



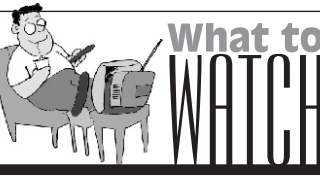
Did U Know?

Garry Kasparov became the youngest ever world chess champion at the age of 22.



Rashid Latif

(Former Pakistan cricket captain)
"Even a common man could observe that the players were acting on a script. The body language of the players was not as it should have been."
Casting doubt over India's thrilling victory in the fourth ODI against Pakistan.



ESPN

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm

UEFA Champions League

Deportivo vs AC Milan

Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Sportline

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

UEFA Champions League

Olympique Lyonnais vs FC Porto

Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan

Second Test, Day Three

Live at 11:00 am

Ganguly fit for 3rd Test Patel reported for excessive appealing

BBC ONLINE/AFP, undated



Indian captain Sourav Ganguly has been passed fit to play in the final Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi.

Ganguly also missed the first Test, which his team won by an innings.

Rahul Dravid also had to deputise as captain in the ongoing second Test in Lahore while Ganguly underwent further tests on his back condition.

But surgeon Kalyan Mukherjee said: "He is 95 per cent fit now and the Indian team physio would turn that into 100 per cent with some fine-tuning."

Ganguly returned home to Calcutta after injuring his back while fielding in the fifth limited-over match in Lahore.

Mukherjee had diagnosed the injury as a lumbar strain that prevented Ganguly from bending his

back.

He said Ganguly would leave for New Delhi on Wednesday en route to joining up with his teammates in Pakistan.

The return to fitness of their captain leaves India's selectors in a pickle.



SOURAV GANGULY

His replacement, Yuvraj Singh, rescued them from a disastrous score on Monday in Lahore by

hitting a brilliant century.

But there are no other obvious candidates to be dropped, such is the quality of the Indian middle order.

Meanwhile, India's young wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel was on Tuesday summoned before match referee Ranjan Madugalle for excessive appealing during the second Test against Pakistan in Lahore.

Team sources told AFP that Patel had been reported by umpires Steve Bucknor of the West Indies and Simon Taufel of Australia after the ill-tempered second day's play at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Madugalle's verdict after hearing Patel, manager Ratnakar Shetty and coach John Wright is expected to be announced on Wednesday, the sources said.

The Indians appeared disappointed when numerous appeals were turned down by Bucknor and Taufel against Pakistani batsmen, who ended the day at 355-3 in reply to India's modest 287.

The 19-year-old Patel is playing his 15th Test match.

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ICC rejects Pak appeal

REUTERS, Nairobi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has rejected a call from Pakistan for a code of conduct to prevent former cricketers from making unsubstantiated match-fixing claims.

"We are asking people making such allegations to follow the laid down process and provide as much evidence as possible but the ICC won't set up a code of conduct," ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed told reporters in Nairobi on Tuesday.

Speed, accompanying ICC president Ehsan Mani on a tour of Kenya, said players and other commentators with evidence could use a 24-hour ICC hotline to provide evidence.

He said making such allegations in public did not help the sport, adding: "Put your allegations up or stop making them."

The Pakistan Cricket Board said on Monday it would send a letter to the ICC with its request. It came after former captain Rashid Latif suggested Pakistan could have thrown their fourth one-dayer against India last month.



PHOTO: AFP

NO HARD FEELINGS: India leg-spinner Anil Kumble (L) and Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq leave the field holding each other to make up for an on-field dispute at the end of second day's play at Lahore yesterday.

BD A take one dayers too



SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Manjarul Islam Rana led Bangladesh A to a comfortable 52-run victory over Zimbabwe A in the series deciding final one day match of the five-game series at the Khulna Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The win meant that the home side had secured the series 3-2. It was double delight for the Bangladesh A team which had also triumphed 1-0 in the two-match four-day series against the tourists.

