



Did U Know?

Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, the youngest ever Test captain, and a very fine batsman played for a long time with a glass eye.



ESPN
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Bayern Munich vs Celtic
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Arsenal vs Inter Milan
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)



Mudassar Nazar
(Former Pakistan cricketer)
"Imran Khan and Javed Miandad were not the best of buddies but they were able to give the best out of each other on the field. This has not been the case between Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis. They have not been able to keep their prejudices and dislikes away from the field."

One-day blues



SPORTS REPORTER

Having already conceded the series Khaled Mahmud's men arrived in Rawalpindi yesterday and decided to give their body and mind a much-needed rest before going into the fourth one-day international on Thursday.

While the tiring cricketers looked for comfort inside the luxury hotel of the former Pakistan capital coach Dav Whatmore must have been pondering on what went wrong in the last three one-day matches that the Tigers lost without putting up a decent fight.

Although his chargers played beyond anybody's expectations in the three-match Test series that culminated in a cliff-hanger at Multan where the home side rode on their luck to win by the barest of margins, their transformation to the instant version could not have been more striking.

The team that was within sight of their maiden Test victory at Multan collapsed to a 137-run defeat only three

days later at the same venue. Whatmore's boys promised a turnaround in the second game at Peshawar, but a stunning middle-order collapse let Pakistan off the hook.

On Monday in the third match at Lahore it was a mixed bag for the Tigers. But the match under lights at the Gaddafi Stadium can be best remembered for a comedy of errors. Bangladesh lost the eventful game by 44 runs. This is the closest margin of defeat in three games, but the finish could have been more exciting had six overs from the visitors' innings not been deducted due to the trouble with the floodlights.

Bangladesh can claim that they suffered for something they were not responsible for. The funny side of the bad light episode was that match referee Mike Procter had to come down all the way from his box to wise-up the two umpires that there was insufficient lights for the Bangladesh innings to continue.

By the time Procter intervened Bangladesh were already one down. And even with the lights on it spelled more trouble for the batsmen because some bulbs in one of the

towers were not properly lit up. That cost Bangladesh to lose their new sensation Rajin Saleh.

Perhaps it was mismanagement, if not a case of sabotage, on the part of the local authorities. Otherwise it is not understandable why a venue that hosted the World Cup final in 1996 did not give its floodlights a test run ahead of a one-day game that was fixed long before.

And then there was our captain Mahmud, who scored a hat-trick of losing the toss. The superstitious Mahmud, it seems, cannot get over his obsession in calling heads. And in Pakistan his luck has so far betrayed him.

There is another consistent Bangladesh player. Guess whom? It's Mohammed Ashraf. The talented right-hander needs a serious lecture from his Australian coach on how to stop fishing outside the off-stump after getting out in the same fashion in all three one-dayers.

Runs also dried up for Mr. Consistent Habibul Bashar. The dashing right-hander, who was in a spell more trouble for the batsmen suddenly lost his luck and flamboy-

ance in the one-day series.

With his favorites areas plugged up and not allowed to free his arms Bashar, the highest scorer in the Test series for both sides, found the going tough in the one-day version of the game.

In contrast Mohammed Rafique has kept up his amazing run of form with the ball. The left-arm spinner earned the respect of every Pakistani with his simple but very effective style of bowling in both versions of the game.

But the biggest find for Whatmore in the series has been undoubtedly Rajin Saleh. The young batsman with an immaculate defence has given much-needed stability to the fragile top-order. Every time he walks out to bat he is a breath of fresh air in a team that is amazingly inconsistent.

With Rajin playing like a man possessed, Alok Kapali growing in confidence and Mushfiqur Rahman finally showing that he has got something extra to offer, Bangladesh can still hope to win a battle in the remaining two games.

Hosts' belated wisdom!

SPORTS REPORTER from Rawalpindi

The Bangladesh cricket team was accommodated in the economy plus section of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight that brought them here from Lahore yesterday.

The Pakistan squad, which also came in the same aircraft, was placed in the economy class as the authorities tried to make up for annoying the tourists before the third and final Test at Multan.

