



Did U Know?

The youngest Olympic gold medalist was Barbara Jones (US), who was a member of the winning 4x 100-m relay team at Helsinki, Finland, when she was 15 years 123 days in July 1952.



What to WATCH

ESPN
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 9:30 am
STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Repeat at 8:00 am
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show



Imran Khan

(Former Pakistan cricket captain)
"Pakistan has a lot of talent but we need to harness that talent like they do in Australia, which has enabled them to rule the cricket world."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
June 27, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who will lead the Australia bound Bangladesh cricket team?
Mashud Aminul Mahmud
- How many ODI centuries has Brian Lara scored?
21 31
- Who clinched the French Open men's title?
Hewitt Agassi
- Who became Dev Cup hockey champions?
Rangarajati Comilla

Name.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone: (if any).....

WHIZZ KID-194 winner

Shakera Maimuna
(Mugdapara Kazi Zafar Ahmed High School)
Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on June 22.



Mahenur Raihan Mou
(Viquarunnessa Noon School, Dhaka)



TOO HOT TO PRACTISE: Coach of the national team Dav Whatmore gives his charges catching practice at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Morocco meet put on hold

REUTERS, Karachi

A triangular one-day international cricket tournament in Tangiers, Morocco in August has been indefinitely postponed.

A Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman said on Friday that the organisers had informed them that they could not hold the tournament.

"They have postponed it indefinitely. We were committed to play there from August 4 to 14," spokesman Zakir Khan told Reuters.

An official of the Sharjah-based Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series (CBFS), which played a leading role in taking international cricket to the North African country last year, said the problem was getting a third team.

"Pakistan and West Indies had confirmed their participation. But the organisers were unable to get a suitable time slot for a third team," Chief Executive Zahid Noorani told Reuters from Sharjah.

Tangiers hosted its first international tournament last year with Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka taking part.

The Australian Cricket Board pulled its team out of this year's tournament saying the world champions' players needed a break before the start of their domestic season.

'These 21 will form the core'

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore believes that all the 21 cricketers in his camp deserved to go on the forthcoming tour of Australia.

The Australian while sharing his thoughts on the Bangladesh squad, which was officially announced on Thursday, said that he talked one-on-one with the six unlucky players and conveyed them that they were on the same level in terms of ability and commitment. But as only 15 could travel down under, they were omitted from the list.

"I also told them not to lose heart because if a player gets injured or does not perform during the tour, than any one of them could be called in as a replacement," he said while talking to a group of reporters during

nets at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Whatmore said that team for the next six months would consist mainly of the 21 cricketers who were in the probables list for the tour of Australia.

He also thanked the selectors for following his advice while picking the squad. Whatmore as part of his contract with the Bangladesh Cricket Board, has a role in the selection process.

When asked whom paceman Hasibul Hossain and batsman Tushar Imran would replace for the one-day series, Whatmore said that he would only make a decision after seeing the performance of the team in the Test series and lead-up matches.

About the choice of Al-Shahriar who was dropped due to his poor form in the World Cup in South Africa, Whatmore said that he had no doubts about his quality.

"But his fault is he plays strokes on balls which he should be leaving. If he (Al-Shahriar) can improve in that area, he can be a very good batsman at any position," said the famed coach adding that he would probably bat in the middle order.

Whatmore also hinted that there would be hardly any changes in the team even if they performed badly against the best team in the world.

He said that he would not mind if the team lost to Australia. What would make him happy was if the players could show signs of improvement.

The players will enjoy a two-day break starting today. The camp resumes on Monday and will continue up to Friday. The team flies to Australia on June 22.

No mercy for BD

Cricket
REUTERS/AFP, Darwin

The all-conquering Australian cricketers will not be easing up when they take on minnows Bangladesh in a two-Test series in Australia's north next month, coach John Buchanan said here Friday.

He said that Australians would be under orders not to take it easy.

The Bangladeshis should be no match for the world champions in either a two-match Test series or their three one-dayers in Darwin and Cairns in July and August.

Although Bangladesh have never won a Test match and have not enjoyed a one-day victory for over four years, Buchanan said there would be no room for charity.

Buchanan said Australia will not be holding back and a full-strength side will be named to play against the modest Asian cricket nation.

"Our game will always be to be as aggressive as we can be and to try and put our opposition under as much pressure as we can, right from the word go, so that won't change," Buchanan told reporters.

The Australians may have had

an exhausting 10-month schedule of cricket and are just back from a four-Test, seven one-day international series in the West Indies, but



JOHN BUCHANAN
Buchanan said the players want to continue their dominance at the new tropical Test venues.
"Those players who played both the one-day and the Test matches, they were certainly feeling the pinch through the West Indies tour," he said.
"But with four or five weeks off... coming to a new venue, playing a new team, in something that will

begin a tradition (of cricket in northern Australia), I think really excites them."

Australia will start a two-week training programme next month before arriving in Darwin about four days before the first Test on July 18.

Bangladesh arrive in Brisbane on June 23 and Buchanan believed the new coach, Australian Dav Whatmore, would help improve the team's poor record.

