



Did U Know?

The full title of the England's FA Cup competition is Football Association Challenge Cup.



David Beckham
(England soccer superstar)
"Someone asked me recently which was the better feeling leading out the England team as captain or stepping out to play for United, I can only say that I cannot separate the two. Both give me an equal thrill."



- ESPN**
- Serie A
 - Highlights at 11:00 am
 - Football Focus
 - 12:00 pm
 - English Premier Football League
 - Newcastle United vs Arsenal
 - 6:30 pm
 - Sportscentre Hindi**
 - Sport News
 - Live at 8:30 pm
 - English Premier Football League**
 - Liverpool vs Newcastle United
 - Live at 1:55 am (Thursday)
 - STAR Sports**
 - Sportsline Today
 - Sport News
 - 8:00 am
 - Primera Liga
 - Betis vs Villareal
 - 8:30 am
 - English Premier Football League
 - Arsenal vs Newcastle United
 - 1:00 pm
 - Gillette World Sports Special
 - Int'l Sports News
 - 5:30 pm
 - Sportsline Tonight**
 - Sport News
 - Live at 8:00 pm
 - World Cup Soccer Mix
 - 8:30 pm
 - Australia vs New Zealand
 - Fourth ODI
 - Highlights at 9:30 pm
 - Sportsline Tonight
 - Sport News
 - 10:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 167

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star** Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm March 15, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the U-19 cricket World Cup?
Australia South Africa New Zealand
- Who became African Nations Cup football champions?
Cameroon Senegal Ghana
- What was the result of the first ever Test series in Sharjah between Pakistan and West Indies?
1-0 2-01-1
- Who clinched the National junior chess title?
Jamaluddin Sagar
- Who won the Pan-Pacific Open tennis title?
Narasimha Sadasivaiah Kournikova

Class. Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

Kamal Asghar's choice

Board kept in the dark



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar confirmed on Tuesday that former Pakistan paceman Mohsin Kamal will be the new coach of the national team.

"The negotiations with him (Mohsin) are at the final stages and we will let you know the details of the contract in one or two days," said Asghar while responding positively to a Reuters report from Lahore.

The international news agency on Monday quoted Mohsin Kamal as saying, "Everything is finalised and I will be joining them in April. I will be coaching their national team."

Mohsin will replace Australian coach Trevor Chappell, who took over the demanding job from South African Eddie Barlow exactly a year ago.

Kamal is set to become Bangladesh's sixth foreign coach that began with the brief stint of present Pakistani coach Mudassar Nazar way back in 1984. The other illustrious incumbents included 1983 Indian World Cup hero Mohinder Amarnath and legendary West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge.

Kamal, the 39-year-old fast bowler, played nine Tests and 19 one-day internationals for Pakistan. He is currently working with the PCB's bowling advisory group.

The latest development fulfilled a pledge of Asghar, who was desperately looking for a replacement

following a string of dismal performances by the national team since Bangladesh were granted Test status.

The international newcomers have lost ten of their eleven Test matches including two heavy defeats against Pakistan at home in January.

"Also we are going to get Ali Zia



MOHSIN KAMAL

as trainer with Mohsin Kamal. The Pakistani Cricket Board has made the arrangements. I think it will also fulfil the desire of the national cricketers," said the BCB boss while talking to The Daily Star Sport from his Gulshan office.

Trevor, who is now on leave, was not a 'good motivator' according to some senior players including skipper Khaled Mashud in a close-door meeting with Asghar last month.

The former Sri Lankan fielding coach was under contract until the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, but recently Asghar made it no secret

that he wanted to replace him.

"The cricketers were keen on having a coach from the sub-continent. So, I thought that Kamal was the right man for the job," said the Khulna lawmaker.

Although the BCB president did not disclose the terms of the contract, however, he made it very clear that Kamal would only discharge the duties of national coach and not a director of coaching like his predecessors.

While Kamal's appointment is only a matter of days away, the whole episode is still not entirely clear for most of the BCB directors.

