

Tri-nation cricket

Bangladesh meet Kenya in opener

Bangladesh will take on Kenya in the inaugural match of a tri-nation one-day tournament...

This was confirmed yesterday by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)...

Although the venues of the meet is yet to be decided, according to a fixture released by BCCI...

The tournament will be held on a double-leg league basis from where top two finishers will appear in the grand final...

Meanwhile, all the members of the two national teams, which toured India and Pakistan early this month...

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Real drop vital points

VALLADOLID, Spain, Mar 30: Croatian striker Alen Pecarnac blasted in a goal in the 87th minute Saturday...

Real fell to 15-10-6 and 55 points, and were in danger of dropping nine points behind leaders Barcelona...

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South Africa clinch series 2-0 Hansie hustles Lankans

PRETORIA, South Africa, Mar 30 (AFP/AP/Internet): South African captain Hansie Cronje slammed the second fastest fifty in Test history to propel his side to a six-wicket victory on the fourth day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at Centurion Park here today.

Cronje reached his half-century off 31 balls to break the stranglehold of Sri Lanka's dangerous, off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, and went on to make 82 off 62 balls before being caught in the deep when South Africa were just 13 runs short of their target of 228.

The victory gave South Africa a 2-0 win in the two-match series.

Cronje came to the wicket when South Africa were struggling at 99 for three. At that



DONALD... p-o-m/200 wkts

stage Muralitharan had figures of three for 22 in 13 overs but Cronje's assault meant that the spinner's next 10.5 overs cost 72 runs including 22 in the over in which Cronje raised his half-century with 4, 6, 6, 6 off successive deliveries.

He raised his arms in triumph as the third of three successive hits for six off Muralitharan sailed towards the midwicket boundary. His fifty included five sixes and three fours.

Kapil Dev hit the fastest Test fifty off 30 balls for India against Pakistan in Karachi 1982/83.

History was very much against South Africa overhauling the victory target. South Africa have been successful only thrice, chasing targets over 200 runs in their previous 219 Tests.

The last time was in 1953-54, when Jack Cheetham's side won by five wickets chasing 211 runs against New Zealand in Port Elizabeth.

The only chance Cronje gave was on 78 when Aravinda de Silva could not hold a hard, low hit to long-on off left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya and the ball went through his hands for four.

Cronje was out to the next ball, caught by De Silva when he mistimed another big hit.

He had been at the crease for 70 minutes, faced 62 balls and hit eight fours and five sixes.

He left the field with a crowd of about 6,000 chanting "Hansie, Hansie."

Opener Gary Kirsten stayed to hit the winning runs and was not out on 75, scored in 233 minutes off 203 balls with 13 fours.

Kirsten and new cap Gerhardus Liebenberg, who had been out first ball in the first innings, put on 89 for the first wicket to build a good foundation.

Then Muralitharan struck to dismiss Liebenberg, Ackerman and Daryl Cullinan in quick succession as the South African scoring rate slowed to a trickle.

Sri Lanka were earlier all out for 122, with their talented batsmen playing adventurously in adding 29 runs in 27 minutes for the loss of their last three wickets.

Fast bowler Allan Donald took two of those wickets to claim his 11th five-wicket haul in his 42nd Test.



CULLINAN... p-o-s

FAST FIFTIES IN TESTS

Table with columns: Name, Country, Against, Balls, Year. Lists players like Kapil Dev, Hansie Cronje, Ian Richards, etc.

Donald, who began the Sri Lanka second innings slide by claiming his 200th Test wicket, finished with 5-54 in 13.3 overs.

Left-arm spinner Paul Adams removed the big hitting Pramodaya Wickremasinghe (21) with the 11th ball of the morning.

Donald then bounced out Zoya's (14) and Muttiah Muralitharan (15) in the space of three balls in his 13th over to end the innings.

During course of this five-wicket haul, Donald also took his 1000th first class wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of second and final Test between South Africa and Sri Lanka at Centurion Park on Monday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 303

