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Star Sport

DHAKA THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1998 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-106
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 13 '98, and draw
shortly afterwards

- How old is Mark Waugh?
32 33 34
- How many ODIs has Jack Russell played?
38 39 40
- Who is the new US soccer coach?
Robson Sampson Arena
- Who are the ACC Trophy champions?
Bangladesh PNG Malaysia
- 8th SAF Games will be held in
Colombo Kathmandu Male

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SPORTS TALK



Ian Healy
(Ace Australian wicket-keeper)
They all said 'that's it' in one go as soon as I grabbed the catch.

On the reaction from his teammates after making world record.

Absurd notion!

NEW DELHI, Nov 4: A top Hindu priest has asked cricket-crazy India to give up the game, blaming it for the deaths of thousands of cows, a sacred animal for Hindus, the Asian Age reported today, says AFP.

Swami Nischalananda Saraswati Maharaj, one of the four top Hindu leaders around the world, said cricket balls were made of cowhide and went against one of Hinduism's main tenets—that cow slaughter was sinful.

He called for a national campaign against the offending factories and said manufacturers should find "alternative sources" of leather if the game was to continue in India.

"He said there were about 125 factories in the country, which on an average slaughtered nine cows a day to manufacture these balls," the Asian Age said.

Spurs, Charlton share spoils

LONDON, Nov 4: Tottenham Hotspur and Charlton Athletic shared the points after a pulsating 2-2 draw at White Hart Lane on Monday that meant neither team climbed into the top six of the English Premier league, reports Reuters.

Tottenham looked set to rise to fifth, their highest placing for 2-1/2 years, when Chris Armstrong spectacularly dived in to make it 2-1 after 57 minutes, but Charlton came back to equalise with Andy Hunt's second goal of the game 15 minutes from time.

The result left Spurs ninth and Charlton 10th a match.

That Spurs dominated for long periods but one in which Charlton also showed plenty of resilience since winning promotion this season.



Action from the practice match played between members of the Bangladesh national cricket team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

West Indies A due today

Sports Reporter

The West Indies A team will fly into the city today on a ten-day tour of Bangladesh.

The second string national side from the Caribbean will play three limited-overs matches and a three-day affair against different national selections during their brief stop-over here.

The visitors will play their first limited-overs match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 7 before appearing in their second over-limit affair at Rajshahi, the northern headquarters, on November 9.

The Caribbean, led by veteran fast bowler Ian Bishop, will play their final third 50-over exhibition match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 10. The lone three-day match will begin at the same venue on November 12. The tourists will be boosted by the inclusion of three national caps—fast bowler Reon King, leg-spinner Rawl Lewis and Neil McGarrell.

The trio stayed back after featuring in the Wills International Cup, where West Indies finished runners-up to eventual winners South Africa in the final on November 1.

Meanwhile, the national se-

lectors, who are keeping a close eye on the practice session involving about 40 players, will sit today to name the final 16 players for the first two one-day matches.

We will sit tomorrow to finalise the national team for the

for a place in the team will be fitness, said Siraj adding that the team which lifted the ACC Trophy in Kathmandu last month is plagued by injury.

Left-arm spinner Rafique is nursing a hand injury and did not turn up at the Bangabandhu national Stadium yesterday. Opener Javed Omar who injured his hand did not bat in a practice match. Paceman Hasibul Hossain also looked uncomfortable with a knee problem.

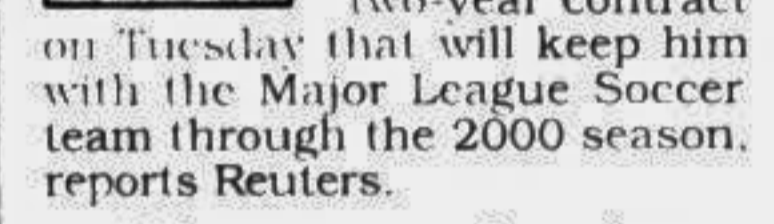
But the critical Siraj appeared more disappointed with the practice facilities rather than the injury problems.

"We don't know what is our role as selectors. But I will have to arrange everything for a smooth practice session for the last couple of days," said Siraj, who is also the chairman of the grounds committee.

Replied to a query Siraj said that they did not receive the West Indies itinerary in due time.

"Actually, I had to go and collect the schedule two days back," said Siraj.

But Siraj's statement hardly justifies the proclamation from the BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Huj who on Tuesday said, "I have duly announced the tour schedule of the West Indies team one and a half months ago."



IAN BISHOP

first two matches," said chief selector Enayet Hossain Siraj yesterday.

