

DAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



Did U Know?

Thomas Odoya of Kenya is known as the African Botham for his aggressive batting and bowling.



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian batting maestro)
"It's very easy to say that you should go out and play your natural game but sometimes you end up taking plenty of risks and, if you get out doing that, people start talking one way."

Defending his cautious approach.



TEN Sports & DD Sports

India v Pakistan

Platinum Jubilee ODI

Live at 3:00 pm

ESPN

English Premier League

Tottenham v Arsenal

Live at 5:55 pm

Fulham v Chelsea

Live at 8:55 pm

Birmingham v Everton

Live at 11:10 pm

Primera Liga

Deportivo v Levante

Live at 3:00 am (Sunday)

English Premier League

West Brom v Middlesbrough

Live at 7:55 pm (Sunday)

Newcastle v Man United

Live 10 pm (Sunday)

STAR Sports

English Premier League

Southampton v Portsmouth

Live at 5:55 pm

Liverpool v Crystal Palace

Live at 8:55 pm

Primera Liga

Real Madrid v Albacete

Live 11:55 pm (Sunday)

Real Betis v Barcelona

Live at 2 am (Monday)

Zimbabwe tour makes Vaughan unhappy

REUTERS, London

England captain Michael Vaughan says he cannot wait for his team's controversial tour of Zimbabwe to be over.

Vaughan, one of four senior players offered the chance to miss the trip, leads a depleted team to Zimbabwe for five one-day internationals before heading for South Africa.

"I did not want to pass the buck by not going," he said.

"It's not a tour I'm particularly looking forward to. I'm looking forward to it being over and getting to South Africa for a real tough test series," Vaughan told British news papers.

England forfeited a World Cup match in Zimbabwe last year after the players voiced concerns about security and the human rights record of President Robert Mugabe's administration.

Vaughan's squad flies out to Namibia on Monday to prepare for the one-day series in Zimbabwe, which starts on November 26.

Opening batsman Marcus Trescothick and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff are resting, while fast bowler Steve Harmison pulled out on moral grounds.

"I think it's clear we are taking a stance by going to Namibia to prepare," Vaughan said. "We just want to get over there, get it done and get to South Africa."

The first of five Tests against South Africa begins on December 17.

Sports after holiday

SPORTS REPORTER

The sports fraternity will be back to business after a weeklong Eid vacation and the heart of country's sports Bangabandhu National Stadium has become almost deserted with most of the federation doors shut yesterday.

All the players have left the capital to meet their families during the break before a busy season ahead.

The first order of business will be the Cup final of the Corporate Cricket League between GrameenPhone and Bangladesh Biman to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 19.

The first ever Twenty20 cricket final was postponed on Thursday following the death of Palestinian president Yasser Arafat as the government declared a three-day national mourning in respect to the undisputed leader of the Palestinians.

The cricketers will get little time to take rest as the colourful Premier Division League, which was cancelled last year triggering a lot of criticism, is expected to start from November 25.

But before that the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) will sit on November 18 to finalise the fixture of the league.

The national cricket camp for the upcoming home series against India is also expected to start from November 18 after coach Dav Whatmore's return

from Australia, who have also taken a ten-day vacation after the just concluded home series against New Zealand. Sourav Ganguly's men are due in Dhaka on December 7 to play two Tests and three ODIs.

The prestigious Premier Hockey League will start from November 26 at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium on Thursday but International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib lost his lead when he went down to Indian GM Avhijit Kunte.

After that, football will come alive with the booters transfer for the coming season due from December 17 to 20.

The process, however, starts on December 1 with the footballers being eligible to collect their tokens for the inter-club transfers.

Fans will be crossing their fingers for an exciting football league in the coming season as the game is all set to return permanently to the Bangabandhu National Stadium from next March.

The local soccer powerhouses have already confirmed big names for the season and it would be just a matter of formalities during the transfers.

And this year there is hardly any chance to see the players take a tumble as the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to take stern action against them if found guilty of taking money from more than one club.

Reefat bin Sattar lost to GM

Kolkata Chess Zia, Niaz both win

SPORTS REPORTER

Both Bangladeshi Grand Masters won their fifth round matches in the Kolkata International Open Chess Tournament at the West Bengal capital on Thursday but International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib lost his lead when he went down to Indian GM Avhijit Kunte.

