



PHOTO: STAR

BETTER COOL OFF: India cricketers spend time at the swimming pool of Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Title game today

SPORTS REPORTER



The TVS Cup is up for grabs today and both India and South Africa cannot afford to experiment anymore.

When the final of the tri-series begins this afternoon at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly and his South African counterpart Graeme Smith will be drawing the battle-lines with their best available resources.

The day-night clash is scheduled for a 2pm start with Bangladesh Television and STAR Sports providing live coverage.

With the score level at 1-1 after the preliminary phase of the 10-day competition, the third meeting promises to be something special. India won the first battle of the heavyweights by inflicting a 153-run defeat on April 14. However, the Proteas bounced back with a five-wicket win when the two teams met on Friday.

The new South African captain believes that the win on Friday will certainly give them the psychological edge over the Indians whom he still regarded as the favourites.

"I think the momentum is now with us. The Indians were not in the business yesterday (Friday). So they need to be more serious tomorrow. I think

it's going to be an exciting match," said the 22-year-old Smith who replaced Shaun Pollock after the World Cup.

"It's going to be a big day for South African cricket after we missed the World Cup final. I still believe that the Indian start as favourites. But have to put in lots of hard work in the final."

Smith revealed that Neil McKenzie and Allan Dawson were playing good cricket and he expected more from them on Sunday.

"They are very gutsy cricketers and really try hard to give hundred and fifty

per cent on the field. Hopefully, they can carry on with the same form," he said adding that the final squad will be named before the big match.

When asked how he was enjoying his new role as captain, Smith said that it was quite exciting for him.

"Yes, it's exciting and sometimes frustrating. It's tough but I'm gradually getting into the job," he said.

While Smith was very focused ahead of Sunday's final, Ganguly was relaxed.

Wearing in his favourite jeans, the 'Prince of Calcutta' made a surprise appearance at the imposing venue late in the afternoon to have a look at the wicket. He also sent down a few deliveries in the nets in his casual attire before speaking briefly to waiting reporters.

"It will turn tomorrow and so both Harbhajan and Sarandeep will play," said the Indian captain.

India's main concern will be to get Zaheer Khan fit in time for the game. The left-arm pace bowler has missed the last two games due to a hamstring problem.

He had a fitness test but coach John Wright said he now was running temperature and that might keep him out of the final.

"He appears to have contracted the same virus as Yuvraj Singh had last week," said Wright adding that Yuvraj had recovered from his illness.

