CJKS-Ispahani cricket

CU CORRESPONDENT

Brothers Union recorded a seven-wicket victory over Satadal Junior in the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Division Cricket league at the MA Aziz Stadium on Sunday.

Satadal Junior decided to bat first and they scored 189 before being all out in 49.2 overs. Kesowar Parvez made 36 while Kamrul Islam added 24. Brothers' Ali Liton claimed five for 22 in 7.2 overs.

In reply, Brothers made 190 for three in 35.3 overs after Nuruzzaman slammed an unbeaten 79. It contained ten boundaries. Nazim Uddin struck 56 with the help of five fours.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Haque Sporting Club recorded a nine-wicket victory over Nannu Smriti Sangha in a cricket tournament at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Nannu Smriti Sangha batted first and scored 107 for nine in the stipulated 25 overs. Jewel top-scored with 27.

Haque Sporting Club coasted to 108-1 in 11 overs with Firoz hitting 62.

Read sixers

FROM PAGE 13

Smith c Flintoff b Clarke	16
Joseph not out	23
Jacobs not out	2
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-10, nb-1)	19
Total: (For 5 wkts in 30 overs)	156

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-25, 3-25, 4-64, 5-151

Did not bat: Bravo, Dillon, Rampaul, Collymore

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	6	0	22	2
Harmison	6	0	34	0
Kirtley	6	0	28	0
Flintoff	6	2	22	2
Clarke	2	0	16	1
Trescothick	3	0	9	0
Collingwood	1	0	17	0

ENGLAND

Trescothick b Bravo	26
Vaughan c Jacobs b Dillon	0
Strauss b Bravo	29
Flintoff c Jacobs b Gayle	8
Collingwood c Smith b Gayle	10
Blackwell b Rampaul	27
Clarke run out (Jacobs)	1
Read b Gayle	27
Gough not out	9
Harmison not out	0
Extras: (lb-4, w-14, nb-2)	20
Total: (For 8 wkts in 29.3 overs)	157

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-60, 3-75, 4-75, 5-108, 6-119, 7-120, 8-154

Did not bat: Kirtley

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dillon	6	0	35	1
Collymore	6	1	35	0
Bravo	6	0	31	2
Rampaul	6	0	32	1
Gayle	5.3	0	20	3

Result: England won by two wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Chris Read.

Maradona

FROM PAGE 13

In 1991 he failed a dope test for cocaine and was banned for 15 months.

He played in his fourth World Cup in the United States in 1994 but tested positive for a cocktail of drugs the day before he was due to make his record 22nd appearance.

Maradona was admitted to a Uruguayan hospital in 2000 for hypertension and an irregular heart beat.

He has spent most of the past two years in Cuba undergoing treatment for drug addiction.

Despite his well-publicised drug problems, Maradona has a wide-spread fan club with 20,000 people as far afield as Vietnam and Iceland becoming members of the 'Church of Maradona'.

He has also been honoured with a musical about the ups and downs of his turbulent rags-to-riches life.

Zim saddens the sport

First ODI against Sri Lanka today

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, *undated*

Zimbabwe's decision to drop 13 rebel white players gives cricket authorities the upper hand in a racially-charged row but the sport is the real loser.

As legal writs flew from both sides alleging breach of contract, on the pitch the scene looks set for a record-breaking drubbing for Zimbabwe at the hands of Sri Lanka in Tuesday's opening one-day international.

Dropping the rebels brought to a head a fortnight of wrangling between the board and the players that began when Heath Streak's tenure as captain ended after he questioned the composition of the selection panel.

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) said Streak had resigned from all cricket -- only for the former captain's father to deny the report.

Twelve other players refused to play in the home series against Sri Lanka unless he was reinstated. They also demanded the removal of Max Ebrahim from the selection panel and that the ZCU acknowledged "transgressions" by its board officials.

The board claimed the players were in breach of contract, and fired all 13, who represent the bulk of Zimbabwe's international experience. Now there is talk of up to three leading black players joining the strike.

"Obviously it has set us back," ZCU chief executive officer Vince Hogg said, quoted in the Sunday Times in neighbouring South Africa. "We've now named a second side and have to go forward. Cricket in Zimbabwe doesn't stop because of this."

The ZCU was forced to pick an inexperienced squad, led by 20-year-old Tatenda Taibu. He is set to become the youngest captain in Test history if there is no deal by the first Test in Harare on May 6.

With the rookie side picked for the first two one-day matches, the Sri Lanka tour is set to break more records, with Muttiah Muralitharan on the verge of a Test wicket bowling record.

The timing is terrible, with Australia due to tour straight after Sri Lanka and England expected in October, despite agonising over whether to go to the former colony or face ICC sanctions.

The row stems from the ZCU's decision two years ago to implement development plans more aggressively -- including aiming to field five black players in every match.

Instead of yielding greater integration, wrangling within the cricket establishment led to racial polarisation that has undermined the quality of the Zimbabwean game.

Several high-profile players have left the country or retired, while others have gone to ply their trade at club level abroad, eroding the depth of talent in Zimbabwean cricket.

It is no accident that all 13 rebels are white. Cricket remains a sport traditionally played and followed by a greater proportion of Zimbabwe's white minority than the black majority.

But the squad of 14 that the ZCU named to play in Tuesday's one-dayer in Bulawayo includes only one white player.

Even before the latest flare-up Zimbabwe had been struggling since Andy Flower and Henry Olonga famously wore black armbands during the 2003 World Cup to "mourn the death of democracy in our beloved Zimbabwe".

Both men moved abroad shortly afterwards and neither has played for Zimbabwe since.

SCHEDULE

Apr 20: 1st ODI at Bulawayo
Apr 22: 2nd ODI at Bulawayo
Apr 25: 3rd ODI at Harare
Apr 27: 4th ODI at Harare
Apr 29: 5th ODI at Harare
May 1-3: 3-dayer v Zimbabwe A at Harare
May 6-10: 1st Test at Harare
May 14-18: 2nd Test at Bulawayo

SQUADS

ZIMBABWE (from): Tatenda Taibu (captain), Dion Ebrahim, Elton Chigumbura, Stuart Matsikenyere, Alester Maregwede, Mluleki Nkala, Waddington Mwayengwa, Brendon Taylor, Douglas Hondo, Proper Utseya, Tawanda Mpariwa, Edward Rainsford, Tinashe Panyangara.

SRI LANKA (from): Marvan Attapatu (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Tilikaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Saman Jayantha, Thilina Kandamby, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Nuwan Kalesekera, Farvez Maharoof, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandara, Ragana Herath.

Lara mark may remain untouchable: Ponting

Cricket

AFP, *Sydney*

Australia's desire to win Test matches in quick time makes surpassing Brian Lara's world record score virtually unattainable, skipper Ricky Ponting said here on Monday.

Ponting doubts whether Lara's magnificent unbeaten 400, made for the West Indies against England at Antigua last week, will ever be surpassed because few skippers in world cricket would be willing to jeopardise a winning position by allowing one batsman to spend so long at the crease.

Lara's quadruple century -- the first in Test history, eclipsing Matthew Hayden's former world mark of 380 -- was almost 13 hours in the making.

Lara has been criticised for being selfish in chasing the world record until after lunch on the third day of the fourth Test and not leaving enough time for his team to win the match.

"It's hard to imagine an Australian player doing it, just because of the way we play our cricket. It's generally not the way we play," Ponting said.

"I've read some of the reports in the paper over the last couple of days about Lara's innings.

"Their whole first innings might have been geared around one individual performance and they could have let a Test match slip because of it.

"They ran out of time in the game -- that's not the way the Australian team plays."

Matthew Hayden's previous world record 380 against Zimbabwe in Perth last October took just over ten hours in a match Australia won by an innings and 175 runs early on the fifth day.

Ponting said then captain Steve Waugh's decision to let Hayden keep batting, in an effort to break Lara's previous world record of 375, was the exception to the team rule.

"It was a very rare thing what we did with that Zimbabwean Test match, for Matty to be able to bat for as long as he did and go on and make that big score," Ponting said.

"He was given the opportunity to go on and break Brian's record and he did that. He was going to be given another half an hour, or 20 minutes, to try to get to 400 but unfortunately he got out."

Ponting, Hayden, Lara and India's Sachin Tendulkar are regarded as world cricket's pre-eminent batsmen, but the Australian skipper said he was only vaguely interested in individual records.

"It would be nice if you could be the world record holder but at the end of the day, as we've seen, it doesn't necessarily win you a Test match, which is what we're all about," he said.

"Everyone will be chasing it, there's a record there now I'm sure a lot of batsmen around the world would like to have their name next to. But we'll have to wait and see how things pan out over the next few years."

Australia play two Tests in Zimbabwe next month.

Selectors' spin

FROM PAGE 13

others, does not matter. I am confident about Rafique and Razzak. I agree that the wickets will be helpful for pace bowlers, but I can also field three pacers any time. It's only just three games," said Whatmore.

Still searching for the right opening combination, Whatmore said that he would not mind to send Manjarul Islam to open again after his success in the fifth and final one-day international against Zimbabwe where the southpaw scored 63.

When asked whether he was aware of the suspect action of Razzak, who was reported by umpires while playing in the domestic cricket, Whatmore said that he did not find anything wrong with him.

"We have filmed his action. I don't think there will be any problem," said Whatmore.

Meanwhile, BCB's Cricket Committee chairman Mahbub Anam announced that Habibul Bashar would captain the side until the Champions Trophy in England in September this year. The country's top batsman will also lead the Tigers in the Asia Cup in July-August in Colombo.

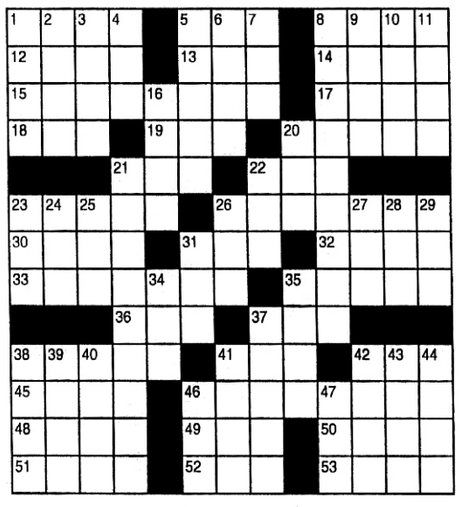
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Laundry
5 Hot tub
8 Clench
12 Jam ingredient?
13 It's for horses!
14 Took the A train
15 Acceleration competition
17 Competent
18 Audio receiver
19 Raw rock
20 Prepare to propose
21 Swab
22 Top
23 — salts
26 Mothball material, once
30 Source
31 Profession
32 Discourteous
33 Acceptable
35 Went without saying?
36 Jazz enthusiast
37 Jack's container
38 Inlet between slopes
41 Long March leader
42 R-V link
45 Letterman rival
46 15-Across entrant, maybe
48 Diner offering
49 Antiquated
50 Have coming
51 Eve's grandson
52 Thickness
53 Biblical prophet

DOWN
1 Test the waters
2 Emanation
3 Constellation component
4 Glutton
5 Keen
6 Wear a rut in the rug
7 Crew's consent
8 High-level competition
9 Judicial raiment
10 Taking it easy
11 Banana castoff
16 Leeway
20 Ms. Basinger
21 Bikers' contest
22 Retriever type, for short
23 Pitching stat
24 Campaigner, for short
25 Impresario Hurok
26 Food fish
27 Render a tune
28 Praise in verse
29 Flushed
31 Lustrous black
34 Bankroll
35 Armstrong's destination
37 Bat back and forth
38 Escape
39 Weight Watchers' founder Nidetch
40 Aware of
41 Meditate (over)
42 Con game
43 Poi base
44 Coffee-shop vessels
46 Dandy
47 Verily

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	D	S			P	A	S		H	A	N	K
R	O	T	H		E	G	O		A	L	O	E
I	D	E	A		G	U	N		L	E	V	Y
B	O	W	L	S		E	A	R	L			
			L	E	A		R	I	A	L	T	O
R	I	S	O	T	T	O		O	N	I	O	N
A	S	O	F		M	A	R		D	O	T	E
J	I	F	F	Y		K	I	M	O	N	O	S
A	T	T	A	I	N		B	O	A			
			M	P	A	A		O	T	H	E	R
J	U	D	E		K	I	N		E	A	V	E
A	M	O	R		E	D	O		S	L	I	D
M	A	S	S		D	A	G			F	L	O



CRYPTOQUIP

S B W Z O S A L X M O M R B ZALTWNWZ PXW MZOWZRWTE NPC, CA EAJ OBMZG OBWE'TT CJGW MO AJO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU SHOULD APPROACH A DOOR THAT HAS A BEAUTIFUL, FANCY DOORBELL, DON'T KNOCK IT!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

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.

Inzamam stays

FROM PAGE 13

the job, the previous two having ended in controversy: the first time around, he quit after disagreements with his senior players, 15 days before the 1999 World Cup; the second time, he was sacked.

Pakistan's defeat in the one-dayers, which they lost 3-2 and the Test series (2-1) were the first at home to India. It was also India's first full cross border tour for 15 years.

Khan also ruled out major changes to the team.

"There will be some changes but these would be done after having meetings with the management and the players and selectors. We are not going to jump the gun," Khan said.

"We are definitely concerned with the lack of effort on the part of the players in the final Test match, and with the numerous injury problems that hit the team, particularly Shoaib Akhtar," he added.

The PCB has already announced that a medical commission will investigate the spate of injuries in the team during the series.

Moin Khan, Shabbir Ahmed, Abdul Razzaq and Umar Gul, man-of-the-match in Pakistan's win in the second Test in Lahore, were out injured for the final Test.

PHOTO: AFP

American Venus Williams poses with the trophy after beating Spain's Conchita Martinez in the final of the Family Circle Cup on April 18.

Venus back to winning

Tennis

AFP, *Charleston*

Venus Williams captured her first WTA title in 14 months, rallying to defeat Spain's Conchita Martinez 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 in the final of the Family Circle Cup.

Williams won the 189,000-dollar top prize at the 1.3 million-dollar event and took her 30th career crown, the first since February of last year at Antwerp.

"I'm really so excited," Williams said.

"I want to start this year from here."

It was the first title for the fourth-seeded American since a six-month injury layoff for an abdominal strain following her loss to younger sister Serena Williams in last year's Wimbledon final.

The victory gave Williams a much-needed confidence boost heading into the European clay-court season on the road to next month's start of the French Open.

Despite falling behind, Williams stuck with her match plan and wore down Martinez, attacking short balls and playing her best match of the final US clay court event of the season.

"That was important for me to do," Williams said.

"I'm really just trying to stay positive during my matches. I don't always do that. I need to stay positive and keep rolling."

Williams fired 37 winners past Martinez despite struggling in the first set. She netted a forehand on her first match point but won when the Spaniard sent a backhand beyond the baseline on the next point.

Martinez broke Williams to open the match and dominated the first set, but Williams shut her down from there.

"The first set was a little bit shaky for me," Williams said.

"I had to adjust to her game. I had to slow it down and get really aggressive."

Williams won seven games in a row, breaking to claim the second set and racing to a 5-0 lead in the third before Martinez held, setting the stage for Williams to hold in the final game.

ZCU boss tries to convince England

REUTERS, *London*

Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) chairman Peter Chingoka will try to persuade England to go ahead with their tour in October at a meeting at Lord's on Tuesday.

Chingoka and ZCU board member Ozias Bvute will attend an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) management meeting called to discuss the controversial visit.

The meeting takes place on the same day as a one-day international between Sri Lanka and a Zimbabwe side seriously weakened by the absence of 13 rebel white players.

An ECB statement said no decision about the tour would be made on Tuesday and there would be no news conference.

A report from ECB management board member Des Wilson this year said moral issues as well as security concerns should be taken into account when considering whether to go ahead with the Zimbabwe tour.

However, last month the International Cricket Council (ICC) said any team failing to fulfil their tour obligations faced suspension from the international game and a 2-million-dollar fine unless there were legitimate safety or security concerns.

On the same day British Prime Minister Tony Blair's official spokesman said the government had serious concerns about Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's government but made it clear a final decision on the tour remained with the ECB.

The ECB are expected to make a final decision next month after consulting government ministers. England refused to play in Zimbabwe in last year's World Cup because of security fears.

World champions Australia are also due to tour Zimbabwe this year.

Cricket goes

FROM PAGE 13

Dhaka Leagues but said that the competition opened a new domestic frontier.

