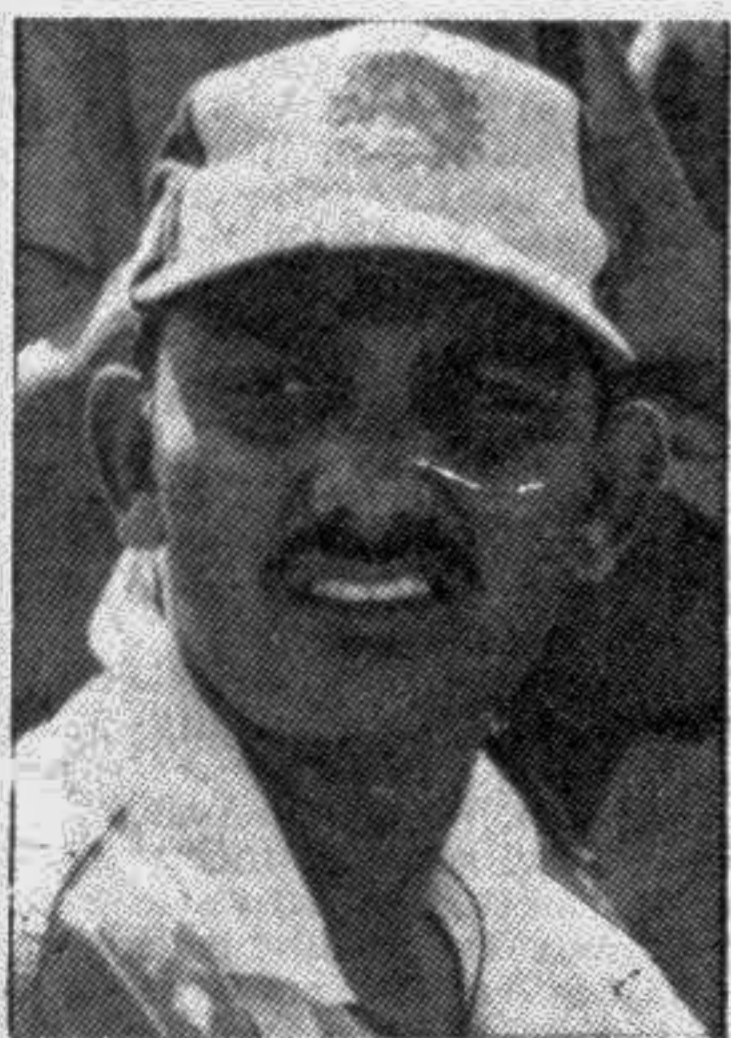


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mohammad Azharuddin
(Former Indian cricket captain)
"I am not worried about criticism as there will always be people to criticise."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-122

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- Which country won the SAFF football gold?
Bangladesh India Nepal
- Who is the captain of Brazil?
Cafu Rivaldo Ronaldo
- How many teams will play in next year's Asia Cup cricket?
4 5 6
- Who won the men's 100 m in the Summer Athletics?
Mahbub Yasin Ratan
- Who lifted the Grand Slam Cup title?
Rusedski Agassi Kafelnikov

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Stead flying in for McMillan

WELLINGTON, Oct 25 (AFP): Batsman Gary Stead will join the New Zealand touring side in India after Craig McMillan fractured a finger while fielding. New Zealand Cricket said today, reports Reuters.

McMillan fractured the first joint of his right-hand index finger during the second Test against India at Kanpur.

The injury occurred late on the first day of play and x-rays confirmed a break the following day, NZ Cricket said.

The team's physiotherapist Mark Harrison said a decision on McMillan's return to New Zealand would not be taken until Tuesday.

Stead, who had been on standby for the tour, will leave on Tuesday to be in India in time for third Test at Ahmedabad.

He has played two tests for New Zealand, both against South Africa last season when McMillan was also injured. In three innings against the South Africans he averaged 42.66.

Obermann soccer

On completion of the Holger Obermann training course for football coaches, a friendly 50-minute match will be played at the Mirpur Stadium today at 4:30 pm, says a press release.

The two-week camp was jointly organised by the German Olympic Association and Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) with the help of Bangladesh Football Federation.

Stumper Nixon joins Kent

LONDON, Oct 25 (AFP): Kent confirmed Monday they have signed Leicestershire wicket-keeper Paul Nixon.

Nixon, 29 last week, has signed a three-year contract and said: "Joining Kent is a very exciting development for me. Kent's reputation for producing England wicket-keepers is legendary."

