# SPÖRT

#### Harmison will harm SL

SPORTING LIFE, undated

England paceman Steve Harmison has vowed to return to his matchwinning best after shaking off a back injury to declare himself fit for the forthcoming tour to Sri Lanka.

The 25-vear-old Durham fast bowler turned in a man-of-thematch display in Dhaka last month as he plundered nine wickets to lay the foundation for a seven-wicket victory  $over\,Bangladesh\,in\,the\,first\,Test.$ 

However, he withdrew from the squad for the second Test in Chittagong with a suspected stress fracture of the back, an injury which could have sidelined him for up to six months, although he was confident from an early stage that his winter was not over.

Harmison returned to England three days ahead of his scheduled departure for scans, and it was revealed today that the damage is only muscular and minor, and he is now desperate to prove that he is fit enough to board the plane for Sri Lanka on November and put himself up for selection for the first Test in Galle, which gets underway on December 2.

"I was never in any doubt, I must admit." he said. "When I got back into England off the plane journey, I never had any doubts that I was going to get back on the plane and go to Sri Lanka.

"I was always very, very confident just because it wasn't hurting as much as I thought it would be when I got back to England.

"It didn't bother me a great deal, so I was always confident that I wasn't going to be laid up for six months with a stress fracture.

"I knew it was just muscular because there was no referred pain down my legs, so I was quite optimistic that way.

"But you never know until you get the scan, so when it all came through and said everything was all right, I was over the moon.'

## Only 3-0

the pitch first.

The Bangladesh trip has so far been valuable experience which will be a big plus when England tour Sri Lanka later this month believes Vaughan.

"The conditions are pretty similar in both countries. So we will be better prepared," said Vaughan.

Vaughan revealed that his ultimate dream was to turn England into a team  $like\,the\,world\,champions\,Australia.$ 

"They (Australia) are the best team because they can play good cricket on any soil and under any condition. They are so formidable simply because they can adapt to anything. Our aim is to become like them and we are still working towards that target,' Vaughan said.

### Windies Heath

Streak not out

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-15, w-2) 23						_			
. ,	, ,	Strauss c Dhiman b Humayun 51							
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Fall: 1-26, 2-35,	, 3-58, 4	Collingwood b M	Collingwood b Manjarul						
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Edwards	31	2	122	4		i			62
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Collymore	29	6	131	1	Batty c & b Nazm	nl			8
Hinds	12	5	30	1	Giles c Nasiruddi		a		7
Drakes	30	4	71	0	Kirtley lbw b Talh		u		5
Taylor	9.4	4	32	1	Anderson not ou				0
Gavle	16.2	6	29	0					•
3	9	0		0	Extras: (b-5, lb-3,	W-15)			23
Sarwan	9	-	35	-	Total: (All out in 4	9.3 over	s)	3	28
C'paul	1	0	7	0	Fall of wicket: 1-1	46. 2-14	9.3-1	90.4-	210.
Ganga	1	1	0	0	5-260, 6-292, 7-30	,	,	,	,
WEST INDIES: Gayle, Hinds, Ganga,							,		***
		Bowler	0	M	R	W			
Lara, Sarwan,		Talha	9	0	67	3			
Drakes, Taylor, I	Edwards,	Nazmul	5.3	0	20	1			

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# Cairns concern for NZ Fleming flayed REUTERS, CULTACK

Cricket

AFP, Cuttack

Winless New Zealand are sweating over the fitness of inspirational all-rounder Chris Cairns ahead of Thursday's crucial TVS Cup tri-series match against hosts India here

Cairns, forced to leave the field with hamstring problems during Monday's game against world champions Australia at Pune, is a 50-50 starter, according to team manager Lindsay

"It's difficult to say now whether Chris will be able to play," Crocker said on Wednesday after the Kiwis arrived in this eastern coastal town for the daynight game at the Barabati Stadium.

'We will assess his fitness today and tomorrow morning before deciding whether he can take part in the match."

New Zealand, without a win in three games, must defeat India here and again in Hyderabad next week to join Australia in the final at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on November 18.

