



Did U Know?

Youngest player to have appeared in a World Cup match was Norman Whiteside of Northern Ireland in 1982. He was 17 years and 42 days old when he played against Yugoslavia. The oldest player was Roger Milla of Cameroon, who was 42 years and 39 days when he played against Russia in 1994. He in fact scored in that game, making him the oldest goal scorer as well!



What to Watch

BTV & ESPN
Bangladesh vs West Indies
First ODI
Live at 8:55 am

ESPN
Western Union World Football
Taped Version at 8:00 am
Cricket Programming
Super selector
Repeat at 8:25 am
English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur vs Leeds United
Repeat at 6:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Australia vs England
Third Test, Day One
Live at 8:25 am
South Africa vs Sri Lanka
Second ODI
Live at 6:25 pm
Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 10:00 pm



Tiger Woods
(American golf superstar)
"It's been a great year. Winning two majors in a year, or even one, is a great year and I'm lucky enough to get two."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

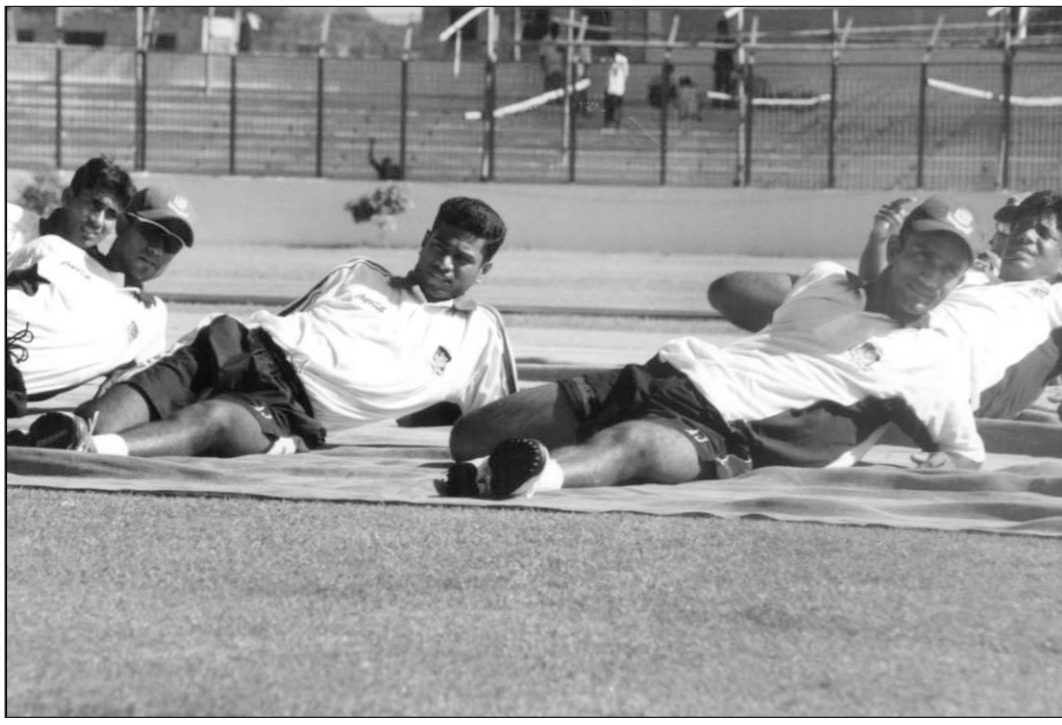
Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star**. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 13, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the DC Gold Cup soccer title?
Tangali M'singh N'ganj
- Who lifted the Shanghai Tennis Masters Cup?
Agassi Ferrero Hewitt
- Who was the man-of-the-match in the 6th ODI between India and West Indies?
Dravid Gayle Agarkar
- Pakistan won the Test series against Zimbabwe by?
1-0 2-1 2-0
- Brazil won the friendly match against South Korea by?
Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT
Islampurpara Sporting Club defeated New Star Club 3-1 in the Econo First Division Football League match at the Magura Stadium yesterday. Alam, Zahid and Burkey scored one goal each for the winners while Milton reduced the margin for the losers. Nizandual Sporting Club take on Madanpur Horezan Sporting Club today at the same venue.



