

Left-arm spinner Manzarul Islam became the third player from Bangladesh to have been adjudged man-of-the-match twice, joining Khaled Mahmud and Mohammad Ashraful in Game Four of the one-day series against Zimbabwe. Manzarul, however, is the only one from Bangladesh to have been adjudged man-of-the-match in successive matches.



Zinedine Zidane
(Real Madrid superstar)
"We're all professionals and it does not make sense to say one is over at 32. I am the oldest member of the team, but I am not over and want to continue enjoying soccer. I am convinced 2005 will be a very good year."



ESPN
Sportscentre
Live at 8.30 pm
English Premier League
Arsenal v Man United
Live at 2 am (Wednesday)
STAR Sports
VB Series
Pakistan v West Indies
Live at 8.30 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8 pm
English Premier League
Charlton v Liverpool
Live at 2 am (Wednesday)

5TH BD-ZIM ODI

FROM PAGE 16
Bashar not out 34
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-3) 6
Total: (For 2 wks in 33 overs) 202
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-161
Did not bat: Ashraful, Kapshi, Mahmud,

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	8	0	49	1
Mpofu	3	0	24	0
Chigumbura	6	1	49	1
Nkala	3	0	22	0
Ulseya	9	1	29	0
Rogers	3	0	24	0
Masakadza	1	0	4	0

Result: Bangladesh won by 8 wickets

and clinch the 5-ODI series 3-2.
Man-of-the-match: Mohammad

Rafique.
Man-of-the-series: Barney Rogers.
Most boundaries: Aftab Ahmed.
Quickest fifty: Aftab Ahmed.
Dependable fielder: Aftab Ahmed.
Highest wicket-taker: Manzarul Islam - 9.
Master batsman: Barney Rogers -- 251 runs.
Toss: Zimbabwe.
Umpires: Nadeem Ghauri (Pakistan) and Mahbubur Rahman (Bangladesh).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

35 Kate Hudson's mom

36 Spot on TV?

5 Rather's home

8 "Friends" role

12 Price-list

14 Large periodical

15 Adam Sandler movie

16 Incubator noise

17 "Today" rival, for short

18 Begin

20 Actor Milo

23 A couple of cups

24 Slaughter of

25 "So what?"

28 Scoot

29 Mchit-abel's pal

30 Trot

32 Sasquatch

34 Surfboard support

DOWN

1 "Chicago" lyricist

2 "The Greatest"

3 Bad hairpiece

4 Silly

5 Last daughter

6 Physique

7 Ceiling feature

8 Character

9 The yoke's on them

10 Detail, briefly

11 Ex-frosh (Abbr.)

13 Crimson Tide

19 Mayberry marshal

20 "The Chicago" lyricist

Solution time: 24 mins.

Across

35 KATE HUDSON

36 SPOT

5 RATHER

8 FRIENDS

12 PRICE

14 LARGE

15 ADAM SANDLER

16 INCUBATOR

17 TODAY

18 BEGIN

20 ACTOR

23 COUPLE

24 SLAUGHTER

25 WHAT

28 SCOOT

29 MCHIT-ABEL

30 TROT

32 SASQUATCH

34 SURFBOARD

Down

1 CHICAGO

2 GREATEST

3 BAD HAIR

4 SILLY

5 DAUGHTER

6 PHYSIQUE

7 CEILING

8 CHARACTER

9 YOKE

10 DETAIL

11 EX-FROSH

13 CRIMSON

19 MAYBERRY

20 CHICAGO

Pak team ends inspection



REUTERS, New Delhi

A Pakistani security delegation has concluded its inspection of venues in the run-up to their cricket team's first Test tour of India in six years starting next month.

The Pakistan team, set to arrive on February 25, will play three Tests and five one-day internationals. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the venues but the dates for the matches have not been finalised.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official Zakir Khan and security expert Sohail Khan described the week-long trip as "informative and successful" but declined to say if they had security concerns over the volatile city of Ahmedabad.

The controversial pick for a Test, Ahmedabad is the main city of the western Gujarat state, which was rocked by India's worst communal riots for a decade in 2002.

"There has not been any controversy over our looking at things in Ahmedabad," Sohail Khan, told

Reuters. "As far as the controversy goes you read it through the press."

The two officials, who ended their visit by inspecting the Ferozeshah Kotla ground on Monday, will give their report to PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan later this week.

Sohail Khan felt security concerns for Pakistan players and visiting fans were easing with the warming of political ties between the two hostile neighbours.

