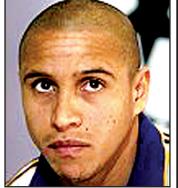




Paul Collingwood of England scored 134 not out from 252 balls in the first innings of the first Test against India. It was his maiden century





## **Roberto Carlos**

(Real Madrid's Brazilian superstar) "For the players it would be better if the president did not speak so strongly. We play in the best club in the world, we are players who have a high-profile image and we make a lot of money for the club. I think deserve what learn."

While defending himself and his teammates against criticism about their attitude from outgoing president Florentino Perez and his successor Fernando Martin.



# Cruciani drops 4 stalwarts Bangladesh face Cambodia in opener

added.

SPORTS REPORTER

Diego Cruciani has dropped four stalwarts Arman Mia, Matiur Munna,

Feroz Mahmud *A*FC Titu and Ariful CHALLENGE Kabir Farhad from Bangladesh's prelimi-

nary squad for next month's AFC Challenge Cup. The Argentine coach is not satisfied with the four veterans' recent performance and said that with only 25 days to go for the tournament at home, he had no other option but to ignore them in his 26member squad The 16-nation inaugural AFC

Challenge Cup will be held in Dhaka and Chittagong from April 1-16. The hosts, who will take on Cambodia on the opening day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, are drawn with Guam and Palestine in Group C.

"It's not the end of the road for them. I will be watching them and if they recover their form, they have a future in my side. But now, I am sure they don't fit in my plans for the Challenge Cup," Cruciani told The Daily Star vesterday.

"The fullback has not only been out of form recently but his ankle has been troubling him. I also think he "I like playmakers like Arman has some mental problems. We

verv much but he has been carrying want players who are strong both a muscle injury for long and has not mentally and physically," the 41been 100 per cent fit. His perforyear-old said adding that his goal mance has also deteriorated. against Pakistan was a 'fluke'. Munna and Farhad's form in the last Cruciani has included all the

few games have been really low," he footballers he had worked with during the SAFF Championship



ARMAN MIA

preparation camp last year and during the build-up to last month's two Asian Cup qualifiers.

The only new face is Mohammedan striker Zahid while Brothers Union midfielder Monwar Hossain, who last played for the national team in the 2003 SAFF Championship and led the SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Zia shares glory

## SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi Grand Master Ziau Rahman shared the 1st-6th positions in the ONGC Cup International Open Grandmasters Chess Tournament which concluded in Hyderabad, India vesterdav

Zia, who defeated his teammate and International Master Abdullah Al Rakib in the tenth and final round, pushed his tally to eight points. The other five players who

finished on highest eight points are GM Surya Sekhar Ganguly, IM Deepan Chakrabarty, IM Arun Prasad and DP Singh of India and Kazakhstan GM Pavel Kotsur.

All the joint leaders pocketed Rupees one lakh each as prize money.

Among top Bangladeshi players, GM Niaz Murshed and IM Enamul Hossain Rajib shared 7-12th places with 7.5 points while IM Reefat Bin Sattar and Rakib ended level on seven points. Other Bangladeshi contestants

Kazi Rashed Dinayet earned 5.5 points, Mohammad Shameem earned five points. Kazi Mahbub Afzal earned 4.5 points, Abdullah Saif earned four points, Mosabbir Khan Shiblu earned 3.5 points, Mokaddes Hossain and Ashraful Haque earned three points each.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka cricket

teams left Dhaka for Bogra yester-

day for the second and final Test of

**Tigers off** 

to Bogra

SPORTS REPORTER

the series.



Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralidaran walks out of the Sonargaon Hotel to board the team bus for Bogra on Sunday.

