

Tendulkar's third

MUMBAI, May 2: Indian cricket team vice-captain and prolific batsman Sachin Tendulkar was declared the Sun-Grace-Mafatlal's Indian Cricketers-of-the-Year for 1995-96 season, reports PTI.

This is the third time he has won this award.

The run-machine, who aggregated the highest runs in the Wills World Cup and then scored a century each at Singapore and Sharjah, collected 50 points to his credit, according to a release here today.

Leg spinner Anil Kumble, with 34 points, finished second ahead of third placed Indian wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia (27 points).

Tendulkar also topped the list in the individual category earnings Rs 1.67 lakhs, including Rs one lakh for winning the Indian Cricketer-of-the-Year award.

Leg spinner Anil Kumble (1992-93) and left hander Vinod Kambli (1993-94) are the others to win this award. In the individual cash award section, Nayan Mongia (Rs 23,500) and batsman Navjot Singh (Rs 22,500) are in the second and third places.

The Indian team also gained Rs 6.15 lakhs in team award section for winning the Test series and One-Day international series against New Zealand, three league matches and the quarterfinal match against Pakistan in the Wills World Cup and one match each at Singapore and Sharjah.

German eyes win Euro TT title

BRATISLAVA, May 2: Germany's women scored a season's hat-trick when they won the European Table Tennis Championship team title by beating Hungary 4-2 in Wednesday's final, reports Reuter.

"This is our third and most valuable title," said a happy German coach Dirk Schimmeleppenning said. "We have already won this year's women's team cup and European league and I think this proves that we are currently Europe's best."

The Germans, European team runners-up two years ago behind Russia, suffered a setback in the first rubber when Europe's current number one Nicole Struse went down to a humiliating 18-21, 21-19, 8-21 defeat by 17th-ranked Kristina Toth.

Germany equalised and then pulled ahead with wins by Olga Bemes over European number four Csilla Bartoli and Jie Schopp, currently ranked third in Europe, over Vivien Ellio.

The Hungarians managed to pull level in the doubles in which defending European title holders Bartoli and Toth proved too strong for Struse and Elke Schall and won 21-14, 21-16.

But then Struse and Schopp put Germany onto the winners podium with victories over Bartoli and Toth respectively.

Anything was possible today and we saw some of the best women's table tennis, "Schimmeleppenning said. "This was really a final of Europe's best two teams."

Romania beat England 4-0 to win the women's team bronze medal.

Delhi Grand Prix held back

NEW DELHI, May 2: India's first ever Grand Prix track and field meet scheduled to be held here on May 8, has been postponed due to parliamentary elections in the country, an Indian official said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The grade-two meet coincided with the counting of votes in the ongoing general elections and would have generated little interest, the official said, adding it would now be held probably in August.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has agreed to our request and asked us to fix an alternate date as early as possible," Lalit Bhambhani, secretary of the Indian track and field body, said.

"They have told us that we can hold the meet in the last week of August, but at least two days before the Berlin Grand Prix on August 30. The new date will be announced soon," Bhambhani said.

Indian officials were relieved when IAAF accepted the postponement since work on the new synthetic track being laid at the meet's venue, the 75,000 seater Nehru Stadium, was still in progress.

India, which was bidding for the lucrative Grand Prix grade-one meet, were awarded a grad-two competition when the IAAF expanded its circuit this year.

But failure to hold the meet would have ruined India's chances of securing a grade-one meet in securing a

I'm obviously enjoying

Morrison mauls Windies



ST JOHN'S, Antigua, May 2: Danny Morrison claimed four wickets to put West Indies on the run.

Wednesday and give New Zealand a real chance of winning the second cricket Test, reports Reuter.

West Indies, who had carved out a first innings lead of 111, ended the fourth day at the Antigua recreation ground struggling at 147 for seven.

Fast bowler Morrison's four for 38 in 12 overs included the prized wicket of world record-holder Brian Lara, mainstay of the West Indies' innings with a score of 74.

Morrison, who came to the Caribbean as New Zealand's lone world-class bowler with 150 wickets in 45 Tests, reserved his best for a sensational final session when the West Indies lost six wickets for 109 runs.

Lara and opener Sherwin Campbell, who scored 36, were the only West Indies batsmen to reach double figures on the day. Wicketkeeper Courtney Browne is three not out and Curtly Ambrose has yet to score.

New Zealand, who began the day at 346 for seven, were all out for 437 in reply to the daunting West Indies first innings total of 548 for seven.

West Indies lead the two Test series 1-0 after a 10-wicket victory in Bridgetown, Barbados.

After going into lunch at 412 for eight, New Zealand extended their first innings for 50 minutes after the interval.

Dipak Patel, 70 at lunch,



CURTLY AMBROSE

ball he faced from Morrison for four. But Morrison gained quick revenge, trapping the batsman lbw with a full-length delivery which struck him on the back foot.

Lara joined Campbell and the pair batted patiently in seeing the West Indies to the interval without further loss.

New Zealand should have claimed the wicket of Lara without addition to his team-time score of 13 but Stephen Fleming spilled a straight-forward catch at first slip off Kennedy.

To bat: C Walsh, R Dhananjay.

Bowling:

O M R W

Ambrose	32	12	68	5 (nb-2)
Walsh	27	5	71	1 (nb-7)
Dhananjay	38	9	132	1
Bishop	26	3	60	9 (nb-8)
Adams	19	4	59	0 (nb-1)
Chanderpaul	2	0	10	0

Total: (for seven wickets) 147

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-89;

3-94; 4-119; 5-128; 6-133; 7-147.

