



Did U Know?

The first perfect game in baseball history was achieved by John Lee Richmond on June 12, 1880.



Younis Khan

(Pakistan's stand-in cricket captain)
"I am not interested in captaincy."



BTv & SET Max

New Zealand v Sri Lanka
ICC Champions Trophy
Live at 3:00 pm

BOA to reward SA Games gold winners

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will honour the country's three gold medalists at the 10th South Asian Games held in Colombo last August.

BOA president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed will hand over certificates and Tk one lakh each, as earlier promised by the organisation, to Shahjahan Ali Rony, Mahfuzur Rahman Mithu and Mizanur Rahman on October 22 at the BOA.

Rony clinched a gold medal in 50 breaststroke, Mithu won the first athletics gold for Bangladesh in 11 years in 110m hurdles while Mizan bagged a taekwondo middle weight gold in the Colombo Games.

Gayle fined

REUTERS, New Delhi

West Indies all-rounder Chris Gayle was fined 30 per cent of his match fee on Wednesday for a code of conduct breach during the narrow Champions Trophy victory over Australia.

Gayle and Australia batsman Michael Clarke exchanged words in the middle during the Group A game in Mumbai which West Indies won by 10 runs.

Gayle and Clarke were summoned for a disciplinary hearing after the game where the Australian player was found not guilty, an ICC spokesman said.

PCB gags drug duo

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif have been told to stop talking to the media before their appearance next week at a doping tribunal.

The pair were recalled from the Champions Trophy in India on Monday after Testing positive for the banned steroid nandrolone.

The players, who have pleaded innocent to charges of knowingly using a banned substance, face a ban of one to two years under World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regulations. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has said that as Pakistan conducted the tests internally it should decide on their punishments.

"They have been advised that it is better for them to plead their case in front of the tribunal instead of publicly as it would only damage their case," Saleem Altaf, the

SEE PAGE 22 COL

SL's must-win battle



AFP, Mumbai

Sri Lanka can't wait to take the field in Friday's key Champions Trophy match against New Zealand, a game they must win to stay in the tournament.

The four-wicket loss to Pakistan in Jaipur on Tuesday means Sri Lanka must win both their remaining Group B matches against the Kiwis and South Africa to qualify for the semifinals.

The crunch situation has excited captain Mahela Jayawardene, who said on Thursday that his team was geared for the day-night international at the Brabourne Stadium.

"It's like playing two semifinals," he said. "We know we have to give our best shot. We have nothing to lose. We look forward to enjoying the match."

"I have faith in my team, it is capable of doing well under pressure just as it has done in the past."

Sri Lanka's 10-match winning

streak, which included three successive victories in the Champions Trophy qualifiers, was broken by a highly-depleted, but inspired Pakistan in Jaipur.

Pakistan were not only without banned captain Inzamamul Haq, but also had to play without pace spearheads Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif who were recalled home following positive drugs tests.

Sri Lankan coach Tom Moody, however, said the loss will not ruin the momentum gained by his team over the last five months.

"I do not foresee major changes in the team," said Moody, a two-time World Cup winner as a player with Australia in 1987 and 1999.

"When nothing is broken, there is nothing to fix. Maybe it was not the right time for a reality check but it was a hiccup that will be addressed."

"New Zealand have always been tough opponents, but we are also a side that has done well in the recent past."

New Zealand, who stunned world number two South Africa in their first match here on Monday, were sweating over the fitness of pace bowler Shane Bond and all-rounder Scott Styris.

The injury-prone Bond missed the previous game after suffering a stiff back during a practice match. Styris also sat out with a hamstring niggle.

With rookie fast bowler Mark Gillespie laid low by a stomach bug, the Black Caps are down to 11 fit players on the eve of the match.

Captain Stephen Fleming said both Bond and Styris will undergo fitness tests on Thursday and Friday morning before the playing 11 was decided.

"Injuries have been a cause of worry but we are confident after beating South Africa and look forward to another good game against Sri Lanka," said Fleming.

"A win will bring us closer to the semifinals, but we are here to win every game and go all the way in the tournament."

"We have not been very consistent in our play and that is one area we are looking to improve."

Left-handed Fleming set up the victory over South Africa with a

SEE PAGE 22 COL

TROPHY TREATS

BISHWAJIT ROY from Jaipur

The perennial foes of world cricket will lock horns in the ICC Champions Trophy at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium tomorrow but the talking point was not the day-nighter even on the eve of the crucial game.

With just two days to go, the focus was on the coming Ashes series although the match in Jaipur is very vital for both the teams in a bid to stay alive for a semifinal berth, especially after both have got off to losing starts.

England began the tournament with a four-wicket defeat to hosts India here while world champions Australia were grounded by Brian Lara's West Indies in a thriller on Wednesday at Mumbai.

So it was natural that when English fast bowler Steve Harmison faced the press yesterday, he had to deal with questions about the Ashes battle most of the time.

One of his remarks during the press session, however, drew huge attention.

"Yes, our one eye is kept on the Ashes and another on Saturday's

match," said the lanky fast bowler in reply to a question from an English reporter.

A journalist was quick to respond on the interesting answer and joked, "We can make a headline that one-eyed England meet Australia?"

NO SOFT CORNER FOR AUSSIES

Former Australian skipper Steve Waugh is a very popular figure in India not only for his cricketing credibility but also for his involvement in charity activities.

Waugh has been passionately involved as a principal patron of Udayan, a special home for leprosy victim children located in Barrackpore on the outskirts of Kolkata.

