

Brett on verge of Test cap

PERTH, Dec 18: Express bowler Brett Lee, whose action has been questioned in un-sourced reports from India, is set to make his Test debut against India in Melbourne on Boxing Day after a searing workout here Saturday, reports AFP.

Lee, rated the fastest bowler in Australia, deserved even better figures than his 4-84 for New South Wales against Western Australia in a Sheffield Shield clash, and now appears almost certain to be in the home country's 12-man squad to be named Tuesday.

Lee, 23, generated scorching pace, swung the ball menacingly and troubled all the Western Australian batsmen at the WACA ground.

Australian captain Steve Waugh has made it clear he wants Lee in the national side, and the youngster's hostile exhibition just about guarantees the skipper will get his way.

Lee has already given India's batsmen the jitters, capturing seven wickets when his State met the tourists in Sydney and a match-winning four when playing for the Prime Minister's XI against them in Canberra.

The un-sourced reports about the legitimacy of his action surfaced after those decisive performances, gaining wide exposure in Australian newspapers.

No official action has been taken or is expected. While Lee is probably on the threshold of an international career, batsman Mark Waugh may be about to step down from the top stage after another two failures for New South Wales in the same game.

Gymnasts off to Patiala

A 15-member Bangladesh team left for India on Friday to take part in the inaugural Central South Asian gymnastics championships.

The competition involving Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and hosts India will be held in Patiala from December 23 to 25.

The members of the Bangladesh team: Mamun Ali, Zahidul Islam, Zahirul Islam, Delwar Hossain, Moshfequr Rahman, Dulal Gomez, Sharmin Sultana, Sharif Marzina, Karima Akhter, Hosna Banu, Jannatul Ferdous, Mostafizur Rahman (manager), Akram Ali (coach) and Nazrul Hossain (coach).



Scene from the fifth round of the Prime Bank International Rating chess competition at the NSC yesterday. — Star photo

Kanu can go if he wants

LONDON, Dec 18: Peter Hill Wood, chairman of English Premiership giants Arsenal, said on Saturday that Nigeria's two-time African footballer of the year Nwankwo Kanu could leave after he rejected a vastly improved payrise, reports AFP.

Hill Wood, who does not want a repeat of the Nicolas Anelka farce which dragged on all summer till the sullen French striker left on a 37-million-dollar deal to Real Madrid, told the Sun newspaper that the club's offer of 20,000 pounds a week (32,000 dollars), a pay rise of 8,000 pounds a week, had been turned down by Kanu.

Advisors for the 23-year-old former Inter Milan and Ajax star, whose contract runs till 2003, have told Hill Wood that he wants 35,000 pounds a week.

"We have kept our part of the bargain. When Kanu first arrived we agreed his salary would be reviewed after a certain period," Hill Wood said.

"We have stuck to that and made him what we think is a fabulous, generous offer."

"It is also the last one. Most definitely it is the last one."

"Kanu is under contract and we want him to stay. But if he finds our offer not good enough then he will have to quit to find it somewhere else," the Old Etonian added.

Hill Wood insisted that the club would not bow to players' demands, and was determined to keep a lid on wages.

"Football is heading for disaster unless we, the clubs, start to say no to the players," he said.

"There has to be a ceiling over salaries—and we have reached it. It is a huge concern

failure of efforts—which have so far been officially refused—to secure long-term United Kingdom entry visas for some of the player's family to stay with him in London.

Earlier this month Kanu won the African Footballer of the Year award for the second time—the first was in 1996 when he captained Nigeria to victory at the Atlanta Olympics.

Moldovan won't take it anymore

BUCHAREST, Dec 18: Romanian World Cup striker Viorel Moldovan wants to quit his Turkish first division club Fenerbahce "as quickly as possible" because of violence by the club's fans, he told Romanian daily ProSport on Friday, reports AFP.

"It's crazy, it's a jungle. Fans violently beat our goalkeeper Rustu on Tuesday," the former Coventry City forward said.

Rustu Reber, also national team goalkeeper and Fenerbahce captain, sustained facial injuries after being punched and kicked after his team lost Turkish Cup a match to a Second Division outfit.

"I want to go as quickly as possible, although my contract expires next summer," said Moldovan, who has asked his agent to find him another club.

"The fans are animals, savages. I am scared to go out into the street," he added.

England bowlers toil

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Dec 18: England, battling against energy-sapping heat, employed six bowlers but managed to take only one wicket in the first session of their four-day encounter against a Combined Eastern Cape XI at Buffalo Park here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Veteran Border player Brad White (28) and his 23-year-old second-wicket partner James Bryant (29) put on 53 to take the home side to lunch on 82 for one wicket in their first innings.

With the mercury already hitting 33 degrees soon after play began, England captain Alec Stewart was forced to make constant bowling changes, with little success.

