



Did U Know?

The term, 'It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye' is from Ancient Rome. The only rule during wrestling matches was 'no eye gouging.' Everything else was allowed, but the only way to be disqualified was to poke someone's eye out!



SET Max

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe

First Test, Day Four

Live at 9:30 am

ESPN

Western Union World Football

1:00 pm

Super Sunday Football Preview

4:00 pm

English Premier Football League

Newcastle United vs Leeds United

5:30 pm

English Premier Football League

Highlights at 7:30 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix

9:00 pm

English Premier Football League

Man United vs Fulham

9:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sport News

Live at 7:30 am

Trans World Sport

Int'l Sports News

8:30 am

Sportline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

Harsha Online

Cricket Talk Show

11:00 pm



Shoib Akhtar

(Pakistan fast bowler)
"I can learn a lot from Michael Holding, but he can't modify my action and he can't modify my joints."

After ICC appointed the former West Indies fast bowler to help him out after the latest spell of controversy over his action.



Tick the Correct Answers Post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Jan 4, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who became FIFA's World Player of the Year?

Beckham Figo Raul

2. Which team scored the lowest one-day international total?

Bangladesh Zimbabwe West Indies

3. How many wickets did Chaminda Vaas take in a one-day match to set a new world record?

Seven Eight Nine

4. In how many Test did Anil Kumble take 300 wickets?

88 6676

5. Who won the Sri Lanka tri-series?

West Indies Sri Lanka Zimbabwe

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Chittagong hit back



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two brilliant half-centuries from Minhazul Abedin and Azam Iqbal powered Chittagong to salvage some pride a day after their shocking defeat in the four-day competition when they registered a 34-run victory over Dhaka in the limited-overs game at MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

The home side, who conceded a 24-run defeat on Saturday, piled up a huge 262 for six in 50 overs, with Minhazul scoring a dazzling unbeaten 65 and opener Azam making a composed 53.

Dhaka, in their chase, were bowled out for 228 in 48.2 overs despite a superlative 72 by veteran opener Jahangir and an unbeaten 36 from Halim Shah.

The victory enabled Chittagong to collect two points against Dhaka's six in the opening match of the Ispahani Third National Cricket League involving six teams.

Former national captain Minhaz, who has been the backbone of the port city batting for over a decade, entertained the home crowd with a 63-ball innings that yielded five boundaries.

Chittagong got off to a solid start after skipper Akram Khan won the toss and decided to bat first. Azam and Anisul Hakim put on 73 runs. Riding on a good opening, the middle-orders steered the hosts to the coast with a run rate of 5.24.

Anisul fell seven runs short of a fine half-century, offering an easy catch behind the wicket of the bowling of Saiful.

Azam completed his fifty with eight fours off 58 balls. The right-hander was caught at square leg after mistiming an attempted drive off Mehrab.

One-down Ehsanul shrugged off a disappointing show in the four-day match, scoring 31 and taking two wickets.

Akram Khan scored a quick-fire 44 off 42 balls. The big Chittagonian hammered five boundaries.

The visitors started the chase positively with Mehrab Hossain and Jahangir Alam taking the Chittagong attack to the sword.

But some superb fielding brought an abrupt end to both the menacingly poised batsmen. Mehrab, on 44, was undone by an accurate throw from Tariq. While Jahangir, the top-scorer in the match, was run out by a direct throw of Akram Khan. Jahangir hammered eight boundaries.

Halim Shah fought a lost battle with an unbeaten 36 off 46 balls.

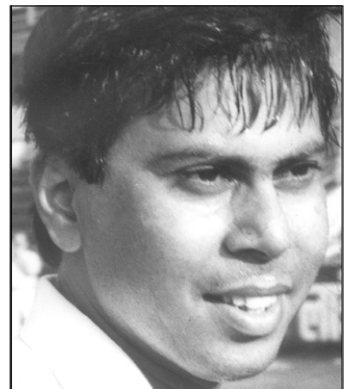
Chittagong Metropolitan police Commissioner Shahidullah Khan gave away the prizes to the winners. Minhaz was adjudged man-of-the-match in the limited-overs contest.

