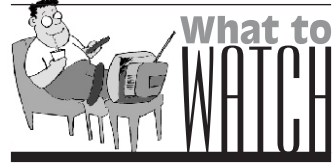


Did U Know?

The youngest baseball player ever was Joe Nuxal. He made his debut in the game at the age of 14.

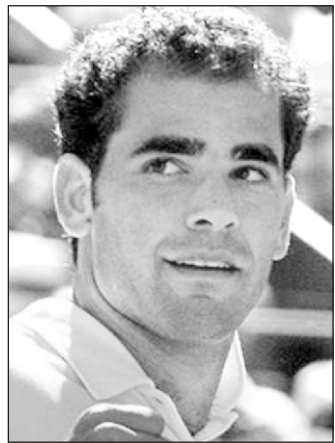


SET Max
Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 9:30 am

ESPN
South Africa vs Australia
Second ODI
Highlights at 8:00 am
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Southampton
11:00 am
Western Union World Football
1:00 pm

Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
9:00 pm

STAR Sports
Australian Open
Men/Women First Round
Live at 6:00 am
Sportsline Today
Sport News
Live at 12:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
8:30 pm
Australian Open
Day One
Highlights at 9:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 10:30 pm



Pete Sampras
(American tennis star)
"I had as normal a childhood as you can have while growing up being very serious about a sport. I lived at home until I was 17, so it wasn't as drastic as Agassi or Courier, who went away to Nick Bollettieri's Tennis Academy when they were 12. That's really quite a pretty big change, but I had a pretty normal childhood."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 164

Tick the Correct Answers Post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 18, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. What was Jacques Kallis' score in the MCG Test?	100	90	99
2. Michael Owen scored his 100th club goal against	Bolton	Fulham	Chelsea
3. Which football club won the Argentine Championship?	Racing	Boca	River
4. How many double century stand do Hayden and Langer have?		5	43
5. How many batsmen have played in 100 consecutive Tests?	3	4	5

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Rahman plays with press

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

With three days gone by after FIFA (Federation of International Football Associations) banned Bangladesh, the sports ministry of the BNP government is still sitting on the fence.

Fazlur Rahman, state minister for youth and sports, met with the press at the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday but could say nothing clear about his future course of action. The only change in the whole silly affair is that the sports boss has now woken up to the reality that no football-playing nation can violate the rules of its supreme authority, the FIFA.

Speaking to a crowded local press, the BNP lawmaker, who vowed not to bow down to the FIFA and AFC pressure only a few days back, failed to say what initiative his government would take to bring Bangladesh in the international fold as soon as possible.



FAZLUR RAHMAN
matches at national or club level (football) and the BFF's right to vote

at the FIFA and AFC congresses.

The politician, instead of acting sensibly, only juggled with words to evade inquisitive journalists. He only kept on assuring the media that he would take any measures needed to solve the crisis.

"It's a shame that FIFA has banned us. May be there was communication gaps... may be we have made some mistakes. But it was too harsh a decision to accept for a country like us," observed the state minister, adding that he would now do whatever necessary to lift the ban.

Rahman, seemingly oblivious to the statutes of FIFA and AFC (Asian Football Confederation), also asked the media to come forward with ideas that would help him overcome the crisis.

But when reminded that he could very well solve the problem by reinstating the elected committee that he dissolved on December 20, the sports boss went to play the evasive game again, giving ambiguous reply.

SEE PAGE 14



NO FIFA BAN ON THEM! (L) Goalkeeper (!) Wasim Akram of Pakistan grasps the ball while (R) Bangladesh forwards (!) Enamul Hoque and Aminul Islam are in pursuit of the ball during their respective practice sessions at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday.

Akram, Naimur get tickets

A team for WI tour named

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Sunday announced a 14-member Bangladesh A team for the Busta Cup in West Indies with Akram Khan as captain.

Naimur Rahman, the discarded national captain also found a place in the side that will be making the first-ever visit by any Bangladesh selection to the Caribbean.

The team leaves on January 20 and the first-class competition commences on January 25.