"Playing for Leicestershire has been a great experience but I am now looking forward to the new challenges at Kent."

England A Basharred

From Hasan Masood in Chittagong



Oct 25: Habibul Bashar scored his maiden century for Bangladesh to provide a platform for his skilful

ppper Aminul Islam to challenge his England A opposite number in their three-day match that began at the M A Aziz Stadium here today.

Bashar, who scored 83 against the visitors for the Bangladesh Cricket Board XI in a limited-overs match a couple of days back at Dhaka, continued with his flair. He scored an unbeaten 143 that helped the home side to score an imposing 315 for 8 in only 81 overs before Aminul declared the innings 35 minutes before stumps.

In reply, the tourists were on 15 for no loss at close. Ian Ward and Michael Gough were at the crease.

Opener Javed Omar Belim for his part kept the 20 thousand partisan crowd alive in the first session with his brilliant fifty.

Bashar came to bat at number three when Bangladesh lost their first wicket in the early morning session with the score on 34 in the 9th over.

The other opener, Shahriar Hossain, made a shaky start against the English pace attack. He finally edged first-change medium-pace Paul Franks to the safe hands of Marcus Trescothick at second slip, having scored only nine runs in 46 minutes.

Javed Omar, who was aggressive from the start playing a lot of strokes, then took charge along with Bashar.

The teams went for lunch with Bangladesh on 105 for one in 27 overs, the result of a 71-run partnership. Javed was batting on 53 and Bashar on 26.

Javed Omar, contrary to his characteristic style, took only 71 balls to complete his 50, which included eight sweetly timed hits across the rope.

The second-wicket stand was broken in the first over of the post-lunch session when leggie Chris Schofield, the wrecker-in-chief who finished with a six-wicket haul, struck for the first time. Schofield also captured five wickets against BCB XI at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

Javed Omar became the first victim of the tall twacker with an added anything to the scoreboard after lunch. In his more than three hours stay at the crease, Javed faced 90 balls and smote eight boundaries.

After Javed's departure, Bashar shared a 114-run partnership with his skipper Aminul Islam before the latter was caught at the mid-wicket region while trying to pull Schofield. Aminul fell three runs short of what could have been a deserving half-century.

Aminul stayed at the crease for 157 minutes and played 97 balls for his 47 that was embellished with six fours.

For the captain and local lad Akram Khan followed his successor soon after without bothering the scorers.

Bangladesh went for tea with 219 runs and four wickets short. The portly middle-order, who returned to the side after a five-month lay-off for suffering Achilles tendon injury, topped a sharp one from Schofield that ended in the safe hands of Solanki. He faced only two balls. It was big let down considering the standing ovation that greeted his arrival on

the pitch.

The middle-order collapse continued after tea and Bangladesh lost two more quick wickets adding only a single run.

Vice-captain Khaled Mahmud returned for a duck and wicketkeeper Khaled Masood scored only one. Left-handed all-rounder Enamul Hoque lengthened the queue to the pavilion after scoring 11 runs.

In a span eight overs

BANGLADESH: First in-

nings	
Shahriar c Chris Schofield	9
b Paul Franks	
Javed Omar c Marcus Trescothick	53
b Chris Schofield	
Habibul Bashar not out	143
Aminul Islam c Michael Gough	47
b Chris Schofield	
Akram Khan c Vikram Solanki	0
b Chris Schofield	
Khaled Mahmud c Ian Ward	0
b Vikram Solanki	
Khaled Masood b Chris Schofield	1



Star file photo of Habibul Bashar

Bangladesh were reduced to 239 for 7 from a commanding position of 219 for 2.

Bashar, who was on 83 at tea, saw five of his partners depart, but added 44 runs for the useful eighth wicket stand with Sabbar Khan.

Tailender Khan pumped 17 runs (two huge sixes and a four) in one Solanki over, and contributed with a quick-fire 20. Sabbar became the sixth victim of Schofield.

Bashar added 27 runs in the unbeaten 30-run ninth wicket partnership with Safuddin Ahmed before the innings was declared.

Bashar's innings was 272-minute long. He reached the magical three figures after tea having faced 168 balls which included a six and 13 fours. He hit five more boundaries to score his unbeaten 143.

The match resumes this morning at 9.30 am.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first day of the three-day match between Bangladesh and England A played at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on October 25.