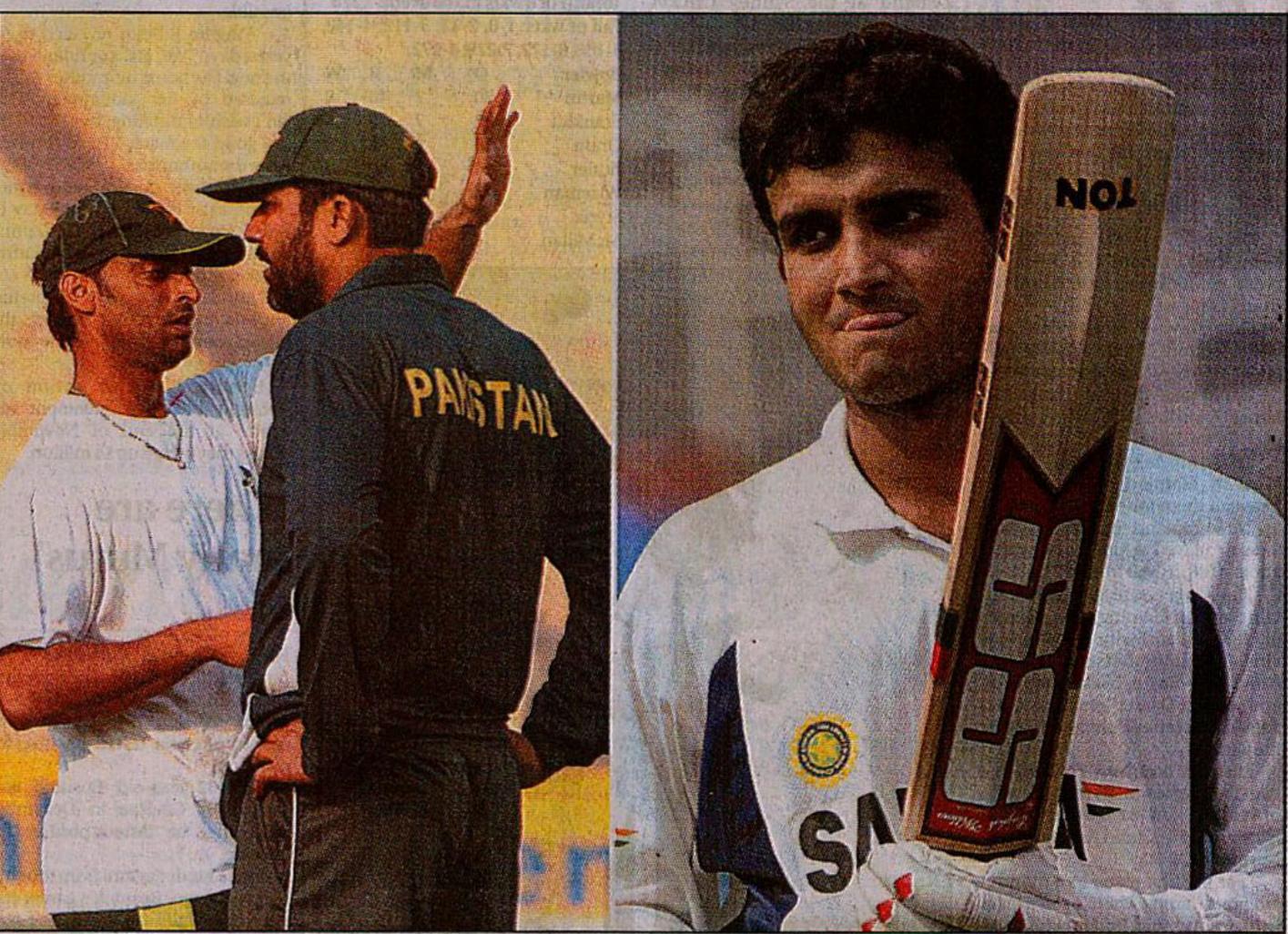
Rajib stuck to 3.5 points and was joined by his compatriot GM Ziaur Rahman.

Zia beat Indian IM Devaki Prasad while and GM Niaz Mursheed beat Visweswaran of India at Gorky Sadan, Kolkata.

Among other Bangladeshi players, Debbaraj Chatterjee beat Indian IM NK Mishra, Robin beat Arindam Mukherjee of India, FM Khondoker Aminul Islam beat K Ramu of India and Javed beat Shayesteh Ghader Pour.

IM Reefat bin Sattar lost to GM Timur Gareev of Uzbekistan, while IM Rakib and Arman Monir were beaten by Indian opponents IM DK Sharma and Balasubramaiun respectively.

