

Inaugural Test Special

History....give us a break!

Hasan Masood

Everybody wants to be part of history and the free offer to be a part of history is on immediately after the inaugural Test match begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this morning.

The gold coin, which will be used for the toss between Naimur Rahman and Saurav Ganguly, will be a part of Bangladesh cricket history and will be preserved in a museum.

Match commissioner Raman Subba Rao and two umpires Steve Bucknor and David Shepherd will also enter into the history book for being the first match officials at Bangladesh's Test debut.

The history list will include the bowler bowling the first delivery, the batsman having the first strike, the first batsman get out, the first batsman to score a fifty or a hundred, the first batsman to be caught behind, the first fielder dropping a catch, the first batsman to be bowled, the first batsman to be declared out by the third umpire...etc. etc. and God knows what not.



NICE MEETING YOU AFTER SO LONG: Bangladesh batsman Mehrab Hossain shakes hands with former national coach and West Indies great Gordon Greenidge at the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Inter-varsity cricket

SAVAR, Nov 9: Jahangirnagar University defeated Khulna University by eight wickets in the inaugural match of the Inter-University Cricket championship at the JU central playground today, reports UNB.

Batting first, Khulna University were bundled out for 103 in 40.2 overs. Shuvo of Jahangirnagar claimed four for 22 and Sabir three for nine. In reply, the hosts coasted to 107 within 17.2 overs losing only two wickets. Tuhin was unbeaten on 54 and Sabir 32 respectively.

Champions League

Barca, Juve no more

PARIS, Nov 9: Huge controversy erupted as the first phase of Champions League matches were completed Wednesday night, with Leeds reaching the second phase at the expense of Barcelona, while Italian giants Juventus bowed out after bowing to Greek side Panathinaikos, reports AFP.

Leeds managed a valiant 1-1 draw at AC Milan to reach the second phase as Group H rivals Barcelona crashed out, despite whipping Turkey's Besiktas 5-0. Allegations were rife in the Spanish media before the final round of matches that Barca had offered Milan's players some 90,000 dollars a head to beat Leeds even though the Italian side were already through.

Manchester United, the 1999 champions, advanced with a nervous 1-0 home success over Dynamo Kiev in Group G - but Belgium's Anderlecht won the group after a 3-2 win at PSV Eindhoven.

Anderlecht totalled 12 points to United's 10 and the English Premiership champions were saved when Kiev missed a golden chance right near the end.

Along with Barcelona the other big casualty were Juventus, who ended up in more hot water as they finished with nine men for the second straight game in slumping 3-1 at Greek outfit Panathinaikos.

Juve, who had keeper Edwin van der Sar red-carded and Yugoslav forward Darko Kovacevic sent off, came in bottom of the pack to miss out on a UEFA Cup spot as Panathinaikos joined Spain's Deportivo La Coruna in the next phase.

They led the way

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and ICC Trophy in 1982, also in England. The team made it to the semifinals but was beaten by eventual winners Zimbabwe. Dashing all-rounder Yousuf Babu became the first Bangladesh to score a century against a foreign team - 115 against Papua New Guinea in third place deciding match.

Captain's crack: We were a talented bunch of cricketers. Unfortunately, I think we weren't properly utilised mainly because of poor facilities. The wicket often kept low and we could hardly play our shots. It was also a time when playing was purely because of having a passion for the game.

Gazi Ashraf Hossain (1986-90): This was the period when Bangladesh got their break in big time cricket. The dashing middle order batsman started his career as captain against Sri Lanka, skippered by Ranjan Madugalle, who came to Dhaka to play a three-day match in March.

After entertaining Omar Qureshi Eleven of Pakistan at home, Ashraf led Bangladesh in their first one-day match at 1986 Second Asia Cup in Colombo. In the same year, Ashraf led Bangladesh to the third ICC Trophy in Ireland before the Pakistan team's tour of Bangladesh in 1985. The Third Asia Cup 1988 in Dhaka, the first major international tournament here, was also held during his tenure. The 1990 Australasia Cup in Sharjah was another major break for Bangladesh. They had the opportunity of playing Aus-

Men draw, ladies lose

Bangladesh's men's team drew with Syria in the eleventh round of 34 World Chess Olympiad in Istanbul on Wednesday, reports UNB.

