



Did U Know?

Games similar to soccer were played in China as many as 2,400 years ago. The style of soccer we enjoy today was



Shaharyar Khan
(Pakistan Cricket Board chief)
"We are happy that the relations are normalised and cricket is flourishing which is so very necessary for the game. People from both the countries came together when India toured us and now people from Pakistan will go to India and a lot of friendship will develop."



- TEN Sports**
Triangular Series Cricket
Pakistan vs Zimbabwe
Live at 10:00 am
- ESPN**
Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Chelsea
Live at 9:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Middlesbrough
Live at 7:55 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Deportivo



Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 15, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:	2 wickets	50 runs	33 runs
2. Who won the China Open tennis title?	Serena Sharapova	Hingis	
3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?	83	84	81
4. Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?	Sarwan	Flintoff	Lara
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (if any)			

Thikader in final

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Thikader Club moved into the final of the Bandarban Football League with a crushing 5-0 win over Deshbandhu Eleven in the first semifinal at the local stadium yesterday. The winners dominated the first half 4-0. Reegrihaong Jubo Samity meet UFA Club in the second semifinal at

Nafees eyes different kind of hundred



SPORTS REPORTER

Young batsman Nafees Iqbal loves to play strokes and wants to draw inspiration from his swashbuckling century against England in a three-day match last year. But the talented right-hander realises that he needs to develop a more mature approach to become an established opener.

Back to the camp after enjoying an additional five-day break, Nafees is looking forward to playing another big innings in the three-day match against New Zealand at BKSP, where he scored 118 against the Englishmen.

"The game will help him to push for a Test call up when the selectors name a 13-member team for the first Test starting October 19. The nephew of former Bangladesh captain Akram Khan has already played four one-day internationals including both games in the ICC Champions Trophy. But statistics hardly do justice to his undoubted ability.

"It is frustrating that I continue to make the same mistakes which I

even did in the three-day match against England. This is nothing but a tendency to go for excessive stroke-play," Nafees told reporters while explaining his failures in one-day cricket.

But he wants to seize another opportunity to prove that he has what it takes to become a Test batsman.

"A Test cap is a dream for any cricketer and I want to impress everybody in that three-day match," said Nafees while referring to the lone warm-up match against the Kiwis, which starts on October 14.

Stephen Fleming's men will arrive in Dhaka on October 11 for two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Nafees along with his Chitagonian mate Aftab Ahmed and pacer Nazmul Hossain were allowed an extra few days rest since they toured England as part of the Under-19 team before being picked for the Champions Trophy.

The dashing batsman, who made the headlines by terming England left-arm spinner Ashley Giles as an ordinary bowler after cracking that magnificent hundred, however has since failed to deliver and had to wait almost a year before a comeback.

"I am looking forward to repeat that feat against New Zealand but I have to be more restrained in my shot selection," said the 20-year-old.

"I was well set in the first match against South Africa but unnecessarily I went for another big shot", he said referring his first comeback match in the Champions Trophy where he top-scored with 40 in Bangladesh's poor total of 93.

"I tried to check this bad habit in the second match against West Indies but again I was guilty of playing lofted shots at the start of the innings."

Meanwhile, coach Dav Whatmore has made batting and more batting his number one priority. The Australian knows that if his boys are to survive in a five-day contest they must learn how to occupy the crease instead of throwing their wicket away that has been a major concern in recent times.

The 21 probables will have an extensive session in the centre wicket at the BNS provided there is good weather on Monday.



BATTING AIDE: Sri Lanka batting specialist Owen Mottau (L), who arrived in Dhaka on Thursday, offers some tips to wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud before a net session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Langer ton in drawn tie



AFP/REUTERS, Mumbai

Glenn McGrath scalped four wickets and Justin Langer hit a century here on Saturday to lead Australia's preparations for next week's Test series against India.

McGrath, the 34-year-old veteran, conceded only 25 runs in 21.2 overs of lively seam bowling to restrict Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai to 255 on the final day of the

three-day tour opener here. Australia, who scored 302-7 in their first innings, hit up 207-1 in their second knock before draw was called in the only first-class game for the tourists ahead of the first Test in Bangalore from Wednesday.