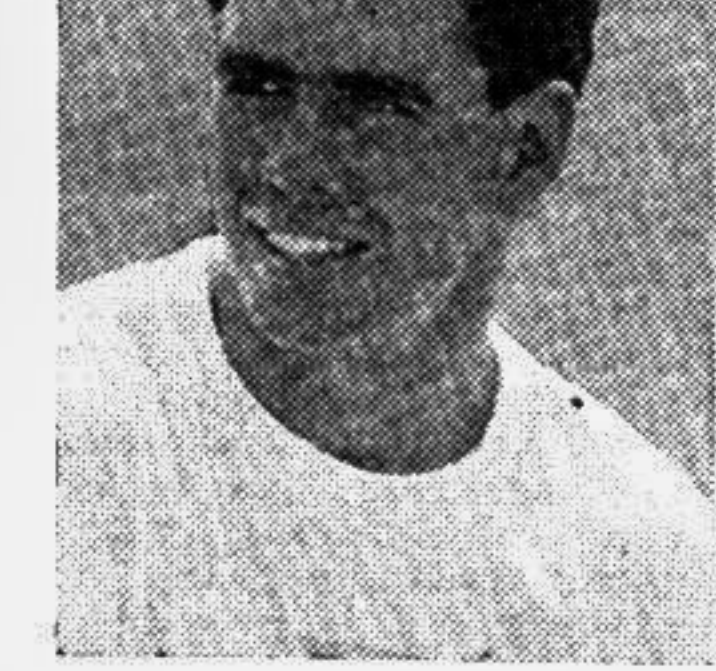
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 200

SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 93 for seven) Jaysuriya b Donald 16 Atapattu c Boucher b Donald 7 Mahanama lbw b Donald 0 Aravinda run out 41 Ranatunga c Boucher b Cronje 0 Tilakaratne c sub b Cronje 0 Kaluwitharana run out 0 Wickramasinghe b Adams 21 Zoya c Boucher b Donald 14 Muralitharan c Kirsten b Donald 15 Pushpakumara not out 0 Extras: (lb-5, nb-3) 8 Total: (all out) 122

Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-19; 3-40; 4-40; 5-42; 6-42; 7-85; 8-98; 9-118

Bowling table with columns: O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Donald, Ntini, Kallis, etc.

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings



CRONJE... blitzkrieg

FAST FIFTIES IN TESTS

Table with columns: Name, Country, Against, Balls, Year. Lists players like Kapil Dev, Hansie Cronje, Ian Richards, etc.

Kirsten not out Liebenberg lbw b Muralitharan 45 Ackerman b Muralitharan 2 Cullinan lbw b Muralitharan 0 Cronje c De Silva b Jaysuriya 82 Kallis not out 0 Extras: (b-8, lb-3, nb-11) 22 Total: (for 4 wkts, 62.5 overs) 226

Did not bat: S M Pollock, M V Boucher, A A Donald, P R Adams, M Ntini.

Fall of wkt: 1-89 (Liebenberg); 2-99 (Ackerman); 3-99 (Cullinan); 1-215 (Cronje)

Bowling Pushpakumara 7 2 27 0 Zoya 2 0 11 0 Wickramasinghe 6 1 14 0 De Silva 5 1 14 0 Muralitharan 23.5 4 94 3 Jaysuriya 19 6 62 1

Result: South Africa won by 6 wickets; won the 2-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Alan Donald.

Player-of-the-series: D Cullinan.

Office cricket Acme waltz into final

A brilliant half-century by opener Khaled Masood guided Acme Laboratories to their second successive Office cricket league final with a comfortable six-wicket victory over two-time champions Regensea Lines in the first semifinal of the 1996-97 season played at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Masood scored exactly 50 runs as Acme Laboratories, the reigning joint-champions, chasing a moderate Regensea total of 190 in a reduced 40-over-a-side match, reached 193 for the loss of four wickets and with 11 balls to spare.

Coming into open the innings with Harun-ur Rashid, the national wicketkeeper gave the star-studded Acme Labs a flying start, putting on 70 runs in 17 overs. The two were separated when Harun run himself out after scoring a 53-ball 31 which included three boundaries.

Masood then added another 31 runs with his captain Minhazul Abedin for the second wicket before the dapper right-hander was caught at short square-leg, miscuing an intended sweep off young offie Ehsanul. In his 71-ball vigil at the crease, Masood hammered a quartet of fours.

Acme lost two wickets in succession after the departure of Masood. Minhazul scored 27 and Naimur Rahman made 19 before both were caught in the spinning web of national vice-captain Aminul Islam.

But the success of Regensea for the day ended at that point when veteran Enamul Haque joined Al-Shahriar to throttle Acme to swash without further damage. Together they put on 47 runs for the undefeated fifth wicket with Al-Shahriar notching a swashbuckling unbeaten 40 off 33 balls which included six boundaries. Enamul, who played the perfect foil at the other end, remained not out on 11.

Earlier, put into bat, Regensea's fighting total was built around a superb half century from middle-order batsman Aminul Islam, who top scored with 53 off 71 balls inclusive of four boundaries.

