



Did U Know?

Norman Whiteside was the youngest World Cup player (17 years 41 days old) when he played for Northern Ireland against Yugoslavia in June 1982.



ESPN

Primera Liga
Celta de Vigo vs Real Sociedad
Taped Version at 9:00 am
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 11:00 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Football Mundial
Repeat at 10:00 am
Primera Liga
Valencia vs Barcelona
Taped Version at 4:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 6:30 pm
England vs Pakistan
NatWest Challenge
First ODI



Sven-Goran Eriksson
(England soccer coach)
"He is 23 and should get better and better. He doesn't need to get better and better, but if nature is normal that will happen."
On Michael Owen.



Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

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

1. Who will lead the Australia bound Bangladesh cricket team?	Mashud Aminul	Mahmud
2. How many ODI centuries has Brian Lara scored?	21	31
3. Who clinched the French Open men's title?	Hewitt	Agassi
4. Who became Dev Cup hockey champions?	Ranganjati	Comilla
Name		
Class	Roll No.	
School Address		
Phone: (if any)		

Premier Div kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Last year's runners-up Bangladesh Army started their Metropolitan Premier Division Kabadi League campaign in style beating Jatrabari Faruk Smriti Sangsad 142-28 with nine creditable lonas at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday.

The winners dominated the first session 74-12.

In the day's other match, Indian players-studded Sonali Bank managed an exciting 69-59 win over Dilkusha SC with three lonas after leading the first half 35-30 at the same venue.

Whatmore unworried

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Dav Whatmore said that he was not intimidated at the prospect of facing a full-strength Australian side.

"Why should we be scared if the Australians field their strongest side against us," said the Bangladesh coach while reacting to John Buchanan's recent remark that Australia would not be holding back and a full-strength side would be named to play against the modest Asian cricket nation.

"I'm happy that they are fielding a full-strength team and their attitude is strong. It will be a good test for us," Whatmore said during a training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, where the national camp resumed after a two-day break.

Whatmore will start his Bangladesh assignment with a tough tour down under where the Tigers will play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Buchanan, coach of the all-conquering Australian cricket team, said that there is no chance of easing up when they take on Bangladesh in Darwin and Cairns in July and August.

Buchanan also said that there would be no room for charity and Australia would be as aggressive as they could be and to try and put the opposition under right from the word go.

Bangladesh will fly to Brisbane on July 22 exactly fifteen days before the first Test starts in Darwin on July 7.

Whatmore however put up a brave face before the challenging tour and said that his boys were making slow but steady progress.

The 49-year-old has already made an impact in the team since taking over from sacked Pakistani Mohsin Kamal last month.

The good news for Whatmore is that Javed Omar, one of his two openers, is back in training after missing the first week due to illness.

"Javed is back after the doctor gave him the all-clear. But he needs a little time to catch up. I hope he will be ok before the tour," said the high-profile coach.

When asked whether his boys had achieved the ten-per-cent improvement target, which he had set when he took over, Whatmore responded positively.

"Things are going well and we are doing a lot of skill work. The videos are going on and we are reviewing it



OH, YOU HAVE COME! National cricket coach Dav Whatmore tells something to Javed Omar during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The opening batsman joined the camp only after missing the first week's training for a suspected Hepatitis B.

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NFL starts tomorrow

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The first round of the three-tier Nitol-Tata third National Football League (NFL) begins tomorrow with 56 district winners taking part in five zonal venues across the country.

Besides, five service teams will also play in the qualifying round in a separate zone (Sheba) that is scheduled for a June 20 start in the capital.

The winners of the six zones will join defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra, Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Arambagh Krira Sangha in second round that is due to begin from the first week of July.

Ten teams will be divided into two groups for the second round. Each group will have two venues that are yet to be finalised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The top three teams from each group will then move into the final round, which the BFF plans to hold

at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in August. Although the big bowl will not be available until April because of the ICC Under-19 World Cup and the home series against India.

The BFF recently had a joint meeting with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and National Sports Council (NSC) chaired by State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman but failed to resolve the fate of the all-purpose venue.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque revealed this during a press conference on the eve of the competition.

Presided over by BFF president

and BNP lawmaker SA Sultan, tournament committee secretary Manjur Hossain was also present.

Haque said that a final agreement between title sponsor and the BFF was yet to be signed.

"We have asked for an increasing the sponsorship money from Taka 40 lakh to Taka 60 lakh. And we are waiting for a response from the sponsors.

"Hopefully it will be finalised next week," Haque said.

When asked whether the final phase of the meet could be switched to an alternate venue, BFF president SA Sultan refused to give up hope on securing the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

OPENING DAY FIXTURES E

Sabuj Sangha KC (Madaripur) v Shantinagar SC (Shariatpur)
Venue: Jamalpur Stadium.
Khelaghar Sangha (Kurigram) v Shibganj Sangskritik Parisad (C'ganj)
Venue: Sirajganj Stadium.
Wanderers Club (Moulvibazar) v Rajnagar Eleven (Habiganj)
Venue: Sylhet Stadium.
Comilla Mohammedan v Sadar Upazila KS (Laxmipur)
Venue: Noakhali Stadium.
PK Union Club (Satkhira) v Uddipan KC (Chudanga)
Venue: Jhenidah Stadium.

