



Did U Know?

Volleyball was invented in 1895 by William Morgan at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Holyoke, USA. It was introduced to the Olympics in Tokyo in 1964.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

West Indies vs South Africa
Third Test, Day Four
Live at 8:00 pm

ESPN

Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Villarreal
Same Day Delay at 10:00 am
English Premier Football League
Portsmouth vs Southampton
Live at 4:55 pm
Man United vs Newcastle United
Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am
Brazilian Football
Fluminense vs Sao Paulo
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)



DAY'S EVENT

Federation Cup Football
Brothers vs Youngmen's (4:00 pm)
Muktijoddha vs Sheikh Russel (6:00 pm)
Venue: BNS

Ispahani Nat'l Cricket League
(Four-day, Day Four)
Rajshahi vs Sylhet
Venue: Sylhet Stadium
Khulna vs Dhaka
Venue: KDVS
Chittagong vs Barisal
Venue: Barisal Stadium

Boys' handball

UNB, Dhaka

Ansar & VDP School reached the final of Sunnydale third mini boys' handball tournament eliminating Banani Bidyaniketan 4-3 in the first semifinal at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

They will play final against the winners of second semifinal between Sunnydale and BAF Shaheen School.

MSC in last four

Setback for Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club stormed into the semifinals of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup football tournament with a 2-0 victory over Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

But it was not that rosy for their archrivals as Abahani drew goalless against 10-man Dhaka Wanderers Club at the same venue that put their semifinal prospect into confusion.

MOHAMMEDAN-ARAMBAGH

Manju struck twice in the first half as the popular black and whites recorded their second consecutive win to confirm their place in the last four.

The Motijheel outfit, who won their first match against Wanderers 2-1, took the lead in the 26th minute when striker Manju founded the net

in a goalmouth melee from a Mintoo cross.

After five minutes the hard-working Mohammedan striker hit again with a side volley and this time he was aided a by Matur Munna cross.

With the two-goal cushion the last year's runners-up looked reluctant to increase their tally and they rather opted to control the mid-field.

Their neighbours Arambagh, however, got only one chance to narrow the gap moments before the break, but a side volley by striker Ritu missed the target.

After the break, Ritu again missed the target by inches as his left-footed salvo from inside the box went wide.

During the second half, Mohammedan got only one clear chance to increase the tally but ace striker Alfaz Ahmed failed to capitalise on it.

ABAHANI-WANDERERS

Abahani showed little signs of improvement from their first game,

when they managed a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Arambagh on Thursday, against a spirited Wanderers yesterday.

The day's goalless draw left the popular sky-blues in a frightful state as they need at least a draw against Mohammedan on Monday to secure a semifinal berth, or else, they will have to depend on Arambagh-Wanderers tie on the same day.

After a dull first half, the Dhanmondi outfit wasted a series of good scoring chances as their strikers Ariful Kabir Farhad, Mehdi Hasan Ujjal and substitute Shahajuddin Tipu were all off-colour.

Tipu got the best chance against a 10-man Wanderers, but he only managed to take a feeble shot straight into the hands of goalkeeper Sabbir from a handshake distance just before the long whistle.

Wanderers had to play with ten players as their captain Jahangir received his second yellow card in the 72nd minute.



PHOTO: STAR

A goalmouth melee during the Tibet 20th Federation Cup football tournament encounter between Dhaka Wanderers and Abahani Krira Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

WHATMORE STILL AFTER IT

Vivian wants to coach India?

BBC ONLINE, undated

Test great Viv Richards has hinted that he might be interested in becoming India's new coach.

The former West Indies skipper does not have a formal coaching qualification.

But during a visit to Delhi, he said: "What I have is the experience of playing in 121 Tests. I know I have a sound knowledge of the game."

India are looking for a new coach after New Zealander John Wright gave up the job following the recent home series against Pakistan.

Current Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore and Australians Greg Chappell, Geoff Marsh and Tom Moody have all been linked with the job.

CricInfo adds, Whatmore is still in contention for the Indian job despite the recent extension of his contract with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). He mentioned the 'get out' clause in the contract, which will allow him to leave anytime.

Whatmore, while speaking to the Indian Express, also admitted that he was still "very interested" in the job and added, "BCCI are still deciding and if they are still interested in me, I am keen too."

The BCB, though, feel that Whatmore wouldn't leave midway even if he gets a chance to coach India. Reazuddin Al Mamun, the media committee chairman, felt that Whatmore wasn't the type of man who would go after striking a deal.



PHOTO: AFP

WE ARE INNOCENT LIKE BABIES: Brazilian team Corinthians' Argentine forward Carlos Tevez celebrates a goal against Figueirense with a pacifier in his mouth to mark his daughter's birth, wearing a jersey with 'Corinthians without racism' written on it. He was referring to last week's incident during the Quilmes-Corinthians match.

Bans on Rana, Lusai lifted

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) on Saturday lifted the life ban on Mahbub Ehsan Rana paving the way for the national and Abahani midfielder to return to competitive hockey after nearly two years.

The BHF also withdrew a similar punishment on Abahani coach Jumman Lusai.

