



PHOTO: AFP

EVEN CURTLY AMBROSE COULDN'T BAT WITH THAT! The world's largest cricket bat is on display at a field in Green Point, Cape Town yesterday. A group of eight workers took five weeks to make the 16.17 metre long, 2.05 metre wide fibre-glass coated polyurethane bat. The bat is a contender for a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Lee fears beer

AFP, Johannesburg

Australia speed king Brett Lee believes his international career has been prolonged because he stopped drinking beer. The fast bowler called time on his drinking after his form slumped two years ago when he suffered from an ankle injury and a sore back which threatened his career. "According to studies being done, athletes who drink alcohol are 15 times more likely to get injured," Lee told the Business Day here. "It does not matter whether you are having one beer or 15 beers. I was told to try and stop drinking for a month. "One thing led to another and I did not have a single drink for 12 months. It was not hard work, it was one of those things where it was a good challenge.

Old DOHS

FROM PAGE 13
visitors from Scotland were dismissed for 168 runs in 37.2 overs with James Park hitting 47 off 41 balls. Opener Graham Booth and Nathan Copping added 36 and 25 respectively. Samsul Huda grabbed three for 30 while Asif Abdullah took two wickets for 19 runs. The hosts reached the target in 23.4 overs. Opener Jamal Faisal hit a quickfire 61 and his partner Tareq Chowdhury remained unbeaten on 55.

'Leave it to players'



REUTERS, Johannesburg

World Cup executive director Ali Bacher has called for cricket players to replace politicians and administrators in the spotlight just two days before the start of the controversy-plagued tournament. Bacher will play a key role on Thursday in deciding whether England's match against Zimbabwe should go ahead in Harare.

"Once the opening ceremony gets underway, followed by a fantastic match between South Africa and West Indies on Sunday, I'm as confident as I can be that cricket will take over," Bacher told Reuters. "It's time for the politicians and administrators, myself included, to take a back seat."

Bacher said he hoped the issues over England's match in Zimbabwe and New Zealand's in Kenya would be solved by the weekend. England have made an official request for their match against Zimbabwe in Harare on February 13 to be switched to South Africa, while New Zealand, also concerned about security, do not want to play Kenya in Nairobi on February 24.

Bacher, who sits on a World Cup technical committee on Thursday to consider England's submission,

said he was not totally surprised by the schedule problems dogging the tournament.

"It's a different world since September 11. It would be naive, in my opinion, to expect that in today's times one can host a world sporting event of this magnitude without political issues surfacing," he said.



ALI BACHER

Six men are due to take part the technical committee meeting in Cape Town at 1430 GMT, although former West Indies fast bowler Michael Holding may not reach South Africa in time.

The issue will be settled by a majority decision, with England or Zimbabwe allowed a further appeal to a judge.

Members of the technical com-

mittee:

Ali Bacher (South Africa). World Cup executive director and captain of the last team to play official Test cricket during the apartheid era. Responsible for the tournament's format, including giving six games to Zimbabwe and two to Kenya.

Malcolm Speed (Australia). ICC chief executive. The ICC has maintained that it is concerned solely with security and not political or moral issues.

Sunil Gavaskar (India). Chairman of the ICC cricket committee. Scored a world record 34 Test centuries for India before pursuing a career in administration. The Asian countries support playing in Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Michael Holding (West Indies). The world's fastest bowler in the late 1970s and now a perceptive television commentator. A man of independent views, he announced he would not commentate on any West Indies matches after the selectors appointed Carl Hooper as captain.

Campbell Jamieson (Australia). ICC commercial manager. One of several Australians holding senior positions in the world governing body.

Brian Basson (South Africa). A former umpire who was involved in working out the World Cup schedule.

Chess clinic

SPORTS REPORTER

A chess coaching programme for women and girls will start from 25th February 25 at the Sultana Kamal Mahila Sports Complex in Dhanmondi.

Participation in the programme is free of cost and registration formalities should be completed by February 22.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation will bear expenses of female players coming from the districts.

Tikolo the key Kenyan man

AFP, Nairobi

At the height of his powers, Steve Tikolo could rely on his quick eye and good reflexes to pile up runs that earned him respect as one of Kenya's best batsmen.

He set the country's best batting league record of 1,004 runs in 1993 when he eclipsed the five-year-old mark established by India-born professional Jaydeep Mathur for local side, Premier Club.

He was 50 runs short to make 2,000 runs in 1994, the year he set Kenya's one-day record of 206 runs before he was snapped up by South African provincial side, Border, to replace the West Indian Otis Gibson in 1995.

At the 1999 World Cup in England, Tikolo finished 10th among the top 20 batsmen in the first round, with an aggregate of 167 runs.

Annual sports

BSS, Manikganj

The three-day annual sports competition of Proshika ended at its Human Resource Development Centre here yesterday.

