WERIND

SPORTS

WHILE

Battle Windies', war whose?

By Asrarul Islam Chowdhury

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

the West Indies in New Zealand was totally a one-sided affair. The Caribbeans outclassed the inexperienced Kiwi side in almost every sector of the game as the tourists made a clean sweep,

Brian Lara, the world's most prolific batsman, lived up to his reputation. He accumulated 161 runs in three matches with an enviable average of 161. His teammate, Stuart Williams was not far behind, amassing 150 runs at an average of 150. The only Kiwi resistance in batting was exhibited by the young opening bat, Brian Young. Young managed to gather 94 runs at an average of 31.33.

All the regular Caribbean bowlers were among the wickets. However, part time left arm slow bowler, Keith Arthurton topped the bowling averages taking seven wickets in three matches conceding only 88 runs at a superior average of only 12.57. The invincible form of the Caribbean batsmen proved to be a bane for the Kiwi bowlers as they managed to gather only three wickets in total. Gavin Larsen was the most successful Kiwi batsman taking two wickets. conceding 104 runs at an average of 52.

The best batting display of the series came from the bat of Stuart Williams, an unbeaten 73 at Auckland. The best bowling performance of the series - Winston Benjamin's 3/12 at Christchurch - also went to the Caribbeans.

Brain Lara joined the 3,000 run club in one-day annals

selectors to turn to youth in

frequently during his tenure

since becoming captain in July

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 Septem-

of England's 329-run loss in

the fifth Test in Perth, a result

which sealed the series 3-1 in

favour of Mark Taylor's Aus-

former captains Graham

Gooch, 41, and Mike Gatting,

37, was shown to be flawed

with both enduring a disap-

over 2,000 runs in the county

season, made only 182 runs in

five Tests, 117 of them coming

Gatting, fresh from scoring

pointing final Test series.

England's decision to bring

tralia side.

His latest came in the wake

But with the benefit of

the wake of his side's Ashes

defeat, reports Reuter.

PERTH, Feb 9:

England captain

Michael Atherton

was perfectly jus-

tilled in repeati-

ng his call for the

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

The two teams have played 36 one-day matches so far. The West Indies, have won 21 (success 58.33%) and the Kiwis 15 (success 41.67%). No one-day matches among the two teams have ended in a tie or was abandoned



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. The Kiwis have always been tough customers at home. If the Kiwis have the determination to walk through brick walls in order to win. then we will be in store for a fantastic duel. Although the Caribbeans won the one-day series hands down, the war is in front as they last won a rubber against the Kiwis way back in 1955-56. Let's wait and see what happens. After all, "Cricket, Lovely Cricket" is gloriously uncertain!

BATTING & BOWLING AVGS

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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.

The city leaders are trying to remain as calm as possible while the rest of the country is in a state of near panic over the devastation in Kobe and who will pay the bill to rebuild the city.

"Everything is going well as planned," Nagano Mayor Tasuku Tsukada told AFP, "As Nagano is far from the damaged areas, there is no problem about holding the Olympic Games here."

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

But German sports leaders have also made a request for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to make sure Nagano is not at risk from any new quake, the IOC itself is concerned that rebuilding Kobe may divert funds from the Winter Games showcase, according to international sporting officials.

Nagano, the second Japanese city to host the Winter Olympics, is expected to welcome 1.5 million visitors and 3,000 athletes and officials from around 70 countries for 16 days starting February 7.

"The sheer numbers involved is what worries us," said one international Olympic offi-

But Tsukada, outwardly, shrugs off the fuss," as you see. out there the construction of facilities and transport are going smoothly," he said. The central Japanese city is

350 kilometres (220 miles) northeast of Kobe, where more than 5.200 people were killed and more than 110,000 buildings destroyed or damaged. No matter what was re-

ported in the world press. Nagano was not affected by the quake. About 30 per cent of the

new facilities and bullet-train lines to be built for the Games are ready. The 150 billion ven (1.5 billion dollars) worth of construction should be ready by the end of 1997. Tsukada emphasised that

Nagano was well prepared for major earthquakes. "People's awareness of disasters is very high," he said, "And we have been actively trying to create a disaster-resistant city." However, there are some

question marks about Nagano's readiness. According to city officials, no food is kept in reserve for emergencies. And, like Kobe, the local

government has no emergency

plans to bring in troops in

such an event.

