

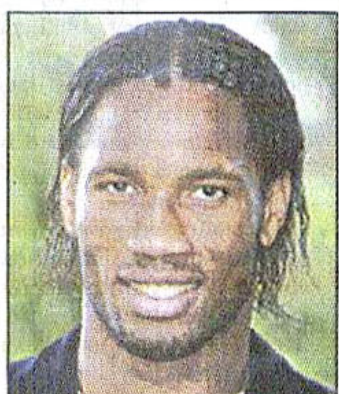
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Did U Know?

A German farmer sued the owners of a nearby golf club in 1994 after his veterinarian discovered a golf ball lodged in the throat of a recently deceased cow. The farmer claimed the club was responsible for the death of 30 of his cows. It was later discovered the 30 cows had swallowed about 2,000 golf balls that had landed in the pasture.



Didier Drogba
(Chelsea's Ivory Coast superstar)
"I am a Chelsea player and will be 100 per cent committed and supportive to my manager, my teammates and the club. I will not be discussing my future any further until I meet privately with the club at the end of the season."



ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
English Premier League
Newcastle United v Tottenham
Live from 12:55 am (Tuesday)



National Cricket League
(First Round, Day Four)
Dhaka v Khulna
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka
Barisal v Chittagong
Venue: Shaheed Chaudhury Stadium, Bogra
Rajshahi v Sylhet
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium

AFC Festival goes to Iran

SPORTS REPORTER

Iran will host next year's AFC Football Festival (U-13, U-14) instead of Bangladesh, which staged the last two events and got Asian Football Federation's verbal assurance of being the permanent hosts. The Bangladesh Football Federation has received AFC's invitation to join the meet. It was learned that the AFC has shifted the venue following the Central Asian nations' failure to acclimatise to the hot and humid conditions as the event is usually held in April. Also, the foreign teams had complained about food and lack of facilities.

Captains dominate

SPORTS REPORTER



Dhaka were with a sniff of a chance against Barisal and Rajshahi reached to strong positions after third day's play in the 9th National Cricket League yesterday. At Bogra, Chittagong will resume 209 runs ahead after reaching 307-9 in their second innings replying to Barisal's first innings score of 274. At the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, the hosts chipped away at Sylhet, who posted an overall 7-run lead with six wickets in hand after Rajshahi were bowled out for 301 in the first innings.

In Dhaka, Khulna set the hosts 314 to win after slumping to 184 all out in the second dig. Dhaka reached 72 for two when stumps were drawn.

DHAKA-KHULNA
Captain Habibul Bashar, making his first NCL appearance in two seasons, struck 67 as he tried in vain to hold Khulna's innings at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. His overnight partner Tushar Imran, who resumed on 29, moved to 43 when left-arm spinner

Mosharraf Hossain had him caught off his own bowling. The two experienced campaigners had added 84 for the third wicket since the second day.

Bashar then fought a lone battle before being the sixth man dismissed, having hit five boundaries in a patient 166-balls knock.

It was left to the batting talents of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to give Khulna a 300-run advantage and he obliged, smashing a 41-ball 31. But there were no fireworks from first-innings hero Abdur Razzak, as Mohammad Sharif snared him. The Dhaka paceman took four wickets while Mosharraf picked up three.

Dhaka lost opener Anwar Hossain but Al Shahriar joined Javed Omar to add 51 runs before Khulna struck a considerable blow by removing the stylish Shahriar with 65 runs on board. Captain Ashraf and Javed, on 3 and 29 respectively, were carrying the hopes of the home side, who need a further 242 to win.

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET
Khaled Mashud, unbeaten on 50 overnight, had an able ally in tail-enders Delwar Hossain to frustrate Sylhet. The two had already added 39 for the ninth wicket on Saturday

and went on to put on 41 more. Delwar, who struck four boundaries in his 40, was dismissed but Mashud milked the strike during a 31-stand with number eleven Mohammad Shahjada. Mashud was the last man dismissed on 82.

Trailing by 160 runs, Sylhet made an enterprising start but lost three quick wickets. But captain Rajin Saleh's 130-ball 59 not out with help of Alok Kapali (35) and Mushfiqur Rahim (22 batting) gave the tourists the hope of a draw.

BARISAL-CHITTAGONG
Visiting Chittagong made sure Barisal have to work hard for an outright victory at the Shaheed Chaudhury Stadium, batting all day to grind out a lead of 209 runs that could be handy on a last day pitch.

