SPORT

Maher ton gives Australia lead

INTERNET, Bridgetown

Opening batsman Jimmy Maher hit his 18th first-class 100 as Australia took a first innings lead against the University of West Indies' XI on the second day of their three-day practice match.

The 29-year-old Maher struck 21 fours and one six in 142 and shared an opening stand of 202 with Justin Langer as Australia recorded a total of 358 for six declared, in reply to the West Indies first innings score of 290.

In 13 overs before stumps were drawn at the Three Ws Oval, the West Indies' side reached 33 for two in their second innings with captain Philo Wallace unbeaten on 19 and Dary Balgobin not out on zero.

Australia captured the prized wicket of West Indies opening batsman Chris Gayle in the first over when he was run out by a throw from Brad Hogg at cover to the keeper.

Then, fast bowler Brad Williams bowled left-hander Jason Haynes for

Earlier, Maher played a flawless innings that lasted close to four-and-ahalf hours during which he took 182

Letting his bat

FROM PAGE 13

Moniruzzaman is a free stroking player with all the shots in the book. He puts a price tag on his wicket as found out by bowlers who played against him. He also has a good defensive technique which is found so wanting in most of the openers who have donned the Bangladesh cap. He is also one of the top fielders in the country in any

A sincere cricketer who is always giving his hundred per cent, Moniruzzaman can be an asset for future Bangladesh teams. It's a pity though, that the national selectors never thought of trying him for the openers job despite the routine failures of most of their 'favourite' choices.

"You tend to lose your passion for the game after being repeatedly ignored by the national selectors. Most of the batsmen who are playing in the present side haven't scored as consistently as I have in recent times. Don't I deserve a call to the national camp a

"At the moment I can only go on making runs and hope that the selectors will have a change of heart," said a determined Moniruzzaman.



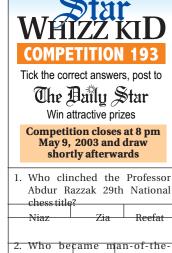
TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs New Zealand Live at 10:30 am

English Premier Football League Bromwich vs Liverpool Repeat at 9:30 am Sunderland vs Newcastle United Repeat at 3:30 pm Football Focus Live at 6:30 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Primera Liga Barcelona vs Real Sociedad Repeat at 10:30 am Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show Taped Version at 9:30 pm



Abdur Razzak 29th National 2. Who became man-of-thematch in the Sharjah Cup final? Youhana Sami 3. Who will lead Sri Lanka's oneday side? Tillekeratne Atapattu

4. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the TVS Cup triangular Class. Roll No. School Address

Gough's reminder

Cricket

INTERNET, London

Darren Gough continued his comeback from injury with 2 for 31 as Yorkshire cruised to a six-wicket win over Warwickshire at Edgbaston English one-day National League on

Gough struck with two late wickets in three balls to restrict Warwickshire to 158 for 9, Ashley Giles hitting an unbeaten 61. Led by 61 off 40 balls from Michael Lumb, Yorkshire strolled to victory with seven overs to

Graeme Hick's unbeaten 52 helped Worcestershire to a 35-run victory over Gloucestershire in a low-scoring, rain-affected match at Worcester.

Gloucestershire never mastered Australian pace bowler Matt Mason (4 for 35) as they scraped 143, and although Worcestershire lost Kadeer Ali early, Hick and Vikram Solanki (20) put on 65 for the second wicket. Solanki fell shortly before rain sent the players scurrying for shelter, and Worcestershire's 98 for 2 from 24.2 overs was enough for them to win under Duckworth-Lewis regulations.

