

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhalambaria

Prograti Cricket Club defeated Udayan Juba Sangha by 20 runs in Shaheed Freedom Fighter Rangun Mia Cricket Cup at Shahjadpur Junior High School playground here on Tuesday.

Winning the toss, Prograti batted first and made 140 runs. In reply, Udayan Juba Sangha collected 120 runs in the stipulated 30 overs.

Aggradut Cricket Club defeated Titas Cricket Club by 25 runs in another match.

Aggradut Cricket Club batted first and collected 125 in 30 overs. In reply, Titas Club made 100 for seven wickets in 30 overs.

SANJIDA CUP

Dawra Cricket Club defeated Jagoroni Juba Sangha by 20 runs in Sanjida Cricket Cup at Shahjadpur Pashchim Primary School playground here today.

Winning the toss, Dawra Cricket Club batted first and made 129 runs. In reply, Jagoroni Juba Sangha collected 109 runs.

Walsh waves

FROM PAGE 8

and they did the same thing and they did it in Australia, too. All the opposition teams I have played against have treated me with the utmost respect and I'm very grateful for that. I just want to thank them for that and wish them well in their endeavours.

"But to my own teammates, who have always given me their support through thick and thin. I want to thank you. You have answered the call for me in this Test match...thank you."

As promised before his final match, the 38-year-old Walsh plans to take a complete rest for about six months before deciding where his future lies.

"I spoke to Allan Donald and he recommended six months off, put the feet up, play a little golf...I'm going to spend some time with the family at home, some time with my son and daughter. I'm just going to refresh myself, recharge my batteries and then focus on the next stage of my life from here on in."

It is a credit to the nature and spirit of the man that no one seemed to be sad as he said goodbye.

Maybe it was because West Indies had won their first Test in 14 attempts, but more likely the noise, the vibe and the unrestrained joy pulsating from the party on the Mound was because Jamaicans were simply overflowing with pride that Courtney was one of them.

FACTFILE

Factfile on retiring West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh:

1962: Born October 30 in Kingston, Jamaica.

1982: Makes first-class debut for Jamaica.

1984: August — Makes debut for English county Gloucestershire.

November — Makes Test debut for West Indies against Australia in the first Test at Perth.

1985: Makes limited overs debut against Sri Lanka in one-day international in Hobart.

1986: July — Takes first class career-best figures of nine for 72 for Gloucestershire against Somerset.

December — Takes five for one as West Indies beat Sri Lanka in Sharjah.

1987: Named one of Wisden's five cricketers of the year for 1986.

1988: Takes hat-trick against Australia in the first Test in Brisbane.

1989: Takes 100th Test match wicket, against Australia in Sydney.

1993: Takes 200th Test match wicket, against Pakistan in Bridgetown, Barbados.

1994: Appointed West Indies captain for tours of India and New Zealand after Richie Richardson ordered to rest.

1995: February — Captures career-best Test figures of seven for 37 in the second Test against New Zealand in Wellington.

August — Takes his 300th Test wicket in the sixth Test against England at The Oval.

1996: Named West Indies captain after Richie Richardson resigns at the end of the World Cup.

1998: January — Sacked as captain after West Indies lose all three Tests on 1997 tour of Pakistan.

November — Becomes West Indies leading wicket-taker, passing Malcolm Marshall's 376-mark with the dismissal of Jacques Kallis in the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg.

1999: Becomes only the third bowler in Test history, after Kapil Dev (434) and Sir Richard Hadlee (431), to take 400 wickets.

2000: Breaks Kapil Dev's world record of 434 Test wickets when he dismisses Zimbabwe bowler Henry Olonga in the second Test at his home ground of Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica.

2001: March — Becomes the first bowler in history to take 500 Test match wickets.

April — On his home Kingston ground, retires from international cricket after the fifth Test against South Africa with 519 Test wickets.

Brazil's pride at stake



REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Four-times world champions Brazil, the only country to have played at all 16 World Cups, take on Peru Wednesday knowing that defeat could leave their proud record in serious danger.