The Indian government lifted a ban imposed in 2000 on bilateral cricket with Pakistan, paving the way for India's highly popular first Test tour of Pakistan for over 14 years in March-April last year.

"There has been a positive change after the Indian team's visit to Pakistan," Sohail Khan said.

"The way things were in Pakistan, response by the public there, is a certain element of reciprocity among Indian public."

Indian board officials said Pakistan would have nothing to worry about during their first Test tour since 1999.

"We met external affairs ministry officials today and they've assured

us full cooperation," BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla told reporters.

Nearly 10,000 Pakistan fans are expected to travel across the border for the series and the government has assured that special visa offices would be set up in Karachi and Lahore, he said.

"The foreign office has assured us full cooperation to make the tour a memorable one."

"The government is also considering running special trains, particularly for the Mohali Test, even special flights if needed."

The Pakistan officials, however, expressed concern on whether construction would be completed at New Delhi's Ferozeshah Kotla in time to stage the fifth and final one-day on April 9.

"The boards will definitely discuss this," Zakir Khan said. "The wicket takes time and it has to be tested by playing. It should not be a sub-standard pitch."

Delhi cricket official Chetan Chauhan said the March 20 deadline for getting the stadium ready would be met.

Aftab blooms

FROM PAGE 16

Aftab then cut loose against the medium-pacer, cutting the next ball through point boundary before picking two runs at thirdman. The last three deliveries went for fours through midwicket, straight over the bowler's head and finally to point again when Aftab stepped out to steer the ball to end a 24-run over.

In no time at all, he was on 41 off 21 balls as Chigumbura as rested by Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu after the one-over nightmare.

"I never charged against any good ball today. I went after the bad ones. There was only one delivery in that over that was really good. I made it look like a loose ball," told Aftab who scored 52 runs with boundaries (ten fours and two sixes).

Aftab went on to complete his half-century gliding Muleki Nkala for a single in the 12th over in just 33 balls, studded with seven fours and two sixes. It was the second quickest fifty by a Bangladeshi batsman after Mohammad Ashraful's 31-ball 50 against the same side in Harare last year.

While Aftab played very orthodox

punishing every loose delivery during a record second wicket stand of 150 with Mohammad Rafique, his partner slogged after a slow start. The two raced to their 100 partnership in just 65 balls.

In the end, Rafique's striking rate was better (72 off 66 balls) but Aftab looked like the man to go and notch the second hundred for the country after Mehrab Hossain against the same opponents in 1999.

But he had no regrets falling 19 runs short of the magical three-figure.

"My target was to stay at the wicket and help the team win, I was not after a century. Also I am more happy because this innings silenced my critics who kept saying: 'I cannot bat for long periods'," he said.

"This is the first time I have remained unbeaten in an innings. So, obviously, this is my most memorable innings so far," he said.

Aftab might have lost the man-of-the-match award to Rafique, who also took two wickets, but picked up awards for being the best fielder and for hitting most boundaries.

One & only Rafique

FROM PAGE 16

"Confidence is key to be successful. I have never been afraid of opening. I enjoyed batting in the opening slot because that is where you get the chance to go over the top for the first 15 overs," he said.

He said that it was an unbearable pain for him to miss the first three matches due to injury.

"I don't like to be sidelined and I was frustrated not to play the first three matches because of injury, but finally I'm happy that I did something for my team's success," he added.

The experienced cricketer was also delighted the way young stars

responded in the series.

"Believe me I am excited by our young players' performance in the series. I look forward to a bright future of our cricket after the series because the next generation is very much serious about their performance," he said.

With the day's two wickets, Rafique reclaimed the top wicket-taker's slot surpassing medium-pacer Khaled Mahmud. Rafique has captured 66 wickets from 73 matches, one ahead of the former Bangladesh captain.

Whoever wins gets thru'

FROM PAGE 16

injured pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami.

"But in one-day cricket one or two bowlers or one or two batsmen don't win the match," he said.

For his part Lara conceded Pakistan may have the advantage but pointed out there were plenty of players within the Windies squad, including himself, who had played at the WACA ground before.

"We've got some batsmen that

have played here and we know exactly what the track is doing," he said.

"It is more a mental game ... than the physical side and who has had more experience at the WACA."

He said the team had watched Pakistan's win against Australia and were impressed with the performance, believing both they and the West Indies were closing the gap on the world champions.

But he said Pakistan would also

be tired after a long and largely unsuccessful tour.

