



Did U Know?

The first twins to play in the same Test match were not Steve and Mark Waugh of Australia, but Rosemary and Elizabeth Signal of New Zealand, versus England in 1984; in women's cricket!

What to WATCH

BTV
ICC Champions Trophy
Australia vs England
First Semifinal
Live at 3:15 pm

TEN Sports
ICC Champions Trophy
Australia vs England
First Semifinal
Live at 3:15 pm

ESPN
English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Norwich City
Repeat at 3:30 pm

Football Focus
Live at 6:30 pm

Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm

English Premier Football League
Man United vs Liverpool
Repeat at 8:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 24, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?
Gakina Devers
- Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?
India Pakistan Sri Lanka
- Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title?
Federer Henman Agassi
- Who lifted the 25th national hockey crown?
Usha MSC Bangladesh Army

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



TALK TURKEY



Javagal Srinath
(Former Indian fast bowler)
"The Indian batsmen definitely owe an apology to their fans."
After India's loss to England in the first match of the NatWest Challenge

Can hosts pull one back? 1st semifinal: Australia v England



REUTERS, London
England head into Tuesday's ICC Champions Trophy semifinal against Australia at Edgbaston without a win over their old rivals in their last 14 one-day internationals.

That last victory over the world champions came in January 1999 when a side skippered by Alec Stewart edged a seven-run win in a day-night match at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Australia have looked almost invincible since and although their nine-wicket win over the US last week was expected, the way they swatted New Zealand into submission for a seven-wicket win on Thursday was awesome.

Damien Martyn smashed an unbeaten 60 and Andrew Symonds cracked 71 off 47 balls while 34-year-old Glenn McGrath, written off by some before the tournament, bagged three key wickets and may continue to keep Brett Lee out of the

side.
"We are always trying to find areas to improve on but if we play anywhere near our best, then we will give anyone a tough game," said

Cup in South Africa in March 2003. Michael Bevan hit 74 to lead Australia to a two-wicket win on their way to retaining their title.
A crumb of comfort for England is



RICKY PONTING

captain Ricky Ponting.

Australia, who have never won the tournament dubbed as the 'mini World Cup', have such a tight hold over England that of their 14 successive wins only the last two could be called close.
In their last meeting, at the World



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

that Bevan and Andy Bichel, who took seven wickets that day, are not in Australia's Champions Trophy squad.

Another positive is that in the encounter in January last year, **SEE PAGE 14 COL 6**

Abahani going to King's Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani will take part in the King's Cup football tournament in Bhutan. The competition starts in Thimpu on September 30. The final is slated for October 10. Eight teams, split into two groups, will fight it out.

Abahani began their training in preparation for the competition yesterday afternoon at the club ground after their players returned from a break. All the booters however did not report to coach Amlesh Sen yesterday.

Abahani are looking to include some guest booters from other top clubs to fill the void left by their foreign recruits who departed after the National Football Championship earlier this month. But the Sky Blues might face some problems in that bid as NFL champions Brothers Union and runners up Muktiyodha Sangsad Krira Chakra will both be busy in early October and might not be willing to release Abahani's desired players. Brothers will take part in the Barudoloi Trophy in India while Muktiyodha are due to visit Nepal for the ANFA Cup.

Abahani had expressed their interest in Brothers' centre-back Mohammed Sujon and striker Alfaz Ahmed but now they have to look elsewhere. The club is trying to get **SEE PAGE 14 COL 5**

NZ coming sans McMillan



AGENCIES, Wellington

New Zealand batsman Craig McMillan was Monday dropped from the Test squad to tour Bangladesh next month.

Hamish Marshall was picked instead, with coach John Bracewell saying he believed Marshall could handle the move into the Test arena after good results in one-day internationals. At 22, he is six years younger than McMillan.

"Hamish has had previous success in the subcontinent on New Zealand A tours and that experience will be important in the conditions we will be playing in," Bracewell said.

Marshall has largely been regarded as a one-day specialist and the move was seen as preparation before the team plays in two series against Australia, home and away, and a Sri Lankan tour of New Zealand later in the season.

He will bat in the middle-order "where he is a different sort of player than the likes of (Scott) Styris and (Nathan) Astle," Bracewell said.

McMillan, who has played 52

Tests and has an average of just over 40, was likely to join the squad for the one-day series, Bracewell said.

Marshall has played only one Test match, against South Africa in 2000, and has yet to score a first class century. But he has done well in the one-day arena, averaging 41.72.



CRAIG McMILLAN

Medium-fast bowler Daryl Tuffey has also been omitted to give him a chance to regain fitness before the

Australia and Sri Lanka series.

Bracewell said: "Looking down the track to Australia and Sri Lanka, he [Tuffey] is very important, and every step needs to be taken to ensure he is ready for both the home and away series this summer."

"We are looking forward to the challenge of touring Bangladesh," he continued, "and doing well in testing conditions before we take on the task of touring Australia."

