

DHAKA, THURSDAY MAY 18, 2000

Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Imran Khan

(Pakistan cricket legend)
"I would never cry. I can understand somebody becoming angry but I cannot understand Kapil's crying."

On Indian great Kapil Dev's behaviour in a recent television interview with BBC.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID Competition-130

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
May 26, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1	Who replaced David Lloyd as England cricket coach?	Fletcher	Woolmer	Richardson
2	Which country will host the Euro 2004 Championship?	Portugal	Germany	Spain
3	Which Kiwi batsman hit 214 on his Test debut against West Indies?	Sinclair	Fleming	Croce
4	Which country won the four-nation football tourney in Maldives?	Si Lanka	Bangladesh	India
5	Who won the national chess title this year?	Reefat	Zia	Tipu

Name -

Class Roll No.

School Address -

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POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

BKSP, IU Boys in group final

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

MYMENSINGH, May 17: BKSP and Islami University Boys High of Tangail qualified for the Group 'D' final in the ANZ Grindlays Bank National schools cricket tournament here today, reports BSS.

BKSP beat Prince Aga Khan High of Khulna by two wickets at the Circuit House ground.

Aga Khan were all out for 94 in 27 overs with Raju making 27 and Sajib 18.

Mithun and Shafiq took four and three wickets respectively for 18 and 17 runs.

BKSP in reply, made 95 for eight in 31 overs with Iftekhar scoring an unbeaten 34 and Sabir 20.

Raju got three for 16.

In the other match of the day at the Mymensingh Stadium, Islami University Boys High defeated Latif Municipal Missionary School of Patuakhali by five wickets.

Municipal, batting first, were all out for 95 in 26.1 overs with Selim scoring 30. Sanjor and Shaon took three wickets each for 10 and 18 respectively.

The Islami University Boys scored 98 for five in 22.3 overs with Sanjor scoring an unbeaten 24, Razzak 21 and Rashed 15.

Selim took three wickets for 32.

The group final will be held on May 19.

Sirajganj cricket

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, May 17: Rahmatganj Young Association beat Sirajganj Smriti Sangha by eight wickets at the Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium today.

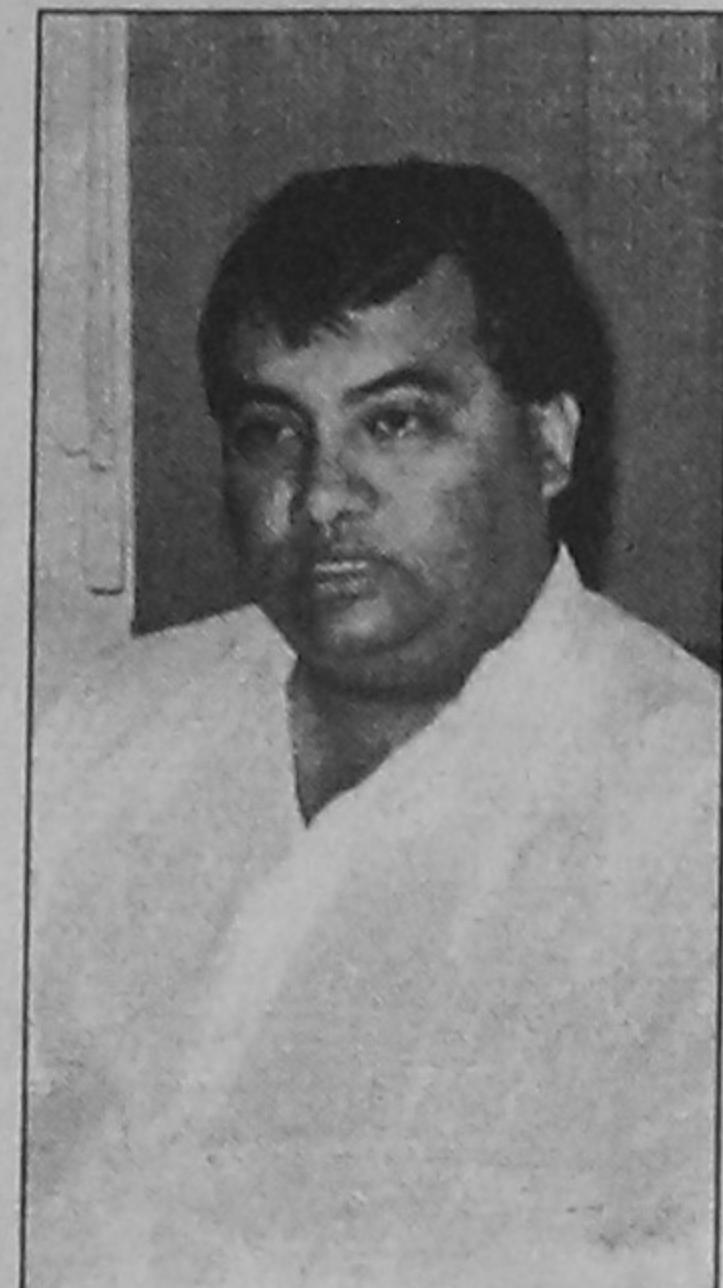
Winning the toss Sirajganj bat first and collected 106 runs losing all the wickets in 40 overs.

