

Surrey to treat Alec specially

AFP, London

Surrey have confirmed that they will hold a special presentation honouring Alec Stewart at lunch on the first day of the fifth Test against South Africa at their Oval ground here Thursday.

Surrey wicketkeeper-batsman Stewart, 40, England's most-capped player, will be playing in his 133rd and last Test before international retirement.

All of former England captain Stewart's Test skippers Graham Gooch, Michael Atherton, Mark Butcher and current incumbent Michael Vaughan will take part in the ceremony.

Surrey chief executive Paul Sheldon said Tuesday: "The club wanted to recognise one of Surrey and England's finest cricketers. "Alec has been an outstanding servant to English cricket in the past two decades. It is fitting that he should end such a long and successful career at his home ground in front of so many of his fans."

PAKISTAN DIARY

FROM PAGE 13 is nearly 90 kilometres away from Multan, are the senior members of the group.

Kabir hails from Sirajganj district while Siraj comes from Rangpur. Brothers Abu Mohammad Hasan and Abu Abdullah Hossain are from Comilla and both study at the National Medical College in Multan.

Hasan is in his fifth-year and Hossain is a second-year student. Third-year student Shahriar Kabir also studies in Multan.

There are as many as 20 Bangladeshi medical students studying in Pakistan. Ten are in Bhawalpur alone, three in Multan and Karachi respectively. The others can be found in Rawalpindi and Faisalabad.

WELCOME BACK INZY! Believe it or not, local hero Inzamamul Haq is playing only his second match at the Multan Cricket Stadium and that too was against Bangladesh.

Inzamam whose ancestral home is a 20-minute drive from the stadium, made his first appearance here in August 2001 in the second edition of the Asian Test Championship.

Although there have been plenty of first-class matches at this venue, Inzamam, who now lives in Lahore with his parents and family, never played in of the any domestic matches.

On the other hand, Shabbir Ahmed has played a lot of first-class matches here.

Secret of that success!



AFP, New Delhi

Steve Waugh's famous "you just dropped the World Cup, mate" quip to South African Herschelle Gibbs during the 1999 tournament in England is regarded as one of cricket's legendary quotes.

Gibbs, whose missed catch enabled the Australian captain to compile a match-winning century and turn his team's fortunes, may be relieved to know that a similar comment by Waugh against India backfired miserably.

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly describes the incident in a soon-to-be-released book 'Ground Rules,' excerpts of which were published in the Calcutta-based the Telegraph newspaper on Wednesday.

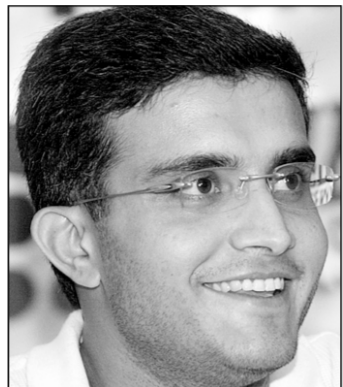
It happened during Australia's memorable tour of India in early 2001, when Ganguly's men fought back from a heavy defeat in the first Test and a follow-on in the second to win the series 2-1.

Australia were required to make 384 to win the second Test at Calcutta after India, following on 274 runs behind, compiled a mammoth 657 runs in the second innings.

"Australia got off to a solid start with Michael Slater and Mathew Hayden putting on 74 in 23 overs, but once Slater went we were in with a chance," Ganguly recalled in the

book.

"Just before tea on the final day when they were only three wickets down, I dropped a sharp chance off Steve Waugh at backward short-leg. "Maybe if he had said nothing, the game would have drifted to a



SAURAV GANGULY

draw, the result that appeared to be its natural conclusion.

"But Waugh could not resist the chirp, You just dropped the Test, mate.

"Sometimes sledging can work against you and, on this occasion, it had the effect of geeing up the Indians.

"Immediately after tea, Harbhajan Singh got Waugh out and Rahul Dravid gave him a send-off from slip asking 'who had given

away the Test match now'," Ganguly wrote in the book.

Australia were shut out in the dramatic final session of the Test, before India carved out a narrow victory in the final Test at Madras to win one of the greatest series played



STEVE WAUGH

in recent years.

'Ground Rules' looks at cricket through the various Test grounds in the world. The Indian venues included are the 100,000-capacity Eden Gardens and the Chepauk ground in Madras.

Ganguly's India will renew their rivalry against Waugh's Australia in a four-Test series down under later this year.

Caddick set for surgery

AFP, London

England fast bowler Andrew Caddick is to undergo surgery later this month to relieve the back problem which ruled him out of this summer's Test Series against South Africa, the England and Wales Cricket Board confirmed Tuesday.