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 let in four goals in a 4-1 defeat to Atletico Madrid which all but ended Barcelena's interest in the Spanish Cup, reports AFP.

Angov went on in the 14th minute to replace Juan Lopetegui, standing in for firstteam goalkeeper Carlos Busquets, who was sent off for bringing down Atletico's World Cup star Joseluis Caminero in the penalty area...

He failed to stop Argentine international Diego Simeopne's penalty and was then beaten by Colombian Adolfo Valencia (twice) and Javier Pirri in the second half of the third round first leg tie.

And yet Barcelona had started promisingly, taking a second minute lead when defender Abelardo Fernandez headed in a corner.

Atletico's three second half goals all came from counters as Barcelona's East European pairing of Romanian Gheorghe Hagi and Bulgarian Europeanplayer-of-the-year Hristo Stoichleov failed to find a gap in a tight Madrid defence.

Cruyff substituted his son Jordi with midfielder Guillermo Amor in the second half.

Aussies hold Colombia to dull draw

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

Apart from two Colombian shots cleared off the Australian line by defender Tony Vidmar, the Lang Park match had few real scoring opportunities as both sides stuck to conservative tactics.

Australia dominated much of the first half and big striker John Markovski troubled the Colombian back four with his sheer size and strength.

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 evént.



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. "Nigeria has proved itself as

a soccer-playing nation," said Jack Warner, vice-president of the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA). "Let the world know that Nigeria is a soccer organising nation."

Warner's team had been looking at the stadiums, press centres, hotels and telecom munications, medical and transport facilities for the 8th FIFA Corn Cola World Youth Champlanships on 11 26

taking their cue from the team's assessment, sports writers have been telling the organisers of "Nigeria '95" that they are off track.

Bisi Lawrence of the Vanguard said that patriotism had got in the way of the truth: "Maybe we should now start from the other end and try to be 'unpatriotic' a bit and say we have messed up a lot. We've messed up a lot of time, a lot of opportunities, a lot of facilities and I feel, in fact, a lot of finances.

Another newspaper, PM News, quoted a spokesman for the Confederation of African Football as saying that despite expenditure of N40 million on a press centre in one of the stadiums, the facility was "structurally defective" and below FIFA standards.

Another sports journalist, Kunle Solaja, criticised the de-

cision to build a new press centre in a Lagos stadium as wasteful: "I've attended five world championships and I've never seen anywhere, even the recent USA '94, where a specific building was erected as a press centre. All of them were always on an ad lioc basis. The indoor sports hall could be equipped to serve as a press centre and the gym could be used as a broadcast centre."

Solaja concluded that "the facilities are there, all we require is just for somebody sitting down to put on his thinking cap and adapt them to the

Duplication of organising bodies, such as the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the Presidential Monitoring Committee (PMC), has also come under fire.

The LOC was charged with making overall arrangements. The PMC, with an army General as chairman, was set up by the military government to ensure that pitches were up to standard - and was then given more power and resources than the LOC or the Nigerian Football Association.

FIRA's inspection team made the same point. It asked the government to make up its mind and name a single figure. to oversee the preparations.

The government responded rapidly, naming PMC chairman Mamman Kontagora, a reputed workaholic, as the general overseer. The LOC has been in limbo ever since.

Criticising the duplication, Mumuni Alao, deputy editorin-chief of Complete Football, Nigeria's leading sports magazine, said the government should be blamed, not the PMC or the LOC.

Newspapers have also been

emphasising the shame that will fall on Nigeria if the contest is withdrawn -- a point not lost on the beleaguered military government.

The Daily Champion gave unusual prominence to a report of the "deep concern" felt by the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa about FIFA's dissatisfaction with Nigeria's

preparations. Council secretary-general Dr Awoture Eleyae added inadequate publicity at home and abroad to the list of complaints. Sports writers have frequently complained that the local organisers do not work closely with the media.

Kontagora, however, insists that the reality is not as bad as the picture painted by the

He admitted to lapses, but noted that "we have a chance of correcting them. Nobody ever gets things like these down 100 per cent perfect."

