



Did U Know?

In 1979 a cricketer tried to take his bat through the French customs at Calais. He explained what it was used for, but the cricket-ignorant official was completely baffled by it. He then handed him a list of a thousand items, inviting him to select a suitable category. Eventually the bat was admitted into France by paying 1.25 francs.



What to WATCH

DD Sports & National

India vs West Indies
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

UEFA Champions League
Liverpool vs Valencia
Repeat at 10:00 am
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm
Crickit Programming
Legends of Cricket
Taped Version at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Bolton Wanderers vs Sunderland

Repeat at 1:00 pm

Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

India vs West Indies
Third Test, Day Three

Highlights

Same Day Delay at 8:30 pm



COMPETITION 183

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 8, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who became man-of-match in the first Test between Bangladesh and South Africa?
Al-Shahriar / G. Smith / J. Kallis

2. Who won the Swisscom Challenge tennis title?
Davenport / Schryder / Serena

3. Bangladesh lost the first Test against South Africa on the...
3rd day / 4th day / 5th day

4. India won the second Test against West Indies by...
120 runs / 8 wickets / 5 wickets

5. How many goals did Bangladesh concede in AFC U-20 meet in Qatar?
0 / 1 / 2

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (if any)



Glenn McGrath

(Ace Australia fast bowler)
"We are very confident that we will win the Ashes series."



18th Federation Cup Football tournament semifinals
Mohammedan SC vs Dhanmondi Club (4 pm)
Abahani KC vs Muktiyoddha Sangsad (6:30 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.



Abahani players are stretching during yesterday's practice session at their Dhanmondi ground. They take on Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the second semifinal of the Federation Cup today.

Fed Cup semis today

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinals of the 18th Federation Cup will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today.

Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Dhanmondi Club in the first semifinal at 4 pm and defending champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad face Abahani Kriya Chakra in the other match at 6:30 pm.

The champions of November 3 finals of the match-fixing controversy-ridden Federation Cup will get a Taka three lakh purse.

As per the ratings of today's first semi-finalists, Mohammedan's final berth is almost guaranteed.

The other semifinal, however, is

expected to be an interesting battle between two title-aspirants. Both Muktiyoddha and Abahani have passed the season with out any success.

The BFF, which completely failed to stamp out match-rigging menace, kicked up a controversy by disciplining four clubs in way that might encourage the cancerous practice further.

The committee identified two first round matches as fixed affairs and went soft on the culprit teams, letting co-conspirators and beneficiary clubs completely off the hook.

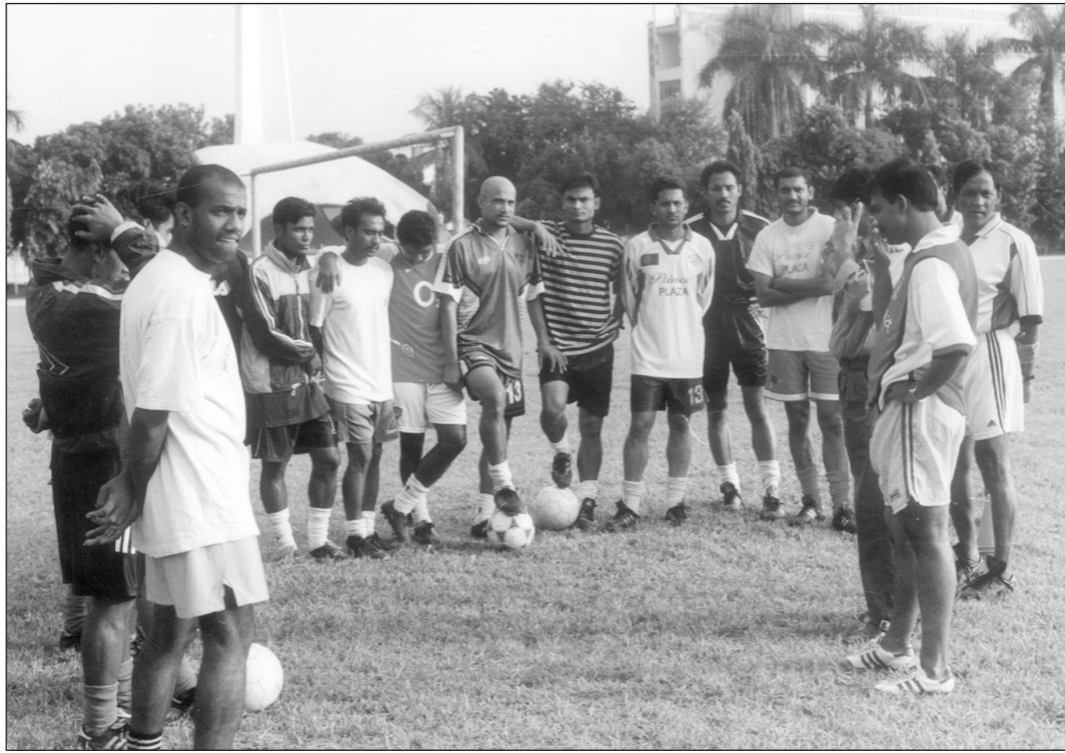
Both the matches were played on October 28. At the army Stadium, Rahmatganj deliberately lost to an unaware Bangladesh Air Force 0-3 in a Group A match, apparently to help Mohammedan qualify for the semi-