International Master Ziaur Rahman beat Al Khateeb Kamal and FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib beat Izate Al-Baba. Despite a winning position, another IM Reefat Bin Sattar lost to IM Imad Hakki and Syed Ruhul Kabir lost to Samir Mohammud.

Bangladesh ladies lost to Turkmenistan 2-1 points.

MATCH TIMINGS	
9:30 to 11:30	First Session
11:30 to 12:10	Lunch
12:10 to 2:10	Second session
2:10 to 2:30	Tea
2:30 to 4:30	Final session



Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly is surrounded by reporters during a briefing after his team's practice at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

BD to tour NZ, Zimbabwe next year

Bangladesh will tour Zimbabwe and New Zealand next year as part of its plan to upgrade its performance as a Test playing nation, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief said yesterday, reports AFP.

"We will tour Zimbabwe in April and New Zealand in December next year to improve our team's performance and also as preparation for the World Cup in 2003," Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, president of the BCB, told.

He said the Board was also thinking of touring South Africa next year and the following, and Pakistan as well.

Man behind

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desh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) in 1987. Inman was assistant to former national coaches Mohiuddin Anamath and Gordon Greenidge but surprisingly was never given the full responsibility before despite tremendous success at the domestic level with Abahani Krira Chakra which he took over during the 1996-97 season. Under his guidance, Abahani have won the League title thrice in the last four years.

A much feared fast bowler during his playing days, the robust six-foot-three man from Feui has an astonishing record of capturing eight wickets in a match three times - twice in the First Division and once in the Second Division - in the local league. His most memorable bowling performance came in the First Division League of 1984-85 when playing for Gulthunder-stroke Udit Club with figures of eight for 10. Udit were shot out for 22 while chasing 246.

One of the positive aspects of Inman's appointment is that he enjoys a healthy relationship with his players who feel at ease with him. "He brings out the best in us," said former national captain Akram Khan.

Inman's first assignment was the Asia Cup which was held in Dhaka in May. He was also in charge of the national team in Kenya for the ICC Knockout tournament and ensuing tour to South Africa.

Test baptism

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that Fazal's leg-cutters could be unplayable for the Indians.

Hundreds of workers were putting the finishing touches to the newly constructed concrete stands. Shanlams went up on the western side of the ground, a scoreboard erected on the northern side and the matting wicket laid at its proper place. The show was about to begin.

New Year's eve 1954

Back at my hometown Pabna, my friends and I were passing restless days and nights. The excitement that built up inside all of us at the prospect of watching a Test match and that too between India and Pakistan was beyond description. We spent more time playing cricket than before and eagerly counted days to start our journey to Dhaka.

I started with my family for Sirajganj to attend my youngest aunt's wedding fixed for 31st December '54. I knew I would have to skip the ceremony if I wanted to see the Test. My maternal grandfather was seriously ill.

On the night of December 29, I started out and reached Dhaka the next day in the morning. I procured a season ticket (all for 4 days) offered for students at concessional rates from Salimullah Muslim Hall. Would you believe it cost me only 1 rupee 8 annas 96 old paisa 150 new paisa? Thanks to Ansar Bhal (Prof Ansar Ali) who was then a great athlete and a resident student of SM Hall. My grandpa was dead by the time I went back home.

1 January 1955

The students were packed like sardines on the eastern stands. The green paint on the wooden galleries was still wet and many of us bore green patches on our trousers at the end of the first day's play. As usual this was the most boisterous stand in the brand new stadium. For 4 days most of us ate and drank cricket. The result was a dismal draw -- the start of a series of drawn Tests between these two countries till 1978.

The year 1955 was great for sports in Dhaka. The quadrangular football tournament among India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) was held in November at the Dhaka Stadium but by then the wooden galleries on the eastern side were replaced by concrete stands and the first tier of permanent structure of the stadium had been built.

