

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 2002, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

Hometown kid's debut today

Bashar taking his chances

Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Chittagong

Local boy Tareq Aziz Khan will make his one-day international debut as Bangladesh prepare for life without star batsman Habibul Bashar for the first time in months when the home side take on Pakistan in the opening match of their three-game series at the MA Aziz Stadium here on Tuesday.

The selectors were forced to leave Bashar out after an X-ray on Sunday revealed that the prolific run-maker has a fractured left thumb.

Although the specialist who saw him told Bashar to take at least a three-week rest, the right-hander, still with a bandage on his injured finger, said on Monday that he hoped to return for the second ODI in Dhaka on January 24 provided he didn't feel any pain.

Bashar, who apparently is ignoring the doctor's advice, also revealed that the doctor had suggested that he use an aluminium plate over the damaged thumb, but he won't do that as it would prevent him from playing in the remaining two ODIs.

Bashar's decision raised a few eyebrows among the local scribes. However the team management's version on the issue could not be



HABIBUL BASHAR

gathered as the manager and physio were unavailable.

Manager Shafiqul Haq Hira was absent during the training session on Monday while physio John Gloster, who has already sparked off controversy for delaying Bashar's x-ray for four days, didn't face the media.

When the reporters called him, the Aussie slipped through the back door of the dressing room and

boarded the team bus before the other squad members.

With Bashar missing, speculation was rife that veteran middle order batsman Aminul Islam might take his place. But the team's think-tank, in a meeting after practice at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday, decided against including the out-of-form ex-national captain. Also dropped from the 14-man squad was off-spinner Fahim Muntasir.

The absence of the trio gave 20-year-old Tareq Aziz an opportunity to play for his country for the first time.

The young paceman from Chittagong, who came into reckoning after a ten-wicket match haul in the National League match against Dhaka here last month, will be the third speedster in the team along with Mohammad Sharif and Monjurul Islam. Veteran Enamul Haque will be the lone tweaker.

Javed Omar and Mehrab Hossain are set to renew their opening partnership with Al-Shariar going at number three, followed by Tuskar Imran, Sanwar Hossain, skipper Khaled Mashud and all-rounder Khaled Mahmud.

Talking to reporters after practice, the Bangladesh captain refused

SEE PAGE 14

Booters join forces

SPORTS REPORTER

Football players of the country have decided to stand united in an effort to get the FIFA ban against Bangladesh lifted.

Players of the Second, Third and Pioneer Divisions will form a human chain at the Jatiya Press Club on Thursday at 11am.

In a statement signed by at least one hundred players, they urged the State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman and BFF president SA Sultan to bring about a speedy resolution of the stalemate.

"It is our livelihood. So, as long as this untoward situation continues we will suffer," read the joint statement.

The world body banned Bangladesh on January 11 after the government refused to reinstate the executive committee of general secretary Harun-ur Rashid.

The national footballers are expected to join in.

The aggrieved players have also requested the football-loving public to join their hands to make the unique protest a success.

Wasim heading home

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram has been ruled out of the three-match Coca-Cola one-day series against Bangladesh because of a hamstring injury.

The 36-year-old all-rounder, who is yet to recover fully from the injury he suffered on the first day of first Test in Dhaka, leaves Chittagong for home today in the morning, said his captain Waqar Younis during the team's practice session at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Though the highest wicket-taker in the one-day game was scheduled to appear in a fitness test in the morning yesterday, but Waqar revealed that Wasim was still feeling some stiffness in his muscle and that

was why the test was not conducted. "We are sending Wasim home to rest and hopefully he will be fit for the upcoming series against the West Indies," he said. "We will miss him, but it can't be helped."

Wasim, the world's only bowler to take over 400 wickets in both Test and one-day cricket, could bowl only 2.4 overs on the tour.

The left-hander now returns home to recuperate before their home series against the West Indies, starting at Sharjah on January 31.

"It's a bit disappointing for us because we would miss him. But again we are more concerned about his service in Sharjah. That's why he is leaving," said Waqar.

Pakistan are scheduled to leave Dhaka on January 26 and then they will fly off to Sharjah after couple of days for the two-match Test and three-match limited-over series.

