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Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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Did U Know?

One of India's Test cricketers played under his princely name of Mahajarkumar of Vizianagaram! His name is Vijay Anand.



What to WATCH

ESPN
English Premiership
Highlights 7:30 am
Football Focus 9:00 am
Italian Serie A Highlights 1:00 pm
West Ham vs Everton English Premiership Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscenter Hindi Sports News Live at 8:30 pm Goals!
Football Magazine 9:00 pm
India vs S Africa In review 12:00 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports
Sportsline Today Sports News 8:00 am and 12:30 pm
Real Madrid vs Valladolid Primera Liga Repeat at 8:30 am
Liverpool vs Newcastle English Premiership Repeat at 1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight Sports News Live at 8:00 pm
World Cup Mix Football Magazine 8:00 pm
India vs S Africa In review 11:00 pm



Jagmohan Dalmiya
(Indian cricket board's new president)
"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."
Said in Kolkata on Monday.

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

1. How many runs did Herschelle Gibbs score in the first ODI against Zimbabwe?	115	125	130
2. Who clinched the Princess Cup tennis title?	Hings	Dokie	Kournikova
3. Who became the new Australian Cricket Board chief?	Dennis Rogers	Bob Merriman	Lesoff Marsh
4. What was the result of the South Africa and Zimbabwe Test series?	2-0	1-0	1-1
5. Who became Shanghai Open champion?	Chang	Schuttler	Agassi

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

Saber 'bites the ballot'

SPORTS REPORTER

The election for the Eighth Jatiya Sangsad witnessed some interesting battles between the sports organisers of the country.

There were also some notable casualties in Awami League's most stunning collapse. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party is set to record a landslide victory in the 300-seat parliament.

About forty sports organisers contested the polls that were held



SABER HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY

in a peaceful way on Monday. The fall of former BCB president Saber Hossain to Mirza Abbas reflected the changed mood of the electorate.

The most successful cricket boss was riding on an AIC ticket from Dhaka-6 but could not gain the confidence of his constituents.

In 1996 the popular personality, who successfully presented Bangladesh's case for Test status, won the seat against Abbas, the then Mayor of Dhaka.

The defeat clearly showed that one can claim to be a charismatic sports leader, but it counts for little in the cutthroat world of politics.

Like Saber many other sports figures lost their ballot battles for

the AL. The lost list includes: Dewan Shahful Arefin Tutul, Harunur Rashid, Kazi Shahed, Salman F Rahman, Lotus Kamal, Obaidul Quader, Khairuzzaman Liton and Shahriar Rumi.

Tutul, a former national footballer-turned Bangladesh Cricket Board director, was making his debut in politics but it was a short-lived one.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Harunur Rashid was no match for former Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Mohammedan defeated Abahani when Monirul Haq Chowdhury met Lotus Kamal, the Abahani cricket chairman.

Past State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, a good friend of the sports fraternity, even failed to retain his seat.

General Mahub won the battle of ex-BOA presidents against Mostafizur Rahman. The two former Army chiefs went to war in Rangpur.

In Chittagong two cousins clashed and Gias Quader Chowdhury, MSC hockey chairman, bowed out to Fazole Karim.

Though not everybody was a loser when all the votes were counted.

Leading the way was Major Hafiz, the star former national footballer who held onto his Bhol-3 seat.

But Jahed Ali Chowdhury sprang a real surprise when the cricket chairman of MSC ousted Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury.

While it was again Bir Bahadur, a BFF vice-president, in Rangamati. And Harunur Rashid Monno, a Wari Club official, earned the distinction of bagging the two constituencies he contested from Manikganj.

Muktis face Tata men today

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra will take on the youthful Tata Football Academy (TFA) in the third quarterfinal of the 107th IFA Shield football tournament at the newly-built Howrah Stadium in Kolkata, India, this afternoon.

The match is scheduled to be kicked off at 3pm (BST). At the same time the last quarterfinal between the second string of Brazilian club Palmeiras and Nam Dinh Football Club of Vietnam commences at the Salt Lake Stadium.

