, fired a spectacular right-

footer that entered the net hitting the far post.

But Abahani, who were denied of a clear penalty inside the first minute of the seesaw match after Mohammedan defender Shuvra tripped Khokon in the goalmouth, bounced back through their shaven headed midfielder Joy.

The workhorse timed a 25th minute corner by Parvez to perfection as he soared to take a glancing header before Mohammedan custodian Bijan Barua could react.

Two minutes before the break, Khokon scored his sixth goal in the run when the Abahani striker beat Bijan with a diving header after meeting a low cross by Nayan.

Mohammedan however refused to die without a fight and the Black and Whites made 2-2 on the hour when Manju nodded in a free-kick by Pappu.

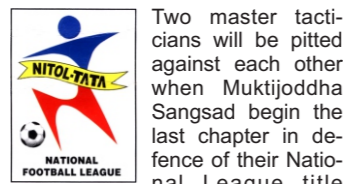
But Joy made the night a memorable one when he struck the match-winner six minutes later stabbing home a rebound after Bijan partially parried off a Khokon close-range effort. For a rare double in a match and that too against his former club

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Final: Mukhtijodha v Brothers Union

Showdown of master minds

SPORTS REPORTER



Two master tacticians will be pitted against each other when Mukhtijodha Sangsad begin the last chapter in defence of their National League title against debutants Brothers Union in the final of the 4th Nitol-Tata National Football League today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Bangladesh Television will telecast the final live from 4:10 pm.

After a grueling seven-week journey, Shafiqul Islam Manik's Mukhtijodha and Syed Naimuddin's Brothers are the last teams standing having eliminated local heavyweights Mohammedan and Abahani.

Former Indian national team coach Naimuddin, who has all the necessary experience to guide a team at this level, did not even need any foreign player to see the Gopibagh outfit through to the final undefeated. The wily veteran will be eager to add another feather to his cap after delivering the Premier

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THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! Brothers coach Syed Naimuddin (left) and his Mukhtijodha counterpart Shafiqul Islam Manik (right) briefing the players yesterday on the eve of the National Football League final.

Aussies aware of dangerous Kiwis



REUTERS, London

World champions Australia come into the ICC Champions Trophy as hot favourites but their group decider with New Zealand will be a tough battle compared to the prospect of facing rank outsiders the United States.

Australia warmed up for the tournament with victory in last month's Netherlands triangular tournament and also edged out Pakistan in a one-off game at Lord's on Saturday.

Shane Warne has retired from the one-day game but 34-year-old Glenn McGrath should spearhead the attack in what could be his last one-day tournament.

Andrew Symonds particularly impressed with bat and ball in the warm ups, hitting 104 on Saturday and taking some crucial wickets.

"We had a short break soon after arriving in the UK, and since then have had some good quality prac-

tice so the boys are feeling fresh leading into the month ahead," captain Ricky Ponting said.

New Zealand are not a team packed with stars but are one of the best units in the competition. Stephen Fleming is an articulate leader who can alter his batting style if the situation demands.

They centered to victory in the triangular series in England in July and are used to the pitches, with medium pacer Scott Styris being surprisingly effective.

Qualifiers the United States will rely on former West Indies Test and one-day batsman Clayton Lambert, 42, alongside various other expatriates.

All rounder Tony Reid, also 42, had trouble reaching England when a hurricane delayed his departure from Florida but after the trouncing they are expected to receive he might wonder why he bothered.

GROUP A GAMES

Sept 10: NZ v USA, The Oval
Sept 13: Aus v USA, Rose Bowl
Sept 16: Aus v NZ, The Oval

Sachin loss may matter for India



REUTERS, London

India meet Pakistan in the last and most mouthwatering clash of the ICC Champions Trophy group stages but the joint-holders must cope without top batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who is suffering from tennis elbow.

The game at Edgbaston on September 19 is a sell-out but both sides must first negotiate Kenya, who surprisingly advanced to the semi-finals of last year's World Cup.

Pakistan beat India by 66 runs in their last one-day meeting in the Netherlands triangular tournament last month before India lost 2-1 to England last week in another warm-up series.

Pace bowling has been a problem for India but Ashish Nehra and Lakshmi Bhalaji both showed with three wicket hauls in the warm-up games they are ready to step up.

Key batsman Rahul Dravid had been acting as wicketkeeper but in the last one-dayer against England,

which India won by 23 runs, 19-year-old Dinesh Karthik took the gloves and looked impressive.

Pakistan lost to Australia twice prior to the tournament but periodically had the world champions in trouble.

"Overall the team performance was good. The main thing is finishing," captain Inzamam-ul-Haq said. "I think it (the India match) is a big game and we will try our level best. But the Indian team is very good."

Kenya were rocked by the suspension of Maurice Odupe, originally named in the squad, for liaising with bookmakers but if anything the controversy has brought them closer together.

"We named Maurice as he was innocent until proven guilty," said captain Steve Tikolo, who is stepping down after the tournament. "What has happened is disappointing to Kenyan cricket as a whole but we have a chance to rise up from the disappointment."