It was also easy going for Kent as they beat Leicestershire by 54 runs at Canterbury. Mark Ealham got Kent off to a flying start with 41 from 26 balls, and Matthew Walker made Leicestershire pay for dropping him twice as he finished on 82 not out. Leicestershire never recovered from losing early wickets, and Kent's wicketkeeper Geraint Jones claimed a competition record-equalling six catches. Former Somerset Peter Trego finished with 4 for 39 on his Kent

Surrey got off to a winning start with a 15-run victory over Essex in another match affected by rain. Adam Hollioake 77 and Azhar Mahmood 98 in a 154-run partnership for the seventh wicket after Surrey had been put in to bat and slumped to 82 for 6. Will Jefferson's 47 off 36 balls got Essex off to a good start, but Saqlain Mushtaq and Alex Tudor shared six wickets, and Ronnie Irani's spirited 64 was not

In Division Two, Durham eased to a seven-wicket Duckworth-Lewis win over Somerset at Taunton with 44 balls to spare thanks to an unbeaten 101 from Gary Pratt made from 79 balls

(equalling the fastest century in the competition by a Durham player) and 92 from Nicky Peng. Somerset's 233 was based on 74 from Marcus Trescothick

If Mike Hussey was suffering from etlag having landed in England less than 48 hours earlier then it didn't show as smacked an unbeaten 84 to steer Northamptonshire to a 45-run win over Lancashire at Old Trafford. Chasing 197 to win from 37 overs, Lancashire appeared to be well placed at 117 for 3. But Hussey's run out of Andrew Flintoff caused panic and the Lancashire innings subsided in a flurry

The retirement of Phil Tufnell was supposed to have left Middlesex's spin bowling cupboard bare, but nobody told Paul Weekes as he took 3 for 45 and then chipped in with 76 as Middlesex beat Derbyshire by five wickets at a gloomy Lord's. Michael di Venuto (61) and Chris Bassano (52) guided Derbyshire to 129 for 2 before Weekes and Simon Cook (4 for 30) engineered a collapse, and Middlesex always looked on course for a win which eventually came with seven balls to spare, Ben Hutton hitting the winning runs for the second day

Safin hands title to Moya

Tennis

AFP, Barcelona

Marat Safin's miserable season plunged to a new low on Sunday when another injury setback forced him to retire from the final of the one million euro Barcelona Open handing victory to Spain's Carlos Moya.

Despite taking the first set, the Russian fourth seed was eventually forced to quit with a stomach strain losing 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, 3-0 to the second seeded Spaniard who had been the runner-up in the 2001 event here to Juan Carlos Ferrero. Safin has been bedevilled with injury

worries all season and had been playing his first final since winning the Paris

good competition. Then revamp the

domestic structure. This can really

enhance their ability to handle inter-

Another major problem is the play-

ers being bred on docile pitches. So,

when they play abroad often they

struggle to post a total for their meagre

bowling resources to defend. Also

they must attract top quality profes-

sionals to play in the league or at club

level. If they don't start winning peo-

ple will start saying: "Well Kenya has

ione so well so wny give 1 est status to

DSS: Bangladesh have going

through rough time since gaining Test

status. You have heard Sri Lankan Dav

Whatmore has been appointed as

their next foreign coach. What would

you tell him to do in order to reverse

NSS: Dav is a mature man. He

understands the whole scenario. With

him taking over as coach Bangladesh

cricket is in the right hands. He will

look to improve conditions over here

at the grass-root level. When he took

over in Sri Lanka it was going through a

very turbulent phase and he turned it

around. I think Bangladesh needs a

person who has real cricketing acu-

men. So they have made the right

DSS: When you were a player you

NSS: Obviously it's going to be a

mixed bag. Life is a rollercoaster, I

have enjoyed the game a lot. What are

your fond and bitter memories?

national cricket.

Bangladesh."

Confronting Sidhu!

Masters last November.

The 23-year-old spent two hours, 10 minutes in trying to consolidate his triumph here on Sunday but was clearly

In January, Safin suffered food poisoning and a strained shoulder in Sydney, then had to pull out of the Australian Open with a wrist injury a week later before spraining an ankle three weeks ago during practise in Buenos Aires for Russia's Davis Cup quarter-final, which the holders lost 5-0.

"I could not finish the match because I was extremely tired," said Safin.

"I tried to perform my best and have a fast match but he played very well in the second and third sets. After that I ran completely out of strength and could not finish.

