

Blond terror with a heart of gold

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian fast bowler Brett Lee cut a fearsome figure on the cricket field but the tough demeanour masked a gentle temperament that even saw him criticised for being "too nice".

The imposing peroxide blond, who has retired from Tests with 310 wickets, was famous for the second fastest delivery on record, a fist-pumping celebration and his merciless treatment of tailenders.

But Lee showed a softer side in 2005, when he was famously pictured being consoled by Andrew Flintoff during Australia's first Ashes series defeat in 18 years.

"My ribs were black and blue. I had a busted arm. He'd tried to kill me like I'd been trying to kill him, but straight after it all we're arm in arm," Lee said later, dismissing criticism that he was too friendly.

"Whoever won, we were going to end up in the change rooms talking about the game. We were mates. That's Test cricket."

Lee, a cricket pin-up with a large following in India, also earned sympathy for his uncomplaining fight against injuries which have kept him out of Test matches since late 2008.

"When you're trying to bowl over 155km/h for 16 years straight, it takes a lot of wear and tear on the body," he said.

"But that's the greatest thing about it, that's the thing I love -- if it was easy to do, then everyone would

be running in and bowling at 155km/h. "There's a reason why there's just a handful of people in the world that can do it. It is very tough." Lee has been beaten only by Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar for speed after clocking 99.9 miles (160.8 kilometres) an hour at Napier in 2005.



BRETT LEE

After making his debut against India in Melbourne in December 1999, taking five wickets for

47, he has become Australia's fourth most successful Test bowler behind Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Dennis Lillee.

"Brett Lee was fantastic," Warne said Wednesday, saying that he still remembered seeing him "steaming in" to bowl during the 1999 Test.

"I thought it wasn't so much what he did, it was the way he did it," Warne said. "I thought he played in a way that was entertaining. I think people enjoyed watching him bowl."

The right-armed bowler disappointed during the 2001 Ashes series and was then struck by injuries but in 2005 he was inspired with both bat and ball despite the defeat in England.

Lee bounced back to play a leading role in Australia's 5-0 revenge win in 2006-07 and was named the 2006 Wisden magazine Cricketer of the Year before injury struck again, forcing him out of the 2007 World Cup.

In 2008, he was named Test Player of the Year but took time out following a marriage breakup and struggled for form afterwards.

Lee has never scored a first-class century with 97 runs for New South Wales his highest score, but has often played an important role with the bat for Australia with a Test average of 20.15, including five half-centuries.

The Wollongong-born Lee plans to return to India next month for the lucrative IPL Twenty20 league, having already starred in a Bollywood film and scoring on Indian charts with his song, "You're The One For Me".

Modi hits back at 'em

CRICINFO, undated



Lalit Modi has strongly criticised parties that have expressed concern over the security situation at the Indian Premier League (IPL), including the Federation of International Cricketers Association and Ricky Ponting.

"We will not be dictated by players associations where to play. IPL will be played in India," Modi posted on his Twitter account, in reaction to safety concerns raised by an independent report commissioned by the players' unions in England, South Africa and Australia, which suggested moving the IPL outside India.

The report, written by the England team's security adviser Reg Dickson, said there was a credible terrorist threat to the IPL. The Australian Cricketers' Association had decided to formulate

a set of security demands for IPL organisers, following a meeting between Australian players in which Ricky Ponting had apparently clashed with IPL regulars Matthew Hayden, Adam Gilchrist and Shane Warne.

"I've been told Ricky Ponting is pressuring players not to come. Maybe it's due to the fact he was dropped from KKR," Modi tweeted.

Modi said that individual players could choose to stay away from the IPL, but such a move could risk their future association with the event. "We will allow replacement for those who decide not to show up. If risk being in future IPLs. The call will be theirs. If a few players play into the hands of the FICA and not show up, no issues."

"We allow only four international players per team. [If a few miss, no issues. We have great talent in each team. More opportunity for replacement to others. We have 98 players on the waiting list eager to get called in for replacement."

God's gift now lives

FROM PAGE 1

"God's gift" to Hamida's poor family -- was cut short at age 13 by stray bullets in indiscriminate firing by BDR jawans at Pikhana in Dhaka last year.

