



PHOTO: STAR
Former national captain Khaled Mahmud receives appointment papers as the new head coach of Bangla Trac Cricket Academy from managing director Aminul Haque yesterday. The well-equipped academy is situated in Rajshahi has over a hundred students and has been in operation since 2008.

Akhtar treble powers N'ganj
SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant hat-trick from Shurovi Akhter powered Narayanganj to a comprehensive 7-0 win over Thakurgaon in the National Women's Football Championship at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. Apart from Shurovi's goals, Achia Khatun struck twice while Tahmina Akhter and Anjuman scored one goal each for Narayanganj, who led the first half 3-0. In the day's other match, Satkhira defeated Khulna 2-1 with Sabina scoring both goals for the winners. Mirna reduced the margin for Khulna.

RTV in final
SPORTS REPORTER

RTV moved into the final of the Kool-BSJA Media Cup football tournament with a single-goal win over Banglavisian in the semifinal at the Handball Stadium adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ruhul Amin struck the all-important goal for RTV while Rupom Dey of the same team was named man of the match.

However, what was a relaxed second semifinal between Channel I and ETV descended into acrimony during the extra minutes after both sides were locked at 1-1 in the regulation time, with blows being exchanged between the two sides. The technical committee will take a decision on that match later, said a press release yesterday.

SCB brings

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Liverpool and it's great that we can give so many of them a chance to come and watch the team play."

The club's managing director Ian Ayre said, "The last tour in 2009 was a real success and we're delighted that we are returning this summer after a break last year due to the FIFA World Cup."

Gavin Laws, group head of corporate affairs at Standard Chartered, said: "We are very excited about Liverpool's Asia tour. It is fantastic news for Liverpool fans in Asia and yet another sign of the commitment of the club and Standard Chartered to the region. We are looking forward to some great football in July."

Lawson's

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Lawson believes that a star who has playing experience at the highest level often gets through to youngsters better.

"When I was a youngster, I was motivated by watching Denis Lillee bowl. I was also very lucky that I got to play with him.

"The youngsters will think 'we'll listen to this guy because he's been there and done it'. So, that's just a little thing when they get back to their hometowns and clubs but in the end it is up to them," he said.

Sarwan given the sack for final Test
CRICINFO, Bridgetown

Struggling West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan has been dropped for the third and final Test against India in Dominica. Kieran Powell, a 21-year-old batsman from Leeward Islands, has been named as his replacement.

Sarwan, 31, back in the Test side for the ongoing home season after nearly one-and-a-half years out, has struggled for form right through, starting with the Pakistan Tests. He managed only 54 runs in four innings against Pakistan, and his form nosedived further in the series against India, where he managed only 29 runs over the first two Tests. Sarwan seemed to have been informed of his axing soon after the second Test in Barbados. An hour after bad light ensured a draw, Sarwan tweeted: "Wishing the guys all the best in Dominica! Miami here I come." Warner Park in Dominica is the venue for the third Test.

Clyde Butts, chairman of the selection committee, said he expected Sarwan to make a strong comeback. "Ramnaresh is having a difficult time and it is best for him to make way and allow a player in better form to contribute to the team totals," he said. "We have no doubt about Ramnaresh's class as a batsman, he has proven himself countless times in the past and we are certain that he will return stronger in the near future."

Sarwan's replacement, Powell, played two one-dayers for West Indies in 2009, when the entire first-choice team pulled out of a home series against Bangladesh and the Champions Trophy in South Africa due to a contract dispute. He was among the first batch of players to train at the Sagcor High Performance Centre after it was established in 2010. He has played 23 first-class matches since his debut in 2008 and averages 38.91.

"Kieran is young but has been on the first-class circuit for some time and is a former Windies Under-19 World Cup player," Butts said. "He did well for West Indies A and scored an impressive hundred against England Lions in the WICB Regional 4 Day Tournament but got injured subsequently. We believe he has bright future and this is an excellent opportunity for him to show his worth on the international stage."

SQUAD

Adrian Barath, Lendl Simmons, Darren Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Marlon Samuels, Carlton Baugh, Darren Sammy (captain), Fidel Edwards, Ravi Rampaul, Devendra Bishoo, Kirk Edwards, Kemar Roach, Kieran Powell.

