

Column One

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Competition-121

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Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 15, '99 and draw
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1	Who won the DMC Cup in Toronto?	India	W Indies	Pakistan
2	Where will the next SAF Games be held?	Maldives	Pakistan	Bhutan
3	How many Test wickets has Kapil Dev taken?	432	433	434
4	Who is the fastest man in South Asia?	Anil	Bijayan	Bimal
5	What is the name of Tendulkar's daughter?	Diva	Sarah	Nisha

Name

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SPORTS TALK



Martina Hingis
(World No. 1 tennis player)
"Tennis is the most important thing for me right now. It's the thing I do best. It's my main job and I want to stick with it. When asked what she might be doing in five years."

Tourists limber up

Sports Reporter

The West Indies cricketers had a two and a half hours practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The team on arrival at the stadium, immediately went for the nets.

At the end of the nets, the players concentrated on running and stretching for nearly half an hour in a bid to shake off the effects of their jet lag.

Remarking on the pitches of the stadium after practice, West Indies manager Clive Lloyd said that he was not sure how it was going to behave.

"There is two more days to go. I'm not certain how the pitches will play. There could be rain also. So we are not planning any strategy at the moment."

The Windies squad seemed cheerful and relaxed during practice.

"This is my second visit to this country," said left-handed batsman Adrian Griffith. "I really enjoyed it the last time around, so I am looking forward to the coming matches."

Both Griffith and fellow Barbadian Sherwin Campbell said that they had little or no practice before coming to Dhaka.

"I took a vacation after the games in Toronto," admitted Campbell.

The tourists' attempt to get some more preparation before Monday's three-day match might not see light as today's strike called by the Opposition political parties will make it very difficult for them to reach the practice venue

Quader greets booters

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader greeted Bangladesh soccer squad for defeating India 1-0 in the semifinals of the SAF Games at Kathmandu yesterday, reports BSS.



Bangladesh coach Eddie Barlow (L) talking to reporters during a briefing at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Skipper Aminul Islam (2nd from L) listens. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Hosts thinking positive

Sports Reporter

It will be a baptism of fire for Bangladesh when they take on the mighty West Indies in a first-class match that begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

They might consider the one-day affair as a warm-up ahead of the more exciting two-match one-day series between the two unequal opponents, but the national cricketers know it better than anyone else that for them it would be a battle for survival.

Our cricketers, fostered for the abridged version of the game and with hardly any experience of longer duration matches, will also get a clue of what Test cricket is all about in their first appearance against a full strength Test side.

Bangladesh played their last three-day match against the second string West Indies team nearly a year ago. It was a bitter experience for the home side. They lost the match badly, and more importantly our cricketers showed that they were mentally and physically not fit

to play longer version of cricket.

This time it would be a tougher test for skipper Aminul Islam and his men, who will be less prepared, and to some extent, an under-strength side.

It will be the first international engagement for Bangladesh since their appearance in the World Cup. But the main cause of concern for the new-look Bangladesh side would be its inexperience. To add to the misery they will also miss the services of four experienced cricketers who have retired from the national team recently.

But ahead of the match skipper Aminul said that they are mentally ready to encounter the firebrand West Indies attack.

While Aminul looked confident, the South African coach Eddie Barlow said that he was not at all worried about his first trial after taking charge of the national side.

"No team plays with the intention of losing. We will certainly try to give our best to win," said Barlow in a press briefing at the BCB office yesterday.

The former South African all-rounder, who took the job only a month ago, admitted that this is relatively a young side, but then added: "We are working together as a team and that is our strength."

While Barlow focused on cohesiveness Aminul said it would be 'courage' that would be the motivating force for the side.

"We had disappointing memories against the West Indies A, but this time we will do better," said Aminul.

"It will be a tough series for us. We are not playing cricket for the last two and a half months. Besides, we have lost the services of experienced cricketers," said the dapper all-rounder.

