




Did U Know?


The oldest Test captain was WG Grace of England, aged 50 years 320 days in 1899.




What to WATCH

ESPN
Football Focus
Repeat at 9:00 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Real Madrid vs Fc Porto
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)


STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8 pm
UEFA Champions League
Vfb Stuttgart vs Man United
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)



TALK TURKEY



Darren Gough
(England fast bowler)
"I'm bitterly disappointed because I'm still a good one-day bowler."
After being omitted from one-day squad to tour Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.



Star WHIZZ KID OMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 3, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Champions Trophy hockey title?

Netherlands	Australia
Pakistan	
- Who clinched the Europa college basketball crown?

Khulna College	Mastermind	Notre Dame
- Bangladesh lost the first test against Pakistan by:

7 wkts	42 runs	3
- Who became man-of-the-match in the 4th Test between England and South Africa?

Name

Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

AB Bank Sr TT starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The AB Bank Metropolis Senior Division Table Tennis League begins today at the Wooden-floor Gymnasium.

Ten teams were expected to take part in the league but with Abahani Krira Chakra pulling out at the last minute, it has caused the bye-laws to be turned upside down because no team now will face the threat of relegation to the First Division League.

The top five finishers will play in the Super League and first round points will be added in the next round.

The participating teams are: Bangladesh Biman, Wari Club, Inter Sports, Brothers Union, Armanitola Juba Sangha, Engineers' Club, Ajax Sporting Club, Dhaka Mariner Young's Club and Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra.

Unfinished Aminul affair

 **Football**

SPORTS REPORTER

The investigation into the transfer drama of Bangladesh's number one goalkeeper Aminul Haque looks set for another twist as the one-member probe committee of Col (Reld.) Obayedullah Khan submitted an incomplete report to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday.

The reason behind the submission of the unfinished report is an apparent lack of cooperation from Aminul and his club Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra.

Although, Aminul appeared once before the committee on September 24, but he could not be questioned as Khan was ill that day.

Last week an official letter was sent to Aminul to asking him to face Khan at the BFF office on September 29. But Muktiyoddha informed the BFF that they could not allow Aminul to go for security reasons.

They instead suggested that the

committee came to the club and complete the inquiry.

An offended Khan rejected the offer and presented a report based on whatever information he had.

"This is an insult not only for me but for the BFF also. He (Aminul)



AMINUL HAQUE

and his club can not decide where I should interview him. So I have completed my report without talking to him. I have tried my best to describe what actually happened on

September 11. It would have been a lot more substantial if I had the chance to speak to Aminul," said Khan while talking to the Daily Star Sport yesterday.

The Aminul saga started when the Muktiyoddha veteran suddenly disappeared on the afternoon of September 11. His elder brother Moin later in the day filed a case with Ramna Thana accusing Abahani of kidnapping Aminul. In the early hours of September 12, police carried out an unprecedented raid on Abahani club in Dhanmondi in search of Aminul but couldn't find him.

While frantic search for him was going on, the ace custodian popped up at Muktiyoddha's Central Command office in Eskaton on September 12 afternoon and claimed that he was taken to Abahani club at gun-point and later held captive in a house in Mohammedpur's Iqbal Road. Aminul also told reporters that he had fled that house by jumping from a first floor balcony.

Aminul admitted to taking a cheque of Taka nine lakhs from Abahani as advance payment with a

promise that he would join them during the booters' transfer burse while making the same commitment to Muktiyoddha and also taking the exact amount of money in advance.

The BFF forced the inquiry committee at the request of Abahani who felt victimised in the uncalled for episode.

Meanwhile, a top BFF official has claimed that the whole incident was orchestrated by Aminul himself.

"He couldn't possibly have jumped from the first floor without getting hurt. Even a child won't believe his story. Muktiyoddha feared a ban on Aminul and that's why they didn't cooperate with the BFF and its probe committee," said the official who opted anonymity.

"Our mission was to know exactly what happened on that day because it concerns a popular club (Abahani) and alleged kidnapping of a footballer. I'm not bothered with the number of cheques Aminul has received because this is a common story in our club football," said BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal yesterday adding that he was

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Smith admits it

 **Cricket**

REUTERS, Lahore

South Africa captain Graeme Smith says his team are determined to focus on cricket during their tour of Pakistan, although he expects security fears to play on their minds.

