Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2002, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Bangladesh youngster Alok Kapali receives his cheque at the end of the second and final Test against West Indies yesterday.

Mr Dependable

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER *from Chittagong*

Alok Kapali is fast developing a reputation as Bangladesh's most reliable batsman.

The 18-year-old right-hander from Sylhet was initially picked in the Bangladesh team more for his leg spinning ability for the second Test against Sri Lanka at the SSC ground in Colombo early this year. However, it is his batting that has stirred the imagination of everyone.

In his debut Test, Kapali gave an indication of his promise with a polished 39 in the first innings. He then added another useful 23 in the second innings in an otherwise forgettable Bangladeshi batting card.

Kapali further enhanced his credentials in the highly demanding tour of South Africa last October. While others around him were clueless against the formidable pace attack of the home side, the little man stood tall with crucial face-saving knocks of 35, 10, 38 not out and 23 in his four outings in the series.

But it was in the just finished home series against the West Indies that Kapali announced his name as a batsman of international pedigree.

After cracking his maiden one-day international fifty in the 3rd match, Kapali reached another landmark when he scored his first Test half century--52 in the first innings of the first Test in Dhaka. And yesterday, the unassuming young man sent the Windies bowlers on a leather chase during a wonderful second innings 85. Interestingly, in each of those three occasions, Kapali's score was the highest of the Bangladesh innings.

A gifted leg-side player, Kapali is far from one dimensional as he demonstrated yesterday with some exquisite cover drives and square cuts. But the shot of the match was a pulled six off a barely short of length delivery from the high-flying Vasbert Drakes.

"The coach told me not to shy away from playing shots today so I went along with my natural instincts. That freedom also gave me a lot of confidence," said Kapali.

Despite receiving the man of the match award, Kapali was ruing the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Mashud hails mates

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER, *from Chittagong*

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud hailed his players for the heart-warming show they put up against West Indies although the second Test ended inside three days in Chittagong.

"We lost a lot of Test matches inside three days by now. But it's very inspiring the way we played in this match. We certainly played far better than the last match in Dhaka," said Mashud after the match.

"I want to look at the flip side of the low-scoring match. What is important to me is that we put up a good fight in this match and that's the positive side of this match," he said.

"I think the boys are a lot more confident now. Had we played better in the first innings and taken a lead of at least two hundred runs the result could have gone the other way."

He also claimed luck was not on their side in the first session where Bangladesh lost their top five batsmen.

"Hannan was undone by a ball off a fast bowler that virtually skidded onto his stumps. Bashar was out off a very, very good delivery. I thought both were unlucky on the day.

"Still, we fought back in the match strongly in the second session. I will rate this match as the best one under my captaincy," he said.

Coach Mohsin Kamal also praised his charges for the temperament they showed in the match.

"We are improving day by day. And this match is an ideal example of what I am saying. My boys have the talent. But what they need is to have a little more patience," said Mohsin.

"You see, Kapali played a great knock today (Wednesday). But he shouldn't have played that shot when tea break was just a minute away. He will learn that in the course of time."

West Indies captain Ridley Jacobs also took his time to laud the performance of Bangladesh's young lads.

"This match was more competitive than the first Test. Your fast bowlers bowled well and Kapali also batted sensibly in the second innings," said Jacobs.

He however pointed out that Bangladesh needed to improve a lot in the mental aspect of the game.

"You got to be more tough mentally when you play Test matches. I think, they will automatically learn that after playing some more matches."

