



Did U Know?

Paraguay's Carlos Gamarra scored the first own goal in the FIFA 2006 World Cup in the 3rd minute of his team's game against England.



Serena Williams

(American tennis star)
"It was an awesome win because I had so many critics, so many people talking bad and saying negative things and saying I wasn't fit when I felt that I was really fit and could last three sets and two-and-a-half or three hours no worries."
After winning the Australian Open singles title.

DAY'S
EVENT

Premier Division Cricket League
Victoria SC v Kalabagan KC
Venue: BKSP
Partex SC v Young Pegasus
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Sonargaon Cricketers v Indira Road KC
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Bravo warned for appealing

CRICINFO, undated

West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has been officially reprimanded for excessive appealing during the third one-dayer against India at Chennai yesterday. The charge was brought by Suresh Shastri and Billy Bowden, the on-field umpires, after Bravo celebrated the dismissal of Dinesh Karthik before waiting for the umpire to adjudicate. Karthik was dismissed off a thin edge through to the wicketkeeper and Bravo's premature celebrations found him guilty of breaching clause 1.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct by Alan Hurst, the match referee. The clause comes under the category of excessive appealing.

"Although Dwayne Bravo later apologised to the umpire for his actions, he must recognize the need to respect the official and turn and appeal, especially for a fine edge through to the wicketkeeper," said Hurst.

All Level 1 breaches of the Code carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand and a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee.

Dilip wants Sourav to open

PTI, New Delhi

Chief cricket selector Dilip Vengsarkar has said Sourav Ganguly should open the innings at World Cup and that "there was no question of Sachin Tendulkar being dropped".

"I only have to say that if you see Ganguly, he played very well at Nagpur and he is going for opening. I hope that he will do even better. For the World Cup, I feel that he should open because he is a good opening batsman," Vengsarkar said.

"Sourav can always score runs and grind the bowling also at the same time. He can also play a good attacking game. I do hope that he will play very well at the World Cup also," the former Indian captain said.

Ganguly made 98 at Nagpur against the West Indies last week, his first one-dayer in more than 15 months.

The 'Prince of Kolkata' had earlier

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Mohammedan caught in Mashrafee wrath

Abahani's winning run on

SPORTS REPORTER



Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza destroyed Mohammedan Sporting Club with a five-wicket haul to help Abahani thrash their archrivals by 79 runs in yesterday's crucial Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League match.

The pace spearhead grabbed 5-24 in a fiery seven-over spell as Abahani, defending a challenging 231-8, shot out fellow title-contenders Mohammedan for 152 at the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium to continue their amazing all-win run.

Abahani maintained solo lead in the table with maximum 14 points after the seventh-round clash that was anything but the expected high-voltage drama.

Mashrafee, who did not bowl in the last match, revitalised after a five-day break and gave Abahani a perfect start when he trapped Intiaz Hossain lbw on the back foot in the very first ball.

The 'Narail Express' conceded eight runs in the third over but hit

back to clip the bails of fellow Tiger and danger man Aftab Ahmed with an inswinger as Mohammedan were reduced to 19-2.

Explosive opener Junaid Siddiquee (19 off 20 balls) and Sakib Al Hasan looked to repair the damage as Mohammedan raced to 45 by the seventh over but man-of-the-match Mashrafee, who missed a wicket in his third over, sent back the backbone of the rival batting taking three wickets in as many overs.

Left-hander Junaid was caught behind by wicketkeeper Zahurul Islam in his third attempt, Faisal Hossain mistimed a hook to edge to Zahurul while Sakib cut the ball to Nazimuddin at backward point.

After the innings was halved with just 50 runs on board in 10.2 overs, Mohammedan fell into further abyss when captain Habibul Bashar was trapped in front for eight (60-6) after failing to negotiate a low delivery by first-change Mohammed Shahjada.

Fielding a four-prong pace attack proved fruitful as Shahjada and Ziaur Rahman each chipped in with two wickets in supporting roles although Talha Jubair returned in

empty hands.

Mohammedan, who crashed to their second loss, were staring at a humiliating three-digit defeat when they slumped to 89-9 by the 27th over. But Arafat Sunny hit six fours and six in a 56 not out to spare their blushes with a 63-run last wicket stand before Manjurul Islam was yorked by Shahjada.

In the morning, Abahani recovered from early damage to produce the league's highest team total at the Mirpur venue after being put into bat.

They lost both the openers with 19 runs on board as the ball moved dangerously. However, Nazimuddin and in-form Tushar Imran's patient 65-run partnership for the third wicket saw them set a launching pad.

Nazimuddin, who top scored with 62 -- made off 99 balls with help of four boundaries and one six -- also involved himself in the most significant stand of the day with foreign import Sujith Fernando.

The portly southpaw from Sri Lanka hammered three fours and three sixes, two off spinner Sakib

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Preparation match at BNS today

SPORTS REPORTER

The national under-23 football team will play a preparation match against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The match will kick off at 3.30pm.

