

# SPORT

DHAKA SUNDA

## Gyan tops BBC poll

Ghana World Cup hero-cum-villain Asamoah Gyan was crowned BBC African Footballer of the Year Friday after receiving more than half the public poll votes. Compatriot Andre 'Dede' Ayew, Ivorians Didier Drogba and Yaya Toure and Cameroonian Samuel Eto'o were the other finalists with listeners voting online and by text. "It was really hard to win this award especially because of all the other players I was up against" the striker who joined Sunderland from Rennes in a 20-million-dollar mid-year deal told the Fast Track radio show.

- AFP



### ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

#### Cup facts

The 1999 World Cup was the seventh World Cup and the fourth to be held in England. This time, Scotland also hosted a few matches.

There were twelve teams in the tournament. Three Associate nations were added to the nine Test playing nations, and the twelve were divided into two groups.

Group A: South Africa, India, England, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Group B: Australia, Pakistan, New Zealand, West Indies, Bangladesh and Scotland.

The top three teams from each group would progress to the Super Six stage, the first time such a concept was introduced in a World Cup. Points won against fellow qualifiers would be carried through to the Super Six stage.

In the Super Six stage, teams would play each of the qualifiers from the other group, and the top four would contest the semifinals.

Bangladesh, playing in their first World Cup, became the only non-Test playing Cup debutant to win two matches, against Scotland and Pakistan.

India's total of 373 against Sri Lanka in their group match at Taunton on May 26 was the highest for the 1999 World Cup.

In that match Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid combined to post 318 for the second wicket, which was the highest partnership for any wicket in one-day internationals at the time, and is still a Cup record.

Ganguly scored 183 runs during that partnership, making it the highest individual score of the tournament.

Rahul Dravid scored 104 against Kenya at Bristol on May 23, and followed that with a 145 in the next match against Sri Lanka at Taunton on May 26, making him only the second batsman after Mark Waugh to score back-to-back centuries in a World Cup.

He was also the highest scorer for the Cup, piling on 461 runs (two 100s, three 50s). Steve

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ON A DIFFERENT PLANE: Batsman Michael Hussey leaps for joy after completing his second-innings hundred and taking Australia to the brink of a series levelling win on the third day of the third Test against England at Perth yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Aussies about to level



AFP, Perth

A resurgent Australia looked set to level the Ashes after a century by the reborn Mike Hussey in the third Test against England at the WACA ground on Saturday.

At stumps on the third day, England were in disarray at 81-5 in their second innings, chasing 391 for victory with nightwatchman James Anderson yet to score and two full days of play remaining.

Up 1-0 in the series, England faced their biggest ever run chase to win the match and their hopes appeared forlorn after the top five -- Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen and Paul Collingwood -- all went cheaply late in the day.

Cook was trapped lbw by Ryan Harris for 13 and Strauss (15) became Mitchell Johnson's seventh victim in the match when he nicked a ball to Australian captain Ricky Ponting in the slips.

Pietersen, dismissed for a duck in the first innings, made just three before being caught by Shane Watson at first slip from the bowling of Ben Hilfenhaus.

Just minutes before stumps, Trott fell to Johnson (2-28) for 31, caught by Brad Haddin on the rebound off the hands of Ponting, who immediately left the field with an injured finger.

Then from the last ball of the day and without any addition to the score, Collingwood (11) was brilliantly caught by a diving Steven Smith in slips from the bowling of Harris (2-22).

Australian paceman Peter Siddle clearly believed the match was over and hailed it as a turning point in the series.

"There was a lot of pressure on us in this match to get a result and one that was our way," he said.

"It has opened it up massively, two to go now and there is still a lot of work to be done, but it has started to turn for us."

But England's recalled pace bowler Chris Tremlett, who picked up 5-87 in the Australian second innings to tally eight wickets for the match, refused to concede defeat.

"We've still got a couple of good players to

come in, obviously Belly (Ian Bell) and Matty (Matthew Prior)," he said.

"All you can do in these situations is believe. It's a long shot but it only takes one partnership. Stranger things have happened in this game."