"Since our players are engaged in practice and are not playing any competitive cricket, so the standard criteria

Bora Metrostars' for 2 yrs

NEW YORK, Nov 4: New York-New Jersey Metrostars coach Bora Milutinovic signed a two-year contract on Tuesday that will keep him with the Major League Soccer team through the 2000 season, reports Reuters.

Milutinovic, the former coach of the US national team and one of only two men to guide four countries to the World Cup, was named the Metrostars' interim coach on September 21, replacing Alfonso Mondelo.

The Metrostars won their first game under Milutinovic, posting a 1-0 shootout victory over New England to snap a six-

were swept by the Columbus Crew in the Conference semifinals.

"I am very happy that I will be able to stay with the Metrostars for the next two years," said Milutinovic, who has led Mexico (1986), Costa Rica (1990), the United States (1994) and Nigeria (1998) in the World Cup.

There is plenty of work to do to prepare this team for next year. But I think we have the talent to surprise people in major league soccer."

Known as a quick-fix specialist, Milutinovic guided the United States to a stunning second-round appearance as the host country in the 1994 World Cup, highlighted by an upset of pre-World Cup favourites Colombia. The US team finally



BORA MILUTINOVIC

game losing streak in their regular-season finals. They finished third in the Eastern Conference with a 15-17 mark but

Indians in Sharjah

DUBAI, Nov 4: The Indian cricket team arrived here yesterday with skipper Mohammad Azharuddin expressing his determination to make up for the failure to win the Wills International Cup in Dhaka and declaring we have to start winning again, reports PTI.

Anand's lead reduced

TILBURG, Nov 4: India's Viswanathan Anand maintained his superb unbeaten run in the Tilburg International chess tournament by playing a draw against Briton Mathew Sadler in the penultimate round yesterday but saw his lead reduced to just half a point, reports PTI.

The Indian world number three shared the point with Sadler after a tough battle which kept him just ahead of young Hungarian Peter Leko (6.5), who shocked Michael Adams of England in an interesting clash.

Dutch Grand Master Jeroen Piket, Sadler and Vladimir Kramanik of Russia were joint third with 5.5 points.

Sadler, employing black pieces, played Sicilian Majdorf and had Anand in trouble. With Anand coming in with a new move early, Sadler was forced to defend very accurately. Not only did he manage that but with his king move and by ringing his hook into play he had the Indian Grand Master thinking.

Sadler came with a pawn sacrifice which saw him better off. But he could not press enough for a win and Anand defended well to share the point.

In a Ruy Lopez game, Leko scored a fine win over Adams to inch closer to Anand. The Hungarian would end up joint winner if he wins and Anand draws in the last round.

Dutch Chaine Staelens (No 13) spikes as Peruvian Camero tries to block during their Pool A preliminary round clash at the World Volleyball Championship in Tokyo on November 4. The Dutchwoman won 15-3, 15-6, 16-14.



Dutch Chaine Staelens (No 13) spikes as Peruvian Camero tries to block during their Pool A preliminary round clash at the World Volleyball Championship in Tokyo on November 4. The Dutchwoman won 15-3, 15-6, 16-14. —AFP photo

Bangkok hockey Bangladesh face India in final today

Bangkok face fancied India in the final of the four-nation invitational hockey tournament in Bangkok today, reports APB.

The match will kick-off at 6:00 pm (BST) at the Bangkok National Hockey Stadium.

Doordarshan, the Indian National television, will telecast the match live.

This will mark the maiden appearance by a Bangladesh national hockey side in a final in any tournament abroad.

By virtue of two wins against Uzbekistan and hosts Thailand, Bangladesh qualified for the final.

Bangladesh edged past Uzbekistan 2-1 in their inaugural match and trounced the hosts by 6-1 goals. They lost to India 1-4.

Sharjah tourney Lanka without Muralitharan

COLOMBO, Nov 4 (AFP/AP): Sri Lanka's star spinner Muralitharan will not play in the three-nation Sharjah tournament because of an injury suffered during the Wills International Cup in Bangladesh, officials said today.

Muralitharan was still nursing a shoulder injury and was unfit to play in the tournament which begins in Sharjah on Friday between Sri Lanka, In-



MURALITHARAN

dia and Zimbabwe, cricket officials said.

They said, however, that Muralitharan would travel with the Sri Lanka team and would undergo physiotherapy.

