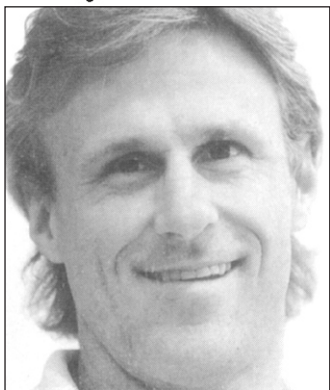




Before embarking on the tour of Australia, India practised 8-ball overs in their entire domestic cricket for the full season in 1967-68.



Bjorn Borg
(Swedish tennis legend)
"I'm very proud and honoured. All the special moments are there It's also very special to be honoured in your own hometown." After his hometown named a street after him.



ESPN
English Premier Football League
Derby County vs Leeds United
3:30 pm &
Newcastle vs West Ham
5:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline Today
Sport News
Live at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Trans World Sport
Int'l Sports News
9:30 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
11:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 158
Tick the Correct Answers Post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 28, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who became National Bank Premier League football champions?	Abahani	Mohammedan	Arambagh
2. Who won the US Open men's singles title?	Hewitt	Safin	Sampras
3. What was Ashraful's score in his century innings against Sri Lanka in the Asian Test Championship?	114	140	126
4. What was the result of the Test series between India and Sri Lanka?	2-1	2-0	1-1
5. Former West Indies fast bowler Ardy Roberts comes			
Name			
Class. Roll No.			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Wang in Japan Open semis

AFP, Kobe

World champion Wang Nan eliminated two Japanese players on her way to setting up an all-Chinese semifinal match in the women's singles at the Japan Open table tennis tournament on Sunday.

The Chinese top seed, defending champion here, brushed aside Keiko Okazaki 6-11, 11-3, 11-6, 11-7, 13-11, and went on to beat the best local hope, eighth seed An Konishi, 11-4, 11-4, 12-10, 11-7 in the quarterfinals.

BOA sits on the fence



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) seems to have undecided yet about what to do following the postponement of the ninth South Asian Federation Games Sunday.

The regional sports carnival was scheduled to commence in the Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad from October 6.

Although the expected news of the official call-off of the Games circulated by all the international news agencies in the afternoon, BOA chose not to be convinced until it was informed officially.

"We have not got any official news from the organisers Pakistan Olympic Association till this evening.

Unless and until we get that, we will have to continue with our programmes," said Zahir Ahmed, the deputy chef-de-mission of Bangladesh contingent.

He added that BOA would convene an emergency meeting after its secretary-general Zafar Imam, who is now in Rajshahi to attend his daughter's marriage, returns to the city either on Monday or Tuesday.

"Till then, all the camps of 13 disciplines would go on as per schedule," said an adamant Zahir.

Despite the BOA prefers to sit on the fence, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has already decided to close its camp today.

"There is no point of continuing the camp now. We don't need to wait for the BOA order. We will suspend our camp tomorrow," said BFF's acting general secretary Abul Kashem on Sunday.

But another BFF member and BOA deputy secretary-general Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnun said it was Kashem's decision and he would be held responsible if anything went wrong.

"I don't find any good reason to

close the football camp unless they are being officially told to do so. Moreover, we have already paid them camp expenses in advance up to October 3," said Chunnun, adding that BOA has already spent more than Taka one and a half crore for the training and the outfit of all the 13 teams. Taka 2.5 crore had been handed over to the BOA by the government for the Games.

Meanwhile, other federations were also found in a state of confusion over the future of their camps.

Talking to The Daily Star Sports, Bangladesh Shooting Federation general secretary Nazimuddin Chowdhury said they could not stop the camp unless they are asked by the BOA. "We have to go on with our

schedule unless BOA instructs us to do otherwise."

The general secretary of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, Rafiqul Islam Tipu, also echoed Chowdhury's view. He said that it is up to the BOA to decide what to do and the federation has no authority to act on its own.

Muktis' Shield opener today



SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad will take on Nam Dinh Football Club in their Group C opening match of the 107th IFA Shield at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata this evening.

The match between the all-reds and the runners-up of Vietnam's semi-professional V League starts at 6 pm (BST).

The 12-team meet kicks off with the match between local heavyweights East Bengal and Tollygunge Agragami at the same venue at 3 pm.