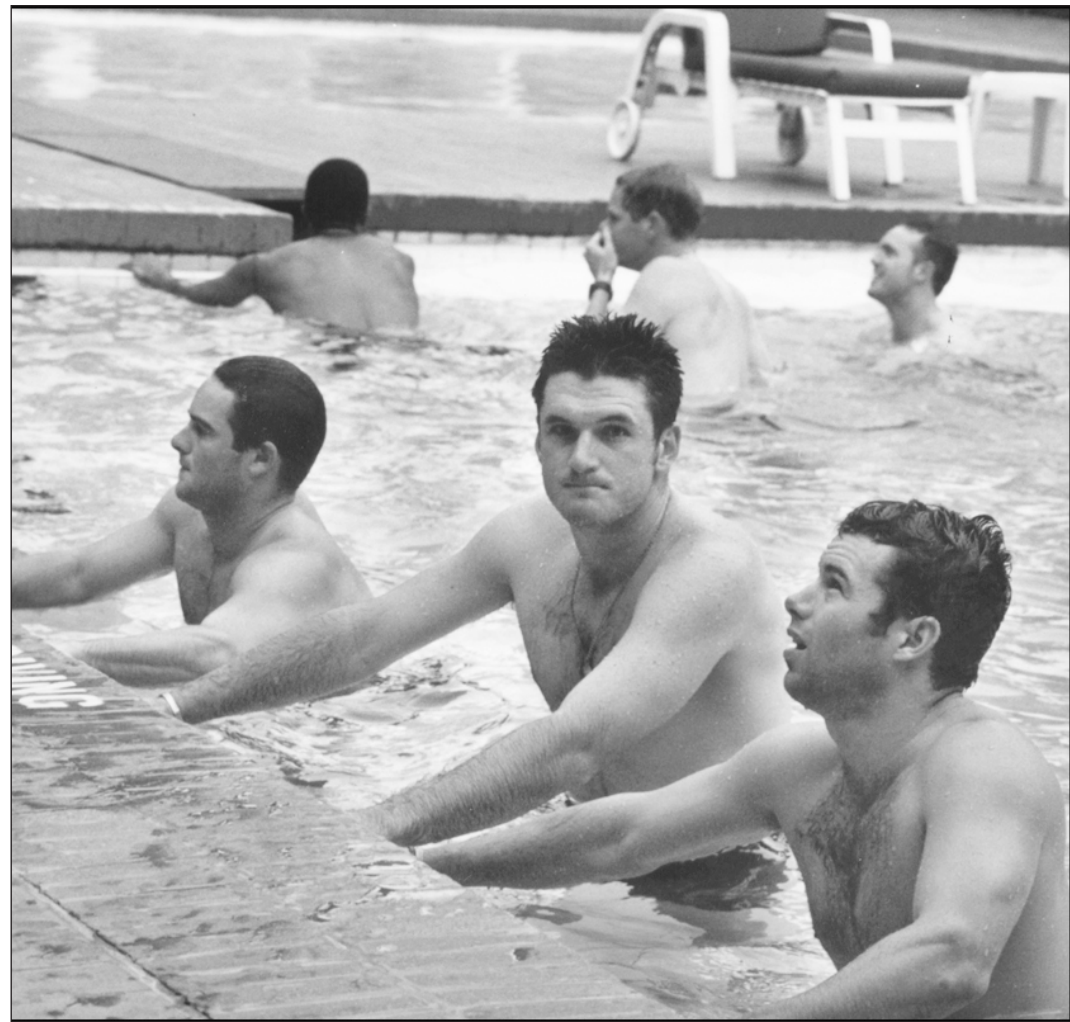


PHOTO: STAR

WE TOO ARE STAYING HERE: Instead of going outside, the South Africans also opted for a timeout at the Sonargaon Hotel pool yesterday.

Australia 113/2

SPORTS REPORTER

Australia were 113 for the loss of their openers at lunch on the opening day of the second Test against the West Indies at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain yesterday.

The tourists lost Justin Langer (25) and Matthew Hayden (30), both lbw to Mervyn Dillon, cheaply after they decided to bat.

Ricky Ponting was batting on 24 and Darren Lehman on 32.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehmann, Steve Waugh, Adam Gilchrist, Brad Hogg, Andy Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Brett Lee, Stuart MacGill.

WEST INDIES: Wavell Hinds, Devon Smith, Daren Ganga, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Brian Lara, Marlon Samuels, Dave Bernard, Carlton Baugh, Mervyn Dillon, Vasbert Drakes, Pedro Collins.

Young Taibu made deputy



INTERNET, Harare

Zimbabwe's selectors have named teenage wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu as vice-captain for the forthcoming tour of England as well as dropping Craig Wishart and resurrecting the international career of Stuart Carlisle.

Taibu, who captained Zimbabwe during the 2002 Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand, has replaced injured leg-spinner Brian Murphy in becoming his country's youngest ever vice-captain.

National team coach Geoff Marsh believes Taibu, 19 now but who will be 20 by the time the first Test begins, is capable of leading the team despite his tender years.

Marsh said: "Age is just a number. In life, opportunities come in all ages and his has come now.

"I think a wicketkeeper makes a very good vice-captain because he is in the centre of the game. He's got good

views of what's going on in the field.

"He can relate to the captain on what the bowlers are doing and what line the bowlers are keeping. Taibu is capable of leading the team in the middle and has the respect of all players."

Selectors were expected to name the side at the end of the inter-provincial Logan Cup but were forced to come up with a line-up two weeks in advance as Zimbabweans now require visas to enter England.

Carlisle, a former captain, has forced his way back into the squad following an outstanding domestic season.

Also making a Test comeback are Matabeleland all-rounder Mluleki Nkala and opening batsman Mark Vermeulen.

The latter suffered a hairline fracture to his skull when he was hit in the nets by a delivery from team-mate Travis Friend, but acting convenor of selectors Max Ebrahim said Vermeulen had been cleared by an eye specialist.

However, there was no place for

World Cup opening batsman Wishart, whose 172 not out against Namibia was the highest individual score at that tournament.

He has only averaged 15.8 since that spectacular effort and the selectors have decided to wield the axe.

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TATENDA TAIBU

Rejoinder

The Bangladesh Cricket Board strongly protests on a report published in the Daily Star Sport under the heading "Mashud left in the cold" on April 19, 2003. The report we quote "that an ICC Vigilance team had reported specifically against Mashud for his off the field behaviour during the tournament. It is further reported that Bangladesh's shock losses against Canada and Kenya raised eyes brows that Mashud might have been involved in fixing the outcome of those games."

The above news is unfounded as the BCB has not received any allegation of match-fixing regarding involvement of Khaled Mashud from the ICC. Bangladesh national team players are strictly advised by the Board to follow ICC Code of Conduct. Such news you will appreciate defames not only cricket in Bangladesh but also Bangladesh as a nation.

Our reply

We have never said that the BCB has received any allegation of Khaled Mashud's involvement in match-fixing from the ICC. Our report was based on speculations. We stand by our story. -- Sports Editor

Lara full of hope



INTERNET, Port of Spain

West Indies captain Brian Lara said he was encouraged by his young charges on Friday as they prepared for the second cricket Test against Australia.

