

DHAKA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2001 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Mahmud causes a ripple

Inter-club players bourse begins today



The inter-club cricketers transfer this year is all set to lose its usual thrill, suspense and charm when the bourse begins at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office today.

The four-day transfer will start at 4pm and continue up to 7pm everyday.

Considered as the most attractive feature in the domestic cricket over the years, the transfer lost most of its gloss even before it started following the newly adopted policy of the Board, which bars national cricketers from taking part in the Dhaka League, commencing from February 5.

The Board has recently bracketed 22 leading players who would concentrate more on national duties. Eighteen of them are on Board's payroll.

This arrangement was made for an uninterrupted training of the national team that will tour to Zimbabwe in April this year. The idea is unique but it has also created a lot of problems for the twelve Premier League outfit who have been the centre of attraction in transfer market.

It has left the leading clubs in a difficult position to find a winning combination among the remaining players while their loyal supporters remain confused about whom to rely on in absence of proven star performers.

Although the usual specula-



K. MAHMUD ... in high demand

## Mark won't meet ACB



SYDNEY, Jan 22: Australian batsman Mark Waugh has said he will not meet the unit investigating corruption in cricket after previously saying he would be happy to co-operate, reports Reuters.

Waugh said last week he was prepared to speak to the International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-corruption investigators when they visit Melbourne next month after he was exposed in an Indian police report into match-fixing.

But his manager released a statement on Monday saying he had changed his mind after discussing the case with his lawyers.

"Mark Waugh's lawyer Raff Pisano...today informed the ACB (Australian Cricket Board) that her client has presently declined its request for him to be interviewed by ACB and ICC investigators in early February," the statement said.

"Waugh's focus is on his commitment to cricket and to ensure the game's reputation is not further tarnished by endless inquiries and speculation."

Waugh was named last year by Indian bookmaker M.K. Gupta as having taken money in exchange for information.

Waugh has strongly denied the allegations and has said he has nothing more to add after being quizzed on the matter before.

"Pisano says Waugh has co-



MARK WAUGH

## Greg goes, Carlos cruises



MELBOURNE, Jan 22: Carlos Moya shovels aside the hangover of his euphoric victory over Lleyton Hewitt into the quarterfinals of the Australian Open here Monday, reports AFP.

The 1997 finalist and 1998 French Open champion fought back from an early break down in the first set to carry out his expected victory over German Rainer Schuettler, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 in just under two hours.

Moya now faces up to a quarterfinal with either fourth seed Magnus Norman of Sweden or French 16th seed Sébastien Grosjean.

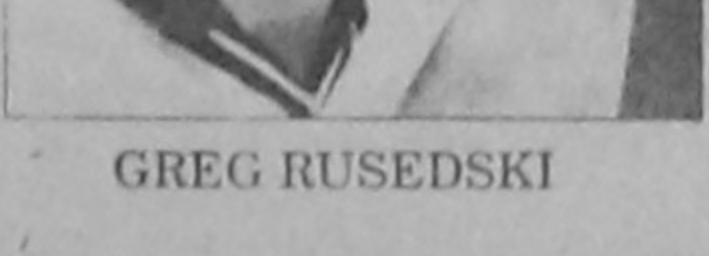
The 42-ranked Moya went rally for rally with the never-say-die Australian Hewitt over three hours 48 minutes to win a gripping five-setter in the previous round early Sunday.

It was always going to be difficult for the 24-year-old Spaniard backing up against a lower-ranked opponent from the emotional highs of beating seventh-seeded Hewitt in such a pressure-cooker match.

"Mentally, it was difficult for me," said Moya. "It was a different kind of match than the one against Lleyton and I had to fight a lot against Schuettler today."

Britain's interest was brought to an abrupt end when Greg Rusedski was comprehensively outplayed by France's Arnaud Clement.

Clement, the 15th seed, barely put a foot wrong as he



GREG RUSEDISKI

raced to a 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 win that tees him up for a quarter-final crack at Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the Russian who won here in 1999 and was runner-up to Andre Agassi last year.

