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Star Sport

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- Who clinched the Asia Cup soccer title?
South Africa 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 Gulshan Club
- Who clinched Kremlin Cup men's title?
Safin Agassi Kafelnikov

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



FRESH TEST STARS FOR A NOBLE CAUSE: A combo picture shows Bangladesh Test cricketers Aminul Islam (L) and Akram Khan administering polio vaccines to two children at two city booths yesterday, the first round of the National Immunization Day. The second round is on December 17. —Star photo

Board in search of sponsor

League now starts from Nov 20

Sports Reporter



The start of the second National Cricket League has been deferred from November 17 to 20 by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday.

The Board however did not elaborate reason for the delay. But a source revealed that it is yet to find a suitable sponsor for the big-budget tournament to be played across the country.

The league committee has submitted a budget of Taka 1.48 crore for the meet that will take place in two phases this time and involve eight teams. But the finance committee of the Board has not yet approved the budget because of the shortage of funds, source said.

Although the Board did not have a sponsor for the inaugural National League last season, they are learnt to be optimistic about finding a sponsor in the next few days.

However, apart from the six divisional outfits participated in the first edition, two teams — Biman and Dhaka Metropolitan — have been included in the fray. Eight teams, split into two groups, will play three, one and four-day matches in the process on home and away basis. Holders Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi have been pencilled in to Group A and last season's runners-up Sylhet, Barisal, Khulna, and new comers Dhaka Metropolitan form Group B.

In the first round, teams will play two matches — three-day and one-day — without any break. Eight points will be on offer — six for the three-day affair and two for the one-day match.

If the three-day match ends in a draw, team that holds first innings lead will be awarded with four points. In case of a tie or a postponement of play before the first innings is completed, both teams will evenly share the allotted six points.

Top two teams from each group move in to the second round, the format of which would be similar to that of Super Six in 1999 World Cup. Teams from each group will face the others in a four and one-day matches without a pause.

Like the first round, all matches will be played on home and away basis and points will be shared accordingly.

Team collecting highest points from the two rounds will be declared champions.

Four matches will simultaneously start at different venues on November 17. Defending champions Chittagong will take on Biman at the BRSP while Sylhet will meet Dhaka Metropolitan at the Dhamnondi Cricket Stadium. Rajshahi will host Dhaka at Rajshahi Stadium while Barisal will meet Khulna at the Jessore Stadium.

Super Four phase two from today



Title aspirants Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra will take on Rahmatganj Muktifriends Society in the first match of the second round of the National Bank Premier Division football league Super Four at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The relegation phase of the league will also begin today with Badda Jagarani Sangsad meeting Victoria Sporting Club.

Leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club will face off with arch rivals Abahani in the next Super Four match tomorrow.

The league was suspended for a month because of Bangladesh's inaugural Test match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium against India which concluded on Monday.

Mohammedan are topping the table with 30 points from 12 matches, followed by Muktiyoddha who are just a point behind. Abahani are third placed (24 points). Rahmatganj have so far gathered 15 points.

At the end of the 'Super Four', top three teams will move into the Super Three where they will play each other twice for deciding the championship.

Meanwhile two referees from Thailand Tongkhan Satop and Wirat Khantachai are expected to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to conduct the remaining matches of the Super Four and Super Three.

SUPER FOUR SECOND ROUND FIXTURE			
Date	Match	Kick off time	
Nov 16	Muktiyoddha v Rahmatganj	5 pm	
Nov 17	Mohammedan v Abahani	4 pm	
Nov 20	Muktiyoddha v Abahani	3 pm	
	Mohammedan v Rahmatganj	5 pm	
Nov 23	Mohammedan v Muktiyoddha	3 pm	
	Abahani v Rahmatganj	5 pm	

India call off Pak tour



NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Pakistan threatened to cut off all cricket links with India on Wednesday after the New Delhi government refused to clear a scheduled Test series across the border, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's government cancelled next month's three-Test series in Pakistan because "the atmosphere was not conducive to play cricket," official sources here said.

Pakistan, who stand to lose millions of dollars in sponsorship money because of the aborted tour, threatened to boycott all matches with India in future.

"This puts us in a position where we would like to review our relationship with India and may not play them even in off-shore, tri-nation, one-day events," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman General Taqir Zia said in Lahore.

