

Faruque to lead Navana XI

Sports Reporter The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board yesterday announced the Navana Premier Division Cricket Eleven to face the visiting Karachi Airport Gymkhana Club in a day-night match at the Dhaka Stadium on April 6, Tuesday.

Faruque Ahmed, who led the BCCB President's Eleven against the tourists in Sylhet on Thursday, has been appointed captain.

The other fourteen members of the squad are: Aminul Islam Bulbul, Jahangir Alam, Harun-Ur Rashid Liton, Akram Khan, Al-Shahriar Rokon, Athar Ali, Habibul Bashar Suman, Nasir Ahmed Nasir, Sharfud-dowla Ibne Saikat, Jahangir Alam Talukdar Dulu, Saiful Islam, Salahuddin, Joydev Basak and Naimur Rahman Durjoy. Alul Islam is the team manager.



Abahani skipper Faruque Ahmed miscues a shot that brought about the end of a sparkling knock of 52 against the visiting Karachi Airport Gymkhana in an exhibition match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani went down by one run. — Star photo

Four Aussie rookies for Ashes series

SYDNEY, Apr 2: Four Test newcomers Michael Slater, Matthew Hayden, Wayne Holdsworth and Brendon Julian

were named today in Australia's 17-man cricket squad to defend the Ashes in England this year, reports AFP. The four youngsters were chosen at the expense of some of Australia's most experienced players, including dashing middle-order batsman Dean Jones and injury-plagued left-arm paceman Bruce Reid.

Both were unlucky last season although both have been match-winners in past summers.

Slater and Hayden, both 22, each scored more than 1000 runs in the season just finished as openers for New South Wales and Queensland respectively and will vie for the right to partner vice-captain Mark Taylor.

Speedster Julian, also 22, claimed 43 wickets for Western Australian while also contributing valuable runs in the lower order and is expected to develop into a capable allrounder.

Holdsworth, dropped from the New South Wales team midway through the season,

finished in dynamic form, grabbing 29 wickets in the last three Sheffield Shield games to lead Allcomers with 53 wickets.

SQUAD

The squad is— batsmen: Alan Border (C), Mark Taylor (VC), Damien Martyn, David Boon, Matthew Hayden, Steve Waugh, Mark Waugh, Michael Slater; wicket-keepers: Ian Healy and Tim Zoehrer; pace-bowlers: Craig McDermott, Merv Hughes, Wayne Holdsworth, Paul Reiffel, Brendon Julian; slow-bowlers: Shane Warne and Tim May.



WAYNE HOLDSWORTH

The full team had already been published by newspapers in Sydney and Melbourne following the tour of England.

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Reid had his season ruined by shoulder problems while young Queenslander Mike Kasprowicz was also overlooked, despite taking 51 wickets for the summer.



ALLAN BORDER

lowing leaks which have embarrassed the Australian Cricket Board.

Former Australian Test player Keith Stackpole called for an investigation by the board to identify the person responsible for the leak and his sacking.

The omission of Jones, one of Australia's most experienced and stylish stroke-makers, is likely to be a controversial decision.

Captain Allan Border is re-

ported to have argued that he should go to England.

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MATTHEW HAYDEN

A crestfallen Jones

SYDNEY, Apr 2: Australian batsman Dean Jones described Friday as "the worst day of his life" after being controversially omitted from the team to tour England in defence of the Ashes later this year, reports AP.

Jones was called up as a late replacement on the recent tour of New Zealand, but was overlooked for tour of England with the selectors favouring rookie 22-year-old Matthew Hayden and Michael Slater.

Jones, 31, was one of the stars of Australia's 4-0 series triumph in England in 1989, when he scored 566 runs at an average of 70.75.

"This is probably the worst I've ever felt," Jones said.

"I don't know where this leaves me with my career and it's going to be a pretty hard blow to get over."

