

**National Cricket League**  
(Four Day Match, Day 3)  
Time: 9:30am  
Dhaka v Barisal  
Venue: Sylhet Int'l Cricket Stadium  
Kulna v Dhaka Metro

Venue: Fatullah Stadium  
Rangpur v Rajshahi  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra  
Sylhet v Chittagong  
Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong

'IFA TREATED MOORE SHAMEFULLY'

England's 1966 World Cup-winning captain Bobby Moore was treated outrageously by the Football Association after he retired in 1978, claimed his former wife Tina. Moore, who skipped England to the epic 4-2 World Cup final victory over the then West Germany at Wembley only had three low profile managerial jobs after he hung up his boots. Tina, whose marriage with Moore produced two children but ended in divorce in 1986, said the FA could have done more for the English football legend, who died in 1993 aged just 51. "He was deeply depressed," she told weekly magazine The Radio Times. "He was very proud, and felt rejected, bewildered. It was outrageous how the FA treated him, a scandal. It's all very well that there are statues to him now, but that should have happened during his lifetime. Back then, he started to withdraw into himself."

-AFP



Bangladesh go down fighting  
Lose final 3-1 as India retain regional supremacy

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's dream of lifting the SAFF Women's Championship title ended at the final hurdle as they went down to a 3-1 defeat at the hands of hosts India in the final at Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri yesterday. The women in red and green gave the three-time champions a brilliant fight, coming back from a goal down to draw level by the end of the first half, but a double strike within five second-half minutes meant India, the predominant force in South Asian women's football, made it four titles out of four in the competition's history. Though Bangladesh failed to break their Indian jinx and spurned a chance to write a piece of history, they did achieve their best finish in the competition -- a runners-up place -- while enthralled spectators with scintillating performances throughout the championship. In their maiden final appearance, Bangladesh looked a bit nervous

against the three-time champions, who adopted an attacking approach with three forwards -- Sasmitha Malik, Indumathi Kathiresan and Kamala Devi Yumnam. The women in red and green survived a close call in the very first minute when Sasmitha narrowly missed the target from a set-piece from the edge of the box. The Indian attacking trio kept the Bangladesh backline, marshalled by Sheuli Azim, Shamsunnahar, Nargis Khatun and Masura Parvin, on its toes and forced numerous mistakes before finally capitalising on the defensive fumbles in the 12th minute. Sasmitha snatched the ball from Sheuli and whipped in a cross for Dangmei, who beat goalkeeper Sabina Akter with a well-placed shot after Shamsunnahar failed to clear the cross. Bangladesh fought back and equalised from a counter attack in the 39th minute, courtesy of a brilliant move from Swapna, who danced past three Indian defenders before beating goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan with an angled shot after being played in by a Sabina Khatun through-ball. The visitors carried the momentum onto the other side of the break, but could hardly penetrate the opposition

defence despite enjoying a spell of possession. Rather they conceded again after Nargis brought down Bala Devi inside the danger zone in the 62nd minute. Sasmitha converted the spot kick to send nearly 5,000 spectators into raptures before Indumathi took the game away from Bangladesh with a third just four minutes later, capitalising on a mistake from goalkeeper Sabina. Bangladesh coach Golam Rabbani Choton said that conceding the penalty was the turning point of the game while questioning the decision. "It was not penalty kick as Nargis hardly tackled the Indian player from behind, but the referee awarded it and that was the turning point of the match. "However, I am happy with the overall performance of the girls who played tremendously well throughout the match. I think this experience will help us in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship as most of our squad comprises of players from the under-16 team," Choton said. "I think Bangladesh will perform better in next SAFF Women's Championship if we keep this group in play."



Bangladesh players try to foil an Indian attack during the final of the SAFF Women's Championship at the Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BGB, Police in handball final

SPORTS REPORTER

Boarder Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Bangladesh Police Handball Club moved into the final of the Exim Bank 26th Men's National Handball Championship after winning their respective semifinals at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday. BGB notched up an easy 50-14 goal win over Jessore while Bangladesh Police handed a 34-28 goal defeat to Bangladesh Ansar. The final will be held today at the same venue.

Fahad 35th in Mumbai

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman finished 35th in the IIFL 2nd Mumbai International Open Chess Tournament after beating Indian FM Srijit Paul in the ninth and final round on Tuesday, said a press release from Bangladesh Chess Federation. As Fahad, along with 20 other players, earned six points each, the positions of each player was decided by tie-breaking system. Tukhaev Adam of Ukraine became champion with 7.5 points.



The referee and match officials wait for Feni Soccer Club and Uttar Baridhara Club players to turn up, which they eventually never did, forcing an abandonment of the first leg relegation play-off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Feni, Baridhara AWOL  
Face stiff sanction as per by-laws

SPORTS REPORTER

The first leg of the relegation-deciding playoff of the Bangladesh Premier League between Feni Soccer Club and Uttar Baridhara Club was abandoned yesterday after neither of the teams turned up at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. There was every arrangement made by the game's governing body to hold the match as scheduled and referee Jasimuddin waited for 15 minutes before blowing the long whistle as the teams failed to show up. Both teams had on Monday expressed their unwillingness to play the playoff despite Bangladesh Football Federation's insistence on holding the fixture as scheduled.

