Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 22, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

Did U Know?

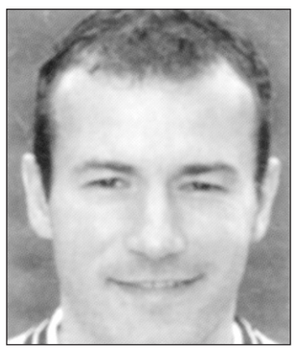
Playing against Worcestershire in 1955 Robin Marlar bowled three consecutive deliveries in one over with three different balls. The first two had been driven out of the ground and declared 'lost' as a result of big hits by R G Broadbent.

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur vs Newcastle
10:00 am
&
Chelsea vs Leeds United
12:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Highlights at 7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
11:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Celtic vs FC Porto
12:00 am (Tuesday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sport News
Live at 7:30 am
Tennis Masters Series, Stuttgart
Men's Final
3:00 pm
South Africa Tri Series
Kenya vs South Africa
Eighth ODI, Preview
Live at 6:00 pm
South Africa Tri Series
Kenya vs South Africa
Eighth ODI
Live at 6:30 pm



Alan Shearer
(Former England striker)
"He is still such a great player. Intelligent, clever and a great pro to boot. I tell you, there is a lot of football still left in him."
On Teddy Sheringham.

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 159

Tick the Correct Answers Post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 26, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many runs did Herschelle Gibbs score in the first ODI against Zimbabwe?
115 | 125 | 130
2. Who clinched the Princess Cup tennis title?
Hingis | Dokic | Kournikova
3. Who became the new Australian Cricket Board chief?
Denis Rogers | Bob Merrimam | Geoff Marsh
4. What was the result of the South Africa and Zimbabwe Test series?
2-0 | 1-0 | 1-1
5. Who became Shanghai Open champion?
Chang | Schuttler | Agassi

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

Rahman tells all to wait

SPORTS REPORTER

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman said that the government would be making changes in the existing set-up of different sports federations.

But the new sports boss of the country did not want to define whether the changes would be qualitative or quantitative during his first formal encounter with the sports scribes at his National Sports Council (NSC) office on Sunday afternoon.

"Since the government has changed, Bangladesh sport will also see some changes. Our government has a definitive policy to run it, but we are taking our time to implement our plans," said Rahman in front of a packed audience.

Responding to a query on whether the government would abolish the present democratic process and revert to ad-hocism, which the BNP practised during its 1991-95 tenure, Rahman diplomatically remarked: "I have plenty of options to play with now…y wait and in time you will know everything."

Rahman was attempting to impressive rather than expressive in the press briefing, which at the end seemed to be nothing more than an introductory meeting.

Like his predecessors, Rahman too, took the chance to boldly assert that a judicial committee headed by a former justice would be formed to investigate five years of corruption in the sports arena.

FAZLUR RAHMAN

However, he did not mention which specific areas would be investigated.

Also, during the meeting that ran for more than an hour, Rahman failed to address several burning issues like the perennial tug-of-war between cricket and football over possession of the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

Interestingly, the BNP lawmaker exposed his true colours when he repeatedly referred to the BNS as 'Dhaka Stadium' while clarifying his position.

"I will have a talk with the heads of both federations soon. And definitely I sympathise with the Bangladesh Cricket Board, since it still does not have permanent venue. Besides, we are seriously thinking of constructing an international cricket stadium at Moghbazar," Rahman said.

Although the Awami League government had planned to build such a stadium in that area, unfortunately the blueprint has remained only a blueprint.

"While it is true that not all sports can be played on a cricket ground, it must be said building cricket stadia in a crowded metropolis like Dhaka is virtually impossible too," Rahman thought.

Inside Marsh's army

Cricket

BBC, *Sandhurst*

Yorkshire fast bowler Steve Kirby seems still to be in shock after his first week with the England Cricket Academy, an introduction week at the Royal Military Academy in Sandurst.

