

Fatwa for breaking Ramadan fast!

CASABLANCA, Dec 27: African champions Raja Casablanca have been allowed to break the fast during the month of Ramadan to allow them to compete in next month's first ever world club football championships, according to a press report here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Morocco daily Al Itihad Al Ichiraki reported a theologian, invited by the club to rule on the question, imposed a fatwa, or religious decree, permitting staff and players to postpone the fast to a later date.

The eight-strong January 5 to 15 inaugural event in Rio de Janeiro is the brainchild of FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

During Ramadan, Muslims abstain from eating, drinking and sexual relations during daylight hours.

The Ramadan fast, one of the five pillars of Islam, can be postponed because of illness, travel, war, or a mission important to the interests of the nation. However it is generally believed the fast must then be observed at a later, convenient date.

Rain slows

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ing of the Indian attack with his 10th half-century.

Srinath, who gave India the initial breakthrough on Sunday, was hammered for 101 runs from his 22 overs.

Prasad went for 88 runs from his 24, while Agarkar finished with one for 64 from 22.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the second day of the second cricket Test between Australia and India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 138-3)

Slater c Srinath b V Prasad 91

Blewett b Srinath 2

Langer lbw b Srinath 8

M Waugh lbw b Agarkar 41

S Waugh c M Prasad b V Prasad 32

Ponting not out 53

Gilchrist not out 77

Extras: (lb-8, b-1, nb-12, w-1) 22

Total: (For five wickets) 332

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-28; 3-123; 4-192; 5-197

To bat: S Warner, D Fleming, G McGrath, B Lee

Bowler

Srinath 22 4 101 2

Agarkar 22 6 64 1

V Prasad 24 6 88 2

Ganguly 2 0 10 0

Kumble 23 3 60 0

Nasser holds England together



DURBAN, Dec 27 (Reuters/AFP): England captain Nasser Hussain led from the front with his eighth Test century before bad light followed by rain put a premature end to the second day's play in the third Test against South Africa today.

When play ended 16.2 overs early, Hussain was 146 not out with England on 366 for nine in their first innings.

Hussain has been at the crease for a marathon 10 hours and 35 minutes during which he has faced 463 balls and hit 17 fours.

Hussain's century, on the board in seven hours and 45 minutes, off 343 balls, was the third slowest Test hundred by an Englishman. So his innings is the fifth-longest by an England batsman.

Only two batsmen have batted longer for England before reaching three figures. Peter Richardson took 488 minutes against South Africa in Johannesburg in 1956-57 while Clive Readley needed one minute less against New Zealand in Auckland in 1977-78.

It was Hussain's eighth Test hundred and his first since making 105 against South Africa at Lord's in 1998.

With Hussain at the crease when play ended was Phil Tufnell, on night, who found himself taking guard after South Africa claimed six wickets for 72 runs.

Two of them fell in consecutive deliveries to medium-pacepacer Hansie Cronje, who trapped Andrew Flintoff and Andy Caddick lbw to end the day with two for five in seven overs.

The bulk of England's runs came in a fourth-wicket stand of 156 between Hussain and Alec Stewart, which ended an hour after lunch when Stewart was trapped lbw by an inswinger from paceman Mornantau Hayward for 95.

Stewart was at the crease for 202 minutes, faced 149 deliveries and hit 15 fours in his attacking innings.

At tea, England had reached 336 for five.

On Sunday, England, jeered by a holiday crowd of 15,500, crawled to 135 for two on the opening day of the third Test at Kingsmead today.

Bad light ended play 4.5 overs early, saving the tourists from the embarrassing possibility

bility of compiling the lowest score in a full day's play in South Africa.

Peter May's 1956-7 England team tallied just 138 in a day in Port Elizabeth.

England captain Nasser Hussain won the toss and elected to bat despite concerns that the pitch would be underprepared because of last week's heavy rain.

However, the surface turned out to be sound offering little movement of the seam and no swing through the air despite the humid conditions.