Aminul however said that he considers the performance against the West Indies in the World Cup should give his side courage.

"We lost the match against West Indies, but at the same time gained confidence and courage from that defeat," said Aminul. Bangladesh conceded a nine-wicket defeat at the hands of the West Indies in England.



Bangladesh cricketers at the nets yesterday. — Star photo

'Going to the final was not my goal, winning is'—Jewel Rana

Bangladesh prove defence is the best offence

From Hasan Masood in Kathmandu

Oct 2: Bangladesh coach Samir Shakir feels that the three-day 'proper' rest his team got after the group matches was the main reason for his team's great win over India in the first semi-final at the Dasharath Stadium here today.

The former Iraqi World Cupper revealed this while talking to reporters in the Bangladesh dressing room after his team beat high-flying India 1-0.

"Today my team appeared fresher than the Indians. My team had to play its second group match against Sri Lanka within 48 hours. That I blamed for their worst performance on Wednesday."

"This time it happened with India, who played their semi-final within 48 hours after beating Nepal 4-0 in their last group match. That's why they were tired and took less initiatives," said a happy Samir.

"I still consider India as the best team of the Games. But they failed to rise to the occasion because of playing two matches in three days. My boys got proper rest and they came out with a better show today," he said.

Apart from the rest, Samir gave full credit to his team for playing according to his plan.

"The boys played superbly today and if they can play like they did today, *InshaAllah* (Allah willing) we will win the

gold," said a confident Samir.

"It is a big result for us. We played a defensive game today because of obvious reasons. We did not want to leave any room for the Indians."

"We kept our defence intact with proper marking on Vijayan and Jo Paul and waited for our chances," added Samir, giving full credit to Shahajuddin for his match-winning.

"It was the best goal in the tournament so far," said the delighted national coach.

"Everybody played a good game today," he said without mentioning anyone in particular.

When asked whether he would field the same eleven in the final without including Masud Rana and Rajani Kanta Barman, Samir said he had not given any thought on the matter.

"I am not thinking about the final now. I am more keen to see the second semi-final now. I will tell you about the line up for the final afterwards," he said.

While the coach looked pretty happy, skipper Jewel Rana was absolutely cool while giving his comments.

"I don't find any reason to celebrate this win. We have reached the final four times in the past but could not do anything. I will be happy only if we

can win the gold this time," revealed the national captain. — See page 14

Maldives stumble

Nepal in SAF football final

From Sports Reporter

Kathmandu, Oct 2: Hosts Nepal moved into the 8th SAF Games football final with a 2-1 win over Maldives in the second semi-final played at the Dasharath Stadium here this evening.

In front of a strong 18,000 home crowd, striker Naresh Joshi put the Nepalese ahead in the 11th minute while Hari Khadka doubled the margin four minutes later.

Omar reduced the margin for the islanders at the stroke of the breather.

Nepal will now meet Bangladesh in the October 4 final at the same venue.

8th SAF Games Closing ceremony tomorrow

KATHMANDU, Oct 2: The Nepalese capital is preparing itself for grand closing ceremony of the eighth SAF Games on Monday, reports BSS.

The eighth day of the Games concluded with completion of table tennis and Volleyball events. The shooting competition will end tomorrow with individual event-like men's free rifle three position. Soccer and taekwondo events have earmarked for Monday.

The organizers continue their efforts for a grand festival on the concluding day. More than 11 thousand students along with members of Nepalese Army and different cultural groups will join the festival. Dress rehearsal for the ceremony is on in the Dasharath Stadium.

Chairman of the ceremony committee Bishnu Gopal Srestha said the participants of the inaugural ceremony would not attend the closing ceremony.

He said that the organizers took four months for preparation of Games and spent over two and a half crore Nepalese rupees for the inaugural and closing ceremonies.