Cairns, 32, has been plagued by injuries since joining the team for the  $ongoing \, tournament \, after \, opting \, out \, of \,$ last month's Test series against India.

work was against exposed when he

failed to put enough weight on the front-

foot while driving at a James Kirtley

delivery and he was caught in the covers

never generated enough interest after

the local youths lost of their wickets for

The game in front a sparse crowd

A portly Mazharul Haq briefly

entertained the spectators with an

authoritative 57-ball 41 that featured six

fours. But brave fight came to an end

when Flintoff turned to his Lancashire

mate James Anderson, who dismissed

the Khulna batsman with his first ball of

Manjarul Islam who top-scored with an

enterprising 47 off 66 balls. Coming into

bat at number eight the most successful

all-rounder in the National League last

season celebrated his surprise call up

the national team with four boundaries.

Bangladesh squad after left-arm spinner

Mohammed Rafique injured his knee

Giles might have been ineffective during

the Test but he restored much-needed

confidence three wickets for 25 runs in

for the first one-day international.

SCOREBOARD

By Eugene Sheffer

pinprick

16 Cover

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Klensch's

DOWN

England will fly to Chittagong today

The tourists will return to the capital

on November 8 to play the remaining

ODIs under lights at the Bangabandhu

National Stadium on November 10 and

Scoreboard of the one-day practice

match between England and BCB

Development Squad at the

Bnangabandhu National Stadium

England left-arm spinner Ashley

after the second Test in Chittagong.

He was a last minute inclusion in the

But it was another Khulna cricketer

FROM PAGE 13

by Anthony McGrath

Overwhelming

rain-hit opener against the hosts at Madras on October 23, missed the next game against Australia at Faridabad and then suffered further hamstring

The Kiwis are expected to face a fired-up Indian side following captain Stephen Fleming's outburst against the scheduling of the series, which he said



**CHRIS CAIRNS** 

favoured the hosts

Humayun

Ali Arman

Manjarul

Ashraful80553

Ehsanul run out

Nasiruddin b Giles

Ashiq c & b Giles

Dhiman lbw b Giles

Ali Arman b Flintoff

Talha b Kirtley

Bowler

Kirtlev

Batty

Flintoff

Blackwell

Anderson

Extras: (lb-5, w-6)

BCB DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Humayun c Read b Flintoff

Ashraful c McGrath b Kirtley

Mazharul c Read b Anderson

Maniarul c Blackwell b Collingwood

Total: (All out in 47.4 overs)

68, 6-68, 7-104, 8-124, 9-159,

Fall of wicket: 1-18, 2-37, 3-45, 4-51, 5-

0 20

23

16

18

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Harare yesterday.

Fleming was critical that all matches between Australia and New Zealand had early morning starts

60

0 43 where seaming conditions favour the team bowling first, while India play only day-night games.

Fleming, whose hopes of making the final nosedived after losing two day games against Australia, alleged the schedule was fixed to suit India.

"It's a case of two competitions going on," he had said. "Australia and us play one competition where it seams around and it's

tough to bat, while India play another one where it gets slower and slower and India skipper Rahul Dravid played down the scheduling controversy,

saying he was more interested in how his team fared in the series. "We have to win our remaining games and that is all I am concerned about," said Dravid, standing in for

injured Saurav Ganguly. India, who have a 1-1 record against Australia in the series, will miss seasoned leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who opted out of the game because of the death of his father.

The hosts named Sairai Bahutule as the replacement, but have yet to decide whether to include him or left-arm spinner Murali Kartik in the playing

The Indian cricket board has hit back at complaints from New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming about the scheduling of the TVS Cup tri-series tournament.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said the itinerary, which involves travelling around the vast country, was approved by both the Australian and New Zealand boards.

"Once they (the boards) confirmed the schedule, it is as good as accepted," BCCI secretary Karunakaran Nair told this news agency on Wednesday.

#### Ex-India pacer Subroto dies

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak pulls one powerfully on way to scoring his

maiden century on the second day of the first Test against West Indies in

Former India fast bowler Subroto Guha died on Wednesday aged 57 following a heart attack at his residence here, family members said.

Guha played four Tests for India between 1967 and 1969 and claimed three wickets. He made his Test debut against England at Headingley in 1967 and his last match was against Australia at home two years later. Guha was more successful in first-

class cricket, retiring with 299 wickets in 85 matches.

