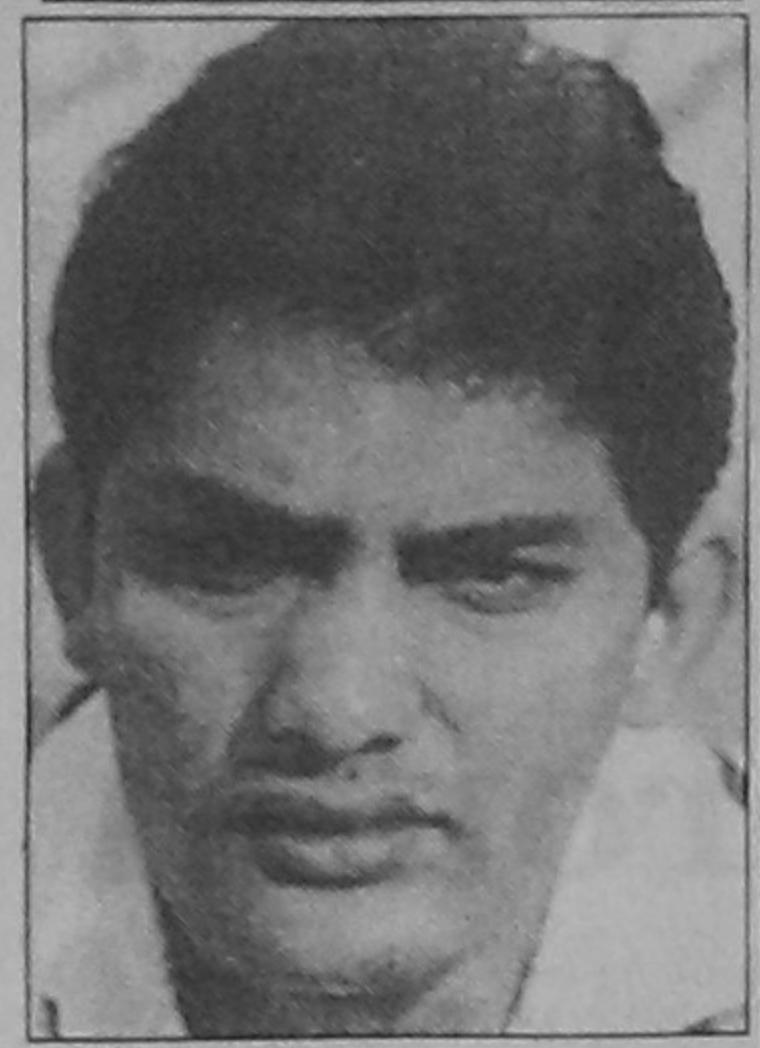


Star Sport

DHAKA FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2000 Email: dssports@bdcnline.com

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mohammad Azharuddin

(Former Indian cricket captain)
"There is always reward for hard work, perseverance and honesty."

On his comeback to the national team.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-127

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm March 24, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Who won the tri-series down under? | |
| India | Pakistan | Australia |
| 2 | How many Test matches has Shepherd officiated in till the Bombay Test? | |
| 49 | 50 | 51 |
| 3 | What is the name of Sir Stanley Matthews' father? | |
| Jack | Stephen | Bill |
| 4 | Who is FIFA's world player-of-the-year? | |
| Rivaldo | Raul | Vieri |
| 5 | Who is the captain of Biman cricket team? | |
| Aminul | Faruque | Athar |

Name
.....

Class Roll No.

School Address
.....

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Schools cricket starts today

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Metropolis qualifying round of the ANZ Grindlays Bank 18 National Schools cricket championship gets underway at different venues in the capital from today.

On the opening day, T&T High School will take on Pre-cadet Child Care School at the Utara Club ground, Khilgaon Govt High School will face Sher-e-Bangla High School at the Utara Police Lines ground and Shaheed Selim Shikhalayha will meet Saduzzaman Ideal School at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

In all 720 schools from six divisions and Dhaka metropolis are all set to take part in the round.

In Dhaka metropolis qualifiers, 98 schools have been divided into 16 groups for the first round. The group winners will then move into the knockout stage. Four schools will qualify for the final round which will be held in the last week of April.