Aminul apart, lower middle order bat Wahidul scored a breezy 34 and opener Azam Iqbal made a patient 31.

Enamul Haq and Sheikh Salauddin Hasibul Hossain evenly shared the six wickets among themselves for Acme.

The second semifinal between Bangladesh Biman and Partex Group will be played at the same venue tomorrow.

SCOREBOARD

REGENSEA LINES

Azam c Al-Shahriar b Salauddin 31 Ehsanul c b Hasibul 12 Jahangir c Zakir b Enamul 17 Aminul b Hasibul 53 Akram c Saiful b Salauddin 13 Zakaria c K Masood b Naimur 0 K Mahmud c b Enamul 13 Wahidul run out 34 Anisur not out 2 Extras: (b-3, lb-4, nb-2, w-6) 15 Total: (for 8 wkts in 40 overs) 190

Did not bat: Sharfullah and Saidul Islam.

Fall of wickets: 1/16; 2/60; 3/68; 4/108; 5/110; 6/133; 7/171; 8/190

Bowling Hasibul 7 0 44 2 Zakir 2 0 39 0 Saiful 2 0 14 0 Enamul 8 0 20 2 Salauddin 8 0 28 2 Naimur 8 0 38 1

ACME LABORATORY

Harun-ur-Rashid run out 31 K Masood c K Mahmud b Ehsanul 50 Minhazul c b Aminul 27 Naimur b Aminul 19 Al-Shahriar not out 40 Enamul not out 11 Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-1, w-8) 15 Total: (for 4 wkts in 38.1 overs) 193

Did not bat: Hasibul, Zakir, Sajid, Saiful and Salauddin.

Fall of wickets: 1/70; 2/101; 3/137; 4/146.

Bowling Anisur 6 0 33 0 K Mahmud 5 0 34 0 Sharfullah 8 0 35 0 Saidul 6 1 26 0 Ehsanul 5 0 33 1 Aminul 8 0 34 2

Result: Acme Laboratory won by six wickets.

Monaco rebound

PARIS, Mar 30: Martin Djeto scored in injury time to lead Monaco to a 1-0 victory over lowly Guingamp Saturday, ending a three-match losing streak to keep in touch with the leaders, reports AP.

Djeto latched onto a rebound after a 35-metre strike from Ali Bernarbia to lob the goalkeeper in the 90th minute and seal the points for Monaco, who are gearing up for a Champions' League semifinal against Italy's Juventus.

Monaco coach Jean Tigana had described Saturday's encounter as his team's most important league meeting so far this season after having seen them fall off the pace.

He said it was vital to win the three points to boost his side's of a UEFA Cup place next season if their pursuit of the Champions' Cup fails.

The main match this weekend is Sunday between the league's top two teams, Metz and Lens. Third-placed Marseille also play Sunday against Cannes in a game they must win to stay in contention.

In other action Saturday, Italian Marco Simone scored twice and Brazil's Rai was also on target as Paris St Germain scored a resounding 3-0 victory over Lyon to stay in fifth.

Other results: Bastia 2, Le Havre 0; Bordeaux 3, Toulouse 1; Auxerre 1, Strasbourg 2; Chateaubriant 1, Nantes 2; Rennes 2, Montpellier 0.

Mini World Cup to be day-night affair A bright idea for Dhaka

Cricket buffs will soon be able to watch "big boys" playing day-night international cricket here in Dhaka as all the matches of the ICC Knock-out World Cup tournament, scheduled to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from October 24 to November 4 this year, will be held under flood lights. All the nine Test-playing countries will take part in the Mini World Cup, organised by ICC to raise funds for its ambitious development programme.

To this end, the National Sports Council (NSC) has already called an international tender, which closed on March 25, and bids from Philips, Siemens and Bell-Five R-Silvana consortium have been submitted. The project will cost not less than Taka ten crore, according to insiders. The work is likely to be completed within

five months after issue of work order. Unless the work starts within mid-April, the new lights may miss the World Cup bus, according to sources following developments.

All the three bidders are reputed in this business and have installed lighting systems at different cricket venues in Asia.

The new lighting installation at the Eden Gardens in Calcutta and at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, the venue of the 1996 World Cup final, have been installed by Philips. On the other hand, Siemens had installed flood lights at the Khetterama Stadium in Colombo two years back. Silvana, an Australian company, which submitted the tender under a consortium with two Bangladeshi companies, are reputed for having installed lights at the Sharjah Stadium, a project completed last year.

