



Did U Know?

David Gower is probably the greatest ambidextrous cricketer that the game has ever seen. The former star England player bats left-handed, bowls right-arm, deals cards with his left hands, hammers a nail with the right and brushes his teeth with either.



David Beckham
(England soccer captain)
"I want to stay captain for the rest of my career."



ESPN

Serie A
Weekly Highlights at 10:30 am
Pakistan Tour of New Zealand
Fifth ODI
Highlights at 11:30 am
UEFA Champions League
Barcelona vs Bayer Leverkusen
12:30 pm
India Tour of South Africa
Third Test
Highlights at 3:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Man United vs Deportivo La Coruna
4:00 pm

SportsCentre Hindi

Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Dynamo Kiev vs Liverpool
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
English Premier Football League
Derby County vs Leeds United
1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
8:30 pm
Boycott's Best
Crickets Classics
England vs India
Second ODI, 1990
11:00 pm



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 Ashraf's score in his century innings against Sri Lanka in the Asian Test Championship?	114	126	140
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 Andy Roberts comes			
Name			
Class			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Bangladesh Games from Nov 7 BOA to seek fresh funds

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has decided to make up for sudden postponement of the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games by holding the Bangladesh Games from November 7-13.

The decision came after an emergency meeting of the BOA last night.

The makeshift arrangement came after the Ninth SAF Games in Pakistan was cancelled 13 days before they were to kick off in Islamabad.

The Olympic body decided to continue all camps where 111 athletes in 13 disciplines were training for the regional Games.

"We have decided to hold the Seventh Bangladesh Games in November to at least give them a

chance to compete," said BOA deputy secretary general Ashrafuddin Ahmed Channu.

The biggest sporting carnival of the country was originally scheduled to be held in October last year.

"So, we will require more money both for training and organising the Bangladesh Games," Channu said.

He however was unable to provide details of the required amount. The BOA has already received Taka 1.5 crore from the government for the SAF Games training and participation purpose.

Having overspent taka 30 lakh on training of the SAF athletes, the BOA is planning to ask more funds to continue with a venture where our stake could amount to nothing.

Observers however feel that it is a ploy to prevent the government from asking the BOA to pay back the

taka one crore, given as participation expense. Taka fifty lakh was actually okayed for training of athletes for the SAF tour.

Before the meeting BOA secretary general Zafar Imam could not speculate how much would it cost to arrange the Bangladesh Games, which was not part of their calendar this year.

However, another BOA official suggested that it would require an additional taka two crore for holding the Games.

"We have already exhausted the allotted Taka one and a half crore. So, if we have to hold the Bangladesh Games we have to ask for fresh funds," he said. He however did not say how could BOA exhaust the amount allocated for participation expense.

Muktis to meet New Radiant in Maldives

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's Premier Division champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kira Chakra will take on New Radiant FC of Maldives in their first round away match of the 2001 Asian Club Championship on October 24.

The all-reds, now taking part in the 107th IFA Shield in Kolkata, will then face the same opponents at home on November 7.

The winners will then face An Yang FC of South Korea on November 28 and December 11.

Anyang have earned a first round bye.

New Radiant lost to Dhaka giants Mohammedan Sporting Club 8-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the same championship in 1994.

Mohammedan, however, did not travel to Maldives for the away match and were disqualified.

U-19 cricketers get ready for Aussie tour

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 team gathered at the BCB's Stadium office on Tuesday to fill up the visa forms for their tour of Australia.

A 15-member team will train at the Commonwealth Bank Academy in Adelaide and also play a few limited-over matches during their nearly six-week stay.

They will leave on October 11.

The team, preparing for the next January's World Youth Cup in New Zealand, is now training at the BKS.

They are scheduled to play two limited-over matches, the first one against the A team and then next with the national team on September 27 and 28, before they fly off to Australia.

SQUAD

Gazi Salahuddin, Shariful Islam, Kazi Hasibul Huq, Shafaq Al Zahir, Kamrul Islam, Ali Arman Rajon, Ashiqur Rahman, Nafis Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Shafiqul Islam, Waseluddin Ahmed, S Huq Bidyut, Murad Khan, Arif Hossain and Talha Jubair.

Standby: SK Russel, Tariqul Islam, Kafi Khan, Ziaul Hossain, Shahriar Nafis and Sadek Hossain.

SAF Games date SASF meets on Oct 6

BSS, Islamabad

Pakistan has moved swiftly to convene an executive committee meeting of the South Asian Sports Federation (SASF) here on October 6 to decide the new date for the SAF Games.

