



Did U Know?

Post the 1956 Games, about 40 per cent of Hungary's Olympic contingent chose to defect rather than return to their home country, invaded by the USSR.



What to WATCH

ESPN

Goals!
Football Magazine
Repeat at 11:30 am
UEFA Champions League
Arsenal vs PSV Eindhoven
Repeat at 5:00 pm
Ajax Amsterdam vs Inter Milan
Repeat at 9:30 pm

Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Western Union World Football
Football Magazine
8:00 pm
Primera Liga
Highlights at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

English Premiership
Highlights at 9:30 am
Osasuna vs Real Madrid
Primera Liga
Repeat at 10:30 am
Newcastle vs Sunderland
English Premiership
Repeat at 12:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm

Sportsline Tonight
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
India vs Sri Lanka
9th ODI, NatWest Trophy
Highlights at 11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Stephen Fleming

(New Zealand cricket captain)
"You have got to absorb pressure. If you don't absorb pressure, you are not going to be there in the game. They have the ability to apply pressure both in batting and bowling."



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)

BD battalion going today

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

SPORTS REPORTER

A strong Bangladesh contingent leaves for South Korea today without any hope for a gold in the 14th Asian Games, starting in Busan on September 29.

Bangladesh will take part in nine disciplines at the 41-nation Games. Participants of three events -- football, boxing and weightlifting have already left the capital. Six other teams -- hockey, athletics, swimming, kabadi, wrestling and shooting are going today.

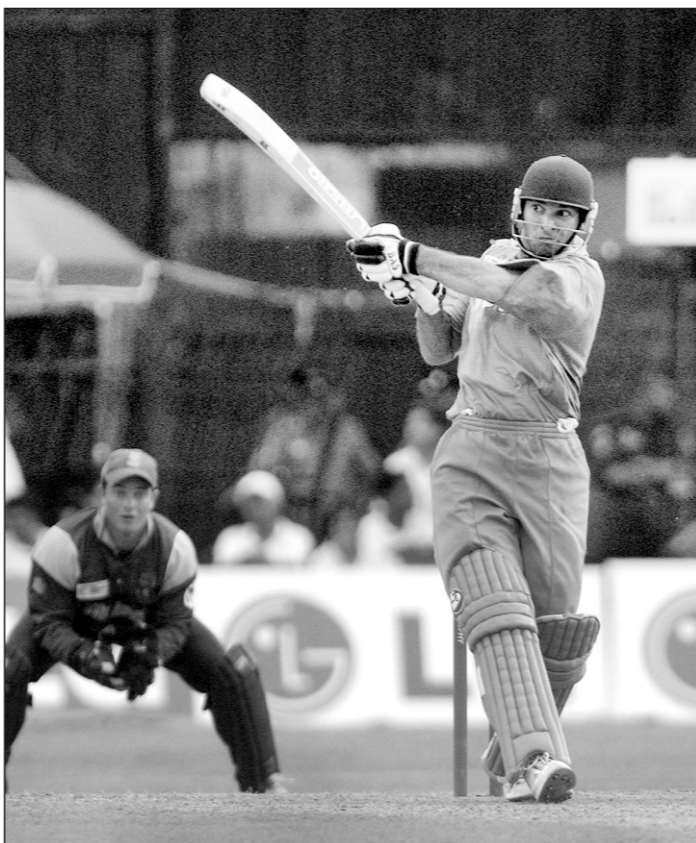
A total of 83 athletes and officials are officially going to the Asiad this time at an expense of around Taka 2.5 crore, and it is needless to say that Bangladesh has hardly any hope for a medal.

Apart from the athletes and

officials, five journalists are also going to South Korea at the courtesy of the government. Ironically two journalists in that five-man group belong to one newspaper -- Dainik Arthaniti.

Major General Rezakul Haider, the Director General of Bangladesh Rifles, has been appointed as the chef-de-mission of Bangladesh contingent.

Team	Players	Officials
Contingent	-	2
Football	20	4
Hockey	16	3
Shooting	6	3
Kabadi	12	2
Athletics	2	1
Swimming	2	1
Boxing	2	1
Weightlifting	2	1
Wrestling	2	1
Total	64	19



India's Yuvraj Singh pulls one for four during his brisk 62 against South Africa in the semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy in Colombo yesterday.

S Africa recover later

ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY
SRI LANKA 2002

AFP, Colombo

South Africa survived a Virender Sehwag onslaught to restrict India to 261-9 in the semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy one-day cricket tournament here on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old opener smashed a 58-ball 59 to put India on course for a big total before South Africa struck back with their tidy bowling and smart field took 2-41.

Yuvraj Singh (62) and Rahul Dravid (49) were the other main run-getters, but India's total still fell below their expectations. The left-handed Yuvraj hit six fours in his 72-ball knock for his seventh half-century.

