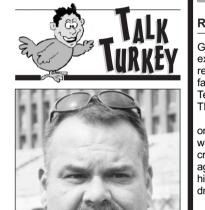


when he took his 200th wicket against the West Indies at Port-of-Spain on March 15. 1983



ESPN Western Union World Football Repeat at 12:00 pm English Premier Football League Newcastle United vs Birmingham City Repeat at 3:30 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm **STAR Sports** Gillette World Sports Special Int'l Sports News Repeat at 8:30 am Sportsline Tonight

Sport News Live at 8:00 pm **US Open Tennis** Men's/Women's 4th Rd Live at 9:00 pm





(Bangladesh cricket coach)

"I am speechless and at a loss to

SPORTS REPORTER

The first meeting of the season between Moha-NITOLTATA mmedan Sporting Club and Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira was a disappointment for a FOOTBALL LEAGUE

20,000 strong crowd at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

It was not the result that irritated the paying football fan, but the manner in which the giants played out a goalless draw in the last robin league match of the Nitol-Tata National Football League.

A Mohammedan-Muktijoddha encounter is always guaranteed plenty of excitement and drama, but Sunday's game had neither. It was evident that both teams wanting to avoid a premature clash with Abahani Krira Chakra, adopted a safety-first policy.

And after a 90-minutes of dreary football the onus will be on Mohammedan to face their bitter rivals Abahani in the second semifinal

Muktijoddha, on the other hand, custodian Nizam

will have be on their guard while playing dark horse Moulvibazar Wanderers in the first semifinal. Both semifinals will take place tomorrow at the same venue. Group A champion Wanderers meet Muktijoddha at 3.30pm while the Dhaka derby will kick off at 5.30pm.

Although the second semifinal was scheduled for Wednesday, the tournament committee changed the fixture to ensure live coverage after Bangladesh Television expressed its inability due to a prior

national engagement. With both teams assured of a place in the last four the equation

going into the last match was for Mohammedan to lose and Muktijoddha needing a draw to avoid a semifinal battle against Abahani.

The first half promised plenty of end-to-end action. Striker Saiful Islam Moni, the leading scorer in the competition, got two chances to end the deadlock for Muktijoddha. But his first effort a header from an Alfaz cross went wide and the other a curling freekick from the top of the box was fisted away by Mohammedan

England, who trail 2-1 in the five-

8,425 runs, eighth in the all-time list.

Mohammedan also could have taken the lead at the stroke of the break when Pappu set Farhad up with a defence-splitting pass but the shaven-headed striker could only manage a feeble shot

straight at Aminul. If that was the first sign of a striker unwilling to score from a vantage position then Alfaz's funny shot with Nizam at his mercy could be best described as a back pass.

And when the final whistle went, there were no cheers but only jeers from the stands.

Yellow cards: Ghansa (Muktijoddha) and Salisu (Mohammedan)

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Nizam, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Hassan, Titoo, Joy, Faisal (Salisu), Pappu (Tushar), Kanchan, Nakib (Dabran) and Farhad.

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD KC: Aminul. Hasan Al Mamun, Rajani, Suion, Papel, Prodip, Ghansa, Nono (Lajuk), Matiur Munna, Alfaz and Moni.

Referee: Mansoor Azad



Mohammedan defender Jewel Rana (R) clears the ball against Muktijoddha striker Alfaz Ahmed during their Nitol-Tata Third National Football League Super Six encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Return of Thorpe

without success.

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, London

Graham Thorpe ended a year-long exile on Sunday when he was recalled to the England squad to face South Africa in the fifth and final Test at The Oval starting on

Thursday

The Surrey left-hander has been on the sidelines since announcing he was taking a complete break from cricket following last year's Lord's Test against India in July in the aftermath of his marriage break-up. He also with-

drew from last year's Ashes tour. But his talent and experience at the highest level has persuaded the selectors to include him in the 13-man sauad.

