



Bangladesh players enjoying their time in the swimming pool of Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Did U Know?

More than 100 million people hold hunting licences.



Ian Botham

(England cricket legend)
"I am colour-blind, which makes me worry about what clothes I put on in the morning. My wife matches my shirts and ties in advance."



ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premiership
Portsmouth v Bolton
Live at 12:54am (Tuesday)
STAR Sports
Mumbai Open Tennis
Live at 5:30pm

ICC HEARING Inzy off to London

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket captain Inzamamul Haq Sunday left for London to appear before an International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct hearing at which he faces a possible ban.

Inzamam led his team's protest after umpires Darrell Hair of Australia and Billy Doctrove of the West Indies changed the ball over suspicions of ball-tampering on the fourth day of the Test match at The Oval last month.

Umpires penalised five runs and after Pakistan's protest awarded the match to England.

The hearing, to be conducted by ICC chief match referee Ranjan Madugalle, is due to take place on Wednesday and Thursday with a verdict expected on Friday.

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Hockey, football Doha-bound?

All SA Games silver medalists to go to Asiad

SPORTS REPORTER



The uncertainty over Bangla-desh football and hockey teams' participation in the coming Asian Games seemed to be over after the government's decision to send both the teams to the meet in Doha this December.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman yesterday gave his nod for sending both the teams to Qatar as well as giving a directive to the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) that all 15 silver medalists at the recently concluded 10th South Asian Games in Colombo should be sent.

The football and hockey high-ups met the minister yesterday at the National Sports Council to settle the issue after the BOA had ignored the two teams for the trip on account of poor performance in

the SA Games.

The minister was however convinced about the necessity of giving the two teams international exposure because they hardly get the chance to play against big names of the continent. The footballers are pitted against South Korea, Bahrain and Vietnam in the group and if they forfeit the meet, they will have to qualify for the football competition four years later.

On the other hand, though the hockey team lost the SA games bronze, they had emerged champions in the qualifying tournament for the Asiad at home earlier this year.

"Often we cannot get results according to expectation. Our overall performance at the South Asian Games was not satisfactory, so why should (popular sports like) football and hockey only be ignored? Sportsmen need exposure to international events and I feel they should go to the

Asiad," Fazlur Rahman told reporters after the meeting.

BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed, BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal and BHF president Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam were present at the meeting among others.

The BOA had chosen 26 athletes in seven disciplines but according to the latest development, it would need to add athletes who won SA Games silvers in judo, karate and wrestling. The previously selected disciplines were athletics, swimming, shooting, chess, kabaddi, taekwondo and golf.

It would also open the doors for athletes Sumita Rani Das and Fouzia Huda Jui, who were ignored by BOA's selection committee for the Asiad, headed by Maj Gen Akbar Akhter, despite winning silver medals in 100m hurdles and long jump respectively in Colombo last month.

Kutubuddin Ahmed informed that they have already sent the new proposal to the BOA president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed for the final approval.

The BOA Chief Operating Officer (COO) Col (retd) Waliullah, meanwhile, has asked the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to do an 'impossible' task of submitting the final 20-member player list by today.

"He (Waliullah) said he can't send our entry if we do not fulfil his demand according to the Games handbook. Even the deadline for announcing World Cup Football squads are one month ahead of the tournament. How could we finalise the squad nearly three months before? We have already given a 40-member preliminary list and we will stick to that," said BFF general secretary Helal.

"I have been trying to contact the Games Organising Committee to get the deadline," he added.

Usha, Abahani in semis



SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Abahani and two-time winners Usha Krira Chakra stormed to the semifinals of the Shah Sports Club Cup Hockey tournament with massive wins in Group A at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

After Usha's 8-1 demolition of Bangladesh Sporting Club, Abahani cruised to a 5-0 win over Sonali Bank, thanks to a hat-trick by Moududur Rahman Shuva.

Both Abahani and Usha, who are pitted against each other in tomorrow's group decider at the same venue, have collected six points each with the holders having an edge in the table by virtue of better goal difference.