The Tigers management was furious when the players were given economy class seats while the entire Pakistan team traveled in economy plus during their flight to Multan from Peshawar. That was a breach of normal courtesy that touring teams usually enjoy.

But the Rawalpindi flight saw a refreshing change in the attitude with the Pakistanis happy to let their guests have a more comfortable journey.

"See, we have given the better seats to your team this time," said a chirpy Pakistan coach Javed Miandad to this reporter who also traveled in the same plane. d that domestic flights of the PIA have only two classes with the economy plus being the better and cozier one.

Whatmore lays down the law



REUTERS, Rawalpindi

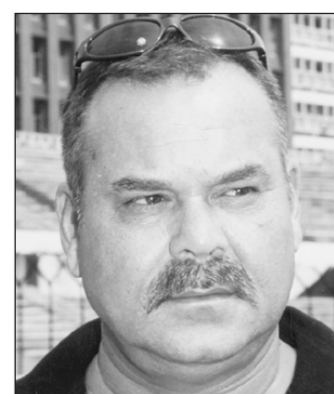
Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore has warned some of his players to toughen up or lose their places on the team.

"If I do find one or two players who are not prepared to toughen up for international matches then they won't have a very long career at all," he said following Bangladesh's defeat in the third one-day international in Lahore on Monday.

Whatmore is still searching for his first win in tests or one-day internationals since taking over Bangladesh last June.

Bangladesh lost the three-Test series in Pakistan 3-0 and are 3-0 down in the five-match one-day series with two to play.

Bangladesh, who won Test status in 2000, have yet to win a Test and have gone without a win in one-dayers since they beat Pakistan during the 1999 World Cup in



DAV WHATMORE

England. With two matches to play on their tour of Pakistan, Whatmore said he was looking for improvement.

"I had some hopes in this one-day series at the start of it. But I have revised my goals and objectives after the first game. But generally we are

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Museum steps in



AFP, Sydney

A collection of letters written by cricketing legend Don Bradman more than 70 years ago will stay in Australia at the Bradman Museum after a flood of donations from the public.

The Bradman Museum, in Bowral in southern New South Wales, paid almost 20,000 dollars (13,000 USD) for the collection at an auction held here on Tuesday.

Bradman wrote the letters to friend Bert Kortlang, a former Victorian Sheffield Shield cricketer, while on the Ashes tour of England in 1930 -- his first tour overseas.

The collection of seven letters was knocked down for a total of 18,300 dollars (11,900 USD).

Several other items, including programs, press passes and Christmas cards from Bradman and wife Jessie, were also sold at the auction.



SIR DON BRADMAN

Bradman Museum curator Richard Mulvaney said donations from the public had enabled the museum to be able to purchase the letters.

The museum had originally said it could not afford the letters, but Mulvaney said the generosity of the public made it possible for the museum to make the purchase.

"I did not think that we would be in a position to find the financial

resources to be able to be a bidder in this auction tonight," Mulvaney said.

"A number of people contacted the museum and felt that the letters rightly should be placed in the museum, and so basically the people of Australia have bought these letters."

In the letters, Bradman mentions a woman called Nina and asks Kortlang, who lived in London at the time, to help him arrange a meeting with her.

Nina's identity is a mystery, but Bonhams Goodman auctioneer Giles Moon said he did not think there was anything untoward going on between her and Bradman, who married his wife Jessie the following year.

The Bradmans were married until Jessie's death in 1997. Bradman died in Adelaide on February 25, 2001, aged 93.

Mulvaney said he did not know who Nina was, but that the letters revealed a previously unseen side of Bradman.

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Spare me, says Aminul

SPORTS REPORTER

Aminul Haq yesterday sent a letter to Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan requesting him to resolve the tug of war between Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra and Abahani Kriya Chakra over his possession.

The number one goalkeeper has been at the centre of controversy for the last few days since his 'kidnap' episode that caught the sports fraternity by storm.

"I received a letter from Aminul this afternoon. But don't want to disclose its content since we have formed a probe committee on this burning issue," Sultan told inquisitive reporters at his office yesterday.

Although the BFF boss was reluctant to talk about the letter, it was learnt that Aminul made a passionate plea to spare him from the domestic football. He also expressed his willingness to return the cheques he received from both Abahani and Muktiyoddha.

