

Star SPORT

DHAKA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



Did U Know?

The history of Radley College tells of WEW Collins, have dismissed three men with one delivery. The first victim was hit on the thumb and was led out bleeding profusely, his colleague fainted and the next man in decided not to bat!



BTV & ETV

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Two
Live at 9:45 am

ESPN

Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
6:30 am
Western Union World Football
7:00 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
11:30 am

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Australia vs New Zealand
First Test, Day Two
Live at 5:57 am

Sport News Today
Sport News
8:00 am

English Premier Football League
Charlton Athletic vs Arsenal
1:30 pm

Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
3:30 pm

Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

Football Asia
10:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
10:30 pm

Australia vs New Zealand
First Test, Day Two
Highlights at 11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Zinedine Zidane

(Real Madrid's French star)
"At the moment I'm not satisfied with what I'm giving the team. I know what I'm capable of and I'm still not happy with myself."



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 160

Tick the Correct Answers Post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Nov 9, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the Kremlin Cup?

Kafelnikov Rios Kuerten

2. Who is the new boss of Indian cricket?

Dalmiya Muthiah Lele

3. England won the first ODI against Zimbabwe by

5-wkts 20 runs 3-wkts

4. Who won the Hong Kong Open tennis tournament?

Rios Schuettler Agassi

Name became Japan Open champion?

Hewitt Sampras Ivanisevic

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



PHOTO: STAR

Teammates rush towards Monjurul Islam (3rd from R) to congratulate him after he had trapped Dion Ebrahim lbw on the opening day of the first Test yesterday.

Pragmatic character

Cricket

LENIN GANI

There is more to Brian Andrew Murphy than meets the eye. He is no doubt a young man hoping to fulfil certain aims in life. Yet Murphy, as he is fondly called, would be the first to confess even he got rather bit more than bargained for when it was announced prior to the start of the Sharjah tri-series that he was named captain of the Zimbabwe cricket team after star paceman Heath Streak suddenly stepped down.

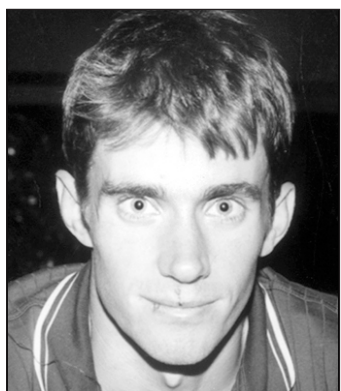
"Yes it was a bit of a surprise that I was given the captaincy. But I took as an honour and I'm moving on from here. It's a big challenge to get the team performing again... to the standard they should be performing again," said the 25-year-old leg-spinner while talking to The Daily Star Sport on Wednesday, a day before the first Test against Bangladesh.

Nevertheless, Murphy is still realistic with the arrival of new coach Geoff Marsh of Australia things can only get better considering it has been ages since Zimbabwe's last Test success.

"As far as our performances are concerned, yes, we have had a bad run of late and it is not going to be just a quick fix to get the team performing again. But I do think the coaching staff (Australian Geoff Marsh and assistant Kevin Curran) and myself can help in motivating the players and improving their chances of performing as a team at

the Test level."

Asked how it felt to be captain Murphy, who has enjoyed the aura of leadership starting from school right up to leading the Zimbabwe Under-19 team to England in 1995-



BRIAN MURPHY

96, said it was enjoyable though demanded a lot of attention.

"I am enjoying being captain very much even though it is a big challenge. Obviously, I've got to learn the ropes as quick as possible. So far, all the senior players have been very supportive of me. I am now looking forward to working with them in the future.

At the same time he is not overawed by the added responsibility of being the team's main spinner.

"No, I don't mind. That's part of the job. Since I accepted the role, so now it is up to me to perform to the level that is required and helping the side to victories."

Murphy was on the other hand pragmatic while answering if he had to improve in certain areas of his game such as batting.

"Basically the coaching team is trying very hard to developing a sort of core batting line-up as well as a consistent bowling line-up. We are trying to get the batters to work together, build partnerships and be able to communicate with one another.

"Among the bowlers we have some good prospects. Henry (Olonga) I think is getting back to form, Travis Friend has been showing good signs and Heath Streak is the mainstay of the attack as he has been for the last couple of years. Those are good signs for the future. It is up to the coaching staff and myself to a large extent to get the team to gel and make sure they work together."