The games were postponed on September 23 after the technical officials appointed to supervise the events refused to travel to Islamabad due to increasing tension in the region following the events of September 11 in the United States.

The meeting, which will be attended by delegates of all the participating countries, has been pencilled in for a day on which the games were originally due to open, according to a news item published today in Pakistan's leading daily The Dawn.

The Games are now likely to be staged in February or March next year, but there are several considerations that have to be taken into account.

Major Yahya Ghaznavi, In-charge of Media for the Games, said that there would be no slackness on part of the SAF Games Organising Committee (SGOC) following the postponement. "Preparations will continue," he said.

Tragic

AFP, New Delhi

Five young Indian chess players, including two Asian under-10 champions, have been killed in a road accident, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Monday.

Asian champions M. Abhinav and D. Minoo died along with three of their teammates when their jeep collided with a minibus as they were on their way to participate in a championship on Sunday, PTI quoted police as saying.

International chess master P.D.S. Girinath was among six injured in the accident at Sakhipogal, 15 kilometres (10 miles) from the temple town of Puri in the state of Orissa, the report said.

Sports minister Uma Bharti said: "It is really very sad and unfortunate, for children are the future of the nation. We were looking forward to stirring deeds from these youngsters in the international arena."

Coming US, going sports Bangladesh may fall victim too

AFP, New Delhi

The expected US military strikes against Afghanistan have wreaked havoc with sports schedules in the Indian sub-continent sparking fears that an entire season could have been ruined.

sSports officials in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are counting the millions of dollars lost in sponsorship as, one by one, international events have fallen by the wayside.

Pakistan, at the centre of the war against terrorism, has been the worst hit with two money-spinning cricket tours going up in smoke and the regional South Asian Federation (SAF) Games postponed indefinitely.

India postponed the inaugural Afro-Asian Games in November due to security concerns, although a lack of preparation was cited in many quarters as the real reason for calling off the event.

It now seems likely, as some media reports have suggested, that the Games may not be held at all because the government is reportedly wary of spending 35 million dollars on an event that has failed to enthuse the sporting world.

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh also face the prospect of the West Indies and Zimbabwe cancelling scheduled cricket tours of the region.

"Sports has taken a backseat in the prevailing situation and the sub-continent is bearing the brunt," a senior Indian sports official told this news agency on Tuesday.

"Baseball may have resumed in the US but it appears we will be deprived of action in the near future."

Pakistani cricketers were left twiddling their thumbs when New Zealand called off a scheduled Test tour this month.

That was a huge financial blow to the cash-starved Pakistan Cricket Board, already deprived of a 15-million-dollar sponsorship deal because of the Indian government's refusal to restore cricketing ties with their rival neighbour.

Pakistan is hoping their next international assignment -- a one-day series against Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in the Gulf emirate of Sharjah from October 26 -- does not run aground.

Pakistan has reportedly asked Sri Lanka to fill the void left by New Zealand, but it appears improbable

a cricket tour will be scheduled as tensions rise on the border with Afghanistan following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11.

India have been more fortunate, so far, with its cricketers currently on a two-month tour of South Africa. But there are murmurs in the British press over the fate of England's Test series in India in November and December.

India is also scheduled to host the World Tennis Doubles Championships in Bangalore in November, the World Open squash in Bombay in December and the ATP Indian Open tennis in Madras in January.

Organisers are confident all three events will be held as scheduled, but one said: "Who can predict what the future has in store for us?"

The West Indies Cricket Board will decide this weekend whether to undertake a seven-week tour of Sri Lanka from November to play three Tests and a one-day series also featuring Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe are also scheduled to play in Bangladesh in January before coming to India for a month-long tour.

No to Sheikh Nizam?



SPORTS REPORTER

Controversial Sheikh Nizamuddin Ahmed is likely to be replaced with someone else as the manager of the Bangladesh A team for India tour.

Nizam, a director of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), was named manager of the second string national side by newly appointed Board president Akmal Hossain in his first meeting on September 17.

But Akmal, the Energy Secretary who replaced Saber Hossain in a recent shake-up in seven sports federations by the caretaker government, said that he would revoke the decision at the Board's next meeting on Thursday.

"I think that the job of a manager in very important. So, I want to replace Nizam now with somebody else," said the bureaucrat to the Daily Star yesterday.

The appointment of Nizam for an important job sparked off widespread criticism as the councillor from Sathkira was found guilty of

masterminding gross irregularities during the February 25 polls of the cricket board.

A key figure of the Jafar Imam-led District Forum, Nizam was reported to be involved in a 'vote for cash' campaign to raise funds for his organisation. The three-member probe panel formed by then Sports Minister Obaidul Quader also identified Nizam as a principal suspect and advised the Board not to 'give him any important post' in cricket.

