Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 26, 2003, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

Did U Know?

Rajesh Chauhan is the only Indian bowler to concede more than 250 runs in a Test innings. The off-spinner gave away 276 runs off 78 overs against Sri Lanka at Colombo in 1997-98.

ERRATUM

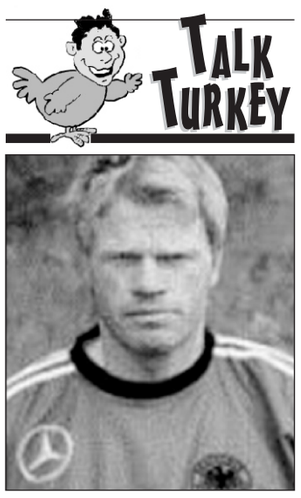
In our yesterday's 'Did you know' mistakenly we did not mention the player's name. The Pakistani all-rounder is Wasim Akram. We regret the slip.

ESPN

England v Zimbabwe
First Test
Highlights at 3:40 pm
Sportscenter Hindi
Sports News
Live at 11:00 pm

STAR Sports

Malaga v Sociedad
Primera Liga
Repeat at 10:30 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
Best of Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
11:00 pm



Oliver Kahn

(Bayern Munich goalkeeper)

"There have been a lot of rumours and a lot of speculation recently and there is always some truth to it. One thinks about it. But I'm already playing for the best club in the world, so there are actually no need for thoughts like that anymore."

While rubbishing talks that he is moving to Manchester United.

Star WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION 193

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm May 30, 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) . . . . . .

Sluggish win for Biman

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman launched their defence of the National Cricket Championship on a winning note at the Comilla Stadium yesterday. But the 32-run victory for the national airline outfit against Nilphamari in the opening match of the 12-team final round was far from satisfactory.

Despite having a formidable batting line-up, Biman only scored 123 for eight in the reduced 45-over-a-side match.

They however managed to defend the not-so-impressive total through the spin of Saifullah Khan, Ahsanullah Hasan and Mosaddek Hossain. The trio helped themselves to eight wickets to knock out lightweight Nilphamari for 91 in 41.2 overs.

Slow left-arm spinners Saifullah and Hasan shared six wickets while leg-spinner Mosaddek finished with two for 20 runs.

Babul top-scored with 23 for Nilphamari, one of the eleven qualifiers from the first round.

Biman's innings was salvaged thanks to wicketkeeper batsman Sajjad Kadir scoring an unbeaten 35 and an aggressive 24 from former national captain Faruque Ahmed.

Much was expected from Aminul Islam but the once top batsman of the country struggled once again making just 10 runs off 56 balls.

Biman, who endured a miserable run in this year's Premier League, badly need to lift to themselves before their crucial match against Dhaka University at the same venue on May 25. Otherwise, they are destined to face an early elimination form the championship.

They had the misfortune of playing in the relegation league and narrowly playing in next season's First Division with wins against Kalabagan and Orient in the play-offs.

Meanwhile, in the other match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong Faridpur registered a massive 117-run win against Barisal.

Batting first, Faridpur scored a fighting 198 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs with the top-order chipping in with useful contributions.

Barisal were bundled out for 81 in 39.4 overs with only Mofizur (15) reaching the double-figures.

It was an inspiring victory for Faridpur after their passage into the final round at the expense of Dhaka. Faridpur won a final round berth by calling the coin correctly after their deciding game against Dhaka was completely washed out due to rain.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh Biman vs Nilphamari

Venue: Comilla

BANGLADESH BIMAN: 123 for 8 in 45 overs (Faruque 24, Kadir 35; Nadim 3-27, Shafiq 2-10)

NILPHAMARI: 91 all out in 41.2 overs (Babul 23, Nadim 15; Saifullah 3-19, Hasan 3-17, Mosaddek 2-20)

Result: Bangladesh Biman won by 32 runs.

Faridpur vs Barisal

Venue: Chittagong

FARIDPUR: 198 for 8 in 50 overs (Liton 34, Sohel 31, Biplob 28; Rajat 2-44)

BARISAL: 81 all out in 39.4 overs (Mofizur 15 not out; Ashfaq 2-14, Ranjan 2-15, Nakib 2-9, Liton 2-20)

Result: Faridpur won by 117 runs.

