

Sport

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Fanie de Villiers (Former South African fast bowler)

It's important to retire at a time when people will still miss you.

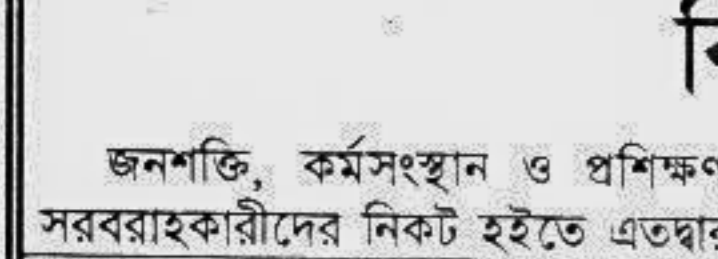
While announcing his retirement from first class cricket.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-91 Tick the Correct Answers

Table with 3 columns: Question, Answer, Score. Contains 5 multiple choice questions about cricket and sports.

Name: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (If any):



England's sudden submission

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Mar 25: The West Indies won the sixth and final Test against England by an innings and 52 runs at the Recreation Ground here Tuesday after the tourists collapsed dramatically in the final session.

England lost seven second-innings wickets following the tea break after vice-captain Nasser Hussain had made a defiant 106 before being run out, and skipper Mike Atherton announced his resignation after the match.

The West Indies won the series 3-1 to spark Atherton's decision.

England looked certain to hold on for a draw at 295-3 but then slumped to 321 all out losing their final seven wickets for 26 runs - as veteran pace bowler Courtney Walsh finished with 4-80.

Rain, followed by Hussain's century and an unbeaten 84 from Graham Thorpe, could have saved England from defeat, but the tourists' resolve simply crumbled when the home side put on the pressure.

Rain prevented any play before lunch on the final day and Hussain and Thorpe then set about the West Indies' attack in the middle session.

England resumed after the lunch break at 173 for three and moved comfortably to 275 for three by tea.

Hussain completed his sixth Test century but was then foolishly run out early in the final session, sparking England's sad collapse.

The loss was the 19th defeat of Atherton's 52 Tests in charge of England.

The end came with 6.4 overs remaining when last man Phil Tufnell popped up a simple catch to short leg.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the sixth and final Test between West Indies and England at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Tuesday: ENGLAND: First innings 127 (D. Ramnarine 4-29; C. Ambrose 3-28)

WEST INDIES: First innings, 500-7 decl (C. Hooper 108 not out, C. Lambert 104, P. Wallace 92)

