

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsad outplayed Binodpur Sporting Club by 211 runs in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium yesterday. ... Winning the toss Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsad batted first and collected 248 runs for six in the stipulated 35 overs.

Andre fined, suspended

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa A fast bowler Andre Nel has been fined and suspended for six matches after being arrested in Australia on a drunk-driving charge last week, a South African cricket spokeswoman said Tuesday. ... Nel was found guilty and fined his match fee amounting to 17,280 rand (2,200 dollars) and he was suspended for six matches,

Nel was arrested by the Australian police in Hobart, Tasmania, on Friday, while driving under the influence of alcohol. ... He was handed over to South African cricket authorities as an alternative to being charged, and was sent back home. ... This is not the first time the talented bowler has courted trouble.

He was found guilty and fined his match fee amounting to 17,280 rand (2,200 dollars) and he was suspended for six matches, Wilkinson said. ... The six-match suspension counted for all forms of the game. ... Nel was arrested by the Australian police in Hobart, Tasmania, on Friday, while driving under the influence of alcohol.

What to WATCH BTV Bangladesh vs South Africa TVS Cup Tri-Series Live at 2:00 pm ESPN English Premier Football League Arsenal vs Man United Repeat at 2:30 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm STAR Sports Bangladesh vs South Africa TVS Cup Tri-Series Live at 2:00 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 10:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 192 Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm April 25, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 192 Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm April 25, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

Weak Zim name team for Eng

AFP, Harare

Without the services of four key players Zimbabwe revealed a weakened squad Tuesday for their ten-week tour of England beginning on May 3. ... The question of whether the team could provide a serious challenge for England and South Africa was raised as the squad prepare to leave Harare for London on April 30.

The list of 20 does not include two top batsmen, the country's most experienced all-rounder and one of their three main strike bowlers. ... Missing are Zimbabwe's world-rated batsman Andy Flower, who quit to play for Essex and South Australia after being hounded out of the country together with his family.

In the opening match of World Cup, Flower and teammate Henry Olunga issued a statement condemning President Robert Mugabe's government and wore black armbands to mourn "the death of democracy". ... Fast bowler Olunga retired from international cricket afterwards and said he could not return to Zimbabwe because he feared for his safety.

Aussies to host Zimbabwe in October

REUTERS, Sydney Australia will host Zimbabwe for the first time in a Test series later this year as part of their build-up to a four-match series with India, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) announced on Wednesday. ... The historic two-match series with Zimbabwe will be played in October with the first Test in Perth from October 9 to 13 and the second in Sydney from October 17 to 21. ... The Africans will also join Australia and India in a one-day series in the first two months of 2004 after those teams have played two Tests.

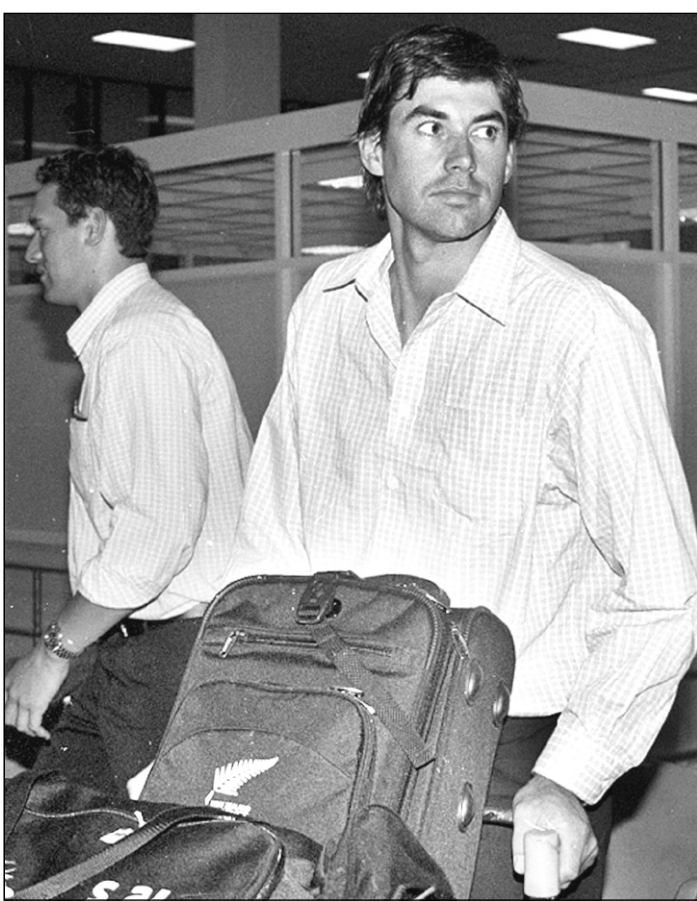
The Australians, who beat India in this year's World Cup final, will travel to India in November for a triangular one-day series, before returning home to play them again in four Tests, in Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. ... Zimbabwe will play five other matches on tour in Australia, including one first-class match against Western Australia, while India play two first-class matches against Victoria and Australia A. ... The Australians normally only play at home between November and February but ACB chief executive James Sutherland said they had been forced to break from the traditional schedule to fit in with the International Cricket Council's 10-year programme. ... "Nine out of 10 Test nations stage their cricket seasons at the same time of year, so there is an ongoing need to share the October to March period," Sutherland said in a statement. ... "Our plan to tour India in November is an example of implementing the reciprocal arrangements with India and a consequence of sharing the same cricket season."

