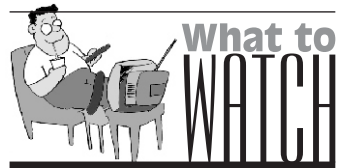




Former West Indian fast bowler Andersson Cummins, playing for the first time on South African soil (against Pakistan in a one-day international) took two wickets with his first two balls.



#### ESPN

Goals  
Repeat at 3.30 pm  
**English Premier League**  
Chelsea v Aston Villa  
**Live at 7.55 pm**  
English Premier League  
Man United v Leicester City  
Same day delay at 10.30 pm  
**Spanish Football**  
Real Madrid v Valencia  
**Live at 1.30 am (Sunday)**  
**STAR Sports**  
NBA Inside Stuff  
Repeat at 5.30 pm  
**English Premier League**  
Man United v Leicester City  
**Live at 7.55 pm**  
English Premier League  
Chelsea v Aston Villa  
Same day delay at 10 pm



#### Saurav Ganguly

(Indian cricket captain)  
"I have not built it up as a revenge series."  
**On the Test series against New Zealand.**

#### NOTICE

Due to technical reasons the draw for WHIZZ KID Competition 198 could not be held last night. It will now take place on Friday, October 3.



Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
**Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 3, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards**

- Who won the Champions Trophy hockey title?  
Netherlands [Australia]  
Pakistan
- Who clinched the Europa college basketball crown?  
Khulna College Mastermind Notre Dame
- Bangladesh lost the first Test against Pakistan by:  
7 wkts 42 runs 3 wkts
- Who became man-of-the-match in the 4th Test between England and South Africa?

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

## Philips nat'l tennis starts

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the Philips National Tennis Tournament-2003 at Ramna Tennis Complex here yesterday.

A total of 105 players from across the country are taking part in the week-long event.

Matches will begin at 8 am every day and spectators will get free entry.

# Desperately seeking a six-hitter!



RABEED IMAM

Watching his batsmen struggling to accelerate under perfect batting conditions in the one-day international series against Pakistan, Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore must have wished he had a Ricardo Powell or a Shahid Afridi at his disposal.

The dearth of a striker, a specialist batsman who can throw his bat around and totally dominate the opposition bowling and clear the boundary on a regular basis, was the single most significant factor behind the Tigers' timid showing in the one-dayers and the jury is out that this team is a far better Test side than they are in the shorter version.

Indeed Bangladesh lacked that defining touch and paid heavily for it. Whenever the Pakistanis were in trouble or struggling to push the score, they had a Yousuf Youhana or an Inzamamul Haq to fall back on. Inevitably, Youhana, Inzamam or even Abdul Razzaq would come in and stroke the ball all around the park to take away the advantage from the tourists. On the other hand, Bangladesh would find themselves in positions which almost every other Test-playing nation would have capitalised on but just couldn't up the tempo when it was needed.

Bangladesh chased runs in four of the five one-day matches and apart from the no-contest in the first game, they could have really put Pakistan under pressure batting second in the other three if only one or two batsmen had showed a bit more bravado.

Hannan Sarker, Rajin Saleh,

Alok Kapali all made good scores throughout the series, all spent a lot of time out in the middle but when it was required of them to open their shoulders, they in turn just opened up the perennial deficiency of the side -- the absence of a six-hitter.

In Tests, this weakness doesn't pose that much of a problem



because there is ample time to score the runs and there's hardly any need for going over the top too often. But it's altogether a different story in one-day games.

In world cricket, every other team posesses two or even more individuals in their one-day batting orders with the ability to hit sixes whenever necessary.

Almost all the top-order batsmen in the Australian (Mathew Hayden, Adam Gilchrist, Ricky Ponting, Andrew Symonds, Darren Lehmann, Damien Martyn), West Indian (Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Brian Lara, Marlon Samuels, Rannareesh Sarwan, Ricardo Powell) and New Zealand (Nathan Astle, Stephen Fleming, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Scott Styris) lineups have big hitting abilities. India (Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh), Pakistan (Inzamam, Youhana, Razzaq, Younis Khan ) South Africa (Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock) England (Marcus Trescothick, Graeme Thorpe, Andrew Flintoff, Vikram Solanki), Sri Lanka (Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Upul Chandana) and Zimbabwe (Grant Flower, Stuart Carlisle, Mark Vermeulen, Andy Blignaut, Heath Streak) too are well equipped.