The first event that could be affected is the Sharjah tri-series between Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka next April, Zia said.

The Indian government had earlier banned all bilateral cricket ties with Pakistan, but allowed contacts at multi-nation events like the ICC Knockout tournament in Kenya in October.

"We will protest officially with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and ask them to include a clause whereby governments of Test playing countries are not allowed to interfere in cricket," Zia said.

India were scheduled to play three Tests and five one-day internationals in December-January during its first Test tour of Pakistan in 11 years.

Indian government sources said the decision to cancel the tour was taken on Tuesday night after a meeting between Vajpayee and newly-appointed

Sports Minister Uma Bharti.

"We have been told that the government does not want the team to go to Pakistan because the atmosphere was not conducive to play cricket," a source in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told this news agency.

Pakistani cricket authorities had set Wednesday as the deadline for the BCCI to confirm, or cancel, the tour.

BCCI secretary Jayawant Lele said he was unaware of the government's decision, but another member, who requested anonymity, said there had never been any real doubt the tour would be called off.

"Senior board members were told by government officials last week that there was little chance of the tour being cleared," the official told.

"Even the players knew they will not be going to Pakistan. But the Indian board kept telling the Pakistanis they were confident the tour was on."

"Given the prevailing atmosphere, the BCCI should have cancelled the tour themselves, instead of waiting for the government to tell them."

Pakistan were negotiating a 15-million dollar deal with a television network to cover the Indian tour, when news of the cancellation filtered in.

General Zia said Pakistan will honour its commitment to host the Asia Cup next April and the Asian Test Championship in September, irrespective of the tour.

See page 15

Bucknor's workshop on

Sports Reporter

A five-day long workshop for Bangladesh umpires began at the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday under the tutelage of noted West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor.

Twenty three local umpires are taking part in the workshop which Bucknor will in two phases.

On the first two days, Bucknor will be taking theoretical classes which will be followed by practical demonstration on the last three days.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has given Bucknor the responsibility of assessing the quality of Bangladeshi umpires through this workshop after which the Jamaican will submit a report.

Based on that report, the ICC will decide on when to allow Bangladeshi umpires to officiate international matches.

The world governing body gave Bangladesh the ODI status in 1997 and the Test status last June. However, no Bangladeshi umpires have so far been allowed to conduct any international matches including the debut Test against India.

The Indian government, which has been of the opinion to sever all cricketing ties with their bitter foes for the last few months over the Kashmir issue, officially called off its national team's cross-border tour in which they were to play three Tests and five one-day internationals. The tour was scheduled to start next month.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman General Taqir Zia had earlier said that, if India do not tour Pakistan they would consider Bangladesh's proposal for playing a home and away basis," Ashraf said.

"We would propose Pakistan to play two Tests and as many one-day internationals on home and away basis," Ashraf said.

Bangladesh, becoming the 10th Test-playing nation in June this year, lost to India by

BD eyeing first series

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh in all probability are going to play their first Test series against Pakistan in January next year.

The issue of Pakistan touring Bangladesh gained momentum on cancellation of India's scheduled tour of Pakistan yesterday.

"I have just been informed of the Indian government's decision. But, at the moment, I'm not in a position to say the details about the Test series," said Ashraf. He however said that the tour itinerary would be finalised in the next ACC meeting to be held in Sharjah on November 22-23.

Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Ashraf will attend the meeting that would also be attended by Taqir.

away series.

With Taqir fuming over the Indian rejection, general secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Syed Ashraful Haq said last night they would be happy to entertain Pakistan in Dhaka in January.

"I have just been informed of the Indian government's decision. But, at the moment, I'm not in a position to say the details about the Test series," said Ashraf. He however said that the tour itinerary would be finalised in the next ACC meeting to be held in Sharjah on November 22-23.

Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Ashraf will attend the meeting that would also be attended by Taqir.

"We would propose Pakistan to play two Tests and as many one-day internationals on home and away basis," Ashraf said.

Bangladesh, becoming the 10th Test-playing nation in June this year, lost to India by

nine wickets in their inaugural Test match a few days back.

Although the Board president said on Wednesday that they were looking for other venues to hold international matches, but Ashraf admitted that they have no alternative to the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yet.

"If Pakistan agree with Bangladesh's proposal, we will have to turn to BNS, which we will get back on December 1. Besides, I don't think other venues in Chittagong and Rajshahi are ready at the moment to provide facilities of international standard," said Ashraf.

