

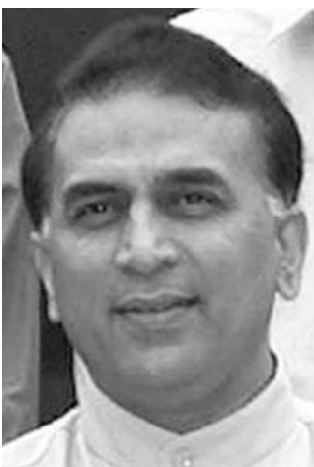


Did U Know?

Erik Nilsson of Sweden and Alfred Bickel of Switzerland are the only men to have played in the World Cup both before and after World War II. They both appeared in 1938 and 1950.



TALK TURKEY



Sunil Gavaskar
(Indian cricket legend)
"Age is not a barrier for class."



What to WATCH

DD Sports & National

India vs West Indies
First Test, Day Two
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

Pakistan vs Australia
First Test, Day Five
Highlights
Repeat at 7:30 am
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 8:30 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Legends of Cricket
Taped Version at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Chelsea
Taped Version at 12:30 pm
Futbol Mundial
Taped Version at 6:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 8:30 pm
India vs West Indies
First Test, Day Two
Highlights
Same Day Delay at 9:00 pm

Negatives weigh heavy on Rahman

HASAN MASOOD

Fazlur Rahman yesterday completed his one-year as state minister for youth and sports after the BNP-led four-party alliance surged in to the power on October 10, 2001.

Like the previous Awami League government, the present government also chose a relatively young former student leader to succeed Obaidul Quader. But it was clear in the last one year that Rahman failed to take the local sports to a desired level from where Quader had left off. It would be clearer even to all if we go through the downside journey of football and cricket, the two most popular games in the country.

Bangladesh were slapped with a temporary FIFA ban immediately after Rahman formed an ad-hoc committee in the Bangladesh Football Federation in place of the elected executive committee. Much to the embarrassment of government, he was forced to reinstate the elected body afterwards.

Then came the disastrous 14th

Asian Games where Bangladesh footballers took part without a single day's preparation and conceded identical 0-3 defeats against India, China and Turkmenistan in the preliminary round.



FAZLUR RAHMAN

But the defeat against India came as a big shock for the nation who saw their team beat the same coun-

try in the SAF Games semifinal just three years back.

The standard of cricket hit its lowest ebb since Bangladesh played their inaugural Test in October 2000.

Besides, the whole nation was embarrassed when four Bangladeshi athletes defected from Commonwealth Games in Manchester last July.

Though negatives weigh heavy on Rahman, he has had a few positives to cheer about. Young shooter Asif Hossain rose from nowhere to win individual gold in the Commonwealth Games air rifle event. Bangladesh also regained the kabadi silver in the ongoing 14th Asian Games after eight years.

The Daily Star Sport had an exclusive interview with Rahman at his National Sports Council (NSC) office yesterday. Following is the excerpts of the interview:

Daily Star Sport (DSS): It was completely a new sector for you when you took over the Sports Ministry last year. Do you love

games now?

Fazlur Rahman (FR): Well, I fully agree with you. During my entire 30 years of political career, I never had any experience of sports. But I can tell you now that I am really enjoying this area.

DSS: Since you took over, Bangladesh's performance in the two most popular sports, cricket and football, has taken a nose-dive at the international level. Do you agree with this view?

FR: I fully agree with you. Even the whole nation knows that our standard in cricket and football have deteriorated. We all have seen that nothing was achieved from these two sports.

When I took over, I thought I should leave these sports to the respective federations. Accordingly, I asked both the cricket and football officials to have their own development plans and implement those. But it seems that nothing went right. I gave them hundred per cent

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: AKIM MOHSIN

South Koreans support Bangladesh against Japan in the classification hockey match at the Gangseo Stadium in Busan yesterday.

Sehwag sets the pace

Cricket

AFP, Bombay

Virender Sehwag celebrated his birthday 11 days early with a career-best 147 as India posted an impressive 278-2 in the first Test against the West Indies here on Wednesday.

Sehwag, who turns 24 on October 20, put his team on course for a big total with a record 201-run stand with fellow-opener Sanjay Bangar (55) on the opening day at the Wankhede Stadium.

Batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar was unbeaten on 35 and Rahul Dravid on 28 at stumps, looking set to prolong the West Indies' agony on Thursday. Tendulkar also completed 1,000 runs in a calendar year when on 14.

The day belonged to Sehwag, an

It was an ordeal in the sun for Carl Hooper's West Indians, who toiled for more than two sessions in hot and humid conditions for their first success.

