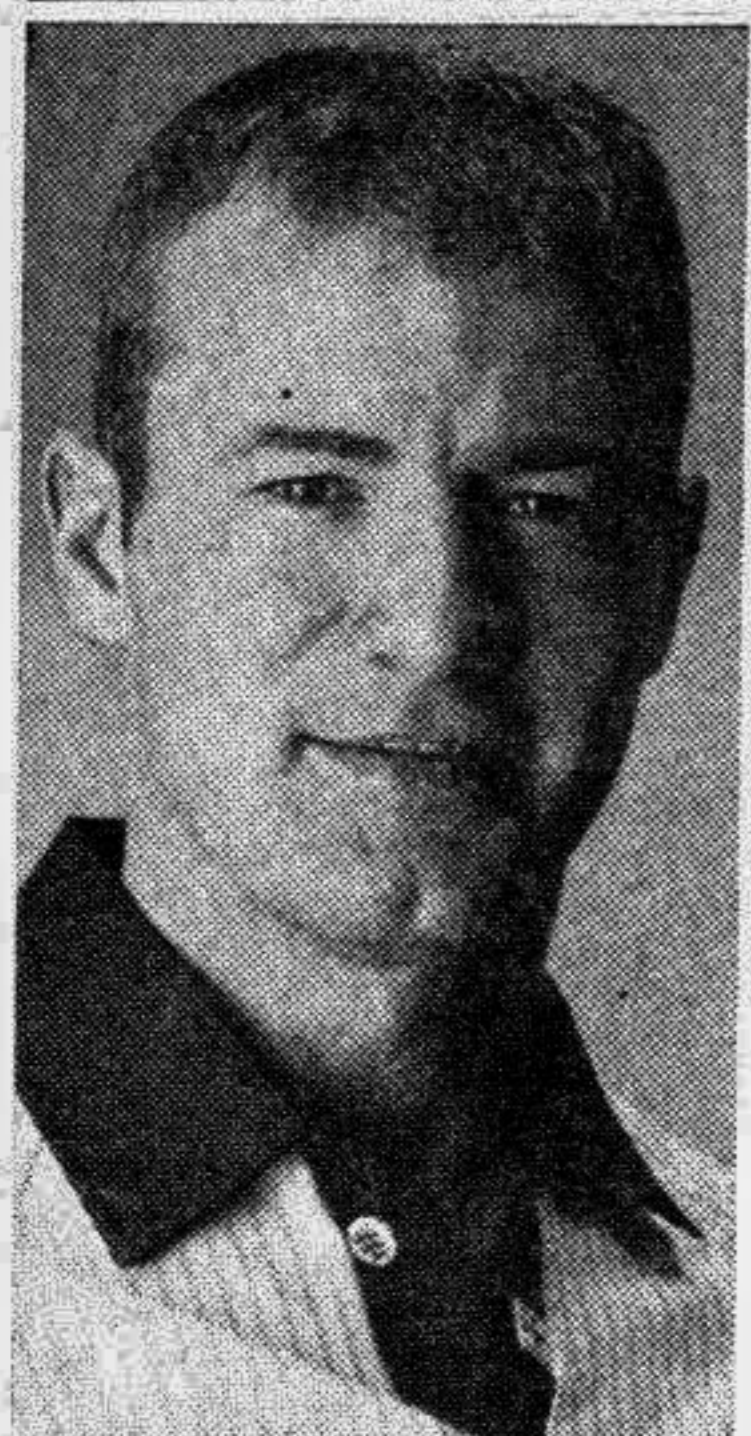


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Alan Shearer
(England striker)
"There might be a time in the future when I tell my side of the story but now is not the time."
About the rift between Ruud Geulit and him at Newcastle United.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-119

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 10, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who are the current FA Cup champions?
Man United Arsenal Liverpool
- Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?
Whitmore Yardley Fernandez
- Who won the Confederations' Cup title?
Brazil Mexico USA
- Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?
Munirul Alam Aminul
- Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?
Yokohama Suzaki Nagoya

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

No respite for Ntini

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Sept 9: A flood of protests on Wednesday led to the withdrawal of convicted rapist Makhaya Ntini, the first black to play for South Africa, from Border's team for a friendly provincial game this weekend, reports Reuters.