He says efforts are being made to equip media facilities and medical stores, and that the re-grassing of the stadiums in Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna will be completed by February, when the FIFA team returns for a final inspection.
The National Stadium in

Lagos has become a hive of activity, and National Sports Commission staff are under strict orders to observe full working hours, on pain of dismissal

Between 24 January and 5 February, Nigeria will stage the African Under-21 soccer contest. Sports organisers are using it as a test run for the world championship.

About the Author: Charles Akin Ogunrinde is news editor of the National Concord in

— Gemini News

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 Moengotapoe side a 1-0 win over the Army team.

We are trying to forget the past, there are no enemies now," a sweating Brunswijk, surrounded by admiring fans, told Reuters after the game. "My men died for the democracy you see today."

About 400 people, mainly Bunswijk's men, were killed in the jungle war that began in 1986 as an uprising against military strongman Desi **Bouterse**

Bouterse allowed elections in May 1991 and left the army in November 1992, while the new government of President Ronald Venetiaan struck

truce with the rebels in August of that year.

Since then, a fragile peace has held in Surinam and one of the world's youngest democracies is surviving its infancy.

Despite the harmony on show at the Franklin Essed Stadium, however, most people are cautious about saying the past turmoil is over for "The conditions are positive

towards maintaining democracy and maintaining the situation of security in the country ... (but) I don't think it would be realistic to say that it is no longer a possibility," Venetiaan, 58, a former school teacher, said in an interview when asked about the chance of another coup or revolt. The scars of war and brutal

military rule remain painfully etched across this former Dutch colony of just 400,000 people that won its independence in 1975. Most have friends or rela-

tives killed or injured in the Many bush villages that

were razed by the army for harbouring suspected rebels are still burnt out and empty. About 10,000 Surinamese

refugees returned from neighbouring French Guiana after the war, but many have still not been resettled properly.

And no one has been tried for a string of crimes including the 1982 torture-murder of 15 of Bouterse's leading critics. and the 1986 massacre of 50 alleged rebel sympathisers in the village of Moiwana. The military is suspected in both

"If these sorts of huge crimes go unpunished, how can you with all credibility now arrest people for shop-lifting or drug offences?" said Stanley Rensch, head of Surinam's leading human rights group, which is named Moiwanan '86 after the massacre.

Vietnam's coalition gov-

ernment has blunted the military's threat by slashing its numbers from 3,500 to 2,000 and ousting four of the top five commanders.

But many in the military are resentful of Ventiaan's administration and remain loyal to Bouterse and his opposition-National Democratic Party (NDP).

The NDP, with 12 seats in the 51-member Parliament, is already Surinam's largest party and, according to analysts here, may land Bouterse the

presidency in May 1996 elec-

"Bouterse and friends think they might be able to get power democratically, particularly as the economic crisis makes the government so unpopular," said Leo Morpurgo, Editor of Surinam's leading Dutch-language newspaper De Ware Tijd.

"So they won't carry out another coup and they'll stop anyone else who might want-

Bouterse's arch-rival Brunswijk, also now a cellular telephone-carrying businessman, has a lower political profile but continues to pressure the government over the 1992 peace accord.

"The government has failed to keep its promises... to bring jungle commando people into the police, or to rebuild the villages that they destroyed, said Brunswijk, a bodyguard for Bouterse before he took up arms against his former boss.

While few expect the jungle commando to revolt again, discontent is constantly simmering in the impoverished inland provinces which bore the brunt of the fighting.

Bands of heavily armed exguerrillas and bandits continue to roam the countryside sporadically robbing and looting. government and human rights officials say.

Last year, one such group took over the crucial Afobaka Dam, which supplies about half the country's electricity, demanding that Venetiaan's government stand down.

"This is a small country," Rensch said. "With 20 or 25 people, you gan cause serious disruption.

In Paramaribo, the government's main threat is rising social unrest accompanying the country's dramatic economic demise.

A wave of demonstrations and strikes last year culminated in several day's of looting and 'rioting in November that paralysed the capital Paramaribo.

Venetiaan has seen his popularity plummet but aims to keep his constantly bickering new front coalition together for elections in May 1996 that many hope will solidify the democracy.

"The Surinamese people believe in democracy, they want democracy," said US Ambassador John Gamble. "But it is still a fragile democracy at the moment."



