



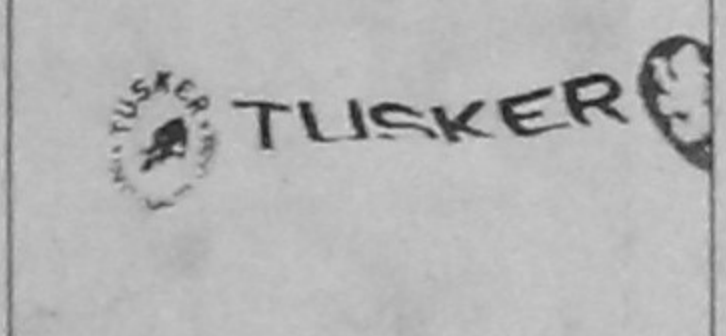
Did U Know?

West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul once uprooted the stumps and was running off with them as souvenirs after New Zealand was bowled out in the second innings of the Barbados Test in 1996. To his great embarrassment, he was told to return the stumps, as West Indies still had to score 29 runs to win the match!



ESPN
Cricket Magazine
The Cricket Archives 1905-1960
3:00 pm
Serie A
Highlights
1:00 pm
English Premiership
Man City vs Ipswich
9:00 pm
Football Focus
Live at 12:00 am (Wednesday)
UEFA Champions League
Leeds vs Valencia
Live at 12:30 am (Wednesday)

Star Sports
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
1:00 pm
Primera Liga
8:30 pm



Steve Tikolo
(Mahammedan's Kenyan star batsman)

"I consider the 150 as my best knock of this season. I was under a lot of pressure. But I kept a cool head and eventually succeeded in scoring what my team needed."

After his epic knock against Abahani in the Premier Division Cricket League's last match.

Sports WHIZZ KID

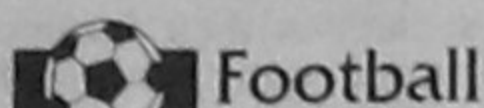
Competition 149
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
May 18, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters Series title?	Agassi	Arazi	Kuerten
2. Who lifted the Ary Gold Cup Sharjah tri-series cricket trophy?	New Zealand	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
3. What was the result of the South Africa and West Indies Test series?	4-1	3-2	2-1
4. Who was the man-of-the-match in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe first Test?	Heath Streak	K. Masood	Insed Omar
5. How many Test wickets did Courtney Walsh capture when he retired?	536	520	519

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

Trading begins today

Top three secured already



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

With the three local giants Abahani, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktiyoddha Sangsad having fortified their camps in advance, the three-day inter-club booters' transfer begins today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium without the usual euphoria.

The market organised by the Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC), will remain open from 5 to 8 pm for the first two days. However, on Thursday trading on the last day will continue until 9 pm.

Each of the ten Premier Division clubs are allowed to rope in five players from the 26-booter national pool that was announced by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on April 26.

But this year the 'big three' have nominated their five most expensive players for the coming season, which kicks-off with the Federation Cup on May 20.

Although clubs will be allowed to register four foreign players, but it will not take place during the bourse. Clubs can only enroll them just a day before their respective match.

As a result of the existing rule, league champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad with ten players in the pool, will have to release five of them.

Goalkeeper Aminul Haq, defenders Rajani, Prodeep, Sujon, Hasan Al-Mamun, midfielders Mintu, Liton, Tushar and forwards Amin Rana and Sourav Raju played for all-reds last season. Only Aminul, Rajani, Hasan Al-Mamun and Prodeep Kumar Podar will remain in the club.

Talented midfielder Matiuir Rahman Munna, who played for Mohammedan last year, is the other pool player who completes the all-reds' quota.

Despite losing playmaker Matiuir Munna, Mohammedan have also managed to bolster their line-up with the inclusion of five star players in their ranks. Skipper Alfaz Ahmed and de-

fender Faisal are joined by mid-fielders Monwar Hossain and Pavel from Badda Jagarani and Tushar of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Abahani, on the other hand, have made significant gains by adding Muktiyoddha defender Mohammad Sujon to their squad.

The promising defender was so impressive in his debut season in the elite league, that he forced his way into the national squad for the World Cup qualifying round.

Midfielder Iqbal Hossain, defender Nazrul, forwards Kanchan and Tito are the other four pool players who will continue with Abahani for the second successive season.

