

WI-Bangladesh cricket ties Nov 11-18

Sports Reporter
The West Indian under-19 cricket team will tour Bangladesh from November 11-18 to play a three-day and two limited overs matches against their Bangladesh counterparts.
The three-day match is billed for November 12, 13 and 14 while, the one-day ties will be held on November 16 and 17. All the exhibition matches will be played at the Dhaka Stadium.
The seven-day visit of the Carribeans is part of their two-month long tour of the sub-continent which also includes a 42-day schedule for them in Pakistan from September 29 to November 10.
Following are the members of the West Indies under-19 team: Girelli Breeze (Captain), Amarnath Basdeo, Raymond Casimir, Philip Clarke, Nicholas Degroot, Tyrone Greenaway, Wavell Linds, Ryan Hurley, Sylvester Joseph, Reon King, Denville McKenzie, Adrian Murphy, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Vishal Nagamootoo and Oneil Richards.



Two greats of world women's tennis pose for the photograph prior to their US Open final engagement in New York on Sept 9. — Star photo by Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Graf wins 18th Grand Slam

Seles stoops to Steffi

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Steffi Graf defeated Monica Seles 7-6, 0-6, 6-3 on Saturday to win the dream final for the US Open women's championship and claim her 18th Grand Slam title, reports Reuter.
In a showdown that tennis fans have waited nearly 32 months to see, Graf captured her fourth US Open crown on the strength of a single service break in the third set of a taut struggle between two of tennis' greatest champions.
When Seles netted a forehand at match-point to end the one hour, 52-minute battle, Graf jumped for joy, covered her face and then raced to a courtside box where she reached in for a congratulatory before returning to the net for a warm embrace with Seles.
The confrontation between the co-world-number ones promised tension, drama and emotion, and it delivered.
Seles, playing her first Grand Slam tournament since defeating Graf in the final of the 1993 Australian Open, just last month ended a 28-month absence from the circuit following a knife-attack by a deranged fan of Graf's in a match in Hamburg, Germany.
The top-seeded Graf has been battling both injuries and intense emotional strain caused by her father's continuing imprisonment in Germany on charges of tax evasion.
"This year has been like a dream to me," Graf, who also won the French and Wimbledon titles, told the crowd in the trophy presentation.
"I think this tournament was the hardest off all the

tournaments I've won. It sure feels incredible right now."
Seles, responding to the heartfelt roars at Stadium Court, said: "One of the reasons I came back was to feel this excitement, and I definitely felt it."
"Thank you."
Seles was not so gracious about some line calls that went against her in the match, particularly one that took away what she felt was an ace to win the opening set.
The first set of the fantasy final was full of gripping, baseline rallies with both players ripping rockets off both sides without a single service break.
Graf came closest to breaking as he held five break points in a marathon seventh game. But Seles raised her game fiercely, her urgency felt both in the power she hit with and in the volume of her shrieking grunts with each blast.
More than likely shaken by the turn of events, Seles lost the next three points and the opening set.
But then Seles pulled off something spectacular. She pulled even with a love set, the first time Graf had been failed to win a game in a set since the 1993 Canadian Open final, which she beat Jennifer Capriati 6-1, 0-6, 6-3.
Graf has never lost a love set at the US Open, and the last time she lost a set 6-0 in a Grand Slam tournament was in the 1992 French Open semifinals against Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. Graf won that match 0-6, 6-2, 6-2.
The third set provided more of the tense action that characterised the opener. Seles had a break-point in the third game after two spectacular winners but Graf held her off.
Graf took the winning edge in the next game, as Seles appeared to sag for the first time in the match. Two backhand errors gave the German a 3-1 lead. Graf needed four game points to hold serve in the next game in Seles' last big challenge.
Seles saved one match point in the final game with a sizzling, backhand return winner to reach 40-30 before finding the net with an errant forehand that ended it.
"Oh boy. There were so many emotions out there today. I think Steffi and I played great matches," Seles said.

