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Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 5, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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Did U Know?

Just before tea in the Viceroy Club, Oxford University cricket match Norman Horner played a ball that went for four runs, but the umpire signalled as byes. During the meal the umpire had afterthoughts and credited Horner with four runs - perhaps the first time that a batsman had scored a boundary at the tea table!



What to Watch

- ESPN**
Cricket Classics Boycott's Best
England vs Australia
Third ODI-1977
11:30 am
- England vs West Indies
First Test-1980
7:00 pm
- Harsha Online**
Cricket Talk Show
5:00 pm (Friday)
- South Africa vs West Indies**
Fourth Test Day One
Live at 8:00 pm (Friday)
- Football Focus
8:30 am
- Deportivo vs Leeds United
UEFA Champions League
Repeat at 9 am
- Valencia vs Arsenal
UEFA Champions League
Repeat at 9 pm
- English Premier League
Highlights at 12:00 am
& 1:00 pm (Friday)
- Serie A**
Lazio vs AC Milan
3:00 pm (Friday)
- Star Sports**
Australian Domestic Cricket
Day Three Highlights
at 11:00 pm &
Day Four Highlights
at 11:00 pm (Friday)
- Primera Liga**
Espanyol vs Valencia
at 8:30 am
- Futbol Mundial
at 5:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Elber
(Bayern Munich's Brazilian striker)

"To my eyes he is no way a world class player. Okay, he can cross the ball well, but apart from that he's nothing special."
About David Beckham

Sports Whizz Kid

Competition 146
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 6, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the SAARC basketball crown?
India Sri Lanka Nepal
- Who won the Masters Series in Indian Wells?
Agassi Sampras Kafelnikov
- What position did Bangladesh capture in the Prime Minister Gold Cup hockey tournament?
Fifth Sixth Seventh
- Who became Prime Minister of India?
India Pakistan Malaysia
- Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Pepsi Test series between India and Australia?
Harbhajan Singh Shane Warne VVS Laxman

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

Bangladesh begin well

Cricket

Al-AMIN, from Harare

Bangladesh began their Zimbabwe tour exactly the way they wanted, winning the lone practice match ahead of their one-day series convincingly. The tourists thrashed the CFX Academy by seven wickets at the Alexandra Sports Club on Wednesday.

It was also a dream start for young pacer Sharif, who captured five wickets to send the aspiring Zimbabwe caps packing for 183 with seven balls to go in the 50-over contest.

After the splendid work of Sharif, one-down Habibul Bashar played a typically aggressive 79 as Bangladesh raced to score 184 in only 32.2 overs with seven wickets to spare.

Bashar clubbed nine fours in his run-a-ball knock after Al-Shahriar gave the visitors a flying start with 28 off 24 balls. Bangladesh batsmen did never hesitate to play their shots all around the ground.

But it was Sharif who, with an inspiring spell, stole the spotlight from a team that lacked firepower in bowling.

The 17-year-old right-arter struck early in the innings, removing both openers with the scoreboard reading only 18. He had Butterworth caught at point for five before knocking off the middle-stump of Neethling, who made six.