"As per the by-laws, if any team do not participate or refuse to play in any match, it will be considered that they did not take part in any matches of the competition and will be demoted from the league," professional football league committee's vice chairman Abdur Rahim said, adding that points those teams secured in the league or tournament

would also be considered null and void. Asked if the points of Feni Soccer and Uttar Baridhara will be considered null and void, then would there be changes in the final standings of the league, Rahim said: "As we are facing such a situation for the first time, we have to review the situation and take a decision accordingly. However, we have not taken any decision as yet. The Disciplinary Committee will first take a decision and then the league committee or BFF executive committee can impose additional punishment on the teams." As per article 8 of the by-laws, on the basis of referee and match commissioner reports, the disciplinary committee will take action against the clubs as per disciplinary code, which also states that if any team refuse to play, a minimum of Tk 100,000 will be sanctioned while the match will be forfeited and the teams' acquired points will be deducted. However, article 20.3.3 of the by-laws states that if any team withdraw after entering the competition, the team will be disqualified from taking part in the next edition of the competition.

Proteas need six wickets for victory

REUTERS, Cape Town

South Africa need six more wickets with two days still to play to win the second test against Sri Lanka, who closed the third day at Newlands on Wednesday on 130 for four, still 377 runs behind the mammoth target set them. Vernon Philander and Kagiso Rabada both took two wickets in the Sri Lankan second innings as the home team closed in on victory and an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series. South Africa have ample time to whittle away the rest of the Sri Lankan batting while the visitors, set 507 runs to win, must survive six more sessions if they are to force a most improbable outcome.

Angelo Mathews (29 not out) and Dinesh Chandimal (28 not out) will resume on Thursday, having shown some resistance to the close of play with an unbeaten 61-run partnership. Sri Lanka were put into bat midway through the second session after the South African lead went past 500 runs. They declared on 224 for seven, having resumed at 35-0 overnight. South Africa scored 392 in their first innings to which Sri Lanka replied with a paltry 110.

Azhar, Younis keep Pak afloat

AFP, Sydney



Azhar Ali and Younis Khan kept Pakistan afloat after rookie Peter Handscomb made it three centuries in Australia's big first innings declaration at the third Sydney Test on Wednesday.

The tourists, who have already lost the series after defeats in Brisbane and Melbourne, made a rocky start after Steve Smith called a halt at 538 for eight, leaving seven overs for Pakistan to negotiate before tea. They lost debutant Sharjeel Khan and Babar Azam in one Josh Hazlewood over before the interval with just six runs on the board. But the in-form Azhar and 114-Test veteran Younis steadied the ship with a century stand to take the tourists to stumps at 126 for two. Azhar, who scored an unbeaten 205 in last week's Melbourne Test, was on 58 with 39-year-old Younis providing support on 64 to trail Australia by 412 runs. "At two for six we were in serious strife, but to see the resilience, character and intent that has been shown by Younis and Azhar has been a real example to the rest of the dressing room of how we need to play," coach Mickey Arthur said. Azhar had an escape nearing stumps on 51 when David Warner could not hold a sharp one-handed catch at leg-slip off Nathan Lyon. Azhar was eight runs short of Mohsin Khan's 1984 record for the most runs (390) for Pakistan in a series in Australia, having tallied 382 at the close, while Younis reached 1,000 Test runs against Australia. Handscomb completed his second century in just four Tests to join David Warner (113) and Matthew Renshaw (184) in another huge Australia innings against the beleaguered tourists. The 25-year-old right-hander was out in unique circumstances when he went back in his crease to cut Wahab Riaz, only for his bat to dislodge the leg-bail and he was given out hit wicket for 110. SCORES IN BRIEF AUSTRALIA: First innings 538 for 8 decl (Renshaw 184, Warner 113, Handscomb 110, Cartwright 37, Wade 29; Imran 2-111, Riaz 3-89-, Azhar 2-70) PAKISTAN: First innings 126 for 2 (Azhar 58 not out 58, Younis 64 not out; Hazlewood 2-32)

Wenger rues fixture pile-up

AFP, Bournemouth

A despairing Arsene Wenger insisted Arsenal were put at a major disadvantage before his side staged an epic escape in their dramatic 3-3 draw at Bournemouth. Charlie Daniels, Callum Wilson and Ryan Fraser gave Bournemouth a shock 3-0 lead at Dean Court on Tuesday before Alexis Sanchez, Lucas Perez and Olivier Giroud netted to complete a stunning fightback. But Gunners boss Wenger blamed his team's sluggish start on an extra 24 hours preparation for Bournemouth, who played Saturday, as opposed to Arsenal, who beat Crystal Palace 2-0 only 48 hours prior to this game. And he suggested that Hector Bellerin, Laurent Koscielny, Gabriel and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain were not fully fit to play in a match that left Arsenal eight points behind leaders Chelsea, who have a game in hand at Tottenham on Wednesday. "It was a physical test and a mental test," said Wenger. "Congratulations to them but, as well, it is too uneven to have only two days to play against a team who had over three days' rest. "I'm ready to play again tomorrow as long as I play against an opponent who played today as well."

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