


All-round milestones

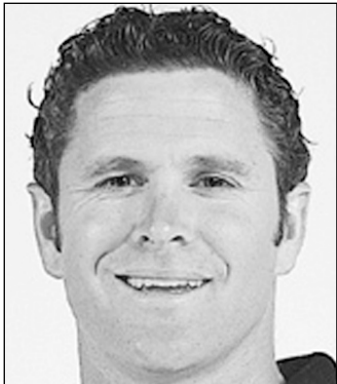
Cricket
AFP, Hamilton

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns and South African rival Shaun Pollock will Wednesday go into a three Test series knowing they could both make the elite 3000-run, 300-wicket double. Cairns will be playing his first Test against South Africa in his 15-year Test cricket career knowing he needs 136 runs and just three wickets for exclusive membership alongside countryman Richard Hadlee, West Indian Garfield Sobers, England's Ian Botham, Pakistan's Imran Khan and India's Kapil Dev. Pollock needs 132 runs to reach 3000 and already has 326 wickets. But after viewing the dry, grassless pitch, Cairns appeared convinced it would be hard work to achieve the three wickets. "I don't know if I'll get many overs. It's going to be a turning

wicket dominated by batsmen and by spinners," he said. Cairns said he was just happy to be playing again in a Test -- tomorrow will be his 57th -- let alone his first against South Africa, after missing the 1994, 1999 and 2000 series with injury. He only Test since then was here in December against Pakistan, when his bowling was barely above medium pace and he tensed up with expectation, sending down 17 wicket-less overs. "I came into this last test against Pakistan keen on the statistical side of things, and I realised that was probably the mistake I made. "I've never gone into games for



SHAUN POLLOCK



CHRIS CAIRNS

New Zealand looking to achieve statistics. I feel I'm getting back into my bowling, hitting the ball pretty cleanly, and I just want to beat South Africa."

Bodybuilding meet held

CU CORRESPONDENT The Silk Line bodybuilding competition organised by the Chittagong Mahanagari Krira Sangstha (CMKS) ended at the local Dampara Police Lines ground on Monday. The competition was held under six weight categories with ten clubs taking part. In the 55kg group Ziku Dey of Sando Health Club, Md. Selim of City Fitness Gym and Alamgir Hossain of Seven Star Body Building Club were adjudged first, second and third respectively. Md. Nizam of Chittagong Gym, Mahmud of Seven Star Body Building Club and Minmoy Dhar were the winners of the 60kg class. The 65kg weight group saw Fazlul Haque of Sando Health Club claim first first while Zial Haque Jewel of Seven Star Body Building Club and Mir Mohibul Haque followed. Shoikhat Chowdhury of Sando Health Club clinched the 70kg weight. Kiran Shikder of the same club and Md. Rahim of Chittagong Gym bagged second and third position. Haroon-ur-Rashid of Sando Health Club won the 75kg group. The final 80kg group went his teammate Md Saber. Later deputy commissioner of police (city) Md. Mahbub Mohsin distributed trophies among the winners.

Cricket train service!

AFP, Islamabad Pakistan will run two additional cross-border train services from India to bring nearly 8,000 cricket fans for this month's historic cricket series between the two rivals, officials said Tuesday. Pakistan Railways official Iqbal Khatri said the extra services would link the Pakistani city of Lahore and the northern Indian town of Attari. "We expect both the trains to arrive in Lahore full of Indian cricket fans," Khatri said. Road transport officials have yet to decide on how many more buses will be put on to ferry Indian cricket fans from its land border crossing at Wagah, following a request from the Indian government. "There are a number of proposals being discussed but nothing is finalised yet," said Malik Habib, managing director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC). DC Cup soccer OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha Dinajpur outplayed Sirajganj 3-0 in the Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament held at Gaibandha Stadium yesterday. Rubel scored a hatrick. Pabna will face Rajshahi today.

Zim A arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER The Zimbabwe A team arrives in Dhaka today to play two four-day and five limited-overs matches against their Bangladesh counterparts. Alester Maregwede is leading a strong 14-member second string Zimbabwe side after the senior team's maiden tour here in 2002. Two members of the side Waddington Mwayenga and Stuart Matsikenyeri, who are now featuring in the one-day series against Bangladesh, however will join the team on March 18. The tourists, who are carrying eight players with experience at the highest level, will open their tour with a three-day game against the Bangladesh Under-23 side at the Fatullah Stadium starting from March 12. But most of their games against Bangladesh A will be held outside the capital. Their first four-day match will be held at Rajshahi from March 17-20. The second first-class game will be held at the newly built Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, which will also host the first two one-dayers will be held in Khulna while the fifth and final will be played in Dhaka. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Monday announced a 25-member squad for the series that included eight national players currently touring Zimbabwe. The Board decided to inject more national players in an effort to provide the match-needed practice before the first series against West Indies in May. The national team, which is now in Zimbabwe, has been held hostage by rain with both the second Test and the first two one-day internationals washed out in Bulawayo. Zimbabwe A: Alester Maregwede, Richard Sims, Vusumuzi Sibanda, Brendon Taylor, Elton Chigumbura, Ryan Bennett, Jordane Nicolle, Trevor Gripper, Tinashe Panyangara, Waddington Mwayenga, Charles Coventry, Piet Rinke, Gavin Ewing and Stuart Matsikenyeri.

