

Did U Know?

The Davis Cup was named after American Dwight Davis. He came up with the idea which began as a challenge match between the USA and Great Britain. First played in 1900, it was originally called the International Lawn Tennis Trophy.



Talk Turkey

Shane Warne plays his cricket the hard way and has the ability to bounce back from the dead. He's God's gift to cricket.



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian star batsman)

"Shane Warne plays his cricket the hard way and has the ability to bounce back from the dead. He's God's gift to cricket."

ESPN

- English Premier Football League Birmingham City vs Liverpool Live at 5:40 pm
- West Ham United vs Arsenal Live at 7:45 pm
- Bolton Wanderers vs Portsmouth Live at 10:10 pm

STAR Sports

- English Premier Football League Man United vs Blackburn Rovers Live at 7:55 pm

CCL nat'l pool revised

SPORTS REPORTER

A day after revealing the 20-member national pool for the upcoming Corporate Cricket League the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) brought two changes to the list yesterday.

Pacer Talha Jubair and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak Raj were included in the pool in place of Nazmul Hossain and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim.

"We forgot that Nazmul and Mushfiqur will be part of the Under-19 team in Sri Lanka from October 3," said Ali Hossain, the member secretary of the league committee.

Meanwhile, BGMFA was the other newcomer in the competition as the umbrella organisation of garments manufacturers registered on the last day to complete the 12-team quota.

The tournament will begin on October 5 across the country and a two-day inter-house players' transfer will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on September 25-26.

Barman the solo leader

SPORTS REPORTER

Khokon Chandra Barman took a solo lead in the chess competition for the blind with maximum points after the fifth round at the BIAM Auditorium yesterday.

Abir Hossain, Mir Hossain, Abdur Rahim, SM Shahin, Mujibul Haque and Ferdous Hasan followed the leader with four points each. The sixth and last round games will take place at the same venue today.

Prime Asia cruise

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Asia University earned a comfortable 3-0 win over Independent University of Bangladesh in the Stamford Inter-Private University Football Tournament at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Sanwar, Mujahidul and Abdullah Alamin scored one goal each for the winners. Alamin was adjudged best player of the match.

Mahmud ready to retire

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud has made up his mind to call it a day in international cricket.

Mahmud told the Daily Star on Friday that his next home appearance in an ODI would be his last.

"I think the time has arrived for me to take the decision. I had a talk with the Board officials where I expressed my desire to retire and they have accepted my wish. They however wanted me to make a final appearance in the Tigers' shirt," said the 34-year-old all-rounder.

An understandably sour Mahmud had once before announced his retirement from the game when he lost the captaincy to

Habibul Bashar and was also subsequently dropped from the Test squad for the tour of Zimbabwe in early 2004. But he was pressured into performing a U-turn.

"I wanted to avoid a similar situation this time and that is why I let the Board know in advance," said Mahmud who has been considered as a one-day specialist only since losing the captaincy.

"I think for me there is little to gain from continuing with the game at the moment. Why should I block the path of an upcoming player only to appear as a super-sub? I want to quit the game with honour and that is why I have accepted the offer to retire after the next home match," said Mahmud.

Even after retiring, Mahmud is keen to contribute to Bangladesh cricket in a different capacity. The

man loved for his fighting and motivational qualities, will be among a host of local cricketers past and present who will participate in a level-1 cricket coaching course starting today.

"The Sri Lanka trip gave me a clear indication that there was no reason for me to continue as a player. You have to work hard to prepare for a tour or a series but ultimately that goes in vain if you are not in the starting line-up. That's why I thought that it would be better to give that effort in other areas," said the veteran of 76 ODIs and 12 Tests.

"I am going to start the coaching course tomorrow but I'm not yet to sure whether that will be my destination after retirement. But I will always try to keep in touch with the game," said Mahmud.

Better luck for Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER

Fortunes reversed for Mohammedan's as two regional Black and Whites confirmed their zonal final berths in the Nitul-Tata National Football yesterday.

