

Taylor's tour in doubt

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Mar 7: A renewed back injury has put the rest of skipper Mark Taylor's South Africa tour in doubt, reports AP.

Taylor underwent back surgery during last winter and later withdrew from the side for the four-nation one-day series in Sri Lanka in August-September 1996.

According to team physiotherapist Errol Alcott, Taylor damaged his back before the start of the three-day match against Border at the Buffalo Park here on Friday.

The Australians were led by vice captain Ian Healy, in Taylor's absence.

"He was ready to play this morning, but had to withdraw," Alcott said. "A back injury is always cause for concern."

"Mark felt some lower back pain on the right side, which is the opposite side, which he had surgery on last year," he added.

"We are evaluating him at the moment with a view to see whether he needs a scan. The injury is in the same level in his back. At this stage we don't know a lot. We don't know whether he can get a scan here."

Taylor had experienced a wretched summer with the bat against the West Indies at home and here against the South Africans in the only innings he batted in the first Test.

Taylor, one of Australia's most successful captains, and the only captain to win back-to-back series against the West Indies has now gone 16 consecutive innings without a half century, a new record for a batsman captain.

Lara, Hooper rule the day



KINGSTON, Jamaica, Mar 7: A dazzling century partnership between Brian Lara and Carl Hooper kept West Indies in command at 300 for four at close on the first day of the opening Test against India at Sabina Park on Thursday, reports AP.

Lara hit 83 and Hooper an unbeaten 87, the pair adding a



boundary-studded 147 for the fourth wicket after the West Indies had stuttered to 143 for three midway through the day. Left-hander Lara was dismissed just 20 minutes before the end, edging his leg glance to the wicketkeeper of Nayan Mongia off Abey Kuruvilla, operating with the second new ball. The 28-year-old Kuruvilla, on his Test debut, was the most impressive of the bowlers, with two wickets for 46 off 18 overs. Lara, the West Indies vice-

captain, hit 10 delightful fours in his innings, which spanned 141 balls and occupied just over three hours.

Hooper was even more dominant than his illustrious Trinidadian partner.

The 30-year-old Guyanese took a particular liking to the spinners, hitting nine of his 13 boundaries off them.

He never got tired down, taking on all the bowlers and lofting them over the infield with the graceful ease that has become his trademark.

He has faced 131 balls and batted 162 minutes.

Earlier, India's bowlers had pegged back the West Indies when the home team got a flying start after winning the toss.

Stuart Williams hit a breezy 23 off just 25 balls and added 41 with the more circumspect Sherwin Campbell in just nine overs.

But Kuruvilla got the vital breakthrough, his well-disguised slower ball comprehensively beating Williams to remove his off stump.

The scoring rate slowed as Campbell was joined by Shivanine Chanderpaul. The pair added 55, but spent almost two hours doing so before Campbell bottom-edged left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi for Mongia to take a good catch.

India at Sabina Park here Thursday:

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Includes: WEST INDIES: First Innings, Campbell c Mongia b Joshi 40, Williams b Kuruvilla 23, Chanderpaul c Mongia b Prasad 52, Lara c Mongia b Kuruvilla 83, Hooper not out 87, Bishop not out 3, Extras (lb-4, nb-8) 12, Total: (for four wickets) 300, Fall of wickets: 1-41:2-96:3-143: 4-290.



HOOPER ... 87 n.o To bat: Roland Holder, Junior Murray, Franklyn Rose, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh. BOWLING: O M R W Prasad 21 4 90 1

W Australia in control

PERTH, Australia, Mar 7: Seventh-wicket pair Adam Gilchrist and Brendon Julian slammed 101 in almost even time to give Western Australia and upper hand on the opening day of the crucial Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales at the WACA ground here Friday, reports AFP.

Julian was eventually out for 51, but Gilchrist was unbeaten on 65 at stumps when Western Australia were 7-211, 122 ahead of New South Wales paucity first innings 89.

By capturing the two first innings points, Western Australia have increased their lead at the top of the Shield ladder to eight points, almost guaranteeing they will host the final of the competition in two weeks.

New South Wales, third equal in the ladder, now have only a very outside chance of qualifying for the showdown.

Veteran off-spinner Bret Mulder destroyed the New South Wales batting, snatching 5-2 from six overs.