India got off to a brisk start after electing to bat on an easy wicket as they plundered 70 in the opening 10 overs, with Sehwag going for shots early in the innings.

The dashing opener, who scored a 104-ball 126 against England in the previous match, began with two boundaries in Pollock's opening over.

He continued in the same vein, greeting ace fast bowler Donald with a lofted shot over mid-on for a boundary. Runs came thick and fast

when Sehwag was at the crease with none of the bowlers able to keep the pressure on him.

Pollock conceded 28 in his opening four overs and fellow pacer Makhaya Ntini 37 in five.

South Africa, however, succeeded in containing runs from the other end to bounce back into the game as they reduced India from 102-1 to 135-4.

Skipper Saurav Ganguly (13) was the first to go, pulling Ntini straight to Boeta Dippenaar.

Venkatesh Laxman (22) executed a few handsome drives before edging Donald to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, while batting star Sachin Tendulkar (16) failed to force the pace before being run out.

Tendulkar turned debutant left-arm spinner Robin Peterson to point and went for a non-existent single before being sent back by Dravid, but could not beat a Jonty Rhodes throw to the wicketkeeper.

The run-rate declined sharply after Sehwag's dismissal, caught pulling Jacques Kallis by Lance Klusener at mid-off after hitting 10 fours in his seventh half-century.

India were struggling at 135-4 in the 26th over before being steadied by Dravid, who put on 72 for the fifth wicket with Yuvraj before being trapped leg-before by Klusener.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after India's innings against South Africa in the day-night semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy cricket tournament at the Premadasa Stadium on Wednesday:

INDIA	SA
Sehwag c Klusener b Kallis	59
Ganguly c Dippenaar b Ntini	13
Laxman c Boucher b Donald	22
Tendulkar run out	16
Dravid lbw b Klusener	49
Yuvraj c Gibbs b Pollock	62
Kaif c Rhodes b Pollock	19
Harbhajan b Donald	4
Zaheer c Smith b Pollock	0
Kumble not out	2
Nehra not out	1
Extras: (b-2, lb-1, nb-3, w-8)	14
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	261
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 3-102, 3-108, 4-135, 5-207, 6-254, 7-254, 8-255, 9-260	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	9	0	43	3
Ntini	5	0	37	1
Donald	8	0	41	2
Kallis	8	1	50	1
Klusener	10	0	40	1
Peterson	10	0	47	0

SOUTH AFRICA: Shaun Pollock, Herschelle Gibbs, Graeme Smith, Jacques Kallis, Boeta Dippenaar, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Robin Peterson, Makhaya Ntini, Allan Donald.
Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Russel Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

WC flop fear played down

Cricket

REUTERS, Colombo

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has played down fears that next year's World Cup will be a letdown full of one-sided matches.

The current Champions Trophy tournament in Sri Lanka has highlighted the gulf between the top teams and less established nations with humiliating defeats for Holland and Kenya plus woeful displays by Test cricket's newest side Bangladesh doing little to broaden the game's appeal to world-wide television audiences.

Fellow minnows Namibia and Canada will join those three teams for cricket's showpiece event in southern Africa next February.

But ICC spokesman Brendan McClements denied the early stages could turn into a damp squib despite 26 of the 42 first-round matches pitting an established side against a so-called lesser team.

"Those countries except

Bangladesh, which is a full member and Kenya, which has one-day status anyway, have earned the right to be there through playing in and doing well in the ICC Trophy and it's difficult to pre-judge things at this stage," McClements told Reuters on Tuesday.

"We've seen a couple of those types of matches go well here with Kenya batting well and being competitive against the West Indies.

"We've also seen in previous World Cups that the underdog can come and bite the more established side and that makes for entertaining cricket.

"They have their opportunity, they've worked hard to get there and it's important those teams are able to play against the best in the world as it brings them up to standard," he added.

McClements also said the ICC was addressing the issue of closing the obvious gap that exists between the major test-playing countries and the sides below them.

"A lot of work has been done in that area over the past 12 months,"

he said. "There is a large injection of money into the countries that have qualified from associate level to the World Cup with around 1 million USD between them to go to coaching and development.

"Bob Woolmer has also been appointed to work with Canada, Namibia, Holland and Kenya and has already made progress and there is a tournament involving those countries in Namibia on the eve of the World Cup."

McClements said the ICC's development manager Andrew Eade had been working on a new competitive structure for those countries below Test level.

"It's a world league with tournaments in each area and that will get the better teams playing each other more often and lead to an even greater focus on developing the game effectively in these areas."

McClements said the ICC would assess the success of the Champions Trophy after the tournament.

