



Did U Know?

In 1987 World Cup, India great Sunil Gavaskar scored his only century in one-day cricket.



TALK TURKEY



Arsene Wenger
(Arsenal coach)
"I'm pleased for him. I believe he's maturing as a player; he's a fighter, he wants to win and he scores goals as a consequence of his improved performance."
About striker Thierry Henry.



What to WATCH

- ESPN**
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
6:30 am
Serie A
Highlights at 7:00 am
Football Focus
7:30 am
- Sportscentre Hindi**
Sport News
Live at 8:30 am
English Premier Football League
West Ham vs Everton
9:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
11:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
Sportsline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
Trans World Sport
Int'l Sports News
8:30 am
Sportsline Today
Sport News
12:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Derby County
1:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Highlights at 7:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Primera Liga
Valladolid vs Real Madrid
8:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
10:30 pm

More practice for A team



SPORTS REPORTER

After sharing honours in two limited-overs matches against the national team last week, the India-bound Bangladesh A team will have a few more practice matches at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) this weekend and next week.

Skipped by discarded national all-rounder Khaled Mahmud, the A team played the Under-19s in two limited-overs games at the country's lone sports institute on October 5 and 6 respectively.

And the next day they will take on the senior team in a four-day match at the same venue starting on October 7.

The A boys are expected to fly to Mumbai on October 13 for a month-long tour.

Meanwhile, two days before Nafees Iqbal's Under-19 team is going down under for a six-week trip.

In the A team's earlier warm-up matches on a matting wicket of BKSP, they stunned Naimur Rahman's men last Tuesday only to be brought down to earth 24 hours later.

But this time all three matches are going to be played on a natural wicket at the Savar-based institute.

During their visit to western India, the A team, preparing for their maiden appearance in the Busta Cup in West Indies early next year, will play four three-day and as many one-day matches against different selections in Mumbai, Pune and Baroda.

On the other hand, the Under-19s, who are gearing up for January's World Youth Cup in New Zealand, will attend a three-week training course at the famous

Common-wealth Bank Academy in Adelaide before playing at least six to eight warm-up matches.

However, the national team have little more than a month to prepare for Zimbabwe's 25-day tour of Bangladesh. Coach Trevor Chappell's plans have been hampered by poor weather since his charges returned from the Asian Test Championship, where they lost to both Pakistan and Sri Lanka inside three days.

The Zimbabweans, who are due to arrive in Dhaka on November 5, will not play a warm-up of any kind and instead begin their tour with the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 8.

The second and final Test begins on November 15 at Chittagong's MA Aziz Stadium, which will also be the venue for the first one-day international. The last two ODIs take place in Dhaka on November 25 and 27.

Kumble comeback not so impressive

REUTERS, Ranjeshfontein

Anil Kumble took two wickets on his long-awaited comeback as India struggled to acclimatise during their South African tour opener against a Nicky Oppenheimer XI on Monday.

Jacques Rudolph hit 109 as the home team declared on 244 for three at lunch, with the tourists using eight bowlers in the one-day festival fixture.

Kumble, out for almost a year following a shoulder injury which required surgery, took the first wicket of the game when opener Loots Bosman, after making 62 and putting on 100 with Rudolph, was bowled by the leg-spinner.

The 20-year-old left-handed Rudolph built on that, reaching his century four overs before the 52-over declaration.

Rudolph, an under-19 international, hit 13 fours and a six before he was caught at mid-on by Virendra Shewag off Kumble in the 49th over. Kumble finished with two for 47 off 10 overs.

Graeme Smith added 54 before being run out. By mutual agreement, the Nicky Oppenheimer XI batted first.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the traditional tour opener between India and the Nicky Oppenheimer XI at the Nicky Oppenheimer Oval on Monday:
NICKY OPPENHEIMER XI
Bosman b Kumble 62
Rudolph c Sehwa b Kumble 109
Smith run out (Dasgupta) 54
Koozlen not out 11
Benkenstein not out 3
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2) 5
Total: (For 3 wkts decl in 52 overs) 244

Fall of wickets: 1-100, 2-217, 3-241
Did not bat: Kruger van Wyk, Goolam Bodi, Mornantau Hayward, Albie Morkel, Garnett Kruger, Jonathan Oppenheimer (captain).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Agarkar	8	1	36	0
Prasad	9	0	38	0
Kumble	10	0	47	2
Ganguly	3	0	21	0
Sodhi	6	0	31	0
Harbhajan	7	2	20	0
Tendulkar	5	0	27	0
Sehwa	4	0	21	0

SA-WI tie to get WC going



REUTERS, Johannesburg

Hosts South Africa will play West Indies in the opening game of the 2003 Cricket World Cup, it has been announced.

