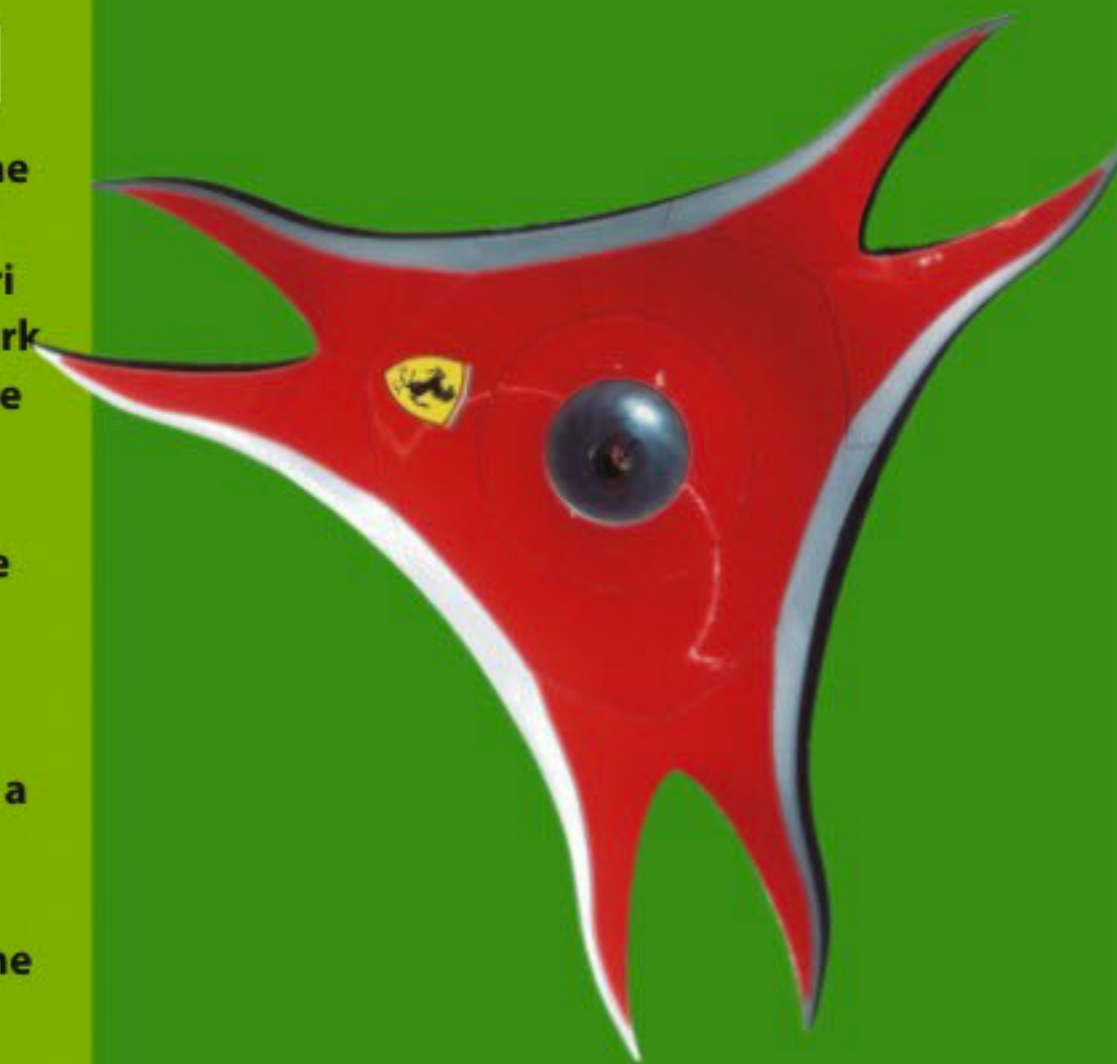


Dubai to open Ferrari World

A year after its first Formula One race, Abu Dhabi hopes to lure even more tourists with "Ferrari World" - a grandiose theme park that is the first of its kind for the iconic Italian carmaker. Ferrari World Abu Dhabi announced on Monday that the park will open in 100 days featuring a record-breaking roller coaster ride meant to emulate the feeling of being in a Ferrari F1 car. The sprawling complex will be the world's largest indoor theme park and is due to open on October 28.



Abahani thump MSC

Archivals declared joint champs

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani were declared joint champions of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League after the Sky Blues beat their archivals 5-2 in the last match of the league at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday which meant the two sides finished with 36 points each from 13 matches.

As per the bylaws of the league, they were supposed to take part in a play-off match, but an emergency meeting of the league committee following yesterday's match declared the two teams joint winners with consent from the members of both sides and a few other clubs as well.

A press release from the Bangladesh Hockey Federation stated that the decision was taken in the greater interest of the game without mentioning what that interest was. However, the return schedule of the officiating foreign umpires was expected to be the reason behind such a move.

