

Ross to fill in for Bracewell

BBC ONLINE, undated Ashley Ross will be New Zealand's stand-in coach for their tour of India starting in late September.

Ross, who has regularly toured with the Kiwis in his role as player development manager, is keeping the seat warm for John Bracewell, the long-term replacement for Denis Aberhart.

He was asked to take on the coaching role when Bracewell decided to fulfil his duties at Gloucestershire for the remainder of the English county season. Bracewell takes on the international role on November 1.

Ross told CricInfo website he was surprised to be given the temporary post. "It's always surprising when you don't apply for something and you get asked to do a job like this," he said.

Ross expects to be in close consultation with Bracewell before the side leaves for India, on 23 September. In seven tours to the country, New Zealand have never managed to win a series and had drawn only one series.

Ross believes New Zealand are an improving outfit. "This side has played extremely well away from home in recent years," he said.

Wanderers flying

FROM PAGE 13 The home side could have won by a bigger margin had Mithu's 80th minute effort not bounced off the post.

TEAMS MOULVIBAZAR WANDERERS CLUB: Mohammad Ali, Govinda, Apu, Fakhrul, Deen Mohammad Mithu, Jalal (Chanchal), Ladi Baba Loha, Bode Baba Loha and Kabir.

JHENIDAH MOHAMMEDAN: Mashur, Prince, Shipon, Obaidur, Arman, Pintu, Taju, Amirul, Hakim, Ujjal and Anwar.

Referee: Tajul Islam.

Sachin looking

FROM PAGE 13 country divided in three teams.

He will then play for Ranji Trophy champions Bombay against the Rest of India in the five-day Irani Trophy match at Madras from September 18-22.

"Sachin has confirmed he will be available for both events," Shetty said. "These will be ideal warm-ups for the hectic season and all the top stars of the country will take part."

Tendulkar has scored 8,811 runs in 105 Tests with 31 centuries at par with Australia's Steve Waugh and three behind compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's tally of 34.

He is also the most successful batsman in the history of limited-overs cricket with 12,219 runs from 314 games with 34 centuries.

Tigers can

FROM PAGE 13 They will leave a different team. They have been blooded by the best in the world -- and have come out stronger for the experience. Yes, they will have to pay greater attention to the shortcomings in their batting that Dav Whatmore has identified. And yes, they will have to maintain the discipline they have shown in the field thus far.

But by facing the Australians in a Test match at the very highest level they have done something that no other Bangladesh team has thus far achieved.

As the underdogs of Test cricket, the Bangladesh side -- the youngest in the world -- has previously had no one to look up to but themselves. The players of future Tigers Test sides will have the knowledge that Bangladesh can take it to the best in the world.



Ola Ree, managing director of GrameenPhone, addresses a press conference in the city yesterday organised in connection with BKSP U-16 team's participation in the Norway Football Festival.

SA, India A draw 3-dayer

Cricket

AFP, Arundel

South Africa's final warm-up match before Thursday's first Test against England at Edgbaston ended in a draw against India A on the final day of three.

India A were 160 for three in their second innings here Monday, a lead of 16 in reply to South Africa's first innings 463 when the captains agreed a draw with half an hour's play remaining.

Hemang Badani was 58 not out off 85 balls including one six and eight fours. Ambati Rayudu was four not out.

Earlier, on a pitch whose docility always made a draw the most likely outcome, Test batsman Wasim Jaffer made 54 to add to his first innings 90 before he was caught and bowled by left-arm spinner Robin Peterson.

He faced 93 balls including nine fours. Together with Badani he added 101 runs. That stand ended South Africa hopes of victory after they'd established a first innings lead of 144 and then reduced India A to 36 for two.

Former South Africa skipper Shaun Pollock took the first wicket to fall when he had India A captain Shiv Sunder Das (15) playing on after he tried to cut a ball that was too close to him.