nals. Interestingly, Rahmatganj shocked Mohammedan with a 4-3 win and the latter drubbed Air Force 8-1 previously.

In the other match in question, Arambagh, with an aim to top Group D and reach the last four, beat Sheikh Russell KC 5-2 with a lot of help from the friendly losers.

All the four teams involved in the two matches have already been fined Taka fifty thousand each and a deduction of three points from their accounts.

But the beneficiary of the Rahmatganj-Air Force match Mohammedan, who are eyeing for their third domestic title after the National and Premier League championships, have been left untouched.



Mohammedan manager Amirul Islam Babu (3rd from R) attends a phone call keeping the players standing during their practice at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground yesterday afternoon.

Mentally Steve accepts it

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's World Cup-winning captain Steve Waugh conceded on Thursday his chances of helping defend the trophy at next year's tournament in southern Africa are small.

The 37-year-old Test campaigner played one of the great World Cup innings, an unbeaten 120 from 110 deliveries, on the way to the final where Australia beat Pakistan to be crowned world champions for a second time.

But after 325 appearances, the last in February this year against South Africa, Waugh was dropped from the limited-overs side and Ricky Ponting was installed as captain.

It was the first major step taken by the Australian selectors to reshape the team for next year's World Cup.

Waugh pledged to fight for his place but is available for only a handful of NSW one-day games before Ponting's squad jets off to South Africa, leaving little time to convince the selectors.

an end. "It's not a matter of proving the selectors wrong," Waugh told reporters.

"It's a matter of getting myself in contention and if there needs to be a change I'm available.

"Realistically, there won't be too many changes for the squad to South Africa.

"Realistically, there won't be too many changes for that squad to South Africa, but I want to put myself in with a chance and if they need me I'm available," he said.

"If it happens it happens. I don't

but there is a chance."

Waugh will make one of his rare state appearances for New South Wales in a one-day match against South Australia on Saturday.

Waugh's twin brother Mark, another key player in the 1999 World Cup triumph, was also dropped from the one-day side this year and earlier this week retired from international cricket after being overlooked for next week's first Ashes Test against England.

Steve Waugh thinks Australia, ranked number one in Test cricket, should win the series but would be foolish to take England lightly.

"Generally, they (England) have got a pretty good chance. They played well in (this week's drawn tour match in) Perth, they've got a few young guys we've not seen a lot of, and they seem really excited for the challenge," Waugh said.

"From our point of view, we have got to expect they are a realistic chance to beat us. We know they are going to be a lot better come the first Test match.

"They've got another game coming up (a three-day match against Queensland starting on Saturday) and they'll have reasonable form coming into the Test match and we'd be stupid to take them lightly."

However, Waugh believes England face an uphill battle to defeat Australia, who have held the Ashes since 1989.



STEVE WAUGH

think you could put a percentage on it, but it would be 50 per cent and probably a lot lower than that at this stage.

"I think it's a pretty low chance,

Mashud calls for domestic revamp

Cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh needs to bring massive changes to its domestic cricket structure, Khaled Mashud.

"We cannot expect a better show at the highest level with our existing facilities," the Bangladesh cricket captain said after returning from South Africa yesterday.

He emphasised on the importance of increasing indoor facilities with some bowling machines and preparing standard practice pitches.

"South Africa have huge facilities in the country. But we have no real practice pitches in the country despite being a Test-playing nation," he commented.

On the coming series against West Indies, the wicketkeeper-batsman said, "There was no need to frequently change the squad.

"One should keep in mind the players' previous international performances while selecting the national team."

