Lara aims at two things

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Mar 9: Brian Lara aims to return after his break from cricket to become West Indies' best ever batsman, according to their team performance consultant Dr Rudi Webster, reports Reuters.

"I think we have to support Brian Lara at this stage," Dr Webster urged West Indian cricket supporters on the Caribbean New Agency (CANA) sport radio programme on Wednesday.

"What he has indicated to me is that he wants to return to West Indies cricket after a break - after he has refreshed his batteries - and become the best West Indies batsman ever, that is one of his goals," Dr Webster

"Secondly, he is very keen to establish cooperative and harmonious relationships with all the stake holders in West Indies cricket, the board, the players, the press, the public, and these are his two main objectives at the moment.

"I think we should just give him some time, let him sort out the problems that he has and give him a chance to come back to the game, and then assess him after that."

Lara announced his decision to have a short break from cricket last Thursday, a week after saying he was giving up the West Indies captaincy.

He led West Indies during their crushing series losses - 2-0 in the Tests and 5-0 in the 1 one-dayers - in New Zealand last December and January.

Aghahowa to miss Olympic qualifier

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 9 Teenage Nigerian striker Julius Aghahowa has been ruled out of a crucial Olympic Games Group A qualifier in Angola this weekend, reports AFP.

The Tunisia-based footballer, who rose from obscurity with his timely goals and breathtaking celebratory somersaults at the recent African Nations Cup, is sidelined by a hip injury.

Abahani owe From Page 13

	-						
Bowler	0	M	R	W			
Ashfaq	8	1	32	2			
Bikash	. 7	1	19	0			
Mushfiq	4	0	16	0			
Fahim	7	0	33	1			
Rouf Wain	8.4	0	44	1			
Zahoor	9	0	36	5			
Mustadir	2	0	17	1			
KALABAGAN KC							
Harun c lqbal b M Hussain 22							
Zahoor c Mehrab b Hasibul 14							
Rajin Ibw b Ijaj 14							
Mushfiq lbw b Hussain 53							
Tareq c Naimur b Iqbal 51							
Mustadir not out 9							
Ishtiaq run out 4							
Extras: (lb-3, nb-1, w-16) 20							
Total: (For 6 wkts in 40 overs) 187							
Did not bat: Fahim							
Muntasir, Bikash Ranjan Das,							

Ashfaq Ali and Rouf Wain. Fall of wickets: 1/26; 2/44;

3/61: 4-/65: 5/	176; 6	-187	7	
Bowler	0	M	R	N
Hasibul	3	0	14	
Iqbal	4	0	23	
A Wasim	8	2	20	1
Naimur	8	0	42	
M Hussain	8	0	37	
Ijaj	8	0	37	
Mehrab	1	0	11	1
Result: Aba	ahani	won	by	one

run. Kalabagan KC were given a revised target of 188 to win in 40 overs.

Series lost

From Page 13 Pakistan's problems.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second cricket

Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Arbab Niaz Stadium at Peshawar on Thursday: SRI LANKA: First innings 268 (M Atapattu 75, M Jayawardene 36; Shoaib

Akhtar 5-75) PAKISTAN: First innings 199 (S Anwar 74, Inzamam 58

not out; Muttiah Muralitharan 4-77)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 224 (R Arnold 99; Wagar Younis 3-38, Arshad Khan 3-81)

PAKISTAN: Second innings

(overnight 222 for 8) Anwar c Wickremasinghe Afridi st Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan Inzamam c Jayawardene b Muralitharan Sohail c Dilshan b Jayasuriya Youhana lbw b Muralitharan A Khan c Arnold b Vaas Razzaq lbw b Muralitharan A Zaman b Vaas W Younis c Jayawardene b Muralitharan A Khan e Jayawardene b Muralitharan S Akthar not out Extras: (b-9, lb-6, nb-12) Total: (All out in 70.1 overs) Fall of Wickets: 1-59; 2-77; 3-82; 4-103; 5-145; 6-208; 7-222;

8-222; 9-226; 10-236 Bowler Pushpakumara 10 1 31 Wickremasinghe 12 5 22 0 said Muralitharan 27.1 4 71 6 Jayasuriya

S Anwar retired hurt at 86-3 with his personal score on 30 and returned when his team were at 208-6.

Result: Sri Lanka won by 57 runs to take two-nil lead in the three-match series. Man-of-the-match: Muttiah

Muralitharan. Umpires: John Hampshire (England) and Mohammad Nazir (Pakistan).