Apart from four Dhaka metropolis teams, two each from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and one from Barisal and Sylhet Division will join holders Bindubashini Govt High School of Tangail and runners-up Mymensingh Zila School in the final round.

The winners of the final round will receive Tk 15,000 while the runners-up will earn Tk 10,000.

The qualifying rounds of the six divisions will begin from March 28.

Independence Day chess

The Independence Day Chess Competition, organised by Abdur Razak Chess Club, will be held on Sunday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room, reports UNB.

Interested players have been requested to send in their entries by March 25 to the federation office or Dhaka Dabba Ghar.

Comedy in Kuala Lumpur

Bangladesh made co-champions

Sports Reporter

Brief Scores

Bangladesh A: 237 for 9 n.o., Rajin 52, Naimur 35, Mehrab 26, Ashraf 15, Mizan 13, Rafique 13.

Namibia: 43 for 3 in 15 overs (Bikash 1/9, Rafique 1/7)

Result: Match postponed due to rain after 15 overs of play in the second session.

Malaysia set a bizarre example in cricket when the hosts virtually compelled Bangladesh A to share their championship glory with Namibia as the final of the three-nation one-day tournament was rained out after 15-over's play in the second session.

Bangladesh were acknowledged champions as per the tournament bylaws, but then they were asked to share the title for the sake of cricket.

As expected earlier, the rain gods came into play at the Royal Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, favouring Namibia for the third time against Bangladesh in the tournament that also included Malaysia. Namibia, under the false impression of having superior net run rate against Bangladesh, were then reeling at 43 for three.

Bangladesh, who actually held the net run rate advantage, were waiting to be declared as the winners, but only in vain, said a faxed message of tour manager Jalal Yunus.

According to the fax, the organisers announced earlier that Namibia's net run rate was 1.42

while Bangladesh were maintaining 1.30.

But when Bangladesh challenged the computation prior to the start of the final, the organisers got down to recalculate it and finally declared that Bangladesh's net run rate as 1.41 against Namibia's 1.05.

Tinku Iman, the president of Malaysian Cricket Association, and the chairman of the organising committee apologised for their wrong calculations but requested Bangladesh 'A' manager Jalal Yunus to accept Namibia as co-champions. Namibia might feel dejected after having been under the false impression for so long, they reasoned.

Bangladesh 'A' team will return home this afternoon.

The tournament concludes on March 27.

The APTECH-Dhaka Club bridge from today

APTECH-Dhaka Club bridge from today

Sports Reporter

The APTECH-Dhaka Club Independence Day Bridge Tournament begins at the Dhaka Club this morning. Former Foreign Secretary and president of Bangladesh Bridge Federation (BBF) Farouk Sobhan will inaugurate the meet which will feature 24 teams.

Things however had started smoothly for Bangladesh as captain Naimur Rahman called the coin correctly and decided to bat first. They scored a fighting 237 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs with all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman notching an unbeaten 55. Inform middle-order Rajin Saleh chipped in with 52 while Naimur and Mehrab Hossain scored 35 and 26 respectively.

Besides, the sponsors APTECH Computer Education, who will pay Tk 50,000 to the organisers Dhaka Club, will also provide scholarships to the student participants achieving good results.

This was revealed by the organisers at a press conference held at the Dhaka Club guest house yesterday.

Chaired by Dhaka Club president Rezaur Rahman, Farouk Sobhan attended as the chief guest. BBF vice-president Firoze Ahmed, APTECH's country head Tarun Mitra, Rizwan Bin Farouq, the executive director of Axiom Technology, and member-in-charge (bridge) of Dhaka Club ASM Farukh were present on the occasion.

The tournament concludes on March 27.

Chaturanga punished

Sports Reporter

Six players and the manager of Sylhet Chaturanga Jubo Sangha have been suspended for their part in the manhandling and verbal abuse of referee Tajul Islam during the Nitol-Tata National Football League clash against Abahani Krira Chakra at the Rajshahi Stadium on March 13.

The match was postponed 12 minutes before the final whistle when the Sylhet outfit refused to play following a controversial penalty awarded by man in black.

Chaturanga were leading the match 1-0.

