



Did U Know?

Women's shooting events were first included in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. There were three events — three position rifle, air rifle and sport pistol.



ESPN

Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Bilbao
Repeat at 3:00 pm
FA Cup
Spurs vs Nottingham Forest
Live at 9:00 pm
Primera Liga
Villareal vs Atletico Madrid
Live at 2:00 am (Monday)
STAR Sports
FA Cup
Burnley vs Blackburn
Live at 7:30 pm
Newcastle vs Chelsea
Live at 10:00 pm



Imran Khan

(Pakistan cricket legend)
"Cricket can further the peace process. Indian team and spectators were received so warmly last year and people here expect the same in India."
On the coming Indo-Pak series.

Sonargaon's promotion

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonargaon Cricketers earned their passage to the top flight of domestic leagues when they inflicted a 37-run defeat on Jatrabari Krira Chakra in their last match of the First Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

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Little Mehrab's ton can't avoid draw



SPORTS REPORTER

Young Mehrab Hossain hit his maiden first-class century but that was not enough for Dhaka to avoid a draw against Barisal at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The 17-year-old opening batsman struck an unbeaten 103 in Dhaka's second innings total of 202-4 declared. But Barisal, set to score 295 for victory, successfully negotiated the remaining 40 overs on the final day of the four-day match, scoring 107-2 to win their first point after their defeat in the first round against Khulna.

The other Sixth National Cricket League match between Rajshahi and Khulna also ended in a predictable draw at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

The result however ensured four points for Dhaka and Rajshahi because of their first-innings' lead.

Chittagong was the only team in the second round that secured an outright victory when the port city outfit handed Sylhet an innings and 64 runs defeat with a day to spare.

Chittagong joined Dhaka,

Rajshahi and Khulna at the top of the six-team table all having collected eight points after two rounds. Sylhet and Barisal, on the other hand, bagged two points each.

DHAKA-BARISAL

Although senior Mehrab missed a



MEHRAB JR.. 103 n.o.

hundred for just two runs, his junior namesake made no mistake to seize the opportunity.

Resuming the 11, the young left-hander raced to 103 off 160 balls with the help of nine boundaries.

Earlier, senior Mehrab, who is also the lone one-day centurion for Bangladesh, fell for 98 in Dhaka's

first innings on the second day.

Dhaka captain Khaled Mahmud, who was understandably disappointed with the slow start on the opening day, rightly decided to wait until Mehrab completed his century. But his hopes for something extraordinary after the declaration just before the tea never happened.

Paceman Mahbul Alam did make an initial breakthrough removing Sakib Chowdhury (4) and Mahmud trapped discarded national opener Hannan Sarker (7) lbw to reduce Barisal to 15-2. But Dhaka's early success ended at that point after Humayun Kabir and Shahin Hossain put on 92 runs for the unbroken third wicket.

KHULNA-RAJSHAH

A score of 209 in 48 overs is a total any team would have wanted to chase. But Rajshahi never accepted the challenge.

Worse, they lost half their wickets before limping to 84 at close.

The cricketers from the northern headquarters went into a defensive shell even after paceman Sumon Saha opened the prospect of interesting final day by claiming three quick wickets as Khulna, resuming on 155-4, were bundled out for 227.

Rajshahi played slowly after their opener Farhad Reza was dismissed

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PHOTO: AFP

IT'S ALL OVER: Premier Australia paceman Glenn McGrath is elated after claiming the last New Zealand wicket of Daryl Tuffey during the first one-day international at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington yesterday.

Dav wants performance

BCB XI off to Duleep Trophy



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore hoped that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven would perform at a certain level in India's premier first-class competition the Duleep Trophy.

"If we want to be a good team, we need to continue the form we've had in the last two months," the 50-year-old Australian said during a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium prior to the team's departure for Mumbai yesterday.

The BCB XI will take on Sourav Ganguly's East Zone in their first encounter that begins from February 22 in Jaipur and then face Mohammad Kaif's Central Zone in Nagpur from March 1.

Following the historic home series victory against Zimbabwe last month, there was now high expectation whenever any Bangladesh cricket team left for abroad.

"Certainly expectation is high especially after the recent performance of the national side. So, the boys are under a bit of pressure to maintain the success," added Whatmore, who is accompanying a second string Bangladesh side for the first time.

The Bangladesh coach also

thought the tournament would assist the national selectors ahead of the Tigers' maiden tour of England in May.

