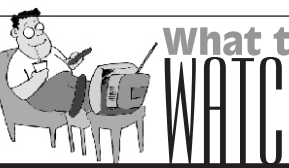




Did U Know?

Sixteen teams have participated in one-day internationals since its inception. Of them, ten countries are Test-playing nation.



ESPN

World Cup Soccer Mix
6:00 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
6:30 am
Western Union World Football
11:00 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
11:30 am
ATP Tennis Show
6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Pakistan Tour of New Zealand
Fifth ODI
Highlights at 9:30 pm
Serie a
Highlights at 10:30 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Southampton
1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
India Tour of South Africa
Third Test
Highlights at 11:00 pm



Pete Sampras

(American legendary tennis player)
"When we clash and we're both playing well, I think it's the best tennis in the game and it all kind of lived up to the hype I felt."
On his rivalry against Andre Agassi.



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

Victory for Nizam

Akmal contradicts himself



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) new president Akmal Hossain made a dramatic U-turn on Thursday to retain controversial director Sheikh Nizamuddin as manager of the Bangladesh A team for India tour next month.

Akmal on Tuesday went on record to say that he was seriously thinking to replace the BCB director with somebody else.

But after a two and a half-hour meeting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, the Energy Secretary took everybody by surprise when he suddenly become a fan of the councillor from Satkhira.

Nizam, who was found guilty of manipulating the February 25 BCB polls by a three-member probe committee, was named manager by Akmal in his first Board meeting on September 17.

"Nizam will stay. I see nothing illegal in his appointment as tour manager," said the Board president after the meeting.

Young chess players shine in Kolkata

BSS, DHAKA

Four Bangladeshi chess players received prizes in different age groups at the Telegraph School Chess Championship held on September 16-26 in Kolkata, a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release said yesterday.

National sub-junior champion Minhajuddin Ahmed clinched the top position in the under-12 group securing seven and a half points and Nazir Arefin got the top slot in the under-10 group also collecting seven and a half points.

Shamima Akter became second with six and a half points in the under-14 girls' group and Sharmin Sultana finished third in the under-12 girls' group.

A total of 220 players, including five from Bangladesh, took part in the meet.

His confusing remark contradicts what he had earlier said to the Daily Star Sport and leading Bangla daily Jugantor only two days ago. "I found out, as per the probe report, he (Nizam) along with another person should not be allowed to play any important role in cricket," he said Tuesday.

Akmal even denied that he went through the probe report of BKSP DG Brig Ahsan Habib. "I did not see the report," refuted Akmal Thursday.

But the bureaucrat, who replaced Saber Hossain Chowdhury last month, earlier said that he would look into the probe report and act accordingly.

But when he was reminded by a group reporters that Nizam and Professor Mamun-ur Rashid were named prime suspects by the committee, Akmal countered by saying he acted according to the written laws of the Board.

"What the Board came to know was that an investigation took place but the contents remained unknown to the directors. It was not disclosed by the former president Saber Hossain," Akmal put up a weak logic.

He however criticised his predecessor for not taking appropriate action against Nizam and Prof Mamun. "I think he wanted to deal with them personally. That's why there is no official record."

Saber told the press in May that Nizam and another person were found guilty in the probe report and for that reason the pair was not included in any of the standing committees.

Meanwhile, the Board has chosen former national cricketer Dipu Rai Choudhury as coach of A team. Aslam Ali is the team's physio and Gavin Benjafield will combine as trainer and computer analyst.

It was also decided that Nafees Iqbal will captain the Bangladesh Under-19 team which will tour Australia from October 11.

Sri Lankan coach Carlton Barnerdus and Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury will accompany the team.

Besides, Akmal assured that Zimbabwe's tour of Bangladesh would proceed as scheduled from the first week of November.

The Board also agreed to upgrade the Cricket Garden in Rangpur to a permanent venue.



Bangladesh team's opener Hannan Sarkar attempts to sweep during the practice match against Bangladesh A at the BUET ground yesterday.

Muktis face U-19 of India today

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will be looking forward to finishing unbeaten from Group C when the all-reds take on the Indian Under-19 team in their final group league match of the 107th IFA Shield Football Tournament in Kolkata today.