Furthermore, the player said he and family were absolutely devastated by the recent turn of events, which began with the police raid on Abahani club following his mysterious disappearance last Wednesday.

The BFF has formed a one-member committee with Obaidullah Khan to probe into the transfer saga after an uproar in the sport community.

The BFF president sent the letter to Obaidullah Khan, who will submit his findings on September 19. The governing body of local football will also meet on the same day to give a final verdict on Aminul issue.

Chumki smashes 200m mark

SPORTS REPORTER

Shamsun Nahar Chumki set a new national record in the women's 200 metres on the second day of the eighth Summer Athletics Championship at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The BJMC sprinter produced a dream run under fading lights to clock 24.35 seconds, bettering the previous mark by 0.30 seconds.

Apart from her record-breaking effort in the afternoon Chumki also helped her team to clinch the 4x100m relay. Sumita Rani Das bagged the other gold for BJMC in the women's 100m hurdles.

Although Chumki stole the limelight on the second day, it was Bangladesh Army that consolidated their supremacy in the three-day event.

Army added five more gold to their first day haul of four. On an action packed day, where 12 events were decided, BKSP and Bangladesh Navy grabbed two gold medals each.

U-19 booters hold Uzbeks

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting Bangladesh Under-19 team earned their first point in the JRD Tata Cup Football tournament when they drew 3-3 with Uzbekistan at Jamshedpur yesterday.

Amillie, Farid and Maloy netted for Bangladesh, which are already out of title contention after suffering defeats in the previous two matches.

Bangladesh will play their last match on September 18 against Iran before returning home on the following day.

The final of the competition will be held on September 22.

A difficult surname



AFP, New Delhi

The son of India's legendary batsman Sunil Gavaskar is finding it difficult to live with his famous surname following his inclusion in a team for a major domestic match.

Rohan Gavaskar was this week named in the Rest of India squad to play against national champions Bombay in the Irani Cup match from Thursday -- only to find the knives were out.

"He's theoretically one good innings away from a place in the Test squad," the Indian Express screamed, adding that batsmen with better credentials than Gavaskar junior had been ignored.

"Those who've been more consistent than him (Rohan) will sit it out or go back to Ranji Trophy (domestic competition) duties," the paper said.

Gavaskar senior, the first batsman to complete 10,000 runs in Test cricket with a record 34 centuries, brushed aside the criticism, saying he was "sick and tired" of hearing these accusations concerning his son's selection.

"More than advantages of being my son, I think there are disadvantages," the father told the Mid-Day newspaper.

"He (Rohan) has always worked hard at his cricket. Saba Karim (former India wicket-keeper) told me some time back that he has never seen any player regularly getting bad decisions as Rohan has in first-class cricket.

"It could well be that umpires are trying to show that they are not influenced by the Gavaskar name and don't give him the benefit of the doubt which they would perhaps give to someone's else."

Gavaskar named his son after former West Indies batting great Rohan Kanhai, little realising then that it is the surname that would prove a burden for the junior despite his fine shows in domestic tournaments.

Barring the surname, the father and son have little in common.

Unlike his right-handed opener father, Rohan bats left hand in the middle order and also bowls spin. The son has been a steady, if not



ROHAN GAVASKAR

spectacular, performer in domestic competitions since 1996.

The 27-year-old Rohan, who has scored 4,434 runs in 74 first-class

matches with 13 centuries, emerged as a serious contender for a Test berth after impressive performances in England this season with an India A side.

Rohan, who leads India captain Sourav Ganguly's state of Bengal in domestic tournaments, played two match-winning knocks in a recent limited-overs contest to get the selectors' nod for the Irani Cup.

Yet, his selection raised eyebrows.

"Had they (other batsmen) been given a chance, they might also have scored runs in England off depleted county attacks missing top players due to a Test series," the Indian Express wrote.

"From India A to Rest of India,

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PHOTO: AFP

Indian cricket star Sachin Tendulkar loosening his troublesome right hand during a practice session in Madras yesterday. Tendulkar recently underwent surgery on the hand in the USA.

Dalmiya holds hope



REUTERS, Calcutta

India's cricket board hopes its junior team's tour of Pakistan next month will help in the resumption of full bilateral cricket ties between the two hostile neighbours.

India's under-19 team will travel to Pakistan for a one-day series also involving Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

"The success of this tour could help in resumption of bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan," Jagmohan Dalmiya, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said on Tuesday after an Asian Cricket Council (ACC) meeting.

"The signs from the government are very positive, and we are hopeful of resumption of cricket between the two countries at some stage."

"But I can't say when it will happen. That is up to the government to decide."

Earlier this year, the Pakistan Cricket Board said it was ready to

host India, who have twice cancelled test tours to Pakistan after being denied permission by the government.

The Indian government has not allowed its team to play bilateral cricket matches against Pakistan since 2000 due to political tensions over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir.

But earlier this month it cleared the country's junior side to play against Pakistan.

The teams will meet in a tournament in Sri Lanka starting later this month, followed by the under-19 tour to Pakistan. India will then host the A teams of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in December.

New Delhi has allowed national teams from India and Pakistan to meet in multilateral events at neutral venues, such as the World Cup in South Africa earlier this year.

Dalmiya added that an Asia Cup, featuring India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and two ACC affiliates Hong Kong and United Arab Emirates, would be held next April. But he said a venue for the event had not yet been decided.

PCB chief overrules selectors

AFP, Lahore

Pakistani cricket chairman lieutenant General Tahir Zia Monday overruled the selection of his son to lead the Under-23 team to play in a triangular tournament after criticism from cricket commentators.

On Sunday, Junaid Zia, 19, was chosen as captain by the Pakistan Cricket Board's selection committee headed by Amir Sohail to play in the triangular series later this month in Colombo with India and Sri Lanka.

A day after the announcement the father, who retired from the army last week, turned down the selection of his son, saying he was too young to lead the side in the Emerging Nation's Cup.

"I respect the decision of the selectors but in my opinion Junaid is too young to handle a team," Sohail quoted the chairman as saying in a statement.

Sohail said Qaisar Abbas would now lead the side and Junaid would

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Vaughan's county plan



AFP, London

England captain Michael Vaughan has called for the number of county cricket matches to be cut in half in a drastic bid to boost standards in the domestic game and produce better Test players.

In an interview with the launch issue of The Wisden Cricketer magazine, published on Friday, Vaughan proposes reducing the number of first-class counties from 18 to 16 playing in two divisions of eight.

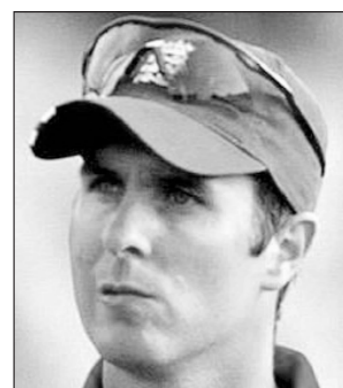
Each team will then only play their rivals once a summer, as opposed to twice as presently.

"For England to improve and the gap to close between domestic and Test cricket those higher up have to do something about a county structure which contains too much cricket," Vaughan said.

"You only have to watch county

cricket to see the enthusiasm levels drained out of the players.

"Jon Lewis, of Gloucestershire, said after the Headingley Test (which England lost to South Africa)



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

that he had played 21 out of 24 days - that simply can't be right."

Vaughan also wants four-day

games to take place at fortnightly intervals to allow players to recover from one fixture and prepare for the next by working on their technique.

They will also be planned around the Test programme to allow England players a chance to turn out for their county side.

Vaughan adds: "I love the county game. But the structure is not working and I feel sorry for the young guys coming into the England side."

Vaughan's predecessor as England captain, Nasser Hussain, meanwhile has been voted the best England captain since Mike Brearley was in charge in the late 70s and early 80s.

In a survey of English cricket fans carried out for The Wisden Cricketer, Hussain was rated above the likes of Mike Atherton, Graham Gooch, David Gower and Tony Greig.

Among post-war captains only Peter May, Ray Illingworth and Brearley were judged to be better

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