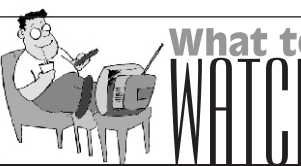




Did U Know?

One of the most controversial managerial decisions was made by Ademan Pimenta, coach for Brazil in 1938. Leonidas, one of the stars of that tournament, had scored 6 goals in two rounds, but was left out of the team for the semifinal against defending champions Italy because the manager wanted to save him for the final! Brazil lost the game, but won the bronze match this time with Leonidas in the team scoring twice!



What to Watch

ESPN

Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
South Africa vs New Zealand
Eleventh ODI
Highlights
Repeat at 9:00 pm
West Indies vs India
Sixth ODI
Highlights
Repeat at 10:30 pm

STAR Sports

Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 8:30 am
England vs India
First Test, Day One
Live at 4:00 pm



Talk Turkey



Shoab Akhtar

(Pakistani speedster)
"I think if we cannot play against each other in home countries, we should go out and play somewhere else."

On cricket ties with India.



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

Competition closes at 8 pm Aug 2, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards.

1. Who scored the first hat-trick in the National Bank Premier Football League?
Alfaz Nakib Arif

2. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the NatWest Series final?
Kaif Tendulkar Laxman

3. How many ODI centuries has Sachin Tendulkar scored so far?
29 30 33

4. Who clinched Swiss Open tennis title?
Sampras Corretja

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)



National Bank Premier Division Football League
Rahmatganj MFS vs Badda Jagarani (5:30 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Manu most powerful

Drastic axing on the cards

Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Colombo

Bangladesh plunged into deep crisis in Sri Lanka with a shift of power in the team management, thanks to an unusual decision of the BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) president.

Board president Ali Asghar on Tuesday evening gave absolute authority to his director and tour manager Mahmud Ul Haq Manu, raising fear of drastic changing and chopping in the team, whose morale was already at a very low with a heavy defeat in the first Test. Asghar's decision came soon after Bangladesh's defeat by an innings and 196 runs against Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

"I am a director of the Board and everyone would expect an explanation about the tour performance from me, not from others. That's why the president has asked me to get into

the team affairs although my original duty is to take care of the team administration only," said Manu to Bangladeshi reporters at his hotel room yesterday.



MAHMUD UL HAQ

Neither cricket manager ASM Faruque nor coach Mohsin Kamal

was interested to speak on this issue.

Blissfully oblivious of the fact that major changes midway through a tour might make matters worse, an all-powerful Mahmud said, "I think we have to make some drastic changes in the team to get some better performance in the second Test."

He hinted that two veteran batsmen -- Akram Khan and Aminul Islam -- might be dropped along with a couple of players so that they can field a relatively youthful squad.

With the players living on their nerves, Bangladesh get only three days' time to work on the team and get things in order before the second Test starts at the SSC ground in Colombo from July 28.

Coach Mohsin spent more than two hours taking class at the ball room of the Taj Samudra Hotel yesterday in the morning and then took them for practice at the P Sara Stadium in the afternoon.

But that hardly helped to boost the morale of the cricketers as fear of getting dropped was lurking at the back of most of the players' mind all the while.

"It's keeping me under constant pressure," confided one frustrated cricketer. "If I get out playing shots the management asks me why did not I try to block the ball. And if I get out while blocking the ball, they say why did not I play shots and get out. What should I do then?"

All-rounder Alok Kapali and medium pacer Taposh Baishya left Dhaka yesterday to join the team, and they are most likely to play in the second Test, revealed Mahmud.

Injured pacer Tareq Aziz Khan is set to return home tomorrow as doctors have advised him to take rest for another three weeks. He suffered a knee injury on his right leg during a practice on their arrival in Sri Lanka.

Perspective different

Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Colombo

Akram Khan would make a final decision about his international future after the current series against Sri Lanka.

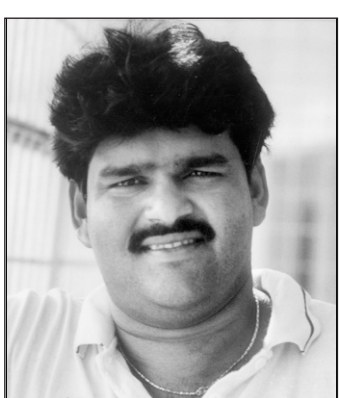
"I'm tired of this pressure at this age. I think, I have given enough for Bangladesh cricket. And now time has come for me to decide whether to continue playing international cricket," said Akram, who is almost certain to be dropped after scoring 25 runs (20 and 5) in the first Test.

