



## Did U Know?

The first ball in the cricket World Cup history was bowled by India's Madan Lal to England's Denis Amiss at Lord's on June 7, 1975.



**Aamir Sohail**  
(Former Pakistan cricket's chief selector)  
"I am astonished over the language used by (Bob) Woolmer. I had thought of him as an intelligent person. He should have not used such language for Shoaib (Akhtar)." While slamming the national coach who said that the fast bowler was not an integral part of the team.

## What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm  
UEFA Champions League  
Chelsea vs Liverpool  
Semifinal-2, Leg-1  
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)  
**STAR Sports**  
Sportline  
Live at 8:00 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Newcastle United vs Middlesbrough  
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

**DAY'S EVENT**  
Federation Cup Football  
Sheikh Russel vs Younmen's (4:00 pm)  
Muktijoddha vs Brothers (6:00 pm)  
Venue: BNS

## Tendulkar takes centrestage in fund-raiser

PTI, New Delhi  
It is not often that Sachin Tendulkar stands his crease after being ruled out. And certainly most unusual for umpire to change his verdict after realising the batsman's reluctance to walk.  
But then, it was a benefit tie, and Tendulkar stayed back. For what followed was thorough entertaining cricket and the 3,000 odd fans got full worth of their money at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground here on Tuesday.  
The Mumbaier, in the city to play a fund-raiser for former India international Gursharan Singh, spent only about an hour on the field but made sure that the event in honour of the former Ranji Trophy winning cricketer was a total success.  
Early in the innings, Tendulkar was found short of the crease at the non-striker's end when a full-blooded straight drive by Mahendra Singh Dhoni kissed the bowler's fingers before knocking down the stumps.  
The umpire's finger went up spontaneously upon a loud appeal. But K Hariharan, an international umpire, brought down his index finger in the same flow. Murali Kartik too was quick to mute his celebrations and walk back to his mark.  
The crowd half realised and half-realised not. And when they fully realised, they decided it did not matter.  
Tendulkar gave them their due. After a few knockdowns to get the

# Where have those soccer days gone?

SPORTS REPORTER

Change is the most unchangeable aspect of life. And sport is no exception. Think of the events that took place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday night when Abahani handed their bitter rivals Mohammedan their heaviest defeat (5-1) in the Federation Cup.

But surprisingly, though, it had not evoked the same kind of reaction, passion or media hype that were so extensive since the rivalry between the two popular giants began in the early 70s.

It might have healed the wound the loyal Abahani supporters have been carrying for 30 long years since their 4-0 defeat to Mohammedan in a league match in 1975, which remained as the biggest margin of defeats in the clashes of the titans until Monday.

But the joy or the shockwave failed to stir the imagination that was such an inseparable part of the Abahani-Mohammedan folklore.

True that some angry Mohammedan supporters staged a protest rally in front of their Motijheel club tent after the match, but it was so faint that it could not even reach the ears of a management set up that has been running happily for last one decade. They

are certainly lucky that they haven't seen the kind of fire that Mohammedan supporters used to breathe after a defeat.

The scenario in the victorious camp can be best described as just another mundane day apart from a few inspiring words from their officials, which strengthen the suspicion that an Abahani-Mohammedan rivalry is a thing of past.

It was further evident in the turnout of crowds. Only ten thousand fans were present at the Big Bowl on Monday night. Just go back ten years, you would have found a match involving either of the two sides a full house.

After failing to win a trophy last year, the two giants reached another low in the Independence Cup last month, where both were eliminated from the semifinal stage.

The thinktank of Mohammedan came up with the conclusion that their South Korean coach Man Young Kang was upsetting the rhythm of the Black and Whites. So, they sacked him. A simple solution? Not quite.

But those who served the club for a long time believed that the Kang controversy was just a tip of the iceberg.

Old Mohammedan gun Badal

Roy, the former national captain who has been pushed to the back bench by the current policy-makers, was frustrated like many others.

"Mohammedan's performance has been decreasing gradually and I feel that the club authority is totally indifferent," Badal told The Daily Star Sport over phone.

"If they do not take immediate steps to stop the downfall, things will be worse in near future. The officials are not dedicated at all and they cannot expect the players to give their best. My heart has always been with Mohammedan, especially I have tried to help the club in times of trouble. But what is the current authority doing now?" he sighed.

When asked about Mohammedan's financial crisis, Badal bluntly refused it saying that the crisis was not genuine.

"All the big officials are well established but the club is suffering. I can simply say that they have failed to pick a good team this year and the foreign collection is also below standard. This result can be a signal for what is coming and everyone must try to reverse it," he added.

## Lara, Tendulkar to captain sides in Lord's match

REUTERS, London

Brian Lara and Sachin Tendulkar will captain the two teams in the tsunami appeal match at Lord's on June 14.

India's Tendulkar will captain the MCC side with West Indian Lara leading the International XI, the MCC said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Last month, we were delighted to announce that the two best spin bowlers in the world -- Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan -- had kindly agreed to play in this very important fund-raising fixture. Today, we can announce that it will feature arguably the world's two best batsmen as well," the MCC said.

## Windies call back Best

AFP, St. John's

The West Indies made two changes to their squad for the fourth and final Test to be played here with South Africa on Monday following their humbling by South Africa in the third Test.

Narsingh Deonarine and Tino Best came in for Ryan Hinds and Reon King for the match which

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## Jones also keen on Indian coach's job



BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Australia Test batsman Dean Jones is the latest name to be linked with the job of India's coach.