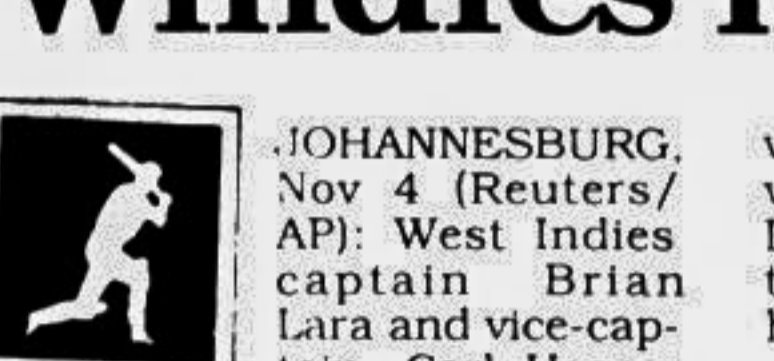
"It will take a week to 10 days for him to get better," a cricket official said after Muralitharan sent just four deliveries during practices and complained of shoulder pain on Tuesday.

All-rounder Thilan Samaraweera is in the 14-member squad, which also includes spinners Kumara Dharmasena and Upul Chandana.

Sri Lankan officials will also explore the possibility of including him as the 15th man in the squad and to allow him to play towards the end of the tournament if he is feeling better by that time, officials said.

The 14-member squad: Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Roshan Mahanama, Hashan Tillekeratne, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Kumara Dharmasena, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Aviska Gunawardena, Upul Chandana, Thilan Samaraweera and Pramodya Wickremasinghe.

WICB-WIPA negotiations on Windies mystery unfolding



BRIAN LARA

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 4 (Reuters/AP): West Indies captain Brian Lara and vice-captain Carl Hooper are due to fly to Antigua today in a bid to resolve a pay row that has hit the team's tour of South Africa.

Less than half of the West Indian squad arrived here today after the dispute broke out over fees for their first official Test tour of South Africa.

Lara and Hooper were among nine of the 16-strong party of

players who did not travel to Johannesburg and, together with left-handed batsman Jimmy Adams, were expected to meet West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) officials in Antigua.

Tour manager Clive Lloyd said: "The board will have a meeting and a statement will be made later on today about the situation."

Lloyd, who arrived here with coach Malcolm Marshall and seven of the players, said a news conference would be held in South Africa on Thursday.

Former West Indies captain Lloyd refused to speculate over the future of the tour which includes five Tests and seven one-day internationals, but said the dispute had come as a shock.

"It is such an important tour

we hope it comes off because we're all looking forward to it," Lloyd said before the team were taken to their Johannesburg hotel.

"We had a few meetings and I thought everything was fine, we were in Bangkok (in transit) when this happened," he added.

Both South Africa's players and Lloyd's depleted party arrived in Johannesburg from Dhaka where the two teams contested the final of the Wills International Cup on Sunday.

South Africa won the match by four wickets.

South Africa's captain Hansie Cronje was clearly surprised at the development.

"We had a dinner with the West Indies team the night after the final and nothing was mentioned about any financial issues. From what we could gather they were all coming and the first I heard about it was this morning," Cronje said.

Cronje pointed out that his men had been confronted with a similar situation at the start of the tour of Australia last year, but in the end the dispute was resolved.

"Obviously we would prefer to play a full strength West Indian side, but whatever happens we have got to remain focused on what we are doing and not allow ourselves to be sidetracked by what's happening in their camp," he said.

WICB president Pat Rousseau issued a statement on Monday saying agreement on payment for the South African tour had been reached with the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA).

However, WIPA chairman Roland Holder disputed the Board's assertion that fees had been agreed. He said the two sides were still negotiating.

The players made it clear in a statement on Tuesday they were committed to the tour but were still in dispute over the money.

West Indies are scheduled to start their South African itinerary against an invitation

XI near Johannesburg next Tuesday.

The WIPA said it had requested an emergency meeting with the WICB in London but the WICB had turned it down then Lara and Hooper flew to Britain to meet WIPA president Courtney Walsh and other members of the team currently in London.

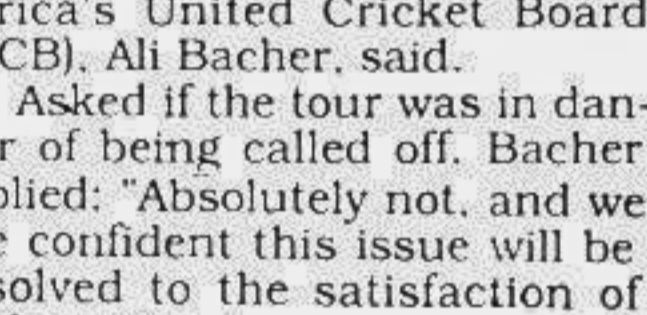
"Therefore statements in the media to the effect that Lara and Hooper have abandoned the tour to South Africa are unfounded and untrue," it said.

South African cricket officials said they expected the emergency meeting to take place today and were confident that the tour would go ahead.

"There is too much at stake for this tour not to come off," the managing director of South Africa's United Cricket Board (UCB), Ali Bacher, said.