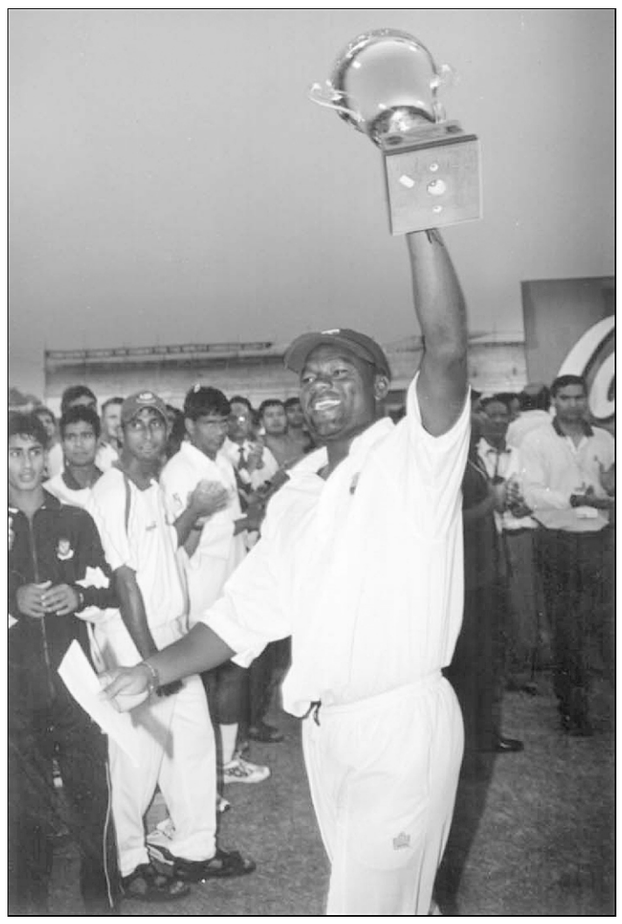

PHOTO: STAR

A joyous Ridley Jacobs shows off the trophy after winning the Test series 2-0 at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

U-15 Asia Cup

BD colts bite UAE dust

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh bowed out of the Under-15 Asia Cup Cricket Championship when they suffered a seven-wicket defeat against India in their last group league match at the Sheikh Jayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

After a shock two-wicket loss against Nepal on Monday, the Bangladesh colts required a victory against the Indians to keep their hopes alive for a place in the semifinals.

But they never came to terms with the task after being asked to bat first. Bangladesh were bowled out for 132 in 39 overs. India lost three wickets in reaching the total in 33 overs.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Biman fly along

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman were on cruise control at the end of the seventh round of the First Division Chess League yesterday.

The holders blanked Monipur Chess Club 4-0 with Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Reefat-Bin-Sattar, IM Abdullah-Al-Rakib and Enamul Hossain winning their boards comfortably.

The victory took Biman's tally to 27.5 points. Titas Club followed the runaway leaders with 24 points. They defeated Dhaka University Chess Team 3.5-0.5 points.

GM Niaz Murshed, Saifuddin Lavlu and Mehdi Hasan Porag all won for the title contenders.

In other matches of the day, Bangladesh Ansars beat Mohakhali Prodip Sangha 3-1, Leonine Chess

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Did U Know?

The last Olympic gold medals that were made entirely out of gold were awarded in 1912.

What to WATCH

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur vs Arsenal
Repeat at 5:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

New Zealand vs India
Second Test, Day One
Live at 3:50 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

TALK TURKEY

Ian Botham
(Former England skipper)
"England must bid farewell to Alec Stewart, Andy Caddick and, I'm sorry to say, Nasser Hussain as Test captain."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

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

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 27, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Bangladesh lost the third ODI against West Indies by:
   86 runs | 5 wkts | 120 runs
2. Who won the 2002 Davis Cup?
   Russia | France | Australia
3. Who was man-of-the-match in the first Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?
   Lawson | Gayle | Sarwan
4. Who lifted the women's World Cup hockey title?
   Argentina | Germany | Australia
5. Who was voted World Soccer magazine's player of the year?

Name . . . . . .
. . . . . .
Class. . . . . **Roll No**. . . . . .
School Address . . . . . .
. . . . . .
Phone: (If any) . . . . . .