Akram is also joined by two other Test players in left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and all-rounder Mashfiqur Rahman.

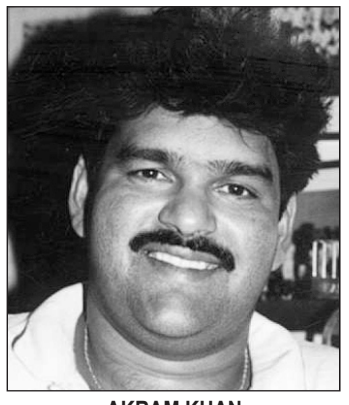
Both Akram and Naimur were dropped from the national team after the second Test against Zimbabwe in November.

The squad includes some promising players like paceman Tareq Aziz Khan, Mohammad Alamgir. The tour will provide the pair a chance to play in different conditions and a second meeting with West Indies legend Andy Roberts who visited Dhaka on a short coaching tour in August last year.

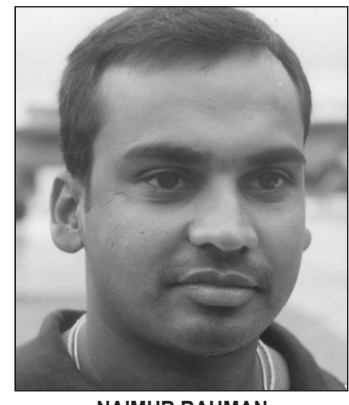
Besides, there are four spinners although the chief selector Mainul Haq might argue about Naimur's role. Naimur is the only right-arm

off-spinner in the side that has two left arm tweaker Manzarul Islam and Rafique while Mosaddik Hossain is the lone leg-spinner.

Golam Faruque as the coach ahead of experienced Dipu Rai Chowdhury and Gavin Benjafield as the trainer. The players have been asked



AKRAM KHAN
Young Anwar Hossain will stand behind the stumps. Interestingly, the Board named



NAIMUR RAHMAN
report to at Bangabandhu National Stadium at 11 am on Monday.

Schedule of Bangladesh A team in the Busta Cup:

Date	Against	Venue
Jan 25-28	West Indies "B"	Edgar Gilbert Park, St. Kitts, Leewards.
Feb 1-4	Leewards	Airport Cricket Ground, Antigua, Leewards
Feb 8-11	Trinidad	Tobago
Feb 15-18	Guyana	Bourda, Guyana
Feb 22-25	Barbados	Kensington Oval, Barbados
Mar 1-4	Windwards	Amos Vale, St. Vincent, Windwards
Mar 8-11	Jamaica	National Cricket Stadium, St. Lucia
Mar 15-18	Semifinals	to be announced
Mar 22-25	Final	to be announced

Khulna crush Ctg

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong returned empty handed from Khulna when the former champions conceded a 78-run defeat against the hosts in their limited-overs match of the Ispahani National Cricket League on Sunday.

Despite a valiant 82 by captain Akram Khan the port city team suffered the embarrassing defeat against a lowly Khulna, who successfully defended a fighting 204 in the reduced 45-overs-a-side match at the Jessore Stadium.

Akram, who will lead the Bangladesh A team to West Indies later this month, was the only batsman to offer any resistance after the visitors at one stage were reeling at 4-6.

The right-hander struck seven boundaries and two sixes in his 81-ball innings.

Earlier, the home team collected a respectable total with Tushar Imran and Niaz making 45 and 41 respectively.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Debabrotto	9	0	44	1
Safuiddin	9	0	32	4
Sumon	5	0	25	1
Suja	9	0	43	1
Sabbir	9	0	39	1
Faisal	4	0	15	0

CHITTAGONG
Anisul c Selim b A Kamal 0
Faisal c Niaz b Tariq 2
Ehsanul b Tariq 2
Azam c Manzarul b A Kamal 0
Sumon c Tushar b Tariq 1
Akram c Uzzal b Jamal 82
Sabbir run out 1
Murtaza c Biplob b Niaz 12
Debabrotto c b Manzarul 11
Suja not out 1
Sufuiddin c Nahidul b Manzarul 4
Extras: (lb-2, nb-4, w-4) 10
Total: (All out in 30 overs) 126
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-6, 3-6, 4-6, 5-7, 6-13, 7-45, 8-115, 9-122

Bowler	O	M	R	W
A Kamal	2.5	1	2	2
Tariq	7	2	17	3
Sajjadul	8	1	30	0
Niaz	3	0	28	1
Manzarul	5	0	25	2
Jamal	4	0	22	1

Result: Khulna won by 78 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Akram Khan.