# Ctg, Rajshahi on top

### CHITTAGONG-SYLHET

Resuming on 198-8, Sylhet were forced to follow-on at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium when they were bundled out for 214 in the first innings in reply to Chittagong's

Sylhet made a bright start to their second innings with Golam Mabud (86 off 96 balls) and Rezaul Haque (65 off 95 balls) anchoring firmly. But from a comfortable 247-3, Sylhet crashed to 296 all out as Sabbir Khan scalped seven wickets for 81 from 21.5 overs. The man-of-thematch award, however, went to Chittagong's young spinner Yasin Arafat who finished the match with eight wickets including 6-56 in the

### **RAJSHAHI-KHULNA**

Khulna added 125 runs to their overnight 207-2 before being booked in the second innings at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, setting the in-form hosts a paltry 102-run winning target. Overnight 117,

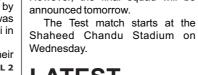
Nazmus Sadat was dismissed on 151, studded with 17 fours and one six in 240 deliveries.

Rajshahi, who are just one win away from retaining the one-day title, took only 20.3 overs to rattle 105 with openers Jahurul Islam and Farhad Hossain contributing 51 and 49 respectively.

Mushfiqur Rahman was adjudged man-of-the-match for his all-round display featuring six wickets in the match and 57 runs. DHAKA-BARISAL Nasiruddin Faruque's patient 101 off

202 deliveries inspired Barisal's fightback at the Barisal Stadium as the home side reached 305-6 in their first innings at stumps on the third day in reply to Dhaka's 395. Faruque, who was 31 at the end of second day. shared 102 runs with his overnight partner Nadif Chowdhury (57) for the fourth wicket. Faruque's four and a half-hour knock was laced with 17 fours and two sixes

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Australia won the third one-daver to keep the five-match series alive with a 24-run victory over hosts South frica at St George's Park in Por

Raishahi and Chittagong stormed to the top of the first-class table of the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League with outright victories against their respective oppositions

A seven-wicket haul by offspinner Sabbir Khan spearheaded Chittagong to dump previous round leaders Sylhet by one innings and 69 runs in Dhaka while Rajshahi recorded a ten-wicket win over Khulna at home inside three days in the four-dayers. Both the sides are now level on 26 points after seven rounds.

staged a superb fightback against Dhaka as the match apparently headed for a draw with one day remaining

Australian captain Ricky Ponting

made top score of 62 in his come-

back from injury in the third one-day

international at St George's Park on

Australia made 254 for six after

Ponting missed the first two

matches of the five-game series

because of an abdominal strain.

South Africa won both matches

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Sunday

series.

being sent in.

### Sri Lanka, who are leading the series 1-0 after winning the first Test by eight wickets in Chittagong, returned to gym in the morning after a day's break in Dhaka. They left for the northern town in the afternoon.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, vesterday. left in the morning and had a team meeting in Bogra about selection. However, the final squad will be

## LATEST

SPORTS REPORTER

scalps in the first innings, again bad light. Pathan had hit a 25-ball 35 while Tendulkar was unbeaten on 28 as India ended on 260-6, 108 runs adrift of the England target with 11.4 overs remaining.

MATIUR MUNNA

scored Bangladesh's match winner

against Pakistan away in Karachi last

December in the Asian Cup pre-

qualifier, the Argentine said that he is

another injury-prone player.

Draw after late drama

When asked about Titu, who

Injury-hit England go into the second Test at Mohali on Thursday with heads high as they managed to carve out of a winning opportunity without three of their key players --Michael Vaughan, Marcus Trescothick and Simon Jones.

early wickets to put pressure on India, sions on a pitch which was good for batting even on the last day.



but could grab just one in two ses-1987 Hoggard, who grabbed six

## Jaffer hits ton in comeback match Cricket and accepted the umpires' offer of

brated his comeback Sunday with a maiden Test century as the first Test against England ended in a hardfought draw after a thrilling finale. Jaffer's steady innings and a resolute 71 from skipper Rahul Dravid provided little clue that India

were considering a last-minute dash for the unlikely 368-run target set by England.

Virender Sehwag for a duck with one that jagged back into his stumps. Jaffer, returning to the team after three years, scored exactly 100 to go with his 81 in the first innings. He put on 167 for the second wicke with Dravid to all but end England's hopes of a win It was after the loss of Jaffer and Dravid in the final session that things really got interesting as India, with wickets in hand, set about chasing eight or nine runs an over off the last 20. India's decision to promote aggressive Irfan Pathan and Mahendra Dhoni ahead of star batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Venkatsai Laxman almost paid off when the pair produced a flurry of boundaries Late wickets from England captain Andrew Flintoff and Steve Harmison turned the tables yet again. When Harmison bowled bighitting Harbhajan Singh -- also promoted up the Indian order -- it was England who were suddenly anticipating victory, with four wickets to go.

