

Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY DECEMBER 9, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



Did U Know?

England has a history of inviting games. Water polo is also believed to be invented in England.



Arjuna Ranatunga

(Sri Lanka's cricketer-turned-politician) "I am going to be the first one to be successful."
Said last month when asked about his chances of success in politics in which the likes of Pakistan's Imran Khan have failed to thrive so far. The former national captain in fact won in the just-held parliamentary



What to WATCH

SET Max

West Indies vs Zimbabwe
Second ODI, Tri Series
Live at 9:50 am

ESPN

English Premier Football League
West Ham United vs Man United
9:30 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
12:00 pm

UEFA Champions League

Weekly Highlights at 3:00 pm
Serie A
Bologna vs Piacenza
4:00 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix

6:00 pm

English Premier Football League

Chelsea vs Sunderland
Live at 7:50 pm

Aston Villa vs Arsenal

Live at 10:00 pm

STAR Sports

World Cup Soccer Mix
9:30 am

Cricket Programming

Super Selector
11:00 pm

Gillette World Sports Special

Int'l Sports News
12:00 pm

Football Asia

1:00 pm

Primera Liga

Celta de Vigo vs Barcelona
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)



Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 14, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe one-day international?	Al-Shahriar	H Bqshar	D Ebrahim
2. Who became Inter-Continental Cup champions?	Boca Juniors	Real Madrid	Bayern Munich
3. How many runs did Habibul Bashar score in the first innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe?	117	109	
4. Which number Test venue is the MA Aziz Stadium?	73rd	66th	82nd
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (if any)			

Second day rained out

Kowshik worry for Bangladesh



SPORTS REPORTER

Rain robbed Bangladesh of a valuable match practice ahead of their two-Test series against hosts New Zealand as no play was possible on the second day against the District XI at Wanganui on Saturday.

Besides the lack of playing on different condition, the groin strain to their key bowler Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza Kowshik on the opening day of the three-day match served a real blow to the morale of Khaled Mashud's men.

Kowshik, who had knocked opener Robinson down on the first morning with a well-disguised bouncer, himself became an injury victim during the post-lunch warm-up session.

On the second day, medium pacer Khaled Mahmud could manage to bowl only four balls before play was abandoned for the day due to heavy shower.

The home side declared at their overnight score of 232-4 after an attempt to resume the match at 3.30pm failed due to more rain.

Weather permitting, the third and final day will continue today.

Assistant manager Tanjib Ahsan said that the injury of the 19-year-old tearaway was not too serious. But the fear is that he might be burnt out due to the amount of bowling he is being insensibly asked to do since coming into the national team.

Bangladesh will play another

four-day match, starting on December 12, at Auckland before the first Test begins in Hamilton on December 18.

Kowshik is a refreshing find in an ordinary Bangladesh attack. He troubled a lot of top class batsman since making his Test debut against Zimbabwe last month. His pace and



MASHRAFEE-BIN-MORTUZA

aggression was something that Bangladesh never had.

But at the same time the urgency on the part of the selectors to promote him as a true wicket-taking bowler apparently has done more harm than good.

The young right-arm paceman from Narail has been playing non-stop cricket since being picked for the Bangladesh A team's India tour.

His captain on that tour Khaled Mahmud admitted afterwards that Kowshik was being over-bowled.

"I had to use him more often than not because he was my only strike

bowler," said Mahmud on his return from India.

Kowshik however threw caution to the wind. Like any new kid on the block, he refused to acknowledge that he was being over-bowled.

But a few well-wishers, who have been following his rise to fame, think it is in the national interest to nurture Kowshik carefully.

They also feel that it would have been wiser had Kowshik not been played in the three-day match. Rather he should have been rested before the five-day contest against New Zealand.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day tour match between the New Zealand District Association XI and Bangladesh on Saturday:

NZ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION XI: First innings (overnight 232 for three)

P Ingram c Ashraf b K Mashud	31
G Robinson retired hurt	1
James lbw b Enamul	117
Fulton c K Mahmud b Ashraf	3
P McGlashan not out	59
G Todd not out	14
Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-1)	7
Total: (for 3 wickets declared in 100.4 overs)	232
Fall of wickets: 1-77; 2-85; 3-212	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	11	4	17	0
Manjurul	24	4	45	0
K Mahmud	15.4	5	34	0
Enamul	28	6	56	1
Ashraf	13	3	49	2
Aminul	7	0	27	0



The players of Bangladesh Army and Blue Berry are engaged in a brawl over a decision for a foul during the final match of the Office League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium on Saturday.

BFF seeks change in Pak fixture

BSS, Dhaka

The second and third one-day internationals (ODI) between Bangladesh and Pakistan are likely to be brought forward by one day following a request from Bangladesh Football Federation for the inaugural match of third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, officials said yesterday.