The BNS, an apple of discord over the years between football and cricket, has been taken over by the BFF immediately after the one-off Test match ended.

The Super Four phase of the Premier Division Football League resumes at the all-purpose arena today.

Inter-varsity cricket Hosts move into final

From JU Correspondent

Hosts Jahangirnagar University (JU) moved into the final beating defending champions Rajshahi University (RU) by 87 runs in the first semifinal of the inter-varsity cricket tournament at the central playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, JU decided to bat first and collected 161 runs losing all wickets in 38.4 overs.

Firoz scored highest 42 while Antu and Chayan made 31 and 22 runs respectively.

Yamin and Nazrul took two wickets each for RU.

In reply RU managed only 74 runs losing all the wickets in 31.4 overs.

Rana scored highest 16 while Tuti 12.

Debabrata took three while Moujibur and Sabir grabbed two wickets each for JU.

Chittagong University will take on Islamic University in the second semifinal today.

The losers will face RU in the 3rd place deciding match on November 17.

The final will be held on November 19 at the same venue.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 15: Mukti Sangha defeated Joytirmam Cricket School by two runs in the first Shaheed AHM Qamruzzaman Hena Smriti cricket tournament at the Katakali Adarsha Degree College playground today.

Mukti Sangha won the toss and batted first to collect 146 runs for nine wickets in 21 overs.

In reply, Joytirmam went all out making 144 run in 19.4 overs.

KABADI

Bandhan Kriya Chakra and Raj Sporting Club won their respective matches in the Rajshahi First Division Kabadi League at the local gymnasium today.

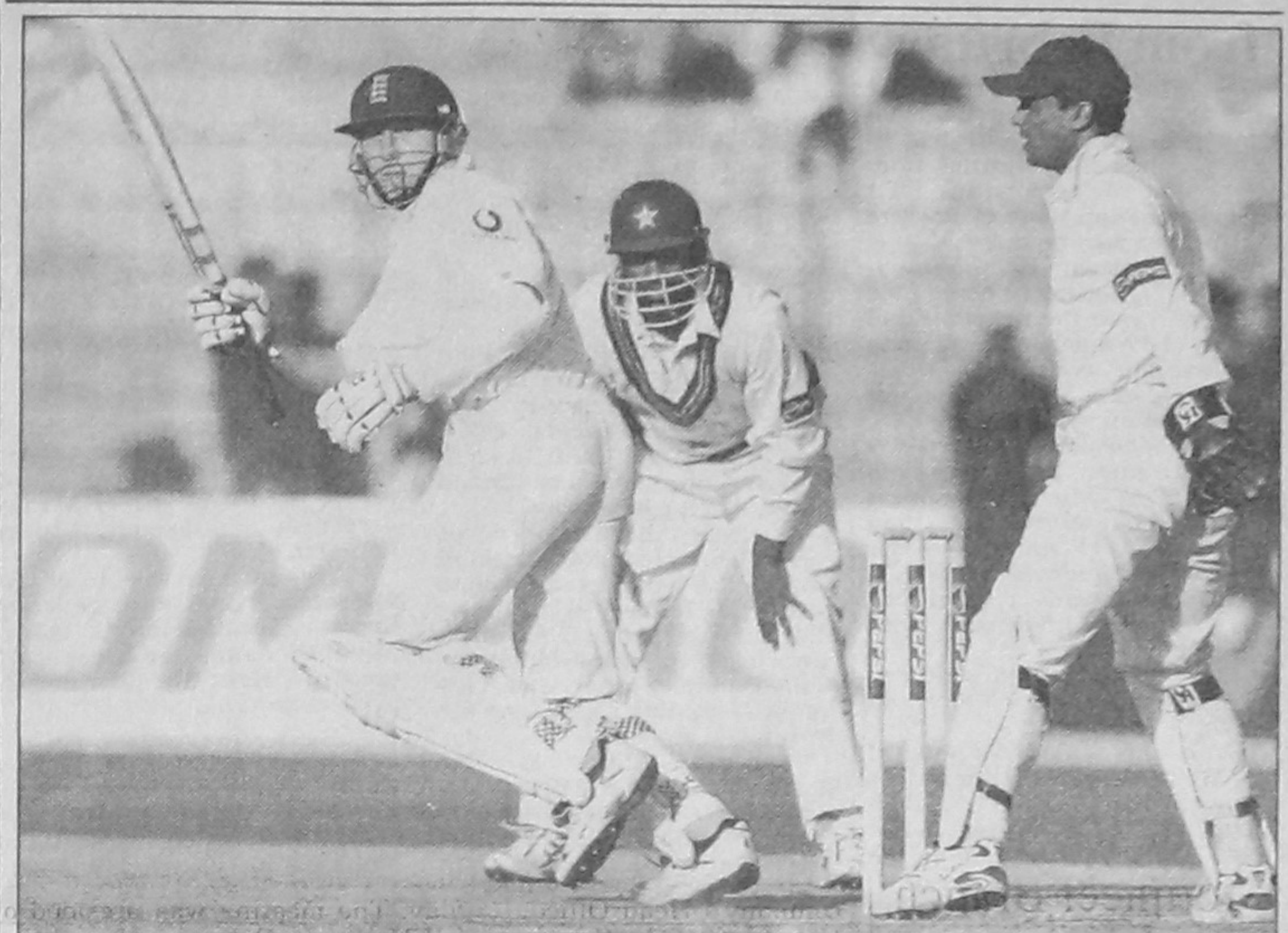
Bandhan defeated Baikali Sangha 29-18 points in the first match.