New-look NFL

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The preliminary round of the third National Football League (NFL) is likely to start from mid June under a new format.

Unlike the previous two editions, where four divisional champions used to qualify for the final round, there will be five zones across the country this time and each zone will have the same number of teams.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday, Bangladesh Football Federartion (BFF) general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal said that the earlier format was not appropriate as all divisions didn't have an equal number of teams.

"For example, Sylhet has only four districts compared to Dhaka's 17. That's why we have gone for the zone concept," Helal said.

Helal also informed that the five zonal champions would join the previous year's defending champions and runners up in the 10-team final round. The other three teams would be the Federation Cup champions, champions of the Dhaka Premier Division and the best team among the Services.

"We would divide the ten teams into two groups for the final round robin league," Helal added.

BFF is yet to select the zonal and final round venues.

When asked about sponsorship, Helal hinted that Nitol-Tata, which had sponsored the previous two editions , might continue with their patronage.

He however revealed that the sponsorship issue would be finalised once officials from the advertising company of the competition Leisure Sports Management arrive in Dhaka from Kolkata next week.

Tour of Australia

Preliminary squad on May 30

SPORTS REPORTER

The primary squad for Bangladesh's maiden Test tour of Australia next July would be announced on the afternoon of May 30.

Newly appointed national coach Dav Whatmore, who has been made a part of the selection procedure, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka in the morning of that date. He would then sit with the selectors and finalise the names before a list of around 25 cricketers would be made public for the 20-day long camp that starts at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) from June 1.

The final squad would be a 15-member one.

The team is scheduled to fly to Brisbane on June 22 to have a two-week camp before their original tour

England zap Zimbabwe

Cricket

AFP, *London*

Mark Butcher had a match to remember as England beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 92 runs in the first Test with more than two days to spare at Lord's on Saturday.

Man-of-the-match Butcher made 137 in England's 472 and took four for 60 in Zimbabwe's second innings as the Africans, following-on, collapsed to 233 all out.

In all Zimbabwe lost 19 wickets during Saturday's play.

England debutants James Anderson and Anthony McGrath also made their mark.

Lancashire fast bowler Anderson, 20, took five for 73 in Zimbabwe's first innings 147.

And Yorkshire captain McGrath, 27, no more than a gentle medium-pacer, took three for 16 as Zimbabwe's fragile batting crumbled again.

Afterwards Streak conceded that Zimbabwe had failed in all departments. "Our bowlers bowled too many four balls," the former Hampshire fast bowler said.

"And we dropped a couple of chances and Butcher (put down on 36) made us pay."

Turning to Zimbabwe's abject batting Streak said: "A lot of guys were sparring at balls they did not need to play."

About the only thing that went right for Zimbabwe in this match was that Streak won the toss and fielded first which in his eyes made the defeat that much worse.

"We won a toss on a wicket favourable for bowling so to lose like that was disappointing."

England captain Nasser Hussain said of Butcher's batting: "Butcher's innings was exceptional because Zimbabwe do have bowlers who can swing the ball.

"He's had two good Test matches in a row (Butcher made a hundred against Australia at Sydney in January) and long may it continue."

Hussain, going into this match, had been accused of 'selfishness' by former England captain Mike Gatting after revealing his personal goals in a newspaper column.

But after this resounding victory Hussain said: "I'm not worried by any flack. If people want to look at these three days and complain about my captaincy that's irrelevant."

In the extra-half hour claimed by England because they were in sight of victory Butcher ended the match when he had hard-hitting tailender Travis Friend caught by Ashley Giles in the slips for a 56-ball 43.

Surrey star Butcher, who bats left-handed and bowls right-arm medium-pace, weighed in with valuable wickets throughout, dismissing first innings top scorer Dion Ebrahim (68) and second innings counterpart Mark Vermeulen (61).

Earlier Anderson became the first Englishman since Dominic Cork in 1995 against the West Indies at Lord's to take five wickets in an innings in his first Test.

Anderson had a purple patch after lunch in taking four wickets for five runs in 14 balls as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 147 126 short of avoiding the follow-on

Zimbabwe's display emphasised the loss of world-class batsman Andy Flower, now at English county Essex, following his international retirement after a black armband World Cup protest against President Robert Mugabe.

