



Did U Know?

Ron Clarke, the Olympic torchbearer for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, was a virtually unknown 19-year-old at the time he carried the torch into the stadium at Melbourne. He went on to become the world's finest distance runner in the 1960s.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Football Focus
Live at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
FA Cup
Blackburn Rovers vs Burnley
Live at 1:55 am (Wednesday)
STAR Sports
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
FA Cup
Sheffield United vs Arsenal
Live at 2:00 am (Wednesday)



Bob Woolmer
(Pakistan cricket coach)
"The hosts always start favourites, but mental games are the key to success."
On the forthcoming Indo-Pak series

DAY'S EVENT

Federation Cup Soccer
Dipali Jubo Sangha v Agrani Bank (3:00 pm)
Farashganj v Victoria (5:00 pm)
Venue: Kamalapur Stadium

BFF to mark it with a tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to hold a Victory Day Gold Cup Football Tournament involving Premier and First Division clubs to mark the return of football permanently to the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

The BFF will have the possession of country's premier venue from today.

The eight-team competition featuring six Premier Division outfits Brothers Union, Sheikh Russel, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Abahani, Mohammedan and Arambagh and First Division sides Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and Farashganj will commence on March 10.

"We are planning to hold the tournament a day after Brothers play Nisa Club of Turkmenistan in the first-leg of the AFC Cup on March 9," said BFF general secretary Anwarul Haq Helal.

He also said that because of the Victory Day competition the final round of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup Football Tournament, which was scheduled to kick off from the middle of March, would be deferred.

Biddyt, Lajuk let off lightly

SPORTS REPORTER

The players' status committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday brokered a truce between Muktiyoddha and Abahani regarding the possession of Azmol Ahmed Biddyt and Zillur Rahman Lajuk.

'A' whitewash



SPORTS REPORTER

An aggressive 162-run second wicket partnership between captain Shahriar Nafees Ahmed and Tushar Imran enabled Bangladesh A to complete a 3-0 series whitewash against Zimbabwe A at Kwe Kwe yesterday.

After wrapping up the home team's innings on 217 in the morning after they had began the last day on 202 for 8, the tourists required 236 for victory, a target they chased in style. The winning runs came off the bat of Mahmudullah Riyad in only the 52nd over. Bangladesh had won the first Test by 50 runs and went one better in the second match with a whopping 190-run thrashing.

Bangladesh set up the day with the excellent partnership between opener Nafees Ahmed (86) and Tushar (81) before both were dismissed midway through the second session. Ahmed went to a top edged sweep shot while Tushar was run out in a mix up with Sanuar Hossain. Sanuar, who is the only veteran in a refreshingly young side made up mostly of teenagers, contributed 27 before he was the fifth

wicket to fall to a tough lbw decision in the 25th over.

"This win was a tough one for the players after having already won the series and offering a first innings lead to Zimbabwe. The young team fought back well and through some positive and aggressive cricket were able to steal the game back from Zimbabwe who should have really taken the match after the first innings," said Bangladesh A's Australian coach Richard McInness.

Zimbabwe A were strengthened by the inclusion of all-rounder Andy



SHAHRIAR NAFEEES...86

Blignaut, one of the Heath Streak-led rebels, in this match but he contributed just 24 runs and went wicketless.

There were a lot of positives to come out of the series for Bangladesh A. Opener Raqib al-Hasan and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim made hundreds under pressure while Nafees Ahmed and Tushar Imran contributed handsomely. 15-year-old left-handed all-rounder Saqib al-Hassan, mentioned in Wisden as one of the 21 most promising players around the Test world under the age of 20 in its March edition, gave glimpses of his rare talent. Particularly pleasing for McInness would be the fact that even after resting firebrand Shahadat Hossain Rajib in the last Test and Zimbabwe's nemesis Enamul Haque Jr in the second, BD A could still bowl out the hosts without much trouble.

While Rajib tore apart Zimbabwe A with two five-wicket hauls, Enamul returned a 10-for in the first Test and was the main destroyer in the second innings of the third Test. For Sanuar, the tour is an opportunity to impress with his off-spin ahead of the series against England.

Both team now prepare for the ODI
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MATCH SHIFTED TO DELHI BCB XI play Central Zone today



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven's second outing in the Duleep Trophy cricket competition has been shifted from Jaipur to the Indian Railways Stadium in Delhi where groundsmen are racing against time to restore the wicket to be suitable for the match starting on Tuesday.

The reason for the hurry in giving finishing touches to the pitch is that Railways Officers had played on it in the last two days even after a decision by the Indian cricket board to shift the match from the capital of

Rajasthan state to Delhi.

Indian cricket board Secretary S K Nair said the decision to shift the venue of the match was taken some days ago.

Although there is no official word on why the match was shifted to Delhi, it is understood that a bitter feud within Rajasthan Cricket Association prompted the Board's decision.

Having badly lost the first match against East Zone in Nagpur last week, the BCB side led by Mohammad Ashrafur is looking forward to salvage some pride from the encounter against Central Zone.

But Bangladesh have suffered a jolt in their build up for the second

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Full bench to hear petition

SPORTS REPORTER

The chamber judge of the appellate division of the Supreme Court referred the civil misalliance petition (CMP) for leave to appeal filed by Rafiqul Islam to the full bench for disposal yesterday.

Petitioner Rafiqul Islam, a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) councilor, filed the petition on Sunday seeking a stay order on a High Court verdict which vacated an earlier stay order enforced against the elected BCB directors on August 11, 2002. The ruling means the directors will be allowed to function in all BCB activities under the government nominated president until fresh elections are held.

"There were two separate petitions. Surprisingly, defendant number two (National Sports Council) also sought a separate stay order besides the petitioner. The chamber

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John right for India?