According to the Philips proposal, four 56-metre high

new tubular-system (single pole) tower, a la Gaddafi Stadium, will be erected around the Dhaka Stadium after dismantling the existing lattice towers, which are witness to two decades of sporting action. Each new mast will have 108 "arena vision" bulbs, each of 1800 watts.

On the other hand, Siemens has also proposed the erection of four new towers, either tubular or lattice, with each having 100 bulbs of 2000 watts each.

No detailed information could be collected about the proposal of Silvana et al as Mohammad Shaheen of Five R, one of the two local companies in the consortium, declined to give any information when contacted over telephone.

The NSC is now studying the three proposals with the help of experts from BUET and PWD. A decision regarding this is expected within the next fortnight.

Lennox retains his crown

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Mar 30: Lennox Lewis, in trouble in the first two rounds, rallied to knock down Shannon Briggs three times and stopped him in the fifth round in defence of the WBC heavyweight title, reports AP.

Lewis' chin almost betrayed him in the first two rounds Saturday night, but then his power came to his rescue in the fourth and fifth rounds.

Zhao banned from Asian Games

BEIJING, Mar 30: China has barred Zhao Yongsheng, its champion walker and an Asian record holder, from the upcoming Asian Games after he refused to compete in races and sought higher wages, an official newspaper said Friday, reports AP.

Zhao, the 50-kilometre champion at the 1995 World Cup walking championships, violated national team rules by signing contracts with three different clubs for higher salaries and better fringe benefits, the China Daily said.

SIX NO TRUMPS

Bridge game advertisement for 'Six No Trumps' by A K Sayeedul Huq. Includes bidding table and rules.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98

Advertisement for Transcom Electronics Ltd. featuring prizes like Philips Smart TV, Philips B/W TV, Philips Food Processor, and Philips Bulbs.

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

- Information: The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in France from June 10 to July 12, 1998. Rules: Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in the Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98. Employees of the Daily Star and Transcom Electronics Ltd and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.

Quiz form for 'The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98, Round One' with questions and answer boxes.

Mike back with a bang!

BOSTON, Mar 30: There was a full house for Mike Tyson's return to the ring — the wrestling ring — Sunday night. How many fans were drawn by the banished boxer was unclear, reports AP.

"That had no effect on our decision to come here," Steve Brown, 43, said as he showed up at Wrestlingmania XIV with his wife and 10-year-old twin sons.

"I'd be here anyway," said Adam Dabransky, 17.

Tyson, the former heavyweight boxing champion, was to serve as "a special enforcer" for the World Wrestling Federation championship match between Shawn Michaels and challenger Stone Cold Steve Austin at the Fleet Center.

His official role was to stand on the ring apron and help the referee, although the possibility of him stepping through the ropes wasn't ruled out. He can't do that in a boxing ring, since the Nevada State Athletic Commission took away his licence for biting Evander Holyfield's ears June 28.

He could regain it in July if the commission approves. For now, he's settling for a wrestling ring, a paycheck estimated at more than 3.5 million dollars and a role as a money-maker for the WWF's daily 3.95 p.m.-per-view production of Sunday's show.

"I think he's out of place," said Mark Cerullo, 23, who wore a black "Stone Cold University" T-shirt. "It seems like he couldn't handle his boxing wrestling. Now he's trying wrestling."

This month, Tyson filed a lawsuit in New York against promoter Don King and another in Los Angeles against his former managers, Rory Holloway and John Horne.

"I don't think it'll help Tyson's reputation," Shane Snader, 26, said of his foray into wrestling. "It's a great publicity move for him and the WWF. It benefits both parties."

Tyson has been aligned with Michaels and there was speculation he might jump into the ring to help the champion. He might also be aiding the next big WWF show.

"He'll get physically involved," Snader said, "to tease another performance."

REGRETS

Due to space constraint our regular item CROSSWORD could not be accommodated.

— Sports Editor

Waugh at odds with Taylor

SYDNEY, Mar 30 (AFP, AP): Mark Taylor will arrive home early from India with speculation building that he may be ending his golden reign as captain of Australia's cricket team.

Taylor and six other players were cut from the Australian touring team for the one-day international-series against India which starts this week, and will arrive home today.

A growing debate over the policy of naming two Australian captains — one for Tests and another for limited-over internationals — is one that

ing to be an easy transition," Waugh told Australian Associated Press.

Taylor's feelings on the captaincy are so strong that he has called for a meeting with the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), selectors and players in the coming months to settle the issue.

ACB chairman Denis Rogers today gave Taylor little reason for optimism, saying it would take a compelling argument for the ACB to fall in line with the Test skipper's plea for a return to a single national captain.

