



Did U Know?

Mohammed Azharuddin (India) is the only batsman to have scored three centuries in his first three test matches.

What to WATCH

DD Sports
India vs New Zealand
First Test, Day Three
Live at 10:00 am

TEN Sports
Pakistan vs South Africa
Fourth ODI
Live at 2:30 pm

ESPN
Australia vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Two
Live at 8:00 am

Western Union World Football
Taped Version at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre India
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Football Focus
Repeat at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports
Futbol Mundial
Repeat at 6:30 am
Sportsline Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

TALK TURKEY



Chris Read
(England wicketkeeper)
"It's a bit premature to say that I'm Alec Stewart's successor. But obviously I will go out there and try to enjoy myself."



LET'S FIGHT! The England team stretch during a training session at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Fletcher aware of Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

England coach Duncan Fletcher rated Bangladesh a good Test team and said that they obviously deserved Test status.

The former Zimbabwean Test star spoke to the media during a press briefing at a local hotel yesterday afternoon. Captain Michael Vaughan was also present and took questions from both the local and the travelling British media.

"Bangladesh recently played credibly against Pakistan in Pakistan. They were close to victory in Multan. That speaks of how good they are as a Test team. We have to make sure that we don't get over confident against them," said Fletcher adding that the series would be a good contest.

"We have seen the video footages of Bangladesh's last few games. We are working on that to get a proper plan going," said Fletcher.

The England coach believed that his youthful side was good enough to overcome the absence of premier

all-rounder Andrew Flintoff and match-winning paceman James Anderson.

"We have young bowlers like Matthew Hoggard who could be an attraction while Rizki Clarke and Paul Collingwood are good all-rounders. We have to decide on who among the two will play in the first XI," Fletcher said.

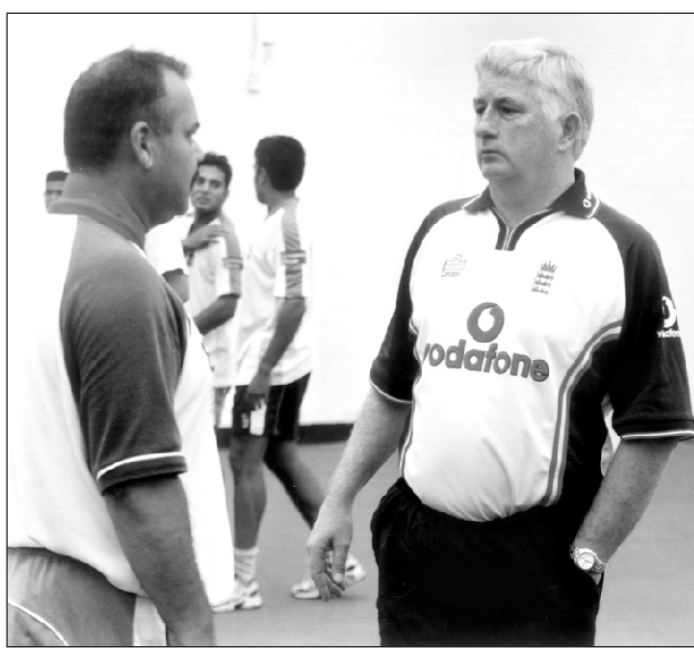
Fletcher was impressed with the facilities at the BKSP, the country's premier sports academy, where the tourists had their indoor practice yesterday.

"It was fantastic. We had a very good indoor session at the BKSP," He said.

Captain Michael Vaughan also praised the indoor facility at BKSP and said it would not be bad idea to continue training indoors until the skies cleared.

"The weather is interesting. We had a good practice in BKSP today. Hope it gets alright before our practice match on October 12," said Vaughan.

The classy opener said that his team is in Bangladesh to play positive cricket and it would be even better if they record some wins here.



TIGER MEETS LION! Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore (L) and his England counterpart Duncan Fletcher have a chat during their teams' practice sessions at the BKSP yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Mahmud's captain's views

SPORTS REPORTER

It was not sure if Khaled Mahmud would be skipping the Tigers in the home series against England. But with the official announcement still pending, the issue seemed to have little effect on the gutsy cricketer's candid views about his team's preparations.

Mahmud has led Bangladesh to two inspiring tours of Australia and Pakistan despite his fluctuating performances with bat and ball. But his performance would have little bearing on his leadership, as the Board is most likely to retain him for the series. The announcement will be made tomorrow.

But whether captain or not Mahmud is happy to speak his mind. He also gave a sporting response to Michael Vaughan's on arrival statements.

Vaughan said on Wednesday that England would prepare for the two Tests and three one-day internationals as if they were involved in an Ashes Test.

