



Did U Know?

Boxing became a legal sport in 1901.



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian star batsman)
"Not really. Cricket is most important to me. The controversy will not be a hindrance to my performance."
Replying to a question whether the Ferrari car duty waiver had affected him in any way.



DD Sports

India vs New Zealand
First Test, Day Two
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

Australia vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day One
Live at 8:00 am
Sportscentre India
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Highlights
Repeat at 9:30 am
Sportsline Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 17, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Asia Cup hockey title?
Pakistan India/Malaysia
- Who was man-of-the-series in the Bangladesh and Pakistan one-day series?
Inzamam Youhana
Bashar
- Who became the Pepsi 16th national men's handball champions?
Army BDR
Navy
- Who are the European Champions League holders?
Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Dazzling Dolly

SPORTS REPORTER
BJMC and Navy evenly shared the honours on the second day of the four-day 19th National Swimming Championship with five gold medals each at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.
Dolly Akhter showed brilliant individual performance to clinch four gold medals, all with new national records, alone out of the five by BJMC. She finished first in the 50m backstroke (0:36.91), 50m freestyle (0:31.40), 100m breaststroke (1:24.38) and 200m individual medley (2:54.63).
Merina Akhter bagged the other gold for BJMC also with a new national record as she was the

'We'll play as we do against the Australians'

SPORTS REPORTER

England captain Michael Vaughan has promised Bangladesh some real hard cricket during their month long tour involving two Tests and three one day internationals.

The 29-year old while talking to a host of reporters upon his team's arrival at the Zia International Airport's VIP lounge yesterday morning, also declared that the squad was still formidable despite losing pace bowler James Anderson and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff to injury.

"It gives others the chance to come into the side. I hope Richard Johnson and Martin Suggers will grab this opportunity and give their hundred per cent on the field. This is good for the future," said the elegant right handed batsman who has scored 2689 runs in 35 Test matches at an average of 46.36 with includes nine centuries and five fifties.

13 cricketers of the 15-man Test party arrived in Dhaka yesterday. Johnson and Suggers were due to join their team today.

Vaughn said that they will try to get acclimatised to the conditions here as quickly as possible so that the team is in top shape before the first Test in Dhaka on October 21. He also said that there was no room for complacency against any opposition in international cricket.

"Every Test match is something serious and you can't take your opponents lightly. You can't take any game of cricket easy. We will play against Bangladesh as hard as we play in any part of the world.

"We will plan and play as we do

against Australia. The condition here is different than England but we will play as good as possible. We are not unduly worried about Bangladesh but we have to make sure that we bring some positive results.

"I'm very much looking forward to play Bangladesh. They are an improving side and we are very excited to come here," said the English captain.

Vaughn felt that batting was England's strength but he also thought that his bowlers were capable of doing a decent job.

The England team will play two three-day matches before the first Test.

Their first practice match will be against BCB President's XI at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) from October 12 to 14. The second match is against Bangladesh A at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) from October 16 to 18.