Talking to this correspondent at his hotel room yesterday, the Chittagong admitted it was an embarrassing situation for him after Bangladesh lost heavily in the first Test.

"You need chances and I have not got that. After scoring more than 450 runs in West Indies and also playing well in the Premier League in Dhaka, I was brought back into the Test squad. But one bad match here, I am now going to be dropped again."

"I can't bear this pressure any more. You've got to give more chances to a batsman at this level and that's not happening with me. So, it is better I quit with some respect," said the former

Bangladesh captain, who single-handedly took Bangladesh into the ICC trophy final in 1997 and gave



AKRAM KHAN

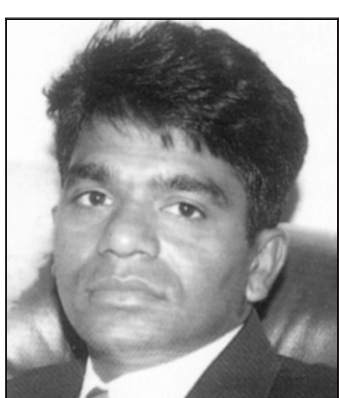
his country a dream chance to play in the 1999 World Cup.

"I will talk with my family after I return home and then let you know about my final decision," added the 36-year-old.

When Akram was down in dumps his mate, Aminul Islam, in national team over a decade refused to give up hope on his international career.

"I have still a lot of cricket in me and that's why I have not yet started thinking over my retirement," said Aminul, who is also facing the axe.

"I don't know how could I manage a pair in the first Test. It never happened before. I think, I would per-



AMINUL ISLAM

form better if I get a chance to play in the next match," he said.

"Everybody has a tendency to criticise whenever one plays really bad. But I can assure you they would praise me again once I score. I played better in three-day matches. So, you should not evaluate my performance with this pair," said the 35-year-old right-hander.

When asked what he would do if he gets dropped in the next match, Aminul said, "I would come back again."

ZMD Open Reefat keeps good going

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Reefat Bin Sattar continued his impressive run in the ZMD Open of the Dresden Chess Festival in Germany.

Reefat won his sixth round game against German Fide Master Hans Joac Vatter on Tuesday to share the third position with nine players all with five points.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman also won his sixth round game against German Cliff Wichmann to raise his tally to 4.5 points.

IM Enamul Hossain Razib scored a creditable draw with GM Ronald Schmaltz of Germany to improve go on par with Zia on 4.5 points.

IM Robert Rabeiga of Germany was leading the competition with maximum 6 points.

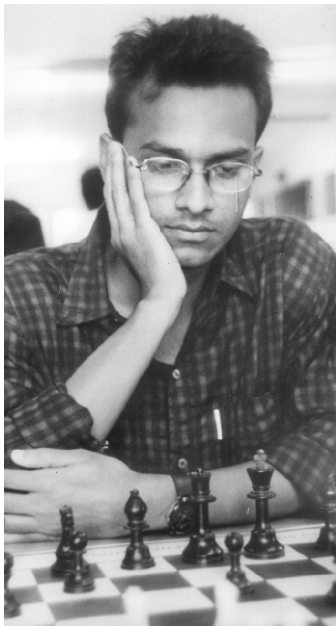
Rakib best of StanChart chess

SPORTS REPORTER

IM Abdullah Al Rakib of Biman won the Standard Chartered Bank FIDE Rating Chess Tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

Rakib earned highest 7.5 points in the nine-round Swiss League meet. Rakib drew with Ejaz in the final round.

Mehdi Hasan, Fide Master



Taibur Rahman and Mahtabuddin Ahmed finished second with six and a half points each. Abdul Maleq of Chittagong, Ejaz Ahmed and Saifuddin Lavlu came third with six points in the closely fought competition.

The prize distribution ceremony will be held today.

Ctg H'ball

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Dynasty Group Mahanagari Handball League got underway at Dampara police line ground in the port city yesterday.

