



Did U Know?

Tom Goddard, according to an old friend, was once run out twice in a match without receiving a single ball. Similar misfortune attended R McLeod in a match between Melbourne and North Melbourne in 1896.



What to WATCH

ETV & BTV

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 9:30 am

ESPN

Western Union World Football
7:00 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
10:30 am
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Chelsea
11:00 am

India vs South Africa

Second Test, Day One
Live at 2:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 10:30 pm

STAR Sports

Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
7:00 am
Sportsline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
8:30 am
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Chelsea
1:00 pm
Football Mundial
7:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Tennis Masters Series, Sydney
8:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
10:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Luis Figo
(Real Madrid's Portuguese ace)
"If I had to choose a player from United (Manchester), I would choose Ryan Giggs."
Claiming that England star David Beckham is not good enough to be European footballer of the year.

Courageous or confused?

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER, from Chittagong

While Bangladesh team management appeared to be happy with the decision to bowl first on the flat track of the MA Aziz Stadium, Zimbabwe captain Stuart Carlisle thought it was a good toss to lose.

"We wanted to bat first. And I thought we were going to field after losing the toss. It came as a surprise to me. But, I was quite happy to be invited to bat first," Carlisle told reporters after the day's play.

"I would have been happier had we reached around 270 to 280 today (yesterday). But we fell short of 30 odd runs. We would try to score another 250 to 300 runs in this innings," said the Zimbabwe skipper.

Sadly though, the Bangladesh tactic was full of contradiction.

Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman refused to see the wry smile on his opposite number's face, saying he was convinced with the decision.

"We restricted them to 236 on the first day which is quite good. If we can get some early wickets tomorrow (today) morning, I think they

would not be able to go too far," hoped Naimur.

When asked what was on his mind while opting to field first, Naimur said that he wanted to take the advantage of the moisture on the wicket with his seamers.

"But it did not work completely in

when we played a practice match here. But it did not behave that way."

Chappell, who took over the national team last March, admitted that wicket had really deceived them by being docile throughout the day. "We however did not bowl very well in the first day," he said.

When asked why they forced their two seamers to exploit a non-existing morning condition despite having a 'strong' batting line-up with the rejoining of veteran middle-order Akram Khan, Chappell went to agree that it was a defensive move.

"Batting always let us down in the past. Our first innings record is very poor since the inaugural Test. That is why we thought of fielding first," the Australian said.

"But now it seems they will be under more pressure if Zimbabwe pile up something more than five hundred.

"This is a very good wicket for batting and it would be impossible for a bowler to bowl batsman out in this kind of wicket. So, I think our batsmen will bat well in this match learning from their earlier mistakes."

the end," agreed Naimur, who went into the match with only two seamers in a bid to bolster batting line-up.

Coach Trevor Chappell also defended his captain, saying: "We had a feeling that there might be a bit of life on the wicket. We expected that the bounce would also be uneven as it was in the last month



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A SORRY SIGHT: Cricket crazy Chittagonians appear to have turned their back on the organisers as the stands of the MA Aziz Stadium are seen empty during the opening day's play of the Bangladesh-Zimbabwe Test yesterday. Locals complained of high price of tickets for their disinterest.

Fanfare sans fans

Cricket

ABDULLAH -AL-MAHMUD, Ctg

Contrary to the anticipated enthusiasm, the first-ever Test match at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday surprisingly attracted a thin crowd.

The setting for the baptism of the country's second Test venue was absolutely perfect. But the all-important crowd was absent during the opening ceremony at 9.15 am.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the historic match. Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was also present.

The 25,000-capacity stadium were almost a deserted look when the two teams came out to play under the lovely sunny sky.

Unfortunately, the opening morning of the second Test of the Coca-Cola Series was marred by two separate hatrals called by the Left Democratic Front and Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad.

As a result many of the cricket lovers of the port city decided to stay at home and watch the proceedings

on television. Also many would-be spectators were unhappy that the home team won the toss and elected to field because they knew that most of the day would be a 'hunt for leather' for the Bangladesh fielders.

Besides, the excess ticket rates were also blamed for the low turnout said people of different ages while talking to this correspondent.

Even against visiting teams like the England A there was a packed house in November last year.

However, another reason for the poor response was the local organisers' reluctance to release daily tickets instead of just seasonal ones.

Many frustrated youngsters waited outside the stadium because gallery tickets worth Taka 200 was too dear a price to meet.

The hosts belatedly aware of the public's dissatisfaction have decided to release daily tickets, though for students only, from tomorrow (Friday).

