

WICB faces big losses

BBC ONLINE, undated Following two consecutive years of profits, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) expects a loss in excess of 5 million dollars for the coming financial year.

The WICB said: "Revenue from TV rights in 2004-2005 will be approximately 70 per cent less than in 2003-2004."

This "reflected the relative values of the television rights to be earned from a tour by England compared with tours by South African and Pakistan."

It all adds up to a difficult future for West Indies cricket. The WICB statement admitted: "Profits of the prior two years have been insufficient to wipe out the cumulative losses of 16 million dollars experienced in the three preceding years."

"We expect to face continuing cash flow challenges during the year."



Did U Know?

Hakan Sukur of Turkey scored the fastest goal in World Cup history in 2002 when he netted 11 seconds into the third-place play-off match against South Korea.



Talk Turkey



Shoaib Akhtar (Pakistan fast bowler) "I know I have to raise my fitness levels but I assure everyone that I never fall short in commitment."

Tigers upbeat

FROM PAGE 13 was excited with the prospect. "I think the final game will be very exciting. It will be played with a lot of passion and a lot of fight which is great."

"We are still positive. We've beaten them in two games in a row. They came back. It simply means that both teams are very equally matched."

Taibu admitted that it was difficult for his side to handle the spin attack of Bangladesh on responsive tracks.

"Obviously they (the spinners) are very tough to negotiate under the conditions here. Things will go out side of the country. But here the wickets are prepared for them."

Taibu has been a model of courage and responsibility in the series, a role which he is loving.

"I'm a batsman and a wicketkeeper. But I am more a captain. And as a batsman my job is to score runs and I go out enjoying that."



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Pakistan's Abdul Razzaq sweeps one on way to scoring a match-winning 63 against Australia in the VB Series in Perth yesterday.

Rain eases English path

Cricket

INTERNET/REUTERS, Johannesburg

England won the first of the seven one-day matches against South Africa by 26 runs, courtesy of the Duckworth-Lewis method in Johannesburg on Sunday.

By the time the lashing rains washed away what remained of South Africa's slim hopes, England were in a commanding position at the Wanderers at 103 for 3, chasing a modest 176 for victory.

In all likelihood they would have gone on to win comfortably, with the fourth-wicket pairing of Kevin Pietersen and Michael Vaughan putting up an unbeaten stand of 58.

Rain drove the players from the field after 25.1 overs of England's innings. Earlier, England spinner Ashley Giles took three wickets as South Africa struggled to a mediocre total of 175 for nine.

England won the toss in overcast weather and sent South Africa into bat, immediately putting the hosts in trouble in the first match of a seven-

gameseries. Openers Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs were dismissed in the third and fourth overs and England ran through the middle order to reduce the South Africans to a desperate 90 for seven.

The top four of Smith (one), Gibbs (two), Jacques Kallis (five) and Adam Bacher (four) failed to reach double figures as seamers Darren Gough, Matthew Hoggard and Kabir Ali maintained a disciplined line and picked up two wickets each.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the first one-day international between South Africa and England at the Wanderers on Sunday:

Table with columns: Team, Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes South Africa and England players like Smith, Gibbs, Kallis, Bacher, Ali, Gough, Hoggard.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes South Africa and England players like Gough, Hoggard, Ali, Collingwood, Trescothick, Giles.

ENGLAND Trescothick c Kallis b Ntini 11 G Jones c Boucher b Pollock 8 Vaughan not out 44 Strauss c Kemp b Nel 15 Pietersen not out 22 Extras: (lb-2, w-1) 3

Total: (For 3 wks in 25.1 overs) 103 Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-21, 3-44 DNB: Collingwood, Bell, Giles, Ali, Gough, Hoggard

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes England and South Africa players like Pollock, Ntini, Nel, Kemp, Boje, Kallis.

Result: England won by 26 runs (Duckworth-Lewis method).

A Pakistan win at last

FROM PAGE 13

hitting seven fours and one six before being dismissed. It was then that Razzaq, who had earlier taken 4-53 while bowling, became the rock for the team.

Together with Shahid Afridi they took Pakistan from 170 for 6 midway through the 34th over to 200 for 6 after the 38th over with Afridi hitting a massive six to bring up the double century.

His trademark cameo of 30 runs from 13 balls added the flourish to the Pakistan innings which had been in danger of flagging. Earlier, clumsy fielding had cost Pakistan dearly as they tried to gain the upperhand against the unbeaten Australians.

