



Did U Know?

The first World Cup football was played in 1930. Uruguay, who became the last country to qualify for next year's World Cup in Japan and South Korea, won the inaugural edition.



What to Watch

ESPN
India v South Africa
Third Test, Day 5
Highlights at 9:30 am
Derby County v Newcastle
English Premiership
Taped version at 6:30 pm
Sportscenter Hindi
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
Goals!
Football Magazine
Taped version at 9:00 pm
Serie A Highlights
12:00 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sports News
7:30 am and 12:30 pm
Valencia v Real Sociedad
Primera Liga
Repeat at 8:30 am
Liverpool v Sunderland
English Premiership
Taped version at 1:00 pm
Sportsline Today
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
World Cup Mix
Football Magazine
Taped version at 8:30 pm
Gillette World Sports Special
International Sports News
9:00 pm



Javed Miandad

(Pakistan cricket great)
"I fear for the future of the game. No one is bigger than the game nor is anyone above the law. What happens if a smaller country challenges the authority of the ICC or the match referee tomorrow. India could have played the match under protest. They would have still made their point without harming the game and making a mockery of the current (unofficial) Test and the role of a referee."

On the Mike Denness controversy.



Tick the Correct Answers Post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Nov 30, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the Sharjah Champions trophy final?
Wasim Waqar
 - Who clinched the Munich WTA Tour singles title?
Hilgits Davenport
 - South Africa defeated India in the first test at Bloemfontein by
140-run 7-wkt 9-wkt
 - How many Test centuries has Sachin Tendulkar scored?
30 22
 - Bangladesh will play 2003 WC cricket's opening match
Name the opponent?
UAE Kenya Canada
- Class. Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

Sajjad, Jamal replaced

Politics comes into play?



SPORTS REPORTER

The government has refused Ahmed Sajjadul Alam permission to accompany the Bangladesh team as its manager for the New Zealand tour.

Apart from Sajjad, a long-serving cricket organiser, the order issued by the Ministry for Youth and Sports barred assistant manager Mahmud Jamal from going on the trip.

Bangladesh will leave for New Zealand on November 30 to play two Tests and a couple of first-class games.

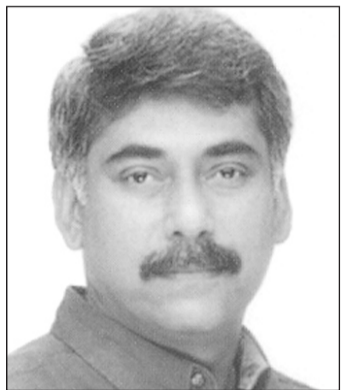
Board directors Afzalur Rahman Sinha and Tanjib Ahsan Saad will replace them. Tanjib, a national selector, was also the Bangladesh manager in the Coca-Cola Series against Zimbabwe.

The interference from the highest level comes at a time when the set-up of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has undergone an interesting transfer of power.

The government only on Monday appointed Ali Asghar as Board

president in place of Akmal Hossain. But the removal of Sajjad was the last act of interim Board president Akmal.

The Energy Secretary however failed to give any satisfactory explanation for the last minute decision



AHMED SAJJADUL ALAM

when approached by a bewildered Sajjad.

"The Board president just told me that I'm not going to New Zealand over phone on Monday

morning. He also said that my application for government order (GO) was turned down." Sajjad told the Daily Star Sport yesterday.

It was learnt that Akmal discussed with some of the directors present about alternative names at the Board's Gulshan office on Monday evening. But he came under fire by the directors, who walked out voicing their disapproval.

"If the government wants to take the responsibility of appointing a cricket manager then why not let them do everything," said an angry director preferring anonymity.

Terminating the action illegal since Sajjad was named as manager in a Board meeting on November 20, a day after the second Test ended at the MA Aziz Stadium, an aggrieved Sajjad said he would place the matter before the next Board meeting.

The Board of directors meet tomorrow afternoon at the Bangabandhu National Stadium office, which will also see Akmal relinquishing power to Ali Asghar.

Asian Club Cup Anyang to play for local crowd?