Upul, Thilan pile on runs

Cricket

AFF, Galle

sweep after losing the first two Tests by an innings at Colombo and Kandy.

Skipper Stuart Carlisle was batting on 13 and Trevor Gripper on three after their team had failed to restrict Sri Lanka to a modest total.

Chandana and Samaraweera thwarted Zimbabwe with their record partnership, which bettered the previous best of 117 between Mahela Jayawardene and Chaminda Vaas against South Africa in 2000.

Samaraweera, averaging 109.75 in his last seven Tests, maintained his run-sprees with the third half-century as he provided valuable support to Chandana.

Both Chandana and Samaraweera, however, were not allowed to score freely as Zimbabwe

aimed at containing runs rather than taking wickets in the morning session, which produced just 47 in 29 overs.

The pair initially struggled as left-arm spinner Grant Flower bowled over the wicket and into the roughs and off-spinner Douglas Marillier bowled to a packed leg-side field to deny the batsmen scoring opportunities.

Chandana, who played his previous Test against South Africa at Colombo in August 2000, stepped up the run-rate in the post-lunch session with a flurry of shots as he reached his maiden Test half-century with five boundaries.

He used his feet remarkably well

SEE PAGE 14

Ray of hope for De Silva

INTERNET, Colombo

Veteran Sri Lankan batsman Aravinda de Silva has been handed a glimmer of hope that he may return to the national side.

A brand new four-man selection committee is in place and at a recent meeting they made it clear that the 36-year-old would be considered for selection for Sri Lanka's tour of England starting in April.

The four national selectors were appointed on Thursday by the Sports Minister and, headed by former captain Michael Tissera, they made immediate contact with De Silva.

The player, whose short stature and wristy technique have taken him to 19 Test match centuries must, however, prove his fitness to physio Alex Kontouri by 31 March.

De Silva, who fell out of shape and out of favour when England won the Test series in Sri Lanka last year, intends to show his commitment by taking an active role in the ongoing domestic cricket season for his club Nondescripts CC.

The selectors believe that a fully fit De Silva, scorer of 5,952 runs in his 89 Test career, would be an asset to the squad during what could be a difficult early summer tour.

But even if he does tour, De Silva may still struggle to claim a spot in the final eleven.

Sri Lanka's settled top seven all scored runs in recent series against India, West Indies and Zimbabwe.

Sri Lanka are due to play three Test matches and a one-day tri-series including India during a two and a half month tour of England.

Pak fly to Ctg today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Pakistan cricket team will fly to Chittagong this afternoon to play the second Test and the first one-day international against Bangladesh at the MA Aziz Stadium.

The second Test begins in the port city on January 16 while the limited-overs match is scheduled for January 22.

The home team, however, will reach there on Tuesday morning.

Both the visitors and Bangladesh team had unscheduled training sessions at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday, which was the supposed to be the final day of the first Test.

Meanwhile, the home team as

usual trained in the morning.

The players were busy trying to learn how to spin of their nemesis Danish Kaneria.

But the team management is yet to name a replacement for Mohammad Ashraf. The right-hander is due to fly to New Zealand on January 15 to join the Under-19 team in the World Youth Cup.

It is certain that Ashraf will not be considered for the second Test after a series of low scores. His place in the senior side is expected to be filled by Tushar Imran. Another young cricketer paceman Tareq Aziz Khan might play in the one-day series.

The young right-hander who was picked for the A team's tour of West Indies, might be involved in the one-day series as well and later join the Caribbean tour party.