The 16 men selected to come under the tutelage of Rod Marsh in Adelaide this winter were thrown together in a variety of team-building exercises.

The torments included a 24-hour hike, sleeping out in dense forest, circuit training, an assault course and being woken up in the middle of the night to perform all manner of tasks.

One of Kirby's biggest challenges was a 50-foot high aerial slide, made all the more difficult because he suffers from vertigo

"The idea was to get each of us out of our comfort zone at least once," says Kirby. "I got out of mine quite a few times."

The reason for the week, according to former Lancashire batsman John Abrahams and now Marsh's assistant, was to set the parameters for the side living and playing together.

"We did tasks in small groups to see how people reacted and who came to the fore," Abrahams explains.

"We were working on recognising differences and accommodating them while looking to achieve a common goal."

"The players got to know themselves better," says Abrahams.

"We were surprised how they reacted. They had to support and help each other and realise that certain people have certain skills that can be relied on.

The exercises showed Kirby that he needs to depend more on his teammates when things aren't going his way.

"When the going gets a bit tough, you've got to put emphasis on the team," he says.

"I tend to go into myself a bit and that's something I've got to work on."

Anyone worried that the cream of the next generation of England cricketers might end up nursing a nasty injury should be calmed, a little at least, by Kirby.

"It was very difficult at times but at no time did I feel in danger," he says.

"There were safety protocols to go through and you were never going to get killed, although sometimes I thought I might be!"

It wasn't all physical torture for the Academy aspirants, though. There were lectures from inspirational figures in other fields.

Rower James Cracknell spoke about winning Olympic gold and climber Neil Laughton about the adversity that had to be conquering in climbing Everest.

England coach Duncan Fletcher came for dinner one evening and talked to the youngsters about the importance of fitness.

"Training alongside the officer-cadets, the players realised how hard they would have to work to achieve the same level of fitness," says Abrahams.

"Duncan Fletcher's major message was that if you have worked on fitness it is something you don't have to worry about when the pressure's on, in the heat of a stadium with 70,000 spectators."

While increasing fitness will be key, the boot camp model is not one that will be followed when the Academy take their next step - putting what they have learnt into practice in Australia.

"It certainly won't be a case of everyone into the pool for 20 lengths or everyone off on a five-mile run," Abrahams continues.

"Each player will receive a programme targeting his individual areas for improvement.

"For instance, fast bowlers have specific needs and they might have a session on their own while the batsmen are having a session in the nets.

"Players specific needs might be technical, tactical or even psychological. Perhaps a player needs to work on his concentration."

Mention of the "P" word turns thoughts to enigmatic pace bowler Alex Tudor, who was reportedly injured on the day of the assault

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PHOTO: INTERNET

An army instructor explains the rules to a couple of England's youngsters at Sandhurst.

Pull out will cost ECB

Cricket

AGENCIES, *London*

English cricket faces bankruptcy if they pull out of next month's tour to India because of fears over the proximity to Afghanistan, a British newspaper reported on Sunday.

English cricket officials are due to meet the 16-man touring party on Tuesday to make a final decision on whether the three-Test tour should proceed in the light of the United States-led military campaign in which Britain is playing a high-profile role.

The Sunday Telegraph reported that under new regulations brought in by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in Kuala Lumpur last week England face a fine of at least 1.4 million pounds (two million dollars) and compensation claims from India if they cancel the trip.

The report said the total financial penalty could be seven million pounds (10 million dollars).

The president of the Indian cricket board, Jagmohan Dalmiya, has also threatened that if England pull out, India will reciprocate by cancelling their tour to England next year.

The Sunday Telegraph said its own poll of the England squad had shown that six were reluctant to tour.

England's Test cricketers will hold informal discussions to discuss their security concerns over next month's tour of India.

All-rounder Craig White has already expressed his opposition to the tour because of India's proximity to Afghanistan and captain Nasser Hussain has said he will not force players to travel.

