Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2003, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

Did U Know?

During the 1994 World Cup, German soccer player, Stefan Effenberg, was sent home because he gave the finger to a fan during a game.

Muttiah Muralitharan
(Sri Lanka spin wizard)
"I am bowling really well at the moment and am prepared for anything this time."

DD Sports
TVS Cup Triangular Series
India vs New Zealand
Live at 3:00 pm

Ten Sports
Euro 2004 qualifier
First Leg
Scotland vs Netherlands
Live at 8:55 pm

ESPN
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Man United
Repeat at 10:00 am
West Indies vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 1:50 pm

STAR Sports
Tennis Masters Cup
Live at 7:00 am
Futbol Mundial
Repeat at am

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 201

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

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 5, 2003 and draw

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?
143 190 182

2. Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?
Malcolm Speed Ali Asghar Ehsan Mani

3. Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champions?
Pakistan Bangladesh India

4. Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess

Name . . . . . .
. . . . . .
Class. . . . . .. Roll No. . . . . .
School Address . . . . . .
. . . . . .
Phone: (If any) . . . . . .

Selection chess

SPORTS REPORTER

National junior champion Mohammad Ali took the solo lead with 6.5 points after the end of the seventh round games in the Metropolis Selection Chess tournament at the NSC yesterday.

Nure Alam, Uten, Rakib Hasan and Ali Hasan were in the second position with 6 points each.

In this round Ali beat Afjal, Uten beat Dostogir, Rakib beat Shahad, Rocket beat Zia, Sumon beat Amir Ali, Shahjahan beat Rashel, Alam drew with Kajol, Shamim drew with Nagir and Dinayet drew with Shaiful.

100% MSC, Russel in semis

Abahani's 'do or die' duel today

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club finished the group stage of the Tibet Federation Cup Football Tourna-ment with an all-win record after defeating Dhanmondi Club 2-0 in their last match at the Bir Sheshthra Shaheed Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The result enabled the holders to emerge as Group A champions and they now await the outcome of today's match between Abahani and Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Muktijoddha have already confirmed their semifinal berth but for Abahani it will be a 'do or die' battle.

The sky blues must hope for at least a draw to ensure a place in the last four. Besides, both sides will have a score to settle especially after the unsavory tug of war involving the country's number one keeper Aminul during the players' transfer.

The first big match of the tournament kicks off at 2.15 pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

MOHAMMEDAN-DHANMONDI

With two wins in the bag, Mohammedan could afford to rest three key players in the game against Dhanmondi before the knockout phase.

But even without Farhad, Khokon Das and Bakhtiar, the black and whites were still strong enough to score two goals without reply.

It took 28 minutes before Mohammedan grabbed the lead through Ashraful Kader Manju. The striker unleashed a powerful left-footer into the net after being fed by Anwar. However, Dhanmondi players protested the goal saying that both the scorer and Jewel Rana were offside at the time. But referee Hannan Miron stood firm.

Veteran striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib settled the issue with a trademark header in the 72nd minute.

Though the first half ended tamely by Mohammedan standards, there were plenty of scoring opportunities created by talented playmaker Amin Rana and winger Saurav Raju but poor finishing let the Motijheel outfit down.

It was only after the breather did winless Dhanmondi appear threatening.

Striker Aminul Islam missed two easy chances after his partner Mahbub Mustafa side-footed his effort in front of goal within seconds of the second half.

Mohammedan fans eventually went home happy when Nakib showed he has lost none his prowess with an accurate header that came from a Kaiser cross.

While the defending champions plan ahead for the semifinals they still don't know if any of the five Cameroon players will be allowed to take part as there is a delay over their proper documents.

Yellow cards: Prodip and Wasim (Dhanmondi).

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: Milon (Nadim), Shuvro, Jewel, Faisal, Amin Rana, Sourav Raju (Taju), Kaiser, Pappu, Manju, Nakib and Anwar (Riyad).

DHANMONDI: Ratan, Sohel, Prodip, Bimal (Kamal), Mishu, Bipul, Palash (Uttam), Sohag,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

National cricket

Rajshahi find solace

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Rajshahi bid adieu to the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship on a happy note following 39-run victory over Pirojpur in their last Group B clash at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

The joint-winners of the championship last year along with Bangla-desh Biman, were already out of the title race after losing their first match on Wednesday to Comilla. Comilla booked their semifinals ticket after beating Pirojpur by five wickets on Thursday and will face Chittagong in the second semifinal at the same venue tomorrow.

