

Star Sport

DHAKA TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Pete Sampras

(American tennis star)
"It was very hard to pull out of the event."

After deciding to pull out of the US Open.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-120

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Sept 24, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who won the Singapore Cricket Challenge?

2 Who lifted the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup?

3 Who was the man-of-the-series in the Asia Cup?

Jayasurya Gilchrist David

4 Where will the next ICC mini World Cup be held?

Kenya Canada Sharjah

5 Who will captain Bangladesh football team in the SAF Games?

Jewel Rana Alfaz Masud Rana

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

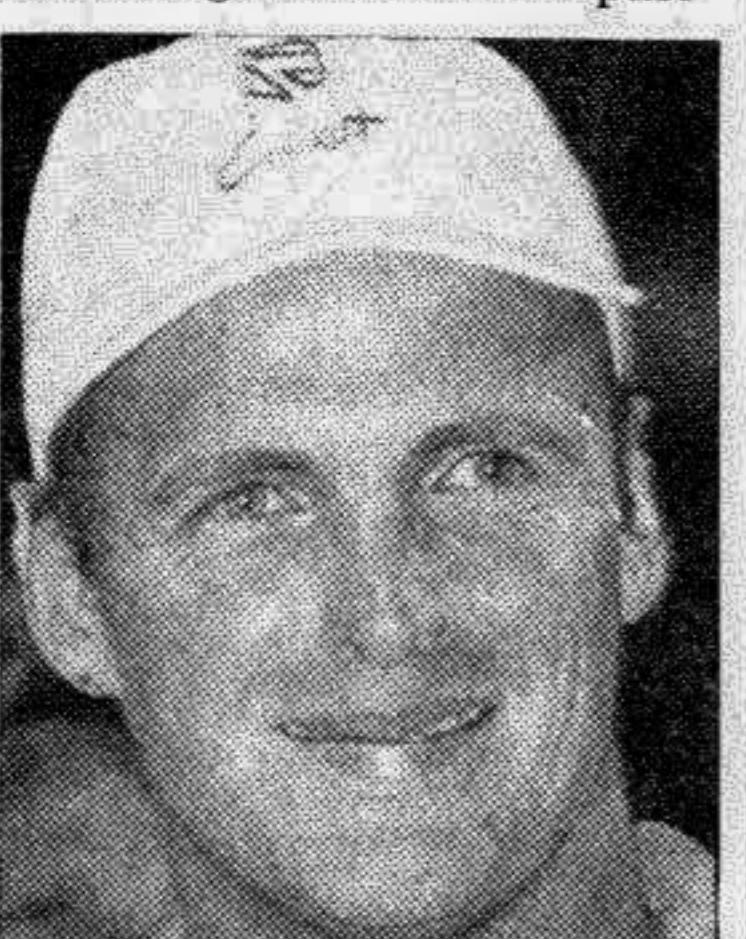
Phone: (If any)

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Kirsten ties the knot

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 20 (Internet report): Gary Kirsten, 31, opening batsman of the South African cricket team, was married this weekend to a beaming 25-year-old blonde, Deborah Cassidy.

His wedlock with Cassidy, Kirsten's girlfriend for the past



three years, was solemnised on Saturday in the St Thomas Anglican Church in Rondebosch by Cassidy's godfather, Bishop Michael Nuttall, Anglican Bishop of Natal.

Cassidy was elegantly dressed in shoulder-less, full-length bridal gown of satin lace. Kirsten wore a grey tailor-made suit.

Among the 280 wedding guests were present and past SA cricket team-mates Herschelle Gibbs, Brian McMillian, Dave Richardson, Mark Boucher and Jacques Kallis.

Cassidy, a native from Pietermaritzburg, and Kirsten met three years ago in a Cape Town restaurant. They were engaged in April this year.

After the ceremony in the church, Kirsten said he "felt wonderful." They intend settling in Kirsten's house in Newlands.

