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DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 17, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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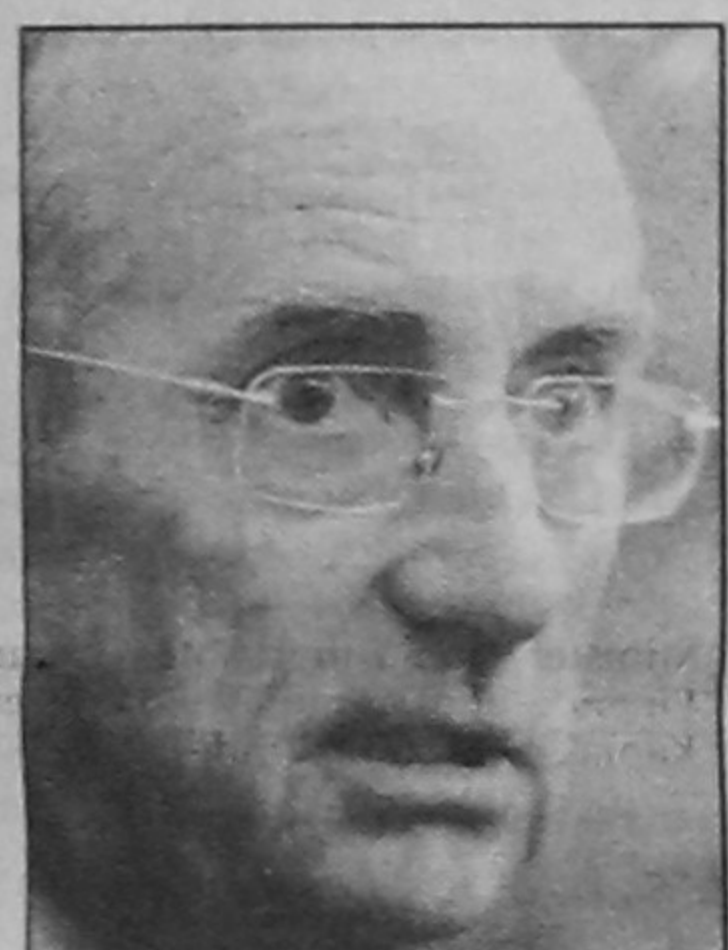
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Did U Know?
Graham Gooch of England is the only player to hit a triple century (333) and a century (123) in the same Test match. He did this against India at Lord's in 1990.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Western Union World Football
8:00 pm
UEFA Cup final
Alaves vs Liverpool
9:00 pm
Cricket Magazine
The Cricket Archives 1905-1960
12:00 am (Friday)
Star Sports
Pakistan vs England
First Test Day One
Live at 3:50 pm
Football Mundial
2:30 am (Friday)

Talk TURKEY



Malcolm Gray
(International Cricket Council president)
"Test match cricket is the purest form of the game and commands the following of millions of fans around the world."
On the inauguration of the World Test Championship.



Bangladesh cricket coach Trevor Chappell (M) and skipper Naimur Rahman (L) and Aminul Islam during the signing ceremony of the AMF-Rangs Bowling Complex yesterday.

Formers back Naimur

Cricket
AL-AMIN

Former cricket captains and organisers are of the opinion that Naimur Rahman should be given a fare share of time to absorb the heat of big time cricket both as a skipper and a player.

They also observed that it was too early to assess the success and failure of Naimur, who only led the international newcomers in three Tests.

When Naimur was named captain to lead Bangladesh in the one-off inaugural Test match against India everybody thought that the gutsy all-rounder was the best possible choice for the demanding job. But only after seven months, the 27-year-old came under fire with people all around calling for a change.

During the month-long tour of Zimbabwe, Naimur failed to lead Bangladesh from the front. His bat did not smile and the bowling lost the edge there. Still, it was not unexpected that Bangladesh would be losing all the three Tests and as many one-day internationals under Naimur's captaincy. But the reality did not stop Naimur from becoming so unpopular. Some critics even went on to say that his six-wicket haul against India was "one stroke of luck".

Yet, former national captains Gazi Ashraf Hossain and Roquibul

Hassan rallied behind the beleaguered Bangladesh captain.

"I think it was not a bad start for him. He has got a good game reading and showed the ability to go up the hill. He needs time to prove his mettle. It would be wise to give him at least a year to grow up in the tough world of Test cricket," said Gazi Ashraf.

