

## Fall from grace

Dean Jones's admission of fathering a child outside his marriage has cost him the Victorian Father of the Year title, which the former Australian cricketer won in 2007. Jones was stripped of the title following his recent shocking revelation that he had an affair for nine years with Sydney flight attendant Kerri-Anne Hamilton and has had a child with her, which he is believed to have never seen. "From now on, 2007 will simply show as blank -- that's our attitude," Father of the Year Council president Don Parsons was quoted as saying by the Herald Sun.



**VICTIM OF INJUSTICE:** National and Usha Krira Chakra forward Maksudul Alam Habul (L) watches the Premier Division Hockey League match between Abahani and Ajax along with teammates from the VIP stands of the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Habul is playing the role of a mere spectator in the ongoing League after champions Usha refused to launch their title defence in protest of the federation ruling about their ill-fated Club Cup final against Mohammedan that violated every conceivable norm of the game.

PHOTO: STAR

## When will the academy come functional?

**Cricket**

BISHWAJIT ROY

It is often told that right now Bangladesh cricket has been suffering from a lack of back-up players which is portraying a gloomy picture of the game in the country. So much so that the pipeline which the country uses to produce future cricketers has gathered rust due to lack of activities from the sport's governing body -- the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

The National Cricket Academy, the heartbeat of any cricketing nation, is one of the major components for keeping the pipeline alive besides the "A" team, but unfortunately the BCB has failed, as yet, to cash in on the opportunity they had after getting a two-storied building for the academy with all the necessary modern facilities in Mirpur.

It was a noble gesture from BCB's development partner Grameenphone, who came up with the offer of building the establishment, but after a seemingly never-ending delay since the deal was struck in March 2007, the dream finally came true in March this year. But still it has not been furnished with all the components that will make it functional.

The BCB had formed a management committee headed by former cricketer Shakil Kasem, but in April the gentleman resigned "out of frustration" after eight months in office as none of his initiatives had seen the light. Since his resignation there has hardly been any progress to make the academy functional though the development committee has taken up some programmes with the local experts.

"True it's taking too long to give the academy a proper shape. We hope some major decisions will be taken regarding the academy

in the next board meeting which will take place sometimes by the end of this month," informed BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

"The major issue is to appoint a head coach for the academy and we are already scrutinising the applications for different posts of the academy. What we feel is that we desperately need to make the academy functional in true sense to make sure we have enough cricketers in the pipeline," he added.

Aminul Haque Moni, chairman of the game development committee, however was not too disappointed with the way the academy is now running under the local coaches.

"We have lack of future cricketers in the pipeline not because of our academy is not running properly. It's one of components but we have to make sure that we have a strong "A" team. We must ensure enough cricket for the "A" team," opined Moni.

"Everything is not stagnant at the academy because we are running a number of programmes under the local coaches. It's taking a little bit time but recruitments of head coaches and other officials are under process," he added.

The veteran organiser has also cast doubt over full-swing activities by the academy before the 2011 World Cup where Bangladesh is one of the co-hosts along with India and Sri Lanka.

"You have to have all the facilities available for the residential camp but I have doubt whether we get the adjacent ground and all the facilities when it would be ready by October next as there is a chance for the LOC [Local Organising Committee] to take over all these for the World Cup," informed Moni.

But many believe that the delay in development programmes like the academy only makes a huge vacuum in the pipeline and Bangladesh cricket is set to suffer in the long run.

## BD-Scots ODI washed away

SPORTS REPORTER

The lone one-day international between Bangladesh and Scotland at Titwood in Glasgow yesterday was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to incessant rain. After a couple of inspections, the umpires decided to call off the game at around 2pm local time as there was no sign of rain to ease.

The Tigers will take on The Netherlands today at the same venue, though forecasts are not too bright for today too. Bangladesh have so far lost 2-1 to England in their 3-match series, then drew 1-1 with Ireland and will sign off the tour of UK with today's match against the Netherlands.

