History....give us a break!

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 Bangabandhu the Stadium this National morning.

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

David Shepherd will also officials at Bangladesh's Test

knows what not.

Inter-varsity cricket

onship at the JU central playground today, reports UNB.

versity were bundled out for 103 in 40.2 overs. Shuvro of Jahangirnagar claimed four for 22 and Sabbir three for nine. In reply, the hosts coasted

to 107 within 17.2 overs losing only two wickets. Tuhin was unbeaten on 54 and Sabbir 32 respectively.

Barca, Juve no more

PARIS. Nov 9: Huge contro-

Leeds managed a valiant 1-1 draw at AC Milan to reach the second phase as Group H rivals Barcelona crashed out, despite

Italian side were already

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

Premiership champions were saved when Kiev missed a golden chance right near the

outfit Panathinaikos.

Cup spot as Panathinaikos joined Spain's Deportivo La Coruna in the next phase.



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 -Star photo by Anisur Rahman Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

TASTY TEST TREATS

Hasan Masood



Former national coach Mohindar Amarnath and his wife arrived in the city vesterday to join the celebrations of the inaugural

Amarnath was appointed national coach ahead of the the fifth ICC trophy tournament held in Kenya in 1994. The former Indian all-rounder did not return to Bangladesh after his team failed to make it to the semifinals thus missing the chance to play in the 1996 World Cup held in the sub-

continent. Amarnath is the second exnational coach after Gordon Greenidge to have reached Dhaka as invited guests of the Bangladesh Cricket Board

president and the chairman of hand. Asian Cricket Foundation Jagmohan Dalmiya. president Lord Alexander and noted British journalist Robin on the first XI. The Marler also arrived in the management then turned to capital vesterday.

EVES NOT LEFT BEHIND

Cricket lovers will have the opportunity to witness two unique eight-a-side eves cricket games during the lunch break

Four teams, named as Rajani, Golap, Bely and Shapla, will play two matches simultaneously at the eastern and western corner of the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Men draw,

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-Baha. Despite a winning position.

Ruhul Kabir lost to Samir Mohammad. Bangladesh ladies lost to

Apart from the opening day festivities, the Board has alsoorganised other events to entertain the crowd during lunch intervals on the

subsequent days. Eleven paratroopers of Bangladesh Army, carrying the flags of ten Test playing nations and Bangladesh Cricket Board. will land at the big bowl tomorrow while there will be cricket for the blind and disabled on the third day. On the penultimate day.

cricket for cubs has been arranged. TANVIR TURNS

'EM DOWN The Bangladesh team management were in a dilemma

on which five players to leave out from their 16-man squad for today's match and the chief Amarnath apart, former ICC selector won't lend a helping It was learnt that the coach and the captain failed to make

up their mind until afternoon Chief Selector Tanveer Haider before dinner for his suggestion in finalising the first eleven.

11:30 to 12:10 12:10 to 2:10

Lunch Second session Final session



during a briefing after his team's practice at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Zimbabwe

next year

Bangladesh will tour Zimbabwe and New Zealand next year as part of its plan to upgrade its performance as a Test | erton is still the oldest Test playing nation. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief said it yesterday, repoprts 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," Saber 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

From page 20 desh Krira Shikkha Protisthan

(BKSP) in 1987. Imran was assistant to former national coaches Mohindar Amarnath 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 Feni 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 Gulshan Youth, he ran through a thunder-struck Udity Club with figures of eight for 10. Udity were shot out for 22 while chasing 246.

. This is not my job. My

responsibility is to select the

squad and not the eleven for a

particular match," said Tanveer

UMPIRING COURSE

UNDER BUCKNOR

(BCB) vesterday named 22

umpires and scorers to attend

a seminar on international

umpiring, scheduled to be held

at the National Sports Council

conducted by noted West

Indian umpire Steve Bucknor

who will officiate Bangladesh's

inaugural Test against India

along with Englishman David

will submit a report to

International Cricket Council

ICC will determine when to

include Bangladeshi umpires in

COMMENTARY

TEAM IS HERE

commentators -- lan Chappell.

Tony Greg, Ravi Shastri,

Michael Holding and Laxman

Shivaramakrishnan-- arrived in

commentator in their panel.