"We are not worried how seriously they (England) are taking us. Our focus will be preparing as best as we can. They have real batting But I believe our preparations will be same as in any other series."

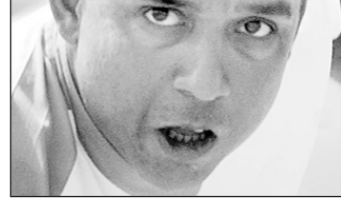
The inclement weather caused both the home side and visitors to travel to country's lone sports institute on the outskirts of the capital in the morning. The Englishmen had their indoor nets after the Bangladesh players.

Mahmud also thought that a grassy wicket would give his bowlers a better chance to bowl the opposition out twice.

"A flat wicket always favours batsmen. But a green-top will encourage both batsmen and bowlers. The time has changed for Bangladesh cricket. You have to have a positive approach if you want to achieve anything. We are just thinking of achieving something. If we are sincere, it will come in time," he said.

His views contradicted what chief selectors Faruque Ahmed said only a couple of days back. Faruque was all for a batting paradise for the two Tests.

The wet spell means both teams will continue to train at the Savar-based BKSP.



KHALED MAHMUD

depth. So that is an area we will need to work on if we are going to get them out quickly," said the 33-year-old allrounder during the Tigers' indoor practice session at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) yesterday.

"They can say what they want.

Rain, the fear factor

SPORTS REPORTER

Rain may prove an irritant during the course of England's maiden series against Bangladesh.

A late monsoon spell greeted Michael Vaughan's men on Wednesday morning when they arrived here to play two Tests and three one-day internationals in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The depression in the Bay of Bengal that promises to stay for another couple of days also forced the tourists to start their training at the indoor facilities of the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar.

Although the damp spell will make the English team feel more at home, but the met office forecast is not inspiring for cricket lovers as the country is reportedly experiencing a late bout of monsoon.

Weathermen also forecast depressions in the Bay of Bengal over the next 30 days atleast before the dry winter breeze starts to flow from the north.

There is also every possibility of a nor'wester lashing the country any time during the next month as part of the usual transition to dry weather from wet.

This is however not the typical weather pattern of the country. Normally the month of October offers brilliant sunshine and occasional spells of rain. But global warming is ensuring a meteorological overhaul.

England will play two three-day practice matches before the first Test. The first practice match against the Board President's Eleven will start on October 12 while the second one against Bangladesh A will begin on October 16.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

JOHN THE VAN MAN! Bangladesh team's physio John Gloster (R) decides to take on part-time rickshaw-van driving as he transports a visibly impressed Mushfiqur Rahman to the indoor cricket facility at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) yesterday.

Double-up Dravid

Cricket

AFP, Ahmedabad

Fast bowler Zaheer Khan grabbed three quick wickets as India tightened the screws on New Zealand in the opening cricket Test here on Thursday.

New Zealand were 41-3 at stumps on the second day in reply to India's 500-5 declared, with Nathan Astle (13) and Scott Styris (10) at the crease.

Left-arm seamer Zaheer wrecked New Zealand's top order as he removed Mark Richardson, Lou Vincent and skipper Stephen Fleming in an incisive opening spell to press home the advantage given by double-centurion Rahul Dravid.

Richardson and Fleming were clean bowled, while Vincent was superbly caught one-handed by wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel in front

of first slip.

Dravid exposed New Zealand's bowling limitations with a career-best 222, smashing one six and 28 fours in his third double-century.

He was not the only batsman to feast on the tourists' attack, skipper Sourav Ganguly making an unbeaten 100 after being penalised two runs by South African umpire Rudi Koertzen for running on the pitch for the second time.

The Indian captain was earlier warned by English umpire David Shepherd for the same offence.

"It was not intentional," Ganguly said. "The umpires warned me once and I must have done it again. The umpire is the boss."

Ganguly paid rich tributes to Dravid, saying he proved once again he was one of the modern greats.

"Rahul is a class act," the Indian captain gushed. "He again showed why he is rated so highly in world cricket. He is one of the truly greats

Records roll on the pool

SPORTS REPORTER

Eight more new national records were set on the third day of the four-day 19th National Swimming Championships yesterday at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

With these a total of 18 new records have been set in 24 events decided so far. However, these marks have hardly any bearing as the timings are being counted manually since no electronic timing devices are available.

Many have smelt something else about the flurry of records. According to them an announcement by the State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman made on the opening day might have inspired the swimmers to perform better.

The Minister announced, any swimmer breaking a national record would get a cash award of Tk 20,000 while anybody setting a new SAF record would be richer by Tk 50,000.

