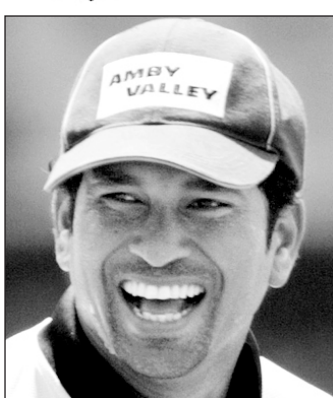




## Did U Know?

The match between New Zealand and India at Auckland on February 14, 1981 was the first in New Zealand in which coloured clothing, white balls and black sight screens were employed.



**Sachin Tendulkar**  
(Indian star batsman)  
"I don't really put pressure on myself. I have never done that."



### What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
Western Union World Football  
Repeat at 3:30 pm  
**Football Focus**  
Live at 6:30 pm  
**Sportscentre Hindi**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Gillette World Sports Special  
**Sportline Tonight**  
Sport News  
Live at 8 pm

### Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 198

Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 26, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Champions Trophy hockey title?  
Netherlands    Australia  
Pakistan
- Who clinched the Europa college basketball crown?  
Khulna College    Mastermind/Notre Dame
- Bangladesh lost the first Test against Pakistan by:  
7 wkts    42 runs    3 wkts
- Who became man-of-the-

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## BKF selects 20 for Asian C' ship

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Kabadi Federation (BKF) called up 20 players for the forthcoming fifth Asian Cham-pionship to be held in Malaysia from October 18 to 20.

A non-residential camp has already started with the selected players under the supervision of two national coaches -- Abdul Jalil and Subimal Chandra Das.

The players are: Badshah Miah, Zahidul, Ziaur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam, Al Mamun, Tariqul, Bashir Ahmed, Kamal Hossain, Mizanur Rahman, Mosharrar Hossain, Maktun Haque (Bangladesh Rifles), Mollah Touhidul, Abdur Rouf, Mohammad Yunus, Mohammad Faruk (Bangladesh Police), Enamul Haque, Rokonzaman, Abu Saleh Musa, Shameem Ahmed (Bangladesh Army) and Altaf Hosain (Bangladesh Navy).

# Frankly speaking...



HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

Coach Dav Whatmore warned against over-excitement at Bangladesh's much-improved performance in the just-concluded Test and one-day series in Pakistan.

The Australian also dismissed the notion that his boys have done something extraordinary to make him happy. The 49-year-old was reflecting on the 'Tigers' performance after the 38-day tour ended with a 58-run defeat against the host nation at the Karachi National Stadium on Saturday.

Whatmore, who had set his initial target of achieving individual improvement after taking over the hot seat of the Test babes in June, appeared to have shifted a gear and put his focus on result oriented team goals.

The change in thinking was evident when he observed that some members of his squad weren't good enough to play at the highest level.

"I'm getting more of an idea about who can and who can't play at this level. I think satisfied is a wrong word at this stage. But there have been some encouraging signs both in the Test and one day matches. But I'm not satisfied," said Whatmore while talking to some Bangladeshi journalists at his Karachi hotel on Sunday night.

"I'm flattered that everyone gives me compliment that the team has done well, but we haven't turned our

efforts into a win yet," said Whatmore adding that he believed in results rather than playing good cricket.

An out and out professional, Whatmore said that he had already identified the shortcomings of his team and would discuss the matter with the concerned people on his return to Dhaka.

"You know, I have got a pretty good idea. But there is a selection panel. So there will be a good and decent review as soon as I get back with a mind to make this team stronger.

"There has been something encouraging signs. One or two players have really taken the opportunity to put forward their best and showed the people that they have a very good career ahead of them," he said.

Whatmore felt that the first part of the tour was quite promising but the five-match one-day series was a real let down. He however drew inspiration from the character shown by his charges throughout the Pakistan trip.

"The good part of the series was that they showed they can put pressure on the opposition. They really pushed them and tested them on their home conditions which was a difficult task considering that the Bangladesh team haven't won for a long time playing at home or abroad."

Whatmore agreed that Rajin Saleh was the find of this tour but was surprised that the middle-order batsman wasn't considered earlier.

"I don't know why it took him so

long to get into the team. But when I first saw him, I just thought that this boy can play. He has got the basic ingredients of defence and the desire

to do well. These things you can understand by seeing the eyes of a player. I hope a couple of more

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DAV WHATMORE

## Pakistan thank Bangladesh

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad and captain Inzamamul Haq Monday thanked Bangladesh for leading the return of foreign cricket to Pakistan, saying the tourists proved cricketers are safe here.

"We thank Bangladesh for playing in Pakistan and by playing a one-day in Karachi they proved to the world that cricket is safe here," Miandad told reporters.