Scores: NEW SOUTH WALES: 89 (Rodney Daison 28, Kevin Roberts 20; Bret Mulder 5-2, Jo Angel 2-13). WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 7-211 (Adam Gilchrist 65 not out, Ryan Campbell 64, Brendon Julian 51; Greg Matthews 4-56, Brand McNamara 2-40) at WACA ground.



Florentina's Argentine international striker Gabriel Batistuta (R) and Benfica's Jorge Soares chase after the ball during their European Cup Winners' Cup encounter in Lisbon on Mar 6.

India's WI tour dates

TESTS March 6-10: First Test, Kingston, Jamaica. March 14-18: Second Test, Port of Spain, Trinidad. March 27-April 1: Third Test, Bridgetown, Barbados. April 4-8: Fourth Test, Antigua. April 17-21: Fifth Test, Georgetown, Guyana. ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS April 26: First ODI, Port of Spain. April 27: Second ODI, Port of Spain. April 30: Third ODI, Kingston, St Vincent. May 3: Fourth ODI, Bridgetown. FIRST CLASS MATCHES February 28-March 3: vs Jamaica, Montego Bay. March 22-24: vs Trinidad, Port of Spain. April 11-14: vs Guyana, Georgetown (Besides India will play a one-day practice match on April 24 at Port of Spain).

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Includes: Campbell made 40 in 164 minutes, hitting four fours. Chanderpaul passed his 12th half-century in his 17th Test but fell soon afterwards, Mongia taking a low chance as the left-hander's drove at Venkatesh Prasad.

India: Venkata Laxman, Navjit Sidhu, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Saurav Ganguly, Mohammad Azharuddin, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi, Abey Kuruvilla, Venkatesh Prasad. Umpires: Steve Bucknor, Mervyn Kitchen. TV replay umpire: Johnny Gayle. Match referee: Peter van der Merwe.

But Lara and Hooper soon stamped their authority on proceedings, cheered on by a disappointing crowd of about 4500 point.

SCOREBOARD Scores at stumps on the first day of the first cricket Test between the West Indies and

IOC's five finalists

LAUSANNE, Mar 7: Athens, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Rome and Stockholm were given the chance to contest the right to stage the 2004 Olympics here today when the International Olympic Committee drew up a short-list of five from 11 candidates.

A final decision will be taken at the IOC session here on September 5.

Istanbul, Lille, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Seville and St Petersburg lost out.

Athens, Rome and Stockholm came out best from an investigation by an evaluation commission, led by Thomas Bach of Germany which visited each city. Europe is anyway probably due to hold the Games in 2004, after Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000.

Doubts over political stability and crime in South Africa had hurt Cape Town's bid but the South African delegation made a compelling case at Thursday's final presentation to a 14-member selection college.

Buenos Aires, candidate for the seventh time and the only one of the 10 founding IOC nations not to have held the Games, had a good report and also benefited from the fact that South America, like Africa, has never staged the Olympics.

Marc Holder of Switzerland, senior IOC vice-president and head of the 14-member selection college which drew up the short-list said: "Given the very high standard of the 11 candidates we felt we should give the opportunity to the highest number of candidates to submit their bids to the session."

"Choosing the finalists proved to be particularly difficult," he added.

"The selection college con-

sidered that all candidate cities, without exception, had the capability to host the Games of the 28th Olympiad."

He said the college had attached more importance to the evaluation commission report than to Thursday's presentations.

A panel of 14, three of whom are not IOC members, had given each of the 11 candidates a 40-minute hearing on Thursday. They also had in front of them a 350-page report assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each city.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch had been forced to defend the bidding process after mounting complaints from the candidates.

"We want to keep costs down," he said. "There is always a winner and a loser. You have to accept it."

Friendly cricket

Sports Reporter Sharanee Limited beat The Daily Star by 55 runs in a friendly cricket match at the Dhannondi Club ground yesterday.

Electing to bat, Sharanee cricketers amassed 190 runs in the allotted 25 overs losing six wickets.

Shahid scored highest 51. Zia of The Daily Star bagged three wickets.

In reply, the newsmen were restricted to 135 for eight in their share of 25 overs. Morshed contributed 27 while Zia and Rumi added 17 runs each. Shahid and Tamal scalped two wickets apiece.

For his all-round show Shahid was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Paris meet on Starters gun the spoiler

PARIS, Mar 7: The World Indoor Athletic Championships got off to an explosive start here today when athletes complained about the starters gun, reports AFP.

