

Lara dazzles in draw

Cricket

AFP, St. Lucia

West Indies batting superstar Brian Lara continued to prosper off the Sri Lankan attack as he hammered a masterful 209 on the fifth and final day of the drawn opening Test here on Tuesday.

Skipper Lara, who crossed the 200-mark for the fifth time in 95 Tests, helped the hosts post 477-9 declared in their first innings in reply to Sri Lanka's 354.

The tourists were 126 for no loss in their pressure-free second innings at stumps, with Sanath Jayasuriya (72) and Marvan Atapattu (50) putting on the first century stand for the opening wicket against the West Indies.

Jayasuriya, struggling to regain form, also became the third Sri Lankan to complete 5,000 Test runs after Aravinda de Silva and Arjuna Ranatunga.

The 34-year-old Lara, who amassed 688 in his last three away Tests against the same opponents two years ago, continued to relish the Sri Lankan bowling with a wide range of attacking strokes.

He smashed one six and 24 fours in his 21st Test hundred, the fifth in as many matches against Sri Lanka.

The hosts scored 205 in two sessions after resuming at 272-4, with Lara alone contributing 116.

Key Sri Lankan bowlers Muttiah Muralitharan and Chaminda Vaas struggled to contain Lara, who scored as and when he pleased during his 360-ball innings before being caught behind off an attempted pull.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the drawn first Test between the West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Beausejour Stadium on Tuesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 354 (M Atapattu 118, K Sangakkara 56, M Jayawardene 45, C Vaas 38; C Collymore 5-66)

WEST INDIES: First innings (over-night 272-4)

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Gayle lbw b Muralitharan 27, Ganga lbw b Vaas 12, Hinds run out 113, Lara c K'tharana b Nissanka 209, Sarwan c Atapattu b M'tharan 7, Samuel s t K'tharana b M'tharan 8, Jacobs lbw b M'tharan 13, Banks not out 50, Dillon c Atapattu b L'chchi 2, Collymore c and b M'tharan 0, Taylor not out 9, Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-17, w-2) 27, Total: (For 9 wks in 138.3 overs decl) 477

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-66, 3-240, 4-262, 5-279, 6-305, 7-441, 8-447, 9-448

Bowler O M R W. Vaas 39 5 116 1, Nissanka 21.3 1 108 1, S'weera 8 0 53 0, M'tharan 50 10 138 5, L'chchi 20 6 54 1

SRI LANKA: Second innings

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Atapattu not out 50, Jayasuriya not out 72, Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-1) 4, Total: (For no loss in 34 overs) 126, Bowler O M R W. Dillon 5 1 24 0, Collymore 3 0 8 0, Hinds 4 0 25 0, Taylor 6 1 19 0, Banks 10 0 28 0, Samuels 3 1 15 0, Sarwan 3 0 4 0

Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Brian Lara.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia) and Billy Bowden (New Zealand).

Second Test: June 27-July 1.



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: West Indies captain Brian Lara follows through on a cut during his knock of 209 against Sri Lanka on the fifth day of the drawn first Test in St. Lucia on June 24.

Delta Life TT on

UNB, Dhaka

The Delta Life Open table tennis competition began at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

In the opening day six events were held - men's team, women's team, boys team, men's singles, women's singles and boys singles.

