



## Did U Know?

The Italian coach Vittorio Roso was the first coach to guide his team to score the soccer World Cup title twice in 34, 38.



### Inzamamul Haq

(Pakistan cricket captain)  
*"I want the wait to end as quickly as possible, not only me but billions of people across Pakistan and India and other parts of the world want to see both play each other as soon as possible."*



#### ESPN

English Premier Football League  
Highlights  
Repeat at 9:00 am  
**West Indies vs Zimbabwe**  
Second Test, Day Two  
**Live at 1:50 pm**  
**Sportscentre Hindi**  
Sport News  
**Live at 9:00 pm**

#### STAR Sports

**Tennis Masters Series**  
**Live at 7:00 am**  
English Premier Football League  
Liverpool vs Man United  
Repeat at 12:30 pm  
**Sportstline Tonight**  
Sport News  
**Live at 8:00 pm**

Star  
WHIZZ KID  
COMPETITION 200

Tick the correct answers, post to  
The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Nov 14, 2003 and draw

|  |      |         |        |
|--|------|---------|--------|
| 1. What was Nafis Iqbal's score against England in the first innings of the second practice match? | 120  | 118     | 122    |
| 2. What was Matthew Hayden's world record score in Test cricket?                                   | 379  | 380     | 381    |
| 3. Who won the Women's World Cup football title?   | USA  | Germany | Sweden |
| 4. Who became nat'l kabadi champions?  | Army | BDR     | Navy   |
| Name .....   |      |         |        |
| Class. ....  |      |         |        |
| School Address .....   |      |         |        |
| Phone: (If any) .....  |      |         |        |

## Tigers' Windies tour on

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will definitely tour the West Indies in May next year, a highly placed source at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed yesterday.

The source cleared the air after reports were published in several national dailies yesterday quoting Board president Ali Asghar that the BCB have proposed the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to host the West Indies instead of touring for two Tests and three one day internationals.

"We did consider it as an option as India were supposed to tour Bangladesh in April 2004. So there was a thought that if we can bring the Windies over, we could then hold the planned tri-series as most of the other Test playing nations will be busy during that time.

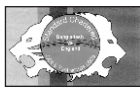
"But that's not going to happen because India will be touring Pakistan till April 26 and Pakistan is planning to hold the Asia Cup in early May. That puts India's scheduled visit to Bangladesh in jeopardy," the source said.

Indian government has only recently agreed to allow its cricketers to travel to Pakistan following a 14-year-gap during which they repeatedly cancelled tours to the bitter neighbours.

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# Reeling under pressure

SPORTS REPORTER



The constant pressure of losing has had its toll on the Bangladesh team, thinks coach Dav Whatmore.

"It's the volume of losing matches that has brought player performance down. I don't mind getting defeated 3-0 if we run our opponents close. Although in this match we did a little better, in the other two the manner of losing wasn't that clever," said the Australian.

"We were also defeated in Pakistan but there was a lot of fight in the players. Looking back at this series, you've got to say that some things were not working quite right," he added.

Whatmore said it will be a welcome couple of months rest before their next assignment in Zimbabwe and didn't rule out changes in the squad.

"The players need the break. They have their own domestic competitions to participate in. I will also be watching as many domestic matches as possible.

"If someone catches my eye, he could be in contention to make the Zimbabwe trip."

The 49-year-old believed that all was not lost in the highly disappointing home series.

"One of the positives from this series is sitting right beside me," said Whatmore of all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman who was also present at the post-match briefing with captain Khaled Mahmud.

Mushfiq was adjudged the best Bangladeshi performer in the one-day series for his consistency with both bat and ball.

"I would say there has been a sprinkle of positives overall," added Whatmore.

Under-pressure captain Mahmud again reiterated his determination to hold his place in the side.

"Whether I remain captain or not is up to the selectors but I don't want to quit," said Mahmud who had a forgettable series as a player.

But the diminutive all-rounder was already focusing on bouncing back.

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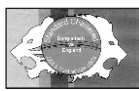


PHOTO: AFP

**THE BEST BANGLADESHI:** Mushfiqur Rahman, who scored highest 36 for Bangladesh in the third ODI against England yesterday, in action at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## SERIES SALAD

HASAN MASOOD



Next time England travel to Bangladesh, they won't have to worry about losing precious practice opportunity to inclement weather, as has been the case in the beginning of the series. By then, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will have its own state of the art indoor facility at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

The foundation stone of the indoor training centre was laid by State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman yesterday morning. Visiting International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani, chief executive Malcolm Speed, BCB president Ali Asghar were also present at the ceremony.

