All in the hype

Cricket

SHAFEEN MAJID

What separates the likes of Viv Richards, Dennis Lillee and Shane Warne from Javed Miandad, Joel Garner and Abdul Qudair's of the world? It is not quality or greatness, for both groups have that in about the same measure, so what is it? Hype.

Hype builds around certain players for whatever mysterious reason. Everyone talks about them. Everyone celebrates their greatness. For the most part, such hype is justified, for players who elicit such responses are great players. But what about those players, every bit as good, who for whatever mysterious reason, do not generate such hype? What is their fate in the whimsically romantic eye of cricket lore? Usually, but not always, the dustbin.

Lilllee averaged 23.92 for 355 Test wickets. Amongst his contemporaries alone, Michael Holding, Joel Garner, Malcolm Marshall all have better averages. Imran, Marshall, Hadlee, as well as Ian Botham and India's Kapil Dev took more wickets. Who makes it into espn's all time world 11 chosen by and 47, respectively) were not too far

French Open

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga did his part to keep

alive home hopes of a first men's

champion at Roland Garros since

1983 when he swept past colourful

Italian Fabio Fognini to reach the

Fifth seed Tsonga won 7-5, 6-4, 6-

4 against the 45th-ranked Fognini

and could meet compatriot Gilles

Simon for a place in the last eight

should the 11th seed get past

Stanislas Wawrinka, the 18th-

It was Tsonga's second win in two

meetings with Fognini, who reached

the quarterfinals last year only for a

thigh injury to force him to withdraw

and hand Novak Djokovic a walkover

French Open last 16 on Friday.

AFP, Paris

seeded Swiss.

experts? You guessed it

Warne had a splendid record, but his contemporary, Muralidharan, had better stats in every format and every level of the game, as well as a better Test average against every opposition. Brian Lara thought Mushtaq Ahmed a better bowler than Warne, while Graham Gooch found Abdul Qudair tougher to face. Who makes it into cricino's 11 unanimously?You guessed it.

Viv Richards' contemporaries include Gavaskar, Greg Chappell, Javed

ESPN cricinfo experts who selected All-time

World 11: Intikhab Alam, Ali Bacher, lan Chappell, David Frith, Tony Greig, Ramachandra Guha, Gideon Haigh, Clive Lloyd, Duleep Mendis,

Miandad and Border. All have better averages, and only Chappell has fewer runs. All had to face the West Indian pace attacks probably the greatest in history, which Richards did not. Guess who makes it into the 11?

The tale of the top English batsmen Imran Khan, Richard Hadlee and in the post-war era illustrates the concept of hype about as well as anything can. Peter May (average 47) was celebrated above all others. Colin Cowdrey and Ted Dexter (averages 44

Seventh-seeded Czech Tomas

Berdych ended Kevin Anderson's

hopes of becoming the first South

African man to reach the last 16 of a

Grand Slam for nine years in a third

After taking two sets to one lead,

he ran out of steam in the final set,

when he needed treatment on his left

thigh at every changeover, and lost 6-

4, 3-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, eight min-

Kuznetsova made a mockery of the

seedings by outclassing third seed

Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-1,

There was no such revival in

fortunes for Ana Ivanovic, another

former champion at Roland Garros

who has found the going tough since

Former champion Svetlana

Tsonga, Berdych in last 16

into the semifinals.

round slugfest.

utes short of four hours.

6-2 in the third round.

her triumph in 2008.

behind. Do you know who did not get much hype? Someone named Ken Barrington, despite the small matter of an average reading 58.67. He scored more runs than May and Dexter, too.

Victor Trumper played Test cricket for Australia from the late 1800s to the early part of the last century. His compatriot, Clem Hill, has almost the identical figures, but Trumper has always been rated the greater because of the beauty of his style. Fair enough. Things being more or less equal statistically, one can look to such subjective elements to raise one above another. It is peculiar, however, that when a batsmen, who was considered ugly of style, came up some 20 odd years after Trumper's time, the wisdom of the time insisted that Trumper was greater than this ugly duckling.