The winners of that match will travel to Dhaka to meet Biman in the November 20 final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

In a low-scoring match in Mymensingh, Rajshahi scored 146 for 9 in the stipulated 50 overs after they were invited to bat first. In reply, Pirojpur were bundled out for 107 in 48.1 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: 146 for 9 in 50 overs (Rojel 36, Rana 32, Shafi 2-22, Jewel 2-28)

PIROJPUR: 107 all out in 48.1 overs (Bipul 19, Tushar 18, Shahjada 3-20, Rojel 2-22)

Result: Rajshahi won by 39 runs.

'It's not a trial'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors have almost finalised a list of probables for the Bangladesh A team that will take part in the Patron's Cup first class competition in Pakistan from early next month.

It is believed that seven or eight cricketers from the senior Bangladesh team, who had played the home series against England but failed to perform, will be drafted in the A side so that they cam have some much needed match practice ahead of the Tigers' next assignment in Zimbabwe in February 2004.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed yesterday said that around 25 cricketers have selected for the trip and they will be sent to Pakistan in two phases.

A 15-member side, that will include the senior Bangladesh team players, will travel first. The Tigers players will return home in late December to join the training camp for the Zimbabwe tour. Meanwhile, another set of players will be sent to Pakistan as their replacements.

"It's not that the national team cricketers are there for any trial. We have picked them simply because we want to give them some match practice as they could not do well against England," said Faruque while talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

The chief selector also revealed that no cricketer from the Bangladesh under-19 team was considered for the A tour. That means players like Nafees Iqbal and Aftab Ahmed were left out so that they could fully concentrate on the upcoming Under-19 World Cup in Bangladesh in February.

Faruque said that the full list of players would be made public on Saturday or Sunday. There would be a week's rest for Eid after which the team would fly to Pakistan on November 28.

Meanwhile, after a three-day break following the England series, the Bangladesh team will resume their training in the capital tomorrow.

Triple Love

REUTERS, *Melbourne*

Discarded Australia Test batsman Martin Love become the first player to score a triple century in domestic cricket in almost 10 years in Queensland's first innings of 605 for seven declared against Victoria on Friday.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 7

Kasparov loses second game

AFP, *New York*

Chess superstar Garry Kasparov on Thursday lost his second virtual reality game against the computer "X3D Fritz," after agreeing to a draw with the machine in their first match.

The computer, playing whites, defeated Kasparov in 39 moves in a match that lasted four hours.

A slip by the former world champion in movement 32 resulted in a blistering attack from the computer, forcing two checks before Kasparov conceded.

The 40-year-old Russian-American will play two more games against "X3D Fritz" at the New York Athletic Club.

Kasparov played wearing 3-D glasses, gazing at a chess board that appears to float in the air. He dictated piece movements with voice commands, and rotated the board with a joystick.

The International Computer Games Association and the United States Chess Federation will be holding the next games on November 16 and 18 at the New York Athletic Club.

Kasparov is considered the world's best chess player, even though he lost the world champion title to Vladimir Kramnik in 2000.

Vermeulen frustrates WI

Cricket

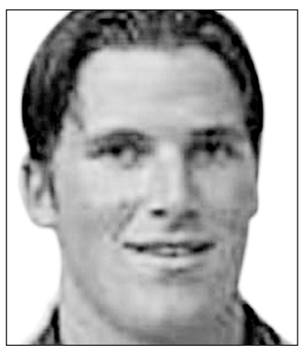
AFP, *Bulawayo*

A maiden Test century by Mark Vermeulen helped Zimbabwe claw their way to 371-9 in their first innings to leave them trailing the West Indies by 110 runs at tea on the third day of the second Test here Friday.

Vermeulen, who failed in the first Test with only eight and two, stubbornly created his personal milestone and he went on to score 118 before he fell to Omari Banks. He was the spinner's only wicket of the day, for a cost of more than 100 runs.

He hit 14 boundaries and took Zimbabwe past their first objective, which was to avoid the follow-on.

Vermeulen was partnered to a 78-run stand by Tatenda Taibu, then by Andy Blignaut. Ray Price continued the defiance after Vermeulen departed and he was on 31 at the interval, in company with last man Blessing Mahwire.



VERMEULEN... 118

Brian Lara tried seven bowlers in a bid to winkle Zimbabwe out, but with little success, Corey Collymore excepted. He took 4-70 and was the best of the tourist attack.

Vermeulen began the day with Craig Wishart on 173. They had already built up a partnership of 142. But Wishart was only able to extend his innings from 86 to 96, just missing out on a second Test century.

Vermeulen scored only five in the first hour and took more than five and a half hours all in.

