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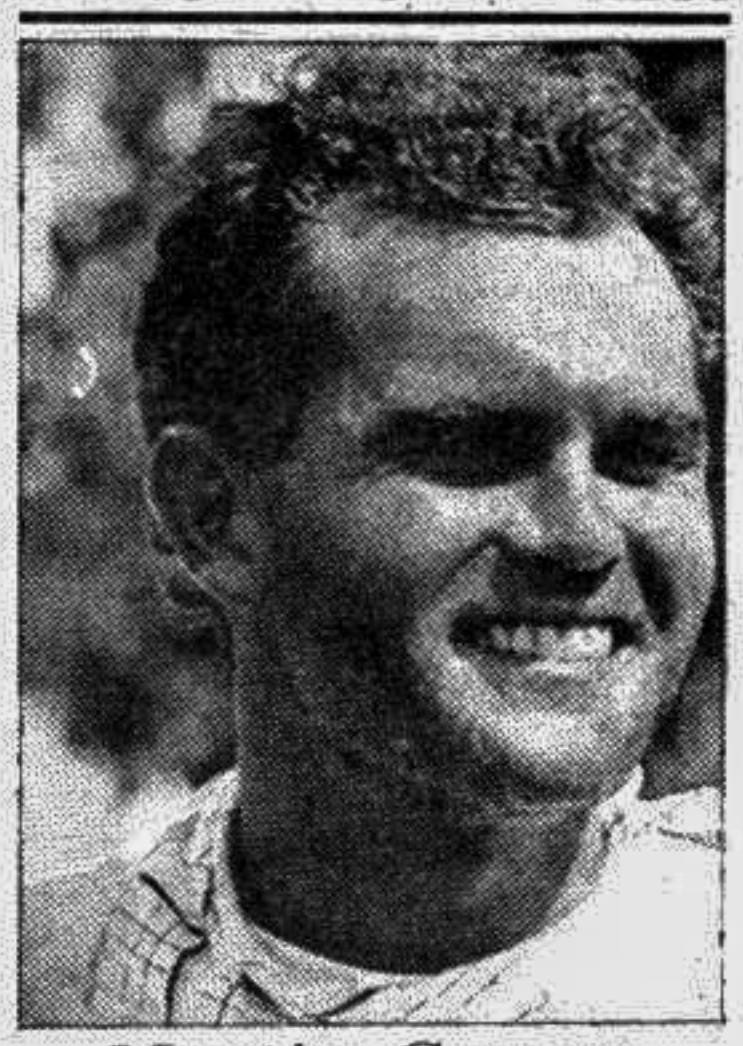
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Star Sport

DHAKA FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Martin Crowe

(Former New Zealand captain)
"If we can get our bowling and fielding up to top-notch standard, and that is the key in restricting your opponents, then we'll do well."

On New Zealand's prospect in the World Cup.

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| | | | |
|------|---|----------|-------------|
| 1 | Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South African cricket coach? | | |
| Ford | Stewart | Marsh | |
| 2 | When England last hosted cricket World Cup? | | |
| 1975 | 1987 | 1993 | |
| 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

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Biman Cup

Joypurhat in final



Joypurhat moved into the final of the Biman Cup under-14 national football championship beating Nilphamari 2-0 at the Joypurhat Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The hosts will take on Chittagong in the final on Saturday at the same venue.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain will be present in the final as the chief guest.

In the day's match, Firoz scored both goals for the winners. Nannu of Joypurhat was received a yellow card.

IUB chess

At the end of the third round of the third IUB chess tournament yesterday, 5 players were leading the points table after winning their respective matches. They are Rafiur Rahman Roni, Numayr Enam, Mahmudul, Mahmud Razzaque and Asif Altaf, says a press release.

In this round, defending champion Roni played with black pieces and defeated his opponent Alok Azeem in 27 moves initiating the Sicilian Defense (Taimanov Variation). Numayr beat Shyam, Mahmudul beat Riyad, Mahmud beat Murad and Sajjad edge past Kamru.

Fgan's BGM

Sports Reporter

The biennial general meeting of Farashganj Sporting Club will be held at the Lalkuthi auditorium in Sutrapur today. The opening session will start at 9:30 am.

All the members of the club have been asked to be present in the day long programme.

Best outside bet

WELLINGTON, May 6 (AFP) : The Cricketer magazine, somewhat flatly, recently ranked New Zealand the fourth best one-day side in world cricket.

The editor of the cricket bible Wisden, Matthew Engel, in contrast, questioned their credentials and labeled them the globe's least charismatic side.

The truth, as the World Cup approaches, probably lies somewhere in the middle. Stephen Fleming, however, will be quite happy if his squad is overlooked and underestimated during the tournament.

The New Zealanders of 1992 were not taken seriously either yet, inspired by Martin Crowe, they dominated the first round of the tournaments before losing to eventual winners Pakistan in the semi-finals.

It was their third semi-final appearance after 1975 and 1979 and they can boast World Cup victories over every Test-playing nation. Against England, they have won as many as they have lost, while they have won three of five encounters against India.

Yet the Kiwis' image remains unchanged today - a team of shooting stars, capable of beating any opposition on their day but who rarely put together a significant run of success.

They lived up to that at the start of this year.

