



Did U Know?

Abdul Hafeez Kardar was Pakistan's skipper on their first tour after gaining Test status. A gifted leader and a shrewd strategist, Kardar led from the front to win at least one Test match against all the established nations. The all-rounder had also the distinction of representing United India on the 1946 tour of England.



Nigel Short
(Britain's most celebrated Grand Master)
"His fame was perhaps all the greater because of his eccentricity."



ESPN
The Npower Test Series
Pakistan vs England
Second Test, Day Three
10:00 am
English Premier Football League
Highlights at 7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Sunderland
9:00 pm

STAR Sports
South Africa Tri Series
Kenya vs South Africa
Fifth ODI
Highlights at 6:00 am
Sportslive Today
Sport News
Live at 7:30 am
English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs Liverpool
1:00 pm
South Africa Tri Series
Kenya vs South Africa
Fifth ODI
3:00 pm
Sportslive Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
South Africa Tri Series
Kenya vs South Africa
Fifth ODI
Highlights at 11:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 159

Tick the Correct Answers Post to
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Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 26, 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?
130
- Who became the new Australian Cricket Board chief?
Hingis Dokic
Kournikova
- What was the result of the South Africa and Zimbabwe Test series?
2-0 1-0
- Who became Shanghai Open champion?
1-1

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

Cricket in quagmire

SPORTS REPORTER

An uneasy calm is prevailing at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office for the last couple of days with a majority of the Board's directors desperately searching for clues that will help them answer many unresolved questions.

And undoubtedly, the most fundamental cause of concern for all the 29 directors is whether the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which scored a landslide victory in the October 1 general elections, would go for a drastic change in the present set up.

The sense of insecurity has led to a low turnout of directors at an otherwise vibrant BCB's Bangabandhu National Stadium office.

Although the management structure is still carrying out the day-to-day affairs and the coaching staff is busy training different age-group selections, there still exists a vacuum in matters relating to policy-making decisions.

The country's cricket condition can best be described as one 'running like a headless chicken' since Saber Hossain Chowdhury's removal from the BCB hot seat in August. No one will dispute the fact he was the driving force behind Bangladesh's elevation as a Test nation.

The need of the hour is for the BNP government to

put the BCB back on track. Because in the days ahead there will be an abundance of international cricket.

Zimbabwe is due in Dhaka early next month to play two Tests and three one-dayers. In December Bangladesh will tour New Zealand and Pakistan are scheduled to visit at the beginning of next year.

Besides, to smoothly organise the hectic schedule the Board will badly need a competent person to represent the country in the subsequent meetings of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and its Asian equivalent.

Akmal Hossain, who replaced Saber for the interim period, readily acknowledged that his predecessor should be allowed to serve as Bangladesh's representative in both the ICC and the ACC.

The ICC executive committee will meet at Kuala Lumpur on October 18. It is crucial for Bangladesh to fix their fixtures and other serious matters in light of the volatile situation in Afghanistan.

Saber, it seems, is keen to continue as president-elect of the ACC, though everything now depends on BNP's attitude. The sooner the BNP gives an indication on how it wishes to run the Board the better our cricket will be.

Dress rehearsal for Ctg Stadium

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team will play a four-day practice match against a selection from rest of the national team and A cricketers at the newly-laid pitch of MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong from today.

Both teams have already reached the port city on Sunday evening for the match that has been arranged as part of Bangladesh's preparation for next month's home series against Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe arrive here on November 5 to play in two Tests and three one-day internationals. The second Test and an ODI will be played in Chittagong.

After the four-day match, both teams will feature in a limited-overs match at the same venue on November 20.

PROBABLES

Bangladesh: Naimur Rahman (captain), Khaled Masood, Javed Omar, Habibur Bashar, Aminul Islam, Akram Khan, Al-Shahriar, Enamul Hoque, Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam and Mohammad Sharif

Rest Eleven: Neeyamur Rashid, Taposh Kumar Baishya, Nasirul Alam, Rajin Saleh Alam, Hannan Sarkar, Tareque Alamgir, Mosaddek Hossain, Sabbir Khan, Ahsanullah Hasan, Sajjad Qadir and Manjurul Islam

Gold Cup tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

MA Hamid, Rizvi Palash, Sajjad Hossain, Shahabuddin Raj and Shahjahan Hasib won their preliminary round matches of the President Gold Cup billiards and snooker tournament at the Gulshan Club premises on Monday.

In the day's matches, MA Hamid beat KP Akbar by 4-2 frame, Rizvi beat Golam Mowla by 4-0 frame, Sajjad Hossain beat Ambar Ali by 4-3 frame, Shahabuddin Raj beat Rahman Prince by 4-2 frame while Hasib beat Alam Bappi by 4-1 frame.

Besides, four players— Siddique Rahim, Rashid Salam, KP Arif and Reza Pahlave— earned walk over in their matches on Monday.

