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Prasanna clears Naimur, Rafique

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Indian off-spinner Erapalli Prasanna believes Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman and left



NAIMUR RAHMAN

arm spinner Mohammed Rafique doesn't have a problem with their bowling actions any more.

The 60-year-old from Karnataka, who arrived in the city on Thursday night at the invitation of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to have a look at off spinner Naimur's bowling action, gave this opinion after spending an hour with the national skipper and Mohammad Rafique in the nets at the

Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In January, both Naimur and Rafique came under the scrutiny of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for suspect bowling actions. The two had been reported by umpires David Shepherd and Steve Bucknor during Bangladesh's inaugural Test match against India last November.

Talking to a group of reporters, Prasanna, who is now working with Karnataka Cricket Association and the National Cricket Academy of India in Bangalore as a coach, revealed that Naimur had some minor problems with the positioning of his body while delivering the ball, which has been corrected without much difficulty.

"His shoulders remain square on while he delivers. I asked him to bowl with a side on action. I could find no other flaw in him once he started to do that," Prasanna added.

About Rafique, Prasanna, who took 189 wickets in his 49 Test appearances before retiring in 1978, said that the southpaw, who received guidance from another ex-Indian Test star Ravi Shastri last week, has already corrected his action.

"I will have another session with them and I am sure nobody will have any doubt about their styles after that," he added.

Apart from his mission in

Dhaka, Prasanna, who will return home tomorrow, also had a few remarks about the ongoing Test series between India and Australia.

"I don't think India have any chance to come back in the series which they already trail. They don't have a quality bowling at-



MOHAMMAD RAFIQUE

tack specially in the spin department," said Prasanna.

"I think the Indian Board has become too obsessed with pace bowling while neglecting our true strength, spin. That's why we lost the first Test," he said adding that all the countries in this region except Pakistan have to give emphasis on spin because that is where they have a chance to achieve something great.

Mobasser resigns

SPORTS REPORTER

Mobasser Hossain, one of the newly-elected Dhaka based directors of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), has tendered his resignation in protest at the irregularities that took place during the Board election on February 25, according to a reliable source in the Board.

Mobasser, who was elected along with 15 other Dhaka-based directors in the much-talked about election, submitted his resignation letter to BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury on Thursday.

Although, the text of the letter could not be ascertained, it was understood that, Mobasser, a Brothers Union Club councillor, expressed his sheer dissatisfaction over the unholy practice in the polls where Zafar Imam-led Forum of district and divisional organisers were reported to have received cash from different candidates of the Dhaka-based clubs.

However when contacted, Mobasser, an architect by profession and owner of a real estate company, declined to comment on the issue.

Shaun sounds caution

Cricket

REUTERS, Georgetown

It would appear to be a Caribbean mismatch.

South Africa, unbeaten in their last eight Tests, against a West Indies side most recently trounced 5-0 in their Test series in Australia.

Yet South Africa's captain Shaun Pollock sounded a note of caution as his side prepared for a five-Test tour of the West Indies starting on Sunday.

"I'm not forgetting the way they came back after we whipped them (5-0 in South Africa in 1998-99)," Pollock said shortly before his squad flew to Guyana.

He was recalling the way West Indies picked themselves up on their return home early in 1999 and drew a four-Test series with Australia 2-2.

Pollock said of the low ebb into which West Indies have now fallen: "They're obviously searching for a bit of confidence and something to spark them into a recovery."

"Sport is a very strange thing; in cricket a single good shot, or lucky break, can really turn something on its head."

"The whole squad will have spent some time at home, they'll have played in their domestic competitions and they'll all have spent some quality time at the crease, with bat or ball."

"Put it this way, I genuinely believe their confidence will be a lot higher when we get there than it was after their Australia tour."

Despite Pollock's natural re-

luctance to trumpet his team's chances, South Africa must go into the five-Test series as favourites.

Their domestic summer was a succession of overwhelming victories against New Zealand and Sri Lanka, which provided the perfect environment for several of the country's younger names to establish themselves at the highest level.

Makhaya Ntini found rhythm and control to match his unquestioned pace and finished the season second only to Pollock as South Africa's leading wicket-taker. He can bowl lengthy spells on pitches offering little to the fast bowlers.

Neil McKenzie and Boeta Dippenaar scored their maiden Test hundreds, against New Zealand.

McKenzie now has two centuries and is settled in the middle-order. Dippenaar was sacrificed to allow Herschelle Gibbs to return from a ban imposed during South Africa's match-fixing inquiry, but he can bat anywhere in the top six.