# Divine incentive for Steaua



REUTERS, London

Former European champions Steaua Bucharest will be hoping to answer the prayers of main shareholder Gigi Becali when they host Liverpool in the second  $round of the UEFA\,Cup\,on\,Thursday.$ 

Becali, a fervent Orthodox Christian, has promised to build a church if the Romanian side, European champions in 1986, can overcome the 2001 UEFA Cup winners over the two legs.

Steaua already have one English scalp to their name this season after overcoming Southampton in the first round, but coach Victor Piturca believes Gerard Houllier's side will provide sterner opposition. "Liverpool are a better team than

Southampton. Our future opponents didn't have a great start this season but when you take a look at the names in their team you have a feeling of respect and even fear," Piturca said after the drawwas made.

"I don't enjoy saying it but the odds are against us."

Liverpool, who have already beaten eastern European opposition in Slovenia's Olimpija Ljubljana in the first round, make the trip to Bucharest for the second time in three years.

They beat Steaua's city rivals Rapid 1-0 away and on aggregate on their way to winning the trophy in the 2000/01

Liverpool will be without England striker Michael Owen who has an ankle

Valencia, who take on Israel's Maccabi Haifa with the first leg at the

#### win the trophy by most English book-**FIXTURES**

Mestalla, have been made favourites to

UEFA Cup 2nd round, 1st leg fixtures on Thursday (Home game for the team named first)

Gaziantepspor (TUR) v Lens (FRA), Slavia Prague (CZE) v Levski Sofia (BUL), Spartak Moscow (RUS) v Dynamo Bucharest (ROM), Dynamo

Zagreb (CRO) v Dniepropetrovsk (UKR), Schalke 04 (GER) v Brondby (DEN), Utrecht (NED) v Auxerre (FRA), Valerengen (NOR) v Wisla Krakow (POL), Bordeaux (FRA) v Heart of Midlothian (SCO), Panionios (GRE) v Barcelona (SPA), Genclerbirligi (TUR) v Sporting Lisbon (POR), Villarreal (SPA) v Torpedo Moscow (RUS), Steaua Bucharest (ROM) v Liverpool (ENG), PAOK Salonika (GRE) v Debrecen (HUN), FC Copenhagen (DEN) v Real Mallorca (SPA), Borussia Dortmund (GER) v Sochaux (FRA), Austria Salzburg (AUT) v Parma (ITA), FC Basel (SWI) v Newcastle (ENG) Perugia (ITA) v Aris Salonika (GRE) Feyenoord (NED) v Teplice (CZE), AS Roma (ITA) v Hajduk Split (CRO), Manchester City (ENG) v Groclin (POL), Valencia (SPA) v Maccabi Haifa (ISR), Benfica (POR) v Molde (NOR)

The Primera Liga leaders ended Real Madrid's short stay at the top at the weekend with Ricardo Oliveira netting a hat-trick in a superb 5-0 away win at Real Mallorca, who are also in UEFA Cup action this week against Denmark's FC Copenhagen.

Barcelona, who crushed Slovakia's Puchov 8-0 at the Nou Camp in the last round, travel to Greek side Panionios for the first leg.

Parma, who face Austria's SV Salzburg, have been dealt a huge blow with Brazilian striker Adriano, the second top scorer in Serie A, was ruled out for at least two months after suffering a serious hamstring injury in a league match at the weekend.

The 1995 and 1999 UEFA Cup winners will be wary of taking Salzburg lightly after they caused one of the biggest shocks in the first round with a 2-1 second-leg win at Udinese which sent them through on the away goals rule.

Salzburg, who sacked coach Lars Soendergaard last week after a string of league defeats, moved off the bottom of the Austrian first division on Sunday after crushing Sturm Graz 5-0 at home. Other interesting ties include injury-

hit Borussia Dortmund, European champions in 1997, taking on French side Sochaux and former Italian champions AS Roma facing Croatia's Haiduk The eight sides that finish third in the

group phase of the Champions League enter the UEFA Cup in the next round.

# Cricket only on his mind ECB monitoring situation in Sri Lanka

SPORTING LIFE/AFP, Dhaka

Captain Michael Vaughan has stressed his side are concentrating on cricket despite the worsening domestic situation in Sri Lanka England's next destination in just over a fortnight.