GET UP, NO TIME TO RELAX: Bangladesh's (L-R) Mohammad Ashraful, Hannan Sarker, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud and Mohammad Rafique stretch during their practice session yesterday ahead of the first one-day international against the West Indies today.

Spin to fight Calypso fire

Cricket
HASAN MASOOD, from Chittagong

The national selectors are counting on the spinners to subdue a marauding West Indies in the first one-day international at the MA Aziz Stadium today.

There were as many as four spinner-allrounders and only two pacemen in the first XI that was announced last evening.

Left arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and leg spinner Alok Kapali have retained their place in the squad while former Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman and young leggie Mohammad Ashraful are the two other slow bowlers who have been drafted into the side. Apart from them, Sanwar Hossain can also send down his reasonable off-breaks if required.

Naimur will make a comeback in the Bangladesh team after a one-year gap. The 29-year-old lost his captaincy and was dropped from the national team after their 2-0 Test series defeat against Zimbabwe at home last November. He is the only specialist off-spinner in the squad.

Ashraful, more known for his batting prowess, too has earned a recall after his omission in Sri Lanka last August due to a run of poor form with the bat in the limited overs game. The selectors have brought back Test cricket's youngest centurion apparently on talent rather than form. His improved bowling in recent times also gives a new dimension to the team's bowling attack.

The two pacers in the team are right arm Taposh Baishya and left arm Monjurul Islam.

"The decision to include more spinners was taken considering the left-hander dominated West Indies batting line-up," said chief selector Aliul Islam who arrived here in the afternoon to announce the squad.

"This is only the first match. If our strategy doesn't work we can always make changes in the next two games. Let's see how it goes tomorrow," added Aliul.

Aliul is also hoping that the local batsmen will come good as the all-rounders have given depth to the line up. "Our main objective is to bat well. If we can put up a sizable total, I think the bowlers will automatically

do well." Al-Shahriar will open the batting along with Hannan Sarker while the irrepressible Ashraful might come at number three with star batsman Habibur Bashar, Sanwar Hossain and Alok Kapali to follow. The lower half of the batting line looks very impressive on paper with capable hands like captain Khaled Mashud, Naimur Rahman and Mohammed Rafique. Even Taposh has showed a good batting posture in his brief time at international level.

"I have seen the pitch and I believe it will be a very good batting track," concluded Aliul.



NEED SOME WICKETKEEPING TIPS? Bangladesh coach Mohsin Kamal (R) talks to skipper Khaled Mashud during a practice session at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Perth Test starts today

In with Lee, out with Bichel

Cricket
AFP, Perth

Strike bowler Brett Lee has been brought back into the Australian side for the third Ashes cricket Test against England starting here Friday in a bid to wrap up the five-Test series for the home team.

Lee, 26, one of the world's fastest bowlers, will replace Andy Bichel, who played in Australia's first two victorious Tests in Brisbane and Adelaide.

"We have made this move because we think this is the way we can win this Test match," captain Steve Waugh said here Thursday.

The WACA Ground pitch is considered one of the fastest in the world, and Lee has an outstanding record here.

And Lee, with pace champions Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie, will be bowling at a shell-shocked England so depleted by injury problems they will not finalise their team until just before the start.

"The idea is simply that we have gone for extra pace. It came down to who was going to be quicker -- and Brett got the nod," Waugh said.

Lee said: "I have been chosen to bowl fast -- and that is exactly what I will try to do."

"I am very excited, because this looks like a very fast wicket. But I don't want anybody to get hit out there. I am not a sadist."

Waugh had predicted that, because of the pace of the pitch, it was almost certain batsmen would be injured.

Western Australian and former Test fast bowler Jo Angel, breaking his arm and putting him out of the sport for months.

Waugh said Lee, who was dropped from the team at the start of the Ashes series after a poor performance against Pakistan, had regained the form that made him

one of the world's most exciting bowlers with a stint back in interstate ranks.

"The move has worked out well for him... Brett comes back a tougher cricketer. He knows that to be in the Australian side he has to carry on

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Australia opener Matthew Hayden during the team's practice at the WACA Ground in Perth yesterday.