Somerset paceman Caddick, 34, who has been suffering from sciatica caused by a prolapsed disc, is expected to be out of cricket for the next three months.

However, the New-Zealand born Caddick still hopes to be available for selection for England's tour of the West Indies which departs in late February.

The ECB's chief medical officer Dr Peter Gregory said: "We have tried strong painkillers and injections to try and relieve the problem without success and we now feel that the surgical route is the only option available to us."

Caddick has played 62 Tests for England, taking 234 wickets at 29.91.

White escapes doping ban

AFP, Paris

American sprint star Kelli White has escaped a two-year ban for doping, International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) general secretary Istvan Gyulai said Wednesday.

But she will almost certainly be stripped of both her World Championship gold medals after testing positive for a stimulant.

White, who won the 100m and 200m in the Paris championships in absence of Olympic champion Marion Jones who had just had a baby, protested her innocence after the IAAF announced it was investigating the content of the drug, Modafinil, also known by its brand name Provigil.

White, 26, told the IAAF she took the drug because she suffered from narcolepsy, a condition which causes extreme tiredness.

SCORECARD

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Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Shabbir, Gul, Yasir, Saqlain, Hafeez.

PAKISTAN: M. Hafeez, S. Butt, Y. Hameed, I. Haq, F. Adil, Y. Khan, R. Latif, S. Mushtaq, U. Gul, S. Ahmad, Y. Ali

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (SRI) and Russell Tiffin (ZIM)

Now Abahani

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with a 3-2 victory against Ajax Sporting Club in the earlier placed at the same venue which placed them in the third position. They finished on 22 points while Ajax followed them with 19 points.

The Oval Test

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series since being called up from Worcestershire for the second Test at Lord's.

Clearly, county cricket hadn't done him too much harm. Now, unless England learn quickly from Hall and South Africa's example, Stewart may not be alone in declaring 'Oval and out'.

Stewart's one

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against. I would pick Thorpe for the winter, without a doubt," said Stewart.

"Thorpe is probably our best player of spin bowling, and Hussain has shown he is a quality player so I would definitely pick them both this winter."

Looking ahead to his own future, Stewart who has not yet said if he is also retiring from Surrey said it would be "within sport."

A lifelong supporter of English Premiership football club Chelsea, Stewart said he had no regrets about the timing of his decision.

"When you lot are in Dhaka (in Bangladesh), I'll be in Rome watching Chelsea play Lazio."

Among England batsmen, only Graham Gooch has scored more than Stewart's haul of 8,425 Test runs.

6th Asia Cup

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Shakil, M Jahangir Alam (Mohammedan SC) and Golam Shahriar Sarwar (Usha KC).

Defenders: M Issa Mia, Shahidullah Khokon (Mohammedan SC), AKM Shamsuddin Ahmed Tuhin, Syed Rafiqunnabi Nakib, M Faruq Ahmed, Hedayetul Islam Rajib (Abahani Ltd.), M Yamin Hossain, Mahub Alam Ronny (Mariner Youngs Club) and Toufique Islam Gullu Rana (Ajax).

Midfielders: Musa Mia, M Ashiquzzaman, Mirajul Ahsan (Mohammedan SC), Shahidullah Titu (Abahani Ltd.), Rahul Kanti Roy (Usha KC) and M Hasan (Ajax).

Forwards: Ashrafu Islam Shishu, Zahidul Islam Rajan, Maksudul Alam Habul (Abahani Ltd.), Ariful

Unstoppable Agassi



AFP, New York

Andre Agassi's patience was tested by unrelenting rain and his skill was pushed to the limit by determined Taylor Dent, but the world number one handled both challenges with style.

Eight-time Grand Slam champion Agassi led 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 7-5 when Dent retired here Tuesday with a right hamstring injury, ending the match barely five minutes before showers halted play at the year's final Grand Slam event.

but it's still difficult to do."

Twelve matches were scheduled but just six were played and only Agassi's was completed. Only three matches have been finished in two downpour-dominated days.

With men's and women's fourth rounds incomplete and rain predicted through Thursday, players were faced with possibly playing twice in a day at flooded Flushing Meadows.

"We are confident we will finish all the events on time," US Open referee Brian Earley said. "Would players play every day as opposed to every other day? The answer is yes. The players understand that."

"The rule of thumb is that you



Andre Agassi waves to the crowd after defeating Taylor Dent at the 2003 US Open on Tuesday.

"I was surprised how frustrating he was making it for me," Agassi said. "I was having a hard time being offensive. He's a guy that can take you out of your rhythm. I was hoping everything would fall my way at the end and it did."