They also feel that it would have been wiser had Kowshik not been played in the three-day match. Rather he should have been rested before the five-day contest against New Zealand.

President of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) SA Sultan, MP, and general secretary Harunur Rashid yesterday called on State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman and sought his intervention.

The state minister in principle agreed to solve the issue, and talked to the newly appointed president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Ali Asghar, who promised to look into the matter.

"The problem will be solved amicably after a discussion between BFF president and BCB president in a day or two," BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid told BSS.

Blue Berry Office hockey champs

UNB, Dhaka

Blue Berry Travels and Tours emerged champions in the Metropolitan Office Hockey League dethroning Bangladesh Army Red 5-4 in the tie-breaker yesterday.

The final match of the six-team fray between the two teams was locked in 1-1 in the stipulated 70 minutes at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

Musa put Blue Berry ahead in the 22nd minute by a nice field goal while Rafiqul Islam equalised for Army in the 35th minute from a penalty-corner in the regulation time.

President of Bangladesh Hockey Federation and chief of Bangladesh Air Force Air-Vice Marshall M Rafiqul Islam was the chief guest and distributed prizes.

U-15 cricketers back on track

UNB, Dhaka

Touring Bangladesh Under-15 side returned to winning ways with an eight-wicket victory over Bengal Under-14 in a friendly match in Kolkata yesterday.

Sent in to bat, Bengal scored 172 for eight in the stipulated 45 overs with opener Rohan Banerjee making 64 off 133 balls hitting four boundaries and a six.

New ball bowler Sirajullah Khadem was the most successful Bangladeshi bowler taking three wickets.

Rezaul Islam and Zishan Abedin captured two wickets each.

In reply, Bangladesh reached their target losing two wickets in 40 overs.

Opener Mushfiqul Rahim made highest 72 in 102 deliveries featuring eight fours and a six.

Another opener Zishan added a useful 60 also off 102 balls, including eight fours.

One down Marshall Ayub and number four Najmus Sadat were unbeaten with 10 and 6 runs.

BRIEF SCORES
Bengal Under-14: 172 for 8 in 45 overs (Rohan 64, Apurba 31, Roy 16, Bablu not out 9, extras 39; Khadem 3/29, Rezaul 2/15, Zishan 2/30.)
Bangladesh Under-15: 174 for 2 in 40 overs (Mushfiqur 72, Zishan 60, Ayub not out 10, Najmus not out 6, extras 26; Bablu 1/28, Apurba 1/27.)

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Orchard Cricket School and Eleven Friends Club won their respective matches of the Bir Shrestha Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smitri cricket tournament at the local Railway playground yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Orchard Cricket School defeated Gourahanga Ekota Sangha by six wickets.

Winning the toss, Gourahanga batted first and went all out collecting 104 runs in 21.4 overs.

In reply, Orchard reached the target (106 runs) losing four wickets in 20.3 overs.

In the second match of the day, Eleven Friends Club defeated Rajshahi Primary Sports Training Centre by five wickets.

Sent into bat first, Primary Sports collected 114 runs losing nine wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Eleven Friends reached the target (114 runs) losing five wickets in 22.4 overs.

Vaas-t destruction

AFP, Colombo

Chaminda Vaas finished with a world-beating eight wickets as Sri Lanka skittled Zimbabwe out for a record-low 38 runs in the tri-series one-day opener here on Saturday.



IS IT AN EAGLE? NO IT'S VAAS! Sri Lanka paceman Chaminda Vaas follows through on yet another venomous delivery against Zimbabwe on Saturday. Vaas performed a world record spell of bowling taking eight for 19 runs in eight overs.

The match lasted just 20 overs and 108 minutes as Zimbabwe were shot out for the lowest ever one-day score in 15.4 overs.

Sri Lanka knocked out the required runs in 4.2 overs comfortably to win the match which had many records to its credit – the best bowling figures, the shortest match, the lowest total, and the lowest match-aggregate.

Vaas finished with 8-19 off eight overs to better teammate Muttiah Muralitharan's previous world mark of 7-30 against India at Sharjah last year.

The previous shortest one-day match between Pakistan and the West Indies at Cape Town in 1993, lasted 32.2 overs. Pakistan's 43 in that match was the lowest until left-arm seamer Vaas produced a dream spell here.

Interestingly Vaas returned his best figures in Tests and one-dayers in less than a week.

His best in Tests came on Monday when he took 7-71 in the third and final match against the West Indies at Colombo.

Vaas played a prominent role along with off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan in his team's maiden clean sweep in Test cricket, taking 26 wickets in three matches to emerge as the most successful bowler.

"My job was to support Muralitharan when playing for Sri Lanka, but I am happy to hold on my own in recent matches," he said.

"Colombo is fast turning out to be a special place for me."

