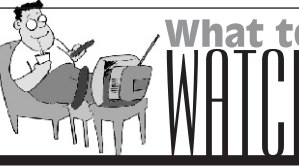




Did U Know?

Gary Lineker was the first England player to be the leading scorer at the end of a World Cup finals. He notched six goals in the 1986 finals.



BTV & ETV

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Four
Live at 9:30 am

ESPN

Western Union World Football
12:00 pm
ATP Tennis Show
12:30 pm
India vs South Africa
First Test, Day Five
1:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Middlesbrough vs Leicester City
8:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Weekly Highlights at 10:30 pm

STAR Sports

Australia vs New Zealand
First Test, Day Four
Live at 5:57 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
1:00 pm
Primera Liga
Betis vs Sevilla
1:30 pm
Tennis Masters Series, Paris
Highlights at 6:00 pm
Australia vs New Zealand
First Test, Day Four
Highlights at 11:00 pm
Primera Liga
Valladolid vs Barcelona
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)



Shoab Akhtar

(Express Pakistani bowler)
"I am a fighter and I want to continue playing for Pakistan. I have a lot of cricket left in me, but yes I want this issue about my suspect bowling action resolved for once."
After his bowling action was reported for the third time last week.



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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 23, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the Sharjah Champions trophy final?
Wasim Vaas Waqar
 - Who clinched the Munich WTA Tour singles title?
Hingis Davenport Serena
 - South Africa defeated India in the first test at Bloemfontein by:
140-run 7-wkt 9-wkt
 - How many Test centuries has Sachin Tendulkar scored?
30 22 26
 - Bangladesh will play 2003 WC cricket's opening match. Name the opponent?
UAE Kenya Canada
- Class. Roll No.
School Address



BOWLED: One of Travis Friend's balls is dislodged by Enamul Haque (not in picture) during the first innings of Zimbabwe at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Friend made a magnificent 81.

Selectors stick to their guns



SPORTS REPORTER

As the first Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe reached the final stage, speculation has now started to brew about the composition of the team for the second Test starting at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on November 15.

Who would get a call or who would face the axe dominated every discussion on the stands during the third day of the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A few cricket buffs were convinced that there would be a number of changes in the 14-man squad that was announced early this month for the first Test.

Though chief selector Mainul Haq said earlier that he would announce the second Test squad on the final day of the first Test, but most of the players in the playing eleven looked concerned about their future following their poor performance in the first innings.

Tension and speculation mounted further when three selectors - Mainul Haq, Tanjeb Ahsan Saad and Asaduzzaman Misha - were seen having a mini conference privately during the lunch break.

"We have not decided anything as yet. Let the second innings end first. By then we would be able to

pick our team for the next match," said Mainul Haq when he was approached by the Daily Star Sport.

It would be too premature to talk about the team for the second Test since the first match is only half-way through, he added.

He meanwhile said that they would continue to stand by Al-



AL-SHAHRIAR

Shahriar despite he scored only nine runs in two innings (4 and 5) as a makeshift opener.

A section of serious cricket fans were however critical about playing Al-Shahriar as an opener. "Al-Shahriar is no doubt a talented cricketer although he is very inconsistent. I support the selectors' view of giving him a fair chance at the top level. But why not let him play at the position where he had been playing all through his career?"

He also declined to predict whether there would be any change on the cards. Rumour is however ripe that former national captain Akram Khan would be brought back in side for the Chittagong match. It was learnt that debutant all-rounder Khaled Mahmud might have to step aside to make room for the built Chittagonian.

"I have already mentioned that Al-Shahriar will be tested for some time before we look for another opener in the side," said Mainul adamantly.

He also declined to predict whether there would be any change on the cards. Rumour is however ripe that former national captain Akram Khan would be brought back in side for the Chittagong match. It was learnt that debutant all-rounder Khaled Mahmud might have to step aside to make room for the built Chittagonian.

Akram's apprehension



AFP, Hong Kong

Former captain Wasim Akram has voiced fears that Pakistan cricket could suffer a major setback if the military campaign in Afghanistan drags on.

"Hopefully all the problems in our part of the world will be over soon. If we don't get tours coming into Pakistan, it will cost us. Our whole team, including myself, will go back one year," Wasim said on Saturday.

The left-arm fast bowler who is in Hong Kong to spearhead Pakistan's charge at the 250,000-dollar Hong Kong International Sixes, was critical of New Zealand's decision to pull out of this month's tour to Pakistan due to safety reasons following the September 11 attacks in the United States.