Akmal later had expressed his ignorance about the controversy surrounding Nizam and said that he would give a serious look into the matter.

He had asked to the Sports secretary to show me the probe committee report, and I found out that, as per report, he (Nizam) along with another person should not be allowed to play any important role in cricket," said Akmal yesterday.

Although the manager issue was not on the agenda of tomorrow's meeting, but it would now get top priority in the discussion at the

Board's Bangabandhu National Stadium office.

It is almost certain that the bid of Nizam and Prof. Mamunur Rashid (the other suspect of the Brig. Ahasan Habib led probe committee) is going to suffer a big blow. Both have already appealed for a place in any of the 17 standing committees.

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Kolkata cub cricketers due on Oct 7

SPORTS REPORTER

An Under-16 selection from Kolkata will arrive in the city on October 7 to play five limited-overs and two three-day matches against different local age group teams.

The Cubs of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) will start their 15-day tour with a

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Argentina, Burkina Faso in semis



AP, Marabella, Trinidad

Argentina beat Mali 2-1 with a golden goal in sudden-death overtime and Burkina Faso defeated Costa Rica 2-0 Monday as both advanced to semifinals of the FIFA

under-17 World Championship.

Burkina Faso's victory means they will play fellow African squad Nigeria on Thursday. In the other semifinal pairing, Argentina plays France the same day.

Substitute Mauro Fanari was Argentina's hero, scoring the golden goal in the 6th minute of sudden-death overtime.

"I haven't had the chance to play for most of the tournament, and today it was just my luck to have the winning goal," Fanari said after the game.

In the game's first half, a penalty was called in the 32nd minute when Argentine striker Maximiliano Lopez

was brought down in the goal area by Mali captain Daouda Bagayoko.

But Lopez missed the penalty shot.

He fired low and to the right. The ball caught the post, bounced back and was cleared away by Mali's defenders.

In the 35th minute, Mali opened the scoreboard. Striker Drissa Diarra headed in a high cross.

Argentina answered in the 38th, when number 10 Lucas Correa served up a free kick to Gonzalo Rodriguez, who ran in toward the goal and connected with a header to tie the game.

In the 74th minute, Lassana Diallo was ejected from the game, receiving his second yellow card for a foul.

Still, Mali was able to play the last 15 minutes of the match unmolested without giving up the go-ahead goal.

The game ended in a tie, forcing the teams to go to sudden death overtime. But Mali didn't last long.

Fanari, who had been substituted in near the end of the regular time, chased down a loose ball in the goal area. With the goalie out of position, he slammed the ball into the open nets in the 6th minute of the overtime to give Argentina the victory.

The first half between Burkina Faso and Costa Rica was uneventful, with most of the game being fought out at the midfield.

In the second half, the Africans outran and outplayed Costa Rica.

The work finally paid off in the 54th minute, when striker Paul Gorogo took control of a ball being fought over in the goal area.

He shot the ball past goalkeeper Marco Herrera for Burkina Faso's first score.

Speedy Wilfried Sanou sealed the Africans' victory with a powerful shot he took after passing by a defender. He fired from just outside the penalty area in the 84th minute, sending the ball into a high corner of the goal out of Herrera's reach.

Both games were played at Manny Ramjohn Stadium in Marabella in southern Trinidad.



PHOTO: AFP

Mauro Fanari (R) of Argentina, embraces a teammate after his golden goal against Mali at Marabella on September 24.

Div III cricket qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

Narayanganj Cricket Academy and Nakhlapara Cricket Club won their respective Third Division qualifying matches played at different city venues on Tuesday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Narayanganj defeated Kalabagan Cricket Academy by 59 runs while Nakhlapara posted a huge 144-run win over Razar Dewry Cricket Club at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Narayanganj CA: 180 all out in 30 overs (Sohel 53, Johnny 39, Masum 30, Sharif 2/16)

Kalabagan CA: 121 all out in 29.4 overs (Sabu 42, Sayeed 22, Gopal 3/2, Jahangir 2/14)

Result: Narayanganj CA won by 59 runs.

Nakhlapara CC: 205 for 8 in 35 overs (Mahfuz 98 n.o., Alam 21, Shaheen 2/34)

Razar Dewry CC: 61 all out in 26.4 overs (Rajib 10, Shah Alam 3/4, Sumon 3/13, Patwary 2/14)

Result: Nakhlapara CC won by 144 runs.

