



Did U Know?

Gerd Müller, who played for West Germany in the 1970 and 1974 World Cups, holds the career record for most World Cup goals with 14.

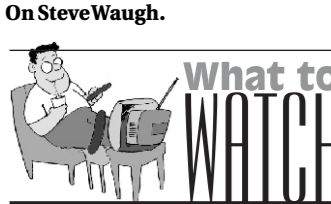


Talk Turkey



John Howard

(Australian Prime Minister)
"He's been a wonderful captain, a wonderful batsman, a gritty, determined competitor. His colleagues and his opponents respect his great determination and tenacity and I think he's made a wonderful contribution and I salute him and I know all cricket lovers feel the same."
On Steve Waugh.



What to Watch

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs England
First Test, Day Three
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League Football
Highlights at 9:30 am
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 12:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Galatasaray vs Juventus
Repeat at 8:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 201

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 5, 2003 and draw

- How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?
143 190 182
- Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?
Malcolm Speed Ali Asghar Ehsan Mani
- Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champions?
Pakistan Bangladesh India
- Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess?
.....

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Flemo may miss first Pak Test

REUTERS, Auckland

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming is struggling to be fit for the first Test against Pakistan in Hamilton starting on December 19.

Fleming has been out of action since the middle of last month after sustaining an abdominal tear during the triangular one-day series.

An all-Aussie remedy

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), it seems, is leaving nothing to chance ahead of the national team's tour of Zimbabwe next year.

The Board has already decided to send the likely players to Pakistan to play in a first-class competition. Now the affluent BCB has set an ambitious plan of hiring a mini army of aides to assist coach Dav Whatmore during the Tigers' second trip to the Southern African nation.

Bangladesh will head out for Zimbabwe in January to play two Tests and five one-day internationals.

Whatmore after spending his Christmas holidays will get down to business from January 4. He will have half a dozen assistants to prepare the team for what is realistically Bangladesh's best shot at a Test win.

The newest member of the elite family has gone winless in their 26 previous Test appearances since November 2000 when they play

Interestingly, Trevor Chappell, who coached the team during Bangladesh's maiden away series against Zimbabwe in 2001, has been asked to help Whatmore improve the fielding.

Trevor, who was sacked after the home series against Pakistan in 2002, will work as fielding coach for 16 days starting from January 5.

He will be the fourth Australian in the support staff to the national team after Whatmore, physio John Gloster and trainer Dean Woodford.

The hiring of so many technical

persons goes against the present Board's cautious approach adopted so far. Perhaps belated wisdom has dawned on Ali Asghar's wise men, which totally messed up Bangladesh's ill-fated World Cup campaign in South Africa by banking on the expertise of ex-Pakistan paceman Mohsin Kamal.

The BCB is also planning to hire three more temporary assistants to help the team improve in bowling, batting, and even sports psychology.

"We have chosen Trevor to improve the standard of our field-

ing. Besides, we are looking for experts in individual departments," said BCB advisor and chairman of cricket committee Mahbubul Anam while confirming the appointment of the youngest of the famous Chappell brothers.

Trevor had worked as Bangladesh national coach for eight months before being replaced by another unsuccessful coach Mohsin in 2002.

Anam said that Sri Lankan born Australian coach Owen Mattau would be brought before the start of the national camp. He will look after Bangladesh's long tail during his three-week stint.

The Australian influence does not end there as Anthony Stewart, an Aussie sports psychologist, will impart his first of four sessions in a year covering ten days per session.

Besides, Mahbub said that BCB is also trying to get a biochemist cum bowling coach also from Australia. Although he did not wish to confirm the name but it was learnt that former Pakistan bowling coach Daryl Foster is a leading candidate.

