

Documenta™ Ltd.
Data Driven Development
• Point Of Sale (POS) System
• Inventory Management System
• Accounting System
Smart Paperless Digital Office!

Web: www.documentabd.com
Email: contact@documentabd.com
Address: 65, Mohakhali C/A Dhaka-1212, Pk#9884635/37/39 Ext:123,124

• Software Development
• Digital Archiving

Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

BRAC	NEW LOWER Internet Postpaid Charges			
	Home	Professional	Executive	Night Rider (11:30 pm to 6:00 am)
Price	495	995	1495	595
Minutes	780	1920	3240	Unlimited
Charges Per min	0.63	0.52	0.46	---

Address: 18th floor, 65-66 Mohakhali, Dhaka.
Tel: 9883978, 9883981, 9884635, 9884637, 9884639
E-mail: sales@bdmail.net, Website: www.bdmail.net

It promises fireworks

Premier League kicks off tomorrow



BISHWAJIT ROY

In the absence of an established first class competition, the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League is traditionally considered the breeding ground for upcoming cricketers and there is every indication that this season the focus will be on youngsters trying to prove their worth.

The much anticipated league begins tomorrow after the gap of a season. It promises to be a cracker of a competition as there will be seven teams at least among the 12-competing who will fancy lifting the title.

That is all the more reason for the young signings of top clubs like holders Victoria, City Club, Mohammedan, Abahani, Brothers, Biman and feisty newcomers Old DOHS, who have either played for Bangladesh or are on the threshold of a national call-up, to carve a niche for themselves by rising to the challenge.

"We have a lot of talented cricketers like Nadif Chowdhury, Nazimuddin, Shahadat Hossain Rajib and also some experienced

players. But I believe this season will mark the emergence of a new generation with a number of veteran campaigners bowing out of the game," said former national captain Akram Khan who ended his 16-year love affair with Abahani to lead Old DOHS.

"A void has been created in the local arena and it will be interesting to see how the young players, most of whom have never been exposed to the pressure of Premier League

cricket, react to it," added Akram.

Abahani's coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury is also keeping his fingers crossed for the ebullience of youth that can take your breath away even if they may not necessarily come from his team.

"I am expecting great things from the likes of Mahmud Ullah Riyad and Shahriar Nafees Ahmed. I think the Premier Division is a perfect platform for a player to show what he is made of," said Jalal.

Mohammedan captain Habibur Bashar, who will miss the first match due to a toe injury, emphasised on the importance of the Premier League as a stepping stone.

"There is a different kind of pressure in this league and it is not easy for a young player to settle down in one season. But definitely there are some very talented players who must take this opportunity to justify their potential as future stars," said Bashar.

Although it could turn into be a many-horse title race, Victoria Sporting Club and Mohammedan Sporting Club are bound to be the safest bets for eventual glory based on their strength on paper.

Faced with the prospect of losing star players for almost the entire league because of their international



A RICHLY DESERVED GARLAND: Qazi Abdul Alim (R), who won the Unesco Award for Physical Education and Sports for the Asia-Pacific region, is seen with State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Unesco award for Alim

SPORTS REPORTER

Winning awards is nothing new for him. But now Qazi Abdul Alim will certainly treasure his latest accolade. The noted sports personality was on Monday announced the recipient of the Unesco Official Award for Physical Education and Sports for Asia-Pacific.

The proclamation of the Paris-based United Nations body, was revealed by State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman at a press conference at the National Sports Council (NSC) in the city yesterday.

The 70-year-old Alim, winner of the Independence Day and National Sports Awards, said he was overwhelmed by the recognition even though it was kept secret by the sports minister.

Alim, who has retired from sports for almost a decade, will receive a diploma certificate and medal during the December 6-8 inter ministerial meeting of Unesco in the Greek capital of Athens.

