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Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

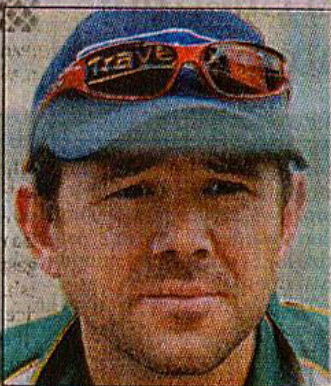
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Did U Know?

India defeated Australia in its first match at the Willis International Cup in 1998 as well as the ICC Knock-out Trophy (2000).



Ricky Ponting
 (Australia cricket captain)
"In these tournaments in the past you come up against sides you have never seen before and you might not see again."
 While criticising the formation of the ICC Champions Trophy that includes the United States.



- BT**
 ICC Champions Trophy
 Australia vs New Zealand
 Live at 3:15 pm
- TEN Sports**
 ICC Champions Trophy
 Australia vs New Zealand
 Live at 3:15 pm
- ESPN**
 Football Crazy
 Live at 5:00 pm
 Sportscentre
 Live at 8:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
 English Premier Football League
 Man City vs Everton
 Repeat at 6:30 am
 Man United vs Bolton Wanderers
 Repeat at 12:30 pm
 Sportsline
 Live at 8:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 216

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star**.
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- Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?
 Galkina | Devers | Du
- Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?
 India | Pakistan | Sri Lanka
- Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title?
 Federer | Henman | Agassi
- Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey crown?
 Usha | MSC | Bangladesh Army
- How many World Cups has Luis Figo played?
 Two | Three | One

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Pakistan thrash Kenya



REUTERS/AFP, London

Pakistan sent out a warning to India before their ICC Champions Trophy Pool C showdown with a seven-wicket demolition of Kenya at Edgbaston on Wednesday.
 Shahid Afridi took career-best figures of five for 11 off six overs and off-spinner Shoab Malik chipped in with three wickets as Kenya were dismissed for just 94.
 Yasir Hameed top-scored with 41 and Imran Farhat finished unbeaten on 38 as Pakistan reached their target in the 19th over.

The match in Birmingham, which also hosts the India-Pakistan clash on Sunday, had been resched-

uled after rain washed out play on Tuesday.

"I'm not really a wicket-taking bowler, I'm trying to stop the runs but if you do that then the wickets come," man-of-the-match Afridi said.

"I was really just trying to bowl wicket to wicket and I got the results." Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq won the toss and chose to bowl after looking at the green-tinged pitch.

Kenya suffered a poor start when opener Ravindu Shah hit the second ball he faced straight to Afridi in the covers off Navedul Hasan.

Kennedy Otieno and Maurice Ouma struggled to fend off short-pitched deliveries from fast bowler Shoab Akhtar but resurrected the innings with a 65-run partnership before rain forced the players off the field for 25 minutes.

Inzamam introduced spin when play resumed, the decision immediately paying off when Ouma (23) was

caught by Moin Khan from a bottom edge off Afridi's second ball.

Otieno (33) was trapped lbw by Malik, before Kenya captain Steve Tikolo, playing for spin, was deceived by a Malik delivery that faded away from the right hander and nicked the top of his off stump for a duck.

The spinning pair went on the rampage with none of the Kenyan batsman able to handle variations in pace from Afridi and sharp turn from Malik as five of the final six batsmen dismissed were bowled.

"We did very well up front with Kennedy and Maurice but lost our way in the middle," said Tikolo. "We lost too many wickets and that was our downfall."

"They bowled well and in the right areas and with the rain coming down, the wicket started skidding a little bit and I think we were put off a

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TROPHY TREATS

BISHWAJIT ROY, from Southampton

Pakistani fast bowlers first made the reverse swing popular and now the whole world tries to imitate the art. One Englishman in particular has mastered reverse swing to near-perfection. He is veteran pacer Darren Gough.

Having retired from Test cricket, the 34-year-old is now solely a one-day specialist and is targeting the 2007 World Cup as his goodbye tournament.

A die-hard cricketer, Gough does not find the commercialisation of cricket appealing and feels the charm is going out of the game.

"You should enjoy the game on the field but unfortunately you hardly get it now. I have always enjoyed playing and have never focused on other things. I don't like excessive media attention," said Gough, while

chatting with some Bangladeshi reporters here on Tuesday.

About Bangladesh, the experienced cricketer, who has already played 135 ODIs and became the first English bowler to 200 (203) wickets in one-dayers earlier this month, said only having a high-profile coach like Dav Whatmore was not good enough to improve the performance.