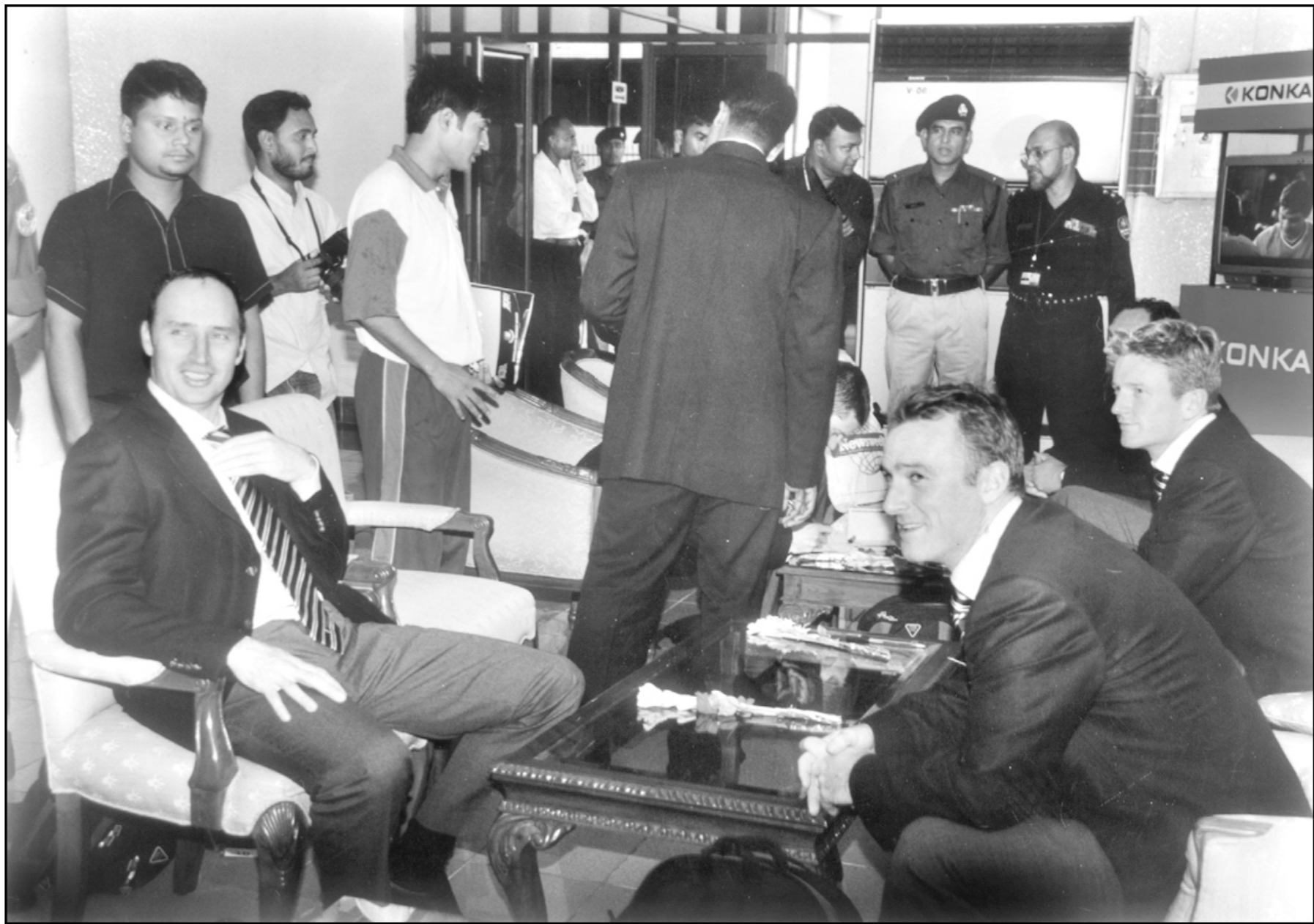
The second Test will be held at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong from October 29.

The first match of the ODI series will take place in Chittagong on November 7. Before that, the tourists play a limited overs practice game against BCB Development Squad on November 5.

The second and third ODIs are day-night affairs and the BNS will hold both on November 10 and 12.

SQUAD

Michael Vaughan (captain), Gareth Batty, Mark Butcher, Rizki Clarke, Paul Collingwood, Ashley Giles, Stephen Harmison, Nasser Hussain, Matthew Hoggard, Geraint Jones, Chris Read, Marcus Trescothick, Graham Thorpe, Richard Johnson and Martin Suggers.
Coach: Duncan Fletcher.



WELCOME HERE: England cricketers Nasser Hussain (L), Graham Thorpe (2nd from R) and Paul Collingwood sit inside the VIP Lounge of the Zia International Airport after their arrival yesterday morning.

PHOTOS: STAR

England wary of Whatmore magic



REUTERS, London

England versus Georgia. England versus Bangladesh. Both smack of mismatches.

Especially when the sports concerned are rugby union and cricket. The English claim to have invented both.

Their awesome rugby team certainly have cause to be confident of a crushing victory in the World Cup opener against their amateur east European opponents in Perth on Sunday.

Cricket captain Michael Vaughan, however, was more cautious in predicting the outcome of his side's two-Test series as they headed for Dhaka and Chittagong on Tuesday.

"Bangladesh in their last matches have scared a couple of good teams," Vaughan said. "We have to give them the utmost respect.

"We have to treat them like anyone else. We'll play in exactly the same manner."

Their hosts, until recently seen as whipping boys, appear to be finding some sort of foothold at last.

True, they remain firmly rooted at the bottom of the International Cricket Council's Test Championship table with no points as well as

the one-day international rankings with no points.

True, they have lost 23 out of 24 Tests (their one draw, against Zimbabwe, was caused by copious rain rather than runs). And they have not won in their last 44 one-dayers, an inglorious feat no other side has come close to matching.

But there have been glimmers of hope.

In their last four Tests, in Australia and Pakistan and under the scrutiny of new coach Dav Whatmore, Bangladesh have scored a respectable 250-plus in five innings out of eight.

In Pakistan, they actually held a first-innings lead in two Tests out of three. Their last defeat was by a single wicket, caused only by Inzamamul Haq's face-saving century.

