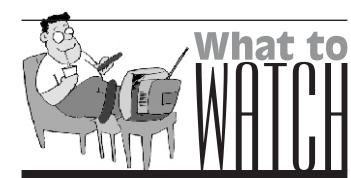




Did U Know?

Clive Lloyd holds the record of winning the most number of tosses in Tests. He won 35 tosses in 74 matches as captain.



ESPN

Premier League Asia Cup

Birmingham City vs Newcastle United

Live at 6:00 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Soccer Soap

Dream Team

Repeat at 8:30 am

England vs South Africa

First Test, Day One

Live at 3:45 pm

Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 11:00 pm

Soccer Soap

Dream Team

Taped Version at 11:30 pm



Duncan Fletcher

(England cricket coach)
"I still believe that Alec is the best all-round wicketkeeper we have got by some distance."

On Alec Stewart after the England wicketkeeper revealed his retirement plan on Wednesday.



Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

July 25, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Premier Division Hockey League title?
2. Who became Confederation Cup champions?
3. Who won the Wimbledon women's singles crown?
4. Which country will host the Asia Youth Cup cricket tournament?

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No. _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (If any) _____

Schools soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Residential Model and Dolaipar High won their respective matches in the final round of the Dhaka Metropolis inter-school football competition at the outer stadium yesterday.

Residential Model blanked Kamarpara High 3-0 in their Group A encounter. Nazrul struck twice while Sui Jui Ching, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, scored the other.

In Group B, Dolaipar posted a 2-0 win against Rahmatullah Model High. Raisul and Al Amin shared the goals. Al Amin was declared the man-of-the-match.

Chess checkmated

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) in a surprise move, demolished the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

The arbitrary action took place in the morning when the workers of a construction firm, which has reportedly received the NSC's order to pull down the two-story building, started dismantling it despite protests from a number of Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) officials. Some young chess players, who were attending a training programme at that time, were also stunned by the happenings.

"It is totally unacceptable the way the NSC is treating us. We are yet to get any formal letter from them regarding our shifting to a new place," said a shocked BCF general secretary Sujauddin Ahmed.

"We have so far only received verbal assurance from the Sports Minister that we will get room on the second floor of the main NSC building. But nothing has come in writing."

The dismantling operation stopped for the day after sometime but the destruction left precious belongings of the BCF loitering in the open.

This congested yet popular hall has been the home of Bangladesh's chess since 1986. But recently the NSC decided to build a 20-story building in its place and accordingly instructed the BCF to shift to a new location.

While Sujauddin was shattered, the NSC authorities remained unperturbed by this apparently damaging development.

The Daily Star Sport tried in vain to contact NSC secretary Mashud Elahi, State Minister for Youth and

Sports Fazlur Rahman was also not available as he was out of the city.

However, Major (Retd.) Enamul Haque, who is the NSC's auction committee chairman, decided to make some blatant remarks on the controversy.

"I'm just complying with the instruction from the higher authority. Besides, we couldn't wait any longer because the Prime Minister is scheduled to lay the foundation of the planned NSC Tower on August 5," said the director-administration of the NSC.

When asked whether the BCF had sent any letter to the BCF regarding the dismantling operation or if they had relocated the Federation, Enam expressed his ignorance.

"I can only tell you that it was decided on the July 16 in an executive committee meeting."

Interestingly, the relocation of the BCF was not even included in the minutes of that particular executive committee meeting

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Cairns causes a concern

Cricket

AFP, Cairns

A green pitch, promising to help Australia's formidable pace bowling battery, threatens Bangladesh's inexperienced batsmen in the second cricket Test starting here Friday.

Groundsman Kevin Mitchell said Wednesday recent wet weather had produced more grass on the wicket than he had expected and there had not been enough sun to dry the grass.

The pitch will be cut again before the start, but experienced observers said they believed it was almost certain the wicket would be far more lively than the pitch in the first Test in Darwin.

In that game, Bangladesh were skittled for 97 and 178 as they crashed to defeat by an innings and 132 runs, but new coach Dav Whatmore and captain Khaled Mahmud said gradual improvement was the main goal for a team that entered Test cricket three years ago and has a record of 19 losses and one draw.

Lee relishes the pacy prospect

BBC ONLINE, Cairns

Brett Lee is expecting early success in the second Test against Bangladesh after finding a wicket likely to aid pace bowlers in Cairns.

After being shot out for 97 and 178 in last week's opening Test defeat in Darwin, the tourists will not relish the wicket for the Bundaberg Rum Stadium's first ever Test.

"I haven't seen a nice fast wicket for a while, but this looks as close to a green-top as possible," Lee said after inspecting the pitch.

Lee, who captured 3-23 in the first innings and 1-34 in the second in Australia's innings victory, said he would love to open the Australian attack.

But the New South Wales pace man knows he will probably have to wait behind Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie.

"I wanted the experience of playing on the bouncier pitches of South Africa," Kambli said. "But now I want to prove myself here once again."

Kambli enjoyed an enviable average of 54.20 in 17 Tests, mainly due to the two double-centuries and two

week.

Australia's fastest bowler Brett Lee would love to open the Australian attack in the historic match the first Test to be played in the far north Queensland city.

