

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT Babukhali Cricket Club defeated Dariapur Cricket Club by 19 runs in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium on Thursday.

Winning the toss, Babukhali batted first and collected 122 runs all out in 26.3 overs. In reply, Dariapur were all for 103 in 27.2 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF BABUKHALI CRICKET CLUB: 122 all out in 26.3 overs (Shariful 27, Mazharul 21, Akidul 12; Sanjoy 38/4, Morshed 2/17, Jasim 2/24). DARIAPUR CRICKET CLUB: 103 all out in 27.2 overs (Subrota 22, Jewell 6, Jasim 10, Ajim 2/7, Sabbir 2/8, Tuhin 2/27). Result: Babukhali Cricket Club won by 19 runs. Man-of-the-match: Shariful.

IAAF clears Carl

Nine-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis has been cleared of drug offences by the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF).

Lewis was one of 19 American medalists named by Wade Exum, the former United States Olympic Committee director for drug control from 1991 to 2000, who released documents revealing more than 100 positive drug tests involving US athletes from 1988 to 2000.

Included in the documents are details implicating athletes who won 19 Olympic medals from 1984 to 2000.

Kaif to join

FROM PAGE 13 Kaif will fill the second overseas slot for the county. Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi, who only signed a two-month contract with Derbyshire, will leave at the end of May and Kaif will probably play his first match on June 4.

Astle, who was contracted to play after Afridi left, ruled himself out after undergoing surgery on a patella tendon tear in his left knee and for a hernia earlier this month.

Kaif, 22, played for India in the recent World Cup in South Africa and is well-known to English cricket fans, having combined with Yuvraj Singh in a 121-run sixth-wicket partnership to successfully chase England's 325 in the final of a triangular one-day series in 2002. Kaif scored an unbeaten 87 in the two-wicket victory.

"He is a top signing. A real quality batsman and wonderful fielder," said coach Adrian Pearson in a statement.

"Kaif should provide great value and entertainment for Derbyshire. We are very lucky to have him."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 193. Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm May 9, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards.

1. Who clinched the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National chess title? Niaz, Zia, Reefat. 2. Who became man-of-the-match in the Sharjah Cup final? Youhana, Sami, Taufiq. 3. Who will lead Sri Lanka's one-day side? Tillekeratne, Vass. 4. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the TVS Cup triangular tournament? Name, Class, Roll No, School Address, Phone.

'We wanted Flower to continue'

Cricket

REUTERS/INTERNET, London

Zimbabwe's cricket chief tried to persuade Andy Flower not to retire after this year's World Cup and denied suggestions that the team's former leading player had faced the sack over human rights protests.

Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) chairman Peter Chingoka, speaking at a news conference at Lord's shortly after the squad's arrival in England on Thursday, said he had wanted Flower to continue.

"We tried to hold on to Andy Flower, we offered him a two or three-year contract. That showed the goodwill on our part."

"But he had made the decision (to retire from international cricket) a long time ago."

A young and inexperienced Zimbabwe side arrived in England for a two-Test series and a triangular one-day tournament also involving South Africa.

The 35-year-old Flower, a world-class batsman averaging more than 50 in Tests, protested with teammate Henry Olonga against alleged human rights abuses in Zimbabwe by wearing black armbands during the World Cup.

More protests by activists against President Robert Mugabe's government are expected during the current tour of England.

Flower and Olonga retired from international cricket after the World Cup. Flower is playing for English county side Essex while Olonga, who refused

to return to Zimbabwe citing fears for his safety, is also in England, on a short-term contract as a commentator.

Chingoka added that Olonga, the first black cricketer to represent Zimbabwe, had also not been squeezed out of the team because of his stance. Olonga played in just two World Cup games, but Chingoka said he had been dropped because of poor form and the rapid emergence of all rounder Andy Blythe.

Chingoka added that there was



ANDY FLOWER

no ill-feeling between Zimbabwe and England following England's decision to boycott their World Cup match in Harare earlier this year.

Over security concerns. At one stage the issue appeared to threaten the current tour.

"The matter is now history," Chingoka said.

He insisted his players have a

legitimate right to play their sport in England.

"We are not involved in politics - our job is to develop cricket in a country facing economic hardship. It is a duty we take very seriously."

"There are no sporting sanctions in place that restrict Zimbabwe athletes and teams from competing fairly around the world."

