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# Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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## Did U Know?

US President George Washington's favourite sport was fox hunting; Abraham Lincoln's was wrestling; Franklin D. Roosevelt's was swimming; John F. Kennedy's athletic passion was sailing; Richard M. Nixon's was football; and Ronald Reagan's favourite sport was horseback riding.



## Talk Turkey



### Martina Navratilova

(American tennis great)  
"I'm not doing this out of boredom, because I have plenty of things to do. But I loved the response I received. I got very positive feedback from everyone. So I decided to continue. I take it as a bonus. It's like the cherry on the cake for me."



## What to Watch

ESPN  
Australia vs Zimbabwe  
12' ODI in Carlton Series  
Highlights 6:30 pm  
Juventus FC vs Atalanta Serie A  
Repeat at 8:30 am  
Star Sports  
Primera Liga  
Repeat at 8:30 am

## Sports Whizz Kid

**Competition 144**  
Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to *Star Daily*  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Feb 16, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who became Green Delta Premier Division cricket league champs?  
(Chittagong Biman) Khulna
- Who lifted Milo U-13 cricket title?  
(Rajshahi) Rajshahi Barisal Padma Jista Maroons
- Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy clinched the three-match one-day series  
2-1 3-0 2-0
- Who lifted the Australian open men's title?  
(Sampson) Agassi Ralfe
- Who lifted the Australian open women's title?  
(Devenport) Capriati Hings

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

## Rajshahi cricket

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
Boikali Sangha recorded a five-wicket victory over Mukti Sangha in a Rajshahi Premier Cricket League match at local district stadium today.  
Winning the toss, Mukti decided to bat first and were all out for 90 in 32 overs.  
In reply, Boikali reached the target of 91 runs in 21.4 overs for five wickets.

**DIV I CRICKET**  
Agomoni Kriha Chakra defeated cricket Clinic by four wickets in a Rajshahi First Division Cricket League match at the Shaheed AHM Quamruzzaman Divisional Stadium today.



**COOL CUPPERS!** Members of the Bangladesh national football team take a walk through the Bangabandhu National Stadium on way to meeting State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader yesterday. A 20-member team leaves for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia today to play in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers.

## Booters Saudi bound

### Bangladesh kick off qualifiers February 8

SPORTS REPORTER

The national football team leaves for the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh at 11.30 this morning to play in the 2002 World Cup qualifying round, scheduled to begin on February 8.

But the boys of George Kottan, the Austrian coach of the national team, will be without any knowledge of their opponents when they take on Vietnam in the inaugural match at the giant Mohammed bin Fahad Stadium under lights.

"I don't know anything about our three opponents. Hopefully, I can get to understand their strengths once we play our first match," Kottan told reporters during an official briefing at the Conference Room of the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh, placed in Group 10 along with Vietnam, Mongolia and hosts, are expected to reach the desert kingdom two days before the premier event kicks off.

Although it was not known how the other teams went about preparing themselves to earn a ticket for next year's showcase event to be jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan, Bangladesh would be the regarded as the least prepared side. More importantly, they encountered a nightmare experience while playing Bangladesh Army in two exhibition matches.

Kottan, who made an immediate impact by leading the national team to respectable defeats against Bosnia and Yugoslavia respectively in the Sahara Millennium Cup in India last month, got only two and a half months to train the boys.

He was even keen on playing a couple of warm-up matches against club sides from Thailand, but instead had to be satisfied with games against the soldiers.

These ultimately did more harm than good as Kottan haplessly watched three key players - Titu, Mintu and Moni - suffer unnecessary injuries from the intimidating army men.

In what was supposed to be a friendly affair, the national team's opponents nevertheless proved their physical prowess. Such was the harshness of the tackles that Kottan was forced to cancel a scheduled third match.

Left-back Titu, who scored the only goal in a 4-1 defeat against Yugoslavia, sustained an injury on his right knee. Energetic midfielder Mintu bruised his right ankle and striker Moni, one of the

few players in the side with the lethal left foot, had the misfortune of being stabbed in both thighs by their savage army boots.

