

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 30, 2002, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



ESPN

New Zealand vs India

Second ODI

Repeat at 10:30 am

ATP Tour World Series

Tata Open, Round of 32

Live at 5:30 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 9:30 pm

STAR Sports

Australia vs England

Fourth Test, Day Five

Live at 5:57 am

Asia Sport Show

Int'l Sports News

Taped Version at 4:00 pm

Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 9:00 pm

Harsha Online

Games

India minus Bhutia Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace India striker Baichung Bhutia ruled out of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship due to muscle injury

The India and Mohun Bagan captain is out of action since December 7 when he had to leave the around with pulled muscle during a crucial National Football What to League clash against arch-rivals East Bengal in Kolkata. The absence of India's number

one marksman is going to pose a big problem for the defending champions' bid to clinch a treble. Bhutia, who played in the English Second Division League for couple

of years before joining Kolkata giants Mohunbagan this season, had been a lynchpin in India's wins against Bangladesh for the last few vears

Finding no other suitable alternative. Indian coach Stephan Constantine on Friday called up veteran Invalappil Mani (IM) Vijavan of JTC in his SAFF camp, which starts in Kolkata from January 2 with 26 footballers. The balding British coach is likely to name his final 20man squad by the end of this week.



The following 26 booters have

Indian football team-- Sandip

Nandy, Dipak Mondal, M. Suresh, S.

Venkatesh. Alvito D'Cunha

Subhash Chakraborty, Rennedy

Singh, Rajat Ghosh Dastidar, Abhay

BAICHUNG BHUTIA

Kumar, Jules Alberto, Selwyn Fernandez, Debjit Ghosh, RC Prakash, Peter Siddigui, Abhishek Yadav, Naseem Akhtar, Harvinder Singh (Jr), IM Vijavan, Jo Paul Ancheri, Roberto Fernandes, Covam Lawrence, Tomba Singh, Mahesh Gawli, Virender Singh, Ashim Biswas and Samir Naik.

Speed defended the world

governing body's decision to stage

the six matches in Harare and

Bulawavo despite the deteriorating

political and economic situation in

take into account whether one

government has a bad relationship

with another government." he said.

"We can't be swayed by these sorts

teams with genuine safety concerns

about their players and officials.

But Speed did give some hope to

"In administering cricket we can't

Sri Lanka meanwhile will be the been called for the primary camp of first team to arrive in Dhaka on January 6 to play in the eight-nation meet that starts at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from January 10. Bhutan will also arrive in the capital later on the same day travelling by road.

India, who will play the inaugural match against their arch-rivals Pakistan on January 10, are expected to reach by January 8.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and new entrants Afghanistan have been pencilled in Group A. Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan forms Group B along with hosts Bangladesh, who are now playing in the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk football tournament in Bhutan as part of their preparation for the SAFF Championship.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has appointed KEO Sarin as the match commissioner for the 10-day tournament. Othman Omar of Malavsia and Bangladesh's Monirul Islam will act as referee inspectors.

Six referees -- Balu Sundarrai of India, Shrestha Gyanu Raja of Nenal Aruna De Silva of Sri Lanka Kunsuta Chatchai of Thailand and two Bangladeshis, Tayeb Hasan and Ram Krishna Ghosh -- will officiate in the 16 matches of the tournament

2

D-DAY LOOMS! (1) Chief Selector Aliul Islam, Bangladesh team manager ASM Faruque, national selectors GM Nowsher Prince and Omar Khaled Rumi watch the World Cup probables in action at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan yesterday. (2) Fast bowler Mashrafee bin-Mortuza (R) helps veteran all-rounder Khaled Mahmud stretch. (3) Coach Mohsin Kamal recording his observations while his charges play a practice match. A 15-man Bangladesh squad for the World Cup in South Africa is expected to be announced today.

