



Did U Know?

Guys, longhaired players and players with earrings did not have a future in the Argentine national side as long as Daniel Passarella was the coach. He set strict rules for the candidates to the tournament in France. Even Gabriel Batistuta got his hair cut, not to miss the World Cup.



ESPN

India vs Sri Lanka
Ninth ODI, NatWest Series
Repeat at 8:00 am
Taped Version at 7:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
India vs Sri Lanka
Ninth ODI, Highlights
Same Day Delay at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

England vs Sri Lanka
Seventh ODI, NatWest Series
Highlights
Taped Version at 2:00 pm
England vs India
Eighth ODI, NatWest Series
Highlights
Taped Version at 3:30 pm
Football Mundial
Repeat at 5:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Football Asia
Taped Version at 8:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Fabien Barthez
(French goalkeeper)
"It's sad. The only thing to do is to get going again as soon as possible."

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 175

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
July 19, 2002 and draw
shortly afterwards

| | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. What was the result of the 2002 World Cup final between Brazil and Germany? | 2-1 | 1-0 | 2-0 |
| 2. Who won the Golden Ball award? | Rivaldo | Miroslav Klose | Oliver Kahn |
| 3. Who became the top scorer in the 2002 World Cup? | Michael | Ronaldinho | Ronaldo |
| 4. How many goals did Ronaldo score during the 2002 World Cup finals? | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 5. Name the former coach of the South Korean national football team. | | | |
| Name | | | |
| Class | Roll No. | | |
| School Address | | | |
| Phone: (If any) | | | |

Sachin leads India's run charge

SPORTS REPORTER

Sachin Tendulkar was not out on 61 off 52 balls as India were on course to score a huge total against Sri Lanka in the last league match of the NatWest triangular one-day tournament in Bristol yesterday. At the end of the 29th over India made 182 after electing to bat.

Answer NSC

Parking lot killing off playground

SPORTS REPORTER

A controversial parking lot for rickshaw-vans on the National Sports Council (NSC) land is spoiling the environment and surroundings of the Bangabandhu National Stadium and its adjoining areas.

A corner of the field, adjacent to the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium and Dhaka Stadium Jame Masjid, was shockingly leased out to a so called samity (association) of rickshaw-vans by the NSC about three months back. As a result of this allotment, the once popular playground got shrunked to a tiny piece of land.

Frequent visitors to the area complain that there has been a radical change in atmosphere after the van drivers moved in.

The area is now better described as a 'crime zone' with theft and mugging incidents taking place every alternate day. What is more there has been a sudden influx of drug addicts and prostitutes.

What once was an ideal patch of land for youngsters to practice various sports, has suddenly become a muddy waterlogged place full of potholes as vans enter the parking lot through the field. Besides, by encircling nearly one-fourth of the ground with barbed wires, the van-owners have made it practically impossible for the place to be used for any sports activities.

"This was a quiet place with sports activities its priority. There were three cement cricket pitches exactly where the vans are parked now. Cricket, handball, kho-kho were regular features in afternoons. Now you will find only these vans here," said a shop owner at the Hockey Stadium.

Declined to be named citing the samity's strong political connection, he said, "After the vans arrived, our business too have suffered as people don't feel secure coming here. Office bearers and customers are always prone to attacks of snatchers," he added.

People there allege that the van-drivers and their associates who stay in the area at night have links with criminals – mainly pimps and drugs dealers. They have also built temporary sheds along the wall of the mosque. As soon as the shops shut down in the afternoon, heroine addicts and prostitutes start arriving.

"This is an open secret. Everybody knows what happens here. An area meant for sports and business is now fast becoming the domain of anti-social elements," said a sports organiser, who owns a shop in the stadium market.

"But no one dares to speak out or take action against them as we all know political stalwarts and crime dons are behind them. I have also fear for my life and have a business here. So, don't quote me, please," he pleaded.

Shopkeepers and businessman of the area claim that they have requested the NSC several times to re-locate the parking lot. But for some mysterious reason, the NSC authorities have remained silent on the issue. There are allegations that a number of unscrupulous NSC officials in collusion with some associates of an influential minister from Dhaka constituency have made the deal with the van owners and are earning a hefty sum in exchange.

"The NSC's director of administration Major (ret'd) Enam is responsible for allotting spaces in the Stadium area. He should tell what led him to turn a sports ground into parking lot?" asked the shop owner. Enam neither could be reached at his office nor through his cell phone over the last three days.