Ashraf also pointed at the reality, which he felt many of us are apparently not aware of. "Gone are those days of playing cricket against the associate members. This is a different world where we are the underdogs. So, we should not consider the face of results right now. Rather, we should focus on building a team that would sustain the pressure of tough cricket."

Ashraf, who was the first long-term manager of Bangladesh team and a key figure in its ICC Trophy triumph, also considered Naimur a clear-cut person.

"He is a straightforward guy and very practical. This aspect of his character might tend someone to believe that he would not be a good motivator. But then, a captain needs these qualities even if it hurts his colleagues. Because, in the end, it is the captain who has to bear the brunt of a failure," said Ashraf.

Another former captain Roquibul Hassan also expressed his sympathy to Naimur, terming him as a better captain than Akram

Khan and Aminul Islam. "We are the underdogs in Test cricket. It is a learning process for Bangladesh as well as for the captain. He might have made some mistakes and lost a few games in Bangladesh, but he was always a confident man out in the middle," said Roquibul. "I am for giving him a full year. He is a good PR man, possesses the quality of a good leader. May be at times he looked over-confident, but this is only a learning process for him."

Both the former captains however agreed that it would be difficult for Naimur to command his side unless his own performance improves.

"It's true that a captain has to lead his side by example. But he also needs support from his teammates. I would not say that he would make the Mark Taylor of Bangladesh. But he would do better than now if he gets more mature performance from his senior teammates," observed Ashraf.

Roquibul however felt that Naimur should be more discreet about his relationship with his teammates as reports of discontent among the players came out strongly.

When contacted, Naimur refuted the allegation of discontent but stressed that he does not believe in the mock show of modesty.

"I do not believe in democracy

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Romo Rouf (R), managing director of Rangs Properties, and Kapil Kaul, managing director of AMF, India, exchange documents after the signing of the deal to construct a bowling complex in Dhanmondi while chief guest State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader smiles during a ceremony at the Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Rangs goes bowling

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangs Properties Ltd, a sister concern of Rangs Group, and Always Means Fun (AMF), the American-based pioneers in the manufacturing, promotion and marketing of bowling around the world, signed an agreement at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Presided over by Romo Rouf Chowdhury, managing director of the Rangs Properties Limited, the ceremony was also attended by Kapil Kaul managing director AMF, India, Amunullah Chowdhury, vice-chairman Rangs Group and Rume Akhter Hossain, managing director, Rangs Industries Limited respectively. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader was the chief guest.

Besides, Bangladesh cricket coach Trevor Chappell, captain Naimur Rahman and the coun-

try's only Test centurion Aminul Islam were also present.

Romo Rouf said that Rangs Properties' vision was to construct complexes that helped create lifestyles.

"Dhaka city has very few places where the family can go and have fun. Keeping that in mind they were to join hands with AMF in promoting the fastest growing game in the region."

"Bowling is a family sport that requires no skill," he added.

The ten-crore taka project is scheduled to start at the Anam Rangs Plaza in Dhanmondi next month. It is expected to be completed by June next year.

The Rangs-AMF Bowling Complex would be spread over two floors at the top. To encourage and popularise bowling, the promoters would not charge any entrance fee. Also to keep children entertained, there would be a

'special play area' reserved for them. However, there was good news for cricket lovers too. The members of the Bangladesh cricket team would be granted 'free membership' of the bowling complex.

The other floor will have an International Food Court, a restaurant catering to cuisine from different countries. It would be operated by the six most popular restaurants in the country.

Kapil Kaul, explaining the reasons for the venture, said that a bowling complex was very easy to set up even in a shopping centre.

State Minister Obaidul Quader, welcoming the joint venture project, hoped it would be a great success. He assured them of any government assistance, if needed.

After the speeches were over, Romo Rouf and Kapil Kaul exchanged documents. Later, all the dignitaries were presented gifts.

Sylhet may host ODI in November

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury is optimistic of holding a one-day international match at the Sylhet Stadium during Zimbabwe's tour of Bangladesh next November.

The local cricket supremo said this after a day-long inspection on the existing facilities in Sylhet on Wednesday.

Zimbabwe during their visit, will play two Test matches and a three-game ODI series against hosts Bangladesh.

BCB have so far not announced any venues for the matches.

