



Did U Know?

The English League adopted 3 points for a win in 1981.

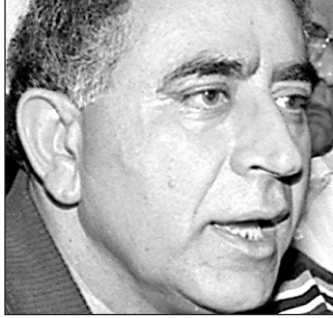


TEN Sports

- Champions Trophy Hockey**
Germany vs Argentina
Live at 8:00 pm
- ESPN**
England vs South Africa
Third Test, Day Four
Same Day Delay at 10:00 am
- English Premier Football League**
Arsenal vs Everton
Repeat at 5:30 pm
- Sportscentre Hindi**
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
England Premier Football League
Portsmouth vs Aston Villa
Taped Version at 12:00 pm
- England vs South Africa**
Third Test, Day Five
Live at 3:45 pm
- Sportscentre Hindi**
Sport News
Live at 11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Tauqir Zia
(PCB chairman)
"Players like Anwar are born once in a lifetime. He served Pakistan cricket to the best of his abilities and we will give him a befitting farewell."

Goals remain the same



HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

It seems Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore has made the term individual improvement as a slogan for his 'new Bangladesh'.

Speaking to the journalists in the afternoon at the Karachi Sheraton Hotel, Whatmore focused on the his favourite words he has been preaching since taking over the reigns of the international whipping boys in June.

"I have been saying that I want to see individual improvement and the Pakistan mission will be no exception," he told reporters.

A 15-member Bangladesh team arrived in the port city of Pakistan in the early hours of Sunday to play three Tests and five one-day internationals.

"We are going to be competitive as we possibly can. We are in a building process in Bangladesh and in order to do that we are trying hard to make the players play as a competitive unit," he said.

Bangladesh play the first Test against a new-look Pakistan at the Karachi National Stadium from August 20-24.

The famed Australian coach was the centre of attention at the joint

press briefing where Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud, his Pakistan counterpart Rashid Latif and the two managers were also present.

After carefully guiding the Tigers in Australia, where it was expected that Steve Waugh's men would simply annihilate the lightweight South Asian nation, Whatmore said that the experience down under would enhance their prospects both in the Tests and the one-dayers in Pakistan.

"It is just a question of making the right decisions at the right time for them. The tour to Australia has been a big learning curve for them. It should serve them well in Pakistan," he said.

When asked how far the team benefited in Australia, Whatmore said that there were so many positives and especially two players Mashrafe bin-Mortuza and Hannan Sarkar stood out.

"Hopefully, after this tour we will have more players to talk about."

His captain Khaled Mahmud, on the other hand, said that his team is keen to put up a better show in conditions similar to home.

"We will be playing a lot of matches in Pakistan and it will be a good opportunity for us to learn so many things."

"We have not been performing to

our potential for the last few years. But now it's a different team since Whatmore joined. His presence means a lot to us because he is guiding us in the right direction," said the Bangladesh captain.

Bangladesh team manager MA Latif thought this tour would help in developing better cricket ties between the two countries.

Latif also dismissed a question from a Pakistani reporter regarding the prospect of Bangladesh being relegated from the Test family if their losing sequence continued.

"I don't think there is any possibility of the ICC taking away our Test status even if we don't do well in Pakistan. But we are looking to improve," he said.

Bangladesh have lost 20 of their 21 Tests since gaining status in June 2000.

They have also not won a one-day international since their famous victory over Pakistan at the 1999 World Cup.

Pakistan captain Rashid Latif also said that his team was also rebuilding after losing five series on the trot over the last five years.

"I am very happy that Inzamamul Haq is back in squad. We will try our best to play positive cricket even though seven newcomers have been included."

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Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud (R) and his Pakistan opposite number Rashid Latif shake hands during a press conference in Karachi yesterday.

Sultan obliges FIFA boss

Bangladesh to play qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER



It seems that the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will have to eat the humble pie after being asked by FIFA to take

part in the qualifying rounds for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany. The dramatic development came after BFF president SA Sultan met world's most influential football official FIFA president Sepp Blatter in Zurich on Saturday.

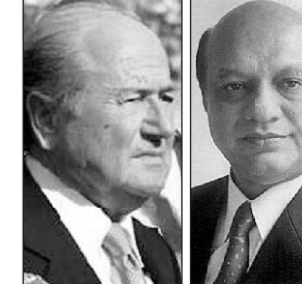
According to a BFF press statement yesterday, Blatter reportedly questioned BFF's decision to abstain from the qualifying stages and put his strong argument favouring participation. Bowling to Blatter's reasoning, Sultan accepted the reality and assured that Bangladesh would be taking part in the qualifiers.

On July 30, which incidentally was the last date for filing entries for participation in the qualifiers, the BFF announced that Bangladesh won't be featuring in the World Cup

as it would be a useless venture.

Bangladesh have appeared in every qualifying round since their first in 1984 for the 1986 finals in Mexico.