Brazil's reputation as world beaters is in tatters after a series of dismal performances and results in the South American World Cup qualifying group, culminating in

automatically for Japan and South Korea next year, while the fifth plays off against the Oceania regions winners, so Brazil know they cannot afford any more slip ups.

Leao, who took over only six months ago, has included seven uncapped players in his squad and only three of the country's foreign-based stars.

He claimed that the others, Rivaldo and Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos included, are at their "maximum limit" after a long European season during which



PHOTO: INTERNET

NO MORE SLIP UPS: Brazil superstar Romario (R) in good spirits as he stretches with teammate Edilson during the squad's training session in Jarinu on Monday.

last month's stunning 1-0 defeat in Ecuador.

Coach Emerson Leao, who has made sweeping changes with former world player of the year Rivaldo among the casualties, knows that the knives will be out should his team fail again.

The game will be played in Sao Paulo's Morumbi stadium and it's notoriously fickle crowd, which threw Brazilian flags onto the pitch in protest during Brazil's last match at the venue — even though they beat Colombia 1-0.

Brazil have slumped to third in the group with 20 points from 11 games, only one ahead of Ecuador and two ahead of Colombia.

Meanwhile, they are eight points behind leaders Argentina and three adrift of Paraguay.

Only the top four teams qualify

to have commuted once a month to South America.

The overseas players, however, have been accused of lack of effort. After the defeat by Ecuador, former captain Zico compared the players to civil servants "who just turn up for work to clock in."

"Let's be optimistic," said Leao when he was asked about the possible consequences of another defeat. "I don't think we can play that badly for two games in a row."

Peru are seventh with 11 points but, after a convincing 3-1 win over arch-rivals Chile last month, have rediscovered their confidence.

Peruvian hopes of victory will depend largely on whether German-based striker Claudio Pizarro is able to find his goalscoring touch at international level.

Pizarro is among the top scorers in the Bundesliga, but has managed only one goal in the World Cup qualifiers and has been guilty of some poor marksmanship. Had he been on form, Peru, who always create plenty of chances, would probably be several points better off.

Two other teams in desperate need of points meet Tuesday in Santiago when Chile, ravaged by injury and suspension, take on Uruguay.

Chile, missing Reinaldo Navia, Jorge Vargas, Ricardo Rojas and Miguel Ramirez through suspension and striker Marcelo Salas through injury, are languishing in eighth place with only ten points.

Uruguay are sixth after last month's home defeat by Paraguay and have slipped three points behind fifth placed Colombia. They will be missing Juventus defender Paolo Montero, who picked up a second yellow card in the last match.

Colombia visit table-topping Venezuela, who have lost all but one of their eleven games.

Central defender Jorge Bermudez, captain of Argentine and South American champions Boca Juniors, is in Colombian squad and expected to play his first game for Colombia in nearly a year.

He was dropped following the 3-1 defeat at home to Argentina last June and then fell out with coach Luis Garcia. Colombia are without injured goalkeeper Oscar Córdoba, Bermudez' team mate at Boca.

Ecuador, who believe they have a chance of qualifying for their first World Cup, are at home to Paraguay at high altitude in Quito, where they have dropped only one point in six outings.

Paraguay, however, have a reasonable away record and have done well in their previous games at altitude, drawing with Bolivia in La Paz and beating Colombia in Bogota.

Argentina, virtually certain of qualifying, make the dreaded trip to La Paz, where they take on Bolivia at 3,600 metres above sea level.

Beaten 2-1 in their last World Cup match in La Paz four years ago, Argentine have left out striker Gabriel Batistuta and replaced with Juan Esnaider.

BCCI starts playing

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's cricket board has threatened to boycott the World Cup and the ICC Knockout Cup until the government clarifies its policy on playing in "non-regular" venues, a top board official said on Tuesday.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president AC Muthiah said the decision was taken after the board received a government letter saying the team was not to play at "non-regular" venues such as Sharjah and Singapore for the next three years.