Encouraging as the emergence of new faces has been, the more experienced players are still the fulcrum of the side.

Allan Donald will be expected to lead the attack with Pollock, although the succession of injuries which have plagued him over the past three months are legitimate cause for concern. He is the only survivor from the party which toured West Indies in 1992, following South Africa's return to the international arena.

Gary Kirsten was there as a spectator, but this time both he and Daryll Cullinan will be the engine-room of the South African batting, along with Jacques Kallis.

With Mark Boucher the only wicketkeeper in the squad of 16, the vice-captain is under extra pressure to stay fit.

With Paul Adams and Nicky Boje offering intriguing options in the spin department, the South African cupboard would appear to be full. It will need to be, too, if the squad are to compete successfully over 11 weeks away from home.



SHAUN POLLOCK

TOUR ITINERARY

South Africa's itinerary for their tour of West Indies:
 Mar 4-6: Busta Cup XI; Georgetown, Guyana
 Mar 9-13: First Test; Georgetown, Guyana
 Mar 17-21: Second Test; Port of Spain, Trinidad
 Mar 24-26: West Indies Board XI; Bridgetown, Barbados
 Mar 29-Apr 2: Third Test; Bridgetown, Barbados
 Apr 6-10: Fourth Test; St John's, Antigua
 Apr 14-16: President's XI; Kingston, Jamaica
 Apr 19-23: Fifth Test; Kingston, Jamaica
 Apr 25: Jamaica; Kingston, Jamaica
 Apr 28: 1st one-day int'l; Kingston, Jamaica
 May 2: 2nd one-day int'l; St John's, Antigua
 May 5: 3rd one-day int'l; St George's, Grenada
 May 6: 4th one-day int'l; St George's, Grenada
 May 9: 5th one-day int'l; Bridgetown, Barbados
 May 12: 6th one-day int'l; Port of Spain, Trinidad
 May 16: 7th one-day int'l; Kingstown, St Vincent

Yakib, Annika annex Lancer golf titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Yakib Jummat and Annika Chowdhury emerged as men's and ladies' winners respectively in the Lancer Cup Golf Tournament held yesterday at the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC).

The prestigious tournament, which attracted a record 261 golfers, was teed-off in the morning by Chief of Army Staff and president of the club Lt Gen M Harun-Ar-Rashid.

Later, in the evening he gave away prizes. Among others A Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman Rangs Limited, sponsors of the annual event, and Maj Gen Jiban Kanai Das, vice-president of KGC were present as special guests.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior Winner: Abu S Alam
Junior Winner: Salman Khan
Best Gross: Rahib Bashar
Ladies' Best Gross: K S Park
Runner-up: Rafiqet Ali
Second Best Gross: Sadiq Quddus
Ladies' Runner-up: Jin Sook Youn
Second Runner-up: Hissam Ahmed
Front Nine: Air Cdr Fakhrul Azam
Back Nine: Col Manzur Murshed
Nearest to Pin: Tanveer M Islam (Tanna)
Longest Drive: Faisal Khan



Participants and guests of the Lancer Cup Golf Tournament pose for photograph at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. Chairman of Rangs Limited A Rouf Chowdhury (4th from right) is among them.

BHF names 18-man squad

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday named an 18-member Bangladesh team for the Prime Minister's Gold Cup Hockey Tournament to be held at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium from March 10.

Bangladesh, who are penciled in Group A along with India, Japan and Scotland, will take on Japan in the inaugural match of the nine-nation meet. The other group comprises Pakistan, China, Egypt, Ireland and Malaysia.

Goalkeeper Russell Khan Bappi replaces Khurshid Alam as national captain after Alam pulled out due to injury.

Twenty-six players have been undergoing training in a primary camp for the last two months under the supervision of BHF's newly appointed German director of coaching York Schumacher.

It was learnt that the selection was done entirely by Schumacher.

SQUAD

Russell Khan Bappi (captain), Mohammad Javed, Mamunur Rashid, Isa Mia, Shahidullah Khokon, Rafiqunnabi Nakib, Yameen Hossain, Musa Mia, Shahidullah Tito, Mahbulul Ahsan Rana, Ashiquzzaman, Shafiqul Islam, Rafiqul Islam Kamal, Shamsuzzaman Khokon, Moududur Rahman Shuvo, Ariful Haque Prince, Shamim Reza and Habul.

Sheikh Ramiuddin and Shamsuddin Tuhin have been kept as stand by players.