In reply Rahmatganj scored 109 runs for 2 wickets in 24 overs.

Bangladesh get Aussie nod

Saber salutes men down under

Sports Reporter


Bangladesh's bid to become the tenth Test playing nation got a real shot in the arm when the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) threw its weight behind the aspiring nation yesterday.

ACB, the most influential and efficient organisation among the nine full members of the International Cricket Council, has made the sensational announcement in a joint declaration with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) at 3pm.

"Bangladesh has earned the right to become the tenth Test Match playing nation and the Australian Cricket Board will be pleased to support its application for Full Membership of the ICC and to assist in future development of the game in Bangladesh," said the ABC chairman Denis Rogers.

With this unequivocal support of the world's top cricket playing country, Bangladesh's bid gathered a decisive momentum ahead of the ICC meeting at Lord's in June where they need to win the vote of confidence of at least seven out of the nine permanent members to earn the Test tag. ICC however rewarded Bangladesh with the one-day status along with Kenya.

Applied for Test status in 1998, Bangladesh bagged five votes in the ICC meeting at cricket's headquarter in London last year. Interestingly though, Australia were one of the four aristocrats of cricket who considered it was too early for Bangladesh to earn a promotion to the Ivy League of Test cricket.

But the change of hearts of a highly conservative Australia was the result of a relentless effort made by the BCB president, Saber Hossain Chowdhury. The dynamic BCB boss had recently visited Australia as part of Bangladesh's campaign for Test status.

"These major decisions follow a presentation by BCB president, Saber H. Chowdhury MP, to the ACB Board of Directors

different media, Saber took the rightful opportunity to thank the people down under in a fitting way.

Clad in his trademark white pajama-pajabi, an extremely elated Saber said the Australian gesture for the cause of our cricket "will remain as part of the proud history of Bangladesh".

"This is as great an achievement as that of the victory in the ICC Trophy", said Saber to the journalist while disclosing the joint declaration at the BCB office yesterday. "This is the most crucial hurdle we have crossed in our pursuit of gaining the Test status", he added.

A man with vision Saber however said that "this is not the final hurdle" and it would not be wise to take the Test status for granted before the ICC meeting.

"We are hopeful that South Africa will support our plea", said Saber adding, he is working out a way to involve South Africa with our youth development plan.

South Africa, who will take its decision at the Board meeting Wednesday, is likely to give a nod to Bangladesh's case. "I hope they will also support us," said Saber, who visited South Africa last month along with Obaidul Quader, the State Minister for Youth and Sports.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board is to be congratulated for the cricket infrastructure now in place in Bangladesh, for further steps and measures currently being taken in developing this further and also for the capacity of the ICC Development Committee.

"I also have had cordial discussions with the ECB (England and Welsh Cricket Board) chief executive Tim Lamb and John Endersson of New Zealand", said Saber.

Both England and New Zealand voted against Bangladesh in 1999 ICC meeting at Lord's.

Zimbabwe was the last nation to gain full member status of the ICC.

Unflinched about changes

Sports Reporter

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"We have got a lot of applications", said Saber. It was

BCB boss positive about Barlow

Sports Reporter

Eddie Barlow's involvement in Bangladesh cricket is far from being over believes BCB supremo Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Saber gave this opinion yesterday at a press conference on his return from an official trip to Australia and New Zealand.

While Saber wanted an immediate appointment of a CEO, the first step to give a professional look in the board-his confused members, desired to go for a council first before making any changes in the present set up.

But an adamant Saber, who was critical about the 'unbecoming behavior of first accepting the concept and then opposing it', said that a CEO

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Lord's jinx inspires Zim

LONDON, May 17 (AFP): England will look to end an appalling run at Lord's when they face Zimbabwe in the first Test which starts here on Thursday.

England have won just one Test at the 'home of cricket' in the last 10 years, against West Indies in 1995. They have lost six of the other nine games and drawn three.

Zimbabwe, playing their first Test match in England, will hope that the thrill of playing at cricket's most famous

Players such as fast bowler Heath Streak and middle-order batsman Guy Whittall are just two tourists who have relatives living and working on white-owned farms, the very properties that have come under severest attack in the latest episodes of political violence.

Andy Flower, the Zimbabwe captain, admitted "there are other (non-cricketing) matters that are on people's minds."