Batsman Michael Vaughan said on Radio Five Live on Sunday that the team would meet on Monday night before a Foreign Office briefing at Lord's on Tuesday. The British High Commissioner in New Delhi, Rob Young, will also attend Tuesday's meeting.

"I'm obviously a bit concerned about travelling at this stage," Vaughan said. "We meet on Monday night and there will be a bit of discussion."

Vaughan's Yorkshire teammate White told the BBC that travelling to India was too big a risk.

"The situation is that if there's going to be retaliation, there's no way they can guarantee our safety, so why risk it," White said.

"Maybe if I was 23 without a family...but I have got a wife and two kids and they don't want me to go."

Hussain, who was born in Madras, said he had still to decide whether or not to tour.

"It's not just players who are going, there's physios, everyone's going to have to make the decision with the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board)," he said.

He referred to the six players with English Premier League club Chelsea, who refused to travel to Israel this week.

Hussain told the newspaper: "I'm getting worried about the state of mind my team's going to be in.

"It's going to be very difficult to get the players out of their rooms and not to have a siege mentality. India's a beautiful place but it's hard enough to tour without these things going on."

ECB chief executive Tim Lamb said on Saturday: "We're confident that we'll be able to persuade the players that the situation in India is not quite as serious as certain people have been led to believe.

"We do understand that players are apprehensive as this is a difficult and delicate situation, but that's why we've called a meeting.

"We can't force people to get on the plane but the meeting will hopefully make them more confident about going to India."

Last week the International Cricket Council (ICC) acknowledged the uncertainty facing international cricket when it approved the use of neutral venues for countries unable to stage home series.

ECB officials will also have to consider the possibility of India cancelling a four-Test tour of England next year in retaliation if they decide not to visit the subcontinent.

Good start for U-19 team

SPORTS REPORTER

The touring Bangladesh under-19 team recorded a four-wicket win over Southern District at BICE Oval ground in Adelaide in a limited-overs exhibition match on Sunday.

Featuring in the first of a series of exhibition games, the visitors successfully chased an unimpressive home side total of exactly 100 in 32 overs.

Middle-order batsman Aftab led the chase with fine 42 off 58 balls. The right-hander struck four boundaries and a six before being run out. Captain Nafees Iqbal with 21 was the other notable run-getter on a difficult wicket.

Earlier, the new ball pair of Shafaq Al-Zabir and Ashique demolished the Southern District batting line up sharing five wickets among them. A tall Zabir claimed three wickets for 23 runs while Ashiq took two for 19.

The under-19 team will play their next match against Port Adelaide on October 27.

BRIEF SCORES

Southern District: 100 all out in 44.2 overs (Reey 22, Wallace 13; Shafuq Al-Zabir 3/23, Ashique 2/19, Shariful 2/16, Shafiul 2/14)

Bangladesh U-19: 101 for 6 in 32 overs (Aftab 42, Nafees 21, Ali Arman 12 not out; Bevan 2/16, Shepherd 2/22)

BD A-Mumbai Colts match from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A team will play their first longer version game against Mumbai Colts at the Wankhede Stadium today.

The tourists, who had earlier posted impressive wins in their two one-day games against the CCI, are likely to face stiff challenge from some promising Indian players.

Khaled Mahmud has so far led his team from the front and Ashraful, Test cricket's youngest centurion, has also enjoyed a good time both with both bat and ball.

But the tour has so far been disappointing for Test opener Mehrab Hossain. The match will be extremely vital for the right-hander to retain his place in the senior team.

Tame draw in BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

The three-day match between BCB under-16 and the visiting CAB U-16 team ended in a tame draw at the BKSP in Savar on Sunday.

The match progressed to a point of no result when the home team decided to bat throughout the final day after the tourists' first innings ended on 197.