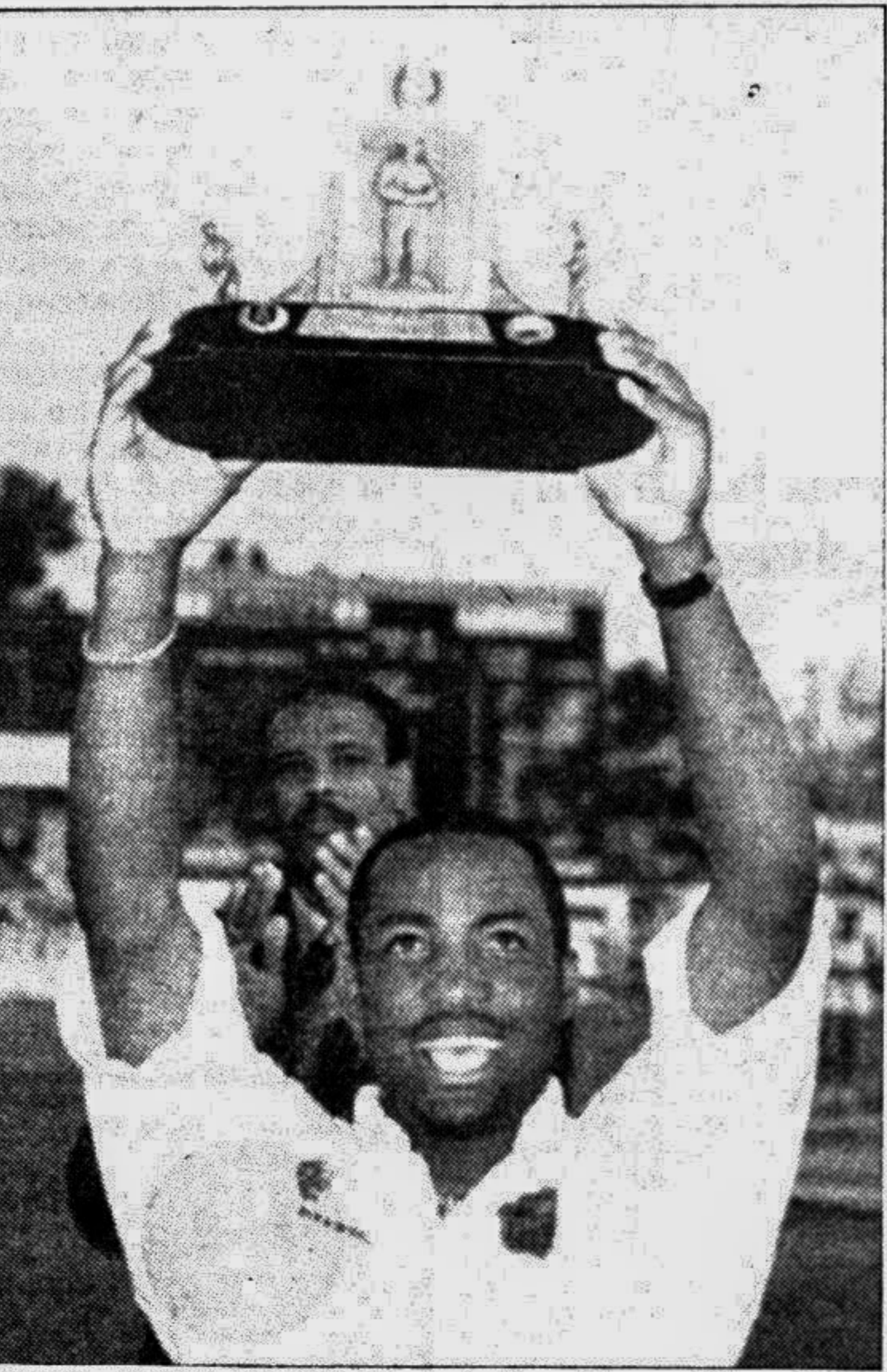
ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 173-3) Atherton lbw Ambrose 13 Stewart C Wallace b Hooper 79 Butcher c Murray b Ambrose 0 Hussain run out 106 Thorpe not out 84

Hockey result

WHANGAREI, New Zealand, Mar 25: Japan beat Northland 4-1 after leading 3-1 at half-time in a men's hockey match here today, reports AFP.

The Japanese were too quick and sharp for the Northland players who failed to adapt to the pace of the match until midway through the second half.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Lists players like Ramprakash, Russell, Headley, Caddick, Fraser, Tufnell, Extras, Total.



WELL DONE BRIAN: West Indies skipper Brian Lara proudly lifts the Wisden Trophy after his team had won the six-match Test series against England at St John's, Antigua on Mar 24.

Result: West Indies won by an innings and 52 runs. Player-of-the-match: D. Ramnarine. First Test: Kingston - Abandoned. Second Test: Port-of-Spain - West Indies won by three wickets.

Third Test: Port-of-Spain - England won by three wickets. Fourth Test: George Town - West Indies won by 242 runs. Fifth Test: Bridgetown - Abandoned. West Indies win the series 3-1.

JPC chess

The Independence Day chess tournament, organised by the Jatiya Press Club begins at the club today, reports BSS.

The first round starts at 2-30 pm.

Navy regatta ends

The annual sailing and pulling regatta of the Bangladesh Navy concluded off the St Martins Island Tuesday, an ISPR press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

ATHERTON AT A GLANCE

Factfile on Mike Atherton. 1968: Born March 23 at Fallowfield, Manchester. 1987: Made debuts for Cambridge University and Lancashire. 1988: Appointed captain of Cambridge University. 1989: Awarded county cap and made England debut against Australia at Trent Bridge. 1990: Voted young cricketer-of-the-year. 1991-92: Toured Australia. 1992-93: Toured India and Sri Lanka. 1993: July 29, appointed England captain for fifth Test against Australia.

Simmons recalled for ODIs

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Mar 25: West Indies recalled specialist one-day batsman Phil Simmons for the five-match one-day series against England starting on March 29, reports AP.

Also back in the side is opener Stuart Williams, fast bowler Mervyn Dillon and leg-spinner Rawal Lewis.