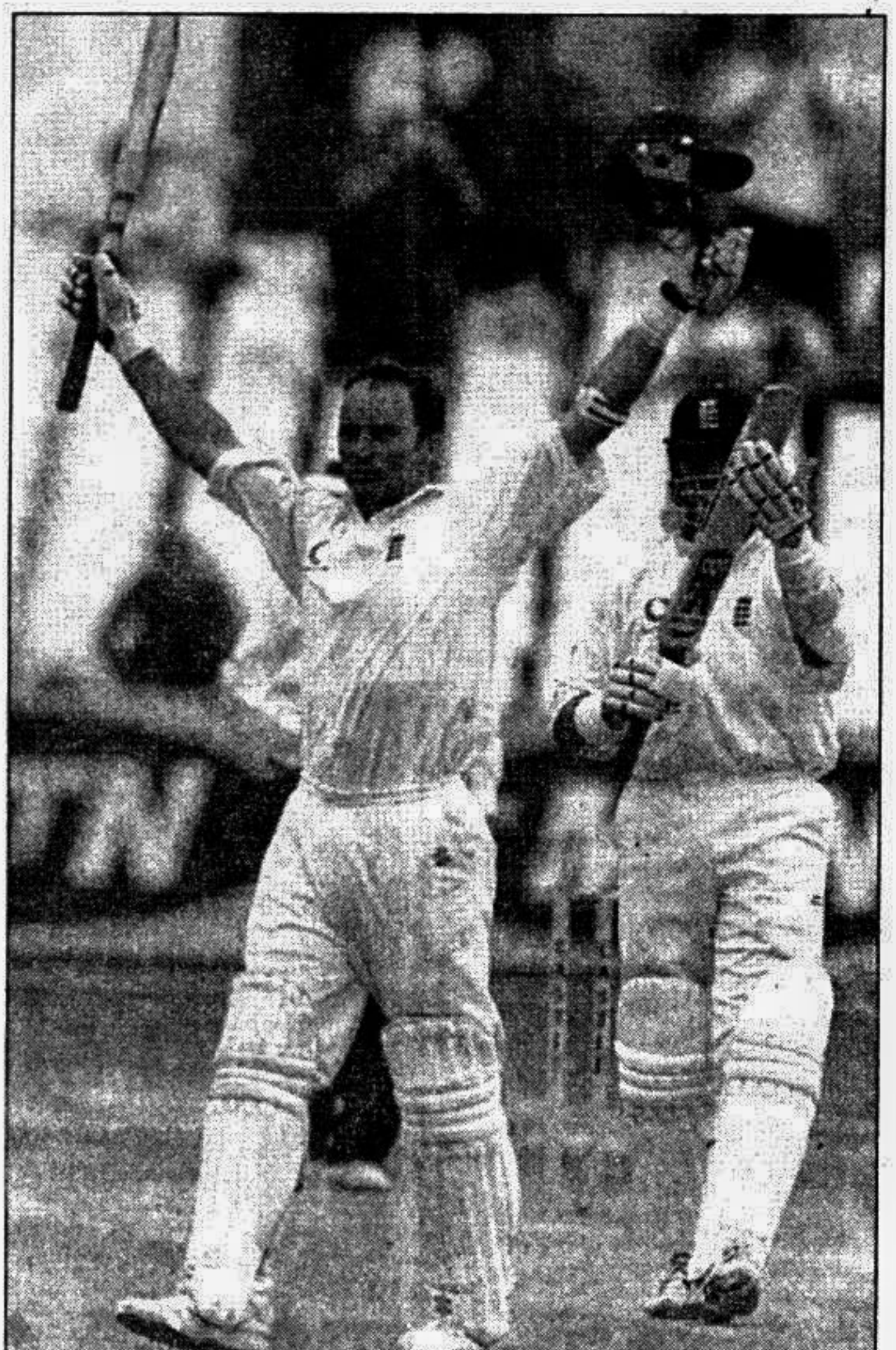
South Africa's bowlers soon

began to feel the 44 degree heat but the English batsmen failed to take advantage of the unthreatening attack and concentrated on survival rather than scoring runs.

"I'm sure their plan is to lay a foundation and press on from there," said South African coach Graham Ford. "They can't continue like this."

England coach Duncan Fletcher sympathised with the spectators.

"It must be frustrating for the public, but from our point of view it's important that we're only two down," he said.



England captain Nasser Hussain acknowledges the crowd's applause after reaching his century on the second day at Durban yesterday.