An ace by the second-seeded Seles finally ended that treat, and the two headed for a tie-breaker.
Graf galloped into a 4-2 lead in the decider before Seles, who had yet to lose a set since launching her comeback last month in Toronto, charged back.
Seles ripped a backhand serve return winner and a forehand crosscourt winner on her way to taking a 5-4 lead. A double fault by Graf gave Seles a 6-5 lead and set point.
Seles thought she had won the first set when, at 6-5 in the tie-break, she hit a serve down the middle. Seles threw her hands up in triumph and began to walk to her chair when she realised the serve had been called wide.
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Pepsi nat'l b'ball

Sports Reporter
Defending champions Bangladesh Navy recorded their fifth successive win in the Pepsi 18th national basketball championship with a 125-40 thrashing of Brahmanbaria DSA in their Group A clash held at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday in the morning.
With this victory the sailors kept up their group leadings with 10 points to ensure a semifinal berth.
The winners led the first half 69-16.
Mazrul and Manirul caged in 30 and 29 times respectively for the winners with their teammate Rowshan scoring 24.
While Robin (14) and Rony (10) were the two notable scorers for a Brahmanbaria.
In the day's other match, Khulna DSA beat Chandpur DSA 76-46. It was the third victory for the Khulna boys who led the first half with 36-20.
Shiplu (25) and Swapan (21) were the highest scorers for Khulna while Akash and Rizvi notched up 17 and 16 points respectively for the losers.
Bangladesh Army won the day's last encounter with a 67-56 points victory over Dhaka University.
This was the third win in a row for Group B leaders who earlier outplayed Bangladesh Airforce (106-33) and Rajshahi DSA (151-42) in their group matches.
Army cagers Shafi scored the highest 15 points with Rahim and Wahed scoring 13 points apiece while Apu (25) was the leading DU scorer followed by Jami with 15 points.

U-19 girls' h'ball training course

Sports Reporter
A four-week handball training course for the under-19 girls of Dhaka metropolises will begin at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex ground from September 23 under the auspices of Bangladesh Women Sports Federation.
The students of city's any school will be regarded eligible for the course, which will be concluded on October 19.
Interested girls have been requested to enlist their names with the Bangladesh Women Sports Federation du-ring the office hours (10 am to 5 pm) before September 20.

Taffarel calls it a day

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil, Sept 10: Brazil's 1994 World Cup winning goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel announced his retirement from international football here on Saturday blaming it on remarks made by Riccardo Teixeira the president of the Brazilian Football Federation after Uruguay beat Brazil in July's Copa America, reports AFP.
Taffarel, aged 29 and capped 93 times by Brazil, said: "Teixeira showed a lack of respect for me. When someone does not respect oneself it is necessary to take a decision. I have."
There was some criticism of his performance in the Copa final. Particularly his delayed reaction to Bengochea's freekick equaliser for Uruguay which ultimately led to the penalties.
Taffarel, played in both the 1990 and 1994 World Cups and spent several seasons in Italy with Riggiana and Parma before returning to Brazil to play for Atletico Mineiro.

US OPEN CHAMPS CHART

NEW YORK, Sept 10 (AP): Following is US Open women's champions list:

1887 Ellen Hansell	1944 Pauline Betz
1888 Bertha L Townsend	1945 Sarah Paulrey Cooker
1889 Bertha L Townsend	1946 Pauline Betz
1890 Ellen C Roosevelt	1947 Louise Brough
1891 Mabel Cahill	1948 Margaret Osborne duPont
1892 Mabel Cahill	1949 Margaret Osborne duPont
1893 Aline Terry	1950 Margaret Osborne duPont
1894 Helen Hellwig	1951 Maureen Connolly
1895 Juliette Atkinson	1952 Maureen Connolly
1896 Elizabeth Moore	1953 Maureen Connolly
1897 Juliette Atkinson	1954 Doris Hart
1898 Juliette Atkinson	1955 Doris Hart
1899 Marion Jones	1956 Shirley J Fry
1900 Myrtle McAteer	1957 Althea Gibson
1901 Elizabeth Moore	1958 Althea Gibson
1902 Marion Jones	1959 Maria Bueno
1903 Elizabeth Moore	1960 Darlene R Hard
1904 May Sutton	1961 Darlene R Hard
1905 Elizabeth Moore	1962 Margaret Smith
1906 Helen Homans	1963 Maria Bueno
1907 Evelyn Sears	1964 Maria Bueno
1908 Maud Barger-Wallach	1965 Margaret Smith
1909 Hazei Hotchkiss	1966 Maria Bueno
1910 Hazei Hotchkiss	1967 Billie Jean Moffett King
1911 Hazei Hotchkiss	1968 Margaret Smith Court
1912 Mark Kay Brown	1969 Virginia Wade
1913 Mark Kay Brown	1970 Margaret Smith Court
1914 Mark Kay Brown	1971 Margaret Smith Court
1915 Molla Bjurstedt	1972 Billie Jean King
1916 Molla Bjurstedt	1973 Billie Jean King
1917 Molla Bjurstedt	1974 Margaret Smith Court
1918 Molla Bjurstedt	1975 Billie Jean King
1919 Hazei Hotchkiss Wightman	1976 Chris Evert
1920 Molla Bjurstedt Mallory	1977 Chris Evert
1921 Molla Bjurstedt Mallory	1978 Tracy Austin
1922 Molla Bjurstedt Mallory	1979 Chris Evert Lloyd
1923 Helen Wills	1980 Tracy Austin
1924 Helen Wills	1981 Chris Evert Lloyd
1925 Helen Wills	1982 Martina Navratilova
1926 Molla Bjurstedt Mallory	1983 Martina Navratilova
1927 Helen Wills	1984 Hana Mandlikova
1928 Helen Wills	1985 Martina Navratilova
1929 Helen Wills	1986 Martina Navratilova
1930 Betty Nuthall	1987 Steffi Graf
1931 Helen Wills Moody	1988 Steffi Graf
1932 Helen H Jacobs	1989 Gabriela Sabatini
1933 Helen H Jacobs	1990 Monica Seles
1934 Helen H Jacobs	1991 Monica Seles
1935 Helen H Jacobs	1992 Steffi Graf
1936 Alice Marble	1993 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario
1937 Anita Lizana	1994 Steffi Graf
1938 Alice Marble	
1939 Alice Marble	
1940 Alice Marble	
1941 Sarah Paulrey Cooker	
1942 Pauline Betz	
1943 Pauline Betz	

Prior to 1968 the USTA championship was an amateur event. There were two tournaments held in 1968 and 1969, one for amateurs and the other permitted professionals.
World number one Steffi Graf of Germany awaits a Monica Seles serve during their high-voltage final at the US Open on September 9. The refulgent German won her 18th Grand Slam title beating long-time tennis rival Seles 7-6 (8-6), 0-6, 6-3. — Star photo by Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Agassi's sweet retaliation!

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Andre Agassi unloaded some of his best shots against Boris Becker after the defending champion's four-set win over the German in the US Open semifinal on Saturday, reports Reuter.
Agassi opened his post-match news conference by firing some criticism at the loser in response to comments made by Becker after their Wimbledon semifinal match this summer.
"After he beat me at Wimbledon he said some things that bothered me on a very personal level," Agassi said.
"It was just so many comments about players not liking me, me not hanging out in the locker room, me not practicing with the guys. I couldn't understand it," said the 25-year-old Agassi.
At the end of his three-hour, seven-minute 7-6, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 victory, Agassi exchanged only a cursory hand slake with the loser.
"It is hard for me to respect anybody who is going to beat me and say so many things that are not only wrong, but meant to hurt," Agassi said.
"I don't understand that and I don't respect it. It is real simple. I respect his tennis play. But, once a match is over, you know it ends there," snarled Agassi.
A diplomatic Becker tried to soothe the bad blood.
"I personally always liked Andre. I respected him as a player. And I respected him as a person," Becker said of the world number one.
"What happened two months ago is something which very few people still care about. I may have said a few things which aren't right, he has said maybe a few things which aren't right, but we are all not perfect."
"In the heat of the moment you say some things, a couple of days later you may think about it again and you say, maybe I shouldn't have said that," said Becker, who added that he had not spoken to Agassi since the incident.
Becker shrugged off the feud, saying their actions on the court spoke louder than words.
"The bottom line is that we are both great champions and we showed a great tennis match out there today."

War of world's top two

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Defending champion Andre Agassi held off a thrilling comeback by Boris Becker on Saturday to reach the final of the US Open where he will meet Pete Sampras in the eagerly-anticipated showdown of the top two players in the world, reports Reuter.
The top-ranked Agassi finally ended the pitched battle more than three hours after it began by breaking Becker with consecutive ferocious service return winners to clinch a 7-6, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 semifinal victory.
A beaming Agassi then pointed his racket at the television camera and issued a challenge: "Pete, if you're watching, I'm coming."
"I'm happy to be in the final on Sunday and Pete being there makes it all the more special," said Agassi who has not lost a