A portion of the southern side and the whole of western gallery second tier was built around 1964-65 under the watchful supervision of Eng. Moinul Islam (Khasru Bhal) -- a lost name in the field of sports -- and later by Eng. Azharuddin under whose presidency Victoria Sporting Club produced the most glamorous football team in 1962. The east and north-eastern portion was completed in 1978 just before the Asian Youth Soccer qualifying rounds by NSCB.

The Dhaka Stadium would not have been built in 1954 had not the Test match been played. For all practical purposes this was primarily a cricket stadium and I strongly feel it should remain so.

Trip down 'Debut Lane'

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winter picked up the first five-wicket haul, and Blackham took the first stumping. Also South-erton is still the oldest Test debutant at 49 years 119 days.

BRIEF SCORES

Australia v England
Venue: Melbourne Cricket Ground

Toss: Australia
Day 1: Australia 166/6 (Bannerman 126*, Blackham 3*)
Day 2: Australia 245, England 109/4 (Jupp 54*)
Day 3: England 196, Australia 83/9 (Kendall 5*, Hodges 3*)
Day 4: Australia 104, England 108
Result: Australia won by 45 runs.

Twelve years passed before South Africa got to play their first official Test match at Johannesburg's Old Wanderers ground.

England opener Warner became the first player in Test history to carry his bat throughout an innings on debut, incidentally, the home team's second innings total of 99 all out chasing 132 for victory is the lowest second innings total among the debutants.

BRIEF SCORES

South Africa v England
Venue: Old Wanderers, Johannesburg

Toss: England
Day 1: England 145, South Africa 86/3 (Sinclair 38*, Bisset 21*)
Day 2: South Africa 251, England 171/7 (Warner 97*)
Day 3: England 237, South Africa 99
Result: England won by 32 runs

The West Indies made their first appearance at the home of cricket Lord's and although the game did not amount to much except an obvious English victory, the match in the summer of 1928, saw the emergence of Douglas Jardine, who would one day become England's most successful captain and architect of the infamous 'body-line' series a few years later.

And, on the West Indies side, a 27-year-old sprightly right-arm fast bowler and Wisden cricketer of the year in 1940 named Learie Constantine later (Baron Constantine) was discovered. He was knighted in 1962 and made a life peer seven years later.

BRIEF SCORES

West Indies v England
Venue: Lord's

Toss: England
Day 1: England 382/8 (Smith 7*, Larwood 2*)
Day 2: England 401, West Indies 177 and 53/6 (Roach 3*, Small 8*)
Day 3: West Indies: 166 (following on)
Result: England won by an innings and 58 runs.

A year later New Zealand were admitted into the fraternity and they hosted England in a four-match Test series. The first Test ended up being a low-scoring affair. The home side was no match for the visitors and they fell inside four days. New English bowlers Nicolas and Allom wreaked havoc in the Kiwis' first innings sharing nine wickets.

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand v England
Venue: Lancaster Park, Christchurch

Toss: New Zealand
Day 1: New Zealand 112, England 147/4
Day 2: No play
Day 3: England 181, New Zealand 131 and
England 66-2 (target 63 runs)
Result: England won by eight wickets.

India began their journey into the longer-version with a three-day defeat at Lord's in June of 1932. Indian opening bowler Mahomed Nissar captured five wickets in the first innings.

England skipper Jardine completed two half-centuries in the match. His Indian opposite number CK Nayudu and brilliant all-rounder claimed two wickets and also top-scored in the first innings with 40. A year later he was named one of Wisden's five best cricketers.

BRIEF SCORES

India v England
Venue: Lord's

Toss: England
Day 1: England 259 (Jardine 79), India 30/0 (Navie 11*, Naomol Jeomall 11*)
Day 2: India 189, England 141/4 (Jardine 25*, Paynter 50*)
Day 3: England 275-8 decl (Jardine 85*), India 187 (target 346 runs)
Result: England won by 158 runs.

Pakistan's entry to Test cricket took place in Delhi in October 1952. The match was won by India by an innings. Despite the outstanding performance of India's MH Mankad who took 13 wickets, the historic encounter was to act as a prelude to the fierce rivalry that would ultimately shape future series between the two neighbours. Legendary Pakistani batsman Hanif Mohammad scored a fifty.