SEE AGE 15 COL 1

First Division Football Sheikh Russel muff opportunity

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra missed their first opportunity to emulate the feat of Brothers Union when they suffered a 7-6 tiebreaker loss to Wari Club in a crucial Super Five match of the First Division League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A win in the shoot-out would have earned Sheikh Russel a promotion to the elite Premier Division next season. Had they managed that, they would've equaled Brothers Union's feat three decades ago when the team from Gopibagh won the Third and Second Division leagues in consecutive years to reach the First Division.

Coming into the match needing just two points to make their dreams come true, Sheikh Russel were only four minutes away from completing a fairytale run that started three years ago when they led Wari through a 44th minute goal from Bashir. But Wari pulled off an 86th minute equaliser through Mamun thus taking the match into the shoot-out.

All is however not lost for Sheikh Russel. Yesterday's outcome left both teams level on 22 points meaning they will have to face off again in a play-off to decide which team qualifies for the Premier Division behind First Division champions Dhaka Wanderers.

Wanderers have a match in hand against Agrani Bank who too can relish the prospect of enforcing a three-team play-off provided that they beat Wanderers in the last Super Five match at the same venue on Saturday.

Shah Altaf chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The Shah Altaf Associate Fide Rating chess tournament starts at the NSC chess room today.

Members of the Bangladesh Chess Olympiad team and players with above 2100 rating are eligible to take part in the tournament.

Two players from Kolkata are also expected to feature in the nine-round Swiss League meet.

Pakistan sacks manager Saeed

INTERNET, Undated

Pakistan have sacked team manager Yawar Saeed ahead of next month's Test series against Australia.

The 72-year-old is the second casualty following a recent run of poor results, with coach Mudassar Nazar losing his job earlier this month.

It is expected that former manager Brigadier Khawaja Muhammad Nasir will replace Saeed, who was first appointed in 1984 and has filed the post on a number of occasions since then.

The series against Australia will be played at neutral venues, with the first Test taking place in Sri Lanka and the second and third games in Sharjah.

South African-based Englishman Richard Pybus has already been named as Mudassar's successor - the third time he has coached the team.

Waugh aching for action

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh on Wednesday sounded a warning to Pakistan ahead of their three-Test series, saying his team would play to win each match.

"We like to win every Test and series. This is how we play our cricket," Waugh said after joining his team-mates here for the opening Test against a young Pakistani side.

Australia's one-day team, led by Ricky Ponting, have qualified for the semi-final of the ongoing Champions Trophy tournament here.

Australia will play their first Test against Pakistan here on October 3 and the last two at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

memorate their Golden Jubilee in Test cricket was shifted to neutral venues after Australia refused to tour because of security fears.

Pakistan will be without the services of their key players against the formidable Australians as veteran left-arm fast bowler Wasim Akram and opener Saeed Anwar have opted out of the series.

Reliable middle-order batsmen Inzamam-ul-Haq and Yousuf Youhana pulled out due to injuries, while hard-hitting opener Shahid Afridi failed to find a place in the squad.

Pakistan have also sacked coach Mudassar Nazar and manager Yawar Saeed following the team's unimpressive performance in the Champions Trophy.

Waqaar Younis' team lost to Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the opening match and then beat the Netherlands by nine wickets in an

inconsequential match to bow out of the tournament.

"We know some of their senior players are not playing and it will be a bit difficult for young players, but still it is important for us to play good cricket," said Waugh.

"I can't say it will be 3-0 because there are other factors involved, like the weather, but we'd like to win each Test. We have to make sure we play well," said Waugh, who has scored 9,600 runs in 148 Tests with 27 centuries, averaging 50.

The Australian skipper said he was match-fit despite playing his last Test six months ago, against South Africa at Durban.

"I have been preparing for the Test series," said Waugh. "There was no cricket for six months, so I went to Kent (to play English county cricket) for five weeks. I have been looking forward to the series."

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Aga Khan making a comeback?

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is seriously contemplating reviving the hugely popular Aga Khan Gold Cup football tournament.

The international event was last held in 1981 before the sponsors, the Aga Khan Foundation, backed out owing to financial constraints. However, the foundation is reportedly keen again to hold the tournament.

"They have recently contacted us and expressed their interest in providing financial support to run the tournament. If things work out as we are hoping they would, we may be able to organise the competition in March-April next year," said a BFF official preferring anonymity.

The official also disclosed the prospect of a hectic schedule for

local booters next season starting with the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship in Dhaka in January.

The seven-nation tournament was originally scheduled to be held in the capital this year but it had to be postponed following a temporary FIFA ban on the BFF over the legitimacy of the local football's governing body.

"We are planning to hold elections in the BFF in February after the SAFF Championship", the official added.

Besides, the BFF official said that a club from Japan's prestigious J-League and South Korean giants Hyundai are expected to visit Dhaka to play a couple of exhibition matches as part of Bangladesh's build up for the SAFF tournament.