Ntini, 22, was pulled out of the team after callers jammed the Border Cricket Board (BCB) switchboard.

"After due consideration we realised we were hasty in selecting Ntini," said BCB general manager Reunert Bauer.

"We must respect the fact that he is a convicted rapist and until such time as he is cleared he will not play."

Ntini was dropped from the national side before this year's World Cup after he was found guilty of raping a 21-year-old woman in December. He is out on bail pending an appeal against the conviction due to be heard in October.

Bauer said the BCB offices had been inundated with wide ranging protests, including some from women's groups.

United Cricket Board managing director Ali Bacher said he had been surprised by the selection.

"I understood that he was to train with Border and play some club cricket until his appeal was heard," Bacher told the Johannesburg daily Sportsday.

"I would have thought it was in Makhaya's best interests to stay out of the spotlight until the whole affair was finalised."

Earlier, BCB president Robbie Muzell defended Ntini's selection.

Navy b'ball

Patrol Craft Squadron clinched the title of Bangladesh Navy basketball championship. They defeated BNS Haji Mohsin 56-55 in the final match concluded at the Sailors Colony basketball court, Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, reports RSS.

BFF names SAF squad Jewel retains his job

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced a 20-member squad for the forthcoming South Asian Federation (SAF) Games with central defender Jewel Rana retaining as captain.

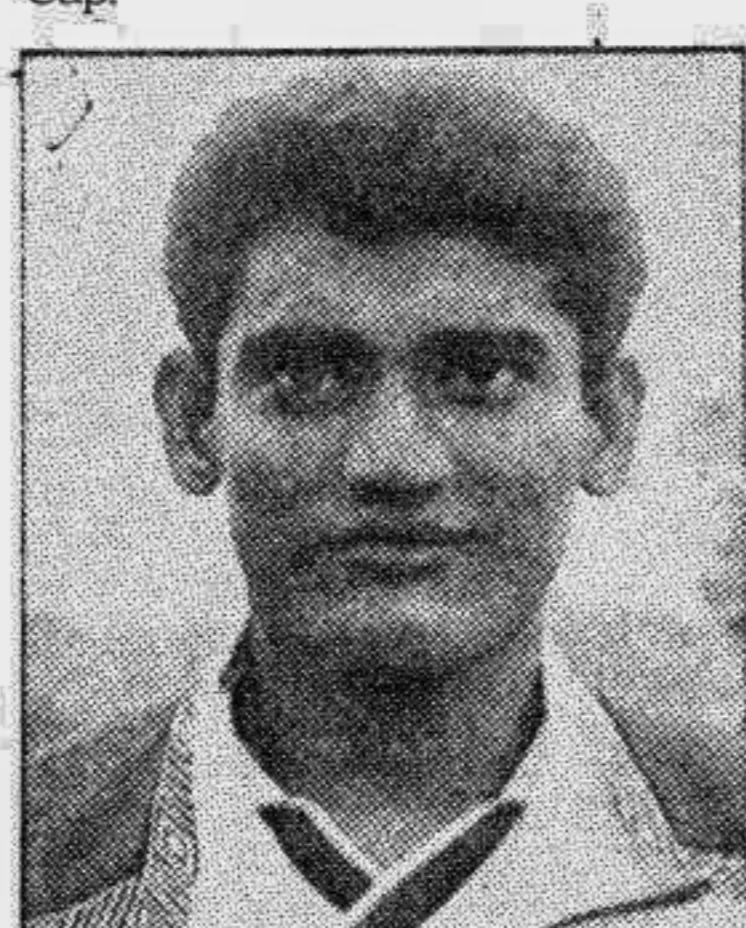
The team, which is likely to leave the capital for Nepal on September 15, will however miss the services of number one custodian Aminul in their desperate bid for the maiden football gold in this regional meet.

Aminul, who played extremely well for Abahani this year, will miss the SAF football bus due to injury.

The tall national custodian, considered to have the safest pair of hands under bar after a long time since the departure of Mohsin, has broken two fingers of his right hand during Bangladesh's clash with Kerulet FC of Hungary in the Bangabandhu Cup on September 3.