The second and final Test of this series, the first to be played at Durham's Riverside Ground, starts on Thursday, June 5.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between England and Zimbabwe at Lord's on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 472 (M Butcher 137, A McGrath 69, M Trescothick 59; A Blignaut 3-96, H Streak 3-99)

ZIMBABWE: First innings 147 (D Ebrahim 68, T Taibu 25; J Anderson 5-73, M Hoggard 3-24)

ZIMBABWE: Second innings (following-on)

Ebrahim c Key b Harmison	6
Vermeulen c Trescothick b Butcher	61
Carlisle lbw b Butcher	24
Flower c Trescothick b Harmison	26
Taibu c Butcher b McGrath	16
Ervine c Trescothick b McGrath	4
Streak lbw b McGrath	11
Blignaut b Butcher	6
Friend c Giles b Butcher	43
Price c Trescothick b Giles	26
Hondo not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-3)	10
Total: (All out in 68.5 overs)	233

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-91, 3-95, 4-128, 5-132, 6-150, 7-158, 8-168, 9-219

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	15	4	65	0
Hoggard	15	5	35	0
Harmison	12	4	35	2
Giles	8	2	15	1
Butcher	12.5	0	60	4
McGrath	6	1	16	3

Result: England win by an innings and 92 runs and 1-0 lead.

Man-of-the-match: Mark Butcher.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and David Orchard (South Africa)

PHOTO: AFP

England debutant Anthony McGrath appeals successfully for an lbw decision against Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak during the tourists' second innings of the first Test at Lord's on May 24.

WI 235/3

STAR SPORT MONITOR

West Indies were 235 for three in 43 overs in the fifth one-day international against Australia at Port of Spain in Trinidad yesterday.

Wavell Hinds (79) and captain Brian Lara (80) put on 178 runs for the second wicket as the hosts got off to yet another shaky start. They lost attacking opener Chris Gayle (5) for five after deciding to bat.

Ramnaresh Sarwan was batting on 22 and Marlon Samuels on 24.

Back to Roland Garros

Tennis

REUTERS, *Paris*

Records hang in the air, tempting Andre Agassi. Fears lurk, taunting Lleyton Hewitt and an emotional farewell beckons for one of the French Open's fairytale characters when the second Grand Slam of the year slides into action on Monday.

For Agassi, just one more win at the Parisian showpiece will leap-frog him over Mats Wilander in the list of all-time wins on the Roland Garros red clay.

Only Guillermo Vilas, Ivan Lendl, Nicola Pietrangeli and Bjorn Borg have won more matches at the famous arena.

A second-round victory would also draw him level with his arch-rival Pete Sampras on 762 career victories -- a record for an active player.

A second triumph at the Stade Roland Garros to add to his 1999 win would make Agassi the first man since Jim Courier in 1992 to win the first two grand slams of the year.

The American needs his 33-year-old legs to power him around the court like never before if he is to achieve the feat.

Experience should help. "I'm at a place in my career where I have the luxury of using my experience," Agassi said.

"Most people who have my experience aren't playing any more. My body is still holding up, my mind is still eager and my heart still wants it."

Hewitt also "wants it" but knows fear of failure and lack of confidence must be conquered first.

"Maybe I have to work a bit harder on clay," the top seed said earlier this week. "It's a challenge and I've always liked challenges. Whether I will ever win Roland Garros and master playing on clay, who knows? But I'll give it a shot."

One who gave it a great shot and achieved records, is Michael Chang who, in 1989, defeated Stefan Edberg in five sets to become the youngest Roland Garros and Grand Slam champion at the age of 17 years three months.

This year he will make his 16th consecutive appearance at the tournament. It will also be his last.

With an ATP-best 38-8 record in 2003 and lying in second spot behind ATP Champions Race leader Agassi, Roger Federer is in prime position to mount a challenge for his first Grand Slam title here.

The Swiss, who reached the quarterfinals in Paris in 2001, will hope to erase the memory of his first-round loss to Hicham Arazi 12 months ago with a good performance over the next two weeks.

In the women's draw it is hard to see who can stop Serena Williams. Serena's elder sister Venus, the Belgians Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin-Hardenne and America's Jennifer Capriati are all ferocious competitors but an in-form Serena is irrepressible.