But the Sultan-led BFF surprised



Sepp Blatter S A Sultan

everybody by claiming that they had decided not to take part this time due to financial constraint thus brushing aside a recommendation from the management committee.

The committee headed by legendary footballer Sheikh Salauddin had strongly advocated

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Dudhia BCB's first CEO

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to appoint Macky Dudhia as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The Board interviewed two candidates for the post with Mathew Drain of Australia being the other applicant.

BCB president Ali Asghar said that the first ever CEO of the Board, Dudhia of Zimbabwe, would start

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Only ODIs on BTV?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Television (BTV) is likely to show the five one-day internationals between visiting Bangladesh and Pakistan live.

But an official of the state-run media ruled out the possibility of providing live coverage of the three-

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MSC's Mariner setback



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club suffered their first setback of the season when Mariner Young's Club held them to a 1-1 draw in a crucial Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The result, which ended an impressive seven-match run for the black and whites, forced them to move into second place behind arch-rivals and defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra.

So far in the league Mariner have done little to justify their tag as a force, winning only two games in their last six outings. But they reserved their best hockey for their Motijheel rivals.

In a flowing game, Issa Miah

scored first for Mohammedan while Pakistani Yamin Bhatti equalised for Mariner, who finished third last year.

Bhatti led Mariner from the front and he received good support from compatriot Abdur Razzak.

On the other hand, Mohammedan appeared very unimpressive in such a big game especially after the break.

Mohammedan took the lead in just the second minute when their regular scorer Issa Miah converted the first penalty-corner with a fine hit that came his way after Musa Miah and Zahurul Islam Mitul conjured a combined move.

Though the Motijheel club were awarded four more penalty-corners but poor finishing by the same pair meant all went to waste.

Bhatti stunned the black and whites in the 28th minute to level the score when he ran through Mohammedan's defence after getting a pass from Musa Miah.

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Fearless Tigers!

HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

The Bangladesh cricket team is staying at the same hotel that had been rocked by a car bomb a year ago.

The Karachi Sheraton Hotel, which was home to the New Zealand team in April 2002, became famous when a massive explosion killed nearly 11 people just outside the luxury building.

The blast also destroyed a nearby café. The incident prompted the Black Caps to cancel their tour. Since then international cricket has suffered with no team visiting Pakistan on security grounds.

However, it seems that those dark days are now over with the arrival of Bangladesh for a month-long tour.

The team after arriving relaxed at the five-star hotel before heading for a practice session at the Karachi National Stadium in the afternoon.

Shaun gives SA the chance



AFP, Nottingham

Shaun Pollock took six for 39 to leave South Africa needing 202 runs for victory in the third Test against England at Trent Bridge here on Sunday.

Former captain Pollock's 15th five-wicket haul in Test cricket saw England bowled out for 118 in their second innings, forcing an early fourth day tea.

With a minimum of 134 overs left in the match, South Africa could afford to bat sensibly on a wearing pitch where the ball was frequently keeping low.

England ideally needed their not out batsmen at lunch, former captain Nasser Hussain (22) and

Andrew Flintoff (nine) to put together a significant stand if South Africa were to be set a challenging fourth innings total.

But former captain Hussain, a first innings centurion, added just eight to his interval score when he was lbw, playing across the line, to Pollock.

Hussain rubbed his thigh to indicate the ball was passing over the stumps but Australian umpire Daryl Harper still gave him out, England 76 for six.

Flintoff, who made a blistering 142 in England's crushing innings defeat in the second Test at Lord's, decided to play his natural aggressive game.

He launched Jacques Kallis for an on-driven six in what was the pace-bowling all-rounder's first match of the series following the

death of his father. Flintoff then pulled Kallis fiercely through mid-on for four.

But he too went for 30, slicing a drive off fast bowler Pollock to Herschelle Gibbs at backward point.

Lancashire all-rounder Flintoff faced 46 balls including one six and four fours but at 91 for seven England were only 174 ahead.

Debutant James Kirtley was caught behind by Mark Boucher off Makhaya Ntini for just three runs and next ball Giles became the wicketkeeper's 250th Test dismissal when he edged Pollock for 21.

Earlier fast-medium bowler Andrew Hall took two wickets in as many balls.

He struck with his first ball of the innings, bowling Mark Butcher (106 in the first innings) for eight as the

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Dutch down Aussies

Pakistan edge past Argentina



INTERNET REPORT, Amstelveen

Three unanswered goals at the start of the second half gave the Netherlands a 5-3 win over Australia at the Champions Trophy on Sunday.

After leading 2-1 at half time, the Netherlands exploded in a 15-minute burst to begin the second half and take the initiative away from the Australians as they tried to claw their way back after falling behind early in the match.

In front of a packed Wagener Stadium, Dutch striker Matthijs Brouwer opened his team's account in the 11th minute with a bunt past Kookaburras goalkeeper Mark Hickman following a fast counter-attacking movement.

After Australian midfielder Troy Elder had a rearing penalty corner attempt brilliantly saved by Netherlands goalkeeper Guus Vogels, the Dutch extended their lead when Teun de Nooijer found Karel Klaver unmarked inside the circle.