Young paceman of Chittagong Tariq Aziz was the man-of-the-

match in the four-day match for a 5-wicket haul in both innings.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the limited-overs



MINHAZUL ... m-o-m

match of the Ispahani Third National Cricket League between Chittagong and Dhaka:

CHITTAGONG

Anisul c Sajjad b Saiful	43
Azam c Mosaddek b Mehrab	53
Ehsanul lbw b Naimur	31
Minhazul not out	65
Akram c Halim b Bikash	44
Sabbir run out	2
Masum c Sajjad b Saiful	3
Tariq not out	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-2, w-13)	20
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	262

262
Fall of wickets: 1/71, 2/126, 3/143, 4/237, 5/244, 6/261

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saiful Islam	10	0	39	2
Bikash	10	0	33	1
Neeeyamur	4	0	27	0
Mehrab	9	0	46	1
Naimur	10	0	8	1
Mosaddek	6	0	46	0
Rashedul	1	0	8	0

DHAKA

Rashedul c Ehsanul b Debatrato	4
Mehrab run out	44
Jahangir run out	72
Sajjad c Akram b Ehsanul	21
Naimur c & b Ehsanul	2
Neeeyamur c Mortuza b Suja	20
Halim not out	36
Sajjad Kadir run out	1
Bikash c & b Debatrato	2
Saiful c Masum b Debatrato	8
Mosaddek run out	1
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-12)	17
Total: (All out in 48.2 overs)	228

Fall of wickets: 1/26, 2/76, 3/108, 4/116, 5/147, 6/183, 7/191, 8/201, 9/211

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tariq	9.2	0	14	0
Debatrato	10	0	51	3
Ehsanul	10	0	57	2
Suja	10	1	53	1
Sabbir	9	0	24	0

Result: Chittagong won by 34 runs

Lifeline for Akram



SPORTS REPORTER

Akram Khan gets the chance to prove his critics wrong when he was named on Sunday as Bangladesh A captain for a three-day match against Pakistan starting January 5 at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) ground.



AKRAM KHAN

The former Bangladesh captain who led from the front in 1997 ICC Trophy, was dropped after the home series against Zimbabwe last month. Akram, 33, was axed because of a string of poor scores during that series.

The big Chittagonian scored only 169 runs in 10 innings and has failed to make a half-century in five Tests.

However, the move must be seen by selectors as throwing Akram another lifeline to return to the Test squad.

Discarded national opener Mehrab Hossain, Under-19 captain Nafees Iqbal, all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman and veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque are the other notable inclusions in the 14-man squad.

Also, young Chittagong medium-pacer Tareq Aziz Khan who grabbed ten wickets against Dhaka in the inaugural National League match and Under-19 right-arm seamer Talha Jubayer earned a call-up.

The team will be coached by former national cricketers Dipu Rai Chowdhury and Golam Faruk Suru respectively.

The players have been asked to report to the Board's Bangabandhu National Stadium office tomorrow at 4 pm.

SQUAD

Akram Khan (captain), Mehrab Hossain, Hannan Sarkar, Tushar Imran, Nafees Iqbal, Akram Khan, Hasanuzzaman, Mushfiqur Rahman, Anwar Hossain (wicketkeeper), Enamul Hoque, Fahim Muntasir, Tareq Aziz Khan, Talha Jubayer, Anwar Hossain Munir and Mohammad Alamgir.

Nat'l cricketers due tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team returns home tomorrow night after its two-match Test series against New Zealand.

The tourists lost both Tests in Hamilton and Wellington by an innings in less than three days.

Bangladesh's next assignment is against Pakistan who are scheduled to arrive here on Wednesday.

During their four-week tour, Waqar Younis' men will play two Tests and three one-day internationals in Chittagong and Dhaka.