Former national player Khwaza Rahmatullah have been appointed as the manager while Jamal Haider will act as the coach of the team.

Meanwhile, the International Hockey Federation (IHF) okayed the proposed schedule of the tournament.

Date	Match	Kick-off time
Mar 10:	Bangladesh v Japan	3:30 pm
Mar 11:	China v Pakistan	10 am
	India v Scotland	2 pm
	Egypt v Malaysia	4 pm
Mar 12:	China v Ireland	2 pm
	Bangladesh v Scotland	4 pm
Mar 13:	India v Japan	12 Noon
	Ireland v Malaysia	2 pm
	Egypt v Pakistan	4 pm
Mar 14:	Bangladesh v India	4 pm
Mar 15:	China v Malaysia	12 Noon
	Japan v Scotland	2 pm
	Ireland v Pakistan	4 pm
Mar 16:	Egypt v Ireland	2 pm
	Malaysia v Pakistan	4 pm
Mar 18:	1st Semifinal (A1 v B2)	1:30 pm
	2nd Semifinal (A2 v B1)	4 pm
Mar 20:	Final	3:30 pm

Note: BTV will telecast all the matches live.



Scene from the twelfth round engagement between Latvian GM Igor Rausis (R) and his Uzbek counterpart Alexi Barsov in the United Insurance Grand Masters' Tournament at the NSC chess room yesterday.

500-wkt kept him going?

Cricket

REUTERS, Georgetown

Courtney Walsh is a man apart in the world of fast bowling.

At the age of 38, the lion-hearted West Indian is on the brink of an historic Test cricket landmark.

Walsh goes into the five-Test series against South Africa starting here next week needing just six wickets to become the first player to take 500 in Tests.

The Jamaican's current haul of 494 from 127 Tests represents an outstanding feat of immense skill, stamina and resolve at a time when the volume of Test cricket being played is far greater than at any period in the game's history.

Moreover, during the last five years the indefatigable Walsh has carried the West Indian attack with Curtly Ambrose, who was his trusty ally until the great Antiguan retired at the end of the series in England last September.

Walsh has shouldered his part of the burden in uncompromising fashion, as well as taking on the responsibility of captaining the side in 1994 and 1996-97 and continuing to play for English county Gloucestershire until 1998.

Throughout this phase, the skills he learned in his native Ja-

maica, which were developed in England and honed to perfection on Test grounds around the world, remained undiminished.

Walsh has always been a thinking cricketer, as he showed in the way he adjusted to bowling in English conditions.

What makes Walsh stand apart from his peers is his fitness record. The fact he suffers few injuries has been a key element in the durability which has taken him past some significant milestones.

He became West Indies leading Test wicket-taker by passing Malcolm Marshall's mark of 376 in November 1998, then joined Kapil Dev and Sir Richard Hadlee in March 1999 as the only bowlers to take 400 Test wickets.

On March 27 last year, in the second Test against Zimbabwe at his beloved Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, Walsh became the leading wicket-taker in Tests by passing Kapil's record of 434.

The prospect of crowning his outstanding career by reaching the 500 mark has almost certainly driven Walsh beyond the point which he might otherwise have retired.

At a time when West Indies cricket is at a low ebb, Walsh's arrival at that milestone would be a welcome source of great pride and joy to the passionate cricket followers of the Caribbean.



COURTNEY WALSH

They call 'em 'pussycat'

Cricket

AFP, Bombay

India's cricket greats Sunil Gavaskar and Bishan Bedi lashed out at their national team on Friday, saying Saurav Ganguly's men were not good enough to play Test cricket.

Both paid glowing tributes to Steve Waugh's magnificent Australians, who extended their winning streak to 16 matches after completing a 10-wicket romp in the first Test here on Thursday.

But Gavaskar lamented the "timid" batting of the Indians, who capitulated in under three days to give the tourists a 1-0 lead in the

three-match series.

"The Indians have often being described as tigers at home and lambs abroad," Gavaskar wrote in a syndicated column. "Perhaps the time has now come to change that to pussycats at home as well as abroad."

"Unless the team changes its attitude, it will be meow, meow and more meow."

India, which did not lose a home series for 12 years between 1987 and 1999, has suffered em-

barrassing reverses in their own backyard over the last two years.

Pakistan won two of the three Tests on their tour of India two seasons ago, and South Africa completed a 2-0 whitewash last year — including a three-day win at the Wankhede Stadium here.