Left-handed Langer, who made 108 before retiring, shared a first-wicket stand of 142 with Michael Clarke, who contributed a strokeful 52.

McGrath, Test cricket's fourth highest wicket-taker with 440 victims, returned to form after missing

the home series against India earlier this year due to injury.

The New South Wales paceman is three matches away from his 100th Test, a feat he should accomplish in the third Test of the current series at Nagpur.

McGrath is almost certain to join Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprovicz in Australia's three-man pace attack for the Bangalore Test, leaving speedster Brett Lee on the sidelines.

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SHAPING UP FOR THE TEST: Australian opener Justin Langer sweeps on way to scoring 108 on the final day

Indo-Pak rivalry needed



AFP, Lahore

Regular matches between India and Pakistan could be good for the sport and help the South Asian neighbours to challenge the game's European powers, rival captains and former Olympians said Saturday.

"India plays Pakistan is where the real beauty of hockey lies. It's wonderful and together we can counter the Europeans by playing at regular level," Indian captain Dilip Tirkey told AFP.

Tirkey-led India returned home Saturday after featuring in the Pakistan leg of the eight-match revival series between the arch rivals.

Pakistan won the first match in Karachi by 2-1 and the third at Peshawar by 3-2 while India rocked their rivals in the second match in Quetta with a 4-1 victory.

The teams drew the final match 4-4 in Lahore on Friday and now move to India where the second leg of the series will be held between October 4-10.

"We need to make joint efforts to counter the European onslaught and I am a firm believer that if we play each other annually we can improve more and be in a better position to counter Europeans," said Tirkey, whose side was the first from India to tour Pakistan since 1999.

Pakistan and India played bilateral series on regular basis between 1978 to 1988 and then played two series in 1998 and 1999 before political tensions over the disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir put the

rivalry on hold. India agreed to revive the stalled sporting relations amid a thaw in relations and their cricket team toured Pakistan in March-April this year followed by the hockey series.

Pakistan captain Waseem Ahmed said he believed crowds can return to hockey games if both countries play regularly.

"We can't compete with cricket where crowds come in numbers but I am confident that if we play on a regular basis we can bring people back to hockey fields in both the countries," he said.

India's 1975 World Cup winning captain Ajit Pal Singh said hockey in both countries was not as bad as critics have been saying.

"Pakistan and India must join

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Another easy Abahani win

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani confirmed their semifinal berth in the Kings Cup football tournament in Bhutan when the Dhaka giants recorded another comfortable 3-0 victory against Indian Army in their second match on Saturday.

The popular Sky Blues, who made a flying start to the tournament by inflicting a 4-1 defeat on Kang-won of South Korea, led the first-half 1-0 against the Indian soldiers as Abahani's guest striker Farhad found the net in the seventh minutes.

Young Mehedi Hasan Ujjal doubled it in the 59th minute and Saiful Islam Khokon sealed the match, scoring in the dying moments of the game.

Abahani will play their final and third group match against Nepalese national side on October 5.

Bashundhara's no to Corporate Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's runners-up Bashundhara Group stayed away from the second version of the Corporate Cricket League (CCL) that begins on October 15.

Their reluctance to participate in the meet was only confirmed when the leading business house failed to complete registration formalities on the final day yesterday.

It was reported that Bashundhara were unhappy with the idea of a Twenty20 format being introduced by the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

The tournament committee confirmed the participation of eleven teams on the last day of registration of the 12-team meet. They will choose the last team today.

"Five new companies are keen to play in the tournament and we will select one from them tomorrow," said secretary of CCL Ali Hossain.

The inter-house transfers will be held over October 7-9.

JFA Cup gets underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Gazipur got the JFA (Japan Football Association) Cup under-16 football competition off to a rollicking start as they thrashed Netrakona 7-0 at the Jamalpur Stadium yesterday.

In other matches, Dinajpur handed a 3-1 defeat to Lalmonirhat at the Sirajganj Stadium, Magura beat Jessore Educational Board 7-6 in tiebreaker at the Meherpur Stadium, Rajshahi managed a solitary goal victory against Gaibandha at the Natore Stadium, Narsingdi blanked Sylhet 2-0 at the Laxmipur Stadium, Khulna thrashed Patuakhali 5-1 at the Barguna Stadium, Chittagong beat Khagrachari 1-0 at the Feni Stadium and Faridpur defeated Munshiganj 3-1 at the Rajbari Stadium.