Agassi's start was delayed seven hours by rain and his match was halted twice but he overcame to book a date against the winner of a rain-halted match between Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman and Argentina's fifth-seeded Guillermo Coria.

"These conditions affect everybody," Agassi said. "It's just a question of trying to get the most out of yourself. A lot of years of experience

don't play more than one singles match in a day. That doesn't mean we wouldn't. We've played pieces of matches and then gone on to play a second match in a day.

"The rule of thumb is one thing. What really happens is another. I don't really think we can go there yet. Hard for me to imagine that but I have never been in this situation."

Japan's Ai Sugiyama led Italy's Francesca Schiavone 7-6 (7/5), 5-4 and Russian seventh seed Anastasia Myskina led France's Mary Pierce 7-6 (7/2), 2-0 in women's fourth-round matches that began Monday and might not end Wednesday.

Thai 11th seed Paradorn

Srichaphan led Australian sixth seed Lleyton Hewitt 4-3 in the first set of their fourth-round match, which started late after concerns about an oil-slicked spot on the Grandstand court.

Coria led Bjorkman 6-2, 2-0 and Spanish third seed Juan Carlos Ferrero led Todd Martin 6-2 when rains came, too late to help Dent.

The 22-year-old son of former Australian great Phil Dent, a finalist here 30 years ago, settled for his best Slam showing.

Dent lost to Agassi in a similar fashion in their first meeting, a Wimbledon first-round match in 2000. Dent, having lost 11 games in a row, retired in the fourth set with a torn right knee tendon. He had Agassi in trouble again here.

"I was really giving the number one player in the world all he could handle," Dent said. "I felt confident. The best returner in the world had a tough time breaking me. I felt I had a really good chance to do some damage."

Dent damaged himself, pulling his hamstring in the fourth game of the second set to weaken his trademark huge serves. He hoped to win the third set and keep pressuring Agassi, but his aching leg would not allow it.

"If I could have won that third set I would have stayed out there for a fourth," Dent said. "But it was getting worse. If I had stayed out there for a fifth set, I would have been kneeling to hit my serve."

"It was just killing my serve. I couldn't get a lift at all. My body wasn't used to the pounding and it broke down. Losing that set, there was no chance my leg was going to hold up for two more."

It was not the way Agassi, the field's eldest player at 33, wanted to capture his 200th career Grand Slam triumph.

"It's not great to win like that," Agassi said. "To finish short on that note is a disappointment for the fans and for me too. For it to abruptly come to an end was a surprise to me."

Dent's coach, Brad Stine, asked his man to quit in the third set, but Dent wanted to see the set through.

"This is a match, but we have to worry about his career," Stine said. "It's going to be just silly for him to continue. He was in position to win the match. Given the opportunity to serve the way he can, he had a terrific chance to win the match."

For much of the day, Agassi was in the players' lounge trying to relax with trainer Gil Reyes.

"Andre is like a thoroughbred horse imprisoned in a barn," Reyes said. "His ears are up, he's ready to go. But after years and years on the tour, he's still anxious, tight, in situations like this."

"Fourteen years I have been with him. What we do is we sit down, we discuss what he's going to eat. After we've done that, we discuss about music and the world. Anything to take his mind off the long wait."

Complete cricket personality

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the under-17s and under-19s into Test quality players.

DSS: Are you still of the opinion that Bangladesh are in the same league as Canada, Namibia and Kenya?

BW: They are probably just moving out of that because they played a couple of Test series since the World Cup in South Africa. And I think they have had a wake up call. Certainly in one-day cricket the associate nations didn't look out of their depth when they played Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. So I think there is a close gap between them and there is between say New Zealand, South Africa, Australia and England. What little I've seen here and the amount of work going into Bangladesh cricket I think they are starting to move away. I say that in trepidation because I'm trying to get others closer as well.

DSS: You are often regarded as the pioneer in the use of modern technology. What led you to

introduce it into the sport?

BW: The sport is very technical to the naked eye. To see it clearly would require several repetitions. So once it has been filmed and digitized where you see it frame by frame, it makes life a lot easier.

Coaching before and after video is chalk and cheese. In other words the coach has a better view of how to work with a player and research that. In the past we didn't have that facility. So video technology was uppermost in my mind since the early days of TV replays. Today the technology is so advanced that you reduce a day's cricket of six-and-a-half-hours into fifty-five minutes. The coach can be working with the players without having to watch the whole game. Then later he can see it ball by ball. No doubt it's a tremendous aid for coaches but its not the panacea. You still have to get the basics right.

DSS: Would it be fair to say that these days physical fitness is white

or black dominated? By that we mean players from the subcontinent seems to be lagging behind those from say Australia, South Africa and may be West Indies even.