Opener Adam Gilchrist was dropped twice during his innings of 47 and Damien Martyn put down once.

Michael Clarke, the rising star who once again held the Australian innings together with 75 not out, also escaped lightly when he was dropped by Salman Butt while on 44.

Pakistan's bowlers managed to extract some life from the lively Perth wicket with Razzaq finishing the innings with the best bowling figures of 4-53.

Naved was the most economical with 2-49 but it was Rao Itikhar who suffered most with three of the dropped catches coming off his bowling.

Once again opener Matthew Hayden -- already under intense pressure to keep his place in the one-day team after a run of poor form -- failed dismally, making just six runs from 16 balls.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the VB Series one-day international between Australia and Pakistan at the Western Australian Cricket Association Ground on Sunday:

Table with columns: Team, Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Australia and Pakistan players like Hayden, Gilchrist, Razzaq, Ponting, Martyn, Symonds, Clarke, Naved, Kallis, Afridi, Hogg, Lee, Gillespie, Yousif, McGrath.

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-16, nb-3) 25 Total: (All out in 50 overs) 265 Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-63, 3-111, 4-113, 5-164, 6-170, 7-192, 8-246, 9-251

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Australia and Pakistan players like Naved, Itikhar, Razzaq, Khalil, Afridi, Butt, Gilchrist, McGrath, Hameed, Symonds, Lee, Yousif, Martyn, McGrath.

Youhana c Katich b Symonds 72 Inzamam lbw b Hogg 29 Malikrun not out 1 Razzaq not out 63 Afridi c Lee b Symonds 30 Naved not out 20 Extras: (lb-7, w-6, nb-2) 15

Total: (For 7 wks in 47.2 overs) 268 Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-41, 3-49, 4-123, 5-125, 6-170, 7-223 Did not bat: Itikhar, Khalil

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Australia and Pakistan players like McGrath, Lee, Gillespie, Hogg, Symonds.

Result: Pakistan won by 3 wickets. Man-of-the-match: Abdul Razzaq. Next match: Pakistan v W Indies, Feb 1.

Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Gaibandha Cricket Club defeated Sunrise Sporting Club by 61 runs in the First Division Cricket League at Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Gaibandha Cricket Club scored 215-9 in the stipulated 45 overs after electing to bat first. In reply, Sunrise were all out for 154 in 37.2 overs.

On Saturday, Sepiant Sporting Club defeated Nabarun Krira Chakra by 82 runs.

Rahimafrooz awards

UNB, Dhaka

Rahimafrooz Distribution Limited, a leading business house in the country, has announced the 'Rahimafrooz Master Batsman' and 'Rahimafrooz Super Bowler' Awards for the highest number of runs scored and the highest wicket-taker respectively in the one-day international series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

The awards that include 500 dollars and a trophy will be presented after the fifth and final ODI today.

BD A team fly

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The nucleus of 15-member squad contains many promising players who performed outstandingly last season.

Apart from the 18-year-old star spinner Enamul, three Test cricketers have been picked. They are batsman Sanwar Hossain and Tushar Imran and seamer Mohammad Sharif.

"We are looking forward to seeing how the young players respond in the longer-version matches. They have talent and it will be the perfect stage for them to prove their worth," chief selector Faruque Ahmed told reporters.

"Also the tour is very important for us because we are looking for fresh blood to serve the national team in future," the former national captain added.

SQUAD

Enamul Haque (captain), Shahriar Nafees, Sanwar Hossain, Tushar Imran, Shamsur Rahman, Saqib Al Hasan, Dhiman Ghosh, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyadh, Mohammad Sharif, Waseeluddin Ahmed, Shahadat Hossain Rajib, SK Ritsel and Shafiq Al Jabir.

ITINERARY

UAE

Feb 2: 1st one-day

Feb 3: 2nd one-day

Feb 5: 3rd one-day

Feb 7: 4th one-day

ZIMBABWE

Feb 13-16: First Test

Feb 19-22: Second Test

Feb 25-28: Third Test

March 3: 1st one-day

March 5: 2nd one-day

March 7: 3rd one-day

March 9: 4th one-day

March 12: 5th one-day

Safin third time lucky

FROM PAGE 13

"He had a great finish to last year and knocked off the guy who's been nearly impossible to beat (Federer) so he thoroughly deserved it."