Fast bowler Mohammad Sami, who was to return home after the Tests, has been asked to stay on as Wasim's replacement in the 14-man one-day side.

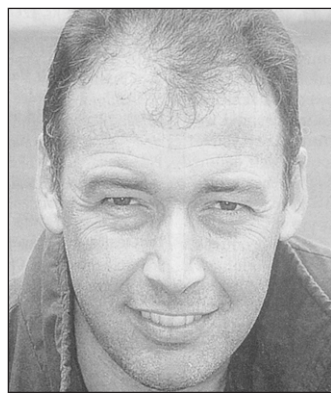


WASIM AKRAM



Did U Know?

On an ice hockey ring the reason the blue off-sides line is dashed and not solid like the red midfield line is because in the days of black and white TV viewers could then tell which line the players were crossing.



Angus Fraser

(Former England paceman) "Now he can be seen as England's best captain since Mike Brearley, 20 years ago." On Nasser Hussain.



BTV & ETV

Bangladesh vs Pakistan
First ODI
Live at 9:00 am
DD Sports
India vs England
Second ODI
Live at 10:00 am
ESPN

English Premier Football League
Highlights at 7:00 am
South Africa vs Australia
Sixth ODI
Highlights at 8:00 am
South Africa vs Australia
Seventh ODI
Live at 9:27 am

Series A
Highlights at 6:00 am
Football Focus
7:30 pm

Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Man United
Live at 1:50 am (Wednesday)
STAR Sports

Australian Open
Men/Women Quarterfinals
Live at 6:00 am
Sportline Today
Sport News
12:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
1:00 pm

Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

English Premier Football League
Highlights at 8:30 pm
Australian Open
Day Nine
Highlights at 9:30 pm

FedEx V-Day basketball

UNB, Dhaka

Josephites, Rising Force and Saints won their respective matches in the FedEx Victory-Day basketball tournament at Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Josephites defeated Bangladesh Air Force 93-52 after leading the first half 40-23. Foreign recruit Abdullah caged 33 and Leo 23 for the winners while Sharif and Hafiz 12 each for the losers.

Rising Force beat Sobhanbagh Basketball Association 67-33 after dominating the first half 42-10. Azad scored 16, Tito 14 for the Rising Force while Shakil 12 for the Sobhanbagh.

Saints beat Wizard 84-61 after locking the first half 31-31. Theo scored 23, Majjel 20 for the winners while Mamun 23 for the losers.

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Kazipara Cricket Club and Sarkerpara Cricket Club won their respective matches of the Dana Mia Smriti Cup tournament at the district Eidgah ground yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Kazipara defeated Progati Cricket Club by 11 runs.

Winning the toss, Kazipara decided to bat first and collected 109 runs for all.

In reply, Progati collected 98 runs for 8 in stipulated 25 overs.

In the other match of the day, Sarkerpara beat Mourail Cricket Club by 25 runs at the same venue.

Winning the toss, Sarkerpara batted first and made 118.

In reply, Mourail managed as runs by losing all wickets.

Siddeshwari win a thriller

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Wari High School, Siddeshwari Boys, Shaheedbagh High School and Nawabpur Government High School won their respective Dhaka Zone qualifying matches of the Standard Chartered 20th National Schools Championship on Monday.

Siddeshwari Boys pulled off an exciting tie-match victory over Mirhagirbagh Adarsha High School at the Dhanmondi Club Ground.

Siddeshwari won the thriller by virtue of losing fewer wickets after scores were locked at 176 at the end of the 35-over contest.

The winners lost eight wickets against Mirhagirbagh's all ten.

Wari High School prevailed over Kutubkhali High School by two wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Shaheedbagh High School won against Shapla Kindergarten at the Mirpur Outer Stadium by 62 runs thanks largely to a staggering 52 extras in the winners' total of 152.

Nawabpur Government High School scored a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over Bangladesh International Tutorial at the Polytechnic Institute Ground.

Nasir and Rubel took four wickets apiece as Bangladesh International were shot for 95. Nawabpur then chased an easy victory target of 96 in just 10.5 overs with Ehsan hammering a breezy 43.