"Sylhet has all the basic structures which we need to hold an international match. We have a little problem regarding accommodation but hopefully it will be over before November," said Saber while talking to a group of reporters at the Sylhet Stadium after the final of the Standard Chartered 19th National School Cricket Championship.

He, however, added that the matter would only be finalised after an inspection team from the International Cricket Council (ICC) gives their go ahead.

"Today I have been to one newly constructed hotel which seems good enough for international standard accommodation. What they need to do here (in Sylhet) is to improve the condition of the gymnasium adjacent to the stadium and arrange some more indoor facilities there," Saber said.

Saber also revealed that the area earmarked for the Divisional Stadium would be converted into a regional cricket academy.

CJKS Div I cricket

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Mohammedan Sporting Club, Satadal Club and Abahani Krira Chakra won their respective matches of the CJKS-Ispahani First Division Cricket League at different city venues yesterday.

Mohammedans defeated Regensee Sports Club by five wickets at the MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong.

At Dampara Police Lines ground, Satadal beat Abahani KC (jr) by 103 runs in the second match.

In the third match of the day at the Chittagong Medical College ground, Abahani KC recorded an impressive 143-run victory over Customs AC.

BRIEFScores

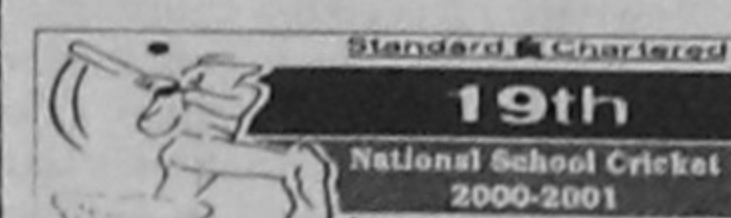
Mohammedan vs Regensee
MOHAMMEDAN : 166/5 in 37 overs (Suman 38, Najim 34, Nannu 31 * and Shakil 24; Kaiser 2/25)
REGENSEE : 165/7 in 45 overs (Joni 52, Rajesh 33; Naser 2/21 & Azim 2/34)

Satadal vs Abahani KC (jr)
SATADAL : 254/8 in 45 overs (Rashed 56, Ikram Hasan 30*, Bipu 26; Mohsin 2/29 & Shawkat 2/46)
ABAHANI (JR) : 151/9 in 45 overs (Liton 35, Rajib 20; Sumon 3/21 & Sujon 2/28)

Abahani KC vs Customs AC
ABAHANI KC : 281/9 in 45 overs (Irfan 78, Zisan 40, Hasanuzzaman 31, Afzal 29, Nahid 26* ; Sumon 3/31)

CUSTOMS AC : 138/10 in 37.4 overs (Razu 34, Arman 20, Mithu 3/19; Iharu 2/8 and Jokky 2/26).

BKSP school kings



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan (BKSP) clinched their maiden school cricket title when they defeated Manikganj Government High School by 44 runs in the final of the Standard Chartered 19th National School Cricket Championship at the Sylhet Stadium on Wednesday.

Chasing a paltry BKSP total of 117 in 40 overs, Manikganj were bundled out for just 73 in 34.4 overs.

Paceman Nayeem Islam was the architect of BKSP's triumph with a five-wicket haul giving away just 12 runs in 7.4 overs. The 15-year old, who comes off a shortish run-up, tormented the Manikganj boys with his bounce and seam movement.

The players had a torrid day due to the scorching temperature. The heat also kept the spectators away with only a hundred odd cricket fans deciding to show up.

Electing to bat first, the boys from BKSP failed to build up a partnership. They however managed to push their score past 100 thanks to an unbeaten 24 from number nine Rubaiyat Haq.

Babu with three for sixteen was Manikganj's most successful bowler.

Manikganj in their turn found it impossible to get any momentum going. Only Johnny with 24, could reach double figures for them.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury witnessed the final and gave away prizes. MA Ali, chief executive of Standard Chartered Bank in Bangladesh, Abdus Sobhan Sikdar, the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet and Dildar Hossain Selim, the general secretary of Sylhet DSA, were also present on the occasion.

BKSP's Nayeem was later adjudged as man-of-the-final. He received Taka 3,000 as cash award.