The disciplinary committee of the BHF imposed life bans on Rana and Lusai after both were found guilty of beating up the umpire during the troubled Club Cup final against arch-rivals Mohammedan on June 26 in 2003.

"They submitted mercy petitions six months ago and we think staying out of the game for two years is a long time. That's why we came to this conclusion. However, we have warned them not to repeat it in the future," said BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari, adding that decision came after the executive committee meeting with BHF president Air Vice-Marshal Fakrul Azam in the chair.

The lifting of Rana's ban means he will be available for selection for the Asian Games in Qatar next year.

Bari also informed that the national team camp will start with 40 players from the first week of May under the supervision of Pakistani coach Qamar Ibrahim.

Mesmerising Mosharaf



SPORTS REPORTER

Mosharaf Hossain set a new first-class bowling record when the Barisal spinner grabbed all but one Chittagong wickets on the third day of the tenth and final round of the Ispahani Sixth National Cricket League yesterday.

The 23-year-old left-arter from Kishoreganj finished with 109-9 at the Barisal Stadium eclipsing the previous mark of young Chittagong pacer Wayaskarani Palash, who captured eight for 69 against Rajshahi last month.

But Mosharaf's fantastic feat was not enough for the hosts to stop Chittagong from scoring a huge total and set a challenging 276-run winning target on the final day today.

Away at the Khulna Divisional Stadium, the match between Dhaka and Khulna was heading for a draw despite Dhaka, who retained the title in the previous round, conceded first innings lead.

Runners-up Rajshahi also fell 20 runs short against Sylhet, but at the

end of the day they put the home side's back to the wall claiming six wickets for 69 runs.

BARISAL-CHITTAGONG

Barisal is arguably the weakest among the six teams in the competition and the bottom-placed side might still end another forgettable season with a defeat. But Mosharaf made them proud at least for a day with the magical figures that could have easily been a perfect ten had Chittagong's number nine batsman Yasin Arafat not been run out.

The visitors however thrived on three half-centuries by Gazi Salahuddin (53), Ehsanul Haque (51) and Ilias Sunny (55) to post 325 in their second innings.

Set to score a victory target of 275, Barisal were reduced to 85 for 2 when bails were drawn for the day.

Right-arm pacer Gazi Alamgir claimed both the wickets for 31 runs in 10 overs.

KHULNA-DHAKA

Opener Rahsedul Haque slammed a century for Dhaka but it was not enough for the holders to topple Khulna's 351 as the visitors were bundled out for 330 resuming the day on 147-2.

Khulna took an overall 78-run

lead when they scored 57 for 1 in their second essay at stumps.

Rashedul scored 126, his second first-class hundred. He added 89 runs for the third wicket with Mehrab Hossain, who chipped in with 43.

The stocky right-hander smote 16 fours and two sixes during his 195-ball knock.

Number nine batsman Arafat Sunny was the other notable scorer with 127-ball 43.

Shakib Al Hasan and Jamal Uddin Babu captured four wickets each for Khulna conceding 124 and 61 runs respectively.

SYLHET-RAJSHAH

National discard Alok Kapali grabbed five wickets for 83 runs with his leg-breaks but Rajshahi still managed to score 350 in reply to home team's 370 at the Sylhet Stadium.

Forhad Reza (74) and Nayeem Islam (76), Zubaier Ahmed and Shamimul Haque hit half-centuries as Rajshahi almost chased down the impressive Sylhet total.

Zubaier made 86 off 196 balls that contained nine fours and a six while Shamimul added 51 from 95 deliveries.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO TENDULKAR

'The maestro is past his prime'



AFP, New Delhi

The aging Sachin Tendulkar will never be the flamboyant batsman he was, but he remains vital to India's cricketing ambitions, West Indian great Vivian Richards said on Friday.

Tendulkar, who turns 32 on

during a personal visit here.

"At 26, you get a lot wiser. Tendulkar is now a very mature player."

"He is now more into a fortifying role and not flamboyant. But you must respect that he has grown older."

"He cannot always fulfil the things that are expected of him."

"He may be looking to play the

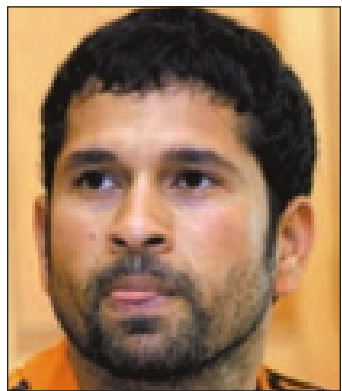


VIVIAN RICHARDS

Sunday, has been criticised by an unforgiving media and fans alike for not batting in the aggressive manner he did at the start of his career 16 years ago.

But Richards, arguably the most destructive batsman in history, defended Tendulkar's changed approach.

"When you are 21, you are the best, with a perfect sight and good hand-eye co-ordination," the former West Indian captain told reporters



SACHIN TENDULKAR

way he started his career, but that is not always possible."

Tendulkar, one of modern cricket's most prolific batsmen, enjoyed mixed success in the recent home contests against Pakistan.

Needing one more Test century to break compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's world record tally of 34, Tendulkar hit three half-centuries in five innings but could not prevent Pakistan from gaining a series-

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