

Lee-way for Bangladesh

Final match down under today

Cricket

AFP, Darwin

Bangladesh won't be confronted with the daunting sight of Australian express bowler Brett Lee in the third and final one-day cricket match here on Wednesday.

But the cricket minnows may have to take on the full armoury of Australia's batting line-up first-up, with Ricky Ponting saying he will bat first if he wins the toss and playing conditions are conducive.

"If the wicket's good I'll bat first every time," the Australian skipper said here on Tuesday.

"It's just what the captaincy and playing one-day cricket is all about, (you don't) put yourself under any more pressure than you have to in

games of one-day cricket."

Ponting said the Australian line-up would probably stay the same if the side batted first, although some players may be moved up the order.

Damien Martyn was one of the first to put up his hand for a higher spot after narrowly missing out on hitting one of the fastest centuries in one-day history in the second one-day game in Cairns.

Martyn made a scorching 92 off 51 balls to help Australia win the second match.

"I've got to try and get up the order again, so I'll speak to Ricky," Martyn said.

"If we get a good wicket tomorrow it certainly helps with the shot making and ... we (will) go out there and try to play positive cricket and put on a good show for the crowd."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Mohammedan striker Nakib (No. 10) scores for the second time against Jhenidah Mohammedan during their Nitol-Tata National Football League encounter at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: QAMRUL AHSAN

Mohammedan finish 2nd

FROM QUAZI AMANULLAH,

Khulna



Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club completed their first round campaign with a 4-2 victory over Jhenidah Mohammedan in the Third Nitol-Tata National Football League at Khulna Stadium yesterday.

But there were no smiles on the faces of the booters of the Dhaka giants as they had to finish second behind the unheralded Maulvibazar Wanderers in Group A on goal difference. Both Mohammedan and Wanderers ended on equal 10 points after four first round games but the Wanderers, backed by wealthy expatriate Londoners, scored 14 goals against Mohammedan's 12.

Mohammedan went into the match against their humble namesakes from Jhenidah needing to win by six goals to claim the top spot and a blistering first half display saw them going 4-1 ahead

with veteran striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib hitting a double.

But they failed to keep up the same tempo after the breather and had to settle for second spot.

Although Mohammedan started off aggressively, it was the tiny Jhenidah team that took a shock lead when Anwar netted from an Aminul pass (1-0).



MONWAR...m-o-m

Mohammedan's Uzbek recruit Turabikov Dabran however eased nerves three minutes later with a powerful long range volley (1-1). Midfielder Monwar put

Mohammedan in front in the 27th minute before Nakib's two trademark headers put the result beyond doubt. After scoring his first in the 38th minute from a Kanchan cross from the left, the evergreen striker then turned in a Titu centre from the right in the 45th.

Despite coming close on a number of occasions, Mohammedan forwards muffed a number of chances and against the run of play, Ujjal of Jhenidah curled an excellent free kick past Mohammedan custodian Nizam (4-2).

Monwar of Mohammedan was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

Yellow cards: Sentu (Mohammedan), Taju (Jhenidah Mohammedan).

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Nizam (Bijon), Jewel Rana, Titoo, Hasan (Akram), Sentu, Faisal, Monwar, Turavikab (Riad), Nakib, Kanchan and Anwar.

JHENIDAH MOHAMMEDAN SC: Mashuur (Momin), Tanjilur, Shipon, Obaidur, Arman, Pintoo, Taju, Amirul, Rezaul (Ripon), Ujjal and Anwar.

Referee: Mansoor Azad.

Kamalapur Stadium opens tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly-built Kamalapur Stadium named after Bir Shreshtha Mustafa Kamal is all set to become the fourth national stadium in the capital tomorrow.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the twenty thousand capacity arena, which has been built exclusively for football.

The stadium was built in an effort to end the decades of deadlock between the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) over possession of the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

But only a day before its official unveiling, there was dejection rather than enthusiasm. Neither the BFF, who will use it to ease their hectic domestic schedule, nor the owners National Sports Council (NSC) were happy with the venue.