It was reported that few players physically assaulted the official before they left the ground.

Later the organisers declared Abahani 2-0 winners in accordance with the bye-laws.

The BFF disciplinary committee, in a meeting on March 22, based their action on the reports of the match commissioner and referee. Also they received eyewitness accounts.

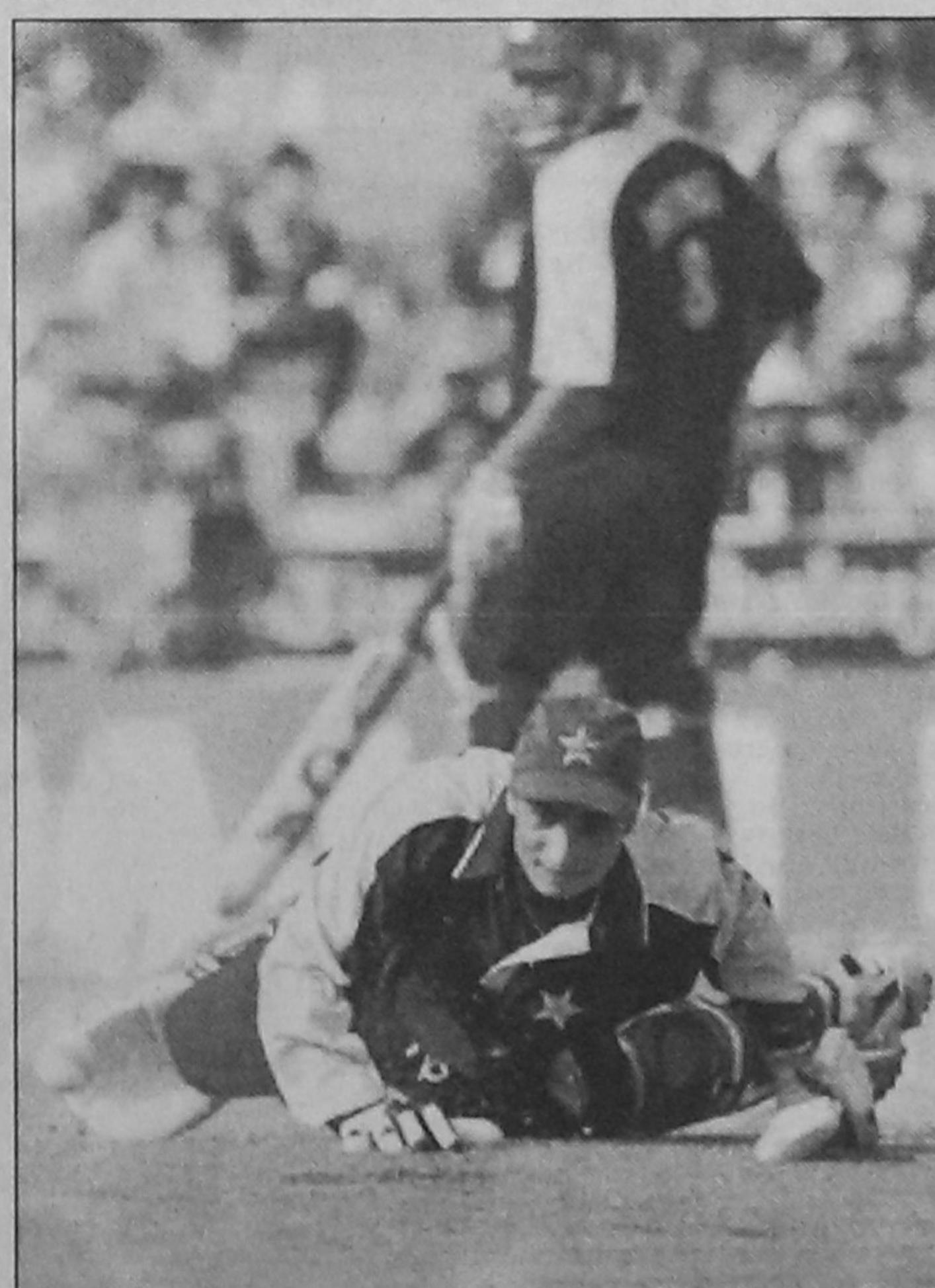
Chaturanga's inspirational midfielder Mahbub Hossain Roxy has been slapped with a two-year ban while Sujon, Aminul Islam, Tofael Ahmed, Saiful Islam, national goalkeeper Rakib Mahbub Apel and manager Jammon Lusai have all been suspended for a year.