Abahani, who crushed Bangladesh Sporting 6-0 in the opener, took early control with the attacking trio Russel Mahmud Jimmy, Shuva and Monirul Alam Sumon mounting heavy pressure.

However, it was national centre-half Musa Mia who put the sky-blues ahead in the ninth minute with his first of two strikes. He took a pass from Shuva from the left flank before drilling the ball into the far corner with a powerful hit.

Mahbub Ehsan Rana and Jimmy then exchanged passes to help Shuva open his account from close range five minutes later. Abahani had to remain satisfied with a 2-0 lead at the break as Shuva and Jimmy wasted a number of sitters.

After an ordinary start to the second session Abahani began to slice the rival defence again and Shuva neatly placed the ball home after a one-two with Jimmy in the 46th minute. The national striker completed the third hat-trick of the tournament at the 64th minute when Jimmy set him up after a tremendous solo run from their own half.

Abahani's Sumon and Usha's Kamal notched the previous two trebles of the eight-team meet on

the opening day.

Musa sealed the victory four minutes from time after his brother Issa Mia's fierce hit from a penalty corner came off rival goalkeeper Rakib.

In the day's first game, Kamal whose triple strike inspired Usha to beat Sonali Bank 3-1 in their group opener, broke the deadlock after ten minutes but the celebration was short lived as Bangladesh Sporting forward Sabuj equalised within five

minutes.

Usha managed a slim 2-1 lead at first half but the floodgate opened later with the old-Dhaka outfit firing six goals inside 14 minutes to settle the nerves. Rajan and Krishna both scored twice while Nannu, Rimon and Tayab Reza added the rest.

Mohammed Sporting Club will take on Sadharan Bima while Dhaka Mariners face Ajax Sporting Club in today's matches.



Hattrick Hero: Moududur Rahman Shuva

PHOTO STAR

Aussies clinch DLF Cup



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Australia crushed the West Indies by 127 runs to win the DLF Cup final Sunday and send a chilling warning to their rivals ahead of the Champions Trophy next month.

Set 241 to win, the West Indies were skittled out for 113 from 34.2 overs, unable to deal with the power and accuracy of Australia's top-notch bowling attack.

Brett Lee took 4-24 while his partner Glenn McGrath bowled six overs for just six runs, two of which were extras.

"It's a very good result for us but I still don't think we have played our best cricket," said Australian captain Ricky Ponting.

"I don't think the West Indies surrendered, I don't think any team ever does. It was just that we bowled very well."

His West Indies counterpart Brian Lara said that despite the loss, he was encouraged that his team made the final at all.

"We lost two many wickets too soon. We crumbled and didn't get our act together," he said.

"But I am encouraged and very pleased that my side got to the final. We still have work to do but we are getting there."

The Windies got off to the worst possible start when Chris Gayle was sensationally out lbw to a Lee yorker on the first ball of the innings.

When Lee was given a breather the peroxide blonde Nathan Bracken was brought into the action with dramatic consequences.

Shinarine Chandernaul, who has struggled this series, smacked him for four on his first ball but that's

where it ended as he mistimed a flick off the legs the very next ball to be caught by Simon Katich at midwicket.

Runako Morton spent 31 balls at the crease without scoring when Bracken trapped him leg before, leaving the West Indies at 20 for three.

It brought Lara to the crease and along with Ramnaresh Sarwan looked to be steadying the ship before a dubious decision cost him dear.

The 37-year-old played and missed at a Bracken delivery and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin appealed for a catch. Television replays appeared to show he got no bat on it, but he was gone for five.

The pressure was unrelenting and Dwyane Bravo (8) lamely pulled a Shane Watson ball to Ponting at short midwicket and Wavell Hinds followed him soon after without scoring, clean bowled by a Watson rocket.

Ramnaresh offered resistance before he was out for 36. Dwayne Smith whacked 30 off 30 balls before he went, out on an easy catch by Ponting off Lee, and the tail failed to wag.

Ponting had won the toss and elected to bat on a slow outfield and the runs proved hard to come by before a late flurry.

Damien Martyn and Andrew Symonds both scored 52 as the world champions reached 240 for 6.