"I'm absolutely shocked at the way my boys were treated despite

prior instructions that no rough play would be allowed," uttered angry Kottan. The Austrian however was optimistic that the injured trio would recover in time.

"The boys are doing fine and are good for playing nearly 70 minutes. I'm not sure how far we would progress in the qualifying round, but we will fight from the beginning till the end," he said.

The middle-aged football think-tank, having exclaimed on arrival here in November that Bangladeshi booters would never be able to play a full ninety minutes, was now very impressed by his fast-learning pupils.

Bangladesh captain Alfaz Ahmed, who is making his second trip to Saudi Arabia, was optimistic of doing better than four years ago.

"Our goal is to finish second behind the home team. The Indian tournament gave us a tremendous

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FIXTURES		
First Leg	Match	Time
Feb 8:	Bangladesh vs Vietnam	9.30 pm
	Saudi Arabia vs Mongolia	11.30 pm
Feb 10:	Mongolia vs Vietnam	9.30 pm
	Bangladesh vs Saudi Arabia	11.30 pm
Feb 12:	Bangladesh vs Mongolia	9.30 pm
	Saudi Arabia vs Vietnam	11.30 pm
Second Leg		
Feb 15:	Saudi Arabia vs Mongolia	9.30 pm
	Bangladesh vs Vietnam	11.30 pm
Feb 17:	Vietnam vs Mongolia	9.30 pm
	Bangladesh vs Saudi Arabia	11.30 pm
Feb 19:	Bangladesh vs Mongolia	9.30 pm
	Saudi Arabia vs Vietnam	11.30 pm



National football coach George Kottan addresses a press conference in connection with Bangladesh's participation in the World Cup qualifying round at the BFF office yesterday.

## Zim so close yet so far

Cricket

AFP, Perth

A superb century by Stuart Carlisle was not enough to lift Zimbabwe to victory against Australia in the tri-nations series one-day clash at the WACA here Sunday.

In a pulsating finish which had almost 20,000 spectators on their feet Australia scraped home by one run as seventh-wicket pair Doug Marillier (12 not out) and Dirk Viljoen (one not out) carried Zimbabwe to 301 for six after Australia had made 302 for five.

It was Australia's eighth successive win in the contest, but the home team had to fight tooth and nail to hold off their courageous opponents, who finished their programme with a solitary victory from their eight outings.  
Carlisle hammered 119 from

144 balls, smashing 11 fours and one six in his second century in limited-overs internationals.

He shared in a crucial fourth-wicket stand with Grant Flower of Australia last year.

Carlisle reached the three-figure mark from 131 balls in 181 minutes, striking nine fours and a six.

While happy to have mastered the Australian bowlers and shared in the record, Carlisle was angry with himself for possibly costing his side the game by taking one short run.

The short run was called by Australian umpire Steve Davis long before it was realised the result would be so tight.  
After Gavin Rennie had fallen to Glenn McGrath for a duck in the opening over, Carlisle and Alistair Campbell revived Zimbabwe's fortunes with a brave stand of 53 in the next 10 overs.

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187 in 120 minutes off 179 balls -- a record for Zimbabwe for the fourth wicket, overtaking the 158 put on by Andy and Grant Flower against India last year.

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DAMIEN MARTYN ... m-o-m

## Rani champ once more

SPORTS REPORTER

Rani Hamid added another feather to her cap when the International Women's Master lifted the 22nd National Women's Chess Championship yesterday.

Rani collected highest eight points on her way to win the title for a record 13 times.

The most successful woman chess player of the country drew with Zakia Sultana of Bangladesh Ansars in the final round at the NSC Chess room yesterday. Playing with white pieces against the French defense of Zakia, Rani offered a draw after only six moves on the board.

Last year's champion Nazrana Khan Eva of Manikganj and Tanima Parveen finished at par with 7.5 points each.

The two will appear in the runner-up playoff match at 4:00pm today.

Eva defeated Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira while Tanima won against Sharmin Sultana Shirin of Narayanganj in the final round.