Vaas struck with his first ball when he trapped Dion Ebrahim leg-before and then continued to trouble the batsmen with his controlled swing.

He removed the prolific Flower brothers, Grant and Andy, in the space of three deliveries before coming up with a hat-trick in his sixth over.

Carlisle holed out in the deep, while Craig Wishart and Tatenda Taibu were trapped lbw as Vaas became the first Sri Lankan to take a hat-trick in one-dayers.

Heath Streak and Muleki Nkala were his other victims.

Muralitharan took the remaining two wickets in four balls to ensure the Zimbabwe innings was over in double-quick time.

SCOREBOARD
Full scorecard of the tri-series one-day match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe on Saturday:

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LOWEST TEN IN ONE-DAYERS

Total	Overs	Team/Opponents	Venue	Date
38	15.4	Zimbabwe/Sri Lanka	Colombo	08/12/2001
43	19.5	Pakistan/West Indies	Cape Town	25/02/1993
45	40.3	Canada/England*	Manchester	13-14/06/1979
54	26.3	India/Sri Lanka	Sharjah	29/10/2000
55	28.3	Sri Lanka/West Indies	Sharjah	03/12/1986
63	25.5	India/Australia	Sydney	08/01/1981
64	35.5	New Zealand/Pakistan	Sharjah	15/04/1986
68	31.3	Scotland/West Indies	Leicester	27/05/1999
69	28.0	South Africa/Australia	Sydney	14/12/1993
70	25.2	Australia/England	Birmingham	04/06/1977
70	26.3	Australia/New Zealand	Adelaide	27/01/1986

(* The match between Canada and England was held over two days although it was a limited-overs game)

Akhtar cleared again?

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

The drawn-out controversy over Shoaib Akhtar's bowling action has taken a new twist with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announcing he had been cleared for a second time by Australian experts.

PCB director Brigadier Munawwar Rana told this news agency that he had received a new report on Shoaib from the University of Western Australia.

"The report confirms and reiterates its earlier findings of May 2001 that it is Shoaib's peculiar anatomical characteristics that lead to the erroneous perception of throwing," he said on Friday.

"The university has reaffirmed that Shoaib has an abnormal upper limb in his bowling arm since birth."

The 26-year-old Shoaib, dubbed the "Rawalpindi Express" and among the world's fastest and most exciting bowlers, saw his career

thrown into doubt when he was reported for a suspect action for the second time this year -- and the third time in all -- after a one-day tournament final in Sharjah in November.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) responded by appointing former West Indian pace bowler

reported for a third time within a 12-month period.

The PCB, however, has asked the ICC to examine the medical report from the University of Western Australia and had continued to argue Shoaib should be treated as a special case.

"The PCB is considering the fresh report and is in touch with the ICC to proceed with the matter in a logical and amicable way," Rana added.

"Our objective is that this matter is resolved properly and Shoaib can continue to bowl without any further undue pressure as soon as possible."

Shoaib, who has taken 46 wickets in 16 Tests but barely played over the past year, was first reported for throwing in Australia in 1999. He was reported again in a one-day international in New Zealand in March.

Biomechanics experts in Perth, however, where Shoaib was sent, argued that video analysis showed his action was legal. They said it looked as if his arm was straightening during delivery because of the

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John's anxious series

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

The Indian cricket board will decide whether to extend the contract of coach John Wright when the home Test series against England finishes later this month.

Former New Zealand skipper Wright, and the team's Australian physio Andrew Leipsis, met the Board of Control for Cricket in India chief Jagmohan Dalmiya on Saturday following his criticism of the team's poor away form and a series of injuries to key players.

The criticism has led to speculation whether the pair will be given fresh contracts after the Test series.

Dalmiya told Reuters on Saturday: "I have not decided any-

thing. I will also meet the players in Bangalore and then decide. I don't want to disturb anything in between."

India are due to play the final game of their three-Test series against England in Bangalore starting on December 19.

Wright, appointed India's first foreign coach in October last year, has come under increasing pressure to retain his job after a number of poor away performances this year.

India, while formidable at home, were held 1-1 in a two-Test series in Zimbabwe and then lost a three-Test series 2-1 in Sri Lanka.

Last month, they lost 1-0 in South Africa, losing the first Test and drawing the second before losing the unofficial third game by an innings.

Dalmiya said Saturday's meeting was part of a wider investigation into

the reasons for the team's inconsistency.

"I first met the selectors. This is step two. I want to interact with everyone concerned," he said.

Soon after becoming president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in September, Dalmiya sought written explanations from Wright and Leipsis for the team's slide in form.

He also asked for better communication between them and the selectors.

Wright told Reuters after the meeting: "We held constructive discussions. It was business," adding that he expected the board to have made a decision on his contract by December 23.

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