



Did U Know?

Jim Laker is the only bowler to have taken 19 wickets in a single Test. He achieved the feat against Australia at Old Trafford, Manchester in the 1956 series.



TALK TURKEY



Felix Mantilla

(Spain's tennis star)
"It's incredible. The biggest win of my career. To beat such a strong player, as Roger makes it extra special."

After winning the Rome Masters Series tennis title.



What to WATCH

ESPN
UEFA Champions League
Juventus vs Real Madrid
Repeat at 8:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 8:30 pm



Star WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION 193

Tick the correct answers, post to
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Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 16, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Professor
Abdur Razzak 29th National
chess title?
Niaz Zia Reefat

2. Who became man-of-the-
match in the Sharjah Cup final?
Youhana Sami Taufiq

3. Who will lead Sri Lanka's one-
day side?
Tillekeratne Vass

4. Who won the man-of-the-
series award in the TVS Cup
triangular tournament?
Atapattu

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Greg withdraws

REUTERS, London

Greg Rusedski has withdrawn from a Challenger tennis tournament in Zagreb after suffering a new injury concern.

Rusedski, whose last match was against Pete Sampras at the U.S. Open last September, withdrew on Tuesday from the claycourt event after suffering muscle spasms in his back and right arm, the BBC reported on its website.

"I was practising on Sunday and I felt my neck and my right side feeling a bit sore," Rusedski said. "I was getting pain when I served and hit my forehand and getting pins and needles down my right side so unfortunately I had to pull out."

Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's cricketers have been labelled bad sports for their unruly behaviour in Tuesday's fourth Test loss to West Indies.

Roebuck's sentiments were echoed by the Australian's columnist Patrick Smith who said the incident was an embarrassment to Australian officials at a time when they have promised to clean up the U.S. dollar.

The Sydney Morning Herald's cricket writer Peter Roebuck said the verbal exchange and McGrath's finger-pointing had sullied the match and the game's image.

"Regardless of the result, the Australians have done nothing to enhance their reputations as sportsmen," Roebuck wrote in Wednesday's paper.

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore said that he was pleased with the manner in which things were moving ahead of the start of his real business with the national team.

"Yes, we have discussed it briefly. The BCB will make a final decision on the selection committee and on whether the coach will be a part of it. But we will all know it officially perhaps next week or may be in the next couple of weeks."

Whatmore also had a brief meeting with 21 leading cricketers of the country at BCB's management office in Gulshan.

"I had a 45-minute chat with the players. But nothing was very serious. It was just for them to know me and me getting to know them. In doing so it is important to outline what I expect of them and in return what they can expect from me. That's the way to start it I believe," said Whatmore.

A committed professional Whatmore however surprised everybody when he said that the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in

Lanka's triumph in the 1996 World Cup.

When asked whether he would play a role in the selection process of the team, Whatmore appeared to entertain the idea although he left it to the BCB to decide.

"I have seen the stadium in Mirpur which is not far away from the main stadium (Bangabandhu National Stadium). It has everything required to set up a permanent home for the cricketers. It has got enough space to build a good gym, enough additional ground to practice and a swimming pool just around the corner," said Whatmore.

But he desired to start his training at the BKSP in Savar before Bangladesh's tour to Australia in July.

"I want to have a two-week training at the BKSP before the tough tour against Australia," said Whatmore adding that he would also use the BNS for practice.

He was aware that expectations revolving him were quite high in Bangladesh after his successful time with Sri Lanka.

"But I would like that to be as realistic as possible," he said.

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PHOTO: STAR
New Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore trying to make the leading players understand something by putting it on board during his first meeting with them at BCB's Gulshan office yesterday.

Mirpur gets Dav's vote

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore said that he was pleased with the manner in which things were moving ahead of the start of his real business with the national team.

"It is a very warm feeling to get strong support from every angle of the people," said Whatmore while expressing his initial experience.

The 49-year-old is now in Dhaka on a five-day introductory visit to assess the available facilities before taking over the national team from June 1.

Talking to local reporters at a local hotel the high-profile Australian said that he had a fruitful meeting with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and has addressed few issues. But he did not elaborate.

"It is always going to be an ongoing process between the BCB and me," said the mentor of Sri

Hooper filling in for Singh

AFP, London

Carl Hooper will join Lancashire as a temporary overseas replacement for India's off-spinner Harbhajan Singh after the English county were given a special dispensation following a meeting at Lord's here on Tuesday.

Former West Indies captain Hooper, who last played county cricket for Kent in 1998, could now make his Lancashire debut in the championship match against Essex at Old Trafford starting on Wednesday.

Hooper, 36, is expected to remain with Lancashire until such time as the Board of Control for Cricket in India clears Harbhajan to play for the county.

Temporary replacements are normally permitted for players on international duty, not because they are injured.