AFP, Nagpur

Indian opener Wasim Jaffer cele-

Any thought of pushing for victory had seemed to evaporate early in the day when England's first innings bowling hero Matthew Hoggard dismissed hard-hitting opener

The tourists needed a couple of

looked the most dangerous bowler early on as he tested both Jaffer and Dravid in a disciplined seven-over opening spell. With the pitch offering no help to England pacemen or spinners, India

overcame the early loss of Sehwag as Jaffer and Dravid dug themselves in to keep the attack at bay. Earlier in the day India had made

no attempt to chase what would have been a record winning target. The highest previous total made by a team to win a Test in India was 276-5 by the West Indies in Delhi in

Jaffer and Dravid went for their SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

MIRZAPORE TEA 7th National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

mammoth 579.

first innings

In the other match, hosts Barisal



## More closes door on Ganguly

CRICINFO, undated

Sourav Ganguly will not be recalled into the Indian team as long as the present selection committee is in office, Kiran More, the chairman of the five-man committee, told Cricinfo in an interview last evening.

Following Ganguly's exclusion from the first Test, More had made a statement that "there is no looking back on this issue now", which had been varyingly interpreted by the media. More clarified to Cricinfo that the reference then, and now, was to the tenure of the current selection committee, rather than just the present series against England.

"We took a decision that we have to look ahead." he said. "We decided that so much has been said on this issue, that we wanted to send a message across that, `this is what we are looking at, and as far as this committee is concerned, this is what we have decided, that we will not look back at all." More further spelt out that the committee was "definitely looking beyond" Ganguly even if he were to perform well in domestic cricket.

About the public and media pressure generated by the decision, More said: "Pressure is always there in any job and it is a good thing. You have to make some strong decisions. That's why you're selecting the Indian team."

The team for the second Test against England at Mohali is to be announced this evening. Ganguly, meanwhile, is slated to play for East Zone tomorrow at Jaipur in the Deodhar Trophy, the domestic zonal one-day tournament.

However, when Laxman made it to the middle, the Indians decided it was too risky for any more heroics

## Yuvraj back for second Test

CRICINFO, undated

Munaf Patel, who engineered an eight-wicket victory for the Board President's XI in Baroda last week, has been rewarded with a call up for the Mohali Test, with Vikram Raj Vir Singh making way for the match which will be played at his home venue

The only other change in the 15 man squad is the return of Yuvraj Singh, recovered from the hamstring strain that ruined his match-winning century in the final ODI against Pakistan at Karachi. Suresh Raina, touted as an Indian great of the future, makes way, though Kiran More, the chairman of selectors emphasised that he was very much a part of plans for the future. "We have to pick Yuvraj," More said. "Suresh Raina is an outstanding player, and is part of a grooming process. He's ready to play any class of cricket."

## SQUAD

Virender Sehwag, Wasim Jaffer, Rahul Dravid (capt), Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, VVS Laxman, Mohammad Kaif, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Irfan Pathan, Sreesanth, Rudra Pratap Singh, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Munaf Patel, Piyush Chawla.

India opener Wasim Jaffer plays a square drive on the fifth day of the first Test against England at Nagpur on Monday.

# Cook hailed

Cricket

victory on Sunday's last day.

Telegraph, praised Cook's tempera-

AFP, London

at Nagpur.

Gowe

England captain added. "Mind you, some of us were still like that after 100 Tests and a decade at the top.'

Cook has been mentored by Atherton's old opening partner Graham Gooch and the Essex and British newspapers were united in

England great, himself a former Test praise of Alastair Cook after the skipper, told the tabloid News of the Essex batsman marked his England World: "I knew he'd handle the debut with a century in the second situation. He's got that character innings of the first Test against India that's his strength.

