



Did U Know?

Newcastle United is an amalgamation of two clubs Newcastle East End and Newcastle West End. They combined in 1892.



TEN Sports

Champions Trophy Hockey
India vs Australia
Live at 8:30 pm

ESPN

England vs South Africa
Third Test, Day Five
Same Day Delay at 10:00 am
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 2:30 pm
Football Focus
Live at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

England vs South Africa
Third Test, Day Five
Highlights at 8:30 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Soccer Soap
Dream Team
Taped Version at 8:30 pm



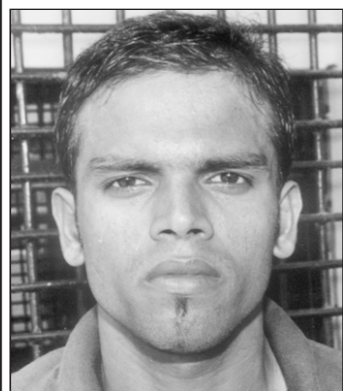
Ryan Giggs
(Man United star player)
"There was the same buzz in there about Ronaldo as there was when we first saw Eric Cantona. He lifted the crowd and the players and there are not many people who can do that. He's really an outstanding prospect."
On new sensation Cristiano Ronaldo.

Spin-wary Tigers



HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

The focus will be on negotiating the Pakistani spin when Bangladesh kick-off their tour with the first Test at Karachi tomorrow.



RAJIN SALEH

"In the past, we concentrated more on how to face the quick bowlers. That's why we came unstuck against spinners who got most of our wickets. We are now working on how to encounter the Pakistani slow bowlers," said

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud after nets at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday.

When asked whether they were thinking of any specific strategy against arguably the world's fastest bowler Shoaib Akhtar, Mahmud said that playing against Australian firebrand Brett Lee has made his boys more confident to face high pace.

"We have played Brett Lee in Australia. That has given us a lot of confidence. At the moment, we are not much concerned about that. Our problem has been against the spinners as we sort of neglected that aspect.

"You see, leg-spinner Danish Kaneria has taken 25 wickets in three Test matches against us. Hopefully we will not throw away our wickets to spin this time around," Mahmud said.

Meanwhile, team management sources said that the Tigers have more or less finalised their line-up for the first Test.

It was learnt that coach Dav Whatmore is considering giving Rajin his Test debut by dropping the



PLAYING STRAIGHT: Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud bats in the nets in Karachi yesterday. The Tigers play Pakistan in the first Test from tomorrow.

Miandad takes guard



HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad believes that the series between Bangladesh and Pakistan is equally important to both the teams as far as their international reputations are concerned.

The star of yesteryears was expressing his views while speaking to a group of Bangladeshi reporters at the Karachi National Stadium during the home team's nets yesterday morning.

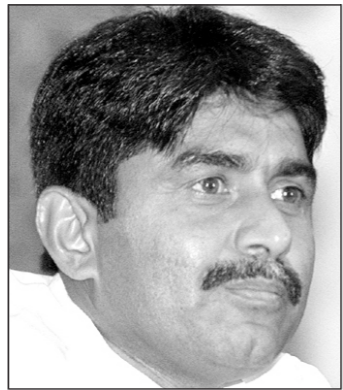
"Obviously it's an important series for both Bangladesh and Pakistan. We don't want to take the matches lightly," said Miandad.

He said that he was satisfied with the way his team was playing at the moment.

"In the last three one day tournaments, we won in Sharjah, reached the final in Sri Lanka and also played well against England in England. So the success rate of the Pakistan team is much better," said Miandad.

When asked about the seven newcomers in his side, Miandad said that they were all upcoming

players. "Most of them have arrived from age-group selections with little or no first class experience. The problem with Pakistan cricket now is that young players were not given enough exposure in the recent past. So there is a big gap now.



JAVED MIANDAD

"However, all the rookies are good players. They haven't got the experience yet but I have watched them and they appear capable enough. That's why they are in the 15-man squad."

Miandad said that Pakistan had

been playing with the same set of players for a long time and when most of them left all of a sudden, there was nobody there to fill those gaps.