Tournament executive director Ali Bacher said the day-night match will be played during the first week of February 2003 at Newlands in Cape Town and will signal the start of a 54-match tournament that will be con-

tournament in 1999.
In order to maximise global television exposure of key World Cup matches, it is envisaged that new dates will be set for both the opening match and the World Cup final.

Pool A: Australia, England, India, Namibia, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.
Pool B: Bangladesh, Canada, Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka and West Indies.

of the West Indies - twice holders of the World Cup - for the prestige opening match, Bacher said: "South African cricket has long admired and respected the incredible contribution that the West Indies have made to the international game through the uniqueness of their cricket and their great players."

"They have richly entertained cricket fans for more than five decades."

Wesley Hall, president of the West Indies Cricket Board, gratefully accepted South Africa's invitation to participate in the showpiece tournament opener.

"This is indeed a great honour for the people of the West Indies and our team," he said from Antigua, "and a demonstration of the confidence that the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa have in our cricket."

"It further emphasises the close ties that have existed between our two countries since South Africa re-entered international cricket with the inaugural Test match in Barbados in 1992."

"The opening match of the 2003 World Cup is a wonderful occasion for us to further cement those ties. I am absolutely delighted as president of the West Indies board and for me personally this is a vicarious thrill."

"We are not currently in the top three of international cricket but we see this as an appreciation of the development taking place in West Indies cricket."

"By 2003, this West Indies team will be right on song."

The tournament's two pools have been compiled according to a seeding system devised by the executive board of the International Cricket Council.

The seedings are based on an international rankings list calculated according to the results of all limited-overs internationals between the end of the last World Cup in June 1999 until the cut-off date of September 30, 2001.

The final rankings list does not include the Netherlands, Namibia or Canada, who qualified for the World Cup by filling the top three places at the ICC's Associate Members tournament, which took place in Toronto in July.



South Africa's World Cup organising committee executive director Ali Bacher talks to reporters Johannesburg yesterday.

tested by 14 nations vying for record total prize money of five million dollars.

Bacher said the invitation had been extended to the West Indies because of the "tremendous impact" they had made on international cricket over the past four decades.

"South African cricket has long admired and respected the incredible contribution that the West Indies have made to the international game through the uniqueness of their cricket and their great players," he said.

The event's two groups were also announced, with South Africa and West Indies in Pool B alongside Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Kenya and Canada.

Australia, Pakistan, India, England, Zimbabwe, the Netherlands and Namibia are in Pool A. The seedings were based on one-day results since the previous

The opening match was originally scheduled for Thursday, February 6, but it is possible that it will be brought forward by a day or two.

In addition, Bacher announced that the final, originally scheduled for Wednesday March 19, would now take place on either on Saturday March 15 or on Sunday March 16.

Consultations are currently under way between the organising committee in South Africa, the International Cricket Council and the Global Cricket Corporation - who have acquired the television and sponsorship rights to the tournament - to schedule high-profile matches in order to maximise worldwide exposure.

The full World Cup match programme will be officially released in Durban on Saturday October 27.

Giving reasons for the selection

Dalmiya fears Indian 'crisis'

REUTERS, Calcutta

The Indian cricket team faces a crisis because of their poor performances and an all-time low Test ranking, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Jagmohan Dalmiya said on Monday.

"Indian cricket is passing through a crisis at the moment... Without counting Bangladesh, we are now ranked eighth out of nine teams, it has not happened in 50 years," Dalmiya, told reporters in this eastern Indian city.

Dalmiya, who headed the International Cricket Council (ICC) until last year, took over the Indian job on Saturday and said his main priority was to improve the standard of the national game.

The Indian side has not won a Test series outside the continent for 15 years and the country is now



New president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India Jagmohan Dalmiya addresses a press in Calcutta yesterday. He told reporters that he was going to revoke the ban on the Goa and Bihar Cricket Association which was imposed by his predecessor AC Muttiah.

England's winning start



REUTERS, Harare

England cruised to a 138-run win over Zimbabwe A in their opening tour match at the Alexandra Sports Club on Monday, thanks largely to an innings of 95 by Graham Thorpe.

The Surrey left-hander, who only joined the tour as a late replacement for the injured Craig White, was in excellent form.

His runs came off 120 balls and included eight boundaries and some quick running, which shifted the momentum away from the hosts.