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(L) Indian captain Dhanraj Pillay (L) gives teammate Prabhjot Singh a congratulatory hug as dejected South Korean players leave the field yesterday. India knocked out the defending champions from the Sixth Men's Asia Cup hockey tournament. (R) Pakistani players celebrate after scoring their third goal against Japan in the other semifinal.

## India dump Korea Malaysia maul 'goalless' Bangladesh

AFP, Kuala Lumpur



India qualified for the final of the Sixth Asia Cup Friday when they defeated defending champions South Korea 4-2 in a thrilling match

at the National Hockey Stadium. They meet arch-rivals Pakistan who defeated Japan 3-1 in the other semifinal.

In a classification match for fifth to eighth placings Malaysia downed Bangladesh 5-0 to qualify for the 5th and 6th-place match tomorrow.

But it was not an easy win for India who came from one goal down to win the game.

The Koreans played a defensive game, letting the Indians surge forward and then launching their own counter-attacks, and in the 23rd minute this strategy almost paid off when Lim Jung Woo deflected a free hit taken by skipper Kim Jung Chul

only to be denied by the outstretched leg of Indian keeper Devesh Chauhan.

India's best chance to open the scoring came two minutes later when Dhanraj Pillay went on a solo run well within his own half before releasing the ball to Prabhjot Singh who played a delightful ball to Deepak Thakur.

But Deepak, with only the Korean keeper Ko Dong Sik to beat, hit the ball wide of the mark.

Korea broke the deadlock four minutes into the second half when Lee Jung Seon beat the Indian backline and keeper and slipped a pass to You Hyo Sik who had the easiest of tasks to slot it into an empty goal.

Gagan Ajit Singh continued his dismal performance by missing two sitters in the 41st and 43rd minutes.

Sandeep Michael provided India with the equalizer when he sneaked in behind the Korean defence and coolly side-stepped the Korean keeper to score in the 53rd minute.

The goal energised India and their persistence paid off when Prabhjot

Singh put them ahead in the 67th minute.

Gagan scored India's third goal two minutes later and though Korea reduced the deficit through Lee Jung Seon, Deepak Thakur ensured an emphatic win by scoring in the dying seconds of the match.

#### BANGLADESH-MALAYSIA

It was all one-way traffic for the Malaysians who led the first half 2-0.

The scorers for the home team were Mohd Rodhanizam Mat Radzi (25 mins), Azlan Mison (27), Mohd Amin Rahim (45), S. Kuhan (53) and Keevan Raj (61).

It was not only Bangladesh's fourth successive defeat but also meant they had yet to score a goal in the biggest regional event. Earlier, they lost 8-0 to Pakistan, 10-0 to India and 8-0 to China.

The results ended Bangladesh's hopes of a direct entry into the World Cup qualifiers.

## Waiting on foreigners



SPORTS REPORTER

The major teams are in no hurry to rope in foreign players with the domestic football season starting next month.

After completing the much-publicised inter-club players' transfers, their attention is firmly focused on getting their players into shape ahead of the October 25 Federation Cup.

Nevertheless, newly crowned National League champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kiria Chakra have begun searching for a top quality defender.

"Because we have enough time to look for players from abroad, we can prepare our local selection. But I still think we could strengthen our defence with another foreigner

besides Charles Ghansa. Most probably we will choose an African," said coach Shafiqul Islam Manik while talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

The successful Muktiyoddha coach informed that the Reds would start their practice camp from Sunday at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground.

Big-spenders Brothers Union, who stole the limelight with the capture of the cream of Dhaka football, was yet to be satisfied in their burning ambition to clinch the coveted title.

The Gopibahadur outfit, whose sensational coup lured the top ten players from Mohammedan Sporting Club, Muktiyoddha and Abahani, are instead eyeing a foreign coach.

"We have talked to a Nigerian and a Yugoslav but a final decision will be made after September 29,"

said Brothers manager Amir Khan.

He also said that the club intends to hire a few Africa-based players.

"Our main target is to clinch the league title and to assess our strengths and weaknesses. We will experiment with our foreign recruits in the Federation Cup," said the former player adding that their camp would kick-off from October 1 at the BKSP.

Title aspirants Abahani, however, are wasting no time as they practised at their Dhanmondi ground yesterday.

The players got together for the first time since losing in the National Football League semifinals. Russian coach Anatoly supervised the session.

Abahani, considered the second best team on paper strength-wise after Brothers Union, are making

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## BCB may double players on payroll

SPORTS REPORTER

It is likely that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is going to double the number of players under its fresh payroll.

The BCB currently has six paid players -- former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud, Sanwar Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Al Shahrar, Alok Kapali and Manjurul Islam.