After falling behind 2-0 for the second day in a row, the Kookaburras began to make inroads into the Netherlands defence. The pressure was rewarded with Nathan Eglinton's

goal in the 30th minute after the Queenslander took the ball on the 25-yard line, outwitted the defence and shot powerfully past Vogels.

However Eglinton's good work was ruined just after half time when the three quick Dutch goals gave them a dominant 5-1 advantage to the delight of the home crowd. The Netherlands' goals came as the Kookaburras tried to press their opposition into turnovers, leaving space, which the Dutch exploited clinically.

Matthew Wells' powerful penalty-corner strike in the 52nd minute and chances from the set piece in the next 10 minutes gave Australia a chance, before Dean Butler rekindled hopes of a second comeback in as many days with a goal with just five minutes to go.

PAKISTAN-ARGENTINA

In the day's earlier match, Pakistan rebounded from Saturday's disappointment to record a 6-5 win over Argentina.

The South American champions made Pakistan run for their money in what turned out to be yet another sensational and photo finish match.

Pakistan barely managed to win after leading 4-1 at half time.

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South Africa's Shaun Pollock is elated after taking the wicket of England captain Michael Vaughan on the fourth day of the third Test at Trent Bridge yesterday.

Pollock pretty pleased



AFP, Nottingham

Shaun Pollock batted and bowled South Africa firmly back into the third Test at Trent Bridge here on Saturday as the third day ended in dramatic style.

After making 62 as South Africa reached 362 all out in reply to England's 445, Pollock then had Marcus Trescothick caught off the first ball of the home side's second innings to leave the match finely poised.

England, who are one nil down, have a lead of 83 as they try to square the five match series after losing the second Test at Lord's by an innings.

Their planning was thrown into confusion by former skipper Pollock when Trescothick followed the ball

down the leg-side and Paul Adams was on hand to take the catch at short-leg, although England were not convinced that the opener had got bat on ball.

"There was only going to be one over and I wanted to make sure that they had to play every ball of the six," said Pollock.

"There was some talk about somebody else bowling the over but I said: 'No way.' I wanted to be in the action and it worked out.

"When Trescothick played the ball, we heard two noises and that's what we reacted to.

"The ball has been nipping back and swinging more than in the first two Tests now we have to make sure that we use the assistance the wicket is giving us the best we can."

Pollock, who was deposed as South African skipper after their

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Mariners defence manages to contain Mohammedan's Pakistani recruit Kamran Ashraf (R) during the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match yesterday.

Laxman ready to open



CRICINFO, Bangalore

In a departure from his earlier stand, Venkatasai Laxman has indicated that he is willing to bat at the top of the order.

According to a report by the Press Trust of India, Laxman said: "I would not mind opening the innings."

Talking about his performances as an opener, Laxman expressed his disappointment with his record as a Test opener: 658 runs at 28.60.

"I tried my best as an opening bat, but I think I did not live upto my own expectations. Also, the moment I failed one or two times they branded me a non-regular opener. I thought I could do better as a middle-order batsman because that's the position I have battled through-out my career."

BHF looking for assistant coach

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) meets today to select a coach and a manager for the national team to the Sixth Men's Asia Cup Hockey to be held in Kuala Lumpur in September.

BHF is looking for a local coach to assist Indian GH Bangus, a BKSP coach, to prepare the Bangladesh team for the continental meet.

Bangladesh has been billed in Pool B along with neighbouring giants India and Pakistan and China while Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and hosts Malaysia are the Pool A teams.

The residential camp for the primary team is likely to start in the first week of September. Around 26 players will be called up for the camp after the completion of the ongoing Premier Division League.

Looking back at his omission from the World Cup squad, Laxman said that it was a "huge shock".

"It was the most depressing moment in my cricketing career. For the past one year prior to the event, I was preparing really hard to contribute."

Shrugging off that disappointment, Laxman said that he was back in top shape after having recovered from his side strain.

"I had sustained a side strain on the West Indies tour [with the India A team] and had to take a month's rest. Since then I have been doing exercises to strengthen my back."

Laxman was also full of praise for the idea of holding a preparatory camp at the start of the season.

"It is a really good idea to have this camp and it is good that they are emphasising a lot on fitness. Already, this camp has helped me

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Kashif Jawad celebrates scoring Pakistan's fifth against Argentina in the Champions' Trophy in Amstelveen yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star**. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm August 29, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards.

- How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the 2nd Test against Australia?
301 289 295
- Who became Asian Youth Cup cricket champions?
Mataysta Bangladesh
Nepal
- Who won the Pepsi handball title?
Chittagong Narsingdi Bandarban
- Who clinched the GONGAGAF Gold Cup?
Brazil USA Mexico
- How many Test tons has Steve

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Nipa off on wrong foot

SPORTS REPORTER

National women's champion FIDE Master Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa lost her first round game in the Asian Women Chess Championship against IWM Xe Yeanyean at Calicut in India on Saturday.

38 players including a number of Grand Masters and International Masters from eight countries are participating in the event. The top ten finishers in the competition, which will be held until August 25, will qualify for the FIDE World Championship for Women.