England captain Nasser Hussain won the toss and elected to bat, a decision vindicated when his side scored 262 for eight in their allotted 50 overs. Zimbabwe A could only muster 124 runs in reply.

While the result appeared convincing, England were reeling at 61 for five after 16 overs in the morning.

But a 158-run sixth-wicket stand between Thorpe and Ben Hollis enabled the tourists to compile a total that was always going to be out of reach for the hosts.

The two rotated the strike well, never allowing the Zimbabwean bowlers to drive their advantage

home in a stand occupying 29 overs.

Hollis scored a valuable 61, which came off 77 balls and, uncharacteristically, only included two fours.

His innings came to an end when he mistimed a pull off right-arm seamer Sean Ervine and was caught at mid-wicket by Doug Hondo.

Thorpe perished at a time when he was increasing the pace of the England innings. He was caught in the deep by Stuey Matsikenyire off Ervine, but by then he had done enough to ensure his side were well set for victory.

Earlier, England lost opener Marcus Trescothick in the first over, bowled for four by right-arm medium Pommie Mbangwa.

Nick Knight scored 22 and Hussain 16 in a 39-run second wicket partnership.

Their wickets were followed quickly by those of Mark Ramprakash (2) and Andrew Flintoff (1).

Later, debutant Jeremy Snape added a rapid unbeaten 27 from 19 balls, which included two fours and a six, as England scored 82 runs in the final 10 overs.

Ervine was the best of the home side's bowlers, taking three for 53 in

his 10 overs.

Zimbabwe A never maintained the required 5.26 run rate in their chase, losing wickets at regular intervals.

Only captain Gavin Rennie (28) and Barney Rogers (30) offered any resistance, but even their contributions were meagre.

Snape made an impressive debut with the ball as well, taking two in eight overs.

England play Zimbabwe in the first of five one-day internationals at the Harare Sports Club on Wednesday, going into the series on the back of 11 consecutive defeats in one-day international cricket.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the one-day tour game between England and Zimbabwe A on Monday:

ENGLAND
Trescothick b Mbangwa 4
Knight b Hondo 22
Hussain b Ervine 16
Ramprakash c Taibu b Hondo 2
Thorpe c Matsikenyire b Ervine 95
Flintoff c and b Viljoen 1
Hollis c Olonga b Ervine 61
Snape not out 27
Foster run out (Mbangwa) 5
Kirtley not out 1

SEE PAGE 15

Coach setback for Victoria

AFP, Melbourne

Victorian cricket coach John Scholes resigned Monday, just six days before the state team starts its season with a one-day against New South Wales.

The former state batsman, who had coached Victoria for the last five years, cited personal reasons for the shock decision.

The Victorian Cricket Association planned a board meeting later Monday to find a replacement for Scholes.

"The timing's not perfect, although I think the environment and culture that exists will be able to cope with that," Scholes said.

Scholes had just signed a new contract to coach the team for the summer, but it is understood he had been under increasing pressure away from cricket for more than a month.

"I just felt to go into the season personally, not being 100 percent -- I've just been struggling a little bit and been a bit flat -- I didn't think that was fair to Victorian cricket."



FRENCH FORTRESS FORTIFIED: The Under-17 French booters celebrate lifting the World Cup in Port-of-Spain on September 30. They thrashed Nigeria 3-0.

French juniors emulate seniors



AP, Port-of-Spain

Propelled by the record-breaking offensive power of Florent Sinama Pongolle, France shut out mighty Nigeria 3-0 Sunday for its first championship trophy in the FIFA under-17 World Championship.

For French soccer the victory at Hasely Crawford Stadium means yet another trophy to add to an already impressive collection. France's adult national team is at the top in FIFA rankings after winning the 1998 World Cup and last year's European Championship.

The first-half goal by Pongolle, already widely considered the finest player of the championship, was his ninth of the tournament. With the score, he broke the longstanding tournament record of eight made by West Germany's Marcel Witteczek in

the 1985 competition in China.

Pongolle, from tiny French possession Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean, was signed by the Liverpool organization last month and will likely soon begin play in the English leagues.

"I'm thinking with great happiness of all the people watching me on the island where my roots are," he said after the game.

In the third-place match, Paul Gorogo and Henoch Comobo each scored as Burkina Faso upset Argentina 2-0.

Nigeria, which had the stingiest defense in the tournament, allowing only two goals in its previous five games, was undone by a methodical French attack that picked away at its defense.