selection policy. He will now take up a radio commentary job and probably play league cricket in England. ... And Guy Whittall, holder of a Test double-century and effective medium pacer, has retired early at 34 years old. ... Zimbabwe are obliged to bring in several inexperienced players and one debutant, quick bowler Vusumuzi Sibanda. ... Zimbabwe will arrive in Britain on April 30 for a two-Test tour at Lord's and Durham and the one-day series against England and South Africa. ... The fixture list includes four-day matches against British Universities, Worcestershire, Sussex and Middlesex, two one-day matches in Northern Ireland, three one-day matches against Somerset, Hampshire and Essex when Andy Flower will probably be among the opposition and a triangular against England and South Africa, before returning home in mid-July. ... Additional players for the one-day matches: Gary Brent, Waddington Mwayenga, Stuart Matsikenyere, Charles Coventry, Richard Sims.

THE TEST SQUAD Heath Streak (captain), Tatenda Taibu (vice-captain), Grant Flower, Dion Ebrahim, Mark Vermeulen, Barney Rogers, Sean Ervine, Andy Blynaut, Mluleki Nkala, Stuart Carlisle, Ray Price, Travis Friend, Vusumuzi Sibanda, Douglas Hondo, Douglas Marillier. ... Coach: Geoff Marsh; Manager: Mohammad Maman.

Lindsay, Jennifer advance

AFP, Amelia Island Second seed Lindsay Davenport won easily while Jennifer Capriati was tested in their first matches of a 585,000 dollar WTA clay court event here on Tuesday. ... Davenport, of the United States, cruised to a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Australia's Nicole Pratt and moved on to the third round. ... Azharuddin, 40, banned for life from cricket three years ago in the wake of the match-fixing scandal, said he planned to start a "world class" cricket academy in his home town of Hyderabad soon. ... "I want to produce international cricketers for India," Azharuddin told the NDTV news channel and stressed the life ban imposed on him by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will not come in the way. ... "I do not see any reason why I need to take permission to start an academy or to do commentary," he said. ... "I think I can do a lot of justice to the country. I can make sure that the academy runs well and hopefully produce international cricketers." ... The residential academy will be managed by Azharuddin's former Hyderabad teammate Kanwaljit Singh, one of the most successful off-spinners in domestic cricket. ... Azharuddin and ex-first class cricketer Ajay Sharma were banned for life and international players Ajay Jadeja and Manoj Prabhakar handed five-year suspensions after they were named in a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) match-fixing probe in 2000. ... Both Azharuddin and Jadeja challenged the BCCI decision in court, and while Jadeja was absolved of any wrong-doing in January, Azharuddin's appeal is still pending in a court in Hyderabad. ... Azharuddin's lawyer Arun Bharadwaj was confident his client will be cleared. ... "The cases (of Jadeja and Azharuddin) are very similar in nature, the allegations are similar and the BCCI's evidence in both cases is similar and based more on hearsay than anything else," Bharadwaj said. ... "We are confident justice will be meted out to Azharuddin too." ... Azharuddin, India's most successful Test captain and a stylish middle-order batsman, was stranded on 99 Test appearances when he was banned. ... He scored 6,215 Test runs and remains one-day cricket's second-highest scorer after teammate Sachin Tendulkar with 9,378 runs from 334 matches.



New Zealand cricket captain Stephen Fleming arrives at the Colombo International Airport on April 16. The Kiwis came to the island nation to play two Tests and a one-day international triangular tournament with hosts Sri Lanka and Pakistan. On the left is pace bowler Daryll Tuffey.

Talent-hunter Azhar

AFP, New Delhi

Disgraced former Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin said on Wednesday he was going to open a coaching school to groom youngsters to play the game at the highest level. ... Azharuddin, 40, banned for life from cricket three years ago in the wake of the match-fixing scandal, said he planned to start a "world class" cricket academy in his home town of Hyderabad soon. ... "I want to produce international cricketers for India," Azharuddin told the NDTV news channel and stressed the life ban imposed on him by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will not come in the way. ... "I do not see any reason why I need to take permission to start an academy or to do commentary," he said. ... "I think I can do a lot of justice to the country. I can make sure that the academy runs well and hopefully produce international cricketers." ... The residential academy will be managed by Azharuddin's former Hyderabad teammate Kanwaljit Singh, one of the most successful off-spinners in domestic cricket. ... Azharuddin and ex-first class cricketer Ajay Sharma were banned for life and international players Ajay Jadeja and Manoj Prabhakar handed five-year suspensions after they were named in a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) match-fixing probe in 2000. ... Both Azharuddin and Jadeja challenged the BCCI decision in court, and while Jadeja was absolved of any wrong-doing in January, Azharuddin's appeal is still pending in a court in Hyderabad. ... Azharuddin's lawyer Arun Bharadwaj was confident his client will be cleared. ... "The cases (of Jadeja and Azharuddin) are very similar in nature, the allegations are similar and the BCCI's evidence in both cases is similar and based more on hearsay than anything else," Bharadwaj said. ... "We are confident justice will be meted out to Azharuddin too." ... Azharuddin, India's most successful Test captain and a stylish middle-order batsman, was stranded on 99 Test appearances when he was banned. ... He scored 6,215 Test runs and remains one-day cricket's second-highest scorer after teammate Sachin Tendulkar with 9,378 runs from 334 matches.