Sitting in his very basic room, his father Raja Mia, a vegetable vendor, recounts the talents of his son -- an extraordinary boy for a very ordinary family. "It always surprises me."

A rundown cot sits in a 12 feet by 8 feet room. A dusty bed cover, a wooden chair and some necessary household materials define the room. It is without a window. A little sunlight comes in through the door when it is open, but is not enough to light up the entire room. It accommodates his wife, one son, four daughters, a son-in-law and a grandchild.

The picture of Hridoy hanging on the wall is a sad reminder of loss. A small piece of white cloth covers the face of Hridoy in the photo frame -- a desperate effort by the family not to think too much about the loss.

"It breaks my heart when I look at the picture. So we keep the face covered," says Raja, his voice thick in emotion, eyes wet in tears.

"Even a few days before his death he told me 'I'll take care of you, Abba, when you are old. I won't let you work,'" Raja recalls.

Hridoy used to accompany his father five days a week to Karwan Bazar to buy vegetables from wholesalers.

He had carried the basket full of vegetables on head to the van to save his father Tk 100 in labour charges a day. Both worked until 3:30 in the morning.

"At night, he slept just a couple of hours. He must go to school," Raja continues.

Back from school, Hridoy used to visit his father, who sells vegetables on a van on Haji Afsaruddin Road in the city's Jigatola. "He was too young for work. But he wasted no time. Nor did he play with his friends. He helped me a lot," says Raja as he wipes his tears with a towel.

Attentive to studies, he dreamt of becoming a police officer or government official. He ranked ninth on merit among the 30 students in his class. "Classmates and teachers loved him so much," says Hridoy's 20-year-old sister Rekha Akhtar.

Hridoy's family had spent Tk 1,500 per month for his schooling. "But the little boy's contribution to the family was far more," Raja says.

Hridoy was much loved in the neighbourhood of Jigatola, where Raja Mia's house is, for his wit and decent manners.

Raja cites a small example of his son's moral righteousness. Hridoy had bought three singaras on credit as he was short of money. He did not forget it and paid the money back to the restaurant owner. It happened a day before his death.

Hridoy was selling vegetables on a rickshaw van -- a few yards north of Jigatola crossing on the February 25 morning when gunfire rang out inside the Pikhana BDR headquarters. Hridoy took the first bullet in his leg, then a second in the head before he collapsed.

"My son did not have breakfast on that day. Leaving him near the van, I went to a nearby restaurant. I had my breakfast there and bought some bread and vegetables for him," Rajasays.

On his way back to the van, Raja was told by a man that his

son had been wounded by bullet. Raja passed out there and did not know what happened next.

His sense of loss deepens, as his other children are not as caring as Hridoy was. Raja is not proud of his firstborn in particular. "My elder son doesn't help me at all. He wastes my money often."

Stricken by poverty, Hamida has taken up the job of a housemaid in Dhanmondi and earns Tk 500 a month -- an amount just not enough for the family.

Apart from the small business, the family had some income from two rickshaws that Raja owns. "Before Hridoy's death I had saved Tk 26,000 from renting out the rickshaws. Hridoy looked after the vegetable shop. After his death, I spent all I had," he says.

Raja sold out a rickshaw for some money to spend on the funeral rituals for his son.

Hridoy's family received Tk 10 lakh in compensation in two phases from the prime minister, Tk 50,000 from local lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh, Tk 10,000 from Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and Tk 25,000 from Bhola Samity.

With the money, landless Raja purchased 12.5 decimals of land in his village at Langokot, Narayanganj. For him, the land is something to keep the memories of his son alive in his family.

A year before his death Hridoy earned the family Tk 16,000 by selling mangoes in summer -- an initiative of his own. Raja saved the money.

Raja who earns only Tk 200-250 a day now plans to spend the money on his son's first death anniversary. "I will feed orphans in my village and pray in the mosque for him."

Sensational Sachin

FROM PAGE 17

which offered no margin of error for the bowlers, he squeezed out full deliveries past the covers and off his pads. With no seam movement on offer, Jacques Kallis took the slips off and placed them in catching positions within the 15-yard circle, hoping to induce a mistake. But Tendulkar outplayed all of them, making room to manoeuvre it past a number of green shirts. There were a minimum of two runs on offer each time the ball was placed wide of them and the quick outfield did the rest.