Nigeria's defenders also failed miserably in shutting down Pongolle and his sidekick Anthony Le Tallec, also signed by Liverpool, who also had a goal.

Nigeria had beaten France 2-1 in the tournament debut for both teams. The Africans were also the only team that had won all its games. But in the final, France dominated.

The first half began evenly, but

France quickly gained the upper hand as its player won control of the midfield.

The French team also was virtually flawless on defense. Midfielders Stephen Drouin and Hassan Yebda and defender Julio Colombo played hard at interrupting Nigerian passes and breakaways, preventing the fleet-footed Africans' efforts to build momentum.

A bicycle kick in the penalty area by Pongolle in the 5th minute was easily controlled by goalkeeper Akpan Bassey. But that was only a preview of what was to come from the diminutive striker, with his well-honed instinct for goals.

African defender Ndala Ibrahim took a powerful shot on goal in the 18th minute, coming out of nowhere and just barely missing the goal from outside the penalty area.

In the 28th minute, talented Nigerian midfielder Omonigho Temile found himself with some space near the edge of the goal area and launched a shot that was just barely tapped out by goalkeeper Florent Chaigneau.

Pongolle soon extinguished the

SEE PAGE 15

Kennedy guides Kenya



REUTERS, Pietersburg

Opener Kennedy Otieno struck an unbeaten 156 as Kenya strolled to a comfortable 95-run win over the South African Country Districts in the opening game of their tour on Sunday.

Otieno batted throughout the 50 overs as Kenya piled up 312 for five wickets before their opponents struggled to 217 all out in reply.

Opening the innings with Ravindhu Shah (47), Otieno helped Kenya to 123 for two after 15 overs as the Country District opening bowlers came in for heavy punishment. Otieno faced 139 balls, striking 14 fours and six sixes.

The only bowler to restrict the free scoring on a good batting wicket was 18-year-old local left-arm seamer Roland van Rooyen, who finished with figures of one for 35 from his 10 overs.

Country Districts made a bold start in their attempt to overhaul the tourists total, opener Perry Puren top-scoring with 59. However, once the spin pairing of Collins Obuya (two for 37) and Brijal Patel (three for 30) began to operate from both ends, the runs dried up and the Districts lost wickets at regular intervals.

Veteran Steve Tikolo brought the game to a close with three quick wickets as the Districts fell well short.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the 50-over match between the South African Country



KENNEDY OTIENO ... 156 n.o.

Districts and Kenya on Sunday:

KENYA
Otieno not out 156
Shah c Howarth b Michau 47
Obuya c Michau b Poole 7
Tikolo lbw b Puren 32
Odoyo run out 29
Gupta c Handley b van Rooyen 6
Suji not out 6
Extras: 29
Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 312

SA COUNTRY DISTRICTS
Puren c and b Patel 59
Ess b Suji 10
Bosch c Gupta b C Obuya 25
Van Vuuren b C Obuya 27
Michau b Patel 16
Forde c Tikolo b Ogondo 2
Hadley c Suji b Tikolo 18
Holder c Ogondo b Patel 4
Howarth c Shah b Tikolo 11
Poole not out 15
Van Rooyen c C Obuya b Tikolo 20
Extras: 10
Total: (All out in 48.3 overs) 217
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-80, 3-113, 4-140, 5-144, 6-150, 7-163, 8-178, 9-184

Bowler
Suji 6 1 26 1
D Obuya 6 0 38 0
Ondik 4 0 31 0
C Obuya 10 1 37 2
Patel 10 0 30 3
Ogondo 7 0 30 1
Tikolo 5.3 1 21 3
Result: Kenya won by 95 runs.

Fall of wickets: 1-78, 2-98, 3-176, 4-261, 5-284
Did not bat: Tony Ondik, Collins Obuya, Brijal Patel, Peter Ogonda.

Bowler
Bosch 9 0 72 0
Ess 8 0 61 0
Michau 5 0 33 1
Poole 9 0 48 1
van Rooyen 10 0 35 1
Puren 9 0 55 1

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 159
Tick the Correct Answers Post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 12, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many runs did Herschelle Gibbs score in the first ODI against Zimbabwe?
115 125
- Who clinched the Princess Cup tennis title?
Hingis Dokic
Kournikova
- Who became the new Australian Cricket Board chief?
Denis Rogers Bob Merriman Geoff Marsh
- What was the result of the South Africa and Zimbabwe Test series?
2-0 1-0
- Who became Shanghai Open champion?
Chang Schuttler Agassi

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