Whatmore, who guided Sri Lanka to World Cup glory and helped make it a Test cricket force, took over as coach of Bangladesh last month.

"I think what he'll do is bring them direction, I think he will bring them some discipline and give them some shape.

"Whether that happens immediately, time will tell but I think that's a very good move for them and something that will improve their cricket a little bit quicker than maybe what it has done in the past."

Bangladesh have lost 18 of 19 Tests since being admitted to the international fold in 2000, their only draw coming in a rain-hit tie against Zimbabwe two seasons ago.

Div I b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Europa Youth Club registered their eleventh consecutive victory in the First Division Basketball League beating Eagles Club 72-58 at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 45-36.

Manjil caged 22, Gautam 14 and Austin 11 for Europa while Suhas 20, Amalendu 14 and Faruque 10 for Eagles.

In other match of the day, Dhumketu Club beat Josephites Club 71-57.

The winners led the first half 33-32.

It was Dhumketu's eleventh win in eleven outings.

Abdullah scored 29, Osman 14 and Ayub 13 for the winners while Yasir caged 15, Bony 15 and Fazle 10 for the losers.

Europa meet Dhumketu in the title deciding match at the same venue today.

Wimbledon in doubt

Tennis
AFP, Zagreb

Goran Ivanisevic's dream of returning to Wimbledon, where he won an emotional singles title in 2001, suffered another setback on Thursday when he pulled out of next week's ATP tournament in Nottingham, the final warm-up event before this year's All England

by unheralded Czech Jan Vacek and, on Thursday, compounded his misery by injuring knee ligaments while practising in London.

"I can walk but it hurts. I guess everything will be fine until Wimbledon," a hopeful 31-year-old Ivanisevic told Croatian journalists.

"This is definitely not normal. I cannot go through ten days of training. Since I am not physically fit my muscles cannot hold."

Ivanisevic was training with countryman Mario Ancic when he twisted his knee and, according to an early prognosis, he would need a week to recover, and is thus not to play at Nottingham event.

After his Queen's Club defeat, Ivanisevic, also a three-time Wimbledon runner-up, revealed he was still suffering from elbow and shoulder injuries which have plagued him throughout his glittering career.

Andre Agassi said it would be a "tremendous loss" if Ivanisevic was forced to withdraw from Wimbledon.

Agassi, who beat Ivanisevic in 1992 to claim his only Wimbledon title, said the championships would be poorer for his absence.

"His story at Wimbledon is one of the great stories in all sports," said Agassi, after seeing off another former Wimbledon champion, Richard Krajicek.



GORAN IVANISEVIC
Club showpiece.
The popular Croatian, who has been dogged by a series of injuries since his Wimbledon win, was knocked out of the Queen's Club event on Monday in the first round

Gaibandha soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Jhanker Krira Chakka won the Senior Division Soccer League defeating Azad Sporting Club 1-0 in the final match at Islamia High School ground yesterday.

A total of seven district football teams participated in the league.

Meanwhile, a 20-day table tennis training programme concluded here on Friday. Fifty players participated in the programme.

Wasim all for Twenty20

Cricket
BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Pakistan star Wasim Akram has given his backing to the Twenty20 Cup ahead of its much-anticipated debut.

The new 20-overs-per-side competition gets under way with five matches on Friday.

"I think it is very exciting," said Wasim, preparing for Hampshire's home game against Sussex.

"It is a very good idea to get youngsters involved."

"The second step is to help them with coaching but first it is important to get them involved."

Replacing the time-honoured Benson and Hedges Cup, Twenty20 has been criticised because of its gimmicky format and thirst for quantity over quality.

But Wasim disagrees, reckoning the players will take it seriously enough for it to become an established competition.

"In Pakistan, we have a 25-overs competition which all the top teams play and they take it quite seriously," he added.

"I am sure it will catch on."

Wasim, with 502 wickets the all-time leading one-day wicket-taker, feels Hampshire have a real chance of lifting the Twenty20 Cup.

"We are a good team. We have some good all-rounders, the batting is getting better and all the boys are working very hard."

"I am really, really enjoying playing here and I have settled in very well."

"I have known some of the players for years and they are a very good team to play with."

Hampshire signed Wasim this season following Shane Warne's positive drugs test at the World Cup and subsequent one-year ban.

The left-arm paceman has been impressed by the set-up at Hampshire and believes the Rose Bowl is a ground worthy of Test status.

Wasim, who won 104 Pakistan Test caps, said: "I think the ground is beautiful. It could be another Test venue."

"The facilities are superb and it should definitely be a Test ground."

Twenty20 RULES

- All matches are 20 overs per side, with the teams divided into three groups North (Derbyshire, Durham, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire), Midlands/West/Wales (Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Somerset, Warwickshire, Worcestershire), and South (Essex, Hampshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex).