If England can somehow conjure an unlikely win here they will retain the Ashes, while an Australian victory will level the series with two Tests to play.

England have only ever successfully chased 300 in the fourth innings three times in Test cricket, their biggest chase coming back in 1928 in Melbourne, when they made 332-7 to defeat Australia.

The Australian second innings of 309 was anchored by another brilliant effort from Hussey, last man out for 116, who now has 517 runs in the series at 103.40.

The left-hander, who was close to being dropped for the first Test at the Gabba, also became the first batsman in Ashes history to pass 50 in six consecutive innings.

He produced a number of classical pull shots during his innings, including one to bring up his 13th Test century and second of the series.

Hussey, who was Tremlett's fifth scalp of the innings, batted for 315 minutes, faced 172 balls and hit 15 boundaries.

He was given out lbw to Tremlett from the last ball before lunch, but his challenge was successful after replays showed the ball was going over the stumps.

Opener Watson again fell short of a Test century when trapped lbw by the impressive Tremlett for 95 -- the fourth time he has fallen in the 90s at the top level.

Watson challenged the decision and was clearly unhappy when it was upheld as he felt he had edged the delivery into his pad, but replays showed his bat actually made contact with the pad rather than the ball.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 268 (Johnson 62, M. Hussey 61, Haddin 53; J. Anderson 3-61, C. Tremlett 3-63)

**ENGLAND:** First innings 187 (Bell 53, Strauss 52; Johnson 6-38, Harris 3-59)

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings 309 (Hussey 116, Watson 95; Tremlett 5-87, Finn 3-97, Collingwood 1-3, Anderson 1-65)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings 81 for 5 (Trott 31, Cook 13; Johnson 2-22, Hilfenhaus 1-16)

## Hosts humbled Smooth sail for biggies

Semifinal line-ups completed

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Cox's Bazaar



The enthusiasm among local people about yesterday's SAFF Women's Football Championship matches at the Cox's Bazaar Stadium was at a low ebb. After a couple of fullhouse crowds, attendance was minimal in the first match between Afghanistan and Maldives which improved to something like a thousand for the second match between Nepal and Pakistan.

The apparent indifference could only be attributed to the hosts' demoralising defeat at the hands of India the previous day.

On Friday, and in front of a brimming crowd, Bangladesh suffered a 6-0 reverse against India, courtesy of a Kamala Devi hatrick, a brace from tournament's top-scorer Sasmita Mallik and another from captain Tababi Devi. All the goals were scored in the first-half as the second saw hosts defend more resolutely while the leaders were happy to sit back on their formidable lead. In the other match Sri Lanka and Bhutan shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw.

In the first semifinal on Monday, favourites India will meet archrivals Pakistan while hosts Bangladesh will take on strong Nepal in the second semifinal on Tuesday.

Nepal's 12-0 mauling of Pakistan was powered by a third consecutive hatrick from striker Anu Lama, who took her tally to 10 goals in the tournament so far and looks like a real contender for the player-of-the-tournament award. After a 3-0 lead in the first-half, Nepal turned the game into virtually a shooting practice, breaching the Pakistan goal every now and then. The defence was in tatters, while goalkeeper Mahapara's howlers did not make things any easier for them. Things got so desperate for the Pakistanis that 21-year-old defender Asmaa Usman burst into tears after conceding an own goal. Even words of sympathy from the captain failed to console her as she kept weeping to the final whistle and to the dressing room.

Captain Sana Mahmood, while trying to put on a brave face, said it was down to inexperience that they lost so heavily. "Once we conceded a couple of goals, players took more pressure on them and started making mistakes." "This is a learning curve for us. We are new to international football while Nepal have been playing for some time," said coach Tariq Lutfi.

In the other match on Saturday, already out-of-the-tournament sides Afghanistan and Maldives played out a 2-2 draw.

Nepal's coach Dhurba Bahadur said that Pakistan were a very weak side and now they expected a hard competition against Bangladesh in the semifinals.