Drafted in the Group C, Muktiyoddha Sangsad will play against the under-19 selection of India in the last group match at the Mohun Bagan Club ground on September 28.

Muktiyoddha had left behind four of their regular players at the SAF Games camp. But, with the ninth SAF Games in Islamabad officially called off Sunday, the Federation Cup champions would now be able to field their full squad in the century-old prestigious Kolkata tournament.

Although the football camp for

the SAF games is scheduled to be closed in the morning today, it could not be confirmed when those four players-- goalkeeper Aminul Haque, defenders Rajani Kanta Barman, Prodeep Poddar and midfielder Matur Rahman Munna-- would fly off to Kolkata.

Talking to the Daily Star Sport over phone, Bangladesh captain Rajani said from the Mirpur Krira Palli that they were yet to know when they would start out. He was however confident of playing in the second match on September 28, if not in the first match on Monday.

Top two teams from each of the

four preliminary groups will move into the quarterfinals. The semifinals will be held on October 4 and 5 and the final on October 7.

Brazilian side Palmeiras, who have sent their reserve team, have been pencilled into the Group A along with Tata Football Academy and Bhatri Sangha. The Group B comprises of three top teams from Kolkata-- East Bengal, Mohammedan Sporting and Tollygunge Agragami. The other group includes local giants Mohun Bagan, FC Kochin and Ever-Ready.

FIXTURE

Sep 24	East Bengal vs Tollygunge Agragami (Salt Lake, 3:30 pm)
Sep 25	Nam Dinh FC vs Muktiyoddha (Salt Lake, 6 pm)
Sep 25	Mohun Bagan vs Ever-Ready (Mohun Bagan, 3:15 pm)
Sep 25	Palmeiras vs TFA (Salt Lake, 3:15 pm)
Sep 26	Nam Dinh vs India U-19 (Salt Lake, 3:15 pm)
Sep 26	Tollygunge vs Md. Sporting (Kishore Bharati, 3:15 pm)
Sep 27	Mohun Bagan vs FC Kochin (Salt Lake, 3:15 pm)
Sep 27	TFA vs Bhatri Sangha (East Bengal, 3:15 pm)
Sep 28	Muktiyoddha vs India U-19 (Mohun Bagan, 3:15 pm)
Sep 28	East Bengal vs Md. Sporting (Salt Lake, 3:15 pm)
Sep 29	FC Kochin vs Ever-Ready (Howrah, 3:15 pm)
Sep 29	Palmeiras vs Bhatri Sangha (Salt Lake, 3:15 pm)
Oct 2 and 3	Quarter finals (Salt Lake and Howrah, 3 pm and 6 pm)
Oct 4 and 5	Semi-finals (Salt Lake)
Oct 7	Final.

Agarkar takes Nehra's place



REUTERS, Bombay

India included Aji Agarkar in place of left-arm pace bowler Ashish Nehra on Sunday in their squad for an upcoming one-day triangular tournament in South Africa.

"We've watched him run and field and we think he is an all-rounder," chief selector Chandu Borde told reporters after three candidates for the berth underwent fitness tests at the Wankhede stadium on Sunday morning.

Nehra, 22, was ruled out of the October 5-26 triangular series, also involving Kenya, because he had not sufficiently recovered from a groin injury.

Agarkar was put through fitness tests with fellow medium-pacers Debashish Mohanty and uncapped Rakesh Patel for almost two hours before the selection was made. He was last chosen for a one-day series

in Sri Lanka in July, but did not play a single game after suffering heat stroke before the start of the event.

Injuries to key players have forced selectors to make four changes from the original 15-member squad for the one-dayers



AJIT AGARKAR

named earlier this month. The squad for a three-test series in South Africa

in November will be named later.

Batsmen Vangipurapu Laxman and Hemang Badani besides left-arm medium-pace Zaheer Khan were ruled out earlier because of injuries.

India face a big challenge to overturn their poor overseas test record. They have not won a series outside the sub-continent for 15 years and have lost eight consecutive one-day tournament finals.

But skipper Saurav Ganguly told reporters he thought his team could succeed where others had failed.

"We have won test matches outside India, which is a positive sign, won all four (one-day) games with Zimbabwe and qualified for the finals in Sri Lanka," he said.