Asked if the tour was in danger of being called off, Bacher replied: "Absolutely not, and we are confident this issue will be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties."

Lawrence Rowe led two squads of rebels to the Republic during its apartheid-induced isolation from world cricket while Richie Richardson took charge of the team which played in a triangular limited over tournament in 1992-93.



CARL HOOPER

Langer critical of county cricket

PERTH, Australia, Nov 4 (AFP): English county cricket came under fire Wednesday from Australian batsman Justin Langer who had his first close look at the English system in the recent northern summer.

Langer, who played for Middlesex, found there was too much cricket and too many cricketers.

"County staffs are too big, which means you produce a lot of mediocre cricketers playing county cricket," said Langer, who led Western Australia to a draw in the four-day game against England, which ended at the WACA Ground Tuesday.

"A lot of the players in the county scene are playing to earn a living and are not trying to play for England," he said.

"I think that is dangerous. With so much cricket played, there tends to be the attitude: 'There is always tomorrow.'"

Langer's analysis came after he had taken England to task for not responding to his challenging declaration on the final day of the tourists opening first-class match of the Ashes tour.

He set England a target of 282 runs at a rate of less than 4.5 an over, but the tourists made no attempt to chase the total, finishing on 192-4 when play was abandoned 15 minutes early with no result possible.

"I was very disappointed," he

said. "We set a reasonable total on a very good batting wicket on a very fast outfield, and we had a very inexperienced attack."

If England play with the same attitude throughout the summer, it will be a long summer.

Langer, one of Australian cricket's success stories during the recent Pakistan tour, emphasised that, while he could see shortcomings in English domestic cricket, he would like to return for a second county season.

And he was not prepared to write off England's chances in the approaching five-Test series starting Brisbane November 20.

"If England can match Australia or any other team for discipline, determination, hunger and energy, they are always going to be competitive because they have a very talented side," he said.

England coach David Lloyd has conceded his players have worked to do in batting, bowling and fielding.

"We have got time to do it and good facilities, and it will be done," he said.

"We need to be sharper. The attitude in the side is much improved, but we need more hustle and more energy and more intensity in the field. We have probably caught about 50 per cent (of chances), which is nothing like what we need to do."

Lloyd was confident the injured Mark Butcher, Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart would be fit for the next first-class game, a four-day clash with South Australia, starting Adelaide Saturday.

But a fourth casualty, Ben Hoolloake, may not recover from a leg strain until next week.

Tyson returns on Jan 16?

LAS VEGAS, Nov 4: Now that Mike Tyson has his boxing license back from the state of Nevada, he is getting ready to fight again in Las Vegas.

Two London newspapers, The Sun and The Independent, and the New York Daily News all reported Tuesday that the former heavyweight champion would return to the ring January 16 against Francois Botha of South Africa. The bout would be promoted by America Presents, reports AP.

The Independent said the fight would be held at the MGM Grand.

The News reported that Tyson, who has been experiencing cash-flow problems after 16 months away from boxing, had received a large cash advance.

But Shelly Finkel, Tyson's adviser, said no deal had been finalised.

"Our plan is for him to fight in January, (but) Mike has not concluded a deal to fight anybody in January," Finkel said.

MGM Grand was the probable site.

Another possible opponent could be Germany's Axel Schultz, according to a spokeswoman for Showtime, the cable company that will televise the fight. She added that the deal could be closed by the end of the week.

Botha has lost only once in 37 fights, stopped in the 12th round by Michael Moorer in an IBF title challenge two years ago. He is the No. 1 contender for Holyfield's IBF title.

While not as famous as her male counterpart Halle Gbere-lasie, Derartu has enjoyed a huge public following in Ethiopia since she became the first black African woman to win Olympic gold in the 10,000 metres in 1992. Pictured in an Ethiopian daily newspaper with her three-month-old baby girl—whose birth had been a closely guarded secret—she said she was already training for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. This time for the marathon event.

Derartu, 27, now a major in the Ethiopian police force, is credited with inspiring a generation of Ethiopian women athletes, including international middle-distance runners Fatuma Roba and Gette Wame.



MIKE TYSON

Ethiopian runner becomes mother

ADDIS ABABA, Nov 4 (Reuters/Internet): Ethiopian Olympic gold medalist Derartu Tulu on Wednesday announced that she had become a mother but planned to take part in the 2000 Olympics.

While not as famous as her male counterpart Halle Gbere-lasie, Derartu has enjoyed a huge public following in Ethiopia since she became the first black African woman to win Olympic gold in the 10,000 metres in 1992. Pictured in an Ethiopian daily newspaper with her three-month-old baby girl—whose birth had been a closely guarded secret—she said she was already training for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. This time for the marathon event.

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