"But it was good anyway because I got some matches under my belt and

think the best moment of my career

was in 1989 when I got a hundred in

It was a great milestone and some-

thing to really cherish because we

were pitted against a very formidable

bowling attack of Malcolm Marshall,

Ian Bishop, Courtney Walsh, Curtly

One might have many unpleasant

memories too but you must share the

good things with the world and keep

in the World Cup. How big a blow was

DSS: India came so close vet so far

NSS: Listen the stigma of the final

will always remain in Indian cricket his-

tory. The important thing is that India

did exceedingly well in the competi-

tion. They were dead and buried after

the tour of New Zealand but came

back very strongly after the ignominy

of defeat against the Australians. That

really psyched them up to reach the

commenting in your special way?

DSS: When and why did you begin

NSS: Life is what happens when you

make other plans. I never thought I

would commentate it just happened. I

got an offer from MTV (from music

channel) to do a half-an-hour show. It

was a runaway hit. Then I got an offer

from Harsha Bhogle to commentate

for ESPN STAR Sports. Later the media

company Nimbus was instrumental in

I have always believed that no two

individuals are the same in this world.

taking me to the 1999 World Cup.

Ambrose and Patrick Patterson.

the bitter stuff to yourself.

the West Indies in difficult conditions.

and Ferrero, but it is also true that they took the strength I had for the week.

defeated good players such as Gaudio

"Next week I will play in Valencia and try to have some more matches in order to be ready for Rome, Hamburg and Roland Garros. Overall it has been a great week for me after being out of competition during this past month."

Moya, winner of the Argentina clay court title earlier this season, collected the 13th title of his career with his win while Safin, the 2000 champion here, suffered his first defeat on the Barcelona showcase

"It's great to finally win a title in Spain," said Moya, a former world number one and the 1998 French Open

My style came very naturally to me. I

grew up influenced by my father who

was very good at one-liners. He was a

renowned lawyer and whenever he

argued his cases he would come up

with witticisms which would amuse

everybody in the courtroom.

Knight says bye to ODIs

AFP, London

England opener Nick Knight on Sunday announced his retirement from one-day cricket.

The 33-year-old, hit by a niggling knee injury recently, has played in one hundred limited overs internationals averaging 40.41 and hitting five centu-

His departure leaves England coach



NICK KNIGHT

Duncan Fletcher with the task of finding a suitable replacement for the man described as "a fantastic servant' to the one-day game by chairman of selectors David Graveney.

On hearing the news Graveney said: It was a surprise, certainly, and I think Duncan would feel the same way."

Knight said he had been mulling over retirement for some time.

"I've been thinking about it for a while. I was desperate to play in the World Cup having missed out on the last one, but I've got other challenges ahead of me.

"It's nice to spend some time a home and at Warwickshire.'

He added: "There is an incredible amount of talent in the game, it's four years before the next World Cup, I'm not going to make it, so it's a chance for other guys to make it."

England's one day side which has summer dates with Pakistan, Zimbabwe and South Africa is set for a revamp with Knight's retirement following that of captainNasserHussain.

Also out of the running are Andy Caddick and possibly Alec Stewart while Paul Collingwood and Craig White are nursing long-term injuries.

Double delight for Andre Tennis

AFP, Houston

After taking back the world's number one ranking, Andre Agassi took the US Men's Clay Court Championship with

the help of a backhand drop shot. A day after reclaiming the top spot in the rankings, the top-seeded Agassi defeated fellow American Andy Roddick on Sunday, winning his fourth ATP Tour title of the year with a remark-

able comeback.

"three-peating" with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 triumph - his fourth title in five events this season and 58th of his brilliant career. It was the first final of the year between a No. 1 and No. 2 seed. "It's already been a great year and

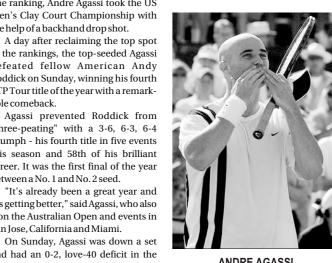
it's getting better," said Agassi, who also won the Australian Open and events in San Jose, California and Miami. On Sunday, Agassi was down a set

and had an 0-2, love-40 deficit in the second before he hit the shot of the match, a backhand drop winner from the baseline that turned the momen-"To get down 0-3 would have been

nearly impossible, and then I got the

break back a few games later," he said. "I felt pretty desperate the whole time, and I know why it's hard to beat Andy

Roddick was aiming for his third straight title in Houston. He also was



trying to become just the fourth player in history to defeat Agassi and Pete Sampras in a final, having knocked off Sampras here last year.

