



Did U Know?

There was once a man who said "cricket's a funny game." If indeed that is true, and a truer statement you cannot hope to hear, then VVS Laxman was the master comedian at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on the fourth day of the second Test against Australia. Making a chanceless unbeaten 275, Laxman put smiles on the faces of thousands of spectators. No wickets were lost on the day, 335 runs were scored, not a single catch given and nine bowlers were used.



BTV & SET Max

10:00am
Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy
Holland Vs Pakistan (Live)
ESPN

9:00am
Football: Here We Go!
English Premier League Preview
1:00pm

Football: UEFA Champions League
Arsenal Vs Borussia Dortmund
4:30 pm

Cricket: Super Selector
5:00pm
Football: English Premier League
Newcastle United Vs Sunderland (Live)
7:00pm

Sport News: SportsCenter Weekend
7:05pm
Football: Premiership
Saturday Preview (Live)
7:55pm

Football: English Premier League
Manchester United Vs Tottenham Hotspur
(Live)

STAR SPORTS

8:00am
Football: Spanish League Highlights
8:30am

Football: Here We Go!
English Premier League Preview
10:00am

Cricket: Super Selector
10:30am
Cricket: Talk Show
Best Of Harsha Online
4:30pm

Basketball: NBA Inside Stuff
6:00am
Football: Spanish League Highlights
8:55

Football: English Premier League
Arsenal FC Vs Bolton Wanderers (Live)



Kily Gonzales
(Valencia's Argentine forward)
"Michael Owen a world class striker? It's a joke."
On Liverpool striker Michael Owen

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 180
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 27, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who will lead the Bangladesh U-17 team in the tri-nations series in Sri Lanka?
Nafis | Ashraf | Ashiqur
- What was the result of the England and India Test series?
2-0 | 2-1 | 1-1
- Who won the US Open singles title?
Agassi | Hewitt | Sampras
- Who became Champions Trophy hockey champs?
Germany | Pakistan | Netherlands
- Who clinched the Grand Prix chess title?
Reefat | Zia | Rajib

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



PHOTO: STAR
IF OTHER TEAMS KNOW ABOUT OUR PREPARATION, THEY WILL HAVE HEART ATTACKS! Players of the Asian Games bound Bangladesh national football team share a light moment at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday prior to their departure for Thailand. The national squad is going to the Busan Asiad without any practice.

Unready BD off to Bangkok

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Twenty-member Bangladesh team left the capital for Bangkok yesterday to take part in the 14th Asian Games without a single day's training.

The Games start in Busan, South Korea, from September 29 and run up to October 14. Bangladesh last took part in the Asian Games football in Beijing way back in 1990.

And after 12 years, when all other football playing nations in Asia have gone through intensive training for the biggest show of the continent, Bangladesh showed the idiocy to go into the 25-team football tournament without any preparation.

It happened because the Bangladesh Football Federation bowed to the pressure of the 10 Dhaka based clubs. The clubs

unanimously turned down the BFF plea to spare the national booters for camp until the Premier Division League ended. The league concluded on Thursday, just a day before their departure.

BFF initially planned of suspending the rain-hit league and sending the booters to Thailand for a few practice matches after a short residential camp, but it could not happen because of the stubborn attitude of the clubs.

"So, naturally I don't have any particular aim in the Games. Nobody should have any expectation since you know that we are going without a single day's preparation," said national coach George Kottan at a press conference on Thursday afternoon.

"I have never been in such an awkward position in my whole coaching career. There was no camp, not enough practice matches and again we are going for the biggest competition in Asia," said a visibly angry Austro-Hungarian, who

wanted to begin his camp from August 28 and go to Thailand on September 15 to play at least four practice matches. But his plea fell on deaf ears.

Bangladesh would now play only one practice match in Bangkok on September 23 and then they would rush to Busan. Bangladesh is scheduled to meet India in their opening preliminary round match in Ulsan on September 27, two days before the official start to the Games.

Bangladesh would then meet China in their second match in Masan on September 30 and Turkmenistan in the last match on October 3 in Busan.

BFF member and manager Kazi Usha Mishu also admitted he had not seen all his 20 footballers until yesterday morning when they came to the BFF office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium before leaving for Bangkok.

"We should not have gone to Busan. But again we don't have any

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Alam, Chumki sprint aces

UNB, Dhaka

Mahbub Alam of Bangladesh Navy and Shamsunahar Chumki of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) emerged as the fastest man and woman in the Seventh Summer Athletics Championship at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

On the inaugural day of the three-day championship, Mahbub, the former SAF Games 200m champions, won gold in 100 metres clocking 10.65 seconds while Chumki bagged gold in a time of 12.10 seconds.

The men's hammer-throw was won by Monimul Haq of Bangladesh Army. He clinched gold with a distance 49.32 metres.

In the men's triple jump, Shah Alam Gazi of Bangladesh Army finished with 14.81 metres.

Jyotsna Afroz captured the women's javelin-throw with a throw 35.82 metres.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the three-day meet, which is being participated by 333 competitors, including 90 women.