Second Division Cricket Wins for Railway, Amorjoti, Progati

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Railway, Amorjoti and Dhanmondi Progati won their respective Acme Second Division Cricket League matches at different city venues yesterday.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Bangladesh Railway defeated Rupali Bank by 14 runs. Batting first, Railway scored 190 before being all out in 40 overs. In reply, Rupali Bank could manage 176 despite a superb 73 from opener Azam.

It was a replay match for the teams who had earlier met on December 15 at the Mohakhali T&T ground. That game had to be abandoned after only 17.4 overs when hoodlums inter-

BRIEFSCORES

Bangladesh Railway vs Rupali Bank

Venue: T & T Ground (MOS)

Bangladesh Railway: 190 all out in 40 overs (Shakil 34, Zia 27, Shiplu 22; Obaidul 3/43, Shariful 2/28)

Rupali Bank: 176 for 8 wickets in 40 overs (Azim 73, Shariful 29; Aftab 3/36; Arafat 2/32)

Result: Bangladesh Railway won by 14 runs.

Amorjoti vs Azad Boys

Venue: Dhanmondi Club Ground

Azad Boys: 149 all out in 38.2 overs (Himel 26, Jewel 23; Imran 2/16, Rajon 2/23, Farhad 2/33)

Amorjoti: 150 for 6 wickets in 34.3 overs (Hasan 62 not out; Badsha 3/35, Mohin 2/13)

Result: Amorjoti won by 4 wickets.

Dhanmondi Progati vs East End Club

Venue: Uttara Friends Club Ground

Dhanmondi Progati: 227 all out in 39.3 overs (Sadik 53, Rana 53; Ashraf 4/21, Sahabuddin 2/45, Mamun 2/42)

East End: 162 all out in 37.5 overs (Mahmud 28, Ashraf 25; Masud 2/23)

Result: Dhanmondi Progati won by 65 runs.

vened.

Away at the Uttara Friends Club Ground, Dhanmondi Progati recorded a comprehensive 65 runs win over East End Club.

Sent into bat, Progati amassed a massive 227 in 39.3 overs with Sadik notching a blazing 53. The lower-order bat clouted five sixes and a quartet of fours in his 25-ball knock. Sadik apart, Rana scored 53 off 64 balls.

In reply, East End were bundled out for 162 in 37.5 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Club Ground, Amorjoti, aided by an unbeaten half century from Hasan, recorded a facile four-wicket win over Azad Boys.

Hasan scored 62 off 66 balls as Amorjoti, chasing Azad's 149, reached 150 for the loss of six wickets in 34.3 overs.

WC qualifiers

Zamorano declares himself available

SANTIAGO, Dec 27: Inter Milan's Ivan Zamorano said he would play for Chile in all of their 2002 World Cup qualifiers, which begin in Buenos Aires on March 28, according to the Mercury newspaper here on Sunday, reports AFP.

"I have given my word," said Chile skipper Zamorano, who flew back to Italy this weekend after spending Christmas with his family.

Yashin Russia's athlete of century

MOSCOW, Dec 27 (Reuters): Legendary Soviet goalkeeper Lev Yashin has been voted Russia's athlete-of-the-century, the country's federation of sports journalists announced on Monday.

The tall keeper, dressed entirely in black, played more than 600 games for Dynamo Moscow and earned 78 caps for his country.

Yashin was a member of four World Cup squads, leading the Soviet Union to the Olympic gold medal in 1956 and the first European championship title four years later.

He also guided the Soviet Union to the semifinals of the 1966 World Cup in England. His agility and anticipation helped him save more than 150 penalties in a career which spanned more than two decades.

Yashin was named European footballer-of-the-year in 1963 and is the only goalkeeper to have won the award.

He died of cancer in 1990 at the age of 60.

Greco-Roman wrestler Alexander Karelin, who won three Olympic and 10 world heavyweight titles, came second and Soviet ice hockey star Vsevolod Bobrov, who also excelled in soccer, finished third.

Lazio serious about Rivaldo

ROME, Dec 27: Italian Serie A giants Lazio are determined to continue their bid to sign Brazil's newly-crowned Footballer of the Year Rivaldo from Spanish side Barcelona, the Corriere dello Sport newspaper reported Monday, reports AFP.

Lazio said last week they were ready to pay a record transfer sum of 62.4 million dollars to sign Rivaldo and club president Sergio Cragnotti said Monday that he plans to make an official offer to Barca during the first week of January.