Navy athletics

PRESS RELEASE

The annual athletics championship of the Bangladesh Navy began at the BNS Issa Khan playground in Chittagong yesterday.

About 100 athletes from different ships and establishment of the Bangladesh Navy are taking part in different field and track events.

Earlier, the Commodore Commanding Chittagong inaugurated the five-day meet as the chief guest.

Afghan cricketers in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

The Afghan cricket team began a tour of Pakistan Sunday hoping to be ambassadors for peace as US-led forces bomb the Taliban militia ruling their homeland.

The 16-man squad arrived in this northwestern Pakistani city to compete in the second division of the domestic Patrons Trophy, the club competition in North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan.

Captain Allah Dad Noori said cricket had nothing to do with politics, but he hoped the tour would help dispel misconceptions that Afghanistan was a haven for terrorists and Islamic extremists.

"We have the sense that Afghanistan is under bombardment and attack and innocent people have been killed," he said, shortly after his arrival from the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad which has been subjected to intense bombing.

"But we have come here to Pakistan to play Afghanistan."

Cricket is not generally played in Afghanistan, a country which never allowed itself to be dominated by the British when they ruled India and what is now known as Pakistan.

But the sport has a dedicated following among returned refugees who learned to play the game in camps in Pakistan during the 1979-89 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The headline Taliban militia, blamed for harbouring alleged terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden, bans most sport as un-Islamic.

But it allows football and cricket matches as long as the players respect "Islamic" dress codes forbidding the display of too much thigh.

Noori said he hoped the team would compete with the more experienced Pakistani sides when the competition begins with a two-day match against the Now Shera district club on Monday.

"We don't want to talk about politics. We came here to play cricket," he said.

Locals beat CAB cubs

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The under-16 selection of Bangladesh Cricket Board continued to get better when they beat the visiting Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) under-16 team by 6 wickets in a three-day match at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) on Sunday.

On the final day, the home side, chasing 171 to win, took only 50.1 overs to reach the mark.

Thanks to a crucial 81-run third wicket partnership between one down Nafis Khan and captain Ashiqur Rahman, the locals recovered from poor second innings start to snatch the victory from the jaws of the Calcutta boys, who were in control of the match for the first two days.

With BCB kids tottering on 46 for two in the 15th over, the pair dug deep to swung the match in their favour.

Nafis, in particular, was very impressive. The right-hander occupied the crease for about three hours, faced 107 balls and struck 52 with the help of five boundaries.

On the other hand, number four Ashiq scored 28 off 74 balls with a quartet of fours.

The two however departed in quick succession, leaving their side at 141 for four. Golam Rahman and Arafat Sunny then took the charge and steered the home side to the coast with out any further loss.

Rahman was not out on 19 while Arafat was unbeaten in 12.

Earlier, the visitors, resuming the day on 96 for five in their second innings, were all out for 134.

Iftekhar was the wrecker-in-chief with four for 35. Arafat, who took

three wickets in the first innings, added three more to his haul conceding 24 runs.

The next match, a limited-over affair, between the two teams will be held at the same venue on Tuesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CAB Under-16: First innings 163 all out in 72.5 overs (Sougata 59, Rubaiyat 4/41, Arafat 3/16)

BCB Under-16: First innings 127 all out in 50.1 overs (Arafat 30, Ashiq 20, Iftekhar 19, Sumit 4/20, Debabrata 3/24)

CAB Under-16: Second innings 134 all out in 78.4 overs (S Ghosh 33, Mayukh 21, Santanu 20, Iftekhar 4/35, Arafat 3/24)

BCB Under-16: Second innings 171 for 4 in 50.1 overs (Nafis 52, Ashiq 28, Nayeem 24, Rahman 19 n.o., Arafat 12 n.o., Debabrata 2/35)

Result: BCB Under-16 won by six wickets.



Kenya's Ravindu Shah sweeps during his stylish knock of 55 against South Africa at Kimberley on October 14.

Improved Kenya not enough

Cricket

AFP, Kimberley

Kenya gave an improved performance but it was not enough to prevent them being outclassed again as South Africa cruised to a nine-wicket win in a triangular limited overs series match at De Beers Diamond Oval here on Sunday.

Kenya made a respectable 229 for seven, with three batsmen making half-centuries, and their slow bowlers made the South Africans work reasonably hard before victory was sealed with 8.5 overs to spare.

Even though they were thoroughly outplayed, the Kenyans were unrecognisable from the side humiliated by India in Bloemfontein on Friday, when they were bowled out for 90 and India knocked off the runs without losing a wicket in 11.3 overs.

Opening batsman Ravindu Shah sparked the Kenyan batting revival by making a stroke-filled 55 off 67 balls with seven fours and a six.