Yesterday, the new records were set by Merina Akhter of BJMC, Dolly Akhter of BJMC, Karar Samedul Islam of Navy, Mahfuza Akhter of BKSP, Rubel Rana of Navy and



PHOTO: AFP

Double centurion Rahul Dravid (L) gets a congratulatory hug from captain Sourav Ganguly, who also scored a hundred, on the second day of the first Test yesterday.

Ignored, unwanted

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Fahim Muntasir was overlooked for both the practice matches when the selectors named the squads of BCB President's Eleven and Bangladesh A team yesterday.

The off-spinner must have felt devastated on being left in the cold after all the hard work he had done after being picked in the selection trials for Australia in June.

Fahim missed out on the trip to Australia when it was felt conditions would suit his bowling. The Pakistan series could have been more ideal but the selectors preferred a spinner all-rounder instead. There was a lot of encouragement for him ahead of the England series since the home wickets have always suited spinners.

Out of international cricket for more than a year, Fahim has so far played three Tests against Pakistan

British help BCB Dev Squad

SPORTS REPORTER

The British Council will sponsor the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Development squad that will take on England in a warm-up one-day match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 5.

BCB advisor Mahbubul Anam revealed this yesterday.

The match was originally scheduled in Chittagong between the second Test and first one-day international, but the England team which was scheduled to stay in Chittagong insisted on coming back to the capital to utilise the better facilities.

The tourists will come back to Dhaka on November 3 after the Test ends a day before. They will again fly to Chittagong on November 6 for the first ODI on the following day.

Hayden hammers Zim

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, Perth

Stately left-hander Matthew Hayden shrugged off a painful back injury to fashion a dazzling century as world champions Australia made undermanned Zimbabwe pay dearly for a major tactical blunder in the first cricket Test here Thursday.

Sent in by Zimbabwe skipper Heath Streak after he won the toss, the home country romped to 372 for three wickets on a pitch which played far more comfortably than Streak had expected when he made his big gamble.

Hayden has compiled a memorable 183 not out, which included a brutal 107 in the final session.

Skipper Steve Waugh, unbeaten with 61, is in sight of completing a century on the only major Australian ground on which he had not already reached three figures.

In the first Test in this country between the teams, Zimbabwe toiled manfully on the placid surface until the final session, but Australia are approaching a total which could shut their opponents out of the

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post **The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 17, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Asia Cup hockey title?
Pakistan | India | Malaysia
- Who was man-of-the-series in the Bangladesh and Pakistan one-day series?
Inzamam | Youhana | Bashir
- Who became the Pepsi 16th national men's handball champions?
Army | BDR | Navy
- Who are the European Champions League holders?

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Special chess on

SPORTS REPORTER

The fifth special national chess tournament, sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, Inter Life-Bangladesh, FAVH and Gram Sampad Unnyon Kendro and organised by Bangladesh Braille Chess Association, began in the city yesterday.

A total of 100 players from all over the country are participating in the event.

Hayden hammers Zim

game.

Hayden was forced to labour to complete his 15th century (13 fours, one five in five hours) in Test ranks, but ran riot immediately after reaching three figures.

His next 50 runs came in 35 minutes from 32 balls, with five more fours and three sixes.

Hayden was the spine of an Australian innings which frequently threatened to decimate the visitors' attack, but was unable to take full charge until the final hour.

He was hampered by a recurrence of a back injury which has plagued his career, and needed attention at the lunch and tea breaks.

Opening the innings, Hayden, 32 at the end of the month, held firm after losing his new-ball partner Justin Langer (26), Ricky Ponting (37) and Damien Martyn (53).

Hayden, in particular, and Waugh savaged the Zimbabwe attack late in the day, completing a 150 partnership in a lightning 127 minutes to put Australia in an almost unassailable position.

Early in the day, Langer departed after he and Hayden had crafted a breezy 43 in better than even time.

Langer, the senior partner in that

liaison, was unlucky to be dismissed after a purposeful 42 minutes -- an innings studded with five crisp boundaries, including several exquisitely timed cover drives.

The little left-hander fell in medium-pace Sean Ervine's second over as he attempted to play a ball well outside off-stump.

Deceived by the bounce, Langer dragged the ball back in towards the stumps and was dismayed when the ball just flicked and removed his off ball.

Ponting survived only 12 minutes into the second session before Ervine struck again, trapping the right-hander in front with a faster ball.

Ponting's runs came from 65 balls in an hour and a half which netted him six thunderous boundaries.

Martyn (nine fours) looked to be in marvellous form, but lost his wicket when he played a rash shot to a delivery from spinner Trevor Gripper and was caught by Craig Wishart at first slip.

There were early warning signs for the Zimbabwe bowlers as L a n g e r