



## Did U Know?

By taking 26 wickets, Glenn McGrath of Australia was the highest wicket-taker in the 2007 Cricket World Cup.



Pele

(Football legend)  
"David Beckham is more of a pop star than a player. From my experience with New York Cosmos, I would advise him to be very well prepared for the matches."

## What to WATCH

**ATN Bangla**  
Mohammedan v Arambagh  
B.League  
Live from 4:15 pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm

**DAY'S EVENT**  
Mohammedan v Arambagh  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Time: 4:15 pm

Ctg Mohammedan v Sk Russel  
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong  
Time: 4:15 pm

## Abir-Rabi final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi's Abir will face Rabbi from Jessor in the final of the under-14 group of National Junior and Sub-junior Badminton competition at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium today.

Abir beat Almas 21-15, 21-14 while Rabbi defeated Arafat 15-21, 21-17, 21-15 in their respective semifinals yesterday.

In the boys' under-18 semifinal, Shoaib of Bogra beat Pabna's Ashraful 26-24, 21-13 to reach the final.

In the girls' under-14 group, the pair of Rozina and Nabila, who both played in the final on Monday, beat Mawasing and Hi Chi 21-8, 21-2 in the doubles semifinal.

## 'Booze adds to SA misery'

PTI, Durban

Alcohol abuse by some of the South African cricketers was a cause of their poor performance during the recent ICC World Cup in the West Indies, observes Adrian le Roux, the former fitness trainer of the team.

"In my opinion, the use of alcohol within the national team is a problem. This does not include all the players, but it does include players who play a vital role within the team," said Le Roux in the latest issue of 'The Wisden Cricketer'.

Drinking alcohol inside the 72-hour period before a match "would not allow the body to function in its normal capacity ... (and would be) a contributing factor to muscle cramping," he said.

Captain Graeme Smith and AB de Villiers suffered from crippling cramping during World Cup matches and the team came in for

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Khulna Abahani depart with future uncertain



SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Abahani finished ninth in the B. League when the visitors crushed Rahmatganj 3-0 on the penultimate day of the inaugural professional football league at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Needing a win to avoid a last-place finish, Rahmatganj showed signs of determination early in their league finale but failed to continue with the same spirit after captain Sony conceded an own goal five minutes from break.

Pikul and substitute Nazmul added the rest in the second half to ensure Khulna's third win in Dhaka after upsetting giants Brothers Union 4-2 and champions Abahani 2-1.

The home side, who had lost 2-0 to the Khulna sky-blues in their first leg match -- the opening round of the competition back in March -- ended bottom-of-the-table with 13 points while Khulna Abahani increased their collection to 16 points with their overall fourthvictory.

The league ends today with runners-up Mohammedan facing neighbours

bours and sixth-placed Arambagh and Sheikh Russel targeting a win against Chittagong Mohammedan in the port city in a bid to clinch third place.

Mamun fluffed a great chance after 12 minutes when the Rahmatganj forward took a headed pass from Rony on the edge of the six-yard box but screwed his shot wide.

Francis had only the last defender to beat from a mellee on the half hour but the Nigerian striker failed to keep it chip under the bar as Rahmatganj's domination began to fizz out.

A freekick by Abahani leftback Kabir broke the deadlock when his centre from the left side took a wicked deflection off Sony's chest, giving Anwarul no chance at the Rahmatganj goal.

Hemaya Ullah's boys, the most

### POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Abahani	20	14	5	1	36	8	47
MSC	19	11	6	1	39	12	39
Muktijoddha	20	9	6	5	29	19	33
Russel	19	8	3	3	22	12	32
Brothers	20	8	5	7	32	19	29
Arambagh	19	8	2	9	21	22	26
Ctg MSC	19	7	4	8	19	25	25
Farashganj	20	5	7	8	17	22	22
KinAbahani	20	4	4	12	21	43	16
CtgAbahani	20	4	3	13	18	39	15
Rahmatganj	20	3	4	13	15	48	13

impressive side on counter attacks, revealed their weapon properly in the second half to put the old-Dhaka outfit under constant threat with indefatigable runs by Pikul, Tajul and Prashanta, who had scored the very first goal of the competition.

The fact that Rahmatganj went more attacking in search of an equaliser, bringing Nigerian forward Ikocho in, brought the tourists to find more space but Tajul was denied by goalkeeper Anwarul on the hour before firing a shot over.

Substitute midfielder Hanif threw a lifeline to Rahmatganj in the 70th minute when he picked Adeyinka with a freekick but the Nigerian's header was cleanly collected by rival custodian Iran on the line.

Four minutes later, Pikul latched on to a long ball from their own half to dribble past Rahmatganj centre-back Shiron and hammer a right-footer into the roof of the net for his fourth league goal.

Francis spilled another chance from close range before Nazmul made it 3-0 in the 84th minute. Tajul exchanged passes with Pikul before releasing a square-pass near the goalmouth where Nazmul dodged the keeper to place the ball into an empty net.

Despite an impressive performance, Khulna Abahani's future in the B. League, however, was uncertain.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: INTERNET

India captain Rahul Dravid (L) salutes as he walks off with Sourav Ganguly (R) after they won the second Test by seven wickets at Trent Bridge on Tuesday.

## Zaheer's sweet revenge



Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

India's Zaheer Khan said he'd been inspired to produce his best Test match bowling figure by a bizarre England prank involving jellybeans.

Left-arm quick Khan took five for 75 in 27 overs as England were bowled out for 355 in their second innings before India closed on 10 without loss, needing just 63 more runs on Tuesday's final day to go 1-0 up in the three-match series with just The Oval finale to come.