The sad departure of Aminul however prompted the Iraqi coach of the national team Samir Shakir to recall experi-

enced national custodian Ponir. But apart from Ponir's inclusion Samir has almost retained the same squad that played extremely well in the recently concluded Bangabandhu Cup.



JEWEL RANA
Parvez Babu, the young midfielder of Badda, is however the notable omission from Samir's choice of 20 for the Banga-

bandhu Cup. Rezaul Karim Liton, an impressive performer for Muktiyoddha this year, replaces Parvez.

Although the inspirational Iraqi has picked up three goalkeepers—Ponir, Biplob and Apel, he however chooses not to upset the defence and the attacking line-ups.

While Jewel plays the pivotal role in Shamir's otherwise solid defence the Iraqi World Cupper will be looking forward to his left-wing back Masud Rana, who is not in a devastating form, to live up to his experience.

The midfield will revolve round Iqbal, Monwar and to some extent Motiur Munna. While Alfaz and Mizanur will be Shamir's most potential choice in the up-front.

SQUAD
Jewel (captain), Alfaz (vice-captain), Ponir, Masud Rana, Rajani, Iqbal, Hasan al Mamun, Biplob, Monwar Munna, Mizanur Rahman Don, Motiur Munna, Monwar Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Saurov Raju, Faisal, Tipu, Rezaul Karim Liton, Anwar, Apel and Mintu.

Ponting's pivotal role



KANDY, Sri Lanka, Sept 9: Ricky Ponting rescued Australia with a fighting 96 on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka today, reports Reuters.

Ponting averaged a rout as his team recovered from 60 for seven to 188—their lowest total against Sri Lanka.

Only Ponting and Jason Gillespie managed to cope with the hosts medium pace attack after winning the toss.

Ponting arrived at 16 for four and plodded along as wickets tumbled at the other end. He was last out, caught and bowled by Muttiah Muralitharan soon after tea.

His 107-run eighth wicket partnership with Gillespie, who hit a career best 41, was the only redeeming factor in a poor Australian innings.

The early batting was demolished in the first session by Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa, who claimed six wickets between them.

Both openers fell without scoring. Michael Slater was trapped leg before by Vaas in the first over and Greg Blewett was out the same way to Zoysa in the next.

Worse followed as Justin Langer edged a catch to Aravinda de Silva off Vaas having made seven. Mark Waugh, on six, then presented a return catch to Vaas.

Zoysa, back for his second spell of the morning, made Steve Waugh edge a catch to de Silva in the slips. The captain

scored 19.

Ian Healy was the next to go, stumped by wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana for 11. Shane Warne followed for a duck when he hooked Zoysa to deep square leg where Marvan Atapattu took the catch.

Australia lost only Gillespie between lunch and tea. He was leg before to off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.



RICKY PONTING ... 96
rallitharan, the most successful Sri Lanka bowler with four for 63.

Sri Lanka skipper Sanath Jayasuriya fell leg before to Glenn McGrath for 18 and Russell Arnold was out the same way to off-spinner Colin Miller for 19 in a first innings reply of 69 for two by the close.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the first Test between Australia and Sri Lanka on Thursday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Slater lbw b Vaas	0
Blewett lbw b Zoysa	7
Langer c de Silva b Vaas	6
M Waugh c b Vaas	6
S Waugh c de Silva b Zoysa	19
Ponting c b Muralitharan	96
Healy st Kaluwitharana	5
Muralitharan	11
Warne c Atapattu b Zoysa	0
Gillespie lbw b Muralitharan	41
Miller c Atapattu b Muralitharan	0
McGrath not out	4
Extras: (nb-4)	4
Total	188

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-4; 3-9; 4-16; 5-40; 6-59; 7-60; 8-167; 9-171.

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Vaas	16	2	43	3
Zoysa	13	2	38	4
Muralitharan	25	1	4	6
Jayasuriya	5	0	5	0
Chandana	8	1	39	0

SRI LANKA: First innings

Jayasuriya lbw McGrath	18
Atapattu not out	25
Arnold lbw Miller	19
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-1)	7
Total: (For two wickets)	69

Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-69

To bat: Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga, Mahela Jayawardene, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Nuwan Zoysa.

