



Did U Know?

During the 1994 World Cup, German soccer player, Stefan Effenberg, was sent home because he gave the finger to a fan during a game.




What to Watch

DD Sports
India vs New Zealand
Second Test, Day One
Live at 10:00 am


TEN Sports
History of Football
Repeat at 8:30 pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Futbol Mundial
Taped Version at 6:00 pm
Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Billie Jean King
(American tennis legend)
"I think he's a genius. He is just magnificent. He could be the next Pete Sampras."

On Wimbledon champion Roger Federer.



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 1993

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 17, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Asia Cup hockey title?
Pakistan India Malaysia
- Who was man-of-the-series in the Bangladesh and Pakistan one-day series?
Inzamam Youhana Bashar
- Who became the 16th national men's handball champions?
Army BDR Navy
- Who are the European Champions League holders?

Name

Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Pepsi v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka, Kushtia, Rajshahi and Khulna DSAs won their respective matches in the opening day of the Pepsi Inter-District Men's Volleyball Championship at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday..

Kushtia beat Dinajpur 3-1 sets while Rajshahi defeated Chittagong, Khulna beat Gazipur and Dhaka outplayed Dinajpur by straight 3-0 sets.

In the day's women's group match, Rajbari beat Gazipur 25-10, 25-7 and 25-4 points.

Earlier, Youth and Sports Secretary Abu Solaiman Chowdhury inaugurated the meet. Executive Director of Transcom Beverage Ltd Golam Kuddus Chowdhury was present.

Hoping for a sporting pitch

 **Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore said that the drawn first practice match gave little indication of how tough an opponent England would be when the first Test begins here on October 21.

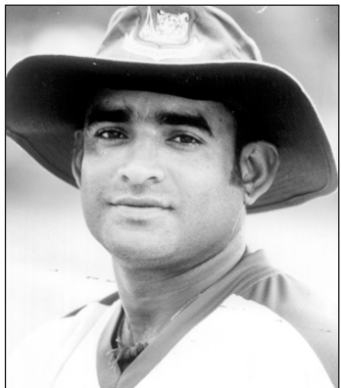
"What I saw was not any different from what I thought. It's not easy that what I said all along. They are a good disciplined side and they are going to make us fight every inch along the way," said the Australian while reacting on the drawn three-day match between England and the BCB President's Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yesterday.

Michael Vaughan's men, who are here to play two Tests and three one-day internationals, came within one wicket for victory in their first tour match at the BNS on Tuesday.

But Whatmore wanted to look at the brighter side of the drawn encounter where the tourists suf-

fered a stunning middle-order collapse. England lost four wickets without scoring any runs after opener Marcus Trescothick fell at 181.

"These things can happen in any game. So, I don't want to react much



MONIRUZZAMAN

into that," said the 49-year-old coach. He however showered some inspiring words for young left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr. who inflicted the England collapse and

finished with match haul of five wickets.

"Yes, I have seen him bowling in the match. He is a good young prospect. He's got good potential. It's up to him now to really work hard and move ahead with his cricket."

Whatmore was not unhappy with the overall performance of the youthful side mainly consisted of under-19 cricketers.

"There were some very good things to happen but not too much with the bat. But certainly the attitude and keenness of the boys on the field have improved and the way they bowled was very good. I think there was more positive on the field than with the bat," observed the Bangladesh coach after an extensive training session with the national cricketers on the central wicket of the BNS.

Whatmore said that he had enjoyed every bit of the five-hour training under searing heat despite at one stage he took his T-shirt off to let some air get through. He also observed that the wicket at the BNS would be more sporting for the

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PHOTO: STAR

Coach Dav Whatmore watching closely the batting of Alok Kapali during a practice session of the national cricket team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Muntasir gets his chance

Bangladesh A test for tourists

 **Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors had a last moment change of heart yesterday and included off spinner Fahim Muntasir in the Bangladesh A team for today's three-day practice match against touring England.