"Let me put it this way. We have introduced another competition in the calendar which will ultimately benefit the players. It is an addition that will secure their lives."

The BCB grounds committee was hopeful to complete the league on schedule despite the fact it is being played at the start on rainy season. And this was the reason for some Dhaka clubs to boycott the Premier and First Division leagues.

"We have adequate logistical support to protect three venues and only in case of heavy showers can match not go ahead," said member secretary of the grounds committee Rafiqul Islam.

Besides the all-purpose BNS the other venues are Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Fatullah Stadium.

Private television channel ntv is expected to telecast a 30-minute capsule everyday.

CCL member secretary Ishtiaque Ahmad, DGM (sales and marketing) of GrameenPhone Galib Ahmed Ansary and tournament co-ordinator Ali Hossain were also present at the briefing.

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Group A: GrameenPhone, MM Ispahani, Bashundhara Group, Bangladesh Biman, Gazi Tank Cricketers, BADC Krira Sangha and BCB Development Squad.

Group B: Acme Laboratories, CityCell, Beximco Group, ARAF Apparels, Aktel Executive Club and Partex Group.

Roddick rocked

Tennis

AFP, *Houston*

Germany's Tommy Haas captured his first ATP title since 2001, defeating American top seed Andy Roddick 6-3, 6-4 here Sunday to win the 400,000-dollar United States Clay Court Championship.

Haas, who missed all of last year following right rotator cuff surgery in December of 2002, won 52,000 dollars and his first ATP title since Stuttgart in 2001. It was his sixth ATP title and his first on clay.

"I was pretty close (at the Stuttgart Outdoors) a few years ago, just two points away, so it means a lot to have my first clay court title but even more because of what I've been through," he said.

"I am glad to win my first title since coming back," he said.

"I didn't expect it to happen this fast."

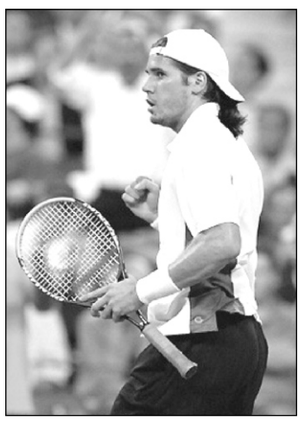
The 26-year-old German, who had not reached an ATP final since Rome two years ago, rose to 4-0 overall against Roddick, snapping the American's 12-match winning streak.

They had not played since Haas beat him in Rome in 2002 - all of Haas' victories over Roddick coming before the German's health problems and before the American's emergence as one of the top players in tennis.

"Overall, the shoulder feels pretty good," Haas said.

"A match like this and a win like this over Andy does a lot for your confidence. He's a tremendous player and it's always nice to beat a guy like him. I think my game suits playing against him well. We'll have to see when we play in the future on a different surface to see how we match up."

Reigning US Open champion Roddick had won 18 of his prior 19 matches here, capturing titles in 2001 and 2002 and losing last year's final to compatriot Andre Agassi.



TOMMY HAAS

Nat'l jr tennis from May 10

SPORTS REPORTER

The National junior tennis championships will be held in Dhaka from May 10-14.

Interested youngsters have been requested to send their entries to the Bangladesh Tennis Federation by May 8 for the following age groups -- boys' Under-17 and U-13 and girls' U-17 and U-13.

Nat'l youth v'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi blanked Perojepur 3-0 in yesterday's National youth volleyball championships match at the Volleyball Stadium.

They dominated the tie winning the three sets 25-6, 25-8 and 25-7.

In other matches, Tangail beat Satkhira 25-18, 25-13, 25-27, 25-21, Comilla defeated Rangamati 25-7, 25-6, 25-13 and Jessore beat Munshiganj 25-6, 25-13 and 25-12.

Reds bolstered

FROM PAGE 13

just one goal against the same team," Arabi said.

The team is coached by Faisal Aziz, an Iraqi who had visited Dhaka in 1983 as a technical member of the English amateur football team Middlesex Wanderers, who finished runners-up in the President's Gold Cup tournament.

Muktijoddha are scheduled to take on Nissa FC on May 5 at home before flying off to Lebanon to play their last match against Nejmeh on May 19.