M'sing cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh County Club defeated Shapla Kiria Chakra by 47 runs in the Navana Premier Division Cricket League at the Circuit House ground yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Souvenir from the islands 36 At hand 4 "Clue" professor 8 Trudge 12 Possess 13 Abounding 14 Discourteous 15 Argue over 17 Stage 18 It's right on the map 19 Do some editing 20 Play banjo 22 Say whether you'll attend 24 Desire 28 Solicit 29 Mimic 30 Welded 31 Jane Smiley novel 32 Peevish 34 Pumps up the volume

35 "Sound of Music" extras 37 Tumbler 40 Go with the eagles 41 Traditional tales 42 2003 Yankee-turned-Astro 46 Advantag 47 Settled down 48 Deluge refuge 49 Night light 50 "Breckinridge" card

DOWN 1 Prune 2 Lamb's dam 3 The Web 4 Spectrum creator 5 Hoist 6 Vessel from far away 7 Actress Ryan 8 Wasting no time 9 Bodyshop job 10 Valhalla VIP 11 "Monopoly" card

16 Lacking music 19 Eager, and then some 20 Trade 21 Recording 22 Jockey's handful 23 Undo a dele 25 Blueprint 26 Undying 27 "My bad" 28 Winning margin, at times 30 Asset 33 Without appraisal 34 Jai follower 35 Terra -- 36 Secluded valley 37 Source of wealth 39 Jason's ship 40 Use a teaspoon 42 Actress Grier 43 Nevada town 44 Take a whack at 45 -- out a living

Solution time: 25 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP H T R W F Z P V R W F P D R N F E L S N . P D L U U E D W U W F W V V P H O U O H V R D H F W P V T E F H F E E R H Z H Q W V P V S . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'VE GOT AN OVERSEAS PEN PAL, SHOULD YOU CALL HER A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Windies name new age bowlers

AFP, Kingston The West Indies look set to field an inexperienced four-pronged pace attack in the first Test against England which gets underway here on Thursday.

The West Indies selectors cut Dave Mohammed, the one special-ist spinner, from the squad when they reduced it from 16 to 13 on Monday and it looks as if Corey Collymore, Fidel Edwards, Tino Best and Adam Sanford. Another young speedster Dwight Washington was also dropped from the squad, though the selectors insisted it had nothing to do with the 20-year-old being reported for having a suspect bowling action. They are not without players who can bowl occasional spin with all-rounders Ricardo Powell and Ryan Hinds capable of spinning the ball while batsmen Chris Gayle and Ramnaresh Sarwan are capable of filling in and giving the fast bowlers a rest.

The West Indies will be looking to their bowlers to step up to the plate after they disappointed in the recent tour of South Africa, while their batsmen did perform. A lot rests yet again on captain Brian Lara's shoulders along with veteran Shivnarine Chanderpaul while Sarwan and Gayle will be hoping to build on their successful series in South Africa -- where they both hit two centuries in the four test series which they lost.

SQUAD Brian Lara (Capt), Ramnaresh Sarwan, Tino Best, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Corey Collymore, Fidel Edwards, Chris Gayle, Ryan Hinds, Ridley Jacobs (wkt), Ricardo Powell, Adam Sanford, Devon Smith, Dwayne Smith.

Nafees joins Ctg Abahani

CU CORRESPONDENT On the opening day of the inter-club cricketers' transfer a total of 21 players changed their allegiance when the five-day bourse got underway at the Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha (CJKS) office here on Monday. The CJKS is organising the local Premier League after a two-year gap. Among the notable players to change tokens was former Bangladesh Under-19 captain Nafees Iqbal who joined Abahani Krira Chakra. Rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club, on the other hand, were busy as they roped in the services of Jahed from Abahani. Besides, Biplob of Shahjahan Sangha and Rising Star Club's Shipulu also joined the club. The elite league is expected to start after March 20 with 12 teams taking part.

