



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.



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.



ESPN
UEFA Champions League Juventus vs Real Madrid Repeat at 8:30 am Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Sportline 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
The Daily Star
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
Atapattu

4. Who won the man-of-the-
series award in the TVS Cup
triangular tournament?
Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

Name
Class Roll No.
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Greg Rusedski has withdrawn from a Challenger tennis tournament in Zagreb after suffering a new injury concern.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 forehead and getting pins and needles down my right side so unfortunately I had to pull out."

Mirpur gets Dav's vote



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

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.

"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

Mirpur could be the ideal permanent home of Bangladesh cricket.

"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.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



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.

Hooper filling in for Singh

AFP, London

Carl Hooper will join Lancashire as a temporary overseas replacement for India 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.

Hooper withdrew from the Test series against Australia, which

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

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.

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

Speaking at a press conference

in connection with the championship, tournament committee secretary Khandkar Jamiluddin said that the national cricket championship was not in the BCB's calendar for 2002-03. But to reintroduce the once popular tournament, they have hastily arranged the competition and were yet to decide on the format for the final.

Jamil also revealed that they have estimated a budget of Taka 30,62,000 for the tournament and the total amount would be provided by the BCB from its own fund as they have failed to find sponsors for the event.

TEAMS AND VENUES

Rajshahi Division

Venue: Dinajpur

Teams: Pabna, Naogaon, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Rangpur and Thakurgaon.

Venue: Pabna

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

Khulna Division

Venue: Jhenidah

Teams: Khulna, Chuadanga,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

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 Sport, 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 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



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.

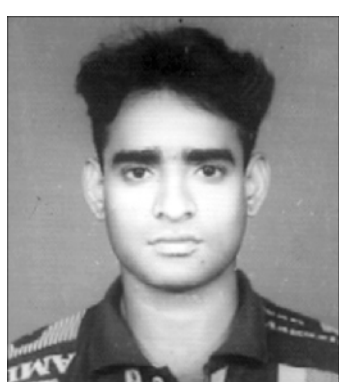
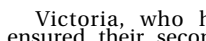
The highlight of City's innings was a 113-run second wicket partnership between prolific opener Moniruzzaman and one down Sajjad Kadir.

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 hits 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.



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:

CITY CLUB: First innings

Moniruzzaman c Nuruzzaman b Masudur 74

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 wkts 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

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.

Contrasting futures



REUTERS, St. John's

Steve Waugh and Brian Lara face contrasting futures after West Indies' extraordinary victory in the fourth Test over Australia. In terms of the series, Tuesday's historic three-wicket win over the world champions provided the hosts with the consolation of avoiding an unprecedented home whitewash, and Lara's position as captain now appears much more secure than Waugh's.

Waugh's tactics came in for heavy criticism after the hosts made 418 to win the match, the highest victorious fourth-innings total in Test history. The 37-year-old, who passed former Australian captain Allan Border's record of 156 Test appearances during the series, defended his decision to bring on leg spinner Stuart MacGill with only a handful of runs needed.

"You've got to back your gut

feeling," he said. "I thought Stuart would take care of the rest, it was a turning track and tail enders find it (legspin) difficult to play against."

The Australian players were also criticised back home for their behaviour during an ill-tempered

tion with West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan.

"Regardless of the result, the Australians have done nothing to enhance their reputations as sportsmen," Sydney Morning Herald cricket writer Peter



STEVE WAUGH

match, particularly fast bowler Glenn McGrath's heated alterca-



BRIAN LARA

Roebuck said. "Cricket searched for a champion team and found

Media mauls them



REUTERS, Sydney

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

While much credit was given to the host's world record run-chase of 418, the Australian media focussed on the row between Glenn McGrath and Ramnaresh Sarwan.

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.

"If victory cannot be achieved without recourse to the sort of antagonism seen in Antigua then it is not worth bothering about."

"Cricket searched for a champion team and found only an unscrupulous aggressor."

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

"The line between belligerence and hostility is a fine one ... Australian cricket has been at fault for allowing their players to hang about the line for so long."

"Australian administrators have tolerated their cricketers' boorishness because they have been the dominant team throughout the world and success generates interest and income."

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Kenyans want tax waiver

REUTERS, Nairobi

Kenya captain Steve Tikolo has pleaded with the Kenyan government to waive taxes on the team's prize money for reaching the World Cup semi-finals.

Tikolo said the team were perturbed at how slowly the Kenya Cricket Association (KCA) was pursuing the issue when the Kenya shilling continued to gain against the U.S. dollar.

"We are not at war with KCA (Kenya Cricket Association) but this delay is a matter of concern to us after such a sterling performance," Tikolo told reporters late on Tuesday.

"We are worried because we have not been getting any information from KCA regarding our money."

Kenya, who beat Test sides Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Typical Aussie: PM



AFP, Sydney

Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath's foul-mouthed rage at West Indian batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan during the fourth Antigua Test was "a very natural Australian thing to do", the Prime Minister John Howard said on Wednesday.

McGrath lashed out at Sarwan on Monday as Sarwan was building his second Test century amid a fighting comeback against the Australians on the penultimate day of play.

McGrath tore into Sarwan, finger-pointing and swearing aggressively in response to remarks made by Sarwan, reportedly concerning the Australian bowler's wife, who has cancer.

Following the unseemly con-

frontation shown on television around the world, the Australian Cricket Board called on the Australian team to improve its behaviour.

However, Howard, a die-hard cricket fan, said on Wednesday he understood McGrath's reaction, and that it was "a very natural Australian thing to do".

While admitting he didn't know the exact sequence of events, Howard told a Melbourne radio station: "Well, I've read, I mean if somebody did say something about his wife then I would understand fully his reaction."

"There seems to be some debate as to who started (it) and who said what but anybody who says something about somebody's wife who's had cancer, that's pretty bad and I can understand a man defending his wife."

"I would, I'm sure you would, and it's a very natural Australian thing to

do."

While Sarwan did say something about McGrath's wife, team sources have said the West Indian was responding to sledging initiated by the Australian, and did not refer to her condition.

Some of McGrath's teammates, who also heard his conversation with Sarwan, appear to feel he may have overreacted.

ACB chief executive James Sutherland said the incident was "unfortunate" and bordering on inappropriate behaviour.

"If you can't carry yourself in the right fashion in the true spirit of the game at those times perhaps you need to have a good look at yourself," Sutherland said on Tuesday.

The West Indies created Test cricket history with the highest successful run chase to reel in Australia by three wickets in the fourth Test on Tuesday.

Bond going back home

REUTERS, Wellington

Fast bowler Shane Bond is returning home for treatment to a back injury sustained on the tour to Sri Lanka, New Zealand Cricket said on Wednesday.

Bond strained his lower back while bowling during a one-day match against Pakistan on Sunday in an international triangular series.

New Zealand Cricket chief executive Martin Snedden said Bond's injury did not appear to be improving quickly and he would take no further part in the series.

"It makes sense for him to return home where he can be professionally diagnosed and treated," Snedden said.

New Zealand thrashed Pakistan by seven wickets in their first game in the series, but lost the match against Sri Lanka on Tuesday by five wickets.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2