The South African team arrived in Pakistan on Tuesday, having initially cancelled the trip on security grounds before agreeing to a curtailed tour after Pakistan dropped Karachi and Peshawar as match venues.

They open the tour with a warm-up one-day match against a Lahore City Mayor XI on October 1 and play the first one-day in Lahore on October 3.

"No one should question the integrity of the United Cricket Board or the South African team," Smith told a news conference in the eastern city of Lahore.

"We have come here on the back of two bomb blasts. We have come here to play cricket and to win.

"(But) I think I would be lying to you if I said that there were no worries about the security issues.

"I think two weeks of discussing security and administration is definitely going to play on our mind. It definitely plays a role. But now we are here to play and all that is behind us," the 22-year-old added.

The South Africans had expressed concern at playing at the two venues, and recent bomb explosions in the southern port city of Karachi underlined their fears.

Pakistan has been a no-go country for most touring sides since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States amid fears of Islamic militant attacks.

A suicide bomb outside the Karachi hotel where the New Zealand team was staying in May 2002 prompted the cancellation of the tour, and West Indies and Australia both refused to tour Pakistan last year, using neutral venues instead.

"Starting from our first practice today, we are to focus on cricket and

on how to beat Pakistan," Smith said.

"We had a good discussion in Dubai before we landed here. It was a good team meeting. But obviously we have not had much time to prepare for this tour. I think we are a bit under-prepared."

South Africa are touring Pakistan for the first time since 1997, when they won the Test series 1-0 under Hansie Cronje.

The present squad has just four survivors from that tour Shaun Pollock, Paul Adams, Jacques Kallis and Gary Kirsten, who will join the team for the two Tests after the five-match one-day series.

"I think it is going to be an evenly matched and explosive series," said Smith, adding that his team were disappointed not to be playing in Karachi or Peshawar.

"But my point of view is that my men have taken a decision on our safety. If they feel it is unsafe, we are not going to take our safety for granted.

"I think its good for Pakistan cricket we are here."

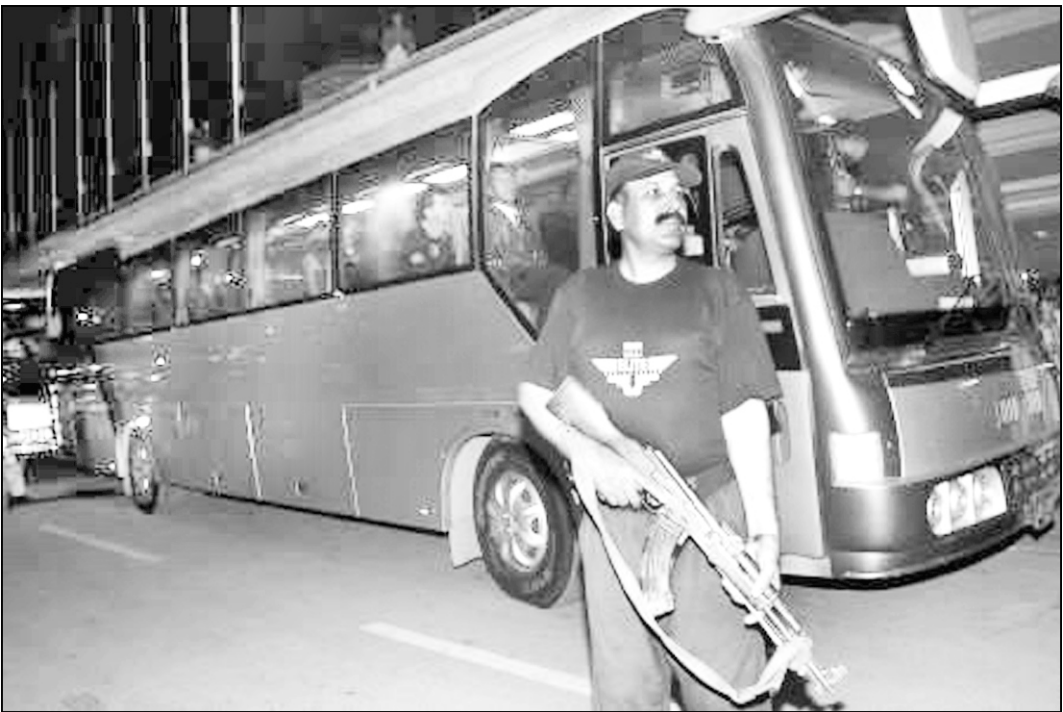


PHOTO: REUTERS
An armed police commando stands guard in front of a bus designated for South Africa cricket team at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport yesterday.