Certainly the news for the also-rans was not good on Sunday.

"My fitness is unbelievable right now," Serena said after a brief practice session on the Parisian clay.

"I just don't get tired. I've been really working on my fitness so I am in really good shape right now -… I am happy.

"It feels really great to be back here. I think for me Roland Garros is really, really special. I am very happy to be back."

PHOTO: AFP

GRAND SLAM TIME RETURNS: Defending French Open champion Serena Williams of the United States at a press conference in Paris yesterday.

Vaughan slips to second

REUTERS, *London*

Michael Vaughan's failure at Lord's against Zimbabwe has seen him lose his place as the top-ranked batsman in Test cricket.

Australia's Matthew Hayden quickly regained his place at the top after Vaughan, looking out of sorts, managed just eight runs in England's innings and 92-run win at Lord's on Saturday.

Vaughan, the top run-scorer in world cricket last season, had replaced Hayden in the PricewaterhouseCoopers Test ratings in April.

Hayden averaged 63.16 in Australia's 3-1 Test series win over West Indies earlier this month.

Marcus Trescothick is the next Englishman in the batting list in 18th place while man-of-the-match Mark Butcher, who made 137 and took five wickets against Zimbabwe, is 21st.

Shaun Pollock, due to arrive in England in June for South Africa's five-Test tour, tops the bowling ahead of Australian Glenn McGrath and Sri Lanka's off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

Batsman	Points
M Hayden	859
M Vaughan	858
R Ponting	849
S Tendulkar	843
B Lara	834
J Kallis	820
A Gilchrist	814
Inzamam Haq	793
R Dravid	789
H Gibbs	778
Bowler	**Points**
S Pollock	873
G McGrath	861
M Muralitharan	856
Harbhajan Singh	746
J Gillespie	723
A Caddick	712
M Ntini	692
S Akhtar	691
A Kumble	688
J Kallis	682

Hussain hails star rookies

INTERNET, *London*

Captain Nasser Hussain paid tribute to debutants James Anderson and Anthony McGrath after England beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 92 runs in the first Test at Lord's.

Rookie pace ace Anderson grabbed five wickets in Zimbabwe's paltry first-innings total of 147.

And Yorkshire skipper McGrath supplemented his half-century with three wickets in the visitors' second innings.

"Both look very good cricketers," said Hussain.

"Obviously they've got a lot more to do yet but, if Anderson keeps pitching the ball up, he'll get wickets. And McGrath shaped well in all departments."

England showed great application during a long day in the field that finished in the fading light at 7:30 pm local time. England claimed an extra half-hour because they were in sight of victory.

Aussies take ODIs too

Cricket

AFP, *Port of Spain*

World Cup champions Australia steamed to a 67-run victory over the West Indies to clinch the one-day international cricket series 4-0 at the Queen's Park Oval here on Saturday.

The Australians, the dominant force in world cricket, won their 21st consecutive one-day match and their 11th straight over the Windies.

Ricky Ponting's team powered to 286 for five off their 50 overs and bowled out the West Indies for 219 off 45.3 overs to underline the gulf in experience and performance between the two sides in the seven-game series.

The West Indies, pinned down by Australia's pacemen early in the innings, were always well behind the asking rate and self-destructed with three suicidal run outs in the last four wickets to fall.

Man-of-the-match Adam Gilchrist topscored with 84 in Australia's innings with youngster Michael Clarke contributing a blazing 55 off 40 balls in the highest Australian innings at the Trinidad ground and only two runs behind the best Australian ODI total in the Caribbean.

Gilchrist, freshened up after sitting out last Wednesday's victory in St Lucia, hammered nine fours and a six in his 103-ball knock while 22-year-old Clarke, who scored an unbeaten 75 in St Lucia in mid-week, provided late fireworks with six boundaries and a six.

Clarke rode his luck he was bowled off a Corey Collymore no-ball and was reprieved on 47 by Ricardo Powell who dropped a dolly catch in the deep to remain unbeaten in three ODI innings in his fledgling international career.

All the top-order batsmen contributed to Australia's big total. Matthew Hayden smacked 44 off 61 balls, skipper Ponting hit 38 (47), Andrew Symonds 24 (28) and Michael Bevan was out on the final ball of the innings, holing out to Brian Lara in the deep off Vasbert Drakes for 21 off 22 deliveries.