The match will be held at the Mohun Bagan Club ground at 3.15pm (BST).

The Federation Cup champions require just a draw to confirm their place in the quarterfinals. They recorded a comprehensive 3-1 victory over Nam Dinh FC of Vietnam in their opening match on September 24.

The Indian Under-19s, following their 3-1 loss in the opening match to Nam Dinh, face an uphill task to beat the Dhaka giants to make a place in the last eight.

GROUP C POINTS TABLE						
TEAM	M	W	L	GF	GA	PTS
Muktijoddha	1	1	0	3	1	3
Nam Dinh	2	1	1	4	4	3
Under-19	1	0	1	1	3	0

Rules bent for Mosharraf!



SPORTS REPORTER

Two senior swimming organisers termed the allotment of National Sports Council (NSC) swimming pool adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium to the Mosharraf Swimming Centre illegal.

"Initially, the NSC leased swimming pool out to former Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) general secretary Mosharraf Hossain for five years in 1996 and then extended the contract for another three years recently. It is clear violation of the NSC Act," claimed former BSF vice-president Shahabuddin Ahmed at a press briefing in the city yesterday.

Another former BSF vice-president and an ace swimmer in the sixties, M Solaiman was also present.

"There has been no age group swimming training for the last five years because of shortage of pools. With NSC pool belonging to Mosharraf, we are left with only one pool at the national swimming complex in Mirpur. But that remains in an improper state for most of the time because of no maintenance."

"For that reason, our national team is now training at the naval swimming pool. That's why we feel the government should immediately look into the matter and hand over the NSC swimming pool to the BSF so that it can use it for age-group training," Shahabuddin said.

He also added that the government should probe into the matter about how could the NSC lease out a swimming pool to a private party for a long term, violating its own act.

It may be mentioned that the High Court last month suspended all the activities of Mosharraf-led BSF till further order following a petition of his rival group.

Seniors in Rafique spin



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammed Rafique returned with a five-wicket haul as Bangladesh A turned the table on the national team in the second limited-overs practice match at the BUET ground on Thursday.

The experienced left-arm spinner, desperately looking forward to regaining his place in the Test fold, gave away only 27 runs to help Naimur's men skittle out for 152 runs in 40.2 overs after Khaled Mahmud's A team posted 239 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs.

The impressive 88-run victory for the A team yesterday, a day after their two-wicket defeat in the rain-interrupted match on Wednesday, was a perfect tonic before their tour of India next month.

Rafique had the national team in his spinning web after young opener Rafiqui and Hasanuzzaman scored impressive half-centuries.

Rafiqui, called up for the first time, responded with a disciplined 62 off 91 balls. The right-hander struck five boundaries.

Hasanuzzaman, a batsman of immense potential, scored a workmanlike 52 off 115 balls that included a couple of fours and a six.

Captain Khaled Mahmud also chipped in with a valuable 36 off 42 balls.

But Ashraf, the youngest debut Test centurion, and national opener Mehrab Hossain continued to disappoint. Ashraf scored a duck and Mehrab made 18.

The bowling of Naimur's men lacked discipline. New ball bowler Hasibul was yet again wayward, conceding 62 runs in his quota of ten overs although he took two wickets.

Skipper Naimur's off-spin yielded 57 runs. But the team's other off-spinner Sabbir Khan was most impressive with figures of 10-2-26-3.

When it was the senior's turn to bat, only opener Hannan Sarkar offered any resistance with a gritty 81-ball 38. The rest of his recognised peers perished cheaply.

Javed Omar continued to struggle with the bat. The national opener made only 10. Bashir, with four Test

half-centuries under his belt, made 11.