Following are the players who make up the national pool: Aminul Haq, Biplab Bhattacharya, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Tito, Prodeep, Nazrul, Pavel, Hasan Al-Mamun, Matiuir Munna, Iqbal Hossain, Monwar Hossain, Faisal Ahmed, Rajani Kanta Barman, Liton, Parvez, Sujon, Sourav Raju, Kanchan, Selim, Khokon, Tushar, Sentu and Kingshuk.

Bad news for Giles, Flintoff

REUTERS, undated

England spinner Ashley Giles is set to miss the first Test against Pakistan after failing to recover from a long-standing Achilles tendon injury.

The problem dogged the Warwickshire left-arm during England's recent tour of Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Giles, quoted by the BBC, said: "I haven't started running yet, so playing at Lord's does look very unlikely."

The Lord's Test starts on May 17, with the second at Old Trafford beginning on May 31.

Giles came to prominence in topping the England bowling during the tour to Pakistan at the end of last year, taking 17 wickets to set up a 1-0 series win.

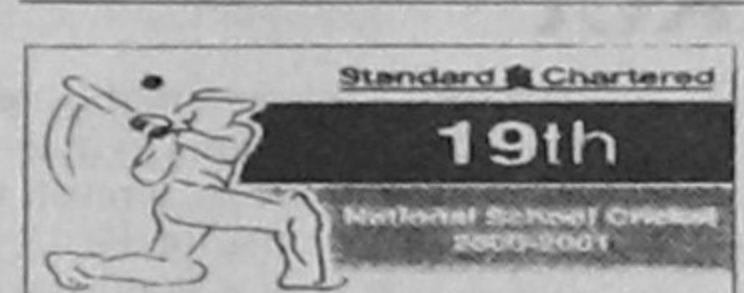
Meanwhile, all-rounder Andrew Flintoff has been injured again, a fortnight into the new English cricket season.

The 1.95 metre-tall Lancashire player, hoping to re-establish himself in the England side in the Test series against Pakistan and Australia, has torn a side muscle.

Lancashire coach Bob Simpson was quoted by the BBC as saying he would be sidelined for two weeks. Flintoff was injured while dismissing Yorkshire's Daren Lehmann in the Benson and Hedges Cup on Sunday.

BKSP, Blue Bird in quarters

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP) and Blue Bird School of Sylhet moved into the quarterfinals of the Standard Chartered 19th National School Cricket Championship after winning their opening matches in Sylhet on Monday.

On the first day of the 16-team final round, BKSP handed Swarnakali High School of Gopalganj an eight-wicket defeat at the Sylhet Stadium.

Chasing Gopalganj's 55 in 35 overs, BKSP reached the target in only 15.5 overs with eight wickets in hand. Tanveer and Dhiman were not out on 15 and 14.

Earlier, Swarnakali High School were bundled out in 24.5 overs. BKSP's Rubayat took four wickets for 12 runs.

The winners face either Rangpur High School or champions Mymensingh Zila School in the quarterfinals on May 11.

In the other match of the day,

Blue Bird High School beat Scholastica by three wickets at the Medical College ground.

Scholastica scored 111 for nine in the allotted 35 overs with Nayan scoring highest 22.

In reply, the winners lost seven wickets before reaching 114 in 28 overs.

Blue Bird meet either Rajshahi Collegiate School or Jhalakathi Government High School also on May 11.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Swarnakali High School: 55 all out in 24.5 overs (Rubayat 4/12, Asif 2/15)

BKSP: 56 for 2 in 15.5 overs (Tanveer 15 n.o., Dhiman 14 n.o.)
Result: BKSP won by eight wickets.

Scholastica: 111 for 9 in 35 overs (Nayan 22, Mushfiq 5/21)
Blue Bird: 114 for 7 in 28 overs (Rahi 24 n.o., Sanjeed 4/21)

Result: Blue Bird won by three wickets.

TODAY'S MATCHES

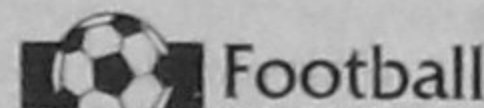
Manikganj High School v Narail Zila School

(Medical College ground)

Chittagong Police Institution v Narail Sher-e-Bangla

(Sylhet Stadium)

2 dead in Iran stadium crash



Football

AFP, Sari, Iran

Iran authorities confirmed Monday that two people were dead after an overcrowded football stadium collapsed in this northern city, where eyewitnesses said a major catastrophe was only narrowly averted.