"I have won many awards in my life at home but this was absolutely something unexpected to achieve

from outside my country. I have been a sportsman since 1945 and it belongs to the whole sports family of this country," said the septuagenarian, a pioneer in the physical education development in the country.

"The standard of different games have been going down in the country despite there are facilities in schools and colleges. We have got talent but we have to nourish them. We need more dedication," added the former general secretary of National Sports Council Board and editor of sports fortnightly Krira Jagat.

It was the second international sports recognition for a sports personality of the country since late Zafar Imam, secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association, won the IOC's Order of Merit.

Alim is still regarded today as the foremost authority on sports having authored

18 books on the technical aspects of games and sports. Besides he has 15 other sports publications to his credit.

"It is a great honour for the



Did U Know?

Brian Lara is the 10th of 11 children in his family.



TEN Sports

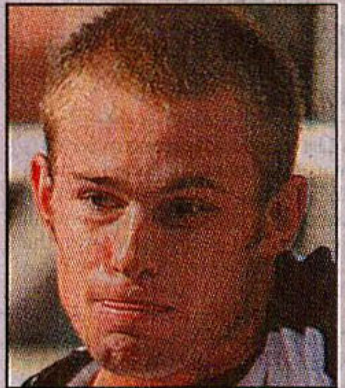
India vs South Africa
First Test, Day Five
Live at 9:50 am

ESPN

Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Chelsea vs PSG
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
PSV Eindhoven vs Arsenal
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)



Andy Roddick
(American tennis star)
"I would love to make a run at number one again. I would love to win a Slam."

Parag wins Round 7

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehdi Hasan Parag secured 3.5 points after the seventh round games of the 43rd World Junior Chess Championship in the Indian city of Cochin yesterday.

The Bangladesh junior champion shared a point in the fifth round and won the seventh round after losing the sixth round game.

Indian Grand Master Pentala Harikrishna, Zhao Jun of China and Armenian Grand Master Tigran L. Petrosian were leading the table with six points each.

Blazing Sehwag



AFP, Kanpur

Opener Virender Sehwag hit a sparkling century as India kept on course for a big score in the first Test against South Africa at the Green Park Stadium here on Tuesday.

The home side reached 401-4 at stumps on the fourth day after the big-hitting batsman slammed 164 and starred in an opening stand of 218 with Gautam Gambhir (96).

Captain Sourav Ganguly (57) and Rahul Dravid (52 not out) built on the fine start as India posted a fitting reply to South Africa's first innings total of 510-9 declared.

Sehwag and Gambhir achieved only the sixth opening stand of 200 or more for India and the second-best ever for their country. The Delhi pair, 85 apiece overnight, began briskly after a delayed start due to fog, but slowed down as Gambhir approached what could have been his first Test century in only his second match.

"It was disappointing not to get a hundred as the first Test century is always important for any batsman," said the left-hander.

"I did get nervous close to the three-figure mark."

They still managed a healthy run-rate on the flat batting track, using up only 52.3 overs. The stand was broken when Gambhir was caught behind by debutant wicketkeeper Thami Tsolekile to give Shaun Pollock his 350th Test scalp.