"I'd never made it past the round of 16 here before...but I'll try and go one step further next year."

It was the fourth Russian victory in a Grand Slam and second at the Australian Open after Yevgeny Kafelnikov's victory here in 1999. Kafelnikov also won the 1996 French Open along with Safin's 2000 US Open.

Former Wimbledon and US Open champion Hewitt was seeking to become the first Australian since Mark Edmondson in 1976 to win the Australian Open, but came up short after beginning strongly in the final.

Safin made a dreadful beginning, winning only three points in the opening three games as Hewitt hit the ground running with a 3-0 lead before the Russian held serve.

Hewitt played a tremendous point when he ran down a drop

shot for a winner to bring up break point in the next game and got two more break points before a wayward forehand forced the break.

Younis loses his father

AFP, Perth

Pakistan batsman Younis Khan was headed for home late Sunday following the death of his father, officials here said.

Younis had just finished playing for Pakistan in their three-wicket tri-series win over Australia at the Western Australian Cricket Association Ground when he heard the news.

A spokesman for Cricket Australia, which administers the sport here said the Pakistani player was shattered and was scheduled to leave Perth on the first flight.

MARAT-BOX

REUTERS, Melbourne

Factbox on Russian Marat Safin, who won his first Australian Open title with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Lleyton Hewitt on Sunday. Born: January 27, 1980 in Moscow. Age: 25. Residence: Monaco. Height: 1.93 m. Weight: 88 kg. Turned professional: 1997. Plays: Right-handed. Grand Slam titles: Two (US Open 2000, Australian Open 2005).

1997: Moves more than 200 ranking positions with an 11-5 record in Challenger events. Wins his first title at Espinho.

1998: Finishes in the top 50, reaching his first semifinal in Long Island. Reaches fourth round at French Open and US Open.

1999: Wins his first ATP title in Boston. Helps Russia to Davis Cup

semifinals. Reaches fourth round at French Open, makes his first Masters Series final in Paris.

2000: Leads the tour with seven titles and becomes youngest player to finish number two since 19-year-old Boris Becker in 1986. Wins tournament 73 matches, reaching nine finals. Reaches his first Grand Slam quarterfinal at Roland Garros. Wins first Masters Series title in Toronto. Wins first Grand Slam title at US Open, defeating Pete Sampras in straight sets.

2001: Loses in fourth round at the Australian Open. Injures his back in March and suffers tendonitis in his left knee but reaches semifinals at US Open, losing to Sampras.

2002: Reaches second career Grand Slam final at the Australian Open, losing to Thomas Johansson. Leads Russia to the Davis Cup title against France. Reaches French Open semifinals for the first time,

LAHORE INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

Glory for a South African

AFP, Lahore

South African Tscho Mpolokeng surprised a pack of Kenyan runners to win Pakistan's first-ever international marathon on Sunday.

The 28-year-old finished in two hours 15:57 minutes to clinch the first prize of 10,000 dollars. "This is a great win and I dedicate the win to my country and its people," he said.

Kenyan David Menyo made a brave challenge until the last kilometer to finish in two hours 17:11 minutes and pocket the second prize of 7,500 dollars.

Tanzanian Jermaine Boki finished third in two hours 17:27.

The women's marathon was won by Kenyan Jane Kariuki in two hours 43:03 minutes to take the first prize of 10,000 dollars after a close finish which saw three Kenyans and an Ethiopian in hot pursuit.

Ethiopian Tadelech Birra finished second in two hours 43:45 and Kenyan Naomi Wangui finished third in two hours 43:56 minutes.