He comes in as a straight replacement for Nasser Hussain, who broke his left toe while batting during last week's fourth Test defeat at Headinglev

Hussein is not expected to play again this season. "It feels very good," Thorpe told BBC radio. "It's great to get an opportu-

Thorpe is regarded as England's "Graham is a proven performer at best batsman. The 34-year-old has Test level and I'm sure that he will relish played 77 Tests and averages 41.87. the challenge. He has also played 82 one-dayers.

Bowler Martin Bicknell was included in the squad, although he match series. have blooded a string of must undergo a fitness test on a younger batsmen in his absence but hamstring problem. He was bothered by long-standing hamstring trouble The match will also be during his Test return last week. wicketkeeper-batsman Alec Stewart's

England's pace attack has struglast for England after a 14-year Test gled throughout the series, with career which has seen him scored Andrew Caddick unavailable because of a back problem while Matthew England had been due to name Hoggard is still not fit following knee their squad on Friday but delayed the announcement for 48 hours because surgery.

Steve Harmison, overlooked from the Headingley starting line-up, is almost certain to regain his place in the starting line-up but the selectors decided against the return of Somerset seamer Richard Johnson, who has been plagued by knee trouble ever since the end of the one-day triangular tournament mid-way through the summer.

South Africa, ranked second in the world, won the fourth Test at Headingley to take control of a series they have dominated from the outset.

Irani Trophy Tendulkar to lead Mumbai

CRICINFO, undated

Sachin Tendulkar, who last led Mumbai four years, will captain the side against the Rest of India in the Irani Trophy match to be played over September 18-22. The decision was taken by the

Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) selection committee after they spoke to Tendulkar, who is currently in Bangalore with the other Indian probables Ratnaker Shetty, the MCA joint

secretary, said, "The Irani Trophy being a very crucial match before the home series against the visiting New Zealand, we wanted the best side and the best man to lead. "Moreover, Mumbai do not have

the side, apart from leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule and Ajit Agarkar, who are still very young. According to Shetty, "With

Sachin leading the side for the Irani Trophy, others can learn a trick or two which will help during the sides Ranii Trophy campaign later.' It's the first time in years that

with the return of batsman Younis Khan, for the injured Shoaib Malik and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq who replaces fast bowler Shoaib

Akhtar, who is returning to England to play for Durham Younis missed the first two Tests due to family commitments while the selectors have recalled Saglain after being ignored for three oneday tournaments after the World

Cup Latif said he had been surprised by the performances of the Bangladeshis, particularly their batsman Habibul Bashar and Javed Omar, who have each scored a



Super 5 win SPORTS REPORTER Usha Krira Chakra tamed giant-

Usha's maiden

killers Sonali Bank 4-1 in a Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday

This was Usha's first win in their four 'Super Five' encounters so far, but their effort meant little as they remained at the bottom with 18 points from 13 matches. On the other hand, Sonali Bank, who upset Abahani in their previous game, also stayed put with 19 points from twelve matches

Usha led the first-half 2-1 in the one-sided match against the youthful bankers

Indian Vikramiit Singh struck twice, once in each half, from penalty corners. Forward Moududur Rahman Shuvo netted a field goal before the break and Vikramiit's countryman Mobinur Rahman scored another field goal in the second session for Usha.

Indian Anil Ekka reduced the margin for bankers

TODAY'S MATCH

Mohammedan SC v Ajax SC (4pm)

Latif for better batting

PHOTO: STAR

ment despite their limited resources," said Latif. "In Peshawar we were lucky that Shoaib Akhtar got into his rhythm at the right time and helped us win the match.

Meanwhile, Pakistan are confident fast bowler Mohammad Sami will be available for the end of their oneday series against Bangladesh in eptember.

Pakistan manager Haroon Rasheed told Reuters that Sami had responded well to specialist treatment for a stress hairline fracture to his ankle.

"The feedback we have got about him is very encouraging," Rasheed said.

"The team coach and captain are keen that if he recovers in time he should bowl a few overs in the last onedayer against Bangladesh so that he is match fit for the series against South Africa

Sami hurt his ankle while fielding for Kent in the English County Championship in July

Bandladesh will play five one-day internationals against Pakistan in Multan, Faisalabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi on September 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21

Pakistan's first one-dayer

against South Africa is in Karachi on

September 26 when they hope

Sami and Shoaib Akhtar will spear-

match series. Pakistan won the first two Tests

said.

