

## Mashud left in the cold

### Mashrafe, Enamul for Tests

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The omission of veteran wicketkeeper and former national skipper Khaled Mashud was the talk of the town after the national selectors announced a 14-man squad for the GrameenPhone two-Test series against South Africa

selection panel led by Aliul Islam opted for Mashud's understudy Mohammad Salim for the Test series.

Mashud has appeared in 16 out of 17 Test matches Bangladesh have played so far after getting the Test status in June 2000. In his 30 Test innings, Mashud has scored 407 runs at an average of 16.28. He has also taken 25 catches and effected one stumping.

The reason behind Mashud's

sudden fall from grace is shrouded in mystery. Sources close to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) say that the selectors were instructed by the Board high-ups to drop Mashud on disciplinary grounds.

BCB insiders are saying that a probe committee formed by Board president Ali Asghar recently found allegations of match-fixing and improper conduct against Mashud during the ICC World Cup in South Africa where he was the captain of the team.

It is thought that an ICC vigilance team had reported specifically against Mashud for his off the field behavior during the tournament. Besides, Bangladesh's shock losses against Canada and Kenya also raised eyebrows giving ascent to rumours that Mashud might have been involved in fixing the outcome of those games.

However the Board has kept everybody in the dark regarding the probe committee's report and its implications, if any, on Mashud.

"I have no knowledge about this matter," said BCB advisor and cricket committee chairman Mahbubul Anam yesterday.

Chief selector Aliul claimed that Mashud's omission was purely based on his recent lack of form.

"I am not influenced by any other aspect apart from his form which has been unsatisfactory in the tri-series. Besides, what's wrong with trying out a new player who happens to be an understudy of Mashud," he asked the Daily Star Sport.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



India captain Saurav Ganguly hoists South Africa's Paul Adams towards long-off during their TVS Cup tri-series clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Bangladesh tour WI in May 04

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will play two Tests and three one-day internationals when they tour the West Indies from May-June next year.

The tour, beginning in May 12, kicks off with a one-day practice match in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Test babes will then play three ODIs against the Caribbeans.

The first two 50-over games will be held at Kingston on May 15 and 16 and the final game on May 19, is at St George's in Granada.

The first Test starts in Georgetown, Guyana on May 28 with the second and final Test commencing in Castries, St Lucia on June 4.

Before the Test series, however, the tourists will play a three-day game in Georgetown from May 22-24.

The West Indies visited Bangladesh last December.

## BD-Myanmar match today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on Myanmar in their return-leg Athens Olympic football preliminary round clash at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today. The match will kick off at 6 pm.

The home side will need to overturn the 3-0 deficit they conceded last week in Yangon in order to progress to the next round.

The Myanmar Under-23 footballers arrived in the city on Wednesday.

## SERIES SNIPPETS

HASAN MASOOD



Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud will soon be meeting the Board to know exactly what was his job

as team captain is. He was speaking to the reporters during the post-match briefing on Thursday night.

"I am enjoying the captaincy on the field but not off the field," said the disgruntled Mahmud adding his opinions were being mostly ignored by the selection panel of Aliul Islam.

"I have to play with the team named by the selectors. So, I cannot be held responsible for when they are not performing," he said referring to the 93-run defeat against South Africa on Thursday.

Interim-coach Sarwar Imran, however, added that the players were suffering from uncertainty due to the frequent chopping and changing of the

team so far in the tournament. "Nobody is sure about his place now," he said.

### CAMP DOWN UNDER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board is planning to arrange a two-week camp in Australia revealed Cricket Committee chairman Mahbubul Anam yesterday. The cricketers will be flying down under on July 5.

"The team management made the request since it is not possible to practice at home because of the monsoon season. I'm going to talk to the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) about the matter and hopefully they will accept our proposal," Anam said.

The ACB has arranged two three and four-day practice matches for Bangladesh, who will be playing the two-Test series in brand new venues.

The first Test gets underway in Darwin on July 18 while the final Test starts in Cairns a week later.

The first two one-day internationals will also be held in Cairns on August 2 and 3 while the last ODI will be played in Darwin on August 6.



KHALED MASHUD



MOHAMMAD SALIM

yesterday.

The first Test will be held in Chittagong from April 24-28 while the second match is scheduled at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka from May 1-5.

After getting unceremoniously dropped from Bangladesh's last match in the TVS Cup tri-series against South Africa on Thursday, a further shock was in store for the 29-year-old when the

### SQUAD

Khaled Mahmud (captain), Mehrab Hossain, Mohammad Ashraf, Javed Omar, Habibul Bashar, Akram Khan, Sanwar Hossain, Mohammad Salim (wicketkeeper), Alok Kapali, Mohammad Rafique, Tapas Baishya, Manjurul Islam, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza and Enamul Hoque.

