



Did U Know?

India refused to play in the 1950 World Cup because football's world governing body FIFA told the players that they would have to play in soccer cleats, rather than barefoot.



Javagal Srinath

(Former India pace bowler)
"It is time to go."

While announcing his retirement on Tuesday.



ESPN

Western Union World Football
Taped Version at 9:00 am

West Indies vs Zimbabwe

Second Test, Day Three

Live at 1:50 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League

Chelsea vs Newcastle United

Repeat at 12:30 pm

Sportline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

Futbol Mundial

Taped Version at 10:00 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 kabaddi champions?

Army BDR Navy

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

Selection chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Nure Alam, Kazi Mahubul Aftal and Mohammad Ali were leading the points table with maximum 6 points each at the end of the sixth round in the Metropolis Selection Chess Tournament at the NSC Chess Room yesterday.

Alimul Haque Kazzal, Shamim Khan, Uten, Rakib Hasan, Dostagir, Ali Hasan Rocket, Nazir Salehin, Saiful Islam, Ziauddin and Shahidul Islam were in the second place with 5 points each.

In the round, Alam beat Shahjahan, Ali beat Sumon, Aftal



PHOTO: STAR

ON THE RUN, ALL THE TIME: England cricketers (L-R) Andrew Flintoff, Michael Vaughan, Richard Johnson and Ashley Giles wait at the lounge of Sonargaon Hotel prior to their departure yesterday. The English team, which finished their Bangladesh tour on Wednesday, left here for Sri Lanka and will play three Tests and three limited-overs internationals there.

'Trial' tour of Pakistan



SPORTS REPORTER

With the end of a hectic five-month international schedule on Wednesday, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is now planning to send some non-performing cricketers to Pakistan to play in the Patron's Tro-phy as members of the Bangladesh A team.

At least half of the Bangladesh team players will accompany the A team when it flies out on November 27 on a two-month tour. The team will play eight first-class matches against leading Pakistani office sides.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport, BCB advisor and chairman Cricket Committee, Mahbubul Anam without

naming anyone, said that those players would face a trial to stake claims for places in next year's Zimbabwe tour.

"I'm not very sure how many national cricketers will go to Pakistan with the A team because the selectors have not yet finalised the actual number. But they will be there until the end of December and then return to attend the Zimbabwe camp, which we are planning from January 3," he said adding that a national selector would accompany the A team.

Besides, coach Dav Whatmore will also travel to Pakistan to see how the players were fairing before going on holiday for Christmas.

"This is going to be an acid test for them because if the non-performing cricketers cannot show improvement they will find difficult to get into the selection

trials for the tour of Zimbabwe," Anam said on Wednesday night.

He said that Board will select 20 cricketers for the Patron's Cup so that they don't face problems with replacements once some players return home in the middle of the competition to attend the national camp.

The 20-member list will be finalised next week. But Anam couldn't say when the camp for the Pakistan-bound team would start or who'll be the coach.

However, he informed that the Tigers would have a two-week camp in Namibia before going to Zimbabwe for two Tests and three ODIs.

Bangladesh will reach Namibia on January 28 to play a four-day match and three limited-overs matches before flying to Zimbabwe on February 10 for the start of a five-week tour.

Bad Biman landing

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bangladesh Biman squeezed into the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship with a three-wicket win over Jessore in first semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a paltry Jessore total of 107 in 50 overs, the national airliners lost seven wickets before reaching the target in 37 overs.

Against all odds Biman captain Sanwar Hossain remained at the crease to score an unbeaten 37 to ensure his side confirmed a berth in the November 20 final.

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Mani visits CARE's HIV programme

SPORTS REPORTER

International Cricket Council president Ehsan Mani visited an HIV programme of CARE Bangladesh at Chankharpul drop in centre yesterday. During the visit he talked to sex workers and the transgender community.

Dr Najmul Hussein, an acting programme coordinator of the HIV programme, briefed the ICC chief about CARE's HIV activities.

Later, Mani went to an intravenous drug users programme at CARE's Moulvibazar drop in centre. He spent sometime with the participants and exchanged views on the programme's activities.

President of the Bangladesh Cricket Board Ali Asghar and UNAIDS representatives accompanied Mani.

Lara atop Windies

REUTERS, Bulawayo

Brian Lara scored his 22nd century to become the West Indies' leading run scorer in Test matches on the second day of the second Test against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on Thursday.

West Indies captain Lara went into the match on 8434 runs, 106 behind Viv Richards' total of 8540. He was 77 not out overnight, and passed Richards in the 11th over of the day's play.