Another electronics goods seller highlighted the dubious standard of NSC. "At the main entrance of the BNS, a signboard clearly states that rickshaws and rickshaw-vans are not allowed to enter between 8am to 9pm. But, you can see with your own eyes that vans and rickshaws are moving freely inside the Stadium premises day and night."

"Only the vans that transport goods to the shops at the Stadium and forth are supposed to be parked here. But most of the vans you see here are used for canvassing local cinema hits. Is this a free-for-all parking lot?"

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VAN-SPORT! Rickshaw-vans parked inside the stand built on a play-ground adjacent to the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Cricketers open SL tour today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricketers begin their Sri Lanka tour with a three-day practice match against Sri Lanka A team at the Tyrone Fernando Stadium in Morotawa today.

The Test babes after reaching Colombo on Wednesday night, had a good practice session in the Sri Lankan capital yesterday afternoon.

Besides, the team management attended a press briefing in the evening.

Meanwhile, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) announced a 15-member team for the three-dayer. Prasanna Jayawardena is the captain.

The tourists, led by wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud, are scheduled to play another three-day match against the Sri Lankan Development squad at the NCC

ground in Colombo from July 16 to 18 before the first Test starts at the P Sara Stadium on July 21.

SQUADS

BANGLADESH: Khaled Mashud (captain), Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam, Akram Khan, Al-Shahriar, Enamul Hoque, Ehsanul Haque, Hannan Sarkar, Mohammad Ashraf, Tushar Imran, Fahim Muntasir, Monjurul Islam, Tareq Aziz Khan, Alamgir Kabir and Talha Jubayer.

SRI LANKA A: Prasanna Jayawardena (Captain), Ian Daniel, T.M. Dilshan, Jehan Mubarak, Anushka Polonowita, Pulasthi Guneratne, Akalanka Ganegama, Kaushal Lokurachchi, M. Pushpakumara, S. Weerakoon, Michael Vandort, Ishara Amarasinghe, Dammika Perera, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Chinthaka Jayasinghe.

League starts July 15

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra open the defence of their Premier Division League title on Monday when they meet promotees Badda Jagarani Sangsad on the inaugural day of the National Bank Senior Division Football at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Ten teams would be featured in the elite club competition of the country, while another ten are involved in the First Division.

Yet with only four days to go before kick-off, the Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) was yet to release the fixture. It was learnt they would do so today.

This was confirmed by DMFLC joint-secretary Saleh Zaman Selim yesterday.

Besides Abahani, the country's two other heavyweights are now engaged in hectic preparations.

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktijoddha Sangsad after organising themselves in last month's inter-club transfer, have gone in quest of finding foreign coaches.

While Abahani and Muktijoddha have so far been unable to name names, however, Mohammedan officials were reportedly trying to persuade former coach Man Yang Kang of South Korea to return to the popular Motijheel club.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has organised a meeting tomorrow with the players and officials of all the 20 participating clubs and referees to make them aware of the latest FIFA rules on the game which would be applied in the league.

The meeting will start at the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani at 10 am.

PREMIER DIVISION: Abahani Krira Chakra, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, Rahmatganj

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Musharraf to act

Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf said Thursday he would personally intervene to pressure the Australian cricket team into touring this violence-wracked nation.

Australia's three-Test series in Pakistan slated for October is in danger of being shifted to another country, possibly Bangladesh, because of widespread security fears.

But Musharraf, while declaring his national team was the best in the world, said he would contact the Australian government to ensure that the tour would go ahead as originally planned in Pakistan.

"There will definitely be a government (in Islamabad) to convince the Australians to tour Pakistan," Musharraf told the team during a reception to celebrate their one-day series win last month in Australia.

Foreign teams have raised fears for their safety after two bomb blasts in May and June left 26 people dead

in Karachi.

The first blast was outside the hotel where the New Zealand team was staying and the attack forced the Kiwis to cut short their tour by one Test.

Pakistan already seems to have accepted it has lost home rights for a tri-series one-day tournament



PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

between Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand slated for August-September.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said this week it was awaiting

the green light from Australia and New Zealand to shift the series to Kenya.

Musharraf declared his commitment to attracting the Australians to Pakistan while speaking to all 13 members of the Pakistan team at an hour-long reception held to celebrate their 2-1 win over in Australia in the Super Challenge one-day series last month.

