



Did U Know?

GM Griffin is the only bowler to perform a hat-trick for South Africa in Tests or ODIs. He earned the feat during the second Test against England at Lord's in 1960.



Talk Turkey



Jennifer Capriati

(American tennis star)
"Of course, it's every kid's dream to be No 1. For me I think you can appreciate it more when you are older."

After being ranked World No 1.



What to Watch

ESPN
English Premier Football League
Highlights at 9:00 am
The Npower Test Series
Pakistan vs England
Second Test, Day Four
10:00 am
Serie A
Highlights at 6:30 pm
Football Focus
7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Derby County vs Tottenham Hotspur
9:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
11:30 pm

UEFA Champions League
Panathinaikos vs Arsenal
Live at 12:30 am

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Southampton
1:00 pm
Football Asia
6:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Highlights at 7:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Primera Liga
Valencia vs Barcelona
8:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
10:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 159
Tick the Correct Answers Post to
The Daily Star
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?
Hingis Dokic
- 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)

Football politically ill

SPORTS REPORTER

Activities at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) came to a standstill as its top bosses became uncertain about their own future following the change of government.

Confusion among them is so intense that the federation is yet to decide when the Second National League would even start.

Earlier Sirajul Islam Bachchu, an assistant secretary of BFF and the secretary designated for the National League, said that they want to finish the first round in six divisions by October. But the present scenario says it would not be possible to start the League before November, even if the present committee stays put.

And a change in the Federation leadership by the new government would surely stall the start of the League further. Speculations are rife in the sports arena that the BNP government would be going for a drastic change in leading sports federations.

However, the usually tardy BFF did not also bother to form a full-fledged committee for the National League. It only nominated the chairman and secretary for the committee in August, asking them to recruit other members.

But Amir Hossain Amu, the chairman designated and

former Food Minister of Awami League government, has not yet made any contact with his secretary. BFF is now learnt to be looking for a new chairman, preferably a minister from the present government.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport on Monday, Siraj said that the federation would soon convene a meeting and appoint a new chairman for the National League.

"As secretary, I am ready to organise the League whenever the federation wants. All the paper works have already been completed," said Bachchu, who returned from Kuala Lumpur a couple of days back after attending an Asian Football Confederation meeting along with his general secretary Harunur Rashid, who was also an Awami League MP.

He however failed to say when the federation might call the meeting.

The inaugural edition of the National League was held almost two years ago under the sponsorship of Nitol Bangladesh Limited.

Twelve teams took part in that meet, which raised a new hope for the dwindling game here.

This time around, BFF has decided to include ten teams in the final round. Six divisional qualifiers will join Premier Division Champions Abahani, runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club, Federation Cup champions Muktiyodha Sangsad and Bangladesh Army in the final round.

Four-day match

Day belongs to Green

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Red team made a disastrous start against Bangladesh Green on the opening day of their four-day practice match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Monday.

The game is being played between two teams consisting of the national players and cricketers who were in the Bangladesh A camp. The match is part of Bangladesh's preparation for next month's home series against Zimbabwe.

The match started late due to rain and only 55.3 overs of play was possible. Put into bat, Bangladesh Red, led by national Test skipper Naimur Rahman, were bundled out for 87 in their first innings. Green team pace trio of Tareque, Hasibul Hossain and Alamgir were the main wreckers sharing seven wickets among themselves.

Right arm quickie Tareque, just back after attending a month-long pace bowling course at the MRF

Pace Foundation in Madras, captured three wickets for 34 runs while Hasibul and Alamgir bagged two each. Among others, leg spinner Mosaddek Hossain took two wickets while offie Sabbir Khan got the other.

Naimur's 16 was the top score for the Reds. Other batsmen to reach double figures one down Al-Shahriar (15) and opener Hannan Sarkar (10).

In their first innings, the Green team had reached 30 for one in 13 overs in at stumps.