If the impressive list seven

ZIMBABWE TOUR ITINERARY

Date	Match	Venue
February 14-16	Practice match v Zimbabwe A	Harare
19-23	1st Test	Harare
26 Feb-1 Mar	2nd Test	Bulawayo
March 3	Practice match v Zimbabwe A	Kwekwe
6	1st ODI	Bulawayo
7	2nd ODI	Bulawayo
10	3rd ODI	Harare
12	4th ODI	Harare
14	5th ODI	Harare

World Youth Cup Three BD umpires

SPORTS REPORTER

There will be three Bangladesh umpires appointed for next year's ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Bangladesh.

Test umpires Akhter Uddin and Mahmudul Rahman, who have officiated in all of the Tigers' home matches and Showkatul Rahman will stand in the middle along with nine other umpires.

They are: Peter Parker (Australia), K Hariharan (India), Nadeem Ghouri (Pakistan), Brian Jerling, Ian Howell (South Africa), Billy Doctrove (West Indies), Kevin Barbour (Zimbabwe) Jeremy Lloyds and Mark Benson (England).

Besides, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has also appointed four match referees for the Under-19 World Cup. They are: Brigadier Munawar Ahmed Rana (Pakistan), Chris Broad (England), Roshan Mahanama (Sri Lanka) and John Morrison (New Zealand).

Meanwhile, BCB president Ali Asghar signed the host country agreement of the Under-19 World Cup at his office on Monday.

Shoaib bad news for NZ

Cricket

AFP, Faisalabad

New Zealand's chances of saving the five-match one-day series against Pakistan, who are currently leading 2-0, fell further Tuesday with the news that fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar was rejoining the Pakistani side.

"We are going for a clean sweep and Shoaib's return will definitely bolster our attack with Sami already firing on all cylinders," said captain Inzamamul Haq, who missed the second match due to bad throat.

The Black Caps, touring Pakistan to complete a series abandoned in May 2002 after a devastating suicide bomb attack outside their hotel, were decimated in the second match Monday by fast bowler Mohammad Sami.

Sami took a career-best 5 for 10 to give Pakistan a comprehensive 124-run victory. In the first match in Lahore, Pakistan had snatched

victory from the jaws of defeat thanks to a blazing 47 not out by all-rounder Abdul Razzaq.

The third match will be played in the eastern industrial city of Faisalabad on Wednesday.

Shoaib, nicknamed the 'Rawalpindi Express' for the speed of his bowling, missed the first two matches due to a ban for using abusive language against South African tail-ender Paul Adams in October.

New Zealand, already missing captain Stephen Fleming and seven other key players, will be further weakened by the absence of Jacob Oram, who suffered a side strain in the second match.

Fellow all-rounder Chris Harris will step in for Oram.

Captain Chris Cairns said his team was outplayed in the second game.

"We played well in the first game but the second one was more disappointing than the first match because we were just outplayed,"

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Rahman under fire

SPORTS REPORTER

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday decided to get directly involved in the affairs of the National Sports Council (NSC) instead of looking into reports provided by the highest sports body.

The body chaired by Jinal Abedin Faruque MP took the decision after a heated discussion in the presence of State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, who is also a member of the committee.

The eight-member JS body asked the NSC secretary Masud Elahi to furnish complete reports on seventeen controversial issues by November 15.

But it was learnt that the NSC secretary failed to satisfy the Parliamentary committee with his 32-page report, where he was supposed to clarify various allegations like financial irregularities on NSC Tower, purchasing footballs and allocation of shops at different stadiums in the capital.

A reliable source said that Rahman, who did not show up for the previous meeting on October 23, faced a volley of questions and only managed to appease the committee about a matter related to the BKSP.

Rahman, who is also the chairman of the NSC, regretted his absence in the last meeting and assured the committee members that a complete report would be submitted before the next meeting.

The committee also reprimanded Nurul Haq Pradhan, NSC's director of planning, for skipping the last meeting.

A team Karachi bound Dec 11

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team will now fly to Karachi on December 11 to take part in the 13-team final round of Pakistan's inter-departmental cricket championship.

Placed in Group A, Bangladesh will face Defence Housing Authority in their first engagement on December 14. The engagement starts with a one-day match followed by a four-day First Class match.