"We have asked the government for a clear cut policy decision," Muthiah told reporters after a board working committee meeting.

"Till the guidelines are received we will participate in bilateral and triangular tournaments but not in the Asia Cup, ICC Knockout or the World Cup... Once they send us the guidelines we may review our decision," he added.

The Indian government cancelled a proposed test tour of Pakistan late last year and denied permission to the country's cricket team to play in this month's triangular one-day tournament in Sharjah alongside Pakistan.

Relations between the two neighbours have been strained because of continuing political tensions over the disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir.

"We don't know if we can play Pakistan if we meet in the World Cup. The government only talks of venues but it is not clear if opponents also matter," Muthiah said.

Courtney will come back if...

AFP, Kingston

World record holder Courtney Walsh said Monday his decision to retire from Test cricket was final — despite a plea by captain Carl Hooper.

Walsh, 38, who finished his Test career with a world record 519 wickets, said after the final Test against South Africa that he would be prepared to play if there was "a real emergency" — but I hope that won't happen.

Hooper earlier said he had tried to persuade his champion fast bowler to stay on for forthcoming tours of Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

"They are both short tours and I would like him to be part of them," said Hooper.

Walsh said he would consider Hooper's request out of respect but said: "I'm very happy with my decision. I'm very happy with what I've achieved. What I will do now is take a long break and spend some time with my family."

Hooper and West Indian coach Roger Harper paid tribute to Walsh's contribution.

"His retirement is a big blow to us which is why I am trying to persuade him to go to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka," said Hooper. "He has been a tremendous servant to West Indies cricket and he was always willing and able to make a contribution."

Opportunity for Adams

AFP, Kingston

South African left-arm spin bowler Paul Adams was given a chance Monday to revive his career in one-day international cricket.

Adams was due to return home from South Africa's tour of the West Indies after the end of the Test series Monday but will stay on for seven one-day internationals following injuries to two other left-arm spinners.

Team manager Goolam Rajah said Adams, 24, would stay on following an injury to the uncapped Goolam Bodi, who suffered a broken left little finger while playing in a Lancashire league match in England Saturday.

Shortly before he was due to fly to the West Indies.

Bodi had himself been selected as a replacement for Nicky Boje, who returned to South Africa after the fourth Test for an operation on an injured left shoulder.

SQUAD

Shaun Pollock (captain), Mark Boucher (vice-captain), Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Boeta Dippenaar, Neil McKenzie, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Justin Kemp, Justin Ontong, Allan Donald, Roger Telemachus, Makhaya Ntini, Andre Nel, Paul Adams.

School cricket

FROM PAGE 8

50, Ismail (3/19)

Haji Ahmed Ali High School: 126 all out in 33 overs (Jewel 18, Masud 2/18)

Result: Sher-e-Bangla High School won by 40 runs.

Ullipur High School: 184 all out in 35 overs (Palash 45, Sunon 43, Mithun 3/35, Jahangir 3/28)

Result: Ullipur High School won by 102 runs.

28-year-old Tendulkar

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Bowlers around the world will not like to be reminded that batsmen mature late as Sachin Tendulkar celebrated his 28th birthday on Tuesday.

The Indian champion has already achieved what many only dream of — 6,720 runs in 82 Tests with 25 hundreds, besides a record 10,179 one-day runs with 28 centuries.

If he has just begun maturing, bowlers face a bleak future.

"I reckon he'll play another eight to 10 years and I would be surprised if he doesn't get more than 40 centuries," Australian batsman Mark Waugh wrote in the Hindustan Times on Tuesday.

Tendulkar does not believe in resting on his laurels. He is as hungry for runs as he was on his Test debut in 1989 against Pakistan at Karachi.

Having conquered most peaks, it's his insatiable appetite for runs and the burning desire to improve upon his performances that keeps Tendulkar going.

Motivation is not a factor with Tendulkar, though he may have reached a stage where he can compete only with himself.

This is because he still plays the game with the verve of a youngster making his debut.