Skipper Maurice Odumbe and all-rounder Thomas Oduyo also hit fifties as Kenya made their best total in five matches against South Africa.

Oduyo said: "There was an improvement in our batting. We came out with a positive attitude."

There was still work to be done on the bowling, though.

"Our medium pacers didn't do a good job. We conceded too many runs in the first 15 overs," he said.

Herschelle Gibbs hammered 70 off 60 balls in an opening stand of

115 with Boeta Dippenaar, thrashing 14 boundaries, but the scoring slowed as Dippenaar and Lance Klusener were tied down by the slow bowlers, with leg-spinner Collins Otiemo and off-spinner Odumbe bowling steadily.

Klusener opened up towards the end, however, to finish with 75 not out off 74 balls, while Dippenaar made a more cautious 74 not out off 118 deliveries.

Kenya seemed to be sliding towards familiar territory as they lost their first two wickets for 18 runs but Shah and Steve Tikolo (29) put on 64 for the third wicket off just 70 balls.

After Shah was caught at backward point when he top-edged a cut against left-arm spinner Nicky Boje, Odumbe and Oduyo shared their country's first century partnership against South Africa.

Oduyo and Oduyo put on 114 before both lost their wickets in the chase for quick runs towards the end of the innings.

Oduyo played across a full-length delivery from new cap Charl Langeveldt after hitting 60 off 94 balls with four fours and Oduyo missed a slower ball from South African captain Shaun Pollock.

Oduyo scored 53, his first international half-century, off 65 balls with four fours.

Kenya's performance, after they won the toss and batted on an excellent pitch, was just what was wanted by former South African coach Bob Woolmer, appointed by the International Cricket Council to help Kenya and other non-Test nations prepare for the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

Woolmer, who joined the Kenyans in Bloemfontein, attended the team's net practice in Kimberley on Saturday.

He said before Sunday's game: "At the moment there is a lack of confidence in the players when they play against the top sides, which they don't do very often. There is no lack of ability but it is a matter of trying to help them become more competitive."

There was more of Woolmer's influence to be seen as opening bowlers Martin Suji and Oduyo both mixed slower balls with their quicker deliveries.

But with Gibbs in top form, they took a hammering. Gibbs survived a hard chance on nine when he was dropped at backward point by Collins Otiemo off Oduyo.

Left-arm spinner Brijal Patel took the only wicket when Gibbs sliced a catch to Otiemo at backward point but he was surprisingly taken off after bowling only two overs and only returned to the attack when a South African win was assured.

Oduyo sent down three maiden overs and conceded only 21 runs off his first eight overs. He had Klusener dropped at slip by Shah when the batsman was on 31.

It proved a costly lapse for the Kenyan skipper as Klusener hammered him for five successive boundaries in his ninth over.

SCOREBOARD
Final scoreboard in the triangular limited-overs international match between South Africa and Kenya on Sunday:

KENYA
K Otiemo c Kemp b Pollock 2
Shah c Gibbs b Boje 55

SEE PAGE 15

Majid smells a rat

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

The former chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board Majid Khan told a World Cup inquiry commission on Saturday that he believed some Pakistani players were involved in match-fixing.

Majid, who appeared before the Justice Karamat Bhandari commission at Lahore High Court, also expressed his suspicions over the legality of the 1999 World Cup final between Pakistan and Australia and called for an investigation into it.

Pakistan lost the final of the tournament held in England by eight wickets.

"The commission today heard and recorded statements of Majid Khan, Javed Miandad, Khalid Mahmood, Dr Zafar Altaf and Riaz Sami, the former high commissioner in the United Kingdom," said a court official from Lahore.

"The judge has on the basis of what he heard today summoned six members of the national team and former Pakistan coach Mushtaq Muhammad to the next hearing scheduled on October 20th," said the official.

The commission has summoned Wasim Akram, captain in the last World Cup, Inzamamul Haq, Saeed

Anwar, Moin Khan, Waqar Younis and Saqlain Mushtaq.

The government appointed the inquiry commission to probe into allegations that Pakistan played fixed matches against Bangladesh and India in the World Cup.

The court official confirmed that



MAJID KHAN

Majid had said in a written statement that he believed some players were involved in match-fixing and expressed regret that no action had been taken against them.

"(Majid) also asked the commission to summon some reporters who covered the World Cup and who he said had more information on the suspected matches and the final," said the official.

He said Mehmood, chairman of the Board during the World Cup, had dismissed all match-fixing rumours.

"Khalid Mahmood pointed out that it was all rumours and nothing else and he didn't believe the two matches were fixed."

"He said that several inquiries had been held in Pakistan and abroad and nothing concrete or substantial had come from them to convict any player of match-fixing," the official said.

Altaf, Pakistan's manager in the World Cup, also denied the allegations and claimed that the match against Bangladesh was lost because of a sub-standard wicket.