Simmons, Williams, Lewis and Dillon were all in the West Indies team for their last one-day tournament, the four-nation event in Sharjah in December.

The veteran new ball pair of Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose are retained to lead the bowling attack once again.

The hard-hitting wicket-keeper Junior Murray, recalled for the final Test, retains his position.

Test batsman Roland Holder and leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine, who won the man-of-the-match in the sixth and final Test, are omitted from the team.

SQUAD

Brian Lara (captain), Clayton Lambert, Philo Wallace, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Carl Hooper, Phil Simmons, Junior Murray, Curtly Ambrose, Franklyn Rose, Mervyn Dillon, Courtney Walsh, Rawal Lewis, Stuart Williams.

Odds in favour of Nasser

LONDON, Mar 25: Nasser Hussain has been installed by bookmakers William Hill as favourite to succeed Michael Atherton as England cricket captain, reports Reuters.

Hussain is the even money favourite, followed by Alec Stewart at 2-1 Mark Ramprakash on 7-2 and one-day skipper Adam Hoolioake at 7-1.

However, former captain Bob Willis forecast today that Stewart, 34, would get the job but felt England should look elsewhere in the longer term.

Willis told BBC Radio 5 "I would look further afield than Alec, but I think that the England selectors will make him captain for 12-18 months."

Mike lets leadership go

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Mar 25: Michael Atherton, who has captained England a record 52 times in Tests, quit on Tuesday, reports AFP.

He announced his resignation immediately after his side had lost their last seven wickets for only 26 runs to lose the sixth and final Test against West Indies by an innings and 52 runs.

West Indies won the series 3-1. Although he has been under intense pressure in the Caribbean because of his own poor form, Atherton said the captaincy had never been a burden to him.

Reading from a statement within minutes of England's capitulation in the Antigua Test, Atherton said: "After much consideration and after discussions with David Graveney, chairman of the selectors, I have decided to step down as England captain with immediate effect."

"A combination of our failure to win this series and my own form, which has been well below my previous standards, has led me to believe it is time for someone else to lead the side."

Atherton said he would remain with the England squad for the five one-day matches against West Indies and intended to fight for his place as a batsman.

"Having captained the side for the past four and a half years I have given the job my full commitment. It has been an intensely challenging and always enjoyable period."

"I am keen to remain part of the international set-up as a player and I remain fully committed to the England team."

Atherton said he hoped he would begin to score runs again and that he would be worth his place as a batsman now that he had "taken this step."

He revealed he made the decision to quit on Tuesday morning and that even if England had escaped with a draw on Tuesday he would not have changed his mind.

Atherton, 30, on Monday, took charge when Graham Gooch resigned after the fourth Test against Australia in 1993. He lost the fifth Test but won the sixth and made his first trip to Australia that winter with high hopes of success.

But England lost that series 3-1 and the following summer during The Oval Test against South Africa.

Atherton passed the 30-year-old record of 41 Tests as captain set by Peter May at Lord's last summer.

