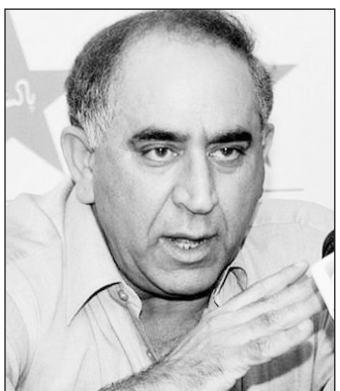




Did U Know?

Chile managed to reach the semifinals of the soccer 1962 World Cup before losing 4-2 to Brazil. On their way they beat Switzerland, USSR and Italy. Players said they ate Swiss cheese to beat the Swiss, spaghetti to beat Italy, drank vodka to beat USSR, and tried coffee to beat Brazil - but coffee obviously didn't agree with them.



Tauqir Zia

(Pakistan Cricket Board president) "It saddens me that such big names of cricket representing a responsible organisation have indulged in mud-slinging."

While blasting captain Inzamamul Haq, coach Javed Miandad and chief selector Aamir Sohail for their involvement in a selection row.



ESPN
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
West Indies vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day Five
Highlights at 10:00 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 201

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

**Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 5, 2003 and draw**

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?	143	190	182
--	-----	-----	-----

2. Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?	Malcolm Sped	Ali Asghar	Ehsan Mani
--	--------------	------------	------------

3. Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champions?	Pakistan	Bangladesh	India
---	----------	------------	-------

4. Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess			
--	--	--	--

Name	
Class	
Roll No	
School Address	
Phone: (if any)	

Nat'l cricketers restart training

SPORTS REPORTER

After a three-day break Bangladesh cricket team had their first training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday morning under the supervision of coach Dav Whatmore. "This is only to keep our fitness level all right. Our today's session was also based mostly on fitness," said captain Khaled Mahmud in the evening adding that the camp would continue until November 23.

All the players who played in the Test and one-day series against England except injured left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique attended the training.

Giants battle for final ticket

SPORTS REPORTER



Sporting Club in the first semifinal of the Tibet Federation Cup today.

With two uninspiring draws (0-0 against Rahmatganj and 1-1 against Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kirra Chakra) in their last two group matches, Abahani are in need of some spark against an inspired Mohammedan who have won all their three fixtures.

The clash of the titans kicks off at 2pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Mohammedan have been buoyed by the news that the much awaited International Transfer Certificate (ITC) of their five recruits from

Cameroon have reached the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF). Barring any last-minute hitch, at least two of the Africans are set to make their Dhaka debuts today.

"We have received their transfer clearances today and they will play in the semifinal," said a confident Mohammedan manager Amirul Islam Babu yesterday. But a source close to Mohammedan said that the club will sign two players for the semifinal.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal also confirmed that they have got the papers.

"I haven't had a chance to look at them yet. I hope to go through them later," said Helal when contacted in the afternoon. However, registration formalities of the Cameroon players were yet to be completed till writing of this report at 9pm.

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TITANIC TRAINING! Rivals Abahani (L) and Mohammedan players during their practice sessions yesterday. An Abahani booter practise heading at their club ground in Dhanmondi while Mohammedan's five Cameroon recruits have a talk at their club premises before heading for their session.

PHOTOS: STAR

Saber, Quader appalled

SPORTS REPORTER

Saber Hossain Chowdhury has criticised the present cricket leadership for not properly handling the fund for the development of the game as designed during his reign as president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Speaking at a press conference at the Hotel Purbani organised by the Awami League to highlight the present dismal state of the youth and sports arena yesterday, the former cricket supremo also was saddened by the fact that although he left behind Tk 200 crore in the BCB coffers, still the new cricket administrators had not made good use of it.

The briefing was chaired by Awami League general secretary Abdul Jalil. Former state minister for youth and sports Obaidul Quader read out the keynote paper.

Saber, who is an organising secretary of Awami League, believed that great strides were made in different age-

group cricket competitions because he worked on a particular development plan.