NCL begins on Dec 10

UNB, Dhaka

The Ispahani Mirzapur Tea fourth National Cricket League, the country's only ICC-recognised first class cricket tournament, will begin on December 10.

The meet will be played on single league basis instead of regulation home-and-away format at five venues -- Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS), Comilla Stadium, Fatullah Stadium, Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS) and Rajshahi Stadium.

The tournament Committee announced the fixture of the first-class tournament yesterday. The six divisional teams - Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet and Khulna - will take part in the meet that also includes a one-day match after the four-day fixture.

FIXTURE
December 10-13, 14
Dhaka vs Barisal (Comilla Stadium) Rajshahi vs Sylhet (Fatullah Stadium) Chittagong vs Khulna (DCS).
December 17-20, 21
Sylhet vs Comilla (Comilla Stadium) Chittagong vs Barisal (Fatullah Stadium) Rajshahi vs Khulna (DCS).
December 24-27, 28
Dhaka vs Khulna (Rajshahi Stadium) Rajshahi vs Barisal (DCS) Chittagong vs Sylhet (BNS).
Dec 30 - Jan 2, 3
Rajshahi vs Chittagong (BNS) Khulna vs Barisal (Fatullah Stadium).
Jan 6-9, 10
Dhaka vs Chittagong (BNS) Sylhet vs Barisal (Fatullah).
Jan 13-16, 17
Dhaka vs Rajshahi (BNS) Khulna vs Sylhet (Fatullah Stadium).

B'desh, CRP draw 2-2

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh national hockey team drew with Central Reserve Police (CRP) of India 2-2 in their opening match of Lal Bahadur Shastri hockey tournament at Shaheed Stadium in New Delhi yesterday.

Bangladesh led the first half 2-1. Rajon and Habul scored for the visitors. Musa Mian was adjudged the best player of the match.

Bangladesh, the lone foreign team in the competition, are playing directly in the round robin phase of the meet.

Bangladesh, placed in Group B, take on Oil and Natural Gas Company today while play their last group match against Air India on December 1.

Office hockey from Jan

BSS, Dhaka

Office Hockey League, organised by Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), will begin in the first week of January next.

Office clubs and organisations have been requested to send their entries by December 10 at BHF office.

Each team can include a maximum number of four national players in the team.

Saeed, Moin back in Pakistan fold

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan on Thursday recalled dashing left-handed opener Saeed Anwar and wicketkeeper Moin Khan in a 30-strong pool of players for next year's World Cup.

Anwar, 34, was dropped for last month's series against Australia and the on-going tour of Zimbabwe, leaving doubts over his career.

"I am delighted and will work hard in the coming season to find a place in the final squad," Anwar told AFP after his selection.

The opener holds the world record for the highest one-day innings, scoring 194 against India in 1997.

Khan, a former captain, had not played for Pakistan since March last year.

Selectors are likely to be comparing his performance to wicket-keeper Rashid Latif, who announced his retirement from Test cricket on Wednesday but said he would continue to play one-day internationals.

Kamran Akmal, the team's current keeper, also made the list.

Karachi batsman Farhan Adil missed out on selection, despite hitting two centuries and two half-centuries in the Super League one-day tournament held in Lahore, which was part of the selection process.

Pakistan Cricket Board officials said the list of 30 probables will be cut short next month and a final

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SERIES SNIPPETS

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER, from Chittagong

Believe it or not, Marlon Samuels is a great admirer of Sachin Tendulkar rather than idolising West Indian greats Vivian Richards and Gordon Greenidge. But it's quite surprising that the stylish middle-order bats

man from Jamaica chose a man who bears no resemblance with himself.

While the little Indian master is better known to be a disciplined man on and off the field, Samuels' track record has not been so spotless.

Samuels, 23, one of the star performers on the tour of India, got into hot waters when he broke the team curfew to go to a nightclub

before the Kolkata Test.

But intervention by the WICB president Wes Hall prevented him from being sent home. Samuels repaid the gesture by cracking a hundred at the Eden Gardens. "I always watch Sachin very carefully. He is the best batsman in the world and he just deserves to be my idol."

BALD WICKET

"The wicket at the MA Aziz Stadium promises runs aplenty," said CJKS grounds manager and former national opener Nurul Abedin to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

"Crowds come to see high-voltage cricket and that's what we promise a pitch, which will show no mercy to any of the bowlers.