"It does not sound like a gun," complained American Olympic sprint queen Gail Devers after cruising through her qualifying heat.

British 200m record holder Donna Fraser very nearly failed to qualify when the echo from the gun turned her heat into a farce.

Several of the runners feared it had been a false start but as most of the athletes continued Fraser was left to chase the pack to finish third.

Officials only just managed to clear the track before the athletes crossed the line.

They had left the starting blocks in place, expecting the race to be rerun.

It was nail biting ten minutes for Fraser before it was confirmed that her time of 23.78 secs was fast enough to put her into the semifinals.

Ferguson's confident, young

United counter-attacked sixty seconds later when Ryan Giggis released Eric Cantona on the right. The Frenchman got behind the Portuguese defence and whipped over a searching cross that was headed clear but only as far as Gary Neville who missed the target after snatching at his shot from the edge of the area.

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M United puzzle Porto

PARIS, Mar 7: Manchester United and Dortmund pulled off solid home wins while Juventus and Atletico Madrid forced away draws in Wednesday's first-leg European Champions Cup quarter finals, reports AFP.

Alex Ferguson's Manchester United, who had so many problems surviving in the early stages of the competition, crushed Portuguese champions Porto 4-0 to all but book their berth in the last four.

The sealed an emphatic victory with goals from defender David May, captain Eric Cantona, winger Ryan Giggis and Andy Cole, and were never seriously challenged by the Portuguese who had been brimming with confidence after their earlier wins against AC Milan and Gothenburg.

Ironically, United suffered their worst blow of the night before the kick off when they confirmed that midfield star Roy Keane had not recovered from an ankle injury.

The setback forced a last minute reshuffle and Norwegian Ronnie Johnsen came into the midfield to sit just in front of the back four.

Ferguson was clearly planning on all out attack without and out strikers Andy Cole and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer both featuring in the starting line up.

The home side though, were given a scare in just the second minute, when Brazilian Edmilson broke free on the right and cut the ball back for Artur whose shot was well smothered by United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

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Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders are invited in foreign/local currency from benafide Manufacturers/Dealers/Suppliers/Indentors (Enlistment with this Director General is not necessary) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "ARMY":

- a. Tractor Dozer Size-II (above 200 HP) Qty-02
b. Spare for Compact 100 Baily Bridge-05 line items
c. Repair for Calibration of Cessna Aircraft-18 line items
d. Spare for Volvo Penta AQD-21A and MD-40A-59 line items
e. EV AL-Crane Shovel 20 ton

2. Tender schedule with detailed specification will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (Not-refundable) from 17-3-97 to 14-4-97 on any working day between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender will be opened on 16-4-97 at 1000 hours in presence of all tenderers.

ISPR/Misc/97-213 DFP/4645-1/3 G-622 Lt Col for Director General

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in T-2 Form are invited from Bangladesh Power Development Board's 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D' class valid enlisted electrical licence holder contractors/suppliers.

Name of office: Kushtia Power Supply, PDB, Kushtia. Name of work: a) Work of supplying electrical goods for operation & maintenance work of Kushtia Electric Supply. b) Work of supplying dog clamp for operation & maintenance work of Kushtia Power Supply.

Estimated cost: Group (a) Tk. 74,169/- Group (b) Tk. 74,400/- Price of tender: Price per set per group is Tk. 100/- (one hundred) only (non-refundable).

Tender to be had at: a) Chief Engineer, Distribution, West Zone, PDB, Khulna. b) Superintending Engineer, O & M Circle, PDB, Fardpur.

Tenders to be submitted at: a) Chief Engineer, Supply, West Zone, PDB, Khulna. b) Superintending Engineer, O & M Circle, PDB, Fardpur. c) Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned. Any tender can be purchased within 17-3-97.

Last date of selling tender: Bidders will be received up to 12:00 Noon of 18-3-97 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the contractors or their nominated representatives (if any present).

Date of submitting tender and time of opening: Resident Engineer (Executive) Kushtia Electric Supply PDB, Kushtia

Biddut/Jana-1012(4)/96-97 DFP-4883-2/3 G-623

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Deptt Division, Patuakhali Tender Notice No 195 (96-97) Civil

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Bhola PWD Division, Bhola Notice Inviting Tender No 36 of 1996-97

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide Saturday 8th March. Includes sections for BTV, CHANNEL V, STAR PLUS, EL TV, ZEE TV, PTV, DD 7, and ZEE CINEMA with program listings.