To bat: C Walsh, R Dhananjay.

Campbell and Lara extended their second-wicket stand to 84 before New Zealand broke through again with the return of Morrison to the attack.

Richie ready to return

ST JOHN'S (Antigua), May 2: Former West Indies cricket captain Richie Richardson said he is available for the Australian tour later this year despite his announced intentions to retire at this year's World Cup, reports AFP.

"I am still young, I think, and I would like to go out there and score a few runs," said Richardson, 33, who captained the West Indies in 24 Tests and 87 limited overs internationals.

"I wanted to retire at this period in my career," the Antiguan said. "If my country needs me, I will be happy to do it. But it will be under a few conditions."

Richardson took himself out of the first three limited overs internationals against New Zealand and was not picked for the remaining two or the two Test matches.

Richardson has scored 2,175 runs, including nine centuries, in 29 Tests against Australia. He has scored 5,949 Test runs and the West Indies won 11 Tests and 46 limited overs with him as captain.

"I'm just here waiting for the call," he said. "I don't know what is going to happen. I have a few contingency plans because I am not getting any younger and I have to get on with the rest of my life."

added just eight more before he was caught by wicketkeeper Browne, who then held his fifth catch of the innings to account for last man Robert Kennedy.

Ian Bishop captured both the last two wickets to end with figures of three for 90.

But Ambrose was the most successful West Indies bowler

JIMMY ADAMS ... starts getting into his glorious stride



JIMMY ADAMS ... starts getting into his glorious stride

Agile Astle comes of age



ST JOHN'S, Antigua, May 2 (Reuter): Nathan Astle, one of the new breed of cricketers who switch between one-day and Test matches with no apparent difficulty, joined a distinguished list on Monday with his second consecutive Test century.

The New Zealand all-rounder hit 103 in his team's first innings on the third day of the second and final Test against West Indies, inspiring a fightback which took the tourists within three runs of the follow-on.

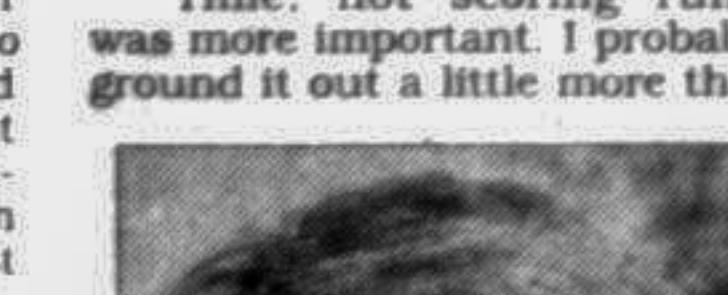
Astle became the 10th New Zealander to score successive Test centuries, winning rare praise from coach Glenn Turner who himself scored a hundred in each innings in his country's first victory over Australia 22 years ago.

"He's a very talented guy who does it with flair and panache as well," Turner said.

Astle, himself, expressed conflicting emotions after his 156-ball innings on Monday which included 12 boundaries and a six.

"Obviously, I'm happy with the century," Astle said. "But at the end of the day I was disappointed I didn't go on to get a bigger one."

I'm obviously enjoying



NATHAN ASTLE

things at the moment but the main thing is that we batted the whole day today and we are still in the game.

Time, not scoring runs, was more important. I probably ground it out a little more than

He then made an inauspicious start to New Zealand's Caribbean tour, receiving a blow on the jaw from Patterson Thompson in the opening match which forced him to retire briefly for a precautionary X-ray.

Undeterred, Astle took on the raw, but decidedly swift West Indian fast bowler in the first Test, hitting 54 and 125 and providing the only sustained New Zealand resistance as the tourists went down by 10 wickets.

Astle's maiden Test hundred came from only 125 balls and in all he hit 22 fours and two sixes.

Turner, one of the game's supreme technicians during his career with New Zealand and Worcestershire, whose First Division clash on Sunday could decide the Turkish league championship.

Galatasaray striker Hakan Sukur, who scored seven goals in the European Championship qualifiers, put Turkey in front after only three minutes and all the goals were scored in the opening 34 minutes of a match dominated by the home side.

Andrej Shevchenko

scored a record 687 runs in New Zealand's Shell Cup one-day competition and has one-day international centuries to his credit against India, Zimbabwe and England.

I did the last time."

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five for 68, his 14th five-wicket haul in 61 Tests.

New Zealand did not have to wait long for success in the West Indies' second innings.

Samuels, who had hammered a century in the first

innings, square-cut the first

Lara, who had struggled

badly with his timing, started

to get into his stride just when

the West Indies' slide began.

He took three consecutive

four off Chris Harris but then

had to watch as Campbell, Phil

Simmons, Jimmy Adams and

Shivnarine Chanderpaul fell in

the space of 39 runs.

Lara himself perished to an

injudicious shot, flashing at

Morrison and edging a catch to

Fleming, who accepted it this

time. His innings had spanned

119 balls and 161 minutes and

included nine fours.

Morrison then crowned a

fine day by inducing Bishop to

edge his final ball to South Africa 1-0

to which he contributed only

102 runs.

However, a 3-0 Test tri-

umph at home to England re-

stored him to hero worship

status in his own country.

Now, in the wake of India's

World Cup exit in Calcutta, Azharuddin needs another

boost on the tour of England.

"I would hope our fans have

got over that disappointment,"

said Azharuddin at Lord's today

as his squad had their first

practice session.

Azharuddin, who bore the

brunt of a nation's criticism

after India's World Cup exit in

Calcutta, said: "I am the first

person to accept my mistakes.