



Did U Know?

The last Olympic gold medals that were made entirely out of gold were awarded in 1912.

What to WATCH

STAR Sports

Australia vs South Africa
Third Test, Day One
Live at 5:00 am (Monday)



John Howard

(Australian Prime Minister)

"He was a great Australian. He was a larger-than-life character, and in so many ways he left his mark on the Australian community over a very long career in business."

While paying tribute to Kerry Packer.



Fifth Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League (Super Six)
Brothers Union vs Abahani (4:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu Nat'l Stadium

Pawar to take over as ACC chief Jan 4

PTI, New Delhi

Chief of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Sharad Pawar will take over as president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) from January 4, 2006.

Pawar was made the ACC president-designate after Jagmohan Dalmiya stepped down after the recent BCCI elections.

"Pawar will officially take over on January 4, 2006 at a ACC meet to be held in Delhi," BCCI's executive-in-charge Ratnakar Shetty said here on Thursday.



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan's wily striker Alfaz Ahmed (L) outsmarts Army custodian Monirul (on the ground) to score his first goal during their Nitol-Tata NFL clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

Mohammedan maul Army

SPORTS REPORTER



After a forgettable first round, a full strength Mohammedan Sporting Club showed their true colours in the Nitol-Tata Fifth National Football League when they routed Bangla-desh Army 6-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan, who missed their key players during the entire first round and in the opening Super Six game against holders Brothers Union due to the SAFF Championship and the Asian Cup pre-qualifiers against Pakistan, transformed into an altogether different side with the return of five national stalwarts to club duties.

Ace striker Alfaz Ahmed led the

Black and White goal-fest with a brace. Nigerian Divine Chibuk also struck twice and his compatriot Emeka and defender Nazrul shared the other two for the biggest win in this year's National League so far after their bitter-rivals Abahani's 6-1 thrashing of Munshiganj Samabesh Club on Friday.

The victory also took the popular Motijheel outfit to the third position along with Muktijoddha behind Abahani and Brothers with five points.

But to win a place in the last four Mohammedan need at least a draw against Samabesh Club in their last Super Six match on Monday.

On the other hand, despite the heavy defeat Army, having three points from four games, still got a slim chance to join the last four provided they beat Muktijoddha on Tuesday.

Abahani, who are leading the six-team table, with 10 points have already confirmed a semifinal berth along with Brothers (8 points). They will lock horns today at the same venue.

Back in day's match, Divine opened the floodgate in the 15th minute, tapping home an Alfaz flag-kick from the left.

Alfaz then doubled the margin in the 30th minute with a placing shot while Emeka blasted home the third with a fierce right-footer after five minutes.

Alfaz scored his second goal from a penalty awarded in the 41st minute as Mohammedan went into the lemon break with a massive 4-0 lead.

There was no respite for the Army men in red after the break with defender Nazrul heading home an Emeka corner in the 72nd minute.

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NAT'L SHOOTING ENDS

Nahiyen grabs the final gold

SPORTS REPORTER

The four-day 20th National Shooting Championship ended yesterday with Nahiyen Chandan clinching gold in the men's 50m rifle three position event at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan.

Nahiyen scored 1121 points to clinch the final gold of the meet.

Dhaka Rifle Club emerged champions in the meet with three gold while Gulshan Shooting Club finished second with two.

The championship saw five national records made by Asif Hossain Khan (10m air rifle), Suraiya Akhter (10m air rifle), Sabrina Sultana (50m rifle three position), Tawfiqur Rahman (25m standard pistol) and Farhana Kawser (women's 50m air pistol).

JFA CUP

Narayanganj get walkover

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Narayanganj got walkover against Brahmanbaria in the inaugural match of the zonal round of Chandpur in the JFA Cup Under-16 Football Tournament yesterday.

Brahmanbaria did not appear at the Chandpur Stadium before the match as referee Azizur Rahman declared Narayanganj winners.

A total of seven teams are competing in this zone. The champions will move to the final round of the tournament which will begin on January 21 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

Lanka race into final

AFP, Karachi

Spinner Shsikala Siriwardene led Sri Lanka's women cricketers from the front with four wickets to take the Islanders into the Asia Cup final with a 30-run win over hosts Pakistan here on Saturday.