For Barisal Mohammedan victory was even sweeter as they thumped Barguna Abahani 5-1 at the Khulna Stadium.

Atiqul Islam struck twice and Zahidul Islam, Aminul Islam and Proshanto added one each for the winners while Bashir Ahmed netted a consolation goal for the losers.

The Barisal Black and Whites will now face Khulna Town Club in Sunday's regional final.

At the Natore Stadium, Panchagarh Mohammedan moved into the regional final also in style with a comfortable 3-1 victory over Rangpur Moonlight Sporting Club.

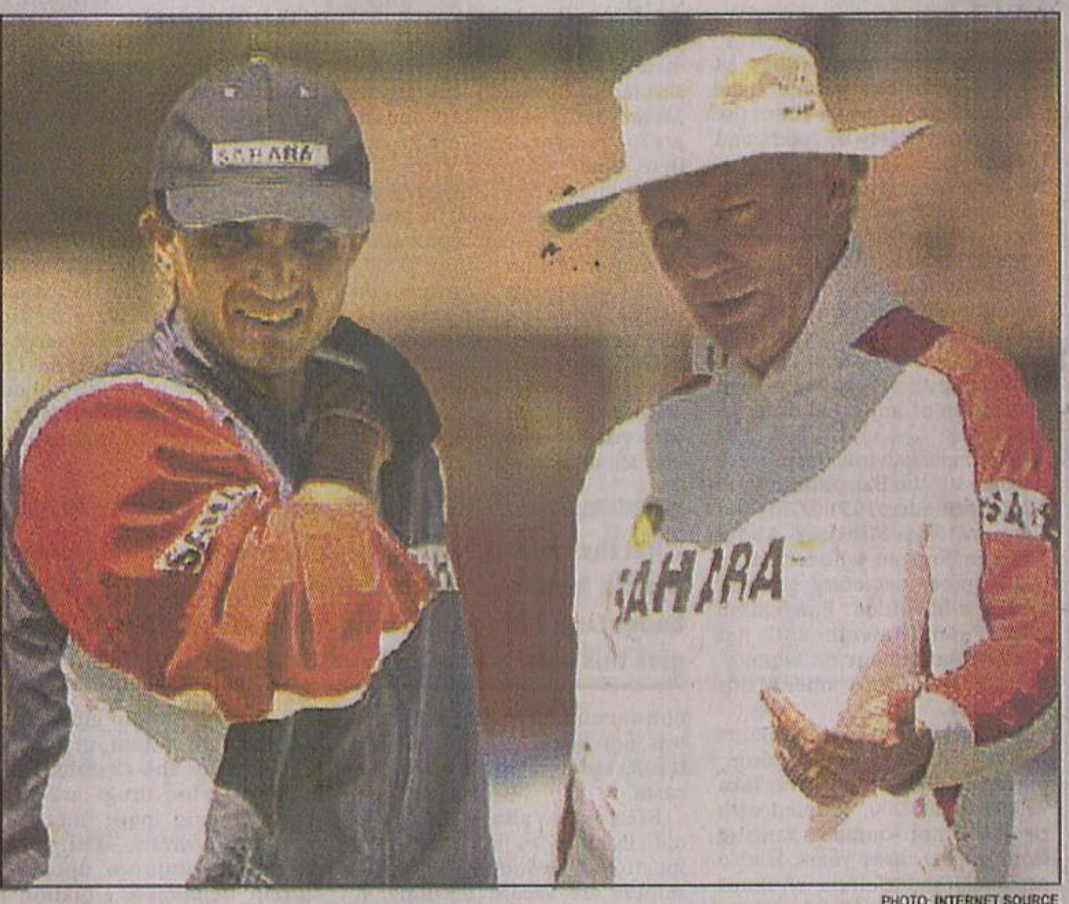
Wahid slammed two goals and Fazlul Haq scored one for the winners while Zamirul netted for the losers.

The winners will meet Bangladesh Army in the regional final Sunday.

Kararchar Krira Chakra of Narshingdi was the other team that confirmed their zonal final place when they blanked Bangladesh Police 2-0 at the Feni Stadium.