## Abahani roll over Ajax

**Hockey**

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistani penalty-corner specialist Sohail Abbas slammed four goals including a hat-trick to power title-aspirants Abahani to a massive 9-1 win over Ajax Sporting Club in the Super League encounter of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Abbas, Puspokor Khisha Mimo struck twice while Tariq Aziz, Modasser Ali and Rubel Hossain netted one goal apiece for the winners. Abahani dominated the game from the outset and took a comfortable 4-1 lead in the first half.

Having thrashed Mariner Youngs 5-0 in their previous game, the Sky Blues started this match in the same fashion scoring the first three goals within 17 minutes. Abbas grabbed all the three from penalty corners, with a combination of his compatriot Modasser Ali and veteran local midfielder Moshir Rahman Biplob.

Having taken a three-goal lead, Abahani coach Kawsar Ali made a few changes bringing in the likes of Mimo, Hasan Jubair, Ajit Kumar. Mimo wasted no time to pay back his coach's faith scoring the team's fourth goal in the 33rd minute.

Ajax, who had suffered a 7-1 reversal to Abahani in their first leg, gave hint of a fight-back pulling back one just a minute before the break. Imtiaz Ahmed Rubel pushed the ball home from close range which happened to be the only goal of the game for Ajax.

After the break, Abahani become more destructive as Abbas converted the fourth penalty corner. The Sky Blues capitalised on all of the penalty corners they earned in the game, something they had failed to do in their last match of the first-leg against Mohammedan.

Then Modasser, Tariq and Mimo tore apart the Ajax defence and added four more goals. Mimo struck the sixth while Modasser scored the seventh and then fed Tariq for the eighth. Rubel completed the rout two minutes from time.

The 10th victory in 11 matches raises Abahani's points to 30, three behind arch-rivals Mohammedan.

## Court tells BHF to decide on Club Cup final

SPORTS REPORTER

A Dhaka court has directed Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) to take decision on the Dhaka Bank Club Cup hockey final between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Usha Krira Charka according to the tournament bylaws in consultation with the tournament committee and members of the federation after the latter had filed a case seeking justice.

The Fourth Assistant Judge's Court of Shaikh Md. Mujahid Ul Islam has also directed the federation to consider the plaintiff club's -- Usha KC -- position to ensure that they can participate in the next league after failing to do so in the ongoing competition in the prevailing situation. It also asked the federation to inform the court about the decisions by July 22.

The court has also asked the federation to pay Tk one lakh to Usha KC as compensation for the financial loss they suffered due to the federation's indecision.

It may be mentioned that Mohammedan were declared champions in the Club Cup hockey final in a 55-minute game in which the winners fielded an unregistered foreign player against Usha, who took part in the game under protest.

Mohammedan were leading 4-2 when the umpires blew the long whistle 15 minutes before time due to bad light.

## Day Two rained off

AFP, Galle

The second day's play in the first Test between India and Sri Lanka on Monday was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to bad weather.

The morning start had already been delayed by a wet outfield at the Galle International Stadium when a thunderstorm soon after ensured there would be no play before lunch.

The umpires scheduled an inspection at 2:30 pm as the skies cleared briefly, but another spell of heavy rain in the afternoon wiped out any hope of play.

Twenty-two overs were lost due to rain on the first day in which Sri Lanka, electing to bat after winning the toss, made 256-2 with Tharanga Paranavitana on 110 and

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## Sealed in blood by Sachin

**Cricket**

THE GUARDIAN

Worship of cricket's "little master", Sachin Tendulkar, is set to cross a new boundary, as a luxury book publisher brings out a special edition of his autobiography made with the batsman's blood.

Only for the most dedicated of fans, the "blood edition" of the Tendulkar Opus, which also includes unpublished family pictures and Tendulkar's thoughts about his career, weighs 37kg, measures half a metre square and stretches to 852 pages edged in gold leaf, costing \$75,000 (£49,000). Out next February, only 10 copies are being printed and they have all already been pre-ordered.

"The signature page will be mixed with Sachin's blood mixed into the paper pulp so it's a red resin. It is what it is you will have Sachin's blood on the page," said publisher Kraken Media's chief executive Karl Fowler. "It's not everyone's cup of tea, it's not to everyone's taste and some may think it's a bit weird. But the key thing here is that Sachin Tendulkar to millions of people is a religious icon. And we thought how, in a publishing form, can you get as close to your god as possible?"

