

year. Cynics, however, tried to spoil the party by alluding to the absence of some key white players in the touring Zimbabwe team, meaning the team did not have its full strength, which allowed Bangladesh to sneak in a victory. They may have a point but in the end a win is a win and opponent's failure to bring their best side cannot nullify the accomplishment.

For Bangladesh it was the total team effort that made the difference. Instances of brilliant individual performances in the past have been many like that of Ashraful's fantastic century against Sri Lanka (Ashraful had his name written in the record book as the youngest batsman to hit a test century), Rafique's 6 wicket haul against Pakistan or Pilot's three stunning catches behind the wicket. But those individual brilliant performances could not be transformed, so as to turn them into the team's success. The present members of the national team have been together for about a couple of years now and they have developed a good understanding among themselves and have better communication than it were possible with frequent changes in the composition of the team. As most of the players are young they gelled very well and developed into one cohesive unit.

Usually Bangladesh don't do well in all three departments--that is bowling, batting and fielding. Very often we have seen a good batting display getting spoilt by erratic bowling and disciplined bowling being wasted by sloppy fielding. This time around Bangladesh did better in all three categories. Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed, former



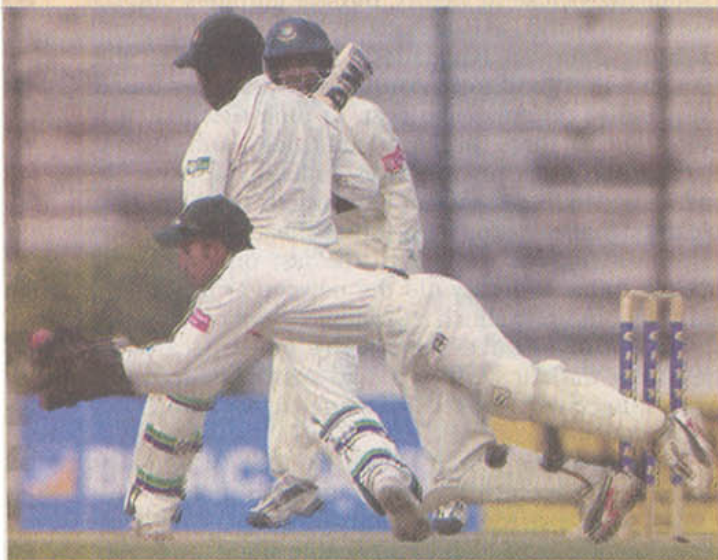
The long eluding victory finally dawns.

sports editor of The Daily Star and an elected BCB director, believes that the key factor to this success was good batting. "Bangladesh's bowling is usually good, but the batting often falters", he says. "This time Bangladesh made a big score in their first innings which put Zimbabwe under tremendous pressure from which they never recovered". Dr. Ahmed is also a key figure who on behalf of BCB made the crucial presentation before the ICC (International Cricket Council) asking permission for one-day status in 1997. In 2000 Ahmed was also the one who made the presentation pleading for Bangladesh's test status.

Reactions to the test victory, of former captains of the Bangladesh National team, its coach and former BCB president give an encouraging scenario for Bangladesh's cricket future.

### Naimur Rahman Durjoy

Naimur Rahman Durjoy was the captain in the first test match Bangladesh played. The date was 10th of November, 2000. After more than four years as Bangladesh register their first ever test victory, Durjoy is no longer in the team. Though his international career seems to be over, Durjoy is still playing for one of the most popular clubs of the county, Abahani. On that historic day, Abahani was playing a match at BKSP. Durjoy was sitting in the dressing room and watching his team's progress. But when Bangladesh was nearing what would be a sure shot victory he found it hard to keep his concentration in his own match and started to make frequent visits to the television room. "As I saw the last few moments I was overwhelmed with a sense of great happiness. I have been waiting for this moment since we played our first test match in November, 2000," he says. Durjoy believes the win was due to total team effort



Not to worry. Pilot rarely misses a catch.