



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.



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.



Tick the correct answers, post

The Daily Star

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

1. Who won the Asia Cup hockey title?

Pakistan India Malaysia

2. Who was man-of-the-series in the Bangladesh and Pakistan one-day series?

Inzamam Youhana Bashir

3. Who became the Pepsi 16th nat'l men's handball champions?

Army BDR Navy

4. Who are the European Champions League holders?

Name

Class

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-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 first

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8



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.

Nat'l cricket resumes today

Cricket

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.

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

SAURAV GANGULY

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

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 fare 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

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

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.

Parfex 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 Parfex Group, were present in the press briefing along with Aziz Al-Mamun, the MD of Danish Condensed Milk, a concern of the Parfex Group.

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

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

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 Shikha Protishthan (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 Nowshir 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 Moham-mad Rafique, then I think we will have a stronger bowling attack," said chief selector Faruque

AHMED 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

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



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 on Thursday.

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

RICHARD JOHNSON

make the trip.

He missed this week's drawn tour opener against a Bangladesh Cricket Board President's XI.

But conditions in the early part of that match suggest an extra seamer could be required for the first Test, which begins on October 21.

Coach Duncan Fletcher, whose

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Niaz, Zia share lead

Cricket

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.

Khanak 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.

Lara will be looking to prove a point after