The highlight of the day was a brilliant 75 by opener Golam Rahman. His 132-ball innings enabled BCB boys to pile up 210 for six in 50 overs. Rahman struck six boundaries in his 188-minute vigil at the crease.

It was his back-to-back half century. Rahman scored 52 in the first innings total of 217.

Earlier, the tourists, resuming on 139 for five, lost their last five wickets with the addition of 56 runs.

Steve straight into Test?

AFP, *Sydney*

Steve Waugh is likely to go into Australia's opening cricket Test against New Zealand next month without any match practice.

Waugh is expected to miss Friday's interstate match for New South Wales against South Australia here as Australian medical officials refuse to risk the deep vein thrombosis (DVT) which has afflicted the national captain since returning from the Ashes tour to England.

The match is the last lead-up match before the Test series begins at Brisbane's Gabba ground on November 8 and Waugh might even be kept out of club cricket because there would seem little point in risking him.

He had already returned to the nets this week but media reports Sunday suggested he would not be considered for NSW this week.

NSW coach Steve Rixon said he was waiting to speak with Waugh on Monday after "hearing the same rumours" about his unavailability this week.

But Waugh would be certain to play in the first Test if he declared his fitness, especially after defying the doubters with an unbeaten 157 against England in the fifth Test at The Oval in August.

The 36-year-old Waugh returned

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PHOTO: STAR

A groundsman at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, mowing the grass on Saturday in preparation of the forthcoming tour by the Zimbabwe team.

Vettori scare for NZ

Cricket

AGENCIES, *Canberra*

New Zealand's Test preparations were rocked Sunday when key spin bowler Daniel Vettori injured ankle ligaments in the three-day cricket tour match against the Australian Capital Territory Invitational Eleven at Manuka Oval here.

The injury offset a successful comeback to the New Zealand team by star player Chris Cairns, who got through 20 overs. The all-rounder removed opening batsman Corey Richards for one.

Vettori twisted his right leg in just his second over.

Fielding off his own bowling, Vettori attempted to gather a firmly hit ball by ACT batsman Matthew Phelps but fell awkwardly.

The spinner appeared in great pain as he was taken from the ground and while X-rays confirmed there was no bone damage, early reports indicated he had strained ligaments.

New Zealand team physiotherapist Dale Shackel said Vettori had the ankle packed in ice after a short stay and X-rays at the hospital.

"Sometimes with those ankle sprains they can be very sore for a start and then get better reasonably quickly," Shackel said.

"We're optimistic he'll make a quick recovery but it's too early to say at this stage."

DANIEL VETTORI

Shackel said Vettori would take no further part in the match but he was optimistic of him being able to play in the Brisbane Test against Australia on November 8.

At the close of the first day's play, the ACT Invitational Eleven were 280 for three, with Canberra opener Jack Smith top-scoring with an unbeaten 145.

Left-arm paceman Shayne O'Connor was the most successful bowler, taking two for 55 from his 20 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day match between New Zealand and the Australian Capital Territory Invitational Eleven at the Man uka Oval in Canberra:

ACT Invitation XI: First innings

Richards c Bell b Cairns 1
Smith not out 145
Phelps c Parore b O'Connor 51
Hazell c Parore b O'Connor 56
Lambert not out 18
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-2) 9
Total: (For 3 wkts in 99 overs) 280

To bat: *JD Robson, HR Axelby, AM Clark, +DG Dawson, JM Heath, E Kellar, SL Maxwell.

Fall of wkts: 1-2; 2-87; 3-212.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cairns	20	6	85	1
O'Connor	20	6	55	2
Martin	19	6	50	0
Vettori	2	0	6	0
Sulzberger	34	10	73	0
Astle	4	1	4	0

NEW ZEALAND: S Fleming, M Bell, M Sinclair, N Astle, L Vincent, C Cairns, A Parore, G Sulzberger, D Vettori, S O'Connor, C Martin.