"Retirement is certainly not on my mind but I just want to go away for a while and think

about where I stand and where I go from here." Jones, a veteran 52 tests, did not play in any of Australia's tests against the West Indies or New Zealand this season. He did play in the one-day series in New Zealand.

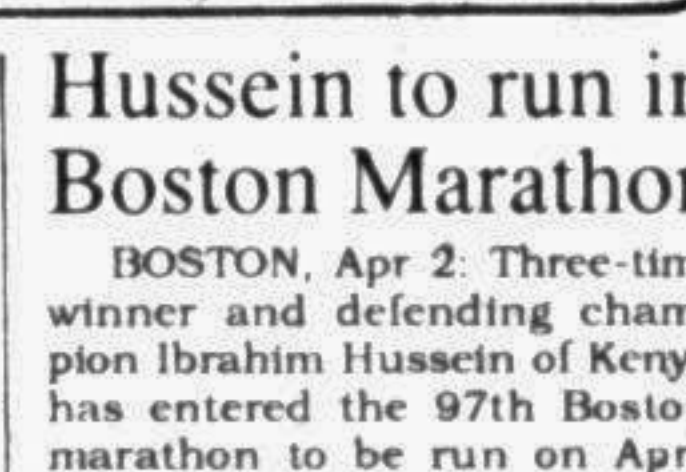
"To be honest, I can't understand why they sent me to New Zealand," Jones said. "I hope this doesn't mean I'm marked as a one-day player. I can now up to me to show that I can score runs in a five-day cricket."

Captain Allan Border had called for the inclusion of Jones in the team—but the selectors disagreed.

"I've stated my case on Jones and let's leave it at that," Border said.

"He's still young enough to play a big role in Australian cricket."

In his 52 tests, Jones has scored 3631 runs at the very impressive average of 46.55, including 11 centuries.



DEAN JONES

Carl Lewis to put long jump aside for a while

RALEIGH, North Carolina, Apr 2: Carl Lewis is to put his long jumping aside this year and concentrate exclusively on sprinting, his coach said, reports Reuter.

"That's the plan, just to run," Tom Tellez said on Thursday in a telephone interview from Austin, Texas, where Lewis will test his speed in the 4x100 and 4x400 metres relays this weekend at the Texas relays.

Lewis, the 100 metres world record holder, made Olympic history in Barcelona last year by taking his third consecutive gold medal in the long jump, together with anchoring the United States team to a world record in the 4x100 metres relay.

But the constant pounding Lewis's body has taken in 14 years of high-calibre long jumping is having an effect.

"Long jumping has taken a lot out of him," Tellez said. "So he needs to take it easy this year and begin building for Atlanta (the 1996 Olympics venue) if that is what he wants."

Fear held Ngugi back

NAIROBI, Apr 2: Kenyan five-times world cross-country champion John Ngugi feared taking a random dope test because he had taken prescribed medication for a cold, national athletics head coach Danson Musyoki said on Friday, reports Reuter.

"Ngugi said he was scared that some anti-cold medication could be said to hold performance-enhancing substances although he was not quite sure which," Musyoki said.

A Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) appointed independent tribunal has been investigating why the star refused a random dope test, which put him at risk of a four year ban.

A senior athletics source close to the case told Reuters on Wednesday the tribunal had cleared Ngugi of any offence but censured him for apparent ignorance of the implications of his actions.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) suspended Ngugi, a soldier, indefinitely after reports of his refusal to be tested in February, and asked the KAAA to investi-

gate the case. The athletics source said the tribunal's decision appeared influenced by Ngugi's apparent total lack of understanding that explaining his case would have vindicated him.

Musyoki did not reveal the medication Ngugi, who has little formal education, said he had taken.

Ngugi missed an appointment at a pre-arranged location with IAAF doctors sent to test him near his home town of Nyahururu, 200 km (125 miles) north of Nairobi in February, Musyoki said.

"But the doctors later tailed him to his home where they demanded to test him. He refused," Musyoki added.