The title took the Dhanmondi club back to the pinnacle of local hockey having relinquished the last league to Usha Krira Chakra who have opted to stay out of the current season.

Abahani came into this match three points behind Mohammedan knowing well that anything other than a defeat would hand their opponents the title. Having lost 0-3 in the first leg to the same opposition, Abahani started as clear underdogs. But during the course of the game, they always looked step ahead than their rivals and controlled most of the match.

National forward Pushkor Khisha Mimo was in inspiring form as he scored two goals and created three penalty corners, two of which were converted by Pakistani penalty-corner specialist Sohail Abbas, for the winners.

Abahani started the game strongly and found the back of the board with Abbas striking from the penalty corner in the sixth minute. Mohammedan pulled one back through veteran Musa Mia in the 23rd, only to fall behind

again to a 31st minute strike from Mimo. But Mohammedan's Pakistani recruit Sabbir Khan made it 2 apiece in the 34th minute. If Abahani started the half strongly, Mohammedan finished with the upper hand as the two sides went to the break all square.

The second half belonged all to the men in sky blue. Highest scorer in international hockey Sohail Abbas successfully converted for the second time in the day in the 43rd minute. And there was no return for the Motijheel tent when they got further behind fifteen minutes later through a fumble at the back which profited Mimo with his second goal. A dumfounded Mohammedan conceded a fifth goal a minute later, this time Mudassar Ali Khan was beneficiary. An unexpected yet thoroughly deserved 5-2 win left the Sky Blues tent in ecstasy while their opposite numbers were left to ponder what went wrong on the last day.

Abahani coach Kawasr Ali praised his players for this result.

"We have learnt from the mistakes we made in the first leg, and it was simply our best performance of the league. We played a fast game which our opponents could not cope pace with."

Mohammedan's assistant coach Jahirul Islam Mitul blamed the bad performance from the local players for this upset.

"It was a bad day for us, we played far below our potential. The local players could not play according to the game plan."

Earlier in the day, Mariner Youngs recorded a 4-3 victory over Sonali Bank to snatch the third position in the league.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1997-1998	Mohammedan	Abahani
1999-2000	Mohammedan	Usha
2001-2002	Abahani	Mohammedan
2002-2003	Abahani	Mohammedan
2003-2004	Usha	Abahani
2005-2006	Usha & Abahani (Joint Champions)	
2007-2008	Usha	Abahani
2010	Mohammedan & Abahani (Joint Champions)	



Abahani striker Pushkor Khisha Mimo embarks on a celebration run after scoring one of his two goals against archivals Mohammedan in their Premier Hockey League clash at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

A Pakistan win finally

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Pakistan held their nerve to claim a first Test victory against Australia in 15 years during a tense fourth-day finish at Headingley here on Saturday.

Pakistan, set 180 to win, lost four wickets for 40 runs before finishing on 180 for seven and a three-wicket win as they levelled this two-Test series at 1-1.

Left-arm quick Mohammad Aamer was five not out and Umar Gul, who hit the winning run off Mitchell Johnson, one not out as Pakistan ended a run of 13 straight Test defeats by Australia -- a record for one country against another.

Pakistan were still five short when Australia's Michael Hussey appealed for a gully catch against Kamran Akmal on 13, off the bowling of Mitchell Johnson but replays were inconclusive.

And then left-arm quick Mohammad Aamer, who took seven wickets in the match, edged Ben Hilfenhaus through the slips for four to tie the scores.

But there was one more twist with Kamran Akmal brilliantly caught by Hussey off Johnson and this time there

was no doubt.

Gul, though, hammered his first ball from Johnson through the offside and Pakistan had won with more than a day and two sessions to spare.

It meant Salman Butt, who replaced Shahid Afridi as skipper after the all-rounder quit Tests after the 150-run series-opening loss at Lord's last week, tasted victory in his first Test as Pakistan captain.

"It was a bit nerve-wracking, when you have this added responsibility," Butt told reporters.

"You tend to think more, thank God it went positively and we won."

"It means a lot, it's a new beginning for Pakistan."

Left-arm quick Doug Bollinger, starting Friday, took three wickets for five runs in 17 balls on his way to three for 51 and Ben Hilfenhaus three for 39 but even Australia could not turn this match around.

Ultimately, Australia paid the price for being bowled out for just 88 in their first innings -- their lowest Test total since they were dismissed for 76 by the West Indies at Perth in 1984.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who chose to bat after winning the toss, said: "At the end of the day, that's had a big

impact. It's my responsibility to get those sorts of things right.

"I think everyone was surprised at how much it seemed on the first day. Any decision like that is the captain's and when you have a loss like that, it's the responsibility of the captain as well. Obviously, the buck stops with me."

Australia 'held' Pakistan to 258, with medium-pace Watson taking a Test-best six for 33, following his previous best of five for 40 at Lord's, after the frontline quicks had been mostly ineffective.