Passions run

FROM PAGE 13 "Don't be so surprised at my reaction. When cricket is at the mercy of politicians, one has to be pessimistic." There were no Tests played between India and Pakistan from 1961-1978, and again from 1989 until now, due to political tensions. Ganguly's victory FROM PAGE 13 Ganguly expressed satisfaction over the three-day conditioning camp here saying it was basically meant to be a get-together of the players before a big series following a break of four weeks. The Indian captain said the Pakistan tour was a very good opportunity for bowlers like Murali Karthik and Ramesh Powar to prove themselves. "But is also a challenge for me how to handle them," he added. When asked whether the Indian attack would be weakened due to the absence of Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh, he said, "It depends on how you look at the strength and weaknesses. If you think sheer pace is the strength then we are behind, but if you think it is important to contain batsmen and win then that is our strength." Wright said the players realised well the importance of winning in Pakistan. "Indian players know that they are one step away from history if they win a series in Pakistan," he said. "Indians have been playing good cricket recently. We have now become the second best team in the limited version of the game. We home to play well in Pakistan." The one-day series gets underway in Karachi on March 13. The other matches will be held in Rawalpindi (March 16), Peshawar (March 19) and two day-night matches in Lahore on March 21 and 23. The one-dayers will be followed by a three-match Test series starting at Multan on March 28. The Indian team is due to meet Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and also attend briefings by security agencies and the foreign office before their departure for Lahore.

Forget home advantage

AFP, Paris Champions League

High-flying Arsenal face a test of their European Champions League credentials when they face Celta Vigo at Highbury on Wednesday in a bid to claim a place in the quarter finals. Nine points clear in the Premiership and having secured an FA Cup semi-final place following their 5-1 weekend thrashing of Portsmouth, Arsene Wenger's men just couldn't appear to be more confident. Yet European competition has often proved their undoing, and often at home. Arsenal fell 3-0 to Inter Milan at Highbury in September in their first match of the competition but showed character to fight back and qualify. And the club's talismanic captain Patrick Vieira warned that despite their 3-2 win in Spain a fortnight ago - their first win in the competition in Spain - they must play the waiting game. "We have to wait before we can call ourselves a great side," Vieira said. "Yes, we are doing well in the Champions League and FA Cup and we are well ahead in the Premier League, but at this stage we have no trophy yet this season," he told the London Evening Standard.

Vigo, who are struggling third from bottom of the Spanish top flight, will need to score twice at Highbury to have any chance of advancing. The odds appear to be stacked against the visitors, who could welcome back goalkeeper Pablo Cavallero from a broken nose picked up against Arsenal two weeks ago. Cavallero could have his work cut out if Wenger decides to use young Spanish striker Jose Antonio Reyes, while non-flying Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, often brought in for continental competition at home, could also be an option.

At the back Wenger may leave out Sol Campbell, who is suffering from a groin injury, and line up little-used Frenchman Pascal Cygan. German champions Bayern Munich are hopeful of having French international Willy Sagnol available against Real Madrid on Wednesday, with his compatriot Bixente Lizarazu also set to return from injury. Sagnol broke his forearm in Saturday's 3-1 defeat of Bayer Leverkusen. Manager Ottmar Hitzfeld feared the right back, 26, would miss the crunch game at the Bernabeu stadium but is now willing to take a gamble.

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti left star striker Andriy Shevchenko on the bench for the Serie A 3-1 win over Sampdoria at the weekend, obviously with one eye on keeping the Ukrainian fresh for the visit of Sparta Prague. The European champions came away from the Czech capital with a 0-0 draw in the first leg and Milan - who have a fully fit squad including striker Filippo Inzaghi and Alessandro Nesta at the back - are firm favourites to book their ticket for the last eight. Monaco's Fernando Morientes was on target against Lokomotiv Moscow in their 2-1 first leg defeat and the away strike might prove to be crucial in their attempts to go through from Wednesday's clash in the Principality. "If we go into the match with the right attitude, ready to work, we can get the result we need to qualify," Morientes said. "There's no doubt the away goal changed everything. If we had had to win 3-0 it would have been an altogether different proposition. "But we have to stay concentrated the entire 90 minutes. We've occasionally been caught short in this respect and we can't afford any mistakes because Lokomotiv, like all Russian sides, have some very talented players."

"We will do everything to ensure we can play," explained Hitzfeld. "It is just a question of whether he can overcome the anxiety and go into the challenges. We will test that on Tuesday."