The closing ceremony will start immediately after soccer matches scheduled on Monday. The one hour and fifteen minutes long ceremony will include mass calisthenics, dance, music along with display of fireworks and Crown Prince of Nepal Dipendra will be the chief guest. Acting Prime Minister Jog Pradhan will hand over the Games flag... to the Mayor of Peshwar, the venue of ninth SAF Games.

LG Cup final today

NAIROBI, Oct 2: In-form batsmen Lance Klusener and Saurav Ganguly will be looking to take centre stage again when South Africa meet India in the final of the LG Cup tomorrow, reports Reuters.

But it could be the pitch, unpredictable throughout the week, rather than the competition's only century-makers that decides which side lift the trophy.

India, with three convincing wins under their belt including an eight-wicket triumph over South Africa, go into the final as favourites.

But with Klusener expected to open the South African innings again few would be foolish enough to dismiss their chances.

Klusener, a highly successful late order batsman during the World Cup, smashed an unbeaten 101 from 104 balls when he opened against Zimbabwe on Tuesday.

"Lance is the best one-day player in the world and it is really a waste for us if he comes in at number nine," captain Hansie Cronje said.

India skipper Ajay Jadeja was upbeat about tomorrow's match, saying he hoped the pitch would again favour his spinners who have wreaked havoc, taking 21 wickets in the tournament so far.

"We have won every game

Windies looking for a turnaround

Rabeed Imam

The West Indies team is taking the short tour of Bangladesh very seriously and looking forward to it as a stage to get back on the winning track. But they expect the home side to be very competitive. This was the view expressed by the Windies captain Brian Lara and manager-coach Clive Lloyd at a media conference in front of the players' dressing room at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

"Every international competition is of importance these days and we certainly haven't come here to tie the series," said Lara.

About the debacle in Toronto, where the West Indies lost 1-2 to India and 0-3 to Pakistan in two one-day series, the skipper said, "Obviously we need to improve from that competition where we were up against two of the top sides in the world. We played some poor cricket but now there is two one dayers in front of us here which we got to win."

Manager Lloyd was of similar opinion. "Toronto is in the past now. We played badly there. It was a hastily arranged fixture. But now we have the chance to perform well here."

Lloyd however believes that there were certain gains from the Toronto games. "Every match you play, you gain something and the youngsters of the side certainly learned a lot from that experience."

"I think young Wavell Hinds played brilliantly there. Chris Gayle didn't have a lot of match experience prior to Toronto but he is a man for the future and we all know that Ricardo Powell is a wonderful talent."

On the sensational 20-year-old Powell, Lloyd was asked whether he thinks that the hard-hitting Jamaican has arrived to stay.

"He is a very good player no doubt, and he has done great so far. He has a long future ahead of him. We are hoping that he goes on and establishes himself as a top class cricketer", Lloyd answered.

Lara on the other hand sees

Powell's emergence as a bright sign for the future. Commenting on his brilliant innings against India in the final of the Singapore Challenge competition, the Windies captain felt that others should be inspired by it.

"It was an extremely good knock. We were in a losing position but he went out there and won the match for us. It was very heartening to see such a mature head on someone so young. We need more match winning performances from not only Powell but the other young players also."

Tests here but that is not possible as yet. Still the three day match should prove beneficial to both the teams and especially Bangladesh," added Lara.

The visit to Bangladesh also gives Lara's team a chance to get some much needed practice before they leave for Sharjah to participate in the Champions' Trophy competition also featuring Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"After the matches in Toronto we have not practised as a team. We live in different hotels and there was regional competitions going on. It was upto the players to remain fit and I'm sure they have done that with their respective island teams. Definitely our preparations for Sharjah will be helped by this tour."

On his rather ordinary form in limited-over cricket in recent times, Lara didn't seem too concerned.

"Of course I'd love to score a lot of runs but at the moment my sole concern is the team."

"Everybody wants to lead a successful side and I would love nothing better than to see the West Indies winning."