Agrabad Pioneer defeated Blue Star 21-7 in the inaugural match. Akram Hossain scored highest seven goals for the winners. Haider netted five goals for Blue Star.

Meanwhile, the Girls Schools Handball League also started at the same venue yesterday. Cantonment High School won the opening match against Nurul Islam Municipality Girls High School 6-4.



Mohammedan's Kanchan skips a sliding tackle from Farashganj defender Shawkat during their National Bank Premier Division Football League encounter yesterday.

MSC muscle past F'ganj

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club returned to action after nearly a week's rest with a 3-1 win over Farashganj Sporting Club in the National Bank Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The victory put the black and whites at the top of the table with full six points, two clear of defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra, from two games. Mohammedan thrashed Victoria Sporting Club 4-0 in the opening match on July 16.

Salieu gave Mohammedan a 10th minute lead. But supporters of the popular Motijheel outfit were unfortunately denied of watching the first goal because of the confusion on part of the organisers.

The Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) first decided not to start the match on a heavily soaked outfield that experienced nearly an hour's monsoon shower earlier on the day. But the match eventually started fifteen minutes behind the schedule after both Mohammedan and Farashganj remained adamant to play on the wet ground.

The DMFLC opened gates of the stadium twelve minutes after the match started.

Furious Mohammedan supporters entered the ground calling names of the organisers and became silent when Farashganj striker Walid levelled the score firing a re-bouncer into an empty net in the 16th minute after a Parvez grounder came off the near post.

But Mohammedan needed only eight minutes to regain the lead through a sliding shot by Kanchan on a perfect Masud Rana cross from the left.

Nakib sealed the fate of the match with a spectacular header in

the 59th minute. It was Nakib's fourth goal in the League. The natural scorer notched a hat-trick in the first match to become only the third player to score 100 goals in Dhaka League.

It was Farashganj's second defeat after Rahmatganj blanked them 3-0 in the first match.

Mohammedan Nigerian booter Idris Abdullah picked up his second yellow card and a third one would mean a one-match suspension for the tall central defender.

Yellow Cards: Idris Abdullah

(Mohammedan), Masud Rana and Khalid (Farashganj)

TEAMS

Mohammedan SC: Bijon, Jewel, Titu, Masud Rana (Faisal), Mahmudul Hasan, Idris Abdullah (Akram), Joy, Tushar (Farhad), Salieu, Kanchan and Nakib

Farashganj: Abir (Rizwan), Hossain, Shawkat, Akram, Masud Rana, Chandan, Mithu, Khalid (Rizvi), Amrul, Parvez and Walid

Referee: Abdur Rakib



THE BANGABANDHU NATIONAL POOLI Groundstaff at the Bangabandhu Stadium carry lime powder to the field to mark the lines washed away by heavy morning rain to get the National Bank Premier Division Football League between Mohammedan and Farashganj going yesterday.

ACB says it's upto PCB

AFP, Sydney

The Pakistan Cricket Board is responsible for sorting out any administrative problems involved in organising the triangular one-day series in Kenya, the Australian Cricket Board said on Wednesday.

A top Kenyan Cricket Association official said on Wednesday: "We are legally in office and the Pakistan Cricket Board must only deal with us."

An ACB spokesman said Australian officials were aware of the latest reports but were waiting for advice from the Pakistan board.

"We are aware of the reports that are in circulation, however, it's a matter for the Pakistan Cricket Board," the ACB said.

"It's Pakistan's series and we're awaiting advice from the PCB."

SL select rookies for second Test

Cricket

REUTERS, Colombo

Muttiah Muralitharan will not play for Sri Lanka in the second Test against Bangladesh despite captain Sanath Jayasuriya's protests.

A Sri Lanka board official said there were no plans for a U-turn. Muralitharan and a string of other top players were left out of the squad after featuring in the innings and 196-run victory over Bangladesh earlier this week.

The off-spinner's exclusion after taking 10 wickets in the first Test in Colombo prompted Jayasuriya to say: "If Murali is fit we should always try and play him."

He told the Daily News newspaper: "I haven't played with anybody and don't know most of the young-

sters who have been selected for the second Test."

Batsmen Marvan Atapattu, Mahela Jayawardene and Russel Arnold, wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara and pace bowler Dilhara Fernando were also left out for the second match of the two-Test series starting on Sunday.