Medium pacer James Franklin, a late success in the injury-ravaged bowling line-up in England is back in the squad, along with Chris Martin.

New Zealand have recalled off-spinner Paul Wiseman, whose Test career has come in fits and starts. He has 47 Test wickets in his 19 Tests, the first of which was in 1997.

All-rounder Chris Cairns, who retired from Test cricket after the third Test against England in June, is also likely to join the squad for the one-day section of the tour.

New Zealand will play two Tests and three one-dayers starting on October 19.
The Black Caps play their first **SEE PAGE 14 COL 8**



PHOTO: AFP

NO PAIN, NO GAIN: Pakistan's Yousuf Youhana sweeps one on way to scoring a match-winning 81 not out against arch-rivals India in the ICC Champions Trophy at Edgbaston on Sunday.

WI worry Woolmer



AFP, Birmingham

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer insisted his side would not take West Indies lightly when they met in the semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy at the Rose Bowl on Wednesday.

West Indies chased down 247 to beat South Africa by five wickets at The Oval on Sunday while, later in the day, Pakistan overcame arch-rivals India by three-wickets with four balls remaining in a tense encounter at Edgbaston.

Woolmer said that the West Indies, whitewashed 4-0 during their recent Test series in England, would be hard to beat.

"I think they've gone through some tough times but they are an ever-improving side. They've got some quality batsmen, Brian Lara

obviously," added Woolmer.

He has plenty of experience of the great man having coached the West Indies captain during the 1994 English season when Warwickshire won three domestic trophies and Lara scored a first-class world-record 501 not out, on the Birmingham ground, against Durham.

"Ramnaresh Sarwan made runs today too. So it's not going to be an easy game by any stretch of the imagination."

Pakistan booked their place in the last four when, having restricted India to 200 all out, they finished on 201 for seven with four balls to spare.

Yousuf Youhana's unbeaten 81 saw Pakistan home after fast bowler Navedul Hasan took a one-day international career-best four for 25.

Youhana came to the crease with Pakistan in trouble at 27 for three and needed a runner for the final stages of his innings after suffering a cramp.

During the course of the Pakistan

innings, captain Inzamamul Haq became only the second batsman after India's Sachin Tendulkar - ruled out of the Champions Trophy with an elbow injury - to score 10,000 one-day international runs.

"We're delighted to have reached the semifinals and I'm pleased to have reached over 10,000 runs," said Inzamam, who made 41.

Looking ahead to the possibility of winning a final against either world champions Australia or hosts England (who play at Edgbaston on Tuesday) at The Oval on Saturday, Inzamam said: "We will try our very best. The way this team is playing it is looking very good and hopefully we will go through."

Former England batsman Woolmer said he was trying to comprehend the enormity of an India-Pakistan clash, having seen his team make harder work than they ought to have done of winning a game watched by a 21,000 sell-out crowd.

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Bashar returning tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket captain Habibul Bashar is expected to return home on Wednesday from Australia following a surgery on his right thumb.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources confirmed that the bandage on Bashar's operated thumb was removed yesterday and it was thought to be in good condition, according to specialist surgeon Dr. Greg Hoy of the Avenue Hospital who performed the operation about two weeks ago.

Hoy also informed the BCB that Bangladesh's premier batsman was expected to be fit before the country's home series against New Zealand next month.

Bashar missed the ICC Champions Trophy due to the injury suffered in training.

Preliminary team due on Sept 24

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors are expected to announce the team for Bangladesh's home series against New Zealand on September 24, a day before the camp starts.

The panel, led by chief selector Faruque Ahmed, looks set to name only 18 players for the preliminary squad after their first meeting yesterday at coach Dav Whatmore's residence.

It was learned that the selectors agreed not to make wholesale changes even after two disastrous tournaments in Sri Lanka and England.

The selectors will also have to announce the A team for New Zealand's warm-up tour opener in Dhaka but they will think about it when the training of the high performance unit resumes in early October.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak will definitely not be considered for the series as he will have to correct his bowling action under a review committee and Richard McInnes, the Australian coach for development who is also a bio-mechanic expert, according to sources.

Div II chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Friends Chess Power clinched the Metropolitan Second Division Chess League title when they drew with Mitra Chess Club in the eighth and final round yesterday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium.

Friends, featuring Masum, David, Majumder, Rauf, Shahjada **SEE PAGE 14 COL 8**

TROPHY TREATS

BISHWAJIT ROY, from Birmingham

As the dawn breaks in the midlands of England after Asia's battle royal, it is the turn of cricket's other great rivalry between Australia and hosts England at Edgbaston.

But sadly though the intensity might not match the mouth-watering game seen here on Sunday when Pakistan pulled off an exciting three-wicket win over India in front of a choke-a-block crowd.

The city was still talking about the heroic innings of Yousuf Youhana, who scripted the famous Pakistan win with an unbeaten 81 after Irfan Pathan knocked over the top-order. The post-match discussion was so dominant that it easily overshadowed the Ashes war.