Champion BKSP were richer by Taka 25,000 while the runners up team were awarded Taka 15,000.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Standard

Chartered 19th National School Cricket Championship final between BKSP and Manikganj Government High School at the Sylhet Stadium on Wednesday:

BKSP				
Tanveer b Prince	0			
Maruf c Babu b Liton	12			
Ashraf c Sohel b Prince	0			
Dhiman lbw b Babu	12			
Nayeem c Sohel b Babu	6			
Ashiq c Jamil b Johnny	17			
Halim b Babu	3			
Nadif c Rocky b Jamil	5			
Rubaiyat not out	24			
Asif c Rocky b Liton	10			
Nazmul run out	2			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-3, w-21)	26			
Total: (All out in 37.2 overs)	117			
Fall of wickets: 1/1, 2/2, 3/26, 4/40, 5/51, 6/57, 7/68, 8/87, 9/110.				
Bowler				
Prince	8	0	22	2
Liton	7	0	21	2
Ashim	3	0	13	0
Babu	8	2	16	3
Jamil	7	0	29	1
Johnny	4.2	0	14	1
MANIKGANJ GOVT HIGH SCHOOL				
Babu c Tanveer b Asif	2			

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BKSP captain Ashiqur Rahman receives the champions' trophy of the Standard Chartered 19th School Cricket tournament from Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury after the final at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday. On Saber's left is Standard Chartered Bank's chief executive M A Ali.

SA struggling

Cricket
REUTERS, Kingstown

South Africa recovered a little to 105-5 in 35 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat in the seventh and final one-day international against the West Indies here on Wednesday.

Jacques Kallis was on 46 and Mark Boucher 15 after the South Africans had earlier been on 48-4.

Kallis and Jonty Rhodes, playing in his 200th one-day international for South Africa, shared a partnership of 39 for the fifth wicket to help the tourists back into the game.

But the runs came slowly as the West Indian bowlers maintained a stifling line.

Rhodes was bowled as he looked to force left-arm spinner Neil McGarrell through the off side, the ball keeping low and taking the inside edge before clipping the off stump.

Rhodes scored 16 from 34 balls, an unusually slow strike-rate by his standards.

South Africa's chances of reaching 200 appeared to rest largely with Kallis. His runs came

PEPSI
MORE CRICKET
MORE PEPSI

largely in singles, the exception a thunderous square cut for four of medium pacer Kerry Jermy.

As in the sixth game in Trinidad, West Indian opening bowlers Cameron Cuffy and Corey Collymore maintained a probing line, Cuffy picking up three early wickets in front of his home crowd.

For the second match in succession, Herschelle Gibbs was dismissed cheaply. After receiving an unplayable off-cutter from Cuffy on Saturday, Gibbs (1) this time looked to attack the fast bowler, top-edging a hook high to fine-leg where Collymore judged the catch superbly in the swirling wind.

South Africa lead the series 5-1. West Indies made two changes to the team beaten by 53-runs in the sixth game in Trinidad.

Opening batsman Chris Gayle returns in place of Ricardo Powell

and left-arm spinner Neil McGarrell replaces leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine.

South Africa made three changes with left-hander Gary Kirsten returning at the top of the order in place of Boeta Dippenaar, all-rounder Justin Ontong replacing wrist-spinner Paul Adams and paceman Makhaya Ntini coming in for the injured Andre Nel.

TEAMS

WEST INDIES: Chris Gayle, Daren Ganga, Brian Lara, Marlon Samuels, Carl Hooper, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ridley Jacobs, Neil McGarrell, Cameron Cuffy, Corey Collymore, Kerry Jermy.

SOUTH AFRICA: Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Jonty Rhodes, Neil McKenzie, Justin Ontong, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Justin Kemp, Roger Telemachus, Makhaya Ntini.

226 days of International Cricket, 9 Cricket playing nations.

CRICKET-KA ASLI JALWA

PAK v ENGLAND 2 TMs May 2001

IND v ZIM v WI 2 TMs - June 2001 7 ODIs - July 2001

AUS v PAK v ENG 10 ODIs June 2001

THE ASHES 5 TMs July-Aug 2001

N ZEALAND v PAK 3 TMs & 3 ODIs Sep 2001

IND v S AFRICA 3 TMs & 7 ODIs Oct-Nov 2001

The Jalwa starts today: England vs Pakistan 1st Test May 17-21, from 3.50 pm onwards.

Live on **ESPN STAR SPORTS**