Standings: 4th-Zakia sultana (6 points), 5th-Afroza Khanam Bably of Ansars (5 points) 6th-Masuda Begum (3 points), 7th & 8th- Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira and Farzana Khan Ava (2.5 points), 9th-Sharmin Sultana Shirin (1.5 points) and 10th-Saima Almas (1.5 points)

ROLL OF HONOR

- 1979 to 1984: Rani Hamid
- 1985-86: Yasmin Begum
- 1987: Not held
- 1988: Rani Hamid
- 1989: Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa
- 1990: Rani Hamid
- 1991: Tanima Parveen
- 1992: Rani Hamid
- 1993: Zakia Sultana
- 1994: Tanima Parveen
- 1995: Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa
- 1996: Rani Hamid
- 1997: Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa
- 1998: Rani Hamid
- 1999: Rani Hamid
- 2000: Nazrana Khan Eva
- 2001: Rani Hamid

## Pankaj Roy passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

Former Indian Test cricketer Pankaj Roy, who held the world record for a 413-run opening partnership, died in the early hours of Sunday at the Anandlok Nursing Home here. He was 72.

The first cricket legend of West Bengal was suffering from a "prolonged illness."

Roy contributed 173 runs to the record stand with Vinoo Mankad (231) against New Zealand in the Madras Test during the 1955-1956 series.

He played 43 Tests in the 1950s, scoring 2,442 runs -- including five centuries -- at an average of 32.56 in a career spanning nine years. Roy also captained India against England in the 1959 Lord's Test.

Sports-lovers were however shocked to see the way the state government bade farewell to Roy who introduced West Bengal to world cricket. There was not a single government representative to garland his dead body leave aside making the funeral arrangements.

The absence of local cricketers was also unfortunate. Except for a few of those who played with Roy and the India captain Saurav Ganguly, none others turned up at his residence or at the Cricket Association of Bengal or at Sporting Union.

Former ICC president Jagomohan Dalmiya, who is also the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal, said, "It is an incalculable loss to the game of cricket. He was a man who symbolised courage."  
Ganguly meanwhile said, "I am too shocked to say anything really."

## BSWA ceremony

SPORTS REPORTER

Prize-giving ceremony of the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) was held at a city hotel in the morning yesterday.

Prime Minister's Political Advisor Dr SA Malek attended the programme as chief guest and distributed the sports awards for the year of 1997, 1998 and 1999.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader was also present at the ceremony, which was chaired by BSWA president Mahmud Hossain Khan Dulal.  
A cultural programme, starred by noted singers Shakila Zafar, Kumar Biswajit, Ruki and Shuvro Dev, followed later.

## BCB's academy at Cox's Bazaar!

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is planning to construct a modern fully equipped cricket academy at Cox's Bazaar, the country's lone sea-side resort. To realise that dream, the Board has already selected a 23 acre land there for acquiring.

Last week BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury went on a reconnaissance mission to the chosen spot. The *Klash* land is adjacent to Cox's Bazaar's Motel Shaibal.

During his three-day stay there, Saber had successful meetings with the local district administration and local officials regarding the Board's interest.

BCB members Alam Chowdhury and Mozammel Haque accompanied Saber during the trip.  
Talking to the Daily Star Sport, Alam, who is also the secretary of

BCB's grounds committee, said that the academy complex will be adjacent to an international standard stadium.

Alam also revealed that the Board will now seek permission from the Government to obtain the land on a 99-year lease from ministry of land as soon as possible.

It may be mentioned that the Board is also looking for land at Ashulia to build a cricket training centre.

Meanwhile, the BCB has asked the National Sports Council (NSC) to arrange facilities at the newly built Fatullah Stadium which includes accommodation for around 120 cricketers and coaches by March, so that the camps of the three different age-group development programmes can begin by the start of April.

The Board has already completed selection of budding talents for the three age groups by holding nation wide under-13, 15 and 17 tournaments last month.

## Nat'l Youth Cricket BKSP in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) stormed into the semifinals of the 20th National Youth Cricket Championship with a 39-run win over Sylhet in the last Group C match at the Thakurgaon Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, BKSP scored 184 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs with one-down Hasibul scoring highest 40 of 93 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Middle-order Faruq, with 38, was the other notable run-getter for them.