The tourists contributed towards their own hard labour by missing out on a chance to get rid of White when he was on 13.

The ball flew hard to Darren Maddy's right in the gully and, although the fielder got a hand to it, he couldn't hold on and the batsman trotted through for a single.

The luckless bowler was Darren Gough, who soon had his revenge when he had White's opening partner Carl Bradfield caught at slip by Mark Butcher for 11 just two balls later.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at lunch on the first day of the four-day clash between the touring England side and a Combined Eastern Cape XI at Buffalo Park here on Saturday:

COMBINED EC XI: First innings
B White not out 28
C Bradfield c Butcher b Gough 11
J Bryant not out 29
Extras: (lb-7, nb-5, w-2) 14
Total: (for one wkt in 26 overs) 82
Fall of wicket: 1-29

Bowler O M R W
Gough 6 1 16 1
Silverwood 7 1 16 0
Tudor 5 0 15 0
Hamilton 5 2 10 0
Swann 3 2 11 0
Adams 2 0 8 0

Hair to umpire in Sydney

HOBART, Dec 18 (Reuters/AFP): Australian umpire Darrell Hair, who clashed with India's Sourav Ganguly in a recent tour match, was named today to officiate in their third and final Test against Australia.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) announced that Hair and Zimbabwe's Ian Robinson would be the umpires in the third Test, starting in Sydney on January 2.

Hair officiated in India's ill-tempered match against New South Wales earlier this month, in which he and acting Indian captain Ganguly clashed.

India were warned for dissent for disputing decisions, with Hair and Ganguly exchanging words.

Englishman David Shepherd will officiate in the second Test starting in Melbourne on December 26, alongside Australia's Steve Davis.

Missing from the list was Australian umpire Daryl Harper, who gave India's captain Sachin Tendulkar out in controversial circumstances in the first Test in Adelaide.

Tendulkar was given out without scoring after ducking into an attempted bounce from Australian paceman Glenn McGrath. The ball did not bounce as high as expected, skidding through and striking Tendulkar on the shoulder as he was crouching down.

The Indians, meanwhile, showed no discontent at the news that controversial umpire Hair will stand in the third and final Test at Sydney.

Hair officiated a worldwide row three years ago by calling Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing.

Media reports suggesting the tourists may object to Hair supervising a Test match were vehemently denied by Kapil Dev.

"We have no objection to Hair or anyone standing in our matches," Kapil said.

"The umpire is doing his job. We are doing ours. There is no problem between the two of us."

On Thursday, Sachin Tendulkar played down the raging controversy over Australian umpires, saying his touring Indian team had never complained against them.

"I don't think anyone on our side has said anything against the umpiring," Tendulkar said ahead of the four-day match against Tasmania starting on Friday.

"Our jobs is to play cricket and that's what we are concentrating on," he said.

"We have never, and never will, speak against the umpires. They already have a tough job to do."

Tendulkar said the four-day game ahead was a good opportunity to remove the scars of the 285-run defeat at Adelaide.

"The past is behind us, we are looking to the future," the Indian captain said.

Rating chess Rakib going great guns

Young International Master Abdullah-al Rakib extended his all-win record to four in the Prime Bank second international rating chess tournament.

Rakib defeated Mahfuzur Rahman of Ansar to stay atop the table with full four points on completion of the fourth at the NSC chess room on Friday.

Rakib's victory, one of three Biman contenders in the title race, kept his more illustrious teammates IM Zaur Rahman and IM Reefat-bin-Sattar at bay.

Zia, country's top-rated player, and Reefat shared the second position with Fide Master Resaul Haq. They each have three and a half points each.

In this round, Zia defeated Jamil, Reefat won against Nasir and Resaul beat Shaik.

A host of players occupy third place with three points apiece. They are: Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib, Imon, Saifuddin Lovelu, Tyabur Rahman, Abu Sufian, Dewan Shafiul Amin, Nasir, Monir Hossain and Mahabub Ali.

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Cute h'ball

Arambagh KS and Dhaka Mariners Young Club registered massive wins against their respective rivals in the Cute First Division handball league at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, Arambagh defeated Azampur SKKS by 16-9 after leading the first half 9-4.

Mesbah, Ujjal and Zahid scored three goals each for the winners while Saiful netted four for the losers.

In the other match, Dhaka Mariners crushed West Jatra-bari KC (Jr) by 17-2 after dominating the first half 7-0.

Saidur struck four goals while Reefat and Hanif netted three each for the winners while Zaman and Murad scored one goal each for the losers.

2000 Olympics Soccer qualifiers to be held in USA

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania, Dec 18: The men's final qualifying tournament for the 2000 Olympics will be held in Hershey in April, the US Soccer Federation and Football Confederation announced Friday, reports AP.