CityCell Nat'l Youth Championship

Lara in WC frame

Play or forfeit points

next February

Zimbabwe.

of considerations.

security," he said.

commissioner

REUTERS, London

Teams refusing to play World Cup matches in Zimbabwe next February will forfeit their points, International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed

says "If the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) said that they weren't going to play that game because they have been told by their government that they are not to play that game, they would forfeit the points," Speed told a news conference in Melbourne on Sunday.

"That has happened before."

Australia and West Indies forfeited points at the 1996 World Cup when they refused to play in Sri Lanka because of bomb blasts in Colombo before the start of the tournament, hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"If the ruling was in their favour

that it was unsafe to play, they would share the points with Zimbabwe. Speed told Sky Sports the ICC had discussed the present situation in Zimbabwe

"We can only make our decision based on cricketing considerations and sporting considerations," he said. "We have 84 member countries that have come under all sorts of political regimes.

"It will be a good tournament for Zimbabwean cricket. As one of the 10 full-member countries of the ICC. they've earned the right to host these matches and there are a lot of dedicated cricket supporters and cricket administrators who want these matches to go ahead.

"We actually think that cricket will bring some pleasure to a lot of "It is being finalised over the next couple of days, whereby they could people in Zimbabwe in difficult obtain a ruling as to safety and times. We're aware of the political difficulties, we're aware of the "It will go to the event technical economic difficulties, but they're committee, in the first instance, with factors that we don't take into the right of appeal to an appeals account.

Jigme Dorji f'ball **Bangladesh play** semifinal today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on Oil India in the second semifinal of the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Memorial football tournament in Phuentsholing, Bhutan today.

Tipped as favorites to win the nvitational tournament, Bangladesh stormed into the last four by winning all their three league games convincingly. The defending champions of SAF Games punched in 13 goals without any reply in three previous games.

Bangladesh is taking part in the tournament as part of their preparation for the 3rd SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Championship to be held in Dhaka from January 10-20. Bhutan will also make their maiden appearance in the Dhaka spectacle along with Afghanistan.

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna and Magura advanced into the final round of the CityCell Digital 22nd National Youth Cricket Championship.

Khulna recorded a 33-run win against Satkhira at Jessore while Magura outplayed Jessore by 73 runs at Jhenidah to earn their places in the 12-team final phase.

Hasibul Hag, a member of the Bangladesh youth team that tour New Zealand early this year, scored an unbeaten 50 in Khulna's fighting total of 169 for nine in 46 overs.

Satkhira, in their chase, were bundled out for 136 in the face of a decisive spell from Shamim who

Magura made a moderate 171 before being all out in 36.3 overs. But Jessore never looked capable of chasing and were shot out for 98. Faisal captured three wickets for Magura.

Khuna, Magura march into last 12

Narayanganj handed Shariatpur a 7-wickets defeat at the Jagannath Hall ground. Set to score 136 for victory, Narayanganj raced to 137 for three wickets in 28.2 overs with Hiru notching 40.

Dhaka recorded a 10-wicket win against Kirshoreganj at Mymenshing Stadium, Sunny fashioned an easy victory for Dhaka with a five-wicket haul in a low-

scoring match where Kishoreganj were bundled out for 82. It was a striking reversal of fortune for Kishoreganj only a day after their impressive 8-wicket victory 0 against Gazipur.

fate against Dinajpur at Rangpur Stadium where they suffered a three-wicket defeat twenty-four hours after their four-wicket win against Kurigram.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

But Rangpur kept up the good work at Dinajpur Stadium where they sailed over Pabna by seven wickets. Rangpur recorded a 10wicket victory against Panchagarh

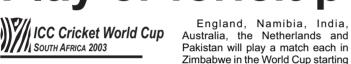
on Saturday. Hosts Comilla also kept their hopes alive for a final round berth with a five-wicket win against Feni in the knock out first phase.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Narayanganj v Shariatpur Shariatpur: 135 all out in 43 overs (Sabui, Motaher 20; Masum 3/32) Narayanganj: 173 for 3 in 28.2 е r