He had two pieces of extraordinary luck. The first was good when he was yorked by Collymore but turned to see umpire Simon Taufel signalling a no-ball. The second was bad when he padded up to a ball from Banks going down the leg side, but it caught the inside of his leg and dropped onto the stumps.

Taibu was his usual effervescent self and contributed 27 runs.

Blignaut began slowly but hit out later for 31. Price was 31 not out when tea was taken, and frustrating the West Indians with stylish batting.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Eng happy to be in SL

AFP, *Colombo*

England cricket captain Michael Vaughan brushed aside security fears Friday as his team began a tour of Sri Lanka, despite the country's recent political upheavals.

Vaughan said the England side did not hesitate to go ahead with its visit to this former British colony, which comes amid an unprecedented power struggle between the country's president and prime minister.

"We had a splendid time the last time we were here in 2001 and look forward to a similar time this time too," he said, adding that the team members, as well as the 5,000 England fans travelling with them, had no reservations about the tour.

Sri Lanka plunged in political crisis November 4 when President Chandrika Kumaratunga sacked three ministers and suspended parliament for two weeks, prompting Norway Friday to suspend its bid for peace between the government and Tamil rebels and casting a shadow over the island's fragile calm.

Sri Lanka Cricket Chairman Thilanga Sumathipala said millions of fans in Sri Lankan were looking forward to the tournament as a chance to put aside politics and enjoy the game, which is almost a religion here.

"This is a time for our people to put aside politics and enjoy cricket," Sumathipala said.

Fleming out of India game

Cricket

AFP, *Hyderabad*

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming has been ruled out of Saturday's make-or-break showdown against hosts India here due to an abdominal strain.

Coach Ashley Ross said Fleming failed a fitness test on Friday, but inspirational all-rounder Chris Cairns will be back after recovering from a hamstring injury.

The last league match of the tri-series has everything to play for with the winner qualifying for the grand final against world champions Australia at the Eden Gardens in Calcutta next Tuesday.

Fleming, who had not missed a game in the tri-series, said his injury had crept up in the past three weeks and was causing a lot of discomfort.

"I can feel it when I cough. It's got worse," he said.

An exhilarating day-night game is on the cards at the Lal Bahadur stadium - provided both teams are not distracted by the build-up.

New Zealand are sweating over the fate of next week's limited-overs tour of Pakistan due to security concerns which have already seen four players - Craig McMillan, Lou Vincent, Scott Styris and Ian Butler - withdraw.

The Indians will have one eye on the national selectors, who are due to meet after the match to pick the squad for next month's Test series in Australia.

The selectors, clearly unhappy with the team's performance this season, put the players on notice on Thursday by delaying naming the squad till after the Hyderabad game.

"It's a pressure game all right, a lot of pressure from all sides," said Indian captain Sourav Ganguly, whose team has won just one match out of five so far in the series.

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar added: "It has reached a point where it is do-or-die for us. I am hopeful that we will do, rather than die."

India's failure to reach the final of their own home series will not be taken kindly by either the selectors or fans, a point Fleming loved to stress.

"There's obviously a lot more pressure on them in terms of the demands from the public," he said. "If they miss out on the final there'll be a price to pay I'm sure."

New Zealand have a penchant for ruining the hosts' party. Last year, they stopped Australia from qualifying for the final of their own tri-series.

Then in May this year, the Kiwis kept Sri Lanka out of the final of the triangular that also featured Pakistan.

New Zealand have not lost a match to India on the current tour, having drawn both Test matches before winning one tri-series match against the hosts at Cuttack while the other at Madras was rained off.

Fleming admitted his injury and the uncertainity of the Pakistan tour -- a final decision on the trip was unlikey to be made before Monday - had left his team feeling uneasy.

"There's a lot of emotion and feeling floating around," he said. "I certainly want to lead the players in whichever direction we're asked to go.

"I've had a couple of sleepless nights."

The Indians, struggling for form with both bat and ball, will be inspired by their previous clash against New Zealand at this venue when Tendulkar smashed 186 and Rahul Dravid hit 153 in a mammoth

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming watches the team's practice session on the eve of their match against India at the Lal Bahadur Shastri stadium in Hyderabad yesterday.

Don's lost cap put on display

AFP, *Adelaide*

Australian cricket legend Don Bradman's first baggy green cap, thought to be lost for more than 60 years, went on public display Friday following its chance discovery.

The cap was given to Bradman when he made his Test debut against England in Brisbane in 1928 but went missing in the 1930s after Bradman gave it to the schoolboy son of a family friend.