Hooper, playing his 100th Test, used nine bowlers in short spells but none could provide the breakthrough for more than four hours on a newly laid pitch.

India lost their first wicket in the fifth over after the tea-break after winning an important toss, but not before Sehwag and Bangar had put their team in a commanding position with contrasting knuckles.

Fast bowler Mervyn Dillon succeeded in breaking the partnership in his third spell when he had Bangar caught flicking by Ramnaresh Sarwan at square-leg.

Bangar offered a chance on 53 when he mistimed a lofted shot off spinner Hooper, but Cameron Cuffy

off a low catch.

Dillon deserved his successes as he looked impressive in each of his three short spells. He grabbed both of his wickets in his six-over third spell, conceding just 12 runs.

The pitch had neither pace nor bounce for fast bowlers even on the first day and the Indian openers made the most of the conditions to give their team a dream start.

Sehwag delighted nearly 15,000 spectators as he never allowed the West Indians bowlers to dominate with his wide range of attacking shots.

He completed his half-century off 85 balls in the last over before lunch when he square-drove left-arm fast bowler Pedro Collins for his 11th boundary.

Sehwag took 53 deliveries more to complete his hundred, lofting part-time seamer Wavell Hinds over mid-



PHOTO: AFP

Indian star batsman Virender Sehwag cuts one during his career-best 147 against West Indies on the opening day of the first Test at Bombay yesterday.

aggressive batsman with plenty of shots and confidence.

He smashed three sixes and 24 fours in his third hundred in 10 Tests to surpass his previous best of 106 against England at Trent Bridge in August.

His partnership with Bangar was India's highest for the opening wicket against the West Indies, eclipsing the previous best of 153 between Sunil Gavaskar and Chetan Chauhan at the same venue in 1978-79.

failed to judge the ball while running in from mid-off.

Bangar, who turns 30 on Friday, defended resolutely during his 187-ball knock to frustrate the West Indies attack. He played just one big shot in his long innings, lifting spinner Ryan Hinds for a straight six.

Dillon also ended Sehwag's entertaining 217-ball knock three overs later as he had the batsman caught by wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs, who dived to his left to bring

wicket for his 19th four.

He played handsome shots against both seamers and spinners, starting with two successive boundaries in Collins's opening over.

He then took two fours off Cuffy and three in an over off leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo, who hardly turned the ball. He struck the first six of the match, hoisting birthday boy Nagamootoo over long-off.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Gough headache

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, London

England captain Nasser Hussain admitted Wednesday that he was disappointed by key fast bowler Darren Gough's announcement that he might not be fit for the first two Tests of the Ashes tour of Australia.

Gough revealed his doubts on Tuesday, saying: "If I miss the first two Tests but am there for the rest of the winter I will be happy."

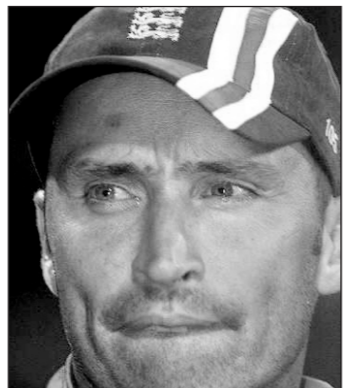
But Hussain, speaking at the launch of England's off-field clothing for the tour, said: "We are a long way from the first Test. The whole point of the rehabilitation and fitness programmes that people are going through is that they are fit."

"There will be a couple of lads in the Academy who will be happy to hear what Darren has said. Maybe he is just being a bit pessimistic after being out for a year."

England have five other fast bowlers in their Ashes squad and, in addition, some promising young quicks will be with the Academy

squad which will be based in Adelaide at the same time as England are on tour.

Gough has undergone three knee operations in the past seven months since returning from the one-day series in New Zealand.



NASSER HUSSAIN

He has not played Test cricket since August 2001 and made only a single first-class appearance for Yorkshire last season.

England have not won an Ashes

series since 1986-87 and Hussain said his side required a tougher mental attitude if they were to succeed.

"We can't go there thinking 'you're so wonderful'. There is no reason why we can't beat Australia if we play the kind of cricket we have played against everyone else for the past two years."

England leave for Australia later this month and play the first Test in Brisbane on November 7.

Hussain says Australia are "there to be broken" in Ashes series. Hussain told the press conference that his side could end their losing run of seven successive series against the world's top side.

"There's no reason why not... There is no reason if everybody is fit. If the key battles are won, particularly in the first Test, there is no reason why we can't beat Australia and I expect everybody to be thinking like that."