In the second match, Raj SC beat Mahanabagan Sporting Club 38-25.

SOCCER

Gazipur Mitali Sangha emerged champions in the Golan Robbani Smriti football tournament, beating Kotapara Friends Club 1-0 in the final at the Mochnool High School playground today.

Ahjar Ali netted the match-winner.



MEMBER OF AN ELITE CLUB: England opener Michael Atherton turns one towards fine leg during his 73 against Pakistan at Lahore yesterday. Atherton during the course of his innings, became the 18th batsman to complete 7000 runs in Test cricket. —AFP photo

Saqlain's late surge



LAHORE, Nov 15: Pakistan's gamble with spin paid off late in the first day of the first Test against England here Wednesday when Saqlain Mushtaq took four wickets to spoil a dream start for the visitors, reports AFP.

The off-spinner brought Pakistan back into the game after England's determined start, with openers Michael Atherton and Marcus Trescothick amassing 134 before the first wicket fell.

At the close of play at Gaddafi Stadium England were 195-4, with Graham Thorpe on 22 and Graeme Hick on six.

England were looking comfortable at 148-1 at tea but lost four quick wickets in the last session thanks to some deft wrist work from Saqlain, who struck in his 24th and 25th overs to remove Atherton and Alec Stewart.

Atherton failed to keep down a sweep and was caught at backward square leg by Yousuf Youhana for 73. The former England captain batted for 275 minutes and played 190 balls, with only three fours.

Stewart lasted only seven balls before he was trapped leg before for three.

Saqlain pounced again when captain Nasser Hussain lofted an irresponsible drive to Wasim Akram at extra cover for just seven.

As Pakistan looked like moving in for the kill Hick and Thorpe closed ranks in the fading light to staunch the loss of wickets.

It was a different story in the morning, when England's openers frustrated the home team's attack with watchful and positive batting.

They reached 76-0 at lunch on a flat pitch which took the sting out of the Pakistani bowlers.

Trescothick, playing only his fourth Test, showed maturity to reach his third half century in 127 minutes and 113 balls.

Atherton, playing his 103rd Test, was more steady, hitting only one boundary in his 42nd half-century off 131 balls in 171 minutes.

His innings saw him pass the 7000-run milestone in Test cricket, becoming the sixth Englishman and the 18th batsman overall to do so.

"I am happy that we put up a good opening stand. Reaching 7000 runs is an achievement but what mattered more was the team's position," he said.

The key was to concentrate

in the middle and it's been a good day for us."

Hussain won a crucial toss and elected to bat on a wicket that has potential to spin and is expected to keep low with time.

England included two spinners, Ashley Giles and Ian Salisbury, in their starting line-up, compared to Pakistan's tour.

Pakistan's skipper Moin Khan called in Saqlain as early as the 11th over and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed in the 16th, but they posed few problems in the opening session.

