



Did U Know?

Sri-Lanka lost their last six wickets for 8 runs off 371 balls in the game vs Australia at Melbourne in January 1990.



What to WATCH

ESPN

Football Focus
Repeat at 8:30 am
IFA Shield Football
Semifinals
Live at 6:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Newcastle United
Live at 12:45 am (Saturday)
STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8 pm



TALK TURKEY



Md. Kaif
(Indian batsman)
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Competition closes at 8 pm
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1. Who won the Champions Trophy hockey title?	Netherlands	Australia
Pakistan		
2. Who clinched the Europa college basketball crown?	Khulna College Mastermind Notre Dame	
3. Bangladesh lost the first Test against Pakistan by:	7 wickets	42 runs
4. Who became man-of-the-match in the 4th Test between England and South Africa?	3	
Name		
Class		
School Address		
Phone: (If any)		

First Division TT starts Sept 28
BSS, Dhaka

The First Division Table Tennis League begins at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium in the city on September 28.
Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTF) is organising the competition under the sponsorship of Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited.
Twenty-five teams, split into two groups, are to take part in the meet. Top three teams of each group would play in the super league, where the six teams meet on league basis to decide champions. However, the teams will not carry their first round points into the second.
GROUP A: Barna Club, Angeles Club, Young Pegasus, Dhaka Table Tennis Club, Riajul Haque Smriti Sangha, Old Rajshahi Cadet

Hockey's horrible truth

SPORTS REPORTER



Nobody had expected that the boys of Abdur Razzak Sona Mia would strike gold in the Sixth Men's Asia Cup Hockey Championship. But the feeling was that at least the Bangladesh team would play with some purpose on one of the biggest stages of field hockey.

But after three games the harsh reality is that our hockey has turned yet again into a punch-bag in Kuala Lumpur. The team conceded 26 goals without any reply. The shocking truth reflects the gulf of difference between Bangladesh and an emerging country like China.

When Asian superpowers Pakistan thrashed them 8-0 and India pumped in 10 goals in the first two games it was always on the cards.

But when China slammed another eight goals the shockwaves were felt in Bangladesh.

It was a bitter pill to swallow for the Sona Mia's men, whose mission in Malaysia was to beat China and clinch the sixth place for a berth in the World Cup qualifiers.

Although there is still a slim chance for Bangladesh to win a place for the qualifiers provided that they beat the home side today, but

the general feeling is that the players should pack their bags and take the first available flight back home.

The defeat against China put in perspective clearly shows the rapid decline of Bangladesh hockey. It was only a year ago when Bangladesh last met the Chinese at the Busan Asian Games, which our team lost 3-2.

In the Fifth Asia Cup in Malaysia in 1999 the two teams were tied 1-1.

"I don't know what went wrong but the result against China was really unbelievable," said former national coach Hossain Imam Shanta to the Daily Star Sport yesterday.

But forget about what the hockey experts even a layman can understand why hockey is going downhill.

Over the years the promoters of the game like Shamsul Bari (the long-serving general secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation) has become a dinosaur in terms of experience, but his all-familial setup has done little to spread the game outside the confines of Maulana Bhasani Stadium.

Due to inept thinking and planning the avenues for bringing in new talent have all closed down. Bari's BHF is more than happy with the way they are running domestic affairs. They have never stepped out of their club-oriented mindset. Also they could not care less if hockey is being played at all outside the capital.

The tour-happy BHF officials

however never miss an opportunity to travel abroad without caring to equip the players technically in every sense of the word.

The recent Kuala Lumpur trip was no exception. Bangladesh went to Malaysia with only sixteen players while the other teams carried a maximum eighteen to bolster the reserve bench. Funnily the BFF sacrificed two players to enlarge the official entourage.

Defender Musha Mia missed the tournament suffering an injury in a practice match against Hong Kong even though team management had said no practice matches would be played if a player got hurt.

The face of Bangladesh hockey could be best summed up by a club official who dared to say that they could not even get eleven players to field a team.

"Forget about quality. We are struggling to make up the numbers. And the situation is not helped by the influx of mediocre foreign players from India and Pakistan," said the official opting anonymity.

Some also questioned the appointment of Sona Mia as coach for such a high-profile tournament.

"It is true that we don't possess international standard coaches but it would have been better had a more experienced man been picked," commented another hockey official.

Same cheque or nothing

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Krira Sangsad Krira Chakra refused to receive a cheque from Arif Khan Joy yesterday claiming it was not the same one that they gave the midfielder more than a month ago.