Club Cup hockey Abahani swamp Victoria

SPORTS REPORTER

The goals kept flowing in the Club Cup hockey tournament as title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra, aided by a brilliant hat-trick from forward Ashrafur Islam, outplayed Victoria Sporting Club 14-0 in their Group C opener at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Ashrafur, the tall young stick wielder, scored a total of four goals including three in a row in the 61st, 63 rd and 65th minute to mark the third treble of the tournament that started on Sunday.

He also scored a goal in the first session (18th minute) that helped Abahani enjoy a 6-0 lead in the first session.

Ashrafur apart, his captain Mahbubul Alam and Jahisul Islam struck three goals each while Shahidullah added two. Defender Shamsuddin and Rana Das

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A goal-mouth action during the Club Cup hockey tournament match between Abahani and Victoria at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Open FIDE Rating chess begins June 20

SPORTS REPORTER

The Open FIDE Rating chess tournament, organised by Bangladesh Chess Federation, will start from June 20 at the federation auditorium.

Interested players have been requested to enroll their names from 4pm to 8pm on or before June 19 at the federation office at the National Sports Council.

The entry fees are: Rating 2300 free, 2200 or above Tk 50, 2100 or above Tk 75, 2000 or above Tk 100, 1800 or above Tk 150 and non-rated Tk 300. The tournament will be held on Swiss-League System.

Cash prize worth thirty thousand will be up for grabs for the winners.

Pakistan expect no ICC favours

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan is not expecting any preferential treatment from its nominee for the presidency of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"We nominated Ehsan Mani for the post of ICC president because he was best qualified to do this job," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Tahir Zia told Reuters.

"He is a very competent person who has been with the ICC for years now. We don't expect and would not want him to give Pakistan any preferential treatment in his tenure," Zia said before leaving for London to attend the ICC meetings.

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'I never promised Beckham'

AFP, London

New Barcelona boss Joan Laporta insisted that he had "never promised" to bring England captain David Beckham to the Spanish giants.

After his election as the club's new president Sunday night Laporta, who built his campaign on his bid to bring the Manchester United midfielder to Barcelona, said that he had made no guarantees.

"I did not promise to bring David Beckham to Barcelona," Laporta told BBC 5 Live.

"I said I had an agreement with Manchester United that contained conditions. One of those conditions was that I became president of the club. I have now done that."

He added: "To make a strong football team it is very important we have players like David Beckham."

"I know it is a difficult decision for Beckham and his family but I know he would be delighted to be in our city, our team, our country."

Laporta, who captured more than 52.5 percent of the votes cast, said that he will talk with Beckham's

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'Follow Miandad' ODI series in England from today

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Pakistan captain Rashid Latif has told his batsmen to make Javed Miandad their role model during their forthcoming one-day series against England.

Gone are former captains and legendary pace bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis. Nor are there places for opening bat Saeed Anwar, off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and batsman Inzamamul Haq.

Javed, a world class batsman for Pakistan from the 1970s to the 1990s, is coaching the team again



RASHID LATIF

after their first round exit at the World Cup and Latif said: "We want to play the same as our coach, Javed Miandad, used to by building an innings."

Speaking after Pakistan's final warm-up match, a five wicket win over Leicestershire on Saturday, the wicket-keeper added: "Here we did well in the first 15 overs but we want to keep wickets in hand and score

heavily in the last 10 overs."

Pakistan, who start a three-match one-day series against England with a day-night match at Old Trafford on Tuesday, will field a much-changed side from the World Cup.

England beat Pakistan under the Cape Town floodlights with fast bowler James Anderson starring by yorking Yousef Youhana for a duck during a match-winning spell.

But since then Pakistan have regrouped, winning a one-day tournament in Sharjah and reaching the final of another in Sri Lanka.

England also have a new look team after they too suffered a first round World Cup departure, with Michael Vaughan replacing Test skipper Nasser Hussain as one-day captain.

Also joining Hussain in one-day international retirement are left-hand opening bat Nick Knight and paceman Andy Caddick.

Meanwhile veteran keeper-batsman Alec Stewart has also stood down from one-day duty with Chris Read given an international recall.