The first quarterfinal between local giants Mohun Bagan and Tollygunge Agragami, which was washed out on Sunday, will also be replayed today at the Salt Lake Stadium.

The second match of the knockout phase between East Bengal and FC Kochin was held yesterday.

Muktijoddha, who finished fourth in the Premier Division Football League this season, made a brilliant start to the century old Kolkata meet, winning both their first round Group C matches.

They trounced Nam Dinh, the current runners up in the 10-team semi-professional league in Vietnam, 3-1 in the first match and then registered a solitary goal win over the under-19 selection of India in the last match.

Zidane best in Serie A

INTERNET, Paris

Former Juventus playmaker Zinedine Zidane signed for Real Madrid this summer got a new distinction.

The Italian Football Association (AIC) named the French the best player of Serie A as well as the best foreign player.

SA leave Donald, Boje out

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Star South African fast bowler Allan Donald was left out of a 12-man squad named Monday night to play in the first two matches of a triangular one-day international series against India and Kenya.

The 12 players picked for matches against India in Johannesburg Friday and Kenya in Benoni Sunday were all part of South Africa's crushing 3-0 one-day series win against Zimbabwe last month.

Selection convenor Rusdi Magiet said 34-year-old Donald and left-arm spinner Nicky Boje, who missed the tour of Zimbabwe, were short of match practice.

Both will play for the Free State team in the first round of domestic four-day games starting Friday before being considered for the national team again.

Donald, South Africa's leading wicket taker in Tests and one-day internationals, withdrew from the Zimbabwe tour because of flu while Boje is recovering from surgery to his left shoulder.

Another star player sent back to provincial cricket was fast bowler Mfuneke Ngam, who was withdrawn on medical advice from the South Africa A team to play India in Benoni on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old was replaced by fellow paceman Mornantau Hayward, who played six Tests between 1999 and 2000.

Ngam, South Africa's fastest bowler when he made his international debut last season, had surgery

to his right shoulder during the off-season. Although he is able to bowl, he has been told not to throw in from the boundary for another few weeks.

Ngam, who was Monday night named one of five cricketers of the year at the launch of the South African cricket annual, will play for the Eastern Province team in a four-day game starting Friday.

Also named as cricketers of the year were Boje, South African cap-

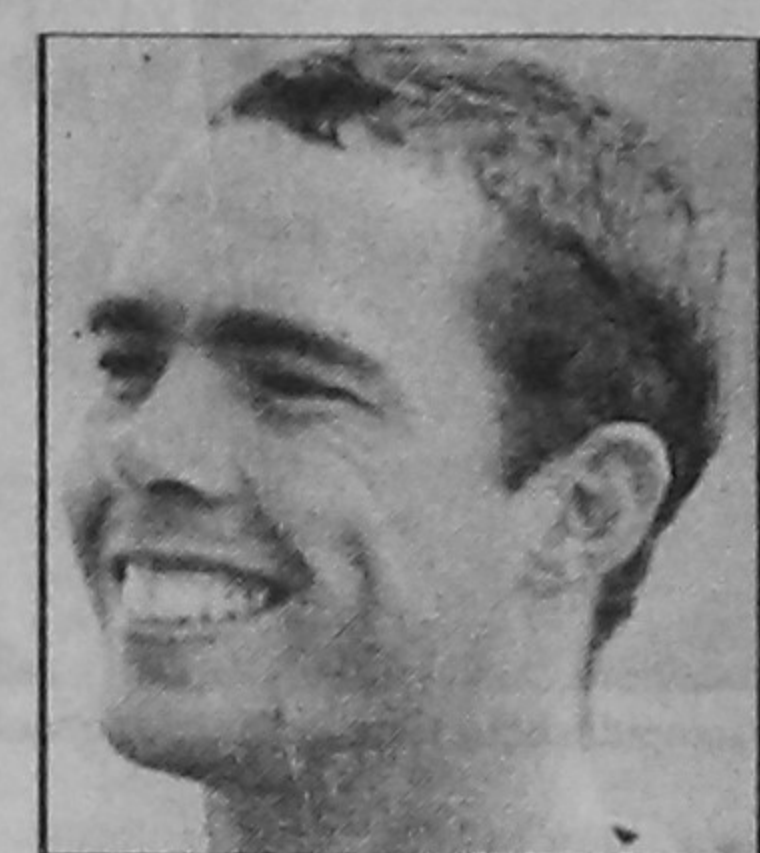
remains available for one-day games.