"It's nice to hear that some Bangladesh A team boys are performing very well in Zimbabwe. Now another strong side is going to take part in the Indian first-class competition," he said without elaborating.

Leading any Bangladesh selection for the first time in his career, gifted batsman Mohammad

Ashrafu told newsmen that he had no idea about his opponents in the competition.

"I only know the name of each captain. But I think it is not a major factor knowing who your opponents are because we've already faced some top Indian players when they toured here. This is a unique opportunity for us to prove ourselves," said the 20-year-old right-hander

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore addresses a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sachin to play in Duleep Trophy

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's Sachin Tendulkar will return from a long-term elbow injury in a domestic four-day match starting on Tuesday, improving his chances of playing in the home series against Pakistan starting next month.

The 31-year-old Tendulkar was sidelined for three months last year with tennis elbow and only returned to action in October.

He has not played competitive cricket since the end of the tour in Bangladesh in December.

The batsman said last month that he had been advised to rest for six weeks and was unsure if he would be ready for Pakistan.

"Sachin will definitely play the Duleep Trophy match in Hyderabad. He will also captain the West Zone

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Ctg zonal champs in Pepsi handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong became zonal champions in the Pepsi 17th national handball championship when they beat Bandarban 24-21 in the final at the outer stadium handball court yesterday.

The first half was locked at 13-13.

Earlier in the morning, Chittagong beat Munshiganj 21-10 and Bandarban defeated Kurigram 31-2 to reach the final.

Meanwhile, Munshiganj finished third beating Kurigram 15-13.

McGrath deals death blow



AFP, Wellington

Paceman Glenn McGrath led Australia to a 10-run win over New Zealand in a thrilling one-day cricket international here Saturday, as a late New Zealand charge faltered with the last three wickets falling for just two runs.

As Australia defended a score of 236, McGrath finished with four for 16 after ending his first spell with the exceptional figures of one wicket for seven runs from seven overs.

He fittingly ended the match when he bowled Daryl Tuffey for one

with eight balls remaining to dismiss New Zealand for 226.

New Zealand batsman Hamish Marshall was so nearly the hero, cracking 79 off 69 balls at No.6 after the hosts had slumped to 73 for four in the 26th over.

Marshall hit seven fours to top-score after opener Nathan Astle set things rolling with 65.

Needing a run rate of 4.72 per over, New Zealand's top order staggered after an outstanding opening spell by McGrath while speedster Brett Lee captured the prized wicket of captain Stephen Fleming.

The required rate ballooned to 12 an over before Marshall anchored a recovery that saw New Zealand

needing a run a ball from the last 13 balls and with three wickets in hand before McGrath mopped up the tail.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting opted to bat first after winning the toss and following a promising start, in which he featured in a 133-run second wicket partnership with Matthew Hayden, Scott Styris ripped through the top order to leave with tourists with what seemed a less than par score.

Styris halted Australia's momentum when they were 140 for one, and his dismissal of Hayden for 71 started a collapse that saw the next five wickets fall for 20 runs in the space of eight overs.

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Pakistan turn to Arshad



AFP, Lahore

Off-spinner Arshad Khan was recalled after five years in the wilderness for Pakistan's tour of India on Saturday following fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's withdrawal with hamstring trouble.

The 34-year-old, who played the last of his eight Tests against England at Faisalabad in 2000, will bolster Pakistan attack already weakened by the loss of injured fast bowlers Shabbir Ahmed and Umer Gul.

The 16-man Test squad has three openers, five specialist middle-order batsmen, two all-rounders in Shahid Afridi and Abdul Razzaq, two spinners and three frontline fast bowlers. Kamran Akmal will be the only

SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan (vice-captain), Yousuf Youhana, Taufeeq Umar, Yasir Hameed, Salman Butt, Asim Kamal, Abdul Razzaq, Kamran Akmal, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi, Danish Kaneria, Arshad Khan, Mohammad Sami, Navedul Hasan, Mohammad Khalil.

wicketkeeper after veterans Moin Khan and Rashid Latif were overlooked for a second consecutive tour.

Inzamamul Haq will lead the squad but middle-order batsman Younis Khan has replaced Yousuf Youhana as vice-captain in an apparent move to groom Younis.

"This is the best available squad," chief selector Wasim Bari told AFP.

"We hope that the young bowlers live up to the expectations and make up for Shoaib Akhtar's loss.

"We had quite a few options and after consultation with captain Inzamam and coach Bob Woolmer,

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