Sri Lanka won the first Test within three days. Bangladesh have yet to win a Test in 12 attempts.

SQUAD

Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Aravinda de Silva, Jehan Mubarak, Michael Van Dort, Naveed Nawas, Thilan Samaraweera, Prasana Jayawardena, Upul Chandana, Hashan Tillekeratne, Buddhika Fernando, Sujewa de Silva, Chamila Gamage, Hسانtha Fernando, Palasthi Guneratne, Chamara Silva.

Lord's to miss bowlers

Cricket

AFP, London

Bowlers from both sides will be under the spotlight when England face India in the opening Test of a four-match series here at Lord's on Thursday.

India will be without long-time spearhead Javagal Srinath, who announced his retirement from Test cricket ahead of this tour, while injuries have deprived England of front-line quicks Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick and Alex Tudor.

England have placed Yorkshire seamer Chris Silverwood on standby in the event of further injuries with much responsibility now resting on the shoulders of pace-bowling all-rounder Andrew Flintoff.

on a Lord's pitch that has been a heartbreaker for quicks all season.



SOURAV GANGULY

India's new ball attack will be also led by a 23-year-old but the comparison ends there.

It says something for the difference in attitude between the two nations that were Zaheer Khan

playing in England he would probably be just making his name in a



NASSER HUSSAIN

county first eleven.

Left-arm quick Zaheer had to wait until he was 17, when he moved from his home in Ahmednagar to

SEE PAGE 15 COL

Kapil the best in India

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Wisden's decision to name all-rounder Kapil Dev as India's player of the century has been welcomed by the country's former Test players.

Kapil, the ex-captain who led India to their lone World Cup triumph in 1983, was picked ahead of former batsman Sunil Gavaskar and modern-day icon Sachin Tendulkar by a 35-member panel comprising international commentators and former players.

His peers said Kapil was the right choice because he could alter the result of a match single-handedly.

"I don't think anyone has won more matches for India individually," said former Test spinner Maninder Singh on Wednesday.

"He could change the nature of his game with his bowling, batting, fielding and captaincy. That puts him ahead of everyone else."

Kapil took 434 wickets at 29.64 apiece and scored 5,248 runs at an average of 31.05.

He made his debut for India as a 19-year-old in the 1978-79 season against Pakistan. He played 131 Tests and 225 one-dayers in a career spanning over 16 years.

"I am very happy for Kapil, he richly deserved the award," said Madan Lal, a member of Kapil's World Cup-winning team and now a national selector.

"It's a good decision by the jury, there was never any doubt in my mind that Kapil is the greatest."

Kapil is the only cricketer in history to score more than 5,000 Test runs and take more than 400 wickets. His mark of 434 wickets stood as a record until West Indian Courtney Walsh surpassed it just two years ago.

"It's a very intelligent decision by the panel to name Kapil," said former Test opener Chetan Chauhan.

"Gavaskar, Kapil and Sachin were the frontrunners but because of his ability to contribute with both the bat and ball they have gone with Kapil."

Kapil's most memorable knock was an unbeaten 175 in the 1983 World Cup against Zimbabwe at

Gavaskar's team of 1985 -- winners of the World Series Cup in Australia -- was picked as the best Indian team of the century.

Tendulkar has scored 29 Test centuries and a world record 33 one-day hundreds. Gavaskar, the first man to score 10,000 Test runs, has a world record 34 Test centuries. He played his last Test in 1987.

Worcestershire sign Shane

AFP, London

Worcestershire on Wednesday signed all-rounder Shane Lee as replacement for fellow Australian Andy Bichel for the final two months of the English county cricket season.

Bichel is returning to Australia ahead of his country's one-day series in Kenya next month and the ICC Champions' Trophy in Sri Lanka.

Lee, who topped Somerset's batting averages in 1996 and has 45 one-day internationals under his belt, has been pencilled in to make his debut against Glamorgan next week.

Worcestershire director of cricket Tom Moody said: "Shane has been able to rest during the Australian winter and will come to us fresh and ready to go."

"Every Australian cricketer is striving for a World Cup place next year and his two months with us gives him an early opportunity to impress."



KAPIL DEV

Tunbridge Wells in England, where he rescued India from 17 for five to 266 in 60 overs.

Tendulkar won the people's choice award at a ceremony in London on Tuesday, while