"What I am worried about with Pakistan is that they are going to be playing three games in five days," he said.

"Hopefully that can play on their mind and we will have a tired bunch."

The West Indies also have concerns over the fitness of left-arm swing bowler Pedro Collins, who has been their most potent weapon on tour, and batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan.

Collins strained thigh muscles during the win over Pakistan on Friday while Sarwan was hit on the right elbow by a rising delivery, suffering extensive bruising.

Lara himself is also still nursing a painful wrist injury and batted one-handed in the nets during training on Monday, although he is expected to be fit to play.

"Constant use is only going to make it worse," he said.

"I've been in the nets and I'll get some treatment this evening and be fine."

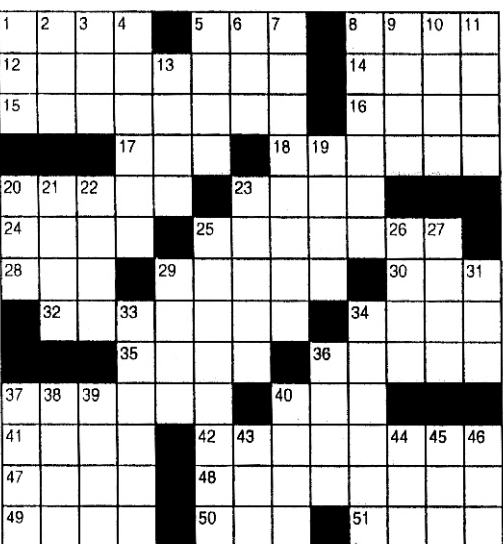
Both teams will name their sides on Tuesday.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Salman Butt, Taufeeq Umar, Yasir Hameed, Mohammad Hafeez, Yousef Youhana, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, Kamran Akmal, Navedul Hasan, Mohammad Khalil, Rao Iftikhar.

WEST INDIES (from): Brian Lara (captain), Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Christopher Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Marlon Samuels, Dwayne Bravo, Ryan Hinds, Courtney Browne, Ian Bradshaw, Pedro Collins, Mervyn Dillon, Reon King, Xavier Marshall.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals L



CRYPTOQUIP

R H F A Q ' E X I X D D R K M
O Z E R I V N U I V E X X I F A Q
N R M Z V V E F U K B M X V

F A Q E I X D H U D D I G E Q O X B Q G.
Saturday's Cryptquip: I KEEP FAILING TO DIG A GOOD TRENCH, SO I'M PLANNING TO MAKE A LAST-DITCH EFFORT.

The Cryptquip 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.

PRIMERA LIGA

Real scrape through

AFP, Madrid

England captain David Beckham was on target as Real Madrid maintained their perfect league record in 2005 with a 2-1 win at bottom club Numancia on Sunday.

Second half goals from a spectacular Beckham free-kick, his fourth of the season, and Michel Salgado got the points for Real before Miguel Lopez got a late consolation for the hosts.

However, Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas was Madrid's true hero in the freezing conditions, which saw temperatures dropping to five below zero.

The Spanish international saved a Luis Tevenet penalty on 33 minutes after Ivan Helguera had been penalised for climbing all over Numancia's Miguel Lopez. Casillas also denied Numancia on several other occasions, as they belied their place in the basement of the Spanish first division.

Despite the win, Real remain seven points behind the runaway league leaders and arch rivals Barcelona who won 4-0 at Sevilla on Saturday with goals from Samuel Eto'o, Ronaldinho, Ludovic Giuly and a Julio Baptista own goal.

Valencia stay in third after their 2-2 draw with Athletic Bilbao but the gap between the reigning Spanish champions and the top two continues to grow as Valencia have now gone three games without a win.

Former Manchester United striker Diego Forlan contributed two goals as Villarreal notched up their fourth successive victory with an emphatic 4-0 win at Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Villarreal are now unbeaten in eight games and their run has taken them up to sixth.

Espanyol moved up to fourth with a 2-2 draw with Real Betis but the Barcelona-based side will be regretting twice throwing away the lead.

TOP SIX

Spanish League standings after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Barcelona	21	16	3	2	43	14	51
Real	21	14	2	5	37	16	44
Valencia	21	10	7	4	32	18	37
Espanyol	21	10	5	6	26	20	35
Sevilla	21	10	5	6	23	23	35
Villarreal	21	9	7	5	35	17	34

SERIE A

Juve right on track

AFP, Rome

Juventus took a big step towards the Serie A title on Sunday after extending their lead at the top of the table to eight points.