WASIM AKRAM
2. Matches start at 5.30pm (although there might be some changes to fit in with television schedules), with a 15-minute interval before the start of the second innings at 7.00pm.
3. Each innings should last no longer than 75 minutes.
4. Teams will incur a six-run penalty if they fail to bowl the full 20 overs within the 75 minutes.
5. New batsmen must be in position within 90 seconds of a wicket falling.
6. Only two fielders are allowed outside an inner circle during the first six overs of a team's innings.
7. Bowlers are permitted a maximum of a fifth of the total overs in a

Lawson unlikely for Lanka Tests

CRICINFO, undated

Jermaine Lawson is unlikely to play any part in the West Indies forthcoming two-Test series against Sri Lanka, but whether this is due to a back injury or his suspect action is unclear.

According to the Barbados Nation, neither Ricky Skerritt, the West Indies manager, nor Brian Lara have received any official reports on Lawson's progress.

Lawson's action was reported by the match referee Mike Procter during the fourth Test against Australia in Antigua last month.

Lawson took a Test-best 7 for 78 in the match, but has since been working with a specialist advisor appointed by the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), along with a specialist from the ICC, in order to straighten out the kink in his delivery. To make things worse, he has since suffered a back injury which ruled out any chance of a comeback in the one-day series against Australia and Sri Lanka.

Lara admitted he wasn't too hopeful about Lawson's chances of making the starting eleven for the first Test against Sri Lanka, starting on June 20.

Special Olympics from June 21

BSS, Dhaka

A 32-member Bangladeshi team will leave for Dublin to take part in the nine-day Special Olympics starting on June 21.

The Special Olympic Bangladesh (SOB) has organised the team of 24 disabled children and adults with intellectual disability. The rest being officials, coaches and invited guests.

Bangladesh will compete in athletics, football and badminton. The country won 36 medals including 21 gold at the last Games in North Carolina in 1999.

More than 7,000 intellectually retarded sportsmen from 150 countries will join the 11th Special Olympics.

Einice Kennedy Sriver, a disabled sister of US President John F Kennedy, organised the inaugural Special Olympics in Chicago in 1968.

This is the first time the event is being staged outside the USA.

Showing Real interest

Football
AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid are ready to start negotiating in earnest for David Beckham, according to the Spanish sports daily Marca on Friday.

"Beckham is the number one target for the club for the next season, although they are not prepared to mortgage the economic future of the club and (Real Madrid president) Florentino Perez has put a limit on what he is prepared to pay," said Spain's biggest selling newspaper.

What gives the report more credibility than mere speculation is that Marca have been consistently ahead of its rivals in predicting Real's major moves in the transfer market in recent years.

Marca are known to have good contacts within the club and were first with the news of Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo arrivals over the last two summers.

No Real Madrid official was available on Friday to confirm the report but Marca added, "Real Madrid will offer the English midfielder a contract similar to that of Raul, Zidane, Luis Figo and Ronaldo. Valdano (Real Madrid director general Jorge Valdano) will put on the table a contract for five years, worth around six million euros per year."

Marca said that Real Madrid will sit down separately with Manchester United and Beckham shortly after the Spanish season finishes on June 22.

According to Marca, Real's opening offer to United would be 20 million euros and players, which will

Showing Real interest

Football
AFP, Madrid

include Cameroon utility man Geremi Njitap who has impressed during his year on-loan at Premiership side Middlesbrough.

By contrast, Barcelona presidential candidate Joan Laporta is reported to be ready to offer Beckham 10 million euros to bring him to the Nou Camp although many pundits though are wondering from where Laporta's money will come.

The Catalan club are heavily in debt, despite a lucrative television contract with Spanish satellite and

include Cameroon utility man Geremi Njitap who has impressed during his year on-loan at Premiership side Middlesbrough.

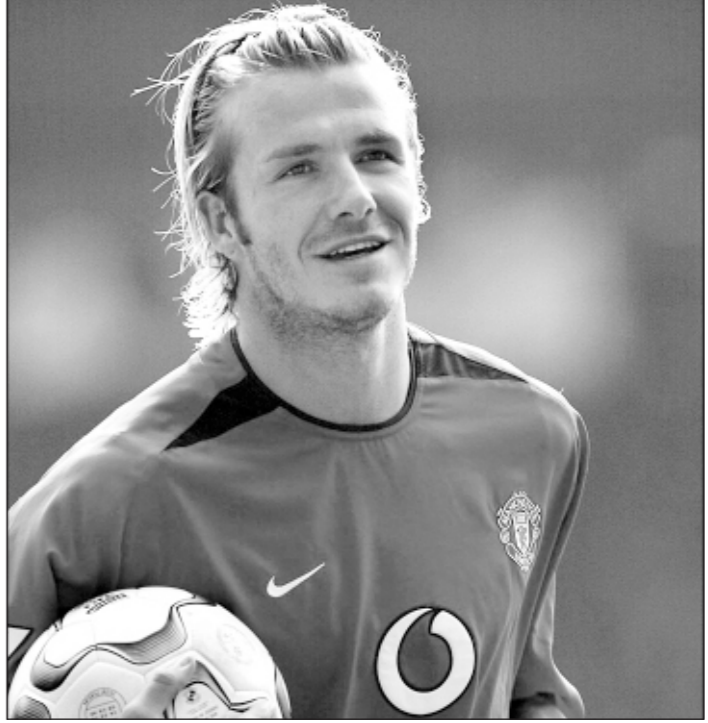
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DAVID BECKHAM