Shohag blasted both goals for the winners, who will face Soccer Club, Feni in the regional final on Sunday.

The day's other match between Kushtia Crescent Club and Nabin Nabin Samabesh Club of Munshiganj ended abruptly when Crescent Club refused to play after 69 minutes. Nabin was leading 1-0.



WHAT'S YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS? Coach Greg Chappell (R) makes a point to Indian captain Sourav Ganguly during a training session.

It's either Ganguly or me: Chappell

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket coach Greg Chappell believes Sourav Ganguly is no longer fit to lead the side and has threatened to quit if the captain is not changed, a cricket board source told AFP on Friday.

Chappell, the former Australian captain and batting great who took charge of the Indian team in June, sent an e-mail to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) saying Ganguly did not deserve a place in the team either, the source said.

"Chappell has told the BCCI that he will find it difficult to continue if Ganguly is retained as captain," said the source who has seen the e-mail from Chappell.

"The coach believes Ganguly is not physically or mentally fit to lead and had lost the respect of the younger players in the team."

BCCI president Ranbir Singh Mahendra confirmed he had received Chappell's mail, but declined to reveal its contents on the pretext it was a confidential report.

Chappell's missive came a day after India routed lowly Zimbabwe 2-0 to record their first Test series win outside the sub-continent since 1986 when they beat England.

The victory took Ganguly's record as India's most successful Test captain to 21 wins, seven more than second-placed Mohammad Azharuddin's tally of 14.

Both Chappell and Ganguly were flying back from Zimbabwe on Friday and were unavailable for comment.

Relations between Chappell and Ganguly soured ahead of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Bulawayo last week when it was revealed the coach had asked the captain to step down because of his poor batting form.

Ganguly responded by carving out a painstaking six-hour century against the weakest attack in cricket and then revealed the dressing-room discussion with the coach to the media.

Chappell issued a hand-written statement ahead of the second Test in Harare, saying his efforts to motivate Ganguly had been misinterpreted as a call for the batsman to stand down as captain.

"It is disappointing that what was a private discussion between the captain and myself has become a cause of public speculation," Chappell said.

"It was a frank discussion about Indian cricket, present and future, and much of what I said was aimed at motivating Sourav for the Test."

"In that regard our exchange was beneficial."

Ganguly's 101 at Bulawayo was his first international century since the 144 against Australia at Brisbane in November 2003.

After the revelations, newspapers splashed staged pictures of Chappell and Ganguly playing pool in the team hotel and greeting each other with a warm handshake before practice at the Harare sports club.

The BCCI, which is holding its elections in Kolkata on Friday, has called for a meeting next Tuesday to review the Indian team's performance this season and the Chappell-Ganguly spat.

India lost two one-day finals against Sri Lanka and New Zealand over the last two months before blanking a weak Zimbabwe in the Test series.

LANKA DIARY

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

As the sun was setting over the majestic Indian Ocean on Friday, homesick Bangladeshi cricketers were relieved knowing their wait was almost over.

Having lost the second and final Test against Sri Lanka inside three days, they got an unwanted three-day break as all efforts to fly home early proved unsuccessful due to jam-packed flights.

Although they won't get any warm welcome from the fans after a series of 'ifs and buts', they could easily find harmony in the arms of their family members.

The cricketers so anxious to get away from it all, did not even bother to go shopping or roam on a very hot day after a morning team meeting. Even their favourite pastime - playing pool at the Taj Samudra Hotel - could not attract the tired bodies and minds.

The two-hour long meeting was only a review of those 'ifs and buts' and a reminder to the lot that there was plenty of hard work in the next four months of domestic season for more international commitments next year.

The redemption plans will be chalked out once coach Dav Whatmore returns to Bangladesh in the second week of October. The coach, who will enjoy a holiday with his family here, will also watch the Bangladesh Cricket Board Development Squad play two matches in Colombo during his vacation. The Development Squad are due here on October 2.

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The worst scenario was that some Bangladeshi journalists did not have proper vantage positions to watch the proceedings. Some of the tables were like rocking horses and the noise pollution at times was akin to a street market.