Waugh terms it as unfair

REUTERS, *Sydney*

Australia's former one-day captain Steve Waugh believes India's delay in naming a provisional World Cup squad has given them a huge advantage.

The Indian cricket board are expected to announce a provisional squad of 30 players this week, although the ICC deadline elapsed at the end of last month.

An ongoing row between the ruling body and India's top cricketers over personal endorsements for the World Cup has been blamed for the delay by the Indian board.

"Every side has to pick 30 players yet India haven't. There d o e s n ' t

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Ctg nicely placed

Cricket

UNB, *Dhaka*

Chittagong, Khulna and Sylhet took first innings leads on the second day of the four-day Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fourth National Cricket League yesterday.

At the Fatullah Stadium, Chittagong, who resumed their first innings on 105 after dismissing Barisal for 125, added a further 195 runs to their total before being all out in 99 overs. It gave them a lead of 114 runs.

One down Aftab Islam hammered 91 in 153 balls that featured eight fours and three sixes. Opener Nafis Iqbal and Nazimuddin scored 71 and 86.

Mainuzzaman was the most successful Barisal bowler with five wickets for 73 runs. He was supported by Nadif Chowdhury who claimed four for 85.

At stumps, Barisal again found the going difficult, as they were 61 for four in 20 overs.

Away at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Khulna batsman hammered a polished 94 against Rajshahi to carry his side from precarious 59-3 on Tuesday, to a 260 all out in 79.4 overs. It gave them a lead of 76 runs.

Parvez's 208-ball knock contained 12 hits across the rope. Mushfiqur Rahman of Rajshahi claimed three wickets for 36 runs in 17 overs while Safaq Al Jabir also bagged three for 63 in 18.4 overs.

Rajshahi, who made 194 in their first innings on the opening day, had slipped to 95-6 in 33.2 overs by the close of play.

Former national player Mushfiqur Rahman top-scored with 35.

Meanwhile at the BKSP ground, Sylhet took a commanding 149-run lead over holders Dhaka after dismissing them 159 in their first innings. Dhaka began the day on 69 for six and required half-centuries from national player Fahim Mutasir and Sajjid Ahmed.

Sylhet who made 175 on day one were dismissed for 144 in 46.5 overs. Fahim was the pick of the Dhaka bowlers with 4-43.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: First innings 125 all out in 65.4 overs (Sadik Hassan 35, Towhid 30, extras 10; Ashanullah Hasan 4/21, Waseluddin 2/13 and Sabbir Khan 2/39 and Second innings 61 for 4 in 20 overs (Moniruzzaman 22, Imran Ahmed 16, Waseluddin 2/14).

CHITTAGONG: First innings 300 all out in 99 overs (Nafis Iqbal 71, Nazimuddin 86, Aftabuddin 91, Mortuza 17, Ahsanullah Hasan 12, extras 7; Maniuddin 5/73, Nadif Chy 4/85).

RAJSHAHI: First innings 194 all out in 60.5 overs (Mushfiqur Rahman 55, Zahirul Islam 22, Nuruzzaman 19, extras 38; Hasanuzzaman 2/17, Mashrafi 2/37 and Razzak 2/46 and Second innings 95 for 6 in 33.2 overs (Mushfiq Babu 35, Zahurul 18, Rafiqul 16, Mustadir Litu 5 (batting),

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Ronaldo all the way

FIFA World Player of the Year gala

Football

AFP, *Madrid*

Ronaldo was named FIFA World Player of the Year for an unprecedented third time here on Tuesday.

The award capped a remarkable year which saw the Real Madrid striker complete his recovery from a career-threatening knee injury to finish the World Cup as leading scorer as Brazil won a record fifth title.

Named European Player of the Year on Monday, Ronaldo added the global award to add to the crowns he won in 1996 and 1997.

