



Did U Know?

During World War II, the US navy hired Reuben Fine, a world champion chess player, to calculate the probability of where enemy submarines might surface!



ESPN

Australia vs Zimbabwe
Tri-Series, 9th ODI
Live at 9:15 am
Sportscentre
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Australian Open
Men's/Women's Fourth Round
Live at 6:00 am
Futbol Mundial
Repeat at 12:30 pm
Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm

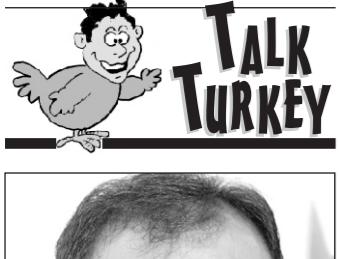


1. Who won the 25th National Women's Chess Championship title?
Shabana Parveen, Rani Hamid, Zaka Sultana

2. Who lifted the Hopman Cup tennis title?
Australia, America, Russia

3. Steve Waugh has played how many Test matches?
132, 168, 200

4. David Seaman quit football at Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)



Aamir Sohail
(Former Pakistan cricket's chief selector)
"My career is as commentator so I have decided to leave (as selector) and it's not on a bitter note."
After he was sacked by Pakistan Cricket Board.



Western Union Premier Football League
Badda Jagarani vs Sheikh Russell KC (2:30 pm)
Brothers Union vs Dhamondi (4:30 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium, Mirpur
Nat'l Cricket League (Day-3)
Chittagong vs Dhaka
Venue: Comilla Stadium
Khulna vs Sylhet
Venue: Shamsul Huda Stadium, Jessor
Rajshahi vs Jessor
Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden

Mahmud urged to rethink

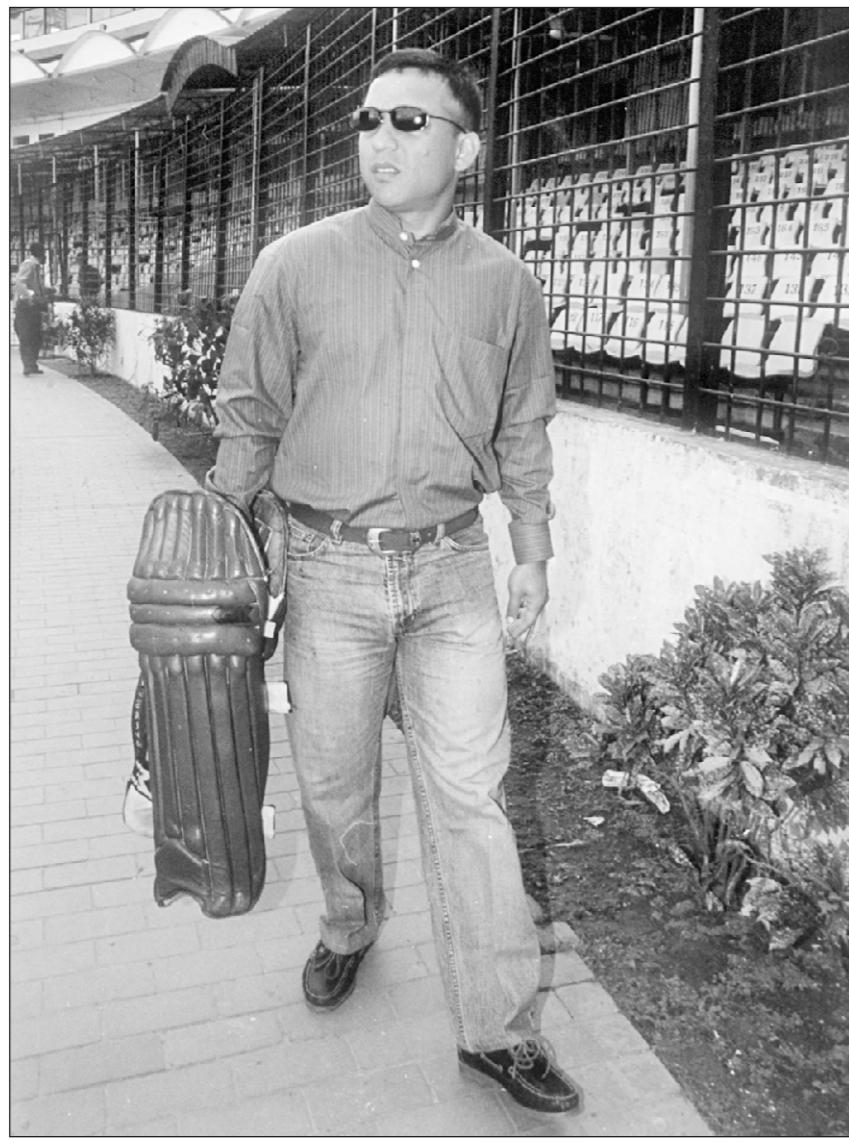


PHOTO: ANUSIR RAHMAN

BUT HIS PADS WILL KEEP PLAYING: Khaled Mahmud presented this pair of pads to Alok Kapali when the retiring Bangladesh captain came to the Bangabandhu National Stadium to bid goodbye to his teammates yesterday.