During the period they will not be allowed to play in any league tournaments sanctioned by BFF and its affiliated organisations.

Nat'l snooker from Mar 27

The 17th National Snooker Championship and the 5th National Under-21 Snooker Championship will be held at Dhaka Club billiards room from March 27 to April 11, says a press release.

A record 147 players will take part in the tournaments.



Pakistan's Imran Nazir dives to make his ground as vice-captain Inzamamul Haq looks on in Game Two of the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah yesterday.

Second Test starts today

All eyes on Courtney



that this is an ongoing process," Jimmy Adams, the West Indies captain, told reporters after the match in which his side could only muster totals of 187 and

babwe can do to fortify their batting. The frontline batsmen chosen in Trinidad are their best. Captain Flower will be looking for a little more substance and stability if his side is to draw the series.

He will be hoping for much more from his brother Grant, former captain Alistair Campbell and the confident Murray Goodwin. And though Trevor Gripper batted resolutely, Zimbabwe will hope he can add some real beef to the total.

While West Indies are likely to keep faith with their four-pronged pace attack, Zimbabwe might consider tinkering with their attack.

Heath Streak was head and shoulders above the rest of the Zimbabwe bowlers with nine wickets in the match, but he lacked support from Henry Olonga, Mpumeliso Mbawwa, Brian Murphy and Neil Johnson, whose contributions were sporadic.

Fast-medium bowlers Bryan Strang (left-arm) and Andy Blignaut are two choices available to captain Flower.

Unlike two years ago when the opening Test between West Indies and England was abandoned, the pitch has behaved itself and Adams will have fond memories of his match-winning partnership with Brian Lara against Australia last year.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES: Jimmy Adams (captain), Sherwin Campbell (vice-captain), Adrian Griffith, Chris Gayle, Shivarine Chanderpaul, Wavel Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Curtly Ambrose, Franklyn Rose, Reon King, Courtney Walsh, Ricardo Powell, Nehemiah Perry.

ZIMBABWE: (from): Andy Flower (captain), Heath Streak (vice-captain), Grant Flower, Neil Johnson, Trevor Gripper, Murray Goodwin, Alistair Campbell, Stuart Carlisle, Brian Murphy, Henry Olonga, Mpumeliso Mbawwa, Bryan Strang, Mluleki Nkala, Andy Blignaut, Craig Wishart, Tatenda Taibu.

Umpires: Eddie Nicholls, Athar Zaidi.

COURTNEY WALSH

147. "We want to develop an environment that will bring consistently good cricket. I would be lying if I said the environment is there, but it is going to take time."

Andy Flower, captain of Zimbabwe, scored a century to give his side a modest first innings lead, but Monday's debacle will leave the Africans questioning their batting.

"Our batting over the last year or so has not been consistent enough," Flower said.

"Again it showed that is where we are a little weak, I do not think our batting in this match was up to scratch."

West Indies are likely to stick to the max in that it is not broke, do not fix it.

As they capitulated in Trinidad, the wisdom of seven batsmen capable of batting left-handed in the final 11 was questioned.

It is felt that Ricardo Powell should be included in the side to offer some variety to the line-up, but it will be hard to find a place for him after southpaw new boy Chris Gayle and Wavel Hinds shaped up well in Trinidad.

There is not much that Zimbabwe can do to fortify their batting. The frontline batsmen chosen in Trinidad are their best. Captain Flower will be looking for a little more substance and stability if his side is to draw the series.

Another record beckons Aussies

Batsmen need to deliver



WELLINGTON, Mar 23: Michael Slater believes he can end his frustrating run for Australia here

Friday as they chase a record-breaking win against New Zealand, reports AFP.

If Australia win the second Test to clinch the series they also eclipse the national record of eight straight Test wins.

And captain Steve Waugh has called on the batsmen to deliver.