BW: Yes, it has taken sometime for players from the subcontinent to realise that not only in their cricket but in other sports like hockey they've got to get stronger and fitter than they are. The diets and training programmes are very much part and parcel of the game. And now there are good people in Asia who are making a difference. It won't be long before they will catch up and you see it in their performances.

DSS: What made you take up coaching?

"I put my teaching background to good use, read books on the topic and became fascinated with the methodology. Then I started teaching kids and later I moved to South Africa and coached primary school children. The big turning point in my life was when I went into

something else after finishing my career. But two or three years later I found that I was still missing cricket and wanted to stay in it. It was not only for financial reasons but also because I felt that I had a gift and that is the ability to pass the knowledge of cricket. I wanted to coach cricket properly. So I took more courses and it all happened very suddenly.

DSS: How do you differentiate cricket coaching past and present?

BW: When I was a player the coaches in my era were far more autocratic. They used to scream and shout at you and just fell short of beating you. They were constantly at us. They kept pushing you verbally. To them you were all the same which is not true. Also I think at that time the coaches tended to work with a certain vision like in the way they played. So that has slowly changed. I think the coaches of today don't try to change the players too much.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP G W D T K Q M M K D I Q X X L A N N D M Q X S C R D C Q T I N S S R Q W D Z C X W D Z K G Z I X X W S A M X " G W D H M S I S ! " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A COMPANY IMPLEMENTS A REDUCTION IN STAFF, COULD YOU CALL THAT A CREW CUT? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T The Cryptoquip 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 with an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Graded pay

FROM PAGE 13 Speaking to reporters after the meeting which took place, Dravid indicated that both parties had broadly agreed on most of the issues.

"The players and the board have agreed on lots of points. It's just the question of getting the final thing in place."

Dravid said that both the players and the board would benefit if the system was brought into place.

"It will make the players feel that they are being taken care of by the board and remind them about their responsibility towards the board and the country."

Under the system, the players would be slotted into one of three grades, and would receive an annual retainer fee.

For players in the top grade, the sum is expected to be 60 lakh rupees approximately, while those in the second and third tiers would receive Rs 30 lakhs and Rs 15 lakhs respectively.

The team would also receive bonuses for wins with the amount varying according to the rank of the opposition while every defeat would result in a penalty which would be deducted from the match fee.

A BCCI official told the Press Trust of India news agency that details regarding match fees and bonuses had not yet been finalised.

Warne calls it a farce



AFP, Melbourne

Shane Warne has lashed out at the Cricket Australia (CA) describing their decision to stop him from training during his one-year doping ban as farcical.

The disgraced leg-spinner is in England with his family away from the heat generated by a series of sexual accusations from women.

But on Wednesday he reopened controversy over his drug sanction when he sounded off about the issue of training while serving the ban.

"I'm not allowed to attend any official training with anyone at any level," Warne wrote in a column on Wednesday for the Herald-Sun here.

"The whole situation has become a farce, but that's unfortunately the decision."

"They are not only penalising the charity that I could be playing for, but

also penalising the younger players I have been helping, such as Cameron White, a young leggie I know I can help."

CA was told by the government-funded Australian Sports Commission (ASC) that it was unacceptable for Warne to train while serving his 12-month ban for taking a banned diuretic, detected in a doping test prior to the World Cup in South Africa that Australia won without him.

Under CA's anti-doping policy, the training ban covers national, state and even club training.

The 33-year-old leg spinner told a press conference here on August 22 that he would take no further part in any official training until his ban expires in February.

The next day he left for England to get away from intense scrutiny over his controversial private life.

South African Helen Cohen Alon has accused Warne of sending her raunchy text messages and a Melbourne stripper has made allegations of an affair with him.

These allegations follow an

admission in August 2000 that Warne made lewd telephone calls to a nurse while playing county cricket in England. He subsequently lost the Australian Test team vice-captaincy over the incident.

Warne said in his column that he would not comment on private matters regarding his family.

"I also don't normally reflect on the past but in the current situation it has been necessary to do so," he wrote.

"Some people say there is always some good to come out of any situation."

"I believe this is true and in my case, it has been to re-evaluate where I am at in my life and what's important to me."

"Let me tell you, it's an easy decision. It's my family by a long way."

Warne's wife, Simone, has said she would stand by her husband.

Warne also vowed to fight for his spot in the Australian team when his suspension ends in February, saying he owes it "to those who have supported me over the years."



Young Boys Club custodian jumps to make a save against Town Club during their 15th DSA Cup football tournament fixture at the Khulna Stadium yesterday. Town Club won 4-2 in tie-breaker.