D/L Method? - II

expression for the relationship and then to use relevant data to estimate its parameters.' (Journal of Operational Research Society Vol. 49, No. 3) The table is a very delicate balance between wickets lost and overs bowled. It is impossible to comment on the tables without indepth knowledge of statistics. An extract from the very detailed table is

at that time I would have been inclined to the ARR!) After several presentations to the

Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) it was decided that the D/L Method would be used for the English 1997 season on a trial basis. The very first time it was actually used was in Harare in the match between Zimbabwe and England. England failed to reach the

Oversleft	Wickets Lost					
	0	2	5	7	9	
50	100.0	83.8	49.5	26.5	7.6	
40	90.3	77.6	48.3	26.4	7.6	
30	77.1	68.2	45.7	26.2	7.6	
25	68.7	61.8	43.4	25.9	7.6	
20	58.9	54.0	40.0	25.2	7.6	
10	34.1	32.5	27.5	20.6	7.5	
5	18.4	17.9	16.4	14.0	7.0	
	1			•		

By Eugene Sheffer

re Yorick

3 Jeans-

4 "Little

maker

Strauss

Shop of

grp. 6 "l" strain

7 Knocks

Horrors"

command

The table applies to lengths of oneday matches from 50-overs-per-side downwards. The possibilities of its application are limitless depending on the various situations. For example, if the rain interrupts the play at the beginning then both teams would have equal number of overs. If Team-1 has batted the full 50 overs and if play is held up depending on the time left Team-2 if required to play 25 overs would have to make 68.7 per cent of Team-1's score as was the case in the final of the ICC Trophy 1997 between Kenya and Bangladesh. The D/L target provided an exciting game which would probably not have occurred if

CROSSWORD

41 Disposition 2 Romark

43 Canada's

capital

46 "Look

ward.

Angel

songbird

answer to

Uncle

50 Small

51 U.K.'s

ACROSS

share.

maybe

5 Church

seat

13 Past

14 Protu-

8 Send forth

12 Sheltered

berance

15 Get angry,

to Bart

D/L revised target, but would have won on a run-rate basis.

There was mixed reaction in the press. It was also used in the March-April 1997 ICC Trophy Competition in Malaysia. Over the next two years it was accepted by the rest of the cricketing world and was in place for the 1999 World Cup. In May 2001 the ICC confirmed it as the world standard until at least 2004.

Since its introduction operation the D/L Method has been used in nearly 250 matches, in 16 countries. As well as rain and bad light it has been called into use for interruptions due to floodlight failure, sandstorm, crowd riots and even snow.

"I played well in the first and third sets and I was a little sloppy in the second set, but overall it was a good week for me," Roddick said. "I won some close matches to get to the final. My goal is to be back here in November

for the Tennis Masters Cup." Like Agassi, Roddick knew the turning point was the third game of the

"If I am able to win that game in the second set, it would have given me two breaks and I feel good about my chances," said Roddick, who fell to 16-1

After breaking the hard-serving Roddick, Agassi held serve and broke again in the sixth game. He did it again in the eighth to take the second set.

Agassi broke in the fifth game of the decisive set, during which he never faced a break point. He lost only five points in as many service games en route to his second US Clay Court title and first since 1988 in Charleston South Carolina

"When I converted the break in the third set, I was ready to bring it home,' Agassi said. "Today was one of those days where you try to hang in there."

The title was Agassi's 13th since turning 30. With his semi-final win over Olivier Mutis on Saturday, Agassi became the oldest man to hold the world's top ranking. He turns 33 on Tuesday

"He is one for the ages," Roddick

ACU officials

National Stadium and discuss other related issues," said BCB cricket committee chairman Mahabubul

They will stay in Dhaka for three days before leaving for London on May 3. They will also witness the second Test, starting at the BNS on May 1.