TV umpire: Ikram Rabbani. any surface. ICC Match Referee: Brian Hastings (New Zealand).



Action from yesterday's Shah Sports Office Hockey League encounter between Sadharan Bima and Sonali Bank at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium. Bima won 6-1. -Star photo

COTTOL O LOLD A TITUE D TITUE D



confusion, reports AFP. run with two balls to spare as dulkar, took up the chase with India ended on 302 for seven. enthusiasm, smashing 13 runs after South Africa had scored a in the very first over. daunting 301.

A controversial no-ball de- ning, which saw India grab 45 cision in the last over was followed by confusion when Anil Kumble struck a four to win the game, only for the match referee to rule that the fielder had prevented the ball crossing the boundary.

The two teams, who had left the pitch amid ecstatic celebrations by the home supporters, had to return to the field to finish off the game.

After winning the toss and electing to bat first, South Africa raced to their 301 total thanks to two centuries from openers Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs, who shared a magnificent first wicket partnership of 235. Both batsmen tore into the

Indian bowling from the very beginning and at one point were pushing the run rate above eight an over.

The South Africans, buoyant after their 2-0 victory in the Test series, were helped by some atrocious Indian fielding, especially new boy Samir Dighe who missed two simple stump- quick runs without loss, threating chances.

each other run for run, but Shaun Pollock for 31 and wick-Kirsten just pipped his partner ets began to tumble. to his century, which included 11 fours.

style, dancing down the pitch to nantau Hayward for 26, and R Singh not out spinner Sunil Joshi and slug- when Joshi was run out by a Dighe c Cronje b Pollock ging him down the ground for a sharp piece of fielding from glorious six to reach his cen- Derek Crookes, India found Gibbs finally went for 111, for four.

caught by Ajit Agarkar on the other big hit off Joshi.

caught by Ajay Jadeja off the with a faultless display of onebowling of Rahul Dravid for day power hitting.

tourists were looking for a score the-match award. close to 350, but Klusener only

COCHIN, India, was caught and bowled for a

Kallis was joined by skipper tionals against Hansie Cronje and the pair saw South Africa here out the 50 overs to leave India Thursday by three wickets with the stiff task of scoring 302 to

India's opening pair of new captain Saurav Ganguly and Robin Singh hit the winning former skipper Sachin Ten-

But the promising begin-



JADAJA ... m-o-m

ened to come to nothing after The opening pair matched Ganguly was caught behind off

Dravid was out for 17. fol- Joshi run out lowed by Tendulkar who holed Gibbs followed suit in great out to Henry Williams off Morthemselves struggling on 102

Then Ajay Jadeja joined boundary as he went for an- Mohammad Azharuddin and the game swung as the two Kirsten departed soon after batsmen boosted the run rate

Azharuddin finally fell for With the South African total 42, but it was Jadeja who stole on 249 for two and big hitters the show, cracking 92 runs off Jacques Kallis and Lance just 109 balls in a stylish in-Klusener at the crease, the nings that won him the man-of-

Robin Singli provided the survived a few balls before he necessary support with an un-

beaten 42 off 43 to guide India to Mar 9: India won duck trying to drive Dravid victory in the final actionpacked over.

"To be knocked for some 300 runs and then come back and win it was an outstanding effort," said a jubilant Ganguly. "Ajay had a fantastic knock

but everybody chipped in. "We always thought we had enough batting ability and the wicket was a great batting surface, so we just had to make sure we played our shots."

For the South Africans, it was clearly a tough defeat to swallow.

Right until the end we felt we had a good chance of winning it, but unfortunately it didn't turn out that way," said Cronje "But there's a lot of cricket

left to play and we'll be back." SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the first oneday international between South Africa and India on Thursday. SOUTH AFRICA

Kirsten c Jadeja b Dravid Gibbs c Agarkar b Joshi Kallis not out Klusener c and b Dravid Cronje not out Extras: (lb-6, w-9, nb-4) Total: (for 3 wkts in 50 overs) 301 Fall of wickets: 1-235; 2-249; 3-249. Bowler Agarkar

Kumaran Kumble Joshi Tendulkar 1 44 Dravid Singh INDIA

Tendulkar c Williams b Hayward 26 Ganguly c Boucher b Pollock Dravid c Williams b Cronje Azharuddin c Pollock b Kallis Jadeja c Crookes b Cronje Kumble not out

Extras: (b-2, lb-5, w-13, nb-7) Total: (for 7 wkts in 49.4 overs) 302 Fall of wickets: 1-45; 2-70; 3-81: 4-102: 5-180: 6-272: 7-287 OM Bowler 9 0 59 Pollock Cronje Hayward

Williams Result: India won by three

Man-of-the-match: Ajay

In the tri-series against

"I want to keep on doing my

best irrespective of the praise. I

Proshery Sangha and Town Club won their respective matches in the Rajshahi District First Division Cricket League today.