The West Indian fielding was diabolical. They spilled four catches, twice in Gilchrist's knock, Symonds on 10 and Clarke when he was 47.

Yet again the West Indian bowlers lacked penetration and were unable to dismiss the Australians for the fourth time.

After four matches, bowlers, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Brad Hogg, Andy Bichel and Glenn McGrath have yet to bat in the series such has been the dominance of Australia's top-six batsmen.

Opener Chris Gayle hit 84 off 113 balls in the West Indies innings, but apart from skipper Brian Lara's 40 off 47 balls he found little support.

Yet again the Windies got off to a shaky shot with Ricardo Powell (8) out in the sixth over with the score at 20 when Ponting dived to his left to take a blinding two-handed catch off Gillespie's bowling.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fourth one-day international between the West Indies and Australia at Queen's Park Oval on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA

Hayden c Hurley b Drakes	44
Gilchrist b Hurley	84
Ponting c Hurley b Powell	38
Symonds b Collymore	24
Clarke not out	55
Bevan c Lara b Drakes	21
Extras: (lb-9, w-9, nb-2)	20
Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs)	286

Fall of wickets: 1-78, 2-148, 3-200, 4-223, 5-286

Did not bat: Harvey, Hogg, Lee, Gillespie, McGrath

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dillon	10	0	46	0
Collymore	9	1	58	1
Gayle	10	0	52	0
Hurley	10	0	57	1
Drakes	10	0	62	2
Powell	1	0	2	1

WEST INDIES

Gayle lbw b Harvey	84
Powell c Ponting b Gillespie	8
Hinds lbw b Lee	3
Sarwan lbw b McGrath	16
Lara c Hayden b Symonds	40
Samuels c Hogg b Harvey	27
Jacobs run out (Lee)	13
Hurley run out (Symonds)	0

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Winning motivates 'em

Cricket

REUTERS, *Port of Spain*

Australia's run of 21 successive one-day international victories is motivating the world champions in their bid to inflict a 7-0 whitewash on the West Indies, says skipper Ricky Ponting.

"We enjoy every win...we haven't made that much of a deal (of the unbeaten run)," Ponting told reporters after his team went 4-0 up in the series with a 67-run triumph on Saturday.

"It was a very good win today, the boys batted very sensibly, our openers got us off to a great start and gave us a platform to launch from and Clarkey did well again," Ponting said.

"We decided to keep as many wickets in hand for the end as we could and give ourselves a really good platform and that's the way it worked out.

"We decided to open the bowling with Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie today, a bit of extra pace, and it seemed to work for us and when Glenn McGrath came on in the middle, he kept things tight and got their run-rate up... the West Indies were under pressure from there.

"But I told the guys this morning that we can use it as motivation for the rest of this series. If we keep thinking about that record and wanting to stretch it, then I'm sure we can keep playing well."

Maintaining the unbeaten record through the recent World Cup in southern Africa was a special achievement, Ponting said.

"Looking back to the whole World Cup and some of the things that happened before, and during, it was an unbelievable effort for us to come through undefeated and to keep it going," he said.

RICKY PONTING

"It always feels good in this team and this squad. We have guys who love playing cricket for Australia and try and improve in every game.

"A clean sweep is possible if we are good enough and keep trying to improve," he added.

The tourists produced their strongest batting performance of the series on Saturday, Adam Gilchrist (84) and Michael Clarke (55 not out) top-scoring in a total of 286 for five.

"With us being 3-0 up, I thought we might have been a bit lazy today. But that's the exact opposite of what we were," said Ponting.

"We were very smart, very switched on, and we played a very good game of cricket."

West Indies captain Brian Lara said, "We bowled well in patches, but again Australia was able to consolidate, keep wickets in hand and have a go at the end.

"Australia played commanding cricket today to win the match and the series."

Lara said the aim of his team now was to make it a three-match series, starting on Sunday.

"I will tell the boys now that it's a three-match series, we've already lost the seven-match series, but we have three matches left and we can't spiral downwards," he said.

"We have to look at it as a new competition, aim for a win tomorrow and take command in Grenada."