Manjarul, the consistent left-hander from Khulna made a breezy unbeaten 40 to help his team post a challenging 240 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs. He then picked up two wickets with his left-arm spin as the Zimbabweans found the

asking rate of six an over a bit too much to chase.

Batting first the home side lost Rashedul Haq (0) with just four runs on the board. But fellow opener Al-Shahriar, who has hit a rich vein of form after looking all over the place at the beginning of the series, notched up his third successive half century to put them back on track.

The stylish right-hander formed a brief but effective 46-run 3rd wicket stand with captain Alok Kapali to counterattack after the early fall of Rashedul. Kapali cracked an all-boundary (six fours) 24 off 29 balls before upcoming quick bowler Thinashe Panyangara had him lbw. However Al-Shahriar went on to score 66 off 84 balls that featured five fours and two sixes.

The impetus in the middle of the innings was provided by Manjarul whose 40 came off 52 deliveries with two hits to the fence.

Wicket keeper Dhiman Gosh (18 off 17 balls) and Alamgir Kabir (20 from 17 balls) produced quickfire cameos as Bangladesh A reached the impressive total.

Zimbabwe A were always going to struggle after the classy Trevor Gripper was snapped up for 35. Wickets fell at regular intervals and the visitors were eventually all out for 188 in 35.5 overs. Gripper apart, Richard Simms (36 off 45 balls) was the other batsman to show any fight.

Although new ball bowler Kabir gave away 63 in eight overs, Manjarul and fellow left-arm slow bowler Abdur Razzak Raj kept things tidy and were rewarded.

Manjarul was most economical conceding 32 in eight overs for his two wickets Khulna mate Razzak

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PHOTO: STAR

An Iranian player (C) tries to get past two Kyrgyzstan players during their AFC U-14 Festival match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan opener Imran Farhat pulls on one leg on way to scoring a century against India on the second day of the second Test in Lahore yesterday.

BHF's names 18 for 5th Asia Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday announced an 18-member under-21 team to take part in the fifth Asia Cup to be held in Karachi from April 20 to 29.

Striker Ashrafur Islam Shishu will lead the side while Yamin Hossain will be his deputy in the 10-team meet. Hossain Imam Chowdhury has been named the coach.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group B along with China, India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka while the Group A comprises Chinese Taipei, Japan, South Korea, Pakistan and Singapore.

Hossain Imam's charges will start their campaign against China on April 20 and play their second match against Malaysia, third match against Sri Lanka and last group match against India.

BANGLADESH TEAM

Ashrafur Islam Shishu (captain), Yamin Hossain (vice-captain), Zahid Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Shamsuddin Tuhin, Mashiur Rahman, Tabib-a-Noor, Hedayetul Islam Khan, Mamunur Rahman, Zahidul Islam, Asif-a-Noor, Khandokar Hasan Ahmed, Raza Tayeb Reza, Khandokar Hanif Ahmed, Russell Mahmud, Hosne Mobarak, Mazharul Islam and Maksud Alam.

Kenya need to rush reforms for Test status

REUTERS, London

World Cup semifinalists Kenya need to speed up their reforms before applying for Test status, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday.

Kenya, who were beaten by India in the World Cup semifinals in South Africa last year, needed to improve in a number of areas before making the jump from a one-day international team, the ICC said.

"While things are moving forward, the pace of progress is too slow," said ICC president Ehsan Mani in a statement after two days of meetings between the ICC and the Kenyan Cricket Association (KCA) in Nairobi.

"Some deadlines have been missed and we have underlined the need for the KCA to commit to and deliver against the agreed plan."

Areas that needed to be improved included the reform of corporate governance at the KCA,

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Fairness wins

SPORTS REPORTER

Iran handed Kyrgyzstan a 2-0 defeat in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-14 Festival but failed to secure any fair play points at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners trailed by points despite winning the match in the tournament, which is intended to highlight fair play rather than win or loss, as Kyrgyzstan collected 39.57 points against Iranians' 29.28.