"Most of Pakistan is safe. There are no problems at all in places like Lahore where I come from, and Karachi. Of course there are concerns on the borders with

Afghanistan, but generally Pakistan is safe," Wasim said.

Ironically, organisers of the Hong Kong tournament have benefited from New Zealand's move. The pull-out led to the Pakistan Cricket Board sending a full-strength team for the tournament which is being revived after three years.

Apart from Wasim, captain Rashid Latif, Shahid Afridi, Azhar Mahmood and Abdur Razaq all played in the Champions Trophy in Sharjah last week which Pakistan won by beating Sri Lanka by five wickets in the final.

But Wasim is concerned for the future which looks bleak for Pakistan cricket.

"West Indies are due in mid-February and I hope things will have settled by then. Otherwise we will have to look at neutral venues."

"If we do not play cricket, it will cost us. I need to play as much cricket as I can. This is what keeps me going. My aim is to continue until the World Cup and then say bye bye," said Wasim who is the only cricketer to have taken more

I don't really understand why these selectors and team management are so hell bent on making an opener out of a specialist middle order batsman," said Biswadip Das, a former cricketer and resident of East Raja Bazar.

But the Mainul and Co is determined to transform Al-Shahriar into an opener. Mehrab Hossain, who was reportedly kept out of the side because of his uncontrolled lifestyle and unconvincing form, partnered opener Javed Omar in the previous five Tests.

One observer meanwhile wondered why the selectors kept on experimenting with Al-Shahriar as an opener when Mohammad Ashraf is in the side. The Test cricket's youngest centurion, who was given number five spot in this Test, scored plenty of runs while playing as an opener in domestic cricket.

"I have already mentioned that Al-Shahriar will be tested for some time before we look for another opener in the side," said Mainul adamantly.

He also declined to predict whether there would be any change on the cards. Rumour is however ripe that former national captain Akram Khan would be brought back in side for the Chittagong match. It was learnt that debutant all-rounder Khaled Mahmud might have to step aside to make room for the built Chittagonian.

than 400 wickets in both Test and one day internationals.

Wasim, 35, showed his class as he led Pakistan's charge into the semi-finals at the Hong Kong Sixes. The left-arm bowler superbly against England. He gave away only one run in his over and also took the wicket of Ian Blackwell as England struggled to 48 from their five overs. Pakistan knocked off the runs with an over to spare.

In the next game against the United Arab Emirates, Wasim was as miserly, conceding seven runs and taking another wicket as Pakistan restricted UAE to 79 for two, chasing a total of 108. Akram also contributed with the bat, smashing 33, including four sixes.

"I'm still enjoying my cricket. This is what keeps me going," Wasim said.

Eight teams, including hosts Hong Kong, vying for the US Dollars 80,000 first prize. Apart from Pakistan, a Jonty Rhodes-led South African team also looked good value for money as they beat India and Sri Lanka to ensure their berth in the semifinals.

Nitol-Tata soccer on

UNB, Dhaka

The first round of the second Nitol-Tata National Football League began yesterday at the three divisional venues across the country with Sabuj Sena, Probaha Sangsad and Ummochan Club winning the opening matches.

In a Dhaka Division match at Gopalganj, Faridpur Sabuj Sena moved into the zonal quarter final eliminating Gazipur Mouchak Eleven by 2-0. Parvez and Hafiz scored one each for winners.

They will play the quarterfinal against Netrokona Sathpai SC on Monday.

In a Rajshahi zone match at the divisional headquarter, Probaha Sangsad booked a seat for the regional quarterfinal beating Sonali Out Club by 2-1.

Enamul and Aziz scored for the winners, both in the first half while Nipu netted the lone goal for the losers.

They will meet Dinajpur Players' Welfare Association in the quarterfinal also on Monday.

In a Khulna Division match at Jessore, Bagerhat Ummochan Club moved into the quarterfinal defeating Magura Amra K'Jan Mujib Sena by a solitary goal scored by Munna in the 67th minute.

Ummochan Club will play quarterfinal against Khulna Abahani KC on Monday.

Governor's Gold Cup Arambagh finish runners-up

UNB, Dhaka

Arambagh KS finished runners-up in the All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament losing 0-3 to Kolkata Mohan Bagan Club in the final in Sikkim yesterday.

