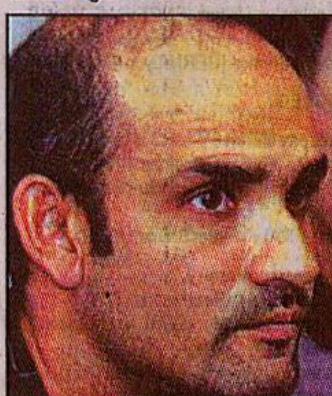




Did U Know?

Venkatapathy Raju of India is known as Muscles by his teammates while Ijaz Ahmed of Pakistan is known as Cheetah.



Marvan Atapattu

(Sri Lanka cricket captain)
"We want to be the number one team in the world. But we'll have to work really hard towards that objective. We cannot do that overnight but we can during a set period and the aim is to be there by the 2007 World Cup."



ESPN

Bangladesh vs India
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 9:30 am
English Premier Football League
Birmingham City vs West Bromwich
Live at 5:55 pm
Man City vs Bolton Wanderers
Live at 8:55 pm
STAR Sports
Australia vs Pakistan
First Test, Day Three
Live at 8:30 am
England vs South Africa
First Test, Day Two
Live at 3:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Crystal Palace
Live at 11:10 pm



Four-Day Tour Match (Day-3)
SL Cricket Academy vs BCB HP Squad (PCS)
Green Delta Premier Hockey League
Sadharan Bima vs Wari (1:15)
Mohammedan vs Usha KC (3:00 pm)

Open squash from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Sharp Blade Open Squash Tournament kicks off at the Dhaka Club Squash court today.

About 100 clubs from Dhaka and Chittagong will participate in six divisions. Rated players have been drawn in the Premier Division where they will play on round-robin basis.

The other divisions are: A division, B division, C division, Under-18 division and veterans (above 40) division.

At a press conference yesterday held at the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation, it was revealed that Sharp Blade will provide Tk one lakh.

Federation president Abdus Sattar Nini, general secretary Sohail Hamid and others were present.

Dravid, Gambhir bask in centuries



BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

The day belonged to two Indian century-makers Rahul Dravid and Gautam Gambhir as the pair cashed in on a flat track at the MA Aziz Stadium to put the Bangladesh bowling attack to the sword on the opening day of the second Test yesterday.

Dravid (145 not out) and opener Gambhir, who scored his first Test century before falling for 139 featured in a second-wicket stand worth 259 runs, which is the second-best partnership in Chittagong. The record however goes to South Africans Jacques Rudolph and Boeta Dippenaar 429.

For 23-year-old Gambhir his effort was particularly satisfying. "Scoring a Test century is always something special. I'm really delighted with the hundred because I missed out just for four runs in Kanpur against South Africa," said the Delhi left-hander, who scored 139 off 196 deliveries.

He also said that it was always enjoyable to play with a batsman like Rahul Dravid.

"It was a great pleasure for me that I was accompanied by a batsman like Rahul. I was a little nervous in the 90s like any other new batsman in the world, but finally I overcame it," said Gambhir.

On the other hand, Dravid praised the wicket however he was not ready to blame the local bowlers. "I think they (bowlers) initially

bowled very well and worked very hard the entire day but it was difficult to earn success from this kind of track which was absolutely suited to the batsmen," he explained.

"I believe it is very difficult to get out a batsman if he concentrates during his innings. Initially, I wanted to settle down in the middle and later it got very easy for me to bat on this surface," he added.

The 31-year-old Indian vice-captain, who completed his 18th Test hundred, said that he was not thinking about a double century but rather wanted to bat for the team.

"I don't know what will happen tomorrow. We always try to bat according to the situation," Dravid said.

Replying to a question, Dravid

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Pepsi V-Day v'ball Army meet Navy in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army will take on arch-rivals Bangladesh Navy in the today's final of the Pepsi Victory Day Volleyball Tournament.

The final will be held at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur at 2 pm.

In yesterday's first semifinal, Army outplayed Nepal's Kathmandu Metropolitan City 25-12, 25-17, 25-18 while Navy ousted Bangladesh Air Force 25-19, 25-19 and 28-26.

The third-place play-off between Air Force and the visiting Kathmandu speakers will be played at 11 am also today.