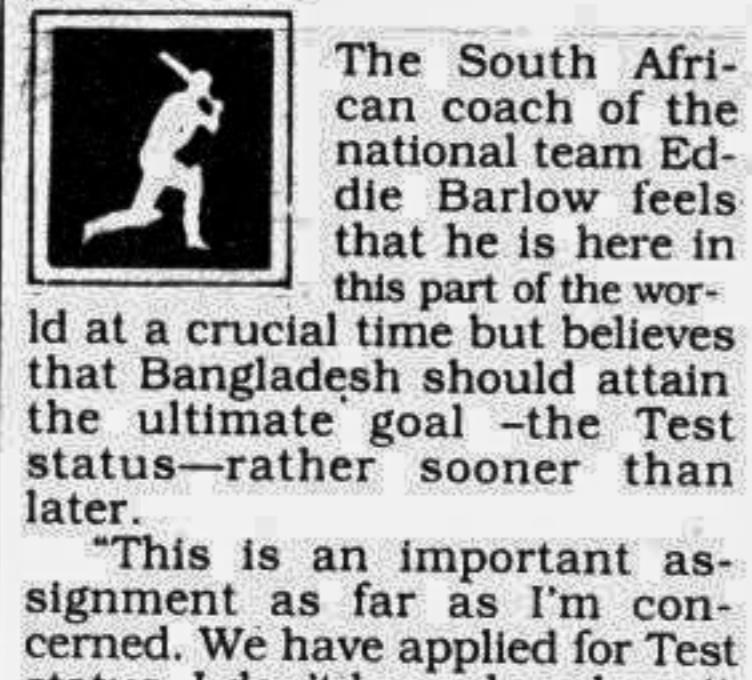
Rajshahi kabadi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Sept 20: Shiroil Sporting Club defeated Diganta Prasery Shangha 73-42 in the super league match of Rajshahi District First Division kabadi league yesterday at Rajshahi Outer Stadium. The winners got three luna's.

Bout 1: Barlow impresses

Sports Reporter



The South African coach of the national team Eddie Barlow feels that he is here in this part of the world at a crucial time but believes that Bangladesh should attain the ultimate goal - the Test status - rather sooner than later.

"This is an important assignment as far as I'm concerned. We have applied for Test status. I don't know how long it will take. But I believe it will happen rather sooner than later," said the former South African Test cap in his first meeting with the local press at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office yesterday afternoon.

Barlow, thrust as the helmsman of Bangladesh cricket, took the most sought-after job from September 1. But he hardly faced the press since his arrival in the city and stayed back at the BKSP where he was preparing the national team for a series of matches against the visiting West Indies and the England A.

Although the former South African all-rounder appeared rather quiet since replacing Gordon Greenidge as Director of Coaching, Barlow was impressive rather than expressive in his first animated bout with the journalists.

He admitted knowing little about Bangladesh cricket, but added that he is only 20 days old in an unfamiliar territory.



EDDIE BARLOW

So, the project is a massive one. I have heard the structure here is based mainly around club cricket. But you have got many fine players. I have seen many young players at the BKSP and I was astonished to see those

boys. I believe the only thing you need is more exposure to international cricket", said Barlow.

The jovial South African, who incidentally attended the press briefing to discuss the pros and cons of his just-selected 16 players, said that this was not his future team but only a selection against a particular side.

"I have heard people saying that there are as many as fifty better players than those we have selected. But this is the best possible selection we have made at this moment", said the witty South African.

Admitting that he had gone through a lot of problems to select the side since he hardly got the players together for a single day, Barlow however said that it was a collective decision, which included three selectors, captain Aminul Islam and himself.

"We can not satisfy everybody. But we have put together our best efforts to make the team. I brought in certain names in the selection committee. We have discussed the matter for a long time before making the final decision", said Barlow, adding that they have also selected eight more players for training apart from the final 16.

Surprisingly though, the BCB only announced the list of 16 players, who will feature in a couple of ODIs and a three-day match against the West Indies. See page 14

Waugh counts on helmet

COLOMBO, Sept 20 (AFP): Australian skipper Steve Waugh may field in a helmet to protect his broken nose in the second Test against Sri Lanka starting in Galle on Wednesday.

Waugh, one of Test cricket's most resilient characters, is expected to decide for himself whether he is fit to play the pivotal match after the Australians lost the opening Test in Kandy.

Waugh's nose was fractured in four places in a collision with Jason Gillespie 10 days ago that left the fast bowler with a broken leg.

After two-hour surgery on the day of the first Test collision, medics advised Waugh to wear a protective mask until Tuesday.

But he discarded it last Wednesday and batted the next day in the nets.

Waugh increased his activity in the past few days as Shane Warne led Australia to a crushing

247-run victory in a tour match in Colombo. "I'm a better than even chance but it's by no means a certainty that I will play," Waugh told Australian Associated Press in Galle on Monday.

"It's a Test match, I'm captain of Australia. I'm not going to walk away from it easily if I

I can't play."

Waugh said medics were against him playing a Test in which an Australian win would level the three-match series.

"The advice is not to play but they always look at the worst case scenario," he said.