The 10-game, 10-day Olympic qualifier will be played at Hersheypark Stadium April 21-30, 2000. Two finalists will be chosen to join the round of 16 at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Hosts press home

From page 13
Parore run out 8
Nash c Powell b King 6
Wiseman not out 0
Extras: (lb-4, lb-9, nb-16, w-3) 32
Total: (All out in 130.2 overs) 393
Fall of wkts: 1-61; 1-67; 3-107; 4-162; 5-215; 6-258; 7-374; 8-379; 9-388; 10-393

Bowler O M R W
Walsh 29 4 81 2
Rose 27 4 103 0
Rannaraine 36 10 82 3
King 26 2 81 4
Powell 5 2 13 0
Adams 7 1 20 0

WEST INDIES: Second innings
Griffith not out 0
Campbell not out 0
Total: (no loss in one over) 0
Bowler O M R W
Vettori 1 1 0 0



Bordeaux striker Lilian Laslande (L) takes a shot at the Rennes goal during French First Division contest at Bordeaux on December 17. — AFP photo

PSG do Monaco a favour

PARIS, Dec 18: Monaco go into the next millennium as French League leaders after Paris Saint-Germain's 1-0 defeat away to Auxerre on Friday night.

A 79th minute goal by former captain and substitute Gerald Baticle denied PSG their fifth straight win and a tie at the top with Monaco, in action Saturday against bottom club Montpellier.

In Friday's other game Bordeaux reignited their own league hopes with a 1-0 win at home to Rennes to climb two places into fifth.

PSG coach Philippe Bergeroo said before the trip to Guy Roux country that he'd settle for a goalless draw, and with less than a quarter of an hour remaining that's how it was looking.

But 11 minutes from time Baticle, brought on for Stephane Guivarch shortly before, connected brilliantly with a floating cross from Finn Teemu Tainio lurking in the

left hand corner to wreck PSG's night and their coach's pre-match forecast.

This was by no means the cleanest of affairs, there were more cards handed out than at a village whist drive.

PSG, playing their 1,000th First Division game, were the main culprits with four bookings, including captain Ali Benarbia.

Bordeaux's winning margin could have been greater against Rennes such was the Girondins domination.

Rennes' stopper Christophe Revault was largely to thank for keeping the damage to a minimum.

But French international Sylvain Wilford broke the deadlock with a deft lob which soared high over the hapless keeper's head in the 52nd minute.

This was Wilford's 10th goal of the season, and none can have been so important to boost morale in his team's camp.

Rennes' one big chance of levelling came in the 86th minute but Shabani Nonda's strike went over the bar.

The only dampener on Bordeaux's evening was the sending off for a vicious two legged tackle by Francois Grenet with one minute remaining.

STANDINGS
French league table after Friday's games (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Monaco	19	12	3	4	40	17	39
Paris SG	20	11	3	6	30	22	36
Lyon	19	10	4	5	23	18	34
Auxerre	20	10	4	6	25	23	34
Bordeaux	20	8	6	6	31	23	30
St Etienne	19	8	5	6	30	27	29
Sedan	19	8	4	7	27	28	28
Marseille	19	6	8	5	26	23	26
Rennes	20	7	5	8	26	26	26
Troyes	19	8	2	9	22	28	26
Bastia	19	6	7	6	24	22	25
Nantes	19	4	11	4	22	19	23
Strasbourg	19	7	2	10	21	23	23
Nancy	19	6	5	8	19	27	23
Lens	19	5	5	9	25	28	20
Le Havre	19	5	4	10	19	31	19
Montpellier	19	3	4	11	20	31	14

Villa want Hammers' ouster

LONDON, Dec 18: Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis insisted Saturday West Ham should be thrown out of the League Cup—and his team reinstated, reports AFP.

The London team have pleaded with the English Football League for leniency after playing an ineligible player, Manny Omoiyimi, in Wednesday's quarterfinal victory over Villa at Upton Park.

Villa lodged a complaint to the league after discovering Omoiyimi played in the second round of the competition for Gillingham.

And Ellis is adamant it should be his team—not the Hammers—who tackle Leicester or Fulham in the semifinals.

He told BBC radio: "This is a very strict rule—you can't play the same player in two different clubs in the same year in the same competition."

The league were due to meet Saturday—and Ellis is hoping for a favourable result.

"I believe the league are discussing it today with West Ham—whether they let us know the result today or not I do not know but I certainly hope so."

"They've lost the game I'm afraid. We would have loved to have played Carbone but he had already played for Sheffield Wednesday so we couldn't play him—we left him at home."

"It's quite unfair—if West Ham's administration has failed they are in trouble."

Villa, who lost the match on penalties after a 2-2 draw, hope the game will at the very least be replayed, while the worst-case scenario for West Ham would be that they are kicked out of the competition.