HP Squad on back foot



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) High Performance Squad were struggling to save the four-day match against Sri Lanka Cricket Academy at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The home side, forced to follow-on after being booked for a paltry 167 in their first innings, reached 123-4 in their second innings at stumps on second day. They will need a further 32 runs to make the tourists bat again.

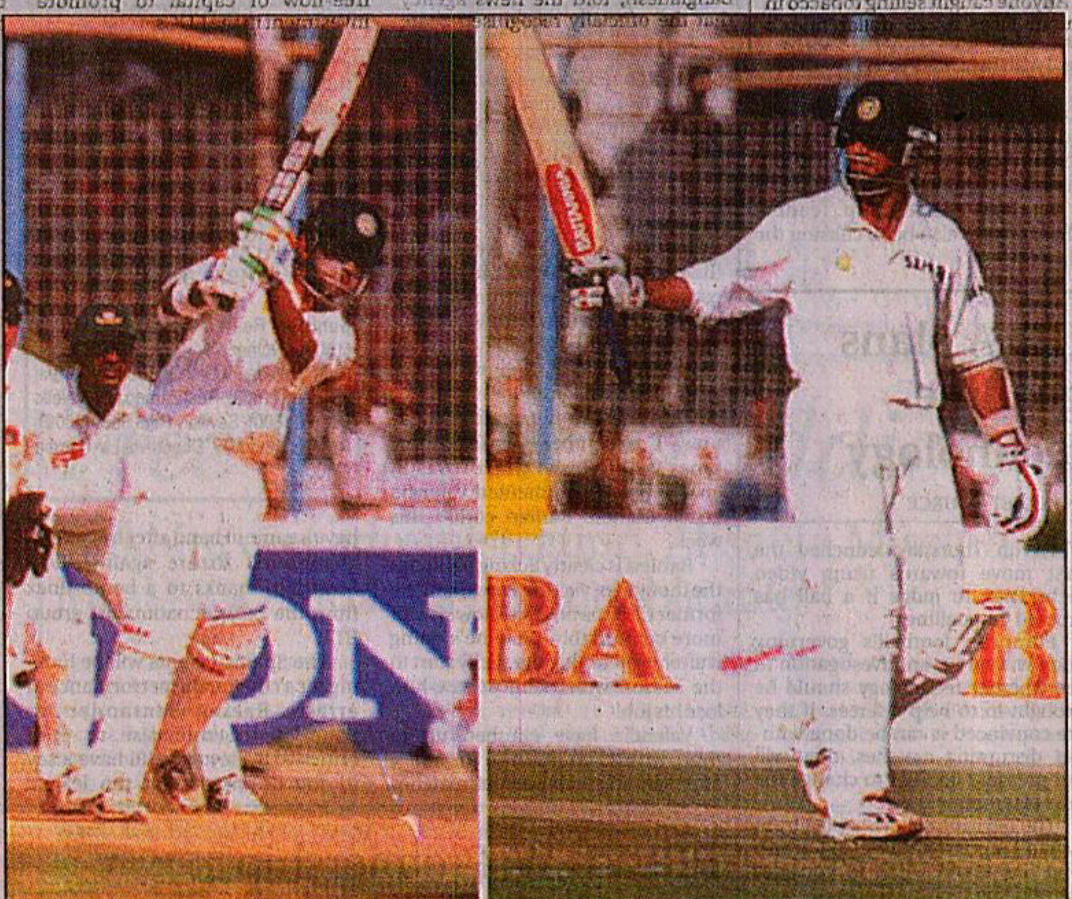
Earlier, the visitors failed to add any run to their overnight 322-9 as their first innings folded in just three deliveries in the morning.

Although Shahriar Nafees hit a sparkling 80 not out, the HP Squad vice-captain received very little support from his teammates.

Opener Shamsur Rahman and number five Dhiman Ghosh each scored 19, the second best effort for the side.

Left-handed Nafees, who occupied the crease for two-and-a-half hours after coming to the wicket at 33-2, smashed seven fours and one six in his unbeaten 93-ball knock.

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TON-UP INDIANS: Gautam Gambhir (left) drives during his maiden Test century while Rahul Dravid acknowledges the crowd's applause after his 18th ton during the second Test between India and Bangladesh yesterday.