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a touching scene at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday when Khaled Mahmud walked on to the field to bid farewell to his teammates.

The gutsy cricketer, who surprised everybody by announcing his retirement from international cricket after being dropped from the Zimbabwe-bound Test squad on Saturday, took the centre stage of attraction during the final training session of the national team.

Clad in tight jeans and a blue shirt, the ever-smiling Mahmud received an emotional reception when everybody starting from new captain Habibul Bashar to the youngest member of the team Rajin Saleh came down to the former captain and requested him to revert his retirement decision.

Affectionately called Chacha by his teammates Mahmud however ruled out the possibility of reconsidering the decision.

"I took the decision after talking with my family and there is no chance to change my decision. But I'm really moved the way my teammates expressed their love for me today," said Mahmud.

The 32-year-old also brought his best pair of pads to present them to Alok Kapali, who was finding it difficult to hold back his tears.

Mahmud, who rejected the selectors' offer to continue his international career in the one-day version of the game, said that it was not an emotional decision rather a logical one.

"I don't want to stay on as a half player. But I can tell you one thing

that I was not treated fairly," said a piqued Mahmud, who played 12 Tests and 53 one-day internationals.

But the soft-spoken Mahmud did not forget to wish all the luck to his successor Bashar. He however warned the top batsman of the country not to get intimidated with foreign influences while on the field.

"He (Bashar) should be allowed to dictate when on the field. Even when he wants to gamble, everybody should back him instead of imposing the decision on him," said Mahmud.

Bashar on the other hand termed his long-time partner as a great motivator and requested Mahmud to change his mind.

"Everybody loves him because of his personality. It was only because of him that I have got a disciplined team. I request him to change his decision," said Bashar.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed, who deemed Mahmud not fit for the Test team, once again said that their decision to include him in the one-day was a wise move.

"I know him. He is a fighter. I believe he took the decision emotionally. He was not an obvious choice in the longer version but he could still contribute greatly in the one-day matches," said the chef selector.

Mahmud on the other hand was not interested to be drawn into the matter since the Australian apparently didn't want Mahmud in the Test fold with whom the famed coach started his Bangladesh assignment.

"I respect his emotion. But I do not get involved into issues that came out in the newspapers today," said the 49-year-old.



THE LAST LESSON: Mahmud having a talk with coach Dav Whatmore.



WHY DID YOU RETIRE? Vice-captain Rajin Saleh makes a point.



CHANGING OF GUARDS: Mahmud (L) and Habibul Bashar shake hands.

Action restarts today

SPORTS REPORTER

WESTERN UNION

মানব মুক্তিজ্ঞান প্রতিষ্ঠান

বাংলাদেশ রাষ্ট্রীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান

After six days of unscheduled break, the Western Union Premier Division Football League resumes at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra will take on Badda Jagarani Sangsad in the first match of the day at 2:30 pm while league leaders Brothers Union will face bottom club Dhamondi in second fixture at 4:30 pm.

The first round of the double-legged championship will end tomorrow with the Dhaka derby between perennial foes Abahani and Mohammadan Sporting Club at the same venue.

The league came to an abrupt halt on January 20 when a group of Mohammadan supporters invaded the ground at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, demanding the postponement of the competition until punitive measures taken against the club by the Dhaka Mahanagar Football League Committee (DMFLC) were revoked. Supporters also attacked the Referees' Association office in the evening of the same day prompting the match officials to stop conducting matches on security ground.

The problem started after the

DMFLC declared Muktijoddha Sangsad 2-0 winners against Mohammadan as the Black and Whites refused to play the last six minutes of their January 15 disputing the equalising goal against them.

The DMFLC also deducted a point from Mohammadan's previous tally and handed their captain Jewel Rana a one-match suspension for misbehaving with the referee and linesman.

The club also announced that it would boycott the league if the authorities didn't entertain its demands.

DMFLC initially stopped the league for another two days and extended it by two more days on Thursday. It then handed over the responsibility of solving the matter

on Bangladesh Football (BFF).

BFF on Saturday sat in an emergency meeting where its president SA Sultan withheld the suspension of Jewel. BFF also extended the lay off by a day.

Mohammedan on Saturday night agreed to return to the league.

Meanwhile, Abahani in a hastily called media briefing yesterday, demanded that Jewel be punished.

Otherwise the club warned that it

will inform the matter officially to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA.

Abahani also confirmed that they

would face Mohammadan tomorrow as the club was not in favour of boycotting the championship.

PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE

| Teams | M | W | D | L | GF | GA | Points |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|--------|
| Brothers Union | 8 | 5 | 3 | - | 19 | 4 | 18 |
| Muktijoddha | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 18 |
| Abahani | 8 | 3 | 5 | - | 19 | 8 | 14 |
| Arambagh KS | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 14 |
| Mohammedan SC | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 5 | 12 |
| Sheikh Russell KC | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| Victoria | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 10 |
| Dhaka Wanderers | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 8 |
| Badda Jagarani | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 13 | 4 |
| Dhamondi | 8 | - | 2 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 2 |

Wait for more from Laxman

AFP, Adelaide

Indian run-machine VVS Laxman warns he can do much better after scoring three one-day international centuries in a week.

Laxman's 131 in the three-run win over Zimbabwe at Adelaide Oval on Saturday continued a triangular series batting bonanza for the stylish strokemaker, following two unbeaten hundreds against Australia earlier in the week.

"I think attitude and understanding are the main differences between previous series' and the coming series," said Whatmore yesterday while talking with reporters after his charges had their last practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium before their departure for the African nation of Namibia on January 28.

A 16-member Bangladesh team will leave on Wednesday night for Namibia where they will play three limited-over and one three-day match against the ICC associate members before leaving for Zimbabwe on February 10.

For new skipper Habibul Bashar it will be a second trip to

Preparation pleases Whatmore

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore said that the Tigers now have the right approach and can assess the situation better.

"I think attitude and understanding are the main differences between previous series' and the coming series," said Whatmore yesterday while talking with reporters after his charges had their last practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium before their departure for the African nation of Namibia on January 28.

"It was good, especially with the situation we were in, losing three wickets for four runs, I'm very satisfied that in that situation I went on to get 100."

But he said he was still to hit top form, a claim which should send a shiver through Australia's bowlers ahead of the tri-series finals next month.

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Zimbabwe but a much different one than the first.

"We were totally raw when we first toured Zimbabwe. But now we have experience. I am confident of a better performance this time," said Bashar.

The 31-year-old thanked his predecessor Khaled Mahmud for transforming the squad into a fighting and organised unit.

"Mahmud regrouped the team after our World Cup disaster, which was a great achievement. It has made my job easier," said Bangladesh's most successful batsmen.

Whatmore expressed his satisfaction over the extensive preparation of the Bangladesh team. A number of expert foreign coaches and specialists assisted Whatmore in preparing the Tigers.

"It was a very wonderful two-months preparation for the team. We started the camp in December and after Christmas, we resumed it in the first week of

January. I am totally satisfied with the preparation," said Whatmore.

Former Bangladesh coach Trevor Chappell worked as a specialist fielding coach while Sri Lanka-born Australian Owen Mattau gave batting tips to the Tigers. Australian psychologist Anthony Stuart conducted special sessions with the cricketers to make them mentally stronger.

Whatmore however cautioned his boys that there was no chance of taking Zimbabwe lightly although they are struggling at the moment in the international arena.

"I think it is silly to take any opponent lightly because we are the underdogs no matter who we play against. And Zimbabwe played brilliant cricket recently against the West Indies on their home soil," said Whatmore.

Whatmore believed that the players improved in bowling and fielding but he was still a bit worried about his batters.

Tragic!

AFP, Sydney

An Australian cricketer was killed by a lightning bolt in a country league game in New South Wales state, police said Saturday.

Witnesses said 31-year-old David Evans' bat exploded after lightning struck his helmet as he stood at the crease late Saturday afternoon at Bombaderry, about 120 kilometres (94 miles) south of Sydney.

Ambulance officers were called and administered treatment at the scene, however the man was pronounced dead on arrival at Shoalhaven Hospital," a police spokesman said.

Matt Sawkins, 13, and his father Graeme, were both knocked to the ground and slightly injured by the lightning.

SA make 263

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Hosts South Africa made 263 for four in 50 overs in the inaugural one-day international against West Indies in Cape Town yesterday.

South African captain Graeme Smith won the toss and chose to

Chittagong take innings lead

ISPAHANI Mirzapore Tea

5th National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

A five-wicket haul by off-spinner Sabir Khan handed Chittagong an important 106-run first innings lead against leaders Dhaka on the second day of their four-day Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League match played at different venues across the country yesterday.

SCOREBCARDS

Scoreboard on the second day of the three four-day Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League matches played at different venues across the country yesterday.

CHITTAGONG V DHAKA

Venue: Comilla Stadium

CHITTAGONG: First innings 254 in 76.2 overs (Anisul 27, Masum 20, Salahuddin 64, Faisal 13, Azam 12, Mukter 37, Ahsanullah 44, Raihan 15; Neeyamur 1-27, Mahfuzur 1-45, Elias 3-34, Sanwar 2-48, Mosaddeq 3-84).

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