



## Did U Know?

Spiridon Louis of Greece won the first modern Olympic marathon in Athens in 1896.



**Steve Waugh**  
(Former Australian cricket captain)  
"He's an inspirational player, he's a great all-rounder and I have no doubt he'll be leading them with the idea they're here to fight. I know they'll follow him into battle."  
On Andrew Flintoff.

## Aminul new captain

**Football**

SPORTS REPORTER

Aminul Haque will lead Bangladesh against Uzbekistan in tomorrow's 2007 Asian Cup qualifier against Uzbekistan after the Bangladesh Football Federation named the goalkeeper new national football captain yesterday.

Aminul succeeds Arif Khan Joy, who announced his retirement from international football after Bangladesh's previous international, against Qatar last month in Doha in the ongoing qualifiers.

Aminul, who was injured and left the field after conceding one goal against Uzbekistan in Bangladesh's opening match of the qualifiers, lost his place to second-choice Biplob Bhattacharya in the next match against Hong Kong. But the Muktijoddha Sangsad custodian, arguably the best in the country, reinstated his position for the two home and away games against Qatar.

"Having played so many

years for the national team, it is like a dream come true," said Aminul to The Daily Star yesterday.

"It is like a reward for me and I feel great. My career is fulfilled now because every athlete



AMINUL HAQUE

dreams to lead his country," said the agile custodian, who made his debut in 1996 as a 16-year-old.

"For a team like us, goalkeepers shoulder huge responsibility because we often lose big. Now leading a young team means more responsibilities because

most of the senior players have recently retired.

"But I am very happy to see the youngsters' performance in the camp. They are very serious, especially to make a place in the first eleven and this healthy competition ignites us to be more competitive."

In reply to a question, Aminul said that he was happy with the team's preparation for last few days for the Uzbekistan match.

"We lost 5-0 to Uzbekistan in Tashkent but that will not happen here. We know although it is a home game, we are not favourites. We want to hold our fort but still, we want to play good football to satisfy the home fans," added Aminul, who missed Bangladesh's SAF Games triumphant party in Nepal in 1999 due to injury but won a champion's medal when Bangladesh lifted the SAFF Championship at home in 2003.

Uzbekistan will arrive in Dhaka this afternoon for the fifth round match, which will be held at the Army Stadium in Banani tomorrow at 3pm.

## Usha too good for Bank

**Hockey**

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace by veteran striker Rafiqul Islam Kamal helped Usha Krira Chakra record their second consecutive win in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Hockey League when the defending champions brushed aside Sonali Bank 5-1 at the Maulana Bhasani national Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rajan, Dinar and Hasan scored one goal apiece and although none of Usha's three Pakistani recruits were on the score sheet, the presence of Saqlain, Delwar and Shaqfat was very much inspirational.

Ex-national star Kamal -- a goal machine in his heydays -- proved that he has not lost all his touches and opened the account five after minutes from a rebound after Dinar's hit during a penalty corner came off the rival goalkeeper.

Midfielder Rajan gave the old-Dhaka outfit a 2-0 first half lead when he deflected in Mohammed Delwar's long hit from the right flank in the 15th minute.

The Bankers, who lost their opener to Abahani 3-0, fought bravely in the second round game with two Indian and a Pakistani player in the side. But Satinder Singh wasted two chances either side of the break, dashing their hopes to come back. They also failed to capitalise on half a dozen penalty corners.

Pakistan's World Cup captain Mohammed Saqlain then set Dinar to score from a 38-minute penalty corner as Usha put the result beyond their rivals, whose consolation goal came in the 49th minute when Moksed pushed the ball home

after Satinder's effort was partly blocked by custodian Zahid.

Although Usha converted only a couple of their seven penalty corners, they showed superior finishing during combined attacks with the Pakistanis providing the final passes. Kamal flicked in a powerful hit by Delwar in the 58th minute while Hasan sealed the victory when he placed the ball into the back of the net after hard work by

Shaqfat Rasool.

Usha, who trounced Bangladesh Sporting Club 8-1 in the league opener, led the table with maximum six points while Bankers have yet to collect a point.

Title contenders Abahani and Mohammedan will both be in action today, Abahani taking on Sadharan Bima at 1.30pm and Mohammedan pitted against Azad Sporting at 3pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Action from the Green Delta Premier Hockey League match between Sonali Bank and Usha Krira Chakra at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium on Monday.

## Partex shock Epyllion

SPORTS REPORTER



Sohrawardi Shuva grabbed three vital wickets to give Partex Group a 39-run victory over a star-studded Epyllion Group in yesterday's GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

In the day's other matches, Biman Bangladesh comfortably beat Asia Pacific Blossom Hotel by four wickets while MM Ispahani thrashed newcomers Raju Fish Culture Ltd by 66 runs.

Discarded national opener Javed Omar's slow but effective 45 off 100 balls steadied the Partex innings in face of an early collapse

initiated by former national pace duo Tareq Aziz and Tapash Baisya and helped the side reach 203 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs after they were put into bat.