In the first match held at Raishahi Divisional Stadium. Digonta outplayed Shiroil Cricket Club by seven wickets.

Winning the toss, Digonta invited Shiroil to bat first. Shiroil were bundled out for 110 in 30 overs. Mintu made the highest 33 runs. Badsha was the most effective bowler for Digonta grabbing five wickets giving away only nine runs. Tuhin claimed three wickets for

In reply, Digonta reached the target (113) for three wickets in 23.4 overs. Russel scored unbeaten 33. David claimed two wickets for 22.

In the other match of the day Town Club beat Bright Star Club by eight wickets at the Rajshahi Govt College playground. Winning the toss, Bright

Star collected 149 for nine in the stipulated 40 overs. Shohag made the highest 25. Badsha and Shahin claimed two wickets each for 21 and 23 respec-

In reply, Town Club reached the target of 150 runs losing only two wickets in 27 overs. Polash with 61 off 58 balls was the highest scorer followed by 29 each from Mintu and Shahin.

Shield cricket

SYDNEY, March 9 (Reuters): Victoria kept alive their slim hopes of hosting this season's Australian intertstate cricket championship final after a tense start to their four-day match against Tasmania in Hobart.

Needing to beat Tasmania outright and for their final opponents Queensland to lose to South Australia, the Victorians recovered from a shaky start to reach a respectable first innings score of 279-9 declared.

lan Harvey top-scored with 92 after surviving a dropped catch before he had scored a single run while Matthew Mott made 61 after he was also given a life on 31.

Tasmania were seven without loss in reply at the close of play after the Vics declared their first innings during the final session.

Victoria's hopes were given a boost when the opening day of Queensland's match was washed out before a ball was bowled, although match officials said time would be added to the start and finish of the three remaining days to make up for some of the loss. New South Wales' match

against Western Australia in Sydney was also delayed by rain with play beginning three-and-a-half hours late. Time was added on to the fi-

nal session, helping the Blues to reach 205-5 by the close.

Agassi crushes Ondruska

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 9: World number one Andre Agassi turned his first match in a month into a light workout as he crushed South African qualifier Marcos Ondruska in the first round of the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic on Wednesday night, reports

Agassi spent just 65 minutes on court, dismissing Ondruska 6-2, 6-1 in a rematch of the 1993 Scottsdale final in which the American claimed the first of his three titles here.

the way things were going tonight," said Agassi, who picked up his sixth career Grand Slam title this year at the Australian Open.

The top seed had not played since suffering back spasms after helping the United States edge Zimbabwe 3-2 in the first round of the Davis Cup with a pair of singles wins in early February.

Man City shocked by QPR

dreadful errors by goalkeeper Nicky Weaver condemned Manchester City to a shattering home defeat on Wednesday night as they wasted one of their games in hand over the rest of the Division One promotion pack, reporst AFP, Queens Park Rangers

stunned City 3-1 at Maine Road as they suffered their fourth home league defeat of the sea-Weaver, who was presented with an award for Division One

two goals. came at the end of a first half in which City had laid siege to the Londoners' goal but failed to turn their dominance into

goals.

They paid for that when Weaver dropped the ball twice to gift Rangers a comfortable lead. Weaver first spilled a swirling Richard Langley freekick after 37 minutes at the feet of Chris Kiwomya, who punished the error by belting the ball home from close range.

even worse clanger on the stroke of half-time, spilling a long-range shot from Ian Baraclough. Defender Gerard Wiekens got the last touch and was credited with an own goal.

From Staff Correspondent

press release.

Rajshahi cricket From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Mar 9: Diganta Proshery Sangha and Town



An unbeaten century by opener Javed Omar Belim propelled defending champions Biman to their

fifth successive win in the Premier Division Cricket League yesterday. They defeated Victoria

Sporting Club by 79 runs at the BKSP ground in Savar. The right-handed national

unbeaten 102 to help his side score a commanding 245 runs in the stipulated 50 overs with six wickets in hand. His ton was the first scored by a Bangladeshi batsman in

opener carried the bat through

the innings and slammed an

the ongoing Premier League since it began on February 23.