Abdullah Sereki netted two goals and Arati Singh one for the winners.

Midfielder Hanif Pradan of Arambagh was adjudged best player of the tournament.

Tax exempted



AFP, New Delhi

Fears that the first cricket Test between India and England next month would be played in an empty stadium were set at rest on Saturday after a government-levied tax was cancelled, organisers said.

The Punjab Cricket Association (PCA), which hosts the match at Mohali from December 3 to 7, announced the state government had frozen its order to slap a 125 per cent entertainment tax on every ticket sold.

"It's been sorted out, we don't have to pay the tax," said PCA president Inderjit Singh Bindra, who on Friday had threatened to play the match behind closed doors if the tax was levied.

"England can expect a full house for the match," Bindra said. "There's already a lot of interest in the game."

Organisers of the second Test in Ahmedabad and the third in Bangalore also said they did not anticipate any tax notices by their

SERIES SNIPPNETS

LENIN GANI

Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza Kowshik could feel a shade disappointed.

Before making his debut on home soil the Narail quick bowler had hoped to perform well.

The 19-year-old right-arm speedster captured four wickets. But he could have finished with a five-wicket haul, a landmark for any bowler, had a couple of catches been held.

Still, he was satisfied with his maiden effort.

"I never thought of counting wickets. What I really wanted was to bowl well, said Kowshik.

ROUFUL SUFFERS

A STROKE

Veteran sports journalist Rouful Hassan suffered a stroke at his Shaymoli residence in the early hours of Saturday.

The news came as a shock to all of the journalists in the press box. Rouful, 51, was a regular visitor to the stadium. The Special Correspondent of The Bangladesh Observer was busy carrying out his professional duties only on Friday.

He was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

His younger brother Roquibul Hassan is a former Bangladesh cricket captain.

LONGTAIL

The Zimbabwean tail meant business even more than the top order. While the tourists' openers Ebrahim and Gripper scored only 3 and 0 respectively, none of their bottom four faced the ignominy. Not only all of them but Olunga did register big double figure scores; Friend hammered 81 while former captain Streak struck 65. Even their number seven batsman Marillier also scored a healthy half-century, 73 to be exact.

True, Olunga managed only 2 not out off 25 deliveries, it can easily be assumed that scoring was not his duty. Had he not run out of partners, who knows he too might have scored another 'half-century'.

MEHRAB MEANS BUSINESS

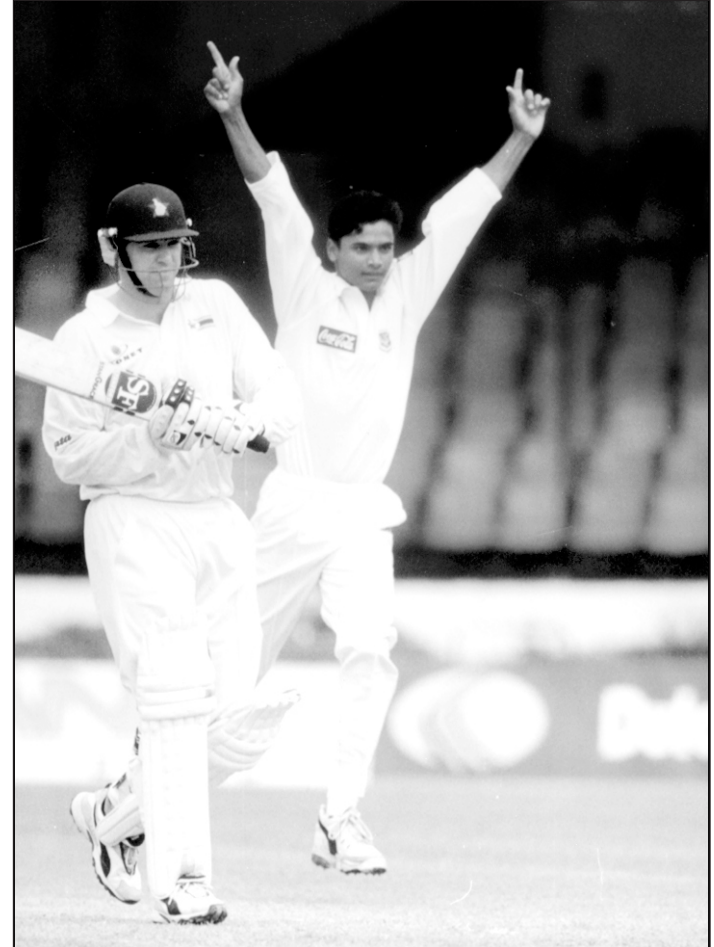
Never mix business with pleasure. But it does not apply to Mehrab Hossain.