"I have heard that the contract is almost finalised but I was not in the negotiations," said chairman of the Cricket Committee Syed Ashraf Hui.

Other Board directors also expressed their ignorance about the matter since no official meeting has taken place for quite a while.

Normally, the procedure is that policy matters like the appointment of a new coach has to be discussed in a Board meeting before making a final decision.

It is unique in the history of Bangladesh cricket that the Board president went out of his way to find a suitable coach just to satisfy the whims of certain players, who have no business dictating the policy affairs.

Critics now feel that if the president and the players alone are capable of deciding the course of action then what is the point of keeping numerous standing committees?

Tragic!

SPORTS REPORTER

Snigdha Sultana Helen, a 17-year-old cyclist from Khulna, died in a tragic road accident in the early hours of Tuesday while training for the forthcoming seventh Bangladesh Games on the Dhaka-Mawa Road.

A speeding bus ran over her at 6:30 am when she was training along with some other cyclists.

She was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

Her body was sent to Khulna for burial later in the evening.

Helen came to the capital last year from Phultala, Khulna to appear before a trial of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC). But she failed to impress the BJMC selectors and joined Manikganj DSA to take part in the just concluded national cycling championship.

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), the organiser of the Bangladesh Games, has expressed their deep shock over the death of the athlete.

FIFA's \$ 4-lakh 'Goal' boost for BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

FIFA have approved Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)'s application to be included in the 'Goal' project and granted 400,000 US dollars for the development of the game in the country.

This was confirmed by world football's governing body through a letter to the BFF on Tuesday.

Signed by FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffin, the letter said that the project proposal included in the BFF application was passed in an approval session at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich on March 4.

The letter also assured BFF of another 96,000 USD from its financial assistance programme for the 'Goal' project.

The letter comes as a big boost for the BFF, which had submitted its plan through FIFA development officer in Colombo, Manilal Fernando, last month.

Ispahani Nat'l League Two matches start today

SPORTS REPORTER

The penultimate round of the Ispahani National Cricket League begins today with two matches at different venues across the country.

Second placed Rajshahi will take on Sylhet at the Rajshahi Stadium while Barisal will host Khulna in the other match at the Barisal Stadium.

With Dhaka, already assured of the title having collected 48 points, second placed Rajshahi, who have earned 30 points so far, will be looking for a win against the visitors to consolidate their position.

Sylhet have 14 points to their credit.

The other match has only academic importance as both Barisal and Khulna are destined to finish at the bottom two spots of the table. Khulna have collected 12 points so far while Barisal are yet to secure a point Chittagong, the other team are currently third with 22 points.

National Chess Niaz beats Sumon

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed beat Taibur Rahman Sumon in the only game of the Professor Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Championship on Tuesday.

Niaz played with whites against the Sicilian Defence of Sumon and won the board after 32 moves.

The match was originally scheduled in the second round of the 11-round robin league.

For other players, it was a rest day on Tuesday.

The seventh round begins today at the same venue at 3 pm.

Today's matches: Zia v. Ejaz, Rakib v. Sumon, Shakil v. Lavlu, Rajib v. Reefat, Pallab v. Niaz and Shiplu v. Nasir.

Points table: 5-5-Zia, 5-Rakib, 4-Rajib, 3.5-Reefat, Niaz, Shakil, 3-Nasir, 2.5-Shiplu, 2-Lavlu, 1.5-Sumon, Ejaz and 0.5-Pollab.

Games in a quagmire

BOA being ceremony-happy



HASAN MASOOD

The preparation for the Seventh Bangladesh Games remains in the biggest shambles as the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has been spending all of its energies and money on making the opening and closing ceremonies a grand success.

Although BOA has included a record 25-discipline in the Games, but most of the top events may not be up to any standard because of the indifference of the organisers.

With less than a week left before the Games start on March 11 in the capital, neither the BOA nor the National Sports Council could assure whether the electronic timing and photo finish devices would be in place for the track events of athletics.