"It's changing times in Pakistan cricket and I'm fully aware of it. I had discussions with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials. They too have agreed with me that we must rotate players."

On Bangladesh, Miandad said that their performance in Australia last month was not bad compared to some of the other countries who have toured Australia in recent times. Pakistan's top run-getter in Test cricket however felt that Bangladesh needed match-winning bowlers if they wished to be competitive in international cricket.

"Bangladesh will only win when they can bowl out their opponents. They have to apply themselves and perform according to the situation. Only then they should start thinking of winning."

Miandad felt that people will criticise Bangladesh as long as they keep losing matches.

"You can't shun the views of others. I think if anybody is giving his opinion, the best thing is to

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Latif looks for a turnaround

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan, winless in a series at home since 1998, has a prime opportunity to start reversing that trend when the first of three Tests against Bangladesh begins on Wednesday.

Bangladesh have lost 20 out of 21 Tests, most of them inside three days or by an innings, and have never scored more than 160 against Pakistan.

Pakistan have batted just three times in their three Tests against Bangladesh scoring 546-3, 490-9 and 465-9. But Pakistan captain Rashid Latif was still cautious.

"I don't want to look to history for confidence. The fact is we have not won a Test series at home since 1998," said Latif.

"Bangladesh come here after some respectable performances in Australia when you had some critics predicting they would lose in one or two days.

"I would be surprised if this Bangladesh side is not more competitive against us."

Pakistan have lost Test series to Australia, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and England since 1998.

But they have also seen several tours cancelled since the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and the consequent conflicts in the region. Just two Tests have been played at home since then and the last proper series was in late 2000 against England.

Railway end on a high

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Railway finished their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League campaign with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Wari Club at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 2-0. Munirul Alam Sumon and Indian Bharat scored one field goal each before the break while Russel Rahman and Indian Sudhir Minz added the other goals for Railway.

Goutam Kumar Das netted a consolation for Wari.

It was Railway's third victory and they ended with eleven points from nine matches while Wari, on the other hand, registered just one victory from the same number of outings.

Meanwhile, Sadharan Bima take on high-flying Sonali Bank in a crucial encounter today.

The insurance side can increase their hopes of a 'Super Five' place if they earn a win against the bankers, who have already qualified with 13 points from eight matches.

Bima have collected ten points from eight matches.

College b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Notre Dame College and Saint Joseph's College earned easy wins against their respective opponents in the First College Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday.

Notre Dame defeated BN College 86-55 after leading the first half 39-23.

Faruque caged highest 48 and Raki 15 for the winners. Mahub scored 15 and Moazzem 14 points for the losers.

St Joseph's fired after the break to thrash BAF Shaheen College 54-28. The winners led the first half 17-16.



Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq (L), captain Rashid Latif (M) and Yousuf Youhana during a practice session at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday.

Pushkin to resign from BHF

SPORTS REPORTER

Zahidur Rahman Pushkin, joint secretary of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation, has said he will resign following a heated debate on a probe report centering the inclusion of umpire Golam Kibria at the last minute for the Club Cup final between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Kirra Chakra in June.

The lone Abahani representative of the federation, Pushkin walked out of the executive committee meeting yesterday after being accused of creating an unnecessary drama both on and off the field regarding Kibria the night before the trouble-affected match.

The meeting chaired by BHF president Air-Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam, discussed the findings of the probe committee report.

"The Nurul Islam-led committee was formed to find out the truth behind umpire issue but in the end I was the main target of the investigation," Pushkin said yesterday.

Pushkin now believes that it is impossible for him to stay on under the circumstances.

"I will talk with Abahani officials tomorrow before resigning," he said.

Sultan comes under fire

SPORTS REPORTER



BFF president SA Sultan yesterday came in for criticism from officials within the Bangladesh Football Federation regarding the 'whimsical' way he took decisions on Bangladesh participation in the 2006 World Cup qualifying rounds.

The reaction followed Sultan's meeting with FIFA president Sepp Blatter on Saturday where Blatter said BFF's decision not to take part was a mistake. And accordingly Sultan assured that Bangladesh would be participating in the qualifiers.