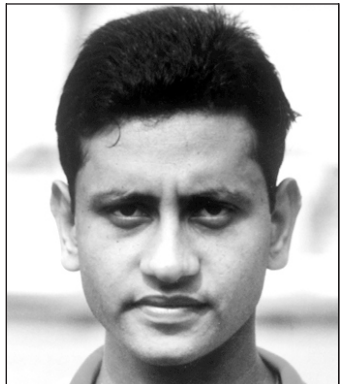
The second warm-up match for Michael Vaughan's side will be held at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar, some 50 kilometers away from the capital.

Although Muntasir, who is one of the 20 cricketers taking part in the national team's preliminary camp, was initially overlooked by the selectors when they named two separate squads for the warm-up matches, he was inserted in the A squad as the 14th member and is almost sure to play today, according to selector GM Nowsher Prince.

The Mymensingh spinner has played three Tests but has been out of favour for almost a year.

"We decided to have a look at him as England appeared rather

susceptible against spin in their first practice match. If we can pick a good off spinner to bowl alongside Moha-mmad Rafique, then I think we will have a stronger bowling attack," said chief selector Faruque



FAHIM MUNTASIR

Ahmed yesterday.

Talking to the Daily Star Sport, Faruque said that Fahim was not part of their original plan but after seeing the performance of the

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Nat'l cricket resumes today

SPORTS REPORTER

After eight days of break because of rain, the preliminary round of the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship resumes at nine venues across the country today.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) stopped the tournament after just two days of its start on October 8 as no match could be held in any part of the country because of incessant rain.

The following matches will be played today:

Police v BUET (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)
Mymensingh v Rajbari (Comilla Stadium)
Faridpur v Netrokona (Mymensingh Stadium)
Chittagong v Cox's Bazar (Chandpur Stadium)
Habiganj v Moulvi Bazar (Sylhet Stadium)
Nilphamari v Thakurgaon (Natore Stadium)
Dinajpur v Sirajganj (Rangpur Stadium)
Kushtia v Jhenidah (Chuadanga Stadium)
Bhola v Barguna (Patuakhali Stadium).

India without Ganguly

 **Cricket**

AFP, Mohali

India captain Saurav Ganguly was on Wednesday ruled out of the second and final cricket Test against New Zealand here following surgery on his left thigh to remove an abscess.

"I thought I'll be okay, but there's a lot of pain and it's just not possible to play," Ganguly said ahead of Thursday's decisive Test.

Vice-captain Rahul Dravid will lead the team in the absence of Ganguly, the first time the prolific batsman will captain in a Test match.

"I was told just five minutes ago that I will have to lead India," Dravid told reporters. "It's a great honour and I hope I can do a good job."

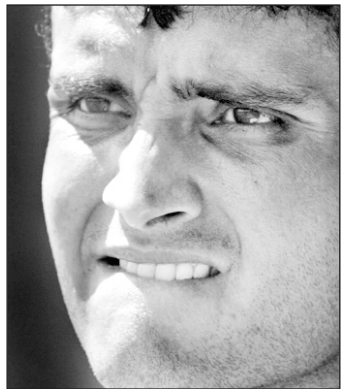
Ganguly, who scored an unbeaten century in the drawn first Test at Ahmedabad last week in considerable pain, underwent surgery here on Wednesday to remove the abscess.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said he did not believe Ganguly's absence would give his team a psychological edge in the crucial Test.

"It's not something that really concerns us. It'll change their thinking, but we are not wasting our time thinking about this," Fleming said.

Left-handed batsman Yuvraj Singh, who has figured in 73 one-dayers, is set to make his Test debut in place of Ganguly.

Dravid said the extra responsibility would not affect his batting and he was looking forward to the



SAURAV GANGULY

match.

"It's only a one-off game and I don't think the captaincy will affect my batting," said Dravid, who scored 222 in the first innings and 73

in the second at Ahmedabad.

The stand-in captain also denied his team was under tremendous pressure to force a victory here after settling for a draw from a winning position in the previous match.

"We go into every Test match trying to win it. There's no extra pressure on us," he said.

"We should concentrate on playing good competitive cricket. The pressure is the same for both teams as it's a series-deciding game. We'll have to play very good cricket to win the series here.

"We also respect our opposition. They fared quite well in the last Test. I think their batsmen have adapted better than their bowlers."