Bowler (to date)

	O	M	R	W
McGrath	6	0	25	1
Gillespie	6	0	21	0
Miller	4	2	9	1
Warne	4	2	8	0

Hopeful Habib awaits A-bus



LONDON, Sept 9 (Internet report): Aftab Habib is welcoming the chance to begin his international rehabilitation by helping the next generation of Test cricketers on this winter's A tour to Bangladesh and New Zealand.

The Leicestershire batsman was one of 15 players selected for the two-month trip Monday, giving him an early opportunity to overcome the disappointment he suffered after failing to make an impression during the opening two Tests against New Zealand.

Habib looked likely to join the long list of cricketers successful at county level only to struggle in the Test arena.

He was dropped after scoring just 26 runs in three innings to make room for the return of Michael Atherton and Graeme Hick.

His selection for this winter's eight-week A tour, however, proves Habib is still very much in the selectors' thoughts and provides a timely lift for a player whose confidence was severely affected by being dropped.

After learning of his omission in Manchester, Habib was unable to reach 50 in his next six first-class innings until scoring a match-winning 141 against Gloucestershire at Grace Road a fortnight ago lifted his spirits.

"It's great they gave me an opportunity to play two Tests and it's good the selectors are keeping an eye on me this winter - it shows I'm still in their thoughts," said Habib.

"My aim now is to go out on the A tour, express myself and try and get back into the main side."

"I know people who would think I would be very negative about the England thing after what happened, but I look on it as being a very good year for me personally."

"Things have happened so quickly. Playing the two Tests against New Zealand was a great experience and I've enjoyed every minute of it."

"I look at it in a positive

manner. I've had a taste of international cricket now and it's bitterly disappointing not to get another opportunity on the main tour, but I'm still quite happy with the way things have gone."

Habib admits his confidence was knocked by his England disappointment, but is certain this winter's tour and the experience of his two Tests will ensure he returns a better player if he is given another chance.

"My confidence was down a little bit after I was dropped, but I kept telling myself I was only a matter of time until I made a decent score again and when that happened it lifted my confidence again," he explained.

"I'll be better prepared next

time if I play for England again. I know what it's like now and how to go about things. I will be better mentally prepared next time and I know I'll get some runs if I get the chance."

"The big difference between county cricket and international cricket is the mental pressure. You're playing in a big arena, everybody's watching you and it's more pressure than anything else."

The key is to get tougher in your mind and have the confidence to know you can do it at that level. There was nothing

wrong with my technique; that side of the game has been pretty strong in all the years I've been playing."

The main thing that defeats you at Test level is the pressure and expectation on you - and you have to get through that. All the players selected can play but it's what is going through your head which matters."

Habib joins Essex all-rounder Ronnie Irani - who was recalled for the final Test at the Oval only to be overlooked for the winter tour - in the A party as two players the selectors are keen to reassure are still part of the selection process.

The party will be captained by Mark Alleyne, who is also a member of England's one-day party to compete in a triangular tournament against South Africa and Zimbabwe in January, while Somerset wicket-keeper Rob Turner will be his deputy.

Turner, Durham fast bowler Steve Harmison and Yorkshire's Chris Silverwood have been placed on stand-by for the senior tour and been rewarded with an A tour place to keep them match-fit if they are required in South Africa.

Warwickshire pair Nick Knight and Ashley Giles, who are also part of the one-day squad, have also been named as possible replacements but have been overlooked for the A tour, having both been selected for several previous tours.

Worcestershire's Alamgir Sheriari, the leading wicket-taker in the country with 86 victims this season, has also been rewarded for a successful county campaign while several members of England's Under-19 set-up have been included such as current captain Michael Gough, of Durham, Lancashire leg-spinner Chris Schofield and Northamptonshire slow left-arm Michael Davies.

Graveney added: "We've also sought to strike a balance between recognising the achievements of players who have had outstanding domestic seasons and giving an opportunity to younger players."

Benzafield joins BKSP camp

Sports Reporter

Gavin Benzafield, the South African physiotherapist of the national cricket team, arrived in the city on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old physio from Cape Town, for whom it would be the maiden professional assignment for any national side, has immediately joined the camp at the BKSP in Savar on his arrival late in the night.

Benzafield, who started his career for Western Province cricket team only a year back, is the second South African to be attached with the national team after coach Eddie Barlow.