Refusing to draw conclusions about if his tactics were going to be any different from his predecessor or any other captain in the future, Murphy believed the Zimbabwe think-tank was aiming to cover all the angles.

"Without covering all the angles one cannot improve as a unit. For us all our team talks, practice sessions are geared towards performing well on the international circuit.

Murphy doesn't really know or care whether he's the country's youngest captain. For him it is more important that he gains experience from number of games the MBA student actually plays.

Rates of tickets in Ctg fixed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha (CKS) has fixed the rates of tickets for the second Test and the first one-dayer of Coca-Cola Series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at MA Aziz Stadium.

CKS general secretary Shahed Asgar Chowdhury said that tickets would be on sale at least three days before the Test starts here. The second Test starts on November 15 while the ODI is on November 23. A benefit match between the touring side and the Chittagong Divisional team will be held on November 21.

Tickets would be sold through banks and negotiation was going on in this regard. However, tickets will also be available at the stadium counters on the eve of the match and the match day.

The CKS expects to earn at least Tk 40 lakh from gate money. Police, BDR, Army and BDR personnel are expected to man and assist scouts on duty at different gates of the stadium.

TEST TICKET

East Gallery Tk 200
West Gallery Tk 300
International Gallery Tk 400
Pavilion Tk 500

ODI TICKET

East gallery Tk 100
West Gallery Tk 200
International Gallery Tk 300
Pavilion Tk 1000

BENEFIT MATCH TICKET

East Gallery Tk 50
West Gallery Tk 100
International Gallery Tk 300
Pavilion Tk 500

Zia turns professional

Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Ziaur Rahman, who became the second Grand Master of the country on November 4 earning his third norm in the Ler Open GM Chess Tournament in Paris, aims at pursuing his chess career as true a professional from now.

The 27-year-old GM, who finished second in the Paris tournament, collected 6.5 points out of possible nine to clinch the final norm which had been evading him for quite long.

Currently the highest ranked player in the country, Zia said he would only concentrate on chess and try to increase his rating so that he can qualify for higher standard tournaments.

"My rating is now 2476. Hopefully, it will be 2510 next month. But, I need at least 2550 to get invitations in tournaments where leading players of the world participate," said Zia, adding that he had never been so confident as he was now.

The lanky chess player earned his first GM norm in August 1999 in the British Open and the second norm from Goodrich tournament in Kolkata early this year.

"I have played two consecutive tournaments in Germany and France. I was well prepared this time. I really worked hard, and it gave me the confidence that I might succeed. I was a little disappointed when I failed in Germany. But all went well in Paris," he said.

Unbeaten in both the competitions in Germany and France, he faced nine Grand Masters on this trip. He won one match and drew the other eight against the GMs.

Zia, who returned home on Wednesday morning, demanded more facilities for local chess play-

ers to get their performance better. "We have very limited scope in Bangladesh. The Federation should take more initiatives to improve the standard of the game here," said Zia, who thinks that IM R e f a t - b i n -

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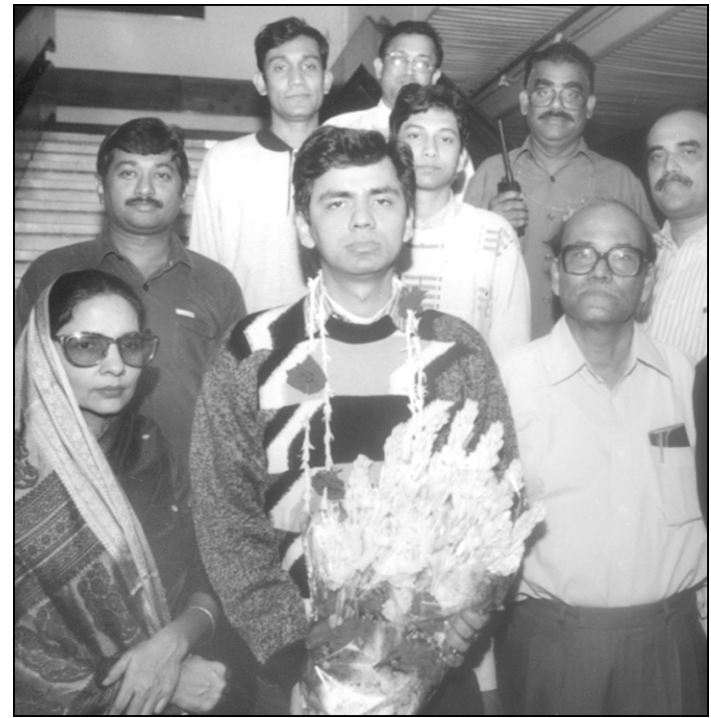


PHOTO: STAR

WELCOME HOME: Ziaur Rahman, only the second Grand Master of the country, is flanked by his proud parents at the Zia International Airport on November 7.