BRIEF SCORES

Pakistan v India
Venue: Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi

Toss: India
Day 1: India 217/7 (Adhikari 12*, Ramchand 9*)
Day 2: India 372, Pakistan 90/3 (Hanif Mohammad 42*, Maqsood Ahmed 11*)
Day 3: Pakistan 150 (H Mohammad 51; Mankad 8-52)
Day 4: Pakistan 152 (Mankad 5-79; Ghulam Ahmed 4-35)
Result: India won by an innings and 70 runs.

It would be another thirty years before the International Cricket Council increased the membership to its echelon by awarding the island nation of Sri Lanka. This was on the back of a stunning victory over India during the 1979 World Cup in England. Four years earlier at the inaugural edition the Lankan batsmen withstood the fire of Thompson and Lillee to make 276 for four while chasing Australia's 326 for five in the stipulated 60 overs.

Had Sri Lanka not collapsed due mainly to John Emburey's off-spin on the penultimate day after finishing the third day's play on 152-3, they could have recorded a memorable result on their debut. Instead they lost by seven wickets. Emburey became the first man-of-the-match.

BRIEF SCORES

Sri Lanka v England
Venue: P.Saravanamuttu Stadium, Colombo

Toss: Sri Lanka
Man-of-the match: J Emburey.
Day 1: Sri Lanka 183/8 (Madugalle 64*)
Day 2: Sri Lanka 218 (Underwood 5-28), England 186/5 (Gower 79*, Taylor 8*)
Day 3: England 223 (ALF de Mel 4-70; Gower 89), Sri Lanka 152/3 (Mendis 16*, Madugalle 0*)
Day 4: Sri Lanka 175 (R Dias 77; Emburey 6-33) England 171-3 (Tavare 85, Gower 42*)
Result: England won by 7 wickets

Zimbabwe also staked a claim for Test status on the basis of their past World Cup results. After adding England to the growing list of scalps at the 1992 World Cup, the Africans were bestowed the highest honour in cricket.

So in October that same year India agreed to play a one-off Test in Harare. Although hosts ensured the match petered out into a draw, it will be remembered for two contrasting centuries. Sanjay Manjrekar's fourth slowest unbeaten century, and slowest by an Indian 100* came in 519 min. 422 balls. On the other hand David Houghton's maiden 121 qualified him for a place in an elite group. Zimbabwe's first innings total of 456 is the highest among the debutant teams.

BRIEF SCORES

Zimbabwe v India
Venue: Harare Sports Club

Toss: Zimbabwe
Day 1: Zimbabwe 188/3 (Py-croft 6*, Burmester 2*)
Day 2: Zimbabwe 406/5 (Houghton 110*, A Flower 55*)
Day 3: Zimbabwe 456, India 93/4 (Manjrekar 27*, Raju 0*)
Day 4: India 278/7 (Manjrekar 104, More 23*)
Result: Match drawn

If Bangladesh's cricketers can produce even a small fraction of what their predecessors accomplished, that bodes well for them in the future.



THE DECISION MAKERS: Officials for the Dutch Bangle Bank Inaugural Test (sitting R-L) match referee Raman Subba Row and umpires Steve Bucknor and David Shepherd. Bangladesh's Mahbubur Rahman (standing L) will perform the duties of the third umpire while his fellow countryman SB Chowdhury Shishir will be kept as reserve. —Star photo

Beginning from the ninth

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two century-makers of drawn match.

England's controversial batsman Basil D'Oliveira scored the sixth hundred here in February 1969 while the last two centuries were scored by former New Zealand captain Glen Turner (110) and MG Burgess (119) against Pakistan in November 1969.

Ijaz Ahmed (211) and Inzamamul Haq (200 not out) of Pakistan gave the inaugural Asian Championship a fitting start smashing double ton each in an innings.

The only twelve-wicket haul in a match here belongs to Fazal Mahmood while his compatriot Khan Mohammad has the best bowling figure (6/21) against New Zealand in 1955.