"As the captain, I know I need to make a contribution with the bat. I have always tried to make a contribution. Sometimes it comes out, sometimes it doesn't."

"I don't let it worry me too much 'cause I know that if I stay focused, things are going to turn around for me."

The last time the West Indies were in Dhaka during the Wills knockout World Cup, legendary fast bowler Malcolm Marshall came as coach. Marshall was diagnosed with cancer during the World Cup in England and had to undergo a surgery to remove a tumor. Lloyd was asked what his present condition was.

"He has lost some weight because of the chemotherapy. But he is doing OK. I've attended his wedding last week, and he seemed fine", informed Marshall's captain of the early eighties.

Pakistan, 10 golds, remained glued to their previous positions of third and fourth.

MEDALS TALLY (DAY EIGHT)				
Country	G	S	B	Total
India	92	50	27	169
Nepal	21	9	20	50
Sri Lanka	16	37	55	108
Pakistan	10	33	24	67
Bangladesh	1	10	30	41
Bhutan	1	2	5	8
Maldives	0	0	3	3

AIUB inter cricket

Sports Reporter

The inter-department cricket championship of the Ama International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) got underway at the Mirpur City Club ground on Thursday.

Different departments of the AIUB are taking part in the meet. The final will be held on October 9.

No gold but a silver

From Sports Reporter

KATHMANDU, Oct 2: On the eighth of the 8th SAF Games here today, Bangladesh managed one silver and two bronzes.

The men's 50m small-bore free-rifle three positions team comprising Saiful Alam, Feroz Hossain and Kamrul Islam won the day's only silver for Bangladesh. India clinched the gold in the team event.

The Indian trio of Changaappa Thambuktira, Ashok Kumar and Pemmaiah Subbaiah collected 3545 points against the Bangladesh team tally of 3269 points. Sri Lanka finished with 3236 points to get the bronze.

Besides, the two bronzes came from the Taekwon-do event which started at the Shahanshah Hall here this morning.

Farzana Rawshan Setu got the bronze in the women's heavy weight class while her compatriot Najma Farveen managed the other one in the feather weight category.

Hosts Nepal, as it was expected earlier, won four out of six Taekwon-do golds that were decided today. India and Bhutan shared the other two golds. It was the first gold for Bhutan in the seven-nation meet.

The 173-member Bangladesh contingent could also win a lone gold so far in the meet.

India continued to demonstrate their unchallenged supremacy in the Games taking their gold haul tally to 92. Nepal meanwhile consolidated their second spot increasing the gold collection to 21.

Sri Lanka, with 16, and

Rajshahi Div I cricket from Nov 25

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 2: The Rajshahi First Division cricket league will begin on November 25.

The decision was taken by the District Cricket Association in a meeting at Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

All First Division teams have been requested to register their names by October 31. The teams are also asked to submit the registration certificates of at least 12 players from each team by November 15.

Meanwhile, the open schools chess competition organised by the Rajshahi Chess Development Association (RCDA) will begin on October 15.

Only the school students are asked to send their entries by October 14 directly or through their schools in the RCDA office at Kadirganj in the city.



West Indies manager Clive Lloyd (R) and captain Brian Lara during the media conference at the Bangabandhu Stadium. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

AIUB inter cricket

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RICARDO POWELL

"We have some very promising youngsters with a lot of ability. The important thing for them is to gain experience. With more exposure at international level, I'm sure they will deliver the goods for the Windies."

When asked what his impressions were about the Bangladesh team, Lara felt that batting is their strength. "Bangladesh have beaten Pakistan in the World Cup and now they are seeking Test status. Gordon Greenidge had put a lot of work behind them. Naturally they are improving."

"When we played against them in the World Cup, we expected to bowl them out for around a hundred runs but they went on to score 170/180."

"The team has got some impressive batsmen, fine young-



Bangladesh footballers on a victory lap after their SAF Games semifinal against India in Kathmandu yesterday. — BPJA photo by Amran Hossain