



BEATEN BY THE NOR'WESTER! (1) Indian batsman Yuvraj Singh runs for his life towards the dressing room while South African all-rounder Jacques Rudolph follows him after the rain came pouring down. (2) Groundsmen rush towards the pitch area with covers. (3) The organisers left no stone unturned to make play possible. They even brought in a helicopter to dry the outfield, albeit in vain. PHOTO: STAR

SERIES SNIPPETS

HASAN MASOOD



Bangladesh cricket team will fly to Chittagong this afternoon for the GrameenPhone first Test against South

Africa starting April 24.

After arriving in the port city, Khaled Mahmud's men will only rest for an hour before having their nets at the MA Aziz Stadium.

On the other hand, South Africa will fly to the commercial capital of the country in the morning.

This is the fourth time that the venue will be hosting a Test match.

It was baptised in November 2001 when Bangladesh played Zimbabwe. Then three months later it was the turn of Pakistan to visit. The last team to play there was West Indies in December 2002.

The second Test begins in Dhaka on

May 1.

UMP'S HAT MISSES 4

Umpire M Akhteruiddin's hat almost went for a four while he was officiating in the TVS Cup final between India and South Africa yesterday.

The bizarre incident happened in the 13th over when play was stopped for a few minutes due to the blustery wind.

The Bangladesh official was standing at square leg when suddenly his cap started rolling towards deep fine leg. The crowd seeing such a sight began cheering wildly.

IT ALWAYS RAINS WHEN INDIA PLAYS

Rain seems to follow India wherever they play.

It began with the ICC Champions Trophy final in Colombo last year that was eventually washed out.

The organisers declared both finalists India and Sri Lanka as joint champions.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Officially Whatmore



SPORTS REPORTER

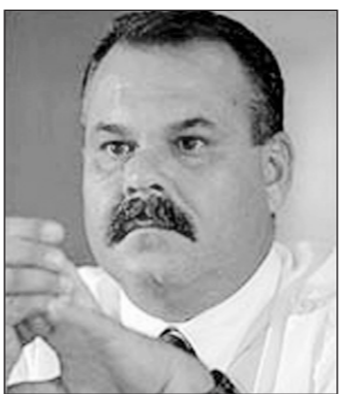
As expected, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday officially announced that Sri Lanka born Australian Dav Whatmore would become the new coach of the national cricket team.

BCB boss Ali Asghar read out the name of 49-year old former Sri Lanka and Lancashire coach at a crowded press briefing at a city hotel in the morning.

Whatmore, one of the top-rated coaches in world cricket, guided Sri Lanka to their maiden World Cup triumph in 1996 and also helped the Islanders to make it to the 2003 World Cup semifinals. He is scheduled to take over the Tigers from the first week of June.

"We have selected Whatmore with the hope that with his never-say-die attitude and attacking approach would

be injected in our national team which has been performing below par in the international arena," said Asghar.



DAV WHATMORE

"We were looking for a high profile coach and had contacted the relevant authorities in the ICC, Australia, West Indies, South Africa and England for

their help," said the BCB boss adding that the Board received positive responses from everywhere but in the end opted for Whatmore because of his proven ability to inspire players.

"We got many names for the job but we were actually searching for someone with the ability to lift a team. We felt that there was no one better than Whatmore," Asghar said.

Mahbubul Anam, the chairman of BCB's cricket committee revealed that Whatmore was coming on a two-year contract. If there is a definite improvement in the team's performance during that period, his tenure might be extended up to the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

"We have already reached an agreement through fax. Whatmore is expected to arrive in Bangladesh next month to sign the papers," said Anam.

He added that Sarwar Imran, who is performing the role of an interim coach of the national squad,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Mashud's appeal BCB refutes rumours

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board has not received any report from the International Cricket Council or the Anti-Corruption Unit regarding any allegation of match-fixing by any Bangladeshi players during the February-March World Cup in South Africa.

Board president Ali Asghar disclosed this at a press conference yesterday.