South Australia state library director Sue Lear said the cap was discovered in a Adelaide home earlier this year, where it had been kept by its owner, who did not realise its significance.

"This cap was given to a schoolboy family friend of the Bradmans, Peter Dunham, who until recently didn't realise the cap he used to wear while playing backyard cricket was such a significant part of Australian cricket history," Lear said.

The cap has been put on display in the library's Bradman Collection, along with another Bradman wore in 1934.

One of his baggy green caps sold for 425,000 dollars (306,000 US) earlier this year.

Be an Aussie in Australia

Cricket

REUTERS, *New Delhi*

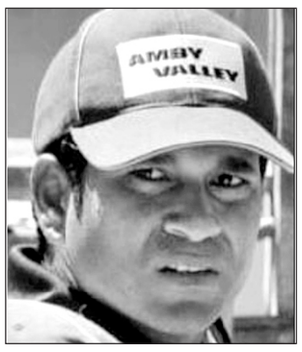
Sachin Tendulkar says India will need to match Australia's aggressive approach if they are not to be swept away again during their away test series starting later this month.

"It is going to be very challenging for me as well as the whole team," he told The Hindu newspaper on Friday.

"You've got to be bold enough to face challenges over there. Take them head on."

India leave for Australia next Friday to play four tests and a one-day tri-series against the world champions. India lost a test series 4-0 in Australia in 1991-92, and 3-0 in 1999-00.

They caused a shock two years ago, however, by coming back to beat Australia 2-1 at home, with captain Saurav Ganguly repeatedly calling on his players to believe in themselves and not to be overawed by Steve Waugh's players.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

"The youngsters will get a taste of

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

WHiZZ KID-200 correct answers

1. What was Nafis Iqbal's score against England in the first innings of the second practice match?
Ans: 118
2. What was Matthew Hayden's world record score in Test cricket?
Ans. 380
3. Who won the Women's World Cup football title?
Ans. Germany
4. Who became nat'l kabadi champions?
Ans. BDR
5.What was the result of the Euro 2004 soccer qualifier between England and Turkey?
Ans 0-0

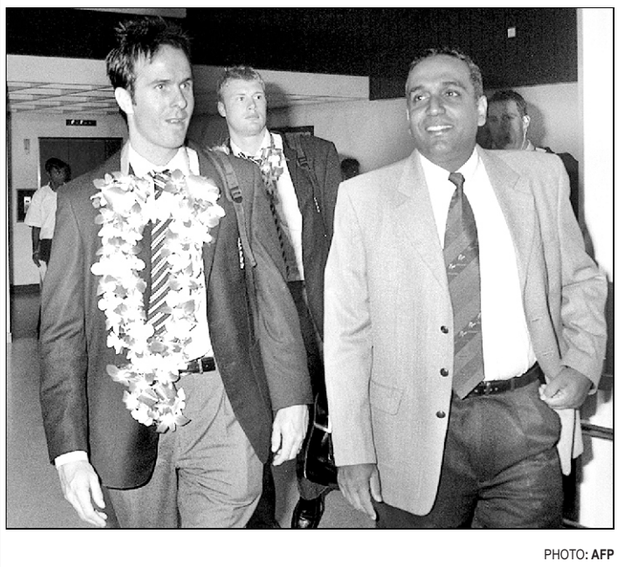


PHOTO: AFP

England cricket captain Michael Vaughan walks alongside a Sri Lankan Cricket official after arriving at Colombo Airport on November 13. England will play three Tests and three one-day internationals.

NZ to assess Pak tour

Cricket

AFP, *Wellington*

New Zealand Cricket officials said Friday they will decide by Monday at the latest whether the tour of Pakistan will go ahead this month after threats were made against the players if the series proceeds.

Full details of the threat have not been released but New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive Martin Snedden said it was "very direct -- it is explicit about the Black Caps in Pakistan and a warning not to go."

The email message "certainly threatened consequences if the team were to ignore the warning".

However, four players and an official who decided not to tour had withdrawn before the threat was received earlier this week.

Craig McMillan, Scott Styris, Lou Vincent, Ian Butler and team video analyst Zach Hitchcock made themselves unavailable because of trauma from witnessing a fatal bomb blast in Karachi during New Zealand's tour of Pakistan last year.

Heath Mills, manager of New Zealand Players Association, said members of the New Zealand team currently playing in India were "definitely shaken" by the threat, but he could not say if more players would refuse to go to Pakistan.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

WHiZZ KID-200 winner

Sumaiya Subhana Monsur
(Viquarrunnissa Noon School)
Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on November 30.