Tamim Iqbal and Gazi Salahuddin added a further 34 runs to their overnight 34 but their partnership was cut short when the latter was run out for 26.

Nafis Iqbal and Aftab Ahmed spent an hour at the crease after Tamim's departure on 60. But after both the senior batsmen were dismissed, Nazimuddin and captain Ehsanul Haque played out two more hours, adding 89 runs.

Barisal, however, rode that

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Dyson joins West Indies

AGENCIES, undated

Australian John Dyson has been appointed as West Indies coach, more than two years after ending his time at the helm of the Sri Lanka team.

Dyson succeeds David Moore, who was coach on a temporary basis after Bennett King quit in March.

"The rest of the team management will be identified and appointed subsequently," a West Indies Cricket Board statement said on Saturday.

It was not immediately clear when Dyson will start in his new role, but the West Indies are due to begin a tour of South Africa in December.

A batsman Dyson, 53, who played 30 Tests, scoring two centuries and averaging 26.64, and 29 one-dayers between 1977 and 1984, coached Sri Lanka for almost two years.

In that time, Sri Lanka won five of 16 Tests, drawing six more, and were victorious in 21 of 29 one-dayers.

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Blow for BCB

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board's bid to appoint a new foreign coach for the national team before the tour of New Zealand was heavily dashed after John Dyson's decision to take helm of the West Indies.

Former Australian international Dyson, who had applied for the West Indies job, was also in link with Bangladesh and was expected to make his presentation to the board this month.

"It's a disconcerting situation for us now because it would be difficult to rope in a new coach soon," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, chairman of BCB cricket operations committee, yesterday.

"We had completed all necessary talks with Dyson. He said he would be available from mid-November and also gave us an offer.

"As almost all his conditions suited us, we would have given him our counter proposal following his presentation. We felt that we were

as close as we could be to seal the deal.

"Naturally, Dyson chose the better option but now we have to start afresh, which is a difficult task."

With the board president giving his associates an October deadline to decide on a new coach, it seems an impossible task.

"It's more of a preliminary target than a deadline. It would be better if we achieve the target of confirming a coach by October," opined the former national captain.

"In fact, coaches are not very much available for international jobs as most have commitments. We still have two men in our list but it seems that Gordon (Greenidge) cannot stay in Bangladesh for full two years without interruption. We have already sent him our itinerary and I will contact him tomorrow to know his views," he informed about Bangladesh's ICC Trophy winning West Indian coach.

BCB's short-list also includes Australian all-rounder Colin Miller, whose coaching background is not as rich as the other two.



Khulna captain Habibul Bashar cuts the ball during his half-century against Dhaka during the third day's play of the National Cricket League at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



South Africa captain John Smit (C) holds aloft the Rugby World Cup trophy as President Thabo Mbeki (2nd from L) and team members applaud after they beat England in the final at the Stade de France in Paris on Saturday.

Bangladesh face Turkmenistan today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh youth football team will look to recover after Saturday's shock 9-1 defeat to hosts UAE when they take on Turkmenistan in the third round of the AFC Championship (Under-16) qualifiers today.

The Group D match will kick off in Abu Dhabi at Bangladesh time 6pm.

Turkmenistan are one of the four Central Asian nations in the group. Bangladesh are hoping to beat after their 9-1 victory over Palestine in the opener.

Proteas hail Springboks

AFP, Lahore

South Africa cricket captain Graeme Smith on Sunday led his team in a chorus of praise after the Springboks won their second rugby World Cup title.

South Africa beat defending champions England 15-6 in the final in Paris on Saturday, a match watched at midnight here by the Proteas who are on a tour of Pakistan.

"I'm glad we were able to watch the match," said Smith.

"We're very proud of the rugby team. We rejoice in their victory along with everyone else in the country. They deserve everything that comes their way."

Smith, whose team won the two-Test series 1-0 for their first win in the subcontinent for seven years, was speaking after losing the second one-day international against Pakistan by 25 runs here on Saturday.

The Springboks' win was their second World Cup triumph. However, their cricketing counterparts have still to reach a World Cup final in five attempts.

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur said the Springboks win was a reward for hard work and determination.

"It shows what consistency of selection and planning for four years can do. I am pleased and proud," said Arthur.

Veteran paceman Shaun Pollock, a former skipper, said the win in Paris was "fantastic".

"It's exciting to be a supporter and to experience the winning of a World Cup. The heroes' welcome that they get is nothing less than they deserve," said Pollock.