For Tendulkar, expectations from millions of fans are not a burden.

"The greatest joy of being a cricketer is to know that there are so many people who wish you as well. And that's what keeps you going," Tendulkar said in a recent interview.

Repetitions may be boring, but no one complains when Tendulkar repeatedly dominates bowlers



SACHIN TENDULKAR

with a wide range of attacking strokes.

Tendulkar bats only to entertain spectators — and dominate and demoralise rivals. There's a refreshing dimension of freedom in his batting denied to many of his contemporaries.

He makes batting look extremely easy, as if having more shots than one for each delivery.

"During the 90s, Brian Lara, Inzamam-ul-Haq and yours truly have often been spoken of as the best in the batting business along with Tendulkar," Waugh wrote.

"However, I would rate Tendulkar higher than the rest. Lara comes close because he's a proven match-winner, but he does give the opposition chances.

"Tendulkar is technically superior, has every stroke in the book and some of his own, and above all is remarkably consistent," said Waugh.

Tendulkar has rarely let his admirers down, often carrying the entire team on his shoulders for nearly a decade.

Most of his big knocks have come in extremely depressing situations. In Benoni, South Africa in 1996, he slammed a 97-ball 104 to help India edge out Zimbabwe on run-rate in the last league match of a triangular series.

Tendulkar says the highlight of his one-day career was the 1998 Sharjah tournament.

He cracked a superb 143 in the concluding league match against Steve Waugh's Australians to help India qualify for the final.

Tendulkar reserved his best for the final which was played on his 25th birthday, stroking a century to win the match for his team.

"I don't believe in setting targets. I take things as they come," said Tendulkar, who has often remarked that he never plays for records.

"The important thing is that my team should win."

WI win with a bang

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

Dinanath Ramnarine made a crucial breakthrough and Courtney Walsh marked his last Test bowling performance with three wickets as West Indies beat South Africa by 130 runs in the fifth and final cricket Test at Sabina Park Monday.

South Africa won the series 2-1, the first side to win a series in the West Indies since 1994/95 and only the second successful visiting team in 28 years.

It was an important win for the West Indies, however, saving them from the embarrassment of failing to win a match in a home series for the first time since Ian Chappell's Australians beat them 2-0 in 1972/73. The win was the first by the West Indies in 14 Test

matches.

Walsh was cheered off the field as he completed his last Test match in front of his home town crowd. He took three for 62 in his final bowling stint, finishing his career with a world record haul of 519 Test wickets in 132 matches.

Leg-spinner Ramnarine took two wickets in the first over after lunch to snuff out South Africa's hopes of saving the match.

South Africa lost only one wicket before lunch as Neil McKenzie and Jacques Kallis battered through most of the morning before Ramnarine had McKenzie caught at silly mid-off for 55.

At that stage, on 209 for four with 59 overs remaining, South Africa still had a chance of earning a draw, or even pushing for an improbable victory after being set to make 386 to win.

But Ramnarine struck with his second delivery after lunch when

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings 225 (B Lara 81; S Pollock 5-28, A Donald 4-54)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 141 (N McKenzie 45; M Dillon 4-32; C Walsh 3-31)

WEST INDIES: Second innings 301 (R Jacobs 85; M Samuels 59; S Pollock 4-66)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings

| Bowler           | O  | M           | R  | W |
|------------------|--|-------------|----|---|
| Walsh            | 22   | 6           | 62 | 3 |
| Cuffy            | 10   | 3           | 13 | 0 |
| Dillon           | 19   | 3           | 59 | 3 |
| Ramnarine        | 31   | 6           | 61 | 3 |
| Hooper           | 28   | 8           | 43 | 1 |
| Kirsten          | c Jacobs   | b Dillon    | 14 |   |
| Gibbs            | b Hooper   | 51          |    |   |
| McKenzie         | c Garrick  | b Ramnarine | 55 |   |
| Cullinan         | lbw b Walsh  | 18          |    |   |
| Kallis           | b Ramnarine  | 51          |    |   |
| Klusener         | not out  | 31          |    |   |
| Boucher          | c Jacobs   | b Ramnarine | 0  |   |
| Pollock          | c Jacobs   | b Dillon    | 3  |   |
| Kemp             | lbw b Walsh  | 0           |    |   |
| Donald           | b Walsh  | 10          |    |   |
| Adams            | c Samuels  | b Dillon    | 4  |   |
| Extras           | (b-4, lb-13, nb-1)   | 18          |    |   |
| Total            | (All out in 110 overs)                                       | 255         |    |   |
| Fall of wickets: | 1-37, 2-102, 3-124, 4-190, 5-209, 6-209, 7-235, 8-236, 9-250 |             |    |   |

