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DHAKA THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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Column One SPORTS TALK



Bob Woolmer

(South Africa cricket coach)
"Coaching cricket is my profession and something I love."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-115

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

May 7, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

awards

1 Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South African cricket coach?

Ford | Stewart | Marsh

2 When England last hosted cricket World Cup?

1975 | 1987 | 1983

3 Umpire Steve Bucknor is a

Guyanese | Jamaican | Trinidadian

4 The final match of the 1999 cricket World Cup will be held at

Edgbaston | Lord's | Oval

5 The World Cup match between Bangladesh and Scotland will be played in

Edinburgh | Belfast | Cardiff

Name

Class

Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Women's h'ball

Rangpur, Madaripur, Raishahri and Chittagong won their respective matches on the second day of the three-day Shalimar Print Sarree inter-divisional women's handball competition at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

In the morning, Rangpur beat Dhaka 14-2, Raishahri beat Chittagong 13-4 and Madaripur beat Rangamati 18-12.

In the afternoon, Rangpur beat Rangamati 21-8, Madaripur beat Raishahri 18-10 and Chittagong beat Dhaka 6-5.

DU basketball

Sports Reporter
Computer Science Department got off to a flying start in the inter-department basketball tournament of Dhaka University, defeating Applied Physics 51-31 points in the inaugural match played at the DU gymnasium yesterday.

In another match, English Department thrashed Bio-Chemistry 93-41.

Earlier, Prof Dr SM Inamul Haque, the chairman of the tournament committee and provost of Shahidullah Hall, inaugurated the 12-team meet.

M'singh hockey

Balkali Krira Chakra thrashed Mukul Boys Club 8-1 in the First Division hockey league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Tawfiq scored three goals while Mosharraf and Bhulunet two each and Selim one for the winners.

Mukul scored a consolation goal for the losers.

The first match between Rupantar Sangha and Surjo Mukhi Niketon was postponed following a controversial goal by Raki of Rupantar.

Army b'ball

RANGPUR, May 5: Three more robin league matches were decided on the second day of the Bangladesh Army annual basketball championship at the Rangpur Cantonment here today, says an ISPR press release.

The hosts beat Dhaka Engineers 62-43, Jessor Area defeated Dhaka Infantry 120-61 and Momenshah Area overcame Savar Area 68-65.

Protea: Rank Poison

LONDON, April 29 (AFP): England get their fourth chance to cash in on home advantage when the 1999 cricket World Cup gets underway here in May.

The form book, however, suggests a battle royal between South Africa and 1987 Cup holders Australia for the title, with Pakistan and defending champions Sri Lanka ready to take advantage of any slips-ups.

The English, always more competitive on home soil despite failing to win the 1975, 1979 and 1983 tournaments here, will be hoping that rain, green wickets and a white ball will turn their medium-paced seamers and swing bowlers into match-winners.

Such conditions would certainly handicap the south Asian sides, whose batsmen are used to flatter wickets and whose spinners may lose some of their fizz in the wet.

Hansie Cronje's South Africa, in contrast, look like a side for all seasons and will start as favourites to win the 12-nation tournament, which is expected to attract 500,000 spectators and a television audience of some two billion.

Their batting may not be the most spectacular but it has improved markedly since 1996 and runs very deep, with the likes of all-rounders Jacques Kallis, Shaun Pollock and Lance Klusener all enhancing their reputations in recent seasons.

The bowling looks as formidable. Strike bowler Allan Donald, a seasoned Warwickshire veteran who lives in England, knows all about local pitches, while Pollock is as dangerous.

Kallis' medium-fast has been a revelation and captain Hansie Cronje, with his medium-paced seamers, is as shrewd tactically as they come. Veteran off spinner Pat Symcox's sudden retirement just before the tournament is the one South African setback.

The event, running between May 14 and June 20, comprises two groups of six: South Africa, Sri Lanka, England, India, Zimbabwe and Kenya in group A. Australia, Pakistan, New Zealand, West Indies, Bangladesh and Scotland in group B.

They will play each other once before the top three teams from each pool proceed to the 'Super Sixes', where each group A side will play each group B side and vice-versa, adding their points to the ones already gained in the first round from matches against other qualified teams.

The top four - in effect the teams who win five or more of their eight games - will contest the semi-finals. The World Cup will see 42 matches over five weeks.

Australia, under Steve Waugh, are another formidable combination. They, however, have blended Test players with hand-picked one-day specialists, unlike the South Africans, who will field a virtual Test side.