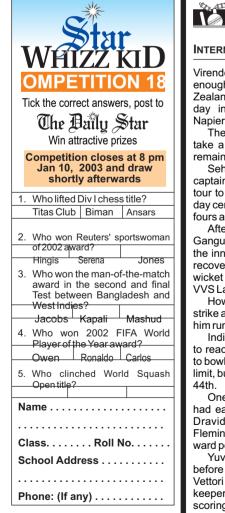


Saeed Anwar (Pakistan star batsman) "I look forward to playing the World





Cup for Pakistan and doing my best to guide the team to another world



AFC U-14 soccer **BD** finish third

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh clinched the third spot in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-14 Football Festival held in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu.

Bangladesh secured 10 points from five matches, while hosts Nepal became champions collecting 13 points.

India became runners-up as they finished the competition with 12 points

Bangladesh team returns home from Nepal today.

Sehwag ton goes awry

Cricket wicketkeeper Dravid. But Dravid's cause for celebration was limited after a difficult day behind the stumps. **INTERNET**, Napier He missed a chance to stump Sinclair on 22 and then dropped an Virender Sehwag's 108 was not enough for India to stop New edge from the New Zealander after adding a further 15 to his total. Zealand winning the second one-Astle could also consider himself day international by 35 runs in lucky, after being bowled by Khan for one but being let off by a no ball

The victory saw the home side take a 2-0 lead with five matches from the Indian fast bowler. remaining in the series Sehwag, publicly backed by his balls only temporarily halted the

captain on Saturday after a poor tour to date, scored his fourth onedav century from 111 balls with eight fours and two sixes.

After a poor start, skipper Saurav Ganguly falling to the second ball of the innings from Daryl Tuffey, India recovered thanks to a secondwicket 57 between Sehwag and VVS Laxman (20). However, his desire to keen the strike away from the tail-enders saw him run out by Tuffey. India had just 48 overs available to reach 255 for victory after failing to bowl their 50 overs within the time

limit, but they were bowled out in the 44th One of Sehwag's back foot shots had earlier seen the end of Rahul Dravid for 18, when Stephen Fleming fielded expertly at back-

ward point Yuvraj Singh lasted just two balls before he was deceived by Daniel Vettori and stumped by wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum without scorina

McCullum, on trial for a World Cup berth, made four catches and a stumping, to equal Adam Parore's New Zealand record set against the West Indies in Goa in 1994. Nathan Astle had earlier struck 76 and Mathew Sinclair 78 in a second wicket partnership of 136. But their departures in quick succession caused a catastrophic slump in batting, with Lou Vincent the only other player to make it into double figures.

Sehwag was run out trying to retain the strike

Astle's ended a run of four single figure scores before he was caught by Zaheer Khan off the bowling of Ganguly.

Sinclair's innings was ended soon afterwards when he edged the Napier vesterday, bowling of Harbhajan Singh to

Final scoreboard in the second one day match between New Zealand and India on Sunday:

76

78

5

34

4

7

5

9

5

2

NEW ZEALAND

Fleming c Kaif b Srinath Astle c Khan b Ganguly Sinclair c Dravid b Harbhajan McMillan Ibw b Srinath Vincent b Srinath Oram run out (Srinath) McCullum c Yuvrai b Khan Mills b Khan Vincent's quick-fire 34 off 32 Vettori not out Tuffey b Khan threat of Khan and Javagal Srinath, Hitchcock not out SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

SCOREBOARD

who took three wickets apiece.



PHOTO: AFF India's Virender Sehwag square cuts against New Zealand at McLean Park in

Ispahani League

resumes today SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Chittagong take on Rajshahi in their fourth round Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League clash at the Fatullah Stadium today.

In the day's other match. Khulna face Barisal at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Chittagong are leading the sixteam National League four-day table with ten points while Rajshahi are sharing the second position with holders Dhaka, with each having collected eight points. Khulna have earned six points

while Barisal and Sylhet are vet to open their account after three . matches.