A five-day draw against England, let alone a victory, would be a major accomplishment.

Still short of firepower, it seems unlikely that they will be able to bowl England out twice in one match.

But standing up to Vaughan's inexperienced seam attack, shorn of the injured James Anderson and Andrew Flintoff and never at its best on unresponsive Asian wickets,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

Cricketers move to BKSP today

SPORTS REPORTER

Rain has finally forced Bangladesh national cricket squad to shift their practice venue to Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratisthan (BKSP) from Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Following downpour in the morning, yesterday's practice session was also called off.

19 players out of 20 probables travel to the country's lone sports institute today and they will have indoor nets later in the day.

Meanwhile, the England team, which arrived here yesterday morning, will also practise at the same venue after the home side's session ends.

"I am not at all frustrated with the weather condition because it is very much common in this subcontinent," coach Dav Whatmore told The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

Rain has kept playing foul with the cricketers as they were able to have net session only on Monday since the camp started on October 1.

Kyrgyz under-17 booters in city

SPORTS REPORTER

A 20-member Kyrgyzstan under-17 football team arrived in the city yesterday to play against their Bangladeshi opponents for both legs of the Asian Under-17 Group-8 qualifiers.

The matches will be held at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on October 11 and 13.

Under pressure



BBC ONLINE, undated

England wicketkeeper Chris Read says there will be instant pressure on him to play well when the Tests against Bangladesh start.

He endured a tough three-and-a-half years out of the England set-up but is poised to take the gloves for the first Test on October 21.



CHRIS READ

"Things have to go well for me in the Tests because there is pressure."

And rival Geraint Jones warned Read: "Whoever takes the opportunity could have it for the next 10 years."

Although England are touring with a second wicketkeeper in Jones, chairman of selectors David

Graveney has stated Read is first choice.

The Nottinghamshire stumper is, however, keen to maintain his composure.

"It's a bit premature to say that I'm Alec Stewart's successor," he said.

"But obviously I will go out there and try to enjoy myself.

"The fact there are so many good 'keepers around is a good thing for England but to think about other guys while you are out there playing is just folly.

Read has been briefed about Bangladesh by Paul Franks, a teammate at Trent Bridge who experienced the conditions there on an England A tour.

"Paul says it's the hottest place he's ever been to," said Read, who will write columns for this website during the tour.

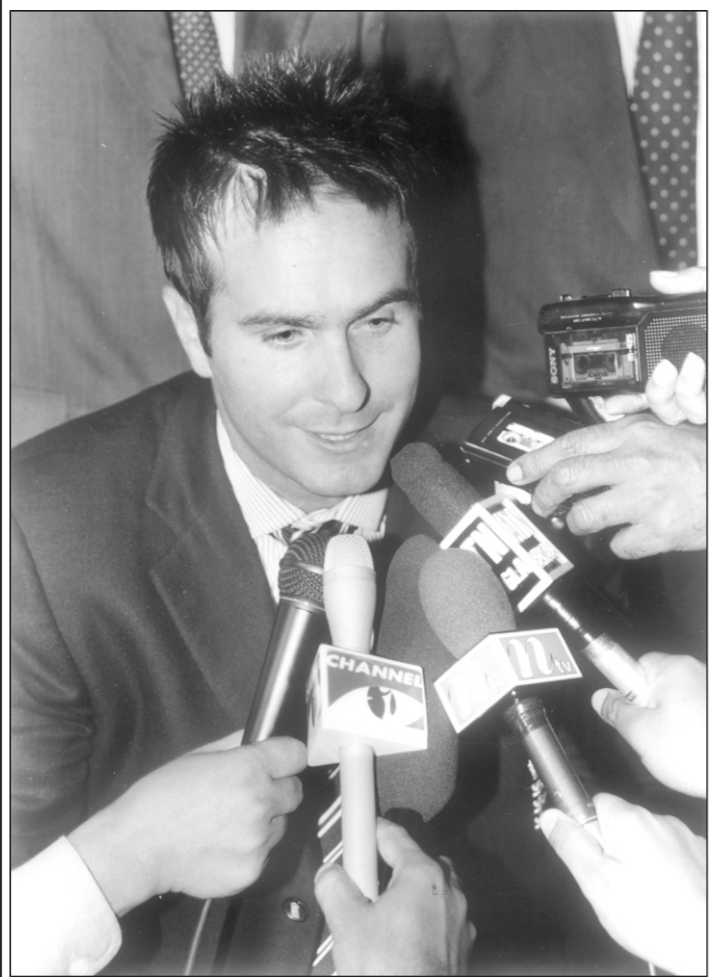
And Stuart MacGill, the Australian slow bowler, told him Bangladesh had impressed the Aussies in a recent Test series.