"We fail to understand how the president personally took the decision without consulting us. He should have referred the matter to the executive committee because the BFF is running with an elected body," a football official told The Daily Star Sport on condition of anonymity.

He also blamed Sultan and his general secretary Anwarul Huq Helal for going against the sentiment of many BFF members who

were very much in favour of participation in the qualifying rounds.

"The whole episode has proved once again that how inefficient our officials are. Bangladesh is again in the headlines not long after the world body temporarily suspended us," he said.

Another official, also requesting not to be named, said that he was pleased that Bangladesh would be playing in the qualifiers, but was annoyed by the manner in which the matter was handled.

"The submissive attitude on the part Sultan in front of the FIFA president epitomizes why our football does not have any self-respect."

The Sultan-led BFF raised eyebrows on July 30 when he decided against Bangladesh taking part in the preliminary rounds of football's greatest show, which takes place in Germany in three years time.

He said it was due to financial constraint brushing aside the recommendations of the BFF's management committee headed by legendary footballer Kazi Salauddin.

Kirtley cuts thru' SA



AFP, Nottingham

Michael Vaughan enjoyed his first victory as England Test captain here Monday as South Africa were beaten by 70 runs in the third Test at Trent Bridge on the fifth and final day.

England debutant James Kirtley did the damage Monday, the Sussex paceman taking six for 34 as South Africa, chasing 202 to win, were bowled out for 131 before lunch.

The result saw England level the five-match series at 1-1 and put behind them the memory of Vaughan's first match in charge, the second Test at Lord's, where they suffered an innings and 92 run thrashing.

England now head into Thursday's fourth Test at Headingley with high hopes of repeating their 1998 home effort when, having been 1-0 down, they beat South Africa 2-1.

"This is the best match of my career," said Vaughan.

"Now we have to build on this performance starting at Headingley on Thursday," he added.

His South African counterpart, Graeme Smith, insisted his team could recover from this defeat.

"We showed a lot of character and I'm sure we can bounce back in the next Test," he said.

Reflecting on the absence at Headingley of Shaun Pollock, who is returning home to be with his pregnant wife, added: "Shaun's a world class cricketer but there are a lot of guys who are ready to step up to the plate and take their chance."

The Proteas resumed on 63 for five, still needing another 139 runs for victory, with first innings heroes Neil McKenzie six not out and Mark Boucher nine not out.

But, on a pitch where man-of-the-match Kirtley's action often led to low-bouncing balls which made batting difficult, there was to be no repeat of the pair's 129 sixth wicket stand that guided the Proteas to 362

first time around. Kirtley bowled McKenzie who in his first match of the series had made 90 in the first innings for 11, South Africa 71 for six.

All-rounder Pollock had made a defiant 62 and then taken six for 39 as England were bowled out for a meagre 118 in their second innings.