Dravid said he hoped the pitch in Mohali would help bowlers more than the one at Ahmedabad.

"It's not easy to get a perfect pitch, but Ahmedabad was tough," he said. "It was slow and did not have bounce. The wicket here looks good. It might turn as the match progresses."

The New Zealand captain said the drawn Test had boosted his side's confidence.

"The performance in those conditions (hot and humid) has lifted us. Ahmedabad was taxing for

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RC Cola & Mum official drinks

SPORTS REPORTER

RC Cola and mineral water brand Mum will be the official drinks during the forthcoming Standard Chartered Test and one-day series between Bangladesh and England.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officially made the announcement at a media briefing in the capital yesterday.

Partex Group, the manufacturer of the RC Cola and Mum, will spend Taka 47.56 lakh for promoting their product during the series. Of the total amount, the BCB will receive Taka 4 lakh in cash while the rest will be spent on advertisement and providing refreshments to the players, officials and the media.

A new advertisement of RC Cola will be aired on TV during the series. The commercial has been produced at a cost of Taka 15 lakh.

BCB advisors Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen MP, Reazuddin Al-Mamun and Aziz Al-Kaiser, who is also the vice-chairman of Partex Group, were present in the press briefing along with Aziz Al-Mahmud, the MD of Danish Condensed Milk, a concern of the Partex Group.

SA 'unhappy' with Hall ban

AFP, Lahore

South Africa's cricket team Tuesday expressed disappointment after all-rounder Andrew Hall lost his appeal against a ban which rules him out of the two-Test series against Pakistan.

"It is disappointing to lose Hall for the Tests and the management will have a chat tonight to decide whether to call for a replacement," South African media spokesman Gerald de Kock told reporters.

"Hall has been a valuable player and would be missed," said the spokesman, ahead of the first Test which starts here on Friday.

Hall was banned for two Tests for inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with Pakistan's Yousuf Youhana during the second one-day match in Lahore on October 5.

He appeared to impede Youhana with an elbow while the batsman was taking a run.



PHOTO: STAR

Partex Group vice-chairman Aziz Al-Kaiser (2nd from R) addresses a press conference in the city yesterday.

Johnson could play

 **Cricket**

BBC ONLINE, undated

Richard Johnson is expected to play his first match on England's tour when the side begin a three-day match against Bangladesh A on Thursday.

Called up to replace the injured James Anderson, Johnson was forced to cancel his honeymoon to

boys enjoyed a day-off yesterday, was buoyed by his side's performance in the tour-opener, including six first-innings wickets from opening bowler Matthew Hoggard.

But unlike England's last success in the sub-continent three years ago, when they won in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, he does not have strike bowlers like Darren Gough and Andrew Caddick.

"These conditions are very similar to what we encountered in Pakistan and when you come out here you have to learn how to bowl on these wickets," explained Fletcher.

"Darren Gough took a whole tour of Pakistan and most of Sri Lanka before he got used to bowling on these wickets.

"The length you should bowl does change and it's going to take all the bowlers time to adapt."

The Bangladesh A line-up will also include several members of the national squad as the home selectors look at their own options for the first Test.

Spinners Gareth Batty and Ashley Giles took three wickets each in the second innings as the President's side hung on for a draw.

And their effectiveness in tandem increases the likelihood of England using two slow bowlers.

"The bowling performance was good, but they still need quite a few overs under their belts," said Fletcher.

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PHOTO: STAR

EVERYBODY PROTESTS THE POLICE ACTION: Former national cricket captains (L-R) Naimur Rahman, Aminul Islam, Minhazul Abedin and Akram Khan yesterday went to the BCB office to sign a memorandum of protest against the police harassment of Saiful Islam.

Niaz, Zia share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Masters Niaz Murshed and Ziaur Rahman earned maximum 3 points each after the end of the third round games in the Tata International Open Chess tournament on Tuesday, now being held at the Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur, India.

Khandkar Aminul Islam and Saif Uddin Lovlu earned 2.5 points each. In this round, Niaz beat Indian International Master Ravi Kumar and Zia beat compatriot Fide Master Abu Sufian Shakil.