But Rogers said the ACB valued Taylor's opinion and would listen carefully to what he had to say when they got together back in Australia.

Mark's always had concerns about there being a Test captain and there being a one-day captain, there is nothing new in that," Rogers told ABC radio from India.

But he said he wanted Taylor to remain in charge of the Test team for the September series in Pakistan.

"Mark Taylor is an outstanding captain and of course we want him to stay on as captain," Rogers said Monday.

But he did not envisage a change in selection procedure.

"Taylor has a point of view on it, the selectors have a point of view and the ACB takes into account both Mark's and the selectors' views in these matters and will do so again."

"I must say that I think (two-captain system) has been quite successful. Whether it's the perfect solution remains to be seen."

"I am prepared to listen ..."

and be persuaded otherwise but at the moment my colleagues and I have the recommendation of the selectors and I don't see any reason, unless there are compelling reasons why that policy should be changed."

Taylor's position, however, was backed today by former Test skipper Greg Chappell.

Chappell, a critic of the two-team policy said Taylor was best-placed to know if something was a miss in the top echelon of Australian cricket.

"I'm in agreement with Mark (over the captaincy issue) and have so sympathy for him with how difficult it must be," said Chappell.



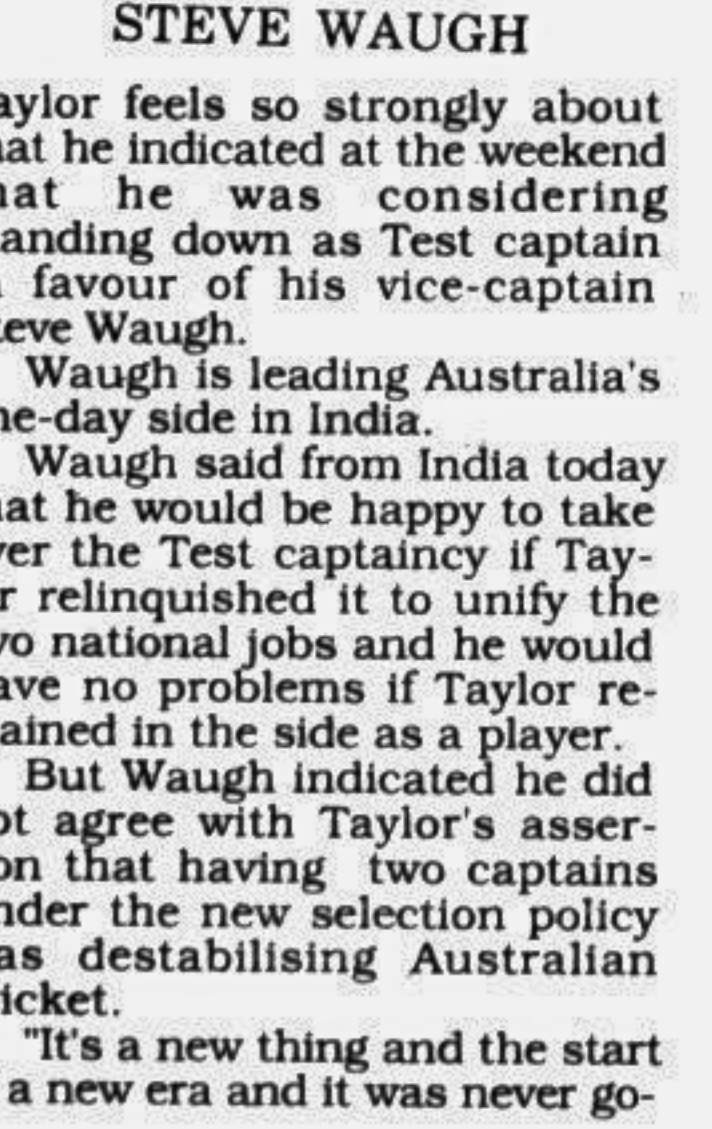
MARK TAYLOR

"He's the man on the spot and the powers that be must sit down with him and get his feelings on the subject."

Taylor and five other players Greg Belwert, Michael Slater, Ian Healy, Stuart McGill and Adam Dale, were flying back from India today following the 2-1 series loss. Two bowlers Paul Reiffel (who was also called from the one-day side) and Paul Wilson left the team earlier with injuries.

They have been replaced by one-day specialists for the tri-nation limited overs series against India and Zimbabwe starting on Wednesday.

Up to the recent India loss, Taylor had won nine consecutive Test series as Australian captain.



STEVE WAUGH