"It's a win-win situation," Lara said. "Whatever the outcome is, as long as we compete, don't give up. As long as we get out there and play hard cricket and give a good account of ourselves, I think West Indies cricket is only going to move forward."

The home team trails 0-1 in the four-match series following last Sunday's nine-wicket loss in Guyana. Australia has named an unchanged line-up.

Lara said the attitude shown by rookie fast bowler Tino Best at training emphasised the team's spirit.

"I asked him to bowl another spell and he said, 'Sure, I didn't come here

to drink soup," Lara said.

The skipper said he liked the fact that the squad included a lot of young talent.

"I haven't done any history on it, but I am sure that this outfit has to be one of the youngest assembled teams for the West Indies in a very, very long time," he said.

"Even though we wait for Jacobs to get back, I'm actually waiting to see this youngster play his first Test match," Lara said. "I think it is very refreshing."

Lara, following a century in the opening loss in Guyana last Sunday, is hoping he can provide his Trinidadian countrymen with another classic.

"I don't think I've ever come to Trinidad with this much form," Lara said. "I feel very confident and very upbeat about how things went in Guyana, and hopeful things can work out for me in Trinidad."

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BRIAN LARA

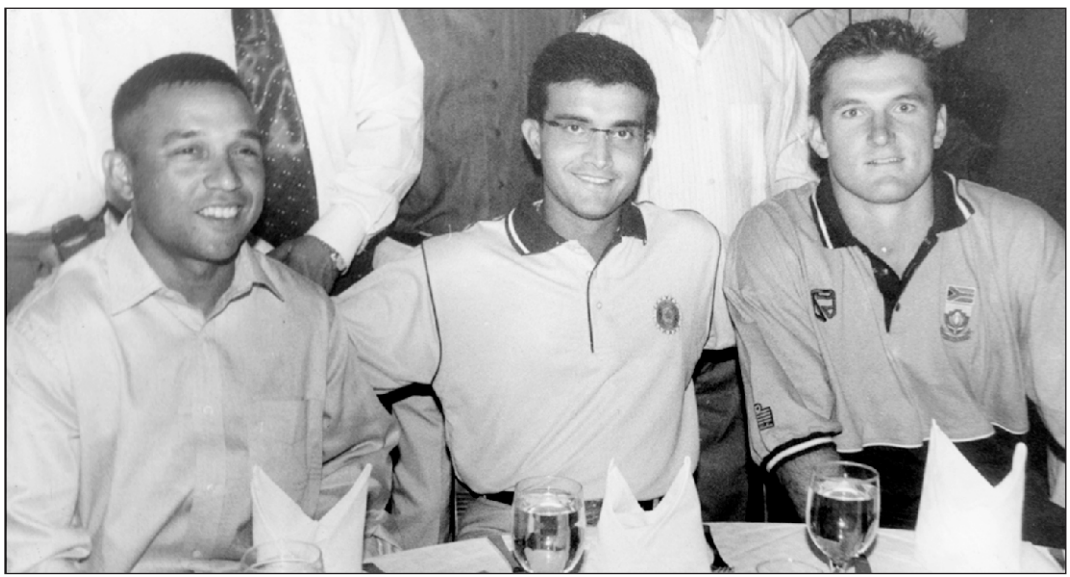


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CAPTAINS ONLY: India captain Saurav Ganguly (C) is flanked by his Bangladesh and South Africa counterparts, Khaled Mahmud (L) and Graeme Smith respectively, during an official dinner of the TVS Cup tri-series at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Mahela resists the Kiwis



INTERNET/AFP, Colombo

New Zealand fast bowler Daryl Tuffey warmed up for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka with a five-wicket haul in a practice match at the Nondescripts Cricket Club Ground here on Saturday.

Tuffey (5-55) was brilliantly supported by paceman Shane Bond (3-56) as the tourists restricted the Sri Lanka Board President's team to 258 in the first innings on the opening day of a two-day tour opener on Saturday.

New Zealand were 74 for no loss in reply at stumps, with Matthew Horne (38) and Mark Richardson (27) at the crease.

The home side made a poor start,

losing their first three wickets with only 35 on the board, but they were revived by a stand of 131 between middle-order batsman Mahela Jayawardene and Romesh Kaluwitharana.

Jayawardene slammed an impressive 108 to regain form after a dismal World Cup performance as he propped up the reeling hosts.

Jayawardene, who made just 21 runs in seven matches in South Africa, added 131 for the fourth wicket with skipper Romesh Kaluwitharana (55).

He struck two sixes and 15 fours in his 137-ball knock before being caught by Richard Jones in the last over before tea to become Bond's second victim.