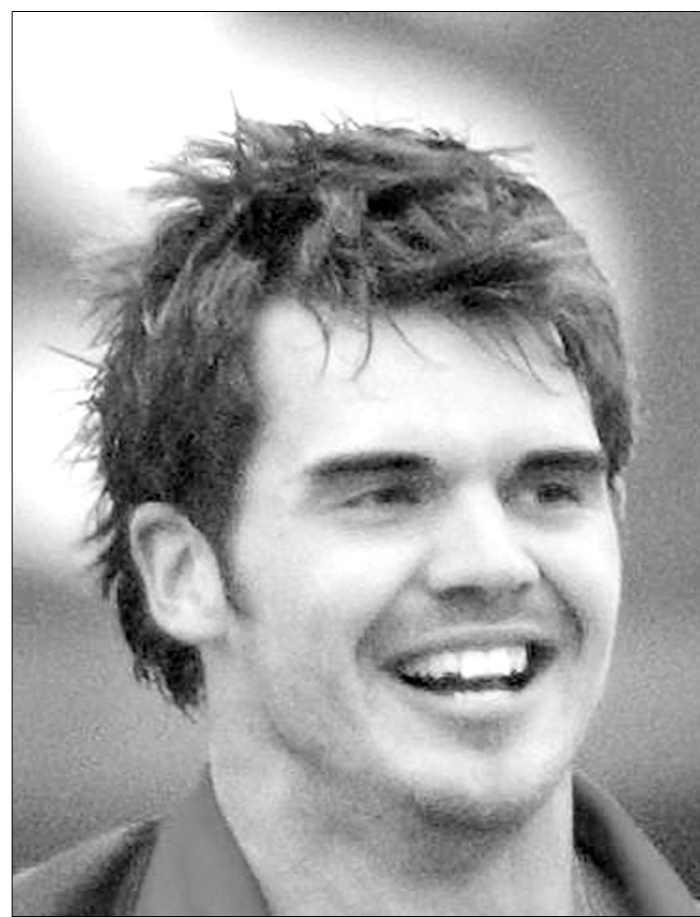
Joy, who joined Abahani from Mohammedan this year, came to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) office to bury the pre-transfer hatchet with Muktijoddha for whom he promised to play and had taken Taka 8.5 lakh as advance payment.

Joy submitted a cheque of the same amount to BFF general secretary Anwarul Haq Helal. But no Muktijoddha official came to receive the cheque.

"Muktijoddha demanded that Joy should return same cheque they gave him," said Helal.

Joy was stunned at the refusal "It is a funny demand, what's wrong if I give them another cheque with same amount of money?" he said.

But observers believe that there is a hidden agenda behind Muktijoddha's refusal over such a petty issue. May be they want to be absolutely sure that country's ace goalkeeper Aminul, who has also taken money from Abahani.



Anderson is not coming

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Fast bowler James Anderson will miss England's Test matches against Bangladesh to rest a knee injury, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Thursday.

However, the 21-year-old, who had been in doubt, will be available for the one-day series against Bangladesh and the Test and one-day series in Sri Lanka.

"Losing James for the Bangladesh Tests is a blow but he is a young bowler who has borne a heavy workload this summer," chairman of selectors David Graveney said in a statement.

"Having consulted the medical team we feel that this decision is in his best long-term interests," ECB chief medical officer Peter

Gregory said Anderson had an "overuse injury" to one of the tendons in his left knee that would need rest.

Anderson is also undergo a strengthening programme on the knee before flying to Dhaka on October 28 for the one-day matches.

The England selectors will announce a replacement for Anderson next week ahead of the Test squad's departure for Bangladesh on October 7.

Anderson has been an integral part of the England set-up since he made his international debut in a one-day series against Australia last December.

Despite his lack of experience, he was included in the team for this year's World Cup in Southern Africa where he took a career-best 4-25 against Namibia.

In June, he became the first

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Inzamam captain for now

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Inzamamul Haq has been named captain for Pakistan's five-match one-day series against South Africa next month, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Thursday.

Inzamam replaces Rashid Latif, who was retained in the 16-member squad announced by the PCB despite resigning the captaincy on Wednesday.

"It has been a difficult decision to accept Rashid's resignation because of his wonderful contributions to the young team after the World Cup," PCB chairman Tauqir Zia said on Thursday.

"But life has to go on, and the good thing is he is still available for the team as a player."

Zia chaired a two-hour meeting of the selectors and board members in Lahore to discuss Latif's resignation and appoint a new captain for the one-day series against South Africa.

The appointment of Inzamam, who has scored 9,195 runs in nearly

295 hundred one-day international, completes a remarkable turnaround in fortunes for the right-handed batsman, who was dropped after a miserable World Cup earlier this year.

The 33-year-old also replaced Latif as captain for the one-day series against Bangladesh this month, which Pakistan won 5-0.