Despite whitewashing them both in Test and one-day series, Pakistan owes Bangladesh a debt of gratitude as their tour marked the return of international cricket to Pakistan after a 15-month drought due to security fears.

Bangladesh manager Latif Khan said his team's tour was trouble-free.

"We played a Test match in Karachi last month, a one-day match yesterday and the security at present is excellent."

"None of our players had any security problem, whatsoever."

## B'desh meet India today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh play their second match in the 6th Men's Asia Cup today against neighbouring giants India in Kuala Lumpur.

They suffered a thrashing 8-0 defeat at the hands of another sub-continental neighbour Pakistan in the inaugural match on Sunday.

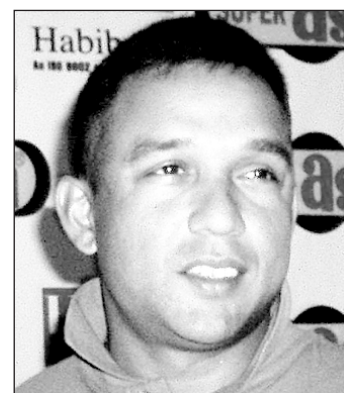
Bangladesh will finish their Group B campaign taking on China on Wednesday and they will have to win the match against the emerging nation to secure the sixth position for direct entry in the World Cup qualifying round.

# Performance pleases him



AFP/REUTERS, Karachi

Bangladesh cricket captain Khaled Mahmud Monday hailed his team's performance despite an absence of wins in its five-week Test and one-day series in Pakistan, saying the team's confidence has improved.



KHALED MAHMUD

"Definitely the outcome of the Test and one-day series is not encouraging but with the overall improvement shown on the tour I am convinced cricket will go up in Bangladesh," Mahmud said, a day after the series was wrapped with a day-night match in southern port city of Karachi.

Bangladesh were blanked 3-0 in Tests and 5-0 in the one-dayers, but the

Test minnows put up a tough fight against a revamped Pakistan side and came within one wicket of registering their first ever win in the third Test at Multan.

The tourists also gave the home side a scare in the fourth one-day match at Rawalpindi.

"We tried our level best on the tour and came close to a win at Multan, but I am satisfied that the goals set before the tour were nearly achieved," he said.

"We came close to victory a couple of times and I think our learning curve is continuing well and we are now close to a win.

"Definitely when we go back the experience of this tour will help us perform better against England," Mahmud said.

Bangladesh, berated for their under-par performance since gaining Test status in 2000, have lost 23 of their 24 Tests and have not won a limited-overs international for 44 matches.

Critics have called for their Test status to be withdrawn.

Their two-match series against world champions Australia was billed the "biggest mismatch" of cricket history and the team was publicly denigrated by former Australian batsman David Hookes.

"Calls for Test status to be taken back were unjustified," said Mahmud, who took over as captain after Bangladesh's winless

WORLD

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# Kiwis land in India

## 'Tougher challenge than Australia'



AFP, Madras

New Zealand's cricket team arrived in India on Monday determined to excel on a tour captain Stephen Fleming described as tougher than playing against world champions Australia.

The 14-man New Zealand squad will play two Tests and a triangular one-day series also featuring Australia during the seven-week tour.

Fleming, on his fourth visit to India, said playing top-level cricket in this country was a bigger challenge than taking on trans-Tasman neighbours Australia.

"India is one of the most fascinating places in the cricket world," said the astute 30-year-old, who has lifted New Zealand to third place in the Test rankings behind Australia and South Africa.

"A tour of Australia is just an extension of living and playing in New Zealand. India offered different demands.

"The toughest challenge is culturally and physically. There are a lot of adjustments you have to make and the quicker you adapt the better you do.

"I have found tours of India very enjoyable, but mentally it is very demanding. Coping with the fan pressure is part of it. They are very passionate about their team and they want to see it do well."

New Zealand's Test squad is without strike bowler Shane Bond, who is recovering from an injury, and all-rounder Chris Cairns, whose wife is expecting the couple's second child. Cairns will join the team for the

one-day series, but the Kiwis have been bolstered by the return of veteran batsmen Craig McMillan and Nathan Astle.

Fleming scoffed at suggestions that India will regard the two Tests as a chance to avenge the heavy defeats in New Zealand last year on under-

prepared bowler-friendly wickets.

"We don't expect to play on green, seamers' wickets in India," he said.

"We expect spinners' tracks, that is the way it has always been in India and the onus is on us this time to adjust."