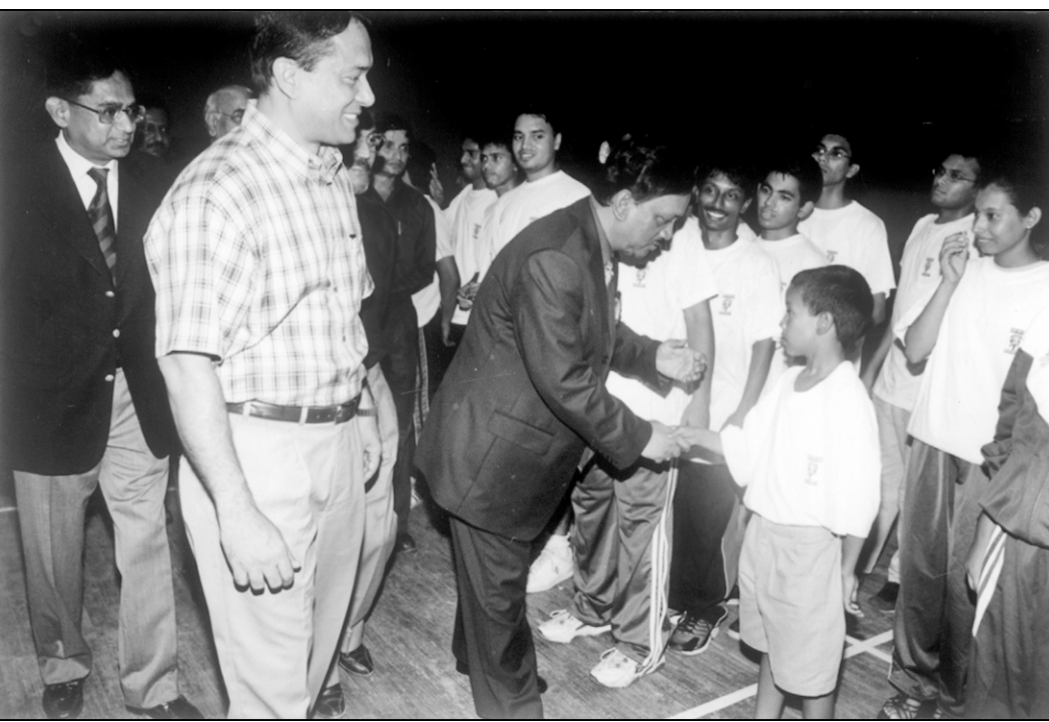
Khulna blanked Rajshahi 3-0 sets, Keraniganj Boys defeated Patuakhali 3-1, Satkhira outplayed Narsingdi 3-0 and Chittagong beat Kushtia 3-2 sets in the boys team event.

In the women's team event, Khulna beat Swamibagh Girls 3-0 sets, Jessore defeated Magura 3-0, Gaibandha beat Patuakhali 3-1, Biman (Red) blanked Khulna 3-0, Jessore outplayed Narail 3-0, Biman (Green) beat Jhenidah 3-0 and Rajshahi overpowered Gaibandha 3-2 sets.

In the men's team event, Gono University blanked Mohammedpur Sporting 3-0 sets, New Colony (Red) won in straight 3-0 sets against Block Eagle and North South University beat New Colony (Green) 3-0 sets.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the five-day meet.

At total of 30 teams 19 of men, 10 of women and 13 of boys are taking part in the meet.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman shaking hands with a tiny tot during the inaugural ceremony of the Delta Life Open table tennis competition yesterday.

STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM

WIMBLEDON

AFP, London

Croatian giantkiller Ivo Karlovic, enjoying his spell in the limelight after beating outgoing champion Lleyton Hewitt in the opening round, is going up in the world.

King Karlo, the tallest man in tennis at 2.08m (6'10"), came here as an unknown and pitched camp in a bed and breakfast at Earls Court in central London.

Having guaranteed himself a payday of at least 14,000 pounds (21,000 dollars) by reaching the second round Karlovic, 24, has now moved to a swanky hotel in upscale Kensington.

SNIFFER SPANIEL TURNS UP TRUMPS - AND BALLS

A sniffer spaniel used as part of the blanket security operation at this year's Championships has turned up trumps. The canny canine may not have found any weapons of mass destruction - but he has unearthed 28 tennis balls.

QUEEN OF SCREAM WINS DECIBEL COUNT

Maria Schaparova, Russia's new teen star and the tabloids' darling in the absence of Anna Kournikova, won two battles in her first round win over fellow teen Ashley Harkleroad of the United States.

Harkleroad, a grunter herself, said her rival had been way ahead in tennis terms - and in terms of the decibel count.

"I grunt pretty loud but I think she might have won that battle too," said Harkleroad.

POOLING THEIR RESOURCES

Tim Henman will be out to give no quarter to Frenchman Michael Llodra in their men's second round encounter as he bids to end a 67-year drought at Wimbledon. Henman and the 23-year-old Llodra have never met on court but are close friends off it. Both men practise pool together - and the Briton always wins.

"I am sure he will tease me about that," said Llodra, the Australian doubles champion alongside countryman Fabrice Santoro.

Premier kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Defending champions Bangladesh Rifles moved into the final of the 8th Premier Division Kabadi League with a 96-29 points victory over Sonali Bank in the first semifinal at the Outer Stadium kabadi court yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half by 55-12 points.

The second semifinal will be held today between Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Army at 4pm at the same venue.

Three top

FROM PAGE 13 In this round, Zia beat Rajib, Niaz drew with Rakib, Reefat beat Sohail, Amin beat Naser, Nasir beat Shakil, Pollab beat Farhad, Javed beat Kazal, Rani Hamid beat Moni, Parag beat Emon, Sumon beat Ali, Lavlu beat Ranodev and Sagar drew with Chanchal.