Rusedski, who dumped world number one Gustavo Kuerten out of the tournament in the second round, admitted this has been a great beginning to the year for the whole team.

"We have only positive. We thought going into the match that we'd have a great chance, but when someone plays that well you just say, 'too good.'

But the Canadian-born star heads back to Europe happy to have resurrected a career that had been threatened by recurring injuries.

"I have not been to the fourth round of a Grand Slam since 1999. I've never been to the fourth round of the Australian Open and I've never beaten a world number one on centre court at a Grand Slam," he said.

The 1999 champion and last year's runner-up, Yevgeny Kafelnikov continued his love affair with Melbourne Park by dismissing up-and-coming Swede Andreas Vinciguerra 7-5, 7-5, 6-1, to move into the quarterfinals.

The Russian next faces France's Arnaud Clement, the 15th seed, who ended Britain's interest in the tournament by crushing the resurgent Greg Rusedski in straight sets.

The other quarter final in the bottom half of the draw will pit former world number one Carlos Moya against either fourth seeded Swede Magnus Norman or French 16th seed Sébastien Grosjean.

Clement, the 15th seed, barely put a foot wrong as he

## Milo U-13 cricket final today

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Metro Blues and Rajshahi Tista will meet in the final of the Milo Under-13 Cricket Tournament at the Dhammandi Club ground this morning.

In the semifinals, Metro Blues defeated Dhaka Colts by six wickets on Sunday and Rajshahi Tista earned a 52-run win over Rajshahi Tista on Saturday.

### PCB drafts

#### Shoaib in

KARACHI, Jan 22: Pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar was back in contention for a place on the Pakistan team on Sunday as officials announced 19 probables for next month's New Zealand tour, reports AFP.

"I am ready for a comeback but I know first I will have to prove my fitness in the trial matches," Akhtar, who has not played active cricket since May last year, told this news agency.

Akhtar — dubbed the "Rawalpindi Express" — was named among 19 probables announced for trial matches to select the Pakistan team.

Middle-order batsman Ijaz Ahmed and former captains Aamir Sohail and Rashid Latif were not considered for selection.

Pakistan will tour New Zealand from February 17 to play five one-day internationals and three Tests.

"I think with the grace of the Almighty my fitness nightmares are over and I will be enjoying active cricket again," the 25-year-old said.

Akhtar missed Pakistan's tour of the West Indies in May last year and his failure to regain fitness cancelled his lucrative contract with English county Nottinghamshire.

"I am thankful to the Pakistan Cricket Board and its chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia for taking full care of me and giving me full facilities," he said.

The 19 will play five one-day matches between January 26 and February 2 before the final squad is announced.

### SQUAD

Moin Khan, Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Salim Elahi, Inzamamul Haq, Younis Youhana, Shahid Afridi, Wasim Akram, Abdur Razzaq, Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Azhar Mahmood, Mushtaq Ahmed, Yasir Arafat, Fazle Akbar, Faisal Iqbal, Younis Khan and Arshad Khan.

Speed declined to speculate on what might happen if Waugh continued to refuse to participate.

The ACB and the ICC have provided Waugh with any evidence about the unsubstantiated allegations made by M.K. Gupta in the CBI (Indian Central Bureau of Investigation).

"He has already denied those allegations."

The ACB issued their own statement late on Monday expressing their disappointment at Waugh's decision.

"These investigations are an important part of dealing with this issue and for all and reassuring those who follow our investigation," he said.

Waugh, former New Zealand captain Martin Crowe and former Sri Lankan captains Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda de Silva were named as having connections with bookmakers in the CBI report released in November.

Waugh was due to be interviewed by the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit in Melbourne next month when the ICC has its quarterly meeting.

In 1998, Waugh and team mate Shane Warne admitted to taking money from a bookmaker called "John" in return for pitch and weather information in 1998.

The two players were fined by the ACB in 1995 but the matter was kept quiet until it was exposed in 1998.