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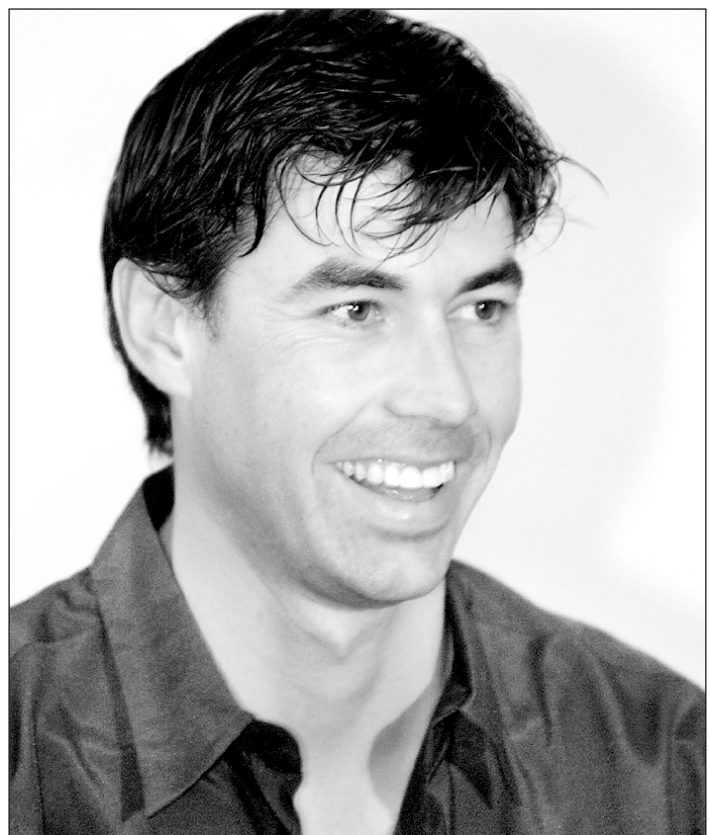


PHOTO: AFP

Smiling New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming takes questions from media during a press conference in Madras yesterday.

# Zimbabwe down under



AFP, Perth

Heath Streak's depleted Zimbabweans arrive here Wednesday to prepare for one of cricket's toughest missions a Test series against Steve Waugh's world champion Australians on their home pitches.

Streak, 29, an accomplished all-rounder from Bulawayo, has just two weeks in which to whip an inexperienced 15-man squad into a competitive unit before the first Test at Perth's WACA Ground from October 9.

It will be Zimbabwe's first Test in this country after a single previous Test meeting in the African country four years ago when Australia romped home by 10 wickets.

The tourists' task has been made all the tougher by the absence of the injured Grant Flower, sidelined recently with a broken thumb after he was struck in the domestic competition.

Flower, 32, a 65-Test campaigner with a respectable average of almost 30 at this level, is Zimbabwe's only current world-ranking batsman following the retirement from Test ranks of elder brother Andy.

Huge though the challenge may be for Zimbabwe who have won only seven of their first 67 Tests and have been whitewashed by Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and England in their past four series skipper Streak sees the two-Test tour as an opportunity to be grasped.

"This is a big milestone in the history of Zimbabwe cricket," he said just before leaving with his side.

"It offers us a fantastic opportunity to pit our skill against some of the best players in the world.

"We know that the cricket will be intense, and we do not expect Australia to underestimate us or take the Tests lightly.

"Every player in the squad will be looking to learn from the tour and to advance his game."

Zimbabwe have one major advantage over most teams visiting this country: they have two outstanding Australian coaches who know as much as anyone about conditions here.

Former Test opener and Australian vice-captain Geoff Marsh is overall coach, while former Test fast bowler Bruce Reid is working on the pacemen.

"With such a coaching team, we will have the best information and advice on the Australians," Streak said.

"We will be straining every sinew to put them under as much pressure as possible."

Without the Flowers at the batting crease, Zimbabwe will look to such players as Craig Wishart (one century, four 50s in 21 Tests), Trevor Gripper (one century, three 50s in 14) Streak (eight 50s in 53) and Stuart Carlisle (seven 50s in 29) to show the way.

Emerging youngsters showing promise with the bat are Mark Vermeulen and Tatenda Taibu.

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## Booters' bourse finishes today

SPORTS REPORTER

The four-day inter-club footballers' transfer ends today at the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Federation (DMFF) office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The bourse saw the second successive dull day yesterday as only a few low-ranking clubs turned up.

And no wonder is expected on the last day as all the excitement of such transfers finished on the very first day when the big four Brothers Union, Abahani, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Mohammedan Sporting Club fortified their camps.

A total of 63 players completed their formalities on the third day and with them 306 players took part in the transfer so far. Highest 159 footballers participated in the market on the opening day Sunday while 84 players featured on the second day.

## Rifles' record fifteenth title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Rifles clinched the title of the Pepsi 16th national men's handball championship beating Bangladesh Police 28-19 in the final at the outer stadium handball court yesterday.