Enamul Hoque c Solanki b Chris Schofield	11
Sabbir Khan c Paul Franks b Chris Schofield	20
Shafuddin Ahmed not out	3
Extras: b-10, lb-2, w-6, nb-10	28
Total: (For 8 wts in 81 overs)	315
Did not bat: Monjurul Islam	

Fall of wickets: 1/34; 2/105; 3/219; 4/219; 5/220; 6/225; 7/239; 8/285.	
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Bowler	O	M	R	W
Alamgir Shierlyer	6	0	30	0
James Kirtley	10	4	17	0
Paul Franks	8	0	34	1
Chris Schofield	30	4	120	6
Michael Davies	14	3	47	0
Vikram Solanki	10	0	36	1
Marcus Trescothick	3	0	19	0

England A First Innings	
Michael Gough batting	3
Ian Ward batting	12
Extra:	0
Total: (For no loss in 7 overs)	15

To bat: Marcus Trescothick, Vikram Solanki, Aftab Habib, Mark Alleyne, James Kirtley, Alamgir Shierlyer, Paul Franks, Chris Schofield and Michael Davies.	
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Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monjurul Islam	2	1	4	0
Shafuddin Ahmed	2	2	0	0
Enamul Hoque	2	1	1	0
Sabbir Khan	1	0	10	0

Pakistan open tour today

Lillee set for last hurrah



PERTH, Australia, Oct 25 (AFP): Australian fast-bowling legend Dennis Lillee will make a final top-level appearance here on Tuesday, lining up against Pakistan on the first match of their Australian tour.

Lillee, now 50, has agreed to come out of retirement for one last time to play for an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI that includes his 25-year-old son, Adam, also a fast bowler who has shown promise in Western Australia's junior ranks.

Although the veteran has had nearly as many comebacks as Frank Sinatra, he insists his appearance in Tuesday's one-day match really will be the last of a career in which he took 355 wickets in 70 Test appearances.

Ironically, Lillee has chosen to take his final bow against the country which he probably has the unhappiest memories of playing against.

During a November 1981 Test against the Pakistanis, an infuriated Lillee lost his head and kicked Pakistan batsman Javed Miandad.

The equally-volatile Miandad retaliated by wielding his bat above his head in a threatening manner, prompting Lillee to square up to him like a boxer.

Only umpire Tony Crafter's swift intervention prevented the two players coming to blows.

Lillee apologised the following day but that did not stem the world-wide condemnation of his actions.

It was the lowest point of a

career that had many highs, including a memorable 73 not out batting at No.10 at Lord's in 1975.

Lillee retired from Test duty in 1984 after 13 years of international duty marked by two legendary partnerships with wicketkeeper Rod Marsh (95 dismissals together) and fellow fastman Jeff Thomson.

Always ready to bowl himself to the point of exhaustion, Lillee could strike fear into the

Next day, Lillee had Larry Gomes caught at first slip to break Lance Gibbs' world record of 309 Test wickets.

Thirty years after he made his first class debut for Western Australia, Lillee is still revered by local supporters. An appearance in the nets on Sunday attracted more attention than the Western Australia-Tasmania Sheffield Shield match.

Five players with Test experience are in the Chairman's side for Tuesday's match at Caversham in Western Australia's wine country.

The other Test men in the side are current Australian number three Justin Langer, and three former Australian representatives, opening batsman Matthew Hayden, all-rounder Brendon Julian and fast bowler Jo Angel.

Rodney Marsh declined an invitation to team up with Lillee one last time, citing lack of fitness. But organisers have persuaded his son, Daniel, a left-arm spinner for Tasmania, to play.

heart of any batsman with genuine speed and a cold glare at the end of his exaggerated follow-through.

With the ball, Lillee was at his menacing best between January 1 and March 17, 1977, when he returned 10-wicket match hauls against three different countries - 10-135 against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), 11-123 against New Zealand at Auckland and 11-

165 in the Centenary Test against England at the MCG.

He was an obvious target for Kerry Packer when World Series Cricket started in 1977, taking 79 wickets in 15 SuperTests that have never been recognised by the game's governing bodies.

The MCG was Lillee's favourite stamping ground. He captured 82 wickets from 14 Tests there, most famously bowling Viv Richards -- then at his peak -- during the 1981-82 series to leave the tourists at ten for four.

See page 14

Cash reward for Bashar

Centurion Habibul Bashar will receive a cash reward of 500 US dollars for his brilliant performance and career best score of 143 not out from the State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader.