From a green-top on Wednesday, the pitch looked absolutely bald with groundsmen razing every sprouting grass a day before the match.

However, the outfield is much better than last year. "There was no football this year. So, we got more time to look after the outfield this time. Hopefully, the players will be able to slide on it this time," Abedin added.

OFFICIALLY OK

ICC match referee Ranjan Madugalle and umpires David Shepherd of England and local Akhteruddin Shaheen were satisfied with the preparations for tomorrow's match after visiting the stadium yesterday afternoon.

Madugalle is paying his first visit to the country. However, Shepherd is no stranger to Bangladesh.

The "heavyweight" Englishman stood in the middle during the Wills International Cup in 1998 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Two years later, Shepherd officiated in the Inaugural Test against India at the same venue.

WATCHING THE CALYPSO BAND PLAY

The port city has suddenly come to life with the arrival of the Caribbean team.

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DEMOLITION MEN: West Indies openers Wavell Hinds (L) and Chris Gayle are about to take to the practice field at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Youhana re-arrives

Cricket

REUTERS, Harare

Pakistan's Yousuf Youhana is back with a bang just weeks after being sent home over a row with captain Waqar Younis in the nets.

The batsman scored 100 net out in the third one-day international against Zimbabwe on Wednesday to help his country record a series win.

The ton followed unbeaten knocks of 141 and 76 in the first two matches, leaving him with an unbeaten aggregate of 317 runs from the limited-overs series so far.

But just three months ago, Youhana -- who was also struggling with a shoulder injury at the time -- had been sent home from a triangular tournament in Kenya on disciplinary grounds after the argument with Waqar.

"I'm in very good form, for the first time in a long time," Youhana told Reuters on Wednesday.

"(My faith in) God has helped me a lot, especially during and after my shoulder injury in August, which kept me out for one and a half months."

"I thank God for my form...My parents and my wife and daughters all pray for me."

"But I want to score many more runs, because this form won't last forever. I don't want to lose this grip."

Youhana's purple patch began in the Test series in Zimbabwe, as he averaged 74 in the two Tests with a highest score of 159. The series

ended last week with Pakistan winning 2-0.

As a coup de grace to his one-day exploits on Wednesday, Youhana -- a stalwart of 41 Tests and 114 one-dayers -- hit the last ball of Pakistan's innings for six to reach three figures off 68 balls.

He conceded that batting conditions and the standard of opposition were in his favour.

"These are very flat wickets, and



YOUSUF YOHANA

Zimbabwe are not a good bowling side at the moment," he said. "Andy Bignault, Heath Streak and Travis Friend are all injured."

He insists there will be no respite for the hosts in the last two matches of the series on Saturday and Sunday, even though Pakistan have already wrapped up the series.

"That has no effect, I still want to have the same approach," Youhana said.

Aussies 1000, England 1!

AFP, London

A leading British bookmaker is so certain that Australia will win the Ashes that it has made Steve Waugh's men 1,000-1 on to take the series.

"It's the shortest odds we've ever offered, apart from tomorrow being Thursday and even that's less certain," Graham Sharpe, a spokesman for bookmakers William Hill told AFP on Wednesday.

Flower fined

REUTERS, London

Zimbabwe's Grant Flower has been fined and warned over his future conduct after using obscene language during the one-day international series against Pakistan.

Flower was reported following his outburst after dismissing Pakistan batsman Tauseef Umar for 68 during the third match of the five-game series in Harare on Wednesday.

He also gestured angrily towards the pavilion after taking Umar's wicket. Flower was docked half his match fee after a hearing by match referee Clive Lloyd.

Flower, a top-order batsman who also bowls left-arm spin, is one of Zimbabwe's most experienced players, having featured in 187 one-day internationals and 63 Tests. He took one for 52 off 10 overs on Wednesday.



Models display the trophy of the 2003 Cricket World Cup, crafted in silver and gilt, in Indian capital New Delhi yesterday. The trophy, valued at 62,000 dollars, is currently in India and will travel to all other countries taking part in the tournament to be held in southern Africa.

PHOTO: AFP