"I have to," Waugh said of fielding in a helmet. "The doctor said the bone is the consistency of toothpaste until the third week and if I got hit it would knock it straight out."

"I guess (wearing a helmet) would be hot work but you do it because there's no difference."

The veteran of 116 Tests will decide on Tuesday whether to play in the Test.

Vice-captain Warne also said Waugh was a better than 50-50 chance of playing the second Test.

"I'd be more than happy to be vice-captain and have Steve Waugh play," Warne said.

"At this stage he is better than 50-50 to play, the last few days he has been really happy with it so from that side of things it's exciting for us."

Waugh's nose was fractured in four places in a collision with Jason Gillespie 10 days ago that left the fast bowler with a broken leg.

With the second Test against Sri Lanka starting in Galle on Wednesday, the ill-fated pace brigade was further hit yesterday with an injury to newcomer Scott Muller.

Muller had stitches at a hospital to heal a split in the webbing between his fourth and little fingers on his right hand, sustained when he dropped a sharp return catch during Australia's 247-run pasting of a Sri Lankan Cricket Board XI on Sunday.

The injury cast doubt on Muller's availability for the second of the three Tests against the Lankans and left swinger Damien Fleming as the only fully fit quick bowler.

Spearhead Glenn McGrath is battling to overcome a left thigh strain but coach Geoff Marsh rates the New South Welshman a likely starter in the Galle Test.

With Jason Gillespie already back in Australia nursing a broken right leg, a selection quandary looms should McGrath not pass a fitness test tomorrow as there is simply no other genuine paceman in the 15-man squad.

Incredibly, the injury situation could propel legspinner Stuart MacGill into the side despite not playing since the four-day match that preceded Australia's first Test defeat in Kandy.

That situation would leave versatile Colin Miller as Fleming's new ball partner in a revamped line-up.

Fleming destroyed the Board XI with a devastating spell of 3-0 in seven balls that gave him seven wickets for the match and confirmed his position in the second Test side.

The Victorian paceman was on a hat-trick during his match-winning burst but fell over at the bowling crease when delivering the potential milestone delivery, the ball looping down to the batsman who deftly prodded it away as Fleming was sprawled across the pitch.

"I had a nightmare," said Fleming of the hat-trick attempt.

"Every now and again the

runups, the jump before you get

into your delivery was a bit soft."

"A couple of times I didn't jump very well so for that (hat-trick) ball I was off balance before I bowled the ball."

"And then when I bowled it, it was pretty embarrassing really -- I have bowled better hat-trick balls put it that way."

The hat-trick attempt was the only blip in an accomplished display by Fleming on a

bowler-friendly pitch at the Colombo Cricket Club.

"It was obviously good bowling on that deck, which we won't see too much of here," he said.

"But still it's important to get your rhythm and line and length, that was the most pleasing thing about it plus getting wickets obviously helps."

"At training I was working

See page 14

Steve Waugh

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Frustration with fasties

COLOMBO, Sept 20 (Internet report): The Australian cricket squad departed the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo on Sunday with just one fast bowler at peak fitness.

With the second Test against Sri Lanka starting in Galle on Wednesday, the ill-fated pace brigade was further hit yesterday with an injury to newcomer Scott Muller.

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BOA delegate for SOCOG conference

Sports Reporter

Noted footballer and the deputy secretary-general of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chumra will leave the capital for Sydney tomorrow to attend a three-day briefing arranged by the 2000 Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG).

According to BOA secretary-general Zafar Imam, representatives of different National Olympic Committees (BOA in Bangladesh) are scheduled to join the briefing where SOCOG will report on their progress in preparation for next year's Olympic Games.

The briefing will be held on September 24, 25 and 26.

Although secretary-generals of NOCs were invited to the Sydney briefing, Zafar Imam could not comply as he is considered close to him.

It is a well-known fact that Tamal Nadu Cricket Association President AC Muthiah has

the backing of the dominant Jagmohan Dalmiya group in

BCCI to take over as president from incumbent Raj Singh Dungarpur whose term is coming to an end.

In fact, the Hyderabad Cricket Association is backing Joshi for the post. Joshi reportedly has the support of the rival group headed by former BCCI chief IS Bindra and as such a defeat for the former in the presidential election, if at all he decides to contest for the post, would surely upset Wadekar's apperance.

If HCA sides with Joshi once he decides to contest, Shivpal Yadav's term as selector may also come to an end, the sources said and added that Joshi has virtually no chance of becoming the president as per the current equations.

Already the other four selec-

tors are reportedly upset at the

selection committee chairman

for deciding on selectorial mat-