But it could not be confirmed

The WorldTel is likely to

Bangladeshi

their National Grid panel.

Five WorldTel

one

the city vesterday.

After the seminar, Bucknor

Basing on his report, the

The Seminar will be

from November 15 to 19.

Shepherd.

Bangladesh Cricket Board

before leaving the team hotel.

One of the positive aspects of Imran'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.

Imran'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

From page 20

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. Shamianas went up on the western gallery, the ground was cleared of the huge rubbish, a scoreboard erected on the northern side and the matting wicket laid at its proper place. The show was about to

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 confessional rates from Salimullah Muslim Hall. Would you believe it cost me only I rupee 8 annas (96 old paisa 150 new paisa)? Thanks to Ansar Bhai (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 Lank) 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 Bhai) -- 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 northeastern 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.

BD to tour NZ, Trip down 'Debut Lane'

From Page 17

Ground

Toss:

winter picked up the first fivewicket haul, and Blackham had the first stumping. Also Southdebutant at 49 years 119 days.

BRIEF SCORES Australia v England Melbourne Cricket Venue:

Australia 166/6 (Bannerman 126*, Blackham 3*) Day 2: Australia 245. England 109/4 (Jupp 54*) England 196, Australia 83/9 (Kendall 5*, Hodges 3*) Australia 104. Eng-Day 4: land 108

Australia

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

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 debu-

> BRIEF SCORES South Africa v England

Venue: Old Wanderers, Johannesburg Toss: England Day 1: England 145, South Africa 86/3 (Sinclair 38*, Bisset

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

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 (fol-Result: England won by an innings and 58 runs.

A year later New Zealand were Council increased the memberadmitted into the fraternity and ship to its echelon by awarding they hosted England in a four- the island nation of Sri Lanka. match Test series. The first Test This was on the back of a stunended up being a low-scoring ning victory over India during affair. The home side was no the 1979 World Cup in Engmatch for the visitors and they land. Four years earlier at the fell inside four days. New English bowlers Nicolas and Allom batsmen withstood the fire of wreaked havoc in the Kiwis' Thompson and Lillee to make first innings sharing nine wick-

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 Zea-

land 131 and England 66-2 (target 63 runs) Result: England won by eight wickets.

India began their journey into Venue: P.Saravanamuttu Stathe longer-version with a three- dium. Colombo day defeat at Lord's in June of Toss: Sri Lanka 1932. Indian opening bowler Man-of the match: J Emburey. Mahomed Nissar captured five Day 1: wickets in the first innings. (Madugalle 64*) England skipper Jardine com- Day 2: Sri Lanka 218 (Underpleted two half-centuries in the wood 5-28) .England 186/5 match. His Indian opposite (Gower 79*, Taylor 8*) number CK Nayudu and bril- Day 3: England 223(ALF de liant all-rounder claimed two Mel 4-70: Gower 89). Sri Lanka wickets and also top-scored in 152/3 (Mendis 16*, Madugalle the first innings with 40. A year ()*)

den's five best cricketers. BRIEF SCORES India v England

Venue: Lord's

Toss: England Day 1: England 259 (Jardine 79), India 30/0 (Navle 11*, Naoomal Jeoomal 11*) Day 2: India 189, England

141/4 (Jardine 25*, Paynter Day 3: England 275-8 decl (Jardine 85*). India 187 (target

346 runs) Result: England won by 158

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 croft 6*, Burmester 2*) 12*. Ramchand 9*) Day 2: India 372, Pakistan 90/3 (Hanif Mohammad 42*.

Magsood 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 them in the future.

inaugural edition the Lankan 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-thematch

> BRIEF SCORES Sri Lanka v England

Sri Lanka 183/8

later he was named one of Wis- 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 Zimbabwe Toss: Day 1: Zimbabwe 188/3 (Pv-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 (Manirekar

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

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

From page 20

two century-makers of drawn

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 In- 2/67) zamamul Haq (200 not out) of Result: Match drawn. Pakistan gave the inaugural Third match Asian Championship a fitting Pakistan v West Indies 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 leftarm fast-bowler Wasiin Akram became the first man to clinch a hattrick 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 (Wagar Hasan 52. Imtiaz 54. Ghulam Ahmed 5/109) and 158 (Alimuddin 51, Wagar 51, SP Gupte 5/18) India: 148 (Ramchand 37, P Umrigar 32. PH Punjabi 26. Mohammad 4/42) and 147 for

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 (McGibon 29*, Khan Mohammad 6/29, Fazal 3/34) and 69 for 6 (Khan Mo- and 38 for no loss. hammad 2/20, Kardar 2/21) Pakistan: 195 for 6 declared Sixth match (Hanif Mohammad 103. Mathias 41. Cave 3/45. Reid February 28. March 1.2 and 3.