"Although they won pretty convincingly, he said they were a lot better than they expected.

"They weren't being blown away by Lee, McGrath and Gillespie." Jones says he is the "new kid on the block" and has been "quietly watching everything that's gone on."

But he feels runs as well as good wicketkeeping will be important for both him and Read.

"With Freddie pulling out there's a bit more of a premium on runs so that will be a major factor," said the Kent rookie.



England captain Michael Vaughan encounters reporters at the ZIA.

PHOTO: STAR

Perth Test begins today



REUTERS, Melbourne

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak says a strong sense of belief in their own ability will help the African side take the fight to Australia in the two-Test series.

Steve Waugh's Australia, with series wins over England, West Indies and Bangladesh this year, will start Thursday's first Test in Perth as overwhelming favourites.

Streak is the only world-class bowler in the touring team's attack and the batting also looks thin but the skipper maintains the series could be closer than most people predict.

"I don't think it (playing against Australia) requires miracles," Streak, 29, told reporters in Perth on Wednesday.

"I have a lot of belief and I think if we play to our potential and abilities (and) on our day, if we take those half-chances and really lift our game, we'll be a tough and formidable opposition.

"We're looking forward to a tough series. We're not out here to roll over and be beaten.
"We're here to challenge the

world champions and show them the spirit and keenness that Zimbabweans are known for."

Zimbabwe, who suffered two innings defeats against England in May-June and are ranked ninth by the International Cricket Council, have yet to finalise their team.

The tourists will give bowlers Ray Price, Douglas Hondo and Gary Brent until Thursday morning to prove their fitness.

Australia made the bold move of including leg-spinner Stuart MacGill in their team even though the pitch in Perth usually favours fast bowlers.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (captain), Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Adam Gilchrist, Andy Bichel, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Stuart MacGill, Brad Williams (12th man)

ZIMBABWE (from): Heath Streak (captain), Tatenda Taibu, Dion Ebrahim, Trevor Gripper, Mark Vermeulen, Stuart Carisle, Craig Wishart, Craig Evans, Andy Bignaut, Sean Ervine, Ray Price, Doug Hondo, Gary Brent

No national cricket for five days

SPORTS REPORTER

The Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship has been suspended for five days yesterday following heavy rains almost all over the country.

Eight matches were scheduled to take place yesterday at different venues of the country, but none of them had a go due to heavy rains caused by a depression over the Bay of Bengal.

The championship resumes on October 13 with yesterday's matches.

However, the five-day postponement has created a stir in the local sports arena since the tournament bylaws state that in case of any weather interference matches would be decided by tossing the coin.

Seven matches in the meet have already been decided by the coin, due to rain on all occasions, and the postponement has now raised the question how the authorities would solve the matter.

Tournament committee coordinator Hasibuddin informed that a meeting would take place today to discuss the overall situation as well as the above-mentioned matter.

Dravid defies NZ



AFP, Ahmedabad

Rahul Dravid cracked an unbeaten 110 to put India on course for a big total in the first cricket Test against New Zealand here on Wednesday.

The stylish middle-order bats

man hit 12 fours in his 15th Test century as India reached 249-3 at stumps on the opening day after electing to bat on a good pitch.

Dravid put on 72 for the second wicket with debutant opener Akash Chopra (42) and an unbroken 115 for the fourth with Venkatsai Laxman (56 not out) on a day of slow batting at the Sardar Patel Stadium.



PHOTO: AFP

India's Rahul Dravid raises his hands after reaching three-figures on the opening day of the first Test against New Zealand at Ahmedabad yesterday.

Seamers Daryl Tuffey and Scott Styris, and left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, each grabbed one wicket to contain the Indian batsmen for two sessions in hot and humid conditions.

India managed to score freely only in the final session as Dravid and Laxman exploded with a flurry of boundaries against both fast bowlers and spinners.

The last session produced 100 runs.

Laxman, coming ahead of regular number five Saurav Ganguly, was the first to go for strokes as he drove and cut New Zealand's bowlers to various parts of the boundary.

He reached his half-century in style, pulling Tuffey for a four.

Dravid was subdued early in his innings, taking no risks and patiently waiting for the loose deliveries.

He played a major role in steady-ing the innings after the dismissals of Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag.

Styris got the prize wicket of Tendulkar in the post-lunch session when he had the batsman caught by lone slip Nathan Astle for eight runs.

Tendulkar did not look his best during his 54-minute stay at the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 7