India won the first game before being held 1-1 in a two-test series in Zimbabwe and then lost a three-test series in Sri Lanka 2-1 after rallying to win the second game.

Ganguly said some of the defeats in one-day finals in the past nine

SEE PAGE 15

Abahani going to Guwahati

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier Division Football League champions Abahani will take part in the Bar Doloi Trophy football tournament to be held in Guwahati, Assam, India, from October 10 to 20.

Abahani Director and former national footballer Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnun revealed this to the Daily Star Sport on Sunday.

Chnnun said that we initially decided not to take part in the meet because of the SAF Games. But since the Games have been postponed, Abahani would now go to Guwahati.

He also revealed that Muktiyoddha Sangsad, who are now in Kolkata to play in the IFA Shield, were scheduled to take part in the Guwahati meet in place of Abahani.

"But since we have changed our mind now, Muktiyoddha would not take part," Chunnun said.

Windies to review tours

REUTERS, St John's

West Indies' planned tour of Sri Lanka in November and December and Pakistan early next year are to be reviewed after the air attacks on the U.S.

All future tours will be considered when the directors of West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) meet in Antigua on September 28 and 29, according to chief executive Gregory Shillingford.

West Indies are due to visit Sri Lanka, starting November 1, before heading to Pakistan in February next year.

With the U.S. gearing up to retaliate for last week's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon with a looming assault on Afghanistan, the wisdom of making the two visits has raised concerns about the safety of the players.

Shillingford said there has been "great consultation" with the Sri Lankan and Pakistani authorities but it was too early to make any definitive statements.

West Indies are set to play three tests and a triangular limited-overs series involving Zimbabwe and the host nation in Sri Lanka during a seven week tour.

Although the Pakistan itinerary has not been finalised, West Indies were expected to play two tests and a quadrangular limited-overs series with the hosts, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

Chang hopes for 'home' revival

AFP, Hong Kong

If ever there was a barometer of American Michael Chang's fortunes on the ATP Tour, apart from the world rankings, it would be the behaviour of his Hong Kong fans.

At the height of his powers, in the early to mid-90s, Chang couldn't set foot in Hong Kong without being mobbed by hordes of young female fans pushing and shoving to get a glimpse of their idol, screaming "Michael, Michael."

Those were the days when he was in the top 10, won three Hong Kong Open titles and was the self-titled role model for Asian tennis players.

These days, the crowds have subsided, the screams have been all but silenced and Chang, without a tournament victory in more than a year, is ranked a lowly 75.

But there no better stage for 29-year-old Chang to mount a revival than at Hong Kong's Victoria Park, the scene of the 2001 Hong Kong Open, which starts Monday.



THREE FOR THE FUTURE: Test star Mohammed Ashraful (C) chats with fellow A team teenagers Tushar Imran (L) and Masrafe-bin-Murtaza Kowshik.

Conditions irk Naimur



SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Naimur Rahman has urged the Bangladesh Cricket Board to improve the facilities in order for the national team to get better results.

The frustrated Bangladesh captain was talking to a group of journalists after the second day of their four-day game against the Bangladesh A team at the BUET ground was washed out.

"Playing on a matting wicket can't benefit the players. The ball was hardly coming on to the bat and the wicket didn't have any bounce. It's always better to play on natural turf," Naimur told reporters after rain interruptions allowed just 24 overs of play.

The practice match was the national team's first action since returning home after a disastrous Asian Test Championship campaign. The Test babes lost to Pakistan and Sri Lanka inside three days.

The 27-year-old Naimur was also critical of the slow outfield.

"We need true (bouncy) wickets

at home so that we can cope with the challenge of big teams on foreign soil," said the Bangladesh captain whose side was bundled out below 150 in both innings against Pakistan at Multan.

Naimur expressed reservations about playing lesser teams.

"There is little to gain from playing against the A team. What we really need is to play better sides either at home and abroad."

He felt that it was always better to play competitive matches rather than just practising in the nets.

"The players always enjoy competition. This will help us grow in confidence ahead of the home series against Zimbabwe," said the all-rounder.

Zimbabwe will arrive here in November to play two Test and three one-day internationals.

He refused to accept claims that he was enjoying no luck with the bat. Naimur has failed to score a half-century in his last five Tests.

"Whenever I walked into the middle my team was invariably in trouble. So, generally I was out

playing defensively which actually is not my style," said Naimur.