SQUADS
SOUTH AFRICA (v India in Johannesburg Friday and Kenya in Benoni Sunday): Shaun Pollock (captain), Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher (wkt), Justin Kemp, Claude Henderson, Makhaya Ntini, Andre Nel.

SOUTH AFRICA A (v India in



ALLAN DONALD



NICKY BOJE

Benoni Wednesday): HD Ackerman (captain), Boeta Dippenaar, Gerald Dros, Mornantau Hayward, Justin Kemp, Jon Kent, Charl Langeveldt, Justin Ontem, Jacques Rudolph, Roger Telemachus, Thami Tsoikile, Martin van Jaarsveld.

SOUTH AFRICA (Hong Kong Sixes, November 9 to 11): Jonty Rhodes (captain), Steve Elworthy, Derek Crookes, Loots Bosman, Alfonso Thomas, Andrew Hall, Henry Williams.

It's easier said than done

REUTERS, Harare

England cricket captain Nasser Hussain will tell his new-look side that it is time to stop talking and start playing when they take on Zimbabwe in the first of five one-day internationals on Wednesday.

"We are trying to create a new culture of fitness, attitude, fielding and talking about the game and understanding more about it," Hussain said.

"We've had a lot of discussions but talk is cheap and we have to put it into practice, which we haven't done for a while in one-day cricket."

England, whilst improving at Test level, have lost 11 one-dayers in a row. They name their side late on Tuesday, with Hussain saying there could be four or five new caps after a string of young players were included in an experimental tour party.

Hussain, clearly keen to get back on the pitch, added: "This is just talk and is all driven really, but we are trying to draw a line under last summer and that poor performance and now start something new for the next 16-18 months and beyond that."

"The World Cup comes after that and the only basic thing that will keep the plan going is winning, everything else is irrelevant."

Zimbabwe have just lost a one-day series 3-0 against South Africa, but Hussain expects them to be difficult to beat.

"It will be difficult here and the cricket will be turgid," Hussain said. "The wickets are slow and we'll have to adapt better than the first time when we were out here in 1996."

England warmed up by beating Zimbabwe A by 138 runs in their tour opener on Monday.

Steve, Brett out for now

AFP, Sydney

Test skipper Steve Waugh and fast bowler Brett Lee will miss the start of the new Australian cricket season with injuries picked up on the Ashes tour of England.

Waugh (calf), Lee (rib) and pacer Nathan Bracken (shoulder) will miss New South Wales' season-opening one-day match with Victoria at Bankstown Oval here on Sunday.

The trio could also miss the defending champions' second fixture against Tasmania the following Sunday.

Waugh is on blood-thinning medication after complications from a torn calf he suffered in the third Test Bridge Test on the Ashes tour.

Lee, who tore a rib muscle during the fifth Ashes Test, underwent further treatment Tuesday, with team physiotherapist Pat Farhart estimating the pacer was two weeks away from returning to action.

"It just needs rest and I've had six weeks off," Lee said.

Also expected to come back in a fortnight was one-day international player Bracken, who recently resumed bowling in the nets after recovering from a rotator cuff injury which required surgery and forced him home early from the Ashes tour.

Harry ready to step in

AFP, London

Former West Ham manager Harry Redknapp confirmed Monday he is ready to talk about the vacant manager's post at Leicester.

The English Premiership's bottom club sacked former boss Peter Taylor late on Sunday and Redknapp, currently director of football at First Division Portsmouth, has long been regarded as a possible successor.

Santoro sails

AFP, Moscow

Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, the sixth seed at the one-million-dollar Kremlin Cup ATP tournament, had no problem in his first-round meeting with Spaniard Galo Blanco here on Monday, winning 6-2, 6-1.