He cannot keep
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which took him level with Bjorn Borg's record, as proof that there is not a lot wrong with his game.

"Three weeks ago I was winning in Roland Garros; today I was playing the final here and I lost," he said.

"We started with 128 players. One has to win but he's going to lose in the future."

Phelps's 2nd in two days
AFP, Montreal

American swimming star Michael Phelps posted his second victory in two days, capturing the men's 100-metre butterfly at the Canada Cup swimming competition Sunday.

The 14-time Olympic gold medalist, who turns 26 on Thursday, clocked 51.32 seconds to beat his American compatriot Chris Brady by more than a second.

On Saturday, Phelps cruised to victory in the 200 metre freestyle in the event which serves as a tune up for the World Championships in two weeks in Shanghai, China.

"I'm really happy with that and I know I need to do more training," said Phelps. "It's races like these that I think help me more mentally than anything else.

Nadal was also adamant that Sunday's loss was not the worst of his career, claiming his double dose of Australian Open misery was tougher to take.

The Spaniard was in tears in January after his injury-ravaged quarter-final against compatriot David Ferrer.

A year earlier, knee tendinitis forced him to retire from his quarter-final with Andy Murray.

"The toughest moment was in Australia and I finished the match and I am injured...in 2010 I have to go out of Australia with an injury. That is the toughest moment. That's the game: sometimes you win; sometimes you lose," he said.

Europa on a roll
SPORTS REPORTER

Euporpa Youth continued their winning spree in the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League as they recorded a massive 103-45 win over Bakshi Bazar in their sixth match at the Dhanomdi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Europa, who on Sunday thrashed The Greys 97-46, dominated the first half against Bakshi Bazar with a 47-18 lead as Mithun and Romel scored 17 and 16 respectively while Hanif and Tahmid caged 13 and 12 points for the losers.

Dilshan can think of series now

Cricket

AFP, London

Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne Dilshan believes a one-day series win against England is within his side's grasp after a six-wicket victory at Lord's put the tourists 2-1 up with two to play.

Dinesh Chandimal's unbeaten 105, the 21-year-old's second hundred in just six matches at this level, saw Sri Lanka capitalise on a disciplined bowling display after they held England to a sub-standard 246 for seven.

Chandimal won the match for the World Cup finalists with 10 balls to spare by smashing James Anderson for four.

Sri Lanka might have got there sooner had not Angelo Mathews, whose one not out took 21 balls, been so determined to make sure Chandimal got to a hundred.

Sri Lanka may have lost their rain-affected opener at The Oval by 110 runs but their second victory in three days, following their 69-run success at Headingley, has seen them come from behind to take the lead.

"We are playing good cricket, if we play like this we can win the next two matches," Dilshan told reporters.

So determined was Mathews to make sure Chandimal, who eventually reached three figures with a six off medium-pace Tim Bresnan, got to a hundred he played out a maiden in the 47th over to the visible despair of his captain.

"That disappointed me a little bit but they are youngsters, they are learning every time in the middle," Dilshan said.

"Getting a hundred at Lord's is really special for him [Chandimal].

"He played like an experienced guy and he finished the game. That's a good sign for Sri Lanka," Dilshan added of the man-of-the-match.

Meanwhile veteran opener Mahela Jayawardene followed up his career-best 144 at Headingley with a superb 79 at Lord's.

"They have a very good bowling attack but Mahela is not giving the bowlers anything, he's hitting every loose ball for runs," said Dilshan.

England captain Alastair Cook, who made a career-best 119 at Lord's, was taken aback by the way Mathews refused easy runs.

"It was different, I've never seen that before," Cook said. "They were perfectly entitled to do it if they want, but it was a bit strange and the cricketing gods may look at that in a bit of disgust."

Cook's second century in 29 ODI matches ultimately could not disguise the fact no other England batsman made more than Kevin Pietersen's 41.

"It's nice for a bit of confidence to score runs, but never nice in a losing cause. You want to score runs when you win, it's far more satisfying... We were 40 runs short."

England's seam bowlers rarely looked like taking wickets on a good pitch, with off-spinner Graeme Swann's two for 32 too late to affect the result.

However, Cook insisted: "We've played on some pretty flat pitches and what we are thinking is the right way and we just need a little luck to go our way."