Ruben Olivera's first-half strike and an Alessandro Del Piero penalty secured a 2-1 victory at bottom club Atalanta, while second-placed AC Milan suffered their second straight league defeat, losing 1-0 at home to Bologna.

Milan's disappointment of losing further ground to their championship rivals was compounded by an injury to Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko, who limped off in the 38th minute with an injury to his right ankle.

The 2004 European Footballer of the Year, who has scored 13 league goals this season, came off worst after a challenge from Alessandro Gamberini and is expected to miss Wednesday's match at Messina.

Juventus have 50 points from their 21 matches played, while AC Milan have 42, five more than city rivals Inter Milan who claimed third place courtesy of a 2-0 win at Palermo where Christian Vieri grabbed both goals.

Roma climbed to fifth behind Udinese after fighting back from two goals down to beat Messina 3-2 at the Olympic Stadium, strengthening their push for a Champions League place next season. Brazilian Amantino Mancini scored a dramatic late winner with a superb solo effort.

Sampdoria fell one place to sixth after drawing 1-1 at home to relegation-threatened Siena, while Lecce won 1-0 at struggling Brescia.

TOP SIX

Italian league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Juventus	21	15	5	1	38	12	50
Milan	21	12	6	3	35	14	42
Inter	21	7	14	0	41	27	35
Udinese	21	10	4	7	28	21	34
Roma	21	9	6	6	40	32	33
Sampdoria	21	9	5	7	22	17	32

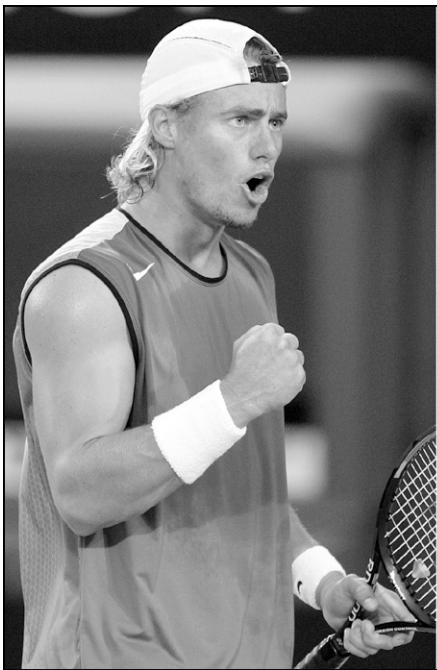
Grand end

FROM PAGE 16
has become the centre of attraction for more than just the game itself.

An organisation named the Cricket Family protested the move during the fifth and final one-day

"We want cricket to stay at the Bangabandhu Stadium," read one poster while another poster, stuck outside the venue, said: "Don't take cricket away from the Lord's of the East."

Meanwhile, some suspended directors of the BCB have also criticised the government decision to drive cricket out from the national number one stadium.



Lleyton Hewitt and Bec Cartwright

Hewitt getting married



AFP, Melbourne

Australian Lleyton Hewitt proposed to Australian television soap opera actress Bec Cartwright straight after his defeat to Russian Marat Safin in the final of the Australian Open, the couple announced here on Monday.

The couple's agents confirmed the engagement in a statement and said Hewitt proposed to 21-year-old Cartwright, a star of Australia's Home and Away series, shortly after losing to Safin at Melbourne Park.

"Lleyton and Bec met five years ago at a Starglight Foundation charity tennis day and rekindled their relationship late last year," the statement said.

"The couple were instantly committed to each other and their close connection has been well documented in the media through

their public acknowledgement and mutual support.

"Bec proudly revealed the ring presented to her by Lleyton earlier this evening to overjoyed family and friends at the post-tennis final celebrations."

World number three Hewitt's proposal comes three months after his much-publicised break-up with leading Belgian tennis player Kim Clijsters after an almost five-year relationship.

Clijsters and Hewitt were to be married next month.

Media reports Monday said that 23-year-old Hewitt got down on bended knee in a quiet corner to propose to Cartwright before heading off to a private party celebrating the end of the year's first tennis grand slam.

Channel Seven reported that Cartwright had no advance warning, but Hewitt was prepared, offering her a large diamond engagement ring.

Sharapova leads Russian assault



AFP, Tokyo

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova will lead a Russian attempt to prevent a record fifth victory for world number one Lindsay Davenport at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament this week.

Davenport, the American top seed and losing finalist at the Australian Open Saturday, is joint holder of the most Pan Pacific titles along with retired former world number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland on four.