Bangladesh's best showing in the SAFF tournament was in the Indian town of Goa, where they finished runners-up behind the hosts in 1999.

Long layoff for Streak

AFP, Colombo

Zimbabwe skipper Heath Streak, who suffered a dislocated left shoulder in a road accident here, will be out of cricket at least until December, officials said Tuesday.

Streak spent the night at a private hospital after his three-wheel taxi overturned following an accident involving a van in Colombo's fashionable Cinnamon gardens area on Monday.

"Heath spent a night in hospital and has been told that his injury could take between eight to 12 weeks to recover. He sustained a dislocated left shoulder and concussion in the accident," the team said in a statement.

"Heath's immediate target is to return to the side for the series against Kenya in December and to be completely fit for the World Cup next year."

The statement said a decision would be taken shortly on a replacement for Streak to skipper the Zimbabwe side.

FIFA's fresh red rule

Football

AFP, Zurich

Football players who receive a red card must automatically be suspended for one game immediately afterwards, world football's governing body FIFA ruled on Tuesday.

The surprise decision was announced by FIFA president Sepp Blatter after a meeting of FIFA's executive committee here, which also set up five groups to examine problem areas in the game.

"If we cast doubt over a referee's decision, we cast doubt over all of football," he told reporters.

Blatter said the ruling by the committee would apply to all leagues and championships worldwide and would take effect as soon as national football associations receive FIFA's circular on the decision.

A similar procedure is in place in several championships such as France or Germany, but not in others such as England or Switzerland.

"There is no place for speculation, a player expelled by the referee

has to suffer a match suspension immediately," Blatter said, adding that he was moving to protect the reputation of the game.

FIFA officials said an appeal, or even subsequent evidence of a mistake by the referee, would not prevent the one-match ban from being implemented.

"No evidence of scientific help -- cameras, video or other -- shall change this situation," Blatter insisted, although he suggested there might be some leeway with cases of mistaken identity.

The move followed an incident at a Swiss league match between Zurich club Grasshopper and FC Basel last month when the Grasshopper goalkeeper was sent off for a foul on the opposing team's striker.

However, a Swiss disciplinary body decided not to suspend the Grasshoppers player. Video replays indicated that the goalkeeper had not touched the striker.

"The executive committee looked at this and found that the Swiss federation was not the only one, we had the same in the Spanish league and in England," Blatter said.

During its meeting, the executive committee set up five groups to examine "problem" areas in the game, tackling issues such as financial problems faced by clubs, players' health, the number of games played in a season, or transfer fees and players' nationality.

Blatter indicated that the groups, headed by committee members, were meant to mark the end of an atmosphere of "the negative and demolition" that ripped through FIFA during his re-election campaign.

"We decided this morning that we are working in five different areas to tackle these problems and seek solutions," Blatter said.

The groups are due to report back to the executive committee meeting in Madrid on December 17 and 18. In some instances they overlap with each other.

German football federation president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder will head a group examining club problems such as pay, debts or the number of games played, while Michel Platini of France will be among three committee members

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Key with openers

Cricket

REUTERS, Colombo

Coach Dav Whatmore believes Sri Lanka's ability to cope with Australia in the first fifteen overs of each innings could decide their International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy semi-final.

The hosts are likely to face aggressive pace bowling from Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee, while Australia's opening batsmen Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden have the ability to dominate any bowling line-up.

But Whatmore said that if his players made a good start as they could be well secured a place in Sunday's final.

"Their openers with bat and ball have been the catalysts for easy

victories," said Whatmore on Wednesday.

"Jason Gillespie looks well on top of his game at the moment, then there's Glenn McGrath, and Brett Lee's bowling quick and fairly straight."

"Then at the other end, when they bat, both left-handers are capable of getting big hundreds and breaking the game open."

"They've been responsible for setting the right tone for their victories in the past."

The man who will shoulder much of the burden when Sri Lanka bat will be captain and opening batsman Sanath Jayasuriya.

He has made a miraculous recovery from a dislocated right shoulder suffered only three weeks before the tournament and went through the pain barrier to score an unbeaten century that secured an

eight-wicket win over Pakistan in the opening match.

Whatmore acknowledged Jayasuriya's role would be vital as Sri Lanka look to blunt Australia's fast bowlers with the fielding restrictions in place.

"It's evolved to the point where to have Sanath in the side has a huge effect on everyone," said Whatmore. "His performances have been wonderful and the knock-on effect from that has been quite evident."

Whatmore hinted Jayasuriya could also have a crucial role with his left-arm spin on a pitch expected to offer slow turn.

"He's only bowled three overs so far in the two matches but he might do more in the next couple."

Whatmore said he did not think the lack of a really testing match for either side ahead of the semifinals

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