"It is not a stadium which we wanted for football permanently. It

would be impossible to hold even First Division matches," said a BFF official to The Daily Star Sport on condition of anonymity.

"The ground is not suitable for good football. If I say this was laid on a garbage dump, then what else is there to be said," he said.

He also criticised the lack of proper fencing citing that security of the spectators could not be ensured especially during big matches.

The infrastructure was also not satisfactory after spending almost Tk 23 crore. The proposed budget was 30 crore-taka but as the NSC withdrew their plan to set up an underground car park, the amount remained unutilised.

Construction of the stadium began in the 1999-2000 fiscal year after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone.

It is also thought that installation of the floodlights at a cost of six crore taka was completely unnecessary.

To get the best out of the new stadium the NSC official felt there was one way to achieve the desired standard.

"More land needs to be acquired in order to give it a proper shape. But that is impossible at the moment because it involves a huge amount of money," he said.

The stadium has a three-tier gallery comprising pavilion, player's lounge, VIP lounge and conference room.

But surprisingly nobody bothered to think about where the journalists would work since the designers forgot to include a press box.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman however assured that he will take initiative to make a permanent press box when he last visited the spot on July 15.

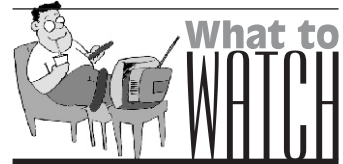
A former footballer turned BFF official said that the stadium might only be used for Second Division and Third Division matches.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Did U Know?

Rodney Marsh holds the record for taking most catches off one bowler, 95 of his victims being caught off his fellow West Australian Dennis Lillee.



BTV

Bangladesh vs Australia
Third ODI
Live at 5:30 am

BTV

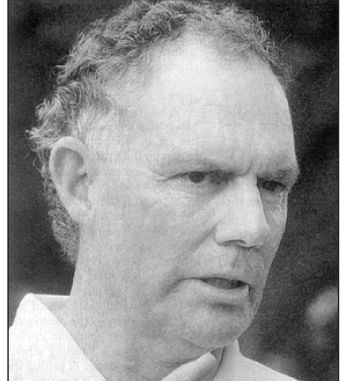
Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
Abahani KC vs Shrajganj Mohammedan
Live at 4:00 pm

ESPN

Western Union World Football
Repeat at 8:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Soccer Soap
Dream Team
Repeat at 8:30 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Soccer Soap
Dream Team
Taped Version at 10:00 pm



Greg Chappell

(Australian cricket legend)
"Australia has the advantage at the moment. The success of the Australian team hasn't come about by accident. The decisions that were taken 20 years ago have borne fruit and have been bearing fruit now for some time."

Emarat finish 3rd

UNB, Dhaka

Emarat Hossain High School finished third in the Dhaka Metropolitan inter-school football tournament beating their rival at the outer stadium yesterday.

Emarat Hossain High defeated Matuail Multilateral High School 3-0. Ali Hossain struck twice while Azharul scored one goal for the winners.

M Jewel was adjudged man-of-the-match.
Dhaka Residential Model School and Dolairpar High School will meet in the final tomorrow.

Srinath ending?

REUTERS, Bombay

Indian pace bowler Javagal Srinath has opted out of a training squad for the Test series against New Zealand later this year because of a knee injury.

Srinath's move has again raised doubts about his future in international cricket and he said on Tuesday he was still considering a second retirement.

The 33-year-old, who was persuaded to return from retirement to lead the Indian pace attack at the World Cup earlier this year, told the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) he was not fit enough to take part.

"Srinath told the board he is not keeping well," Karunakaran Nair, secretary of the BCCI, told reporters on Tuesday.

"He is undergoing rehabilitation and he's not fully fit. He will not be in the camp with the other probables, but depending on his fitness, we will decide whether to pick him for the series."

Speaking from Bangalore, Srinath told Reuters he was nursing an injury to his right knee and would decide whether to play against New Zealand by the end of August.

