



Did U Know?

The scorebook of the Aden-based Venturers CC recorded on August 10 1967 'Play delayed 10 minutes by mortar attack'. Cricket match can be delayed on funny reasons too. The start of the first Test match of the Coca-Cola Series between Bangladesh and Pakistan was delayed by five minutes to accommodate the arrival of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, the chief guest.



What to Watch

- ESPN**
- Western Union World Football 7:00 am
 - English Premier Football League Liverpool vs Southampton 7:30 am &
 - Everton vs Man United 11:00 am
 - Cricket Programming Super Selector 1:00 pm
 - New Zealand vs Australia First ODI 3:00 pm
 - English Premier Football League Leeds United vs Newcastle United Live at 8:50 pm
- STAR Sports**
- Cricket Programming Super Selector 10:00 am
 - Football Asia 11:30 am
 - World Cup Soccer Mix 12:30 pm
 - Gillette World Sports Special Int'l Sports News 5:30 pm
 - Futbol Mundial Primera Liga 11:30 pm
 - Real Sociedad vs Athletic Bilbao Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 164

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

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 18, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

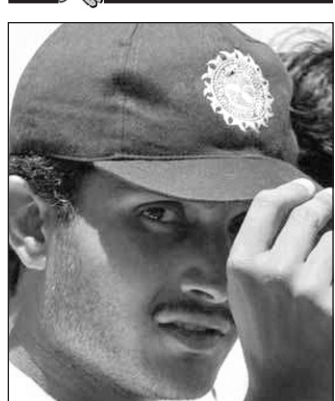
- What was Jacques Kallis' score in the MCG Test?
100 90 99
- Michael Owen scored his 100th club goal against Bolton Fulham Chelsea
- Which football club won the Argentine Championship?
Racing Boca River
- How many double century stand do Hayden and Langer have?
5 43
- How many batsmen have played in 100 consecutive Tests?
3 4 5

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Sourav Ganguly
(India cricket captain)
"I'm getting quite a few 40s. Maybe by my standards I'm not batting well."
About his current dip in form.

Alfaz pleads to PM

FIFA ban sends shockwaves



SPORTS REPORTER

The country's sports fraternity on Friday was trying to come to terms with the earth-shattering news of the FIFA ban on Bangladesh.

But nowhere was the pain more felt than among the national booters who were in a camp preparing for the sub-continent's most prestigious tournament, the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship that was due to be held in Dhaka later this month.

An understandably upset national team stalwart Alfaz Ahmed echoed the sentiments of all the members of the squad.

"I am devastated. The whole squad is in absolute shock. We had been preparing with great determination for the SAFF tournament which is our 'World Cup.' The boys had worked so hard for the last couple of months to make the coun-

try proud and now all the blood and sweat has gone to waste."

Alfaz called for intervention from the Prime Minister to save Bangladesh from further ignominy.

row. Now I don't know what will happen," said the star striker.

National coach George Kottan expressed his grave concern over the situation.

Kottan adding that this could have the most damaging effect on the future of the game in Bangladesh.

"I hope this problem will be over quickly," Kottan said.

With the ban starting Thursday, the future of Kottan, whose salary of 3,500 dollars is being paid by the AFC, has also become uncertain.

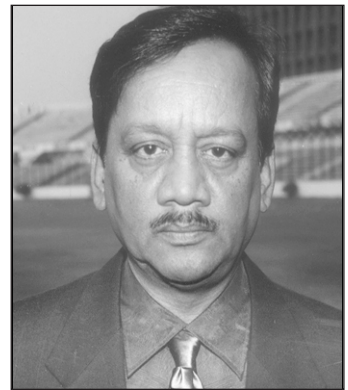
This unfortunate chapter in the country's football history could have been avoided had the government not dissolved the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)'s executive body.

Neutral observers and fans who telephoned The Daily Star Sport last night, expressed their dismay at the way the BFF's ad-hoc committee and the sports ministry ignored the seriousness of the matter.

"Today our football died because of the lack of hindsight and patriotism of the mindless people running the sport," said Akhtaruzzaman from Shiddeshwari.