BRIEF SCORES

Wari High School vs Kutubkhali High School

Venue: DCS
Kutubkhali High School: 151 all out in 32.5 over (Asgar 29, Delwar 18; Sajjad 4/9, Tomal 2/22, Arman 2/20)

Wari High School: 155 for 8 in 28.1 overs (Riaz 29, Nazim 28, Rabeed 23; Kamal 3/23, Biplob 2/23)

Result: Wari Club won by 2 wickets.

Siddeshwari Boys vs Mirhagirbagh Adarsha High School

Venue: DCG
Mirhagirbagh Adarsha High School: 176 all out in 35 overs (Joy 64, Milon 34; Pappu 4/18, Tanjil 2/24)

Siddeshwari Boys: 176 for 8 wickets in 35 overs (Mamun 38, Bidyut 21; Salam 2/28, Milon 2/27)

Result: Siddeshwari Boys won by virtue of losing fewer wickets.

Shaheedbagh High School vs Shapla Kindergarten

Venue: MOS
Shaheedbagh High School: 152 all out in 32.1 overs (Saju 26, Ashiq 16, Extras 53; Tawkir 3/20, Tareq 2/26)

Shapla Kindergarten: 90 all out in 12 overs (Johnny 17; Maruf 3/35, Saju 2/12, Mohammaduluaah 2/25)

Result: Shaheedbagh High School won by 62 runs.

Nawabpur Govt High School vs Bangladesh International Tutorial

Venue: PIG
Bangladesh International Tutorial: 95 all out in 28.1 overs (Sabir 37; Nasirul 4/13, Rubel 4/22)

Nawabpur Govt High School: 96 for 1 wicket in 10.5 overs (Ehsan 43, lqbal 24 not out)

Result: Nawabpur Govt. High School won by 9 wickets.

Sunny's sympathy

Cricket

REUTERS/ AFP, New Delhi

Sunil Gavaskar has slammed the umpiring during England's defeat to India in their opening one-day international, saying the visitors were "robbed".

The former India captain and record-breaking batsman, quoted in the Hindustan Times newspaper, said of Saturday's game in Calcutta: "Marcus Trescothick was playing the innings of a lifetime and taking his team to a famous victory, when he was stopped in his tracks by a decision that turned the match in India's favour."

"Leg-before wicket decisions are never the easiest to give nor are they unanimously accepted by the fielding side or the batting side, but the speed at which they were given made them look worse."

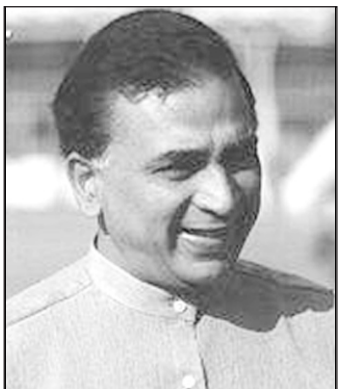
"England were robbed," said Opener Trescothick, dominating the bowling as he hammered 121, was given out to a ball from pacerman Javagal Srinath which pitched outside leg stump. England then collapsed to 259 all out and a 22-run defeat at the Eden Gardens.

England have lodged a complaint over the umpiring with the International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee, who has forwarded it to the Indian board as the series is being officiated by home umpires.

Four England batsmen were out leg before in the first game of the six-match series.

Gavaskar added: "Trescothick was batting superbly and pacing the innings so well that the Indians seemed to have no answer."

But he criticised the England lower order for squandering a victory chance as the last four wickets tumbled for 28 runs in six overs.



SUNIL GAVASKAR

"England also did not help their cause by some unthinking cricket. England's tail did not wag... the inexperience of the youngsters showed as they crumbled in front of the vociferous Eden Gardens crowd."

While he praised England's Jeremy Snape and Paul Collingwood for their fielding on

Monday, he concluded: "But, they (India) do have luck and maybe against this side, that's all that they need!"

Elsewhere, the Indian media also sympathised with England's cricketers saying Trescothick's controversial dismissal affected the tourists' chances.

The newspapers lashed out at the umpiring, especially at Sharma for giving Trescothick out.

"India lbw England," screamed a front-page headline in the Asian Age, referring to the England opener's dismissal.