BFF ready to 'do or die'

SPORTS REPORTER

President of Bangladesh Football Federation SA Sultan said yesterday that his committee would leave no stone unturned to overcome the 'unwanted' situation arising out of the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) threat to ban the BFF if the elected body of Harun-ur-Rashid was not reinstated by January 5.

"This is a difficult situation. We are communicating at different levels to get things in order. And I am hopeful of changing AFC's stance," said Sultan a day after the AFC general secretary Peter Velappan issued an ultimatum to BFF for the restoration the elected committee or face the consequences.

"I have already explained our position to the AFC general secretary. Let's wait and see whether things will improve within the next few days," said Sultan adding that he was prepared to travel all the way to AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

When reminded about the deadline the AFC specified in a letter to BFF executive secretary Shankar Shikder on December 27, Sultan believed that it was only meant to act as threat.

"God forbid, if the AFC does carry out the sanction, it will still take some time before FIFA enforces the ban. In that case we will have to hold an election," admitted the BFF president whom the regional body refuses to recognize.

But the immediate problem Sultan faces now is how he will go about holding the SAFF Championship scheduled to begin in Dhaka from January 26.

"Sri Lanka has already informed of its inability to participate because of the current situation. I have already discussed the matter with the SAFF secretary (Sirajul Islam) and he will let us know about the fate of the meet within the next couple of days," said Sultan.

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Madhupur Krira Chakra outplayed Amtola Club 3-0 in the Radhuni Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

Farid netted twice and Ujjal one for the winners.

Trevor & co only beginners



REUTERS, Auckland

Bangladesh coach Trevor Chappell said his fledgling Test side needed more than just the two warm-up matches they had before going into the two-Test series against New Zealand, which ended on Saturday with a pair of heavy defeats.

Speaking on the eve of Bangladesh's departure for home, Chappell said it was no-one's fault the New Zealand tour schedule was so tight, but his team still needed more time.

"We were playing Zimbabwe the week before we came and New Zealand were playing Australia at the same time," Chappell said.

"It didn't help that our first game was ruined by rain. We really needed that match to get into the conditions. As it was we were a bit under-done by the time we played Auckland and got a thrashing."

The tourists lost the first Test by an innings and 193 runs.

Bangladesh now face Pakistan in a home series, when Chappell said he hoped some of the lessons learned in New Zealand would be put into practice on the flatter pitches of Dhaka and Chittagong.

Chappell picked fast bowler Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza Kowshik as the great improver on tour, saying he bowled well, fielded well and

batted with vigour when his side was almost down and out in the final Test in Wellington on Saturday.

He hit 29 in a 49-run ninth wicket partnership with his captain Khaled

man Mohammad Ashraf. "He didn't score many runs, but he looked OK until he did something silly. He'll be around for a long time yet and continue to improve."

Chappell is nine months through a two-year contract, with an option for a further two years.

"I intend to see my contract out, but whether the Bangladesh Cricket Board want me to stay I do not know," he said.

"Beyond that I don't know. I would certainly love to be around when Bangladesh wins their first Test."

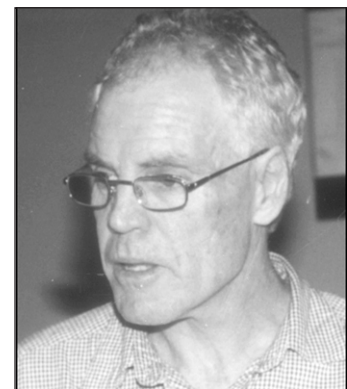
But according to leading Bangladesh newspaper The Daily Star, Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar did not mince words on December 28 when he said he wanted to evaluate the Australian's contract when the team returned.

"His job was to improve the standard of the team, and in my view, he has completely failed to do it."

Asghar also suggested that the Board might be looking for a West Indian for the job.

"We actually do not need a Pakistani or Indian for this job. A West Indian can very well motivate the boys because their weather and conditions are similar to what we have here," he said.