A senior source close to KAAA said a report by the IAAF doctors indicated they were upset by Ngugi's apparent refusal to keep his appointment and his subsequent attempt to simply vanish from the team.

Hussein to run in Boston Marathon

BOSTON, Apr 2: Three-time winner and defending champion Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya has entered the 97th Boston Marathon to be run on April 19, race organisers announced on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Hussein, one of only six men to have won the world's oldest marathon three times, posted the second-fastest time ever on the course to beat Portugal's Joaquim Pinheiro last year.

Hussein won here in 1991, his first outing after injuring himself the year before, and in 1988, when he recorded the smallest winning margin in race history — one second — over Tanzania's Juma Ikangaa.

Other elite runners competing include David Tessebe of South Africa, who won the Berlin marathon last year in the year's fastest time, and Ikangaa, who has finished third in Boston three times but has never won.

Hussein will be joined by eight countrymen, who will use Boston as their trials for the World Championship at Stuttgart, Germany, in August. Race sponsors also said they expected to announce "significant additions" to the men's field next week.

Ali to visit SA

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 2: Ex-world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali will tour South Africa black townships this month as part of a campaign to raise funds for sports development in the country, reports AFP.

Ali, 50, will also meet African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela — an amateur boxer in his younger days — during the visit from April 10-22, the Boxing Development Network announced.

Ali will go to the Soweto township and Robben Island, where Mandela was held for 27 years. Several fund raising galas are to be held in his honour.

The visit is being organised by Boxing National Development, which hopes to promote the sport in under-privileged areas, the Muslim community of South Africa and the Southern Sun Hotel chain.

Organisers emphasised that Ali also wanted to promote "peace and stability" in the troubled country.

Chang left short of breath



OSAKA, Japan, Apr 2: Second seed Michael Chang needed a final set tie-break today to see off a

persistent challenge by Canadian qualifier Grey Rusedski and reach the semi-finals of the Salem Open men's tennis tournament in Osaka, reports Reuter.

The slightly-built American stayed on course for a final battle with burly compatriot Jim Courier. The world number one cruised past Guillaume Raouk to take his lifetime record against Frenchmen to 18-0.

Rusedski, a big-serving 19-year-old ranked 158th, dropped the first set quickly to the ninth-ranked Chang but battled his way back into the match with an impressive 17 aces.

"It was a tight match, it could have gone either way," Chang said after his 6-2, 4-6,

7-6 (7-1) win. "If I can borrow his serve for a few matches, especially at Wimbledon, it would be helpful."

Chang 21, is looking for his second major title of the year after a win in Jakarta.

Meanwhile, an unshaven Courier breezed past Raouk 6-4, 6-3, his third victory against him in three outings.

Although often outgunned by the world top player, at one stage losing three successive games to love, the smiling bespectacled Frenchman put up a gutsy fight in the second set, drawing applause from the crowd with his strong backhands.

"He won some battles but I won the war," a laconic Courier summed up.

He now faces fifth seed Amos Mansdorf of Israel, who reached the semifinals after opponent Jim Grab of the United States retired with a shoulder injury suffered playing doubles on Thursday.

Saturday's other semifinals pits Chang against lanky French qualifier Stephane Simian, who beat local favourite Shuzo Matsuo of Japan 6-1, 6-2 today.

"I don't know much about Stephane," Chang said. "I know he's French, and he's tall."

Noah's prediction

NANCY, France, Apr 2: French showman Yannick Noah predicted a good showing by his country in this year's Davis Cup here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Noah, who won the French Open 10 years ago, said at a press conference he was "very happy" about France's win against Austria.

He added France's chances of winning the cup were improved as "the USA are out, Boris Becker is not playing for Germany, and the Swedes are not what they used to be."

UN honours Africa's first boxing champ

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 2: The UN committee against apartheid held a special meeting on Thursday to pay tribute to the memory of the first world boxing champion from Africa, Louis "Battling Siki" Fall of Senegal, reports Reuter.