"When you win the US Open, you want to beat the best player in the world," said Sampras, who lost the Australian Open final to Agassi but rebounded by winning his third consecutive Wimbledon crown in July.
Agassi got himself out of trouble early, facing break points in his first three service games and saving them all.
"I had a few chances early on... somehow wasn't able to pull it off to break him," lamented the three-time Wimbledon champion.
They battled dead even after that as the first two sets went to tie-breaks without either player dropping serve.
But Agassi came up big in both, taking the first 7-4 and dominating the second 7-2 with the help of two of Becker's 11 double faults.
"To lose two sets in a tie-breaker without losing your serve once is very hard to swallow," said the fourth-seeded German star, who belted 25 aces for the match.
Clearly frustrated and further agitated by a few questionable line calls, Becker seemed ready to go down in straight sets when Agassi scored the first break of the match for 3-1 and held for 4-1.
But with the top seed just eight points from the final, Becker started booming in serves and volleying brilliantly.
With the pro-Agassi crowd suddenly chanting "Boris, Boris" in hopes of extending the drama, he ran off five games in a row to take the third set.
"He deserved to win third set with the way he raised his level of play," said Agassi, who looked a bit shell-shocked before bearing down to hold serve to start the fourth set.
"It's sort of came back from the dead again like in Wimbledon," said Becker, who rallied from a set and two breaks down to beat Agassi in July.
The fourth set was filled with wondrous winners on both sides.
But with the combatants deadlocked 4-4, Agassi raised his game yet again, reeling off eight straight points and ending the battle with a blazing forehand return down

the line.
"He just played typical Andre Agassi shots to finish off the match," said 1989 Open winner Becker, "three winners and I didn't even see the ball."
Said the victorious American: "It was a great match all around, there is no other way of looking at it. It was great tennis."
Sampras and Courier also gave the fans their money's worth in a match in which all four sets turned on the conversion of a single break point.
In the end, it was Sampras' uncanny ability to come up with a huge serve or winning volley each time he faced a break point that carried the day.
In all, he saved eight of nine break points he faced, including running off five winners in a row after facing triple break point early in the



PETE SAMPRAS

match since falling to Becker in the Wimbledon semifinals, a remarkable 26-match winning streak.

Second seed Sampras opened the super Saturday programme by launching 27 aces and smacking 70 winners to score a 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 victory over 14th-seeded fellow-American Jim Courier.
Sampras, whose most lethal weapon has accounted for 118 aces in six victories, will be going for his third US Open title today and said he was hoping it would come against Agassi.

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ANDRE AGASSI

third set.
"I think that was a huge turning point of the match," said Sampras, who finished his match some six hours before Agassi's victory following the women's final won by Steffi Graf 7-6, 0-6, 6-3 over Monica Seles.
And now, the match everyone has been waiting for is just hours away.
"It's not a whole lot of time to rest up," Sampras said.
"Get a good meal and a massage and before I know it, I will be playing four O'clock tomorrow afternoon."

De La Hoya retains WBO title

LAS VEGAS, Sept 10: It was a new Oscar De La Hoya, but the same old result, reports AP.
De La Hoya, showing he can be a boxer as well as a puncher, won his second straight battle of Los Angeles lightweights Saturday night when Genaro Hernandez quit after the sixth round with blood flowing from his broken nose.
La Hoya retained the WBO version of the lightweight title when Hernandez turned to referee Richard Steele after the bell sounded to end the sixth round and motioned he would go on no further.
"He broke my nose," Hernandez said. "I messed up. It's stupid to stay in there and make it worse. There's always tomorrow."
De La Hoya seemed determined from the opening bell to play the role of skillful boxer rather than the hard punching style that earned him 16 knockouts in his 18 wins.