England's Rob Andrew (L) and Philips 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. - AFP photo

in one innings, while Gooch managed just one fifty in a return of 245 runs. Astafei's ban

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

Such a good athlete must be free to compete, she must not stay on the sidelines." Romanian Athletics Federation president Iolanda Balas said.

German citizenship, reports

"What really matters in the end is not the country for which she competes but her performance."

Balas, herself a former high jump world record holder. said there had been no political reasons behind the ban against Astafei "She was banned because

she was absent from national team international events, not for her decision to leave Romania for Germany," she said. Astafei, 1992 Barcelona Olympic silver medalist, competed for Romania at an indoor

meeting in Stuttgart, Germany last Sunday when she set a Romanian record with a winning leap of 2.03 metres. But to be able to compete for Germany at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Astafei has two more hurdles to clear the acquisition of German citi-

Committee (IOC). An IOC decision rests on formal agreement by the Romanian Olympic Committee (ROC) "Galina could even become world record holder this year. She seems on top form and on a good track in Germany,"

Balas said.

zenship and the approval of

the International Olympic

But it would be wrong to blame Gooch and Gatting for Australia's retention of the Ashes they have now held. since 1989. England also em-

Age overtook them. Their

presence contributed to a la-

mentable standard of ground-

fielding, and latterly, catching.

barrassingly lost to both Aus-It was a plea he has made . trulia A and Zimbabwe in the World Series one-day matches.

The tourists were severely hampered by injury and illness with in all, 22 players used at one stage or another.



MARK TAYLOR

England were never in a position to pick their firstchoice line-up, though it is doubtful they could have won

the series even with it Their supporters could point to being deprived of victory in Sydney when bad light prevented Atherton ramming home his advantage, and of nine dropped catches in Perth.

Equally, Australia could justifiably say that, before rain fell in Sydney, they looked well-placed to win chasing a record 449, and that they controlled much of the Adelaide

game.

The home team were superior in all departments, scoring heavily and turning the screw through leg-spinner Shane Warne and paceman Craig McDermott. Warne appeared to grow

first two Tests, including a hattrick in Melbourne, did as much as anything to ensure Australia's win. McDermott, who entered the series not even sure of his place after a chequered tour of Pakistan, answered the critics

jaded but his 20 wickets in the

with 32 wickets, deservedly being named player-of-theseries and the international cricketer-of-the-year. And the success of Warne, 25., all-rounder Greg Blewett, 23, with centuries in his first two Tests, and 24-year-old opener Michael Slater, who scored 623 runs including

three hundreds, amply

demonstrated the value of

youth. . England's injury problems were best illustrated by team physiotherapist Dave Robers' having to act as substitute fielder in one match. Later even he was injured, breaking a finger.

Five players, spinner Shaun Udal, batsman Graeme Hick, allrounder Craig White and fast bowlers Martin McCague and Darren Gough, went home injured and two others, batsmen

Alec Stewart and Neil Fair-

brother, himself a replace-

ment, 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

Morrison

Thomson

Vaughan



MIKE ATHERTON ture of the foot after carrying the attack for two months.

Gough was a real find. The Yorkshireman took 20 wickets in three Tests, batted with real bravade and lifted the team in a way no-one had since lan

The arrival in December of seamer Angus Fraser, a controversial omission from the original party, also boosted England. He took 14 wickets in

three matches. Much of the other bowling was wayward with Phillip De-Freitas, who took 30 wickets in six Tests in the English summer, a major disappoint-

interms of batting. Ather

ton's "not is doom and gloom"

comment was borne out by several young players. Graham Thorpe, who won praise from Taylor, looked a class player with 446 runs. while Atherton himself and Hick also made important

contributions. Tour rookie John Crawley made two half-centuries in pressure situations and Mark Ramprakash, a reinforcement from the A tour of India, contributed two excellent innings which suggested he has finally bridged the gap to Test level. With those players, plus

Stewart, forming the core of the batting, and with Gough and Malcolm spearheading the attack. England can still be optimistic about competing with the West Indies this summer. Australia, meanwhile, can be equally optimistic about

their forthcoming tour of the

Caribbean, providing other

members of the attack can

lend support to the over-

worked McDermott and

Warne.