"I hold the indiscreet and intoler-

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FAZLUR RAHMAN

"I appeal to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to do something soon. The national team was supposed to start training again tomor-



ALFAZ AHMED

"I have never heard anything like this. I know FIFA suspends players and clubs at times. But I have never heard of bans on countries," said



PHOTO: STAR

Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq pulls Enamul Hoque for a boundary on the third day of the Coca-Cola first Test against Bangladesh at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.

Roberts may coach A team in Windies



HASAN MASOOD

Andy Roberts is almost certain to act as the coach of Bangladesh A team during their tour of the Caribbean.

The legendary West Indies fast bowler is learnt to be on a positive negotiation with the Bangladesh Cricket Board for the short assignment. The A cricketers, set to leave for West Indies on January 20, will play in the Busta Cup for a period of seven weeks.

Confirming the report Board director Syed Ashrafur Huq said to the Daily Star Sport that the negotiation is at final stage and they are hopeful the former West Indies player would take over the A team in the top first class tournament.

"You see, things are almost confirmed that Roberts will coach Bangladesh for a temporary period in West Indies. We send him a proposal, he has sent a counter proposal and then we have again sent him a revised proposal. Let us see how it goes," said Ashrafur, mentioning that Bangladesh cricketers, the bowlers in particular, were immensely benefited by the coaching of Roberts during his three-week stay in Dhaka last August.

A Bangladesh coach will also accompany the 14-man team and share the job with Roberts.

Bangladesh will take on West Indies B in their opening match on January 25.

When asked if it was the first step to make him the national coach, Ashrafur declined to make any comment.

Board president Ali Asghar



ANDY ROBERTS

earlier hinted that he might remove present coach Trevor Chappell as he has failed to improve the performance of the national team so far in his 10-month stay.

The Board has a contract with Trevor until June this year with an understanding that it might be extended, if required.

It's all about balls

Great victory for Saifur Rahman



AFSAN CHOWDHURY

So, we have this famous cricket match where Bangladesh play Pakistan in cricket and appear to have been soundly whacked. I feel a bit depressed and ask my neighbour who is a specialist in explaining. But this time he appears puzzled. "What cricket match?" he asks. "The one we played and ended in two days plus a half day instead of five days?"

"Oh, that. It wasn't a cricket match. It was a Finance Ministry activity for the benefit of the World Bank and IMF team."

"I didn't know that."

"Of course you didn't. You spent your time watching the match, thinking we had lost but we were very successful. The IMF has sanctioned the loan and Saifur Rahman's account has been copyrighted."

"How?"

"Well, everyone says that our projects are always delayed. But not anymore. We have consistently finished 5-day Tests in two days, at most three days. This is a major achievement. Don't you understand? The match was supervised by the Planning Commission, not the Cricket Board."

"So when we play bad, we are actually good?"

"See we finished so quick, we made Pakistan bat for long. Their project was delayed while we finished quickly and the number for each player was also very low."

Off course, Bashar will be punished but he is only one fellow, probably belongs to the Janatar mancha. He will be sent to Bandarban. But our loan sanction is definite now."

"So, how come the media is criticising the team?"

"Only on the sports page. Those guys don't know that the real report is in the economy page. Our growth rate is next to China. And we didn't even ball a Chinaman. In fact, China

is a friendly country and we will never throw a Chinaman across the pitch. It might hurt them."

"So, we should celebrate the success?"

"We have already celebrated. Pilot has been transferred as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning commission. He has leadership class."

"And the rest?"

"As I said before this wasn't a cricket match. It was a BCS exam. They now know all about development. They have passed the test. Now, they can build 'Sonar Bangla'. They have all been hired as Gram Sarkar Prodhans. We hope to finish the next game in two overs. That's the least we can do."

"So every time we lose, we should be happy?"

"Believe me that's what you will be doing for long. So, practice. That's the secret of scoring less and less in less and less time. Ask Saifur Rahman. He will tell you all about it."

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PHOTO: STAR

Fahim Muntasir, the off-spinner who shone with the bat in Bangladesh's second innings instead, follows through on a lofted cover-drive yesterday. He was the home side's highest scorer with 33.

SERIES CHIPS



HASAN MASOOD

Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram is unlikely to play in the second Test of the Coca-Cola Series starting on January 16 at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

The 36-year-old left-arter, who aggravated his old hamstring injury on the first day of the first Test after bowling just 2.4 overs, is yet to recover fully.

A source in the Pakistan team revealed that Wasim would not go back home and he might be considered for the one-day matches in the later part of the tour.

Both Wasim and his coach Mudassar Nazar however declined to predict or comment on the playing eleven in Chittagong.

Wasim said he did not have any knowledge about his not playing in Chittagong while Nazar added that they have enough time now to finalise the matter after the first Test ended inside three days.

"At present, what I can tell you is that no one is thinking in this line," the coach quipped.

BRAVE EFFORT BUT NOT ENOUGH

Bangladesh opener Al-Shahriar cut his palm yet could not hold on to the

Young right-hander Mohammad Ashrafur opened the innings along with Mehrib Hossain. Later, Al-Shahriar came to bat at number seven and scored 21 off just 15 balls with five fours. It was however not enough at all to avoid his team's innings and 178-run defeat.

ASHRAFUL GIVEN BUSY FIXTURE

Mohammad Ashrafur is going to have a tough time in the next two months as he would have to travel two continents and play endless cricket.

The 18-year-old cricketer will join the under-19 team in New Zealand in next few days and then fly to West Indies to join the A team for the last few matches of the Busta Cup, said chief selector Mainul Haq yesterday.

Talking to a group of reporters during at lunch, Mainul also revealed that at least three under-19 cricketers would join the 14-member A team after the Youth World Cup in New Zealand. Three players from the A team would then return home.



ABDUR RAZAQ ... m-o-m

catch Inzamamul Haq offered at long on. He was taken to hospital immediately where he needed four stitches to sew up the cut on his right palm.

Rajshahi bash Barisal

ISPANHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi defeated Barisal by an innings and 123 runs in the Ispanhani third National Cricket League at the Barisal Stadium on Friday.

On the third day of the four-day match, Barisal, needing 295 runs in their second innings to make Rajshahi bat again, were all out for 172 with opener Hannan Sarkar hammering highest 56.

In Mymensingh, Dhaka were on the verge of recording their third straight win.

Needing 115 in their second innings to win, they reached 82 for two at stumps on the third day.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards on the third day of the three Ispanhani third National Cricket League matches played at different venues across the country on Friday:

Barisal v Rajshahi
Venue: Barisal

BARISAL: First innings 110 all out in 54.5 overs (Shafayet 24; Imran 5-35)

RAJSHAHI: First innings (overnight 370-8)

| Batter | Runs | Bowler |
|--------------------------------|------|--------|
| Rafiqul c Tinku b Shahnewaz | 2 | |
| Mustadir b Shahnewaz | 51 | |
| Nuruzzaman c Tinku b Masud | 109 | |
| Anisur lbw b Kamal | 20 | |
| Mushfiq c Tinku b Sayem | 115 | |
| Rajel lbw b Hannan | 14 | |
| Mustakim st Tinku b Arif | 7 | |
| Bidyut b Hannan | 7 | |
| Imran not out | 37 | |
| Aminul jr st Tinku b Shahnewaz | 6 | |
| Alamgir lbw b Shahnewaz | 1 | |
| Extras: (lb-10, lb-10, w-2) | 22 | |
| Total: (All out in 133 overs) | 405 | |

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-126, 3-167, 4-227, 5-261, 6-296, 7-314, 8-363, 9-404

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|-----------|----|----|----|---|
| Shahnewaz | 33 | 11 | 82 | 4 |
| Sayem | 17 | 4 | 73 | 1 |
| Masud | 20 | 1 | 53 | 1 |
| Arif | 15 | 3 | 48 | 1 |

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh's Al Shahriar sweeps one on his way to scoring a 15-ball 21 in the second innings of the first Test against Pakistan on Friday.