"I am waiting for a signal from Barcelona that a deal is possible," Cragnotti told the newspaper.

Lazio will face competition from Italian rivals Parma, Roma and Inter Milan, as well as English champions Manchester United, should Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal agree to release his star midfielder.



Manchester United's Teddy Sheringham puts the ball away in the Premier League match against Bradford on Boxing Day. The Reds won 5-0.

Billie championed women's tennis

LONDON, Dec 27 (Reuters): When Martina Hingis amassed her first million in prize money aged 17, she could thank a fireman's daughter from California who forced tennis officials to accept women were equal to men.

Billie Jean King was the most successful women's player of the century, winning 38 Grand Slam titles including six Wimbledon singles titles with finesse and a determination considered unladylike in the 1960s.

Off-court King used similar grit to force the tennis establishment to accept professionalism was not something they could just sweep under the carpet at their privileged club.

Perhaps her greatest moment, and certainly the biggest gamble of her career, came on September 20, 1973, when she beat Bobby Riggs in the 'Battle of the Sexes' at the Houston Astrodome.

Riggs, Wimbledon men's champion in 1953, challenged King to a duel. After initially refusing, King realised that ignoring the 55-year-old would undermine her life's work of trying to improve the status of women's tennis.

King won 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 and the way was opened for the likes of her protegee Martina Navratilova, who built on King's legacy to become one of the fittest and toughest players to play the game, to become multi-millionaires.

It had nothing to do with tennis but everything to do with

loosened the hold of the amateur tennis ethic that held sway from 1900.

France provided much of the artistry, laced with a strong will to win, in the early years of the century. The four musketeers of the men's game were led by baseliner Rene Lacoste who won seven Grand Slam titles in the 1920s.

In the women's game Suzanne Lenglen won Wimbledon five years in succession from 1919, landing the first blow for women's emancipation by wearing pleated skirts and vests instead of the old long skirts and corsets.

American Bill Tilden, perhaps the greatest strategist in the game's history, was the Frenchman's main rival in the 1920s, winning the US Open seven times, before Don Budge and Fred Perry took the game to another level.

Perry was the first man to win each Grand Slam title before, in 1936, joining the professional circuit that operated outside the amateur game.

Budge went one better in 1938 by winning the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US titles before he in turn took the money and left.

As professionalism took hold, the explosion in prize money in the 1970s gave birth to a generation of Americans who rid the game of its last vestiges of old-time gentility.

Jimmy Connors was the main proponent of in-your-face tennis. He regarded himself as an entertainer, many fans thought he was foolish but he proved himself a battler without equal in the modern game.

After Jimmy came John. On a bad day McEnroe was the most terrible of professionalists' children, but on a good day there has been no other who could stroke a tennis ball so beautifully.

McEnroe's rivalry with Bjorn Borg, the ice cold Swedish baseliner, took the men's game to heights it has never scaled since and his Wimbledon final of 1980 could lay claim to

being the best in the televised era.

Borg won in five sets to claim his fifth successive title. This year Sampras, who was number one for a record six years running in the 1990s, took his tally to six Wimbledon titles to equal Emerson's overall Grand Slam record.

WOMEN'S GAME

The women's game had its own rivalry in the 1980s between players of different styles and temperaments.

Five times champion Navratilova, born in Czechoslovakia, took on fellow American Chris Evert five times in the Wimbledon final and the superbly athletic Navratilova won all of them.

Evert won 18 Grand Slam singles titles. Navratilova also won 18 Grand Slam singles and an astonishing 31 doubles.

In the closing years of the century, women's tennis has overhauled its men's equivalent in terms of entertainment, and attracts sponsorship and prize money of equal munificence.

The retirement of Boris Becker, the youngest Wimbledon men's winner at 17, and Stefan Edberg left Sampras to dominate to the point of tedium while Steffi Graf, Hingis, Monica Seles and the Williams sisters thrilled fans with their duels.

Graf, who combined grace with Navratilova's power and athleticism, dominated the 1990s, winning 22 Grand Slam titles, with her fearsome forehand.

Seles was her equal for a couple of years in the early part of the decade but after being stabbed in the back by a deranged spectator during a match in April 1993 she never fully recovered.