Other teams placed in Group A are: PIA, PTCL, Wapda, Customs and Khan Research Laboratories (KRL).

Sr Div League DMFLC meets tomorrow to set date

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) will meet tomorrow at its office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium to fix the date of the upcoming Senior Division League.

The league committee had earlier informed that they were interested to begin the country's most exciting domestic football competition from December 21, but the big clubs had been demanding the league to start at least a week earlier.

"We are interested to start the league from December 21 but most of the clubs, especially the big ones, demanded for early start because of their financial damage for their foreign recruits. Bangladesh Football Federation also echoed the same sentiment," said secretary of the league committee

M u z a m m e l



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Mushfiqur Rahman (L), captain of the Pakistan-bound Bangladesh A team, bowls in the nets while Muniruzzaman (C) and Manjarul Islam practise catching during a training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nat'l players can compete in NCL

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

National players will be eligible to play in the upcoming National Cricket League (NCL) that begins on December 10 across the country.

"Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has assured us that all members of the national team, Bangladesh A and the under-19 teams will be allowed to play in the national competition," said Adnan Rahman Dipon, member secretary of the league committee, yesterday.

It was earlier learnt that national coach Dav Whatmore and his under-19 counterpart Richard McInnes had shown their unwillingness to the participation of their respective charges in the tournament. But the BCB finally decided to go by the demand of the league committee.

Dipon informed that a lot of discussion took place about the issue and most of the members were in favour of the star players' participation in the meet. "They were of the view that otherwise the League would become a lifeless affair," he said.

The schedule of the country's lone first-class competition, which is going to be back in its old home and away format, has been finalised, but the organisers would not reveal that until they finalise the bylaws and budget.

"We are yet to finalise the bylaws for the tournament. Besides, we need a little more time to settle everything as the new chief executive of BCB Macky Dudhia doesn't know all about its financial aspect," said Dipon.

He also said that the league committee had been discussing these matters for the last two days and hoped that they would be able to settle it by today (Wednesday).

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Pakistan face Nepal today

SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal and Pakistan meet in the second match of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-20 Championship Group Five qualifying round today.

The match will kick off at 5pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Pakistan have to win today to keep their hopes alive for making it to the final as they already have lost their first game to hosts Bangladesh 1-0 at this venue.

The last match of this round will be held between Bangladesh and Himalayan state of Nepal on December 5.

The group champions will get entry into the final round of the competition which will be held in Malaysia in September next year.

Lara & co arrive in South Africa

AFP, Johannesburg

The West Indies team arrived here Monday for a four-Test tour with skipper Brian Lara warning they were unfazed by one of the most humiliating episodes in the team's history in an earlier tour.

Lara, who was captain when the West Indies toured South Africa in 1998-99 and were roundly drubbed in all five Tests, said the majority of his squad were players who had not been part of the ignominious defeat.

"The majority of this team was not here in 1998," the SAPA news agency quoted Lara as saying.

"We are going to play in our own era and make our own history for ourselves and the West Indies people."

Lara said his team, which arrived here from Zimbabwe where they won the Test series 1-0 and staged a sensational comeback in the one-day series where they came back from 1-2 down to win the five-match series 3-2, were better prepared.

"Playing a month of international cricket ahead of a tough tour like this always helps," Lara said. "Zimbabwe really lifted themselves for us and they played some hard cricket. It was great preparation for this tour."

The West Indians will also play five one-day internationals in South Africa.

In Lara's favour will be a loss of potency in South Africa's bowling resources.

Five seasons ago, the West Indies ran into Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock when they were at the peak of their form.

'Ponting can be a Don or a Sachin'

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Ricky Ponting could be revered like Sir Donald Bradman in Australia or Sachin Tendulkar in India if he plays to his potential, Australian former Test wicketkeeper Rod Marsh said on Tuesday.

The Test captain in-waiting was on Tuesday named by Wisden Australia as Australia's Cricketer of the Year for his outstanding form with the bat and leadership of the country's one-day side.

