

## Column One

### DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That prediction often comes out true. During a match at Adelaide in 1950-51, a local journalist wrote that "If South Australia does not pass the MCC score by tea today, then the state batting is weaker, the English attack stronger, and the pitch more responsive than I think they are — and you can call me a poor judge right out loud." By tea, South Australia were all out for 126.

Who said fakirs were only made in India?

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

### Competition-113

Tick the Correct Answers

Post to *The Daily Star*

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

April 9, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who won the Asian Test Championship title?

India Sri Lanka Pakistan

2 Kevin Keegan is the manager of

England Scotland Wales

3 Warne is a

leg-spinner off-spinner medium-pacer

4 Who is the first Bangladesh batsman to score an ODI century?

Mehrab Shahriar Hasibul

5 How many half-centuries has Akram Khan scored?

4 5 6

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

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SPORTS TALK

Viv Richards

(Former West Indies captain)

"He is a born leader, but he must have a team to lead."

On Brian Lara's capability as skipper.

England's friendly against Hungary still on

LONDON, Mar 31 (Reuters/Internet): The Football Association (FA) remains confident that England's friendly away to Hungary next month will take place as scheduled, despite any threats posed by the Balkan crisis.

"We have said all along that we are monitoring the situation (in Serbia) and, as things stand at the moment, obviously the game is on," FA press spokesman Steve Double told the news agency.

"However, if the situation deteriorates markedly, then we'll reassess the situation."

British newspapers speculated on Wednesday that the match was likely to be called off because of the political crisis in the region.

"England's friendly... looks certain to be called off because of the Balkan crisis. The war in Serbia, which borders Hungary, has put FA officials on full alert to abandon the fixture," reported The Sun.

England are due to play Hungary in Budapest on April 28 and the match would be new coach Kevin Keegan's second in charge. His part-time contract will then finish with England's Euro 2000 qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria in June.

But the FA are well aware of the impact made by Keegan in England's 3-1 victory over Poland at the weekend and they will want to keep that momentum going.

A successful England performance against Hungary in a match where Keegan will have the opportunity to experiment could well persuade the coach to stay on for a longer contract.

## Tanveer defends Faruque's inclusion Residential camp resumes

Sports Reporter



The residential camp of the Bangladesh cricket team resumes at the Bangladesh Kriya Shikkha Protishtan (BKSP) today after a six-day recess due to Eid.

The elite fifteen, selected for the forthcoming World Cup, reported to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office last evening from where they were taken to the country's lone sports institute in Savar.

Although Gordon Greenidge, the West Indian coach of the national team, was not available at the BCB last night, the manager of the Bangladesh team, Tanveer Muzhar Islam, said that the team will remain at the BKSP till the second week of April.

The Bangladesh team leaves for England on April 14, one month before the beginning of the World Championship.

But Tanveer said that Faruque Ahmed will accompany the BCB Eleven to play a few matches in Pakistan. The second-string side, led by Habibul Bashar, will leave Dhaka on April 3 to take part in the Wills Cup. The limited-overs tournament will commence from April 4. It was also learnt that Faruque will play in the opening two matches.

Faruque, who was sidelined during the Meril International tri-nation tournament due to injury, was drafted into the Pakistan-bound side so that the player could gain some much-needed match practice before the last championship of the century.

"Faruque is going to England. We have already sent the final fifteen list to the ICC," said Tanveer, adding that the board had decided to send the experienced batsman so that he was match-fit before the World Cup.

Although Faruque made a speedy recovery thanks to Australian physio Alan Hunt, all-rounder Naimur Rahman is still rousing a knee injury. The dapper right-hander has been advised to take a six-week rest.

Injuries aside, Greenidge should be more concerned with how his boys fair in this tournament if their current results are anything to go by.

Bangladesh lost all four matches, including two heavy defeats against arch-rivals Kenya, in the meet that also included champions Zimbabwe.

McMillan affected the performance. The loss of Cairns for much of the summer to a hamstring injury greatly upset the balance of the team. New Zealand's Cup chances would take a dive if he fails to regain fitness.

Other problems remain. They have not settled on an opening batting combination and New Zealand invariably lost early wickets. Experienced opener Bryan Young, who was used against the South Africans, was not included in the team.

Nathan Astle apart, none of the New Zealand batsmen proved capable of making big scores. Most were unable to cure their habit of getting out when well set.

Serious problems also remain with the bowlers. Left-arm paceman Geoff Allott proved he could take early wickets but he also gave away runs at the rate of about five an over and there was no wicket-taking support from the other end.