But he knows he will probably have to wait behind senior pacemen Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie, who have just surpassed Ray Lindwall and Keith Miller as Australia's best opening bowler partnership.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehmann, Steve Waugh (captain), Martin Love, Adam Gilchrist, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath, Andy Bichel.

BANGLADESH (from): Javed Omar, Hannan Sarkar, Habibul Bashar, Mohammad Ashraful, Al Shahriar, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud, Khaled Mahmud (captain), Tapas Baisya, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, Mianjurul Islam, Sanwar Hossain, Mohammad Rafique, Anwar Hossain, Tareq Aziz.

It has simply given reserve leg-spinner Stuart MacGill more opportunities to impress, including a five-wicket haul in Bangladesh's second innings last

week.

Critics said he lacked discipline, unlike his friend Tendulkar who is regarded as one of the game's leading

players.

Vinod Kambli, a stylish batsman better known as Sachin Tendulkar's childhood friend, wants to play for India again after being cold-shouldered for eight years.

The 31-year-old left-hander, who once scored double-centuries in back-to-back Tests against England and Zimbabwe in 1993, was on Wednesday named in Bombay's list of probables for the new season.

"I want to play again for Bombay and India," said Kambli, who played the last of his 17 Tests against New Zealand in Cuttack in November 1995.

He skipped the domestic season last year, in which Bombay won the Ranji Trophy, to play as a professional for Boland in South Africa's first-class cricket.

"I wanted the experience of playing on the bouncier pitches of South Africa," Kambli said. "But now I want to prove myself here once again."

Kambli enjoyed an enviable average of 54.20 in 17 Tests, mainly due to the two double-centuries and two

other hundreds in his first seven Tests, before his career declined.

Critics said he lacked discipline, unlike his friend Tendulkar who is regarded as one of the game's leading

players.

Kambli's ambition

Cricket

AFP, Bombay

Vinod Kambli, a stylish batsman better known as Sachin Tendulkar's childhood friend, wants to play for India again after being cold-shouldered for eight years.

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players.

Nasir jointly in the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed was sharing the lead with five other players with maximum points at the end of the second round in the Smith and Williamson British Chess Championship now being held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Nasir beat IM John K Shaw of Scotland.

GM Ziaur Rahman earned 1.5 points. He drew with FM Stewar Haslinger of England, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib lost to GM Pentala Harikrishna of India, IM Reefat Bin-Sattar lost to Rajko Vujatovic of England, IM Abdullah Al Rakib drew with Stephen Gordon of England.

Meanwhile, Shawkat Hossain Pallab earned 1.5 points in the tourists' final warm-up match, against India A, which concluded at Arundel on Monday.

Herschelle Gibbs' innings was especially welcome after a run of low-scores.

But batting on a placid pitch, against an attack of modest pace, was no preparation for facing England quicks James Anderson

and Darren Gough.

Whether Gibbs, a gifted stroke-player, can make the late adjustments that are often required against the swinging and seaming ball remains to be seen.

Much will depend on 35-year-left-hander Gary Kirsten, South Africa's most capped player with 89 Tests, who missed the triangular series after retiring from one-day internationals following the World Cup.

Kirsten's immense powers of concentration make him adept at anchoring an innings as England will recall from the 210 he made in the Headingley Test on South Africa's last tour here in 1998.

Edgbaston is not known for helping spinners which means South Africa are likely to field a four-man pace attack while packing the batting in a bid to deny England the 20 wickets they need for victory.

But who will support Pollock and Ntini? At Arundel, uncapped 20-year-old Monde Zondek looked a lively prospect while Dewald Pretorius showed plenty of determination.

However Charl Willoughby rested from the Arundel match and could come into contention. He is a left-arm swing bowler and that is

not something batsmen come up against that often.

England welcome back Test captain Nasser Hussain, who resumes the leadership from one-day skipper Michael Vaughan and wicketkeeper Alec Stewart.

Both men, like Kirsten, quit one-day internationals after the World Cup.

Stewart stalwart Stewart, 40, announced on Tuesday he would retire from Test cricket at the end of this series. But he remains a superior batsman to his England rivals.

Test regular Mark Butcher further strengthens England's batting. But there is no room for his fellow Surrey left-hander Graham Thorpe who has made himself available for internationals again following personal problems.

Instead Anthony McGrath retains his middle-order place although the Yorkshire captain still appears the weakest link in England's top six.

Andrew Flintoff's undoubted talent started to flower in the one-dayers and, after missing England's previous eight Tests through injury, home fans will hope this is the series where the all-rounder comes into full bloom.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR
Action from yesterday's First Division hockey Super League match between Azad Sporting Club and Victoria Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

ICC bosses due in November

SPORTS REPORTER

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani is expected to arrive in Dhaka on November 11 to unveil the logo of the Under-19 World Cup to be held in the country next February-March.

Tournament director of the ICC Under-19 World Cup Roquibul Hassan, the former Bangladesh skipper, told The Daily Star yesterday that the ICC chief would arrive here along with ICC chief executive officer Malcolm Speed for the official launching of the tournament.

He also informed that ICC senior event manager Chris Pedi would come here in November to work with local officials.

It was earlier learnt that the tournament schedule might be revised to reduce the time span of the tournament