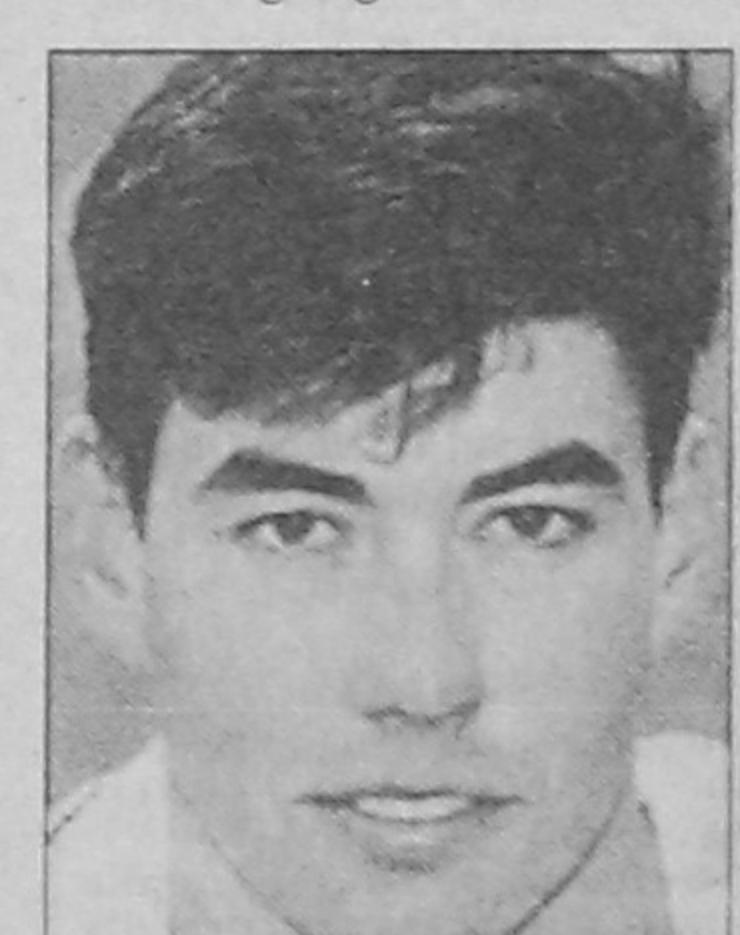
The bowlers dragged Australia to a 62-run win in the first Test in Auckland last week after the batsmen failed to adjust to a turning wicket in their first hit-out since breaking a stack of records during the one-day season.

"I don't think we played Test match cricket in the last two innings at Eden Park and we've talked about being more responsible and protecting our wicket a bit more," Waugh said.

The Basin Reserve wicket

will be more suitable for the batsman, even though it almost glowed yellow Thursday when ground staff peeled off the covers for the first time in 36 hours.

It is expected to flatten out after the first morning, which



STEVE WAUGH

could test Slater's promise that his scoring drought is about to end.

The explosive opener failed to reach double figures in his last four Test innings after surging through one of his best years.

"It's got to be put into perspective. The game goes in cycles and at the moment I've had a few Tests without big performances but it will happen soon," Slater said.

"My feet are moving well and I'm seeing the ball early. Because of that it's only a matter of time and it's all about feeling good about yourself."

"It's not like I'm feeling that I'm struggling. The runs aren't there to show but they will be shortly given that I keep working hard."

"I've got a good mental approach and with those ingredients it will lead to success."

Slater and his opening partner Greg Blewett need a solid stand to stave off the challenge of reserve opener Matthew Hayden, who watched from the stands last week as the partnership failed to pass 10 for the eighth consecutive Test innings.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming admitted the Australian openers had been vulnerable but he did not fall into the trap of saying it would be a weak link in this Test.

Fleming indicated that left-arm swing bowler Shayne O'Connor would play at the expense of off-spinner Paul Wiseman but the Australians were likely to stick with the same team.

Independence Day hockey

Bangladesh Hockey Federation will organise two exhibition matches on Sunday marking the Independence Day, reports UNB.

Former hockey stars will take part in the first match while Bangladesh A will meet national youth team in the other.