First, they beat India in a home Test series before drawing the one-dayers 2-2, then - admittedly after being outclassed in the Tests - they lost the limited-over internationals 3-2 against South Africa, ranked the world's best one-day team.

The Proteas, fresh from giving the West Indies a drubbing, had to fight back from 2-1 down and only just made it. In the fourth game they scored a six off the last ball to scramble victory.

Former South African all-rounder Mike Proctor predicted then that New Zealand would continue to surprise top teams.

Coach Steve Rixon wants more. He argues the team, so often divided in the past by the clashes of huge cricketing egos, are now such a happy and united unit that victory in the World Cup is a "achievable target".

To progress from group B, however, they will have to get the better of at least one of Australia, West Indies and Pakistan, as well as Bangladesh and Scotland.

Several problems persist - solid opening partnerships have been rare, the top order remains brittle, batsmen fail to develop good starts into substantial scores and a predominantly medium-paced attack looks dangerously predictable and short on wicket-taking teeth.

But in Nathan Astle,



FIXTURES

New Zealand

Group B

First-round
May 17: v Bangladesh, Chelmsford
May 20: v Australia, Cardiff
May 24: v West Indies, Southampton
May 28: v Pakistan, Derby
May 31: v Scotland, Edinburgh

Matthew Horne, captain Stephen Fleming, Craig McLellan, Chris Harris and Chris Cairns, the side has batting to mount a challenge against any attack.

All are exciting strokemakers. The Black Caps are most dangerous when chasing rather than defending.

They also have a useful stable of all-rounders. Harris is a highly effective one-day player, his canny slow-medium often reserved for the 'slog overs', as is Dion Nash. Opening bat Astle can also chip in with useful medium pace.

The key element, however, comes in the shape of Chris Cairns, son of former Test player Lance. His right-arm pace has never been as effective as hoped, but his batting can be murderous. In Christchurch in January he hit the 13th-fastest one-day international century in history, reaching the mark against India in 75 balls.

Cairns has since suffered a serious hamstring injury against South Africa but is expected to return in time.

The return of Chris Cairns will help the balance, and with Dion Nash, his all-round abilities will be a bonus to the batting and bowling areas," says former New Zealand great Sir Richard Hadlee.

This side also masters the other core component of the one-day game - fielding.

Against South Africa, probably the best fielding side in the world, they showed they are not far behind, taking several brilliant catches and hitting the wickets with a high percentage of throws.

"I look at guys like Courtney and Allan Donald - they played a lot of county cricket and just seemed to be able to keep going and going," McGrath said.

"Maybe there is a secret behind playing cricket 12 months a year. I feel that during pre-season, you are at a bigger danger of picking up injuries, and maybe if you play all year around, then you take out that injury risk."

"I had a chat with Courtney recently during our West Indies tour about the specific demands of English county cricket, and it is something I would really look forward to and enjoy doing."

"A couple of seasons here is not going to kill me," he added.

County cricket on Glenn's mind

CARDIFF, May 6: Australian pace bowler Glenn McGrath is considering a move to an English county next season, reports AFP.

"County cricket is an option for me, it is something I would like to do," said the 29-year-old, who has taken 232 Test wickets.

"I'm talking to a few clubs at the moment, and my manager is coming over shortly to see whether or not I will come to England in the 2000 season."

McGrath has taken advice from West Indies record Test wicket-taker Courtney Walsh and South African speedster Allan Donald about what he might expect in English cricket.

Former Gloucestershire captain Walsh and Warwickshire favourite Donald enjoyed illustrious careers in the English domestic game.

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"A couple of seasons here is not going to kill me," he added.

Donald ducks Lara!

HOVE, England, May 6: South African fast bowler Allan Donald Wednesday tried to play down a highly-publicised row with West Indian captain Brian Lara ahead of the World Cup. reports AFP.

The Daily Express newspaper published an extract from Donald's forthcoming autobiography which described how Donald made a derogatory remark at Lara from the South African dressing room.

Donald wrote that he had "lost all respect for him (Lara) as a captain" after Lara led West Indies to a humiliating 5-0 Test series defeat in South Africa last season.

In Hove Wednesday, though, Donald said the extract had been taken from an early draft of the book, "White Lightning", which will be published on Monday.

"I was very disappointed with the way it came out," said Donald, who claimed he had told ghost writer Pat Murphy not to use the section.

"I was hyped up when I started writing it," said Donald, "but when the press were sent to me while I was touring New Zealand I said it needed toning down."

Daily Express reporter Colin Bateman said the extract had been checked with publisher Harper Collins.

Donald, who is in Hove preparing for the World Cup with the South African team, admitted he was not sure what was in the final version of the book, although he said Murphy had read a revised version over the telephone.

The fast bowler said: "It doesn't put me in a good light. Brian Lara and I have had our differences and in South Africa we came at each other hard. I don't think it should carry on, though."

Even though Donald said he regretted the publication of the extract, he said he would not apologise to Lara for what had appeared in print. "I won't talk to him about it. I didn't mean to offend anybody."

The dressing room row came after Lara refused a request by Donald for a pair of Lara's batting gloves to auction at a benefit function.

Lara later gave Donald a pair of gloves "without saying a word".

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