Local hospital officials corroborated state media reports that two were dead after a stand at Mollaai Stadium, jam-packed with some 30,000 spectators but built to hold only half that many, fell apart during a match Sunday.

State radio quoted officials as saying that another five people

were in serious condition from the tragedy, which left nearly 300 injured.

A local football federation official who asked not to be named told AFP that an angry mob tried to chase down government officials after the tragic collapse during a match between Tehran's Pirouzi and local side Shamushak.

He said security forces escorted the officials to safety as the mob broke windows at the grounds and attacked press and VIP areas, but denied that anti-riot police had been called in to restore order.

Eyewitnesses denounced match organisers and football officials for selling what they said was around 30,000 tickets while the stadium had a capacity of only

10,000-15,000.

Pirouzi, a perennial league leader with an enthusiastic nationwide following, were losing 2-0 at half-time to local first division competitors Shamushak in a do-or-die elimination cup match at the grounds.

"Every two or three years when there's a major match like this, the situation is the same," a local merchant who asked not to be named said. "They were lucky because this could have been a catastrophe."

There was no immediate confirmation of reports coming out of Sari after the stadium collapse Sunday, which said players had

SEE PAGE 15



CAUGHT LIVE: An Iranian television that was covering the football match between Pirouzi and Shamushak on Sunday, shooting the collapse instead.

Shakil on a roll

SPORTS REPORTER

Abu Sufian Shakil won his second and third round matches in the World Chess Championship zonal qualifying round held in Sri Lanka on Sunday, according to an e-mail received on Monday.

In the second round, Shakil beat Sri Lankan G Vjesuriya and then beat his compatriot Amarawickrema in the next round also held on the same day.

Shakil has earned two points after three rounds.

Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and Tyebur Rahman Sumon have both one-and-a-half points each respectively.

IM Reefat-bin-Sattar, on the other hand, has collected just one point in the competition.

In the women's competition, Fide Woman's Master Tanima Parveen has two points while International Women's Master Rani Hamid only one after three rounds.

Gloucs glide into qtrs

REUTERS, London

Holders Gloucestershire became the first county to qualify for the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals following their comfortable 21-run victory over Worcestershire at Bristol on Sunday.

It maintained their 100 per cent record in the competition, having won four out of four games in the Midland/West/Wales Division before Monday's final match against Somerset at Taunton.

Worcestershire now need to beat neighbours Warwickshire in their last game at New Road to stand any chance of qualifying as one of the two best third-place finishers.

Gloucestershire's imposing total of 263 for eight from their 50 overs was built on a fourth-wicket partnership of 126 between Australian all-rounder Ian Harvey (92) and 40-year-old Kim Barnett (85).

That was after Alamgir Sheri, who completed figures of four for 19, had reduced them to 50 for three.

Worcestershire were given a solid start as Anurag Singh (83) and Phil Weston (65) compiled an opening stand of 150 in 36 overs.

But Graeme Hick (19) and Vikram Solanki (25) were out trying to pick up the pace, leaving an unlikely target of 44 runs off the last four overs before the visitors closed on 242 for seven.

In the Northern Division, leaders Nottinghamshire suffered a surprise six-wicket defeat by bottom-of-the-table Derbyshire at Derby.

Usman Afzaal (50), Paul Johnson (38) and Greg Blewett (35) top scored in Nottinghamshire's total of 231. But Derbyshire were always on course after Rob Bailey (62) and Michael Di Venuto (44) put on 88 for the first wicket.

With nine runs required off the final over, Matthew Dowman saw them home in spectacular fashion by hitting the first two balls from Gareth Clough for six and four to

SEE PAGE 15

Another feather in Roddick's cap

AFP, Houston

In the midst of the best stretch of his short professional career, US teenager Andy Roddick won his second straight tournament Sunday, beating Hyung-Taik Lee in the final of the US Men's Clay Court Championships.

Roddick extended his winning streak to 10 with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over the eighth-seeded South Korean, who became the first player from his country to reach an ATP final. Roddick did not drop a set in five matches this week.