But the Board has directed the four-member selection panel to provide the names of new players to be inducted in the pay-list "We proposed at least twelve for new payroll but the Board will decide who to include," Chief selector Faruque Ahmed told The Daily Star Sport after a meeting of the selectors yesterday.

The BCB is likely to finalize the matter in their next meeting scheduled tomorrow.

"We will discuss the issue on Sunday," said BCB advisor and Cricket Committee chairman Mahbubul Anam.

The selectors also talked about the players to be considered for the series against England as well as tour games involving the BCB President's XI and Bangladesh "A".

"We decided to announce teams on September 30," said Faruque.

He also informed that the national team camp ahead of the England tour would start on October 1 with 20 players.

## 'One bad decision can ruin a game'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar inaugurated a 10-day umpiring course at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. It is being sponsored by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

"One bad decision can ruin a match as happened in Pakistan recently," said Asghar during his welcome speech. The BCB boss is also president of the ACC.

Asghar said that umpiring is an integral part of cricket and the fate of a match hinges on the decisions of the men in the middle.

He also called upon the Bangladesh participants to make their way onto the elite ICC panel of umpires.

A total of 16 local umpires out of 31 participants are taking part in the course, organized by umpires committee of BCB.

Former Sri Lankan Test umpire KT Francis is conducting the programme.

"I believe that punctuality is the first criteria for a good umpire. The other important thing is how an official controls the match," Francis said in his inaugural speech,



Groundsmen use sponge to wipe off rainwater from on top of the pitch-cover at Visakhapatnam on the opening day of a three-day match between New Zealand and Indian Board President's XI yesterday.

## Saurav rubbishes NZ preparations



AFP, New Delhi

India captain Saurav Ganguly on Friday played down New Zealand's special training programme for the upcoming Test series, casting doubt on whether the methods would help in the heat of battle.

"You can prepare any way you want, but what matters is how you perform in the middle," Ganguly said ahead of next month's two-Test series against the tourists.

Stand-in Kiwi coach Ashley Ross revealed that their team had trained in Australia and at home in simulated conditions in a bid to win a Test series in India for the first time.

"In Christchurch and Brisbane, we played on wickets that were specifically prepared to mirror Indian conditions and the heat as well," said Ross, who will be replaced by John Bracewell in November.

Ganguly, however, said the training methods were no guarantee they will make things easier for New Zealand as a tour of India was always a difficult proposition for visiting teams.

"I agree with New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming that a tour of India is tougher than that of even Australia," said Ganguly, who led his side to the World Cup final in South Africa early this year.

The Indian captain also called for fewer one-day internationals, saying too much cricket was affecting the standards of the game in the country.

"We have been playing a lot of cricket in the past few years and are not able to see promising players in action. We often play 40 or more one-dayers a year which I think is too much," he said.

Former batting greats Sunil Gavaskar of India and England's Geoff Boycott echoed the Indian captain's sentiments, saying the International Cricket Council (ICC) should try to reduce the number of one-dayers.

"It's not the strain of playing, but of the travelling involved. In Tests, you're at the same place for a week and kind of settled," said Gavaskar, who heads the ICC's technical committee.

Gavaskar said a team should not play more than 30 one-dayers in a year and the issue had already been raised by captains during a meeting with the sport's governing body.

"The ICC and the boards probably do not have the same courage of conviction," Gavaskar said.

The respective national boards decide on the number of one-dayers played by their sides.

South Africa and Pakistan each played 38 one-dayers last year,

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## Wet start for N Zealand

REUTERS/AFP, Visakhapatnam

New Zealand's preparations for the upcoming Test series against India suffered a setback as rain wrecked the start of their three-day tour opener here on Friday.

Just 10.2 overs were possible on the first day in which the Indian board president's team reached 23 for no loss after electing to bat.

Test opener Virender Sehwag, leading the home team, and India-aspirant Akash Chopra were unbeaten on nine runs apiece.

The tourists rested Test regulars Jacob Oram and Daryl Tuffey, along with opener Richard Jones, giving a chance to rookie paceman Michael Mason to stake his claim for a Test berth.

Mason conceded nine runs in 3.2 overs before rain stopped play in the final session after the first two sessions were washed out.

New Zealand play another three-day game at Rajkot before the start of back-to-back Test matches at Ahmedabad (October 8-12) and Mohali (October 16-20).

The Tests will be followed by a triangular one-day series also featuring world champions Australia.

#### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the three-day tour match between New Zealand and an Indian Board President's XI on Friday:

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI:** First innings  
Chopra not out