Put in to bat, the national airliner outfit were off to a good start with Javed and Faruque Ahmed sharing a 90-run opening stand. The partnership came to an end when Faruque edged veteran Pakistani leftarm spinner Zahid Ahmed to wicketkeeper Nuruzzaman on 41 in the 24th over.

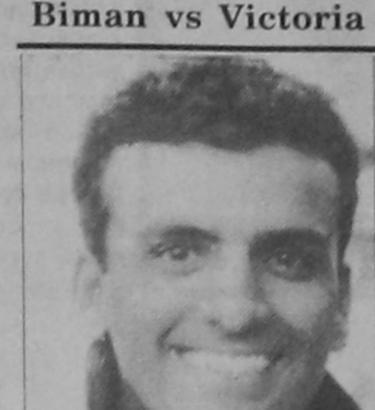
Faruque, the former national skipper, hit three boundaries in his patient 83-ball innings. He has scored 227 runs so far in five innings with three fifties.

After Faruque's departure, Biman lost two wickets in quick succession before Pakistani Manzoor Akhtar joined Javed Omar and shared a 112run fourth wicket partnership in 15.3 overs. The stand was broken in the last ball of the innings when Manzoor was out for 67. He faced only 57 balls for his breezy innings which included one six and six bound-

Javed reached his hundred off 126 balls with nine fours.

Sports Reporter

Premier League



JAVED OMAR With the hundred, he has scored 269 runs in five innings which

also include two fifties. In reply, Victoria were bundled out for 166 in 33.1 overs in the face of some fired up bowling from medium pacer Aminul Islam jr who returned with five

for 36 from eight overs. Opener Sajjad Ahmed topscored for the losers with 46 off 69 balls followed by middle-or-

der Ziaul Haque, who chipped The outcome of the match Islam not out left Biman atop the table alongside Abahani Krira Chakra

each having won five matches in as many games. On the other hand, it was the fourth defeat of Victoria on

SCOREBOARD

completion of their fifth match.

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Biman and Victoria

Sporting Club played at the BKSP ground in Savar

yesterday

BIMAN:

Javed Omar not out Faruque e Nuruzzaman b Zahid 41 Habibul b Zahid Aminul Ibw b Rashed M Akhtar c Iqbal b Zahid Extras: (lb-8, w-9) Total: (For 4 wkts in 50 overs) 245 Did not bat: Atiar Rahman, Hasanuzzaman, Jahangir Alam, Faruque Iqbal, Shariful Haque and Aminul Islam

junior. Fall of wickets: 1/90: 2/100: 3/133; 4/245 Bowler: Shahnewaz Rakib 20 Biplab Sabbir

Zuliid Rashed 0 41 0 29 VICTORIA SC Sajjad run out

Zahid b Aminul Jr Nuruzzaman c Atiar b Aminul Jr Iqbal c M Akhtar b Aminul Jr Zia c & b M Akhtar Rashed c Shariful b F Iqbal Sabbir b F Iqbal Biplab run out Shahnewaz c Aminul Sr b Aminul Jr Rakib b Aminul Jr Extras: (lb-2, nb-4, w-6) Total : (All out in 39.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1/1; 2/15; 3/29; 4/78: 5/133: 6/141: 7/152: 8/156; 9/166 Bowler: Aminul Jr 34 Jahangir M Akhtar Shariful

Result: Biman won by 79 runs.

F Iqbal

IM Reefat Bin Satter (R) and Indian Roktim Bandyopadhyay during their fifth United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament engagement at the NSC yesterday. -Star photo

Aussies after Test mark



a record-breaking limited-overs campaign, Australia are chasing another long-standing mark in

the three-Test series against New Zealand starting Saturday at Eden Park. The world champion Australians extended their unbeaten stretch to 14 in limited-

ing an unassailable 4-0 lead over the Kiwis earlier this month. But after bettering the previous mark of 12 successive wins. set by Graham Gooch's 1991-92 England team, the Australians lost the last game of the series

overs internationals after gain-

to finish 4-1. An Australian all-time Test record of eight successive wins is the next target for Steve Waugh and his team, who extended their winning streak to seven with a win over Zimbabwe and back-to-back 3-0 whitewashes of Pakistan and India.

Shane Warne, who needs five wickets to surpass Dennis Lillee a fifth bowler. as Australia's all-time leading Test wicket taker, is also on target for a personal milestone.

