

A mixed day

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh vs. New Zealand

It was a picture of frustration at the beginning of the Bangladesh innings yesterday. But at the end of the day, they can be reasonably satisfied with 165-6 from the desperate 5-3 at one stage. Tigers coach Dav Whatmore was also appreciative of that fightback. "It looked like New Zealand would be batting after tea when we lost three wickets for five runs. At the end, we not only batted out the whole day but also kept four wickets in hand. What made me more happy was the way the boys fought back," said the Australian. But Whatmore was understandably critical of the way Rajin Saleh and Mohammad Ashraf gave their wickets away having done all the hard work. "I am impressed by the way they

batted. But they suddenly lost concentration and that brought two bright innings to premature finishes," said the Bangladesh coach who expected his side to continue fighting throughout this Test match. Ashraf who produced some scintillating strokes in his 67, acknowledged the fact that he himself should take the blame for not going on to complete what would have been his second Test hundred. "They tested my patience by sticking to a good line and length and ultimately they succeeded. I was not impatient when I could not get the ball away in the three overs before tea but I lost my temper after tea and went for that big shot as I could not score in five overs," said Ashraf. The 20-year old right-hander said that he had planned on not becoming too adventurous after surviving a chance on five when Styris dropped him at cover off left-

arm spinner Daniel Vettori. "After that close call, I talked to Rajin and decided on playing sensibly. The New Zealand bowlers read the pitch brilliantly and concentrated on accuracy rather than trying to do anything extraordinary. We also played according to the merit of the balls but finally we were both dismissed playing the wrong shots," he said. Seamer Jacob Oram, who made the initial breakthrough by picking up the wickets of Hannan Sarkar and debutant Nafees Iqbal, praised Ashraf's effort. "He played brilliantly and tried to bat straight. He punished every bad ball which was very impressive," said the towering all-rounder. "I have enjoyed bowling here. The heat and humidity was not as much as we had expected. We tried to bowl a good line and length on a slow and low pitch and we made a great start although we could not carry it till the end," said Oram.

Did U Know?

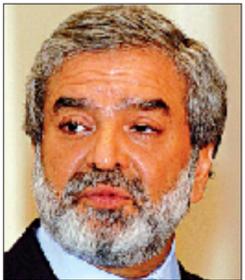
More people play darts in the British Isles than any other sporting pastime. The National Darts Association of Great Britain was formed in 1953.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Bangladesh v New Zealand
First Test, Day Two
Live at 9.30 am
UEFA Champions League
Chelsea v CSKA Moscow
Live at 12.30 am (Thursday)
UEFA Champions League
AC Milan v Barcelona
Delayed at 3 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports
UEFA Champions League
Panathinaikos v Arsenal
Live at 12.30 am (Thursday)

TALK TURKEY



Ehsan Mani
(President of ICC)
"The International Cricket Council conducted an inquiry to probe racism, allegations of racism, in Zimbabwe cricket and the assigned two-member panel found absolutely no evidence of racism in Zimbabwe cricket."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 29, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:	2 wickets	50 runs	33 runs
2. Who won the China Open tennis title?	Serena Sharapova	Hingis	
3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?	83	84	81
4. Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?	Sarwan Lara	Flintoff	

Chess Olympiad Both men and women lose

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh men's team lost 3-1 to Slovenia in the fourth round of the 36th Chess Olympiad in Calvia, Spain yesterday. International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib beat IM Jure Borisek in the round but his other three teammates lost their games against more experienced oppositions. GM Ziaur Rahman lost to GM Alexander

SERIES SALAD

BISHWAJIT ROY

It was indeed a painful day for Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar. The premier batsman of the county was all smiling while hitting a few balls after close of play on Day One of the first Test. But deep inside he was hurting for not being a part of a Test match for the first time in his career. "It was really tough to watch the Test from the dressing room. I have been out early in many innings and that was always painful. But today the pain is different," said the 32-year-old. Bashar has played in all of Bangladesh's previous 30 Tests but his injured right thumb meant he would have to miss his 31st appearance. Commenting on first day's proceedings, Bashar, who scored five out of Bangladesh's eight Test centuries, said that the slowness of