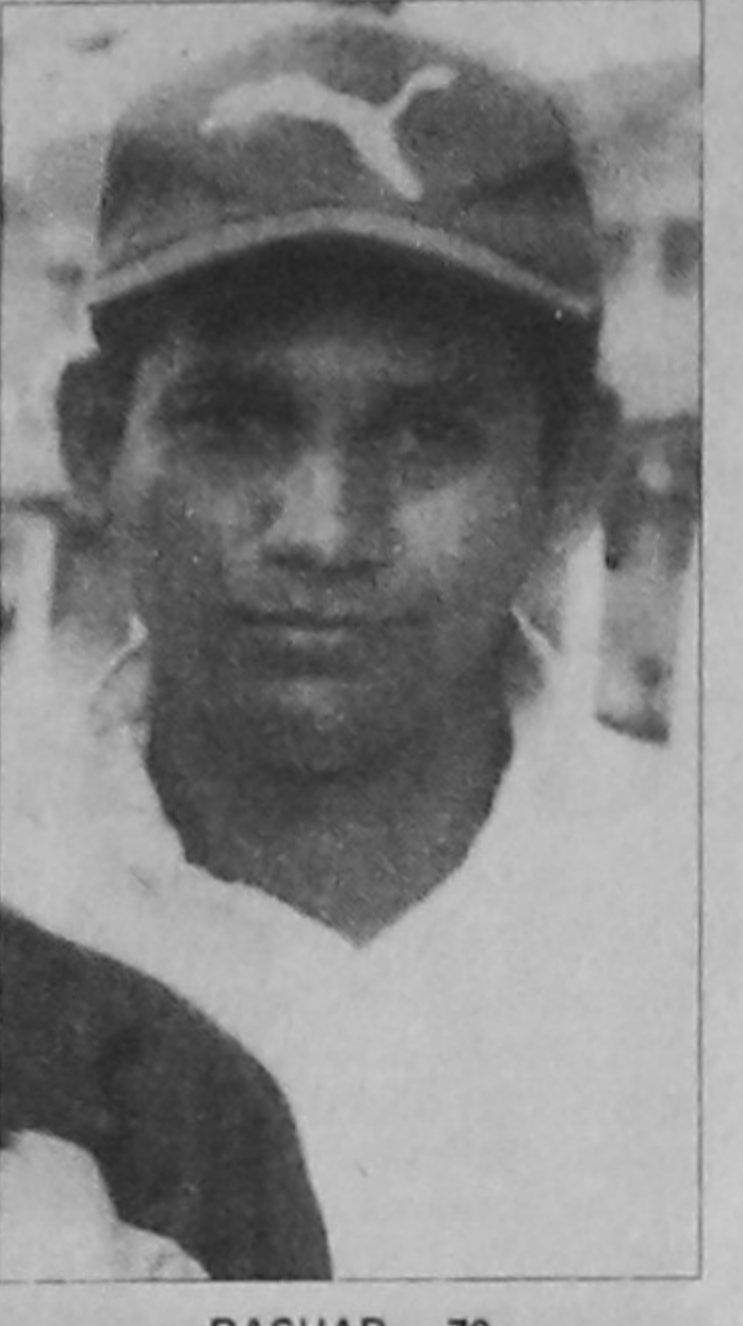
Sharif was again summoned by his captain Naimur Rahman to make a breakthrough after Duffin and Rogers put on 84 runs for the third wicket. He had Rogers caught at cover by Mushfiq Rahman for 56. He then dismissed Duffin, the highest scorer for CFX with 55, with a direct throw from backward point.

Sharif also captured the wicket of CFX captain Ervine, who had a little luck in the match except for winning the toss in the morning.

Sharif completed his five-wicket haul when he deceived MacMillan with swinging delivery for a duck.

Skipper Naimur Rahman also bowled well in the last five overs, during which time CFX lost five wickets for only 15 runs. The off-spinner took three wickets for 45 runs.

"It is good to win. Obviously, we expected a win against the Academy side. We will have to improve further our fielding and running between the wickets. The bowlers also need to maintain a



BASHAR...79

tight line," said the Australian coach of Bangladesh, Trevor Chappell, after the match. "We have hit a lot of boundaries. But against Zimbabwe it would not be so easy. We need to take a lot of singles which is very important."

Trevor also hinted at retaining the winning combination for the first of their three-match one-day series against Zimbabwe, starting at the Harare Sports Club ground on April 7.

Experienced right-arm seamer

Hasibul Hossain, slow left-arter Enamul Hoque, opener Mehrab Hossain and young Ashraful are the four players who stayed in the dressing room. About Ashraful, Trevor said that he was a talented cricketer and would play matches in the process.

Skipper Naimur Rahman was also pleased with the performance of his teammates. "It's a good start and we have won the match comfortably," said Naimur, who was in full praise of Sharif. "He (Sharif) has given us the much-needed assurance from the bowling."