Joint secretary of CJKS (Chittagong Jila Kriya Sangstha) Shaheen, who is in-charge of ticket management, admitted that sales were unexpectedly low. But he hoped for a good crowd over the next four days.

Carlisle fined

SPORTS REPORTER

New Zimbabwe captain Stuart Carlisle was fined fifty per cent of his match fee for showing dissent on the leg before decision given against him by Sri Lankan umpire Ashoka de Silva.

Left arm spinner Enamul Hoque had Carlisle in front of his wicket for 14, and the right-hander vented his anger kicking the ground while leaving the crease.

Carlisle was summoned by match referee Hanumant Singh after the match and was handed with the fine for violating ICC Code 3.

"Carlisle has been found guilty contravening ICC code number three and fined 50 per cent of his gross match fee," read an ICC hand-out.

Zimbabwe manager Babu Maman, BCB director Syed Ashrafur Huq, two umpires Shawkatur Rahman and Ashoka de Silva were present during the hearing.

Div I Chess starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The First Division Chess League begins at the NSC Chess Room today.

Sixteen teams are taking part in the meet. They are: defending champions Titas Club, runners-up Bangladesh Biman, Leonine Chess Club, Bangladesh Ansars, Narayanganj District Chess Players' Association, Sonali Bank Sports and Recreation Club, Kamalapur SKF, Farashganj Sporting Club, Mohakhali Prodeep Sangha, Nakhapara Jubo Kalyan Sangha, Dhaka University Daba Club, Anu Memorial Club, Dhaka Daba Ghar, Anirban Daba School, Crescent Club and Bangsal Progati Sangha.

All matches will start at 2.30pm everyday.

This time the focus will undoubtedly be on Biman's Ziaur Rahman, who became the country's second

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PHOTO: STAR

WELL DONE: Zimbabwe opener Trevor Gripper salutes the crowd after reaching his maiden century on the opening day of the second and final Coca-Cola Test against Bangladesh at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Thursday.

SERIES SNIPPETS

Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Chittagong

Did Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman make a decisive mistake by not choosing to bat first on winning the toss?

Naimur's decision to field first on as flat a wicket as any, raised more than a few eyebrows.

The Zimbabweans too were surprised but delighted at this show of generosity (!) from the hosts.

Zimbabwe's assistant coach Kevin Curran said that it was a good toss to lose and his team was planning to amass a big total.

"Scoring eight hundred runs on this pitch is very much possible," said Curran, who played county cricket for Northamptonshire and also represented Zimbabwe in the World Cup.

Centurion Trevor Gripper was so impressed that he wished he could carry the pitch home.

Although Naimur and coach Trevor Chappell put up brave faces in defending the decision, the smile on the faces of the tourists sounded an ominous warning.

TICKET RATES DRIVE FANS AWAY

The Chittagong crowd's response to the historic inaugural Test match at the MA Aziz Stadium was extremely disappointing.

Although, the local organisers were expecting a full house at the 25-thousand capacity stadium, half of the galleries were vacant the whole day.

When inquired, it was found that the high price of tickets and keeping no provision to acquire them on a day to day basis (the spectators have to buy tickets for all the five days at a time), were the main reasons behind the poor turn-out.

"The ticket rates are much higher here than in Dhaka. Moreover I don't want to go to the stadium every day. That's why I have decided to skip the Test match altogether," said Afzal, a student of Chittagong University.

S'kara shines, SL go slow

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Kumar Sangakkara hit a career-best 126 not out to lead a Sri Lankan run-pree on the third day of the first Test against the West Indies here on Thursday.

Mahela Jayawardene chipped in with 99 as Sri Lanka, replying to the West Indies' 448, raced to 343-3 before stumps were drawn 23 overs early due to bad light.

Russel Arnold was the other batsman at the crease on 18, having put on 35 for the unfinished fourth wicket with Sangakkara.

Left-handed Sangakkara hit 15 boundaries in his second Test century, while Jayawardene fell one run short of his second successive ton when he was run out trying to reach the mark.

Jayawardena had made 150 in Sri Lanka's previous Test against Bangladesh at Colombo in September.

Sangakkara put on 162 for the third wicket with Jayawardene after adding 109 for the second with opener Marvan Atapattu.

Sri Lanka, who began the day at 103-1, smashed 103 runs in the morning session and 94 in the two hours after lunch.

When asked about the exorbitant rates, Selim Abedin Chowdhury, the chief co-ordinator of the Test match, said that it was fixed in order to raise more funds.