Sri Lanka were all out for 123 in 45.2 overs but they bowled Pakistan out for a paltry 93 in 40.4 overs. Siriwardene took 4-11.

Defending champions India had already qualified for the January 4 final after winning their first two matches against Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the double-league competition.

Pakistan went into the match needing a win with a bonus point to stay in the competition. They started off well by restricting the Islanders to 15-3 but then conceded 21 wides allowing the visitors to score 123 on a difficult pitch.

Parab Udawatte (28) and Hiroshi Abeysinghe (25) managed a 56-run stand for the fourth wicket before the home team's left-arm spinner Sajida Shah grabbed three quick wickets.

Pakistan found the going tough and only Arman Khan (24) and Urooj Mumtaz (16) offered resistance against some disciplined bowling by the Sri Lankans.

Sri Lanka meet India on Sunday and Pakistan face India on Monday in two inconsequential matches.

India won the first Asia Cup by beating Sri Lanka in the two-nation event in which Pakistan failed to participate.

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A true friend lost



SPORTS REPORTER

Eddie Barlow's association with Bangladesh cricket might have lasted little more than a year only, but the South African will be remembered and respected as the best foreign coach by the cricketers and officials here alike.

Barlow breathed his last in north Wales on Saturday at the age of 65, and cricket world hailed him as one of the finest South African all-rounders of 60s. But in Bangladesh, where the baby-faced Barlow came in 1999, the first and the only reaction was that the new Test nation had just lost a true friend.

Barlow was not only a mere coach but also assumed the role of a father figure to the cricketers and cunningly vocal during Bangladesh's campaign for Test status after the 1999 World Cup. His 10-year development programme has also played the key factor to change the face of our domestic cricket although a cruel heart-stroke cut short his association with Bangladesh, much earlier than expected.

"He was a true friend of Bangladesh cricket. To be honest he was the architect behind the change of domestic structure. It was bad luck that we couldn't get him for a long time," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar said that it was hard to believe that Eddie, who affectionately called him "Sumi", was no more.

"Whatever I have achieved so far was because of that man. He gave me the mental support when my place in the national team was not even confirmed. I will always remember his words to the selectors that I have learnt afterwards 'Is Sumi in the list for the inaugural Test,'" said an emotion-chalked Bashar.

"Can you imagine a man seriously ill rushed to the ground only to see Bangladesh's practice match against Derbyshire. Honestly speaking, Bangladesh's cricket was in his heart," he said.

Former Bangladesh captain

Khaled Mahmud said that his first experience with the South African would remain forever in his memory.

"When I first came across him during his first trip to our country before his contract with the board was struck, Barlow asked some senior players what kind of coach they wanted. Our unanimous reply was 'a motivator'. He assured us that we would get it," said the all-rounder.

"He (Barlow) was the key person

to transform our cricket to the highest level from ICC stage. It was bad luck for us that he had a very short stint, otherwise players could learn how to play the longer-version game," said another former skipper Akram Khan.

Wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud termed him as the best coach in his long career. "I must say that he was the best coach I have ever seen in my career. He had the rare quality