The ugly duckling's name was Don Bradman. He averaged 99, to Trumper's 39.

Richards, Warne and Lillee are all top class players beyond dispute. But why so far more celebrated than contemporaries who were equally (sometimes slightly more) successful?

Hype. Believe the hype it's probably true but keep in mind for every player who hits the headlines, there are two

The Serb, a former world number

one, but seeded just 13th this year,

looked comfortable in the first set

against clay court specialist Sara

Errani, but her game started to

Pybus to arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly-appointed Richard Pybus will arrive today to take charge of the Bangladesh national team for next two years as a head coach.

The first assignment for the new Bangladesh coach is the upcoming Zimbabwe tour. Mushfiqur Rahim's men will leave on June 12 for Harare to play an unofficial tri-nation tournament involving Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and South Africa. After that Bangladesh is scheduled to play T20 matches in Trinidad & Tobago, Ireland and the Netherlands before the ICC Twenty20 World Cup to be held in Sri Lanka in September.

The 47-year old Englishman has been confirmed as a new Bangladesh cricket team coach on May 30 for a two-year term.

He is Bangladesh's third coach in a year as Stuar Law, who resigned in April due to family commitments, had been in the post for only nine months after succeeding another Australian Jamie Siddons last July.

Gregarious dominant

SPORTS REPORTER

The Gregarious had a comfortable 102-40 point victory over Mohammadpur Basketball Club in the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday. The Gregarious almost ensured their victory by the end of the first half as they led by 46-17 points. For The Gregarious, Mithun (27 points) and Shoaib (16 points) and for Mohammadpur, Jaymul (10 points) and Jajib (9 points) were the top scorers.

The Gregarious had previously won on Thursday against Bakshibazar 102-50. Mithun (32 points) and Shoaib (22 points) were the top scorers for The Gregarious while for Bakshabazar, Asif (16 points) and Ayon (10 points) led the scoring.

In the other match taking place on Thursday night, Europa Youth defeated Mohammadpur

Champions Trophy final in Edgbaston

CRICINFO, London

England will host the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy in Cardiff, at Edgbaston and at The Oval from June 6 to 23, the ECB has confirmed. Edgbaston will host the final of the tournament, which will be the last time it is played as the ICC moves towards having one championship for each of the game's three formats from 2015.

"Wales has earned an outstanding reputation for its ability to deliver worldclass sporting events and we are delighted that Cardiff will be used as a host venue for the ICC Champions Trophy and stage a semifinal," David Collier, the chief executive of the ECB,

confirmed previous ICC | said. England last hosted the Champions Trophy in 2004, with West Indies emerging victorious. The ten Testplaying nations joined USA and Kenya to compete in

Semi-finals: June 19 (The

Oval), June 20 (Cardiff)

Final: June 23 (Edgbaston)

series. **SCHEDULE**

Oval)

fifteen matches during that dash to the line.

Group stage: June 6-17 former Olympic champion (Cardiff, Edgbaston and The Meseret Defar by three

hundreths of a second.

Sri Lanka pacer Nuwan Kulasekera (C) celebrates with his teammates after dis-

missing Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez (unseen) during the first Twenty20 match at the Suriyawewa Mahinda Rajapakse International Cricket Stadium in Hambantota yesterday.

SL crush Pakistan

Cricket

SPORTS DESK

A superb bowling performance from Sri Lanka saw them coast to a 37 run victory over Pakistan in a low scoring first T20 international at Hambantota on Friday.

Defending a paltry total of 132, Sri Lanka got off to a dream start with two wickets from the first two balls by Nuwan Kulasekara derailed the Pakistani train from which they never recovered.

Pakistan only managed 95 in 17.4 overs with only Ahmed Shehzad with 36 and Umar Akmal managing to make double figures.

Earlier, Sohail Tanvir grabbed three big wickets as Pakistan restricted Sri Lanka to 132 - 7.