Opener Ehsanul Haque was not out on 13. Fellow opener Rajin Saleh Alam scored 11 before perishing to Naimur.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first-day of the four-day practice match between Bangladesh Red and Bangladesh Green at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Monday:

BANGLADESH RED	
Javed Omar b Hasibul	1
Hannan c K Masood b Hasibul	19
Al-Shahriar c K Masood b Tareque	15
Aminul b Tareque	1
Naimur c Mosaddek b Alamgir	16
Neeyamur c Sabbir b Alamgir	10

Enamul c K Masood b Tareque	4
Sajjad lbw b Mosaddek	11
Sharif b Sabbir	7
Taposh b Mosaddek	0
Monjurul not out	0
Extras: (nb-3)	3
Total: (all out in 42.3 overs)	87
Fall of wickets: 1/7, 2/36, 3/38, 4/41, 5/64, 6/68, 7/68, 8/87, 9/87.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	9	4	16	2
Alamgir	13	3	24	2
Tareque	12	2	34	3
Mosaddek	5	3	9	2
Sabbir	3	1	4	1

BANGLADESH GREEN

Rajin b Naimur
Ehsanul batting
Mosaddek batting
Extras: (b-5, nb-1)
Total: (for 1 wkt in 13 overs)

To bat: Khaled Masood, Habibul Bashar, Akram Khan, Nasirul Alam, Hasibul Hossain, Sabbir Khan, Tareque and Alamgir.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monjurul	5	1	12	0
Sharif	4	1	7	0
Naimur	2	0	3	1
Neeyamur	2	0	3	0

Eng may not tour India

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, London

England's tour of India this year will not go ahead if the players' safety is at risk, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Lord Ian MacLaurin has said.

"Our players will not be risked. You can be sure our players' safety is paramount," MacLaurin told BBC Radio Four.

New Zealand have already cancelled a tour of Pakistan scheduled this month after the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington and the subsequent US-led bombing of Afghanistan, and the West Indies Cricket Board is currently considering whether their team's forthcoming tour to Sri Lanka should proceed as planned.

MacLaurin said the tour, starting in November, would not proceed if there was any chance the players would be harmed.

"They are our prime asset and we'll look after them to the best of our ability. They will talk to us, we have a very good association with them," he said.

MacLaurin stressed that the situation was being monitored on a day-to-day basis and the views of the players would be taken into

account. He confirmed that England captain Nasser Hussain would meet ECB officials later Monday, upon his return from Zimbabwe, to discuss next month's trip to India.

Hussain has called for an early

"Nasser's view about it and my view about it are the same -- he does not want to go to India if there is any threat to the players."

MacLaurin was confident the views of the ECB and the players would not differ and there would be no chance of the players being told to tour India and then pulling out.

"I don't foresee any situation coming where the players and we will have any difference (of opinion)," he added.

"We've just got to be sensible about it and take it a day at a time. We will be guided by our Government and by the embassies we have in India."

And Professional Cricketers' Association spokesman Richard Bevan believes it is "extremely unlikely" that the team will travel to India in the light of the current situation in the region.

In addition to three Tests scheduled for December, the one-day squad is due to visit India for five one-day internationals between January and early February before going on to New Zealand.

Soul searching in WI

Cricket

REUTERS, San Juan

With West Indies crawling their way back up the international cricket rankings after beating Zimbabwe, the next few tours are of ultimate importance for Carl Hooper's side.

At the last reckoning, the West Indies were rated at number five in the world just behind Sri Lanka, the venue for the next West Indian tour.

There has been much rhetoric and soul searching about the next two West Indian trips, to Sri Lanka starting in November and then to Pakistan in late January.

I love both the Pakistani and the Sri Lankan teams and their cricketing styles, both exuding great excitement and enjoyment of the game.

Their passion was never clearer

to me than during the furore over off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan after he was called for throwing in Australia in 1995.

Tony Greig, the former England captain, and I were among the few commentators who argued that it had been a very unfair call. Time has proved us right.

Unfortunately, however, the region is now fully caught up in the uncertainty following the attacks on the United States.

Cricket will have to wake up to the fact that it will be affected, as it was a few years ago when New Zealand were touring Sri Lanka.

A suicide bombing occurred within a stone's throw of the team's hotel in Colombo and it took some courage for that tour to continue.

It will certainly have been noted that New Zealand immediately cancelled their proposed tour of

Pakistan after the September 11 attacks.