March 6, 7 and 8, 1959 Pakistan: 145 (W Mathias 64. Sujauddin 26. W Hall 4/28. Ramdhin 3/45) and 144 (W

Mathias 45. Saeed Ahmed 22. E Atkinson 4/42. W Hall 4/29. Ramdhin 2/10) West Indies: 76 (Sober 29, Fazal Mahmood 6/34, N Ghani 3/4) and 172 (Sobers 45, C Smith

39, Fazal 6/66, Mahmood Hossain 4/48) Result: Pakistan won by 45

Fourth match Pakistan v Australia

November 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18, 1959 Pakistan: 200 (Hanif Mohammad 66. DA Sharpe 56. AK

Davidson 4/42, Benaud 4/69)

and 134 (D Sharpe 35, Mackay 6/42. Benaud 4/41) 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 Mohmood Hossain 6/67, Khan January 19, 20, 21, 23 and 24

(Javed Burki 140, Hanif Mohammad 111, Saeed 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) Result: Match drawn.

Pakistan v England

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

Result: Match drawn. Seventh match Pakistan v New Zealand November 8, 9, 10 and 11,

New Zealand: 273 (G Turner 110. Burgees 59. Intikhab 5/91) and 200 (Burgees 119*. Dowling 26. Intikhab 5/91) Pakistan 290 for 7 declared

(Asif Iqbal 92. Shafqat Rana 65,

Result: match drawn. Eighth match Pakistan v Sri Lanka March 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16,

Howarth 4/85) and 91 for 4.

Sri Lanka: 231 (Aravinda 72, Atapattu 36, Vaas 20°, Arshad 5/38. Shoaib 2/36. Wasim 2/45) and 188 (Arnold 30, Tillekeratne 55*. Wasim 3/33, Saglain 3/46) Pakistan 594: (ljaz 211, In-

zamam 200*. Saeed Anwar 57. Chandana 6/179) Result: Pakistan won by an

2 (P Roy 67*, V Manjrekar 74*. Pakistan: 393 for 7 declared innings and 175 runs.

Cup 1988 in Dhaka, the first major international tournament here, was also held during his tenure. The 1990 Australasia Cup in Sharjah was other major break for Bangladesh. They had the opportunity of playing Aus-

desh in 1986. The Third Asia

March.

Hasan Masood

commissioner

Raman Subba Rao and two umpires Steve Bucknor and enter into the history book for being the first match debut.

The history list will include the bowler bowling the first delivery, the batsman having the first strike, the first batsman to get out, the first batsman scoring 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, etc and God

SAVAR. Nov 9: Jahangirnagar University defeated Khulna University by eight wickets in the inaugural match of the Inter-University Cricket champi-

Batting first, Khulna Uni-

Champions League

versy 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.

whipping Turkev'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

3-2 win at PSV Eindhoven. Anderlecht totalled 12 points to United's 10 and the English

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 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

ladies lose Bangladesh's men's team

another IM Reefat Bin Sattar lost to IM Imad Hakki and Sved

MATCH TIMINGS 9: 30 to 11: 30 First Session



Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly is surrounded by reporters

Turkmenistan 2-1 points. They led the way

From Page 17 tralia and New Zealand. The ond ICC Trophy in 1982, also in Fourth ICC Trophy in Holland England. The team made it to 1990 was a fitting farewell for the semifinals but was beaten Ashraf, where Bangladesh finby eventual winners Zimbabwe. ished third. Captain's crack: In 1986 1 Dashing all-rounder Yousuf Babu became the first Bangla- remember being called to the deshi to score a century against Secretariat to form a team for a foreign team - 115 against the ICC Trophy. In a match Papua New Guinea in third against Sri Lanka we were place deciding match.