## BCB colts post win

SPORTS REPORTER

The BCB Under-15 team registered six-wicket win in the sub-junior cricket tournament in Silliguri, West Bengal over the hosts Siliguri Agraamee at the Kanchanjunga Stadium yesterday.

It was their second win the competition following the exciting one-run victory over Bagha Jatin the day before.

Chasing a paltry Agraamee total of 106 in 35 overs, the visitors

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

## Bracewell too rejects SL job

INTERNET, Gloucestershire

John Bracewell has confirmed that he has responded negatively in writing to the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka concerning their vacant post of national coach.

John has made it clear that although he is ambitious to coach at a higher level, the timing is not right, he still has two seasons to run and the enjoyment of working with the side under Mark Alleyne with the addition of overseas player, Jonty Rhodes was too good an opportunity to advance his own coaching learning and personal development.

## McGrath, Martyn return for ODIs

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Leading paceman Glenn McGrath leaves on Monday to rejoin the Australian team for the last two cricket Tests in the West Indies and the seven-match one-day international series, the Australian Cricket Board said on Friday.

McGrath returned home before the team arrived in the West Indies after learning that his wife had been diagnosed with a secondary cancer infection in her hip. It was her second battle against cancer in six years.

Jane McGrath has undergone further treatment which is expected to lead to a full recovery.

Australian selectors on Friday included McGrath and batsman Damien Martyn in a 15-man squad for the ODIs against the West Indies from May 17-June 1.

Martyn must prove his fitness before the series after missing selection in the Test squad because of a fractured finger.

Martyn starred in last month's World Cup final win over India in Johannesburg, but the injury to his right index finger was later diagnosed as more

serious than first thought.

Jason Gillespie, who was forced to return home from the World Cup with a heel injury but who has since proven his fitness taking six wickets in Australia's nine-wicket victory over the Windies in last week's first Test, returns to the one-day squad at the expense of quick bowler Nathan Bracken.

"The group we have selected, with the inclusion of Jason Gillespie for Nathan Bracken, is basically that which won the World Cup last month," chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said on Friday.

"Winning a tournament as important as this is a fairly good indicator that at this point in time, we have the right player-mix at the one-day international level."

The one-day series begins with a double-header at Sabina Park in Jamaica on May 17.

### SQUAD

Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist (vice-captain), Michael Bevan, Andrew Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Nathan Hauritz, Ian Harvey, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Jimmy Maher, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Andrew Symonds.

## Windies must not lose

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

Steve Waugh's Australians will retain the Frank Worrell Trophy with victory over the West Indies in the second cricket Test starting at Queen's Park Oval here on Saturday.

Australia downed the West Indies by nine wickets inside four days in the opening Georgetown Test five days ago and can defend the trophy by winning here to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the four-Test series.

The pressure is on Brian Lara's team to take away the initiative from the Australians on a Port of Spain pitch which is grassier than the lifeless one at Bourda in the first match.

Australia has stayed true to its winning lineup, meaning that the tourists will go into the second Test again with five specialist bowlers and sacrificing a batsman to force a win.

"I'm not at all concerned about our batting. If we don't get enough runs with that order, I don't think it's anything to do with the make-up of the order, it's just the guys haven't done the job," Waugh said on Friday.

"We've got Adam Gilchrist (batting) at six, who averages 59 in Test cricket."

"That's pretty good. I'm confident in Brad Hogg, Andy Bichel, who's much

improved, Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie they're four very good lower order batsmen.

"And five bowlers obviously gives you options."

The Windies have strengthened their batting with the return of vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan from a finger injury, while wicketkeeper-batsman Carlton Baugh and off-spinner Omari Banks are vying for their Test debuts.

Tino Best, the leading wicket-taker in the major Caribbean domestic competition this season with 39 wickets at an average of 18.25, has come into the 13-man squad as a replacement for fast bowler Jermaine Lawson, who has chicken pox.

Australia have won their last seven Tests against the West Indies since winning the fourth Test in Antigua by 176 runs to draw the last Caribbean series 2-2 in 1999.

The West Indies' task will be to take 20 wickets. It was beyond them at Georgetown, where they only snapped up 11, but the inclusion of 21-year-old Banks from the tiny Leeward Islands offers the home side a spinning option which they did not have in Guyana.

In the corresponding series four years ago, the West Indies lost the first Test in Port of Spain by a massive 312 runs after being routed for 51 in their second innings the lowest West Indian

total in Tests.