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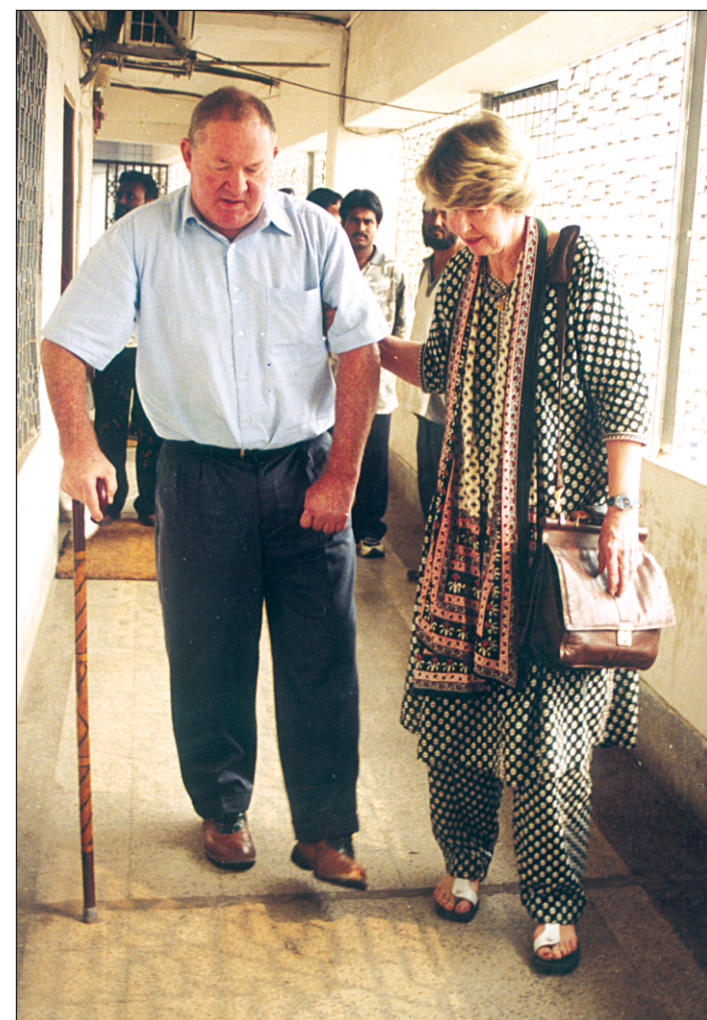


PHOTO: STAR FILE

HIS LAST DAY AT BCB: Eddie Barlow, along with his wife Cally, leaves the BCB office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on December 20, 2000 after attending an emotional farewell press briefing.

Fellows fondly remember him



REUTERS, Durban

Former teammates acclaimed Eddie Barlow, who died on Friday, as the great motivator of South African cricket.

All-rounder Barlow played 30 Tests between 1961 and 1970 and was a pioneer of the aggressive approach that remains a cornerstone of South Africa's style of play.

"He taught us so much," former South African captain Trevor Goddard told Reuters from Somerset West in the Cape.

"His enthusiasm just bubbled out, it was natural with him. He was an absolute joy."

Goddard said Barlow relied on more than talent and skill.

"It's not just talent that counts, it's a lot of guts and fight and Barlow had all that," Goddard said.

"Although we used to pull his leg about his bowling he wasn't the worst bowler and in the slips he caught most of the chances that came his way. He was truly a great all-rounder."

Barlow will be best remembered for the role he played in South Africa's drawn series in Australia in 1963-64.

"Someone said he wouldn't make a run in Australia, he sort of proved them wrong," said Goddard, South Africa's captain on that tour.

Opener Barlow scored 209 in the second match of the tour, against a Western Australia Combined side in Perth who included Graham McKenzie and Richie Benaud.

He made 114 in his only innings in the drawn first Test in Brisbane, and 109 and 54 in the second Test in Melbourne which Australia won by eight wickets.

His 201 in the fourth Test in Adelaide was part of a stand of 341 scored in 283 minutes with Graeme Pollock, who scored 175.

Barlow then ripped through Australia's middle order in their second innings, taking three for six from five overs, and scored an unbeaten 47 as South Africa won by 10 wickets to level the series.

Fast bowler Peter Pollock said South Africa had been written off before the tour.

"The Aussies said, 'Don't come -

nobody's going to come and watch you,'" he said.

Pollock said Barlow's performance was an important factor in confounding Australia's pre-conceptions.

"The tour was threatened, but right at the start Eddie scored that double hundred," he said. "He was the classic example of a guy applying what he had."

"He wasn't a Graeme Pollock, but he elevated himself into that sort of league by his application, and that was as a bowler, as a batsman, and as a fielder."

"His Test record shows that he only took 40 wickets, but they were all vital wickets. In any set of circumstances he would roll up his sleeves and come roaring in."

"He was able to swing the ball, and he had a very good slower ball."

Pollock said Barlow's habit of practising what he preached earned him added respect among his teammates.

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