But as Harbhajan's finger injury happened while he was on international duty, during last month's one-day series in Bangladesh, the ECB's first-class forum relaxed the rule which states that replacement overseas players coming in because of an injury to a foreign player must then stay on for the remainder of the English season.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials, however, failed to give any clear idea regarding the format of the 12-team final round.

Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions have two venues each to hold matches while the remaining three divisions have one for the qualifying round. There are as many as eleven matches billed for the opening day

National cricket kicks off today

SPORTS REPORTER

After five barren seasons, the 26th National Cricket Championship begins today with preliminary round games scheduled across the country.

59 teams, which includes 52 districts from six divisions and seven services teams, are taking part in the preliminary round knock-outs which is scheduled to end on May 21. The teams have been divided in six Divisional and one Services groups. Two top finishers from Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and the top teams from Barisal, Sylhet and Services will join defending champions Biman in the final round which is likely to be held in Dhaka between May 23 to 31.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials, however, failed to give any clear idea regarding the format of the 12-team final round.

Teams: Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Dinajpur, Chapainawabganj and Bogra.

Khulna Division

Venue: Jhenidah

Teams: Khulna, Chuadanga,

Speaking at a press conference

BNS BCB's till April?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) might get the permission to use the Bangabandhu National Stadium until April 2004. A top BCB official revealed this yesterday.

Talking to the Daily Star, the BCB official who didn't wish to be named, said that they have already referred the matter to the National Sports Council and were hopeful of a positive response.

"The national team needs the stadium up to June 20 as they get ready for the tour of Australia. Again we need the stadium in mid July to prepare the ground and pitches for England's tour of Bangladesh in October. We also have the under-19 World Cup early next year. So ideally, in order to keep the pitches intact, we should be allowed to use the BNS until the under-19 World Cup is over," he said.

He also claimed that the Board have already received the green signal from the NSC in this regard.

If the BCB get their way, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), who are co-sharers of the BNS with the cricket board, stand to miss out on any use of the facility over the next year or so.

City enjoy Day One

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

City Club were on course for a big total against champions-elect Victoria Sporting Club in the last match of the GrameenPhone Premier Division Super League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

On the opening day of the inconsequential four-day fixture, City scored 275 for three in 90 overs after electing to bat first.

The highlight of City's innings was a 113-run second wicket partnership between prolific opener Moniruzzaman and one down Sajjad Kadir.

Kadir, the wicketkeeper-batsman, scored highest 83 off 166 balls with 14 boundaries followed by Moniruzzaman, who reminded the national selectors once again of his consistency with a cultured 74 with ten runs across the fence.

Right-hander Moniruzzaman, who is the leading run-getter this year among local players, crossed 800 runs for the season during the course of his innings.

Middle order Rajin Saleh was batting on 58 while Hasanuzzaman was on 17 at stumps.

With ten overs remaining and seven wickets in hand, City Club are poised to push their score much beyond 300.

Victoria, who have already ensured their second successive league triumph, decided to test some of their leading players including Pakistani opener Wasem Nayeem and gave three cricketers their Premier League debut.

Mazharul c Shahriar b Razzak 27
S Kadir b Nasir 83
Rajin batting 58
Hasan batting 17
Extras: (b-10, lb-5, nb-1) 16
Total: (For 3 wkt in 90 overs) 275
Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-163, 3-226.

Bowler O M R W
Mushfiq 5 2 10 0
Nasir 20 2 70 1
Shahriar 11 1 32 0
Razzak 27 8 67 1
Masudur 15 4 47 1
Mosharraf 12 2 34 0

MONIRUZZAMAN...74

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket Super League match between City Club and Victoria Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

selectors' chairman Viv Richards said Jacobs was being given more time to fully recover from the groin injury that kept him out of two matches in the Test series which ended on Tuesday in a 3-1 win for the visitors.

Jacobs left out

REUTERS, St. John's

The West Indies Cricket Board has made one change to the 15-man squad for the one-day games with Australia.

Ridley Jacobs has been replaced by fellow wicketkeeper-batsman Carlton Baugh Jr. for the best-of-seven series starting in Jamaica on Saturday.

Selectors' chairman Viv Richards said Jacobs was being given more time to fully recover from the groin injury that kept him out of two matches in the Test series which ended on Tuesday in a 3-1 win for the visitors.

The players' lack of discipline did not go unnoticed by Australian Cricket Board chief executive James Sutherland.

"It's all very well playing in the right spirit when things are going your way," Sutherland said. "But when things aren't, that's when the real test is on. If you can't carry yourself in the true spirit of the game at those times, perhaps you need to have a good look at yourself."

The Australian selectors, never afraid of making tough and controversial decisions, may decide the time has come to end Waugh's reign.

With home series against Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and India SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

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