Rudolph revives SA



AFF, Port Elizabeth

Jacques Rudolph led a South African recovery after England dismissed batting kingpins Graeme Smith and Jacques Kallis for naught on the first day of the first Test at St George's Park Friday.

The left-handed Rudolph, batting at number three, made 84 not out in a South African total of 164 for three at tea.

Rudolph had to face the third ball of the match after South African

captain Smith edged Matthew Hoggard's second delivery to third

S Africa 273 for seven

STAR SPORT DESK

South Africa reached 273-7 at stumps on the opening day of the first Test against England at Port Elizabeth yesterday. Earlier, Jacques Rudolph missed a century when all-rounder Andrew Flintoff claimed the southpaw for 93.

slip before a run had been scored.

Rudolph and debutant opener AB de Villiers put on 63 for the second wicket but South Africa were plunged into trouble at 66 for three when De Villiers (28) and Kallis were dismissed in quick succession.

De Villiers was trapped leg before by Andrew Flintoff and Kallis played outside a fast full toss from Steve Harrison which crashed into the base of his off-stump.

Rudolph and vice-captain Boeta Dippenaar (41 not out) then went some way towards justifying Smith's decision to bat on a well-grassed but

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



MORNING DIDN'T SHOW THE DAY: A dejected Virender Sehwag (L) walks back as Bangladesh speedster Mashrafe Bin-Mortuza celebrates the dismissal of the Indian opener on Day One of the second Test yesterday.

Policemen turn ticket-sellers!

SHAHIDUL ISLAM from Chittagong

Some policemen on duty at the gate of the media box and the adjacent northern gallery of the MA Aziz Stadium found something more lucrative than guarding the entrances during tea on the first day of the second Test between Bangladesh and India yesterday -- selling tickets at a cheaper rate.

The men in uniform were found openly selling 30 Taka tickets for Tk 10-15 and Tk 50 ones for 20-25 Taka to fans interested in watching the last session of play.

It was anybody's guess how they could get hold of the tickets which were still intact despite the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Premier hockey Mariner maul Railway

SPORTS REPORTER

Mariner Youngs Club recorded their third consecutive win in the Green Delta Premier Hockey League with a massive 6-0 defeat of lowly Railway Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

With four wins and three draws, Mariner pushed their collection to 15 points from seven games. After six matches, Railway have just one point.

Asaduzzaman Chandon, who scored twice, opened the floodgates after 13 minutes while Prashanta netted in the 25th minute to give Mariner a 2-0 first-half lead.

Pakistani Yamin Bhatti added one in the 47th minute while Chandon's second goal came seven minutes later. Ace striker Rafiqul Islam Kamal sealed the victory with two strikes in the last five minutes.

In the day's other match, Sonali Bank and Azad Sporting Club shared points in a 2-2 draw.

Rimon and Taifur put Azad 2-0 ahead by the fifth minute but the bankers pulled off their third draw with goals by Mobarak and Indian recruit Debinder Singh in the 61 and 64 minutes.

Sonali Bank have six points and Azad two after six outings.

Tourists at Aussies' mercy



AFF, Perth

Australian captain Ricky Ponting opted not to enforce the follow-on Friday after a disastrous day of undisciplined cricket saw Pakistan humiliated on the second day of the first Test at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground.

The tourists plunged to 179 at the end of their first innings -- still 202 runs behind Australia's first innings total of 381 and three runs short of avoiding the follow-on.

Instead Ponting decided to bat again and after three overs his team were 15 for none at stumps with openers Justin Langer not out on three and Matthew Hayden on seven.

But already there was more bad news for Pakistan after star bowler Shoaib Akhtar limped off the ground halfway through his second over.

It was he and fellow paceman Mohammad Sami who had provided the only bright spot in a terrible day for Pakistan with a four ninth-wicket stand of 60 which took 176 balls to build.

After a shaky start in their open-

ing session, losing the opening pair of Salman Butt and Imran Farhat for 45, Pakistan then lost six wickets after the lunch break for just 60.

Shane Warne and Michael Kasprovic feasted on the slovenly antics of the Pakistan batsmen to finish with figures of 3-38 and 5-30 respectively.

Warne in particular was delighted to see the wickets of allrounder Abdul Razzaq and Mohammad Khalil fall to his guile as they attempted outrageous swipes.

But it was Younis Khan, who had come to the crease with the score at 45 for two and had settled the innings slightly with a measured 42, that started the rot.