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup champions Muktiyodha Sangsad Kriha Chakra will take on Anyang Football Club of Vietnam in their second round home clash of the 21st Asian Club Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The match kicks off at 2:30 pm.

In their away match in Seoul on November 21, Muktiyodha swallowed down a staggering 8-0 defeat against the top South Korean outfit. And the all-reds at once resorted to the trademark Bangladesh practice after any humiliating defeat. Their usually media-friendly official manager Jahangir Alam went into hiding without notifying the outcome of the match even 48 hours of the game.

However, Anyang, who arrived on Monday night, appeared 'sympathetic' yesterday during a press briefing.

Team assistant manager Kim Kwan Hwan said that they would field their reserve team and try to score as few goals as possible to make the match interesting for the local crowd.

"We have two Brazilians and a Yugoslav in our team. Most probably, they will not give their hundred per cent," said Kim.

On the other hand, Muktiyodha captain Hasan Al-Mamun agreed that there is a gulf of difference between the two teams.

"We would try our best to play good game tomorrow (Wednesday)," said the national right wing back.

Match referee from Thailand and four Nepalese referees have also reached the city.



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Television will telecast live the draw for the 2002 World Cup football finals to be jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan.

The 32-team draw for football's greatest prize will take place in the South Korean city of Pusan on December 1.

The three-hour ceremony, which will be attended by a galaxy of past and present stars including greats like Diego Maradona and Pele, will commence from 6pm BST.

Tough task awaits Asgar



SPORTS REPORTER

Ali Asghar is all set to occupy the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hotseat.

A Bangladesh National Party (BNP) executive committee member, Asghar was reportedly lobbying hard to get the most sought-after post, which former president Saber Hossain Chowdhury termed as important as a cabinet position.

This is going to be a challenging task for the successful businessman from Khulna, especially after the high standards set by Saber.

The youngest-ever BCB president Saber is acknowledged for transforming Bangladesh cricket from the world of mediocrity to the highest status.

Asghar's immediate concern would be to ensure the return of WorldTel before Pakistan arrive here to play two Tests and a three-match one-day series in January. Besides, he has to make sure that the various development programmes of the Board are not affected due to fund shortage.

But more importantly cricket follower of the country will eagerly want to see if Asghar can prevent politics from dictating cricketing affairs.



Players and officials of the Anyang soccer team at the Zia International Airport Monday night.

Ebrahim star of the series

Bashar, Kowshik top list



SPORTS REPORTER

Habibul Bashar followed up his brilliant Test form to score highest 115 runs among the Bangladesh batsmen in the three-match Coca-Cola one-day series against Zimbabwe that concluded at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

The reliable middle-order batsman also had the highest individual (for Bangladesh) innings of 66 in the second match in Dhaka on Sunday.

Apart from Bashar, openers Al-Shahriar and Javed Omar, Sanwar

Hossain and Khaled Mahmud were the other four Bangladesh batters who could score more than 50 runs in the series.

In bowling department, young right-arm seamer Mashrafi-bin-Mortuza Kowshik took highest four wickets slamming down 27.2 overs in three matches. Veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque bagged two wickets in his only appearance in the last match. Another left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, pacer Monjurul Islam and Khaled Mahmud got one wicket each in the series.

For the tourists, young opener Dion Ebrahim had an excellent series in Bangladesh. Adjudged

man-of-the-series, the right-hander scored 211 runs with a sizzling hundred in the second match on Sunday. His 121 is also the highest individual knock of the series.

Giant middle-order Craig Wishart followed him with 152 runs that included two fifties. Captain Stuart Carlisle meanwhile blasted one half-century to score 145.

Heath Streak was the pick of the bowlers with six wickets. Gary Brent with his military medium pace took five wickets.

