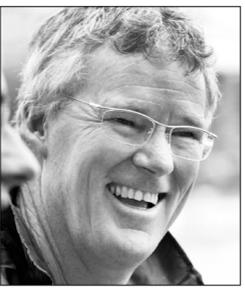


Bracewell's new vision

Cricket
AFP, London

New Zealand are finished with being the apologists of world cricket. Black Caps coach John Bracewell, who recently returned to New Zealand after a six-year absence which included a stint as coach of English county side Gloucestershire, has noticed a fresh attitude among his nation's players. "There is a greater self-belief in our cricketers than there once was," said Bracewell at Lord's Cricket Ground, where his side is preparing for their three-Test series against England. "I noticed it the first week I was there. There were young kids who walked on to the park as though they owned the park... which is very un-New Zealand-like. "In the past we've tended to be in awe of people who were perceived to be of greater names than ourselves and almost apologetic in the way we played." Bracewell sees encouraging signs for the future of New Zealand cricket, with more youngsters choosing cricket as an athletic

endeavour over other sports. "These guys are the start of that," Bracewell said of his team, who also take on England and the West Indies in a one-day series in June and July. "There's some genuine athletes



JOHN BRACEWELL

in this cricket team who could have chosen rugby and other sports and they have a different self-belief. "It's an attitude more than anything else of belief that I am a professional" rather than the last of the amateurs in world cricket. It's probably a self-respect thing." New Zealand skipper Stephen

Fleming also noted a difference between the team that beat England in 1999. "Man for man we're a stronger side," Fleming said. "We're in a better phase as a team, we're coming off some good performances. "We don't know how good we can be, which is exciting, but individually I think it's the most talented side I've been involved with. "It's an evolution of our game and we've certainly got areas to improve on, but I like the direction we're heading." With rain having forced the Black Caps indoors to train, Fleming played down any edge his side might gain from arriving before England returns from the West Indies, or from the fact that the one-day series between the latter teams has been a virtual wash-out in the Caribbean. "It is interesting that they're also in the situation where they're getting rain and no play as well so I guess they're pretty frustrated at the moment," Fleming said. "If it was fine and we were outside, then it would be an advantage. We're indoors, probably the same as them, so there's no advantage to be gained there."

Rising Star lose, MSC win

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Both defending champion Rising Star and title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club had mixed fortunes when the super six round of the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Cricket League began on Saturday. Brothers Union outclassed mighty Rising Star by 33 runs at MA Aziz Stadium while Mohammedan beat Chittagong City Corporation by 13 runs at the Divisional Stadium. Rising Star failed to make it their day as their Pakistani recruits Ashraf Ali and Kashif Naveed departed cheaply while chasing a target of 200. Sent into bat, Brothers scored 199 in 47.2 overs with Mohammad Ali Liton hitting highest 32. In reply, Rising were bowled out 166 in 39 overs. Opener Gazi Salaudinn made 40 off 44 balls. MSC V CCC In day's other match, Mohammedan made 221 for eight in the stipulated 48 overs. Zahid Adil scored a brilliant half-century (63 off 99 balls) followed by cameo (46 off just 24 balls) from Rajib. Mithu and Masum shared three wickets each for CCC. Masum also starred with the bat but his responsible 78 off 120 balls went in vain.

Moynamati golf
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Major General Masududdin Chowdhury won the Goalini-Moynamati Golf Cup Tournament at Comilla Cantonment on Friday. Master Albab and Major Tofael became the first and second runners-up respectively. Besides, Mrs Yousuf and master Shabab won the women and junior groups. A total of 73 golfers competed in the tournament. Moynamati Golf and Country club president and GOC of 33 Infantry Division Major General Masududdin Chowdhury gave away prizes among the winners. Major General ATM Jahurul Alam and tournament committee president Brigadier General Manjur Quader were also present.

Williams thru'
AFP, Warsaw

Venus Williams will face Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova in the final of the J and S Cup after beating third seeded Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 6-2 on Saturday. Earlier fourth seed Kuznetsova overcame ninth seeded Italian Francesca Schiavone by the same score. Zvonareva offered second seeded Williams a good challenge Saturday and engaged her in a succession of fierce baseline rallies, but Williams held an edge with the power and quality of her serving, which often placed her Russian opponent under pressure.

Eto'o rules Africa

Football
REUTERS, YAOUNDE

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o was named African Footballer of the Year on Friday, becoming the sixth player from his country to win the individual honour. Eto'o finished ahead of Ivorian striker Didier Drogba and Jay-Jay Okocha in the vote of members of the Confederation of African Football's media and technical committee. Eto'o was lauded for his performance in 2003 when he helped Cameroon to reach the final of the Confederations Cup in France in June and scored a stunning individual goal in the tournament as Cameroon beat world champions Brazil 2-1-0 in Lyon. During the tournament, he also returned to his Spanish club Real Mallorca to score twice in the King's Cup final, which they won with a 3-0 win over Recreativo Huelva in Elche. Eto'o follows in the footsteps of compatriots Roger Milla, Thomas Nkono, Jean Manga Onguene, Theophile Abega and Patrick Mboma as a winner of the award. The announcement was greeted with much celebration by the home crowd and a large audience which had assembled outside the venue. Eto'o dedicated the award to his former international team mate Marc-Vivien Foe, who died from a heart attack during the Confederations Cup semi-final against Colombia in Lyon in June. Foe's wife accompanied Eto'o onto the stage to receive the award.

"I thank all who helped me in my career but this is an award I must dedicate to Marco," he said. Okocha had been nominated for his performances for Nigeria and English club Bolton Wanderers in 2003, while Drogba finished in the top three for his goalscoring performances for both En Avant Guingamp and Olympique Marseille in the French Ligue 1 last year.



SAMUEL ETO'O

Confederation of African Football instituted a new award. 2003: Samuel Eto'o (Real Mallorca, Spain and Cameroon) The award was organised by the French soccer magazine "France Football" until 1994, after which the

ALL WINNERS

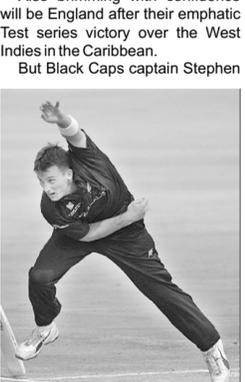
- Full list of past African Footballer of the Year award winners: 1970: Salif Keita (St Etienne, France and Mali) 1971: Ibrahim Sunday (Asante Kotoko and Ghana) 1972: Cherif Souleymane (Hafia and Guinea) 1973: Tshimen Bwanga (TP Mazembe Englebert and Zaire) 1974: Paul Moukila (CARA Brazzaville and Congo) 1975: Ahmed Faras (Mohammedia and Morocco) 1976: Roger Milla (Canon Yaounde and Cameroon) 1977: Tarak Dhiab (Esperance and Tunisia) 1978: Karim Abdoul Razak (Asante Kotoko and Ghana) 1979: Thomas Nkono (Canon Yaounde and Cameroon) 1980: Jean Manga Onguene (Canon Yaounde and Cameroon) 1981: Lakhdar Belloumi (GCR Mascara and Algeria) 1982: Thomas Nkono (Espanyol, Spain and Cameroon) 1983: Mahmoud Al Khatib (Al Ahli and Egypt) 1984: Theophile Abega (Toulouse, France and Cameroon) 1985: Mohamed Timoumi (Royal Armed Forces and Morocco) 1986: Badou Ezaki (Real Mallorca, Spain and Morocco) 1987: Rabah Madjer (FC Porto, Portugal and Algeria) 1988: Kalusha Bwalya (Cercle Bruges, Belgium and Zambia) 1989: George Weah (Monaco, France and Liberia) 1990: Roger Milla (St Denis, Reunion and Cameroon) 1991: Abedi Pele Ayew (Marseille, France and Ghana) 1992: Abedi Pele Ayew (Marseille, France and Ghana) 1993: Abedi Pele Ayew (Lyon France and Ghana) 1994: George Weah (Paris St Germain, France and Emmanuel Amunike (Sporting Lisbon, Portugal and Nigeria) 1995: George Weah (AC Milan, Italy and Liberia) 1996: Nwankwo Kanu (Inter Milan, Italy and Nigeria) 1997: Victor Ikpeba (Monaco, France and Nigeria) 1998: Mostapha Hadji (Deportivo Coruna, Spain and Morocco) 1999: Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal, England and Nigeria) 2000: Patrick Mboma (Parma, Italy and Cameroon) 2001: El Hadji Ousseynou Diouf (Rennes, France and Senegal) 2002: El Hadji Ousseynou Diouf (Liverpool, England and Senegal)

Bond with care

Cricket
AFP, London

New Zealand will take a cautious approach towards Shane Bond's return to Test cricket. The paceman has been on the sidelines for a year through injury and Black Caps coach John Bracewell said there was no intention to bring him back before he is ready. "There's no rush to push buttons too hard on Shane," Bracewell told reporters at Lord's, where his team are preparing for their first Test against England starting on May 20. "He's part of a 12-month rehabilitation programme. If he plays in the first Test, it will be a huge bonus for us and probably for him as well. He's very aware of where he's at and we're not rushing him."

strong performance against South Africa, in which they thrashed the Proteas in their one-day series and drew the Test series. Also brimming with confidence will be England after their emphatic Test series victory over the West Indies in the Caribbean. But Black Caps captain Stephen



SHANE BOND

Bond's progress will be monitored over the course of three warm-up matches, starting with a three-day fixture against British Universities from Monday. Nathan Aslie will also be using the four matches to gain much needed confidence after a protracted battle with knee problems. "With Nathan it's a different thing because he hasn't made any actual technical changes, whereas Shane has actually made some changes to his action," Bracewell said. "Nathan basically is just about getting confident with his knee and getting his batting skills up to the level that's required so it's time on the park, if he gets the runs, he's in with a shout." New Zealand are coming off a

ent weather, prompting Fleming to down-play any suggestion his side had an advantage over their opponents, who have had much of their one-day series against the West Indies rained out. Fleming also said he saw no comparison between England captain Michael Vaughan and South Africa skipper Graeme Smith, who found himself the subject of some verbal "gamesmanship" during the recent series with the Black Caps. Of Smith, Fleming said: "He's a wonderful player and I think he's a good captain but he's emotional and that was one chink that we saw we might be able to exploit and he took the bait. "It was nothing personal but it was just a pressure point that we wanted to press." When asked if Vaughan was an emotional player, Fleming said bluntly: "No he's not. "He's pretty relaxed. I played a couple of games with him at Yorkshire so watched him pretty closely there and there's not too much he gives away." New Zealand will play three Tests against England before the triangular one-day series, also involving the West Indies, gets underway on June 24. Fleming believes his side for this tour is stronger than the one that won the 1999 Test series in England 2-1. In 44 Tests on English soil, the Kiwis have won just four compared to the hosts' 22, with 18 matches drawn.

William A get Streak boost
REUTERS, Harare

Sean Ervine and Elton Chigumbura scored half-centuries to lift Zimbabwe A on the first day of a three-day tour match against Sri Lanka on Saturday. Zimbabwe A included four players, Ervine and Chigumbura captain Heath Streak among them, who boycotted the recent one-day series against Sri Lanka but returned to international duty on Friday following an agreement with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union. The hosts, who won the toss, were dismissed for 294 before Sri Lanka reached 66 for two at the close. Ervine scored 75 off 108 balls with 15 fours, while Chigumbura faced 84 balls and hit 10 fours and two sixes in his 63. Ervine came to the crease when Mark Vermeulen was stumped off left-arm spinner Rangana Herath for 25 to reduce the home side to 61 for three. Vusi Sibanda helped Ervine add 90 runs for the fourth wicket before he was trapped in front for 32 by seamer Dilhara Fernando. Ervine and Chigumbura continued to rebuild the innings with their fifth-wicket stand of 68.5

CCL jigsaw complete
FROM PAGE 13

balls and Parvez made 84 off 122 deliveries during a 150-run stand for the second wicket as BEXIMCO raced to 214-3 with six overs to spare in reply to CityCell's 212, which was built around skipper Hasanuzzaman Rose's fine 80. At the BKS ground, a blazing century by captain Kamrul Islam helped BCB Development Squad round off their impressive campaign as a guest team with an exciting five-run victory against MM Ispahani. Kamrul blasted 16 fours in his 141-ball innings to score 144, the highest individual score in the competition so far, as the rookies set a challenging total of 291-5. Wicketkeeper Mokhtar Siddiki made an explosive 73 off 54 balls and Masumudowlah contributed 55 off 63 balls that was not enough for Minhazul Abedin's side who crashed to 286 in their final over. On Saturday, Niaz Murshed's 119 off 96 balls steered Gazi Tank to hand winless BADC a massive 143-run defeat at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Gazi Tank's 329-6 was the highest team total in the competition. At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, left-arm pacer Syed Russell and left-arm spinner Musharraf Hossain Rubel shared eight wickets to guide Biman to a ten-wicket victory against MM Ispahani. Biman's opener Rashed Haque stole the show after he rattled 82 off 65 balls, studded with ten fours and five sixes. BCB Development Squad put on another inspiring display but giants Bashundhara still managed a 53-run victory at the Fatullah Stadium. SCORES IN BRIEF ARAF VAKTEL ARAF Apparels: 249 for 8 in 50 overs (Naeem 36, Halim 102, Nuruzzaman 41; Asim 2-38, Saikat 2-47) Akte: 229 for 5 in 50 overs (Uttam 59, Mowla 50, Kalim 35, Abir 44 not out; Mustadir 2-51) Result: ARAF won by 20 runs.

making of 'The Wall'
PTI, Chennai

After an eventful and hectic international season which saw him anchor India's historic wins over Pakistan, Rahul Dravid on Saturday shed light on what goes into the making of 'The Wall'. It was typical of the Indian cricket vice-captain to share the secrets behind his phenomenal success with a group of budding cricketers at the VB Cricket Academy, 40 km from here. The aspirants, numbering 55, hurred questions at Shaob Akhtar and Brett Lee's pace and some whistled past Dravid at 100 mph. But 'The Wall' defended those with aplomb, although he was caught off guard by a few tricky ones. Sample this: "Eight of my batsmen are back in the pavilion and my partner and I are at the crease and we have to make 30-odd runs to win with few overs to spare. What do I do to win the match?" Though taken aback, Dravid quickly regained his composure and said: "Eight batsmen losing their wicket is not under your control. You control what is possible by you. It is important not to think far ahead of your goal. You control each ball on its merit and stay put at the crease for 30 minutes and you will achieve the goal. "You should not think of a result, if the pressure is on you. Think as to how am I going to get the 30 runs. Focus on every single ball." Throughout the question-answer session, the highest ranked Indian batsman harped on hard work, patience and concentration and the importance of practising at the nets if one has to make it big. On his stupendous form in the last two years which saw him score the nets and worked hard to find ways to rectify the mistakes. "It is a different matter if your technique goes wrong. I think mental strength and approach to both versions of the game has helped me. "I improvised a bit and developed new shots, improved upon my ability to run singles and its was due to a combination of many things." To a question as to how one could stay relaxed and be strong mentally, the ace batsman said, "I try to relax with the pads on during a match. Watch the game in progress in the middle and not get worried about the game. Once a wicket falls and I walk out to the middle, I concentrate on my game." Dravid advised the boys that they should spend more time at the nets. "Every bit of moment at the nets is important. You should concentrate on batting or bowling at the nets, play your shots, master it and then put them to good effect in match situations," he said. Asked what it takes to be a Rahul Dravid, the star batsman said: "You need to have confidence, stability and concentration and no one should compromise on hard work."

It suits Mantilla fine

Tennis
AFP, Rome

Felix Mantilla is hoping he can upset the odds and spring another surprise when he begins the defence of his Rome Masters Series title. The unassuming Spaniard ripped up the form book last year, beating two former French Open champions, Albert Costa and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, before winning the final in straight sets against current world number one Roger Federer. But he failed to build on that success after suffering a stomach injury and struggled for the remainder of the season with a dismal 1-10 record. This year the mild-mannered 29-year-old hopes to have turned the corner and is raring to go in the Eternal City. "I have some great memories from last year - it's a wonderful place to play and the atmosphere here is very special," said the softly

spoken clay court specialist, who reached the semifinals at Roland Garros in 1998. "I've had some problems with my stomach and I haven't always been able to train properly and that's very tough for any player. "But I feel a lot better now and I just want to go out on court and play my best tennis." Seeded 30, Mantilla admitted he was happy to be considered an outsider, just as he was last year.

Sizzling Sarwan, Smith

FROM PAGE 13

Anderson and Harmison for two sixes apiece in consecutive overs, and though Smith was bowled for 44, Dwayne Bravo hit Darren Gough for six over cover to ease West Indies to a remarkable victory. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the fifth one-day international match between West Indies and England on Saturday: ENGLAND Trescothick run out (Chanderpaul) 130 Vaughan c Jacobs b Bradshaw 25 Strauss b Dillon 10 Collingwood c Jacobs b Rampaul 4 Flintoff c Dillon b Bravo 59 Blackwell b Bravo 0 Read c Powell b Bradshaw 24 Clarke b Gayle 6 Gough not out 3 Harmison not out 3 Extras: (lb-6, w-6, nb-5) 17 Total: (For eight wkts in 50 overs) 281 Did not bat: J Anderson Fall of wkts: 1-43, 2-114, 3-124, 4-234, 5-235, 6-249, 7-267, 8-275. Bowler O M R W Bradshaw 10 0 58 2 Dillon 10 0 47 1 Bravo 8 0 57 2

Cairns loves
FROM PAGE 13

to score 3,000 test runs and take 200 wickets in the drawn series against South Africa in March. He was the second fastest cricketer to reach the 3,000-200 landmark after England's Ian Botham. He has scored 3,160 runs at 33.97 in his 59 tests and taken 206 wickets at an average 29.27.

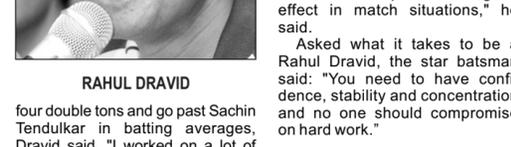
Mini-marathon held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sarwarul Alam became champion while Abdul Azim and Rafiqul Islam secured the runner-up and third position respectively in the Maldives Recharge Mini Marathon which was held in Chittagong on Saturday. The participants started the race from Prabartak More and ended at MA Aziz Stadium. National cricketer Khaled Mahmud attended the race as the chief guest.

Chittagong

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2004



Winners of the Maldives Recharge Mini Marathon pose with their trophies after the end of the race on May 1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 One who's gonna get it?
5 "First Wives Club" co-star
9 Titanic message
12 Cartoonist Peter
13 Notion
14 "Hall, Caesar!"
15 Clean a wall, one way
17 Put the kibosh on
18 Steerer's place
19 Country club employee
21 Check ore
24 Send by FedEx
25 Smile broadly
26 Playfully prancing
30 Grecian vessel
31 November birthstone
32 "Nevermore" man

DOWN
1 Pos-sesses
2 Historic time
3 B&B
4 Clinton in-law
5 Mound
6 Leading man
7 Unsold of basket-ball
8 City in Mississippi
9 Plover's cousin
10 "Meta-mor-phoses"
11 Alluring
16 Ottoman governor
20 Melody
21 Touch
22 Anti-toxins
23 Desert weather occurrence
24 Exercise in-law
26 Stallion-to-be
27 Mimic
28 Winning margin, maybe
29 Saxo-phonist Stan
31 Jessica Lange Oscar movie
34 Luau bowlful
35 Meal
37 Energy
38 Ms. Lollobrigida
39 Stench
40 Gordian baffle
41 Writer Feiber
44 Performance
45 "Wham!"
46 Connecticut collegian
47 Deterioration

Solution time: 21 mins.

AMOS SCI AMMO
ROTATION ROAD
BOTHWAYS OZE
AIM PRUDES
STERN TIAS
IOTA CORNERS
DOTO SOLIT EAR
THATOUT MIE
ELKS MADMAM
HARROW AID
ALAI ANDRIBED
LIZIA RADIATOR
FEEL EMS SONY

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51					52				53		

CRYPTOQUIP
SY SRRTFSDL VLMCYCDPCY
PM S MSV CQ S DGCYN
DGSD NPLQ CY PYL LFS
SYV PTD DGL PDGLF
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS THE ANNUAL ORTHOPEDICS CRUISE DEPARTED, EVERYBODY BEGAN TO YELL "BONE VOYAGE!"
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.