But spearheaded by a magnificent 213 by Lara, the Windies roared back winning the second Kingston Test by 10 wickets and the next in Barbados by one wicket.

Lara was sublime in the second innings in Georgetown last week, coming to the crease to boos from the Guyanese supporters blaming him for their hero Carl Hooper's loss of the Test captaincy, but subsequently cheering him to a glorious 110.

Lara will be playing before his adoring home audience in this Test and without facing his nemesis Glenn McGrath and champion leg-spinner Shane Warne, he gets his chance to firmly make his mark on the Port of Spain Test in a bid to keep the series alive to the third match in Barbados (May 1-5).

Australia and the West Indies have three wins each at Queen's Park Oval with five draws.

Head groundsman Curtis Roberts said he has prepared a "testing track" for the second Test.

"It will be very competitive. It will be very challenging for the batsmen, and if the bowlers keep to their task, they will be rewarded," Roberts said on Friday.

"Since, it is the highest level of the sport, the players will have to rise to the occasion on this testing track."

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8



PHOTO: INTERNET

Australia captain Steve Waugh bats in the nets during a practice session at the Queen's Park Oval in Port-of-Spain on April 17.

## Lara believes in WI

Cricket

REUTERS, Port of Spain

West Indies captain Brian Lara is confident his young team can rebound from their crushing nine-wicket defeat in the first Test against Australia and level the series in the second Test which starts on Saturday in Port of Spain.

Lara, who has vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan back after injury but will be without first-choice wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs and fast bowler Jermaine Lawson, was optimistic of a good result against an Australia side who will again field five bowlers.

"Before the series began I said I wanted us to compete and we did that in Guyana, when we lost because of the first session on the first day," he said.

"In Trinidad, we expect to go the distance. We want to play good cricket and compete and if we can do that and get a bit of luck, I think there's a good possibility that we can win the Test match."

"I know we lost the first match but we came out with three centuries and a lot of positive things."

"The team is still fresh, mentally strong and looking forward to the challenge."

West Indies are certainly in a more comfortable situation when they were before the Georgetown Test, when the players had only one practice together

after a chaotic build-up.

In the two weeks before the first Test, Carl Hooper was sacked as captain and then pulled out of the side altogether, Lara was hastily reappointed for a second stint in the job and Jamaican opener Chris Gayle was ruled ineligible to play.

Four players were then sent back-



BRIAN LARA

tracking to Jamaica after playing the final of the Carib Beer International Challenge final in Barbados four days before the start of the first Test instead of making the short hop direct to Guyana.

West Indies are likely to make several changes to the side and the replacements have brought the average age of the squad down to around 25, which Lara says is one of the lowest

in West Indies history.

"I think this has to be one of the youngest West Indies sides in a very, very long time," he said.

"As long as we compete and give a good account of ourselves, I think we can say we have won."

"I feel very upbeat and very confident."

Lara has also played down the idea that the single-handedly saved his team from defeat in their last home Test series against these opposition four years ago.

Lara reeled off scores of 213, 156 and 100 in successive innings in 1999 as West Indies came back from a crushing defeat in the opening Test to level the series 2-2.

"A lot of guys performed in those two Tests matches and not a lot of credit is being given to those guys' performances," Lara told reporters after a practice session on Thursday.

"Let me put this right. Jimmy Adams batted with me the whole day in Jamaica, (Jamaican off-spinner) Nehemiah Perry got five wickets in the same innings and (Sherwin) Campbell and (Ridley) Jacobs avoided the follow-on in Barbados," he added.

The 33-year-old left-hander however reminded Australia of his capabilities when he hit 110 in last week's first test in Guyana before his team crashed to a nine-wicket defeat.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

## Hussain hopes for the best

AFP, London

Nasser Hussain will look to bury the disappointment of the World Cup after being confirmed as England Test skipper.

Hussain, who surrendered the one-day captaincy after his side was knocked out of the World Cup in South Africa at the first round stage, had always maintained that he wanted to carry on as Test captain.

Now, his employers, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have granted his wish by keeping him in charge for the Test series against Zimbabwe and South Africa this summer.

"My dedication and efforts towards England have not altered one bit," said Hussain.

"The reason I gave up the one-day job was to give me more opportunity to work on my game and continue playing for England for a long while yet."

A new one-day skipper is expected to be named at the end of April with the new man likely to come from a group of three Michael Vaughan, Marcus Trescothick and Adam Hoolioake.

Hussain said he had spoken to England coach Duncan Fletcher and selectors David Graveney and Geoff Miller about potential successors to his crown.