Wicket-keeper Latif, 34, was serving a five-match ban imposed for claiming a catch he had not taken

clearly during the third Test against Bangladesh.

"(Inzamam) understands that he has a tough job on his hands and realizes that not only does he have to lead the team against a tough team but also continue the good work done by Rashid," Zia added.

"We all feel that Inzamam is a player in form and has all the ingredients to lead from the front and by example. He can be a source of inspiration for the younger players," Zia added.

Inzamam acknowledged the importance of the position.

"There will be pressure on me," he said. "But I guess after playing for 13 years, one has to raise his hand and say yes I can handle this pressure and shoulder the hopes of millions of Pakistani people."

"My approach will be positive and I think our key to success against South Africa would be positive cricket."

Chief selector Aamir Sohail said that Rashid's presence in the team would help Inzamam.

"It is sad that Rashid decided to

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INZAMAMUL HAQ

A positive change

Cricket

AMINUL ISLAM BULBUL

The tour of Pakistan was probably one of the best overseas ventures for Bangladesh so far.

We produced some great performances in the one-day matches and Tests. We fought bravely in all the Test matches from Karachi to Multan. We improved in every game.

In Karachi we played well. In Peshawar we gave Pakistan a big scare. If we had another spinner like Mohammad Rafique, the story could have been different. Then in Multan, apart from the result we won the match from every aspect.

Before leaving for Pakistan we had set our target to play for at least

four days in the Tests. We not only achieved that target but almost won a game in four days against one of the giants in world cricket.

We lost the matches only because we could not keep our nerve till the end. It was understandable because many of the players of this team have never gone through such situations even in the domestic league.

The Bangladesh team that played in the last World Cup and the one that went to Pakistan were almost the same. But performance-wise the difference was like chalk and cheese.

Bangladesh's total attitude has changed. They now look to make things happen. Their body language and mental spirit is very different than it was in the past.

A lot of credit must be given to the new think tank for this transforma-

tion.

Present captain Khaled Mahmud is very popular among the players. He knows how to motivate his men. This is an essential quality for a captain.

One person has made it all possible. He is Dav Whatmore, the best cricket coach in the world at this moment. We are lucky to have him. I have some wonderful memories of working with Dav for the Victoria Cricket Association in Australia. fourteen years ago.

Day did not get enough opportunities in Australia. He was one of the best opening batsmen for the Victoria state team. Even with such talent he had to be happy with just being a development coach of the VCA.

His turning point came when he left Australia and joined Sri Lanka.

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Ensure security for England

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury has directed all concerned to ensure security in the capital and in Chittagong during England cricket team's tour to Bangladesh next month.

The directive came from a high level meeting held at the Home Ministry yesterday with the minister in chair.

The meeting emphasised security at different points, including airports, match venues and hotel lounges both in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Railway, AIU open nat'l cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Railway will play against American International University (AIU) in the opening match of the Emirates Airlines 27th National Cricket Championship on October 1 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The tournament committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board has revealed the fixture of the first round which will hold on knockout basis. The 63-team event will also open the new domestic cricket season.

The first round will be held at nine different venues across the country to decide the 13-team league basis final round.

Storm brews in Guyana

CRICINFO, undated

The start of the West Indian domestic season may still be a few days away, but already a row has broken out over the selection of Shivnarine Chanderpaul as Guyana's captain ahead of Ramnaresh Sarwan, who is currently the Test team's vice-captain.

The Demerara Cricket Board (DCB) reacted Wednesday angrily to the decision of the Guyana Cricket Board (GCB), describing it as "unbelievable, ludicrous and autocratic", and called on Chanderpaul to turn down the appointment.

"The DCB is of the firm view that the GCB's decision can only sow the seeds of discord and disunity between these two illustrious national heroes and is definitely not what is desired at this stage of West Indies cricket development," it said in a statement.

"Should the GCB, in its usual autocratic style, fail to exercise either option, the DCB is now calling on Chanderpaul to exercise prudent judgment and not allow himself to be used as the GCB's political football."

Sarwan captained Demerera to victory in the recent El Dorado inter-county one-day tournament.

Schools' b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

BN School smashed Sunbeams School 47-27 in the inter-school boys' basketball competition at the Dhanmondi Basketball gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first session 22-19.

Shariful caged 20 points, Zia 19 and Asif 6 for BN School while Shamir and Shabab scored 9 points each and Zahin 6 for Sunbeams.

Revenge not on Saurav's mind

REUTERS, Calcutta

India captain Saurav Ganguly has said revenge will not top his agenda during next month's home Test series against New Zealand.

"I have not built it up as a revenge series," Ganguly said on Wednesday when asked about the confrontation which has been dubbed as such by Indian media.