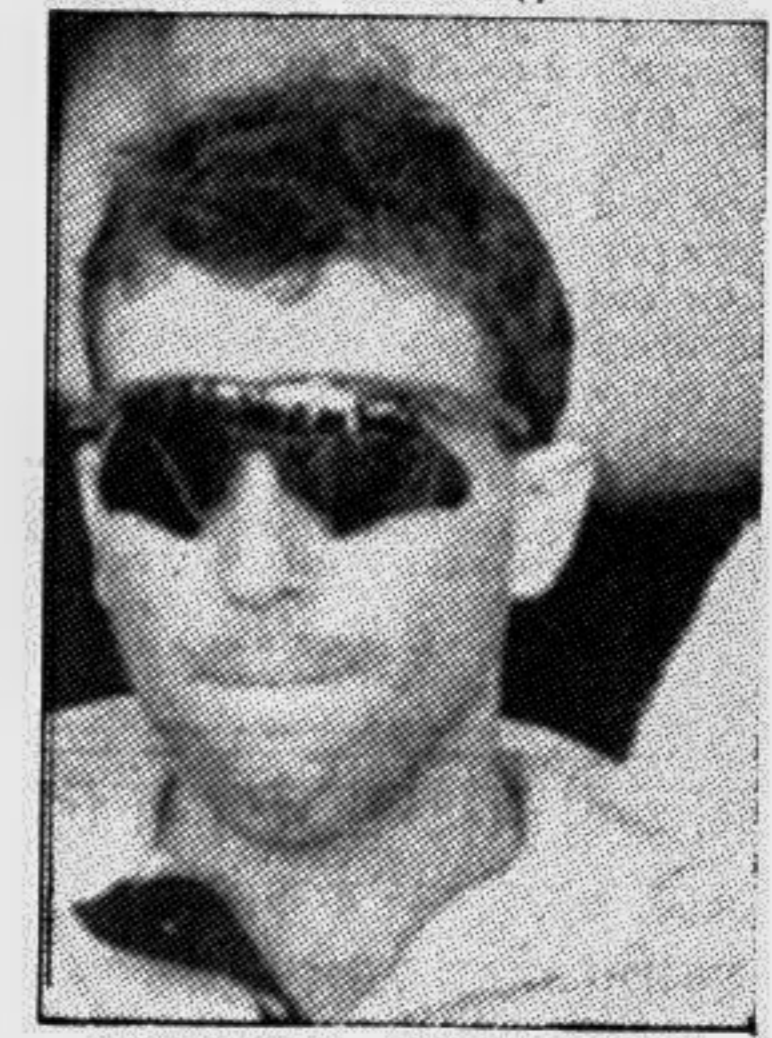
The first indication that he might be ready to step down came last summer after another Ashes defeat. He spent a week considering whether he would lead England in the Caribbean and the England Cricket Board were so sure he would step down they made arrangements for Alec Stewart to be captain.

At the last minute he phoned Graveney and said he was prepared to carry on leading the side this winter.

Atherton's likely successors include Stewart, his vice-captain in the Caribbean Nasser Hussain, Adam Hoolioake, who has already captained England in a one-day tournament in Sharjah, and a team captain Nick Knight.

Tour manager Bob Bennett said: "It has been my pleasure to work with Michael at Old Trafford and England for the past 10 years. During that time I have found him to be totally committed to the game and as captain of England he has always been determined to give the position his total commitment."

England coach David Lloyd said Atherton had "been a rock. I have nothing but admiration for the way he was handled an incredibly demanding job with real courage and determination."



MICHAEL ATHERTON

he was caught rubbing dirt into the seam of the ball in the Lord's Test against South Africa. Only a fine by Ray Illingworth, then chairman of selectors, saved him from a ban by the match referee Peter Burge.

Later that season he was fined again by Burge for dissent.

REPORTCARD

Table with columns: As player, As captain, Total. Lists statistics for Matches, Innings, Not out, Runs, Highest score, Average, 100s, 50s, Catches, Balls bowled, Runs conceded, Wickets, Average, Best bowling figures.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Forestry Extension Division, Pabna

Prime Minister's National Award 1997 in Tree Plantation

The government has decided to give "Prime Minister's National Award-97 in Tree Plantation" to those showing special credit in tree plantation to inspire & involve all concerned with a view to making the tree plantation movement a permanent, continuous & spontaneous programme.

Applications are invited within 31-3-98 for giving first, second & third prizes in 10 (ten) categories in connection with Prime Minister's National Award-97 in Tree Plantation. Persons/Govt./private organisations interested in the matter are requested to apply to the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Forestry Extension Division, Pabna & office of all Thana Nirbahi Officers and Deputy Commissioner's office of Pabna & Sirajganj districts.

Detailed rules & regulations of application & application form can be seen & known from the said offices during office hours except on Govt. holiday.

- Category: 1. Primary School/Junior Madrasa. 2. High School/Senior Madrasa. 3. Girls' High School/Women's College. 4. College/University. 5. Religious Institution (Mosque, Temple & Church). 6. Union/Thana/District Council. 7. Municipality/Corporation. 8. Ministry/Department/Corporation/Enterprise. 9. NGO/Club/Voluntary Organisation. 10. Individual Level Tree Plantation/Nursery.

Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Divisional Forest Officer, Forestry Extension Division, Pabna

The Daily Star TV Guide

Grid of TV program listings for Thursday 26th March. Includes channels like BTV, STAR MOVIES, STAR PLUS, CHANNEL V, PTV, ZEE INDIA TV, MUSIC ASIA, DD 7, ZEE CINEMA, TNT CARTOON, ZEE TV, SONY ET.