



Did U Know?

The only two Test cricketers to play Davis Cup tennis were Cota Ramaswami of India and West Indies wicketkeeper Ralph Legall.

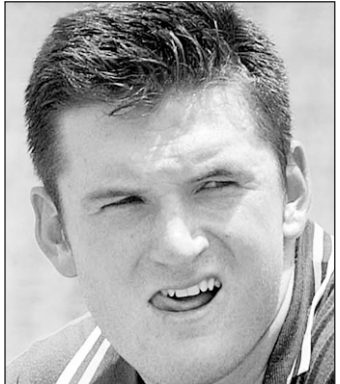


What to WATCH


DD Sports
India vs New Zealand
First Test, Day Two
Live at 10:00 am
TEN Sports
Pakistan vs South Africa
First Test, Day One
Live at 10:30 am
ESPN
Australia vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day One
Live at 6:30 am
Football Focus
Repeat at 5:00 pm
Western Union World Football
Taped Version at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre India
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Futbol Mundial
Repeat at 8:00 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Tennis Masters Series, Madrid
Quarterfinals
Live at 11:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Graeme Smith
(South Africa cricket captain)
"I have learnt to handle all levels of responsibility. But things have been made easier because I am leading a fantastic bunch of players."



Star WHIZZ KID OMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

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

1. Who won the Asia Cup hockey title?

Pakistan	India/Malaysia
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2. Who was man-of-the-series in the Bangladesh and Pakistan one-day series?

Inzamam-ul-Haq	Youhana Bashar
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3. Who became the 16th national men's handball champions?

Army	BDR
Navy	

4. Who are the European Champions League holders?

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Name

Class **Roll No.**

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Yousuf at odds with selectors

REUTERS, Lahore

Differences over the delegation of powers between the selectors and Pakistan team management flared up again on the eve of the first Test against South Africa.

Stand-in skipper Yousuf Youhana ...

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Nafees A team's spark



SPORTS REPORTER

England were mystified by a masterful century from Nafees Iqbal on the opening day of the three-day match against Bangladesh A at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

The young right-hander treated the English bowlers with disdain hammering 118 off 168 balls as the home side put up a decent total of 242 all out at stumps.

A star in the making the opening batsman from Chittagong not only wore down the seven bowlers employed by England captain Michael Vaughan but also ensured that the second string national team batted out the whole day.

His typically aggressive innings, which contained 14 boundaries and a huge six, also gave the selectors ample food for thought that he would be the first in line if ever a vacancy arose the top in the national team.

But the start of the A team innings gave little indication of what was to follow after Bangladesh opener Javed Omar, who was out for a duck, and hero of the first three-day match Aftab Ahmed fell for.

With the team struck down at 17-2 Nafees was joined by his captain

Rajin Saleh to produce 103 runs for the third wicket.

This century stand had definitely upset the English plans of a quick mop up operation as they had done at the Bangabandhu National Stadium against the BCB President's Eleven earlier this week.

Saleh, the find of Bangladesh in Pakistan, contributed a 91-ball 28 in that vital third-wicket stand.

But once paceman Richard Johnson broke through the stubborn partnership by finding the edge of Saleh's bat after lunch the tourists took control of proceedings.

The only blemish for the nephew of former national captain Akram Khan came when he called his non-striking partner Nazimuddin for a risky single but Rikki Clarke made no mistake to knock down the stumps with a direct hit from gully.

The brilliant innings of Nafees, who will lead the Bangladesh Under-19 team in a four-nation tournament in Pakistan later this month, finally came to an end while attempting yet another big hit but was caught at long-on off off-spinner Gareth Batty whom he slammed a six and a four in that eventful over.

The middle-order collapse at one stage sent the home side reeling at 179-7 but thanks to a gritty eighth wicket stand of 40 runs between Arafat Sunny (25 off 110 balls) and

Mosaddaq Hossain (21 off 52 balls) they managed to cross the 200-mark.

The damp outfield at the country's lone sports institute prevented another 30 runs being added to the Bangladesh A team total.

English fast bowler Stephen Harmison, who removed both the openers, was most successful claiming three wickets for 35 runs in 10 overs while Johnson took two for 35 runs in 13.5 overs. But there was little luck for a persevering Matthew Hoggard, who had eight maidens in his spell of 11 overs and got only one wicket for 19 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the first day of the three-day tour match between Bangladesh A and England on Thursday:

 BANGLADESH A: First innings	
Iqbal c Thorpe b Batty	118
Omar c Read b Harmison	0
Aftab c Clarke b Harmison	4
Saleh c Read b Johnson	28
Nazim run out (Clarke)	11
Muntasir c Vaughan b Giles	4
Sagor b Hoggard	0
Sunny c Hussain b Harmison	25
Mosaddeq lbw b Collingwood	21

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN
HI THERE: Bangladesh A opener Nafees Iqbal replies to his mates' applause after reaching his century against England on the opening day of a three-day practice match at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

Nat'l cricket Sirajganj advance

SPORTS REPORTER

Sirajganj moved into the next round of the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship qualifying phase with a 68-run win over Dinajpur at the Rangpur Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, Sirajganj scored 133 before being bowled out in 48.3 overs. In reply, Dinajpur were dismissed for 65.

Away in Comilla, Mymensingh defeated Rajbari by 23 runs.

Electing to bat, Mymensingh managed 152 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs.

In reply, Rajbari were bowled out for 129 in 48.2 overs.

In another match, Bangladesh Police outplayed BUET by 138 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Nilphamari handed Thakurgaon a nine-wicket defeat at the Natore Stadium.

Habiganj registered a two-wicket win over Moulvibazar at the Sylhet Stadium while Chittagong thrashed Cox's Bazar by nine wickets at the Chandpur Stadium.