The winners dominated the first session 17-11 on way to win the championship for a record fifteenth time. The riflemen now have won the crown eleven times in a row.

Kamrul was the top scorer in the final with 11 goals while Saidduzzaman, who was later adjudged player-of-the-meet, netted 8 goals.

On the other hand, Nurul netted 6 and Mithu 5 for Police.

Earlier, Bangladesh Ansars finished third beating Dhaka 27-13 after leading the first half 16-7.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman distributed prizes as chief guest.

## Umpires' course

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Test umpire and Asian Cricket Council's coach KT Francis will conduct a ten-day Central Umpiring Course in Dhaka from September 26.

A total of 31 match officials, 16 from nine Asian Cricket Council member nations and 15 Bangladeshis, will take part in the course.

## Schools b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

BN School recorded an easy 56-23 victory over BIT in the inter-school boys' basketball competition at the Dhanmondi Basketball gymnasium yesterday.

Zia led his side earn the comfortable win caging 43 while Asif chipped in with 6 points. Kahlid scored 8 and Taisir 6 for the losers.

# PCB threatens to sue SA



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Monday threatened to sue South Africa for 3.5 million dollars in losses from their cricket tour cancellation, unless the International Cricket Council (ICC) intervened to force a rethink by the Proteas.

"The ICC must keep in mind the loss Pakistan cricket would suffer due to South Africa's pullout," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Tauqir Zia said in a letter to ICC president Ehsan Mani.

"We expect the ICC to intervene and instruct United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa to cooperate and take the tour as planned."

The PCB estimates it will lose 3.5 million dollars in sponsorship and television rights from South Africa's last minute cancellation.

If the ICC fails to intervene, the PCB will take South Africa to the council's

dispute committee to claim losses, Zia said.

The Proteas called off their tour on Saturday, one day before they were due to depart for Pakistan, in the wake of a minor bomb blast in an empty Karachi office building on Friday night. No one was injured in the blast.

The Proteas had been scheduled to arrive on Monday and play a warm-up match in Karachi on Wednesday ahead of a month-long Test and one-day series.

"We have already written to UCB suggesting postponement by a week and excluding Karachi as a venue. A copy of rescheduled tour has also been sent to the ICC," Zia's letter said.

The South African pullout has triggered a wave of bitter disappointment across the cricket-mad Islamic republic, which has been starved of international cricket for 15 months.

A wave of violence against Westerners and Christians has kept foreign teams away since May 2002,

when a suicide bomber blew up a busload of French naval engineers outside the New Zealand cricket team's Karachi hotel.

The Kiwis abandoned their tour and fled, and Australia and the West Indies subsequently cancelled their tours. Rival India has refused to play here since 2000.

Zia said the total loss to Pakistan of cancelled tours was already around 30 million dollars.

"Such losses are unacceptable to Pakistan cricket," he wrote.

Pakistan is also upset that Bangladesh's trouble-free five-week tour, which was wrapped up in Karachi Sunday, had no impact on South Africa's decision.

The decision to cancel came only two days after a South African security delegation, dispatched to Pakistan to conduct on-the-spot security surveys, gave the green light

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# Pakistan, Japan thru'



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Pakistan and Japan booked their spots in the semifinals of the 6th Men's Asia Cup with contrasting wins over their opponents at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil on Monday.

While Pakistan, three time winners of the Asia Cup went through the motion in their 7-1 defeat of China, Japan created a shock when they defeated hosts Malaysia 3-2.

China put up a spirited display in the first 15 minutes but found it difficult to

contain the fast Pakistani forward line. They finally caved in when Salim Khalid got the opener for Pakistan in the 18th minute.

Nadeem Ahmad and Khasif Jawad made it 3-0 by scoring in the 26th and 28th minutes respectively before China pulled one back through the effort of Lu Peng a minute before halftime.

Sohail Abbas finally found the mark off Pakistan's third penalty corner to make it 4-1 in the 48th minute. He scored another in the 55th minute while Khasif got his second and Pakistan's sixth in the 61st minute.

Nadeem rounded up the scoring when his attempted cross in the 67th

minute came off a Chinese defender and sailed into goal.

Japan had defeated Hong Kong 7-3 on Sunday and after their win over Malaysia they now have six points from two matches.

The last time the Japanese got the better of the Malaysian's was in the Six Nation Invitational Tournament at the same venue last year where they won 2-1 via a golden goal in extra time.

The result leaves Malaysia's hopes of making the semis hanging precariously as they need Japan to defeat South Korea to have an out

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Pakistan's Mohammad Asim (L) tries to dribble past China's Hu Liang during their 6th Men's Asia Cup hockey tournament match in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP