



**BEAT ME IF YOU CAN:** An airborne Muktiyoddha custodian Aminul makes a spectacular save as Mohammedan striker Intiaz Ahmed Nakib (L) and Kanchan look on during their final Group A clash of the Independence Day Gold Cup Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



## Did U Know?

Younis Khan (147 & 0) became the second batsman (both from Pakistan) to have recorded a hundred and a duck in the same Test match at the Eden Gardens. Saeed Anwar (0 & 188 not out) was the first batsman to do so at this venue.



## Bob Woolmer

(Pakistan cricket coach)

"I suppose India fared better than us for most of the Test. They deserved to win and it's now our turn to stage a comeback and we can do that in the final Test."

## What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Chelsea vs Crystal Palace  
Live at 12:30 pm

**Sportsline**  
Live at 8:00 pm

**Brazilian Football**  
Santo Andre vs Santos FC  
Live at 5:30 am (Thursday)



**Ispahani Sixth Nat'l Cricket League**  
(Four-Dayer, Day Four)  
Sylhet vs Barisal  
Venue: Sylhet Stadium  
Khulna vs Chittagong  
Venue: KDVS

**Independence Day Gold Cup**  
Brothers vs YMC F'pool (3:00 pm)  
Abahani vs Farashganj (5:00 pm)  
Venue: BNS

# Belal throws MSC off balance

## Football

**Muktijoddha-3  
Mohammedan-1**

### SPORTS REPORTER

Belal continued to bewitch fans and foes alike with his torpedo-like throws as Muktiyoddha Sangsad thumped down a 3-1 defeat on Mohammedan in the final Group-A clash of the Independence Day Gold Cup Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Muktiyoddha left-back, who gave throw-in a new meaning in domestic football, scored the first goal with his strong pair of hands and then set up the other for Kanchan as Muktiyoddha were leading 2-0 by the 15th minute.

The Reds made it 3-0 ten minutes before the break when their Nigerian forward Paul Nwachukwu saw his bending low cross sail into the net, giving Mohammedan custodian Biplab no chance to react.

Muktiyoddha's three-goal cushion at the halfway mark opened up the prospect of another humiliation for a crowd-puller just 24 hours after Abahani's embarrassing 4-0 defeat to Brothers Union.

But Korean striker Kim Zeu's consolation goal in the second half spared the black and whites' blushes, who finished runners-up with six points.

Both teams had secured semi-finals spots before the match and Muktiyoddha ended on maximum nine points with three wins. They however, will miss their playmaker Arman Mia in the semifinal after the midfielder was sent off in the 73rd minute. He was making vehement

protests against Mohammedan's goal when referee Abdur Rakib showed him a second yellow card, prompting his marching order.

The match was also a showdown between country's two best goalkeepers and Muktiyoddha's Biplab won the bragging rights by a distance over Mohammedan's Biplab, who was all at sea before being taken off by Mohammedan's South Korean coach Man Young Kang after conceding the third goal.

The nery Biplab was responsible for the first goal when Belal's powerful throw from the right went amazingly through his gloves in the 11th minute.

Belal's goal can be described as a rare incident at any level of football.

Four minutes later, Kanchan received Belal's measured throw

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# Inzamam wants a gift in his century of Tests

## AFP, Bangalore



Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq wants his teammates to rise to the occasion in his 100th Test with an improved performance in the third and final match against India starting here on Thursday.

"We need a combined effort to win the Test. It will be an icing on the cake if we do it on my 100th Test appearance," said Inzamam as Pakistan attempt to level the series after losing the second Test in Kolkata on Sunday.

The first Test ended in a draw at Mohali.

The 35-year-old Inzamam, who made his Test debut in England in 1992, said nothing would make the occasion more memorable than a win.

"When you achieve victory and that too against India, it is always something special. I can't wish anything more on this occasion," the Multan-born Pakistan captain told AFP in an interview.

Inzamam, leading a young team on Pakistan's first tour of India in six years, said he was satisfied with its performance in the previous two Tests.

"We were described as underdogs and the weakest team, but we have played well," said Inzamam, who has scored 7,238 runs in 99 Tests with 20 centuries and 10,631 runs.

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## HEAD-TO-HEAD AT CHINNASWAMY

Won by	Won by	Drawn	Tied	Total
India	Pakistan			
0	1	2	0	3



**WILL HE STAND TALL HERE?** Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq walks into the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore for practice yesterday.

# Cricket team's new physio arrives

## SPORTS REPORTER

Paul Plose, the new physiotherapist of Bangladesh national cricket team, arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

The Tigers, who were without a physiotherapist since the end of John Gloster's stint, had been temporarily aided by fellow Australian Robbie Hunt during the home series against India and Zimbabwe.

The first assignment for Plose, who also is an Australian but was born in New Zealand, will be next May's tour of England where Bangladesh play two Tests and then feature in a one-day tri-series that also includes Australia.

"The BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) will sign a contract with him (Plose) after chief executive Macky Mahmud returns from vacation. The new physio will accompany the team in England, but it was yet to be decided whether the contract will be for two years or a shorter one," said Ali Asif Khan, vice-president of the cricket operation committee of BCB.

# Fed Cup 2nd round from April 12

## SPORTS REPORTER

The second round of the Tibet Federation Cup Football Tournament will begin on April 12 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Eight teams -- Mohammedan SC, Abahani, Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC, Brothers Union, Sheikh Russel KC, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and Arambagh KS -- will split into two groups to take part in the round.

Two top teams from each group will progress to the semifinals.

# Army beat Police in hockey meet opener

## SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Police 4-1 in the inaugural match of the Independence Day hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 3-1.

Siraj struck twice while Abu Sayeed and Enamul Haque netted once each for the winners. Rahat Sarwar pulled one back for the vanquished.

# Nat'l TT starts on April 23

## SPORTS REPORTER

The 27th National Table Tennis Championships will begin on April 23 at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

Fourteen events will be decided in the six-day meet with two open events for under-12 boys and girls have been incorporated for the first time.

Interested players have been asked to send their entries to the federation by April 13.

# Sonargaon champs

## SPORTS REPORTER

Sonargaon Cricketers handed Partex Sporting Club an 82-run defeat to become champions in the Age Group-17 Cricket Development Tournament at the Gulshan Youth Club ground yesterday.

Arafat scored 63 and Anas added an unbeaten 41 as Sonargaon amassed 235 in 47.2 overs after opting to bat first.

In reply, Partex were bundled out for 143 in 30.4 overs.

# Ashraful scripts Dhaka win



## SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka tightened their grip on the Ispahani National Cricket League when the leaders posted a three-wicket win against Rajshahi with a day to spare at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The leaders' third straight outright success in the first-class competition also meant that Khaled Mahmud's men took sweet revenge for the one-day loss. Dhaka stay top of the table on 30 points from six outings.

Elsewhere, the bat continued to dominate over the ball.

Chittagong wicketkeeper-batsman Dhiman Gosh and Sabbir Khan slammed centuries to inspire a fightback against home side

Khulna. Barisal's batsmen showed their mettle in reply to Sylhet's massive first innings total (478-7 dec). The visitors finished on 187-6 at the Sylhet Stadium.

## DHAKA-RAJSHAHI

Despite Naeem Islam hitting his maiden first-class hundred, Dhaka completed a 'Rajshahi double' in the longer-version having won the away fixture by four wickets.

Resuming on 35-4, Rajshahi, who rode on Naeem's unbeaten 110 from 187 balls that featured 14 fours and a six, were dismissed for 253, which gave the visiting side a modest lead of 159.

It was left to star of the match Mohammad Ashraful to carry Dhaka to victory in 36.2 overs. The dashing right-hander capped a fantastic individual effort stroking a 78-ball 57.

Ashraful's man-of-the-performance included hammering 114 in Dhaka's first innings total of

311 and taking six wickets in Rajshahi's 217.

Dhaka skipper Mahmud was the most successful bowler with three for 55 in Rajshahi's second essay.

## KHULNA-CHITTAGONG

In a high-scoring match at the Khulna Divisional Stadium, the home side managed to take 140-run lead by stumps after ending Day Three on 114-3 with in-form Sahagir Hossain completed back-to-back fifties. After his superb 80 the Khulna stumper added 64.

But Khulna's hopes of a sizeable advantage over their guests disappeared after unbeaten overnight pair of Dhiman and Sabbir extended Chittagong's 226-6 to 390 all out in reply to the hosts' impressive first innings total of 406.

They added 125 runs for the unbroken seventh wicket.

Dhiman, who started the day on 74, reached his maiden century. The

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**ON SONG:** Dhaka's Mohammad Ashraful executes a sweep shot on the third day of their Sixth National Cricket League match against Rajshahi at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

# Bhaji can bowl doosra

## Cricket

### AFP, Bangalore

Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh will not be ordered to stop bowling his 'doosra' delivery despite being reported for a suspect bowling action, coach John Wright said on Tuesday.

"We have not stopped Harbhajan from bowling any type of delivery," Wright told reporters ahead of Thursday's third and final Test against Pakistan.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the series following their 195-run victory in the second Test at Kolkata on Sunday.

Harbhajan was reported by English match referee Chris Broad for a suspect action while bowling the 'doosra', a delivery which turns away from right-handed batsmen instead of coming into them like a normal off-break.

"He (Harbhajan) will carry on the way he has done in his last 40-odd Tests. 'Doosra' is an important part

of his bowling," said Wright.

Harbhajan, who did not play in the first Test against Pakistan at Mohali, was also reported by the same referee in his previous Test, against Bangladesh at Chittagong last December.

The spinner was sent to Perth last month to work with Australian bio-mechanics expert Bruce Elliott before being cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"I am surprised at the referee's decision," said Wright, a former New Zealand captain who took over as India's coach in 2000.

"I am sure the biomechanics experts in Australia did a fine job. Harbhajan has 12 degrees on his 'doosra' and eight otherwise. I am surprised he has to undergo another test."

The latest ICC ruling allows spinners to straighten their arms by 15 degrees at the point of delivery.

Harbhajan, with 193 wickets in 44 Tests, will now have to undergo an independent analysis of his action by a member of the ICC's panel of human movement special-

ists within 21 days.

It means the off-spinner is eligible to play the Test here.

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer, meanwhile, denied reports he had played a part in Harbhajan being reported.

"I have no role in it. I am worried about my own bowler Shoaib Malik," said Woolmer, referring to the Pakistan off-spinner who was also reported for his 'doosra'.

Woolmer conceded Harbhajan got all of his four wickets in the second Test bowling the 'doosra'.

"It may affect him if he is not allowed to bowl the 'doosra', but in my opinion Harbhajan's delivery is a skillful change in the way an off-spinner bowls," said Woolmer.

"I don't think it is a throw. It's a new skill which was started by Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq and others picked it."

"To get your wrist in a position to bowl the 'doosra', some elbow has to be involved and under the current law anyone who bowls it will come under scrutiny."

# Coming out of the Wall's shadow

## Cricket

### REUTERS, Bangalore

Is he an artist or an artisan? The jury, out for years, has not been able to reach a verdict on Rahul Dravid.

The problem is that his batting has shades of both. The 32-year-old Dravid, who reclaimed his place as the world's top-ranked batsman with a century in each innings during India's 195-run victory against Pakistan in the second Test in Kolkata, is not bothered either way.

He just knows he is in the zone. Dravid has been on a superb run since taking over as India's top batsman from Sachin Tendulkar two years ago.

With an average of 58.45 -- the best for any number three batsman in history barring Don Bradman -- he is heading inexorably towards

greatness. Critics who once said he did not capture the imagination or inspire emotion like Tendulkar or West Indian Brian Lara because of his more defensive approach have started to reconsider.

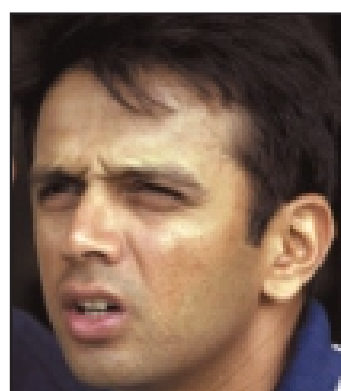
Dravid's 110 and 135 in Kolkata made him only the second Indian batsman, after Sunil Gavaskar, to score two hundreds in a Test more than once. He was named man-of-the-match in the Test, which ended on Sunday.

It is not just the volume of runs he has scored -- 2,540 in his last 25 matches at an astonishing 74.70 -- but the context in which he gets them that has made his stock rise suddenly.

Dravid is at his best when the chips are down, his most memorable knocks coming invariably in adverse circumstances or when India are pushing for victory.

The only overseas win in recent times to which he did not contribute

with the bat was against Pakistan at Multan last year, when he was



RAHUL DRAVID

leading the side in Sourav Ganguly's absence.

Not long ago, however, there was a danger that Dravid would be consumed by a quest for technical

perfection. A man who chided himself every time he was beaten or played a false stroke, he sometimes stood at the crease for over an hour without being able to accelerate the scoring.

Former Australia captain Ian Chappell said Dravid needed to be told that matches were won not by hours but by runs or wickets. He was nicknamed "The Wall" for his stone-walling ability, though fans also gave him the more taunting sobriquet of Rahul "Well Left" Dravid.

When he did manage to get a big score, he was somehow always overshadowed by a colleague.

Right from his debut 95 at Lord's in 1996, when Ganguly cracked 131, Dravid was upstaged by a teammate whenever he did well.

He was involved in a world record one-day international stand of 318 with Ganguly against Sri Lanka

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