The meeting, attended by former world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali and other ring personalities, heard speeches in praise of Fall who won the world light heavyweight title in 1922 from French boxer Georges Carpentier.

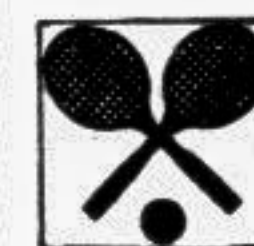
Fall, veteran of a French colonial regiment during World War One, later moved to New York. He was found shot in 1925 and buried in a New York cemetery.

Arrangements are being made to return his body to Senegal.

Several speakers at the meeting, organised by Senegal's UN Mission, called for World Boxing Council to call Battling Siki's encounters with racism.

WBC president Jose Sulaiman Chagnon told the gathering: "Let's not fool ourselves: Racial discrimination exists. It might not be on the surface, but it does exist. That is the reason why the World Boxing Council tries to find heroes... That lead us to fight against that in human behaviour."

Hack hacks two seeds in a day



HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, Apr 2: Sabine Hlack of Germany upset two seeded players in one day at the 750,000

dollar Family Circle Magazine Cup tennis tournament as several seeds were forced to play twice on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The unseeded Hack won a tough second round battle to oust fifth seed Manuela Maleeva-Frangiener of Switzerland 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, then came back and upset 13th-seeded American Gigi Fernandez 6-1, 6-4, to advance to the quarterfinals.

After rain washed out play on Wednesday, the second round was completed on Thursday as well as the originally scheduled third round contests.

Second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain and fourth seeded American Jennifer Capriati also won twice on Thursday to reach the quarters.

Top seed Steffi Graf and third seed Gabriela Sabatini, the two time defending champion, also advanced to the quarterfinals. They only had to play one match each.

Graf beat fellow German Silke Frankl 6-1, 6-3, while Sabatini downed fellow Argentine Ines Gorrochategui 6-1, 6-4.

Sanchez and Capriati turned

their second round matches into light practice sessions before coming up against

stiffer competition. Sanchez opened the day with a 6-1, 6-0 stroll past Petra Langrova of the Czech Republic and followed with a 6-2, 6-3 third round victory over Nadine Ericovic of the Netherlands.

Capriati breezed past compatriot Jessica Emmons 6-0, 6-2 before struggling to a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, win over 15th seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy in nearly two and a half hours.

The eighth-ranked Capriati, an early upset victim at her last two tournaments, said she needed Thursday's win over the 27th ranked Cecchini.

"It was extremely important," Capriati said. "In the last two tournaments I had back to back early losses. This is a confidence booster, that I can pull one out like that."

Hack, surprise runner-up last week to Conchita Martinez in Houston, will get her chance to knock out three seeds in succession when she faces Sanchez in the quarters.

She said she came into this event confident, but was glad not to suffer a meltdown after reaching a final four days ago.

"I expected to win against Gigi and Manuela," said the 26th ranked Hack.

"I was a little bit tired but against Gigi it is never a long match because she attacks a lot. I knew that and I was pretty happy."

"I knew it was not going to be as difficult as this morning."

Borg has things his way now

STOCKHOLM, Apr 2: Swedish tennis legend Bjorn Borg had his divorce from Italian pop star Loreana Berte ratified by a Swedish court here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The five-time Wimbledon champion preferred the divorce to be handled in Sweden after an Italian court last November ordered him to pay Berte some 120,000 kroner (16,216 dollars) alimony per month for three years.

"If an appeal is to be submitted, it must be done within the next three weeks," counsellor Peter Wiking-Johnsson said.

Sanchez and Capriati turned

to dismiss Taiwanese opponent Lian We-Chen 15-4, 15-6 in the first singles.

Using a deceptive forehand dropshot and superb guile at the net, Arbi ruthlessly exposed the shortcomings of Taiwanese number three singles player Lin Arbi set the tone of the tie with Indonesia also winning the other two singles and two doubles in straight games.