Monde Zondeki struck next when

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras, Total. Includes Peterson c Das b Pathan, Pretorius c Patel b Salvi, Zondeki not out, Ntini c and b Pathan, Extras (b-1, lb-11, nb-13), Total (All out in 121.4 overs) 463.

Left-arm quick Irfan Pathan jnr also chipped in with three for 83, ending the innings after lunch when he caught and bowled Makhaya Ntini off a top-edged hook for five.

But South Africa, who resumed on 342 for five, put on 113 in the first session with Pollock, Boeta Dippenaar and Peterson all making thirties.

Although the match was meandering towards a draw, Dippenaar's innings had meaning for the Free State right-hander.

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard on the third day of the three-day tour match between South Africa and India A on Monday:

INDIA A: First innings 319 (W Jaffer 90, G Gambhir 64; S Pollock 4-46, D Pretorius 3-41)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 342-5)

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras, Total. Includes Smith lwb b Pathan, Gibbs c Patel b Kartik, Kirsten run out, Rudolph c Patel b Salvi, Dippenaar c sub b Salvi, Boucher b Salvi, Pollock b Bhandari.

Brian is The best

AP, Port-of-Spain

West Indies captain Brian Lara, who led his country to victories against Australia and Sri Lanka, was named his country's cricketer-of-the-year.

On the strength of his bat, Lara also contributed to victories for Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean regional series, making him the clear favourite for the honour given by the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board.

Ravi Rampaul, who holds the record for the most wickets in a regional youth series, was named the Young Cricketer of the Year at the weekend.

West Indies coach Gus Logie delivered the keynote address at the banquet, saying all eyes would be on the club's successful young players in the coming season.

"You will have to love it. Love the battle, love the challenges, love to see the momentum shift, and you must not be scared to defy the norm," he said.

Lara is holder of the world record scores in Test and first-class cricket.

Woolmer didn't want Smith to take captaincy

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former South African coach Bob Woolmer has admitted he did try to prevent Graeme Smith from taking over the captaincy.

Woolmer believed the 22-year-old was too young to lead his country after Shaun Pollock was sacked.

However he dismissed claims he had "pleaded with Smith" to turn down the captaincy.

Woolmer, now the International Cricket Council's high performance director, told BBC: "I never actually spoke to him at any stage on the phone. I tried to phone him but didn't get through."

"I would have advised him not to take the position yet [of captain] if I had managed to get through to him."

"All I said is it would have been my advice but I didn't badger him not to take the captaincy because I didn't actually speak to him."

"I think he has the toughness to captain the side, but would be better at 25 than 22."

Woolmer, who played Test cricket for England before becoming a successful coach at various levels, said the main point of his attempted phone call was to offer technical advice.

"I wanted to speak to Graeme to advise him on English conditions if he felt it was necessary."

"He's naturally right-handed but bats left-handed, there are one or two things that he should know."

"He had a technical fault that would be exposed and I just wanted to talk to him that's why I was going to phone him."

"I left a message on his phone and he left one on mine when I was coaching in Dubai."

"I have since e-mailed him to wish him luck for the whole tour and quite frankly I feel the matter is now closed."

On Thursday Smith leads a South African side at Edgbaston in the first of five Tests against England.

The tourists are outsiders for the series, and will be significantly weakened by the absence of Jacques Kallis who is spending time with his terminally-ill father.

BKSP U-16 fly

FROM PAGE 13 TEAM

Zahid Hasan Emili (captain), Pavel Mahmud (vice-captain), Rahatul Kabir Nipu, Maksudur Rahman Mustak, Nahid Islam Linkon, Sarwar Hossain, Arafat Ali Rony, Firozul Islam Sabuj, Abdul Ahad, Zahid Hossain, Ranabir Chakma, Shamal Chakma, Abid Hossain, Rubel Ahmed, Tawhidul Alam Sabuj and Mohammad Momen, Shamim Miah and Mamunul Islam.

Officials: Dr Debashish Chowdhury (manager cum physio), Mamtazur Rahman (coach) and Abdur Razzak Hawladar (Gov representative).