Once he got his eye in, the short boundaries and the flat pitch were too inviting. Virender Sehwag's dismissal for 11, caught at third man, was just an aberration as Karthik, Yusuf and Dhoni traded cricket bats for golf clubs. Driving and lofting through the line had never been this easy. Tendulkar

Mashrafe

FROM PAGE 17

match one-day series against England.

The big issue for the Rafiqul Alam-led selection panel however was not the inclusion of Mashrafe in the team.

The public focus is now on the fate of former national skipper Mohammad Ashraful when the three-member team announces the squad today or tomorrow.

The selection panel was in a huge dilemma with the decision on the out-of-form Ashraful as it's not only the general sentiment rather most of the board members are also in favour of giving the former skipper a break.

Rafiqul however has already given the impression that he was not in favour of making any changes in the team and it was also learnt that both captain Shakib Al Hasan and coach Jamie Siddons, who will return from Australia today, echo the same sentiment. None want to give Ashraful a rest in the home series against England.

And it was learnt that there was every chance to see both Ashraful and Rokibul Hasan in the team despite their poor run of form.

could have driven them inside out in his sleep.

The two century stands, with Karthik and then with Dhoni, may well get lost in the scorecard but they were vital building blocks. Karthik rotated the strike well in their stand of 194, struck three clean sixes and helped himself to a brisk half-century. That partnership sent out ominous signs to the South Africans that they were in for something massive. Add Dhoni's bludgeoning hits and scoops and you had a score in excess of 400.

Tendulkar reached his fifty off 37 balls and his century off 90. Ironically, he struck his first six -- over long-on -- when on 111. Pathan bashed it around at the other end, clubbing full tosses and short deliveries in his 23-ball 36, as India amassed 63 runs in the batting Powerplay. The South African seamers made the mistake of trying to bowl too fast and as a result, sent down too many full tosses and full deliveries. The unplayable yorkers remained elusive and Tendulkar, who was seeing it like a beach ball, picked the gaps, made room and improvised.

He reached his 150 by making room to Parnell and chipping him over midwicket with a simple bat twirl at the point of contact. The heart-break of Hyderabad, when his scintillating 175 all but won India the match against Australia last year, must have lingered in his mind as he approached that score again.

A towering six over long-on later, he not only eclipsed Kapil Dev's 175 but also looked to wipe out his own record. He started clutching his thighs, indicating that cramps had set in, but carried on from where he left off.

He equalled his highest score of 186 by pulling a lollipop of a full toss off Kallis and broke his own and Indian record with a single to square leg. Fortunately, he didn't have to do much running and played the spectator's role for a change as Dhoni bulldozed his way to a 35-ball 68, muscling four sixes.

The record of 200, however, was yet to be attained and the crowd were desperate for Tendulkar to get the strike.

Dhoni tore into Steyn for 17 off the 49th over and retained the strike for the 50th. After hammering the first ball of the 50th for six, he shoveled a full toss to deep midwicket where Hashim Amla made a brilliant save. Tendulkar settled for a single and the crowd were on their feet as they watched Tendulkar make history. It was all the more fitting for another reason because it was on this very day, back in 1988, when he and Vinod Kamblī partnered a maniacal stand of 664 (then a world record) in a school match.

There were to be no repeat of the heroics of the 434 chase at the Wanderers when South Africa took guard, perhaps mentally and physically shaken after the assault, with a partisan crowd to contend with. AB de Villiers's attacking ton got completely lost in the chase as South Africa merely went through the motions. It was all a question of how quickly India could wrap it up.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the day-night second one-day international between India and South Africa at the Captain Roop Singh Stadium in Gwalior on Wednesday:

INDIA

| | | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------|-----|---|
| Sehwag | c Steyn | b Parnell | 9 | |
| Tendulkar | not out | | 200 | |
| Karthik | c Gibbs | b Parnell | 79 | |
| Yusuf | c De Villiers | b Van der Merwe | 36 | |
| Dhoni | not out | | 68 | |
| Extras | (lb-3, w-5, nb-1) | | 9 | |
| Total | (For 3 wickets in 50 overs) | | 401 | |
| Fall of wickets: | 1-25, 2-219, 3-300 | | | |
| Did not bat: | Kohli, Raina, Jadeja, Praveen, Nehra, Sreesanth | | | |
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Steyn | 10 | 0 | 89 | 0 |
| Parnell | 10 | 0 | 95 | 2 |
| Van der Merwe | 10 | 0 | 62 | 1 |
| Langeveldt | 10 | 0 | 70 | 0 |
| Duminy | 5 | 0 | 38 | 0 |
| Kallis | 5 | 0 | 44 | 0 |

SOUTH AFRICA

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-----|
| Amla | c Nehra | b Sreesanth | 34 |
| Gibbs | b Praveen | | 7 |
| Van der Merwe | c Raina | b Sreesanth | 12 |
| Kallis | b Nehra | | 11 |
| De Villiers | not out | | 114 |
| Petersen | b Jadeja | | 9 |
| Duminy | lbw b Yusuf | | 14 |
| Boucher | lbw b Yusuf | | 14 |
| Parnell | b Nehra | | 18 |
| Steyn | b Sreesanth | | 0 |
| Langeveldt | c Nehra | b Jadeja | 12 |
| Extras | (lb-5, w-8, nb-4) | | 17 |

Total: (All out in 42.5)

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-47, 3-61, 4-83, 5-102, 6-103, 7-134, 8-211, 9-216

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|---|----|---|
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Praveen | 5 | 0 | 31 | 1 |
| Nehra | 8 | 0 | 60 | 2 |
| Sreesanth | 7 | 0 | 49 | 3 |
| Jadeja | 8.5 | 0 | 41 | 2 |
| Yusuf | 9 | 1 | 37 | 2 |
| Sehwag | 5 | 0 | 25 | 0 |

Result: India won by 153 runs and take 2-0 winning lead in three-match series.

Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar.

Toss: India.

Umpires: Ian Gould and Shavir Tarapore.

Ratna bags

FROM PAGE 17

Despite trailing by one point, Ratna got off to a superb start in the shot-off and made 10.2, 10.4, 10.1, 10.5 and 10.5 in the first five shots to put Neha (9.5, 9.5, 10.3, 9.2 and 10.5) behind her at one stage.

However, the pressure took its toll on the 21-year old Ratna as she then scored a poor 9.7, 9.3, 9.4, 10.5 and 9.9 in her last five shots to finish on 100.5, behind Neha who tallied 101.1 after bouncing back with scores 9.9, 10.6, 10.5, 10.6 and 10.5 in her last five shots.

Neha eventually won gold scoring a total of 496.1 while Ratna had to be content with silver with a score of 494.5. Australian Robyn Van Nus won bronze having scored 494.2 out of 509.

Ratna said that she was a bit nervous because she felt the pressure of expectation from herself and could not keep the momentum going despite having got off to a good start in the shot-off.

Sadia Sultana, who along with Ratna won the 10m air rifle pair gold on Tuesday, finished seventh with a score of 490.4 (392 qualification and 98.4 shot-off).

BCB faces

FROM PAGE 17

BCB tried to negotiate with them. "Still we are trying with some private banks to get a sponsor before the start of the series," he said.

It's also yet to be decided when the tickets will go on sale. "We hope it will start from February 26," hoped Yunus.

Masuda takes solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Masuda Begum Barisal took solo lead in the preliminary round of the 31st National Chess Championship at the close of the fourth round games at Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Masuda beat Protiva to keep her hundred per cent winning run and raised her points tally to four from four outings.

Nazrana Khan Eva of Manikgonj, WFM Zakia Sultana and Jahana Haque Runu followed with 3.5 points each. Eight players shared the third position on three points.

In the fourth round matches, Eva drew with Runu, Zakia beat Dilara Jahan Nupur, Shimmi beat Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury, Anne beat Farhana Momotaj, Popy beat Arifa Khatun Moni, Mithila beat Hamida Khatun, Amena beat Swapna, Titi beat Jisha and Aeon beat Tanzina Akter Tani.