Seventh round games will start from 4:00 PM at the same venue today.

Bangladesh's

FROM PAGE 13 day match with all-rounder Nathan Hauritz the captain.

SQUADS

INVITATION SQUAD: Nathan Hauritz (captain), Daniel Payne, Brendan Nash, Lee Carseldine, Aaron Nye, James Hopes, Chris Hartley, Steve Farrell, Craig Philipson, Damien MacKenzie, Steve Magoffin, Matthew Petrie, Chris Simpson.

BANGLADESH (from): Khaled Mahmud (captain), Javed Omar, Hannan Sarkar, Habibul Bashar, Al-Shahriar, Mohammad Ashraf, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Sanwar Hossain, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, Tapas Baishya, Monjurul Islam, Tareq Aziz Khan and Anwar Hossain.

NatWest Series from today

CRICINFO, Nottingham

Having successfully met the NatWest Challenge posed by Pakistan, England now face a fresh test, from South Africa and Zimbabwe in the NatWest Series.

The ten-match odyssey begins in Trent Bridge with a match between England and Zimbabwe on Thursday, although it seems unlikely that these two sides will be meeting again in the final at Lord's on July 12.

Zimbabwe may have been the only side in action this summer to have reached the second phase of the World Cup, but their capitulation in the recent Test series hardly points to a repeat performance.

The prediction of an England/South Africa final might be a little presumptuous, for Zimbabwe's shortcomings will be less cruelly exposed in the one-day game than they were in the Tests. Furthermore, while England's new-look team is full of youthful promise, it is early days in the development process and it would be surprising if the graph took a smooth and continu-

ous upward line towards the World Cup in 2007 in the Caribbean.

There is still plenty for Michael Vaughan's team to prove, but the series win against Pakistan should have boosted the confidence and cemented the spirit in preparation for the first meeting with Zimbabwe.

The Africans, fragile in confidence and with the most brittle of batting line-ups, have been unable to bridge the yawning gap left by

SCHEDULE table with columns: Date, Match, Result. Includes June 26 Eng v Zim, June 28 Eng v SA, June 29 SA v Zim, July 1 Eng v SA (d/n), July 3 SA v Zim, July 5 Eng v Zim, July 6 SA v Zim, July 8 Eng v SA (d/n), July 10 SA v Zim, July 12 Final

Andy Flower's retirement.

It seems improbable for the hosts, after an unexpectedly memorable series win over Pakistan, that Zimbabwe will pose any genuine threat, and though Vaughan would be loath to admit it, the true test will

come at The Oval on Saturday.

The South Africans are also in rebuilding mode after their own World Cup disappointments. No Lance Klusener, no Jonty Rhodes and no Allan Donald, but with a 22-year-old captain in Graeme Smith who is only just beginning to collect stamps in his passport.

When Shaun Pollock's side went into the World Cup on home soil, there were inflated assumptions that they would win the tournament, just as their rugby side had done. The subsequent failure, in shambolic circumstances, left deep scars and so there is every hope in the England camp that they have a head start in this initial contest.

PROBABLE TEAMS

ENGLAND: Marcus Trescothick, Vikram Solanki, Michael Vaughan (captain), Jim Troughton, Andy Flintoff, Anthony McGrath, Rizki Clarke, Chris Read, Ashley Giles, Gough, James Anderson.

ZIMBABWE: Dion Ebrahim, Douglas Marillier, Grant Flower, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Tatenda Taibu, Sean Ervine, Heath Streak (captain), Andy Blygnaut, Travis Friend, Raymond Price, Douglas Hondo.

Take nothing

FROM PAGE 13

Jacques Santini has rotated his France side like a circus juggler, and with telling effect. 'Les Bleus' without talismanic midfielder Zinedine Zidane have looked more and more solid as the competition progressed, and they should have a distinct fitness advantage. Manchester United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez will be in high spirits after the birth of his first child, while Thierry Henry is enjoying his new-found popularity with the fans who were chanting his name over and over again at Saint Etienne against Japan even when he was on the bench.

ICC's bouncer

FROM PAGE 13

then world record 355 wickets in 70 Tests between 1970 and 1984. He said the ICC should consider a structure in which lesser, or under-performing, nations spent time in a second division where runs and wickets counted as first-class statistics but were not included in Test records.

"Nobody worked harder than Courtney Walsh (of the West Indies) for his world record 519 wickets, but he is going to be absolutely swamped because of what's up for grabs these days."