Players' strike very real

AFP, London

Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) chief executive Gordon Taylor said he and Premier League counterpart Richard Scudamore were "a long way from middle ground" following the latest talks Monday aimed at averting a proposed players' strike.

Scudamore met with Taylor at the PFA's headquarters in Manchester as they looked to resolve the question of how much television money the players' union should receive.

Primera Liga preview

Betis hope to stay atop

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Betis fans had to pinch themselves on Monday morning to make sure they were not seeing things when they opened the papers and saw that their team was on top of the Primera Liga.

The club has had its occasional taste of glory - winning its one and only league title in 1935 - but in recent years it has been more regularly fighting against relegation rather than challenging for the league.

They have only just returned to the top flight of Spanish soccer after a year spent in the Spanish Second Division.

"Betis, without any noise, have sneaked up to be the leaders. Four consecutive victories have catapulted them to the highest point in the table," commented the Spanish sports daily Marca on Monday, in the wake of Betis' 1-0 win over Las Palmas on Sunday.

Now, Betis have the job of avoiding being one weekend-wonders. They face the tough task on Wednesday of visiting Athletic Bilbao, where they have only won four times in 38 league visits over the years.

"Pressure? I don't feel any pressure being the leaders because it's not our

natural habitat. Real Madrid and Barcelona are usually on top of us," joked Betis coach Juande Ramos, after other results had conspired to place Betis first.

FIXTURES
Wednesday (kick off times GMT): Athletic Bilbao v Real Betis (1830), Rayo Vallecano v Osasuna (1830), Valladolid v Espanyol (1830), Real Zaragoza v Real Sociedad (1830), Alaves v Malaga (1830), Barcelona v Real Mallorca (1845), Sevilla v Tenerife (1900), Villarreal v Deportivo La Coruna (1900), Las Palmas v Real Madrid (2030).

Thursday: Celta Vigo v Valencia (1930)

she also received a painting from Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, an avid tennis fan. Luzhkov partnered Steffi Graf in an exhibition doubles match a few years ago in Moscow.

"I got a cake, a painting from the mayor, a jewellery box and some champagne, it's great," Hings said with a broad smile.

Anna, Martina back

Tennis

REUTERS, Moscow

Anna Kournikova, sidelined for much of the year with a foot injury, was reunited with her long-time doubles partner Martina Hings on Monday, the opening day of the Kremlin Cup tournament.

Kournikova and Hings, who were the world's number one doubles team in 1999 and are seeded second here, wasted little time beating Czech pair Klara Koukalova and Alena Vaskova 6-0, 6-3 in 44 minutes to reach the second round.

"This was just my second match in a long time, so I think I handled myself really well tonight," said Kournikova, who lost to fellow Russian Anastasia Myskina in the first round of last week's Leipzig Grand Prix.

"It's important now for me to concentrate on both the physical and mental part of my game," she added.

"If I won't be ready physically to play at a high level again, then it won't matter what kind of mental preparation I will have and it's just vice-versa, the other way around -- I have to be sharp mentally to complement my physical condition."

Kournikova, whose only other match in almost nine months was a first-round defeat in San Diego in late July, said she felt nervous after her lay-off.

"I had to get back into the rhythm of the game again. It was very difficult when I played last week, the first time after such a long break," she said.

"I just hope that I don't have any more injuries and that my leg is fully healed. I will try to play as much as possible now because competing in matches will help me."

While Kournikova was happy just to be playing again, Hings had a

big reason to smile on Monday. Hings, who turned 21 on Sunday, was presented with a birthday cake after the match.

"My room looks like a flower shop, I could sell them now," said the Swiss world number one.

Hings, who beat Kournikova in last year's Kremlin Cup final, said

that the Oppenheimer team would declare early enough for the tourists to go for victory.

Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble, making a comeback after a long-term shoulder injury, took both wickets for 47 runs. He bowled 10 overs and showed no ill effects after his absence from the game.

Star Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who missed a recent series against Sri Lanka because of a stress fracture in his right foot, looked in top form as he raced to 45 off 36 balls with eight fours.

But Tendulkar was out lbw in the first over bowled by former Test fast bowler Mornantau Hayward.