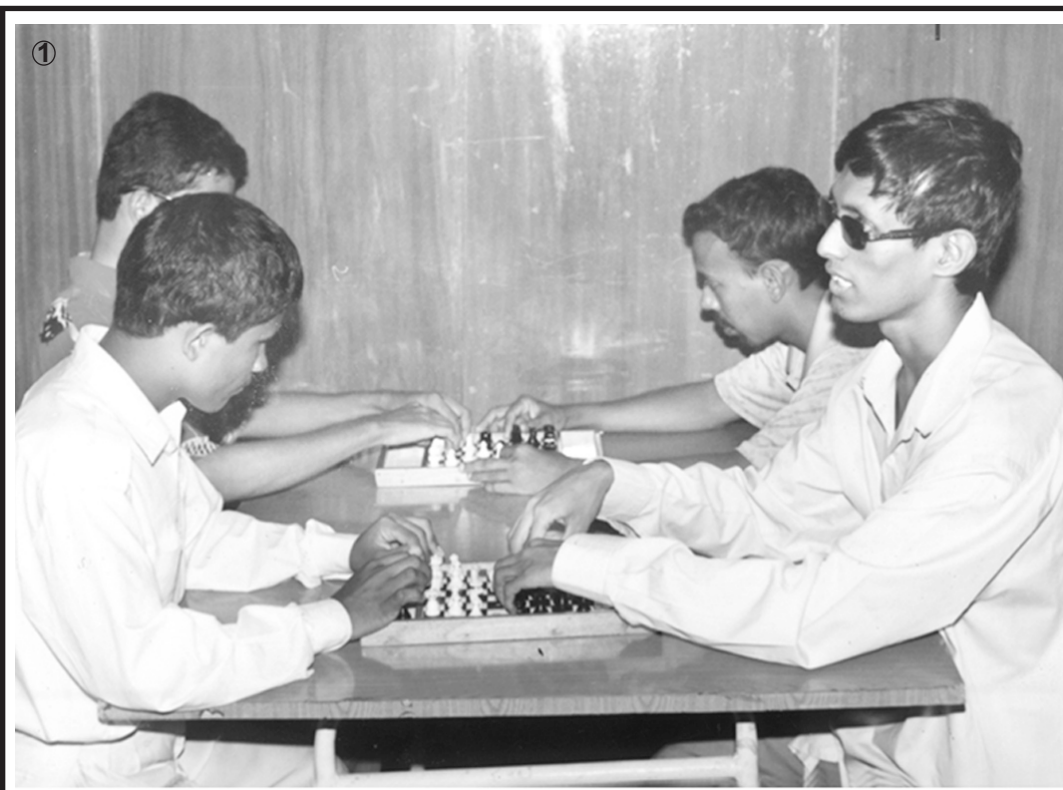
With the situation still simmering internationally, I think that the West Indies Cricket Board should come out now, not wait on the next ICC general meeting next week, and suggest that both of their proposed tours should be cancelled, at least in their present form.

No cricket authorities have the right to send a team into a situation that could become volatile at any moment.

I remember hearing, with reference to South Africa before 1991, that "normal cricket could not be played in abnormal circumstances".

I would propose instead that the West Indies instead invite Sri Lanka and Pakistan to tour the Caribbean, with West Indies touring those countries at a later date.

That would mean that the West



A combo picture shows (1) front-runners Shamsul Islam (L) and Swapan Chakidar locked in a title war yesterday. (2) The winners with their laurels: champion Swapan (2nd from R), runner-up Shamsul (2nd from L), third-placed Asgar Ali (L) and fourth-placed Kamrul Hasan (R) and (3) Rozina Begum represents the players during the prize-giving ceremony.

Swapan dethrones Shamsul

SPORTS REPORTER

Swapan Chakidar ended the reign of Shamsul Islam to win the Third National Chess Competition for People with Visual Impairment.

The three-day unique tournament, organised jointly by InterLife-Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) ended at the NSC chessroom yesterday.

Swapan finished the seven-round open tournament with maximum points.

Although the two-time champion in 1999 and 2000 Shamsul



and Asgar Ali earned six points each, but it was the latter who emerged third.

Shamsul's title hopes faded in the penultimate round when he lost his board to Swapan. The other results of the round were: Kamal

The Daily Star and Transcom join hands to hail the players of the unique chess tournament for the visually impaired. Each of the seventy participants will receive a specially designed chessboard and pieces from the two organisations.

beat Khokon, Asgar beat Shaheb, Majid beat Nazrul, fourth placed Kamrul beat Zahir and Idris beat Amir.

The new champion eventually ended unbeaten by defeating

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A team's 3-day match cancelled

SPORTS REPORTER

The three-day cricket match between Bangladesh A team and the CCI President's Eleven, which was scheduled to begin in Mumbai today, has been cancelled.

State-run news agency BSS, citing Bangladesh Cricket Board sources in the city yesterday, said instead of the three-dayer the visiting team would now play two one-day games.

According to the changed schedule the additional two limited-overs matches are on October 17 and 18. The Bangladesh A team was earlier scheduled to play four one-dayers.