"I've been to India 58 times and enjoy the country and the public, so my hand is up. I am interested," an Indian newspaper quoted Jones as saying.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has begun a search for a new coach following New Zealander John Wright's decision to step down.

He was in charge for four and a half years but gave up the job following the recent home series against Pakistan.

Greg Chappell, Dav Whatmore, Geoff Marsh, Tom Moody and Sir Viv Richards have all been linked with the post and there has been speculation over whether Steve Waugh might be interested.

But Jones believes he could get the best out of the Indian players if given the chance.

"They are quite an experienced bunch now... but I would like to see a few changes.

"I don't want to see them pussy-footing at any stage. I'd like to see a change in the way they prepare, especially when they play Australia,"

he told the Indian Express.  
Jones played 54 Tests and 164 one-day internationals for Australia from 1984-1994.



DEAN JONES

His most famous Test performance came in the tied Test against India at Madras in September 1986 when he batted for eight hours and 20 minutes to make 210 despite suffering from dehydration.

It remains the highest score made by an Australian in India but he had to be taken to hospital and put on a saline drip following his innings.



COLOURS OF TWENTY20: Shoaib Malik of Sialkot Stallion follows the path of the ball while wicketkeeper of Lahore Eagles' Kamran Akmal looks on during their Twenty20 Cup clash in Lahore on Tuesday. Eagles won the match by four wickets.

## Fed Cup ties rained-off, replay today

SPORTS REPORTER

Both the Group A matches of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup were postponed due to inclement weather yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Sheikh Russel Kriha Chakra, who have slim hopes to reach the last four, were leading 1-0 against Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool when the day's first match was abandoned due to a rainstorm after 12 minutes. Hanif Pradhan had shot Russel ahead with an eighth minute strike.

The weather later cleared but match officials did not resume the game as they had to wait more than regulation 40 minutes.

The day's second match between Muktijoddha and Brothers Union did not start.

The matches will be held today.

## U-19s, QAS tie match

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-19 cricketers' winning streak on their tour of Australia was snapped on Monday when they tied their seventh match against Regional QAS Squad.

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# Faruque wants more money for NCL players



SPORTS REPORTER

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed believes that the National Cricket League (NCL) would struggle to pick up as a prestigious first class competition unless the financial package for players improved.

Despite that limitation, the former national captain thought a lot of positive things had come out of the sixth version of the League which finished recently.

"We should understand that there is no alternative to improving the domestic structure if we want to make our presence felt at the highest level

of the game. I think the National League is theoretically the number one competition in the country but it still does not have a real professional shape," said Faruque while talking to Daily Star Sport on Tuesday.

"I must say the financial package for the players is one area that has to improve first. You can not expect hundred percent commitment from a player by paying such a poor remuneration (Tk 400 for a day)," he added.

Faruque also touched on the selection issue of the national team saying that it was not a good practice to rely on the under-19 squad for back-up players all the time.

"We desperately need a buffer zone between the national team and

the youth sides and I think the National League could become the best platform for talent to flourish," he said.

Faruque said that the participation of the top cricketers of the country in the League has to be ensured to inspire the youngsters and to lift the image of the competition.

"Unfortunately most of the top players missed this year's action due to their national commitments. We should make adjustments to the National League's schedule according to the international calendar to ensure maximum participation of the best players."

The chief selector was happy

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# Five-wicket Shoaib reminds selectors Sami in doubt for WI tour



AFP, Lahore

Fit-again fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar took five wickets in Pakistan's inaugural Twenty20 Cup match which began here on Monday, while Test reject Moin Khan hit a brilliant century.

Akhtar enhanced his comeback chances for Pakistan's series against the West Indies next month with his 5-23 in four overs, having missed Pakistan's recent tour of India due to a hamstring injury.

"I am feeling great. I hope it will help my comeback," said the 29-year-old.

Captained by Akhtar, the Rawalpindi Rams dismissed Quetta Bears for a paltry 101 after setting a target of 198.

Twenty20, in which sides play 20 overs each, was introduced in England two years ago and has proved a huge success, attracting more crowds than some normal matches. Pakistani cricket chiefs hope it will catch on here.

Pakistani selectors said they would assess the fitness of Akhtar and two other pacers -- Shabbir Ahmed and Umer Gul -- before deciding the West Indies-bound squad next week.

Moin, a wicketkeeper-batsman who played 69 Tests and 219 one-dayers before he was discarded last year, hit six sixes and eight boundaries in his 59-ball 112 to give another reminder to the selectors.

Pakistan play three one-dayers and two Tests on their tour of the Caribbean.

Reuters adds from Karachi, fast bowler Mohammad Sami is doubtful for next month's tour of the West Indies after having surgery to remove a cyst in his right heel.

"Sami had the operation on Monday night and he has now been advised to have two and half to three weeks rest before he is cleared to start bowling again," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director of cricket affairs Saleem Altaf told Reuters on Tuesday.

"Right now we are not sure if he would be fit in time to be considered for the West Indies tour," he added.

Sami, 24, took 10 wickets for Pakistan in the recent three-Test series in India and four in the one-day internationals before breaking down in the fourth match with the heel injury.

The Pakistan selectors are due to meet on Monday to announce the squad for the series. The first one-day international is on May 18.



PHOTO: PTI

Indian cricketers Rahul Dravid (L) and Sourav Ganguly leave the field after participating in a benefit match at the Ferozeshah Kotla in New Delhi on Tuesday.