"Our message to any group or individual who would seek to use this tour as a focus for protest is that we have a legitimate right to play cricket in England."

Some critics have suggested that the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) concern over the financial implications of cancelling the tour have led to their decision to go ahead.

But ECB chief executive Tim Lamb earlier refuted those suggestions. "It upsets me when people say we are putting money before morality," he told BBC Radio Five Live.

"I think there are double standards here. It is unfair for cricket to have to make political decisions."

However, Lamb did admit that the ECB would have been hit hard financially by pulling out.

"We need to generate revenue to do the things we do from the playground to Test arena and without the money from the Test arena we can't do those things," he said.

"Of our revenue, 90 per cent comes from international cricket and that is how we put money into the grass roots of the game and nurture the game for future cricket."

Ganguly aims at 100 Tests

PTI, Kolkata

India cricket captain Saurav Ganguly dreams to play 100 Test matches, and wishes to reach the magic figure in a few more years.

"I wish I could carry on for a few more years. My goal is to turn out in 100 Test matches," Ganguly, who has played 67 Test matches and scored more than 4,000 runs, said at a function in the city.

The informal function, a 'pleasant evening with Saurav Ganguly', was organised by the Cricket Association of Bengal to honour the Indian skipper for the way he led the national squad to the World Cup final in South Africa.

Ganguly, visibly moved by the presence of a large number of present and former Ranji cricketers of Bengal, took the opportunity to thank all those who supported him since his teen days when he set his nervous first foot at the Eden Gardens, the venue of the programme.

Describing himself as a 'lucky man' for having played a large number of Tests for India, Ganguly said, "All cricketers give their best to the game. But all are not lucky to play for India."

Addressing the budding cricketers of the state, Ganguly said they should work hard and not lose hope even if they fail to make it to the big stage. "Keep working hard. Believe in yourself. And you will succeed," he said.

Fleming goes

FROM PAGE 13 catches, at one stage I just wondered, 'what is going on here,'" he said.

"It's not because we haven't been training. It's only, I think, the fitness level has gone down and they can't concentrate for so many hours."

He said the team would be working on their fitness, and an interim physiotherapist has replaced Alex Kontouri, let go in April along with former coach Dav Wharmore.

The arrival of the two teams from Colombo on Tuesday was met with heavy rain that washed out the practice session.

Local cricket officials were worried at the prospects of the wet spell ruining the city's first major cricket match in a year.

The area has experienced heavy rain during the past week, and a forecast of further showers during the Test match has dampened the enthusiasm of fans.

The first Test, which ended in a draw, ruined any chance of a result in the series and was widely criticised for both sides' defensive display.

A repeat showing could prove disastrous for the organisers, who took a huge risk in scheduling a Test match in Kandy during May, which is one of the regions wettest months.

In 1993, Kandy hosted a Sri Lanka-India Test match when rain started during the first session and continued for the next five days.

After the second Test, the two sides will be joined by Pakistan for a one-day triangular series.

Streak's walk-off threat

Cricket

REUTERS/INTERNET, London

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak said he would not hesitate to lead his team off the field during their tour of England if he felt their security was put under threat by political protests.

Streak, speaking at a news conference at Lord's shortly after the squad's arrival in England on Thursday, said: "We did it (walked off) in Pakistan when missiles were thrown at players."

"If we feel as a team that security is insufficient, we would do it again. But we're confident it won't get to that stage."

Human rights activists, including Peter Tatchell, have promised a string of protests against President Robert

Mugabe's government throughout the tour, while some British politicians have also spoken out against the visit.

Streak said he respected people's right to protest peacefully but added: "We hope they in turn respect our right to carry out our trade."

The Zimbabwe skipper said his team's targets during their tour of England will be 'realistic' - because he knew how hugely inexperienced his squad was.

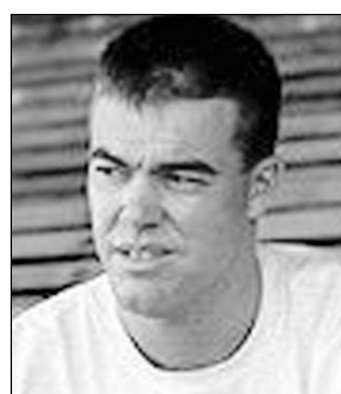
In 2000 a Zimbabwean team captained by Andy Flower did particularly well in their one-day internationals in England, winning four of their seven matches.