India were humiliated on under-prepared pitches in New Zealand last year, losing both their Tests inside three days and conceding the one-day series 5-2.

Ganguly said: "We need to win like any other series and we need to play to our potential to win."

Ganguly, speaking at a charity function, said New Zealand could expect turning pitches for the series, but hinted they need not be tailor-made to suit India's key slow bowlers, Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

"In India wickets will turn," he said.

"You go to England the ball will seam, you go to Australia it will bounce and when you come to India you expect it to turn on the fourth or fifth day."

Stephen Fleming's side arrived on Sunday to play two Tests and a one-day tri-series also featuring Australia. The first Test starts in Ahmedabad on October 8 with the second to be played in Mohali from October 16.

Fans sing Latif song

AFP, Karachi

Angry protesters Thursday blamed match-fixing mafia for Rashid Latif's resignation as Pakistan captain and chanted slogans against Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials.

"Match-fixing mafia is behind Latif's resignation," his supporters shouted as more than 150 protesters staged a sit-in outside the Karachi Press Club.

They carried placards denouncing PCB chairman Tauqir Zia, a retired army general. "Go Tauqir Zia, Go" and "Save cricket by making Latif captain," the placards demanded.

"Latif is an honest man and was creating hurdles in the way of the mafia who wanted to fix matches," protester Mohammad Salim said.

Latif stirred a major controversy when he resigned as captain on Wednesday, citing personal reasons. But many observers believe he was forced to quit following differences with Zia and PCB chief selector Aamir Sohail.

Latif is known as the whistle blower on the match-fixing controversy. He alleged following player Salim Malik of wrongdoings on Pakistan's tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1994-95.

As a protest he and fellow player Basit Ali retired from international cricket but Latif changed his decision and later in 1998 was appointed Pakistan captain.

On the basis of audio evidence he provided, a match-fixing inquiry led by Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum banned Salim Malik and pacer Ataur Rehman for life. Six other players including Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis were fined.

In June this year he wrote a letter to the International Cricket Council (ICC) claiming that match-fixing was still going on in international cricket.

Latif also met the officials of the ICC's Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) and passed information on them.

His letter to the ICC became one of the reasons he left the captaincy.

Latif was also unhappy that selectors had awarded Test caps to some novice players during the recently concluded series against Bangladesh.

Umps' course begins today

UNB, Dhaka

A 10-day central umpiring course begins in the city today with representatives from the member countries of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) participating.

ACC president Mohammad Ali Asghar, who is also the president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), will inaugurate the course at 9:30 am at a city hotel.

ACC Umpires' trainer and a former Test umpire from Sri Lanka, KT Francis will conduct the course.

A total of 31 trainees 16 from nine member countries of the ACC and 15 Bangladeshis are taking part in it.

Sunil, Geoffrey for fewer ODIs

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

Sunil Gavaskar has urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) and national boards to try harder to reduce the number of one-day internationals being played by the top teams.

"It is not the strain of playing, it is more the travelling involved," the former India captain, who heads the world governing body's committee on playing, said on Thursday.

"In Tests, you are in the same place for seven days and are kind of settled," said Gavaskar, the most successful century-making batsman in Test history with 34 from 125 matches.

Pakistan and South Africa with 38 games apiece played the most number of one-dayers in 2002, followed by India (35), Sri Lanka (32), New Zealand (31) and Australia (29).

Gavaskar said he thought no team should play more than 30 one-day internationals annually. The issue had been raised by captains at

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SUNIL GAVASKAR



GEOFFREY BOYCOTT

Enter Martyn, exit Love?

Cricket

CRICINFO/BBC ONLINE, undated

Damien Martyn is set to be recalled when Australia name their squad for the first Test against Zimbabwe at Perth which starts on October 9.

He is likely to be preferred to Martin Love who has struggled to make an impression despite scoring a hundred in his last outing against Bangladesh.

Love came into the side when Martyn missed the Caribbean tour

because of the broken finger he suffered during the World Cup.

Trevor Hohns, Australia's chairman of selectors, refused to speculate on the squad but confirmed that Martyn was in the frame.

"Damien was a senior established player before he was injured and his position is a matter that will obviously be discussed at length," Hohns said.

"But it would be presumptuous to speculate about who is going to play. We will pick the team early next week and all sorts of factors will be

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I.C.A.-V.D.C.A. STADIUM
INAUGURAL MATCH
BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI
vs
NEW ZEALAND
DAY MATCH Sept 26th, 27th, 28th
TIMING: 9:30-12:00, 12:40-2:40 - 3:00

PHOTO: AFP

RELAX IN THE NAME OF CRICKET: An Indian police officer rests in front of a billboard promoting the three-day match between New Zealand and Board President XI of India in the southern Indian city of Vishakhapatnam yesterday.