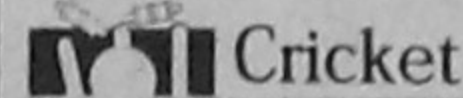
Last week, the 18-year-old Roddick made the most of his first career claycourt tournament, winning the Verizon Tennis Challenge in Atlanta. He became the first US teenager to win an ATP title since 19-year-old Michael Chang did so at San Francisco in 1992.

Roddick, the reigning world junior champion, made an immediate impact on the tour in March when he defeated former world number one Pete Sampras at the Ericsson Open in Miami en route to his first career quarter-final.

Lee, 25, made a name for himself at last year's US Open, where he reached the fourth round before losing to Sampras. He also was a semifinalist at Brighton, England.

Last week, Lee reached his first quarterfinal of the year at Atlanta. He continued his claycourt, success this week with four straight wins, including a quarterfinal upset of second-seeded Australian Andre Ilie.

Time to be practical



Cricket

LENIN GANI

It is no surprise to see Bangladesh return empty-handed from Zimbabwe but there is also no need to start demeaning a country that has just played three Tests matches.

We seem to forget that obtaining Test status is not the end of our journey. To the contrary, it has just begun. The habit of losing isn't so bad if something could be learned from the defeats.

West Indies could endure 14 straight losses before breaking their jinx in the final Test against South Africa. If that is the case, there is nothing wrong if Bangladesh have to go through the same arduous procedure to reach the standards as the established cricket powers.

India, endowed with stroke-makers and deadly spinners, yet no matter how invincible they are at home; which they proved recently against Steve Waugh's Australians to keep their amazing unbeaten streak that stretches back to 1987 intact, nevertheless die-hard critics will not rest until an away victory is accomplished. The chance will come when they face Zimbabwe in a two-Test series next month.

In our case, on paper the results will show that the tenth Test-playing nation was whitewashed in all three one-day internationals and two Tests, still it was heartening to note that at least some competent batsmen and effective bowlers have emerged. We have grown too accustomed to seeing Akram or Aminul doing the bulk of the scoring when the side was in trouble.

Players like opener Javed Omar, who topped the batting averages, and a classy Habibul Bashar demonstrated that they have the temperament as well as an array of shots to make an impact in both versions of the game. Among the bowlers, Monjurul

Islam proved to be a handful for even experienced players like the Flower brothers -- Grant and Andy. The left-arm seamer made a dream debut in the first Test capturing six wickets.

His attributes caught the eye of the England great Ian Botham and Andy Flower himself.

Although it is never easy to analysis performance simply on the basis of three Tests, however there are signs that Bangladesh are making small though significant progress in understanding the elementary facets of five-day cricket.



NAIMUR RAHMAN

According to experts, the key to mastering Test cricket is about breaking up each session and to play each ball on its merit. A batsman must be required to be extremely patient before starting to score runs; in other words he can face 70 balls before a bad ball comes along.

Too many times Bangladesh after building a partnership lost a wicket either side of an interval.

This was an area Australian coach Trevor Chappell believed needed to be rectified if they were going compete with the big boys.

"Our cricket has improved quite a lot, but we're only putting it together in patches.

"We had a good session followed by a bad one or a good hour," he said.

"It was frustrating not only for me but for the players as well. Our batsmen were getting 40 or 50 or 60 but not going on to a hundred."

"We've got to put good sessions together to make a good day, and then we've got to put five good days together."

Another important factor that has been overlooked has been the pitches that tourists played on.

Much like the batsmen of the subcontinent, Bangladesh's batters too are not at all comfortable with a rising delivery. May be it is time our local groundsmen should start to prepare more tracks that bounce and seam instead of laying flat ones? Keeping them flat means a batsman with a poor technique is made to look better than he really is.

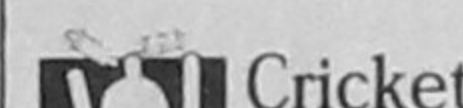
Test and one-day cricket are two different ball games. Being a master in one doesn't necessarily mean a team is qualified for the other type.

Now is not the time to pass judgement on captain Naimur Rahman's ability also. We should always remember that a captain is only as good as the team he commands. Let's not forget the reality that Naimur, like others, is also on the learning curve and captaining the team for only a few matches.