As the decade ended, Las Vegas-born Andre Agassi rode to the rescue of men's tennis by winning the French and US Opens. He then swept Graf off her feet in a sudden romance and carried her off into the sunset of the 20th century.

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Gopalganj

RHD Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 for the following works:

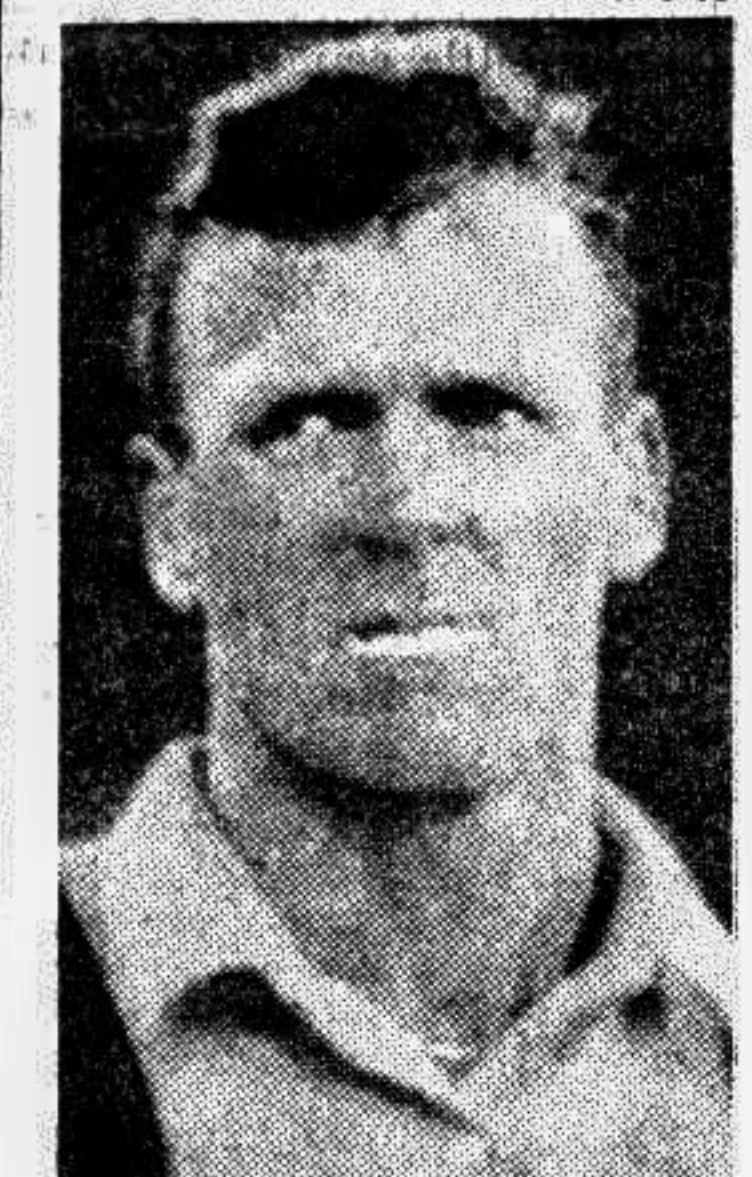
1. Tender Notice No : 09 (1999-2000) EE/GRD.
2. Name of work : Construction of RCC deck girder bridge of different length at different KM of different road under Gopalganj Road Division during the year 1999-2000 Eng.
3. Estimated cost : As per group list.
4. Earnest money : -do-
5. Time allowed : -do-
6. Head of accounts : 266-C A.
7. Eligibility of contractor : As per group list.
8. Name of office where tender documents will be sold : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segunbagicha, Dhaka; Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalganj/ Faridpur/ Madaripur /Sariatpur/Rajbari/Barisal/Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Gopalganj/ Bhatipara/ Kotailpara/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Gopalganj.
9. Name of offices to receive tender bids : a) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. b) Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal. c) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Faridpur. d) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. e) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalganj.
10. Last date of selling tender : Upto the office hours of 3-1-2000E/20-9-1406BS.
11. Last date and time of receipt of tender : Upto 12.30 PM of 4-1-2000E/21-9-1406BS.
12. Date, time and place of opening tender : At 11:00 AM of 12-1-2000E/29-9-1406BS. In the office of the Executive Engineer, Road Division, Gopalganj.
13. Lottery date, time & place (if necessary) : At 11:00 AM of 17-1-2000E/4-10-1406BS. In the office of the Executive Engineer, Road Division, Gopalganj.
14. Tender cost (excluding BD Form No 2911) : Tk 1,500/- (for all groups) per set.
15. Group list :-