"The batsmen have struggled against the open field and consisbowlers. In the third Test we need to improve.'

Pakistan has only recorded 3-0 whitewash wins over touring sides twice, against Australia in 1982-83 and then over the West Indies in 1997 and Latif said a third sweep

US OPEN US OPEN

Jennifer Capriati, Justine Henin-

Hardenne and Lleyton Hewitt all

looked forward to the business end

of the US Open after clocking up

victories at the rain-hit hardcourt

one Andre Agassi was put on hold

by organisers, who told the

American to go home and complete

his interrupted third-round match

with Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov on

when rain over Flushing Meadows

forced the pair off Arthur Åshe court.

well as resurgent Frenchwoman

Mary Pierce, had the good fortune to

finish their third-round matches

before the weather turned, women's

second seed Henin-Hardenne and

men's third seed Juan Carlos

Ferrero were among those forced to

Henin-Hardenne emerged to crush

Saori Obata of Japan 6-1, 6-2 in 55

encounter with Dinara Safina, the

sister of men's 2000 US Open

Claudine Schaul of Luxembourg 6-

4, 7-5 to become one of five Russian

women in the last 16 -- a record at

diligent best in overcoming

Argentine Juan Ignacio Chela 7-5,

7-5, 6-1, while the rain delay could

he recorded the best performance

champion Marat Safin.

When the rain relented, Belgian

The win set up a fourth-round

The unseeded Safina beat

Spaniard Ferrero was at his

Agassi was leading 6-3, 0-1

While Capriati and Hewitt, as

But top seed and world number

Grand Slam on Saturday.

Sunday.

hang around.

minutes.

the US Open.

a very experienced player to lead

Cricket **REUTERS**, Rawalpindi Pakistan captain Rashid Latif is looking for his side to improve their

batting in the third Test against Bangladesh as they attempt to complete a whitewash of the three-

in Karachi and Peshawar by seven and nine wickets respectively and the third Test is to be played from September 3 to 7 in Multan.

"I want to see the batsmen play longer innings and give the bowlers a proper total to bowl at and help us win the third Test in a more convincing manner," Latif told this news agency on Sunday.

tent bowling by the Bangladeshi



Jacques Kallis warmed up for next week's fifth Test against England with the first double century of his career against Derbyshire here on Saturday.

All-rounder Kallis made exactly 200 in the tourists' total of 460 for seven declared although the Western Province star's runs did come against an under-strength Derbyshire attack.

In reply the hosts made 136 for four declared with swing bowler Charl Willoughby taking three for 31

nity now and to be fit and firing. It's the last game and we need to do well in it. "I don't really feel that I've got anything to lose by playing in this game

The only other change to the team beaten at Headingley was the inclu-sion of off-spinner Gareth Batty in place of seamer James Kirtley, who is out with shin splints.

Johnson keeps crown White in trouble

AFP. Paris

Allen Johnson could be forgiven if he didn't have much time for women athletes as for the second successive World Championships his remarkable dominance of the 110metre hurdles was overshadowed and this time it was by one of his own teammates. While Johnson - the selfprofessed 'Quiet Man' of the sport

won his fourth world title, Kelli White's achievement in taking the 100m and 200m double was cast into doubt as it was revealed she had tested positive for a stimulant following the 100m. White was withdrawn from the

American team after it was revealed she had tested positive for Modafinil, which stimulates the nervous system and combats tiredness, following her 100m victory last Sunday, though the IAAF did not object to her running in the 4x100m relay as it is not on the banned list.

The Americans' loss was France's gain as their quartet took advantage of White's absence to take the relay gold.

It was the climax of a glorious 10 minutes for the hosts as Eunice Barber pulled off a stunning last effort to take the long jump title and gain rich compensation for her silver in the heptathlon

Johnson was superb as he barely had to break sweat to ensure he added a fourth gold to his bursting medals cabinet but again he had to acknowledge that he would have to take a back seat to another athlete.