Inspired by Waugh

Cricket

REUTERS, *Canberra*

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns has said his early return to action from knee surgery was inspired by Australia captain Steve Waugh's courageous century against England in August.

"You have to take a leaf out of Steve Waugh's book and see what he did in the last test in England," Cairns said.

"Steve is an example to every cricketer, not just Australians.

"Playing the Australian way is more mental anyway.

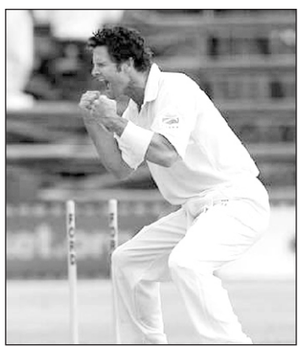
"I'm on a journey I know will take me to the first test (on November 8).

"If it wasn't Australia I may have given myself a little more time, but the lure of coming here is too great."

Waugh, who missed the fourth Test with a calf injury, smashed an unbeaten 157 not out in the fifth Test at The Oval despite his injury deteriorating during the innings.

Waugh, 36, had endured several hours of treatment and pool workouts daily to recover in time for the fifth Test.

Cairns joined the New Zealand squad on Saturday ahead of the second match of the tour against an Australian Capital Territory Invitational XI starting at Manuka Oval on Sunday.



CHRIS CAIRNS

Cairns, 31, a veteran of 49 Tests in an injury-interrupted career, said being the son of hard-hitting former New Zealand all-rounder Lance Cairns was sometimes a burden.

"It would have been nice to have discovered myself a little earlier," Cairns was quoted as saying in the Sunday Herald Sun newspaper.

"Talent is often the hardest tag anyone can have because there are always expectations.

"I am sired by one of New Zealand's top players.

"You get that tag and you just have to try to come through with the goods.

"It's quite funny because no matter what I ever do, people still think my father is better than I am."

Cairns has made 2,572 runs at an average of 32.55 with four centuries since making his debut against Australia in Perth in 1989.

He has also taken 171 wickets at 29.21, compared to Lance's 130 wickets at 32.92 from 43 Tests.

Appeal for Adams

Cricket

INTERNET, *Port Elizabeth*

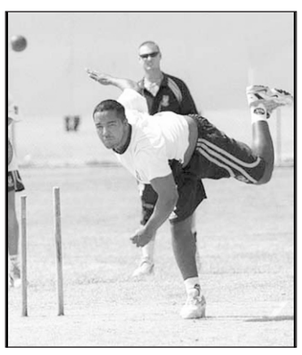
One of the biggest shortcomings in South African cricket at the moment is the lack of top class spinners, and that is why a talented player like Paul Adams should again be involved at national level.

So says former Test batsman Lee Irvine at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth when asked about the flaws in the South African make-up with a view to the upcoming Test series against India and the subsequent tour to Australia.

"We are going to need at least two spinners this season. Claude Henderson did not convince and he cannot play in the same team as Nicky Boje since they are both orthodox left-arm spinners."

According to Irvine this is where Western Province trick bowler Adams may come in handy.

"Almost two-thirds of his 96 Test victims were tailenders - numbers nine, ten and eleven. We need somebody who can clinically put the last nails into the opponents' coffin."



PAUL ADAMS

Adams, who had a sensational start to his Test career in the 1995/96 season, later on struggled to live up to expectations. These days he is even finding it difficult to make the Western Province team.

Irvine believes a spin-bowling guru must take Adams in hand if there is to be any hope of resuscitating his Test career. "His grip is the main problem. He holds the ball with two fingers. That leaves him with insufficient control and he cannot turn the ball as much as he would like to.

"Somebody like Australian spin-bowling expert Terry Jenner must change Adams's grip and then he must be given three to six months to gain confidence. He has nothing to lose. If he is not willing to do something drastic, he must be content to play club cricket and a bit of provincial cricket for the rest of his career."

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