As well as these problems, the tourists have been unhappy with their low pay levels brought about by the weak Zimbabwe dollar.

On the field poor weather and lacklustre performances have not helped build morale. Opening batsmen Grant Flower and Trevor Gripper have both been struggling for form.

But it would be unwise to under-estimate Zimbabwe, who will face England in a second

final Test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, in a fortnight before participating in a triangular one-day series with England and the West Indies.

They have a useful habit of becoming more than their parts in really important matches. In Streak, the only Zimbabwean to have taken over 100 Test wickets, they have a genuine threatening bowler.

Flower said after his players had practised on Tuesday at Shenley Cricket Centre, a few miles north of London: "Heath

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Services golf held

Sabre Hossain Chowdhury and Mrs Ayesha Farid became champions in the men's and women's sections respectively in the first Services golf tournament held at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Former national

21st Sher-e-Bangla nat'l football championship

Chuadanga owe Joardar one

Sports Reporter



PEPSI

ASIA CUP

CALCUTTA, May 17: The captain of the Indian cricket team, Saurav Ganguly has said that in spite of all the controversies surrounding cricket, the Indian team has the capacity to do well at the Asia Cup Tournament in Dhaka later this month.

In an interview over the phone from Durban to the daily Ananda Bazaar Patrika, Ganguly has said, "Is our team bad? I do not think so. We have all played at Dhaka before and we are acclimated with the conditions there. I do not want to comment on what is happening outside the cricket field. But we will go to Dhaka with the intention of winning the tournament."

The Indian team takes on Bangladesh on May 30 in the four-nation tournament.

Ganguly has also stated that he is a bit agitated at the way things are being placed in his mouth. "I am far away from India. So how can I comment on what is happening there. I have not passed any remark that the team will be under pressure because of allegations against our coach.

"I will call him up and clear up the entire matter. Otherwise, as the coach of the team he may make a different meaning out of this statement. I will reach Pune on May 21. Before that I will clear up the entire issue with him. I do not want him to misunderstand me."

Ganguly was referring to his interview to a cricket web site earlier this week after hisnings of 73 against Durham, where he had stated that every member of the Indian team and the coach felt the pressure of these allegations. He had said: "I know every member of the national side is thinking on the same lines. And to assist us, let there be a full stop to these immature comments and baseless allegations. These not only affect the alleged cricketer, but also the national team. It's bad for the credibility of the game too."

However, Ali Bacher, the Managing Director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), has already recommended strongly Bangladesh's Test application in his capacity as the Chairman of the ICC Development Committee.

"I also have had cordial discussions with the ECB (England and Welsh Cricket Board) chief executive Tim Lamb and John Endersson of New Zealand", said Saber.

Both England and New Zealand voted against Bangladesh in 1999 ICC meeting at Lord's.

Zimbabwe was the last nation to gain full member status of the ICC.

Kakan and Pintu struck for Comilla in the 30th and 67th minutes.

A total of five districts, also featuring Habiganj, Sunamganj and hosts Moulavi Bazar, are participating in the zonal qualifiers in a single league.

Habiganj will play against Sunamganj today.

Two Noakhali zone matches in Majidpur also ended without any result.

Eight teams have been divided in two group for the Noakhali zone. Feni, Chandpur, Laxmichar and Khagrachari, selected in group A, are the other four districts.

Feni will take on Laxmipur in today's first encounter while Chandpur and Khagrachari are scheduled to lock horns later.

Rai washed out the Pirojpur-Jhalakathi game in the Barruna zone. The match has been rescheduled for today.

Meanwhile, the Dinajpur zonal round begins today at the Dinajpur Stadium. A total of eight teams will feature in this zone in two groups.

Lalmirhat, Panchagarh, Joypurhat and hosts Dinajpur have been pencil in Group A while the other group consists of Rangpur, Kurigram, Pabna and Thakurgaon.

Dinajpur will meet Lalmirhat in today's first match while Panchagarh will face Joypurhat in the next.

Nat'l tennis 2nd leg begins

The second leg of the national tennis circuit, organised by Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF), began at the National Tennis Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

BTF president Syed Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury inaugurated the meet.

135 players including under-13 boys and girls from Dhaka, Rajshahi, Natore, Bogra, Bhola, Rajbari, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Meherpur and the BKSP will play the zonal final on May 25.

Chuadanga will take on Narail on May 20 before meeting Meherpur on May 22 in their last group match. The other group comprises Khulna, Magura and Sathkhira.

Narail will face Meherpur in today's match.

In Moulavi Bazar, the match between Sylhet and Comilla ended in a 2-2 draw.

Nasir and Liakat scored a goal a piece for Sylhet in the 20th and 71st minutes while