the wicket contributed to the fall of so many wickets. "If you look at statistics we have performed better on faster wickets. The reason for that is most of the players like to play shots. But here the nature of the pitch is slow and turns very early. It demands a lot of concentration and application," he said adding he would have been happy had Mohammad Ashraf completed only his second Test century and Alok Kapali stayed at the wicket till the end of play. **NO MORE SECRET SELECTIONS!** It is not uncommon for the Bangladesh think-tank to play hide and seek while announcing the team for any international match. And in keeping with their funny policy, the selectors kept everybody in the dark about the final eleven for

the first Test against New Zealand. While the Black Caps at least revealed their twelve the night before the match, our selectors led by Faruque Ahmed unnecessarily tried to hide the worst kept secret. However, in an attempt to appease frustrated reporters, BCB president Ali Asghar yesterday assured that he would take steps to announce the team at least a day before the match, if it was decided. "I promise that next time the team will be announced a day before any game," he said. But history suggests that whenever a promise is made it is broken. Let's see if Asghar keeps his word before the second Test in Chittagong starting on October 26. **WE ARE STILL HERE** Maybe the Tigers are going through



NIGHTMARE FOR NAFEEES: Bangladesh debutant Nafees Iqbal takes the road to the pavilion as New Zealand's Jacob Oram celebrates scalping him on the first day of the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Tigers' away series safe

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday hit back at a section of media reports that the away series of the newest Test playing nation would be drastically reduced. "There was no discussion about any reduction of Bangladesh's away series in the meeting. I think there was a misunderstanding about the meeting's agenda. Actually, structure of cricket was the main agenda in the discussion," told BCB advisor Mahbubul Anam, who attended the ICC executive committee meeting in Lahore. "The first five-year programme will end next year and the ICC has already started to sort out the schedule for the next five years," Mahbub told reported during the opening day's proceedings of the first Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. "We presented a paper in the meeting where we explained our position about how the game is being run in the country. We explained that it was not a matter of winning or losing rather it was how a team progresses, and that should be the criterion to assess one's performance," said Mahbub adding that Bangladesh's argument was appreciated and accepted. He also refuted claims that Zimbabwe's Test status would be restored when they visit Bangladesh next January to play two Tests and seven one-day internationals. "In the first place Zimbabwe's Test was never suspended. It was the wish of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union that did not want play Test cricket for sometime," said the bearded BCB official. But when asked to clarify Bangladesh's scheduled tour of India in April, Mahbub he looked rather blank. "Actually it conflicts with India's plan to host Pakistan. We can only confirm it after they finalize their proposed series," he said. Pakistan will tour India February 2005. However India will make their first full tour to Bangladesh this December.



I CAN'T BE THERE EVERY TIME: Regular Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar (2nd from R) watches the Day One's proceedings of the first Test from the players' lounge yesterday. This is for the time that Bashar, who has played in all the country's 30 Tests, is watching a game from the outside.

Booters' bourse likely in Dec

SPORTS REPORTER

All the Premier and First Division clubs have agreed to take part in the footballers' transfers in December, but they were against the idea of handing over tokens to the players in first week of November when they met the Dhaka Metropolitan Football League Committee in a meeting yesterday. They were discussed various Bangladesh Football Federation decisions for the coming season. "Three big clubs Brothers Union, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Mohammedan agreed to handing over tokens to the players in November but rest of the clubs were against it. That's why we have decided to delay the date. It will start a week before the players' transfers," informed league committee secretary Mozammel Haq Mukta. In the meeting, Abahani and Sheikh Russel opposed the allotment of three foreigners-per-club and instead they sought permission to register at least five foreign players for the Premier League. But the league committee ruled out their demand.

Sachin back to batting

Ricky cleared to join team in India

AFP, New Delhi

India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar batted at the nets for the first time in two months on Tuesday but his chances of playing in next week's third Test against Australia remain uncertain. The 31-year-old, afflicted with a tennis elbow since mid-August, spent two hours at a suburban ground in his native Mumbai where he batted, bowled and did fielding practice, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency. Tendulkar, who did not speak to the waiting media, will be given a fitness test two days before the third Test starts in Nagpur on October 26 to ascertain his recovery. The most prolific batsman in modern cricket with 33 Test and a record 37 one-day centuries missed the first two Tests against the world