The buck-toothed goal getter was the clear choice of the 148 national team coaches who voted, with 59 first place votes and a total of 357 points, which was more than twice those polled by his nearest rival, Germany and Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

Kahn, who was tormented by Ronaldo during the World Cup final which Brazil won 2-0 thanks to his brace of goals, came second with 16 first place votes and a total of 171 points.

Ronaldo's Real Madrid teammate, France's Zinedine Zidane, the 1998 and 2000 winner, came third with 18 first place votes but had poorer support in the lesser placings and finished with 148 votes.

As he received the award, the 26-year-old Brazilian made a pointed reference to the media, many of whom had doubted he would ever regain the form and fitness of his early career.

"I would like to dedicate this award to a myriad of people. My family, friends, in fact everybody, including you," he said.

"But most of all I would like to dedicate this to the medical staff who stood beside me during two difficult years. That's my doctor Gerard Saillant, the Inter Milan doctor Franco Combi and physiotherapist Nilton Petrone.

"I'll also dedicate the award to my family, friends and to everybody."

Ronaldo also admitted that even he doubted his chances of ever receiving the FIFA award again after the dreadful run of injuries.

"It's highly satisfying after the years of doubt and injuries," he said.

"I was worried if I'd even be able to play again but now it's as good as I'd hoped or dreamed it could be."

American midfielder Mia Hamm won the 2002 Women's World Player of the Year award, retaining the title she won 12 months ago in its inaugural year.

The Alabama-born player won 25 first place votes from the 77 national team coaches who voted and had a total of 161 points.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

PHOTO: AFP

ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Mia Hamm and Ronaldo with their trophies.

Ispahani football

Lalkhan Bazar reach final

CU CORRESPONDENT

Lalkhan Bazar Boys Club reached the final of the Ispahani Mahanagari Pioneer Football League beating Hathazari Khelowar Samity 1-0 in the first semifinal at the Dampara Police Lines ground here yesterday.

Shahajahan Sattar netted the match-winner in the fourth minute of extra time after normal time ended goalless.

Australian HC clears the air

AFP, *Colombo*

Australian officials cleaned shoes of Sri Lankan cricket players when they arrived in the country for a tri-nation tournament, the Australian High Commission (embassy) here said.

In a letter to the state-run Daily News, the High Commission said Wednesday that the Sri Lankan team spent a little over an hour at the airport and they were subjected to the same quarantine checks as other passengers.

LATEST

Pakistan had lost two wickets after just two overs as they chased 266 for victory in the fifth and final one-day international against South Africa late last night.

Saleem Elahi and Faisal Iqbal returned for ducks.

BD-WI SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies at the M A Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Wednesday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 194 all out in 63.1 overs (Sanwar 36, Mashud 32, Ashraful 28; Collins 3/60, Powell 3/51).

WEST INDIES: First innings 296 all out in 93.3 overs (Ganga 63, Jacobs 59, Gayle 38; Taposh 4/72, Talha 2/58).

BANGLADESH: 2nd innings (overnight 40 no loss in 12 overs)	**R**	**B**	**4**	**6**
Hannan b Drakes	13	45	2	0
Al Shahriar lbw b Powell	34	85	5	0
Bashar c Jacobs b Collins	0	8	0	0
Sanwar c Gayle b Lawson	24	56	3	0
Ashraful c Sarwan b Lawson	15	34	2	0
Kapali c Jacobs b Powell	85	111	12	2
Mashud lbw b Drakes	5	25	0	0
Enamul not out	11	64	0	0
Taposh c Chanderpaul b Powell	0	2	0	0
Manjurul b Collins	0	6	0	0
Talha c Jacobs b Collins	0	6	0	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-12, w-3, nb-9)	25			
Total: (all out, 72 overs)	212			

Fall of wkts: 1-44, 2-45, 3-76, 4-100, 5-126, 6-137, 7-210, 8-210, 9-210, 10-212.