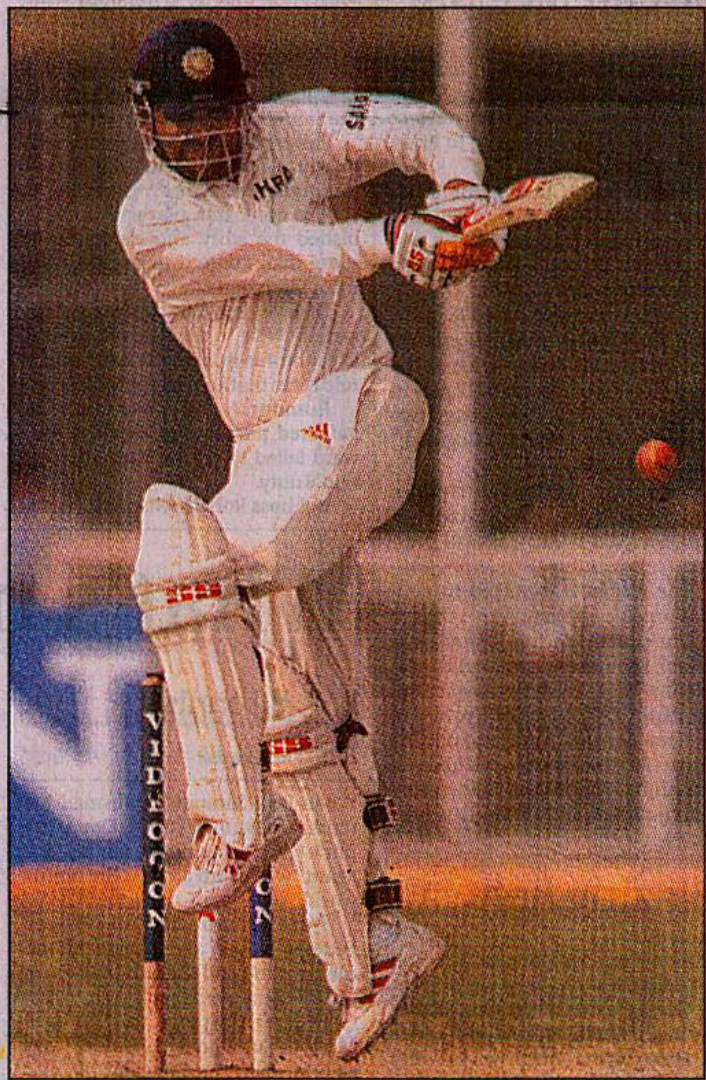
Sehwag's eighth Test century in 28 matches was studded with 20 boundaries and a six each off left-arm spinner Robin Peterson and paceman Andrew Hall to thrill the crowd of around 30,000.

He shifted gears after lunch, scoring his last 56 runs off just 35 balls to move from 108 to 164. The attacking batsman created space to unleash some fine shots on either side of the wicket during his 228-ball knock.

"We had a very good understanding in the middle as we managed to rotate the strike," said Sehwag. "Having played together for Delhi helped a lot as we kept taking singles with confidence."

Sehwag was eventually trapped lbw by Hall, who also removed Sachin Tendulkar (three) with a ball that came in sharply and hit the wicket off his pads.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



Indian opener Virender Sehwag pulls during the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa yesterday.

Chappell wants to help Black Caps



AFP, Wellington

Former Australian cricket captain Greg Chappell has offered his services free of charge to help New Zealand following their disastrous first Test performance against Australia.

Chappell was alarmed at the lack of intent shown by New Zealand's top-six batsmen in the defeat in the Brisbane Test which ended Sunday a day and a half early.

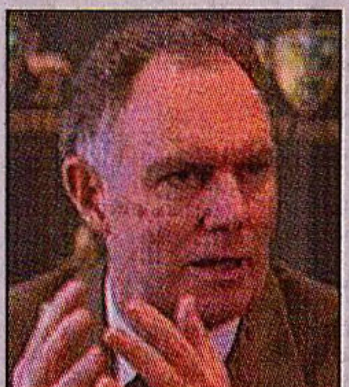
He sees New Zealand suffering another heavy loss in the second Test starting Friday in Adelaide if they do not change their mentality.

"They are trying to occupy the crease but the problem with that is you lose the reason to bat," Chappell was quoted as saying in the Dominion Post newspaper Tuesday.

"The reason you bat is to score

runs and what I detected with some guys, and Craig McMillan is probably the best example, is that he is not then playing his natural game.

"When you go out to survive you get into a defensive mentality, and against the likes of (Glenn) McGrath,



GREG CHAPPELL

(Jason) Gillespie and (Shane) Warne you just become sitting ducks."