"They are there to be broken." In the past Hussain has often talked of merely wanting to compete with Australia rather than beat them.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

GAMES BAG

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

Japan beat Bangladesh

BSS, Busan

Bangladesh hockey team lost to Japan 1-6 in a classification match at the 14th Asian Games at the Gangseo Stadium yesterday.

Japan led the first half 4-0. Takiya Kawada struck twice while Takahiko Yamahori, Kenichi Katayama, Yasuhiro Kikkaw and Kazuo Yoshida netted one each for the winners.

Isa Mia scored the consolation goal for the vanquished through a penalty corner.

Bangladesh play their next match against Hong Kong on October 11.

ATHLETICS

Bangladesh's Shamsunnahar Chumki finished first from last in the women's 200m sprint heat at Busan Main Stadium yesterday.

She clocked 25.73 to become fifteenth. Indian Saraswati Saha made the best timing 23.51.

Mohammedans only

SPORTS REPORTER

National League and Premier League champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club have decided to hold an Inter-Mohammedan Football Tournament to be participated by all teams of the country having the Mohammedan name.

The tournament will take place in January next year.

The decision was taken at the club's executive committee meeting on October 5. It is hoped that through this event the Mohammedan family will be brought closer.

Mohammedan Sporting Club's from all over Bangladesh have been requested to send their entries with a brief history of their clubs to KM Iqbal, the convener of the tournament committee by October 22.

Two-day match BCB colts victorious

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) under-15 development squad recorded a victory by virtue of taking a first innings lead over touring Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) under-15 team in a two-day match at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Prothshan (BKSP) yesterday.

A 72-run tenth wicket partnership between Sirajullah Khadem and Marshal Ayub enabled the home side to take 41-run first innings lead that brought the result in their favour.

Resuming on their overnight score of 51 for 5, the local boys were all out for 196 runs in 77.2 overs in reply to CAB under-15's 155 in their first innings.

Khadem made 66 runs while Ayub added 26. CAB under-15 were 112 for three wickets in their second innings when the match ended.

Mazharuddin captured two wickets and Marshal Ayub took one wicket for the home side.

Bangladesh under-15, who won the first limited-over match between the teams, will take on the tourists from west Bengal in another limited-over match on Friday at the same venue.

Afraid of Akhtar

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

World champions Australia arrived here Wednesday for two Test matches against Pakistan trying to find ways to counter lethal fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar.

With Akhtar and the stifling heat and humidity playing on their minds, Steve Waugh's men appeared pensive of what lay ahead despite winning the first Test by 41 runs in Sri Lanka on Monday.

Both factors will play a major role in the back-to-back Tests starting on Friday in this popular one-day venue which is like a second home for the Pakistani cricketers.

Akhtar, nicknamed the Rawalpindi Express, rattled the Australians with eight wickets in the first Test in Colombo - three in six balls in the first innings and five in 15 balls in the second.

The breathtaking spell in the second innings saw the formidable Aussies shot out for 127 in one extended session after being comfortably placed at 61-0.

It was Pakistan's inexperienced batting that allowed Australia to

wriggle out of a tight situation, but Akhtar said Wednesday he was not finished yet.

"I think I will be more effective in Sharjah than I was in Colombo," the outspoken fast bowler warned.

"It may be hot in Sharjah, but not as humid, which will help me reverse swing the ball more."

"I am used to playing in Sharjah. I feel comfortable here. I can't wait to get out there and have a go at the Aussies again."

Its a warning Australian coach John Buchanan will not take lightly. "By what we saw in Colombo, Shoaib has got to be the most lethal fast bowler in the game," Buchanan said.

"We have to ensure we keep wickets in hand when he is bowling. Its that one spell of five or six overs when Shoaib is at his peak."

"If we can get through that period, we will be okay."

Asked what batsmen had to do to counter him, Akhtar quipped: "They've got to be brave, mate."

"I am not going to tell you how they should play me. But I know a batsman has to be brave when he faces me."

Buchanan said some of his batsmen had faced constant speed of around 150km an hour for the first

time, but the lessons had been learnt.

"What we've experienced in the first Test will stand us in good stead for the remaining matches," he said.

"We know what to expect. There were just a few moments in the first Test when we allowed the pressure to ease a bit."

Buchanan was very concerned about the 40 degrees Celsius heat.

"The heat is going to take a lot of out players from both teams. Conditions may suit Pakistan more but we've played in Asia a lot and know what to expect."

Akhtar, meanwhile, was gearing to lift his young colleagues in the absence of four top stars, Wasim Akram, Saeed Anwar, Inzamamul Haq and Yousuf Youhana.

"I am their inspiration," he said. "They depend on me to turn the game around. I did it in Colombo, I hope to do it here as well."