Quader announced the award when he completed the century against England A on the first day of the three-day match.

Talking to BSS over telephone, the state minister said, "Any cricketer, who can display outstanding performance, will be honoured accordingly."

Cute handball BDR, Progati record wins

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles and Progati Boys won their respective matches of the Cute Premier Handball League at different city venues yesterday.

At the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground, Bangladesh Rifles recorded a hard-fought 26-20 win over Bangladesh Police.

The winners led the first half 15-10.

Kamrul scored highest seven goals for Rifles.

In the other match of the day at the handball court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Progati Boys defeated Dhaka Wanderers by 16-7 goals.

Course for coaches

Two experts from the Australian Sports Commission will conduct a three-day "Strength Conditioning Course" for the Bangladeshi coaches of different sporting disciplines, reports BSS.

The course, jointly organised by the Australian High Commission and the National Sports Council (NSC) of Bangladesh, begins today in the NSC auditorium.

The course leaders, Craig Roberts and David Briggs, will also impart some specific practical training for cricket, soccer, hockey, badminton, volleyball, cycling, swimming and track and field coaches.

The course aims to help Bangladeshi coaches in the physical preparation of sports people and to provide them with a knowledge base to better assist sportsmen and women recover after a match or competition through specific strength training exercises and aerobic and anaerobic running training.

Besides, Australia is providing scholarships for young Bangladeshi cricketers to study at the Australian Cricket Academy in Adelaide under the Cricket Cooperation Programmes between the two countries.

Streak fights fitness

HARARE, Oct 25: Zimbabwe's key strike bowler Heath Streak is battling to be fit for the first of two home-and-away Tests against South Africa, reports Reuters.

Streak, who is recovering from a swollen knee, is being given until the morning of the first Test starting in Bloemfontein on Friday to prove his fitness.

Uncapped all-rounder Andy Blythe was named by Zimbabwe in a squad of 14 on Sunday as cover for Streak.

The second Test begins at the Harare Sports Club on November 11.

Squad: Grant Flower, Trevor Gripper, Murray Goodwin, Gavin Rennie, Alistair Campbell (captain), Andy Flower, Neil Johnson, Heath Streak, Guy Whittall, Andy Whittall, Bryan Strang, Henry Olonga, David Mutendera, Andy Blythe.

Get-fit race for Q'land quicks

BRISBANE, Australia, Oct 25 (AFP): Queensland paceman Scott Muller received good news on the injury front, ensuring his spot in the Pakistan Test fast bowling shootout on Saturday.

Muller will play in Queensland's four-day cricket match with Western Australia's Pakistanis after he was cleared of a side strain.

His main rival for the vacant Test fast-bowling spot, state teammate Michael Kasprovicz, is also hopeful of recovering from a thigh strain to play against the tourists.

The pair will be gunning for a berth in the first Test at the Gabba on Friday week, with chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns confirming this weekend's match would have a large bearing on the line-up.

While Muller, Kasprovicz and Andrew Bichel take on Pakistan, young tearaway Brett Lee will spearhead the New South Wales' attack against South Australia in the Sheffield Shield match starting at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

But some of the pressure could be eased with Hohns confirming selectors would consider naming two pacemen to support incumbents Glenn McGrath and Damien Fleming.

Mohammedan smell 'politics' in football league fracas

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting yesterday demanded the implementation of the league byelaws and the removal of both the Chairman and the Secretary of the Dhaka Mohanagar Football League Committee (DMFLC).

"We want the implementation of the bye-laws. It is not the

question of whether we will take part in the remaining matches of the league or not, but the transparency on the part of the organisers", said Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan at a crowded press conference at the Motiheel club tent in the afternoon.

Mohammedan, who have threatened to boycott the Keya Premier League after the DMFLC called off yesterday's match against archrivals Abahani, arranged the briefing to explain their position.

"We have complied with so many undue demands of the DMFLC for the greater interest of football. We had to bear the pain of playing matches on every alternate day and we agreed to play at Mirpur. But what they did on Sunday was not only against the spirit of the game, but also a naked exhibition of their loyalty to a vested quarter", said Lokman.

The DMFLC in an emergency meeting on Sunday surprisingly called off the virtual league-deciding match between Mohammedan and Abahani and deferred the Dhaka derby for two days till October 27.

The surprise decision, which came as a sequel to Abahani's boycott threat, cast a shadow over the fate of the League.