Ian Bradshaw was the pick of the bowlers with a tidy 2-30 off his 10 overs.

Australia struggled to get going with opener Katich batting at a snail's pace, facing 52 balls before hitting his first four.

Watson (18) fared better before Bradshaw enticed an edge that Gayle collected at slip. Ponting

bounced to the wicket but was back in the pavilion for six, out lbw to Jerome Taylor.

Katich finally broke free with a six off Bravo in the 20th over before being toppled for 25 from 66 balls.

Martyn did his best to get things going but eventually went after getting under a ball from Bradshaw, holing out to Runako Morton.

Andrew Symonds then began doing what he does best -- hitting out -- before Sarwan had the wild-haired all-rounder caught by Morton in the deep.

Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke and Haddin added valuable late runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of one-day DLF Cup final between Australia and the West Indies at Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA				
Watson c Gayle b Bradshaw	18			
Katich c sub (Samuels) b Gayle	25			
Ponting lbw b Taylor	6			
Martyn c Morton b Bradshaw	52			
Symonds c Morton b Sarwan	52			
Hussey not out	30			
Clarke c Lara b Sarwan	23			
Haddin not out	17			
Extras: (lb-7, w-9, nb-1)	17			
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	240			
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-37, 3-80, 4-153, 5-173, 6-200				
Did not bat: Lee, Bracken, McGrath				
WEST INDIES				
Chanderpaul c Katich b Bracken	12			
Gayle lbw b Lee	0			
Morton lbw b Bracken	0			
Sarwan run out (Ponting)	36			

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PHOTO: AFP

The Australian team pose with the DLF Cup after their win against West Indies in the final at Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

Steve could be the key



AFP, Sydney

England's chances of retaining cricket's Ashes later this year depend largely on the performance of their strike fast bowler Steve Harmison, former Australian captain Ian Chappell said Sunday.

England defend the Ashes they won at home last year against Australia in the first of five Test matches in Brisbane, starting on November 23.

"So much depends on how Steve Harmison bowls. It may be a reason why they gave Andrew Flintoff the captaincy -- apparently he's very matey with Harmison," said Chappell, a senior television cricket commentator, told the Sun-Herald newspaper.

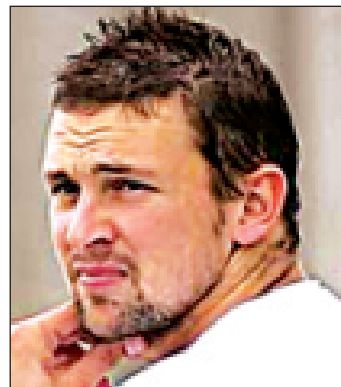
"Some of the stuff I saw from him against Pakistan (in the recent Test series) was absolute crap. But if he bowls as well as he can, England will be right in it."

Harmison missed the recent one-day series against Pakistan with back problems.

Chappell said England's deci-

sion to opt for Flintoff as skipper over Andrew Strauss showed a change in attitude with Australia's traditional Ashes foes.

"They could have gone the safe route and made Strauss captain. But they won the Ashes by taking the aggressive route and picking



STEVE HARMISON

someone like (batsman) Kevin Pietersen," Chappell said.

"Logic says that to retain the Ashes, they've got to keep taking risks and they've done that by making Flintoff captain."

Chappell said it also makes

sense that Flintoff was preferred as captain as he understands the tactical side of bowling better than opening batsman Strauss.

"What does a captain do with batting? He basically just picks the order. The important side is out on the field," he said.

"Who better to understand bowling than a bowler? There haven't been many bowling captains and that's probably been a mistake.

"There's no reason why Flintoff can't do it. The danger is that he's coming back from serious injury and needs to find his form as a bowler. He might overbowl himself in a bid to lift the team.

"They'll miss (injured) Michael Vaughan's captaincy but Flintoff is a bit of a Shane Warne: he loves competing.

"When the heat's on, Flintoff will want to bowl, but he can't do it all the time.

"That's when Strauss will have to know when to step in and say, 'Not now, save it for later'.

"If everything goes right for England, it will be very competitive. But it could easily turn bad for them."