Only thirty per cent of the tickets were sold so far but organisers were hopeful the number would go up before the match kicks off today.

England captain Michael Vaughan is also aware of the fact that the public is more interested in football and so is appealing for a better home response.

"Our captain Vaughan calls on England supporters to support his boys on the field. We also ask people to book their tickets online," said an official at Edgbaston.

FREDDY THE KEY

Andrew Flintoff is the latest heart-throb of England after Ian Botham and many English fans believe that

the giant right-hander can re-ignite the home passion into the game. English cricket has been missing that spark since the retirement of legendary all-rounder Botham.

"You know that it is always difficult to beat Australia even if England play their best. The Aussies are now invincible but we are looking to our new sensation Freddy who can make a difference. We need a big hundred from him," said Bratty, a young shopkeeper.

Although the ICC Champions Trophy has so far failed to capture the hearts and minds of the British public, who branded it as a school tournament, it might see a change of mood if the home team progresses to the final.

"The final will be a funny one if England quit tomorrow. You will hardly find any English spectators watching the September 25 final at The Oval," commented a senior English journalist adding that with India going out the crowd appeal has dipped dramatically.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

India and Pakistan may have fought many a battle over the years but the feelings towards each other are still very close. Forget what the politicians in Delhi and Islamabad are saying because here in England an Indian cricket fan proudly announced that he would not mind supporting the other side.

"We are now supporters of Pakistan because they are our neighbours. We will support

Pakistan all the way for rest of the tournament after our boys lost. Because Pakistan is the only Asian team left in the competition after also the exit of Sri Lanka," said Bharat, a taxi driver.

When he was asked why he forgot to mention Bangladesh, he said it was just a mistake.

"Brother we have the same feeling for you but the slip up was only because your team is not performing," he politely explained.

BCB calls up 23 for Kolkata tour

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday named a 23-member preliminary squad for the Under-17 team's tour of Kolkata from October 10-25.

They have been requested to report to coach Emdadul Haque at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on September 24 at 5 pm.

The squad: Nazmus Sadat, Saqib Al Hasan, Mazhar Uddin, Mehdi Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Marshal Ayub, Sumon Kumar Saha, Swapan Kumar Saha, Farhad Hossain, Rakibul Hasan, Raisul Islam. **D O L L A R**

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Ganguly fuming



AFP, Birmingham

Furious India captain Sourav Ganguly launched a blistering attack on his misfiring batsmen after his side were knocked out of the ICC Champions Trophy by bitter-rivals Pakistan on Sunday.

India struggled to 200 all out with only Rahul Dravid (67) and Ajit Agarkar (47), with a stand of 82 in 83 balls, giving his side's bowlers a target to defend.

Pakistan went on to win by three wickets.

At one stage they had been 73-5 after Virender Sehwag was out for 10, VVS Laxman for three, Mohamed Kaif, 27, and Yuvraj Singh, 0.

"It was a good wicket and we just didn't bat well enough," said Ganguly who also failed with the bat after being dismissed for naught.

"There are some guys in the team who are failing for too long and when the main batsmen in the team

keep failing the batting loses momentum," insisted Ganguly in a thinly veiled reference to the out-of-form Sehwag and Yuvraj.

"I think the bowlers bowled very well," added the captain after seeing an attack led by left-arm quick and ICC Emerging Player of the Year Irfan Pathan (three for 34) almost pull off a stunning victory.

Ganguly has made a point of being publicly loyal to his team but he said Sunday: "Nobody's place is for life. You have to keep on performing in international cricket."

India, who lost their third successive match to Pakistan, were without the injured Sachin Tendulkar for the entire Champions Trophy.

Bandarban soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Bright Star earned full points in the Bandarban football league when they blanked Ruma Upazila Krira Sanghstha 2-0 in yesterday's match at the local stadium.

Sangu Boys Club will take on Deshbandhu Club today.

BFF picks 25 U-17 booters

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday called up 25 under-17 footballers for a short camp.

The members of the national U-17s, who participated in the final round of the AFC Youth Championship in Japan, and preliminary squad players have been asked to report to National Team Management Committee's member-secretary Sayeed Hassan Kanan at the Mirpur Krira Palli on September 23.

The 25 booters will play in an exhibition football match as a part of the FUTURO referee's course run by FIFA. The course begins on September 24.

The players: Mazharul Islam, Imdadul Haq Manu, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Abul Kashem, Arafat Ali Rony, Mamunul Islam, Rony Islam, Mamun Hossain, Zahid Hossain, Rajan Mia, Mithun Chowdhury, SM Rajib, Sarwar Hossain, Al Amin Hossain, Nasirul Islam Nasir, Rubel Ahmed, Hirak Joarder, Ali Hossain, Abid Hossain Akash, Rahatul Kabir, Uttam Barua, Sumon Dey, Toufik Hassan Gafur, Rubel Rahman and Nandu Chandra Das.