But at the end of the first day, it appeared that neither the fans nor the organizers benefited from such an irrational decision.

FIRST AT CHITTAGONG

There is a first in everything and the inaugural Test match at Chittagong had its share of 'first's' also. Here's a few of them.

Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza Kowshik became the first bowler to send down a delivery.

Zimbabwe opener Dion Ebrahim was the first batsman to score a run while his opening partner Trevor Gripper was the first man to hit a boundary.

Gripper also became the first man to reach a fifty and later, a hundred, here.

Kowshik was the first bowler to get a wicket when he bowled Deon Ebrahim for 41.

Deon thereby also went into the record books for being the first batsman to be dismissed.

SOLDIERS BOWLED!

A group of Bangladesh Army personnel, who came to watch the first day's action, brought cards with fours and sixes printed on those.

But they were perhaps not very sure about when to use the cards or were totally neutral.

When the Zimbabweans were hitting boundaries, the men in uniform were seen lifting those cards to cheer the visitors.

Seeing that, the crowd from the nearby gallery began lambasting them. "Are you people

Zimbabwean or Bangladeshi?" After that enlightenment session on patriotism, the soldiers finally put down their cards and spent the rest of the time silently.



SANGAKKARA...126 n.o

Neither fast bowlers nor spinners could put the pressure on the Sri Lankan duo, who continued to score comfortably.

Jayawardene cracked 13 fours in his 133-ball knock before being run in the afternoon session. He failed to

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BFF hopes to score

Fernando on 'Goal Project' visit

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

AFC vice-president Monilal Fernando arrived in the city on Thursday to assess if the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) was eligible for a grant under

the FIFA 'Goal Project.'

The sport's governing body initiated the project in 1998 to assist the growth of its national associations as well as to develop the global game at the grass-root level.

Fernando, here on a three-day visit, will inspect a few selected venues, on which the local football authorities are planning to build

their permanent home.

The aim of the goal project is to provide financial support to member countries so that respective federations can function from a fixed address.

But to get a piece of the million-dollar allocation the BFF must fulfil certain requirements. The recipient can expect to collect 400,000 dollars in the first installment.

"I have at least 30-40 questions that need to be answered by the Bangladesh football authorities. But top of the list will come positive proof of a land on lease", said the regional development officer of FIFA.

"I also need to know the modus operandi of the BFF, if they are running any development programmes and the current state of the national team," listed the Sri Lankan official on his second visit to Dhaka.

The former Sri Lanka football president's last visit to Bangladesh came during the SAF Games in 1993.

"The first phase of the lucrative project ends in 2002 and FIFA is aiming to support nearly one hundred countries. I will make my recommendations at the next FIFA Congress in February," said the middle-aged Lankan.

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AFC vice-president Monilal Fernando (2nd from R) and his wife were received at the airport by acting BFF general secretary Sirajul Islam yesterday.



TURNING IT ON: (L) Brazil superstar Rivaldo (No 10) trying to outwit a Venezuela defender, and (R), the crowd at the Sao Luis Stadium loves every bit of the samba on display on November 14.

Samba lives



AGENCIES, Sao Luis, Brazil

Brazil snapped out of their slump in style, trouncing Venezuela 3-0 in their final South American World Cup 2002 qualifier on Wednesday to earn a berth in soccer's biggest pageant.

Brazil ensured their ticket thanks to a scorching first half performance which finally saw the 'auriverde' begin to play some of the attractive football for which previous incarnations of the four-times world champions are renowned.

Latest coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has been lambasted by fans and media alike for being in their eyes a bigger fan of substance than of style - but in recent matches, notably last week's humiliating loss in Bolivia,

both elements were sadly lacking.

Indeed, prior to this campaign the Brazilians had only ever lost one sole qualifier.

One match away from seeing his team potentially become a laughing stock Scolari finally appeared to have given his men the attacking green light against a Venezuela side which, traditionally whipping boys, had picked off four straight wins since losing their home fixture with Brazil 6-0.

With the stakes so high, Brazil could not allow that little run to continue and swiftly buried their visitors with a first-half showing of attacking verve.

Luizao scored a pair of first-half goals and Rivaldo added one to help Brazil keep its perfect record intact as the only country to have qualified for every Cup since the first in 1930.

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Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 161

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 Waqar 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
 - Bangladesh will play 2003 WC cricket's opening match Name the opponent?
UAE Kenya Canada
- Class. Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)