But second seed Sharapova will be returning to a happy hunting ground where she won her first WTA singles and doubles titles and successfully defended the singles at the Japan Open in October.

The 17-year-old Russian starlet, a big favourite with Japanese supporters, also won her first professional title in the ITF Circuit series at the Gunma north of Tokyo two years ago.

In their only previous encounter, Sharapova defeated Davenport 2-6, 7-6, 6-1 in the Wimbledon semi-

nals on the way to her first Grand Slam victory in July.

Before meeting Sharapova, Davenport must survive the top half of the draw, which includes Russia's US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, who is third seed; Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova, eighth seed; and Jelena Jankovic of Serbia and Montenegro, the seventh seed.

Davenport received a first-round bye with other top three seeds and faces a Japanese challenge from either Saori Obata or Miho Saeki in the second round.

Sharapova was drawn in the bottom half with fourth seed Russian Elena Dementieva, who finished runner-up in the French and US opens last season, and sixth-seeded Russian Elena Likhovtseva, as well as fifth seed Ai Sugiyama of Japan.

Patty Schnyder of Switzerland, Nathalie Dechy of France, last year's runner-up Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria and doubles specialist Lisa Raymond of the United States withdrew due to injuries, organizers said.

The contest gets under way on Tuesday.

Hingis makes return to tennis!

BBC ONLINE, undated

Martina Hingis makes her return to competitive tennis after two years out of the game at the Volvo Women's Open in Pattaya, Thailand, on Tuesday.

She faces German Marlene Weingartner in the first round. "As a competitor and athlete, I always want to win. I hope my body will hold up," said Hingis.

"You miss being out there in a Grand Slam final and not competing. It's a big difference between playing and commenting for TV. I miss it a lot."

The former world number one was 22 when she retired after having surgery on both ankles, and her last WTA event was in Filderstadt, Germany, in October 2002, when she lost to Elena Dementieva.

Only last year she insisted that a comeback was unlikely, but speaking in Thailand Hingis admitted: "I said that because I didn't know what would happen with my body."

Her appearance will also benefit charities in the region and the Swiss star will donate her prize money.

PREVIEW: PREMIERSHIP

Mother of all clashes



AFP, London

Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson is certain hostilities will be back on the menu when his team travel to bitter rivals Arsenal on Tuesday for a crunch match that could bury one side's Premiership title hopes.

United ended Arsenal's unbeaten top-flight record run in October in controversial circumstances, topped off by a notorious food fight in the tunnel, triggering a vicious cycle of sniping between Ferguson and Gunners boss Arsene Wenger.

Second-placed Arsenal are just a point ahead of United but 10 adrift of Jose Mourinho's Chelsea, whose miserly defence has conceded just eight goals in 24 league games.

A draw would leave Mourinho licking his lips but while a win for either side would ensure the points gap does not widen, defeat would leave an almost impossible deficit to overhaul.

The two clubs have pledged to turn down the heat but Ferguson is predicting Highbury will dish up another serving of piping-hot enmity.

"It will be a hostile atmosphere. It'll be intense and the atmosphere at times will be incredible," Ferguson said.

"There won't be a bigger game

for my players all season because of all the hype that surrounds our matches these days. There is a lot of pressure on us, a lot of pressure on Arsenal, and there will be a lot of pressure on the officials.

United have the psychological advantage, having turfed the Gunners out of the League Cup, adding to Arsenal's 2-0 Premiership defeat at Old Trafford which halted their record 49-match top-flight unbeaten run.

That full-blooded contest sparked the 'Battle of the Buffet', the infamous flare-up in the tunnel when pizza and soup were supposedly hurled by Arsenal's players at Ferguson, who alleged Wenger threatened him as disorder ensued.

The incident may have cost Ferguson at the dry cleaners, but the real setback was at Highbury.

The defeat rattled Arsenal, who stumbled in subsequent matches, losing ground on Chelsea and sparking a seemingly endless war of words between Wenger and Ferguson.

The atmosphere has soured to such an extent that the Football Association, the police and even government ministers stepped in to demand the two camps end the feud.

United warmed up for Tuesday with a 3-0 FA Cup romp over Middlesbrough on Saturday, while Arsenal were given an good workout as they beat Wolverhampton 2-0 at Highbury.

"We haven't given up on the

Championship," insisted Wenger. "If we wanted an intense preparation for Tuesday's game we got it. They gave us a very hard