Simon Doull failed to replicate his Test form in the one-day arena and others such as Bulfin proved expensive.

Vettori also often failed to restrain the batsmen and New Zealand still rely on its medium-pacers Gavin Larsen, Chris Harris and Astle, who contain batsmen but lack penetration.

Even the wicketkeeping department remains problematic with Adam Parore mostly out of form with the bat and keeping indifferently.

One area where New Zealand excelled in its home series was in fielding.

They matched the renowned fielding of the South Africa team, hit the wickets with a high percentage of throws and took some mind-boggling catches.

New Zealand coach Steve Rixon rated New Zealand's Cup preparation against South Africa as first rate.

## Women's hockey Australia clinch series

PRETORIA, Mar 31: The Australian women's hockey team claimed a 3-0 victory over South Africa in their final Test today to win the five-Test series 3-2, reports Reuters.

The reigning Olympic, World and Commonwealth Games champions led 2-0 at half-time through goals by Michelle Andrews and Nikki Mott, the player of the match.

Andrews' sixth minute opener was a simple tap in to an open goal.

Teammate Louise Dobson had made a solid break down the right flank, and with no cover defence, South Africa goalkeeper Inke van Wyk was forced to come off her line, leaving Andrews open for Dobson's cross.

Mott scored from a short corner variation five minutes later, with Australia in total command of the midfield.

South Africa stepped up the pressure in the second half, showing glimpses of the form which saw them level the series at 2-2 with the world's best coming into this Test.

But poor finishing from the hosts and a solid Australian defence combined with Claire Mitchell-Traverser's goal midway through the second half prevented another South African upset.

## Lara delivers a Windies miracle



BRIDGETOWN, Mar 30 (AFP/Reuters/Internet): Brian Lara scored an unbeaten 153 to guide the West Indies to a dramatic one-wicket win over Australia in the third Test at Kensington Oval here on Tuesday.

The West Indies skipper kept his nerve as the West Indies won one of the closest finishes in Test match history to take a 2-1 lead in the four-Test series.

Chasing a victory target of 308, the West Indies finished on 311 for nine to spark off wild celebrations.

It was only the fourth time that the West Indies had scored more than 300 runs in the fourth innings to win a Test.

Lara, who sealed the win with his 19th four of the innings, lifted the West Indies to their second straight win of the series after they had previously lost six Tests in a row.

He scored 213 as the West Indies won the second Test in Kingston and again proved the difference between two evenly-matched sides.

Lara, who was named man of the match, batted for 256 minutes and slammed one six in addition to his 19 boundaries.

The Australians were left to rue two opportunities that could have swung the match late in the day.

First wicketkeeper Ian Healy dropped Lara off the bowling of paceman Jason Gillespie with the West Indies seven runs from victory and then Shane Warne missed a half-chance off the bowling of Glenn McGrath that could have again seen Lara dismissed.

The Australians appeared almost certain to win when the West Indies went to tea at 254 for eight, still needing a further 54 runs to win while the Australians needed only two more wickets.

Instead, Lara cleverly protected his partner Curtly Ambrose, who finally fell to Gillespie for 12 with just six runs needed.

Courtney Walsh was not out without scoring at the end. The Australians were left to rue the complete ineffectiveness of spinners Warne and Stuart MacGill after they had been lifted within sight of a memorable triumph by a superb fiery spell from combative paceman McGrath.

McGrath dismissed first Jimmy Adams and then claimed Ridley Jacobs and Nehemiah Perry with successive balls shortly before tea.

The West Indies resumed on Tuesday morning at 85 for three, requiring a further 223 runs for victory.

They added 76 runs in the first session for the loss of two wickets and then lost Adams, Jacobs and Perry in the session between lunch and tea as their hopes began to fade.

Adams and Lara put on 133 runs for the sixth wicket before Adams fell to McGrath for a patient 38 from 125 balls. Adams was bowled between bat and pad by a superb delivery.

Lara was involved in a confrontation with McGrath during the stand after a fiery bouncer by the second new ball clattered into his helmet. Lara took a leg-bye and as he passed McGrath there was a heated verbal exchange.

But Lara quickly regained his composure, hitting the next ball he faced through midwicket for four to move to 81.

Jacobs then made only five before being trapped lbw by the dangerous McGrath and Perry was then out lbw first ball to McGrath — the bowler's fifth victim of the innings — sparking scenes of celebration among the Australian fans in the crowd. They proved premature.