Ponting's one-time mentor Marsh said the 28-year-old could go on to become one of the all-time greats of the game.

"He can go as far as he wants to go because he has got the talent," said Marsh, who guided the Tasmanian at the Australian Cricket Academy.

"Sometimes very specially talented cricketers never reach their full potential, but what they do is often good enough to make them outstanding players."

"At his best, if he did reach his full potential, there is no reason why he couldn't be like Bradman or Tendulkar and those sorts of people."

"He's probably very close to



RICKY PONTING

doing that. I always have the feeling that he has more left in him. I hope that for the fans' sake and the sake of the game, he lets it come out."

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Akram for hire

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Former Pakistani captain and fast bowling great Wasim Akram, who retired from international cricket in May, hinted Tuesday at dreams of coaching not only his young compatriots but aspiring cricketers from other countries.

"I would be honoured to coach youngsters in my country because it would be one of the ways to serve my country which gave me name and fame," Wasim, 37, told this news agency.

"But any youngster coming to me for help irrespective of nationality would get my advice."

For the moment he said he was enjoying his new role as commentator.

one-day wicket taker with 502, plus a Test wicket tally of 414.

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly has expressed hope that Wasim could advise his bowlers while in

Australia as television commentator for the Indian tour.

Wasim said he has received no formal coaching invitation from India.

"Even if my name was mentioned it was an honour for me, my country and I am thankful to Ganguly for his nice remarks," he said.

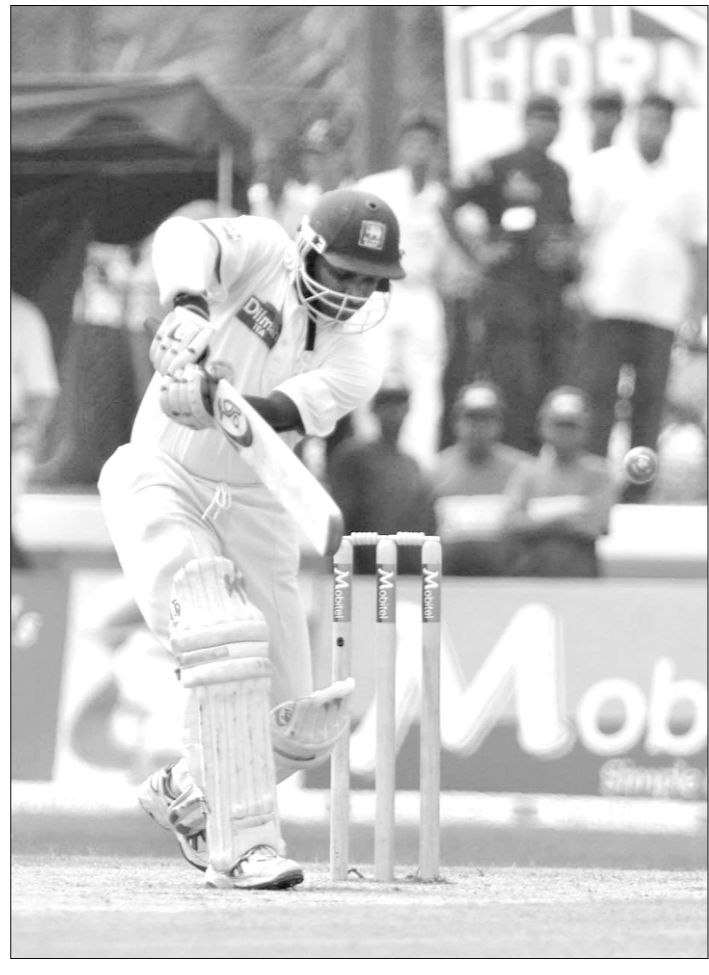
Wasim, due to join the commentary team in Australia next week, said he would give advice if it was sought.

"If anyone seeks my advice I am duty-bound to help him."

Wasim retired as the leading



WASIM AKRAM



Sri Lanka opener Sanath Jayasuriya plays and misses one during the first day's play of the first Test against England at Galle yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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