BBC ONLINE, undated

When the dust settles on Pakistan series in India, Bob Woolmer might want to pick John Wright's brains about succeeding as a coach on the subcontinent.

The three-Test battle will mark just under four-and-a-half-years in charge of the Indian team for Wright - a remarkable achievement considering how often his position has been in jeopardy.

He has ridden criticism and uncertainty and come out on the other side. Wright, who recently said he might not continue to the next World Cup, will leave the post on his terms, not India's.

Former South Africa and Warwickshire boss Woolmer is at

the other end of the spectrum, relatively new to his job with the temperamental and inconsistent Pakistanis.

The Englishman has already witnessed some shoddy displays and had difficulty getting the best out of some strong personalities, like star paceman Shoaib Akhtar.

He would do well to follow Wright's cue.

The ex-New Zealand batsman became India's fifth coach in four years in November 2000 - and the nation's first foreign one.

He inherited a team that was sloppy in the field, not fit enough and with the tendency to cave in when it ventured abroad.

But by relying on methods, which brought success in four years at Kent, he has moulded them into a side that can now win anywhere.

Of India's 19 Test wins under

Wright, nine have been outside India - including notable triumphs at Adelaide, Headingley, and a first overseas series victory in 11 years in Pakistan.

Former Australia batsman Dav Whatmore, who coached Sri Lanka for eight years, believes the 50-year-old has created a blueprint for succeeding in the subcontinent as a foreigner.

"The shift in Indian cricket is no accident," the current Bangladesh coach told BBC Sport.

"They started to play well after John organised them better and I have no doubt that his influence and teaching in certain areas has smoothed out the rough edges.

"Running between the wickets is important and fielding is important.

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PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Federation Cup football tournament clash between Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Army at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Dalai Lama won't be there

AFP, New Delhi

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama will not inaugurate the opening match of Pakistan's cricket tour of India because the Pakistanis were unhappy with his attendance, it was announced on Monday.

The Dalai Lama was due to inaugurate on Thursday the three-day match between the tourists and an Indian board president's team in the northern hill resort of Dharamshala where the Tibetan leader's government-in-exile is based.

Media reports on Monday said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan had told Indian officials that Pakistan should not be put in an embarrassing position since it enjoys very good relations with China.

A statement from the Tibetan leader's office said the Dalai Lama had decided not to accept the invitation by the organisers, the Himachal Pradesh cricket association, to inaugurate the match.

"In view of the reservations expressed from some quarters regarding his presence at the match, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has now decided not to inaugurate the cricket match," the statement said.

"The general thinking of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is not to
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PHOTO: AFP

FINALLY WE'RE HERE: Pakistan cricket captain Inzamamul Haq (C) is garlanded by members of the Delhi Cricket Association on his team's arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi yesterday.

Imran's recipe for success

PTI, Karachi

Legendary Imran Khan has urged the India-bound Pakistan cricket team to play positive and aggressive while Board Chairman Shaharyar Khan advised the players to win the Indian hearts with their conduct and behaviour.

"My team won in 1986 because we played positive and aggressive cricket. We were not scared of losing. I am sure if you play with same zeal, dedication and commitment, success will be in your feet," Imran told the squad during a pep talk in Lahore Sunday evening.

The Pakistan team leaves for New Delhi this afternoon on a 50-day tour. It will be their first Test tour of India in six years and seventh since 1952-53.

"You have to be mentally stronger than the Indian team. You have to believe in yourself and keep faith in your abilities and talent. If you gel together, back each other and play as a unit, I am sure you will put up a performance you will be proud of," he said.

Skipper Inzamam, talking to PTI from Lahore, said: "It was a highly

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Inzamam's men cross the border



AFP/REUTERS, New Delhi

Pakistan's cricket team, captained by Inzamamul Haq, flew into India amid tight security for their first full tour across the border since 1999.

The 16-man squad and the support staff, led by coach Bob Woolmer, arrived on Monday at the heavily-guarded Indira Gandhi airport in the Indian capital by a Pakistan International Airlines flight from Lahore.

Gun-toting commandos kept a strict vigil as the tourists were whisked off in buses to their down-

town hotel. The 10-kilometre (6.2 miles) route from the airport to the hotel was dotted with securitymen in uniform and plainclothes.

Hindu fundamentalists have threatened to disrupt the tour in protest at what they say is Pakistan's support for militancy in the disputed region of Kashmir.

Inzamam's team will stay overnight in New Delhi before boarding a chartered aircraft on Tuesday morning for Dharamshala, the northern hill resort where the three-day tour opener against the Indian board president's team starts on Thursday.

Pakistan are scheduled to play three Tests and six one-day interna-

tionals on their first major tour of India since 1999 when they drew the two-Test series 1-1 and won the

ITINERARY			
Mar 3-5	v BCCI XI	Dharamshala	
Mar 8-12	1st Test	Mohali	
Mar 16-20	2nd Test	Kolkata	
Mar 24-28	3rd Test	Bangalore	
Mar 30	1-day warm-up	Hyderabad	
Apr 2	1st ODI	Cochin	
Apr 5	2nd ODI	Visakhapatnam	
Apr 9	3rd ODI	Jamshedpur	
Apr 12	4th ODI	Ahmedabad	
Apr 15	5th ODI	Kanpur	
Apr 17	6th ODI	Delhi	
Apr 18	Departure		

Asian Test Championship match in Kolkata.

The first Test begins in the northern town of Mohali on March 8 followed by back-to-back Tests in Kolkata and Bangalore.

The one-day internationals will be played from April 2 at Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Jamshedpur, Ahmedabad, Kanpur and New Delhi.

Cricket ties between the warring neighbours, disrupted since 2000 due to political tensions, were revived in March last year when India toured Pakistan for their first Test series since 1989.

India won both the Test and one-

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