"To decentralise the game country-wide, we established regional cricket associations. But these are not functioning at the moment. We raised Taka 200 crore for the BCB fund. But I don't see any output of that fund. Just looking at how the under-19 development squad was all out for 34 against India recently tells the story," he said adding that instead officials now are spending too much time on things like changing the name and the constitution of the Board.

Quader, who listed a number of successes as sports boss including the ICC Trophy triumph in 1997, 1999 SAF Games football gold medal and also attaining ODI and Test status, said that even the handing over of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium to cricket was also a political decision.

"The present government doesn't want to hear the name of Bangabandhu from the TV commentators. That's why

they have shifted cricket from Dhaka to Mirpur," commented Quader.

He said that the present set-up in the National Sports Council (NSC) has decided to build a multistoried building from the Sports Development Fund raised from the lottery. He claimed it was against the NSC constitution because the lottery was only introduced to raise funds for the development of different sports.

Quader also blamed the present government for not having any sports policy.

"We had success in almost every aspect of sport. But nowadays the sports arena is polluted. This is due to the government's inability to perform in any sector."

He urged the government to keep sports arena free from politics and party influence.

The briefing was also attended by former Bangladesh Football

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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League general secretary Abdul Jalil (3rd from L), former state minister for youth and sports Obaidul Quader (2nd from L), former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury (L) during a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

Ganguly in doubt for TVS Cup final

BBC ONLINE, undated

India captain Saurav Ganguly could miss the final of the TVS Cup tri-series against Australia with a groin injury.

Ganguly has only just returned after a month on the sidelines recovering from thigh surgery.

He played in Saturday's crucial 145-run win over New Zealand but complained of a sore groin.

The final is being played in Calcutta on Tuesday and Ganguly said: "I'll have to assess my condition on the morning of the final."

Ganguly conceded India would have to play much better if they are to beat Australia and lift the TVS Cup.

Ganguly said: "We played poorly until Saturday's game.

"We seem to be applying ourselves only in pressure situations.

"It's essential to apply ourselves and perform at the same time every day.

"It's easy to defend a 350-plus total, but the real test would be when we've got to defend scores around 260-270."

More than 100,000 fans are

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

Impressed himself



BBC ONLINE, undated

Andrew Strauss was delighted to make the most of his opportunity in England's tour match against Sri Lanka President's XI in Moratuwa on Saturday.

The Middlesex captain smashed 83 in the tourists' 237-8 although rain thwarted a result.

Strauss' performance will put extra pressure on Vikram Solanki, who recorded a duck.

Strauss said: "This was my one opportunity to score runs and put pressure on the other guys."

Strauss and Ian Blackwell were impressive for England in their only warm-up match before Tuesday's first one-day international.

Blackwell bludgeoned 63 off 52 balls to share in a 110-run fourth wicket stand with Strauss.

Strauss said: "I didn't feel any pressure at all, I had nothing to lose walking out there.

"I looked at it that way rather than thinking it would be my last knock on tour.

"My aim was just to spend some time in the middle and the longer I spent the

easier it got.

"I am never going to be a massive blaster of the cricket ball. I accept that my game is based around working the ball into gaps and keeping the scoreboard ticking.

"We have got a lot of players in our



ANDREW STRAUSS

squad that can hit the ball over the ropes so hopefully at some stage there will be a role there for me.

"I know the role I am trying to

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

National cricket Ctg-Comilla 2nd semi today

SPORTS REPORTER

Favourites Chittagong take on Comilla in the second semifinal of the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship at the Mymensingh Stadium today.

Chittagong progressed to the last four as Group D champions while Comilla got through as Group B champions in the robin league phase.

The winners of today's match will meet defending champions Biman in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 20. The national airliners reached the final with a three-wicket win over Jessore on November 13.

BD U-17 beat CAB squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-17 team registered an exciting three-run win over visiting Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) under-17 side in the second and last one-day match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, the home side scored 200 for nine in the allotted 50 overs with middle-order batsmen Ripon and Mehrab scoring 42 and 40 respectively.

Ripon faced 81 deliveries for his runs with the help of four boundaries followed by Mehrab who faced 1-3 balls for his 40 that included five fours.

