



Did U Know?

Women were first allowed to participate in 1900 at the second modern Olympic Games.



What to WATCH

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
Cricket Talk Show
Same Day Delay at 9:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



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 title."



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 10, 2003 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who lifted Div I chess title?
Titans Club | Biman | Ansars
- Who won Reuters' sportswoman of 2002 award?
Hinglis | Serena | Jones
- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?
Jacobs | Kapali | Mashud
- Who won 2002 FIFA World Player of the Year award?
Owen | Ronaldo | Carlos
- Who clinched World Squash Open title?

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

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.

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 ground with pulled muscle during a crucial National Football 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 years.

Finding no other suitable alternative, Indian coach Stephan Constantine on Friday called up veteran Invalappil Mani (M) Vijayan 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 20-man squad by the end of this week.

The following 26 booters have been called for the primary camp of Indian football team-- Sandip Nandy, Dipak Mondal, M. Suresh, S. Venkatesh, Alvito D'Cunha, Subhash Chakraborty, Renedy Singh, Rajat Ghosh Dastidar, Abhay



BAICHUNG BHUTIA

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

Sri Lanka meanwhile will be the 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 Malaysia and Bangladesh's Monirul Islam will act as referee inspectors.

Six referees -- Balu Sundarraj of India, Shrestha Gyanu Raja of Nepal, 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.

Play or forfeit points

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

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.

England, Namibia, India, Australia, the Netherlands and Pakistan will play a match each in Zimbabwe in the World Cup starting next February.

Speed defended the world governing body's decision to stage the six matches in Harare and Bulawayo despite the deteriorating political and economic situation in Zimbabwe.

"In administering cricket we can't take into account whether one government has a bad relationship with another government," he said. "We can't be swayed by these sorts of considerations."

But Speed did give some hope to teams with genuine safety concerns about their players and officials.

"It is being finalised over the next couple of days, whereby they could obtain a ruling as to safety and security," he said.

"It will go to the event technical committee, in the first instance, with the right of appeal to an appeals commissioner."

"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 people in Zimbabwe in difficult times. We're aware of the political difficulties, we're aware of the economic difficulties, but they're factors that we don't take into account."



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 Mashrafe 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.

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 invitational 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.

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 six-team 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 yet 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 yesterday.

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 hat-trick 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 Niznanduli 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 11.

CityCell Nat'l Youth Championship Khuna, Magura march into last 12

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 Sathkira at Jessore while Magura outplayed Jessore by 73 runs at Jhenidah to earn their places in the 12-team final phase.

Hasibul Haq, 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.

Sathkira, in their chase, were bundled out for 136 in the face of a decisive spell from Shamim who finished with four for 21.

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

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 Mymensingh 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 against Gazipur.

Sirajganj also suffered the same

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

But Rangpur kept up the good work at Dinajpur Stadium where they sailed over Pabna by seven wickets. Rangpur recorded a 10-wicket 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 (Sabuj, Motaher 20; Masum 3/32)
Narayanganj: 173 for 3 in 28.2 overs

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Lara in WC frame

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

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



BRIAN LARA

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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 playing 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

AFP, Durban

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.

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 all-rounder 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 Bacher, the then managing director

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

India's Virender Sehwag square cuts against New Zealand at McLean Park in Napier yesterday.

Sehwag ton goes awry

Cricket

INTERNET, Napier

Virender Sehwag's 108 was not enough for India to stop New Zealand winning the second one-day international by 35 runs in Napier.

The victory saw the home side take a 2-0 lead with five matches remaining in the series.

Sehwag, publicly backed by his captain on Saturday after a poor tour to date, scored his fourth one-day 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 second-wicket 57 between Sehwag and VVS Laxman (20).

However, his desire to keep 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 backward point.

Yuvraj Singh lasted just two balls before he was deceived by Daniel Vettori and stumped by wicket-keeper Brendon McCullum without scoring.

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 bowling of Harbhajan Singh to

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