Hasanuzzaman Rosel contributed 40 but the fireworks came from paceman Nazmul Hossain's bat, which produced one four and three sixes in a 23-ball 37 cameo appearance.

Opener Gazi Salahuddin kept Epyllion on course with his 69 off 106 deliveries but having reached 140-4, they were unsettled by Shuvo's left-arm spin. Adjudged man-of-the-match, Shuva finished with 3-32 from eight overs as Epyllion lost their last six wickets in the space of 24 runs.

Sanwar Hossain led Biman from the front as the captain hit 49 not out in their 134-6 in reply to Blossom Hotel's paltry 131-8 at the BKSP

ground.

The Biman innings was halved with 61 runs on board but Sanwar, who won the man-of-the-match award, centered the side home with a useful partnership -- 66 runs for the sixth wicket with Mosharraf Hossain (26 off 82 balls). Sanwar's 116-ball stay at the wicket featured two boundaries.

Earlier, debutants Blossom Hotel's decision to bat first backfired as they were reduced to 11-3 by the sixth over. In the next 20 overs, they added only 41 runs and never looked like setting a difficult target for the opposition.

Away at the Fatullah Stadium, Junaid Siddiqi (53 off 72 balls) and Sadid Hossain (68 off 120 balls) spearheaded Ispahani's total of 217-7 in 50 overs after opting to bat. Sadid, who hammered three sixes, was adjudged man-of-the-match although Mohibul Karim and Ashiqur Rahman shared seven wickets between them to restrict Raju Fish Culture Ltd to 151-9.

Skipper Sajjadul Hassan was the highest scorer for Raju Fish with an unbeaten 54 while Bishwanath Halder contributed 41.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
Partex: 203-9 in 50 overs (Javed 45, Rizwan 14, Rosel 40, Mustakim 17, Shuva 14, Nazmul 37, extras 26, Tariq 2-33, Tapash 2-34).

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Ad



PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar is greeted on arrival at the Raj Putana Palace Hotel in Jaipur on Monday. Bangladesh will play their next ICC Champions Trophy qualifying match against the West Indies here on Wednesday.

## NSF delays treatment decision

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Shooting Federation (NSF) has yet to respond to calls for taking the injured shooters abroad for better treatment.

Orthopaedist Ruhul Haque visited severely injured Asif Hossain Khan and Shoebuzzaman at the Metropolitan Hospital and Asif's family sources said that the specialist felt that the level of physiotherapy needed for the shooters' recovery was not available in the country.

The NSF had earlier told that they would take a decision on the renowned orthopaedist's recommendation, but they have kept silent for over 24 hours.

Not only that, the federation mysteriously turned down appeals of the family of Asif and the ex-shooters to make arrangements for champion shooter Asif's travel abroad courtesy of the Somnilito Krira Paribar, who have promised to bear all the expenses of his treatment.

It was learned that concerned ex-shooters requested the NSF to take care of the other injured shooters as soon as possible but without any avail.

Meanwhile, the sports fraternity of the country will bring out a silent procession from the Bangladesh Football Federation Bhawan to Jatiya Press Club at 11am under the banner of National Krira Federation Forum in protest of last week's barbaric police attacks on the shooters and the federation employees. All sport federation officials, organisers and players of all disciplines are expected to take part in the procession.

## Sachin supports Greg's testing

BBC ONLINE, undated

Sachin Tendulkar insists coach Greg Chappell's ploy of experimenting with tactics and selection is correct.

The Australian and his team have come under fire for being inconsistent ahead of their ICC Champions Trophy campaign.

Ex-players have led the criticism but batsman Tendulkar said: "Experiments should go on to a certain extent."

"I know it is important to figure out individual roles but that doesn't mean we should totally stop experimenting. There should be a nice balance."

The Indians attracted harsh words from former players such as Anshuman Gaekwad -- also an ex-coach of the national team -- after their 4-1 one-day drubbing in the West Indies and failure to reach the Malaysia tri-series final.

Gaekwad said on Sunday: "Too much experimentation is affecting the team."

"I understand that a foreign coach has to do it because he needs to form a clear idea about his players but I think he has carried it too far."

But skipper Rahul Dravid said rotating players and trying them in different roles was needed to emulate the strength in depth enjoyed by world champions Australia.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## SL serious about Zim



AFP, Ahmedabad

Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody will raise Zimbabwe to the same league as Australia and India when they clash in Tuesday's Champions Trophy qualifier here.

"Quite clearly we'll be approaching this game just like any other -- whether it's Zimbabwe, England, Australia or India, it makes no difference," said Moody.

The Sri Lankans, considered one of the favourites to win the 10-nation tournament, began their campaign with an emphatic 37-run win over Bangladesh in Mohali on Saturday.

Lowly Zimbabwe were thrashed by nine wickets by Brian Lara's West Indies here on Sunday, the match ending towards the close of the first

session even before the lights were switched on in the day-night game.