Niaz, on three points, was followed by Reefat, Rakib, Aminul, Debbaraj and Mahtabuddin Ahmed on 2.5 points each.



MEN WHO MATTER: A combo showing (L) Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq and ace fast bowler Shoib Akhtar and Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly during their respective team practice sessions at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

'McGrath also flexes'

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Melbourne

Muttiah Muralitharan insists he is not the only leading bowler with a suspect action, adding others, including Australia's Glenn McGrath, bent their arms beyond the limit allowed under current regulations.

"Some bowlers from Australia, McGrath and everybody, they are all doing about 12, 13 (degrees)," the Sri Lankan off-spinner said in a Melbourne radio interview on Friday.

"You can't be accusing me only. I am not the only one flexing. Ninety

nine per cent of bowlers are flexing." Muralitharan's "doosra", a leg spinner bowled from the front of the hand, was outlawed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) last May after a report concluded the Sri Lankan bent his arm during the delivery and so threw the ball.

At present, spinners are permitted five degrees, medium pacers 7.5 and fast bowlers 10. Muralitharan's doosra was initially measured at around 14 degrees.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the ICC said a bowling committee had recommended that all bowlers be allowed to straighten their arms by up to 15 degrees.

Australia's captain Ricky

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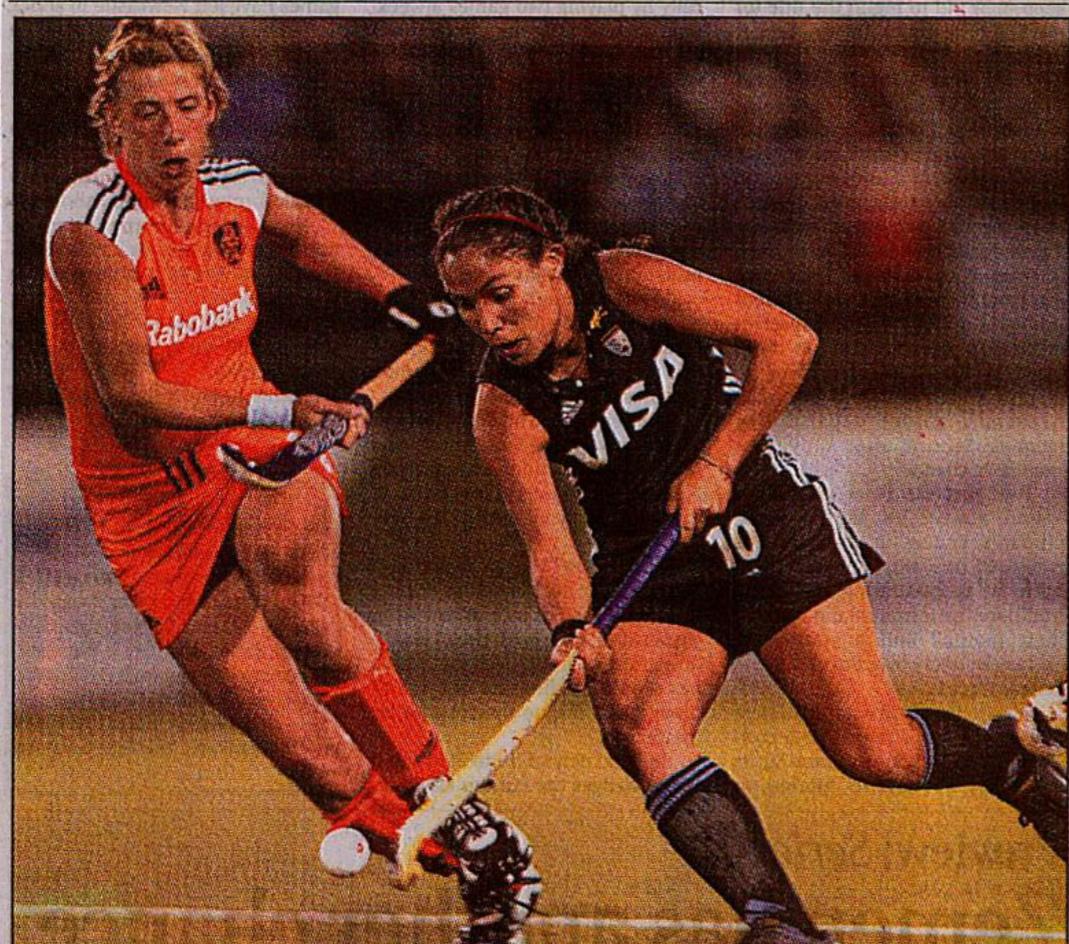


PHOTO: AFP

Argentine's Soledad Garcia (R) goes past Netherlands' Chantal de Brujin during their Champions Trophy hockey encounter in Rosario on November 11.