And Australia then made 349 with Michael Clarke and Steven Smith, in his second Test, both making 77.

Ponting contributed 66 as he became only the second batsman, after India's Sachin Tendulkar, to score 12,000 Test runs. But Aamer still managed to take four for 86, giving the 18-year-old left-arm quick Test best match figures of seven for 106.

Aammer and Watson won their teams' respective man-of-the-match awards. Pakistan resumed Saturday on 140 for three, needing 40 more runs to win with Australia requiring seven wickets.

However, as recently as the Sydney Test in January, Australia bowled Pakistan out for 139, chasing a victory target of 176.

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BANGLADESH LEAGUE Dhanmondi Club new inclusion

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club got approval from the Bangladesh League committee to play in the country's professional competition.

The committee has unanimously decided in a meeting held yesterday that a total of twelve teams will compete in this year's league where big-budgeted Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club would be the only newcomers.

"A total of thirteen clubs took part in last year's competition out of which two -- Sylhet Beanibazar Club and Narayanganj's Shuktara Club - had been relegated. The committee has decided to include another team and we thought that Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club is the fittest among the applicants,"

informed Al Musabbir Sadi, general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

"Uttar Baridhara and Bangladesh Boys Club were the other two applicants but Dhanmondi Club fulfilled most of the conditions. They are financially solvent to run the team and are going to spend three crore taka. They also have a very strong management committee whose members have experience in football," he added.

Sadi also said that they turned down plea from the two relegated teams who wanted to continue their participation in the competition.

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club have reportedly confirmed 16 local footballers and most of the players the club

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Sangakkara does not understand rankings

SPORTS REPORTER

INTERNET, Colombo

Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara has questioned the way the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test rankings work. He was responding to a query whether the players take seriously a system that has India at No. 1 despite not having won a series in Australia, South Africa and Sri Lanka since 1993, and whether that system needs a change.

"You should have asked that question of Haroon (Lorgat, ICC's CEO), who was here a while ago..." Sangakkara said. "If rankings can't be understood by the public, the players, or the administrators, what's the use of having rankings? If you want rankings, they should count towards playing a Test Championship."

"Rankings need to be fairly done. A fair FTP is the first step towards having proper rankings. Once every two years each side should play each other at least once, home or away. That's how

you get a fair deal when it comes to Test cricket."

Sri Lanka themselves were ranked No. 2 last year without having won a Test in India, Australia and South Africa, a spot they lost after their loss to India in India. About his own side's dismal record in the three countries ranked higher than them, Sangakkara said, "I don't think we have played enough Test cricket away. Two Test matches here, two Test matches there. I think that's not good. We need to play Tests regularly."

"We have a very good balanced attack, pace and spin. From 2006 to 2009 we have done well. We have won in New Zealand, in England, and in Pakistan. South Africa, Australia and India are the three places that we need to win. We need to play often in those places."

The Test rankings, as they stand now, don't give extra weightage to victories away from home, and run over a time of three years, including "all Test series completed since August more than three years ago". The rating points earned or conceded are calculated based on the difference between where the teams stood before the start

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

No blood in book

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar has denied a report that his blood will be used in a special pictorial "celebration" book on the career of the Indian cricket legend.

The mammoth book slated to appear in February is designed to be the "ultimate tribute to a living sporting legend" and "the definitive work on his life and career", publishers Kraken said.

The 37-year-old Tendulkar, who is in Sri Lanka playing a Test series, denied reports which appeared last week in British newspaper the Guardian that his blood would be used on the book's signature page.

"There is no truth in my blood being part of the book," Tendulkar told The Times of India in comments published on Saturday.

Kraken chief executive Karl Fowler was quoted by the British broadsheet as saying 10 copies of the book would be printed using Tendulkar's blood.

Fowler, who had been earlier cited as saying Sachin's blood would be "mixed into the paper pulp so it's a red resin" told The Times of India that his comments had been "misunderstood."

"The Opus will not carry any blood as mentioned in the several articles/TV reports that have appeared over the past few days," The Times quoted Fowler as saying.

"I believe my thoughts on this matter have been misunderstood," the publisher added. News reports say around 1,000 Opus copies, each numbered and personally signed, will go

on sale at 2,000 to 3,000 dollars.

Each of the 852 pages are 50 centimetres (20 inches) square and edged in gold leaf. The

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

A LONG AWAITED VICTORY: The Pakistan team celebrates their victory over Australia during the fourth day of the second Test at Headingley in Leeds yesterday. Pakistan defeated Australia in a Test match after 15 years.



PHOTO: AFP

Sachin Tendulkar rests during a training session at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo yesterday ahead of the second Test match against Sri Lanka scheduled to start tomorrow.

SPORTS POLL

TODAY'S QUESTION

Who is to blame for Bangladesh's latest debacle?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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