Colombo Test FROM PAGE 13

Bowler	O	M	R	W			
Tuffey	17	5	54	1			
Bond	24	6	86	2			
Oram	29	13	58	1			
Vettori	30	7	82	0			
Wiseman	34	11	96	2			
Styris	3	0	28	0			
Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia)							
and Simon Taufel (Australia)							

Let football

FROM PAGE 13

to the 2006 World Cup

Last week Time magazine carried a eport suggesting Uday, Saddam ussein's feared elder son, and president of the Iraq National Olympic Committee, had tortured footballers who played below par.

Players had their feet scalded and toenails ripped off for failing to win and allegations of torture were investigated by the international football federation FIFA Timesaid

Uttara caught in Naimur web Towhid c Anis b Sabbii

after scoring 93 off 151 balls that included 16 fours and a six. Among others Rajin Saleh struck a

quickfire 72 with the help of 11 boundaries and a six while prolific opener Moniruzzaman Moni made 45. City Club now have a massive lead

of 401 going into the final day today. **SCOREBOARD**

Scorecards on the third day of the three

GrameenPhone Premier Super League matches played at different venues yesterday: Mohammedan vs Uttara SC

MOHAMMEDAN: First innings 412-9

dec (Sandeep 221, Nafiz 103; Sumon 4-67, Faisal 3-97, Aslam 2-62) **UTTARA:** First innings 178 all out in 58 overs (Shafiul 63, Rakib 30; Naimur 4-44, Monir 3-39)

UTTARA: Second innings (overnight 127 for 5 in 41 overs) Moniruzzaman lbw b Naimur Shafiul b Hasibul Maruf lbw b Hasibul

30 Al Amin st. Anwar b Naimur Sumon c Sandeep b Fahim Rashed c Tushar b Niamur Faisal c Anwar b Niamur Aslam lbw b Sandeep

Arman c & b Minhazul Monirul not out 11 Extras: (b-6, lb-12, nb-2) Total: (All out in 57.5 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-40, 3-46, 4-97, 5-108, 131, 7-136, 8-136, 9-147 **Bowler**

0.3 0 Monir Minhazul 3.2 0 19 Hasibul 4 20 Naimur 58 Fahim 26 Sandeen 3 18 Result: Mohammedan SC won by an

innings and 43 runs. Man-of-the-match: Sandeep Sharma Victoria SC vs Abahani

VICTORIA: First innings 342 all out in 98.4 overs (Parvez 110, Wasim 73, K Mashud 49; Suja 3-104, Neeyamur 2-ABAHANI: First innings (overnight 229

for 9 in 88 overs) Hannan lbw b Mushfiq Nazir st. K Mashud b Manjarul Imran c K Mashud b Razzak 21 Sajjad c K Mashud b Sabbir Sajjadul not out

DSS: Sometimes don't you think your 'Sidhuisms' as they are known go a little to the extreme? NSS: (Chuckles) I've always believed it's for the people to judge and you always learn from your mistakes. I'm a modest man with much to be modest about. I have my limitations like everybody else. And gradually I've got to strike the right balance

DSS: Where and how do you pick up the expressions? Mention some of vour favourites NSS: (Another chuckle) I would

for everybody to admire.

really like the public judge whether there are any good ones or not. And I won't really like to say this is my favourite and this is not my favourite. But I try my very best to make people happy in my unique way. And I leave the rest up to them.

DSS: How does it feel when your commentary has created a stir at home and abroad?

NSS: Well I've never ever reacted. I always believed democracy is like the barber's chair that fits everybody's bottom and so everyone is entitled to express one's own opinion. People might differ with me but I will always say what I see. There is no hidden

Neeyamur c Wasim b Mushfiq

Alamgir c Rafiqul b Manjarul

Total: (All out in 99.2 overs)

VICTORIA: Second innings

Parvez c Hannan b Neevamur

Extras: (b-2, lb-1, nb-1, w-2)

Total: (For 4 wkts in 61 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-17, 3-30, 4-126