S Africa land in Pakistan amid tight security

AFP, Lahore

The South African cricket team landed Tuesday in the eastern city of Lahore amid intense security to begin their 29-day tour of Pakistan.

The tour had been called off by South African officials because of security fears, but after assurances from the Pakistan Cricket Board and the elimination of Karachi and Peshawar from the itinerary, it was rescheduled.

"I am happy that the South African team has arrived here and hope they have left whatever happened in the last week behind," said South African High Commissioner M Moolla, who met the team at the airport.

"I look forward to seeing some exciting cricket from this young South African team," Moolla said.

Security was tight at Lahore's Allama Iqbal international airport as the 15-member team arrived from Johannesburg via Dubai, with a large contingent of Punjab police's elite

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Miandad vows to exploit SA flaws

 **Cricket**

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad Monday said he plans to exploit South African weaknesses following



JAVED MIANDAD

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh's assertions that Proteas are "chokers".

"We have seen their videos and have discussed their weak areas as Steve Waugh put it that they (South Africans) are chokers in crunch matches," Miandad said on the eve of South African team's arrival here to play five one-day games and two Tests.

"We would try to capitalise on it," Miandad told reporters.

Waugh tagged the Proteas as "chokers" when they toured Down Under in 1997-98 and then Australia beat them in the last league game and tied the semifinal in the 1999 World Cup in England where South Africa had entered as favourites.

The South Africans under Greame Smith flopped in the final of the NatWest challenge in England, bundled out for a mere 108 and then lost the Oval Test against England led by Michael Vaughan after scoring over 400 runs to finish the Test

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U-17 booters trounced

SPORTS REPORTER

The first practice match of the Bangladesh under-17 football now touring Myanmar turned into a rout yesterday.

The boys of Shahidur Rahman Shantow went down 8-1 to the 'Youth A national team' at the Youth Complex in Yangon. No details about the one-sided game were actually made available in the fax sent by manager Imtiaz Sultan Johnny.

The team, which embarked on a three-match tour in preparation for the Asian Under-17 qualifier against Kyrgyzstan in the second week of October, was clueless about the fixtures when it left Dhaka on Saturday.

The young Bangladesh booters, who were expecting to take on an under-18 team, ended up playing a team comprising five Myanmar national players.

According to the team manager about six or seven of that team play in the Myanmar First Division League.

The Bangladesh juvenile team's next two matches are against the Myanmar under-17 team tomorrow and October 4.

Age-group teams in Fed Cup soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

For the first time Bangladesh under-17 and under-20 football teams will take part in the 19th Federation Cup beginning on October 25.

Besides the two age-group teams, ten Premier Division, ten First Division, four service teams (Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Police) will play in the traditional competition before start of the Senior Division League.

The teams have been asked to confirm their entries by October 10.

Meanwhile, the tournament committee is searching for a sponsor for the tournament. It has yet to receive any positive response from different business houses.

School b'ball

BSS, Dhaka

St Gregory's High School and Green Herald School moved into the final of the inter-school basketball championship at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday.

Title aspirants St Gregory's continued their unbeaten run with another impressive victory when they outplayed European Standard School 132-64.

The winners led the first-half 64-28.

Pulok caged 40, Pankaj 29 and Mowla 23 for the winners while Tawfiq's brilliant efforts went futile as his masterly 58 points could not save his side from a big defeat.

The other title-contender Green Herald registered a hard-earned 59-44 victory over spirited Scholastica.

The winners led the first-half 26-22.

Raja with 27 and Sajjad with 17 points were the notable scorers for Green Herald. Omar top scored for Scholastica with 25 points.