Abahani, who are trailing Mohammedan by two points, demanded a fair judgement on what they termed a fixed match on August 11 between Mohammedan and Arambagh.

The claim of Abahani is not only baseless, but also a propaganda to tarnish the image of Mohammedan. We want to make it clear that Mohammedan belongs to everyone. It has never been loyal to any particular parties", said the Mohammedan general secretary.

"But the recent developments have added fuel to our suspicion that a particular club is taking advantage of its political affiliation with the ruling party in an attempt to politicise and destroy the sporting atmosphere of the country", added Lokman.

Governing Body member-secretary Monirul Haq Chowdhury, MP and additional joint secretary, Tanveer Haider, also attended the press briefing.



Mohammedan officials briefing the press on their threatened boycott of the football league yesterday.

— Star photo

Kumble the terminator



KANPUR, India, Oct 25 (AFP/Reuters): Leg-spinner Anil Kumble claimed his 14th five-wicket haul as India crushed New Zealand by eight wickets with a day to spare in the second cricket Test here on Monday.

Kumble finished with six for 67 and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh took three for 33 as New Zealand, trailing by 74 runs in the first innings, were skittled out for 155 in their second knock just before tea on the fourth day.

Kumble, recalled after being rested from India's recent tour of Canada and Kenya, took four wickets in the first innings and had an aggregate analysis of 10 for 134, his third 10-wicket haul in Tests.

India wrapped up the 82 runs needed for victory after a sluggish start to take a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series, and ensure their unbeaten record in a home series since 1987 remained intact.

India lost Sadagopan Ramesh and Rahul Dravid to slide to 7-2 before skipper Sachin Tendulkar and Devang Gandhi steered the side home

with an unbroken 76-run stand for the third wicket.

Tendulkar smashed 44 off 39 balls to record his fourth win as Indian captain and the first in two matches of his second stint at the helm.

Gandhi, whose 88 in the first innings was the top score of the match, scored 31.

The first Test at Mohali ended in a draw. The third and final Test starts at Ahmedabad on Friday.

India have picked the same squad for the third Test.

"It was good, but we want to win the third Test too," Tendulkar said.

"Kumble proved once again he is a match-winner, but I am particularly happy at the way Gandhi batted in only his second Test match."

"I am relieved, but there is a lot of scope for improvement," Tendulkar added. "We need to bat better."

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said the Indians played better cricket and deserved to win.

"We had a lot of opportunities, but let the game slip away," he said. "The Indians bowled to their strength, but we need to improve our top-order batting."

The tourists, unable to come to terms with the deteriorating Green Park wicket, were saved from total annihilation by a defiant 48 from wicketkeeper Adam Parore.

Parore, who came in at 33-5 soon after the start of the fourth day's play, was ninth out after a three-hour stay at the crease.

He added 38 for the sixth wicket with skipper Stephen Fleming and 57 for the seventh with Craig McMillan, who made 31 despite a fractured finger on his right hand.

Kumble, who took all 10 wickets in Pakistan's innings at New Delhi earlier this year, was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Besides, he surpassed 250 wickets in Test cricket, becoming the third Indian bowler to achieve the feat.

Former captain Kapil Dev, the team's current coach, holds the world record of 434 wickets, while left-arm spinner Bishen Bedi took 266 in his career.

Kumble, starting the day at 17-3, lost two quick wickets to slide to 33 for five within the first hour.

The Kiwis, needing 57 more to make India bat again, took 10 runs in Kumble's first over as Fleming smashed two boundaries.

India, however, struck back in the next over when Craig Spearman edged Harbhajan to first slip and Tendulkar pounced on his 50th catch in Test cricket.

Spearman did not add to his overnight score of one.

New man Nathan Astle was out for a duck when he failed to keep a Kumble flipper down and Vijay Bhadraraj picked up a low catch at forward short-leg.

Parore and Fleming dug in to steady the situation, before the New Zealand captain was caught at silly point off spinner Harbhajan for 31.

The Black Caps had moved from 99-6 at lunch to 128 when Kumble trapped McMillan leg-before, a decision from umpire A V Jayaprakash that surprised the batsman.

Television replays indicated the ball may have been going down leg-side.

Chris Cairns stepped out of Sunil Joshi's and was bowled, while Parore fell in similar fashion to Harbhajan as he missed a sweep.

Last man Paul Wiseman failed to score before he was trapped leg-before by Kumble 20 minutes before tea.

SCOREBOARD