"There are some media reports which are absolutely baseless. The BCB has never received any such report from the ICC or ACU," clarified Asghar.

He asked the local media to stop the business of speculation since it was bringing a bad reputation to the country.

"Besides, the Board has not instructed anybody to drop Khaled Mashud from the national team on

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

See it on ESPN STAR

SPORTS REPORTER

Today it is hard to believe of a cricket match especially the instant variety not being shown on television.

If you were sitting at the stadium you would only get one angle but through amazing camera technology it is now possible for the armchair viewer to be given an almost-perfect view of a one-day game.

Popular satellite channel ESPN STAR Sports has gone a long way to promoting the sport. The Singapore-based channel is now actively helping Bangladesh cricket after it last year signed a deal to become BCB's media partner for the next five years.

Presently a 70-strong production crew has been working to bring the TVS Cup tri-series to every home in Bangladesh. Their next assignment will be the two-match GrameenPhone Test series against South Africa.

Since merging with STAR Sports, the entertainment network has gone through a rapid technological advancement combining the expertise and resources of their one-time rivals from Hong Kong. As a result they have boosted the operational capabilities in Bangladesh.

"When we began operations here with the Asian Test Championship back

in 1999, only eleven cameras were in use

for the duration of the match. But now

we have increased that number to 24

cameras functioning simultaneously for

live coverage. This is a big revolution for

a sports channel," said Rik Dovey, the

managing director of ESPN STAR Sports

while talking to the Daily Star Sport on

Sunday.

"To popularise the game in the sub-

continent we have established a separ-

ate production house in New Delhi

from where we can telecast live news

and other programmes. There are 170

people now working for us in India

which is very encouraging," said the

Dovey, an Australian who began his

career as a radio journalist down under.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Lara, Ganga steady hosts



REUTERS, Port-of-Spain

West Indies captain Brian Lara hit a pulsating 91 to keep his team alive in the second Test on Sunday after Ricky Ponting's first Test double century and Adam Gilchrist's unbeaten 101 had put Australia in a commanding position.

Lara was agonisingly close to his first

there."

Lara and Ganga, who both made centuries in last week's first Test in Guyana, came together after the West Indies lost two quick wickets for 25 runs in the seven overs before tea.

Lara made a cautious start but got into stride after Australia brought on leg-spinner Stuart MacGill, hitting him for a four and two sixes in successive balls.

In the next over, Lara hit Andy Bichel for successive boundaries, survived a loud lbw appeal, then completed his half century when he swept through the

offside for two.

He faced 63 balls and hit five fours and two sixes.

Ganga was not far behind as he completed his half century, which included eight boundaries off 65 deliveries, two balls later.

Lara then greeted Hogg by hitting him for a six in his first over before fast bowler Jason Gillespie returned to slow the scoring and quieten the crowd in the last few overs of the day.

Lara, who appeared to be getting

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



West Indies' Brian Lara whacks one over long-on during his knock of 91 against Australia in the second Test in Port-of-Spain on April 20. PHOTO: INTERNET

Sultan BFF president

SPORTS REPORTER

SA Sultan has become the first ever elected president of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) as the current chief's lone opponent Nazrul Islam Badal of Farashganj Sporting Club withdrew his nomination from the April 26 election.

Yesterday was the last day for withdrawing candidacy.

Sultan apart, seven other candidates were also elected unopposed to the posts of four vice-presidents, two assistant general secretaries and the treasurer.

The vice-presidents elect are current acting general secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu, former national striker Kazi Salahuddin, Abdur Rahim and Al-Haj Dastgir Chowdhury. Two assistant general secretaries are former national winger Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnun and Anwar Hossain Uzzal.

Besides, Shah Alam Chowdhury of Muktijoddha Sangsad has been elected as the treasurer without any contest.