"I want to be among the best fast bowlers ever. And I can reach there only when I pick up wickets and help Pakistan win."

"We may have lost the first Test, but I am confident we will do much better here in Sharjah. We want to win both Tests," Akhtar said.

A Javed in the making!

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

Pakistan's new batting hero Faisal Iqbal bears a stark resemblance to his uncle Javed Miandad. He is cheeky, brave, and loves to bait the Australians.

But there is where the similarities end. Iqbal, son of Miandad's eldest sister, laughs off any comparisons with the legendary Pakistani batsman and captain.

"I have always idolised my uncle and want to be like the man I have watched with envy from childhood," Iqbal told AFP in an interview.

"But I still have a long way to go, his shoes are too big for me."

Miandad, Pakistan's leading run-getter with 8,832 from 124 Tests, could not inspire his two younger brothers, Anwar and Sohail, to play Test cricket.

But young Iqbal finally came into his own last week when he hit a gutsy 83 off 85 balls in Pakistan's first innings of the first Test against Australia in Colombo.

The knock was not enough to save Pakistan from a 41-run defeat, but established Iqbal as a batsman whom the Australians will not take lightly.

"He has it in him to go far," said



FAISAL IQBAL

Australia's champion leg-spinner Shane Warne after the first Test.

Just as Miandad would try and seize the advantage from the start with cheeky strokes, Iqbal welcomed Warne with a lofted hit back over the bowler's head.

He went on to hit 16 boundaries, and was last man out for 39 in the second innings after running out of partners.

It was more that what captain Waqar Younis could expect from a 21-year-old playing only his sixth Test.

"There's a lot of Javed in Faisal," said former Pakistani opener Aamir Sohail, who played a lot with the master.

Comparisons were inevitable and when Iqbal stepped on the field to represent Pakistan in the under-15 World Cup in England in 1996, he was tipped to be another Miandad.

"I was seven when Javed uncle gave me my first bat, and since then I have learnt all my cricket from him," Iqbal said.

"He taught me to occupy the crease and stressed that runs would come as long as I kept my cool out there in the middle."

Iqbal hit a fighting half-century against the touring Australians in a three-day game in Karachi in 1998-99 which earned a few tips from the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

READERS' ZONE

A cricketer's tale

Do you have any observation regarding sports and its management in Bangladesh? Do you feel certain issues need to be addressed before time runs out? Then, hurry up and send us your burning questions, critical views and thoughtful suggestions not in excess of 400 words. Let your thought buzz at your corner, the Readers' Zone.

--- Sports Editor

This story may be stereotypical, but it is certainly true. As I walked home after cricket practice recently, a rickshaw slowed near me. The men on the rickshaw laughed at me and one of them asked if I wanted to become a cricketer or not. I was dumbfounded and later laughed it off with my friends.

The person was certainly pointing towards the future of the game in Bangladesh in the rudest way possible. He has all the right to be angry, frustrated and dejected at the state of the team. Although the ICC Champions Trophy performance has been forgotten, the team are now in South Africa for more humiliation.

This is the team's toughest tour to date not because of the quality of

the opponents, but more for the pitches. Even if South Africa fields a second string side, like every other side do against us, it will be a cakewalk. This simply proves the notion that we got the Test status a little too soon.

One-day status alone was better as it could have enabled the team to develop a stronger base and if we got it after the 2003 World Cup, it would have been much better.

We got the ODI status in 1997 and a period of five years before achieving the Test status was enough for the team to be prepared for the big league. Those five years could have been used to tour all the Test-playing nations and play Kenya, Holland, Scotland regularly.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Div II soccer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sumon Smriti Sangsad earned full points against Young Cosmos XI in the National Bank Second Division Football League at the Circuit House ground yesterday.

Sumon Smriti won 3-0. Meanwhile, New Ekota Club defeated Khulna Biddut Kendra Young Men's Club 2-0 in the second match of the day.

Udayan Sangha will take on Challengers Soccer Club at 2-15 pm while Young Muslim Sporting Club face Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Sangha at 3-30 pm in today's matches.

DC Cup soccer

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka District defeated Munshiganj 2-1 in the inaugural match of the Dhaka Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament which began at the Narsingdi Stadium yesterday.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan inaugurated the meet in which six district teams of the greater Dhaka are taking part.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18+

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 11, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- What was Bangladesh's score against Australia in the ICC Champions Trophy?
102 82 129
- Who won the National Bank Premier Division football title?
Muktijoddha | Abahani | Mohammedan
- Who won the Toyota Princess Cup tennis title?
Hingis | Capriati | Serena
- Who is the fastest man in the world?
Greene | Montgomery | Edwards
- Who are the defending champions in European Champions League?

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)