"His (Trescothick) dismissal was authored not by Srinath, but by one S. K. Sharma," said the Telegraph.

"The umpire adjudged him leg-before to a delivery that pitched outside the leg-stump. The verdict turned the match on its head. It is time the ICC panel umpires started officiating in one-dayers too."

The Hindu said it was a pity that the England opener's innings ended on a sad note.

"England opener Marcus Trescothick was every inch a winner for a sensational hundred under pressure," the paper said.

"It is pity that such a glorious innings ended on a sad note. The delivery from Srinath, to which Trescothick was adjudged leg-before by umpire S. K. Sharma, appeared to have pitched outside the leg-stump."

India's WI tour itinerary

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will play five Tests and the same number of one-day games during their two-month long tour of West Indies, the Indian cricket board said on Monday.

The Indians will kick-off the tour with the first Test at Bourda Oval in Guyana from April 11 with the series concluding with the fifth and final game in Jamaica starting on May 18, according to the schedule decided between the two Boards.

The one-day series was reduced from seven to five games after an Indian request to give its players a longer break at home ahead of their Test tour of England starting in the second week of June.

SCHEDULE

April 2: Arrive in West Indies
11-15: First Test, Guyana
19-23: Second Test, Trinidad
26-28: v West Indies Academy XI, Barbados
May 2-6: Third Test, Barbados
10-14: Fourth Test, Antigua
18-22: Fifth Test, Jamaica
25: First one-day international, Jamaica
26: Second one-dayer, Jamaica
29: Third one-dayer, Barbados
June 1: Fourth one-dayer, Trinidad
June 2: Fifth one-dayer, Trinidad

Second ODI today

Ian calls for fiery reply

Cricket

AFP, Cuttack

Former England cricket great Ian Botham on Monday urged Nasser Hussain's tourists to use their anger over the umpiring as a weapon in the ongoing one-day series against India.

England were furious over a controversial umpiring decision in the first match at Calcutta, which cost centurion Marcus Trescothick

his wicket and the tourists the match.

The left-handed opener hit a rapid-fire 121 off 109 balls before being adjudged leg-before off a Javagal Srinath delivery that appeared to have pitched outside the leg-stump.

England, chasing 282, were strongly placed at 224-4 when Trescothick was removed by Indian umpire S. K. Sharma's contentious decision in the 36th over.

His dismissal sparked a collapse, which saw England lose their last five wickets for 35 runs.

"They (England) must use their anger and disappointment to spur them on in the remaining five games," Botham wrote in the Times of India ahead of Tuesday's second match here.

"The series is still there to be won and they must not get dejected. From what I can make out, they are like wounded tigers who want to get back at the team that took the victory they (England) feel was theirs."

The umpiring decision was widely criticised in the Indian and British media, and renowned former cricketers also joined in.

"England were robbed," said former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, referring to the dubious decision.

Hussain said his team's preparations and performance would not be affected by the umpiring row.

"Decisions go against you," he said. "We are not going to dwell on them. We have to pick ourselves up. We have to be positive."

Match-referee Denis Lindsay of South Africa, meanwhile, said he had received a letter from England over the umpiring issue.

"It is not really a complaint," he said. "They (England) have expressed concern. I have forwarded it to the Indian board."

The ICC is to introduce two neutral umpires for Tests from April and one home umpire and one neutral umpire for one-dayers.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesai Laxman, Virender Sehwag, Hemang Badani, Dinesh Mongia, Anil Kumble, Ajay Ratra, Harbhajan Singh, Sarandeep Singh, Javagal Srinath, Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, Sanjay Bangar.

ENGLAND (from): Nasser Hussain (captain), Andrew Caddick, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, James Foster, Ashley Giles, Darren Gough, Matthew Hoggard, Ben Houlloake, Nick Knight, Owais Shah, Jeremy Snape, Graham Thorpe, Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan.

Umpires: V. K. Ramaswamy (Ind) and K. Parthasarthy (Ind).
Match-referee: Denis Lindsay (South Africa).



England star opener Marcus Trescothick (R) giving some batting tips to his teammate Jeremy Snape at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP