



Tennis equipment has changed drastically over the years. Early wooden rackets were replaced with graphite alternatives and the very last wooden racket used in a Championship was at Wimbledon in 1988.



Imran Khan
(Pakistan cricket legend)
"He was a thinking cricketer and at his peak he was the most destructive bowler the game had seen."
On Waqar Younis.



ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports Programme
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Cup
Villareal vs Celtic
Live at 11:55 pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline
Sports Programme
Live at 8:00 pm
UEFA Cup
Valencia vs Bordeaux
Live at 1:40 am (Thursday)

TEN Sports
India vs Pakistan
Third Test, Day Two
Live at 11:00 am
West Indies vs England
4th Test, Day Five
Live at 8:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 210

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm April 23, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

| | | | |
|---|----------|--------|---------|
| 1. How many gold medals did Bangladesh win in the recently concluded SAF Games? | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 2. Who is the coach of Chelsea? | Eriksson | Wenger | Ranieri |
| 3. What is the title of the official Euro 2004 song? | Forma | Forza | Forca |
| 4. Who clinched the WTA Key Biscayne title? | Venus | Henin | Serena |
| 5. What was the score of the India-Pakistan one-day series? | | | |

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| Name | |
| Class. | Roll No. |
| School Address | |
| Phone: (If any) | |

Bangladesh 2nd in Davis Cup qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh finished second in their group of the Davis Cup Group-4 qualifiers held in Jordan from April 5 to 11.

Bangladesh lost to Group B champions Sri Lanka 0-3 in their first match, but bounced back to win their next matches against Kyrgyzstan (3-0), Iraq (3-0) and Myanmar (2-1).

Lara in more ways than one



SPORTS REPORTER

When others sang praises Brian Lara's epic 400 landmark against England at St. John's in Antigua on Monday, the members of the Bangladesh cricket team considered it a master-class ahead of their tour to the West Indies next month.

But coach Dav Whatmore's boys, who will set off on May 6 for the Caribbean to mark their first away series, expressed that they do not want to face a same Lara during the two Tests and three one-day internationals.

"It's amazing, unbelievable. I think it is impossible to define the innings. I can only say he is the only man alive who could have attempted the 400 mark," said an excited Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar after watching the magnificent knock by the left-hander on television.

But Bashar, who himself is the top batsman of the country, however hoped that the master West Indian enjoyed a little nap in May.

"Lara is always a dangerous

batsman on his day and he has the natural ability to play big innings but he also experiences bad times in his career and I hope he will pass another bad patch in May," said a witty Bashar.

Whatmore said that it was natural for a player in the class of Lara to break records but the Sri Lankan born Australian wanted to keep his cards close to the chest when asked how his bowlers would deal with the left-hander.

"It is very simple. A great batsman played a great innings," said the 50-year-old while commenting on Lara's innings.

"But we will get him out," added the secretive Whatmore.

Certainly left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique, who is the top bowler of Bangladesh, was excited at the prospect of bowling to Lara.

"I have always been a fan of Lara, so it was exciting watching him to reclaim his record. But more importantly I've closely studied the highlights later to find if there were any flaws in his technique to exploit. My mission is to capture his prized wicket," said the wily 34-year-old spinner.

Former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud termed Lara's 400

a 'superhuman' effort.

"He is a moody player but when on song no bowling attack in the world can stop him. But there is no reason to be scared of Lara because that kind of innings does not happen everyday," said the diminutive all-rounder.

The younger members of the team Alok Kapali and Mohammad Ashraful, who are considered Bangladesh sporting icons, were looking at Lara's knock from a different point of view.

"Sachin Tendulkar is my idol but I also love Lara's batting. I was amazed at the way he built his remarkable innings and I have learned a lot from it," said the talented Kapali.

Ashraful is the youngest Test centurion on debut. But the right-hander considered Lara's innings an abject lesson for any young batsman.

"It was not the way he scored runs but the character, application and extreme motivation he showed while at the crease for nearly two and a half days that inspired me most. It was a privilege to watch such a magnificent innings," said the 20-year-old.



PHOTO: AFP

HIS LOOKS BELIE HIS ABILITY: Indian paceman Lakshmi Prasad successfully appeals a leg before decision against Pakistan wicketkeeper Asim Kamal on the opening day of the third and final Test in Rawalpindi yesterday.

Cricket can mend fences

REUTERS, Rawalpindi



sides believe can give new impetus to a stuttering peace process between the old enemies.

Symbolising the spirit in which the tour has been played, Indian and Pakistani flags fluttered side-by-side above the sun-drenched ground in Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad.

In the small crowd, fans from both countries sat together and traded cheers and jeers as the game progressed.

India put Pakistan into bat and

were in control after bowling the home side out for 224 runs.

Local hero Shoaib Akhtar, nicknamed the "Rawalpindi Express" for his fierce deliveries, grabbed a wicket with his first ball in reply, but the visitors survived the remaining overs unscathed.

India's cricketers have not been on a full tour of Muslim Pakistan since 1989, when Benazir Bhutto was prime minister and the Soviet Union still existed.

The series is the most powerful symbol yet of thawing ties between the cricket-mad, nuclear-armed rivals, coming less than two years after they were on the brink of a fourth war.

It has been likened to the "ping-pong diplomacy" US president Richard Nixon used in the early 1970s to establish contact with communist China.

"Cricket is extremely important," said Inderjit Singh, a turbaned Sikh

shopkeeper from the central Indian city of Nagpur on his first ever visit to Pakistan.

"Thanks to cricket many Indian people are coming here and forming friendships with Pakistanis," he added above the din of local supporters around him.

In matches that revive one of the great rivalries in sport, India won the one-day series of games 3-2. But the more prestigious series of five-day Test matches stands at 1-1.

"Where bullets were being fired, now cricket is being played," Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said last month, as his party made warming relations with Pakistan a central issue in upcoming elections.

He and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf are the main architects of a tentative peace process which has focused on

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Country's premier bowler Mohammed Rafique receives a crest from State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman yesterday. Rafique was voted the best player for the year 2003 in a poll conducted by Bangladesh Khela, the lone sport website of the country. Also present in the picture is famous footballer Kazi Salauddin (2nd from L), BCB advisor Riazuddin Al Mamun (R) and Aminul Haq Mullick, chairman of the website.



PHOTO: AFP

REVERED GROUND: West Indies batting superstar Brian Lara kisses the pitch of the Antigua Recreation Ground after smashing 384 to reclaim his Test score record against England on the third day of the fourth and final Test on Monday. Lara, who eventually finished on 400 not out, also scored 375 at the very ground 10 years ago.

Repeat final in school cricket

SPORTS REPORTER



moved into the final of the Standard Chartered 22nd National School Cricket Tournament beating their respective rivals yesterday.

The two-day final starts today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Defending champions BKSP (Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan) pulled off an exciting five-run victory against Wiles Little Flower at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Jupiter Ghosh hit 47 as BKSP collected 180 before being all out in 49 overs after deciding to bat first.

Raisul Islam was the little flower who held back the defending champions to such a total as he took four for 31 runs. But in their turn they were bundled out for 175 with three balls to spare.

At the Jagannath Hall ground of the Dhaka University, Parjiar Kalindi confirmed their ticket with a facile eight-wicket victory over Sabuj Kanan High.

Ali hammered 53 and Masud scored 47 as Parjiar made 136 for 2 in 32 overs in reply to Sabuj Kanan's 132 all out in 43.3 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BKSP: 180 all out in 49 overs (Jupiter 47, Shuvolat 27, Shahidur 18; Raisul 4-31, Mahmudul 2-24, Mehrib 2-20)

WILES LITTLE FLOWER: 175 all out in 49.3 overs (Shakil 32, Moniruzzaman 29, Mehrib 25, Raisul 24; Hafiz 1-9, Nazmul 1-22)

Result: BKSP won by five runs.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

England 231-8

REUTERS, St John's

England, replying to West Indies first innings of 751 for five declared, were 231 for eight at lunch on the fourth day of the fourth Test on Tuesday.

Andrew Flintoff was batting on 68.

Rafique's the best

SPORTS REPORTER

Sports journalists voted left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique as the best player of the year for 2003.

The 34-year-old Rafique, whose outstanding performance with the leather yielded him 33 wickets in six Tests and 16 wickets in 20 one-day internationals, got highest 274 points. His nearest rivals were cricketer Habibul Bashar with 227 points and captain of triumphant Third SAFF Championship team Rajani Kanta Barman, who collected 53.

He received a trophy and Tk 50,000 from State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman at a colorful prize giving ceremony, organised by bangladesherkhela.com -- the only Bangladeshi sports site in Bangla on the web, at BIAM Auditorium.

Sports personalities and players were present on the occasion.

400: Beat that!



AFP, St. John's

West Indies captain Brian Lara became the first batsman to score 400 runs and then watched his fast bowlers build on his hard work to leave England in tatters in the fourth and final cricket Test.

Lara reclaimed the world record for the highest individual Test innings from Australia's Matthew Hayden and was undefeated on an unprecedented quadruple century to lead West Indies to a formidable first innings total of 751 for five on the third day on Monday.

Eager to finish a forgettable series on a high note, the West Indies bowlers, led by Tino Best and Pedro Collins, then ran through England's top order batting to leave the visitors on 171 for five in reply with Andrew Flintoff not out on 37 and Simon Jones not out on 32.

Lara swept off-spin bowler Gareth Batty to the deep fine leg boundary for the 42nd four of his innings to overtake Hayden's mark. He had equalled the Australian opening batsman's 380 when he lofted the previous ball for Batty for the last of his four sixes straight into the top deck of the Sir Vivian Richards Pavilion.

Lara ran the full length of the pitch, leapt and punched the air in triumph to celebrate his recapture of the world batting record. New Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer was escorted out to the middle to embrace the batting genius, who capped celebrations by kneeling and kissing the pitch.

"It's hard to believe -- a great feeling," Lara said.

"It's been really, really tiring but I feel great."

Lara previously held the mark of 375 against the same opponents at this same Antigua Recreation Ground 10 years earlier and it stood until Hayden erased it against Zimbabwe at Perth last October.