"You can only improve if you work out your weaknesses yourself. I went to different world famous bowlers to learn the mechanism of the reverse swing, so it is your players' duty to talk to the great cricketers and learn something," he suggested.

"Somebody told me how to do it but I am still trying to bring accuracy to my reverse swing even at this late stage of my career," said Gough.

Gough was asked why England did not produce too many express

bowlers. "In English conditions bowlers are always trying to control the ball and you just lose your control if you go for extra pace," explained Gough.

MISSING HANNAN!

The Bangladeshi immigrants and students in the UK once again came in numbers to cheer the Tigers at the Rose Bowl on Wednesday despite the emphatic defeat against South Africa at Edgbaston in the first match.

"We don't expect a win in this match but we are only hoping for a decent batting and bowling performance," said Fahim, who is living in Hampshire.

Another Bangladeshi young man Zameer came to watch his friend Hannan Sarker but learnt to his disappointment that the opening batsman was not part of the squad.

"I have no contact with Hannan

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GETTING THEM IN A SPIN: Pakistan spinner Shahid Afridi (C) celebrates bowling Brijal Patel of Kenya during their ICC Champions Trophy Pool C clash at Edgbaston in Birmingham yesterday.

Sachin may miss 1st Test



CRICINFO/AFP, undated

Master batsman Sachin Tendulkar may not be fit in time for India's first Test against Australia, which starts in Bangalore on October 6.

Tendulkar, who is currently undergoing treatment in London for the left elbow injury, has already been excluded by his state team Mumbai for the five-day Irani Cup match between the Ranji Trophy champions and the Rest of India starting in Mohali on September 22.

The only other first-class match before the Test series is the three-day game between a Board President's XI and Australia at Hyderabad com-

saying he expected the injured batsman to pick up a bat "in the next 10 days or so".

He now has only a few weeks to get fit for the first of four Tests against Australia, starting at Bangalore on October 6.

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The only other first-class match before the Test series is the three-day game between a Board President's XI and Australia at Hyderabad com-

mencing September 30.

The Times of India reported Leipzig as saying: "Initially, he responded well in the nets in Holland for the first two days and batted well against the spinners. But then he faced the first ball from Agarkar which he went back to play down - it kind of complicated his recovery process completely."

The target for Tendulkar, according to Leipzig, would be to bat 300 balls a day without experiencing any pain and he added, "We're looking for him to grab a bat again in another ten days' time."

Regarding talk that Tendulkar would turn out for the Board

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TIGER WITH A PURPOSE: Paceman Tapash Baisya, the only successful Bangladesh bowler with 2 wickets, bowls to West Indies opener Chris Gayle, who made 99, during their Pool B encounter of the ICC Champions Trophy at the Rose Bowl yesterday.

Booters' bourse next month?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Football Players Welfare Association will welcome an early transfer in October this year for the 2004-05 season, footballers told the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials last night.

A delegation of football players including Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Arman Mia, Rakib Hossain and former national star Rumman Bin Wali Sabir had a discussion with BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal about the transfers.

"We have no problem if the transfer takes place next month. But we urged the BFF to concentrate on preparing a fixed calendar first," Jewel Rana told The Daily Star Sport over phone.

"There was no fixed venue for football in recent years, but as the issue looks now settled, it would be better for all if the BFF fixed its calendar. We also made a suggestion to the BFF to open the transfers in Dhaka and other divisions at the same time. It will give the divisional teams the opportunity to recruit top players for the National League," said the former national captain.

"We also asked for a separate transfer for the National League but the BFF did not agree to this proposal."

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BANGLADESH-WI SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the ICC Champions Trophy Pool B match between Bangladesh and the West Indies at the Rose Bowl in Southampton on Wednesday.

WEST INDIES		
Gayle c Mashud b Baisya		99
Hinds c Nazmul b Baisya		82
Sarwan not out		30
Lara run out		20
Chanderpaul not out		18
Extras: (lb-6, w-12, nb-2)		20
Total: (For 3 wks in 50 overs)		269
Fall of wickets: 1-192, 2-201, 3-232		
Did not bat: Joseph, Bravo, Browne, Dillon, Bradshaw, Sammy		
Bowler		
Baisya	O	M
Nazmul	10	0
Mushfiq	10	1
Mahmud	10	0
Rafique	10	0
Bangladesh		
Javed c Sammy b Dillon		2
Ashraf c Dillon b Bradshaw		10
Nafees b Dillon		2
Saleh b Dillon		7
Aftab b Bravo		21
Mashud c Sammy b Dillon		0
Mushfiq c Joseph b Sammy		21
Rafique c Sammy b Dillon		12

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Mahmud surprise

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials, annoyed at recent activities of the Australian coach - especially after the team's performance against the Proteas -- forced him to change his mind.