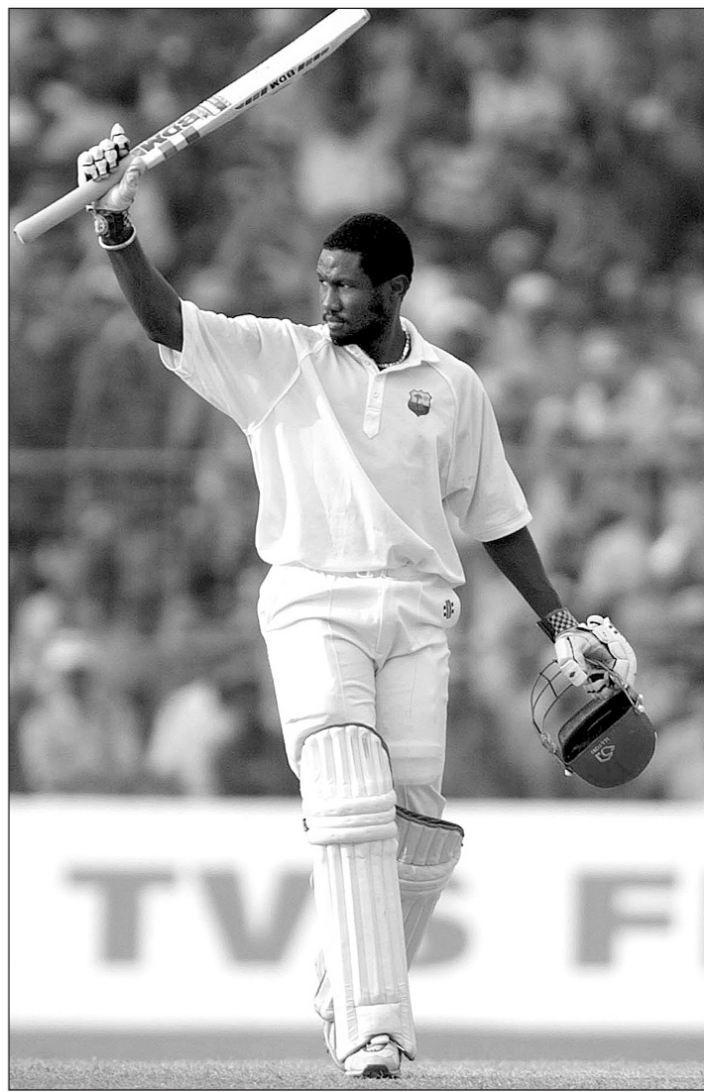
He thought that the tour had helped the players to prepare against West Indies.

"I think we performed better than what we did two years ago in South Africa. This time we crossed the 200-mark twice in unfamiliar conditions," he said.

Mashud was impressed with Al Shahriar's comeback with the willow and Hannan Sarkar's brilliant knock. "Alok Kapali's batting and Talha's bowling were also very good."

Before facing the West Indian pace battery, the national side will play in the Challenge Trophy against Bangladesh A and BCB Development Squad.

Their opening four-day game against the national second string team begins on November 4 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.



West Indies opener Wavell Hinds acknowledges to the crowd after scoring a century in Calcutta yesterday.

Chess Olympiad Men win, not ladies

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh men's chess team kept up their impressive form in the 35th Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia when they defeated Belgium in the fifth round on Wednesday.

Grand Master Niaz Murshed, International Master Enamul Hossain and GM Ziaur Rahman were successful. However, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed lost his board.

The victory placed them 34th out of the 134 competing countries. They have collected 12 points so far.

On the other hand, the women's team was outplayed by 17th seeded Greece. The ladies could gain only half-a-point from three boards after Zakiya Sultana averted the white-wash.

In this division Bangladesh are 38th with eight points to their credit.

In Thursday's sixth round matches, the men play hosts Slovenia A while the ladies meet Iceland.

Among the Asian countries China are 22nd and India are 42nd respectively.

An Internet report adds: Bosnia and Herzegovina assumed the solo lead in the men's group after Armenia stopped the powerful Russian machine with a 2-2 draw.

Both are second on 15 points. Bosnia and Herzegovina has 15.5 points after defeating Poland, 3-1.

Smbat Lputian's mastery of the French Defence enabled Armenia to equalise against the powerful Russian team, led by Garry Kasparov. The Russians grabbed the lead after Alexander Morozevich's attack against Gabriel Sargissan, spiced up with a queen sacrifice, crashed through.