A local company installed the devices in 1993 prior to the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games but those costly equipment had gone out of order within three years, thanks to the poor maintenance of its owner NSC.

Talking to The Daily Star Sports,

a NSC official disclosed that that sophisticated equipment had never been kept in an air-conditioned room as per requirement and that caused the main damage.

"We are consulting with a local company to find out whether it can be repaired before the athletics competition," said the official, preferring not to be named.

But BOA secretary general Zafar Imam played down the odds, claiming that everything will be all right by March 7.

Meanwhile, the venue for the swimming competition has been shifted without any knowledge of the National Swimming Complex authority in Mirpur. It will now be held at the Army Swimming Pool at Dhaka Cantonment.

"The diving platform in Mirpur is not properly built. That's why we are going for the Army Stadium," Zafar reasoned.

But insiders revealed that the DESA (Dhaka Electric Supply Authority) has cut off power supply having failed to realise the outstanding electricity bills, amounting Taka 26 lakh, to the NSC, the owner of National Swimming Complex. So, BOA had no other alternatives other

than going to the Army pool.

The central air-conditioning system at the near by Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium, the venue of four disciplines, might also not hum for a single time during the Games for the same reason.

The BOA however managed to heave a huge sigh of relief solving a natural gas crisis. The lighting of torch at the Bangladesh National Stadium for the opening ceremony was also in serious doubt as the Titas Gas severed its line for unpaid bills, amounting reportedly Taka 8.16 lakh, to NSC. The crisis could be solved on Monday by paying off half the amount.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cycling Federation (BCF) is yet to know where it would host the short distance competitions. Although BCF asked the Bangladesh National Stadium for this purpose, but it was learnt that BOA would not allot it because of the rehearsals for the opening and closing ceremonies.

The BOA has planned to spend around Taka 1.75 crore on the two 'high-profile' ceremonies. It is going to eat away half of the total budget for the Games.

India, Pakistan ousted



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Australia brushed aside a scare from improved India to win 4-3, while South Korea were shocked 2-0 by England in field hockey's World Cup here on Tuesday.

The Aussies, already confirmed for the semifinals as the top team from Pool B, fought back from a 1-2 deficit in the 50th minute by scoring three goals in the last 20 minutes.

Australia ended the league with seven straight wins, the only team in the 16-nation tournament to achieve the feat.

The Koreans were stunned by two goals in as many minutes by England's Dave Mathews, but still look well-placed to take the second semifinal berth from Pool B.

Only a highly unlikely 9-0 win by Malaysia over Poland in the final league encounter later on Tuesday will deny the Koreans a place in the lastfour.

The Indians, showing the flair that was missing under sacked coach Cedric D'Souza, played their best match of the tournament to frighten the Aussies.



Atif Bashir of Pakistan (R) sends Germany's Christian Mayerhofer the wrong way in their Men's World Cup hockey match in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Sun shines on BD A



AP, Kingstown

Bangladesh A prevented a victory for Windward Islands team, inspired by Junior Murray's third century of the season and the ninth of his first-class career in the Busta Cup match.

Leg-spinner Mosaddek Hossain took five wickets for 81 runs off 29.2 probing overs, as he bowled the Bangladeshi reserves to a nail-biting eight-run victory in the sixth-round match on Monday.

Set a challenging victory target of 301 runs, the Windwards, with Murray at the forefront of this runs chase, put up a gallant fight before falling for 292.

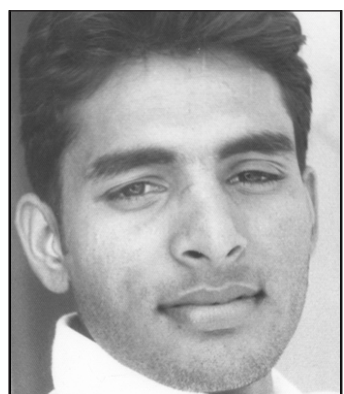
After Murray smashed a magnificent 125, adorned by 10 fours and two sixes off 126 balls in 186 minutes, the Windwards slumped to 228 for eight before fast bowler Fernix Thomas, batting at No 10, raised the home teams hope of a dramatic victory.