A record number of workers from the organisation took part in 22 events. They included cricket, race, carom, badminton, table tennis, discus throw, bicycle race, bridge, tug-of-war, dress-as-you-like and music competition.

President of Proshika Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed inaugurated the meet on February 4.

MASTERMIND

PRESS RELEASE

The day-long annual sports of Mastermind School begins at the Sultana Kamal Mahila Sports Complex today at 10 am.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor SMA Faiz will be present as the chief guest while the school's Principal Syed Fakhruddin Ahmed will distribute prizes among the winners.

Surjo Tarun

FROM PAGE 13
wickets conceding 59 runs in eight overs.

In reply, Victoria Sporting Club were bundled out for 72 in 17.2 overs. Sajjad Kabir was the most successful Surjo Tarun bowler capturing four wickets for 20 runs while Nuruzzaman bagged three for 33.

How the '96 WC

FROM PAGE 13
to Mark Waugh at mid-on. Donald dropped his bat, Waugh flicked the ball to Fleming who in turn rolled it wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist who broke the stumps.

The match was tied but Australia were in the final.

There they would face Pakistan who, as usual had blown hot and cold.

Against makeweights Bangladesh they lost by 62 runs in a game that will be forever dogged with allegations of match-fixing. But in the semifinal they thrashed New Zealand by nine wickets, Saeed Anwar and Wahajuddin Wasti sharing a World Cup first-wicket record of 194 in a match where fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's express pace yielded three valuable wickets.

However, the Lord's final was an anticlimax with Pakistan bowled out for just 132 as Australia won by eight wickets.

Inevitably more fixing claims followed but Australia could now lay claim to being the best team in both Test and one-day cricket and they aim to keep that crown over the next six weeks.

Zimbabwe threat

FROM PAGE 13
cricket here.

Zimbabwe are due to meet Namibia, England and India in Harare and Australia, Holland and Pakistan in Bulawayo, between February 9 and March 4.

While Australia are expected to fly in and out of Bulawayo within a day of their match on February 24, the other four apparently have no qualms about playing in Zimbabwe.

Ponting can't

FROM PAGE 13
For one Australian player, however, there usually is a good reason why he plays at his best in South Africa.

"I do get heckled a lot here in South Africa," leg-spinner Warne said.

"It doesn't matter which team we are playing against. The more I get heckled, the better I play and that goes for Pakistan too," he added.

Hooper powers WI



REUTERS, Kimberley

Captain Carl Hooper smashed an unbeaten 100 as West Indies crushed South African province Griqualand West by 142 runs in a World Cup warm-up match on Wednesday.

Hooper, who has not played a one-day international since undergoing corrective surgery on his knees in November, hit two sixes and nine fours for only 69 balls, helping his side to a massive total of 360 for four.

Griqualand West then struggled to 218 for six from their 50 overs, West Indies seam bowlers Pedro Collins and Vasbert Drakes taking two wickets each.

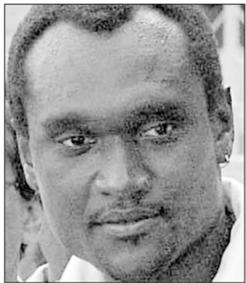
"It was good to get some runs under my belt, especially in the last game before we play South Africa in the tournament opener," Hooper told Reuters.

"I was a bit rusty but my knees held up well, especially with all the twisting and turning between the wickets. My legs feel strong."

"Griqualand West have done well in their domestic competitions recently but we beat them convincingly."

After Hooper had won the toss,

West Indies opener Wavell Hinds hit an 83-ball 96 and Ramnaresh Sarwan struck 80, but Brian Lara, who made 45 against Free State



HOOPER...100 not out

two days ago, was dismissed for 18 after stroking four boundaries.

Sarwan and Hooper shared a fourth-wicket stand of 120 before Sarwan was removed by Deon Kruij, but Ricardo Powell plundered an unbeaten 34 off only 20 deliveries to take his side past 350.

West Indies, World Cup winners in 1975 and 1979, begin their campaign against hosts South Africa on Sunday in Cape Town in the opening match of the tournament.

Mandela's plea

AFP, Johannesburg

Former South African president Nelson Mandela appealed Wednesday to England and New Zealand to play their cricket World Cup matches in Zimbabwe and Kenya, saying their refusal could plunge cricket into chaos.