The team are currently playing in Bangladesh but are due to arrive in Sri Lanka on November 13 for three one-day  $internationals\, and\, three\, Test\, matches.$ 

However, the country's president Chandrika Kumaratunga declared a state of emergency on Wednesday, giving the military sweeping powers in the island nation and raising doubts over England's

Police throughout the country have been put on maximum alert and all leave

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are monitoring the situation and are keeping in contact with the Foreign Office, who have not so far changed their advice to Britons travelling to Sri Lanka which currently is to be careful in the north of the country.

Although Vaughan sat out the match against a Bangladesh Cricket Board Development squad on Wednesday here. he said their focus remained on sport.

"We are here to play cricket and until continue to do," he said.

"We will let other people do the talking about that (Sri Lanka's state of emergency) and carry on with the

"As far as we are concerned the tour is going on," said England's media manager Andrew Walpole. "It is an evolving situation and we will do whatever the ECB tells us to do.' The ECB said in London on

Wednesday it had not come to a decision on the future of the tour but was keeping a close watch on the situation in Sri "We're working with the Foreign

Office and we will take their advice on the matter," an ECB spokeswoman said. The situation is in danger of escalat-

ing into a situation similar to this year's World Cup when England's players refused to travel to Zimbabwe because of security fears.

After weeks of wrangling they forfeited the match and that cost them a



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

place in the quarterfinals and was a contributing factor to captain Nasser Hussain quitting as one-day captain.

But despite the renewed political unrest, Sri Lanka Cricket secretary

Mohan De Silva on Wednesday moved to reassure the ECB. "I think cricket and politics are two

different things and we should not get worried about it," he said. "I feel we should allow the politicians

to sort out their problems whilst we at Sri Lanka cricket will ensure the smooth functioning of the tour. "When England were here last time, despite not having a peace deal with the

rebel group the Tamil Tigers, there was no incident or danger. "So (now) with a peace accord in place, we are confident that nothing will

go wrong and it all points in the direction of a very happy and a highly successful "As such I feel that there should be no

worry and the tour will go on as expected."

# Suddenly Manjarul

FROM PAGE 13

Manjarul gave an impressive display in front of the Bangladesh think-tank on Wednesday claiming two wickets for 42 runs in his ten overs against England in the practice match. The southpaw also scored highest 47 batting at number

But chief selector Faruque said that they had already chosen him purely on his last season's impressive performance.

"We have made our decision even before he played today. I think he will be a very useful lower-order batsman apart from his exploits with the ball," said

#### Matsikenvere c Jacobs b Edwards Taibu b Edwards

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Blignaut not o	ut			78
Extras: (b-1, lb	-5, nb-15, v	v-2)		23
Total: (For 7 w	kts in 139 o	vers)	4	63
Fall: 1-26, 2-3	35, 3-58, 4	-112,	5-154	, 6-
233, 7-314				
To bat: Price, I	Mahwire			
Bowler	0	M	R	W
Edwards	31	2	122	4
Collymore	29	6	131	1
Hinds	12	5	30	1
Drakes	30	4	71	0
Taylor	9.4	4	32	1
Gayle	16.2	6	29	0
Sarwan	9	0	35	0
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# Future looks

Result: England XI won by 167 runs

have failed to show the discipline required to build a Test innings, unable to control loose drives outside off

Habibul Bashar, 31, who has scored an average of 36.07, is easily their best

However his dismissals in Chittagong last week, steering a wideish ball to gully in the first innings and run out while needlessly going for a third after a breezy 21 in the second, perfectly illustrate the team's batting

woes. "Our batsmen just did not apply themselves," said skipper Khaled

 $Mahmud, summing \, up \, the \, problem.$ Whatmore says the transition into a better batting team and a good Test

unit will be gradual. After Pakistan, where they would have won the third Test if not for Inzamamul Hag's last-wicket heroics. and England, who were run close at Dhaka, demands for Bangladesh's Test status to be withdrawn should perhaps quieten down.

Bangladesh feel they have at least earned the right to ask for more time to

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DTEZNDTLB, JFL DYFD ZB KHBIBX FN F CQFKB BQQTQ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU STRETCH YOUR MUSCLES BEFORE CLIMBING A TREE, I SUPPOSE THAT'S LIMBERING UP.

HLDT

HN

IYBL F IQTLC LFEB

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals R 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 using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.