We would only make a fool out of ourselves had we argued now about his inclusion in the playing eleven. Besides, at least Naimur, one of the stars in the Inaugural Test against India in November, was honest enough to admit his shortcomings during the month-long tour of Africa. Like all other players, the captain should also be given a fair crack of the whip.

So, we should not concern ourselves with past performances or who is doing what in the team. To enrich the game in Bangladesh, administrators should concentrate on setting up a full-fledged cricket academy in every division. Let's help cricket culture flourish.

Shoaib sounds caution



Cricket

AGENCIES, Karachi

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar warned Nasser Hussain's team to prepare for some "bad news" as he flew

out from Pakistan to join his teammates in England on Monday.

Shoaib, who faces a race against time to try and earn selection for the first Test after missing the start of the two-Test tour, said:



SHOAIB AKHTAR

READERS' ZONE

Naimur in the dock

Do you have any observation regarding sports and its management in Bangladesh? Do you feel certain issues need to be addressed before time runs out? Then, hurry up and send us your burning questions, critical views and thoughtful suggestions not in excess of 400 words. Let your thoughts buzz at your corner, the READERS' ZONE.

--Sports Editor

I think captain Naimur Rahman should listen to criticism for his performance in the recently concluded Zimbabwe tour.

His statistics clearly showed that he was not as effective in Zimbabwe -- on spinners' graveyard -- as he was on the turning tracks at home.

Test, where the pitch was covered with grass, although the fielders dropped one or two catches off Naimur's off-spinners, his bowling figures (2/60 from 28 overs) never looked to be threatening. But he included himself in the playing eleven as the lone specialist spinner.

Even his field placement in Zimbabwe left a lot to be desired. For example, he placed two fielders on the on-side, only to put pressure on the bowlers to bowl deliveries far away on the off side. His field setting for Enamul Haque and himself seemed to me as well thought-out, but it was not the same in case of pacers. His bowling change in one-dayers faced a lot of criticism from commentators. I think, he also failed to

motivate the players during the tour of Zimbabwe and his failure was exposed when Khaled Masud was injured during the first Test.

As being an all-rounder and the captain, his batting in the three one-dayers and the two Test matches was also not good enough for him to stay in the team. He scored only 19, 25 and 25 runs. For an all-rounder at number six position the batting was quite alright. But for a captain, this performance was not good enough. During the Test matches, he also threw away his wicket whenever his team needed him to be there most.

Along with others, he was also guilty at dropping catches. As being the captain he should have been setting fielding example for others. Specially, his dropped catch on Day Four of the second Test match at slips proved dear for his team, giving the impression that since his place in the team is guaranteed he can get away with any misfielding -- Fahmida Waliullah (through e-mail)

"I am fit and in a proper frame of mind... They (England) haven't faced me but I am sure they are aware of what I am capable of."

"I am sure it is a bad news for the England team."

Shoaib, one of the fastest as well as one of the most controversial bowlers in the world and dubbed the "Rawalpindi Express", failed to fly out with the rest of the 17-man squad last week after failing a medical.

But he was given permission to travel by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) panel of doctors on Saturday.

"Shoaib left Lahore for England on Monday morning and in all probability will be available for the second tour match," director of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Munawwar Rana told Reuters from Lahore.

Shoaib, who has just been cleared after being reported for a suspect bowling action for the second time in his career, missed Pakistan's Test series in New Zealand in March with a thigh injury.

He travelled to the University of Western Australia for expert analysis and a report by the Department of Human Movement concluded that "unique physical characteristics" resulted in an illusion that he was throwing the ball.

The 25-year-old, who has taken 45 wickets in 15 Tests, will be challenging Wasim Akram and Mohammad Sami for a place alongside captain Waqar Younis in the Pakistan pace attack.

Question marks remain over his match fitness, though.

Shoaib, who had not played in a competitive game since February 28, appeared in a club match on Friday but failed to take a wicket in six overs costing 20 runs.

He seemed unconcerned, however, adding: "I think this tour will help me put my cricket back on track."

"I think I will be more aggressive and fearsome because I will be trying to make up for the lost time."

The tourists have two more warm-up matches against county opposition with the first one against Derbyshire beginning on Tuesday before the first Test, which starts at Lord's on May 17. They end their tour with a triangular one-day series also involving Australia.

If Akhtar does not play against Derbyshire, he will only have one game against Kent,