"Unless the basic flaws in Indian cricket are sorted out, home wins will dry out unless Bangladesh or Kenya are the visiting team," Gavaskar wrote.

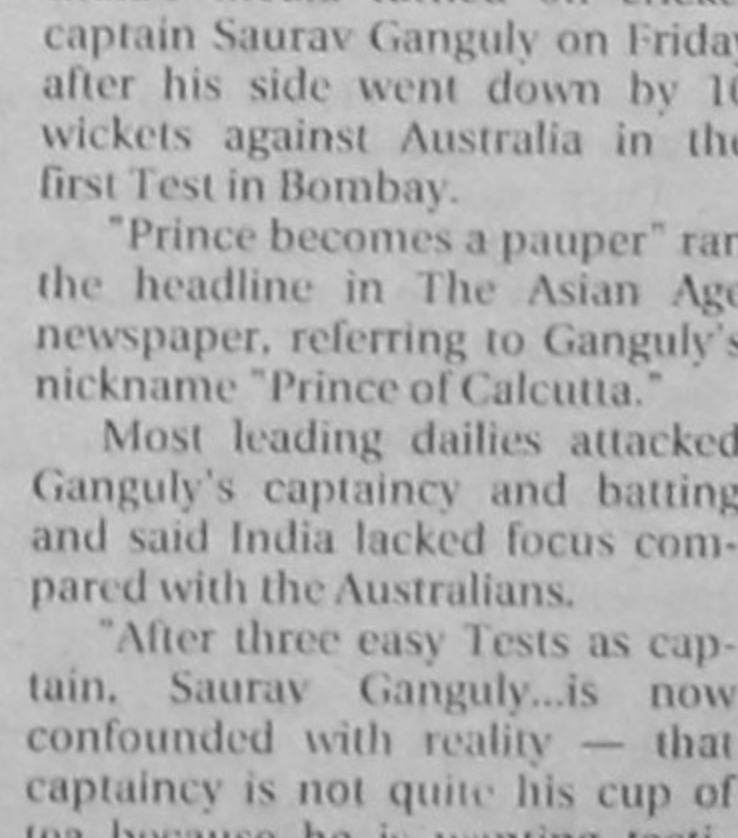
"Waugh's gamble of asking India to bat first on a lively wicket succeeded because of timid batting."

Gavaskar, the first man to score

SEE PAGE 15



SUNIL GAVASKAR



BISHAN BEDI



Did U Know?

A cricket field is a roughly elliptical field of flat grass, ranging in size from about 90 to 150 metres (100-160 yards) in diameter, bounded by a fence or other type of marker. Large deviations from the ellipse are discouraged. In the centre of the field, and usually aligned along the long axis of the ellipse, is the pitch — a carefully prepared rectangle of very closely mown and rolled grass over hard packed earth. It is marked with white lines, called creases.



TALK TURKEY



Saurav Ganguly

(India cricket captain)
 "All the pressure will be on Australia. They are the ones coming here with the world champion tag."

Just before the arrival of the Australians in India for the Current tour.



What to WATCH

- ESPN**
 Boys & Sunny Masterclass
 Cricket Talk Show
 12:30 pm
 Documentary on Sir Don Bradman
 11:00 pm
 Man United vs Leeds United
 English Premiership
 Live at 5:30 pm
 Liverpool vs Leicester City
 English Premiership
 Live at 9:00 pm
 Lazio vs Brescia
 Serie A
 Live at 1:30 am (Sunday)
- Star Sports**
 Documentary on Sir Don Bradman
 2:30 pm
 Boys & Sunny Masterclass
 Cricket Talk Show
 7:00 pm
 Primera Liga Highlights
 6:30 pm
 Barcelona vs Real Madrid
 Primera Liga
 Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)

NOTICE
 Owing to technicalities, the draw of WHIZZ KID Competition 145 could not be held last night. It will now be held on March 9. — Sports Editor

Sports WHIZZ KID
Competition 145
 ✓ Tick the Correct Answers
 Post to Ch Daily Star
 Win attractive prizes
 Competition closes at 8 pm
 March 9, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Bangladesh beat Mongolia in the 2002 World Cup qualifier
 2-0 3-2 3-0

2. Who clinched the Paris Indoor Open title?
 Huber Hingis Mauresmo

3. Sri Lanka won the one-day series against New Zealand
 3-2 5-0 4-1

4. How many Tests will Bangladesh play in five years?
 34 35 36

5. Who lifted the national under-19 cricket crown?
 Chittagong Rajshahi BKSIP

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)