FIXTURES

Champions League first knockout round, second leg fixtures on Wednesday (all kick-off times **1945 GMT**):

At London
Arsenal (ENG) v Celta Vigo (SPA) 3-2
1st leg
At Madrid
Real Madrid (SPA) v Bayern Munich (GER) 1-1
At Milan
AC Milan (ITA) v Sparta Prague (CZE) 0-0
At Monaco
Monaco (FRA) v Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS) 1-2

Face to face!

AFP, London Three Leicester City footballers held in Spain over a sex case are set for a courtroom showdown with their accusers on Wednesday, it was reported here Tuesday. The face-to-face confrontation between the players and the three women who are alleging rape and sexual assault comes after Spanish officials confirmed that the judge in charge of the case had ordered a new round of court appearances, media reports said. Leicester captain Paul Dickov, 32, Frank Sinclair, 33, and Keith Gillespie, 29, have been held in jail since their arrest last Wednesday. Lawyers acting for the footballers are said to be optimistic that the three will be cleared of any wrongdoing. Media reports in Britain claimed that CCTV footage taken from the La Manga resort showed the three women laughing and joking two days after the alleged attack. Representatives for the players want to use the video footage as evidence to guarantee their release from prison. Tim Davies, chief executive of Leicester City, said: "I get a sense that the lawyers are more optimistic at present and the timescale for this would be some resolution at some stage this week." Initially, nine Leicester players were detained by Spanish police investigating the claims by two women from Malawi and one from Kenya who work in Germany. Nikos Dabizas, Steffen Freund, Matt Elliott, James Scowcroft, Lilian Nalis and Danny Coyne were initially arrested along with Dickov, Gillespie and Sinclair but were subsequently released.

FA Cup An MU-Arsenal semi

AFP, London English Premiership leaders Arsenal were drawn against champions Manchester United in the FA Cup semi-finals on Monday. The fixture, to be held at a neutral ground, is a re-match of last season's Fifth Round tie at Old Trafford which Arsenal won 2-0. First Division Sunderland play either Millwall or Tranmere in the other semi-final on the weekend of April 3/4. Arsenal are aiming to be the first club ever to appear in four consecutive Finals - and the first to win the Cup three years running since Blackburn Rovers managed it in the 1880s. And Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger warned Manchester United that his side can play much better than they did in the 5-1 thrashing of Portsmouth. Manchester United, nine points behind Arsenal in third place in the Premiership, are in the semis for the 23rd time - but for the first time since 1999. An Arsenal victory at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium in May would equal Manchester United's record of 10 Cup wins.

First Division Sunderland are in their first semi-finals for 12 years. In 1992, when they beat Norwich City at Hillsborough to earn a Wembley Final against Liverpool, they were also outside the top division. Millwall were in the Third Division (South) when they last appeared in the semis in 1937. They were held 0-0 at home to Tranmere on Sunday and face a replay on March 16. Tranmere have yet to appear in a semi-final. Sunderland boss Mick McCarthy said: "It's a breath-taking draw. We have an opportunity to play a team from our own division with the added carrot of the Millennium Stadium at the end of it. FA Cup semi-final draw made Monday: Arsenal v Manchester United Sunderland v Millwall or Tranmere *Ties to be played on Sunday 4 April

Delightful Dilshan

FROM PAGE 13 the upper hand with their steady batting. Australian skipper Ricky Ponting kept rotating his spinners but none of them, including Warne, were able to trouble the Sri Lankans. Warne, who took one wicket on Monday, has far conceded 103 runs off 32 overs and MacGill 62 off 18. Surprisingly, Australian pace bowlers Kasprovicz and Jason Gillespie looked more impressive on a pitch which hardly helped them. Kasprovicz grabbed two wickets, including that of Dilshan who was caught by Justin Langer at mid-on while attempting to pull. He had earlier held a low return catch to dismiss Kumar Sangakkara (22). Gillespie's lone victim was Marvan Atapattu (47), who inside-edged the delivery on to his stumps after hitting seven fours in his 113-ball knock. The day belonged to Dilshan, who batted comfortably against both spin and pace to thwart Australia with his rich stroke-play. Dilshan received valuable support from Jayawardene, who had been batting fluently before driving a fuller-length delivery to

sidelined for two weeks after picking up a thigh injury in the 1-1 draw at Racing Santander. Raul was rested in Saturday's league draw having complained of a sore ankle but the Spain forward is now likely to plough a lonely furrow in attack with Francisco Pavon or Alvaro Mejia vying to replace Brazilian wingback Roberto Carlos, whose two-match suspension for violent behaviour was confirmed this week by UEFA. "We still have enough people on board to get us through. On other occasions we've been without Zinedine Zidane, Raul or (Luis) Figo and the team managed to come up with the goods," said Real coach Carlos Queiroz. "We have a great team with great players and can come through this test."