Younis had already seen his captain Inzamam-ul-Haq bowled by Kasprovic straight after lunch for one and Younis Youhana caught behind off the same bowler for the same score to see his team reeling at 60 for four.

Yet after carrying his team to 108, he tried a slog across the line of a Warne delivery only to sky a ball to Jason Gillespie.

Pakistan then lost Razzaq for 21, Kamran Akmal for two and Khalil to equally bizarre shots while adding

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Mashrafe scare

SPORTS REPORTER from Ctg

There were nervous whispers circulating around Chittagong that Bangladesh pacemen Mashrafe bin-Mortuza and his debutant new ball partner Nazmul Hossain had suffered worrying injuries on Day One of the second Test against India yesterday.

However, the Tigers' management ruled out anything serious. Manager MA Latif said Mashrafe, who received a knock on his right-knee while fielding and Nazmul, who could not finish his 17th over because of cramps, were okay.

"Both are very well now. They had a little bit of problem but nothing to be concerned about," Latif told the Daily Star Sport.

Mashrafe, easily the best Bangladesh bowler in the two Tests, has had a history of knee injuries and only returned to playing last month after a year out of cricket.

After getting hit by the ball, he was seen limping for a while which brought back dark memories of November 2003 when he broke down in the middle of the second Test against England at this very venue.

The wicket a letdown

SPORTS REPORTER from Ctg

Both Bangladesh and India had expressed their desires after the first Test in Dhaka of playing on the same type of surface in Chittagong.

But the MA Aziz Stadium wicket was heartbreakingly flat and frustrated the home side no ends especially because they had included three pacers hoping to rattle the Indian batting with the new ball.

"It was a dead wicket for seam bowlers. Actually we wanted the same kind of bounce like we had in Dhaka which helped our pace bowlers but the Chittagong track has been very disappointing," said a Bangladesh cricketer.

The three quick men toiled all day without any assistance and century maker Rahul Dravid was also found sympathetic towards their plight.

"The bowlers were really helpless

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Booters' transfers begin quietly

SPORTS REPORTER

The four-day inter-club footballers' transfers began yesterday without the usual excitement.

There were no hassles or rush of footballers and club officials at the Metropolitan Football League Committee office last evening, which had been a regular scenario leading up to the domestic season in the past.

The bourse has become a mere formality this year with the introduction of the token-collection system which has enabled the clubs to confirm services of their desired players almost a month ahead of the transfers.

Most of the big names like Abahani, Mohammedan, Brothers Union, Mukti Joddha and Sheikh Russel having already fortified their tents, only the lesser teams turned out at the Bangladesh National Stadium last evening.

A total of 24 tokens were submitted to the league authority yesterday by the clubs for registration.

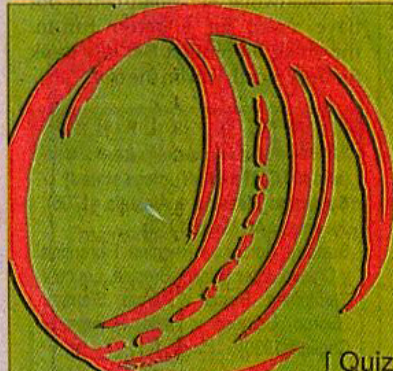
Moazzem, Salahuddin win GP Nat'l pair bridge title

SPORTS REPORTER

Moazzem Hossain and Mohammed Salahuddin won the Khondker Fazle Sobhan Trophy for the GrameenPhone National Pair Bridge title yesterday at Hotel Rajmoni Isha Kha.

The two-day tournament was played over three sessions and the Moazzem-Salahuddin pair beat Ziaul Huq and Kamruzzaman Shohag in the 26-board final.

The third position went to DM Hanzala and Syed Ahmed Rabi. The winners received Tk 32,000 as cash prizes.



Bangladesh-India Series Quiz 9

Who captained Bangladesh in their first ever test match?

- A Naimur Rahman Durjoy B Khaled Mashud Pilot C Akram Khan D Aminul Islam Bulbul

Answer by sending SMS* to the number 2003

e.g. if your answer is A then write Quiz1 A and send it to 2003

For each quiz, five correct answer providers (selected by lottery) will receive attractive prizes!!

*Charge Applicable



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