That gave the 28-year-old pace bowler match figures of nine for 134 after his first innings return of four for 59.

But in between those stints the left-arm quick had been fired up by the sight of jellybeans being left on the

crease when he came out to bat on Sunday during India's first innings 481.

After he'd got off the mark, an angry Khan brandished his bat in the direction of the England slip cordon and at the end of the over the umpires spoke to him and Andrew Strauss, captaining England with Michael Vaughan off the field, in a bid to calm the situation.

"There was an incident that happened on the field while I was batting. On the crease there were some jellybeans so I just tapped one off the wicket to start with," Khan told reporters after stumps on Monday, having taken his fifth five-wicket innings return in his 49 Tests.

"Then I played the next ball, there were again some jellybeans on there on the wicket so someone was chucking them from behind, which I didn't like.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## BCB ad-hoc committee sits today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first meeting of the newly appointed ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will take place this afternoon at the board's management office in Gulshan.

Chief of General Staff Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamil will preside over the emergency meeting. Although it would be an introductory get-together, a number of pressing issues are expected to be discussed.

However, any major decision is unlikely to come out as there had been hardly any interactions among the members of the 12-member committee since it was declared on Sunday.

But still, issues like appointments of a national coach and physiotherapist, tour management members for the ICC Twenty20 World Championship and the Academy tour of Australia require immediate attention.

Most of the members, however, are eagerly waiting to know whether there is any government course of action about the running of the country's most affluent sport body.

It is unlikely to see all the members attending the first meeting as two members are in abroad now.

## 'We didn't throw jellybeans'

BBC ONLINE, undated

England captain Michael Vaughan said his players had not dropped jelly beans about the crease on Sunday while India were batting in the second Test.

Vaughan's team lost by seven wickets at Trent Bridge to fall 1-0 down in the series with just one match left.

India's Zaheer Khan, man of the match for his nine wickets, said he felt insulted by the jellybean incident.

But Vaughan said: "The guys promised me they weren't throwing them. They were just left there at a drinks interval."

The skipper said that if he could be provided with "some footage that might prove me wrong" then he would be happy to re-evaluate the incident.

The jellybean row was just one of a number of ill-tempered exchanges between both teams.

India pace bowler Sreesanth lost half his match fee for a shoulder charge against Vaughan, and the same man also bowled an accidental bouncer to Kevin Pietersen.

England wicketkeeper Matt Prior indulged in frequent sledging when India were batting.

Vaughan said: "There might have been times when we might have gone over the line but I want players playing it tough in Test cricket."

England's scores of 198 and 355 were "about 60 to 70 runs short" on each occasion, said the captain.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

## India go one up



Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

India beat England by seven wickets to win the second Test on the fifth and final day at Trent Bridge here on Tuesday and so go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Resuming on 10 without loss, India needed just a further 63 to achieve their victory target of 73 and England required an astonishing fightback.

As it was, India took just 95 minutes Monday to seal what was only their fifth win in 47 Tests in England, finishing on 73 for three.

India captain Michael Vaughan, reflecting on his side's triumph, said: "We got together after Lord's and knew we needed a better performance. You have to get the basics right and that's what we did. It was a great effort."

Dravid was 11 not out and Sourav Ganguly two not out on a sunlit day seemingly ideal for batting with the winning runs coming when wicketkeeper Matt Prior conceded four byes.

This victory was set up by left-arm quick Zaheer Khan who led the India attack with a superb display of swing bowling on his way to Test-best match figures of nine for 134.

Dravid reflected: "He was brilliant, you need players who can take the game by the scruff of the neck and that's what he did Monday afternoon. He really changed the game for us."

Chris Tremlett took all the wickets to fall on Monday in a spell of three wickets for three runs in 27 balls.

Wasim Jaffer was caught off a top-edged hook by the fast bowler's

Hampshire teammate Kevin Pietersen in the gully for 22.

Jaffer's fellow opener Dinesh Karthik fell for the same score when he was caught behind by Prior.

Sachin Tendulkar went for just one, well caught at backward short leg by Alastair Cook after he fended at a rising ball.

It had been a good toss for Dravid to win, his bowlers exploiting the helpful conditions to dismiss England for 198.

In reply India piled up 481, a lead of 233, with Tendulkar making 91 as he became only the third batsman in history to score 11,000 Test runs.

England captain Michael Vaughan made the only individual century of the match, 124 when his side batted again before becoming one of Khan's five second innings wickets.

Paying tribute to the visitors Vaughan said: "Full credit to India, they deserved to win the test match throughout the five days."

"It seemed to have been a good toss to win but all credit to the Indian attack. We were probably 60 to 70 runs light in the second innings but India played some good cricket."

This test, which followed an opener at Lord's where India clung on for a draw with one wicket standing was marred by several unpleasant incidents.

India fast bowler Shantanu Sreesanth was fined 50 percent of his match fee during India's seventh-wicket second Test win, completed at Trent Bridge here Tuesday, for shoulder barging England captain Michael Vaughan.

Sreesanth was fined 50 percent of his match fee during India's seventh-wicket second Test win, completed at Trent Bridge here Tuesday, for shoulder barging England captain Michael Vaughan.

He also let loose a dangerous beamer at England batsman Kevin Pietersen, for which he immediately raised his hand in apology, and bowled a bouncer at Paul Collingwood off a no-ball called after he'd overstepped the crease by several feet.

Khan, by contrast, largely kept his cool when