Bankers freeze

FROM PAGE 13 spectacular goal in the 50th minute utilising on a right-flank pass from Ajitesh Roy.

Russel Uddin Bachchu doubled the margin after eight minutes when he slammed home from another right-flank minus by Indian Ajitesh Roy.

TODAY'S MATCH Bangladesh SC vs Dhaka Railway (4:15pm)



Scene from the schools football match between Enayet Hossain Model High School and South Banashree Model High School at the outer stadium yesterday.

Aussie duo dazzles

Swimming

AFP, Barcelona

Australian duo Matthew Welsh and Liesel Jones set the first world records of the World Swimming Championships within minutes of each other here on Monday.

And they were soon joined by Kosuke Kitajima who set a new world mark at the Palau Sant Jordi pool on his way to becoming Japan's first world swimming champion in the men's 100 metres breaststroke.

The 20-year-old Kitajima clocked 59.78sec to claim gold and better the previous record of 59.94 set by Russia's Roman Sloudnov at the last World Championships in Japan two years ago.

Brendan Hansen of the United States took silver in 1min 00.21sec, with Britain's James Gibson winning the bronze in 1:00.37, ahead of Olympic and world champion Domenico Fioravanti of Italy who finished sixth.

Earlier Welsh timed 23.43sec on his way to victory in the men's 50m butterfly final as Jones clocked a

new world best of 1:06.37 in the semi-finals of the women's 100m breaststroke.

The 26-year-old Welsh broke the previous mark of 23.44sec set by compatriot and defending champion Geoff Heugill at the last world championships.

"Being a backstroker probably helped me," said Welsh, who is better known for his prowess in the backstroke, winning the 100m back at the last world championships, and he holds the world record in the 200m backstroke short course.

"The first thing that went through my mind is 'Oh my God I've won, oh my God it's a world record!' added the man from Melbourne who only took up competitive swimming at the age of 18.

Ian Crocker of the United States took silver in 23.62 with the bronze going to Yevgeny Korotychkin of Russia in 23.73. Heugill finished fourth in 23.76.

Inspired by her fellow Australian, Olympic silver medalist Jones shaved fractions off the previous best of 1:06.52 set by Penelope Heyns of South Africa in Sydney in August 1999.

"It was one of my most perfect

times. I think it was seeing Matt set a world record that inspired me," said the 17-year-old Commonwealth champion in both the 100m and 200m breaststroke who was runner-up in the 100m in Fukuoka.

"Those weren't quite tears of joy but close to it," she said.

"It was a shock to see the score on the scoreboard. It still hasn't sunk in yet but I'm sure it will tonight when I go to bed."

Olympic champion Yana Klochkova of the Ukraine, meanwhile, won gold in the women's 200m individual medley.

Klochkova clocked 2:10.75 to take the title ahead of Alice Mills of Australia in 2:12.75 with China's Zhou Yafei taking bronze in 2:12.92.

Earlier US veteran Jenny Thompson became the most bemedalled woman swimmer in world championships history when she took the 100m butterfly title.

Thompson clocked a new championship record of 57.96sec to come in ahead of Otylia Jedrzejczak of Poland, who timed 58.22, with European champion Martina Moravcova of Slovakia taking bronze.

The 30-year-old Thompson, world champion over the distance in 1998, also won the relay gold Sunday, and now has the most women's world championships medals ever with a total of 11 - seven gold, three silver and a bronze.

She overtakes former East German swimmer Kornelia Ender and Shirley Babashoff of the United States, who won ten each.

Thompson, who already holds the most Olympic gold medals for any US woman with eight, ties with Matt Biondi as the country's most decorated world championship swimmer.

The American took two years off after the Sydney Olympics where she won three gold medals to begin medical studies at Columbia University, and is testing herself for next year's Athens Olympics.



Australia's Matthew Welsh dives on way to win 50m butterfly gold at the 10th FINA Swimming World Championships on Monday.