Australian wicketkeeper cum batsman Adam Gilchrist has also followed in the footsteps of his former leader and a great cricketer by lending his hands for the orphans during the ICC Champions Trophy which has been hugely appreciated by the local media.

But ironically as a team, Australia have hardly received any

SEE PAGE 22 COL



PHOTO: AFP

THREE TO TANGO: West Indies bowler Jerome Taylor (C) runs off to celebrate his hatrick followed by teammates Chris Gayle (L) and wicketkeeper Carlton Baugh (R) during their Champions Trophy match against Australia at The Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday.

We were outplayed: Ponting



AFP, Mumbai

Australian captain Ricky Ponting Thursday warned his world beaters to shed their lethargy after the Champions Trophy exploded with three successive shock results.

"We were outplayed," said Ponting as world champions Australia crashed to a 10-run defeat at the hands of the West Indies at the Brabourne Stadium here on Wednesday night.

"There was a game here to be won and we were not good enough. We have to blame ourselves for

some ill-disciplined batting and some ill-disciplined bowling."

The West Indies' stunning victory, on the back of a hatrick from fast bowler Jerome Taylor, followed equally unexpected results on the previous two days that threw the eight-nation tournament wide open.

On Tuesday, a severely depleted Pakistan overcame the absence, on doping charges, of pace spearheads Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif to end Sri Lanka's 10-match winning streak with a four-wicket win in Jaipur.

A day earlier, world number two South Africa had been hammered by 87 runs by Stephen Fleming's New Zealand despite the Black Caps missing their frontline pacer Shane Bond due to a back injury.

The first round shockers mean both Australia and South Africa will not be guaranteed semifinal berths even if they win their two remaining league matches.

Hosts India, who beat England on Sunday, and the West Indies lead Group A ahead of Australia. New Zealand and Pakistan are on top of Group B, ahead of South Africa and Sri Lanka.

The second round of league matches starts on Friday when New Zealand take on Sri Lanka at the Brabourne stadium here.

Mahela Jayawardene's Sri Lankans need a win to stay in contention. The Kiwis will almost certainly book a semifinal berth with their second win.

"This is just the start the tournament needed," said former

Australian captain Ian Chappell. "There is little to choose between the eight teams."

"Anyone can win this one. There are more twists and turns to come."

The unpredictable nature of one-day cricket was evident on Monday night when Australia, chasing West Indies' 234-6 under lights, lost five wickets for 37 runs to be restricted to 224-9 in their 50 overs.

Taylor, a 22-year-old Jamaican, became the first West Indian to take a hatrick in limited-overs cricket to fashion a sensational win for the defending champions.

SEE PAGE 22 COL

4-star Kamal guides Usha



SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra joined Abahani on top of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Hockey League table when the defending champions brushed aside Ajax Sporting Club 8-0 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rafiqul Islam Kamal slammed four goals in Usha's fifth win in as many matches while Mostafizur Rahman Dinar added a brace. Pakistani recruit Delwear Hossain and Tayeb Reza added the rest.

Ajax, who crashed 7-0 to Abahani in the previous game, failed to resist a barrage of raids by the mighty Usha and trailed 4-0 at the break on way to their fourth loss in five outings.

Kamal opened the account after 13 minutes and scored his second nine minutes later but the veteran striker wasted a golden chance to complete

the hatrick when his effort was saved by rival keeper Shuva.

Kamal got his next goal in the 34th minute but Dinar had converted a penalty corner on the half hour to rob the former national star off the treble.

After the break, Delwar, Tayeb and Dinar all netted field goals before Kamal completed the rout three minutes from time. Ajax still have three points from a single victory.

Meanwhile, Azad Sporting Club notched their first win when they blanked Bangladesh Sporting Club 3-0 in the day's first match.

Manik and Jamil hit the mark from first-half penalty corners while Monir sealed three points for Azad in the 46th minute with a field goal.

Azad, who held Mohammedan Sporting Club to a goalless draw, pushed their collection to four points while pointless Bangladesh Sporting stuck to the bottom of the table.

Sadharan Bima will take on Sonali Bank in today's lone match at 3pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Kamal (C) of Usha celebrates after netting his team's second goal in their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match against Ajax at the Maulana Bhashani Stadium yesterday.

Asif, Shoeb off to Bangkok

SPORTS REPORTER

Injured shooters Asif Hossain Khan and Shoebuzzaman asked the nation to pray for their recovery before their departure to Bangkok yesterday for better treatment.

Both the national shooters were severely injured following a brutal police attack on shooters and National Shooting Federation employees at the National Shooting Complex and further torture at the Gulshan Police Station on October 2.

Commonwealth and South Asian Games gold medalist Asif, who will probably not be fit for competition in months and certain to miss the Asian games in Doha this December, told yesterday that he still felt pain in his feet.

"It is difficult to stand and I think the focus of the treatment would be the muscles of the sole of the feet," said the 19-year-old champion shooter.

"Pray for us that we recover and return home soon," added Asif who has already told that he wants to return his Commonwealth Games gold medal to the organisers.

Ishiaque Ahmed Babloo, joint secretary of the NSF, accompanied the two shooters, who will receive treatment at the Bumrungrad Hospital in the Thailand capital.



PHOTO: STAR

Beximco all-rounder Mehrab Hossain sweeps one during their match against Syfang Fan in the GrameenPhone Corporate League at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

Ad