



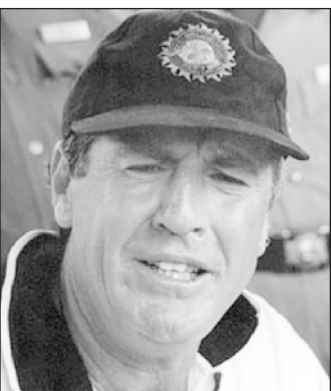
PHOTO: AFP

ENTERING THE RECORD BOOKS: Mohammad Rafique is ecstatic after clean bowling Paul Adams to get his sixth wicket yesterday.



Did U Know?

Under considerable pressure from big clubs and TV companies the old European Cup was steadily expanded and reformatred during the mid-1990s as the European Champions League, with winning teams playing at least 16 matches to get to the final and more clubs from the bigger leagues getting into the tournament. The huge sums of TV and sponsorship money the Champions League generates has made it the biggest footballing event outside the World Cup.



John Wright

(Indian cricket coach)

"The youngsters have fitted in particularly quickly which is good for us. They are highly promising young players who need this exposure with the senior team."



What to WATCH

- BTV**
Bangladesh vs South Africa
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 9:55 am
- ESPN**
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 5:25 pm
- West Indies vs Australia**
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 8:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
Bangladesh vs South Africa
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 9:55 am
- English Premier Football League**
Man City vs Liverpool
Live at 7:55 pm

Kaif to join Derbyshire

REUTERS, Derby

Indian batsman Mohammad Kaif has signed a four-month contract with Derbyshire to replace New Zealand batsman Nathan Asle, the English county said on Wednesday.

Rollicking return

SPORTS REPORTER



GrameenPhone
Test Series 2003
Bangladesh vs South Africa

He has been ignored for Test matches in the past two-and-a-half years but Mohammad Rafique returned in the most emphatic way yesterday.

Playing in only his third Test the persevering slow left-arm bowler bagged 6-77, the best figures by Bangladesh bowler, to help the hosts dismiss South Africa for 330 in their first innings.

His effort bettered left-arm paceman Manjurul Islam's six for 81 against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo in April 2001. Former captain Naimur Rahman is the other bowler with a five-wicket haul. Naimur took 6-132 in that memorable Inaugural Test

Despite a good performance in the recent TVS Cup tri-series, the young man from Keraniganj, was still overlooked by selectors when they named the squad for the first Test in Chittagong. Fellow slow left-arm bowler Enamul Hoque got the nod but he proved ineffective in that match.

Rafique, had made an impres-

sive debut in November 2000 taking three wickets against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The 32-year-old Rafique, known also for his lusty hitting, ensured that Bangladesh managed the rare feat of bowling out their opponents for the first time in four matches.

Earlier in all the other matches the Proteas had declared their first innings on 529-4, 482-5 and 470 for two respectively.

When Rafique was reminded of all these amazing facts, the veteran of 44 one-day internationals, was filled with emotion.

"I want to first thank Almighty Allah for giving me a chance to play in this match. Since I seldom get a chance to play in a Test these days. I'm so happy that I could prove my ability," smiled Rafique while speaking to reporters after a rain-shortened second day.

"Now I have to bowl much better in the second innings," he said adding that he was quite successful with his variations against the South African batsmen."

"I mostly used my arm and sometimes my wrist. That kept them guessing all the time. I really enjoyed that," he said.

Symcox Spins

PATRICK LEONARD SYMCOX, former South African off-spinner and a thinking cricketer, is now in Bangladesh to cover the Proteas' maiden tour to this country as a commentator for Star Sports. Symcox has been kind enough to offer his insight through this exclusive column for the readers of THE DAILY STAR. He will give his expert views on everyday's play in the two-match series.



DAY ONE: At the close of play on the first day South Africa had played themselves into a position from which they can dominate the entire Test match. This is every captains dream and Graeme Smith would have settles for what he has on the board had he been asked prior to the start of play.

However, Tests are won and lost sometimes in the matter of one session and Bangladesh will realise that it happened to them today. They had the Proteas in a vice-like grip at the lunch break and somehow they just managed to hang in and through Rudolph and Boucher they turned the tide. It took patience, courage and a huge amount of application to do it. Along the way they also had their share of luck.