Lovlu beat Ashwin Jayaram of India. Aminul drew with Abishek of India.

Lara ready for African tours

 **Cricket**

BBC ONLINE, undated

Brian Lara is set to retain the West Indies captaincy for tours to Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Batting star Lara replaced Carl Hooper earlier this year for his second spell in charge of the team.

They lost a home Test series against Australia 3-1, but followed that by beating Sri Lanka 1-0, with

Tests.

West Indies will play a total of six Tests and 10 one-day internationals during their trip to Africa.

The team start off in Zimbabwe at the end of this month and move on to South Africa in early December.

Lara will be looking to prove a point after a disastrous tour to South Africa in 1998-99 during his first spell in charge when they lost all five Tests and were beaten 6-1 in the one-day series which followed.

Ramnaresh Sarwan is likely to continue as Lara's deputy despite

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Youhana captain Moin back in Pakistan fold

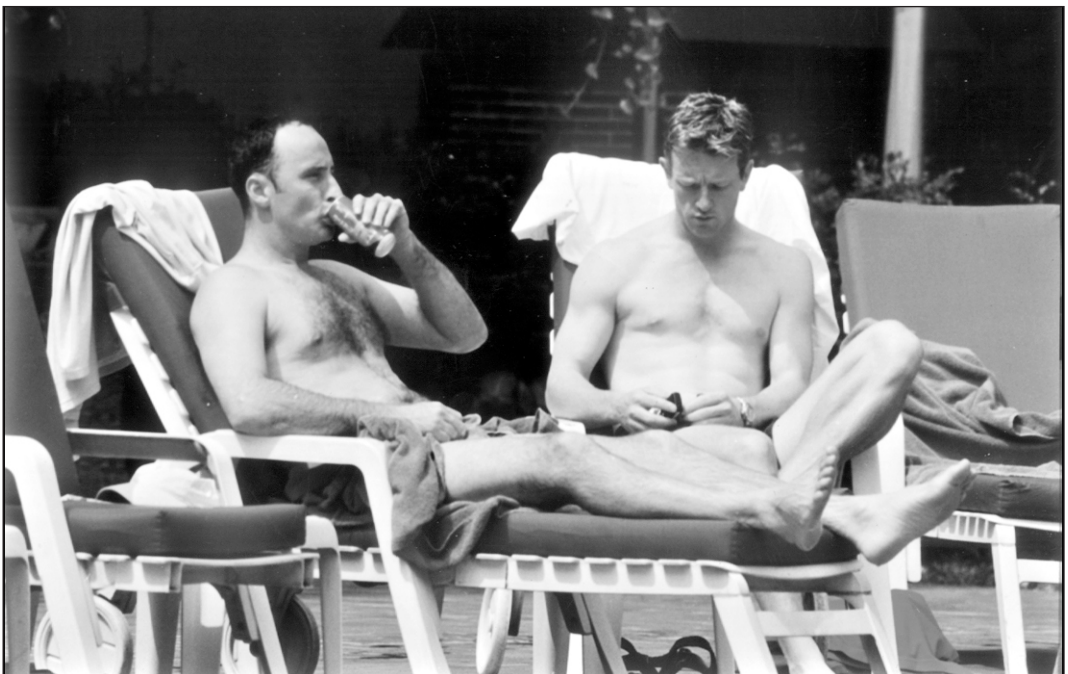
AFP, Lahore

Batsman Yousuf Youhana will lead a depleted Pakistan in the first Test against South Africa after Inzamamul Haq was ruled out through injury, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Tuesday.

Youhana passed a last-minute fitness test after injuring his foot, PCB said.

SQUAD

Yousuf Youhana (captain), Shoaib Akhtar (vice-captain), Taufiq Umer, Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Asim Kamal, Moin Khan, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Sami, Danish Kaneria, Shabbir Ahmed, Salman Butt, Faisal Iqbal, Mushtaq Ahmed (subject to fitness), Kamran Akmal and Misbahul Haq.



PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN

LET'S COOL OFF: Former England captain Nasser Hussein (L) is having a can of soft drink while batsman Paul Collingwood is fixing his mobile phone after spending some time in the pool of Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.