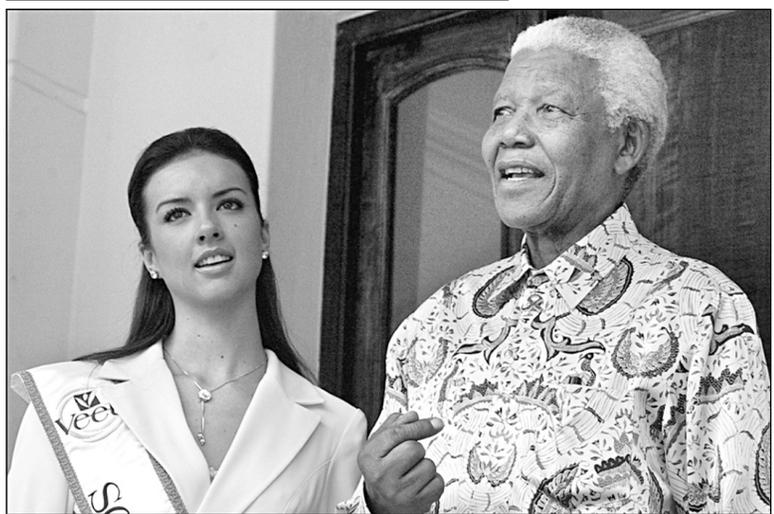
"They must respect what the international cricket community says because we must sow discipline. If we refuse to follow what the international body says, we are introducing chaos," he told reporters in Johannesburg.

The English Cricket Board has formally requested the International Cricket Council to have their February 13 World Cup match in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare switched to South Africa, citing security reasons.

Meanwhile New Zealand have pulled out of their World Cup game in Nairobi, Kenya, saying they had information of a terrorist threat after 11 people were killed in a bomb attack at a Mombasa hotel.

But Mandela said the international cricket authorities had done their homework on the matter and would not allow the matches to continue if they posed a danger to players, SABC radio news reported.

"They know what is dangerous for cricket and if they say cricketers must go to Zimbabwe, must go to Kenya, that's what they must do," he said.



Newly crowned Miss South Africa Cindy Nell stands with former South African president Nelson Mandela outside his office in Johannesburg on February 5.

Saeed to elbow injury



AFP, Johannesburg

Veteran Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar, laid low by a Shoaib Akhtar missile, said on Thursday he was desperate to play in his team's World Cup opener against defending champions Australia.

The 34-year-old, making a comeback in the national team after a five-month absence, had his left elbow bruised by a thunderbolt from pace bowler Akhtar during Pakistan's nets earlier this week.

The injury sent shock waves through the Pakistani camp, but Anwar said he was working hard to be fit for Tuesday's key match against the Australians at the Wanderers here.

"I am desperate to play in this important match, because it holds the key to our future in the tournament," Anwar told AFP.

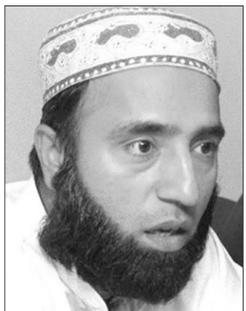
"I am icing the elbow for two days and went to see an orthopaedic surgeon and in a few days I should know where I stand."

Anwar, whose 194 against India six years ago remains one-day cricket's highest individual score, sat out Pakistan's last warm-up match against a provincial team in Benoni on Thursday.

"When I received that blow I thought my World Cup was over but thanks to Almighty Allah there was no fracture," he said.

Anwar has not played active cricket since Pakistan's game against the Netherlands in the ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka last September.

Anwar, sporting a long beard after turning a devout Muslim two



SAEED ANWAR

years ago following his daughter's death, gave a sermon at a local mosque in Johannesburg earlier this week.

"A cricketer delivering a sermon attracts a lot of people and since

cricketers are most sought after, people take a lot of notice of the religious things," said a local Muslim social worker Ahmed Hussain.

Meanwhile, Pakistani all-rounder Wasim Akram took a stroll down memory lane on Thursday as his country's World Cup squad attended a development clinic for young children.

"It was a fantastic experience and some of the kids asked me about my childhood and how I broke into cricket," Akram told AFP.

"It took me back to my childhood for a moment."

The entire Pakistan squad visited the a school on the outskirts of Johannesburg for a 90-minute cricket session with children.

"Some of the kids were amazing and we had a great time," said Akram, who is taking part in his fifth World Cup.

Wasim burst onto the international scene as a 18-year-old in 1984 and attained dizzy heights as the only bowler with more than 400 wickets in both Test and one-day cricket.

His 490 wickets in the shorter version of the game is a world record.

"I remember when I was a kid I used to watch the legendary Imran Khan and wanted to be like him."

Good day for biggies

FROM PAGE 13
Mosaddek was ably supported by pacers Aminul Islam Junior and Anisur Rahman, who bagged three and two wickets respectively. Number eight Shamimul Haque topscored for Brothers with 42 off 54 balls.