As far as I know, the decision was taken in the morning after the annoyed BCB high-ups insisted Dav to make the change," he said on condition of anonymity.

However, Whatmore was not ready to compromise the place of Mushfiqur Rahman in the side. Manjari Islam had to make way for Mahmud in the end.

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Russian GM in town to train locals

SPORTS REPORTER

Russian Grand Master Alexander Volzhin arrived in Dhaka yesterday to train the Bangladesh team for the Chess Olympiad to be held in Spain from October 1-4-31.

Bangladesh will send a ten-member team including four female players to the meet in Calvia, Mallorca.

Volzhin, however, will only train the men's team for the next one and a half months. The 33-year-old, who first visited Bangladesh during a GM tournament in 2002, will receive total 4,000 dollars. He will be the second foreign coach to take charge of the Bangladesh team after Igor Rousis.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF), meanwhile, has received 5 lakh taka grant from the National

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Bielsa leaves Argentina Bianchi set to take over

Football

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa resigned out of the blue on Tuesday, less than one month after steering the twice world champions to their first Olympic soccer gold medal.

Former Boca Juniors coach Carlos Bianchi was named as the favourite to replace the eccentric 49-year-old, who said he had run out of energy after six years in the high-pressure job.

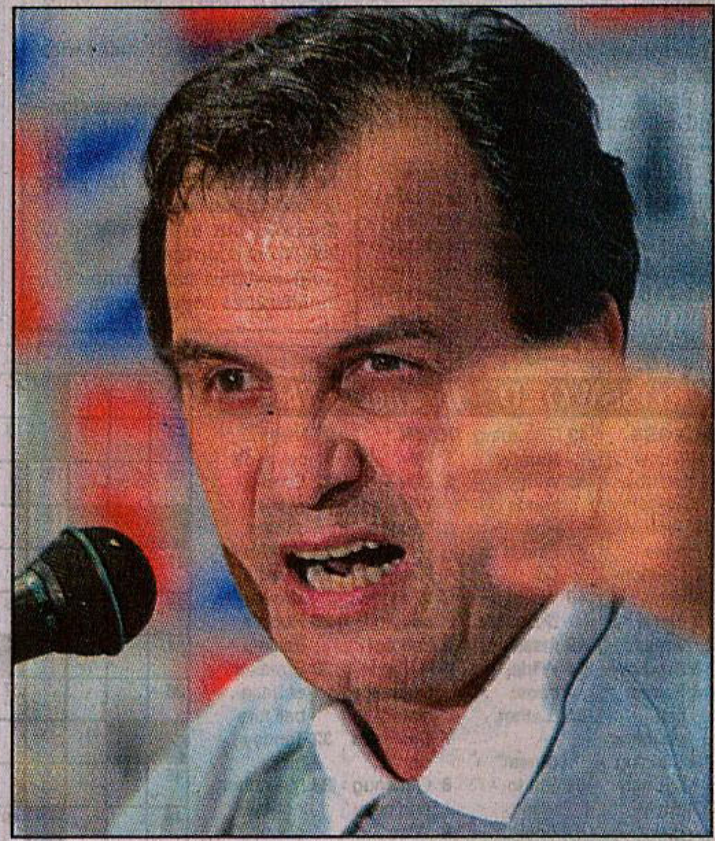
"Today, I resigned as coach of the Argentina national team," the introverted Bielsa told a news conference.

"I realised the amount of energy which is absorbed by the various tasks which are involved in being coach of the team... and that I didn't have this energy anymore."

Bielsa had weathered Argentina's shock first round elimination at the 2002 World Cup followed by almost two years of non-stop criticism, only to leave at a moment when his team were playing some scintillating football.

Captain Roberto Ayala was caught cold by the announcement: "This news took me by surprise because I didn't notice anything at any time," he said in a radio interview.

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Argentina's impressive national football coach Marcelo Bielsa answers questions during a press conference after announcing his resignation on Tuesday.

I believe nothing happens unless first there is a dream



Standard Chartered

DAV WHATMORE banks with Standard Chartered
 Dav Whatmore is the Coach of Bangladesh National Cricket Team.