Groundwork at BNS from Wednesday

UNB, Dhaka

Preparation of the pitches to be used during the West Indies tour of Bangladesh gets underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, who is also chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC), made the announcement yesterday.

The stadium's allotment to the Bangladesh Football Federation ended Thursday after the Premier League match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani.

The Caribbean cricketers arrive on November 26 to play two Tests and three one-day matches.

The state minister said talks were on with the cricket officials of the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium exclusively for cricket.

"We will unofficially meet with some concerned authorities today to discuss the matter," he said.

Gaibandha h'ball

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha.

Ullah Girls High School trounced Modern High School 6-1 in the inaugural match of the CUTE Handball League 2002 at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

A total of 16 male and female teams are taking part in the league organised by the Gaibandha District Sports Association under the supervision of Bangladesh Handball Federation.

Kazi Mahtabuddin, vice-president of Bangladesh Handball Federation inaugurated the league.

Inzy faces heel surgery



REUTERS, Colombo

Pakistan batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq is to undergo heel surgery in Australia that will sideline him from the game for at least two months.

"I have been told I have to have an operation. The doctor has told me it will take eight weeks (to recover)," Inzamam told Reuters.

"I will leave for Australia on (September) 28th or 29th," said Inzamam, who consulted an Australian specialist in Colombo after the injury ruled him out of the Champions Trophy.

The operation for the long-term problem means the 32-year-old will miss a three-Test series against Australia that starts in the Sri Lankan capital on October 3 and he could also miss next year's World Cup in South Africa.

He had been told by doctors that his heel might hold up until after the World Cup but Mudassar Nazar, sacked as team coach earlier this week, said surgery could jeopardise his World Cup participation.

Annoying waiting affair



REUTERS, Colombo

The Champions Trophy, which began with a contract row and TV back-up for umpires as the talking points, is under focus midway through for its poor scheduling of matches.

The prestigious 12-team event has also suffered from sparse crowds when hosts Sri Lanka are not playing and has exposed a contrast between the game's "haves" and "have-nots."

The gap of several days between matches has left players idling away at the team hotel or shopping or socialising.

Australia's world champion side has opted for a break after reaching the semi-finals on Thursday, taking a short flight to the picturesque Indian Ocean island of Maldives to relax before returning to face Sri Lanka a week on Friday.

Some of the Indian players, like skipper Sourav Ganguly and leading batsman Sachin Tendulkar, popped back home after last Saturday's win over Zimbabwe.

Their next Pool 2 game against England is on Sunday, which also means a gap of over a week.

Before the tournament, India, like Australia, have been playing constantly and arrived in Colombo

just three days after their Test series in England ended.

Australia and Pakistan also had to fly around 19 hours to play in the event after taking part in a one-day series in Nairobi while England are still reeling under the tropical heat.

South African captain Shaun Pollock has criticised the long intervals between games, which has also resulted in a six-day gap between his team's two pool games.

If South Africa beat Kenya on Friday, they will have to wait another four days to play their semifinal against either England or India.

"There is a lot of waiting around, it is not an ideal situation," Pollock said on Thursday.

The only advantage for his side has been an opportunity to re-group after a long off-season.

Told about the Australian Maldives plans, he joked: "I am glad they can afford to. They have played really well and have got good bonuses in the last few years."

The tournament format has been changed from a pure knockout, but three-team pools have left little scope for comebacks with just one side progressing to the semis.

Pakistan lost their Pool 4 game to Sri Lanka on September 12 and are out of the running, but have been on a long wait to play Saturday's meaningless match against the Netherlands.

West Indies will be out of reckon-

ing if South Africa beat Kenya, but they have already turned their attention to their upcoming Indian Test tour, as have Pakistan, who start their series against Australia after this event.

While players of elite squads may have welcomed some respite from their busy international schedule, long breaks from topflight cricket are annoying upcoming sides like Kenya.

The Kenyan board has cancelled a proposed trip to India to play state sides, complaining that the Indian board has not confirmed the itinerary despite many reminders.

The African side, enjoying only one-day international status but rated higher than newest Test entrants Bangladesh, are desperate to boost their World Cup build-up.

"Sides like ours are suffering. Any tour coming up is good for Kenyan cricket," said coach Sandeep Patil.

"We have been given school homework, then asked to appear for University exams," said Patil, referring to ICC support to training at home without constant tournament play.

Dutch captain Roland Lefebvre faces a different dilemma, full-time jobs making constant play impossible for his players.

"The Kenyans, Bangladeshis, they are professionals," he said. "We are only amateurs."

Gibbs toys with Kenya



AFP, Colombo

South African opener Herschelle Gibbs played a mediocre Kenyan attack with a stroke-filled 116 in the Champions Trophy one-day cricket tournament here on Friday.

The 28-year-old hit three sixes and 13 fours in his eighth century as

Gibbs put on 159 for the opening wicket with left-handed Graeme Smith (69) to set the stage for the closing-overs onslaught.