Lara leapfrogged England's Alec Stewart and Richards to go from ninth to seventh on the list of all-time run scorers.

He is third on the list of active players, behind Steve Waugh of Australia and India's Sachin Tendulkar.

TOP WINDIES BATSMEN			
List of top 10 West Indian run-makers in Test history after Brian Lara moved up to top place:			
Player	Mts	Inns	Runs
B Lara*	98	171	8,625
V Richards	121	182	8,540
G Sobers	93	160	8,032
G Greenidge	108	185	7,558
C Lloyd	110	175	7,515
D Haynes	116	202	7,487
R Kanhai	79	137	6,227
R Richardson	86	146	5,949
C Hooper*	102	173	5,762
E Weekes	48	81	4,455

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Not at home



LENIN GANI

The question is not how but why the Bangladesh cricketers once again failed on home soil. Probably that will remain unanswered.

Going into the series against England there was a lot of hype that the Tigers would score a success especially in the one-day variety. But no matter how many times the selectors chopped and changed the squad it hardly paid dividends in the end.

Before the first one-dayer in Chittagong Bangladesh tried at least eight players to open the innings in 18 games this year alone. The significance of the statement is clearly understood when figures reveal only four occasions where the openers could produce scores of above 20. So far the highest partnership is 43 between Hannan Sarker and Habibul Basher during the tour of Pakistan.

In the three-match series two rookies Nafees Iqbal and Moniruzzaman were introduced as Sarker's partners. Unfortunately neither could grab the opportunity.

Making a big score in a practice match counts for nothing if you can't carry the form into the real thing. Obviously, Iqbal must have thought having smashed a hundred against the visitors not too long ago it would be a piece of cake the second time round. But England is a professional outfit and they had a plan worked out for him.

Moniruzzaman forced his way into the team being a consistent scorer in the domestic league but he too was found

wanting against deliveries that either rose steeply or moved away off the seam or through the air.

In any case the fundamental requirement for any player is not to go 'fishing.' Both didn't learn their lesson against James Anderson or Richard Johnson.

It must be said an over-indulgence on the part of the selectors to experiment only added to the players' confusion. Continuity was the need of the hour there was no need to upset the balance. Bangladesh should have followed England's cue to remain virtually unchanged with devastating effect.

We haven't reached that particular stage where we can form separate Test and one-day teams. We must work within available resources.

Another striking feature was the lack of understanding between coach and players.

Dav Whatmore was the first to admit there does exist a 'communication gap' between him and his young charges. The Bangladesh coach might be right because a strange pattern emerged of getting everything right in the nets then coming horribly unstuck on the battlefield the next day.

Cricket like any other sport is where reputations are built and destroyed. If you can't stand the heat then get out of the kitchen it's as simple as that.

That could apply to Alok Kapali. The talented all-rounder definitely lacks self-confidence these days. But surprisingly the selectors chose to ignore his pleas for help. The 19-year-old was definitely struggling even while on tour in Pakistan but still he was retained in the team for the series against England. Chief selector Faruque Ahmed should have rested him

as soon as the Tigers flew home like he did in the case of young batsman Mohammad Ashraful.

Time is a great healer. Had Kapali been allowed time away from cricket then it would have helped him to recharge his batteries. Quite frankly he was a liability and his place could've gone to somebody else.

Conversely, one player who stood out head and shoulders above the rest was Mushfiqur Rahman. The jovial Rajshahi lad demonstrated his 'never say die' attitude in the both the Tests and one-day arena. What a pity his enthusiasm didn't rub off on his teammates.

While we admired Rajin Saleh for his brilliant showing in Pakistan, the diminutive right-hander seems to have recently developed a tendency to do the limbo dance. Once in a while it is acceptable but repeatedly doing so only lets opponents know you're a one-dimensional player.

He holds a vital position in the team and he must be taught not to waste deliveries. What we mean is Saleh occasionally has to be aggressive and forget he's not playing a Test innings.

At least our tail-enders could show real determination unlike the top-order. Certainly this comes as a relief as Whatmore was very concerned that not enough runs were being scored by the lower half.

Much has been said about captain Khaled Mahmud but without going into the lengths and breaths of the burning issue, the fact of matter is, nobody seems willing to take the job at the moment. However, if we are wrong and there are any interested candidates we would like to hear from them soon!



PHOTO: STAR

LIVE ON, CRICKET IS BESIDE YOU: ICC president Ehsan Mani (R) visited a CARE Bangladesh drop-in centre at Chankharpul in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Rahmatganj's Mustafizur Rahman (yellow jersey) is challenged by Abahani's Arif Khan Joy from behind during their Federation Cup football fixture at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.