

SPORTS TALK



AC Muthiah
(President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India)
"We're hopeful of getting government approval."

On the possibility of Indian team's tour of Pakistan.

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 138
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to Star Daily
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 17 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the Asia Cup soccer title?
Saudi Arabia Japan South Korea
- How many teams took part in the Sharjah cricket series?
4 3 5
- Who lifted the ICC Knockout Trophy?
South Africa New Zealand Australia
- Which club annexed the Paritex tennis title?
Dhaka Club Officers Club Guishan Club
- Who clinched Kremlin Cup men's title?
Safin Agassi Kafelnikov

Name.....
.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
.....
Phone: (If any).....

Dhumketu a win away

Title aspirants Dhumketu Club recorded their eighth consecutive win in the Purabi Insurance First Division Basketball League beating Greg Club 77-54 at the Dhanmondi Basketball gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

They led the first half by 33-23 points.

Pinto caged 20 and Titus 18 for the winners while Faisal made 19 and Kafi 18 for the losers.

Dhumketu Club need a win in their remaining match with Josephites' Club to become the unbeaten champions in the league. Otherwise, they will have to wait for the outcome of the match between Dhaka Mariner Young's Club and Josephites' Club billed for November 20.

Dalmiya for maximum penalty

Jagnohan Dalmiya, former chief of the International Cricket Council (ICC), said here Saturday those involved in match-fixing should be given the maximum punishment, reports AFP.

Those who are involved must be punished, "given maximum punishment," he told WorldTel network broadcast here, referring to such crimes as similar to "selling the country."

India's "Central Bureau of Investigation has done a credible job as far as players are concerned," he said, adding that he differentiated between exchange of information and match-fixing or "underplaying".

Dalmiya, a special guest for Bangladesh's debut Test match against India in Dhaka, is currently chairman of the Asian Cricket Foundation.

He said he was very happy with Bangladesh's performance. "Cricket cannot survive unless it is globalised, developed and spread," he said.

An A-plus Aminul

Al-Amin and Hasan Masood



He drove Joshi down to mid-on for four to move into the nervous 100s. The dapper right hander swept the same bowler for a couple to fine leg to reach 94. In the next over the crowd favourite executed his trademark lofted extra-cover drive to perfection for another boundary and then stole a single only to move to 99.

The crowd was on its feet when the gritty middle-order batsman regained the strike again. The whole stadium exploded into euphoria as he pushed Karthik past the Indian fielder at forward short leg and ran in a way as if he had just conquered the world.

That's how Aminul Islam walked into history as the first Bangladeshi batsman to score a Test century on debut.

The 32-year-old former national captain who has a habit of reserving his best against India and to some extent whenever his position in the team is called into question, basked in the finest moment of his life on the sunny Saturday. But he was modest about his achievement.

"I don't feel anything special about the century because it could have been achieved by anybody. What makes me happy is my return to form," he said.

Regarded as the most technically sound batsman of the country, Aminul however remains an enigma in international cricket. Even his form of late raised several eyebrows, not because he appeared to have lost any of the array of shots, but his nervous approach in any conditions.

He walked into the historic inaugural Test match of Bangladesh against India with a certain degree of uncertainty. But at the end of nine hours of sweat and tears he proved the adage -- form is temporary but class is permanent.



AMINUL ... into the history books

Aminul scored 145, a landmark that will remain a testament to his ability, courage, character and a quest to scale new peaks.

Born in the old part of the city in 1968, Aminul has always been actively involved in sports of every kind. At a tender

age he preferred playing football. From the tiny playground of his local school -- Gandaria High School, to the vast expanse of Dhupkhola field, he was seen kicking the ball for hours. He played in the First Division football for Victoria before switching to cricket for Shantinagar Club in 1983. He made his debut for the national team in the Second Asia Cup in Chittagong in 1988. And since then has never looked behind.

A household name in the domestic cricket, Aminul, affectionately called Bulbul, has represented Mohammedan Sporting Club for a good part of his club career until joining Binman in 1998.

The century not only placed Aminul in history for scoring a ton on his first appearance in Test cricket but also put him in a three-man list for scoring hundred in their country's inaugural Test match.

Australian Charles Bannerman scored 165 in his country's first match against England at Melbourne in 1876-77 while David Houghton is the only other batsman who scored 121 when Zimbabwe played their maiden Test match against India in Harare in 1992-93.

You cannot think of any record when batting because that might break your concentration. What I wanted to do was keep the strike especially when I was running out of partners."

For the record books, it took Aminul 535 minutes and 379 balls to post his highest score, which was laced with 17 hits across the rope, in international cricket. His previous best was 121 against England A in a first-class match at the same venue in 1994-95.

TASTY TEST TREATS

Sports Reporter

Opener Shahriar Hossain, by chance, became the first wicket-keeper of Bangladesh to have stumped in Test cricket without any notable effort.

Standing in for injured regular wicketkeeper Khaled Masood, the dashing right-hander accomplished the feat before tea.