South Breeze School maintained their winning spree with an exciting 28-21 victory over Sunbeams School in the girls' group.

South Breeze took a healthy 18-6 lead at half-time.

Both the boys' and girls' finals will be held on October 4.



PHOTO: STAR
Chairman of junior cricket selection panel Jahangir Shah Badsha briefs the players who came to Bangladesh Cricket Board's Bangabandhu Stadium office yesterday to report to coach Carlton Barnadus.

BD back in training today

 **Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

The holiday is over it's time to practice. The national cricketers after relaxing for a week after returning from a morale-boosting tour of Pakistan, will begin training at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today for their home series against England that starts later this month.

Dav Whatmore's rapidly improving Tigers will spend the first five days concentrating on fitness and fielding aspects except on October 3 which will be the rest day.

However, due to inclement weather over the past few days, net practice has been shifted to the final day.

"The practice wickets were ready for net sessions but after we found water on the surface of the pitches it

forced us to delay it until the last day of the first-phase camp," said member-secretary of the grounds committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Rafiqul Islam Babu yesterday.

Twenty players were selected by the Faruque Ahmed-led selectors panel for the camp.

Meanwhile, some selected players of the BCB President's Eleven and Bangladesh A teams reported to Sri Lankan coach Carlton Barnadus at the multipurpose venue before leaving for the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan in the afternoon.

"I am eagerly awaiting a call up to senior team. That is my ultimate objective although I should be looking forward to playing in next year's Youth World Cup, said Nafees Iqbal, who captained the under 19 and under 23 teams on

recent tours to Sri Lanka.

The under-23 tour paved the way for Rajin Saleh's introduction to Test and one-day cricket. The diminutive right-hander made an immediate impact in Pakistan.

His entry at the highest level should inspire his contemporaries like Aftab Ahmed, Nazimuddin to make their mark in the tour games against Michael Vaughan's side that sensationally drew the four-match Test series against South Africa in the final Test at The Oval.

"I think it will be a great chance for the young players to prove themselves," said Nafees.

Besides 31 under-19 boys, four players Humayun Kabir, Ali Arman, Gazi Alamgir and Anwar Hossain who were selected for two different squads will also practice at the Savar-based lone sports institute

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Honeymoon can wait!

 **Cricket**

AFP, London

So determined is Richard Johnson to establish himself as an England cricketer he has delayed his honeymoon.

Somerset seamer Johnson, 28, was called up Monday as a replacement for injured Lancashire quick James Anderson for next month's two Test tour of Bangladesh.

Johnson, already in the one-day squad for Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, replaces the 21-year-old Anderson after the rising star of English cricket was ruled out last week of the first leg of the winter tour programme with a knee injury.

Former Middlesex paceman Johnson is due to get married this weekend to fiancée Nicky and the couple were due to have a honeymoon in the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius.

But that will have to wait now that Johnson has been called up for Test duty although England chiefs have given him an extra 24 hours at home before he flies out on October 8, a day after the other members of the



RICHARD JOHNSON

together before I go.

"You don't get called up by England every day, and I need to take every opportunity that comes along.

"It's hard on my other half because this has happened only a

week before we were getting married and going away but she understands and she's very supportive."

Johnson's desire to nail down an England place comes as no surprise given how his own international career has been blighted by injuries.

He was first called up England's 1995-6 tour of South Africa only for a back problem to force him out before the squad left the country.

Then, after Andrew Caddick's withdrawal two winters ago on security grounds from the tour of India, Johnson had the frustrating experience of playing in warm-up games but never getting a Test cap.

That only came in June when he took six for 33 on his Test debut against Zimbabwe at Durham's Riverside ground.

But his injury jinx struck again when first groin problems forced him out of the one-day series before a knee injury effectively ruled him out of the whole Test campaign against South Africa.

By the time he regained fitness the selectors had called upon James Kirtley, who took 13 wickets in two Tests before pulling out with s h i n

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PHOTO: STAR
Brothers Union's new signings Biplab (2nd from L), Iqbal (3rd from L), Rajani (3rd from R) and Nazrul (2nd from R) have a team talk as they gather at the club premises to report to manager Amer Khan (on his mobile phone) yesterday. The new-look Brothers leave for BKSP today for a temporary camp.