

WEEKEND SPORTS WEEKEND

Battle Windies', war whose?

By Asrarul Islam Chowdhury



The recent three-match one-day series between New Zealand and the West Indies...

when he reached 50 on his way to 72 at Wellington. He was duly adjudged the man of the series.



BRIAN LARA One-day and Test are two totally different brands of cricket. West Indies India tour prior to their visit to the land of the Kiwis highlighted this proposition...

BATTING & BOWLING AVGS

Tables showing batting and bowling averages for West Indies and New Zealand players.

Son-in-law lets Cruyff down

BARCELONA, Feb 9: Johan Cruyff, who already has his son Jordi playing in attack, was left red-faced last night when his son-in-law Mariano Angov Jet in four goals in a 4-1 defeat to Atletico Madrid...

Still aiming for the eighth wonder of the world

by Charles Akin Ogunrinde

Sixteen countries will be competing for the world under-21 soccer cup in March. But for the moment, reports Gemini News Service, all attention is focused on whether or not Nigeria will be ready to host the event.



The press is breathing down the necks of sports organisers here following the comment by the leader of an international inspection team that it would be "the eighth wonder of the world" if Nigeria was ready to host the world under-22 soccer contest in March.

Ashes series in retrospect

PERTH, Feb 9: England captain Michael Atherton was perfectly justified in repeating his call for the selectors to turn to youth in the wake of his side's Ashes defeat, reports Reuter.

It was a plea he has made frequently during his tenure since becoming captain in July 1993. But with the benefit of hindsight it would have been better if he could have pressed his case more effectively when he sat in the meeting to chose the touring side last September.

Age overtook them. Their presence contributed to a lamentable standard of ground-fielding, and latterly, catching. But it would be wrong to blame Gooch and Gatting for Australia's retention of the Ashes they have now held since 1989.

The tourists were severely hampered by injury and illness with, in all, 22 players used at one stage or another. Two days after the killer quake, Tsukada courteously turned down one offer from Salt Lake City in the United States to take over the 1998 Games.

Five players, spinner Shaun Udal, batsman Graeme Hick, all-rounder Craig White and fast bowlers Martin McCague and Darren Gough, went home injured and two others, batsmen Alec Stewart and Neil Fairbrother, himself a replacement, were ruled out of action, although they stayed on.

The losses most keenly felt were those of pace bowlers Devon Malcolm to chickenpox just 72 hours before the first Test, and Darren Gough, who broke down with a stress fracture of the foot after carrying the attack for two months.



MARK TAYLOR



MIKE ATHERTON

Astafei's ban goes

BUCHAREST, Feb 9: Romanian sports authorities have lifted a three-year ban imposed last year on high jumper Galina Astafei after she applied for German citizenship, reports Reuter.

"Such a good athlete must be free to compete, she must not stay on the sidelines," Romanian Athletics Federation president Iolanda Balas said. "What really matters in the end is not the country for which she competes but her performance."

Winter Games organisers cool

NAGANO, Japan, Feb 9: Nagano, where the Winter Olympics will be held in exactly three years, has had to reassure international sports leaders that the Kobe earthquake, or other tremors, will not affect the Games, reports AFP.

Australia hold Colombia to dull draw

BRISBANE, Feb 9: Australia and Colombia disappointed a crowd of more than 13,000 with a dull scoreless draw Wednesday in the first leg of a two-match international soccer series, reports AP.

Surinam's foes leave battlefield for soccer field

PARAMARIBO, Surinam, Feb 9: It's Sunday afternoon at the Franklin Essed Soccer Stadium in Paramaribo and Surinam's fledgling democracy is on fine display, reports Reuter.

Former guerrillas and soldiers, who until 1992 were fighting a little-known civil war that racked this tiny South American nation, are now squaring off in a crucial First Division match. The star of the show is Ronny Brunswijk, the flamboyant, one-time leader of the jungle commando rebels and accused bank robber, who scores a penalty to give his inter-Moengatapoe side a 1-0 win over the Army team.

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England's Rob Andrew (L) and Philippe Sella of France, the world's most capped players, in discussion as they arrived at the Rugby Club in London on Tuesday to promote the announcement for the World Cup to be held in South Africa next May.