Altaf said Bangladesh had taken advantage of the wicket and there was no truth in rumours that the match was fixed to support Bangladesh's cause for Test status.

Miandad, the former Test captain and coach, told Reuters he had nothing new to tell the commission and he had made it clear he knew nothing about the matches being fixed since he was not involved with the team at the time.

"I told the commission I had heard about matches being fixed, but had never practically been witness to this and most of the allegations were based on hearsay," Miandad said.

England's India tour off?

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

England's tour of India is set to be cancelled, according to Richard Bevan, the England players' official representative.

A critical meeting between England cricket chiefs and their Indian counterparts at the ICC meeting in Kuala Lumpur this week will decide the fate of the three-match Test series.

But Bevan, quoted in the Mail on Sunday, said it was "extremely unlikely" that the tour would proceed, adding that the safety of players was "paramount."

Following military strikes against Afghanistan, British nationals in India are being advised to keep a low profile and maintain a high level of vigilance.

On Saturday, a Foreign Office spokesman confirmed "we are advising all British interests in India to take precautions against terrorist retaliation."

Bevan added: "Given the current

heightened tension, we believe India is one of a number of countries where there is an increased risk to British interests from global terrorism."

The news comes after Pakistan's



NASSER HUSSAIN

home series against New Zealand was cancelled shortly after the terrorist attacks on the USA.

Sharjah and Morocco are willing to stage Test matches for Pakistan if they are unable to play at home for a

prolonged period because of security fears.

Captain Nasser Hussain has voiced his concerns and hopes a quick decision can be made on whether the tour goes ahead.

He said: "Everyone has to be clear about it. You can't be told a week before if you're going."

"We're all going to have to sit down and ask 'is it safe to go?' - Do we know it is 100 per cent safe to go?"

In addition to the three Tests scheduled for December, a second tour to India has been scheduled, with five one-day internationals between January 17 and February 3. England have won their last two winter Test series, against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but were totally outplayed last time they played Test cricket in India, in 1996, losing 3-0.

ITINERARY

December 3: First Test, Mohali
December 11: Second Test, Ahmedabad
December 19: Third Test, Bangalore.

Alec to have elbow surgery

Cricket

AFP, London

England wicketkeeper Alec Stewart said Saturday he is to have an operation on his elbows to try to correct a long-standing injury that has been affecting his cricket for the last 18 months.

In a statement released through his county Surrey here Saturday, Stewart said: "The problem is a form of chronic tennis elbow, which is affecting both my arms. For the last 18 months I have only been able to play cricket thanks to a course of injections and intense physiotherapy. Now I want to try and get it sorted out."

Stewart will have the operation at the end of the month and will then have both arms in plaster for two weeks before undergoing a course of rehabilitation.

Back in August, Stewart, 38, made himself unavailable for

England's forthcoming tour of India saying he was afraid that corruption allegations made against him by bookmaker Mukesh Gupta relating



ALEC STEWART

to the 1992-93 tour, but subsequently rejected earlier this year by cricket's Anti-Corruption Unit, would be given a fresh airing.

He also said that he wanted to spend some more time with his

family after a decade of continuous England duty at home and abroad.

The England management have been aware of Stewart's elbow problems and he came close to giving up the gloves during a Test on England's tour of Pakistan last year.

But Stewart's decision, announced in his Sunday Times newspaper column, where the full extent of his elbow difficulties was not revealed, provoked a strong reaction from England's chairman of selectors David Graveney.

He warned the Surrey stalwart and Yorkshire fast bowler Darren Gough, another India absentee, that "it would set a dangerous precedent to allow players to pick and choose which elements of a winter tour they are prepared to undertake."

Consequently both players were told that if they refused to play Test cricket in India they would not be selected for the second half of England's winter Test programme in New Zealand.

Lara, Black recalled Lanka tour uncertain

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Marlon Black and Brian Lara are back for the West Indies after the selectors named a 16-man squad to tour Sri Lanka for three Tests and a triangular series also involving Zimbabwe.

But the tour remains in doubt, due to security fears in the wake of the bombing of Afghanistan.

Some West Indian players have expressed fear at making the trip in light of the tension in the area.

And former fast bowler Colin Croft has said that the tour should instead be played in the Caribbean.

Reverend Wes Hall, president of the West Indies Cricket Board, and Gregory Shillington, chief executive of the WICB, are to discuss the tour with Sri Lankan officials at this week's ICC meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

The process of naming a side had to continue, however, and there is a recall for paceman Black.



BRIAN LARA

He last played for the West Indies on the ill-starred tour of Australia, where he was attacked outside of a nightclub and was seriously injured.

There are no real surprises, but Courtney Browne, not named in the

squad, will attend a training camp as cover for regular wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs, who has a slight finger injury.

Lara was talking a big game after returning to the international fold.