Bridge meet

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Club duo of Moazzem Hossain and Naimul Hasan won the 10th national pair bridge championship, held at a local hotel recently.

Mozammel, a PDB engineer, and his young partner Naimul scored highest 298.79 points to clinch the title ahead of another Dhaka Club pair of AK Firoz and Brig (Ret) Azizul Haq, who finished with 272.88 points, said a press release yesterday.

The two-day meet also offered a cash award of Taka 10,000 for the champions and Taka 6,000 for runners-up.

The quartet will also represent Bangladesh in the World Bridge qualifying round, scheduled to start in Colombo from October 3.

Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 9: Shaheed Abdur Rab Seraniat First Division football league is scheduled to be started from tomorrow at the local Shaheed Abdur Rab Seraniat Stadium.

Barisal District Sports Association (BDSA) Football Uparishad organised the league.

Ten local football teams are participating in the league.

Teams are: Khelkar Kalyan Samity, T&T Eleven, Kallol Pathagar and Club, Muktiyoddha Ashis Pathagar and Club, Rupatal, Grantul Sangha, Amanganj Eleven, Abahani Krira Chakra (KC), Confidence Club, Friends and Chandradweep Pathagar and Club.

Moheun Bagan Club, the winners of both National League and Federation Cup last season, won the first leg 2-1 last month at the Yuboharati Stadium in Calcutta.

"We have come here to win," said the Hyderabad born coach who returned to his old club early this season.

"Only a victory, no matter the margin, will ensure our passage into the second round," said Naimuddin.

About his team's strength, the renowned coach said it was a blend of youth and experience. The club has acquired three foreigners-- forwards Chima Okery and Emeka Achilefu of Nigeria and defender Samy Omello from Kenya.

"We have Dipendu Biswas who is the captain of Indian pre-Olympic team and James

Challenger tennis

Sports Reporter

The second leg of the junior challenger tennis tournament under the aegis of Engineers Club got underway at the Club's Dhaka court yesterday.

A total of 109 players including 27 girls are taking part in four 'age group' events. They are-- boys under-10, under-13, under-16 and girls under-16.

Earlier, MA Wahid, a senior member of Engineers Club, inaugurated the juvenile meet.

NZC posts \$5.5m profit

UNDATED (Internet report): New Zealand Cricket has posted a profit of 5.5 million dollars for the year ended on May 31, 1999.

However, the figure is before grants to its six major associations, and those grants increased to 3.9 million dollars from 1.9 million dollars in the previous year.

The profit after grants was 1.6 million dollars.

NZ Cricket says the improved result was largely due to good attendance of the Test series against India, boosted by the inaugural Boxing Day Test played at Wellington's Basin Reserve which was supported by a crowd of 20,000.

Chief executive of NZ Cricket Christopher Doig says 1999 was a very good year for cricket.

The sponsorship environment has already changed with last month's announcement that ten years of international cricket sponsorship by the Bank of New Zealand would end.



Anjan Mitra, the general secretary of Mohun Bagan Club of Calcutta, speaking at a press conference yesterday in connection with their tomorrow's Asia Club Championship clash with Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra. Coach Syed Naimuddin (2nd from left) was present.

Asian Club C'ship return tie tomorrow

Bagan arrive in town



Mohun Bagan Club coach Syed Naimuddin was confident of securing a victory against Premier Division champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in their 19th Asian Club Championship first round away clash. The match will kick off at 5 pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The former Indian national coach, who guided his country to a 3-0 over Bangladesh in the Nepal SAFF Championship final a couple of years ago, was talking to local reporters at a briefing immediately after his team arrived yesterday afternoon.

Anjan Mitra, the general secretary of the century-old club which lifted the IFA Shield as the first Indian team in 1911, and manager Babish Ghosh were also present.

Mohun Bagan, the winners of both National League and Federation Cup last season, won the first leg 2-1 last month at the Yuboharati Stadium in Calcutta.

"We have come here to win," said the Hyderabad born coach who returned to his old club early this season.

"Only a victory, no matter the margin, will ensure our passage into the second round," said Naimuddin.

About his team's strength, the renowned coach said it was a blend of youth and experience. The club has acquired three foreigners-- forwards Chima Okery and Emeka Achilefu of Nigeria and defender Samy Omello from Kenya.