Following are the batting and bowling averages of Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in the Coca-Cola one-day series:

BANGLADESH														
Player	M	I	BATTING		HS	100s	50s	Ave	BOWLING					
			NO	Runs					O	M	R	W	BB	
Habibul Bashar	3	3	-	115	66	-	1	38.33	27.3	4	1	2/26	29.00	
Al-Shahriar	3	3	-	89	59	-	1	29.00	10	1	52	2	2/52	26.00
Javed Omar	2	2	-	81	54	-	1	40.50	6	0	35	1	1/35	35.00
Sanwar Hossain	3	3	-	63	52	-	1	21.00	25	2	101	1	1/44	101.00
Khaled Mahmud	3	3	-	63	50	-	1	21.00	20	4	107	1	1/25	107.00
Khaled Mashud	3	3	1	40	40	-	-	20.00	17	-	76	0	-	-
Mohammad Sharif	2	2	1	14	10*	-	-	14.00	18.1	0	71	0	-	-
M Ashraful	3	3	-	37	16	-	-	12.33	1	0	17	0	-	-
Fahim Muntasir	2	2	1	1	1*	-	-	1.00	3	0	27	0	-	-
Moynurul Islam	1	1	1	1	1*	-	-	-	9	0	47	0	-	-
Habibul Hossain	1	1	-	0	-	-	-	-	5	0	30	0	-	-

ZIMBABWE														
Player	M	I	BATTING		HS	100s	50s	Ave	BOWLING					
			NO	Runs					O	M	R	W	BB	
Dion Ebrahim	3	3	1	211	121	1	1	105.50	25	1	102	6	3/26	17.00
Craig Wishart	3	3	2	152	79*	-	2	152.00	27.5	1	104	4	3/25	26.00
Stuart Carlisle	3	3	1	145	55*	-	1	72.50	16	1	60	5	3/29	12.00
Grant Flower	3	3	-	62	40	-	-	31.00	24	1	95	3	2/39	31.66
Andrew Flower	3	3	-	31	15	-	-	10.33	1	1	23	23*	-	-
Trevor Gripper	1	1	-	7	7	-	-	7.00	1	1	6	6*	-	-
Heath Steak	1	1	1	23	23*	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
Sean Ervine	1	1	1	6	6*	-	-	-	27	0	115	2	2/40	57.50
Mashrafi	3	3	-	115	66	-	1	38.33	3	0	20	1	1/20	20.00
Enamul Hoque	3	3	-	63	52	-	1	21.00	4	0	19	0	-	-
Monjurul Islam	3	3	-	63	50	-	1	21.00	2	0	11	0	-	-
Khaled Mahmud	3	3	-	63	50	-	1	21.00	2	0	11	0	-	-
Mohammad Rafique	3	3	-	63	50	-	1	21.00	2	0	11	0	-	-
Sharif	3	3	-	63	50	-	1	21.00	2	0	11	0	-	-
Fahim Muntasir	2	2	1	14	10*	-	-	14.00	3	0	27	0	-	-
Sanwar Hossain	3	3	-	63	52	-	1	21.00	9	0	47	0	-	-
Habibul Hossain	3	3	-	63	50	-	1	21.00	5	0	30	0	-	-
Habibul Bashar	3	3	-	63	50	-	1	21.00	5	0	30	0	-	-
Mohammad Ashraf	3	3	-	63	50	-	1	21.00	5	0	30	0	-	-

BCCI given Friday deadline



REUTERS, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has given the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) a Friday deadline to make a final decision on whether to play two Tests and a three-match one-day series in January.

ICC president Malcolm Speed on Tuesday wrote a letter to BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya, giving him until 06:30GMT on Friday to resolve the issue and end the row between the game's world governing body and the Indian board.

"I have...noted a number of troubling media comments attributed to you (Dalmiya) in recent days and it is important that the ICC's position is made very clear to you," Speed wrote in a detailed letter published on the ICC's official website.

"You will appreciate that BCCI and ICC are on a collision course and that the consequences for world cricket are of great significance.

"I will ask you to advise me by midday Friday, November 30, (Kolkata time) of your board's decision in respect of Virender Sehwag.

"In the meantime, might I respectfully suggest that you consult with the members of your board with a view to reaching a decision that is in the best interests of the great game of cricket."

Sehwag was given an immediate one-match Test ban by ICC match referee Mike Denness after showing dissent during India's second Test against South Africa in Port Elizabeth.