The indoor training centre, that will have a gymnasium, three practice nets, a dressing room and an office, will be built at a cost of Taka 62 lakh. BCB will bear the whole expenditure.

The complex is expected to be completed in February 2004. The national cricket team and other age-group selections can practice there round the year especially in the rainy season.

### GP SOUVENIRS TOO HOT!

GrameenPhone, a leading cellular company, has established a tempo-

rary outlet out side the VIP gallery at the Bangabandhu National Stadium to sell Bangladesh one-day team memorabilia.

The official sponsor of the Bangladesh team has recently bought the right to sell authentic souvenir items of the side until December 2003.

But many cricket fans complained that the prices were out of their reach.

A Bangladesh team shirt costs Taka 400 while a cap can be bought at Taka 200.

"A cap should cost maximum Taka

100 while a shirt should not be more than Taka 250. You can get the same stuff at a much cheaper rate outside," said Sumon, a 14-year old school boy from Muga in the capital.

### SEE YOU AGAIN

With yesterday's day-night one-day international, the first-ever tour by England to Bangladesh has drawn to a close.

The England team, who arrived in the capital on October 8, are scheduled to leave for home on October 14.

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PHOTO: STAR

**THEIR FACES SAY IT ALL!** The huge Bangabandhu crowd did not find anything to be cheerful about against England yesterday.

## Narrow win for Comilla

SPORTS REPORTER

Comilla edged past Rajshahi by two wickets in the low-scoring match of the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi were bundled out for only 60 runs in 36 overs after deciding to bat first.

Ashik and Moni shared six wickets between them to rattle the Rajshahi innings. Ashik picked up three wickets for 18 runs in 4 overs while Moni captured three for 10.

Number six batsman Nayan was the top scorer with 16 runs off 57 balls.

Chasing the paltry total, Comilla also were in big trouble, but number ten batsman Sujon contributed a valuable unbeaten 11 runs off 46 balls to rescue his team. Moni was not out on 8 off 88 balls as they reached the target of 61 runs in 44 overs.

Dola took two wickets conceding 9 runs, Soheli picked up two for 11 and Ripon two for 8.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### Comilla v Rajshahi

**Venue:** Mymensingh Stadium  
**RAJSHAHI:** 60 for all out in 36 overs (Rana 10, Nayan 16, Ashik 3-18, Moni 3-10, Sujon 2-13)

**COMILLA:** 61 for eight wickets in 44 overs (Wasel 12, Sujon 11 n.o., Dola 2-9, Ripon 2-8, Soheli 2-11)

**Result:** Comilla won by two wickets.

# MSC muscles into semis



## Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club officials are definitely edgy these days with a shaky line up and the non-arrival of proper documents for five of their Cameroon booters.

But despite the five 'indomitable' lions were sitting on the bench the understrength Mohammedan were still good enough to cross the first round barrier of the Tibet Federation Cup football tournament with comfortable 4-1 victory over Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The all-local black and whites never looked behind once striker Farhad broke the afternoon's duck in the 39th minute against the impressive new boys in the Premier League.

Ashrafur Kader Monju and Khokon struck twice in the space of eight minutes after break to put the match beyond any doubt while substitute Saurav Raju slammed the fourth at the stroke of the final whistle.

Milon scored the only goal for Sheikh Russell from a penalty, but not before their fancied opponents took an unsailable 3-0 lead.

The refreshing victory also confirmed Mohammedan's semifinals berth in the traditional curtain-rising event.

The win also set the popular Motihheel outfit on the right track after a far from convincing 1-0 win against Dhaka Wanderers in the opening game.

But the game was not without incident. Russell's hat-trick hero in the previous game Fabio Silva was sent off in the 40th minute along with Mohammedan's Bakhtiar after both were involved in a brawl.

Russell's upset plan was pinned on their Brazilian Fabio, who scored thrice in side's 6-0 thrashing of Dhanmondi Club in the first match. But it was apparent Mohammedan had set out to provoke him through his marker Bakhtiar.

The ploy was successful as the Brazilian lost his cool and he lashed out at his intimidator, prompting referee Tayabur Rahman to flash the dreaded red card.

Although both teams were down to ten men, the incident effected the newcomers more and they never played the same again. It was a real bad day for Sheikh Russell as they also lost their key Nigerian defender Osman Abdullah, who limped off after pulling a hamstring in the first half.

Mohammedan looked like a more organised unit in this match with Amin Rana operating in the middle.