Musharraf, who is also the patron of the PCB, said each team member and official would receive half a million rupees (8,300 dollars) for their efforts in Australia and boasted the national team was now top of the world.

"After you (team) have beaten Australia, I have no doubt you can beat any team in the world and win next year's World Cup for the nation," he said.

"The whole nation watches you all the time and my mother is also a keen follower of cricket matches."

Pakistan finished runners-up to Australia in the last World Cup held in England in 1999 and will start the eighth World Cup in South Africa next February-March as one of the favourites.

Bangladesh A camp 26 cricketers called up

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Chief selector Mainul Huq yesterday called up 26 cricketers for the selection camp of the Bangladesh A team.

There are six fresh faces on the list. They are Rajshahi's middle-order batsman Hasanuzzaman Rozel, leg-spinner Arfat Sunny, Arif Hossain Runayat Huq, Ashrafal Huq and Dhima Ghosh.

Mainul Huq also recalled national opener Javed Omar, who did not attend the national camp for Sri Lanka tour due to injury.

Pakistani coach Ali Zia will run the camp, starting at the BKSP in Savar on July 14. The selected cricketers have been asked to report the PCB's BNS office at 3pm on Sunday.

The selected cricketers are: Naimur Rahman, Khaled Mahmud, Mohammed Rafique, Taposh Kumar Baishya, Alok Kapali, Anwar Hossain Munir, Rafiqul Islam, Javed Omar, Nafees Iqbal, Muniruzzaman, Mazharul Haq, Sanwar Hossain, Hasanuzzaman Rozel, Arfat Sunny, Monjurul Islam Rana, Arif Hossain, Rubayet Huq, Ashrafal Huq Shanto, Hasanuzzaman, Mushfiqur Rahman, Anwar Hossain, Sajjad Kadir S Hoque Bidyt, Dhiman Ghosh, Sabbir Khan and Mosaddeq Hossain.

Waqar, who returned from Australia, said the board might have its own point of view on the subject. But he clearly said he wanted Shoab to participate in the competition. "It will settle the issue of who is the fastest once and for all," Waqar said.

PCB chairman Lt Gen Tahir Zia last month held Shoab back and said he wanted his pacer to concentrate on wicket ahead.

Shoab broke the 100-mile barrier against New Zealand at Lahore in the third one-day international. But the International Cricket Council (ICC) says the dubious record remains unofficial.

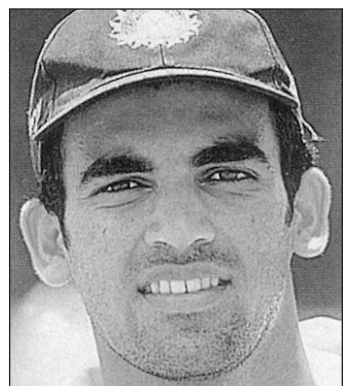
Despite ICC refusing to officially accept Shoab's record, the Rawalpindi Express remains the world's fastest bowler.

Some pace at last

Cricket

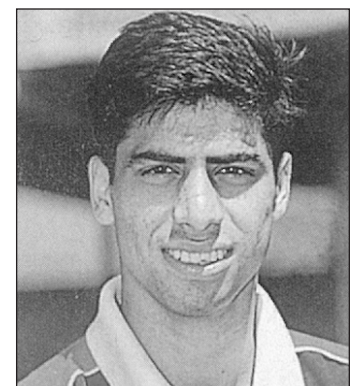
INTERNET, London

India have an almost unerring knack of discovering world-class batsmen or spinners, but unearthing a new pace bowler is unusual.



ZAHEER KHAN

When two with the potential to lead the Indian attack for years to come emerge at the same time, therefore, the raising of eyebrows is understandable.



ASHISH NEHRA

despite both being southpaws, with the more rangy Nehra providing economy while Zaheer, like his partner also 23, offers a threat at either end of the innings.

Left-arm duo Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra, who both made their debut within the last two years, have stepped up to take responsibility in the absence of veteran seamer Javagal Srinath, and been highly impressive in the NatWest Series in doing so.

The pair complement each other

That threat has seen him rise to top wicket-taker in the triangular tournament, two ahead of nearest rivals, Sri Lankan pair Chaminda Vaas and Dilhara Fernando, on 10.

That total has been wracked up in just four full matches and a rain-ruined game at Chester-le-Street, when England faced just 12 full overs.

Zaheer, who amazingly did not start playing cricket until he was 17, will get the chance to add to his haul tomorrow against Sri Lanka at Bristol and in the final against England at Lord's on Saturday.