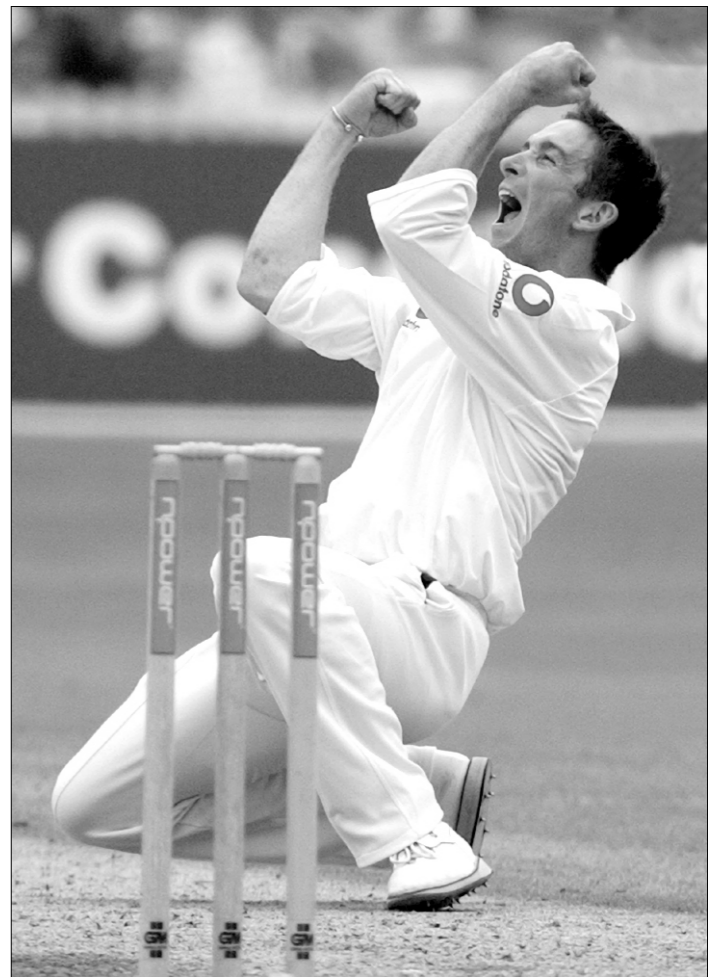
But Pollock was powerless to

resist as the Proteas lost their seventh wicket eight balls after their sixth.

Former captain Pollock went for a four ball nought, bowled by a Andrew Flintoff delivery that barely lifted off the pitch, South Africa 80 for seven.

The collapse continued when

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ON CLOUD NINE: England paceman James Kirtley celebrates taking the prized wicket of South Africa captain Graeme Smith on the fourth day of the third Test at Trent Bridge on August 17. He took six wickets in Proteas' second innings.

Kumble bats for spinners



AFP, Bangalore

Top Indian spinner Anil Kumble on Monday lashed out at critics for favouring batsmen more than bowlers, saying it was unfair to expect miracles from spinners in every match.

"The media and everybody else is lenient when it comes to batsmen, but they expect instant results from spinners," said the leg-spinner, only the second bowler after Englishman Jim Laker to grab 10 wickets in a Test innings.

"If a batsman does not get runs, he's given five or six innings to regain form. If a spinner does not take five wickets in his first Test innings, then he's not good. This is unfair."

Kumble, taking part in a physical fitness camp here for India's probables, said spinners should be given a fair trial because they needed more time than batsmen to

settle down. "Only then should they be judged whether they are good or not," said India's second-highest wicket-taker after Kapil Dev (434) with 349 victims in 76 Tests.

Kumble said he believed that spinners still had a major role to play in India's upcoming Test series against New Zealand at home in October and in Australia later this year.

"I don't think the spinners' role has been restricted in recent times. They have played a key role at home and on tour," he said.

India play two Tests at home against New Zealand before taking part in a triangular one-day series also featuring world champions Australia.

India will then tour Australia for four Test matches from December.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh echoed his senior partner's sentiments, saying India had the spinners to deliver in every conditions.

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Niaz draws, Zia loses

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Grand Master Niaz Murshed drew his second round game with GM Sergey Ivanov of Russia in the Masters Tournament of the Abu Dhabi Chess Festival on Sunday.

Niaz has so far collected 1.5 points after he won the first round board against Hungarian Gabor Knisch.

On the other hand, GM Ziaur Rahman lost his second round game against Maghni Jobava of Georgia. He drew his first game with IM Neboisa Ilijin of Rumania.

BCF defers deadline

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) has increased the deadline for registration in the Second Division League until 8:00 pm today.

Interested teams were earlier instructed to finish their enrollment formalities before Sunday.

The League, organised by the BCF, begins tomorrow at 3:00 PM at the federation's Hall Room.

Nipa losing

SPORTS REPORTER

National women's champion FIDE Master Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa lost her second round game against IWM Anupama Gokhale of India in the Asian Women Chess Championship at Calicut in India on Sunday.

She had also lost her first round game in the meet the day before.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star** Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm August 29, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the 2nd Test against Australia?
301 289 295
- Who became Asian Youth Cup cricket champions?
Malaysia Bangladesh Nepal
- Who won the Pepsi handball title?
Chittagong Narsingdi Bandarban
- Who clinched the GONGGAF Gold Cup?
Brazil USA Mexico
- How many Test tons has Steve

Name

Class Roll No

School Address

Phone: (if any)