With the squad for the first Test about to be announced, Jayawardene staked his claim for a place. He was

backed to come good by former team-mate Aravinda de Silva, now a selector. The Jayawardene-Kaluwitharana venture came to an end when the latter was lbw to Tuffey for 55.

Stephen Fleming's New Zealanders will play a pair of two-day practice matches before the opening Test, starting here on April 25.

The second and final Test begins at Kandy on May 3.

The tourists will then figure in a triangular one-day series against the hosts and Pakistan.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the two-day tour match between a Sri Lanka Board President's XI and New Zealand in Colombo on Saturday. SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Ready for Test



INTERNET, London

England's fast-bowling sensation James Anderson has announced he is ready to play Test cricket for England.

The Lancashire youngster shone in the one-day team during the winter and now he believes he is ready for the Test team as well.

Anderson, 20, has had a meteoric rise which culminated with two man-of-the-match awards in the World Cup.

And a two-Test series against a weakened Zimbabwe outfit, starting on May 22, would appear the ideal opportunity for him to showcase his talents in the five-day game.

Anderson told the BBC Sport website: "I'm definitely ready to give

Test cricket a go after the experience I had in the winter.

"I've got a taste for it and I will be ready if I get the call."

Anderson still finds it hard to reflect on his amazing last 12 months which have seen him rise from the Lancashire second XI to be England's best bowler at the World Cup.

In Cape Town against Pakistan, he was the clear match-winner with four top wickets and he seems to have developed the happy knack of getting good batsmen out.

Anderson said: "The World Cup was like a dream.

"It was incredible and I have watched a few of the match videos, especially the match against Pakistan. I still can't believe I

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Giles Hussain's man



INTERNET, London

Nasser Hussain has named left-arm spinner Ashley Giles as a possible candidate to replace him as England one-day captain.

Hussain told BBC Sport that Giles could be in the frame after being appointed Warwickshire captain.

But he also said there were "two or three" other strong candidates who had been mentioned.

That trio, in most people's minds, comprises current players Michael Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick, plus former captain Adam Hobbie.

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 they've had theirs," said Hussain, who will con-

tinue as England's Test captain.

"They've got a very difficult decision to make because the two or three candidates who've been mentioned are very fine men.

"I've played with all of them and it's a difficult decision to try to separate them.



ASHLEY GILES

"There could be other ones I see Ashley Giles has been made captain of Warwickshire.

"Whoever gets the job I know will do a good job and I wish them well."

Giles was named captain at Edgbaston for the first four weeks of the season after Michael Powell broke a toe in pre-season training.

The 30-year-old has played in just 24 one-day matches in an international career that started late and has been interrupted by injuries.

Hussain also said a number of youngsters would be handed debuts as England's one-day squad gets a shake-up following the retirements of himself, Alec Stewart and Andy Caddick.

Stewart had been a particularly fine servant to English cricket, he said.

"He'll be missed definitely. He's one of our best batsmen, if not one of the best batsmen of the last 10 years and one of our best keepers.

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The unknown

Sir Paul



INTERNET, London

A series of family tragedies and drug addiction turned Sir John Paul Getty II, who died at the London Clinic on Thursday morning, into a mysterious figure.

Known as Sir Paul, he settled in Britain, but was rarely seen as he donated vast sums from the Getty family fortune to causes in his adopted country.

Born in California in 1932, Sir Paul was a son of J Paul Getty, the oil tycoon and reputedly the richest man in the world.

He studied at San Francisco University and served in the US Army in Korea, before joining the family oil business in Italy.

His second wife was Talitha Pol, granddaughter of the artist Augustus John.

Their hippie lifestyle included the use of hard drugs, and Talitha died of a heroin overdose in 1971 the first tragedy to blight the life of her husband.

The second came two years later, when Sir Paul's eldest son Paul, then 17, was kidnapped by Italian terrorists, who demanded a ransom of more than 3 million dollars.

The boy's grandfather refused to help pay the ransom, believing it would endanger his other grandchildren.

He relented only when the kidnapers cut off Paul's ear and sent it to the family.

Sir Paul moved to London, living

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh mid-fielder Monwar (R) tries to keep possession against a Myanmar player during their Olympic qualifier at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Olympic soccer BD crash out

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh made an unceremonious exit from the Athens Olympic football qualifying round when they were held to a goalless draw against Myanmar in the return-leg match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur yesterday.

Needing to score by four clear goals to overturn the 3-0 loss suffered in Yangon on April 12, the hosts lacked the firepower in their attack against an impressive Myanmar Under-23 side.

Only five hundred fans came to cheer the Bangladesh footballers but watched as their side created just one chance in the first half when Kanchan found the Myanmar custodian off guard, but the nimble striker failed to connect his shot.

Midfielder Bidyut drove a powerful shot after the break but the ball missed the mark by a yard.

In fact, the home team enjoyed a better share of the game, but badly

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