"He's got a lot to learn but he Cook playing instead of Marcus knows that and wants to work hard. Trescothick after the vice-captain The best thing about him is he's a had flown home for personal reanice lad.

sons, finished on 104 not out as the Cook's Tour de force," ran the headline in the tabloid Mail on tourists, who also had injured skipper Michael Vaughan missing from Sunday in a reference to both the batsman's surname and the longthe top order, declared on their established British travel agents overnight score of 297 for three and homas Cook set India a stiff target of 368 for

"England's new hero flies 10,000 Ex-England opener Michael miles across nine time zones to score a century in his first Test," it Atherton, in the broadsheet Sunday added as it recalled the fact that Cook had been summoned to India ment. "He was calm from the from the A team tour of the moment on the first morning he Caribbean

pulled a rank long hop to the bound-"He put himself along the true ary, much in the fashion of David greats of English cricket by becoming the fourth youngest England "My only criticism is that he occabatsman to score a Test hundred at sionally became bogged down 21 years and 69 days after Denis against the spinners and struggled to SEE PAGE 13 COL 5 turn over the strike," the forme

Elizabeth on Sunday. Australia, defending a fighting 254-6, bowled South Africa out for 230 in 47.2 overs with paceman

Brett Lee claiming 4-48. South Africa, who won the first two games, looked down the barrel when they lost five wickets for 69 runs before a 119-run stand between AB de Villiers (68) and Shaun Pollock (69) brought them back into the match. Roger Telemachus with a 13-ball 29 almost fashioned an intriguing finish before becoming the last man out in the 48th over.

## Akram wishes Murali to take 1500 wkts

PHOTO: AFF SPORTS REPORTER

> Former Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram wished Muttiah Muralidaran to scalp 1500 international wickets.

The legendary fast bowler made the remark about the champion Sri Lankan off-spinner in an agreement signing ceremony with Riz Events in the city yesterday.

Riz will act Akram's exclusive agent as well as try to promote him as a brand ambassador for any international or local companies in Bangladesh

Rizwan Bin Farouq, managing director of Riz Events, signed the agreement with Akram at a local hotel

"I have no regrets that I have quit the game before taking 1000 international wickets. I congratulate Murali for getting 1000 wickets in Bangladesh and I hope he gets 1500," said Akram, the left-arm paceman who retired with 919 wickets in Tests and ODIs, at a press briefing.

Replying to a question regarding current Pakistan skipper Inzamamul Haque's urge to take him or Wagar Younis their bowling coach, Akram said, Wagar would be the right man for the job. "But the Pakistan Cricket Board

will have to give him (Waqar) a concrete proposal. I am busy with other commitments but I am ready to serve the nation if they call me.' When asked to comment on

# Ponting back with vengeance

small ground which has yielded some high totals.

Conditions looked good for batting but the pitch was slow and the Australian batsmen struggled to time the ball against accurate bowling, while South Africa fielded well.

Australia managed to score 99 runs off the last 12 overs but lost four wickets in the process. Michael Hussey hammered 22 off 10 balls with two sixes and a four.

Ponting started slowly, taking 48 balls to score his first 24 runs, but accelerated to reach his halfcentury off 72 deliveries.

The Australian captain launched leaving Australia needing to win to stay in with a chance of taking the Smith's decision to send Australia in was based on the likelihood of conditions remaining similar at deep midwicket. for both innings in a day game on a

Pollock, who earlier had Adam Gilchrist caught behind for 25, finished with two for 45.

Ponting put on 63 for the second wicket with Simon Katich, who was run out for 49 by outstanding fielding by AB de Villiers, who dived to his left at mid-on and hit the stumps at the bowler's end from a prone position

Damien Martyn helped Ponting put on 74 for the third wicket. Martyn

an assault against key South African powler Shaun Pollock in the 39th over, hitting two boundaries but he skied an attempted big hit in Pollock's next over and was caught made 51. South Africa rested fast bowler Andre Nel, who is still recovering from a foot injury, and included Roger Telemachus in the only change from the side that won the first two matches of the five-game

series. SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

PHOTO: STAF



Wasim Akram takes questions from reporters during a press conference at an agreement-signing ceremony with Riz Events on Sunday. Rizwan Bin Farouq, the managing director of the company, is also seen. SEE PAGE 13 COL 5