Result: West Indies won by 130 runs.

Series: South Africa won 2-1. Man-of-the-match: Ridley Jacobs. (Note there is no man of the series — the award will be for the Tests and one-dayers combined)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: 1 Son of Noah, 5 Centrifuge insert, 9 Eventual aces, 12 Staff, 13 par-tridge..., 14 Slimpy's roomie, 15 Western state's fleet?, 17 Pack away, 18 -dazzle, 19 Two under par, 21 ER, 22 Pack animal, 24 Speaker's platform, 27 Moo goo gai pan, 28 Make booties, 31 Id counter-part, 32 All the Things You..., 33 Menagerie, 34 Keglers do it, 36 Office-holders, 37 Finished market section, 40 That is (abbr.), 41 Squalor, 43 Baby, 47 Under the weather, 48 Northern hockey player?, 51 Photo finish, 52 Ham-burger, 54 Prepare to hoot, 55 Actor Mac Lachlan, 56 Baseball's Slaughter, 1 Practice pugilism, 2 Circle dance, 3 Eng. era to society, 4 They're higher than contraltos, 5 Barn-roof ornament, 6 One-mil-lion link, 7 Pl. of speech, 8 Tier, 9 Eccentric out West!, 10 Scallop base, 11 Stud fee, 16 In need of replacement, 20 Clumsy craft, 22 Carried '23 Banjos', 24 Newcomer to society, 25 Past, 26 Midwest bilfold?, 27 Keen like a banshee, 29 And — the opposite shore..., 30 Shoe part, 35 Torched, 37 What graffitiists do, 39 Usurer, 40 Squid squirt, 41 Is suitable, 42 Nastase of tennis, 43 Man, e.g., 44 — impasse, 45 Pianist Peter, 46 — bien, merci, 49 Powell co-star, 50 Every last crumb

Dauids fails drug test

Football

AFP, Turin

Edgar Davids, Juventus's Dutch midfielder, on Tuesday denied taking drugs and said he was "totally perplexed" he had failed a dope test.

On Monday Juventus said they had been told by Italy's Olympic committee that Davids had failed a preliminary doping test after the match against Udinese on March 4.

"I have never used any kind of doping. I strongly condemn the use of it. I do not understand anyway those who try to improve their performances using these substances," he told a news conference.

"After the match against Udinese on March 4 I reported for a routine doping test as happens for all Serie A players regularly."