Khaled Mahmud will remember the stumping chance that went wrong when Boucher played all round a delivery of Ashrafal and the keeper made a hash of it. It was to be the defining moment of the day.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, the South African captain was the first man out. Bangladesh showed that they have been studying his technique and gave him nothing on leg stump. Smith showed patience outside his off stump but just could not resist a pull shot with a fielder posted in the deep for that exact shot. His departed the crease with a slow walk back to the pavilion and had

disappointment written all over his face. He more than anyone, knew that the shot was just not on.

Gibbs played with plenty of caution and indicated that he was setting himself up for a big score. He too ran out of patience. Being a slow pitch with very little bounce, the spinners were always going to play a major part. Rafique was drafted in and did what was asked of him. He dismissed Dippenaar and McKenzie within a short space of time and at 61 for 4 the innings was tottering on the brink of disaster. Dippenaar pushed forward and may have hit his pad and not the ball. McKenzie played across the line to a skidding delivery and was out LBW. Except for Rudolph, the top order looked unable to release the pressure by rotating the strike. The sweep shot has always served the South Africans well on the subcontinent and it is a very real opportunity to keep the scoreboard ticking without a huge risk. Obviously it has to be practised and played well but it is expected at this level. Eventually the fielder on the boundary protecting against the sweep shot was even brought in.

Jacques Rudolph once again looked like a seasoned campaigner at the crease. His ability to open the blade and play squarer than his teammates gives him an additional scoring option as well as allowing him to generate enough pace to beat the fielders. This is the way of the subcontinent and some of the

Proteas have not twigged onto it yet. Rudolph perished to the same shot he played on 98 in the previous test. Only this time the keeper caught the ball. An aspect of his game against spin he will need to work on is the issue of coming down the wicket to hit the ball on the half volley. Once beaten in the flight, he is then stranded. A better option is to attempt to get to the ball on the full toss and then if beaten to still get the half volley. A subtle change but very important.

Mark Boucher is a man for a crisis and again it showed. His experience and ability make him such a vital part of the South African batting line-up. His contribution was invaluable today. Pollock started slowly and once settled played some powerful strokes with debut man Peterson. They have guided the total to a point that Bangladesh will be under huge pressure when they bat.

The Bangladesh bowlers aside from Rafique and captain Mahmud showed an inability to build pressure through consistency. The leggie Kapali was again disappointing and needs to step up to the plate for Bangladesh. These pitches just aren't conducive to the faster men taking wickets and this makes him a strike bowler. Right now he is miles away from that.

It was a day of fluctuating fortunes and certainly an entertaining day.



(L) THUMBS UP TO PACE! Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe bin-Mortuza and South African pace spearhead Makhaya Ntini pose for a photo after rain ended day's play. (R) The groundsmen and the supersopper prepare for action after the showers.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain ruins Day One

SPORTS REPORTER

The GrameenPhone Premier Cricket Super League clash between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union was washed out on the first day after just 5.1 overs at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, Mohammedan were on 4 without loss when Umpires Nadir Shah and Sri Lankan Gaminu Dissanayake called off the day's play due to rain.

Martyn loses fitness race

INTERNET, undated

Damien Martyn's race to recover from a hand injury to be ready for the one-day international leg of Australia's tour of the West Indies ended today.

He has been ruled out of the tour and Michael Clarke, who is already on the tour for the Test leg, will remain with the side.

Martyn suffered his injury, a broken right index finger, while in the field during Australia's five-wicket semifinal victory over Kenya at the World Cup on March 15.

Martyn had been receiving specialist treatment since returning from South Africa but a medical review of the injury showed that while it had healed, joint stiffness would prevent him from batting for another four weeks.

Martyn said that missing the Test series against the West Indies had been a bigger blow than missing the one-dayers.

"As time went by it became apparent that things weren't going to be entirely right for the one-dayers either," he said.

"Having had some time to contemplate the injury, I have been able to come to terms with sitting on the sidelines.

"I guess the selectors could have ruled me out of the squad earlier, but they gave me as much time as possible to prove my fitness, which I appreciate.

Security okay: ACU



SPORTS REPORTER

ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) chief investigator Jeffrey Rees has said that his three-day visit to Bangladesh was a routine one and there was nothing to be alarmed about.

"There is absolutely no connection between my visit and anything that Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) may or may not be doing. I was anxious to come here and see everything for myself," said the 56-year-old former Scotland Yard detective while talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

He also revealed that this was going to be the first of several visits by ACU officials from London ahead of next year's World Youth Cup.

"During the last Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand I spoke to all the teams individually because today's youth are going to play international cricket tomorrow. I think we have to look after all the teams very carefully in

Bangladesh, because once they become successful cricketers they might be the target of the bookies," Rees, awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in 1999, said.