Sylhet's new-ball bowler Kabir captured three wickets for 41 runs.  
In reply, Sylhet were bundled out for 154 in 46.4 overs. Ejjaj top-scoring with 58.

Result: BKSP won by 39 runs.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
BKSP: 184 for 9 in 50 overs (Hasibul 40, Faruq 38, Kabir 28; Kabir 3/41, Tanhar 2/30)  
Sylhet: 145 all out in 46.4 overs (Ejjaj 58, Kabir 26 n.o.; Zabir 4/30, Nazmul 3/22)

## Pak fury over Indian act

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan on Sunday expressed disappointment and disgust over New Delhi's decision to refuse a tri-nation series in aid of earthquake victims in Gujarat.

"We received official words from Asian Cricket Foundation (ACF) chairman Jagmohan Dalmiya that the tri-nation series is off. This is disappointing in the sense that we wanted to play the series on humanitarian grounds," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia said.

"India is isolating itself from international cricket," Zia told the news agency.

"The way the Indians are behaving I see a danger for tri-nation series in Sharjah as well," he said.  
The ACF had earlier this week proposed a three-nation series in the Gulf state of Sharjah involving arch-rivals Pakistan and India as well as Bangladesh to raise funds for victims of India's devastating earthquake.

But Indian Sports Minister

Uma Bharti Saturday rejected the proposal, saying she stood by the Indian government's stance of not having cricketing ties with Pakistan, whom India accuse of fomenting violence in held Kashmir.

Commenting on the Indian de-



TAUQIR ZIA

cision Pakistan's Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said: "Frankly it is incomprehensible for us. We would not like to bring cricket into state affairs."

Zia said: "We wanted to offer our help for the victims of Gujarat

and they said no.  
"I never expected the Indian government will turn it down because there was only humanity factor involved," said the cricket chief adding that India's refusal to play Pakistan would be discussed at the International Cricket Council's conference in Australia later this month.

"After India's constant refusal we are now left with no choice other than to raise the matter at ICC meeting and we would not approve the ICC's 10-year programme of cricket schedules," he warned.

The ICC will put for approval a 10-year schedule to all Test playing countries in Melbourne this month.

"We will play India at least four times during 10 years and if they refuse to tour us all the time then why sign such a programme," he said.

India refused to play Pakistan in the 1999 and 2000 Toronto series besides snubbing a tour to Pakistan late last year.

They also turned down an invitation by Malaysia to feature in a tri-nation promotional event involving Pakistan and Malaysia.

## Shoaib gets the nod

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan have recalled injury-prone paceman Shoaib Akhtar for the first half of their New Zealand tour starting later this month.

Shoaib, out of competitive cricket for the last 10 months, was trained Sunday in a 16-man squad for five one-day internationals to be played between February 17 and 28.

"There will be a maximum of three changes for the three Tests that will be played in March," chairman of selectors Wasim Bari revealed.

Shoaib, one of the fastest bowlers in the world, has been out of international cricket since April last year because of a series of injuries including side strain, bowling shoulder injury and damaged ribs.

"We watched him in trial



SHOAIB AKHTAR

matches. Akhtar has attained full fitness and he has been included in the one-day squad for New Zealand," Bari said. "We have to take advantage of Akhtar because nobody likes fast bowling."

Shoaib said from Lahore: "I

might have not played competitive cricket but I have been bowling long spells in the nets.

"I am aware how important this tour is for me because if I break down again, no one would again bet on me. I am mentally more stronger than I was about 18 months ago."

The selectors included two uncapped players - Imran Farhat, a hard-hitting left-handed opener from Lahore, and Karachi paceman Mohammad Sami - and recalled leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmad.

"Farhat and Sami are (two) of the brightest prospects while Mushtaq has been recalled because New Zealand are not very comfortable against quality wrist spinners," Bari said.

Mushtaq was dropped after the first Test against England in the three-Test series, which Pakistan lost 1-0.

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Winners of the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) awards pose for photograph along with Prime Minister's political advisor Dr S A Malek (3rd from right sitting) and State Minister for Youth and Sports on his right.