Chappell was not prepared to give individual assessments of any technical shortcomings he detected but said if asked by New Zealand coach John Bracewell he would be more than happy to talk "game ideas" with the batsmen.

"I'm not looking for a paid job. I'd just be more than happy to sit down and have a chat to the batsmen and talk game ideas."

Chappell does not like the mindset of continually leaving balls alone and only playing the straight ones, saying his approach was to always put pressure on the bowler.

"The art of batting is like walking a tightrope and New Zealand are not walking it very well at the moment--they have to rethink their strategy," he said.

"If they are not good enough, they are not good enough but you

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

A break with BNS tradition

SPORTS REPORTER

The local cricket authority has ignored a 33-year-old tradition by not letting the defending champions of the Premier Cricket League to play the opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

The all-purpose BNS always played host to the League opener between the holders and the newcomers. But in a break with tradition two-time champions Victoria Sporting Club will take on Agram Bank at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium in one of the three opening day's fixture tomorrow.

Instead last year's runners-up City Club will take on the other newcomers Old DOHS, which will be led by former national captain Akram Khan, at the Big Bowl.

Title contenders Mohammedan Sporting Club will face Orient Sporting Club at the tranquil BKSP in the other match on the opening day.

Victoria officials protested the decision at a meeting of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) last night but their appeal was rejected.

"We have given priority to the importance of the match between City Club and DOHS and that's why Bangabandhu National Stadium will stage it," league committee secretary Jamil A Sattar told reporters yesterday.

Abul Hashem TT Anirban clinch men's crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Anirban Nandi of India clinched the men's singles crown in the Beximco-Abul Hashem Smriti Table Tennis Championships beating compatriot Prthviraj Bose in yesterday's final at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium.

Anirban had a rather easy sail in the final after coming through a tough semifinal battle with fellow Indian Amit Das (11-9, 11-3, 9-11, 11-8, 15-13).

Anirban won the final 11-6, 11-9, 11-9, 7-11 and 11-8.

Earlier, the losing finalist Prthviraj ousted Mosaddekul Hossain Rochi, the only local paddler to reach the last four, 11-5, 11-4, 11-8 and 12-10.

Meanwhile, Biman's Jayati and Rumi and Abahani's Tumpa and Soma have reached the women's singles semifinals while Rocky, Rimon, Helal and Hasib entered the boys' singles semis.

Both finals will be held today, the concluding day of the four-day meet.

DRU soccer

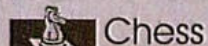
SPORTS REPORTER

ATN Bangla and Dainik Ajker Kagoj moved into the final of the DRU inter-house football tournament beating their respective rivals at the outer stadium handball court yesterday.

ATN Bangla inflicted a 4-1 defeat on Dainik Bhorer Kagoj in the first semifinal while Ajker Kagoj defeated New Age 1-0.

The final will take place tomorrow at the same venue at 8:30 am.

Biman face big challenge



SPORTS REPORTER

The Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess League begins tomorrow in the city with record 16 teams taking part in the top competition.

The 26th edition of the League is also expected to challenge the monopoly of defending champions Bangladesh Biman.

Last year's runners-up Leonine Chess Club, led by the country's first Grand Master Niaz Murshed, will be an all GM team with two more from Vietnam and one from Uzbekistan.

Both Bangladesh Ansar and Titas combined youth and experience to upset the heavyweights.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Murali eyes Jan return



CRICINFO, undated

Muttiah Muralitharan flew to Australia late on Monday night to meet with his Melbourne-based surgeon, Dr David Young, who will assess his shoulder's recovery and indicate when he can resume bowling.

Muralitharan has been laid-off for three months since pulling out the second Test against South Africa after the build-up of a painful cyst around the nerves in his shoulder joint. Young drained the cyst and cleaned up some of the cartilage around the joint.

The targeted comeback date is the second Test against New Zealand in late January, but

Muralitharan will probably be urged to err on the side of caution and not rush back into the fray. If he is to play in the second Test then he will need to resume competitive cricket in early January.