This decision, along with five others made by Denness at the time, sparked widespread Indian outrage and the third and final match of the series was stripped of its Test status by the ICC after home officials banned Denness from the ground.

However, Dalmiya said the just-concluded match is official and therefore Sehwag, who is not playing, has served his ban.

But the ICC said Sehwag remained ineligible for selection and England officials indicated they would support any decision by world cricket's ruling body.

India's chief selector Chandu Borde said on Tuesday he and his fellow selectors were under no pressure to select Sehwag.

"We will be selecting the team on merit. Other things don't come into it," Borde, a former India Test captain, told reporters.

Earlier, ICC president Malcolm Gray said he was optimistic that "common sense will prevail" and that next week's scheduled first Test between India and England in Mohali could go ahead as planned without the need for sanctions against India.

"I don't think it's time for threats or a quick fix," Gray told BBC radio on Tuesday.

"We just hope that common sense will prevail and (India) will see the light."

Bangladesh under-19 cricket team captain Nafis Iqbal talks to the press at the Conference Room of the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The team returned from Australia on November 24 ending a six-week successful tour. They won eight out of their 11 games.

Pushkin in passport scam?



SPORTS REPORTER

National hockey player Shahidullah Tito has alleged that Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) joint-secretary Zahidur Rahman Pushkin has made fraudulent use of his passport to traffic a person to England.

The young midfielder made the formal accusation against Pushkin at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday afternoon.

Speaking to the media, Tito, who was a member of the national squad that played in the World Cup qualifiers in Scotland in July-August this year, said Pushkin never returned

his passport after the team came home on August 11.

Tito alleged that his passport was with Pushkin, who was the team's manager. He added that the official employed a delaying tactic whenever he asked for his passport.

Tito claimed that after a few days, Pushkin had a private conversation with him where the BHF joint secretary confessed that he had used Tito's passport to do another person a 'favour.'

Pushkin also disclosed that the person in question had tried to travel to England with the passport of Tito by impersonating the player, but was apprehended at the boarding bridge of Zia International Airport, adding that the passport was seized and deposited at the British High Commission in Dhaka.

Tito said that after repeated requests, Pushkin took him to the High Commission on a couple of occasions. However, Pushkin stayed outside and instead sent the poor player inside to sort out the problem on his own.

Tito described how he had to encounter some strenuous interrogation by officials of the High Commission during his last visit after they suspected him as the main culprit of this passport scam. They wanted Tito to explain how his passport came into possession of a different person in a written statement.

Tito sought justice while requesting the mediators to help him.

Neither Pushkin nor any senior BHF official were available on Tuesday for their versions.

Is it 1-0 or 2-0?



AFP, Centurion

South Africa completed an innings and 73 runs win over India in an appropriately low-key ending to the unofficial Test at Centurion Park Tuesday when India's last two batsmen did not go to the wicket because of injury.

South Africa wrapped up the victory soon after lunch, beating looming storm clouds which threatened rain later in the afternoon.

South Africa led the official series 1-0 before the third Test lost its official status in a row over match referee Mike Denness.

Tuesday's win was set up when India's three major batsmen, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Venkatesh Laxman, were dismissed before lunch.

Javagal Srinath could not bat because of a broken left hand which he suffered while batting in the first innings, while Venkatesh Prasad had a sore neck.

Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini was South Africa's most successful bowler, dismissing Tendulkar and Laxman in the space of three overs.

South Africa took the second new ball two overs before lunch and Mornantau Hayward had almost immediate success when Harbhajan Singh was caught down the legside off his glove.

India started the final day on 118 for two and suffered an setback when Dravid was bowled for 23 by a superb delivery from Mornantau Hayward. A fast, full-length delivery was angled in at the batsman and straightened off the pitch to hit the off-stump.

Tendulkar and Laxman put on 58 for the fourth wicket and South Africa seemed to have missed a vital opportunity when Gary Kirsten dropped a simple catch at gully off Tendulkar.

India's star batsman was on 16 when he fended a lifting ball from Jacques Kallis in a gentle loop to Kirsten, normally one of South Africa's most reliable fielders, who fumbled the ball.