Thomas made 31 in 81 minutes off 63 balls, adding vital runs with Alonzo Jackson (25) and last-man Kenroy Peters (six not out) to inch the Windwards to their victory target of 301.

However, Mosaddek produced a full-length delivery in the "block hole," which deceived Thomas and shattered his stumps much to the disappointment of the fans and the

rest of the team.

Earlier, Murray, who has been overlooked by the West Indies selectors after playing 31 Tests, received important support from opener Devon Sith, who made 55 and pushed his seasons aggregate to 620 runs.



TUSHAR ... m-o-m

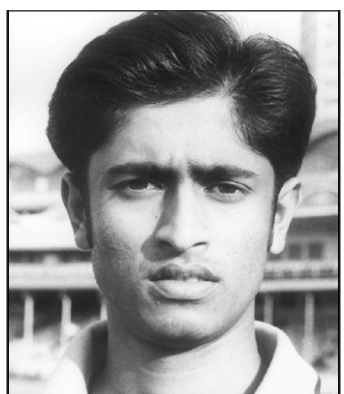
The Windwards, resuming from 28 for one overnight, had a double setback in an eventual sixth over of the day, when night-watchman Shane Shillingford (2) and vice-captain John Eugene (0) were removed with consecutive deliveries from off-spinner Naimur Rahman.

However, Murray joined Smith and the pair featured in a rousing fourth-wicket stand of 117 runs. Murray, showing his intentions from the second ball he faced when

he hoisted Naimur for a huge six

onto the Michael Findlay Stand, raced to his fifty off just 44 balls in 38 minutes with seven fours and two sixes, and with the solid Smith took the score to 139 for three at lunch.

On resumption, Smith, who became the first Windwards bats-



MOSADDEK ... 5 for 81

man to cross the 600-mark in regional cricket when he reached 35, posted his second fifty of match.

His downfall, however came immediately after play resumed following a 47-minute stoppage for rain when he tried to turn a delivery from pacer Tareq Aziz Khan and was ruled leg before wicket. Clyde Telesford joined Murray, and after

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ATC final today



AFP, Lahore

In-form Pakistan take on Sri Lanka in the final of the second Asian Test Championship here at the Gaddafi Stadium starting Wednesday amid tight security.

The match marks the return of international cricket to Pakistan after the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, and Washington's subsequent bombing campaign in Afghanistan.

Pakistan played only one home Test last year, against Bangladesh in August. New Zealand cancelled their tour of Pakistan four days after the attacks while Pakistan's home series against the West Indies was shifted to Sharjah.

A large contingent of police will be deployed at Wednesday's match but both sides say they are unconcerned over security issues.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka are both expected to battle hard in the biennial championship final, which was devalued by India's pullout last year.

"It's disappointing India did not participate in this Championship but the show must go on and we are ready to put up our best show to become the new Asian champions," Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya said.

"I have said this before and I maintain that players are relaxed and we don't have any security worries."

Pakistan won the first Asian Championship beating Sri Lanka in the final at Dhaka, Bangladesh, by an

innings and 175 runs in 1998-99.

India participated in the Championship but has boycotted Pakistan since June 2000 over their Kashmir dispute. Their under-19 teams, however, met in the league game in the recently concluded Junior World Cup in New Zealand.

"Both teams are playing well recently so it will be an exciting Test match," Jayasuriya said.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan holds the key for the visitors, having run through Pakistan batting line-ups in Sri Lanka's last

two series wins in Pakistan in 1995-96 and 1999-2000.

"Muralitharan is our key player but other bowlers are also doing well so it would be a team effort," Jayasuriya said.

The demon spin-king took 80 wickets in the last calendar year to garner consecutive wins in his team's last eight Tests -- all at home.

Pakistan hope to counter Muralitharan through the well-

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Grand Master Niaz Murshed (L) is engrossed in cerebral warfare with Taibur Rahman in the Prof Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Championship on Tuesday.