A total of 60 teams are taking part in the knockout first phase of the first ever competition.

Believing it Wright



AFP/BBC, Bangalore

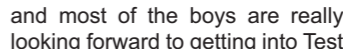
India coach John Wright believes his side can bounce back from their recent dismal one-day form and give Australia a mighty shock in the forthcoming Test series.

India were knocked out of the ICC Champions Trophy by old rivals Pakistan in England last month at the semifinal stage, but Wright says the limited-overs setback will have no bearing on the four-match Test series which starts here on Wednesday.

"They have not played a Test since defeating Pakistan 2-1 in April, a series which followed a credible 1-1 draw in Australia."

"Now we're back to Test cricket and we've played some very good Test cricket over the last two series," said Wright after a 15-man India squad was named Friday.

"Sometimes it's difficult to get momentum going in one-dayers



AFP/BBC, Bangalore

and most of the boys are really looking forward to getting into Test mode. I've never had any doubts about this side. I've always had huge trust and enormous belief in their ability."

India have been bolstered by the return of Sachin Tendulkar even though he has still not fully recovered from an elbow injury while Mohammad Kaif and Murali Kartik were also named in the squad for the first Two Tests.

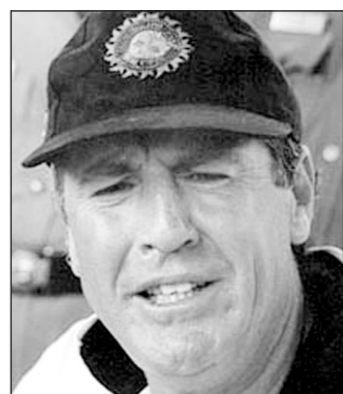
Wright offered words of consolation to Nehra.

"Ashish has done well in the one-dayers, but the fact that Ajit has such a good record against Australia went in his favour."

Agarkar has taken 29 wickets in eight previous Test appearances against Australia, but only one of them -- at Mumbai four years ago -- was on home soil.

Ganguly was also happy with the personnel provided for him by the selectors.

"This is the best possible team at this stage," he said.



JOHN WRIGHT

Inzamam won't spare Zim



AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said his side are determined to push Zimbabwe hard in the second tri-series match in the northwest city of Peshawar.

"It's hard to find determination against an inexperienced Zimbabwe side but after they troubled us initially in the first game we will push them harder," Inzamam told reporters at a press conference on Saturday.

"You can't take international matches lightly," he said.

Zimbabwe caught Pakistan napping at 36-4 and then at 146-6 before losing by 144 runs in the first match at Multan on Thursday.

All-rounder Abdul Razzaq hit a brisk century while Shahid Afridi

notched a whirlwind 58 off just 26 deliveries to propel Pakistan to 292-7 to which Zimbabwe managed just 148.

"If you win against such an inexperienced side no one takes notice but when you lose against a weak side it's a big thing," said the Pakistan captain, who is a doubtful starter for Sunday's game due to groin injury.

"The injury is healing but I might rest for next week's game against Sri Lanka in Karachi," he said.

Asian champions Sri Lanka, who arrive in Pakistan on Sunday, are the third team in the tri-series in which all three teams face each other twice with the top two teams set to play the October 16 final in the eastern city of Lahore.

Pakistan, who rested their pacer Mohammad Sami in the first match, may also give express pacer Shoaib Akhtar a rest in the second match.

The tourists, meanwhile, remain in a positive state of mind despite a run of 11 successive defeats since wicketkeeper Tendulkar took on the captaincy in April. Taibu also became international cricket's youngest captain at 20 at that time.

He was thrown in at the deep end after 15 white players turned their back on the national team in a dispute with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union.

"It's tough when you throw players in at the deep end. But they have realised their mistakes and I hope we show an improved performance," said Taibu.

"If we do the basics right and put Pakistan on the back foot, I still believe we have a chance to cause an upset in this series."

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BE FAST AND FURIOUS: Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq (R) tells something to his fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar (L) and explosive batsman Shahid Afridi prior to the team's final practice ahead of the one-day international against Zimbabwe in Peshawar yesterday.