18

Wasim c Nazir b Alamgii

Rafigul b Neevamur

Azam c Nazir b Suja

K Mashud batting

Bowler

Alamgir

Arman

Sajjad

Suja

Neevamur

5-82, 6-136, 7-187, 8-202, 9-219

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-28, 3-52, 4-74

O M

20 3 51

28

16 2

0

30

13

257

67

30

40

13

59

25

190

R

20

35

41

3

Arman c Anis b Sabbir

Suja c Mukul b Sabbir

Extras: (b-3, lb-1, w-1)

Mushfig

Sabbir

Razzak

Manjaru

Tuhin lbw b Mukul

choose his or her words correctly. So do you regret when you were quoted about the Indian team as saying: "The team should change its nappies.' NSS: I never said that the team should change its nappies. All I said

was that Indian openers should be

changed like nappies. May be the

DSS: A commentator must always

quote should not be as blatant as it as been at times DSS: It seems you rather enjoy outsmarting your fellow colleagues whenever you get the chance. Why is that?

NSS: Never. It has never been a con certed effort on my part to outsmart anyone. It is something you have to be spontaneous about. If somebody feels that way I will certainly make amends. Banter is always interesting I mean debate is masculine conversation is

feminine. DSS: You were very vocal against Bangladesh getting Test status. Do you

still consider it a mistake? NSS: That's in the past, Now I think Bangladesh needs more exposure. Their players must learn how to tackle different surfaces. They must be made to understand the rigours of five-day cricket. There are promising players

DSS: How long can you foresee yourself in the commentary box? Is there anything else you wish to explore after quitting the microphone?

NSS: As long as people enjoy my art will continue to entertain them. I never dwell on the future I am a person

all out in 66.1 overs (Alam 44, Mahabub

37, Shahriar 33; Saifullah 4-54, Tareq 3-

CITY CLUB: Second innings (overnight

45

72

11

47

15

3

0

52 for no loss in 14 overs)

Rajin c Shamim b Morshed

Jamal c Shamim b Morshed

Extras: (b-5, lb-1, nb-1, w-1)

Total: (For 6 wkts in 84 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-119, 2-163, 3-233,

19

18 2 87

19 3 58

14

3 76

70 1

0

39

Mazharul c Shamim b Morshed

Hasan c sub b Mahabub

Faruque run out

Moniruzzaman c

Kadir batting

Alamgir batting

4-251,5-251,6-303

Bowler

Rana

Halim

Morshed

Mosaddek

Mustadir

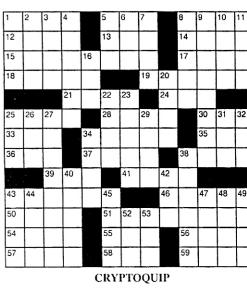
Mostakim

Shamim b Mustadir

17 Unfavorable votes 54 Told tales dead 55 Combut they need nurturing. 18 Away motion 19 Hotboxes? 9 Foolish 21 Army rank 56 Actor one 10 Concep-57 Agile 58 Marked 24 Photo tion 11 Mrs. Dick 25 John Goodman 59 Collections 16 DDE portraval oppone DOWN stride 20 "Planet of who lives in the present 30 Cleo's 1 That's a slayer 33 Ratite bird 22 Merriment Solution time: 27 mins. 34 Big cele-35 Author Buscaglia 36 Prom venue, City Club vs Brothers Union perhaps 37 Bottom-of-CITY CLUB: First innings all out in 99 the-barrel overs 295 (Faruque 62, Jamal 55, stuff Alamgir 40; Mosaddek 4-66, Morshed 38 Way, way 2-60, Mustadir 2-50) 39 The girl BROTHERS UNION: First innings 230

emblem 25 Command 26 "Little Women' woman 27 Bad advice 5 D.C. lobby 29 Mexican 31 The Red Black 32 Spanish preposi-34 Soared 40 Within 42 Possess EWCXQB DOSSX XKQISYB'F 47 Tackle item like a butterfly

52 Praiseful



EUWXQB ZQISY KQBUXFA

HICSF FQ XZOSU Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ASSUME ALL MEN'S WHITE COTTON BRIEFS MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE WEST UNDIES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals L The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.