"I've had my input and they've

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

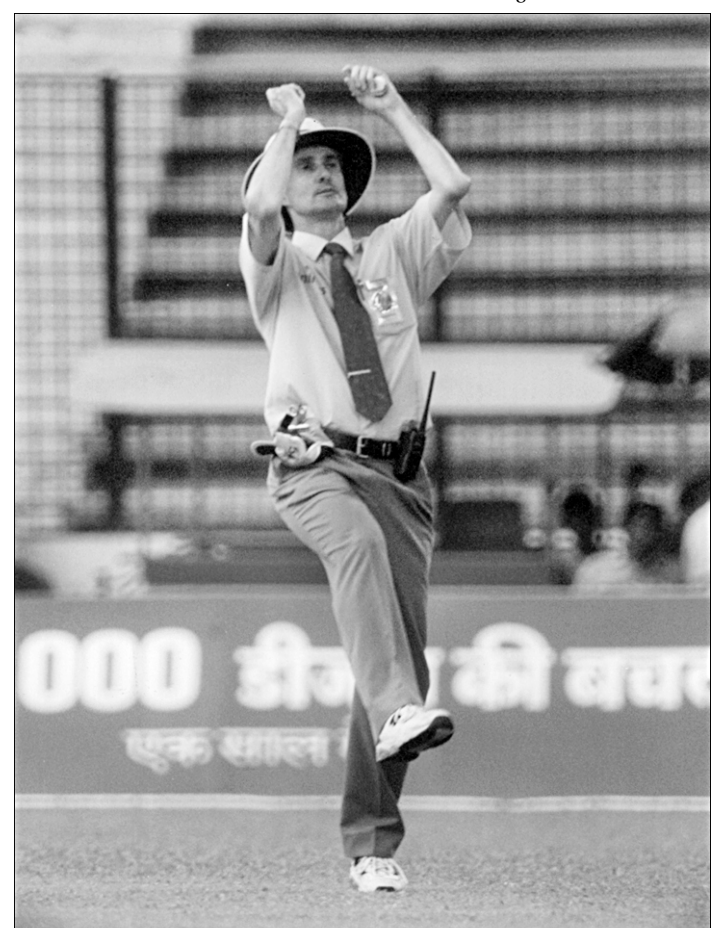


PHOTO: STAR

BALLET BOWDEN: Umpire Billy Bowden from New Zealand signals a six during the Indian innings yesterday.

## INDIA-S AFRICA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the TVS Cup triangular series match between India and South Africa at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 18:

INDIA	R	M	B	4	6
Virender Sehwag c G Smith b A Hall	25	50	30	3	1
Gautam Gambhir c A Hall b M Ntini	2	15	11	0	0
Saurav Ganguly c S Pollock b P Adams	61	116	83	6	1
Mohammad Kaif b A Dawson	30	65	49	4	0
Dinesh Mongia c N McKenzie b A Dawson	29	77	46	0	0
Sanjay Bangar lbw b M Ntini	9	21	21	0	0
Ajit Agarkar c A Hall b M Ntini	17	23	26	1	1
Parthiv Patel run out (Gibbs/Boucher)	6	18	6	1	0
Harbhajan Singh c M Boucher b A Dawson	1	4	2	0	0
Sarandeep Singh c G Smith b A Dawson	19	22	20	3	0
Aavishkar Salvi not out	4	13	9	0	0
Extras: (lb-2, w-2, nb-8)	12				
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs)	215				
Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Gambhir), 2-96 (Kaif), 3-124 (Ganguly), 4-146 (Bangar), 5-160 (Sehwag), 6-182 (Mongia), 7-184 (Agarkar), 8-186 (Harbhajan), 9-192 (Patel), 10-215 (Sarandeep)					
SOUTH AFRICA	R	M	B	4	6
Graeme Smith c Patel b A Salvi	2	17	13	0	0
Herschelle Gibbs lbw b H Singh	25	53	37	5	0
Boeta Dippenaar b H Singh	11	51	20	2	0
Jacques Rudolph c M Kaif b V Sehwag	37	71	64	2	0
Neil McKenzie c A Salvi b H Singh	80	132	107	6	0
Mark Boucher not out	44	72	49	2	0
Shaun Pollock not out	2	6	6	0	0
Extras: (lb-1, w-6, nb-8)	15				
Total: (For 5 wickets in 48.4 overs)	216				
Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Smith), 2-41 (Dippenaar), 3-42 (Gibbs), 4-105 (Rudolph), 5-212 (McKenzie)					

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

TIMBER: India's Mohammad Kaif is bowled by Allan Dawson of South Africa.