In the match, Ali Reza and Karim Ansari scored.

No match is scheduled for today.

Same old story

SPORTS REPORTER



There were a few flashes of brilliance but Bangladesh's adventure in the ninth SAF

Games will be remembered for its familiar ending as the curtain of the 11-day spectacle falls in Islamabad today.

There were only three golds for a 138-member Bangladesh contingent that participated in 13 out of a total of 15 events.

As expected Asif Hossain Khan won the men's 10m air-rifle gold and a day later Sharmin Akhter emerged from nowhere to clinch the ladies' honour in the same event. Bangladesh had to wait for a third gold golden smile until the final day of the men's swimming competition when Rubel Rana won the 100m backstroke at the Jinnah Sports Complex Swimming Pool.

Rubel's feat gave Bangladesh

one more gold here than what they achieved four years ago in Kathmandu.

Although Bangladesh, which has a knack of producing more fastest men than any other any other nation in SAF Games history, this time round the track and field event was disappointing to say the least.

The only highlight in athletics was silver in long jump and that too was won by a woman. When our male athletes failed to even qualify for their respective event, Foujia Huda leapt to glory on the fifth day of the competition.

FINAL MEDAL TABLE

Country	G	S	B	Total
India	101	59	30	190
Pakistan	42	55	50	147
Sri Lanka	15	33	55	103
Nepal	7	6	17	30
Bangladesh	3	11	25	39
Afghanistan	1	3	24	28
Bhutan	1	3	2	6
Maldives	0	0	0	0

Interestingly, two other bronze medals in track and field were also won by the ladies.

But Bangladesh's biggest shock was reserved for football when the under-23 team of Shahidur Rahman Shantoo bowed out from the first round of the competition. Bangladesh went into the meet as holders of both SAF Games and the SAFF Championship, but a controversial penalty in their final group league game against Pakistan put paid to any hope of retaining the crown that they won in Kathmandu in 1999.

Pakistan went on to claim the coveted title for the third time defeating rivals India 1-0 in Monday night's final at the Jinnah Stadium after Abdul Aziz struck the all-important goal in the 29th minute.

Sri Lanka won the bronze medal after defeating Bhutan 3-2 in a penalty shootout after both sides played out a goalless draw.

Although Karar Samedul failed

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PHOTO: STAR

ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, GO! Rajin Saleh (L) and former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud engage in a sprint while (background, L-R) Hannan Sarker, Enamul Haque and Monjurul Islam watch during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

End of Bevan?



REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia's leading one-day batsman Michael Bevan will make an announcement on his future in the next week after being dropped as a contracted player by Cricket Australia (CA) for the 2004-05 season.

Bevan, one of the best batsmen in the history of the one-day game, was really disappointed, according to his manager Robert Joske.

"We're not going to close off anything at this stage and we'll be looking at what's best for Michael, his cricket and his family," Joske said on Tuesday.

Bevan, 33, was a member of Australia's World Cup winning sides

in 1999 and 2003.

Bowlers Andy Bichel, who also played in last year's World Cup final against India, Nathan Bracken,

Ashley Noffke and Nathan Hauritz were not offered new contracts.

"Michael Bevan has been a wonderful player for Australia over many years, particularly in the one-day arena," chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said.

"However, it was felt Michael's contribution to the one-day side has decreased, and more importantly, we thought it was the right time to move forward as we start to form a core of players to take us to the next World Cup (in 2007)."

"I guess it's fair to say we probably at this stage will not be picking Michael to tour Zimbabwe (in June) with the one-day side," Hohns added.

Former Test opener Matthew Elliott of Victoria has been given his

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MICHAEL BEVAN

Zia checkmates Murshed

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman led table with nine points after the end of the tenth round games of the Singer 30th National Chess Championship at the NSC conference room yesterday.

International Masters Abdullah Al-Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib jointly hold the second position with 7.5 points each. GM Niaz Murshed was in the second position.

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