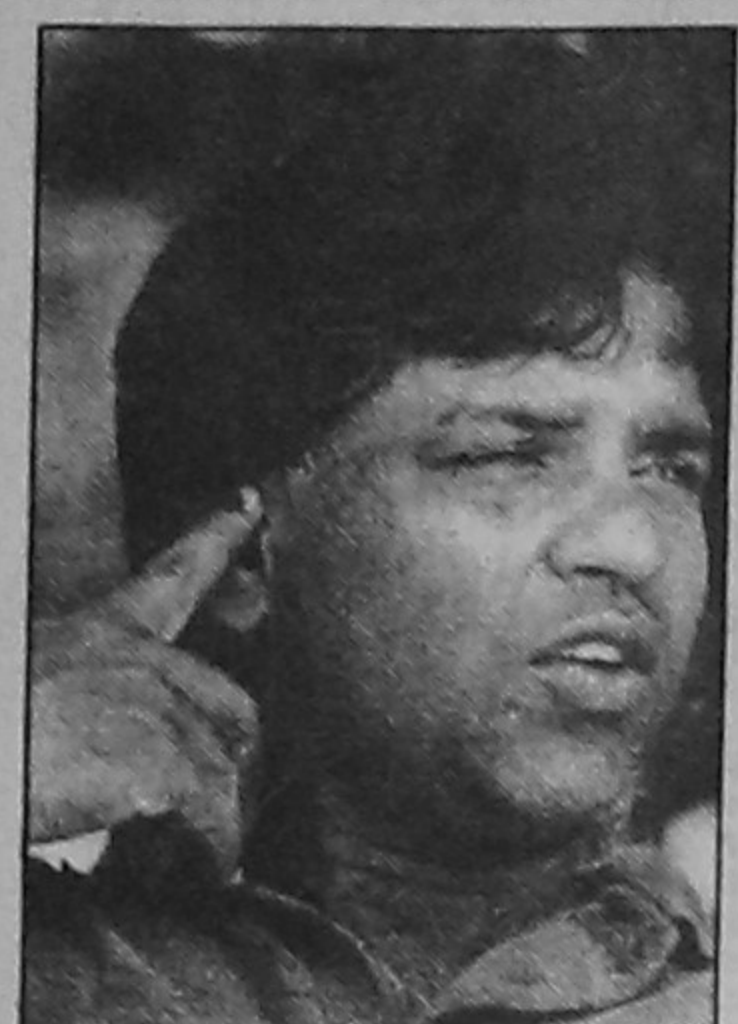


## SPORTS TALK



**Arjuna Ranatunga**  
(Former Sri Lanka cricketer)  
"Wasim Akram, without doubt, the most difficult bowler he has played against."

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-135  
Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 8, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

- Who scored the first hat-trick in this year's Fed Cup football?  
Rita Kanchan Tanveer
- Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?  
Wasim Waqar Moir
- Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?  
Amrullah Akram Naimur
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?  
Armanulla Bismar Marjines
- Who was voted Germany's footballer of the year in 2000?  
Kahn Sommer Reuter

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

## JU soccer starts

SAVAR, Sept 5: The inter-department football competition of Jahangirnagar University began at the central playground of the university today, reports UNB.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Tajul Islam inaugurated the competition.

In the inaugural match, Department of Statistics defeated BBA 4-2.

For Statistics, Ismail scored three goals and Uzzal one while Ata scored both goals for BBA.

## Hockey return leg starts today

Sports Reporter  
Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on premotes Sonali Bank in the first match of the return leg of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League which begins at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium today at 4 pm.

Mohammedan finished the first round at the top of the table (24 points) winning all their eight matches while the bankers have seven points from their eight games.

Abahani, who finished the first round in second position with 17 points, will take on Bangladesh Sporting Club in their return leg opener tomorrow at 4 pm.

## Div I hockey

Bangladesh Railway and Wari Club won their respective return leg matches of the Green Delta First Division Hockey League by big margins at the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium today (Tuesday).

Railway outplayed Sadiaran Bina 6-2 in the first match after leading the first half 3-1.

Zahidul Islam and Gregor struck twice each while Sudhir and Alfaz scored apiece for the winners. Murad and Selim netted for the losers.