But Flower himself is no longer part of the team, and the likes of Murray Goodwin and Neil Johnson have long since departed.

Debutants who even the keenest cricket enthusiast would struggle to know much about - Vusumuzi Sibanda and Barney Rogers - are among the new faces this time around.

Streak admitted: "There are voids to fill - a number of experienced players have left us. But we hope the players we have will realise the opportunities and grab them with both hands."

"It is going to be a challenging tour - it always is, playing on English soil in weather conditions somewhat different to what we experience in Zimbabwe."



HEATH STREAK

"It's a great experience for such a young side to be playing at Lord's - a lot of people dream of playing at such a prestigious and historical venue."

"And to be involved in the inaugural Test in Durham will be great."

Streak also pointed to his team's most recent form in a one-day tournament in Sharjah as proof that Zimbabwe were able to com-

pete at the highest level. "We showed that by beating Sri Lanka and Kenya who played superbly in the World Cup that we do have the manpower to do that."

"We have seen Pakistan, South Africa and the West Indies go with very new-look sides - we are going through the same phase now and we look forward to the challenges ahead."

The first Test, the first to be staged at Durham's Riverside ground, is due to begin on May 22. Zimbabwe start their first tour match against British Universities on Saturday.

ITINERARY table with columns for dates and events: May 3-6 British Universities, Edgbaston; 9-12 v Worcestershire, Worcester; 15-18 v Sussex, Hove; 22-26 1st Test, Lord's; 30 May-2 Jun v Middlesex, Shenley; June 5-9 2nd Test, Riverside; 17 v Somerset, Taunton; 19 v Hampshire, Rose Bowl; 22 v Essex, Chelmsford; 26 NatWest Series v England, Canterbury; 29 NatWest Series v South Africa, Canterbury; July 1 NatWest Series v England, Headingley; 5 NatWest Series v South Africa, Cardiff; 6 NatWest Series v England, Bristol; 10 NatWest Series v South Africa, Rose Bowl; 12 NatWest Series Final, Lord's

Gough gathers pace

Cricket

AFP, London

Darren Gough continued to press his case for an England recall by making 72 for Yorkshire in their county championship match against Hampshire at the Rose Bowl on Thursday.

England fast bowler Gough, who had been sidelined since July with a knee injury, took six for 81 in Yorkshire's innings and 343 run against Northamptonshire last month at Headingley.

York on Thursday he put Yorkshire on the path to another Second Division win, the visitors finishing on 293 having been 128 for seven with Michael Lumb finishing on 115 not out.

"I was very pleased today," Gough, 32, told Sky Sports.

"We're always being told by the England coach that bowlers must be able to bat."

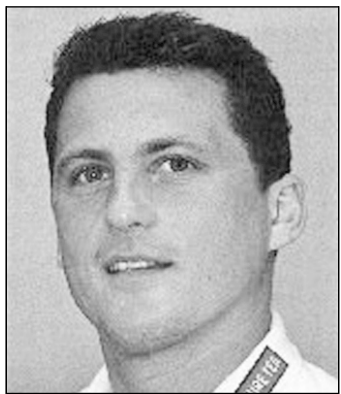
Asked how he felt, Gough replied: "I'm a bit out of my feet at the moment. We'll see how I rack up in the morning but at the moment things are going well for us."

And Gough, who throughout his long injury lay-off has insisted he will play for England again, added:

"I love cricket, I love playing for Yorkshire and England and I'm doing everything possible to achieve those objectives."

But the paceman said he did not expect to be in the line-up for England's opening international match of the season, the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's starting on May 22.

"If that comes around, great, but my target is the one-dayers"



DARREN GOUGH

(which start on June 17 with a three-match series against Pakistan).

Gough, who helped Lumb add 120 for the eighth wicket, was on course for a hundred when he was

caught behind off Australia's Simon Katich having hit eight fours and three sixes in an entertaining innings.

Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram took three for 64 and former England quick Alan Mullally three for 31.

The worth of Gough's innings was evident when Hampshire collapsed to 175 all out.

At the close England batsman Michael Vaughan, out for one in the first inning and fellow opener Matthew Wood were unbeaten. Yorkshire 23 without loss and 141 ahead at stumps on the second day of this four-day match.