In Patuakhali, Barguna earned a walkover against Bhola while Faridpur did the same against Netrokona at the Mymensingh Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Dinajpur v Sirajganj

Venue: Rangpur

SIRAJGANJ: 133 all out in 48.3 overs (Liton 35, Shakil 28, Nayeem 3-13)

DINAJPUR: 65 all out in 25.1 overs (Hira 14, Shuvo 4-23, Asad 3-16, Milan 2-8)

Result: Sirajganj won by 68 runs.

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'Less variety the key to century'

REUTERS, Mohali

New Zealand opener Lou Vincent, who struck a career-best 106 against India on Thursday, said his first Test century in almost two years was the result of cutting down on the variety of strokes he played.

The 24-year-old scored 104 on his Test debut against Australia in Perth back in December 2001 but had failed to get to three figures since.

"I've always been seen as a player with every shot in the book," Vincent told reporters. "But that also gives you several ways to get out.

"All through the winter, I worked hard on limiting my shots and on cutting out certain kinds of strokes from my game so that I could minimise the risk of getting out early."

Vincent, dropped for a tour of Sri Lanka in April, said the selectors had told him two months ago to prepare to open the innings in India.

"That gave me a lot of confidence," he said. "I knew what was expected off me. I practiced the sweep shot to counter the spinners."

"I get a lot of leaves at home, so I swept them all winter."

Vincent brought up his century with a sweep off leg-spinner Anil Kumble, but was out lbw while trying it once too often against the experienced bowler.

While enjoying the innings, Vincent said he rated his debut century higher.

"That one was a special innings because the Australians like to call themselves world champions and it was great to get runs against them in my first Test match," he said.

'English spinners were ordinary'



BISHWAJIT ROY

Bangladesh A's hero of the day Nafees Iqbal thought that the England spin attack was at best a moderate one.

The Bangladesh under-19 skipper smashed a brilliant 118 for the A team against Michael Vaughan's side on the first day of their three-day match at the BKSP yesterday.

"The spinners were quite ordinary," said Nafees when the travelling English media asked him about the tourists' slow bowlers.

It was a totally unexpected assertion for the foreign journalists especially as it came from someone so young. Nafees was already the talk of the media after his cracking knock and perhaps stunned by his calm demeanor, a section of the English press had the tactlessness

of asking what his original age was.

Nafees handled the question with the same composure he displayed while batting and pointed at his cheeks. "Look, my beard is still not fully grown," quipped the talented right-hander amidst a clamour of laughter. "I will celebrate my 19th birthday in March 2004," he assured the English journalists.

Nafees said that he didn't feel uncomfortable against any English bowler. Although off-spinner Gareth Batty dismissed the century-maker and left-arm Ashley Giles took one wicket, the two had a difficult time against the Bangladesh A batsmen. Even tail-enders Arafat Sunny and Mosaddaq Hossain played them with ease.

"It was like a dream come true for me because I got a century against a Test playing nation," said Nafees adding that he was really disappointed with the way he was dismissed.

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Tigers to be named today



SPORTS REPORTER

The 13-member Bangladesh squad for the first Test against England will be announced today. The five-day contest will start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on October 21.

The Faruque Ahmed-led selection panel will however have an easy task naming the team from the pool of 20 probables.

First of all there is little or no chance for seven players. To start with Tushar Imran and veteran pacer Hasibul Hossain since they are regarded as one-day players.

Young Moniruzzaman had a bright prospect but a freakish injury to his left eye during the first practice

match rules him out of the whole series.

Then comes reserve wicket-keeper Mohammad Salim. The selectors will definitely keep faith with long-serving Khaled Mashud barring any last minute injury.

The selectors in short-listing the pace options will certainly find Anwar Hossain Munir, Alamgir Kabir and Tareq Aziz Khan not suitable to the conditions at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, which tend to offer spinners more assistance.

So, the selectors are now left with 13 to play with unless they are thinking beyond the initial list.

If things stay as they are then two spinners leggie Mosaddaq Hossain and offie Fahim Muntasir might be awarded Test caps. There is also a

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Nafees Iqbal celebrates his century with a sixer off England spinner Gareth Batty at the BKSP yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

McInnes wins 'em over

SPORTS REPORTER

Life it seems is changing for the better for the under-19 cricketers of the country under their new coach Richard McInnes.

The task-master attitude of the 29-year-old Australian has impressed his charges although it means adapting to a new way of daily conduct including changing traditional food habits.

"The coach has discouraged us to eat rice although we do get a small amount during dinner. We are mostly eating non-spicy food and drinking a lot of milk," said one under-19 player yesterday.

Unlike many of their seniors who can't even think about eating non-Bangladeshi food for too long, the under-19s are adjusting to McInnes' demands spontaneously.

"We are enjoying it," said another member of the side.

The young cricketers feel that the food habit is helping them make optimum use of their physical abilities. McInnes, who took over the under-19s this month, has also made it mandatory for his boys to carry notebooks to the warm-up games against England for writing down their personal observations.

Kallis keen to honour dad

REUTERS, Lahore

South Africa's Jacques Kallis, wanting to continue a run of good form in honour of his father who died in July, is looking forward to the two-Test series against Pakistan starting on Friday.

"His memories still linger on in the mind," the top all-rounder told this news agency on Thursday.

"It is easier said than done that you get on with life. But I keep on going knowing the old man would have wanted me to go out and perform to the best of my ability for South Africa."

He added: "I am looking forward to locking horns with the quality Pakistan bowlers.

"You can't count Pakistan out of the series even if they lost the one-dayers. They can produce unbeliev

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