It is absolutely right to make it back to the senior Australian side," Fleming said Monday.

"I'm really pleased with how the ball has been coming out in the last two weeks and this has given me a lot of confidence."

The 76-game player broke his index finger while batting in a Victorian club match in November and then he had a neck injury in December.

Waugh rejoins the squad after suffering a groin injury during practice two weeks ago.

Waugh will resume the captaincy with stand-in skipper Adam Gilchrist his deputy.

After making his debut against Zimbabwe in Melbourne on Sunday, West Australian left-hander Simon Katich has made way for Waugh.

Clement, who beat Kafelnikov in their last meeting and has yet to drop a set in the tournament, was delighted with his form. "I didn't miss much," he said.

He revealed that before the tournament he had tipped Kafelnikov to win. "If he's top form it will be very difficult, I will have to play my best tennis if I want to have a chance."

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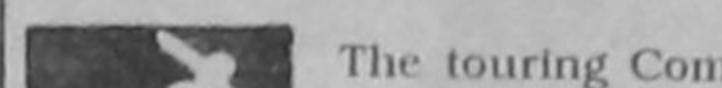
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## A new ball game for CBCA

First one-day today

Sports Reporter



The touring Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy (CBCA) will be put to the test as they face several of Bangladesh's Test caps and experienced campaigners in a three-match one-day series starting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The renowned Adelaide-based academy, who have enjoyed a successful tour so far with victories in limited-overs match in Rajshahi and a four-day in Dhaka, face a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven led by lone Test centurion Aminul Islam in the opening day/night encounter.

Top-order batsman Al-Shahriar is doubtful since he is running a fever. And although the skipper himself complained of a pain in the left ankle, the veteran middle-order batsman still believed he would lead his

men.

Talking to The Daily Star

Sport, Aminul, who scored 145

against India in the inaugural

Test last November, confessed

that he hardly had any idea

about his opponents as he was

preoccupied with the National

League schedule. Nevertheless,

he was satisfied with his squad

saying that it was a balanced

one.

None of the teams could

however practice yesterday

because of the day-long hartial.

The visitors have yet to lose

a match on their 21-day tour.

Earlier they drew both three-

day encounters at the Bangla-

desh Krira Shikha Protishan in

Savar and Rajshahi.

### TEAMS

**BCB XI** (from left): Aminul Islam (captain), Nafis Iqbal, Ehsanul Haque, Al-Shahriar, Tushar Imran, Mohammad Ashraful, Enamul Hoque, Mokter Siddique (wicketkeeper), Sabir Khan, Monjurul Islam, Aminul Islam junior, Shafiquddin Ahmed and Mazharul Haque.

**CBCA:** Luke Williams (captain), Chris Hartley, Aaron O'Brien, Shane Stanton, Andrew MacDonald, Tim Welsford, Daniel Harris, Adam Voges, Shaun Marsh, Gopalakrishna Chaitra and Sunil Panda.



Sri Lanka's Romesh Kaluwitharana misses the ball on the second day of the third Test against South Africa on January 21. —Internet photo

## Proteas rout Lions



CENTURION, South Africa, Jan 22: South African captain Shaun Pollock crowned what he said was an excellent season of Test cricket by his team when he was named man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series after South Africa mauled Sri Lanka at Centurion Park Monday, reports AFP.

Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya, though, rued his side's disappointing batting in a series in which the tourists were simply outclassed.

South Africa won the third and final Test by an innings and seven runs to clinch the series 2-0. Their victory by an innings and 229 runs in the second Test in Cape Town earlier this month was also achieved in three days.

The right-arm took 3-18 off 10 overs against the West Indies in Adelaide and 1-17 off five overs against Zimbabwe in Brisbane.

"I am absolutely rapt to make it back to the senior Australian side," Fleming said Monday.

"I'm really pleased with how the ball has been coming out in the last two weeks and this has given me a lot of confidence."

The 76-game player broke his index finger while batting in a Victorian club match in November and then he had a neck injury in December.