Meanwhile, on a rain-affected Sunday, the Bangladesh A team took their overnight total from 23-3 to 115 for the loss of two more wickets.

Patient Sanwar Hossain batting on 17, fell seven runs short a deserved half-century while prodigal Ashraful was the day's other casualty.

The youngest Test centurion on debut scored 10 before being caught behind attempting to pull paceman Sharif, who also captured the wicket of Hasanuzzaman.

The middle-order batsman was 39 not out at the close. He added on 60 runs for the fourth wicket with Sanwar.

The match weather-permitting will continue today.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day match between Bangladesh and A team at the BUET ground on Saturday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 217 all out in 73.4 overs (Hasibul 57, Al-Shahriar 35, Bashar 36; Kowshik 3/40, Bikash 2/28, Fahim 2/38)

SEE PAGE 15

Gibbs zaps Zimbabwe



AFP, Bulawayo

Herschelle Gibbs hit South Africa's fastest limited-overs international century to set up a crushing 153-run win in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe at Queen's Sports Club on Sunday.

Gibbs hit 125 off 112 balls as South Africa raced to a record 363 for three after batting first on an easy-paced pitch. He reached his century off 84 deliveries.

Gibbs beat the record of 89 balls set by Nicky Boje against New Zealand at Potchefstroom in 2000-01.

South Africa dominated the match from the start as Gibbs and Gary Kirsten (66) thrashed the Zimbabwe bowlers, putting on 153 for the first wicket in a partnership that lasted just 18.2 overs.

South Africa went on to reach

their highest total in one-day international cricket, beating the 328 for three they made against Holland in Rawalpindi during the 1996 World Cup.

It was the fifth-highest total in all one-day internationals.

Jacques Kallis (83) and Jonty Rhodes (54 not out) built on the foundation established by Gibbs and Kirsten, posting a century stand for the third wicket off just 75 balls.

Zimbabwe never seemed likely to get close, especially after Andre Nel had Dion Ebrahim caught at first slip for caught in the second over of their innings.

Two run-outs plunged Zimbabwe into deep trouble, with Jonty Rhodes ending a promising innings by Andy Flower with a direct hit from cover after Zimbabwe's star batsman hit 34 off 32 balls.

Left-handed opener Alistair Campbell hit a spirited 81 off 117 deliveries before being deceived by a slower ball from South African captain Shaun Pollock.



South African opener Herschelle Gibbs flicks during his 125 against Zimbabwe yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Gibbs hammered his first 50 off just 30 balls as the Zimbabwe opening bowlers, Heath Streak and Travis Friend, took a pounding.

Friend was unlucky, however, when Gibbs was dropped with his score on four and the total 20. Gibbs edged a drive and wicketkeeper Andy Flower, throwing himself in front of Campbell at slip, could not hold a thick edge.

Friend promptly bowled two wides and in the same over Gibbs thrashed a square drive over point for six and then drove through the covers for four.

The left-handed Kirsten was also in fluent form, hurrying to 50 off 41 balls and making 66 off 59 before he was out in the 19th over.

But Gibbs, who played a dazzling array of strokes, overshadowed Kirsten. There were nine fours and two sixes in his first 50 and although the flow of boundaries was reduced when fielding restrictions ended after 15 overs, he added another six fours before he was out.

It was his sixth one-day international century and he equalled his previous highest score, made against the West Indies in Port Elizabeth in 1998/99.

Streak conceded 80 runs off 10 overs, the most by a Zimbabwe bowler in one-day cricket, while Friend was hit for 73 off seven overs.

The remaining matches in the three-game series will be played in Harare next Saturday and Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the first one-day international between Zimbabwe and South Africa at Queen's Sports Club on Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA				
Kirsten lbw b Strang	66			
Gibbs lbw b Streak	125			
Kallis c A Flower b Friend	83			
Rhodes not out	54			
Klusener not out	10			
Extras (b-1, lb-2, nb-7 w-15)	25			
Total (For 3 wkts in 50 overs)	363			
Fall of wickets: 1-153, 2-244, 3-346.				

Did not bat: N McKenzie, M Boucher, S Pollock, C Henderson, M Ntini, A Nel.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Streak	10	0	80	1
Friend	7	0	73	1

SEE PAGE 15