"I have just started running," he said. "I have to strengthen my knee

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Towering commercialism

BISHWAJIT ROY

The National Sports Council (NSC) Tower becomes a reality when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia lays the foundation stone tomorrow at 11 am.

Construction of the 20-storied complex is expected to be complete within the next two years.

Although the modern structure is destined to be the new home of country's supreme sports authority, it will once again demonstrate the commercial-minded nature of the NSC rather than reflecting the welfare of sport.

The general feeling was that when the NSC built the Dhaka Stadium next to its present set up, the all-purpose venue and its surroundings would be nothing but the heart of sport. However, over the years a marriage of convenience has taken place between business and sport.

And it seems the same fate awaits the NSC Tower. Already

taken over by commercialism, the NSC compound could be said to be suffocating because every inch of space has been devoted to business house of various shapes and sizes at the expense of greenery.

The apex sports authority acquired nearly three acres of land to build the high-rise building behind their present office.

Immediately after BNP-led alliance came to power, the NSC undertook the venture with a view to generating income for itself.

The NSC will build the tower from their own resources. "We will spend Tk 40 crore for the project all of which comes from idle funds," an NSC official told The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

As part of the project, the NSC will allocate the basement as a two-tier car parking zone at a cost of Taka 12 crore. It is being financed from the sale of lottery tickets.

The same NSC official informed that they have set a target of earn-

ing 40-lakh taka a month operating the tower on commercial basis.

Also it has planned to use half of the luxury building for their own purpose while the remaining ten floors will be rented out.

Each of the floors measures 10,000 square feet.

The NSC Tower is learnt will have a modern one thousand-seater capacity auditorium, 200-room player dormitory, a sports museum, a modern gymnasium and a library.

Earlier it was learnt that some federations would have an opportunity to be housed within it. But later the NSC made a U-turn on the proposal.

There is also bad news for the Bangladesh Chess Federation, which lost its home due to the tower, the NSC are now thinking of making the chess body's temporary address at its old building a permanent home.

Premier Div Hockey Ajax run riot

SPORTS REPORTER

A first half strike from forward Mamun Hossain propelled Sonali Bank to their third win in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League yesterday.

The Bankers won 1-0 against a hapless War Club in one of the two matches played at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium with Mamun scoring a 24th minute field. Sonali Bank now have nine points from five matches.

On the other hand, it was the sixth successive defeat for Wari.

In the other match of the day, Ajax Sporting Club registered their first win with an 11-0 routing of Bangladesh Sporting Club.

Rajkumar, Gopinath and captain Ashiqur Rahman struck twice while Proshanto, Rajani, Ehtesham, Rajib and Rahat added one each to the winners credit. The emphatic Ajax win came after four consecutive losses.

Bangladesh Sporting have lost all their five games till date.

Gough bids Test bye

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, London

Fast bowler Darren Gough, regarded as the heart of the England team for almost a decade, finally gave up the fight against long-term knee problems on Tuesday as he retired from Test cricket.

He made up his mind that his injury-ravaged body could no longer stand up to the strain of playing five-day matches.

Gough, who took 229 wickets in his 58 Tests at an average of 28.39, will still be available for selection for one-day international matches.

The 32-year-old Yorkshireman's decision to bow out of the Test arena follows a disappointing display in England's innings defeat by South Africa in the second Test at Lords on Sunday.

Gough, who had returned to the Test side this summer after a two-year absence due to a knee injury,

failed to take a wicket as England's bowlers were mauled by the South African batsmen and there had been speculation that he could be dropped from the side.

In a statement Gough said he had reluctantly come to the conclusion that three operations in the last two years had left his knee too weak for Test cricket.

"Every day is a hard one and my career is based on being a strike bowler and being the one the captain always turned to in time of need," Gough said.

"But I've found the last two matches hard going both mentally and physically not just on playing days but also against the backdrop of the effort I've put in over the last eight months to get back to this stage."