US OPEN QUIPS & QUOTES

NEW YORK, Sept 10 (Reuter): Quips and Quotes heard around the courts during the second week of the US Open.
STEFAN EDBERG: When asked what advice he would give his Swedish Davis Cup teammates on their first visit to Las Vegas for the September 22-24 matches. "I would just give them the advice to bring a lot of money."
ANDRE AGASSI: Responding to Edberg's suggestion, "I will give the Swedes a lot of money if they promise to stay up in the casino all night."
BORIS BECKER: Asked what he thought of the seven consecutive service breaks in his match with Australian Jason Stoltenberg. "It didn't feel like a man's match out there."
AUSTRALIAN SCOTT DRAPER: On his drubbing by Michael Stich. "I'm absolutely pretty much livid about my performance out there... I was playing a tennis match out there and it was an absolute disgrace."
STICH: Approving of the noisy, constantly moving New York crowd. "Here it is more like a happening. I've been to a baseball game and a basketball game. It's not just a sport. It's an adventure... I think it's really enjoyable."
LUKE JENSEN: On how he and brother Murphy gain the edge over opponents. "For a lot of guys, because we're able to play at night a lot in front of people or throwing things and going nuts and doing cart wheels. I think it's intimidating and it's to our advantage most of the time."
A dejected and monosyllabic Yevgeny Kafelnikov after his loss to young American Vince Spadea.
Q: What was wrong today? Kafelnikov: Nothing. **Q:** Nothing? Kafelnikov: Nothing.
Q: You were supposed to win.
Kafelnikov: Well, supposed to doesn't mean that I'm going to win."
MONICA SELES: Expressing dismay at finding a junior player crying in the locker room after a loss. "She was crying because she lost a tennis match. If you lose a mom or a dad or a dear friend it is different, but I think tennis is a game."
AUSTRALIA'S MICHAEL TEBBUTT: After beating Richard Krajicek 7-6 in the fifth set, on how much he appreciated a fifth-set tiebreak. "We could have played all night."
PETER KORDA: On his satisfaction at reaching the US Open quarter-finals, having only once advanced past the first round in five previous tries. "I am just happy I won the match and this heavy monkey which I had on my back was US Open, finally I broke through."
Korda on his previous dislike of New York city. "I was playing the tournaments in the summer, the more I was getting close to New York, people they start to walk faster and talk faster and once I came to Manhattan and everything was going 'bang, bang, bang, I just didn't like that."
MICHAEL CHANG: When asked if there is anything special about the new racket he is using. "It has got my name on it."
THOMAS MUSTER: When asked what happened during the 6-0 first set he lost to Francisco Clavet. "I don't know, I wasn't there."

Triumphing over adversity

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Steffi Graf has won the Grand Slam, the Golden Slam, 18 Slam titles and slammed more than 16.5 million dollars in winning into her account, reports Reuter.
But of all the thrills, the troubled 26-year-old Graf said, her emotionally-charged three-set triumph over returning arch-rival Monica Seles in Saturday's US Open final was her greatest moment.
"This is the biggest win that I have ever achieved. There is nothing that even comes close to this one," said Graf, who jumped for joy after a tension-packed 7-6, 0-6, 6-3 struggle over Seles in a duel the tennis world had dreamed about for more than two years.
Graf's glorious victory gave her a fourth US Open crown and an 18th Grand Slam title, tying her with legends Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert behind Margaret Smith Court and Helen Wills Moody on the all-time Grand Slam win list.

However, Graf, a consummate champion who oozes grace and skill, was beset by physical and personal problems that she thought she would be unable to overcome.
Back problems plagued her before the tournament and a foot injury during the fortnight sent her to a hospital for an hour and a half Friday night for tests that showed to fracture.
The biggest distraction felt by Graf has certainly been the on-going imprisonment of her father, Peter, who is suspected of tax evasion connected to his handling of his daughter's riches.
"There were a lot of obstacles to climb over," said Graf, who also had been bounded by reporters staking out her Soho District apartment in Manhattan.
Asked at the champion's news conference, later, if she would be able to see her father when she goes to Germany, as she plans to in a few days, Graf said: "no."
Asked again about the prospects, Graf replied: "I think very slight. The thing is I have not talked a lot with my lawyers or his lawyers in

the last few weeks, so I think I am going to have a lot of catching up on that issue."
Asked one more time about getting a chance to talk to her father about everything, Graf muttered: "I don't think so, doesn't seem like it," and left in the middle of the next question, sobbing.
Graf has beaten Seles six of 10 times they had played, but had not faced the player who once replaced her as number one since losing to her in the final of the 1993 Australian Open.
Seles, making an amazing return after overcoming the physical and emotional affects of being stabbed in Hamburg, had shown her old fire and power in winning every match in straight sets since reappearing in Toronto last month.
The two champions squared off for the fantasy final and fought a fascinating duel, stretching each other to their limits in a gruelling contest that saw Graf win 96 points in all to 95 for Seles.
After the match there was an emotional hug with her mother, Heidi, and a long embrace at the net with Seles.