Trescothick was the first to go when he miscued a drive off Saqlain's first ball in his third spell and was caught at backward square leg for 71. The Somerset left hander hit six fours in his innings of 215 minutes.

Thorpe, promoted up the order to counter the spinners with a right-left combination, was given a life when 18-year-old debutant Qaiser Abbas dropped him off Saqlain when he was on two.

Ahmed, who was preferred over 19-year-old leggy Danish Kaneria, failed to take a wicket. His last 12 Tests have bagged him only 26 scalps.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard at close on the See page 15

Athers in 7000-run club



LAHORE, Nov 15: England opener Michael Atherton achieved the personal landmark of 7000 Test runs when he reached 61 on the first day of the first cricket Test against Pakistan here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Atherton, 32, became the sixth Englishman and the 18th in the world to join the prestigious club in his 103rd Test.

Australian left-hander Allan Border leads the table of most individual runs in Test cricket with his 11,174 in 156 Tests.

Five batsmen each from Australia and the West Indies and one each from Pakistan

and India have scored 7000 or more runs in the 123 years of Test cricket.

Atherton, awarded Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1997, completed his 100 Tests against the West Indies at Old Trafford in August this year.

Here is a list of batsmen who have scored 7000 or more runs.

Player	C	M	I	NO	R	H	Ave	100	50
Allan Border	Aus	156	265	44	11174	205	50.56	27	63
Sunil Gavaskar	India	125	214	16	10122	236*	51.12	34	45
Graham Gooch	Eng	118	215	6	8900	233	42.58	20	46
Javed Miandad	Pak	124	189	21	8832	280*	52.57	23	43
Viv Richards	WI	121	182	12	8540	291	50.23	21	45
Steve Waugh	Aus	128	204	38	8373	200	50.43	22	42
David Gower	Eng	117	204	18	8231	215	44.25	18	39
Geoff Boycott	Eng	108	193	23	8114	246*	47.72	22	42
Gary Sobers	WI	93	160	21	8032	365*	57.78	26	30
Colin Cowdrey	Eng	114	188	15	7624	182	44.06	22	38
Gordon Greenidge	WI	108	185	16	7558	226	44.72	19	34
Mark Taylor	Aus	104	186	13	7525	334*	43.49	19	40
Clive Lloyd	WI	110	175	14	7515	242*	46.67	19	39
Desmond Haynes	WI	116	202	25	7487	184	42.29	18	39
David Boon	Aus	107	190	20	7422	200	43.65	21	32
Walter Hammond	Eng	85	140	16	7249	336*	58.45	22	24
Greg Chappell	Aus	87	151	19	7110	247*	53.86	24	31
Michael Atherton	Eng	103	188	6	7012	185*	38.52	15	42



Celebrated West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor addressing a seminar of local umpires at the National Sports Council auditorium yesterday —Star photo

SPORTS TALK



Clive Llyod

(Former West Indies captain)
"The allegations will remain a stigma. But the authorities should come out with proofs."
After Brian Lara was named in the CBI match-fixing report.

NSC council

meeting Nov 19
The sixteenth council meeting of the National Sports Council (NSC) will be held on Sunday at its conference room, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, who is also the chairman of NSC, will preside over the meeting.

More than 100 representatives from national sports federations and district and divisional sports associations are likely to participate in the meeting.

The meeting is expected to approve a constitution for local sports bodies like upazila, district and divisional sports associations, and discuss on formulation of a constitution for the national federations.

It will also discuss about the implementation of the national sports policy and take decisions on sports development, training and coaching, talent hunting and sports infrastructure.

CJKS soccer

starts tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: The Chittagong Jila Kriya Sangstha (CJKS) Premier Division and First Division football leagues will begin at the MA Aziz Stadium tomorrow.

Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will inaugurate the league at 2:45 pm as chief guest while Harunur Rashid, MP, general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will be present as special guest.

Defending champions Abahani Kriya Chakra will take on Shatadal Club at the opening match.

Twenty teams will participate in the leagues.

Musharraf says it's bad sport

KARACHI, Nov 15: Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf Wednesday slammed India's government as a bad sport and accused it of confusing cricket and politics, reports AFP.

India earlier announced it would not allow its cricket team to play a Test tour in Pakistan scheduled to start next month due to hostile relations between the rival neighbours.

"It's regrettable because by this decision they have mingled politics and sports, which is misporting," Musharraf said.