India wicket-keeper batsman Saba Karim missed a Naimur Rahman delivery while trying to drive. The makeshift govtman failed to read the flight of the bound-bounced ball that popped up to rattle the stumps hitting his left pad.

The incident was referred to the TV umpire, who spent a good five minutes before ruling Karim out.

It was also the first verdict given by the third umpire in the inaugural Test of Bangladesh.

NAIMUR'S MARK
Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman entered into the history book of Test cricket when he captured five wickets against India yesterday.

With his magnificent achievement with the off spinners, Naimur became the seventh bowler in the history of Test cricket to have captured five or more wickets in an innings in their country's first ever Test match.

Zimbabwe's John Traicos was the last man in the 123-year old history of five-day matches to bag five wickets in an innings during his country's first Test against India at Harare in 1992-93 season.

Following are the seven bowlers who have taken five or more wickets in their country's first Test match.

Bowler	F	C
TK Kendal	7/55	Aus
WE Midwinter	5/78	Aus
A Shaw	5/38	Eng
Rose-Innes	5/43	SA
Ghulam Ahmed	5/100	Ind
John Traicos	5/86	Zim
Naimur Rahman	5/110*	BD

WORLDTEL SLIPS

WorldTel Commentators were having a hard time pronouncing Ranjan Das and Rajin Saleh accurately.

Ranjan Das was the short of left-arm pacer Bikash Ranjan Das while Rajin Saleh was fielding as 12th man yesterday.

Quite often the commentators called Ranjan Das as Rajan Das and Rajin Saleh as Rajan Saha.

Surprisingly, one host commentator in the expert panel of WorldTel, never felt like pointing out the mistakes.

SHAB-E-BARAT HANGOVER

The turnout of the crowd at the Bangabandhu National

Stadium dropped to nearly half that of the opening day. Although, around 10,000 spectators filled the western gallery, the eastern part of the stadium was almost empty on the third day of the historic Test match.

Many thought that after praying for the whole night on occasion of the Shah-e-Barat on Saturday, the spectators opted to rest at their home yesterday instead of coming to the stadium. According to their prediction, the crowd turnout will increase again from today.

PARTNERSHIPS BREAKING BARRIERS

The 121-run partnership

Following is the list of partnership records for all wickets:

Wicket	Runs	Batsmen	Match	Season
1st	198	Puller (165) & R Barbor (86)	Eng/Pak	1961-62
2nd	147	G Puller (165) & R Barbor (84)	Eng/Pak	1961-62
3rd	366	Ijaz Ahmed (211) & Inzamam (200*)	Pak/SL	1998-99
4th	69	Shafiqat Rana (65) & A Baluch (25)	Pak/NZ	1969-70
5th	79	G Turner (110) & M Burges (59)	NZ/Pak	1969-70
6th	96	H Mohammad (103) & W Mathias (41*)	NZ/Pak	1955-56
7th	121	S Ganguly (84) & S Joshi (71*)	Ind/BD	2000-01
8th	40	B D'Oliveira (114*) & J Snow (9)	Eng/Pak	1968-69
9th	40	H Tillekeratne (55*) & U Chandana (28)	SL/Pak	1998-99
9th	96	M Burges (119*) & B Kewins (23)	NZ/Pak	1969-70
10th	73	H Tillekeratne (55*) & S de Silva (27)	SL/Pak	1998-99



MAN OF THE MOMENT: Bangladesh skipper Naimur Rahman (3*) from R, who so far has claimed five Indian wickets, is the toast of his teammates after taking the wicket of Sachin Tendulkar yesterday.



THE PRIZE WICKET: Bangladesh's substitute fielder Rajin Saleh (L) and make-shift wicketkeeper Shahriar Hossain appeal successfully for a bat-pad catch against India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar yesterday.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Cash Bonanza

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated Naimur Rahman for his outstanding bowling against India in the first innings of the one-off Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister, who is now attending the summit of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Qatar, passed on her message of congratulations through State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader.

Sheikh Hasina also announced a cash prize of Taka three lakh for Naimur, who so far captured five for 110 in the first innings.

Quader, who is also chairman of the National Sports Council, announced a cash prize of Taka two lakh while Bangladesh team manager Aziz Al-Kayser announced Taka one lakh for the Bangladesh captain.

On Saturday, the Prime Minister and the state minister made similar cash award announcement for Aminul Islam, who hit a classic 145 in the first innings against India.

Bangladesh team manager also decided to give Taka one lakh to Aminul and Taka 50,000 to Habibul Bashir from his own.

Bangabandhu Parishad decided to give a gold medal to Aminul.

Khaleda, Azad hail cricketers

Leader of the Opposition and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated the national cricket team for scoring 400 runs in the first innings of the inaugural Test match against India, report agencies.

In a message Saturday, Begum Zia especially congratulated former national captain Aminul Islam for his excellent 145 and Habibul Bashir for scoring an entertaining 71.