As well as taking blood from the cricketer, Kraken asked for a sample of his saliva and used this to create his DNA profile, which will be printed on a two-metre gatefold in the book. "What you'll be looking at is his genetic makeup," said Fowler.

All proceeds from the sale of the 10 copies will go to Tendulkar's charitable foundation to help build a school in Mumbai.

Kraken will also publish around 1,000 copies of a cheaper edition of the autobiography at \$2,000-\$3,000 (£1,300-£1,900). Signed by Tendulkar, this edition will also be a half-metre square in size and will contain around 75% previously unpublished material about the cricketing star, as well as his

DNA profile but not his blood. It is also releasing a \$200-\$300 (£130-£190) smaller edition of the book.

"We're publishing next February, in time for the cricket World Cup, which is being held in India. It's perfect timing," said Fowler. "He's never done an autobiography before and has a great story to tell."

Other titles out later this year from the luxury publisher include a book on major league baseball, one on Ferrari and one on Formula One. No plans to use blood in any of these have yet been revealed.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

## Yousuf coming back?

**Cricket**

CRICINFO

Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Yousuf is ready to come out of retirement sooner rather than later, further broadening the possibility of an appearance at some point for Pakistan in the summer.

Yousuf, who announced his sudden retirement after a win-less tour of Australia, had said recently he was targeting the tour of UAE later this year to make a return, but the team's struggles in the first Test against Australia at Lord's may have prompted him to change his mind.

Pakistan made scores of 148 and 289 with only one batsman, Salman Butt, managing to pass fifty. They lost 11 of their wickets to Shane Watson and the part-time spinner Marcus North.

Though their bowlers competed well, the batsmen fell short mainly due to the lack of experience in the middle order, which was missing the pedigree of Yousuf and

Younus Khan for differing reasons.

In the immediate aftermath of the Lord's loss speculation centred on the PCB sending out an SOS to Yousuf, but Ijaz Butt denied that was the case. The matter of Yousuf and Younis's return was considered at a meeting the chairman held with team management to appoint a new captain, but was deferred until after the second Test against Australia, officials insisting they were happy with the performances of debutantes Azhar Ali and Umar Amin.

"I am available any time for my national team," Yousuf said in Karachi. "If the team doesn't need me I stand retired. But if I'm needed, I am ready and available to serve my country. If PCB invites me with respect I will definitely go and join the team."

Salman, 25, was appointed captain after Shahid Afridi announced another unexpected retirement from Tests. Afridi was named captain for the entire tour of England but quit after the Lord's defeat

saying he wasn't enjoying Test cricket after all.

Yousuf has had problems in the past with Shoaib Malik when he was captain but said he was willing to play under Salman. "It's a PCB decision (appointing Salman) and everybody should respect it," Yousuf said. "I can play under any captain and have never felt degraded playing under anyone."

Yousuf added that he was in touch with the PCB chairman, who was kept aware of his plans to return.

Yousuf was the captain during Pakistan's shambolic tour of Australia, where the team came under fire for their performances. The PCB responded by penalising seven players it believed were responsible for the defeats, Yousuf among them. He and Younus were banned indefinitely, and as a mark of protest, Yousuf announced he was quitting the game "for now."

He was the only one among the seven punished players not to appeal against the sanctions, despite the PCB

leaving the door open for him to return. However, since Yousuf didn't respond to those messages from the board the national selectors could not consider him for the tour of England.

**What to WATCH**

**TEN Sports & SuperSport5**  
Sri Lanka v India  
First Test, Day Three  
Live from 10:30am

**DAY'S EVENT**

**Premier Div Super League Hockey**  
Mohammedan v Sonali Bank  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium



**MUST BE SMILING IN PAIN:** Sri Lanka's spin-legend Muttiah Muralidaran wears a smile as he stands on a covered Galle pitch on the rain-marred second day of the first Test against India yesterday. The leading wicket-taker in Test cricket stands only eight wickets away from 800 scalps but has already announced his retirement taking effect after this match.

PHOTO: AFP