Stuart Broad, largely ineffectual during England's 2-1 Test series win against Sri Lanka, went wicketless for the third match in a row, the fast-medium bowler conceding 52 runs in 10 overs at Lord's.

Despite being the son of match referee Chris Broad, the former England opening batsman, he arrived at Lord's on the back of being fined 50 percent of his match fee at Headingley.

Broad was punished for "unacceptable and offensive remarks" to New Zealand umpire Billy Bowden regarding a rejected lbw decision.

However, Cook said it would not surprise him if Broad -- England's Twenty20 captain -- came good at the seamer's Trent Bridge home ground in Nottingham, where the fourth match of this series take place on Wednesday.

"At the moment it's not quite going for Broady, a bit like the Tests, but this is what cricket does," said Cook.

"If he gets a five-for next week at his home ground next week it will be worth it."

"He overstepped the mark [at Headingley], he accepts that."

Wozniacki stays put
AFP, Paris

Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki remains on top of the women's singles rankings, which were released on Monday, in spite of her failure once again to land a Grand Slam title.

The 20-year-old has now spent 38 weeks in the number one position but has only ever reached one Grand Slam final -- the US Open in 2009 -- and was knocked out in the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Petra Kvitova's reward for winning Wimbledon was a move up one place to seven in the world, while the woman she beat in the final, Maria Sharapova, also edges up one place to number five. French Open champion Li Na slips two places to number six.

Euphoric
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The daily Danas quoted Serbia's Jelena Gencic, who was Djokovic's first coach twenty years ago as saying: "Even then, he often repeated that his dream was to win Wimbledon."

Celebrations will be held in Belgrade following Djokovic's return from London, with the central gathering planned at 1800 GMT in front of the republic's parliament building.

Djokovic snatched the men's crown from Rafael Nadal with a 6-4, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 victory.

Expert help
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seen working with Mushfiqur but the former national wicketkeeper doesn't serve the position as a coach.

Mushfiqur's teammate Mahmudullah Riyad, too, sought advice yesterday from selector and former national captain Habibur Bashar. "We talked about conditions in Zimbabwe. Since I haven't played Tests in Harare, he was telling me about the pitch there and how it is very even in Bulawayo," said the newly-married Riyad.

Djokovic not to stop
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victory in the Davis Cup final against Spain in December that he finally felt his inferiority complex about his place alongside Nadal and Federer had been lifted.

"I would lie to you if I didn't have doubts. I did have difficult, crisis times where I didn't know if I could really make it because the first two guys were so dominant," he said.

"It did feel a bit frustrating when getting to the later stages of a Grand Slam and then you have to meet Federer and Nadal.

"But it's a process of learning, a process of developing and improving as a tennis player, as a person, and just finding the way to mentally overcome those pressures and expectations.

"After the Davis Cup win I was full of life, full of energy, eager to come back to the tennis court and win some other tournaments. I lost my fear. I believed in my abilities more than ever."

It was already clear from his four victories over Nadal in Masters finals this year that Djokovic had the ability to subdue the Spaniard.

But this victory -- his first against the Nadal in a Grand Slam -- was still a life-changing moment for the Serb, especially the way he put Nadal to the sword in the first two sets.

"You have to enjoy the moment, winning two sets in just over an hour against the defending champion on the court that he hasn't lost for three years was incredible," he said.

"Obviously, it was the best tennis match on grass courts that I've played ever. It came in the right moment.