The Khaled Mahmud-led team will take on the CCI side in the October 17 game while opponents for the next match are MIG.

Besides, the other three three-dayers will held as per schedule.

Sharjah assigns Sunil, Ian its supervisors

AFP, New Delhi

Cricket superstars Sunil Gavaskar and Ian Botham have been roped in by Sharjah organisers to overlook the conduct of matches in the Gulf emirate, it was announced on Monday.

Gavaskar of India, and Botham of England, have been inducted into a three-man technical committee of the Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series (CBFS), which organises limited-overs tournaments in Sharjah.

The third member of the committee will be announced later, a media release from the organisers said.

The committee will supervise the playing conditions, including the preparation of wickets, and liaise with umpires, officials and cricketers.

Sharjah, which has hosted more one-day internationals (174) than any venue in the world, has in the past been tainted by unsubstantiated allegations of match-fixing.

CBFS chief Abdur Rehman Bukhatir said he was delighted that both Gavaskar and Botham had accepted his offer.

The next Sharjah tournament, featuring Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, is scheduled to be played between October 26 and November 4.

Odumbe Zulu-struck

Cricket

REUTERS, Kimberley

Kenya cricket captain Maurice Odumbe has insisted that his side

should be taken seriously -- by everyone, apparently, except Lance Klusener.

Odumbe remained defiant despite Kenya's third consecutive heavy defeat in the Standard Bank one-day triangular tournament against South Africa and India.

The South Africans beat Kenya by nine wickets in Kimberley on Sunday but Odumbe argued: "I know we can play cricket."

"We have to learn to be more positive and not worry about the bad

results but keep picking ourselves up."

Odumbe, however, who made 60 with the bat out of his side's total of 229 for seven, admitted he had not enjoyed bowling his off-spinners at

one-dayer, accusing him contravening the spirit of the game.

Odumbe, who refused to name the official, said: "There was one gentleman out there who was not very friendly towards us and I've put that in my report."

He told journalists: "If you ask an official to show you where you are overstepping and he turns round and says 'look for yourself -- the marks are there', I don't think that's in the spirit of the game."

Odumbe said there had been another argument after a bowler had asked the official to stand back from the stumps.

The match umpires were South Africans Dave Orchard and Will Diedricks. Odumbe appeared to point the finger at Orchard by saying that the umpire in question was not standing at the end from which he bowled.

Kenya made 229 for seven from their fifty overs before South Africa raced to the target with 8.5 overs to spare as all of the Kenyan bowlers struggled to contain the scoring.

Match referee Judge Ahmed Ebrahim of Zimbabwe would not comment but said his report, as well as those of the two captains, would be sent to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

There was no comment either from Orchard or Diedricks, who -- like Odumbe -- are limited in what they are allowed to discuss publicly by ICC regulations.

Noori talks cricket

REUTERS, Peshawar

Allah Dad Noori has the smooth, confident patter of a sports captain anywhere in the world.

Except Noori is in charge of the Afghan national cricket team, making a rare international appearance just as his homeland is under bombardment by the United States.

He flashed a quick smile on Monday and gave polished answers as he watched his batters struggle early in a two-day match with a team from Nowshera in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province in the opening round of a national tournament to which the Afghans have been invited.

"All of them are good," he said diplomatically in reply to a question about which of his players were standouts.

"God willing, we shall try out

best," said the lanky Noori, a fast bowler who opens the attack.

Noori said that once the 16-man team succeeded in getting into Pakistan from neighbouring Afghanistan after the bombing that started eight days ago, he realised his team would attract more attention than usual.

"We do understand there would be some interest," said Noori, who is a wheat trader in the capital Kabul when he is not playing cricket.

"We are showing such spirit under such conditions, we hope we get support," he said.

But Noori, who returned to Kabul four years ago after living for nearly 20 years in Pakistan as a refugee, said he was anxious about the bombing.

"Yes, of course. It is my country, I am worried about what is going to happen," he said.

US-led forces have launched a series of air strikes on Afghanistan to punish the ruling Taliban for refusing to hand over Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden, the main suspect behind the attacks last month on New York and Washington.

"It isn't international standards, but we try," he said of his rag-tag team, made up of students, a carpet salesman and shopkeepers ranging in age from 18 to Noori, the oldest at 28.

It is the third time Afghanistan has played in Pakistan, which has seen a scheduled tour by the New Zealand national cricket team cancelled because of the crisis, and plans to tour Sri Lanka fall through.

The sport is at an embryonic stage in Afghanistan, and owes its inception to the fact that it is the

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