Away from the game, there were couple of nice gestures on the field, such as the Pakistan players signing autographs on the shirts of ball-boys and ball-girls or that of Afghan players giving away their wristbands. Aamra Networks, the internet service provider of the tournament, came up with a gesture of their own giving away laptops to the eight best players from eight teams.

SPORTS REPORTER



There were no hiccups on the opening day of the Premier Division Cricket League as giants Mohammedan, Biman and Abahani posted comfortable

victories against their respective rivals at different venues across the country.

After a short break the national cricketers got back to their business in the country's most coveted limited-over competition, probably their last competitive matches before next year's World Cup, but only pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim stood out for their

teams on the inaugural day.

Big-spending Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal got out cheaply but still defending champions Mohammedan got off to a flying start with a 115-run victory over Orient Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The holders managed a fighting total of 258 for nine in their share of 50-over thanks to half centuries from Shamsur Rahman and Nazimuddin. Shamsur hit 78 off 86 balls with three fours and a six while Nazimuddin added 50 off 67 balls that contained five fours and a six.

In reply, Orient were bundled out for 143 runs as Sri Lanka pacer Fervez Mahroof made the early inroads by removing Asif Iqbal and Anhoor Newaz. Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque also

took two wickets conceding 18 runs from seven overs.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Indian Yash Pal Singh slammed an unbeaten 90 after Mashrafe and his new ball partner Tapash Baishya shared seven wickets among them as the popular Abahani began their campaign with a convincing six-wicket victory over Surjo Torun Club.

Tapash claimed four wickets for 33 runs while his more illustrious new ball partner Mashrafe carried on his good form with three for 34 as Surjo Torun were dismissed for 205.

In reply, Abahani recovered from 71 for four to reach the target, finishing with 208-4 in 47.3 overs, thanks to an unbeaten

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## Ansar rule nat'l archery

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar were in full control in the different events of the Uttara Bank 4th National Archery Championship at the Army Stadium yesterday.

They won in the bamboo bow and recurve bow mixed team events while also picking up gold in the men's team recurve bow discipline.

Abul Kashem Mamun won gold in the compound bow while BKSP's Sheikh Sajib won gold in the men's individual recurve bow.

## Butt doesn't have belief in tribunal

PTI, Karachi

The confrontation between suspended Pakistan Test captain Salman Butt and the ICC has taken a serious turn after it was disclosed that the former had expressed that he does not have confidence in the ICC chief executive and the head of ICC code of conduct commission who will hear his spot-fixing allegations case next month.

After the ICC returned the reply filed by the legal team of Butt and gave him a deadline of 24 hours to submit a fresh reply or forgo his right of defence, it was revealed that in his reply to the ICC, the suspended captain demanded an independent inquiry into the allegations by a panel of former Supreme Court judges.

Geo News channel reported that in Butt's 36 pages reply that has been rejected by the ICC, the legal team had termed the provisional suspension of their client as "illegal".



Mohammedan batsman Nazimuddin drives through the covers during his 50 in the Premier Division Cricket League match against Orient Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**SPORTS POLL**  
Do you think the Tigers should play another series before the World Cup?  
Yes 48.5%  
No 51.5%

**TOTAL VOTES: 462**

**WEEKLY QUESTION**  
Should Shakib Al Hasan be continued as Bangladesh captain?

Visit the sports page of [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) to cast your vote

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[www.twitter.com/dssport](http://www.twitter.com/dssport)

**What to WATCH**

**STAR Cricket**  
Australia v England  
Third Test, Day 4  
Live from 8:30am

**TEN Cricket**  
South Africa v India  
First Test, Day 4  
Live from 2:30pm

**ESPN**  
English Premier League  
Blackpool v Tottenham  
Live from 6:25pm

**TEN Action**  
Primera Liga  
Real Madrid v Sevilla  
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

**DAY'S EVENT**

Premier Division Cricket League  
Kalabagan v BKSP  
Venue: Bogra

Victoria v Gazi Tank  
Venue: Rajshahi

CCS v Old DOHS  
Venue: BKSP