BD U-19 in NZ

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-19 cricket team reached New Zealand on Sunday morning to take part in the ICC Under-19 World Cup. The 16-nation tournament will start from January 19 and continue up to February 9 in different parts of Auckland.

Mohammad Ashraf, who played in the first Test, and SK Russell, a replacement for injured right-arm seamer Mashrafe-bin-Murtaza, will join the team in next few days.

Bangladesh will play two practice matches before beginning their Group A round robin league campaign on January 20 against South Africa.

They will meet East Coast Boys in their first practice match at the DB Windsor Park in Auckland on January 16 and then face Suburbs New Lynn in their last match at the Cornwall Park on the following day.

Drafted in Group A along with strong South Africa, Canada and India, Bangladesh will play their next group match against Canada on January 22 at the Colin Maiden Park, the venue where Bangladesh would face South Africa.

Bangladesh, who have played in both the previous Plate finals, will play their last match against India on January 24 at the North Harbour Stadium.

Top two teams from each group will advance into the Super League while the two bottom-finishers will feature in the Plate championship.

GROUPINGS

Group A: Bangladesh, Canada, India and South Africa.
Group B: New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Namibia and Zimbabwe.
Group C: Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, England and Nepal.
Group D: Australia, Kenya, Scotland and West Indies.

SCHEDULE

PRACTICE MATCH

Date	Match	Venue
Jan 16	East Coast Bays v Bangladesh	DB Windsor Park No. 1
Jan 17	Suburbs New Lynn v Bangladesh	Cornwall Park No. 1

ROBIN LEAGUE

Date	Match	Venue
Jan 20	Bangladesh v South Africa	Colin Maiden Park No. 1
Jan 22	Bangladesh v Canada	Colin Maiden Park No. 1
Jan 24	Bangladesh v India	North Harbour Stadium

Note: All the venues are in Auckland.

Dhaka skipper dazzles

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Runaway leaders Dhaka completed their rout over Sylhet with a 29-run victory in the limited-overs contest of the Ispahani National Cricket League at the Mymensingh Stadium on Sunday.

Captain Naimur Rahman fashioned the victory for the home team with a dazzling half-century.

Dhaka's victory consolidated Dhaka's position at the top of the League table with 22 points, a massive lead of 14 points over second-placed Chittagong.

Dhaka won the four-day by seven wickets on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the limited-overs match of the Ispahani National Cricket League between Dhaka and Sylhet at Mymensingh Stadium on Sunday:

DHAKA
Jahangir lbw b Taposh 18
Rashedul c Hadi b Rezaul 0
Sohel c Imon b Imtiaz 55
Sajjad c Imon b Rezaul 63
Mazharul c Taposh b Imtiaz 3
Naimur run out 86
Rafique lbw b Taposh 4
Neyamur c Rana b Taposh 0
Saiful not out 15
Bikash c & b Mistu 0
Halim not out 3
Extras: (b-5, lb-5, nb-11, w-4) 25
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 272
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-46, 3-109, 4-123, 5-223, 6-244, 7-244, 8-258, 9-271

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rezaul	10	0	53	2
Taposh	10	1	53	3
Aloke	10	0	43	0
Parvez	5	0	31	0
Imtiaz	10	0	43	2
Mistu Das	5	0	34	1

SYLHET
Parvez c Rashedul b Bikash 2
Imtiaz c Naimur b Neyamur 5
Hadi c Jahangir b Neyamur 17
Nasrul b Naimur 55
Rajin c Jahangir b Saiful 65
Aloke c & b Rafique 35
Rana c Jahangir b Bikash 14
Rezaul c Mazharul b Saiful 1
Taposh c Soheli b Bikash 7
Mistu not out 9
Imon run out 3
Extras: (b-6, lb-9, nb-3, w-13) 31
Total: (All out in 49 overs) 243
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-23, 3-45, 4-117, 5-201, 6-209, 7-211, 8-229

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bikash	9	1	41	3
Neyamur	10	0	62	2
Saiful	10	0	27	2
Rafique	10	0	47	1
Naimur	10	0	46	1

Result: Dhaka won by 29 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Naimur Rahman.