"This kind of performance in the inaugural Test match indicates a bright future for local cricket," she said and hoped that Bangladesh would secure a respectable place in world cricket.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad also congratulated the Bangladesh cricket team for the wonderful performance they had shown in their maiden Test.

He also felicitated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader and Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Saber Hussain Chowdhury for providing all organisational support and their inspiration to the team.

The Foreign Minister, now attending the OIC summit in Qatar, also congratulated Aminul Islam for scoring a century.

Refreshing all the way

Rabeed Imam

It's all too good to be true. Watching the Bangladesh cricketers play on the 'same' level against a much

much seasoned, experienced and superior opponents is a matter of immense satisfaction and pride.

They say that half the cricket is played by an individual's mind. Looking at the host nation's performance over the last three days, that opinion only gets strengthened.

We are already forgetting how pessimistic we were prior to the team's debut. Some doubted whether our total will cross the 100 mark, let alone one of the batsmen scoring a century. Predictions were rife that Sachin Tendulkar or a couple of his other illustrious colleagues might go after Brian Lara's 375 against the apparently toothless local bowling. It feels wonderful now that all

those misgivings have been proved contrarily because only the other day, these same bunch of cricketers were being shot out twice for 50 odd scores against third string pace attack of South Africa.

But does this mean that Bangladesh's quality of cricket has gone through a major overhaul overnight? Not really. The difference was a sudden emergence of self belief and an approach totally free of inhibition. Who ever have brought about this transformation deserves special thanks.

Take the case of Aminul Islam. Nobody has ever doubted his calibre. He is perhaps the most gifted batsman of this generation in the country. However, Aminul was a confused person struggling to find his feet just a few days ago. His confidence level was at an all time low and there was even talk of omitting him for the inaugural Test. What a loss

that would've been.

In one marathon 145, everything that seemed to have deserted him for ever -- the assured footwork, the exemplary concentration, the elegant stroke-play -- came back all guns blazing. More than anything he delivered on the field, the mindgame that inspired him to rise to the occasion was Aminul's key to success.

Bowling was always going to be our prime concern, but the bowlers were splendid. Skipper Naimur Rahman set the tone with the an amazing turner that bemused debutant Indian opener Shivsundar Das. To those who have seen Naimur as a trainee at Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP), it was not surprising as he has always had this ability to extract prodigious turn.

Naimur's captaincy also was a revelation. The maturity and presence of mind he displayed

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Cheers for cricket fans

Lenin Gani

Hats off to the spectators that have been flocking at the Bangabandhu National Stadium for the past three days to witness a really absorbing struggle between bat and ball. Hard to believe nowadays that attendance in Test matches is dwindling due to the appeal of instant cricket.

What a pleasant surprise that the turnout on the first day's play of the Dutch-Bangla inaugural Test match numbered close to 50,000. This is a figure that is taken for granted on several venues in this part of the world such as Eden Gardens. Perhaps only at the start of the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground or a Lord's Test can be compared or even rivalled in any way.

The numbers on Saturday would have higher had it not been for a religious holiday. The passion with which these crowds, who cut across the usual social, economic and gender divides, have been watching the proceedings so far is indeed remarkable.

There is no doubt that the people have got their money's worth. They witnessed the second highest total by a debutant team. And in the process one of the country's most enduring names in the game, carved a

place in the history books hitting only the third ever century in his first appearance in a five-day game.

Deep down Aminul Islam will be always grateful to the vast amount of support he gained during his marathon nine-hour vigil at the crease. It was his incredible 145 runs that enabled Bangladesh to post a very respectable 400 all out on the second day.

From the moment the umpire called play on sunny Friday morning the audience has been spellbound by every run scored, ball bowled and catch taken. On every occasion they show their approval with thunderous cheering, clapping and displaying ingenious slogans of numerous shapes and sizes. Each is a work of art.

So, simply turning up at the venue will not do for them knowing very well through the eyes of the world every motion and emotion will be captured. The individual fan will be found in any part of stadium trying his/her utmost to show off their creative skills.

A few years ago this wasn't the case. The supporters like our cricket were at the infant stage and during the maiden edition of the ICC Knockout Tournament held here in 1998, concentrated on constantly waving placards with unfortunate messages like for instance:

"Marry me Afridi," in front a global audience. Thankfully, such embarrassing incidents are a thing of the past.

When the International Cricket Council (ICC) elevated Bangladesh from Associate to Full Member status, its landmark decision in June was based on the strength of popular support the sport enjoyed in the country.

Probably this explains the fact why teenagers among the crowd have foregone the temptation to lose some semblance of modesty and on the contrary are inclined to rally behind their beloved team. As a result, they have turned into knowledgeable persons without becoming completely biased. Learning to appreciate one's team is far more rewarding than merely fantasising about the stars of today.

Sorry, readers!

One mistake sometimes leads to another! While pointing out Ian Chappell's mistake the Star Sport itself made an error on Nov 11. Chappell wrongfully mentioned Sheikh Hasina as the president (head) of the state while Star Sport reported that he introduced her as head of the government (prime minister). We regret the inadvertent mistake.

— Sports Editor