

Star Sport

DHAKA, TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-131

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

Competition closes at 8 pm June 30, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?
Hingis | Pierce | Williams

2 Who won the European Champions League?
M United | Real Madrid | Lazio

3 Who won the UEFA Cup?
Valencia | Galatasaray | Fiorentina

4 Who lifted national schools cricket title?
St Joseph | M Singh Zila | Crg Khastagur

5 Who is the coach of Bangladesh football team?
Harrison | Van Gaal | Shakir

Name



The otherwise mundane face of Dhaka turned into an absolute bliss for a change.

The whole city erupted into raptures immediately after being informed that International Cricket Council (ICC) had unanimously accepted Bangladesh as its tenth Test playing member.

The grand party began once BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury telephoned State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader from London to break the news at 3 p.m. A multitude of cricket devotees along with Quader were waiting at the BCB office from the morning to receive the great news. They were later joined by people from all walks of life, including past and present players.

"It's an unforgettable moment for me personally," said Quader while talking to The Daily Star.

"A new challenge lies ahead of us and we have to take it up."

Former national captain Akram Khan, who led Bangladesh to glory in Kuala Lumpur in 1997, considered himself a lucky man.

"I was there when we won the ICC Trophy. I was there when we got ODI status. When we played in the World Cup I was again there and now I want to be present when we play our first Test match."

"It's a great feeling which I can't exactly put it into words," said the Chittagongian.

"We should not get carried away by the euphoria. Instead we should be serious about cricket from now on."

Faruque Ahmed, who led Bangladesh to an ill-fated ICC campaign in Kenya in 1994, paid tribute to everybody involved in the game.

Sports Reporter

"Credit goes to everybody starting from groundsmen, players, umpires, media and organisers for making this day possible," said Faruque.

Former national captain Roquibul Hassan also looked very happy.

"You see I was selected to play in a Test match for Pakistan. But unfortunately I was made 12th man of the team that would play against New Zealand in Dhaka in 1970.

"But I'm happy that my country will play Test matches from now," said Roquibul.

Present national captain Aminul Islam, who is now playing club cricket in London, told EKushey Television by phone that it was the most exciting moment of his life.

Former national captain Minhazul Abedin wants to see systematic changes after Bangladesh start playing Test cricket.

"You must respect the players and give them their due share in terms of money," said the temperamental all-rounder who is considered one of the finest cricketers the country has ever produced.

"There should be more coaching programmes for the youngsters. These should be supervised by the BCB."

"We must think ten years ahead to get results in Test cricket. And that is not going to be an easy," Minhaz said who retired from the international scene after 1999 World Cup."

Asked whether not being allowed to play for his country again was disappointing, Minhaz was still confident of making the Test team.

"Anything is possible," smiled Minhaz before joining from Sylhet on July 1. The celebration in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong will be held on July 3, 5 and 7.

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