Unfortunately. I think we changed. It was a two piece ball weren't properly utilised mainly than a standard four-piece ball. Minhazul Abedin (1990because of poor facilities. The 93): Though he was considered wicket often kept low and we as thinking and professional could hardly play our shots. It cricketer. Minhazul had a relawas also a time when playing was purely because of having a tively short spell as captain. He led Bangladesin to the Third passion for the game. Gazi Ashraf Hossain (1986- Asia Cup in India 1990. The 90): This was the period when victory against the second Bangladesh got their break in string side of Sri Lanka in the big time cricket. The dashing first SAARC Tournament was middle order batsman started also a major success for Banghis career as captain against ladesh against any Test nation. Sri Lanka, skippered by Ranjan The high point of Minhaz's ten-Madugale, who came to Dhaka ure was a century partnership

Querishi Eleven of Pakistan at home. Ashraf led Bangladesh in the mental barrier of being limtheir first one-day match at ited to below hundred scores in 1986 Second Asia Cup in Cothe Calcutta Asia Cup. The 170 lombo. In the same year, Ashraf odd runs against Sri Lanka in led Bangladesh to the third ICC that meet also gave us self-belief Trophy in Holland before the that we could now compete on Pakistan team's tour of Banglaequal footing in one-dayers.

Faruque had not lived up to his

reputation. He had an inspiring

start leading Bangladesh tanta-

lisingly close to victory against

Zimbabwe in 1993. But his job

95/5. But then lost our next five Captain's crack: We were a wickets for one run. Later we talented bunch of cricketers. discovered that the ball was

to play a three-day match in (108 runs) between Faruque Ahmed and Athar Ali in the After entertaining Omar Calcutta Asia Cup. Captain's crack: We crossed

Faruque Ahmed (1993-94): Touted as the most imaginative Aminul Islam (1998-2000): captain by many pundits, He celebrated his appointment

ended in disaster at the ICC ing 62-run win against Pakistan trophy Kenya in Kenya in 1994. in the England World Cup also Akram Khan (1994-1998): played a significant role of

The giant Chittagonian with a Bangladesh's elevation into the big heart brought good fortune Ivy League. The Asia Cup in for Bangladesh taking over from June this year was the last time Faruque. He led Bangladesh to Aminul captained the national finish runners-up in the second team. The tour of West Indies. SAARC Tournament in Dhaka. England A in Bangladesh was Though this was to be only the the other notable fixture during beginning of a successful jour- his time. ney that culminated with a magnificent victory in the ICC what fitness was all about from Trophy in Malaysia in 1997. His Australian physio Robert Hunt. unbeaten half-century in a His tireless effort to bring us up most adverse condition against to shape was undoubtedly the Holland was the launching pad key to our World Cup success. for. Bangladesh's elevation from From the moment I walked sidethe title of mediocre to expert. by-side Pakistan captain Wasim His innings as the longest cap- Akram. I was profoundly tain came to an end in 1998 shocked at the way he was Commonwealth Games in Ma- treating the match. While talking

match against Holland, I realised with the clouds looking menacing, I had to delay the last two balls being delivered. Later. match referee John Reid severely reprimanded me but I didn't care because I did it for my country. Another moment that I can recall was Aamir Malik (a former Pakistani player) trying to confuse me after the toss, which I won twice. I told him that we would field first (in a match against national team and Pakistanis Players' Eleven in Dhaka League). But he insisted that they would. So, we had to loss again and I won.

as captain with the ACC Trophy

triumph 1998 in Nepal. It was

also the time when Bangladesh

recorded its first victory against

a Test nation. The epoch mak-

to TV commentator Bob Willis I Captain's crack: In that overheard him saying toss is no factor and playing Bangladesh is a walk in the park. But what had happened afterwards is history.

Captain's crack: We learned

Bangladesh's journey to a new Captain's crack: I'm honoured to lead my country and I'll try my best to perform to the best of ability. And I know this will be the toughest assignment in my career.

South Africa, Naimur is the

most acceptable leader in

Naimur Rahman (2000): The 25-year-old all-rounder is waiting in the wings to go into history today. He will lead Bangladesh in the inaugural Test match against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Having led the national team in the Nairobi ICC Knockout tournament and tour of