SERIES SNIPPETS

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national opener Athar Ali Khan thinks that BCB's latest policy on domestic cricket only contributed to the poor batting of Bangladesh cricketers.

Athar, who retired from international cricket after the ICC Trophy in 1997, expressed his view while frustratingly watching the non-stop march towards the pavilion by Bangladesh batsmen at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Talking to this correspondent when Bangladesh were eight down for 70 odd runs, Athar said that Board's policy of not allowing the national cricketers to take part in the Dhaka league was a major blunder because that was the most competitive domestic competition in the country.

"How many competitive matches they have played in the last one year? Only a few matches is not enough," said the stylish former cricketer who played for Mohammedan last year.

He also criticised the Board for not starting the domestic season even in November. "It is funny! I am not playing cricket in November," Athar added.

TALK TEST TO CRICKETERS

A section of crowd yesterday was indeed in one-day mood.

Some spectators at the western gallery looked totally dejected when Bangladesh could not score a single run in the first five overs of the day. They got something to cheer about when the Bangladesh

account was opened in the sixth over.

But then again they were seen muttering about slow run rate and loss of too many wickets for nothing.

At that time one educated spectator tried to make them understand what Test cricket was all about.

After hearing a few words from him, an angry fan asked him to stop and render his sermon to the cricketers instead.

"There is no use of making us understand about Test cricket. You should try and make our cricketers understand," he hit out at the Test expert.

COMMENTARY SILLY AS USUAL

Where is Jafarullah Sharafat? This question was asked all around the press box in the morning yesterday as his 'famous' voice had gone missing in action in the joint commentary panel of BTV and ETV.

An inquiry soon began. One reporter finally came up with the latest on Sharafat, who was dropped from the panel by BTV for his poor knowledge about the game.

Alas! BTV could not gag the veteran commentator. He was very much active as he took no time to become a radio commentator!

However, minus Jafarullah, TV panel was not totally free of silly talkers though. Some of his former colleagues never ceased the opportunity to bore the poor viewer literally to death with wise cracks and an array of clichés and stereotyped expressions.

Asian Club Cup Mukti-Radiant match today

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad will take on New Radiant Club of Maldives in their first round home match of the 21st Asian Club Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today.

The match kicks off at 5:30 pm.

Muktijoddha Sangsad have already beaten Radiant 2-1 in their away match in Male on October 24, and a mere draw tonight would confirm a meeting with Korean side Anyang in the next round.

The visitors have already reached the city on Wednesday and had their practice session at the match venue yesterday.

Army retain athletics title

PRESS RELEASE, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army retained the title in the inter-service athletics championship which was concluded yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Army bagged 14 gold, 16 silver and 10 bronze medals while Bangladesh Navy finished runners-up with 7 gold, 7 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Abu Taher witnessed the final day's events and later distributed prizes as chief guest.

MA Aziz the 82nd Test venue

SPORTS REPORTER

The MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Wednesday became the world's 82nd Test venue. The International Cricket Council gave its blessing though without carrying out any proper inspection.

The stadium in the port city will hold the second Test of the Coca-Cola Series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe starting November 15.

The ICC made its assessment based on the recommendations of Bangladesh Cricket Board director Syed Ashraf Huiq.

"I was asked to give my views on the matter on October 22. It also requested me to fill in a questionnaire, which I did so and sent back to the Clive Hitchcock, the ICC's Operations Manager on November 2," sounded a relieved Ashraf.

He told The Daily Star Sport this was the first time the game's governing body had granted Test status to a venue bypassing normal procedure.

"Over the past few months I visited the MA Aziz Stadium several times. It meets all the requirements to be a Test venue," said Ashraf.

Up till now, the country had only one internationally-recognised venue -- the Dhaka Stadium, which was baptised into Test cricket during the days of East Pakistan in 1955.

Interestingly, the 81st Test venue was the Multan Cricket Stadium when Bangladesh played Pakistan in the Second Asian Test Championship on August 29.

Akram down but not out

Cricket

HASAN MASOOD

He still is capable of playing a big innings for his country. That is what the big man from Chittagong believes.