The U-23s are preparing under Abu Yusuf for home and away Olympic pre-qualifying matches against Hong Kong, scheduled for February 7 and 14.

They will play an exhibition match against visiting Korean club Ulsan on February 2 and also expected to face other Professional League clubs for preparation.

It would be Dhaka Mohammedan's first practice match in their build-up to the Professional League.

RMFS, Khulna Abahani have similar targets

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Abahani and Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society (RMFS) of Dhaka both want to build fighting teams in the B. League but do not expect to be among the top guns.

Scarcity of quality footballers will restrict the two to mediocrity, admitted the officials of the club in their presentation ahead of the inaugural Professional Football league at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

Abahani, 12-time champions in the Khulna league, have a record of winning nine titles in a row and have a one-crore Taka budget similar to Rahmatganj.

"We are making a medium level team. We are hoping to do well in the B. League. We have a strong fan base in Khulna, so we will look forward to make most of our home matches," said Mustafizur Rahman Bablu, Event Manager of the 32-old-year club.

They also train under-16 and -19 teams at their own expenses, which will be a good pipeline to supply booters in the future.

"We have recruited 4/5 players from the Dhaka Premier League. The others have also played in Dhaka. They are young and talented and hope to give surprises as our preparation and practice have already proved fruitful," said head coach Ali Ajar Nasir, an AFC 'C' SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Khulna Abahani footballers and officials show the club colours in a presentation programme for the B. League at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

South Africa clinch series

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

Jacques Kallis and Ashwell Prince steered South Africa to a series-clinching five-wicket win over Pakistan on the third day of the third and final Test at Newlands Sunday.

Kallis (51) and Prince (59 not out) came together when South Africa were wobbling at 39 for four in their quest for a target of 161 on a tricky pitch.

They put on 117 for the fifth wicket before Shahid Nazir bowled Kallis when just five runs were needed for victory.

South Africa won the series 2-1. They won the first Test at Centurion by seven wickets and Pakistan won the second in Port Elizabeth by five wickets.

Kallis and Prince batted with extreme caution early on against excellent bowling by opening bowler Mohammad Asif and leg-spinner Danish Kaneria before picking up the scoring rate when Asif tired and Pakistan had to use

their back-up bowlers.

Asif took two early wickets, dismissing South African captain Graeme Smith and Hashim Amla, to put the home side under pressure.

When Asif was rested half an hour before lunch he had bowled a spell of 11 overs in which he took two wickets for six runs, while South Africa had advanced by just 18 runs in 22.5 overs from their overnight total of 36 for two.

The value of Asif's bowling was shown when he was replaced by Mohammad Sami, whose second ball was punched by Kallis off the back foot through the covers for the first boundary of the day.

Kallis drove the next ball straight for another four. They were the only boundaries hit during a morning which brought 40 runs in 29.5 overs.

Asif struck with his fourth ball of the morning when Smith advanced down the pitch and tried to force him to the leg-side, missing the ball to be given out leg before.

Hashim Amla was caught behind off Sami four overs later for three.

Kallis and the left-handed Prince played cautiously, taking 128 min-

utes and 190 balls to post a 50 partnership.

But Asif was less effective after lunch, when he bowled five overs which cost 18 runs, and the scoring rate picked up, with Kallis and Prince scoring their second 50 off 72 balls. The total partnership of 117 was made off 273 deliveries.

Kaneria conceded only 30 runs off his first 25 overs but then leaked another 22 off his last three overs as South Africa got closer to the target.

Kaneria finished with two for 52 and Asif took two for 43.

There was some vociferous appealing, particularly early in the day, and at one stage umpires Peter Parker and Steve Bucknor spoke to acting captain Younis Khan, warning the players to "keep down the banter".

There was an incident shortly before the end of the match when Kaneria, fielding on the boundary, reported a spectator who allegedly swore at him.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third day of the third Test between South Africa and Pakistan at Newlands on



PHOTO: STAR

YOU CAN'T STOP ME: Abahani pacer Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza can't hide his joy after getting rid of Mohammedan's Aftab Ahmed (not in picture) with a peach of an inswinger in the prestige battle of the Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Dastagir surprise in B. League committee

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced its full tournament committee for the B. League -- the inaugural Professional Football League -- with controversial Dastagir Chowdhury in the 9-member body.

Chittagong-based Dastagir Chowdhury, a vice-president of BFF, is now in detention after being arrested during the tenure of the caretaker Government.

Tournament committee chairman and fellow vice-president Abdur Rahim told The Daily Star last night that they kept Dastagir because he was also a member of the first tournament committee, which was dissolved on December 18.

"We expect him to return to us soon. Also, the absence of one member would not hamper our works much," Rahim said in defence of his choice.

Manzoor Hossain Malu, Golam Rasul Molla and Monirul Islam are the new members of the committee.