Sri Lanka will qualify for the main tournament with their second win on Tuesday and the West Indies will join them if they defeat Bangladesh in Jaipur on Wednesday.

Moody, a two-time World Cup champion as a player with Australia in 1987 and 1999, said his team will not take victory for granted against cricket's whipping boys.

"My emphasis to the players will be that we're going in to win this match, the opposition is irrelevant," he said.

"Whether Zimbabwe have world class players in their side or not is not relevant. What is more important is that we have a game to play with the intensity we have with any match."

"If anyone thinks they can come into a match like this with a foot off the gas and not quite switched on they can be in for a rude shock."

Moody rebuffed suggestions Sri Lanka would prefer to bat on winning the toss to gain useful practice rather

than field and bring about a quick end to the match -- like the West Indies did with Zimbabwe.

"If we win the toss we'll decide not on the basis of the opposition, but on the basis of conditions and the gameplan," he said.

Captain Mahela Jayawardene said he remained concerned by the bowling which allowed Bangladesh to post 265-9 on Saturday after conceding 36 extras.

"We were not that disciplined in the bowling department in the last game," he said.

"There were a lot of extras. We seemed to relax a bit towards the middle of the game when we knew we were cruising."

Jayawardene, however, put the match in perspective when he hinted that some players may be rested on Tuesday.

"It's an important tournament and we don't want to tax our

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Inzi wishes Pakistan well



AFP, Lahore

Banned Pakistan cricket captain Inzamam-ul-Haq on Monday said the side was capable of winning the Champions Trophy in India without him under stand-in skipper Younis Khan.

"This team is capable of playing the final and if they can reach the final without me they can also win it," Inzamam told reporters after meeting newly appointed Pakistan cricket chief Nasim Ashraf.

Inzamam, who was appointed captain until Pakistan's home series against the West Indies starting next

month, also reacted to reports he might not return as captain and his replacement Younis might continue after the Trophy.

"Captaincy doesn't bother me, it's not an issue at the moment. The main thing is that the team does well in the Champions Trophy," he said.

Pakistan had to replace Inzamam after he was banned for four one-day matches by a disciplinary hearing of the International Cricket Council in London last month.

The hearing followed Pakistan's team protest at The Oval Test against England in August when they refused to take field after umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove accused them of ball-tampering.

Inzamam was acquitted of the tampering charge but was handed a four-match ban for bringing the game

into disrepute by protesting.

His replacement Younis initially refused to lead the side, saying he did not want to be a "dummy" captain.

His decision caused chaos and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan resigned. The newly inducted chairman Ashraf reinstated Younis on Saturday, hours before team's departure for India to feature in the Champions Trophy.

The Pakistan camp had been hoping that Inzamam could return to lead the side in the final if the team were successful in four earlier matches.

But, according to the Participating Nation's Agreement (PNA)

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan speedster Shoab Akhtar (L) embraces team manager Talat Ali Malik as they arrive for an open media session in New Delhi on Sunday.

**What to WATCH**

**BTV & SET Max**

ICC Champions Trophy  
Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe  
Live at 2:45 pm

**ESPN**

Sportscenter India  
Live at 8:30 pm

## Shiv Sena vows to disrupt Pakistan game

AFP, New Delhi

A nationalist Hindu group on Sunday vowed to "go to any extent" to prevent the Pakistan cricket team from playing in the upcoming Champions Trophy tournament.

The New Delhi chapter of the right-wing Shiv Sena group said it would not allow Pakistan to play their first league match in the northern city of Mohali on October 25, citing the deadly train attacks in Mumbai in July.

"Shiv Sena will not allow Pakistan to play in India after the disclosures made by Mumbai police commissioner about the ISI's involvement in the July 7, Mumbai serial blasts," Sena's Delhi chief Jai Bhagwan said in a statement.

Commissioner AN Roy last month accused Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), of orchestrating the attacks on the trains that killed 186 people and left 800 others wounded.

Pakistan, one of 10 countries in the tournament, is slated to play against New Zealand in Mohali.

Bhagwan also warned New Delhi authorities against allowing Pakistan to play in the tournament.

"Otherwise our activists in Punjab (state) will be forced to go to any extent to stop the Pakistanis from playing on Indian soil," the firebrand Sena chief said without elaborating.

The Mumbai-based Shiv Sena has a Hindu nationalist philosophy and a deep suspicion of Islamic Pakistan.

India's two national news agencies, the Press Trust of India and United News of India, reported that the Sena chief had threatened to dig up the Punjab Cricket Association stadium pitch in Mohali in northern Punjab state.

Two of Pakistan's three league matches are in Mohali while the third is in Jaipur. The semifinals will also be held in Mohali and Jaipur and the final will be staged in Mumbai on November 5.

The government said it would reinforce security at venues where Pakistan will play.

"Mohali could be a red herring and we are keeping a special eye on Jaipur as it is also a stronghold of the (Hindu nationalist) Bharatiya Janata Party," a senior home ministry official told AFP.

**Ad**