Wari Club also thrashed Dhaka Wanderers Club 6-2 after leading the first half 2-1.

Selim Khalid netted three goals while Pappa, Arif and Rahat scored one goal each for the Wari. Inman Haider and Jubair scored for the Wanderers.

## Mehrab misses African safari

Selectors honour captain's opinion

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-man squad for the ICC Knock-out Tournament in Kenya and the tour to South Africa.

As an aberration to the usual practice, the three-man selection panel headed by Tanvir Haider respected the opinion of the newly appointed Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman, who preferred both experienced left-arm spinner Mohammedan Rafique and Enamul Hoque in the tour party.

Naimur, who took up the most demanding job replacing Aminul Islam last month, has also convinced the selectors to include an itchy-foot Al-Shahriar in the side. The gangling stroke-maker however has been an inconsistent customer despite being rated as a fine prospect.

The omission of opener Mehrab Hossain was the only thing that neither Naimur nor the selector wanted. The lone centurion of the country in one-day cricket missed the African safari due to injury.

Although the dashing right-hander attended the training camp for the last two weeks, the selectors decided not to take any risk on advice from South African physio Gavin Benzafeld.

"He is an important member of the team. But he is not fit enough at the moment. We do not afford to risk his injury. We have decided to give him further break so that he can get himself fit before our inaugural Test against India," said chief selector Tanvir Haider after the Board approved the selection last evening.

In case of the bowling department, the selectors decided

to stick with the experienced spin duo of Mohammad Rafique and Enamul Hoque. Fahim Muntasir and Sabbir Khan, the two young off-spinners who are on the Board's pay roll along with sixteen more cricketers.



MEHRAB HOSSAIN... rested

failed to make it to the final fourteen. Fahim has managed a place in the standby list of four. Sabbir on the other hand was left out along with seven other cricketers, called up in the primary camp.

"They are too young to make it to be selected. I think, Naimur is presently doing an excellent job as an off-spinner," Tanvir reasoned.

But Tanvir spoke highly of young left-arm seamer B'kash, who is set to make his international debut after his impressive domestic show for Kalabagan. Bikash will form the three-man seam attack with Monjurul Islam and Hasibul

Hossain.

The batting department remains almost the same with Javed Omar, Belim, Shahriar Hossain, Habibul Bashir, Akram Khan and Aminul Islam forming the top order.

The national team meanwhile joined the camp at the BKSP yesterday after a day's rest.

"I have got the team that I wanted," said skipper Naimur, prior to his departure for BKSP yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Board is yet to pick the coach of the team. Presently, two local coaches - Sarwar Inman and Dipu Rai Chowdhury, are coaching the team.

"We will select the coach within the next couple of days," told Board president Sabir Chowdhury yesterday, adding that Director of Development Eddie Barlow will also accompany the team to Africa.

"He will not be a part of the official squad. But we are sending him at our own expense. His presence would be a great help for the cricketers," he said.

The Board had earlier named its general secretary Syed Ashrafur Huq as the tour manager and joint-secretary Mahmudul-Ul-Huq as his deputy.

**SQUAD**  
Naimur Rahman (captain), Khaled Masood (vice-captain), Javed Omar, Shahriar Hossain, Habibul Bashir, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam, Al-Shahriar, Enamul Hoque, Mohammad Rafique, Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Mushfiqur Rahman and Bikash Ranjan Das.

Stand by: Rajin Saleh, Fahim Muntasir, Aminul (jr.) and Ashrafur

## Bangladesh's first Test series against Pakistan?

Sports Reporter

The political impasse between the India and Pakistan might open up an opportunity for Bangladesh to play their first ever Test series shortly.

Having earned the Test status in June ICC meeting this year, Bangladesh will play their first ever Test match against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from November 10-14.

But the recent statement of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief General Tauqir Zia raised a hope for the newest nation to play its first five-day match series against Pakistan.

"India must set us a deadline so that we can make alternative arrangements (for the Test and one-day series in Pakistan)," Zia told AFP before leaving for Dubai to attend a meeting of the Asian Cricket Foundation (ACF).

"We would either play a series against Bangladesh or invite a World XI in case India refuse to come," Zia added. India were scheduled to tour Pakistan from December to February to play three-Test series and five one-day internationals.