The committee: Abdur Rahim (chairman), Sirajul Islam Bachchu (co-chairman), Monir Ahmed, Dastagir Chowdhury, Manzoor Hossain Malu, Golam Rasul Molla, Mojammeel Haque Mukta, Monirul Islam and Anwarul Hoque Helal.

Javed lifts Biman

SPORTS REPORTER



Opener Javed Omar reminded everyone that his days are not over with a timely 103 in Bangladesh Biman's victory over struggling City Club in the Kai-Altech Premier League at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

Biman won by three wickets, with seven balls remaining, as they successfully chased 227 runs set by City Club, who are now dwindling in the relegation zone with only four points from seven games. Biman, however, are smiling aplenty after their fourth win.

Away at BKSP, it was the same old story for Brothers Union as they lost their seventh match in a row. This time it was defending champions Old DOHS who beat them by six wickets with nearly 20 overs to spare. The loss confirmed Brothers' place in the relegation play-offs.

BIMAN V CITY CLUB

Skipper Shahriar Nafees did not lose heart after losing opening partner Gazi Salahuddin in the ninth over after his team were inserted by Biman skipper Sanwar Hossain.

He continued to accelerate and scored 64, caressing seven boundaries. But his dismissal in the 38th over sparked a loss of wickets for City Club as they were restricted to

226 for six in 50 overs.

Tigers all-rounder Forhad Reza and Murad Khan took two wickets each.

In reply, Biman relied on Javed to anchor the innings and he did just that with a stubborn start as wickets fell regularly. City's left-arm pacer Kamrul Islam bowled a vicious spell, picking up two for 13 in 10 overs.

But Javed found an ally in Biman's Pakistani import Zahoor Elahi, who scored 48. The two added 104 for the fourth wicket with Javed dominating the partnership. After his loss Javed reached his ton in 130 balls, with only a few runs remaining. Wicketkeeper-batsman Sajjad Kadir ensured the win more than an over in hand. Biman joined Victoria in joint-third place with eight points, six adrift of leaders Abahani.

OLD DOHS V BU

One-down Imran Ahmed was the only shining light in Brothers' innings, scoring 40 runs but the rest capitulated after Old DOHS skipper Akram Khan won the toss and decided to field first. Extras were the second highest total in Brothers' 146 all out.

Mehrab Hossain picked up three wickets while paceman Dollar Mahmud took two. Seasoned campaigner Ehsanul Haque was unbeaten on 45 with skipper Akram Khan on 22 as the two batsmen

Bhola, Khulna surge ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna and Bhola continued their winning run while Jahangirnagar University bounced back after their opening day's loss when all won their second round matches of the first-ever Women's Cricket Championship in the city yesterday.

At the Ansar and VDP ground, the hosts posted a fighting 131 for eight in 30 overs with Marna hitting 27. But their joy was short-lived as Khulna toppled the score in the final over with two wickets in hand. Sultana top-scored with 23 for Khulna.

Bhola crushed Rajshahi by nine wickets at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex while Jahangirnagar University thumped Rangamati by 61 runs at the Dhaka University ground.

Bad start for locals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladeshi players were defeated in all six games they played on the inaugural day of Grameenphone International Junior Tennis Championship at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex yesterday.

Delwar Hossain started the rot with a loss at the hand of India's Aparnabanda in straight sets and it continued as Anmol Singh thumped local boy Taskin Parvez 6-0, 6-0.

For Chinese Taipei, Yan Haiwei Lo and Chen Han Lee won their matches while the other local boys -- Prithul Mandal, Bashir Gazi and Tazmul Islam -- all lost in straight sets.

Russian Juan Di Villers and Indian Paranzip Kumar got walk-overs.

The qualifying and main draw rounds will be held from today.

Earlier, Grameenphone managing director Erik Aas declared the championship open as the chief guest in a colourful opening ceremony.

completed the formalities of the victory.

But time is running out fast for Brothers who now must get a grip of things after yet another defeat.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CITY: 226-6 in 50 overs (Salahuddin 36, Nafees 64, Wasim 10, Mustafiz 44, Khadem 7, Sajjadul 25*, Anwar 14, Arman 2*, extras 14, Neaz 1-46, Mosharraf 1-36, Reza 2-32, Murad 2-36). BIMAN: 227-7 in 48.5 overs (Javed 103, Iqbal 7, Mosharraf 16, SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Rezaul, Saif on top

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladeshi players Rezaul Islam, Abdullah Al Saif and Arifa Khatun shared the top spot of the 19th Telegraph Schools Chess Championship with 4.5 points each after end of the sixth round at the Gorky Sadan in Kolkata yesterday.

Aniruddha Majumder followed the leaders with four points, while Simon Siddiqui Rahman and Ikramul Haque Siam bagged 3.5 points each.

Mohammad Fahim earned three points.

In the sixth round, Rezaul drew with Nikhil while Aniruddha lost to Satyajit.



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa batsman Ashwell Prince flicks the ball to the boundary during the third day of the third Test match against Pakistan at Newlands in Cape Town on Sunday.