Pakistan's phenomenal left-arm fast-bowler Wasim Akram became the first man to clinch a hat-trick on this ground when he repeated the feat against Sri Lanka in the Asian Test Championship final.

EIGHT TESTS IN BRIEF

First match
Pakistan v India
January 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1955

Pakistan: 257 (Waqar Hasan 52, Intiaz 54, Ghulam Ahmed 5/109) and 158 (Alimuddin 51, Waqar 51, SP Gupte 5/18)
India: 148 (Ramchand 37, P Unrigar 32, PH Punjabi 26, Mohmood Hossain 6/67, Khan Mohammad 4/42) and 147 for 2 (P Roy 67*, V Manjrekar 74*,

Khan Mohammad 2/18)
Result: Match drawn.

Second match
Pakistan v New Zealand
November 7 (no play), 8 (no play), 9 (no play), 11 and 12, 1955

New Zealand: 70 (McGibben 29, Khan Mohammad 6/29, Fazal 3/34) and 69 for 6 (Khan Mohammad 2/20, Kardar 2/21)
Pakistan: 195 for 6 declared (Hanif Mohammad 103, W Mathias 41, Cave 3/45, Reid 2/67)
Result: Match drawn.

Third match
Pakistan v West Indies
March 6, 7 and 8, 1959

Pakistan: 145 (W Mathias 64, Sujauddin 26, W Hall 4/28, Ramdin 3/45) and 144 (W Mathias 45, Saed Ahmed 22, E Atkinson 4/42, W Hall 4/29, Ramdin 2/10)
West Indies: 76 (Sober 29, Fazal Mahmood 6/34, N Gani 3/4) and 172 (Sober 45, C Chami 39, Fazal 6/66, Mahmood Hossain 4/48)
Result: Pakistan won by 45 runs.

Fourth match
Pakistan v Australia
November 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18, 1959

Pakistan: 200 (Hanif Mohammad 66, DA Shearpe 56, AK Davidson 4/42, Benaud 4/69) and 134 (D Sharpe 35, Mackay 6/42, Benaud 4/31)
Australia: 225 (Harvey 96, Davidson 66, Fazal Mahmood 5/71) and 112 for 2.
Result: Australia won by 8 wickets.

Fifth match
Pakistan v England
January 19, 20, 21, 23 and 24, 1962

Pakistan: 393 for 7 declared

(Javed Burki 140, Hanif Mohammad 111, Saed 69, A Lock 4/155) and 216 (Hanif Mohammad 104, Alimuddin 50, A Lock 4/70, D Allen 5/30)
England: 439 (G Pullar 165, Barber 86, Barrington 84, D'Souza 4/94, Sujauddin 3/73) and 38 for no loss.
Result: Match drawn.

Sixth match
Pakistan v England
February 28, March 1, 2 and 3, 1969

Pakistan: 246 (Mushtaq 52, Asif Iqbal 44, J Snow 4/70) and 195 for 6 (Majid 49*, Saed 33, Underwood 5/94)
England: 274 (B D'Oliveira 114*, Graveney 46, Parvez Sajjad 4/75) and 33 for no loss.

Result: Match drawn.

Seventh match
Pakistan v New Zealand
November 8, 9, 10 and 11, 1969

New Zealand: 273 (G Turner 110, Burgess 59, Intikhab 5/91) and 200 (Burgess 119, Dowling 26, Intikhab 5/91)
Pakistan: 290 for 7 declared (Asif Iqbal 92, Shaqafat Rana 65, Howarth 4/85) and 91 for 4.
Result: match drawn.

Eighth match
Pakistan v Sri Lanka
March 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, 1999

Sri Lanka: 231 (Aravinda 72, Atapattu 36, Vaas 20*, Arshad 5/38, Shoaib 2/36, Wasim 2/45) and 188 (Arnold 30, Tilakaratne 55*, Wasim 3/33, Pakistan 5/94)
India: 211, Inzamam 200*, Saed Anwar 57, Chandana 6/179)
Result: Pakistan won by an innings and 175 runs.