"We have Dipendu Biswas who is the captain of Indian pre-Olympic team and James

Singh who also a promising player from the same squad. Besides, our captain and goalkeeper Hemanta Dora, Kasif Zamil, Abdulla Khaleque, Basudev Mandal and Satyajit Chatterjee all have international experience," said the Mohun Bagan coach.

About Chima, who was reportedly suspended by the Indian Football Association following an incident during their Calcutta league clash against archrivals East Bengal, Naim said that the matter was still under investigation.

Naimuddin rated Muktiyoddha as a "very strong side."

He was impressed by skipper and defender Jewel Rana and striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib and said they were very talented.

Asked to comment on a report that Mohun Bagan were considering to lodge an official complaint to AFC about goalkeeper Aminul who played the first match in Calcutta despite being a regular player of Abahani, Mitra said that they initially thought about taking action but decided against as a gesture of friendship between the two neighboring countries.

"We could have avoided the trip and go through to the next round paying only 500 dollars to AFC for making the complaint. But that would have not helped football," said Mitra.

The Mohun Bagan secretary however expressed his dissatisfaction the accommodation facilities arranged by the BFF.

"I don't want to make any comment about that. I just invite all of you (journalists) to come over and see the hotel and say whether it is suitable or not."

Hemanta Dora (captain), Naren Singh, Satyajit Chatterjee, Dipendu Biswas, Kasif Zamil, Abdulla Khaleque, Debjit Ghosh, Basudev Mandal, Amitav Chandra, Dulal Biswas, Ifocha Singh, Shivshankar Satra, RP Singh, Kiran Singh, James Singh, Chima Okery, Emeka Achilefu and Samy Omello.

SQUAD
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Symonds shines for Kent



LONDON, Sept 9 (AFP): Andrew Symonds helped Kent set Lancashire a tough first innings target in a run-filled first day of this English county championship match on Wednesday.

Kent, fifth in the table, finished on 388 for nine with Symonds hitting a useful 99.

Alan Wells was also a man in form, scoring 86.

Matthew Maynard put a big dent in Yorkshire's hopes of claiming the runners-up spot in the county championship with a scintillating batting display worth 186 runs for Glamorgan at Headingley before hitting his own wicket.

Maynard had great support from Michael Powell, who contributed 70 to the third from bottom of the table's total of 395 for seven.

Essex found themselves at the end of Graeme Hick's 107th first class century as Worcestershire compiled 308 runs for the loss of all their wickets at Chelmsford.

Hick, so sure of defence and fierce on the ball, completed his century from 154 balls, but four deliveries later went lbw to Ricky Anderson, who took four for 74. Ronnie Irani also weighed in with four for 51.

Somerset, sixth in the table, showed their batting pedigree reaching 291 for two at Southampton with skipper Jamie Cox leading the run-out with 147 not out. His knock included 23 boundaries.

Bad light stopped play for a time in the match at Bristol between Gloucestershire and Derbyshire where, after a day full of wickets, Derbyshire finished on 124 for five - 26 runs behind.

BRIEF SCORES
At Riverside: Durham 211-8 (J Lewis 76, D Boon 54, T Munton 6-65) v Warwickshire

At Chelmsford: Worcestershire 308 (G Hick 101, R Anderson 4-74, R Irani 4-51) v Essex 10-1

At Bristol: Gloucestershire 150 (P Aldred 6-34) v Derbyshire 124-5

At Southampton: Somerset 291-2 (J Cox 165 no, P Holloway 58) v Hampshire

At Old Trafford: Kent 388-9 (A Symonds 99, A Wells 86, D Headley 60 no, M Fleming 55, C Schofield 4-89) v Lancashire

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 411-6 (D Sales 183 no, D Ripley 105) v Leicestershire

At Headingley: Glamorgan 395-7 (M Maynard 186, M Powell 70) v Yorkshire

Gloucestershire's first innings total of 150.

Bad light stopped play at the Riverside Ground in Durham but not before the home side had made 211 for eight.

Jonathan Lewis was Durham's best batsman, scoring 76 with captain David Boon adding a useful 54 before falling to Tim Munton who finished the day with six wickets for 65 runs off 31 overs.

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