The bowling department is the weakest aspect of Bangladesh.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the limited overs tour match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe Cricket Academy XI at Alexandra Sports Club, Harare, on Wednesday:

ACADEMY XI
Neethling b Sharif 6
Butterworth c Mushfiq b Sharif 5
Duffin run out (Sharif) 55
Rogers c Mushfiq b Sharif 46
Croxford c Akram b Rafique 23
Ervine c Aminul b Sharif 31
Siziba b Naimur 4
McMillan b Sharif 0
Townshend st Masood b Naimur 0
Dabengwa not out 0
Mahwire lbw b Naimur 0
Extras: (lb-5, w-6, nb-2) 13
Total: (all out, 48.5 overs) 183

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-18, 3-102, 4-128, 5-168, 6-178, 7-180, 8-184, 9-185

Bowler O M R W
Manjural 10 2 29 0
Sharif 9 1 30 5
Mushfiq 10 1 46 0
Naimur 9.5 2 45 3
Rafique 10 1 28 1

BANGLADESH
Javed c Butterworth b Townshend 35
Al-Saharib c McMillan 28
Bashar c Croxford b Rogers 79
Aminul not out 20
Naimur not out 11

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Cricket misses its fans

SPORTS REPORTER, Harare

The family of an expatriate Bangladeshi was the only source of inspiration for cricket at the Alexandra Sports Club, Harare, on Wednesday.

Afroza Khatun, whose husband Iftekher Ahmed is an architect, has been living in Zimbabwe for the last 16 years. She was at the ground to cheer up the Bangladeshi cricketers along with his son Mitul and 69-year-old mother-in-law Alo, who came to this part of the world only last year but decided to stay back with his son for the rest of her life.

"I have come to see our cricketers and it is really something special for us," said Afroza.

The Iftekher family was sitting amongst a hundred local supporters on the tiny stand made of wood. There were also some students present from the nearby school.

Valentine, an eight-year-old student, said that he loves the game and plays a lot in his school. But John Word, who is working for the CricInfo, a popular cricket news host on the net, observed the passion for the game was disappointingly low here.

"This is a much bigger crowd than you would see in any provincial matches of Zimbabwe," he said, lamenting that the media also does not promote the game.

"The newspapers here show little interest in cricket. Cricket still surviving here only because of international media coverage and the money coming from it."

SAFF tourney from Oct 31

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to host the third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship from October 31 to November 12.

The decision was taken in BFF's meeting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday night with Federation president and Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif in the chair.

Seven nations of the region--India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal and hosts Bangladesh--will take part in the championship.

The country's football's ruling body also asked the Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) to take necessary steps to start the Premier Division Football League from the middle of May. The meeting also instructed the DMFLC to hold the inter-club booters transfer from the 22nd of this month. They however, failed to decide on a possible date to start the National League.

The BFF meeting accepted an offer from Soccer Australia to join

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Niaz starts with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed got off to a winning start in the Professor Abdur Razzak 27th National Chess Championship with a hard fought victory over International Women Master (IWM) Rani Hamid in the opening round at the NSC on Wednesday.

Playing with black pieces, Niaz, the lone Grand Master of the country, took modern defence against Rani and won the board after 53 moves.

Niaz apart, last year's runner-up IM Ziaur Rahman beat Abdul Malek of Chittagong, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib beat Aminul Islam while Abu Sofian Sakil beat Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon.

Holder IM Reefat-bin-Sattar was held to a draw by FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib while the other match between Taibur Rahman Sumon and Sheikh Nasir Ahmed was going on.

The second round will start at the same venue today at 2:30 pm.

Today's matches: Niaz v Emon, Zia v Sakil, Niaz v Malek, Rajib v Rani Hamid, Rakib v Reefat and Sumon v Amin.

Tomorrow's event
Premier Division Cricket League
Abahani v Brothers Union (Bangabandhu National Stadium)
Kalabagan KC v Surjo Tarun (Dharmondi Cricket Stadium)
Biman v Young Cricketers (BKSP)

Sharif on song

Cricket

Al-AMIN, Harare

Mohammed Sharif got straight into action with a fantastic five-wicket haul in the limited-overs tour opener against CFX Academy at the Alexandra Sports Club in Harare on Wednesday.

With this dream burst the young right-arter not only justified his inclusion into the Zimbabwe tour party, but also gave his captain some confidence in his

rather weak pace bowling department.

Following his impressive beginning in the National League last year, Sharif is now all set to prove his mettle in the highest level of cricket. It was like a fairy-tale run for the 17-year-old from Narayan-ganj, who won the country's cap after claiming 49 wickets in the National League.

His first day in business in Zimbabwe was exactly the same of his debut for Bangladesh Biman against Chittagong.



Bangladesh's Mohammad Sharif (2nd from R), who captured five CFX Academy wickets, being congratulated by teammate Akram Khan after taking a wicket at Harare on Wednesday.