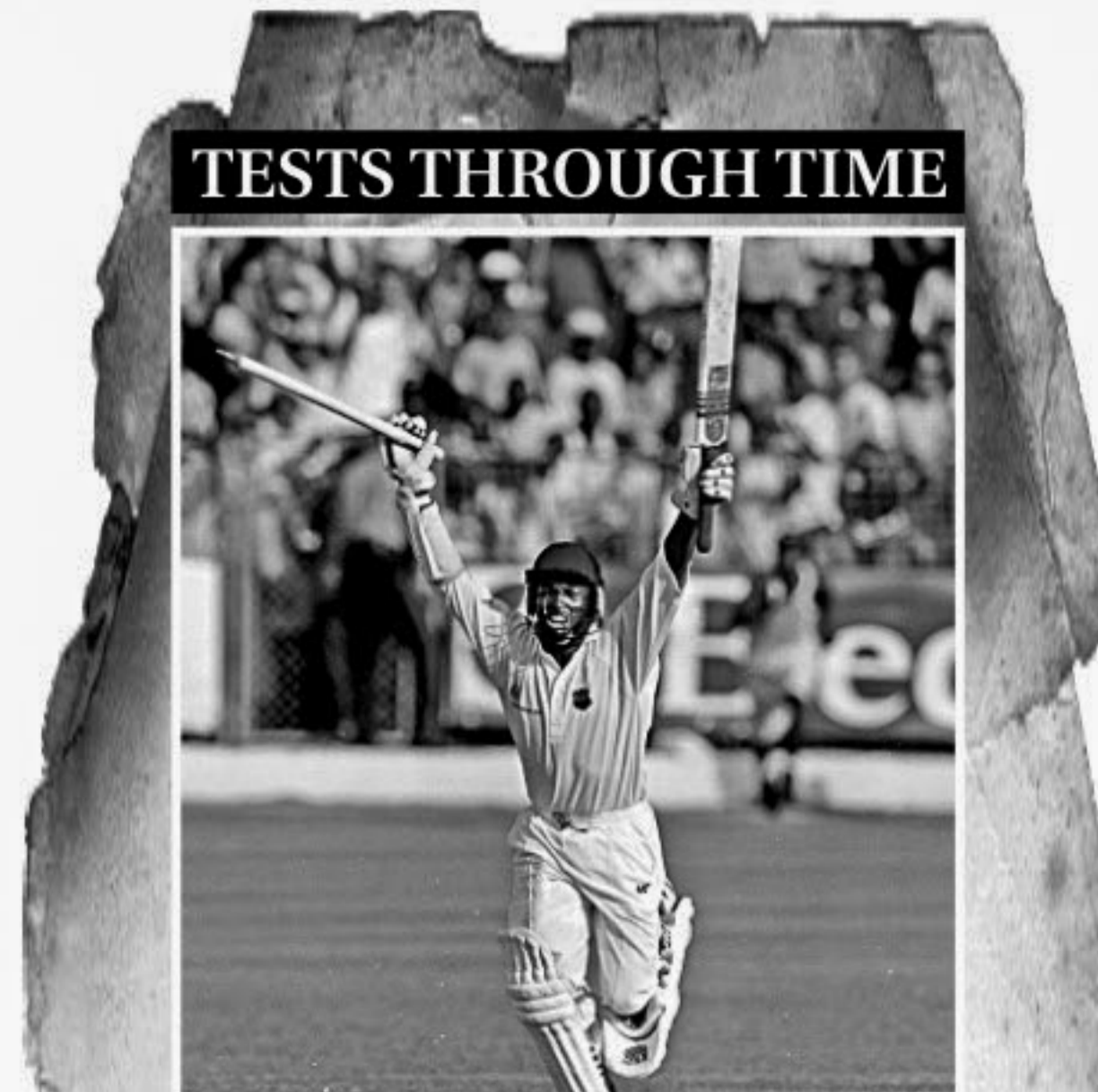
"I think most of the tennis players rate this Grand Slam as the most important tournament in our sport. So that sentence gives you an idea of how much this means for a player to win here."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Ambulance initials
4 Snake's noise
8 Fine
12 PC linkup
13 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" theme)
14 See
15 Tabletop soccer game
17 Carey or Barry more
18 Pale
19 Shot that misses completely
21 Mandrill, e.g.
24 Suits — T
25 With 14-
Across, monkey's talk in an old silly song
26 Greet the villain
28 He's had some bad hare days
32 Spring melody
34 Insult (Sl.)
36 — Strauss & Co.
37 Big brawl
39 Varnish ingredient
41 Lend a hand
42 Coach Parseghian
44 Rook
46 Snooker need
50 Horde
51 Killer whale
52 Human dynamo
56 Marx or Malden
57 "American —"
58 Meadow
59 Hebrew month
60 A very long time
61 Back talk
DOWN
1 Sprite
2 Long March chairman
3 Winter-time missile
4 Mingle
5 — pinch
6 1973 Toni Morrison novel
7 Divided
8 Kook
9 Song-writer
10 First victim
11 Sailing vessel
16 — Paulo
20 Fish eggs
21 Soothing ointment
22 Rose's love
23 Affirmative action?
27 Lubricate
29 Spaghetti topper
30 Wicked
31 Take the bus
33 Brewing gizmo
35 Anatomical pouch
38 Pitcher's stat
40 Desert caravan
43 Role for Michael Caine or Jude Law
45 Weep loudly
46 Furnace fuel
47 Caspian feeder
48 Beige
49 Chic beach resort
53 Director Howard
54 Floral garland
55 Once around

Solution time: 25 mins.