Asked if Hayden had been in touch he smiled: "I didn't get that call yet but I'll check my telephone messages when I get home!"

"I know he'll have been wishing me on."

After he and Ridley Jacobs, who diligently reached his own personal landmark of a third Test hundred, carried West Indies to 734 for five, Lara returned after the interval to sweep Batty in the same direction for a single to reach 400 before making the declaration.

Lara occupied the crease for nearly 13-1/4 hours and faced 584 deliveries to establish the new mark about 25 minutes after the lunch interval. He and Jacobs shared 282, unbroken, for the sixth wicket to put West Indies in command of the Test.

On Sunday, Lara had joined the late, great Sir Don Bradman as the only other batsman to complete two Test triple hundreds. The former Australia captain and batting legend also found England's bowling to his liking and murdered 334 and 304 off them in 1930 and 1934 respectively, both at Leeds.

Left-hander Jacobs, who was bowled by Michael Vaughan no-ball when he was 87, spent nearly 5-1/4 hours and 207 balls over his unbeaten 107 that included eight fours and three sixes.

With Matthew Hoggard off the

field with an upset tummy and Steve Harmison removed from the attack for treading on the protected area of the pitch, England's efforts to knock over either Lara or Jacobs were severely hampered.

Batty with two wickets for 185 runs from 52 overs was the most successful England bowler. Harmison, Andrew Flintoff and Simon Jones were the other wicket-takers.

In response, England again lost opening batsmen Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick cheaply and were 48 for two at tea.

Vaughan went to a dubious umpiring decision from Pakistani Aleem Dar, caught behind off Pedro Collins for seven. Television replays suggested that the ball touched nothing on its way through to Jacobs.

Just when it appeared Trescothick might be settling down, he too, was caught behind off Best for 16 flashing at a short, wide ball just before tea.

After the break, Tino Best had early success when Nasser Hussain was beaten for pace and bowled between bat and pad for three to leave England 54 for three. But Best, bowling a lively spell, twisted his ankle and left the field.

Mark Butcher started to blossom in his absence with a few delightful strokes either side of the wicket. He raced to his half-century and took England to the verge of the 100-run mark, before Collins had him bowled for 52 that

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Lauding Lord Lara



AFP, Melbourne

Australian opening batsman Matthew Hayden has praised West Indies skipper Brian Lara for taking the world Test record score to a new level.

In a 13-hour batting marathon against England on Antigua, Lara broke Hayden's world-record individual Test score of 380 and went on to raise an unbeaten 400 before the West Indies declared their first innings in the fourth Test on Monday. Hayden's 380 against Zimbabwe in Perth last October had surpassed Lara's own 10-year-old record of 375 runs.

"I sort of had the expectation that he was going to break the record -- he really had it in his sights," Hayden said here on Tuesday.

"And I think he's that kind of player as well who has incredible skill and ability to be able to bat a long period of time. He's truly taken it to a new level."

Hayden was quick to phone Lara and congratulate him after his peerless 400.

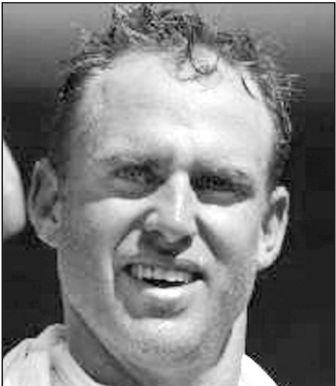
"I spoke to him this morning and (he said) it was a really fun experience and similar to the one we had in Perth," Hayden said.

"It was really noisy -- Antigua's a venue that basically turns into a hip

hop stage and you can imagine walking through the dressing room cutting a swathe of cigar smoke as all these guys are dancing around."

"They were having a lot of fun and so they should. It's a tremendous event and marks a record-breaking performance...something which no-one has ever done before."

Hayden said he was mildly disappointed about losing the



MATTHEW HAYDEN

record but had enjoyed his time -- albeit relatively brief -- as cricket's greatest run-maker.

"I guess you feel a little bit disappointed but at the same time I've enjoyed an incredible wave of euphoria for the better part of six months. It's been a lot of fun."

Hayden said that while "the

gauntlet's there", he does not expect to set a new world record again.

"I had no real expectations to break the record and nothing's really changed for me."

"I hadn't really had any expectations, firstly to get it and even to hold it, I had nothing in mind."

"I wanted to let him know how appreciative I was when he contacted me in Perth, and I thought it was only appropriate that I pass on my own best wishes to him and his family," he said.

"Breaking Brian's record against Zimbabwe was one of the most memorable days of my cricketing life, but records are made to be broken, and as a batsman, I guess they can fall at any time," Hayden said.

"I've been fortunate enough to be part of an incredibly successful Australian team and I see my role as not a record breaker, but as a valuable contributor to a winning team," he added.

Lara's milestone was hailed by another great batsman, Inza-mamul Haq.

The Pakistan captain, who scored 329 against New Zealand at Lahore two years ago said: "400? I would be happy getting half that much. Lara is a wonderful batsman to watch. I know records are meant to be broken but I can't see anyone

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8