The four-day matches will be followed by one-day matches.

Tribal football M'singh rout Rajshahi

BSS, Dhaka

Mymensingh trounced Rajshahi 10-2 in the first-ever Tribal Football Championship at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yester day

Dipak netted four, Ashutosh two while Dipankar, Rajani, Bipul and Charles added one each for the winners

Ratan and Tulu scored one goal each for Rajshahi to reduce the margin.

Sylhet defeated Sherpur 3-1 in the other match of the day

Munna made hattrick for Sylhet while the only consolation goal for Sherpur came from Shuhash.

Magura soccer final today

OUR CORRESPONDENT

A H Khan Smriti Sangsad take on Niznanduali Sporting Club today in the final of the Econo First Division Football League at the Magura Stadium.

Twelve teams in two groups took part in the league started from Nov

ICC Cricket World Cup

REUTERS, Bridgetown

Brian Lara has been declared fit for the 2003 World Cup after suffering from a mystery illness, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said. Lara and fast bowler Nixon McLean were named in the 15-man West Indies squad on Saturday for the tournament in South Africa. Zimbabwe and Kenya starting in February.

The 33-year-old Lara was initially thought to be suffering from hepatitis but the exact nature of his illness has not been revealed.

He has not played since the ICC Championship in Sri Lanka in September, missing tours to India and Bangladesh.

The left-hander, who holds both Test (375) and first-class (501 not out) individual batting world records, has resumed training in preparation for his fourth World

Cup Earlier this month. Wisden. widely regarded as the bible of cricket publications, named Lara the number three batsman all time in one-day internationals behind fellow West Indian Viv Richards



and India's Sachin Tendulkar. He was listed 10th on the Test list headed by Australian Don

Bradman and also included fellow West Indians Richards, at three, and Garfield Sobers, at four.

For the 29-year-old McLean. who has played 44 limited-overs matches, his selection offers him a chance to revive an international career that appeared to have ended after plaving in the 2001 home series against South Africa.

"I think it is marvellous that (Lara) is back and we welcome him with open arms." Richards, chairman of the West Indies selection committee, said.

"It means we have some more depth in our batting and if we can get a few more things working, I think we have a great chance of going very far in the 2003 World Cup." added the former West Indies captain.

"You will also notice that McLean is back after not being in the squad, most notably in Sri Lanka. India and Bangladesh this year, but he's had some experience of playing provin SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Smith, McKenzie ignored Race quota rules SA's WC selection

ICC Cricket World Cup South Africa 2003



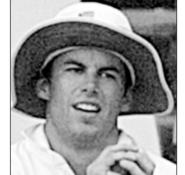
South Africa selected a record five players of colour in their 15-man squad for next year's cricket World Cup, a move defended Sunday by Percy Sonn, president of the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

"I think we've chosen the best 15," said Sonn after the squad was announced at Kingsmead.

There were no surprises in the final selection, given that the UCB gave a commitment to the South African government four years ago that at least five players of colour would play in the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

What Sonn described as a "paradigm" influenced the balance of the side, with the selectors

choosing what amounted to a "first XI" which included only two black



NEIL MCKENZIE

players, Herschelle Gibbs and Makhaya Ntini. Bacher, the then managing director

It meant that three black players had to fill the four "back-up" places

in the squad The selectors opted for two pace bowlers. Monde Zondeki and Charl Langeveldt, and spin bowling allrounder Robin Peterson, together with white all-rounder Andrew Hall. It meant there was no room in the

squad for capable white players such as opening batsman Graeme Smith, who played in 15 of South Africa's 21 limited overs internationals in the current season, middle order batsman Neil McKenzie or seam bowler Steve Elworthy.

Sonn said he was confident. however, that the UCB had complied with a contractual obligation to the International Cricket Council to select the "best players available at

the time" The commitment to pick five players of colour was made by Ali

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Sirajganj also suffered the same