City openers run riot

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A double century partnership between openers Wasim Nayeem and Moniruzzaman propelled City Club to their first victory in the Premier Division Cricket League--a comprehensive 60-run win over Agrani Bank -- at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

The duo put on a massive 238

runs in 41.5 overs as City Club piled up 311 in 50 overs for the loss of just one wicket.

Wasim, the Pakistani hard hitter, smashed 139 off 125 balls with four sixes and 13 boundaries. Monir, who played the anchor role, was unbeaten on 112 off 146 balls inclusive of eight fours.

One down Rehan Rafique remained not out on 47.

In reply, the Bankers could reach 251 for nine.

Middle order Sajjad Kadir with a 65 (76 balls) top-scored followed by Ziauddin who added 41.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Sepoypara Sporting Club and Rajpara Cricket Club won their respective matches of the fourth Hasan Imam Ali Imam Pintu Smriti Cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Medical College Hostel playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Sepoypara made 124 all out in 23.3 overs.

In reply, Sagarpura were all out for 111 in stipulated 25 overs.

Rajpara defeated Kalabagan by five runs in the second match of the day.

Rajpara scored 138 for eight in allotted 23 overs.

In reply, Kalabagan managed 134 for eight in allotted 23 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between City Club and Agrani Bank at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday:

CITY CLUB
Wasim st Sajjad b Russell 139
Monir not out 112
Rafique not out 47
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-10) 13
Total (For 1 wkt in 50 overs) 311
Fall of wicket: 1/238

Bowler O M R W
Narayan 2 0 12 0
Imran 10 1 40 0
Sohel 3 0 26 0
Russell 10 0 75 1
Sentu 7 0 28 0
S Malik 9 0 63 0
S Shahed 7 0 46 0
Moni 2 0 19 0

Result: City Club won by 60 runs.

Young Cricketers beat Bima

SPORTS REPORTER

Promotees Young Cricketers registered their third win in the Premier Division Cricket League with a six-wicket defeat of Sadharan Bima at the BKSP ground in Savar

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Steve salutes 'em

Cricket

REUTERS, Vishakhapatnam

Australian captain Steve Waugh praised centurions Matthew Hayden and Ricky Ponting after Australia beat India by 93 runs on Tuesday to level the five-match one day series at 2-2.

"Ponting showed great character after his recent run of low scores," Waugh said of the man who came in at number three to make 101.

"He's a class player. I knew he was going to come through. Once he started muddling the ball, he played some excellent shots," Waugh added.

Hayden made 111, his maiden one-day century. The left-handed opener, who top-scored in the Test series, hit half-centuries in the first two one-dayers.

He was rested for the third match at Indore, which Australia lost by 118 runs.

"Hayden batted superbly again. Today we put up an excellent performance. It was a good

professional effort," Waugh said. "In international cricket you'll be down at times but as long as you support the players, you'll come back and do well," Waugh said.

The series decider takes place in Goa on Friday and Waugh said Australia would put up a good fight.

"We won the (1999) World Cup. We don't give up a title easily," he said.

Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly

India's coach New Zealander John Wright said Australia had run away with the game in the morning itself.

"They made too many runs. We need to bowl a lot better and contain them in the last game if we are to win," he said.

Ganguly admitted Hayden had been a thorn in India's side for the entire tour.

"He's in dream touch. We try hard to get him out but he keeps coming back at us," he said.

said allowing Australia to set a huge total was his team's undoing.

Australia amassed 338 for four, their highest score against India in a one day international, before dismissing the home side for 245.

"They had a very big total, after that we had very little chance. There are no excuses, they played much better today," Ganguly said.

"We are not playing an ordinary team. Playing a side that had not lost in about 10 one-dayers and won 15 Tests before coming here is not easy," he added.

India's coach New Zealander John Wright said Australia had run away with the game in the morning itself.

"They made too many runs. We need to bowl a lot better and contain them in the last game if we are to win," he said.

Ganguly warned India would hit back in the decider.

"It's a crunch game, we hope to come back and play good cricket," he said.



STEVE WAUGH



International Master Ziaur Rahman (R) and Abdul Malek of Chittagong during their opening round engagement of the Professor Abdur Razzak 27th National Chess Championship at the NSC on Wednesday.