When approached, the president of Bangladesh Cricket Board Sabir Chowdhury did not rule out the possibility of playing Pakistan.

"We have approached all the nine Test-playing nations for playing a Test series. It would be a wise decision on our part to grab any opportunity that comes by," said Sabir. But the BCB boss declined to make any further comments.

"I can only tell you that we are keen to play at least 18 Test series against different teams in the next five years," said Sabir.

Saber, who was due to attend the conference in Dubai, opted out of the trip for his commitments at home. BCB general secretary Syed Ashrafur Huq will fill in for Sabir at Dubai.

## BCB seeks new office

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Sabir Chowdhury yesterday said that he is looking for a place to accommodate the whole management set-up, including his newly-appointed General Manager (GM) Ali Alisan Babu.

Saber told the reporters that he wished to shift management team away from the present headquarters at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The BCB chief, who recently won approval of the councillors at the just concluded Annual General Meeting in Cox's Bazar to introduce professionalism in the board, is now on the look out to appoint a Deputy General Manager (DGM).

"We have agreed to appoint a DGM who will look after the finance and accounts," he said after the executive committee meeting yesterday.

Saber also said that Ali Alisan would get down to business immediately.

## Five booters get BFF's mercy

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has relaxed the punishments of five footballers who were banned for their undisciplined behavior during a Nitol-Tata National Football League clash against Abahani in Rajshahi in March.

The BFF took actions against six booters-Roxy (Azamabagh), Mithu (Abahani), Apple (Abahani), Sujon (Muktijoddha), Chanchal (Farashganj) and Tofael- who had appeared in the national league for Sylhet Chattranga Jubo Sangha.

Roxy was suspended for two years while the remaining five received a ban of one year each. But in a meeting on Monday night, the BFF reconsidered the cases of Roxy, Mithu, Apple, Sujon and Chanchal following their written apologies. Tofael will have to serve his ban as he did not bother to apologise.

According to the new BFF decision, Roxy will be allowed to take the field after September 20 while the others are eligible to play in the ongoing Premier League after September 14. However, the five have been fined ten thousand Taka each.

## Dinajpur Nat'l Youth v'ball champs

Sports Reporter

Dinajpur emerged as the new champions in the SAHCO National Youth Volleyball Championship beating Comilla 25-14, 25-20, 22-25, 17-25, 15-9 in the final at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Jhenidah finished third beating Rajshahi by 3-2 sets. President of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation Maj Gen (Rtd) Mohammed Azizur Rahman distributed prizes.

## Rajib goes down

Sports Reporter

Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib lost to CJ Arabinda of India in the sixth round of the Asian U-20 Junior Championship in Mumbai yesterday, reports UNB.

In the girls event Bangladesh's Firoya Haq Popi also lost in the sixth round board to Chaoti Gok Gaur of Vietnam. Rajib secured three points while Popi half point from six matches.



Victoria custodian Shimul stops a Ruhul Amin shot during their National Bank Premier Division Football League fixture against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday.

## Naqib double sees off Victoria

Sports Reporter

Prolific goal poacher Imtiaz Ahmed Naqib hit two as holders Mohammedan Sporting Club registered their second successive win in the National Bank Premier Division football league with a 3-1 cruise over minnows Victoria Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday evening.

The former national striker scored one in each half while captain Alfaz Ahmed got the other for the Black and Whites. Sohail reduced the margin for Victoria.

Naqib's double strike means that he has now scored five goals in two matches. The lanky forward, who has been the top scorer in the league for the last four seasons, started off with a hat-trick in a 5-0 demolition of Dhamondhi in their opener on Friday.

Mohammedan started in a dominating frame of mind and totally outplayed their opponents in the first half.

However, they had to wait until the 19th minute for their first goal.

Winger Shoaib, who replaced newcomer Shah Alam in the

third minute of the match, ran through the right flank after receiving a short pass from Alfaz and fed Naqib who was left with a simple tap in past Victoria custodian Shimul (1-0).

Mohammedan had as many as ten corners in the half but failed to extend their lead.

Fifteen minutes in the second half, Naqib was in the right place at the right time for driving in a back heel from Jewel Rana a yard out (2-0).