The Bangladesh opener, who was

not included in the 14-man Dhaka

Test squad, was busy negotiating deals with some Zimbabwe players for the purchase of cricket bats from him.

SEE PAGE 14



HE'S FINALLY FALLEN: Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza is elated after getting rid of Heath Streak yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR

BANGLADESH-ZIMBABWE SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 107 all out in 48.2 overs (Enamul Haque 24 not out, Naimur Rahman 13, Extras 22; Travis Friend 5-31, Henry Olunga 3-18, Heath Streak 2-30)

ZIMBABWE:	First innings (overnight 348-7)	R	B	4	6
Dion Ebrahim lbw b Monjurul Islam		3	6	0	0
Trevor Gripper c Javed Omar b Monjurul Islam		0	2	0	0
Stuart Carlisle c Khaled Masood b Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza		33	63	4	0
Grant Flower c Al-Shahriar b Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza		10	58	1	0
Andy Flower b Enamul Haque		28	37	5	0
Craig Wishart run out (Khaled Masood)		94	156	11	2
Douglas Marillier lbw b Enamul Haque		73	180	10	0
Heath Streak c Khaled Masood b Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza		65	126	8	0
Travis Friend b Enamul Haque		81	161	9	0
Brian Murphy c Habibul Bashar b Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza		25	89	4	0
Henry Olunga not out		2	24	0	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, w-4, nb-2)		17			
Total: (All out in 150 overs)		431			

Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Gripper), 2-4 (Ebrahim), 3-31 (G Flower), 4-60 (Carlisle), 5-89 (A Flower), 6-226 (Wishart), 7-259 (Marillier), 8-367 (Streak), 9-417 (Friend)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monjurul Islam	26	5	74	2
Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza	32	8	106	4
Khaled Mahmud	15	2	59	0
Enamul Haque	43	13	74	3
Naimur Rahman	18	1	56	0
Mohammad Ashraf	15	3	49	0
Aminul Islam	1	0	2	0

BANGLADESH: Second innings	R	B	4	6
Javed Omar c Henry Olunga b Douglas Marillier	35	119	4	0
Al-Shahriar c Grant Flower b Travis Friend	5	12	1	0
Habibul Bashar c Brian Murphy b Travis Friend	65	144	10	0
Aminul Islam not out	6	9	1	0
Mohammad Ashraf not out	0	2		
Extras: (b-3, lb-1, nb-10)	14			
Total: (For 3 wickets in 46.4 overs)	125			

To bat: Khaled Mahmud, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Masood, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, Enamul Haque, Monjurul Islam

Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Al-Shahriar), 2-108 (Javed), 3-120 (Bashar)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Heath Streak	10	4	17	0
Travis Friend	11.4	2	26	2
Henry Olunga	5	1	17	0
Brian Murphy	13	4	42	0
Douglas Marillier	7	2	16	1

Toss: Zimbabwe won and decided to bat.
Umpires: Akhtaruddin Shahin (Bangladesh) and Mian Mohammad Aslam (Pakistan).
Match Referee: Hanumant Singh (India).



Bangladesh's Habibul Bashar, who scored his fifth Test half-century, and Dion Ebrahim (M) and Andy Flower of Zimbabwe follow the path of the ball during the hosts' second innings yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Winners of the National Pairs Bridge Championship are seen with State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (sitting, C) during the prize-giving ceremony at the National Sports Council yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nat'l Pairs Bridge prize-giving held

SPORTS REPORTER

The prize-distribution ceremony of the Khondkar Fazle Sobhan 20th National Pairs Bridge Championship was held at the National Sports Council (NSC) Auditorium yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman gave away prizes among the winners.

The pair of Rezaul Karim and Shawkat Hossain won the trophy. Jahirul Huq and Zahid Hossain finished runners-up.

DRU mini-marathon

SPORTS REPORTER

A mini-marathon for the members of the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will be held this morning as part of its annual sports competition.

The marathon will start at 6 am from the National Museum and will end at the DRU office at Shegun Bagicha via TSC (Dhaka University), Doyal Chattar, High Court.

Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas will inaugurate it as chief guest.