On the tables, there were more TVs than they could seat human beings and after half an hour's struggle, space was created by removing some sets. Then there was shortage of chairs because most of the local reporters were using two chairs.

Also on the first day there were no lights for reporters working late in the evening.

"We are fed up telling them to improve the conditions. It does not work. You may try calling someone from the board," suggested a sports editor of a local daily to the visitors.

His suggestion was helpful. After repeated requests to the media manager and his associate went in vain, the secretary of Sri Lanka Cricket's interim committee arrived to sort things out.

Nowfall's PRIDE Mohammad Nowfall, who drives a three-wheeler in Colombo, has been following cricket since 1984. A regular spectator of international cricket at home, Nowfall has collected autographs of top cricketers like Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara, Shane Warne, the Waugh twins and many more.

Still, he claimed with pride that his rich collection also includes the autograph of ex-Bangladesh captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain.

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Inzy in Super Series



PTI, New Delhi

Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq will replace Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar in the World squad to face Australia in a six-day Test match in Sydney next month, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Friday.

Inzamam, a surprising omission from the original squad, was selected when Tendulkar opted out of the inaugural Super Series after failing to recover from an elbow surgery.

Rahul Dravid of India will replace teammate Tendulkar in the one-day squad, which also sees West Indian opener Chris Gayle come in for the injured Herschelle Gibbs of South Africa, the ICC said in a release.

The ICC-organised Super Series between Australia and the Rest of the World features three one-dayers at the Telstra Dome in Melbourne on October 5, 7 and 9 and a six-day Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground from October 14-19.

Former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, who heads the six-man selection committee for the World squads, said that the selectors were fortunate to have such stellar players waiting in the wings.

"Obviously we are disappointed that Sachin and Herschelle have been forced out with injury, but we have been able to call on three world class players to cover this loss," the ICC statement quoted Gavaskar as saying.

"Both Inzamam and Gayle were extremely close to making the original squads, so we were delighted to have an opportunity to bring these two great players into the World sides."

"To also be able to promote a player of Dravids quality from just the Test squad to both squads is a tremendous bonus."

Besides Gavaskar, the other selectors were Clive Lloyd of the West Indies, Richard Hadlee of New Zealand, Aravinda de Silva of Sri Lanka, Mike Atherton of England

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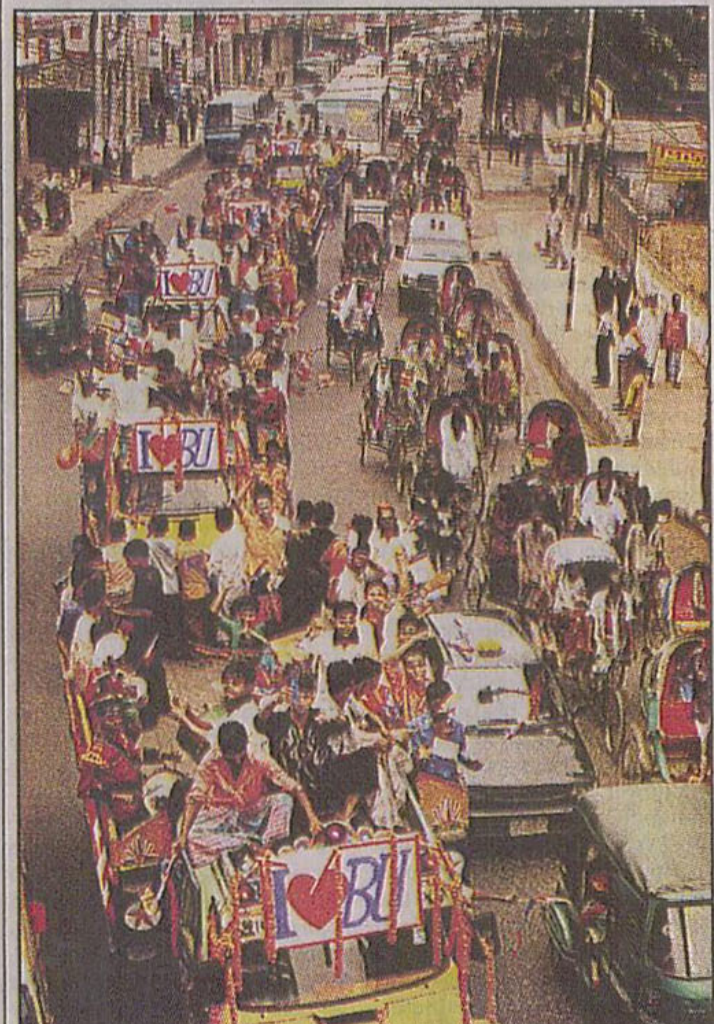