Hammers' company secretary Graham Mackrell insisted they had acted in good faith and that no further action was necessary.

He said: "When the player returned from his loan period West Ham United believed he had not played for Gillingham in the Worthington Cup competition."

"West Ham United now acknowledge this was not the case but wish to emphasise that the club acted in good faith. Manny appeared for only six minutes against Aston Villa and had no influence on the result of the tie."

Football League spokesman John Nagle said: "The league is keen to achieve the most equitable solution to this situation and is hoping to make an announcement in the next few days."

Derby sign up Strupar

DERBY, England, Dec 18: Belgian international striker Branko Strupar on Friday completed a 3-million-pound move to English Premiership side Derby County, reports AFP.

Striker Strupar, 29, agreed personal terms and passed a medical on Friday morning after the Rams and Belgian side Genk settled on the fee on Wednesday night.

Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
(A Company of Petrobangla)

Invitation of Offers for Consultancy Services for Habiganj-Ashuganj Section of Rashidpur-Ashuganj Gas Transmission Loopline Project

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

Ref: GTCL/A/(PM)/10.82

Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL), a company of Petrobangla, intends to construct a High Pressure Gas Transmission Pipeline from Habiganj to Ashuganj. It is decided to appoint a Competent Firm for Consultancy for Supervision of the Design, Build, Test & Commissioning of the aforesaid Gas Transmission Pipeline. The consultancy will be funded from own source.

GTCL hereby invites offers (Bids) from interested consultant firms (Bidders) having proven track records for at least 5 (five) years in providing consultancy services in the engineering, design and construction supervision of cross country Gas Transmission Pipeline, and associated facilities.

A complete set of bidding document containing the scope of work, terms of reference and other relevant information may be obtained by the interested eligible bidder(s) on submission of a written application to the General Manager/Project Manager at the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$ 200.00 or equivalent taka.

Bidder(s) may also obtain further information from the following address:

Mr. Ahsan Uddin, General Manager/Project Manager
Rashidpur-Ashuganj Gas Transmission Loopline Project
House # 23, Road # 03, Sector # 03
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230
Bangladesh
Phone: 881-5683, Fax: 880-1-8914780

Bid documents will be available for sale during office hours at the above address from 20th December, 1999 to 2nd February, 2000. All offers (Bids) must be submitted to the above address by 12:30 hours on 3rd February 2000 and will be opened by 12:30 hrs on the same day in presence of bidders, if any.

GTCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason.

GTPR/30/99
GD-1207

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Natore

Notice Inviting Tenders
No. 19/1999-2000

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from sp. 1st class, 1st class, 2nd class and approved sanitary and electric contractors of PWD for the undermentioned works according to their financial limit and as per category and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. I/II-Rajshahi/Pabna/Naogaon up to 12:00 Noon on 28-12-99 in their tender box kept for the purpose; in the room of the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. I/II, Rajshahi/Pabna/Naogaon and Sub-Divisional Engineer, PWD Sub-Divn., Nababganj and will be opened by them in their respective offices on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Copy of VAT Registration and TIN certificate duly attached and original money receipt for purchasing tender document must submit along with the tender, otherwise the tender will be summarily rejected.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Class of contractors entitled to submit tender
1.	Const. of several Dist. Register Office in the different places in Bangladesh—one at Natore during the year 1999-2000.			
a)	Sub-head: Sanitary and water supply arrangement. Group No. I (one).	Tk. 3,71,836/-	Tk. 7,437/-	Sp. class I, combined class I, class I, class II approved and valid sanitary contractor of PWD.
b)	Sub-head: Internal electrical installation and electrification with service connection. Group No. II (two).	Tk. 5,62,130/-	Tk. 11,243/-	Sp. class I, combined class I, class I, and class II approved & valid electric contractor of PWD who have valid ABC & BC supervisory licence.

Contract documents, consisting of Bangladesh Form No. 2911, schedule of items of work, additional terms and conditions can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned, Executive Engineer, PWD, Division No. I/II-Rajshahi/Pabna/Naogaon and Sub Divn. Engineer, Nababganj on payment of usual charge (non-refundable). The tender form may be purchased by the contractor himself or representative on production of authorisation letter bearing the signature of the representative duly attested by the contractor along with the registration book in any day during office hours up to 27-12-99. No tender forms and schedule of items of work will be sold after 5:00 PM on 27/12/99. Election of contractor will be made through lottery if same lowest rate is quoted by the tenderer. Lottery will be held on 10-01-2000 at 11:30 AM in the office chamber of the Superintending Engineer, PWD Circle, Rajshahi.

DFP-27695-12/12
G-2120

Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Natore.



Paris St. Germain's Pierre Ducrocq (L) tries to evade Auxerre's Kuami Aghoh during their French First Division encounter at Auxerre on December 17. — AFP photo