Lara had earlier completed his 12th century in the style with a big hit off the bowling of Warne. His ten came from 169 balls and featured 14 fours and one six.

The West Indies had struggled to avoid the follow-on in their first innings, but they gave themselves a gettable target of 308 for victory by dismissing the Australians for 146.

Opener Adrian Griffith was the first batsman to fall on Tuesday when he was trapped lbw by Australian paceman Jason Gillespie after a painstaking 35.

Carl Hooper, recalled after missing the first two Tests, then went for six when he got an inside edge to a Gillespie delivery and was caught behind by Ian Healy.

Adams and Lara brought up their half-century partnership shortly before lunch and then continued in the same confident fashion until Adams' dismissal.

Lara kept cool to the end and eventually sealed victory in one of the great Tests.

After scoring 213 to win the second Test almost single-handedly, Lara will lead his team into the fourth and final Test in Antigua with his reputation as the world's finest batsman new firmly packed in place.

West Indies' reputation, in tatters after a 5-0 whitewash in South Africa and a pitiful defeat in the first Test of this series, is also back on track.

SCOREBOARD  
Scoreboard on the final day of the third Test between West Indies and Australia at Kensington Oval on Tuesday:



IT'S THE KING OF THE WORLD! An ecstatic Brian Lara sets off for the dressing room after hitting the winning runs at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on March 30.

— Internet photo

## FACTFILE

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Mar 31 (Reuters): Factfile on Brian Lara:

Born: Santa Cruz, Trinidad, May 2, 1969

Left-hand batsman, occasional right-arm leg-break bowler.

1984: First represented West Indies, at under-19 level.

1988: Trinidad debut.

1989: Captained West Indies B team to Zimbabwe.

1990: Test debut, 3rd Test v Pakistan, Lahore, making 44 and 6.

1993: First Test century, 277 v Australia, Sydney.

1994: World Test record 375 in 5th Test v England, St John's, Antigua.

1994: World first class record 501 not out for Warwickshire v Durham at Edgbaston.

1994: Scores six hundreds in his first seven first-class innings for Warwickshire 147, 106, 120 not out, 136, 26, 140, 501 not out.

1995: Walks out of West Indies' tour of England after dressing room row at end of the fourth Test but is persuaded to rejoin party four days later.

1995: Pulls out of tour of Australia two days before squad leaves the Caribbean following fine by West Indies board disciplinary committee for breach of contract on England tour.

1996: Reprimanded by West Indies board for derogatory remarks attributed to him following a World Cup defeat by Kenya and for an altercation with team physio Denis Waugh on flight from Bombay to London following World Cup.

1996: Named as West Indies captain against England in the Caribbean, leading his side to 3-1 Test series victory.

1998: Sacked as West Indies captain when players' revolt over pay delays start to tour of South Africa but reinstated as skipper after four days of talks end in impasse. West Indies suffer 5-0 drubbing in Test series and lose one-day series 6-1.

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1999: Re-appointed West Indies captain for first two of four Test series against Australia in the Caribbean.

West Indies lose first Test by 312 runs, collapsing to 51 all out in second innings — their lowest-ever Test match total.

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ington Oval on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Slater c Lara b Ambrose 23

Elliott c Jacobs b Walsh 51

Langer b Hooper 0

M Waugh b Ambrose 0

S Waugh lbw b Perry 199

Ponting c Hooper b Perry 104

Healy lbw b Walsh 0

Warne c Lara b Perry 13

Gillespie not out 23

MacGill run out 17

McGrath c Joseph b Hooper 3

Extras: (b-4, lb-10, nb-34) 48

Total: 490

Fall of wickets: 1-31; 2-36; 3-36; 4-144; 5-425; 6-427; 7-429; 8-446; 9-483

Bowler O M R W

Ambrose 31 7 93 2

Walsh 38 8 121 2

Perry 33 5 102 3

Collins 35 3 110 0

Hooper 15.4 4 50 2

WEST INDIES: First

innings

Campbell c S Waugh b Gillespie 105

Griffith run out 0

Joseph lbw b McGrath 26

Collins lbw b McGrath 0

Lara c Healy b Gillespie 0

Hooper c Warne b McGrath 25

Adams c M Waugh b McGrath 0

Jacobs c M Waugh b Ponting 68

Perry lbw b Gillespie 24

Ambrose not out 28

Walsh c Slater b Warne 12

Extras: (b-10, lb-3, nb-20) 33

Total: 329

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-58; 3-60; 4-64; 5-98; 6-98; 7-251; 8-265; 9-291