SAAF hosts stay hopeful



SPORTS REPORTER

The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) still hopes to hold the draw of the forthcoming Third SAFF Championship in Dhaka at the end of next month. The seven-nation tournament is scheduled to begin on January 26.

Due to the tragic events of September 11 in the United States, the draw for the ten-day competition, which is to take place on October 22 in the capital, however might be brought forward by eleven days when the executive committee of the Asian Football Confederation meets in Kuala Lumpur.

But Sirajul Islam Bachchu, the general secretary of SAFF and assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation, is still hopeful that the draw will be conducted here.

Speaking after returning from Kathmandu where he had talks with SAFF president Ganesh Thapa last

Saturday, Bachchu said that Bangladesh could expect support for the draw.

"I have gained the support of Nepal and Bhutan and hopefully other SAFF members will also agree to come to Dhaka," said Bachchu, adding that he would immediately get in touch with the AFC Marketing Limited, sponsors of the meet.

The tournament was originally scheduled to be staged in Dhaka last April but the sponsors were reluctant because they were busy with the Asian Football Championship.

Bachchu also revealed that the second National League would start after the October 1 election.

He was confident that the BFF would complete the qualifying round in six divisions by the end of October and hold the final round in November.

Six divisional qualifiers will join Premier Division champions and runners-up Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club, Federation Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Bangladesh Army in the final round.

Saurav sounds positive

India touch down in South Africa



REUTER/AFP, Johannesburg

India skipper Saurav Ganguly predicted on Tuesday that the upcoming tour of South Africa could be much closer than the last time his team played here four years ago, when they were heavily defeated.

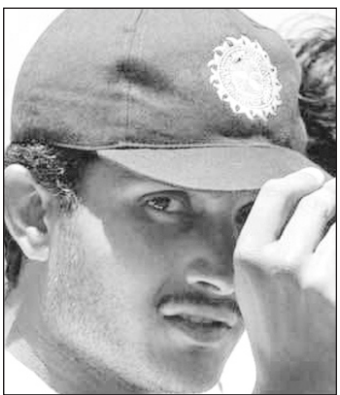
Ganguly hoped his team would be at full strength for the start of the Test series against the home side in November despite current injury concerns in the camp.

With relatively little fanfare the Indian team jetted into Johannesburg on Monday, 10 days before the start of a two-month tour which will include a three-match Test series and a triangular one-day series with the host country and Kenya. India also left behind Ashish Nehra, Vangipurappu Laxman and Zaheer Khan, who are still recovering from injury.

India will play their first official match against South Africa on

October 5 in the one-day triangular series.

Ganguly said despite the ruling-out of top players like frontline batsman Laxman, left-arm seamers



SAURAV GANGULY

Zaheer and Nehra and reserve batsman Hemang Badani, he believed his team was well prepared.

"It's a mixture of youngsters and experienced players. Some of these

guys are young but they are pretty good. It's going to be good cricket," he said in an interview with South African Broadcasting Corporation public radio.

Ganguly said he believed India's chances would also be improved by their early arrival in South Africa.

At a press conference at their luxury Sandton Hotel, Ganguly, bravely perhaps, suggested that this should be enough time for the tourists to find their feet. And by then, he added, the tour party should have been reinforced by Laxman, Zaheer and Nehra.

"I think it's good that we came over here so early to give us time to prepare. The fact that we are playing the one-day internationals before the Tests is also good because it gives us time to get used to the playing conditions," he said.

"As far as the injuries go, all our players will be fit for the Test series."

"It's good to get used to the conditions. It takes any country who is

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Campbell aims WI return



REUTERS, Port of Spain

Opener Sherwin Campbell launches his attempt to get back in the West Indies team when he leads Barbados in the Caribbean's one-day cricket competition starting next week.

Campbell, named at the week-end to captain Barbados, has been out of action since returning last February from the West Indies tour of Australia where they lost the Test series 5-0.

Up to that tour, Campbell was the Test team's vice-captain, but since then injury has prevented him playing at the highest regional or international level.

He missed all of South Africa's tour of the Caribbean earlier this year, along with the West Indies tour to Zimbabwe and Kenya during June and July.

Campbell suffered from a very painful upper right arm and shoulder but has now been passed fit to play and will be seeking to regain his place with West Indies, for whom he has played 51 Tests, scoring 2,856 runs at 32.82.

Campbell's first assignment as Barbados skipper will be next Tuesday against Antigua in Guyana,

the venue for zone B in the Red Stripe Bowl limited overs tournament.

The other teams in zone B are hosts Guyana and the southern Windward Islands.

Zone A hosts Jamaica will play the northern Windward Islands, with Trinidad and Tobago and a Leeward