champions despite being included in the 15-man squad. Australia lead 1-0 in the four-match series having won the first Test at Bangalore by 217 runs last week. The second Test ended in a draw on Sunday after rain washed out the fifth day's play. India desperately need Tendulkar back as they fight to deny Australia their first series win on Indian soil since 1969. Tendulkar said in a television interview last week that he was "tired of waiting." "It is very, very frustrating to wait on the sidelines," he said. "I really want to play. You would not know how sad I feel sitting in the dressing-room." Cricket board doctor Anant Joshi said on Tuesday Tendulkar was making good progress. "I checked Sachin," Joshi said. "He has improved. It is up to him to decide his return. It is a question of him feeling comfortable about playing again." Indian team's physiotherapist Andrew Leipus said in a statement before the Madras Test that

BANGLADESH-NZ SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday:

BANGLADESH: First innings
Hannan c Fleming b Oram 0
Omar b Franklin 1
Iqbal c McCullum b Oram 1
Saleh c Oram b Franklin 41
Ashraf c Astle b Vettori 67
Kapali c McCullum b Vettori 14
Mashud not out 12
Manzarul not out 16
Extras: (lb-7, nb-5, w-1) 13
Total: (For 6 wks in 90 overs) 165
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-5, 3-5, 4-120, 5-124, 6-136
To bat: Baisya, Rafique, Tareq

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Oram	18	7	27	2
Franklin	13	5	25	2
Styris	2	1	4	0
Butler	12	3	34	0
Vettori	29	15	26	2
Wiseman	16	5	42	0

NEW ZEALAND: Fleming, Richardson, Sinclair, Styris, Astle, Oram, McCullum, Vettori, Butler, Franklin, Wiseman.
Toss: Bangladesh.
Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia) and Mark Benson (England).

The global Kiwi

AL MUSABBIR SADI

Passion for his nation's sport takes Sonny Shaw across the globe. Having toured 22 countries since he started following New Zealand's teams in 1989, Shaw arrived at a new destination - Bangladesh - on Monday. "This is my 75th Test match, I have already watched 161 one-dayers as well," said the 54-year-old from Auckland. "I started touring with the rugby national team when they went to Canada in 1989 and I also love to see women's netball. But cricket is my favourite and this is my 13th cricket tour," he added. An accountant by profession, Shaw always carries a huge New Zealand flag, the flag of his country's cricket board and a Kiwi puppet holding a cricket bat and a rugby ball in its hands. Shaw calls it his 'Lucky Chum'. "I am grateful to my boss who lets me take leaves for foreign trips. I love mixing with the crowd. Indian crowd

are the best," said the man who could be mistaken for Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore at times. It is his early days in Dhaka but Shaw has already become aware of one of the notorious features of the capital city. "I've seen the traffic jams here but I am lucky that the stadium is within walking distance of my hotel." Shaw and his 66-year-old friend Bill Read, who only watches Test cricket, will be heading for Chittagong too for the second match. Recollecting some of his most memorable moments following international cricket, Shaw picked out his only trip to the Caribbean in 1996. "I became friends with Brian Lara after he scored a hundred against us. I had gifted a US\$ 100 bill to Stephen Fleming for scoring his maiden one-day century during one game in that series. I was having a beer with them that day and I promised Lara a hundred dollars too if he could score a century the next day. He made 167 not out and I ran on to the ground to put 100 dollars into his pocket.

JFA Cup final round kicks off today

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the JFA Cup Under-16 football tournament begins today with Rajshahi taking on Barguna in the opening match at the Bir Sheshithra Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. Eight qualifiers split into two groups are competing in the finals. The top two from each group will move into the semifinals on October 29 and 30. The final takes place at the same venue on November 1. **GROUP A:** Rajshahi, Narayanganj, Jamalpur and Barguna. **GROUP B:** Sirajganj, Narashingdi, Feni and Meherpur.

The season's hockey curtain-raiser, the Club Cup tournament, kicks off tomorrow at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium. Two matches will be played every day.



WHATMORE'S TWIN! Kiwi sports nut Sonny Shaw, who follows his team across the world, has come to Bangladesh to cheer up New Zealand. Here he is seen sitting in a gallery of the Bangabandhu National Stadium holding his 'lucky chum', a Kiwi.