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti left star striker Andriy Shevchenko on the bench for the Serie A 3-1 win over Sampdoria at the weekend, obviously with one eye on keeping the Ukrainian fresh for the visit of Sparta Prague. The European champions came away from the Czech capital with a 0-0 draw in the first leg and Milan - who have a fully fit squad including striker Filippo Inzaghi and Alessandro Nesta at the back - are firm favourites to book their ticket for the last eight. Monaco's Fernando Morientes was on target against Lokomotiv Moscow in their 2-1 first leg defeat and the away strike might prove to be crucial in their attempts to go through from Wednesday's clash in the Principality. "If we go into the match with the right attitude, ready to work, we can get the result we need to qualify," Morientes said. "There's no doubt the away goal changed everything. If we had had to win 3-0 it would have been an altogether different proposition. "But we have to stay concentrated the entire 90 minutes. We've occasionally been caught short in this respect and we can't afford any mistakes because Lokomotiv, like all Russian sides, have some very talented players."

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French World Cup winner Lizarazu, 34, is almost certain to return to the starting line-up after he came through a sprinting session on Sunday. The diminutive defender picked up a thigh injury in the 1-1 draw with Real in the first leg at the Olympic Stadium and has been out for two weeks. Meanwhile Real Madrid will look to Raul, a Champions League record scorer, to fill Ronaldo's shoes after the Brazilian star was

Samba kept waiting

AFP, Doha

The Qatar football federation's (QFA) bid to lure Brazilians Ailton, Dede and Leandro to their national squad was hanging in the balance after 15 hours of talks ended inconclusively here Monday. The players, who play in Germany's Bundesliga, arrived Monday to finalise reportedly lucrative deals which will see them help oil-rich Qatar in their bid to qualify for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. However after lengthy talks the players left without signing contracts. "I haven't signed anything," said Ailton, following further talks with Sheikh Tamim Ben Hamad Al Thani. Qatar football chiefs insist however that the deal is still on and that the players will sign a contract in Germany. QFA chief Manfred Hoener said no deals had been signed but added: "We're in agreement." "We'll be sending the contracts to Germany, that's where the players will sign," added Hoener. Ailton is the Bundesliga's top scorer and plays for Werder Bremen while Dede, a defender, and Leandro, a striker, play for Borussia Dortmund. Qatar, coached by Frenchman Philippe Troussier, lost their first qualifier against Iran 3-0 and need a win against Jordan to keep their 2006 World Cup dream on track. "It's almost certain that Ailton will play with the Qatar national team in the next 2006 World Cup qualifier against Jordan on March 31," Qatar Federation deputy secretary general Majed Al-Khalifi told AFP ahead of the talks. Qatar have reportedly stumped up one million euros (1.2 million dollars) for Ailton to play the World Cup qualifiers but the Samba sensation maintains he is not a mercenary. "Money is not the decisive factor here as I earn good money at Bremen and will do at Schalke," added Ailton, who joins Schalke on a free transfer at the end of the campaign. "If Brazil ignore me for 2006 then I have to find another way to get there."

However FIFA may still step in to prevent 30-year-old Ailton playing for Qatar and take measures to prevent such incidents happening again, an executive committee member of soccer's world governing body said on Friday. Qatar have already lashed out the cash in athletics. Last year, Kenyan-born steeplechaser Stephen Cherono and 5,000 metres runner Albert Chepkirui controversially changed nationality to compete for the Gulf state. Cherono, under his new name of Saif Saeed Shaheen, won the gold medal for Qatar in the 3,000m steeplechase at the World Championships in Paris in August. UEFA champs versus Asia's best planned AFP, Kuala Lumpur Asian football chiefs on Tuesday unveiled plans for an annual fixture pitting the continent's best club against the winners of Europe's UEFA Cup. The first edition of the match -- the AFC/UEFA Challenge -- will be held at an as yet undecided Asian venue in December, with last year's Asian champions Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates taking part. Details for the fixture were announced following a two-day meeting of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) executive committee at the body's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. Officials also announced the launch of a new tournament aimed at accelerating the development of the region's weaker footballing nations. The AFC Challenge Cup will be held every two years from 2006, with the national teams of 17 countries taking part. The inaugural tournament will see Palestine, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Tajikistan, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Brunei, East Timor, Laos, Philippines, Cambodia, Taiwan, Guam, Macau and Mongolia taking part. "These 17 countries need time to catch up and close the gap on the more advanced nations in Asia," said AFC president Mohammad bin Hammam. Bin Hammam said the tournament was necessary because many countries presently stood little chance of qualifying for the Asian Cup, the region's premier international football tournament.