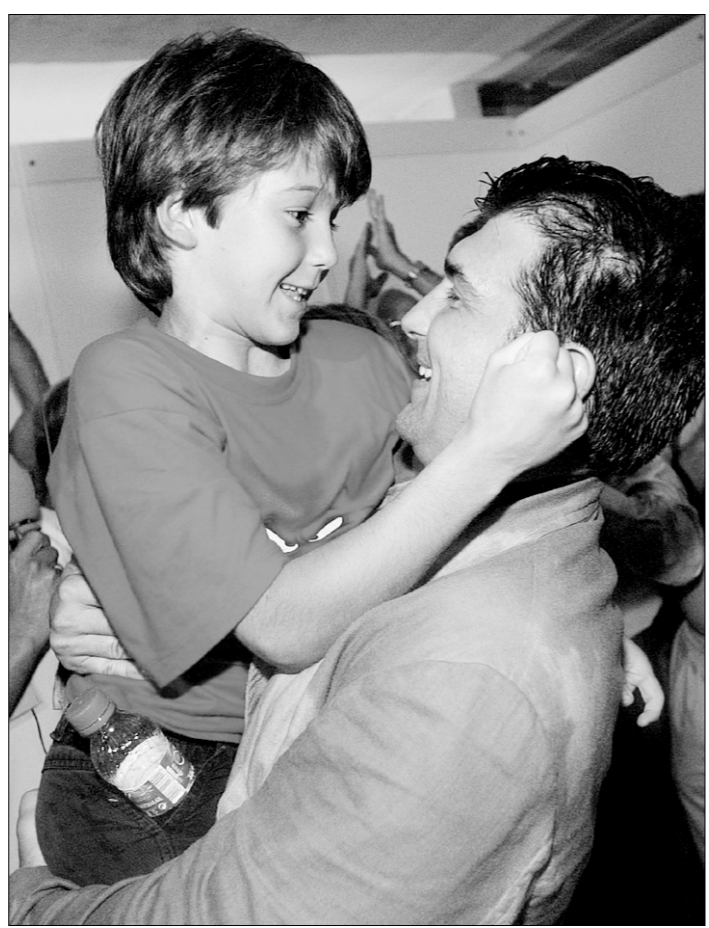
But the Nottinghamshire keeper has a thumb injury and opening batsman Marcus Trescothick could yet don the gloves.

However, in a departure from their youth policy, England have recalled Darren Gough.

The Yorkshire fast bowler has not played international cricket since the one-day series against India last year after being sidelined with knee trouble.

But Gough was bullish about his chances of making an impact.

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Joan Laporta celebrates his election as president of Barcelona with son Pol in Barcelona on June 15.

PHOTO: AFP

ICC faces huge pay-off claim

CRICINFO, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is likely to face a compensation claim of 50 million pounds from the Global Cricket Corporation (GCC), which holds TV rights for all ICC tournaments until 2007.

According to a report in The Independent, the ICC is unlikely to back down in the face of the claim.

The GCC, after having paid 550 million dollars for the TV rights, claims that the cancelled England-Zimbabwe and New Zealand-Kenya World Cup matches, along with ambush marketing of the official sponsors in India, have resulted in a considerable loss of revenue.

Malcolm Speed, chief executive of the ICC, said: "The ICC have responded to all these challenges. Some of the issues remain unresolved, but overall the ICC took on a greater role for leading the sport."

Although the ICC "concede that they will have to forfeit some money," they may look towards the Indian board (BCCI) to bear some of the costs as compensation for disregarding the ambush-marketing clause even after signing the Participating Nations Agreement.

God Must Be Crazy!

WIMBLEDON

REUTERS, London

Goran Ivanisevic made a pact with God for 'one more chance' to win a coveted Wimbledon crown but it now appears that the 'guy upstairs' has had enough of the Croatian's demanding wish list.

One of the greatest characters ever to pick up a tennis racket, the big-serving Croatian was granted his dream when he became the first wildcard to triumph at the All England Club in 2001.

Two years on from that surreal July summer's day, when Ivanisevic held aloft the Wimbledon trophy with tears glistening in his eyes, the 31-year-old cuts a despondent figure on court.

Once feared for his lethal serves, he is now overweight, short of match practice and struggling to come to terms with the fact that his ace-firing machine is no longer the weapon it once was.

Having gone under the knife to repair his overworked left shoulder last May, Ivanisevic was cruelly denied from defending his grand slam crown in 2002.

Twelve months on and the

Croatian was hoping to have a last hurrah at his favourite event, but has once again been forced to admit defeat after picking up a knee injury in practice earlier this week. "When I came in 2001 as a wildcard and won the tournament I said to God, 'just let me win this and I don't care if I never

go home'.

"It is not so easy to negotiate with the guy upstairs, he is non-negotiable."

With Ivanisevic's world ranking having plummeted to 681 during his absence from the ATP tour, he was once again at the mercy of the Wimbledon committee to hand him an invite.

While it is unlikely that would have posed a problem, his form has. After losing at Queen's, Ivanisevic raised doubts about his Wimbledon prospects as he was unhappy with his level of fitness.

"I don't want to go there and crawl like a pig on Centre Court," Ivanisevic said.

"If I can not serve, then there is not much for me to do on the grass... perhaps I can cut it or help draw the lines.

"Or even serve some strawberries."

Three-times a Wimbledon runner-up in the 1990s, Ivanisevic's belief in destiny carried him all the way to the 2001 title.

Having entered the draw by virtue of a wildcard from the organisers, he buried all his demons in an action-packed five-set victory over Australia's Pat Rafter.

A runner-up to Andre Agassi in

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GORAN IVANISEVIC

play tennis again" Ivanisevic said after his first round defeat at the Stella Artois Championships earlier this week.

"I kept asking God to give me one more chance."

"Probably he heard me and he is thinking 'what are you doing here..."