RUGBY WORLD CUP Boks rule the world

AFP, Johannesburg

South African papers hailed the world champion Springboks as the "Glory Boys" of rugby on Sunday after the golden boot of Percy Montgomery kicked them to victory over England in Paris.

"Boks rule the world!" read the headline in the Sunday Independent while the front-page of The Sunday Times merely read "Glory Boys!" over a picture of skipper John Smit and the team holding the Webb Ellis trophy aloft.

For the Afrikaans' Rapport paper, the Boks had made a nation proud -- including the anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela.

The 15-6 win, which came 12 years after the Springboks' first triumph, marked a sharp turnaround in fortunes for a team that was bundled out of the 2003 tournament in the quarter-finals after a race row marred their build-up.

"This epic victory is all the sen-

sational given the despair of Rugby World Cup 2003, and for the Springboks to have risen from the canvas to win the title is nothing short of miraculous," said the Sunday Independent.

"Enjoy it South Africa, and be proud of your team because it is doubtful there has been a team more deserving of the game's richest spoils."

The paper said that the team's veterans were the stars of the show on Saturday night, particularly Montgomery who kicked 12 of the 15 points.

"The senior Springboks were magnificent in marshalling the forces. Among the forwards Victor Matfield, Os du Randt and John Smit were outstanding, at the back Percy Montgomery quite brilliant."

The Sunday Times also said the experience of the Boks was vital in ensuring the door was closed on England long before the referee blew the final whistle.

"In the end, the most experienced SA test side yet held their nerve better than England ... to effectively shut the match down from as early as the third quarter."

It also pinpointed Montgomery's performance as the key to victory, saying the blonde fullback, who had been dubbed 'Percy the Peacock' by the English tabloids, "got his revenge at the Stade de France".

The lack of tries in the game meant that the final was far from a classic, a point that was not missed amid the euphoria over the result.

"Both sides will be grateful that there is no column for how it looked in the history books because it was an ugly game," said the Sunday Times.

The crucial moment in the game came shortly after half-time when England's Mark Cueto thought he had scored a try in the corner only for the television match official to rule that he had

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WC win was no fluke: Dhoni

AGENCIES, Mumbai



Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the Indian team had proved that their World Twenty20 Championship victory was not a fluke as they mauled Australia by seven wickets in the one-off Twenty20 international here on Saturday.

"(Victory) means a lot. We wanted to prove that the victory (in South Africa) was not a fluke," he said after the match.

Dhoni said that team wanted to enjoy and play with intensity.

"We wanted to enjoy. The benchmark was to play with intensity and to put up a good fielding and bowling performance," he said.

Dhoni's counterpart, Ricky Ponting, felt his team did not get enough runs on the board. "We fell short by 15 runs. We gave away too many extras -- 23 extras means four extra overs. We did it the other night also and we need to buck up," he said.

"Harbhajan (Singh) and (Murali) Kartik bowled well. (Gautam) Gambhir batted well. We would like to play more matches against the new generation Indian players."

The Indian captain also hailed opener Gambhir for his splendid show with the bat.

"Gautam played excellently. The way he batted was amazing. He was out of the team because of injury and made a good comeback. I hope he bats the same in the Pakistan series," he said.

Man-of-the-match Gambhir said he was keen to carry on his good form in the one-day format.

"I think it (Twenty20) is working for me. I am playing well and I want to continue (with this form) in 50-50," said the Delhi batsman.

Dhoni said that Saturday's win

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Winning SL's priority

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene said on Sunday that winning the Test series in Australia mattered more than ace spinner Muttiah Muralidaran going for the world record.

Off-spinner Muralidaran needs just nine more wickets in next month's two Tests in Australia to break the retired leg-spinner Shane Warne's world mark of 708 wickets.

"I've spoken to Murali and his sentiments are that he will break the record whether it will be in Australia or elsewhere," Jayawardene told the

Colombo-based Nation newspaper. "For him, the Australian tour is about performing well and winning. Down the line, if he can break the record it will be great, but even if he doesn't break it, it is not an issue for us."

Muralidaran will have three more Tests against England at home in December to achieve the feat in 2007 if he fails to set the record in Australia.

Sri Lanka may not have won a Test match in Australia but Jayawardene said his side had the bowlers to end the drought.

"The best chance we have got would be right now because we have a good bowling attack," he

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

খোদামান
এ সপ্তাহের বিষয়: অভিভাবক
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