Aminul Islam, country's first Test centurion, scored 18. Akram returned for a two-ball duck while Naimur lasted for five balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second limited-overs practice match between Bangladesh and the A team at the BUET ground on Thursday:

BANGLADESHA			
Rafiqui st Anwar b Sabbir	62		
Mehrab c Akram b Monir	18		
Tushar st Anwar b Sabbir	21		
Hasanuzzaman c Hannan b Naimur	52		
Ashraf c Monir b Sabbir	0		
K Mahmud b Hasibul	36		
Kowshik b Naimur	0		
Rafique c Al-Shahriar b Hasibul	8		
Sajjad lbw b Sharif	7		
Mushfiq not out	4		
Bikash not out	8		
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-10, w-5)	23		
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	239		

Fall of wickets: 1/47, 2/98, 3/122, 4/126, 5/197, 6/204, 7/218, 8/221, 9/227

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	10	0	62	2
Sharif	9	0	30	1
Monir	4	0	25	1
Naimur	10	0	57	2
Akram	5	0	19	0
Sabbir	10	2	26	3
Hannan	2	0	12	0

BANGLADESH			
Javed c Sajjad b K Mahmud	10		
Hannan c Mushfiq b Rafique	38		
Al-Shahriar c Rafique b Alamgir	6		
Bashar c Ashraf b Bikash	11		
Aminul c K Mahmud b Rafique	18		
Akram c Bikash b Rafique	0		
Naimur c Tushar b Rafique	2		
Sabbir c Kowshik b Rafique	11		
Hasibul c Alamgir b Kowshik	11		
Sharif c Rafiqui b Ashraf	13		
Anwar not out	0		
Extras: (lb-3, nb-12, w-11)	26		
Total: (All out in 40.2 overs)	152		

Fall of wickets: 1/29, 2/51, 3/69, 4/102, 5/102, 6/109, 7/116, 8/132, 9/147

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Alamgir	7	0	32	1
Kowshik	8	1	20	1
K Mahmud	3	1	10	1
Bikash	5	0	27	1
Mushfiq	5	0	20	0
Rafique	10	0	34	5
Ashraf	2.2	0	6	1

Result: Bangladesh A won by 88 runs

Finding it Wright



AFP, Johannesburg

India coach John Wright is confident that the cricket India play in South Africa will be entertaining.

"I don't know really whether too much fuss has been made about the fast wickets over here," Wright said Wednesday as his charges warmed up at the Wanderers nets in Johannesburg.

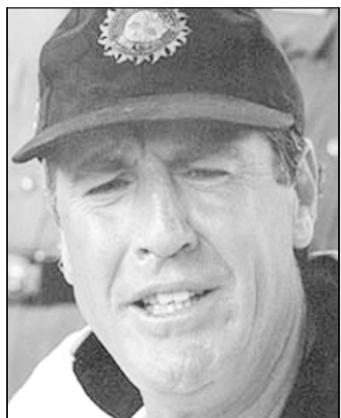
"What we must do is avoid a certain mindset about playing on South African wickets. I wouldn't expect to tour overseas and have slow turners prepared. That's life. A top player has to learn to adjust."

"Look, whatever else happens, we'll always be a good team to watch. It's never dull when we're around."

India visited the country twice in the 1990s and on both occasions struggled to come to terms with fast

wickets.

This time, of the three Test venues where India and South Africa will meet (Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria), only Centurion Park in Pretoria has a



JOHN WRIGHT

reputation for being truly quick and bouncy.

The Tests only take place in

November, which means the tourists will have ample time to prepare and adjust.

As part of that preparation, the Indians completed their second net session since arriving in the country on Monday without any injury, though paceman Javagal Srinath sat out part of the practice.

"There's nothing to worry about there," explained Wright, "Jay's just got a bit of a cold."

India's other two potential match winners who have recently returned from injury, Sachin Tendulkar and Anil Kumble, both took full part in the training. "They've come on very well. There's no worry about them not being fit. In Anil's case, he has not played cricket for a while but he's a real professional and he's preparing well," Wright said.

"As for Sachin, he was hitting the ball very well in the nets and turning it quite a bit as well. When he lands it he can be outstanding. He's just one of those players."

No new crowd control rule

REUTERS, London

No new laws will be introduced to combat crowd trouble at English cricket grounds, British government officials said on Thursday.

The announcement follows an inquiry by the Cricket Disorder Review Group, which was set up following a series of incidents during England's one-day series against Pakistan and Australia earlier this year.

The group concluded that existing laws were strong enough to deal with any future problems and that the introduction of legislation, similar to that in football, was unnecessary. The group did, however, make several recommendations, including warning spectators of the penalties they faced if they were to invade the field of play.