Bangladesh were coached by legendary West Indian opening batsman Gordon Greenidge from 1997 until the 1999 World Cup.



TREVOR CHAPPELL

Mashud.

"He is a damn good all-round cricketer and has the right attitude," Chappell said. "His footwork is a bit dodgy at the batting crease, but once he gets in he can be a very effective batsman."

Sanwar Hossain was another player with a bright future, said Chappell. "He made his debut and scored 45 and hung around in the other innings he had. He seemed to have the ability to cope with the fast bowlers and the bouncy pitches better than most."

Another to cope well, according to Chappell, was diminutive bats-

Asghar opts to wait



SPORTS REPORTER

Situation at the Bangladesh Cricket Board has cooled down as quickly as it got hot.

Sunday's meeting of the Board shared a view about national coach Trevor Chappell that was opposite to its president Ali Asghar.

The newly appointed cricket boss said only on Friday that he was actively thinking about changing the coach because of the poor performance of his charges in the recent months. He also revealed that his performance would be seriously discussed in the BCB's Sunday's meeting.

But the bespectacled BCB boss, after the meeting last evening, said that it would be decided after the return of the team.

"We did not have much time today. We had some more important issues to discuss about. Moreover, everybody thought that

we should talk with the team first before we go for any changes," said Asghar, who was absent for more than an hour because of his some other engagements.

Asghar however said that there would be some changes in the team but he did not mention anything in particular about the coach.

"Today we were mostly busy discussing Pakistan's tour of

Bangladesh," he added.

Asghar also said that the Bangladesh squad for the first Test against Pakistan starting in Dhaka on January 9 would be named after the three-day match between Pakistan and Bangladesh A team.

Apart from the home series against Pakistan, the meeting also took some important decisions in connection with the Premier, First and Second Division Leagues in Dhaka.

The meeting cancelled the controversial Board's decision to withhold the relegation of two First Division teams.

Lalmatia Club and Indira Road Krira Chakra, who escaped the relegation, at the courtesy of an influential Board member, last season despite finishing at the bottom of the table, would now have to play in the Second Division this season, starting next February.

The meeting also decided to hold the inter-club cricketers' transfer for all Premier, First and Second Division simultaneously from February 10.



ALI ASGHAR

Puzzled Pollock



AFP, Sydney

Bemused South African captain Shaun Pollock is at a loss to know what tactics and team can prevent a 3-0 Test series whitewash against Australia.

The South Africans, thrashed by nine wickets in the second Melbourne Test Saturday following their humiliating 246-run hiding in Adelaide, have only a couple of days to come up with the right answers for Wednesday's start of the final Sydney Test.

Pollock, burdened with the worries of South African cricket on and off the field, admitted in the wake of the four-day loss at the Melbourne Cricket Ground that a remedy was not immediately apparent.

"I don't know, you tell me," was Pollock's response when asked how his Proteas could redress the problems they have encountered against Steve Waugh's well-drilled Australians in the billed world championship of cricket.

Pollock had few positive things to say after his world second-ranked team went down with only Jacques Kallis showing fighting spirit with his 99.

"We had high hopes when we came to Australia (but) at the end of day we've been beaten by a better team," Pollock said after the Melbourne defeat.

"It was billed as the the championship of Test cricket and we've definitely been disappointing -- and maybe putting too much pressure on ourselves has caused it."

South African teams have been accused of being too obsessed with beating Australia and the indications are that their steely focus had prevented the team from relaxing and enjoying itself.

There have been suggestions of a split in the camp but Pollock denied there was any disharmony.

However, he admitted his side was struggling to cope with the losses after winning 11 and drawing one of its past 12 series.

"In sport there are a lot of ups and downs and you take quite a few knocks but we haven't taken that many in the recent past," he said.

There may be a surprise call-up



SHAUN POLLOCK

for left-arm spinner Nicky Boje for the final Test.

Boje missed the start of the tour with injury but was due here this week for the one-day series.

Pollock hinted he could be considered for the Test as well.

"Maybe Nicky Boje