"I've found the conditions here very helpful for the seamers, even if there is nothing in the pitch you can extract something in the air," he said. "That has helped me a lot."

"I have adapted to the conditions and I have confidence that I can be successful in one-dayers. This series has definitely helped me in performing better in international cricket."

Fast-tracked to the national side after impressing Dennis Lillee at the Indian fast-bowling academy in Chennai, Zaheer credits the

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Complainants beware

Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

Celebrated Pakistan pacer Wasim Akram Thursday backed plans to take action against those accusing national players of match-fixing based on flimsy evidence.

"It's better late than never and I am relieved that if a process is evolved then no one would come up with baseless allegations against the Pakistan team and players," Wasim told this news agency.

"I had enough of it. So it would come as a big relief for me and I am preparing to take my accusers to court in the very near future."

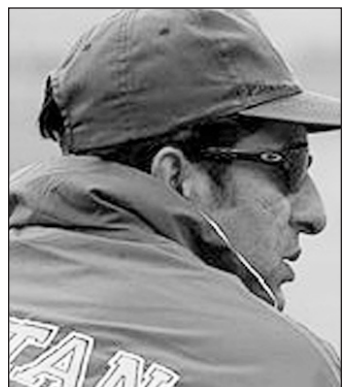
Pakistan Cricket Board Thursday said it was evolving a system to take action against those who levelled match-fixing allegations without sufficient evidence.

A judicial probe by Lahore High Court judge Justice Karamat Bhandari last month cleared the Pakistan team and its players of match-fixing charges in the 1999 World Cup held in England.

Pakistan's two surprising defeats -- against minnows Bangladesh by 62 runs and against India by 47 runs -- were widely alleged to have been rigged.

The Bhandari commission recommended action should be taken against accusers and directed players to take to court those who point fingers at them without proof.

The 36-year-old Wasim, who led Pakistan to become runners-up in the 1999 World Cup, said the commission's findings must end the controversy once and for all.



WASIM AKRAM

"We heard the news in Australia and it has come as a huge relief for a person like me who was subjected to three or four inquiries... and mud slinging."

"This will improve the image of Pakistan cricket and players who have been wrongly tarnished," he said.

Wasim was one of six Pakistani players fined for non-cooperation with Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum's inquiry held in 1998 and 1999.

Former Pakistan pacer Aatur Rehman, now serving a life ban for perjury, alleged Wasim paid him 300,000 rupees (5,000 dollars) to under perform in a one-day game in New Zealand in 1994.

Wasim, who has announced he will quit the game after next year's World Cup in South Africa, said he is satisfied with the steps taken to curb match-fixing.

"The present Pakistan Cricket Board has done a lot, held neutral inquiries and the International Cricket Council (ICC) is doing its utmost."

The former captain rejected fears that if Pakistan loses again such allegations will creep up again.

"Pakistan team is playing as a unit and would be a team to watch in the World Cup so I don't fear any such thing."

"The PCB and its legal adviser will consult the Law Ministry and evolve a system through which we can take all those accusers to task who fail to provide any proof," said PCB chairman Tahir Zia.

"With two inquiries we have

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King of good times

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Adam Gilchrist picked up the FICA International Cricketer of the Year award on Wednesday, marking the third time in its five-year history that



ADAM GILCHRIST

the prize has been won by an Australian.

The Federation of International Cricketers' Associations is the official body representing all players around the world and Gilchrist's award comes as recognition of the incredible form the wicketkeeper-batsman has displayed in 2002.

S Africans buy WC tickets from Monday

AFP, Johannesburg

More than 200,000 tickets for the cricket World Cup 2003 will go on sale in South Africa at 9:00 am (0700 GMT) Monday morning, the organisers said Wednesday.

In total some 300,000 tickets for the International Cricket Council tournament will be available to South Africa's general public.

"Given the limitations imposed on us by the nature of this event, we believe that this number is reasonable," said Ali Bacher, the event's director.

"There will obviously be a rush for these ticket packages," he said.

On Monday a total of 222,000 tickets sold in packages -- ranging from 30 rand (three dollars) to 225 rand a game depending on the venues -- will be available and a further 70,000 follow-the-team tickets to certain games will become available on December 2.

Fans will be able to buy tickets at the stadiums hosting the tournament, on the Internet and through a call centre.

Tickets for the second round of matches and the knockout stages will be available later.