Gr No	Name of work with location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
I (One)	Construction of 15.57 Metre long RCC deck girder bridge at 6th KM of Mukku-Kotalipara-Suagram road under Gopalganj Road Division during 1999-2000 Eng.	Tk 55,80,678/-	1,11,614/-	130 (one hundred thirty) days from the date of issue of work order	'A' to 'C' special category contractor of "RHD".
II (Two)	Construction of 18.57 Metre long RCC deck girder bridge at 4th KM of Tarashi-Sonakhali road under Gopalganj Road Division during 1999-2000 Eng.	Tk 64,41,184/-	1,28,824/-	150 (one hundred fifty) days -do-	-do-
III (Three)	Construction of 30.21 Metre long (3span=3x10.07 Metre) RCC deck girder bridge at 3rd KM (3/2) of Khagbari-Radhaganj road under Gopalganj Road Division during 1999-2000 Eng.	Tk 93,53,977/-	1,87,080/-	180 (one hundred eighty) days -do-	-do-
IV (Four)	Construction of 34.71 Metre (3span=3x11.57M) long RCC deck girder bridge at 5th KM Tarashi-Radhaganj road under Gopalganj Road Division during 1999-2000 Eng.	Tk 95,65,886/-	1,91,318/-	-do-	-do-
V (Five)	Construction of 43.71 Metre (3span=3x14.57Metre) long & 6.10M wide RCC deck girder bridge at 3rd KM (3/1) of Khagbari-Radhaganj road under Gopalganj Road Division during 1999-2000 Eng.	Tk 99,98,006/-	1,99,960/-	190 (one hundred ninety) days -do-	-do-
VI (Six)	Construction of 44.00 Metre (4span=4x11.00M) long RCC deck girder bridge at 9th KM (9/1) of Satpar-Signa-Hariara-Ramdia road under Gopalganj-Road Division during 1999-2000 Eng.	Tk 99,99,125/-	1,99,983/-	190 (one hundred ninety) days -do-	-do-

DDP-28474-22/12 G-2171

Md Mostaque Hossain
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Gopalganj

"England have been accused of not valuing their wickets, but we didn't plan to go out there and grind it out." Mark Butcher could have been dismissed by the second ball of the match, bowled by Allan Donald, but Paul Adams at short leg could not hold a difficult chance.



STEWART ... 95 n.o.

tal on seven, the fifth delivery of paceman Mornantau Hayward's first over found the inside edge of Michael Atherton's bat and clattered into the stumps to bowl him for one.

England crept to 44 for one at lunch and 98 for the loss of one further wicket at tea. Butcher and Hussain added 75 for the second wicket before Butcher (48) cut a chinaman from left-arm wrist-spinner Adams to a diving Lance Klusener at point.

South Africa came close to taking a third wicket when Darren Maddy, on one with 90 runs on the board, had a sharp chance dropped by Daryll Cullinan at slip off Adams.

Hussain (51 not out) was one of the chief culprits with a half-century that was almost five hours in the making. His 50 took 213 balls and included five fours.

Donald sent down just seven overs before leaving the field with an upset stomach but Ford said he would be fit to bowl on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third Test between South Africa and England at Kingsmead on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 135-2)

Butcher c Klusener b Adams 48

Atherton b Hayward 1

Hussain not out 146

Maddy c Adams b Donald 24

Stewart lbw b Hayward 95

Adams b Adams 19

Flintoff lbw b Cronje 5

Caddick lbw b Cronje 0

Gough c Klusener b Donald 9

Silverwood c Boucher b Pollock 0

Tuinnell not out 0

Extras: (lb-1, lb-14, w-3, nb-1) 19

Total: (For nine wickets) 366

Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-82; 3-138; 4-294; 5-336; 6-345; 7-345; 8-362; 9-362

Bowler: (to date) O M R W

Donald 23.4 3 67 2

Pollock 20 3 55 1

Hayward 20 3 74 2

Kallis 23 9 38 0

Klusener 17 5 38 0

Adams 43 16 74 2

Cronje 7 5 5 2