Naqib then had as many as five clear chances to complete his second hat-trick in a row but either sent the ball wide of the mark or into the hands of Shimul.

After conceding the second goal, Victoria staged a brilliant rally and pulled one back with Sohail heading home a Rahel cross from the right in the 67th minute.

Inspired by the goal, the Victorians pressed hard for an equaliser but Alfaz put an end to their enthusiasm with a placing shot nine minutes from time (3-1).

**TEAMS**  
Mohammedan SC: Nizami, Faisal, Jahangir (Rozaul), Jewel Rana, Matur Muna, Rakib.

Nakib, Alfaz, Shah Alam (Shoaib), Ruhul Amin and Selim (Tito).

**Victoria SC:** Shimul, Lipu, Tuhi, Faruque, Shipu, Kabir, Sohail, Rahel, Sumon (Hanif), Manik and Abul.

**Yellow cards:** Ruhul Amin, Selim (Mohammedan), Tuhi, Shipu, Sohail and Manik (Victoria).

**Referee:** Ramkirsna Ghosh.

**YOUNGMENS PIP FAKIRERPOOL**

Earlier, in the day's first match, Youngmens Club Fakirerpool beat FWD Sports Club through tie-breaker (4-2) in a First Division engagement.

The match was locked 1-1 in the regulation 90-minutes.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

**Premier Division**  
Abahani KC v Rahmatganj MFS (5:30 pm)  
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

**First Division**  
Mirpur Chalanika v Muslim Institute (3:30 pm)  
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)  
BRTC v Wari Club (3:30 pm)  
(Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium)

## Brian puts on a brave face

LONDON, Sept 5 (Internet report): Brian Lara emerged from the series defeat to set his optimistic sights on an improved performance against Australia this winter.

Lara, who made 47 in Monday's losing cause, made light of rumours about his eyesight in what has been an inconsistent summer for the Trinidadian.

He said: "I think it is a very simple operation if there is any to be performed, so I am not too worried about my eyesight."

And Lara predicted that the future for the West Indies might not be as gloomy as many are predicting, saying he was particularly impressed with 20-year-old Ramnaresh Sarwan, with whom he shared a 46-run fifth wicket partnership in the second innings.

He said: "I have not had a very good summer, so it was the first occasion I have battled with him in a Test match."

"He will be a very good player, and I expect a lot from him. I think I will have a lot of



BRIAN LARA ... frustrated

innings with him and I will enjoy them. We will give Australia a good fight, and if we play good cricket you never know," he predicted.

In 18 Tests against Australia, Lara, the record holder of the highest individual innings in both Test and first-class cricket, has scored 1616 runs and averages 53.87 with five centuries and eight half

centuries.

Meanwhile, former captain Richie Richardson, who, seeing Windies down in dumps, wants to make a comeback at the age of 38, has pointed at the batting that is to suffer badly in Australia tour.

"On the hard pitches, you've got to play shots. If you're in the middle, you've got to get on top of the bowling and remain positive."

"You have to get the bowlers to look at you and see you mean business."

"Our problem in West Indian cricket, I believe, lies pretty deep and started a long time ago. We ignored a lot of things about our cricket when we were doing well and on top, we took a lot of things for granted."

"There are still people in the Caribbean who don't understand what our problems really are. For you to do something about your problem, you have to realise what it is."

"It's gonna take a few years for us to get to the grass roots of cricket and get the base of our cricket right before we can go forward."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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7 First  
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9 Comic book hero  
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11 Ancient Persian  
12 On Soc. Sec.  
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21 Layer  
23 Listening device  
24 Note from the boss  
25 Type of bird  
54 John's "Grease" co-star  
55 Left  
56 Dallas denizens  
57 Heavy twill fabric  
21 Layer  
23 Listening device  
24 Note from the boss  
25 Type of bird  
54 John's "Grease" co-star  
55 Left  
56 Dallas denizens  
57 Heavy twill fabric

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## CRYPTOQUIP

I T X A N O S Y P R Y H K T X R

U K Y P Y H R C H T S N S W L

U T O P W K B Y C T X O A N B Y

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'D GUESS THAT INARTICULATE JUDGES JUST SLUR THEIR SENTENCES.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals O

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.