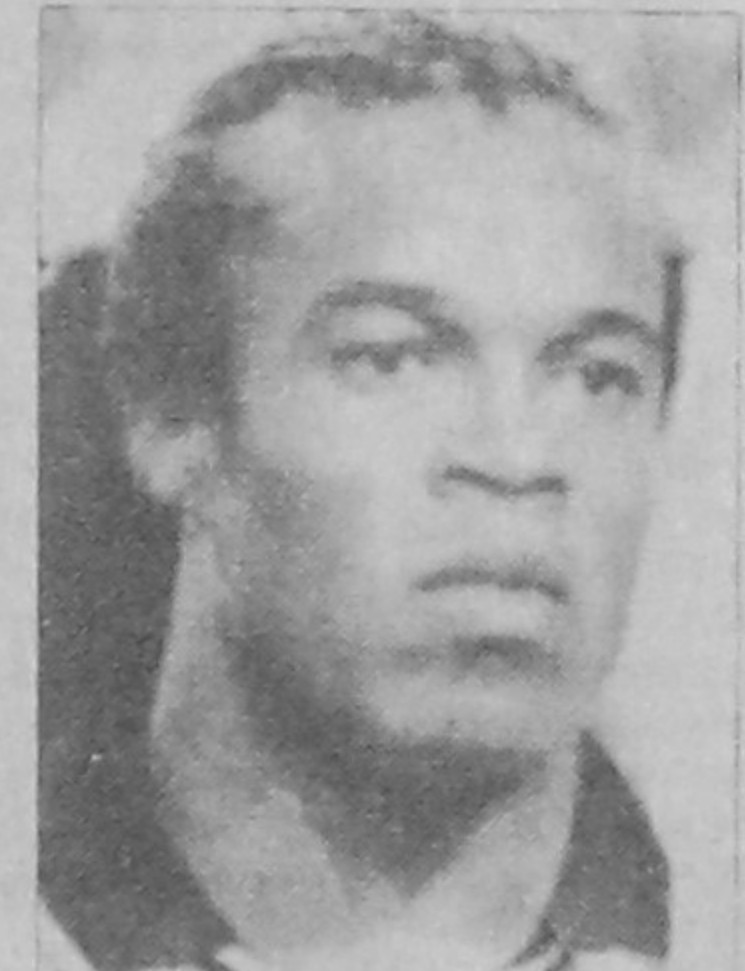
"In the past I have made such a test many times. Obviously I expected that everything would be ok and the results would be negative."

"Therefore I was totally perplexed and surprised to read and hear the news of the last few days."

"It is said that there are traces of the banned substance Nandro-

line but that has not been confirmed by CONI."

Juventus announced Monday night that they have been informed by the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) that Davids has failed a dope test.



EDGAR DAVIDS

"Registered player Edgar Davids gave a non-negative result in an anti-doping control after the Udinese-Juventus match on March 4, 2001," said the Italian First Division club.

The admission by Juventus came the day after Gazzetto dello

Sport named the Dutchman as the player who had shown traces of nandrolone in a sample.

On Monday CONI confirmed a Serie A player had given an adverse finding and Monday's announcement by Juve removes any doubt as to the identity of the player.

Earlier Turin magistrate Raffaele Guariniello, who is conducting a judicial inquiry into alleged doping in Italian sport, denied his office had leaked the news to the media, saying he was still unaware of the identity of the player.

Davids is the eighth player to give a non-negative finding. Lazio's Portuguese defender Fernando Couto maintains his innocence after it was confirmed his second sample had tested positive at the weekend.

Bari's Belgian goalkeeper Jean-Francois Gillet has been suspended pending a hearing while two players with Second Division Piacenza and one with another Serie B side Pescara have also returned positive findings.

In February Perugia's Salvatore Monaco and Christian Bucchi were suspended for 16 months after a disciplinary hearing into positive dope tests.

Barca fire Ferrer

Football

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona coach Lorenzo Serra Ferrer has been sacked by the struggling Spanish First Division side here Monday after a meeting with the club's executive committee, according to Spanish radio.

Serra Ferrer, who took over from controversial Dutchman Luis van Gaal last season, will be replaced by Barca technical director and former footballer Cruyff deputy Carles Rexach until the end of the season, the national radio station RNE added.

Rexach has already coached Barca for short periods in 1987-88, 1990-91 and 1995-96.

The news comes as no surprise after a season which has simply been disastrous for the Catalan giants, who have conceded an all-time record 50 goals in the Primera Liga.

Serra Ferrer's days were numbered after Sunday's humiliating 3-1 defeat away to lowly relegation-threatened Osasuna which came hot on the heels of their UEFA Cup elimination Thursday to English Premiership side Liver-

pool, who now go on to meet modest Spaniards Alaves in the final.

Barca were also eliminated early from the European Champions League, and their only title hope in Joan Gaspart's first season



LORENZO SERRA FERRER