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Lillee took 355 wickets in 70 9 (AP): Fresh from Tests between 1971-84, while Warne has 351 scalps from 81 Warne said the Kiwis were

1976-77.

against West Indies in the last Test series here, is expected to opt for a two-pronged spin at- year. tack featuring Daniel Vettori and Paul Wiseman on a wicket expected to produce turn. And the Australians are expected to reciprocate by elevat-

the starting 11 to supplement the leg-spin of Warne. Although the Australian selectors had little choice, with pace bowler Damien Fleming sidelined with a recurring knee

ing off-spinner Colin Miller to

ligament injury. The New Zealand pace attack will be spearheaded by Chris Australian vice-captain Cairns and Simon Doull, with part-timer Nathan Astle used as

> Glenn McGrath and firebrand fast bowler Brett Lee will lead an Australian attack, with

22 Division

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40 Back

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44 Spoon-

38 Teensy

39 Mis-

Greg Blewett and Mark Waugh sharing the bowling. The Australian batting

lineup was too powerful for Northern Districts in the tour match this week, with Damien Martyn and Justin Langer blasting centuries and Greg Blewett and Matt Hayden notching unbeaten half centuries in the five-wicket win.

The opening combination has caused problems for the New Zealand, 2-0 winners Australians, with the pairing of Blewett and Michael Slater failing at almost every start this

Blewett scored an unbeaten 83 against Northern Districts but Slater struggled and, with Hayden looming close after four half centuries in six innings on tour, the openers are under added pressure to perform in the first Test.

The addition of Miller for Fleming and Martyn, expected to replace the injured Ricky Ponting at No. 6. are the only changes to the Australian lineup which trashed India in January.

Ponting was scheduled for surgery Thursday on the ankle he injured sliding into the boundary in the limited-overs finals series against Pakistan in Sydney last month

20 21 22 37 | 38 | 39 44 45 46

CRYPTOQUIP

WFUNI, KQTJH LPGZUJ OFQJLQH

KQLUNI KWZLH Saturday's Cryptoquip: IT'S FUN TO STAY ON A RANCH ON ACCOUNT OF THE PLEASANT HORSE-PITALITY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals I

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

The world Murali's oyster

Muttiah Muralitharan Thursday continued to cast his magical web around batsmen to help his Sri Lankan team make their mark on the cricketing map.

took 6-71 in the last innings and ten wickets in the match to help his side win the Peshawar Test by 57 runs and take an unassailable 2-0 series lead with one Test to go. "He is simply world class

The off-spinner from Kandy

and a match-winner and his bowling has won us this series." said captain Sanath Jaya-5 suriva The 27-year-old Tamil is rated as one of the most dangero ous spinners in the world, vying for acclaim as the world's best

5 with Aussie leg-spinner Shane Warne. "If you compare him with other spinners you get to know where the advantages lie. He is a special off-spinner," coach Day

Whatmore said. "He thinks for the team and 69 3 bowls for the team and is deliv-0 ering like anything," Whatmore

"He has got the real thirst for 5 1 28 1 wickets which is quite evident from his approach." Whatmore Muralitharan says his appetite for wickets is motivated

by a desire to help his team win. "I enjoy bowling and once it helps my team win it's extra special," Muralitharan said. "I am not worried about my own showings but I am concerned about my team's perfor-

mance," he said.

Opponents believe Muralitharan can turn the ball on "He can turn the ball even on

PESHAWAR, Mar glass," quipped Mohammad 9 (AFP): Magician Azharuddin of India. Muralitharan has proved to

be a one-man demolition squad for Sri Lanka, bringing glory against England for his team

with his deadly 16-220 at The Oval two years back. Kandy helped his side down too good," former captain Ar-Zimbabwe in 1997-98. The off-spinner faced tough

throwing in Australia in 1995- lated.

He was later cleared by the

Australia in 1998-99 he was called again by an Australian umpire triggering a walk out by the Sri Lankan team. "There was no problem with his action and we supported him to the hilt and he hit back

His 12-117 in his den at by taking wickets. He is simply juna Ranatunga said. Muralitharan plays down times when he was called for the hype as "performance re-



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader (L) handing over a cheque of Taka 20 lakh as grant for development of the course of Kurmitola Golf Club to its president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Mustafizur Rahman yesterday.

"How can I complain with

LONDON, March 9: Two

goalkeeper of the month before the game, gifted the Londoners Weaver's horror moments

Weaver then produced an

Cricket match

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: A cricket match between the Chittagong Club and Dhaka Club will be held at Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium tomorrow, says a

Tests since debuting in 1992. "outclassed" in the recent limited-overs series but would be a tougher prospect in the Tests. The New Zealanders have a superior record on home soil. winning every trans-Tasman series in New Zealand since