PHOTO: STAR

Supporters of Brothers Union brought out a celebratory motor rally in the capital yesterday on the occasion of the club's second successive Premier Division football league triumph.

BCCI polls deferred

AFP, Kolkata

Elections to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) were postponed by two months after bitter infighting between the rival groups.

Political heavyweight Sharan Pawar is fighting incumbent Ranbir Singh Mahendra for the presidency and control of the country's richest sports body with estimated annual earnings of around 50 million dollars.

But Mahendra adjourned the annual general meeting after the rival groups failed to agree on the format for the election after two days of hectic deliberations.

"It has been resolved by the members that elections take place on or before November 30," Mahendra told reporters.

"We will announce the new dates shortly."

The stalemate had raised uncertainty over whether a meeting would go ahead as planned on Tuesday to review the Indian team's performance. But, Mahendra said the meeting in Mumbai would take place as planned.

"All pending matters will be taken up on a priority basis," he said. "Work in the Board will go on as usual."

Federal agriculture minister Pawar had challenged the authority of Jagmohan Dalmiya, the former International Cricket Council (ICC) chief who has led the BCCI for two decades.

Dalmiya had nominated Mahendra as his group's candidate while the rival Pawar camp was led by two former BCCI presidents, Raj Singh Durgapur and Inderjit Singh Bindra.

Pawar also made a bid for the presidency last year but lost to Mahendra when the 15-15 deadlock was broken by the casting vote of then president Dalmiya.

Durgapur, who had campaigned vigorously for Pawar, said the adjournment was welcome.

"Everybody was fatigued after two days," he said.

Dolairpar keeps on winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Dolairpar High continued their winning spree in the final round of the Pran-Cola School Football Tournament when the holders defeated Segunbagicha High 3-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A Hair-raising problem



AFP, Sydney

The appointment of Australian umpire Darrell Hair to next month's Super Series will revive memories of his calling Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for chucking in Melbourne almost 10 years ago.

Muralitharan has been named in the World XI squads against Australia for the three limited-overs games at Melbourne's Docklands stadium on October 5, 7 and 9 and the Test match from October 14-19 at Sydney Cricket Ground.

Hair has been appointed by the ICC to officiate in the second and third ODI matches.

Hair controversially no-balled Muralitharan seven times for throwing during the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on December 27, 1995.

It caused an international cricket incident and Muralitharan refused to tour Australia in 2004 for the two-Test series in Darwin and Cairns citing hostility from Australian

to play in Australia last January in the Asian Tsunami charity game in Melbourne.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Friday named Hair, 52, in the panel of four umpires for the Super Series along with Pakistan's Aleem Dar, South Africa's Rudi Koertzen and fellow Australian Simon Taufel.

Sri Lanka's Ranjan Madugalle will be match referee.

New technology will be trialled during the Super Series.

A new system of referral and consultation between the on-field umpires and the TV umpire will apply in all three one-dayers and the Test, the ICC said.

"Run outs and stumpings will be referred in the normal way to the TV umpire with the TV umpire making the final decision but in respect of all other decisions, the on-field umpires will have the discretion to consult with the TV umpire before making the final decision," the ICC said.

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DARRELL HAIR
crows. The Sri Lankan is second to Australian Shane Warne (623) with 563 Test wickets and only returned