"Even if I'm not front page news, I am still the first four-time champion, so I'm happy," said Johnson who won his first world title in 1995.



of injury concerns.

Athletics

Olympics in Athens.

year's US Olympic trials.

Two-time Olympic champion Edwin

Moses confirmed on Sunday he is

making a comeback to the 400

metres hurdles at the age of 48 with

an initial aim of qualifying to run in the

trials for the US team for next year's

held a press conference to officially

announce his decision on the day of

The former world record holder

AFP. Paris

1983.

GRAHAM THORPE

Batty, Kabir Ali, James Anderson, Martin Bicknell, Graham Thorpe, "We've chosen Graham Thorpe as a like-for-like replacement for Nasser Hussain," explained chairman of Trescothick. selectors David Graveney

Moses making

a comeback

Mark Butcher, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Stephen Harmison, Ed Smith, Alec Stewart, Marcus

SQUAD

Irani Trophy has been taken so seriously, with almost all the con-Michael Vaughan (captain), Gareth tenders for national team selection part of the mix.

> Lanka afraid of

'barmy army' invasion

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's battle with Tamil Tiger rebels usually discouraged tourists, but the ongoing truce is also causing problems as the authorities brace for an invasion by the "barmy army." Cricket officials said they were

REUTERS, New York struggling to find accommodation

for thousands of England fans known as the "barmy army," who are expected to accompany their team on tour here in November and December.

"There is a shortage of about 3,000 rooms," a cricket board official said. "Hotels are overbooked and we have not encountered this sort of problem in decades."

In 1996, Australia and the West Indies boycotted their World Cup qualifying matches in Sri Lanka for fear of attack, but the current ceasefire is sending a flood of holidaymakers to the island. Tourism authorities and the

Cricket board have brought the shortage of rooms to the attention of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has ordered that state guest houses be opened for fans.

The Cricket Board said it was also inviting private homes to offer rooms to paying guests in a bid to ease the pressure on hotel accommodation during the England tour.

Foreign tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka increased by nearly 25 percent in the first six months of 2003 over a year earlier to around 216,000 people.

Government spokesman G. L. Peiris said there had also been 23.000 new jobs created in the hospitality sector since the truce with the Tamil Tigers went into effect on February 23 last year.

Several hotels closed in July 2001 and others retrenched a large chunk of their staff after the Tiger rebels completely destroyed four Sri Lankan airlines aircraft parked at not derail American Taylor Dent as the island's only international airport.

would give his side confidence an ahead of their series with South Africa

"If we finish this series with a RASHID LATIF three-nil result it will put us in the century in the series so far. proper frame of mind for the next series against South Africa," Latif Bashar also scored 97 in the first innings at Peshawar.

"They have proved worthy oppo-The 34-year-old said the third Test squad would be strengthened nents. They have shown improve-

Rain holds Agassi up No problems for contenders

> of his Grand Slam career. The American world number 74 came from two sets to one down to beat Chilean 15th seed Fernando Gonzalez 7-6, 6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, a victory which gave 22-year-old Dent

"I'm excited, I don't think it's sunk "I've lost to Andre twice at Grand

able. While Dent was kickstarting his career, 33-year-old compatriot Todd SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

respectively.

head their attack.

a fourth-round contest with the winner of the Agassi-Kafelnikov match.

in yet," Dent told reporters. Slams before, that guy is unbeliev-



PHOTO: AFP

France's Mary Pierce licks her lips after she won a point against Shinobu Asagoe of Japan during their US Open engagement at Flushing Meadows in New York on August 30. Pierce won the match 6-4, 6-1.



PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League Super Five clash between Usha and Sonali Bank at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

his 48th birthday and the anniversary of his last world record of 47.02sec in EDWIN MOSES The American said his first aim was to achieve a time more than fantastic as I am an old man. three seconds slower - 50.55sec -

"In terms of going to Athens, if things happen they happen. But SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

which would qualify him to run in next "If it is possible for me to appear at