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN or to do commentary," he said. ... "I think I can do a lot of justice to the country. I can make sure that the

Pollock plays

FROM PAGE 13 around and then suddenly realise you have to more or less stick to your fielding position. ... "But I also have the responsibility of helping the youngsters develop, pass on my experience to them." ... Pollock, who has played 68 Tests and 188 one-dayers, said his contribution to the team as a player too was going to be different in the coming days. ... "I have to adjust to new things like bowling first-change when I have bowled with the new ball all my life. I am likely to have a higher batting position too, so I have to learn certain aspects." ... Pollock felt it was difficult to say how the job could be for a young captain like Smith without top players Rhodes and Donald, who have retired, and Gary Kirsten, who will not play one-dayers any more. ... "It is difficult because you miss their experience, but easy because you only have younger players to mould." ... Regarding criticism of their World Cup team by former players, particularly of paceman Donald by former seamer Fanie de Villiers, Pollock felt it was not the best thing to happen before the World Cup. ... "I would have liked the former cricketers to come to the nets and help the team rather than write or say negative things about them. Once the team has been decided, you need to back your players."

Smith too young FROM PAGE 13 concentrates only on cricket. ... "When the players are faced with issues, their concentration gets affected. The great sides of the era are the ones without any issues," he said. ... Woolmer revealed that he has not accepted an offer to coach West Indies. ... "I met the (West Indies) selection panel and told them that I am not ready for a 12-month job," he said. ... "I am very happy with the ICC job. One of the pleasures of working with the ICC is that I get to meet more and more people. I love spreading the gospel of cricket."

INDIA-B'DESH SCOREBOARD Table with columns for Player, Runs, Balls, Wickets, etc.

Soup-only Flintoff

Cricket INTERNET, London

Andrew Flintoff insists he is in better shape than ever thanks to a diet of vegetable soup. ... The England all-rounder has struggled to keep his weight down in the past. ... But with the new season just two days away he claims a soup-only diet is stopping him from looking like Robbie Coltrane, who plays Hagrid in the Harry Potter films. ... Flintoff, one of England's few stars in a miserable World Cup campaign, will play for Lancashire against defending county champions Surrey at The Oval when the new season kicks off on Good Friday. ... And the 25-year-old said: "I have to be careful what I eat and drink. I've been on a vegetable soup diet for the past four days. ... "I've been training hard with a personal trainer and I feel in great nick. ... "I enjoyed myself for a few days after I got back after the World Cup but I couldn't have too much time off because I just put weight on. ... "If I had more than a week off I'd end up like Robbie Coltrane." ... Flintoff, who missed the Ashes tour



ANDREW FLINTOFF

they didn't trust me with that so they shoved me up front to run around. ... "I scored once, I was happy with that. It was a toe-poke. The keeper fumbled it and I followed it up. ... "But I don't think my ECB contract

Kuerten sent packing

Tennis AFP, Monaco

Many of the stars, such as Andre Agassi and Lleyton Hewitt, for one reason or another elected not to come. ... But one packed his bags early as two-time Monte Carlo Masters champion Gustavo Kuerten snatched defeat from the jaws of victory on Wednesday, Swede Magnus Norman posting a 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 win to avenge his 2000 French Open final loss against the Brazilian showman. ... Kuerten, three times a champion at Roland Garros, had needed nine match points to beat Norman three years ago in Paris. ... This time he didn't just have trouble closing things out - he crashed out - somehow contriving to lose a 6-1, 5-2 advantage as Norman roared back to book a third round meeting with Italy's Filippo Volandri, a 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) winner over Argentine sixth seed David Nalbandian, last year's Wimbledon finalist. ... Norman, a wildcard entrant here, has endured two atrocious injury-ravaged years and said the 1hr 58min win tasted all the sweeter given the

identity of his opponent. ... "This was one of my best victories. I am very happy because I had a lot of problems the last two years with my body." ... In addition, he had never forgotten his Roland Garros beating. ... "That match stuck in my mind. So I am happy to get the revenge today,"



GUSTAVO KUERTEN

said the 26-year-old from Filipstad now ranked a modest 94th on the ATP Entry System. ... If South American fans were disappointed so were those from the north

MSC, Abahani sail

Scoreboard for Bangladesh vs South Africa and Abahani v Brothers Union with columns for Innings, Runs, Wickets, etc.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid and clues.