Bowler	**O**	**M**	**R**	**W**
Collins	23	8	58	3
Drakes	18	6	52	2
Lawson	18	5	53	2
Powell	13	2	36	3

WEST INDIES: Second innings	**R**	**B**	**4**	**6**
Gayle b Taposh	37	31	9	0
Hinds lbw b Taposh	26	32	5	0
Sarwan c Enamul b Manjurul	13	27	2	0
Chanderpaul not out	19	25	3	0
Samuels not out	15	14	2	0
Extras: (lb-1)	1			
Total: (For 3 wickets in 21.3 overs)	111			

Did not bat: D Ganga, R Jacobs, V Drakes, D Powell, P Collins, J Lawson.

Fall of wkts: 1-52, 2-77, 3-81.

Bowler	**O**	**M**	**R**	**W**
Manjurul	8	2	38	1
Taposh	9	0	45	2
Talha	3	0	20	0
Ashraful	1	0	3	0
Kapali	0.3	0	4	0

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Saurav skipper thru' WC

ICC Cricket World Cup
SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, *Calcutta*

Saurav Ganguly has been retained as captain of the India team for the 2003 World Cup in southern Africa.

India's selectors named on Wednesday a preliminary squad of 30 players for the tournament, which has to be pruned to 15 by December 31 in accordance with International Cricket Council (ICC) regulations.

They also named 14 players for a seven-match one-day series in New Zealand starting on December 26. Two players will be added to the list after the second Hamilton Test starting on Thursday.

"We did not want to pick all 16 till we saw the players' performance in the second Test," Karunakaran Nair, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told reporters after a marathon three-hour selection committee meeting.

India had lost the first match in Wellington by 10 wickets in fewer than three days after batting collapses in both innings. Leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who had asked to be left out of the Tests citing personal reasons, was called up.

Experienced seamer Javagal Srinath, who had been left out for the Tests, and left-hander Yuvraj Singh were also included.

India had not named their preliminary World Cup squad, even though the ICC deadline was the end of last month, due to a contracts

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Signs ominous for India

Cricket

AFP, *Hamilton*

India find themselves in a horror situation again as they prepare to salvage some of their pride in the second and final Test against New Zealand at the Westpac Park here on Thursday.

A bouncy track, a sharp New Zealand pace attack and cold weather here threatened to revive unhappy memories for India, who collapsed in similar conditions in the first Test at Wellington last week.

The tourists surrendered tamely against fast bowling at Wellington as they scored 161 in the first innings and 121 in the second to crash to a 10-wicket defeat and trail 1-0 in the two-match series.

The defeat ensured that India's dream of winning the first Test series outside the sub-continent since 1986 remained unfulfilled.

Worse, India's preparations for the match suffered a setback as they were forced to practise indoors due to rain, threatening to rule out a timely start to the game.

India also face a shrewd and unyielding skipper in Stephen Fleming, who said his team had the firepower to put pressure on the opposition again.

"There's a lot of seam movement and bounce in New Zealand's pitches this year and that'll provide exciting cricket," Fleming said on Wednesday.

"Shane Bond has added a new dimension to the side we haven't had for some time. What he does gives confidence to his fellow-seamers. He allows us to put pressure on the opposition."

Fast bowler Bond played a key role in his team's victory at Wellington as he grabbed seven wickets in the match, followed by Daryl Tuffey and Jacob Oram with five apiece.

There will be no respite from pace for India whose stroke-happy batsmen have yet to show the patience required to succeed in these conditions.

Rahul Dravid alone looked impressive as he scored 76 in the first innings while his team-mates, including batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar, failed to live up to expectations.

"But our respect for Indian batsmen has not diminished at all," said Fleming.

"We know we have to execute our plans well. We need to play well again to put them under pressure. We are confident of doing that, but wary of what they can do if we don't.

"If you (India) have world-class batsmen in your side, you should be able to play in all kinds of conditions."

Fleming also set sights on the future, saying the win would help the team improve its world ranking.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2