The left-arm paceman jolted Sri Lanka's top order when he dismissed skipper Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan and Kumar Sangakkara in his opening three

overs to reduce the hosts to 31-3.

Tanvir finished with 3-12 off four tight overs, his best performance in Twenty20 internationals. He was superbly backed by off-spinner Saeed Ajmal, who bagged two wickets for 20 runs.

Thisara Perera top-scored with a 16-ball 32 not out in Sri Lanka's below-par batting display, helping his team make 43 runs off the last 22 balls. Lahiru Thirimanne, making his T20

debut, was the other main scorer with a 25ball 30. Sri Lanka made a poor start after electing

to bat, losing four wickets in the opening eight overs with just 39 on the board. SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 132 for 7 (Sangakkara 19, Thirimanne 30, Perera 32 not out; Tanvir 3-12, Ajmal 2-20)

PAKISTAN: 95 all out (Shehzad 36; Kulasekara 2-13, Malinga 2-12) Result: Sri Lanka won by 37 runs. Man-of-the-match: Thisara Perera.

AUSTRALIA'S TOUR OF ENGLAND 2013

1st Test in Trent Bridge

Cricket

CRICINFO, London

England will begin their 2013 defence of the Ashes with back-to-back Tests at Trent Bridge and Lord's in July, while Australia will play a first Test at Durham's Chester-le-Street ground in the fourth match of the series. The ECB has announced the schedules for Australia's tour next year, as well as the visit of New Zealand earlier in the summer and the itinerary for the ICC Champions Trophy.

The ECB has also confirmed that Lord's will host the first New Zealand Test in 2013, instead of Cardiff. Lord's had previously stepped in to host West Indies last month, after Glamorgan were late in making payments for the Cardiff Test between England and Sri Lanka in 2011.

The 2013 series between England and Australia will kick off a run of 15 Ashes Tests within a two-year period. The third match will see Test cricket return to Old Trafford for the first time since 2010, while the series will conclude at the traditional venue of the The

The next Ashes in Australia will take place immediately after in 2013-14 - meaning the two teams will effectively play ten Tests in a row - to avoid a clash with the 2015 World Cup, which will be held in Australia. England are then expected to host the Ashes again in 2015.

Australia will begin their preparations next summer with two four-day games, against Somerset and Worcestershire, and they will play Sussex in a three-day match at Hove between the second and third Tests. An

ODI against Scotland in Edinburgh has also been scheduled ahead of the one-day series with England.

Several grounds that missed out on hosting Ashes Tests in 2013 have been awarded limited-overs fixtures. Hampshire's West End stadium will be the venue for a T20I and the fifth ODI, Edgbaston will host the third ODI and Cardiff the fourth. Cardiff, which had been due to host a 2013 Test between England and New Zealand, has instead been named as one of the semi-final venues for the Champions Trophy.

ITINERARY

June 26-29: Four-day game v Somerset, Taunton July 2-5: Four-day game v Worcestershire,

New Road July 10-14: First Test, Trent Bridge July 18-22: Second Test, Lord's

July 26-28: Three-day game v Sussex, Hove August 1-5: Third Test, Old Trafford August 9-13: Fourth Test, Chester-le-Street August 16-17: Two-day game v Northamptonshire, Northampton August 21-25: Fifth Test, The Oval

August 29: First T20 international (D/N), West End August 31: Second T20 international, Ches-

ter-le-Street September 3: ODI Scotland v Australia, Edinburgh

September 6: First ODI, Headingley September 8: Second ODI, Old Trafford September 11: Third ODI (D/N), Edgbaston September 14: Fourth ODI, Cardiff

September 16: Fifth ODI (D/N), West End

* If Northamptonshire reach the Friends Life t20 final, England Lions will host Australia at Northampton in a two-day fixture on August

Bolt sparkles in Rome

Rutherford snatched long

Jamaica's Kaliese Sencer

won the women's 400m

world champion Lashinda

Demus with Olympic cham-

pion Melanie Walker last but

seconds outside her per-

leap of 8.32m.

hurdles in 48.14sec.