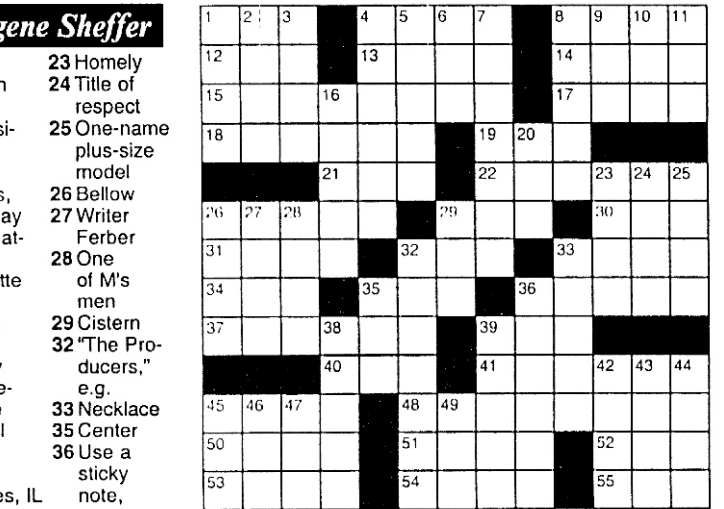
Bangladesh arrived in Australia Monday to start preparing for the Tests in Darwin on July 18-22 and Cairns on July 25-29.

Both venues will be staging their first Tests.

Bangladesh and Australia, the World Cup one-day champions, will be meeting in Tests for the first time.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Skiffer

ACROSS 39 Vest 24 Ralph Lauren brand 40 Kyoto 3 Oppositi-onist plus-size model 41 In the thick of 45 Catcall? 48 Tubular solid 50 Creole veggie 51 Long time 52 Verb for you 53 Noggin 54 Touch down 55 Tie up the phone 1 Down 1 Roe 20 Bagel source



CRYPTOQUIP SE CZRWXCDF AJQ XZG Z UPKE JAA XZLRW JC GWZMARMQ SJWRJMFPGG LDWR FJUP XPK GWRFF

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN I HAND CRAYONS TO MY YOUNG SONS AND DAUGHTERS, IT REALLY MAKES MY KIN SCRAWL.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: A equals D

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Executive director of Transcom Beverage Limited Golam Qudus Chowdhury (2nd from right) speaking at a press briefing in connection with the Pepsi Media Cup cricket tournament at the BSJA yesterday.

Federer on course

FROM PAGE 13

Federer has been touted as a future champion since upsetting Pete Sampras, then the defending champion, in a fourth-round match two years ago. But he then crashed to Tim Henman and last year exited in the opening round to Croatia's Mario Ancic.

Spanish teen star Rafael Nadal, who says his game is not as suited to grass as clay, did his best to disprove that theory by blitzing Britain's 487th-ranked Lee Childs 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 in a match interrupted by rain at a point where Childs was enjoying a second-set purple patch.

The 77th-ranked 16-year-old Nadal will next meet the winner of the match between 12th seed Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand and Belgium's Olivier Mutis, who were embroiled in a five-set battle.

"The rain came at a good moment. It was a bit hot and at that

moment I wasn't hitting the ball that well," said Nadal.

Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten slumped out with US veteran Todd Martin blasting the Brazilian 17th seed 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Martin next goes toe to toe with Australian Open finalist Rainer Schuettler, the German ninth seed, who ousted unseeded Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

OTHER RESULTS

Men's singles

2nd rd Mardy Fish (USA) bt Jan-Michael Gambill (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-1

1st rd Lars Burgsmuller (GER) bt Albert Montanes (SPA) 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 6-2

Women's singles

2nd rd Iroda Tulyaganova (UZB) bt Perta

Men's Doubles

1st rd Nathan Healey (AUS)/David Skoch (CZE) lead Jonathan Erlich (ISR)/Andy Ram (AUS) 4-6, 7-5, 4-6

Nicolas Kiefer (GER)/David Prinosil (GER) bt Andrew Kratzmann (AUS)/Jeff Tarango (USA) 7-6 (7/3), 6-1, 6-4

Women's Doubles

1st rd Els Callens (BEL)/Meilen Tu (USA) bt Amanda Augustus (USA)/Jennifer Embry (USA) 6-0, 6-0

Emmanuelle Gagliardi (SWI)/Meghann Shaughnessy (USA x12) bt Patricia Tarabini (ARG)/Caroline Vies (NED) 6-3, 6-0

Iva Majoli (CRO)/Barbara Rittner (GER) bt Teryn Ashley (USA)/Abigail Spears (USA) 7-6 (7/3), 2-6, 6-1