Farhad, known as a livewire, put his

side ahead with an accurate placing shot after controlling the ball from a Khokon header.

Mohammedan stepped on the gas after the break and had to wait eight minutes before Ashrafur Kader Manju executed a superb swerving left-footer that crashed into the net. Khokon then headed a Kaiser cross in the 61st minute past the Russell keeper.

Sheikh Russel scored a consolation goal in the 68th minute from a penalty. Referee Tayebur awarded the spot kick when Amin Rana brought Bulbul down in the area. Milon made no mistake to convert the 10-yarder.

But Mohammedan had time for one more goal when talented winger Sourav Raju came off the bench inside the last five minutes and send in a rasping right-footer from top of the box.

Red cards: Silbha (Sheikh Russel), Bakhtiar (Mohammedan).

Yellow cards: Figo (Sheikh Russel), Shuvro and Khokon (Mohammedan).

**TEAMS**  
**MOHAMMEDAN:** Milon, Jewel, Faisal, Shuvro, Pappu, Khokon (Sourav Raju), Bakhtiar, Kaiser, Amin Rana, Manju (Nakib), Farhad.

**SHEIKH RUSSEL:** Apel, Biplob, Abdullah (Narayan), Mintoo, Kamal, Nurul Islam, Charles Figo (Bulbul), Jalal, Apu (Asif), Milon and Fobeio Silbha.  
**Referee:** Taiyeb Hasan.

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## BFF names WC qualifiers team

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday announced a 20-member national squad to face Tajikistan in the pre-qualifying round of the Word Cup.

Bangladesh play their home match against the Central Asian country in Dhaka on November 26 while the away game will be held in Tajikistan on November 30.

### SQUAD

M Aminul Haque and Biplob (goal-keepers), Rajani, M Sujon, Nazrul Islam, Tito, Hasan Al-Mamun and Mahmudul Hasan (defenders), Arif Khan Joy, M Arman, Mostafa Anwar Pervez, Monwar Hossain, Motiur Munna, Bidyut and Saif (mid-fielders), Alfaz, Farhad, Kanchan, Moni and Uzzal (forwards).

## Selection chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Eight players jointly led the point-table with four points each at the end of the fifth round of the

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# The party falls flat

RABEED IMAM



Has the Bangladesh bubble burst? Getting the right answer could be a tricky

prospect.

The Tigers may have lost by convincing margins in the three one-day internationals and also in the second Test against England but still it's difficult to assess their actual standard.

This same team has surprised the mighty Australia in Australia, gave Pakistan sleepless nights at their own backyard and dominated England till the last morning of the first Test in Dhaka. Surely they have some quality to have performed like that consistently.

That makes it more perplexing as all of a sudden they have found the likes of Stephen Harmison, Matthew Hoggard, Richard Johnson and their fellow brisk medium pacers tougher propositions than Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie, Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami.

There is a school of thought that suggests that the players were tired

which is true. But in this crazy commercial world of international cricket, that's the least acceptable excuse.

It will be also unwise to criticize the selectors too much for giving five players their first taste of international cricket (four in the one-dayers and one in the Test series) during the course of the tour.

There's no harm in injecting new blood and there's always the prospect of the gamble paying rich dividend. But if one does want to point a finger, it has to be towards the decision to give three absolute rookies their debuts in the same match (first one-day international at Chittagong). That does upset the balance.

Much has already been said about the appalling batting, a non-performing captain and a dispirited side that chickens out while playing in front of the home crowd. But first and foremost, what stands between Bangladesh and result is a totally outdated cricket culture.

The batsmen do not have the habit or history of making big scores in domestic cricket. How can you expect them to come up with healthy innings' against

quality bowling of quality international sides?

While the rest of the country plays four-day games in the national championship, the Tigers members are either too busy touring or training in the camp. The only time they get to play the longer version is in the Tests. That tryst with fire is no way to improve your skill.

For any batsman or bowler, there's no substitute to match practice. Staying in the national camp deprives our top players of that vital confidence boosting opportunity to make a mark in the first-class form.

So there's a gap between the supposed best cricketers in the country and the ones playing regular domestic cricket. Coach Dav Whatmore is still in the dark about the second lot as he hasn't had the time to look into domestic cricket because of his busy schedule with the Tigers. Who amongst these two sets have the better ability is a topic for another debate.



PHOTO: STAR

**Mohammedan** playmaker Amin Rana (No 14) makes his way towards Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra goal during their Federation Cup Football Tournament fixture at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.