Elsewhere, Murray Goodwin's 96 for Sussex against Kent again showed Zimbabwe what they were missing.

Goodwin's latest innings came on the same day as Zimbabwe arrived in England for their two-Test tour.

Attacking batsman Goodwin announced his retirement from international cricket after Zimbabwe's last tour of England three years ago, saying he could earn more playing for Sussex and Western Australia.

His innings Thursday helped the hosts to an overall lead of 268. But, four short of a hundred, Goodwin eventually fell lbw to off-spinner James Tredwell having hit 114 in his 179-ball innings.

In Waugh's footsteps

Cricket

AFP, London

England Test captain Nasser Hussain said he hoped his decision to retire from international one-day cricket would have the same effect on him as Australian counterpart Steve Waugh.

Unlike Hussain, who announced in March he was quitting limited-overs internationals after England's first round World Cup exit, Waugh was dropped from the Australia one-day team and played no part in the successful defence of their world title in South Africa.

But Hussain said this had left Waugh better prepared for the rigours of Test cricket.

"During the winter I saw Steve Waugh turn up for the Melbourne Test, refreshed and ready to perform after working on his batting in

a game or two for New South Wales while the one-day series was going on," Hussain said.

"He had time to himself while Ricky Ponting (Australia's one-day captain) talked to the media and he came back with a point to prove, which is always dangerous in



NASSER HUSSAIN

cricket," the 35-year-old Essex batsman explained.

"In the same way I'd like to get back to doing what I wanted to do when a boy - to play Test cricket for England, not be a national spokesman for everything cricketing," Hussain, recently chosen as one of Wisden's five-cricketers-of-the-year, added.

"That's what the job turned into after I took over in 1999. All forms of cricket and a lot else besides, like politics, landed at my door and I became a spokesman for the side," said Hussain in a reference to the controversy surrounding England's boycott of their World Cup match in Zimbabwe.

But Hussain knows better than anyone that his wish for a quieter life is unlikely to be granted quickly.

Lara's reason

Cricket

REUTERS, Bridgetown

West Indies captain Brian Lara justified his surprising decision to send Australia to bat in the third Test on Thursday, saying that his team performs better when they bat second.

"The answer's simple," Lara told reporters after Australia had reached 320 for three by the close of the first day on an excellent batting pitch.

"I need my batsmen to bat in the fourth innings."

"We bat better when we know exactly what we have to do," he said, adding that he believed the pitch would hold up.

Lara's decision surprised Australia vice-captain Ricky Ponting, who made 113 as he hit a century for the third Test match running.

"We were surprised to get sent in and we have capitalised," he said.

"There's no grass on it at all, it's a bit like a one-day pitch."

"These have been some of the easiest pitches I have batted on in my Test career," he added, referring to the pitches in Georgetown, Port-of-Spain and Bridgetown.

"There's very little bounce and they pace has been very even every time."

Lara said that West Indies were bowled out just after tea in Guyana in the first Test, the only match in the series in which they have batted first.

He added that although Australia made 320, they were still 70 runs short of their first day total in the second Test in Port-of-Spain.

bat for as long as possible."

"I hope the young fast bowlers are not going to get discouraged. They are going to get weaker batting line-ups and better bowling tracks."

Lara did not want to dwell on his team's fielding after Justin Langer



BRIAN LARA

was dropped twice early on before making 78.

Ponting also had a couple of let-offs.

"Of course, when you are playing the best team in the world, you want to take every half chance so it's a bit unfortunate but it's not time to sit back and get depressed about anything."

Tim intends to run faster

AFP, Mexico

American Tim Montgomery, holder of the 100m world record, says he intends to better his 9.78sec mark here on Saturday when he is set to race his first outdoor 100m of the season.

Ponting repays WI

FROM PAGE 13

Ponting, who received 204 balls and was at the crease for 300 minutes as he hit his 17th Test century, came to the crease with Australia at 43 for one and batted with typical patience and determination.

He compiled his innings with ones and twos, interspersed with some explosive boundaries. The high point came when he pulled Tino Best over Shivnarine Chanderpaul at deep square leg for six.

Ponting also rode his luck as he escaped a run out early in the innings, survived a loud lbw appeal from Best on 87 when replays suggested he was lucky to escape and was dropped by Chanderpaul at backward point on 90.