Akram Khan, who was ignored by selectors when they announced the Bangladesh team for the first Test against Zimbabwe, also thinks he is a crisis man especially after his heroics during the successful 1997 ICC Trophy campaign.

The mild-mannered right-hander, whose vital unbeaten 68 against Netherlands in the semifinals in Kuala Lumpur to pave Bangladesh's way into the 1999 World Cup, was found dejected on Wednesday after learning he would not be playing in the opening Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"No words can actually express my utter disappointment. I thought I had performed quite well in all the practice matches. In the last warm-up game I scored two fifties. But now all that seems to have gone in vain," said Akram while talking to this correspondent.

Disappointment is nothing new

for the former national skipper. His latest setback to impress the selectors follows failure to play in the Colombo Test last September.

Yet Akram, who by nature is a

score runs that were expected of him.

Besides, his omission from the team was purely for tactical reasons according to chief selector Mainul Haq last week. Mainul informed that the Bangladesh team to face Zimbabwe would include three medium-pacers and an all-rounder in discarded vice-captain Khaled Mahmud.

But Akram said nobody explained the reasons why he was dropped.

"I am on the Board's payroll because of my ability. But my inclusion in any future team depends on the team management. If they are not convinced, then I'm not picked."

Akram has played 38 one-day internationals. Also the dependable middle-order batsman was a member of Bangladesh's historic team in the inaugural Test last November.

The popular Chittagonian should not lose heart as the second and final Test will be played in his backyard. May be there he will turn things around.

The unorthodox genius has been a mainstay of Bangladesh since making his debut against



PHOTO: STAR

THE BALL MISSES EVERYONE: An excited Zimbabwe fieldsman jumps in anticipation of a caught behind chance against Enamul Haque.

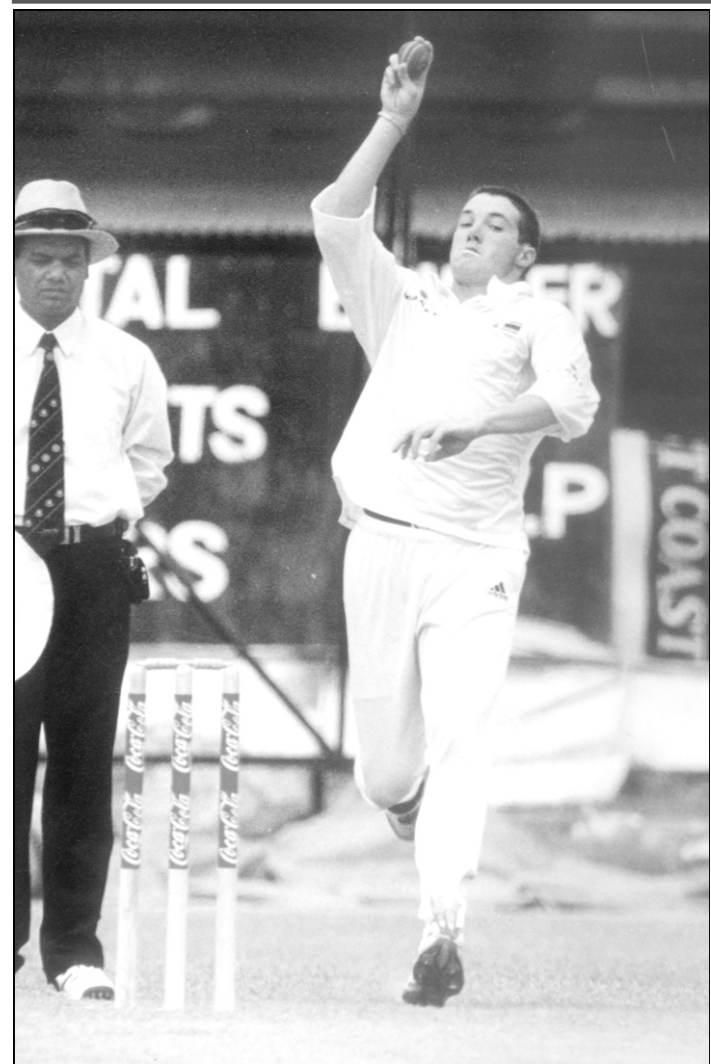


PHOTO: STAR

UNFRIENDLY FRIEND: Zimbabwe fast bowler Travis Friend in his delivery stride.