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, welcomed the findings.

"I am confident the cricket community will do its utmost to ensure that the recommendations of this report are implemented successfully," he said in a statement.

"However, the full support of government and the police will be essential to this outcome."

Forget war, let's play cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Despite facing an imminent attack from the United States, Afghanistan has asked Pakistan for permission to take part in a cricket tournament it is hosting next month.

"They had made a request to us that they wanted to take part in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy and we accepted it," a senior official of the Pakistan Cricket Board Brigadier Munawwar Rana, told Reuters.

"Since they have confirmed their participation, we have included them," said Rana. "But whether they are able to take part in the competition physically, I think, depends entirely on the circumstances."

Afghanistan is facing a possible military strike from the United States and allies for refusing to hand over Saudi-born fugitive Osama bin Laden, chief suspect in the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11.

Fletcher's eyes on WC



REUTERS, Harare

England's short tour of Zimbabwe should be seen as a squad building exercise towards the 2003 World Cup, coach Duncan Fletcher said shortly after the team's arrival in Harare.

"You can see from the make up of the side that we've chosen a very inexperienced side," Fletcher told this news agency.

"You want to win any game you go into, but we are looking to have a look at some players now to try and settle on a squad that's going to take England through to the World Cup."

"It's about giving guys an opportunity to prove that they are good enough to play in the World Cup (in South Africa)."

England's preparations for the tour were disrupted by injuries to paceman James Ormond and all-rounder Craig White, who were replaced by fast bowler Chris

Silverwood and batsman Graham Thorpe.

"There are some guys we did want to have a look at and it's a pity they were injured," Fletcher said. "We wanted them to start gaining



DUNCAN FLETCHER

experience in specific roles we have for them.

"I think this is the problem with England cricket at the moment. Some of our players are so in experi-

enced at one-day cricket, and we were trying to get them into roles that they could gain that experience."

With Zimbabwe enduring political turmoil, the touring party was briefed on security shortly after checking into their hotel.

"Other sides have come here and mentioned that they've enjoyed their cricket," Fletcher said. "That's really what we're here for -- to enjoy our cricket and let other people look after the security."

England have a one-day warm-up match against Zimbabwe A in Harare on Monday, then play five limited overs internationals against Zimbabwe starting next Wednesday.

SQUAD
Nasser Hussain (captain), Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, James Foster, Paul Grayson, Matthew Hoggard, Ben Hollis, James Kirtley, Nick Knight, Mark Ramprakash, Owais Shah, Ryan Sidebottom, Chris Silverwood, Jeremy Snape, Marcus Trescothick, Graham Thorpe.

Time to sort ODIs out



REUTERS, London

Eleven one-day defeats on the trot are bad enough. Five more in Zimbabwe next month and England would equal the unwanted record of Test neophytes Bangladesh.

Burdened by such depressing thoughts, Nasser Hussain's England side flew from Gatwick Airport on Wednesday night for a brief tour England cricket authorities fondly hope will lay the foundations for a successful 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

England will play five one-day internationals in the troubled African nation with a mostly untried side after an awful year in the limited-overs game.

During that period they have lost 11 matches in a row to Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia, failing to total 200 in eight of those. After being well off the pace in the last two World Cups their cricket looked positively

stone age this year in comparison to the vibrancy of the Australians. Laying foundations is a laudable objective. The problem lies with the current quality of material.

The England squad was



NASSER HUSSAIN

strengthened on Monday with the recall of Graham Thorpe after a season disrupted by injury. The gritty Surrey left-hander remains

England's only world-class batsman in both Tests and one-day internationals.

Opener Marcus Trescothick also has the ability to succeed in both forms of the game, although the merciless Glenn McGrath exposed his sometimes leaden footwork in the triangular series with Pakistan this year and the subsequent Ashes series.

And then?
Hussain is a fine, agile fielder but still to find a niche as a one-day batsman. Mark Ramprakash delighted his many admirers with a polished century in the final Test against Australia. But he has been trusted with only 13 one-day internationals over 10 years, a reflection of his inability to adjust to the different format.

At least Hussain and, to a lesser extent, Ramprakash have performed at Test level. Some of their present colleagues barely register on the national let alone the international stage.