"It has become apparent to me, no matter what my heart, head or public want me to do, that my knee will not allow me to play Test Match cricket."

"Obviously I'm sad, but I think every player knows when it's time to step down and I feel in order for me

to concentrate on my dream of one-day cricket and possibly another World Cup for England and trying to help Yorkshire move forward, I feel I have to retire from Test cricket."

Gough added: "I hope I've served England well but as you look around there are some very good bowlers all waiting for a chance and good luck to them. I'm a cricket supporter and I will be supporting them."

The chairman of England's selectors, David Graveney, paid tribute to Gough's contribution to the Test side since making his debut in 1994.

"He has been a brilliant talisman for the English team over the past decade," Graveney said. "It has been unfortunate that his career has been blighted by injury and I am sure he would have moved higher up the all-time England wicket-taking list if he hadn't been so unlucky."

Gough's haul of 229 wickets made him England's 8th most prolific Test wicket-taker of all time.

GOUGH AT A GLANCE

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Factbox on England fast bowler Darren Gough after he announced his retirement from Test cricket on Tuesday:

Born: Sept 18 1970. Right-arm fast bowler.

Test debut: v New Zealand, Old Trafford, 1994. 58 Tests, 229 wickets at 28.39.

ODI debut: v New Zealand, Edgbaston, 1994. 121 ODIs, 188 wickets at 24.96.

Short and stocky for a quick bowler at under 6ft. Early career blighted by injuries. At Yorkshire nicknamed Dazzler. Will to win and infectious spirit made him the heart of the England team.

1992, former West Indies captain Richie Richardson advised him to concentrate on speed.

1994, dismissed New Zealand's

Martin Crowe in first over in ODIs, Mark Greatbatch in first over of Tests. Got 65 with first innings in Test at Old Trafford, a mark he never passed.

1998, 6-42 v South Africa in fifth Test Headingley as England won first five-Test series for 12 years.

2000, leading wicket-taker v West Indies with 25 wickets, man of series, England's first win against them in 31 years.

2000-1, 10 wickets in three-Test series as England beat Pakistan away for first time since 1961-62. Then England pulled off a three-Test series victory in Sri Lanka, with Gough top of the team's bowling averages with 14 wickets at 19.57 as he learnt to vary his pace and bowl off-cutters.

2001, eighth Englishman to pass 200 Test wickets in first Test against Pakistan at Lord's in May.

2001-2, he and strike partner Andy Caddick opted not to tour

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



DARREN GOUGH

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket captain Saurav Ganguly scoffed Tuesday at the Australian team's reputation for sledging, saying it would not worry his team during their clashes later this year.

India is due to play a limited-overs tri-series against Australia and New Zealand at home in October-November before touring Australia for four Test matches soon after.

Ganguly said he agreed with former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar that the Australians were guilty of reducing sledging to personal abuse, but stressed his team

"had learnt to live with it".

"I don't totally disagree with Gavaskar, these things happen," Ganguly said in a television interview.

"There are a bit of words exchanged on the field these days. It happens with every team. But the players have learnt to live with it."

"Sledging has become part of modern-day cricket, but it is a minor issue which should not be blown out of proportion."

Gavaskar, the first batsman to score 10,000 Test runs and a world record 34 centuries, blasted the Australians for unsporting on-field behaviour in his Colin Cowdrey memorial lecture in London last week.

Ganguly, whose team lost to Australia in the World Cup final earlier this year, said India was

ready for a tough tour down under.

"We know what the conditions will be in Australia, we know what to expect," he said.

"It is going to be a tough tour. We have to be honest and work really hard and raise our game if we have to compete with them."

The last time India played a Test series in Australia, in 1999-2000, they were blanked 3-0.

But Australia are without a series win in India since 1969 after Steve Waugh's world champions lost 2-1 two seasons ago.

Ganguly said his team would try to gain a psychological advantage over Australia when they come over for the one-day triangular in October.

"Obviously, Australia are a great

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1