A total of 60 councillors submitted their nomination papers for 21

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

TVS CUP FINAL SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the incomplete final match of the TVS Cup triangular series between India and South Africa at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 21:

INDIA
V Sehwaag c A Dawson b S Pollock 8
G Gambhir c N McKenzie b M Ntini 11
S Ganguly not out 11
M Kaif c J Rudolph b M Ntini 5
Y Singh not out 2
Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-6) 9
Total: (For 3 wickets in 17.1 overs) 46
Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Sehwaag), 2-35 (Gambhir), 3-41 (Kaif)

Did not bat: D Mongia, P Patel, A Agarkar, H Singh, Z Khan, A Mishra

Bowler O M R W
Shaun Pollock 6 0 15 1
Makhaya Ntini 8.1 2 26 2
Allan Dawson 3 1 3 0

SOUTH AFRICA: H Gibbs, G Smith, H Dippenaar, N McKenzie, J Rudolph, A Hall, M Boucher, S Pollock, P Adams, A Dawson, M Ntini.

Result: Match abandoned and sides declared joint champions.

Man-of-the-series: Allan Dawson.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

McGrath off to WI



AFP, Sydney

Leading paceman Glenn McGrath left here on Monday for the West Indies to rejoin his Australian cricket teammates after his cancer-stricken wife declared she wanted some normality back in her life.

McGrath returned from Australia's Caribbean tour after his wife Jane was diagnosed with secondary cancer in her hip earlier this month.

The diagnosis relates to the breast cancer she fought in 1997, when she endured six months of chemotherapy before being cleared of cancer in June 1998.

It was not originally known when or if McGrath would rejoin the team in the West Indies, with Australia taking a 1-0 lead in the four-Test series.



GLENN MCGRATH

Australia was in a commanding position midway through the second Port of Spain Test as it attempted to retain the Frank Worrell trophy.

But McGrath's decision to rejoin the team came after a specialist said

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Arman abases City Club



SPORTS REPORTER

Off-spinner Ali Arman bagged five wickets as Abahani Krira Chakra bowled out City Club for a cheap 170 in the first innings of their GrameenPhone Super League clash at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

On the second day of the four-day match, Arman, the young slow bowler,

conceded 50 runs in 27 overs for his five wickets as City Club, who resumed the day on 99 for four, were all out in 79.1 overs.

All the City Club batsmen, excepting captain Faruque Ahmed, failed to cope up with the pace and spin attack of the Mirpur-based club as they were shot out for their lowest total in the Super League so far.

In reply, Abahani were 40 without loss

in 6.3 overs before rain stopped play for the day.

Pakistani opener Imran Nazir was batting on 27 while Hannan Sarkar on 6.

In the other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Uttara Sporting Club scored 260 in their first innings against Brothers Union before being bowled out in 90.2 overs.

Brothers were 27 without loss in 12.3 overs when heavy rain came to stop the proceedings.

SCOREBOARDS
Scoreboards on the second day of the two GrameenPhone Premier Division Super League matches yesterday:

City Club v Abahani
Venue: FCS

CITY CLUB: First innings (overnight 99 for 4)

Faruque c Nazir b Arman 59
Moniruzzaman c Imran b Neeyamur 4

Jalamuddin run out 16
Mazharul c Mukhter b Suja 11

Rajin c Mukhter b Alamgir 27
Hasanuzzaman c Nazir b Arman 27

Kadir st Mukhter b Arman 7
Rezaul c Alamgir b Arman 4

Alamgir c Towhid b Arman 2
Tareq c Arman b Neeyamur 0

Saifullah not out 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, nb-1, w-1) 13

Total: (All out in 79.1 overs) 170
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-69, 3-97, 4-99, 5-143, 6-158, 7-163, 8-165, 9-170.

Bowler O M R W
Neeyamur 15.1 5 41 2

Alamgir 11 5 21 1
Suja 26 9 47 1

Arman 17 7 50 5
ABAHANI: First innings

Nazir batting 27
Hannan batting 6

Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-2) 7
Total: (For no loss in 6.3 overs) 40

Bowler O M R W
Alamgir 3.3 0 18 0

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2