Indonesia made it 2-0 with their doubles pair Ricky Subagia and Rexy Mainaky comprehensively defeating Horng Shin-Jen and Huan Chuan-Chen 15-0, 15-3.

Former world number one Ardy Wiranata put the result beyond doubt when he scored and emphatic 15-4, 15-5 win over Chang Jeang-Shyung in the second singles to give

Indonesia a 3-0 lead

Indonesia's other top singles player, Olympic gold medalist Allan Budi Kusuma, however, struggled in his match against Taiwan's Liu En-Hong before completing a 18-13, 15-5 victory.

The Indonesian juggernaut completed the rout with Imay Hendra and Hermawan Susanto demolishing Lee Mou-Chow and Chang Jean-Shyung 15-6, 15-1 in the second doubles.

Having shocked South Korea 3-2 on the opening day, Wednesday, the Taiwanese were obviously shikding their better players for today's crucial encounter against minnows Thailand.

A win against Thailand would help Taiwan enter the semi-finals.

Estoril Open results

ESTORIL, Portugal, Apr 2: No. 3 Sergi Bruguera rallied Thursday to defeat Argentine Alberto Mancini and qualify for the quarterfinals in the Estoril Open, while fellow Spaniard Emilio Sanchez took three hours to defeat Alex Corretja, reports AP.

Bruguera, the highest seed remaining in the ATP men's tournament, lost the first set 2-6, and was 2-4 down in the second, before he stormed back to win five games in a row off the world no. 46.

The final score was 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Meanwhile, in the tournament's longest match, seventh seeded Sanchez battled it out before downing fellow Spaniard Corretja 7-6 (8-6), 2-6, 6-4.

Arbi leads Indonesian march



HONG KONG, Apr 2: Indonesian ace Heryanto Arbi led his country's charge towards the semifinals of the 30,000 US

dollars Asian Badminton Championships, here Thursday, report AFP.

Arbi, currently the hottest player on the world circuit, spearheaded Indonesia's 5-0 walloping of Taiwan in a Group B preliminary encounter.

China and Malaysia, the favoured sides in Group A, also remained unbeaten with emphatic victories over Japan and hosts Hong Kong respectively.

The 21-year-old Arbi, winner of the recent All England Tournament and also the Japan Open and Taiwan Open this year, took only 20 minutes

to dismiss Taiwanese opponent Lian We-Chen 15-4, 15-6 in the first singles.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Supports, 6 'Rip off', 9 Lincoln, 12 'Home' (movie), 13 Father of 9 Across, 14 Haw, 15 Roadside eatery, 16 Go off the track, 18 Wheel builder George, 20 Haywire, 21 Witness, 23 Absolutely, 24 'The 39', 25 Pucker up, 27 Play, 29 Unfairly, 31 Dean Martin hit song, 35 A Holly-wood 007, 37 Jeannie's portrayal, 38 Our first Veep, 41 'Zin-nemann' has four, 43 Insecticide letters, 44 Ready for the picking, 45 Expulsion, 47 It's on the fast track, 49 Where the action is, 52 O, 53 Milwaukee product, 54 Up, 55 Gadget for Trevino, 56 Staff, 57 Irascible, 21 Schuss, 22 Article in 'Die Welt?', 24 — Paulo, Brazil, 26 Hot time, 28 Odds' counter-parts, 30 — Alamos, N.M., 32 Envelope info, 33 Embarrassed, 34 Ending for insist or exist, 36 Recycled, 38 'I'm a Dreamer, — We All?', 39 The South 40 NYC emblem, 42 Lead, 45 Scandinavian metropolis, 46 Canal zone?, 48 Music appreciation, 50 Profit, 51 Wool quantity?

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-51 in a 11x11 grid.

CRYPTOQUIP FOTUOYZEF, UAO BDBRMEY JETOJEMM BMEFOY GDRLZ APSTOMG PLE GDRM SDDZ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE LOAN OFFICER'S COMFORTING SLOGAN: "LIEN ON ME." Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals M. 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.