Muralitharan has not bowled a ball in three months, but has been stepping up his weights work in the gym and reports to be in good shape despite a hectic few weeks of globe-trotting to raise funds for charity, pick-up various awards and represent Sri Lanka in the World Travel Market.

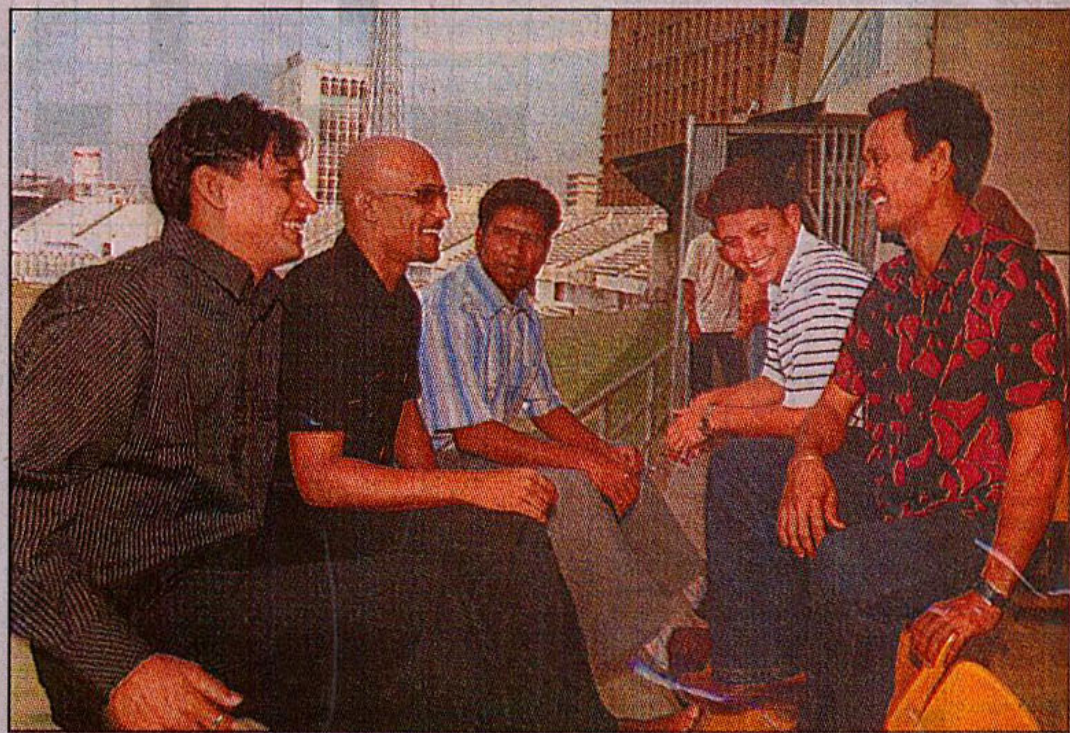
The ICC Cricket Committee's decision to recommend a flat-rate 15 degree level of tolerance, which will probably be introduced early next year, has only increased Muralitharan's desire to return to international cricket soon.

The recent biomechanical testing on international bowlers, carried out during the ICC Champions Trophy and secretly during first-class matches in Australia, has proved that despite the optical illusion of chucking his bent-arm action is sounder than several current international bowlers.

Muralitharan's arm-bend for his stock off-break is just five degrees, while his doosra was recorded at 14 degrees, although a new straighter approach to the crease has reduced the flex to 10.2 degrees. This is significantly less than several of the bowlers tested so far.

The tests carried out in the ICC Champions Trophy have shown that fast bowlers and spinners from Australia, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



Members of Bangladesh's SAFF Football Championship winning squad (L-R) Biplab, Joy, Alfaz, Hassan Al Mamun and Rajani having a chat at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday. The Prime Minister is expected to hand over land deeds today in recognition of their triumph.