

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), 6-3, 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.

## 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).

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