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly hit a six over mid-wicket off left-arm spinner Goolam Bodi but in trying to repeat the shot was caught in the deep for 34.

Das and Dravid saw off Hayward, who was easily the most dangerous Oppenheimer XI bowler, and put on 91 before Das retired.

Verendra Sehwa hit an aggressive 44 off 50 balls before being run out when only five runs were needed to win.

Ganguly said the match, played in a relaxed atmosphere on an excellent batting pitch, had been an ideal opener.

"Anil looked good. He has been a great servant of Indian cricket and it is good to have him back. He was hitting a length and he'll get better as the tour goes on."

Of Tendulkar, Ganguly said: "He is a great player and sometimes a break happens. He looks keen."

India batters show form

Cricket

AFP, Randjesfontein

India's bowlers were hammered but their batsmen took them to a five-wicket victory in the first match of their South African tour against the Nicky Oppenheimer XI at the mining magnate's private ground north of Johannesburg Monday.

The Oppenheimer XI treated the Indian bowlers with near-disdain as they hurried to 244 for three declared in 52 overs. But on a perfect batting pitch, India made 245 for five in reply, with two of the wickets being batsmen who retired and another run-out.

Shiv Sunder Das retired after making a fluent 59 off 62 balls and he was followed by Rahul Dravid, who made a more restrained 48 off 72 balls.

Earlier, Jacques Rudolph, 20, hit a sparkling 109 for the Oppenheimer XI and shared century stands with two other young batsmen, Loots Bosman and Graeme Smith, who made 62 and 54 respectively.

India surprisingly chose to field first in a match designed as a low-pressure warm-up for touring sides. Traditionally there is no toss and the touring side get choice of innings in which there is no limit on the number of overs.

India were the first side since the fixture was launched in 1992 to spurn the chance to bat first, although they struck an agreement

that the Oppenheimer team would declare early enough for the tourists to go for victory.

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Hearing held on Black attack

AFP, Melbourne

West Indian Test cricketer Marlon Black was forced out of tours to South Africa and Zimbabwe because of a vicious attack outside a nightclub here this year, a court heard Tuesday.

Three Melbourne men admitted attacking the fast bowler who was left unconscious, lying face down on the road after he was punched and kicked about the head and body and struck with a wooden garden stake.

Crown prosecutor Jack Vanderstee said Black was attacked in the early hours of February 11 as he left the nightclub at Melbourne's Colonial Stadium.

The men who assaulted him, Brian Siali, 24, Gideon Tuinauavi, 21, and Stone Ptumau, 21, have pleaded guilty to intentionally causing serious injury.

Vanderstee said Black needed four months to recover from the attack and was forced to miss the tours of South Africa and Zimbabwe, costing him 100,000 dollars (50,000 US) in lost income.

As well as suffering loss of income his injuries had made it harder for him to regain his place in the West Indies side.

Black also had suffered emotional trauma, he said.

The hearing, before Judge Meryl Sexton, is continuing.

SL agree to tour Pak NZ will play in Sharjah meet

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) accepted an invitation "in principle" to tour Pakistan on Tuesday and fill the void left by the last-minute withdrawal of New Zealand following the terrorist attacks in the United States.

The BCCSL received a formal invitation from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to play a short one-day series on Monday and, following discussions with the players last week and advice from the foreign office, have given the green light, as long as certain security conditions are met.

Anura Tennekoon, chief executive officer of BCCSL, has contacted the Sri Lankan High Commission in Pakistan for advice. If they believe it would be safe for the players then the tour will be officially confirmed.

Sri Lanka have also sought changes to the proposed match dates, requesting that the games be brought forward to ensure a proper rest before the scheduled tri-series in Sharjah against Pakistan and Zimbabwe. All the games are to be played in Lahore and Karachi.

Meanwhile, New Zealand have also agreed to compete in Sharjah against Pakistan and Sri Lanka in

April next year.

The tournament is for the Cricketers' Benefit Fund tri-series and is expected to be staged between April 10-20.

New Zealand, who finish their Test series with England in Auckland on April 3, will be assured of at least four games and if they finish in the first two placings, will then contest a final.

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