Alec to go after SA series

FROM PAGE 13

subsequently moved down the order when he resumed the wicket-keeping duties.

Passed over initially in favour of Atherton for the England captaincy, he took over from the Lancashire opener for the 1998 series against South Africa.

England won a hard-fought series but Stewart was deposited the following year when his side failed to advance to the second round of the World Cup.

He continued to give loyal service to his replacement Nasser Hussain with the one blot in his career coming in November, 2000, when an Indian bookmaker said he had paid Stewart to supplying him with information. Stewart was subsequently cleared by the International Cricket Council.

Stewart was also never on the winning side in seven Ashes series against Australia.

Son of former Surrey captain and England opener Micky, Stewart was always immaculately dressed and a devotee of physical fitness.

"I leave nothing to chance in my preparation whether it be in the way I train in the nets, the fielding and wicket-keeping session I do or

the fitness levels I try and maintain," he said.

ATA GLANCE

Factbox on England wicketkeeper-batsman Alec Stewart who announced on Tuesday that he would retire from Test cricket after the five-match series against South Africa starting on Thursday:

Born: April 8, 1963. Test debut: v West Indies, Jamaica, 1990, right-handed bat, wicketkeeper, 128 Tests, average 40.19, 15 centuries, 249 catches, 13 stumpings. 170 one-day internationals.

Teams: Surrey, England. Son of Micky, former England player and manager.

Turns into wicketkeeping all-rounder to fill gap left by Ian Botham. An accomplished batsman and fine timer of the ball. Greatest moment comes when scoring century in each innings against West Indies in Barbados in 1993-4.

Named England captain in 1998, taking over from Michael Atherton and leading England to series win over South Africa before losing the job after England's 1999 World Cup failure.

Scores century in his 100th Test against West Indies at Old Trafford in 2000. Later in year Indian Central Bureau of Investigation report quotes Indian bookmaker MK Gupta claiming he gave him 5000 pounds for pitch information. He denies claims and is subsequently cleared by the International Cricket Council.

After 2001 Ashes asks not to tour India and is overlooked for the trip to New Zealand, losing his place to James Foster, 17 years his junior.

Not awarded a central contract for 2002 but recalled after Foster breaks his arm in the nets. Scores a century against Sri Lanka in the third Test and averages 54.33 for the May-June series. Averages 52.33 in the ensuing one-day tournament involving Sri Lanka and India.

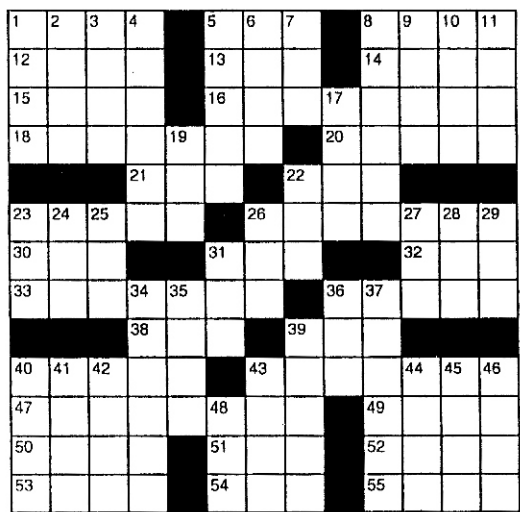
Scores 71 in England's first innings of the fifth Test against Australia in January 2003 and takes five catches as England avoid an Ashes whitewash.

Retires from one-day international cricket after the World Cup in South Africa where England were eliminated at the group stage.

Announces intention to retire from Test cricket after the Test series against South Africa.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP H O N T C V W Y U U N L Y S D D T D Q V T L I S D Q W D T L W U , N T C B T C U A M I P E U N O H S A Y B U T D Q W M Q Y P E W Y Yesterday's Cryptiquip: PEOPLE IN MY APARTMENT LIKE KETCHUP AND RELISH SO MUCH, I SAY IT'S A CONDIMENTIUM. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: U equals L