Both teams now have collected six points after three matches.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the three GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches at different venues in the city yesterday:

Abahani v Uttara SC
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

ABAHANI
Sajjadul c Shafiqul b Debabrata 14
Mehrab lbw b Sumon 25
Tareq lbw b Monirul 85
Akram c Moniruzzaman b Shafiqul 17
Asadullah c Rana b Monirul 26
Neeyamur c Monirul b Aslam 9
Mukhter st Rana b Aslam 1
Arman run out 7
Russell not out 8
Suja not out 0
Extras: (b-3, nb-3, w-4) 10
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs) 202
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-63, 3-95, 4-174, 5-177, 6-179, 7-189, 8-195

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Debabrata	8	0	35	1
Rabbani	5	0	24	0
Sumon	10	3	27	1
Shafiqul	9	2	35	1
Faisal	5	0	26	0
Monirul	8	0	34	2
Aslam	5	1	18	2

UTTARASC

Moniruzzaman run out 10
Shahriar b Russell 11
Shafiqul c Mukhter b Russell 5
Sumon c Mukhter b Russell 0
Faisal run out 32
Arman handled ball 0
Rana c Mukhter b Arman 12
Monirul c Mukhter b Russell 25
Aslam c Mukhter b Mehrab 9
Rabbani b Suja 17
Debabrata not out 2

Extras: (lb-4, nb-2, w-6) 12
Total: (All out in 46.3 overs) 135
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-25, 3-26, 4-37, 5-40, 6-69, 7-77, 8-101, 9-128

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Alamgir	8	1	31	1
Russell	10	1	25	3
Neeyamur	5	1	13	0
Arman	10	1	24	1
Suja	7.3	0	21	1
Mehrab	6	0	17	1

Rersult: Abahani won by 67 runs.

Mohammedan SC v Surjo Tarun
Venue: Bangabandhu National

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nazmul	7	1	23	0
Monirul	10	1	23	1
Ilyas	10	1	39	1
Ziaul	4	0	43	0
Obayed	10	0	53	2
Rafiqul	9	0	63	5

Extras: (b-2, lb-13, nb-1, w-11) 27
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 259
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-95, 3-96, 4-167, 5-173, 6-214, 7-221, 8-259

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nazmul	7	1	23	0
Monirul	10	1	23	1
Ilyas	10	1	39	1
Ziaul	4	0	43	0
Obayed	10	0	53	2
Rafiqul	9	0	63	5

SURJO TARUN

Jubayer lbw b Enamul 24
Rafiqul b Munir 1
Sakib c Aftab b Hasibul 2
Nasiruddin b Fahim 37
Sohel run out 26
Nazmul c Enamul b Fahim 12
Obayed c and b Fahim 5
Fazle c S Mahmud b Javed 40
Ilyas run out 13
Monirul not out 12
Ziaul not out 1

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahnewaz	8	1	15	1
lqbal	7	1	31	0
Mustadir	9	0	52	2
Rana	8	0	39	1
Mustakim	10	1	32	1
Masroor	8	0	50	3

BROTHERS UNION

Salauddin c Jahangir b Aminul jr 14
Shahriar lbw b Aminul jr 8
Mustadir b Aminul jr 0
Masroor b Anis 0
Mahubub c b Anis 0
Halim c Mortuza b Mosaddek 31
Mustakim c Aminul jr b Mosaddek 32
Shamimul b Aminul jr 42
S'newaz c Aminul sr b Mosaddek 6
lqbal c Hasanuzzaman b Mosaddek 0

Rana not out 10
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-7) 10
Total: (All out in 41.5 overs) 153
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-21, 3-22, 4-22, 5-27, 6-88, 7-92, 8-105, 9-108

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anis	7	2	13	2
Aminul jr	7	2	18	3
Athar	4	0	17	0
Ahsanullah	6	0	26	0
Ziaur	7	1	20	0
Mosaddek	10	0	56	4
Aminul sr	0.5	0	1	1

Result: Biman won by 78 runs.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Managing director of Shahjalal Bank (C) addresses the audience before inaugurating the 1st International Rating Chess tournament at the Conference Room of National Sports Council on Wednesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Disney-land attractions 6 Prior night 9 "— milk?" 12 Sidestep 13 Zoro 14 Mimic 15 Zoo 16 Lowlow 16 It's formed on a 18 Corre-spondent 20 X-rated stuff 21 Owns 23 River structure 24 Con games 25 Footnote abbr.

DOWN
1 "Go, team!" 2 Wall climber 3 Dinosaur 4 Constal lllor 5 Lactom creator 6 Sot up a bivouac 7 Centrifuge insert 8 Wapiti 9 Ray type 10 Codename 11 Some source 12 Some books 17 Type of account owner 21 It's a guy thing 22 Gettysburg addresser 24 Blue 26 Under-stand fully 28 Aria sup-plier 30 " your old man!" 32 Fire bird? 33 Haul 34 "Enio Canal" mule 36 — Hill, PA 38 Humon-gous sci-fi villain 39 Indian, e.g. 40 Moves toward 42 Snoopy's foe, e.g. 45 Anger 46 Fork feature 48 Aries 50 Old French coin 51 USNA grad