Nazimuddin

FROM PAGE 17

Opener Zahurul scored 54 off 60 balls with eight boundaries while promising Sabbir top scored with 76 off 143 balls that contained seven fours and a six.

SCOREBOARD

RAJSHAHIV KHULNA
RAJSHAH: First innings 269 for 9 (dec) and Second innings (overnight 50-1) 221 for six in 67.4 overs (Zahurul 54, Sabbir 76, Forhad 23, Anisur 24, extras 22; Rasel 2-56, Dollar 2-52).

KHULNA: First innings 243 all out.

CHITTAGONG V DHAKA

CHITTAGONG: First innings 312 and Second innings 325 for eight in 90 overs (Salahuddin 20, Mahbulul 19, Nazimuddin 136, Faisal 59, Arman 32, Sunny 25 not out, extras 20; Rony 2-27, Ashraf 2-32, Nadif 2-64).

DHAKA: First innings 239 all out.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bound fun of

4 E-I

7 Snaky shape

8 The Little Mermaid

10 Hot box?

11 Approach the curb

13 Noted Texas musician/novelist/politician

16 South Bend's st.

17 Moves like a moth

18 Story of a life-time?

19 Two-way

20 Deserve

21 Like Shirley Temple's hair

23 Coffin stands

25 Broadway award

26 Make fun of

27 Pretend

28 Expiate

30 Dandy

33 "Yakety Sax"

36 Poets' name for England

37 Tire pattern

38 Column features

39 Leave a lasting impression?

40 Agent, for short

41 Request

2 Barmy sound

3 Frolic-some

4 Some produce

5 Saint honored on Sept. 1

6 Main-tained

7 He slew 25% of the world's population

8 Time for foolishness?

9 Of the loins

10 Schuss

12 Two-somes

14 TV chef

15 "Smoking or --?"

19 Parch

20 "A mouse!"

21 Winter warmer

22 Incalculable

23 Former European capital city

24 Summer-time quencher

25 Bill

26 Reacts to a pun

28 In reserve

29 Scout unit

30 Particle

31 Colorful fish

32 Third degree?

34 Mountain transport

35 Scraps

DOWN

1 Pooch

Solution time: 21 mins.

ALMA YON PEARSA
GOIL ODE URS
TONE KOWALSKI
SKIPPER CITED
HES BASKING
HOIST BASKING
OAT OER VIE
ERSKINE SMELL
ICS TIE
AISLE NONSKID
SKINDEEP SAVE
HOME BRA ELAN
ENID BOZ SENT

CRYPTOQUIP

K G M G B K X P H A K X P Y J V

D Z E Q Y L R J Q B H U Q D Q C L

X Q U M R J Y, L R J C K E Q C L Z U Q

A Z M K X P U Q V Z U Z H K R X Z X B K Q H L.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE SIMPLY COULDN'T AFFORD TO KEEP THE SHIP FULLY STAFFED, SO WE NEEDED TO MAKE SOME CREW CUTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals U

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

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Subject: Request for Expressions of Interest for selection of consulting firm (Lump-sum) For improvement of Electrical System Networks & Reduction Of System Loss in greater Lalbag area.

Ref. No. : DPDC/CS-107/Consultant Appointment (Local)/09-10/45, Date: 12/01/10

Please be informed that, the following amendments will be effective in the subject-mentioned REOI.

The experience, resources and delivery capacity required:

| Sl. | Before amendment | After amendment |
|-----|---|--|
| iv) | Firms Average Annual Turnover of at least Taka 02 (two) Crore in the last 03 (three) years. | Firms Average Annual Turnover of at least Taka 50 (fifty) Lacs in the last 03 (three) years. |
| v) | Bank solvency certificate of Taka 02 (two) crore only. | Bank solvency certificate. |

Submission date of EOI:

| Before amendment | After amendment |
|---|--|
| Expression of Interest shall be submitted by 12:00 Noon on 28/02/2010 | Expression of Interest shall be submitted by 12:00 Noon on 18/03/2010, |

All other terms & conditions of the REOI will remain unchanged.

Priyatosh Saha
Company Secretary, DPDC
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