Lower-order Ilyas Sunny chipped in with a gusty 38 off 36 balls with three boundaries.

In reply, the visitors were all out for 197 in 49.5 overs with middle-order Arindam Ghosh hammering highest 58.

With this match the CAB lads completed their Bangladesh tour. They played three two-day matches and two one-day matches against the home side.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH U-17: 200 for 9 in 50 overs (Ripon 42, Mehrab 40, Ilyas 38; Amit 2-19, Avishek 2-41)

CAB U-17: 197 all out in 49.5 overs (Arindam 58, Debraj 22, Debarata 21; Masud 3-33)

Result: Bangladesh under-17 won by 3 runs.

Alec staying at The Oval

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Surrey and England captain Alec Stewart has taken on a new behind the scenes role at The Oval.

Stewart has been appointed as Surrey's Director of New Business.

"We have asked Alec to help us in a number of different areas all of which will use his great skills and reputation to attract new supporters," said chief executive Paul Sheldon.

Stewart retired three months ago after scoring more than 26,000 first-class runs and taking 721 catches.

"I am delighted to be able to continue my long association with Surrey County Cricket Club.

"I hope that I can help raise the profile of the Club and support its excellent work in the local community," he said.

Surrey were unable to offer 40-year-old Stewart a playing contract

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



PHOTOS: STAR

Pathan gets India nod



AFP, Hyderabad

India's selectors on Sunday named two young fast bowlers for the upcoming tour of Australia after burning the proverbial midnight oil to pick the 16-man squad.

Right-arm quickie Aavishkar Salvi and left-arm Irfan Pathan were given the nod along with back-in-favour opening batsman Sadagopan Ramesh for the four Test matches against the world champions starting next month.

Salvi, 22, has played one-day internationals before but not a Test match, while Pathan gets his first look-in at the top level after leading the Indian under-19 team to victory in a tournament in Pakistan earlier this month.

The selectors, who met after India's one-day match against New Zealand here on Saturday night, deliberated till

the early hours of Sunday before pruning the list of 20 probables announced earlier.



IRFAN PATHAN

India won the match by 145 runs to qualify for Tuesday's tri-series final against Australia at Calcutta.

Left-handed Ramesh, who played the last of his 19 Tests in Sri Lanka in

2001, will be the third opener in the touring squad alongside Akash Chopra and Virender Sehwag.

Captain Saurav Ganguly, deputy Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Venkatesh Laxman form an experienced middle-order, while spin will be in the hands of the seasoned Harbhajan Singh and Anil Kumble.

Left-arm pacemen Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra lead India's new-ball attack in the absence of the retired Javagal Srinath, with Ajit Agarkar, Salvi and Pathan providing the support role.

Young wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel, 18, has been put on notice by the addition of one more stumper in Deep Dasgupta, whose last Test was against the West Indies in May last year.

Ganguly, who attended the selection meeting with coach John Wright, said he was leading a balanced squad for what will be a very

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Captain Lara's away win



REUTERS, Bulawayo

Brian Lara celebrated his first win in an away Test as West Indies captain when his team beat Zimbabwe by 128 runs on the fifth day of the second Test on Sunday.

Lara has captained West Indies in 26 Tests, winning nine, drawing four and losing 13.

Hosts Zimbabwe, who were chasing 233 for victory, resumed their second innings on 90 for nine but were dismissed for 104 after eight overs on the final day.

West Indies won the two-match series 1-0 after the first Test in Harare was drawn.

Lara said the victory would serve as good preparation for their tour to South Africa which starts next month.

"A lot of people will say that Zimbabwe are one of the minnows of world cricket but I thought the 11 guys who played 10 days of Test cricket against us were very determined," said Lara, who scored a match-winning 191 in the first innings.

"It was a good workout for us going into the series against South Africa."

The result marked a dramatic turnaround for the visitors, who snatched a draw in the first Test only after their last pair hung on for 11.5 overs to deny Zimbabwe victory.

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PHOTO: AFP

HOLDING HIMSELF? West Indies captain Brian Lara receives the Test series trophy after his side beat Zimbabwe in the second match at Bulawayo yesterday.

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