Kasparov, playing against the Rossolimo Variation of Vladimir Akopian, obtained comfortable equality and drew. Alexander Khalifman traded down to a barren queen and double rook ending.

Romania's big 3-1 victory over France pulled them to fourth place with 14.5 points. England finally got a triumph worthy of being sixth seeds, when they crushed Chile, 4-0, to finally enter the top 10.

The United States tumbled to its second loss when they fell to Sweden, 2.5-1.5. Emmanuel Berg upset Larry Christiansen, who made a mistake when the game was apparently heading to a draw.

In the women's category Georgia occupies top spot with 12 points. China trail the Georgians by 1.5 points after falling to the USA.

Georgia destroyed India 3-0 in this round to grab the lead.

Bid to bring back Asia Cup cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Moves are afoot to revive the Asia Cup limited-overs tournament which was grounded after India severed cricketing links with Pakistan, officials said on Thursday.

The money-spinning event, held every two years to determine the continent's one-day champions, has not taken place since May, 2000 when Bangladesh were the hosts.

The 2002 event, due to be played in Pakistan, was cancelled after the Indian government refused to send a team across the border in protest at what it calls Islamabad's support to militancy in Kashmir.

Asian cricket officials told AFP they were working on holding the tournament in April next year, but ruled out Pakistan being the hosts.

"Pakistan have themselves

agreed to shift the tournament out of the country in the interests of the game in the region," an official said.

"We are considering other venues like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore.

"The idea is to have it soon after the World Cup ends in South Africa in March."

The Asia Cup features the region's big three -- India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka -- besides Test minnows Bangladesh.

The next edition will have two more teams -- the United Arab

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West Indies due here on Nov 25

AFP, New Delhi

The West Indies will play two Tests and three one-day international against Bangladesh after their tour of India ends next month, officials said on Thursday.

Carl Hooper's men will cross over to Bangladesh on November 25 for a three-week tour after the seventh one-day international against India at Vijayawada the day before.

The tour starts with the first one-day in Chittagong on November 29, followed by back-to-back internationals in the capital Dhaka on December 2 and 3.

The first Test will also be played in Dhaka from December 8-12, while Chittagong hosts the second from December 16-20.

ITINERARY

Nov 29: First ODI, Ctg
Dec 2: Second ODI (D/N), Dhaka
Dec 3: Third ODI (D/N), Dhaka
Dec 8-12: First Test, Dhaka
Dec 16-20: Second Test, Ctg

Waqar criticises critics

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis has hit back at critics of the national side's recent poor form, saying some of the flack was unwarranted given that so many senior players had been injured or unavailable.

"This sort of criticism is nothing new in Pakistan cricket. You win 10 matches and lose one and they take shots at the team, management and Board. But this sort of attitude must change," Younis told this news agency.

"This is a crucial time for the team. We are trying to strike a right balance for the World Cup. Things have not been easy for us with so many senior players either injured or not playing."

"At least we had the courage to face one of the best teams in the world (Australia) with such an inexperienced and young team on neutral ground."

The Pakistan team and board have come in for daily scathing criticism in the national press and from former players and administrators after the recent 3-0 defeat by

Australia and earlier poor performances in one-day competitions before that.

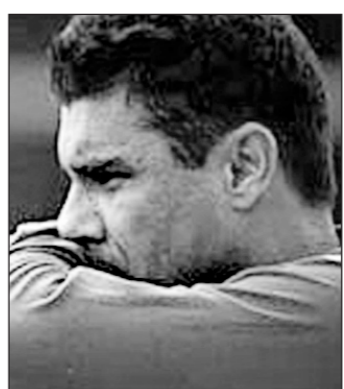
The Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, Lieutenant General Tahir Zia had offered his resignation after the team were bowled out by Australia for their lowest Test scores of 59 and 53 in the second Test at Sharjah earlier this month.

The Pakistan squad leave on Thursday for tours of Zimbabwe and South Africa where they play four Tests and 10 one-day internationals.

The Pakistan captain said he was going to Zimbabwe in a positive frame of mind and was confident the team would put their heart and soul into turning things around.

"After our recent performances we can't take any team lightly. I know it is not going to be easy for us because Zimbabwe, even without Heath Streak, have always been worthy opponents in their own backyard."

Younis hoped that with the return of senior players such as Inzamamul Haq and Yousuf Youhana, the batting would be more stable and have more depth.



WAQAR YOUNIS

But military ruler General Pervez Musharraf, the chief patron of the board, asked Zia to stay on. "Everyday I get up and read