Ponting was finally run out with the score on 292 after Best rushed in at the deep third man boundary and his pinpoint, low throw reached wicketkeeper Carlton Baugh's hands with Ponting just centimetres short of the mark.

Lehmann and captain Steve Waugh, not out seven, were at the crease at the close.

Earlier, Langer also made West Indies pay as he was let off three times.

Langer had his first escape on the opening ball of the day when he edged Jermaine Lawson but Chanderpaul failed to take a difficult slip catch.

The second chance was much more blatant. This time Langer drove a return catch to Lawson, but the bowler failed to hang on to a catch at the second attempt after the ball popped out of his hands.

Langer survived again on 68 when he was left stranded following a mix-up with Ponting. Lawson fielded the ball and threw to Baugh, who clumsily missed the ball but knocked the stump with his glove.

His luck ran out when he sliced a Banks delivery to Chanderpaul at cover to become the opening Test victim of the 20-year-old off-spinner, the first player from the tiny island of Anguilla to play Test cricket.

Vasbert Drakes provided the only cheer for the home fans before lunch, finding the edge of Hayden's bat for Chris Gayle to

take a fumbling catch at first slip. Hayden made 27 from 30 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third Test between West Indies and Australia at Kensington Oval on Thursday.

Table with columns: Team, Runs, Wickets, Extras, Total. Includes scores for Australia (First Innings) and West Indies.

To bat: Adam Gilchrist, Andrew Bichel, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath

Toss: West Indies

Umpires: David Shepherd (ENG), Srinivas Venkataraghaven (IND)

WEST INDIES: Brian Lara (captain), Chris Gayle, Devon Smith, Daren Ganga, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Carlton Baugh, Omari Banks, Vasbert Drakes, Tino Best, Jermaine Lawson.

Daniela downs

AFP, Warsaw

Daniela Hantuchova's frustrating season continued on Thursday when a combination of Colombia's Fabiola Zuluaga and a vicious swirling wind conspired to knock her out of the 700,000-euro WTA event here.

The leggy Slovakian third-seed lost 6-2, 6-4 to her Colombian opponent and then blamed the windy conditions for her unexpected defeat. Chairs were blown over on the red clay court, and the roofs of tents surrounding the playing area were in danger of blowing away.

"I don't usually find excuses when I lose, but I really couldn't have done much today," said Hantuchova.

Martyn loses

FROM PAGE 13

"I'm naturally disappointed that I won't be on the plane to the Caribbean, but it's important that I allow the treatment to take its course and get things right for good."

"I'm making steady progress, which is encouraging, and I'm really looking getting myself 100 per cent right for the tour in Cairns and Darwin," he said.

Clarke, 22, made his one-day international debut for Australia in the VB Series match against England at the Adelaide Oval in January, scoring an unbeaten 39 runs from

47 balls, and taking 1-24 from seven overs with his left-arm orthodox spin.

Speaking from Barbados, Clarke said: "I feel really sorry for Damien that he still isn't fit, after what must be a frustrating time on the sidelines."

"However, I'm thrilled to be able to stay on with the Australian side and hopefully play some part in the one-day series."

"Just being around the senior players on tour has been a terrific learning experience and I'm grateful for being given the chance to continue that."

"The one-day international that I played in Adelaide in January was the highlight of my career to date, so I'm really excited that there's the opportunity for more matches in national colours," he said.

Dravid a Scot

FROM PAGE 13

home game against Sussex on August 28.

Dravid was a member of the Indian team which reached the World Cup final in South Africa earlier this year, before losing to Australia.

He also kept wicket during the tournament but it is not expected that he will do the same for Scotland, who have recruited South African Jon Kent as their other overseas player.

Scotland have been admitted to the National League for a three-year trial period.

They will also participate in the C&G Trophy but not the new Twenty20 Cup competition.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes solutions for some words like 'Japan', 'Flop', 'Ami-fur', etc.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a 10x10 grid of letters and numbers. Includes the word 'CRYPTOQUIP' and a list of letters: L F P Z H I H V V Q E X L V N P X L Y T F P A T I Q M L U G A G V U H E L X M F M P V L S S - I P N S H P Y M L Z L M O ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN OLD MOTORIST GETS A FLAT, THEN I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY HE SHOULD RE-TIRE. Today