Proteas in India

Cricket

CRICINFO, Mumbai

Graeme Smith has warned the Indians that South Africa will employ the same tactics which gave Australia so much success on their tour to India.

Speaking to Press Trust of India after the team's arrival in the country on Friday, Smith said: "Australians are the best in the world and they played very aggressively and implemented the plans to perfection during their 2-1 series win recently," said Smith.

"We have to learn from them and play aggressively as playing in Indian conditions is pretty tough."

Commenting on the challenges of playing in India with an inexperienced outfit, Smith said: "We have very young and inexperienced side but we have done our homework well and I am sure we will play some entertaining cricket during this

rushed-up tour of three weeks. Playing the Indians in India is difficult and it is totally different from playing in South Africa or Australia.

"We have to get used to the climatic conditions quickly and think the tour of Sri Lanka prior to this series has helped us to get used to the heat and the unpredictable nature of the subcontinent wickets." South Africa had a wretched time on that tour, losing the two-Test series 1-0 and then being drubbed in all five one-day internationals.

The South Africans are without Herschelle Gibbs and Nicky Boje, but Smith chose not to dwell on the players missing from the squad, and instead spoke highly of the replacements.

The rest of the Australian squad will be in Brisbane preparing for next Thursday's first of two Tests against the Kiwis and the earliest Lehmann can rejoin them is on Tuesday.

Bowler Zdravko Micevic, 22, is facing a charge of manslaughter over an alleged fatal attack on Hooke outside a Melbourne

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Lehmann has to do it

AFP, Sydney

Darren Lehmann will have to re-live the trauma of the death of former Test cricketer David Hookes just days before playing for Australia in the first Test against New Zealand in Brisbane.

The 34-year-old left-handed batsman, recalled to the Australian team this week at the expense of Simon Katich, is scheduled to appear in a Melbourne court on Monday to give an eye-witness account of the late-night altercation that led to the death of Hookes, one of his close friends.

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Dutch defy Argentina

AFP, Rosario

Olympic champions Germany and the Netherlands appear set to reach the Champions Trophy women's field hockey championship final after Argentina failed to beat the Dutch on Thursday.

Argentina were held 0-0 while Germany drew 2-2 with New Zealand and a draw between the Netherlands and Germany in their final round-robin match here on Saturday will ensure they contest Sunday's final.

World champions Argentina can qualify on goal difference for Sunday's final if they beat China in their last league game and Germany or the Netherlands lose.

Argentina did most of the attacking but rarely got through the Dutch defense and failed to put away their chances when they did.

Dutch goalkeeper Eveline De Haan kept out Cecilia Rognoni when she had a clear chance in the 25th minute.

And in the second half, Ines Arondo failed to put away a short corner and Soledad Garcia missed another opening.

Meredith Orr put the Kiwis ahead on 31 minutes but Natasha Keller levelled for Germany a minute after the break and Tina Schutze grabbed the equaliser after Lizzia Iglesias had again put New Zealand in front.

Australia, the 2003 champions who have brought a young side here, scored their first win when Hope Bowne pounced on a defensive blunder in the second minute to give the Hockeyroos a 1-0 win over Olym, bronze medallists China.

Sharapova shines

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Amelie Mauresmo, chasing the world number one ranking, and Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova signalled their intentions at the WTA Tour Championships with sparkling straight-set victories.

Sharapova, the 17-year-old Russian who shot to global prominence with her triumph at the All

England Club, defeated another young Russian Grand Slam champion

US Open titlist Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-1, 6-4 in her opening match of the three million-dollar season finale.

Mauresmo, who in September became the first French tennis player to claim the world number one ranking, routed Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-0 in her first round-robin match.

"I think I played a great match," Mauresmo said.

Williams will finish off round-robin play on Saturday against Lindsay Davenport, who reclaimed the world number one ranking from Mauresmo.

If Mauresmo wins this week, she

has a chance of grabbing the year-

"I played some great tennis, especially on my serve. I really felt I was playing well and feeling comfortable. It's great to play this way."

Six-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams was less comfortable, but she won another close one, beating Russian Elena Dementieva 7