Jacques Kallis then hammered a 53-ball 60 with one six and five fours in pressure-free conditions, as South Africa became the first team to cross the 300-mark in the tournament.

South Africa are now strongly placed to qualify for the semifinals

West Indies in their previous match.

The West Indies completed their league engagements with one win and one defeat, while Kenya were winless after one game.

Gibbs made a deceptive start, scoring just six runs in the opening 10 overs before dominating a seven-man Kenyan attack with a wide range of attacking shots during his 126-ball knock.

Kenyan wicketkeeper David Obuya also caught the eye with four dismissals, including three stumpings.

Gibbs soon outscored Smith and was the first to reach his half-century when he cut off-spinner Maurice Odupe for his ninth four. He took 51 more balls to reach his hundred, glancing spinner Steve Tikolo for a boundary.

Gibbs' best came in the 37th over as he plundered 16 in three balls off spinner Jimmy Kamande, pulling the bowler for a six and following it up with a four and a straight six.

He was caught behind off the next delivery while trying to steer the spinner to third-man.

Gibbs overshadowed Smith, who did the bulk of scoring in the initial overs. Smith did not hesitate to hit over the top and offered two chances in his third half-century.

The left-hander was on 31 when dropped by Ravindu Shah at short mid-wicket off paceman Martin Sui

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PHOTO: AFP
Kenyan wicketkeeper David Obuya (R) removes the bails as South African batsman Graeme Smith barely makes it to the crease during their ICC Champions Trophy match at Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

South Africa posted 316-5 after electing to bat in a day-night game at the Premadasa Stadium.

from the three-team group, having already clinched a last-ball thriller with two wickets to spare against the

Lord's turf turfed out



AGENCIES, Sydney

Two Australian cricket fans have been denied in their attempt to buy a piece of Lord's.

They each paid for a square foot of turf from the home of cricket in England, but the packages - marked 'sporting goods' - were intercepted at Sydney's international mail centre.

The turf cannot be brought into Australia under the country's tight quarantine laws.

Craig Hall, manager of the Australian Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry mail programme on Friday said postal workers had been "knocked for six" by their discovery.

"It is hallowed turf and we have quite a number of cricket enthusiasts who were quite impressed to see this, but obviously from a quarantine perspective we cannot allow this into Australia," said Craig Hall.

"We have given them (the unnamed fans) the option to send these items back overseas if they wish, at their own expense, or we will hold them for a period of time and destroy them," he said.

Australia, an isolated continent with unique flora and fauna, bans imports of fresh plant material or soil in case they contain pests or diseases or become weeds. There is a similar ban on fresh food and sea shells, and customs carefully screen wooden articles for bugs or mould.

Last year's outbreak of foot and mouth livestock disease in Europe prompted authorities to ask airline passengers arriving at Australia's airports to declare any mud on their shoes.



PHOTO: INTERNET
CRICKET'S HOLY GROUND: An Australian quarantine inspector checks one of the three parcels that contained the hallowed turf and soil of Lord's cricket ground.

Meril Cup soccer

UNB, Dhaka

Janakantha made a flying start in the Second Meril Cup Football Tournament beating Bangladesh Television 3-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Banglabazar Patrika defeated Bangladesh Betar 2-0 while Ajker Kagoj and Channel-I shared points after a goalless draw.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the 19-team meet, organised by the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association.

CSA football

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Government High School and Bidduyut Unnayan played out a goalless draw in the opening match of the Putu Kamal School Football Tournament 2002 at the Outer Stadium here yesterday.

The tournament is being held to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the Chittagong Sports Academy (CSA).

Patel spins on Srinath



AFP, New Delhi

India's new chairman of selectors Brijesh Patel said Friday he hoped to persuade retired pace spearhead Javagal Srinath to play in the upcoming home series against the West Indies.

"I will definitely be speaking to Srinath about playing Test matches again," Patel said a day after taking over as head of a revamped five-member selection panel.

Srinath, 33, retired from Test cricket after the West Indies tour in June, saying he wanted to concentrate on next year's limited-overs World Cup in South Africa.

He spurned repeated requests by captain Sourav Ganguly to make himself available for the recent tour of England where his experience could have helped India win its first Test series outside the sub-continent since 1986.

The four-match series instead ended at 1-1 as the rookie pace

attack of Zaheer Khan, Ajit Agarkar and Ashish Nehra struggled to make an impact even in seamer-friendly English conditions.

"The new ball attack is a bit of a worry," said Patel, who hails from the same southern state of Karnataka as Srinath and is also the secretary of the state cricket association.

Srinath, with 232 wickets from 64 Tests, is India's second most successful fast bowler behind former world record holder Kapil Dev's tally of 434.

Patel's appeal came a day after Srinath, playing English county cricket for Leicestershire, grabbed four wickets in seven balls, including a hat-trick, against champions Surrey.

Srinath may be encouraged to reconsider his retirement by the fact that two of the three Tests against the West Indies will be played on newly-laid wickets at Bombay and Calcutta that promise to be conducive to fast bowling.

Madras, where the other Test is scheduled, is already regarded as the

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