HAY CUISS MEJOW
AGO AGUE OREO
NAY THEM EPARK
GROAN IMP
TAWA SEDAN
BALLPARK TACO
AHA SLING NEO
BASK DEER PARK
ABHOR SWAT
WAS CADET
SOUTH PARK USA
AUTO EVIL APT
CREW CEDE LYE



TESTS THROUGH TIME

The magician prince

It was the last day of a riveting game of cricket at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, West Indies, who went toe-to-toe against a wounded Australian side, were 85 for three in their pursuit of 308. That they came this far in the game was a wonder in itself. After Australia had made 490, the hosts were down in the dumps before Curtly Ambrose, with a five-for in the second innings, put a big foot in the door before the Australians could shut up shop.

Now it was up to the Prince himself to tilt back the game in the islander's favour. Brian Lara had been skipper for less than six months at that time and already his side had been decimated in South Africa and in the first Test against Australia, they were shot down for 51.

On March 30, 1999, Jason Gillespie removed Lara's overnight partner Adrian Griffith and the enigmatic Carl Hooper early in the morning to reduce the hosts to 105 for five.

This was the thing with Lara. He thrived in a scrap and already, the incident involving Glenn McGrath spitting on Griffith had riled him up. The Australian captain Steve Waugh had always been wary of a shaky, strayed Lara: it meant the Prince needed a cause that was personal and here, Australia presented him one.

Waugh Sr. had an attack to die for. Apart from the pace battery of McGrath and Gillespie, he had a leg-spin attack made in heaven. Stuart MacGill and Shane Warne were like chalk and cheese but together, on a fifth day wicket, spelled trouble.

Lara, though, gave his opposite number a first fright by peeling three boundaries off MacGill, twice lofting through mid-wicket and a sweep shot. Off Warne, he pulled the blonde genius for a six over mid-wicket that landed on the roof of the stand and then complemented his strength with a deft late cut that went for four.

Slowly, he restored the West Indies chase through the 133-run sixth wicket stand with Jimmy Adams and it was evident that there was no stopping the brilliant left-hander.

Probably the seminal 375 and his record-breaking 501 (not out) were some of the few innings where Lara played against a weaker opposition and the sole cause of scoring runs. Otherwise, he needed the opposition to talk to him and after he'd settled down, Waugh brought back McGrath for another crack. Soon enough, the robotic fast bowler hit him on the back of the head, igniting him into body-charging McGrath after he completed the single. And there was instant revenge for the crowd as Lara crashed him for four.

After he reached his century with a six over long-on off Warne, trouble followed. After the lunch interval, Adams, Ridley Jacobs and Nehemiah Perry all fell in a cluster and Lara was left with Ambrose to thwart this great bowling attack.

What followed was not only riveting but the greatest example of Lara's influence on the West Indies cricket team. He did it all on his own with another end being guarded manfully by a glorified tail-ender who was in his final years of international cricket.

As Ambrose stood firm for 89 minutes, Lara manipulated the strike as he took his side closer to an improbable victory. But with only six to win, Ambrose gave Matthew Elliott a catch. As Courtney Walsh played out a McGrath over with embellished follow-throughs, Lara stung Australian hearts with a blazing cover drive.

West Indies won by one wicket and Lara finished on 153 not out, the greatest of his 34 Test centuries.

-- Mohammad Isam

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CRYPTOQUIP
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R T X X G T E Y N L L U , K L E X H N L X
C K L W " W H X C P - Z T C H W T E G , "
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE FELLOW
WANTS TO FILM SOME SPIDERS' HOMES,
SHOULD HE PURCHASE AND USE A WEB CAM?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M