The Australian batting, led by the Waugh twins, looks formidable, as does their bowling, spearheaded by the magnificent Glenn McGrath - arguably the best pace bowler in the world. A question mark, however, hangs over leg spinner Shane Warne, who is struggling



FIXTURES

Group A

South Africa

First-round

May 15: v India, Hove

May 19: v Sri Lanka, Northampton

May 22: v England, The Oval

May 26: v Kenya, Amstelveen (Netherlands)

May 29: v Zimbabwe, Chelmsford

Zealand, West Indies, Bangladesh and Scotland in group B.

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to rediscover his form after an operation.

Australia, who won the title in 1987 and were finalists in 1975 and 1996, also boast the best one-day specialist in the world - Michael Bevan, a fine fielder, a useful leg spinner and a supreme manager of run chases.

Sri Lanka, in contrast, have been struggling in recent months. Their one weakness, their bowling, has failed to come on while their trump card, off spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, has found himself caught in a new controversy over his bowling action.

Their batting, however, is a joy. Sanath Jayasuria is the fastest-scoring one-day opener in the game and Aravinda de Silva is one of the top three or four batsmen currently playing.

Skippers Arjuna Ranatunga, who averaged 120 in the last World Cup, is an elite player and thinker.

Seaming wickets, however, could hamper their dashing strokeplay.

Pakistan, despite a desperate 1998 which saw them lose to Australia and Zimbabwe at home while a match-fixing scandal continued to rage, look like the best of the rest. And they are peaking just at the right time.

Few of their opponents will discount an eleven including the likes of Saeed Anwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Wasim Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq.

The scandals, if anything, seem to have welded the team closer together under Wasim. As they showed in 1987, they are at their most dangerous when wounded.

England, like Australia relying on one-day specialists, look efficient. India, with Sachin Tendulkar, the best batsman in the world, in their ranks, can beat anybody on their day.

Brian Lara's West Indies, despite the shock retirement of Carl Hooper, stopped the rot against Australia in April after a disastrous run of form and may yet feature in the closing stages.

New Zealand, three-time semi-finalists, will feel quite at home in English conditions and should not be discounted to at least shock one or two of the major sides.

JOYPURHAT, May 5: Chittagong advanced to the final of Biman Cup under-14 national football championship with a 2-1 win against Rajshahi in the first semifinal at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

In the final on May 8, Chittagong will play against the hosts Nilphamari who meet tomorrow.

Zahid Parvez Chowdhury put Chittagong ahead, in the 38th minute while Didarul Alam widened the winners' margin in the 56th minute.

Milton Rozario of Rajshahi pulled one back in the 65th minute.

A number of the home batsmen who were undone by Kallis' bowling would testify to the potent quality of his developing pace and swing, not least when he captured four to aid his team's victory in the Lord's Test.

Such attributes mean Kallis is likely to be pivotal to South

Squeaky win for Wills Little

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

Mirpur Bangla High beat Shaheed Abu Taleb High by 81 runs in the ANZ Grindlays 17th national schools cricket championship at the Utara Friends Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Batting first, Mirpur Bangla scored 230 for four in stipulated 35 overs. Jewel hammered 89 runs off 63 balls with nine fours and two sixes. Shimul took two wickets for 44 runs.

In reply, Shaheed Abu Taleb were all out for 149 in 32.4 overs. Latif picked up three wickets for 25 runs while Rajib and Abdul took two wickets apiece.

At the Mohammadpur Eidgah ground, Wills Little Flower defeated Ganabhaban Government High by three wickets.

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The Daily Star Sport



Countdown Gallery



days to go

IF LOOKS COULD KILL: South Africa's brilliant all-rounder Jacques Kallis.

— Star file photo

SA's Jacq-pot

JOHANNESBURG, April 27 (Reuters): Cricket's decision to embrace technology has brought an added dimension to watching the game at many grounds.

The most recent device to stimulate spectator interest is the speedometer, which measures how fast a delivery has been bowled and shows the result on a monitor screen.

It can produce some compelling figures, such as those that showed South Africa's pace bowler all-rounder Jacques Kallis was often not far behind the speed of Allan Donald during last year's Test series in England.

A number of the home batsmen who were undone by Kallis' bowling would testify to the potent quality of his developing pace and swing, not least when he captured four to aid his team's victory in the Lord's Test.

However, his natural ability to swing the ball at lively pace soon saw him take on an all-rounder's role.

Kallis's aggregate of 2,127 runs in one-day internationals have been scored at a healthy average of 40.13 and have in-

cluded five centuries. He has taken 44 wickets at 30.43 each with best figures of five for 30.