The second man in ACU hierarchy behind Lord Condon, said his meetings with Board officials went very well.

"I did a presentation explaining what our unit has achieved and what we have attempted to achieve. I explained and summarised what we tell players as part of our education programmes," he said.

Rees was satisfied with BCB's security arrangements at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"It's very encouraging that the BCB has accepted all our recommendations made by our regional security manager for Bangladesh and Pakistan Colonel Noor.

"The security around the team is very important. In the past undesirable people had access to the players' dressing rooms. We have already stopped that nuisance."

Rees, who arrived in the city on Wednesday, is scheduled to fly back to London today.

Dravid a Scot

INTERNET, undated

Scotland have pulled off a major coup by signing Indian batting star Rahul Dravid.

He will play for them against county opposition in 11

National Cricket League games and a one-off match against Pakistan on June 7.

"Due to the busy schedule we have had in the last few years, the option of playing for Scotland was a very attractive one for me," Dravid commented.

"It will be exciting for me to work with Scotland as they are playing in the one-day competition for the first time.

"I will hopefully be able to help them in their quest to get a World Cup berth in 2007. And I will be delighted to work with some of the young cricketers in Scotland while I am there."

The 30-year-old finally put pen to paper on the agreement following protracted negotiations with Scottish Cricket.

He will make his debut in the game against Hampshire at Edinburgh's Grange club on June 1.

His last appearance will be in the

Fleming goes for kill

Second Test starts today



REUTERS, Colombo

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who dominated the drawn first Test, will be looking for his side's first series win in Sri Lanka in 20 years when they begin the final match of a two-test series in Kandy on Saturday.

The Kiwis, ranked third in the world just ahead of their opponents, will be ready to play a more aggressive game, having used the first Test to get a look at Sri Lanka's primary strength -- spin bowler Muttiah Muralitharan.

"We had a nervous first day, I felt. We really had to look hard at the spinners, and with that it put us behind in the game," Fleming said.

Despite their slow start, an in-form Fleming racked up a Test-best 274 not out in the first innings, and went on to make 69 not out in the second, saying after the match he had been working on his technique against Muralitharan.

"I've done a lot of work mentally on how I would play him, and use the advantages I've got, which are height and reach, and also get good lines," he said.

Both captains said their teams would be ready to go all out to get a result in Kandy, reputed to be a good batting pitch.

"Both teams just looked a little apprehensive in the techniques we used. Our teams had better take some risks if we're going to push forward," Fleming said.

His counterpart Hashan Tillakaratne, who scored 144 in the first Test, said: "Hopefully, we are trying our very best to get a result in Kandy."

His side struggled with fielding throughout the first Test, with a slew of dropped catches that interim coach Duleep Mendis said were the reason Sri Lanka were unable to win.

"I think without any doubt it was the catching we dropped so many times."

Ponting repays WI



REUTERS, Bridgetown

Australia vice-captain Ricky Ponting hit a century for the third Test match running on Thursday with the tourists taking charge of the third Test against West Indies after being put in by Brian Lara.

Ponting followed up his 117 in

Aus 409-4

SPORTS REPORTER

Australia continued to pile on more runs on the second day in the third Test against the West Indies yesterday.

When the teams went for lunch at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Steve Waugh's men, who have already clinched the Sir Frank Worrell Trophy, had reached 409-4. Darren Lehmann missed out on a century when the left-hander was adjudged lbw for 96 off the bowling of paceman Vasbert Drakes.

the first Test and 206 in the second by hitting 113 before being run out as Australia, already 2-0 ahead in the series, reached 320 for three at

the close on the first day.

West Indies captain Lara's decision to insert the world champions badly backfired as Australia capitalised on a string of missed chances in the field.

Darren Lehmann and Justin Langer rubbed salt into the wounds by hitting 89 not out and 78 respectively, punishing an inexperienced West Indian attack

that included debutants Tino Best and Omari Banks.

West Indies made five changes to the team that lost the second Test by 118 runs after taking only seven wickets in the entire match but Thursday's play had a familiar ring as

Australia's batsman again piled



PHOTO: INTERNET

Australia's Ricky Ponting flicks during the third Test against the West Indies on Thursday.



PHOTO: STAR

TAKE FIVE! Umpire Billy Bowden signals five runs to South Africa after a delivery from Mashrafe bin-Mortuza to Shaun Pollock hit the wicketkeeper's helmet which was kept on the ground yesterday.