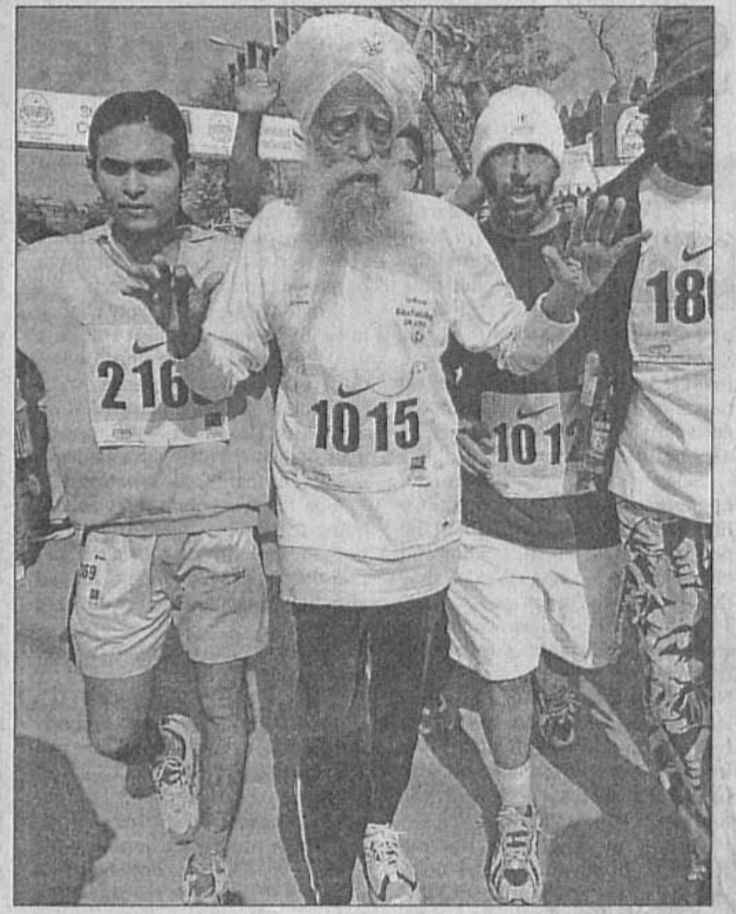
Mohammad Aslam was the best local runner, finishing in two hours 43:39 for a special prize of 2,500 dollars.

A total of 15,000 including leading athletes from 16 countries competed in the marathon and in 10-kilometer and six kilometer races.

"It's a historic event and we never thought in our wildest dreams that so many people would come. Seeing the overwhelming response this race will now be an annual feature," said Ghouse Akbar, chairman of the Standard Chartered Lahore Marathon organising committee.

The marathon attracted leading athletes from Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Russia, Portugal, Sweden, Ukraine, Portugal, Denmark, Britain, Zimbabwe, Bulgaria, India and

South Korea. It started and finished at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium. The Indian competitors included veterans Ashish Roy and Fauja Singh. Roy, 72, has run more than 90 marathons while Singh, 94, is based in England and is still a regular runner at international level. Singh was awarded a special prize of 5,000 dollars for improving his personal best in the 10-km race. He donated it to a local charity. Ethiopian Shiferahmu Tewodros won the 10-kilometer race in 28:27:00 minutes while Kenyan Catherine Mutwa won the women's section in 34:07:00 minutes.



NINETY-FOUR AND RUNNING! The world's oldest marathon runner 94-year-old Fauja Singh (C) takes part in the short version of the Lahore Marathon yesterday. Singh has the distinction of running in six full London Marathons.

Umps Bucknor

FROM PAGE 13

"I was told the threat came towards the end of the last day," Bucknor told Britain's Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

"I was told that the words the caller used were 'We are going to get rid of Aleem Dar and Steve Bucknor, we are going to shoot them'."

"You get a lot of abuse as an umpire, but that is the first time that I have been threatened to that extent."

"I briefly thought about cutting short my stay and going home to the Caribbean but I convinced myself I'm stronger than that."

"I have to say that I am not really worried about it -- the words were serious, but I'm not sure whether the person who said them was serious."

"I'm certain it was just a hoax call."

The match, badly affected by rain, ended in a draw ensuring England's first series victory in South Africa since 1964-65.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes clues like 'Java Sea locale', 'Nevertheless', 'Catcher's aid', etc.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes clues like 'H Y I I S G Q H P H U V D J F H V', 'Q V J J F D T I U B N X J H O'.

Solution for the crossword and cryptoquip puzzles. Includes words like 'ALEXANDER', 'MCCARTHY', 'EGGS', 'NUDGE', 'SMITH', 'MCGREGOR', 'UNION', 'GARDNER', 'MCCOY', 'PERIN', 'KROD', 'PEKIE', 'FAZES', 'DOZEN', 'SERA', 'EVEN', 'MCKINLEY', 'PERE', 'RUIN', 'ETI', 'PROD', 'SENT', 'BLAW'.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Tender Notice. Includes details about the tender for construction of academic building, office of the Executive Director Education Engineering Directorate, Comilla Zone, Comilla. Tender No: 17/40 years or above/EED (CZ)/2004-2005. Dated: 15-01-2005.