GROUP C GAMES

Sept 11: India v Kenya, Rose Bowl
Sept 14: Pak v Kenya, Edgbaston
Sept 19: India v Pak, Edgbaston



WALL OF THE WORLD: Indian batsman Rahul Dravid smiles while he sits in front of his two trophies at the ICC Awards ceremony in London on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Dravid the best of 'em all



AFP, London

India batsman Rahul Dravid was crowned Player of the Year and Test Player of the Year at the inaugural International Cricket Council (ICC) awards at Alexandra Palace here Tuesday.

And there was further joy for India when left-arm quick Irfan Pathan was crowned Emerging Player of the Year.

Meanwhile England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff was chosen as One-Day International Player of the Year.

Although world champions Australia, also the world's best Test team, did not win any of the individual awards -- apart from Simon Taufel's Umpire of the Year - they did see captain Ricky



ANDREW FLINTOFF

Ponting chosen to lead both Test and One-Day International Teams of the Year.



IRFAN PATHAN

In total five players made it into both Test and one-day sides with three from Australia -- Ponting,

wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist and fast bowler Jason Gillespie.

Sri Lanka quick Chaminda Vaas and South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis also made it into both teams.

In the year under consideration, from August 1 2003 to July 31 2004, 31-year-old Dravid scored 1,241 runs in nine matches at an average of 95.46.

That included a Test-best 270 against Pakistan in April. In the vote taken from the ICC's voting academy, which included all 10 current Test captains, Dravid polled 82 votes.

"It's unbelievable really," Dravid said on receiving his Player of the Year award, the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy named in honour of the great West Indian all-rounder.

"I think better preparation and a more relaxed state of mind have

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Win or nothing for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh face an uphill task to stay in the race for a quarterfinal berth in the AFC Youth (Under-17) Football Championship when they face Iraq today.

In their last group match, Bangladesh who have drawn 1-1 with Uzbekistan and lost 6-1 to top-of-the-table Qatar, must beat Iraq to qualify for the last eight.

Qatar lead group D with six points while Iraq have three points and Bangladesh one.

Both the group matches today will start at Bangladesh time 12 noon with Qatar playing Uzbekistan at the J Village Stadium and Bangladesh facing Iraq at Koriyama.

On Tuesday, Qatar recovered from conceding an early goal against underdogs Bangladesh and scored six second-half goals to record a 6-1 win which sent them through to the last eight.

The Bangladeshis stunned their opponents by taking the lead at the J-Village Stadium after only nine minutes, courtesy of a header by midfielder Rajan Mia.

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Invitational hockey could be delayed

SPORTS REPORTER

The start of the Invitational 5-Nation International Hockey tournament is expected to be delayed by three days.

The tournament, scheduled to start from September 27, will now begin on September 30 if the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) does not object to the deferment.

"We have taken the decision to honour the request of the sports minister," said Bangladesh Hockey Federation's (BHF) general secretary Shamsul Bari yesterday.

Bari explained that BHF president Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam will be abroad from September 18-29 and. Therefore the State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman has requested the BHF to shift the date to facilitate Azam's presence.

"We can not take the decision

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A fight for recognition



REUTERS, London

The ICC Champions Trophy begins in England on Friday with the game's administrators hoping the competition captures the imagination.

The second biggest one-day tournament after the World Cup has struggled to assert itself on a calendar swamped with one-day fixtures.

Nevertheless all the major cricket-playing nations will compete alongside Kenya and qualifiers the

United States to make up a tournament whose main advantage over the four-yearly World Cup is the sparsity of dead-rubber matches.

The 12 teams are split into four pools of three for the group stage with games played at The Oval, Edgbaston and the Rose Bowl in Southampton. The pool winners then compete in semifinals before the final at The Oval on September 25.

World champions Australia are favourites, although they are starting to feel their age and must beat combative rivals New Zealand to progress, assuming both hammer the United States.

India and Sri Lanka shared the trophy in 2002 after the final in

Colombo was washed out and both return with realistic ambitions of retaining the title, especially Sri Lanka after their 5-0 drubbing at home to South Africa last month.

Sri Lanka's biggest hindrance will be the loss of spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

"Murali is a great bowler but without him the other bowlers have a responsibility to do well," said former captain Sanath Jayasuriya.

India too must do without their talisman, Sachin Tendulkar, after he was ruled out of with tennis elbow.

They meet Pakistan in the last match of the group stages on

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Second sister ousted too

REUTERS, New York



Jennifer Capriati and Elena Dementieva claimed semifinal spots at the U.S. Open

after a day of drama, controversy and magical tennis.

Russian sixth seed Dementieva showed incredible courage, battling against a strained thigh, stomach pains and her own serving demons to end second seed Amelie Mauresmo's dream of a first Grand Slam title with a 4-6 6-4 7-6 victory.

But the real fireworks came later on Tuesday on a crackling Arthur Ashe Court when eighth seed Capriati downed twice former champion Serena Williams 2-6 6-4 6-4 after two hours six minutes of unrelenting theatre.

That was followed by another awesome display of power by defending men's champion Andy Roddick as he blazed past Spain's Tommy Robredo 6-3 6-2 6-4 to advance to the last eight.

The 17th meeting between the old foes had everything the crowd could have asked for as two of the heavyweights of women's tennis went toe-to-toe under the Flushing Meadows lights.

Third seed Williams took the first set with two service breaks but the 28-year-old Capriati recovered her senses in time to set up a thrilling,



DON'T YOU SEE IT? American Serena Williams disputes a call during her fourth round engagement against Jennifer Capriati at the US Open on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

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