FROM PAGE 16

over the last 29 years, into second with Russian world champion Mariya Savinova third and former world champion Caster Semenya down in a disappointing eighth.

Aregawi emulated Magiso's feat with the fastest 1500m this year in 3min 56.54sec.

Kenya got a measure of revenge in the women's 5,000m which provided a photo finish in a gripping

Double world 5,000m and 10,000m champion Vivian Cheruiyot just out-dipped

sonal best. Olympic and world cham-Britain enjoyed success in

pion Valerie Adams from New Zealand easily won the women's shot-putt setting a new meeting record and a dead. the field events as Robbie

Grabarz won the high jump world-leading effort of with 2.33m and Greg 21.04m.

That was more than a metre further than anyone else managed and in fact five of her six efforts would have

jump victory with his final In the absence of British world champion Dai been good enough to win the Greene, Puerto Rico's Javier competition. Olympic champion Culson won the men's 400m

Barbora Spotakova threw a world leading 68.65m in the women's javelin in the last round to snatch victory from hurdles in 54.39sec ahead of South Africa's Sunette Viljoen, who had herself thrown a then world-leading one in a time almost four 67.95 two throws earlier.

> World champion Olha Saladukha won the women's triple jump with a leap of 14.75m and Murielle Ahoure of Ivory Coast triumphed in the women's 100m in 11sec

Season that had it all ICC retains

FROM PAGE 16

the order for Prime Bank. He told me to play my game at the top of the order and that really was helpful," he said.

Ayumi Morita at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

It was a busy season for Ziaur, as he also played regularly for Khulna in the National Cricket League but during the first-class competition, he was met with a tragedy. His first child, a baby girl, died 40 hours after being born. He took

the loss in his stride and continued to play the game, his

bread-winner. According to those he plays with, his loss has made him mellower but Ziaur remains the likable teammate that everyone knew. But his insistence that it wasn't too important at just getting the opportunity was slightly surprising.

Was he too harsh on himself? "I'm not too hard on myself (laughs). But I believe in performance and since I did well this season, I think that I should perform in the national team.

"I never thought of getting a place in the side when the season started, I focused more on the performance," said Ziaur.

Some of these picks by the selectors might be questioned as having belated wisdom because a few Twenty20 specialists should have been prepared by now, but Ziaur's call-up should be encouraging news for the rest of the cricketers in the country.

sensor has been developed that can be worn during matches and would indicate whether or not the bowler's elbow is being straightened during the delivery swing.

recommended included an increase in the number of permitted short pitched deliveries from one to two per overinone-day cricket.

Powerplays should also be restricted to the first 10

yard circle.

in a match that was held over from Thursday because of the marathon clash between Paul-Henri Mathieu and John Isner. Stosur, the runner-up here in 2010,



PHOTO: AFP Russia's Maria Sharapova exults after winning the second round match of the French Open against Japan's

Abahani's

Imran, and Ehsan Ullah

and a goal from Sarwar

Shonali Bank will take on

In today's matches,

FROM PAGE 16

suggested that drinks should not be brought on to the field other than at the official drinks breaks as well as urging teams not to waste time at referrals. The committee also

asked for more consulta-Other changes which were tions on switch hitting and plans for a 16-team World Twenty20 every two years from 2014.

overs plus one five-over batting powerplay to be completed by the 40th over. In a non-powerplay over, Hossain. only four fielders ought to be allowed outside the 30

Azad SC while Mariner With regards to test Youngs will play against cricket, the committee PoliceSCatthesamevenue.

unwind in the second as the little Italian retrieved everything that came her way to run out a 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 winner. Also through, but playing in the previous round, was second-seeded Maria Sharapova. The Russian pulled off a routine 6-1, 6-1 win over Ayumi Morita of Japan

Australian sixth seed Samantha coasted past Russia's Nadia Petrova 6-3, 6-3 and will next play American teenager Sloane Stephens.