



PHOTO: INTERNET

**CAN'T WATCH:** England batsman Alastair Cook miscues a pull-shot during the fourth day's play of the final Test against Pakistan at The Oval in London on Sunday.

## Ball-tampering at The Oval

**Cricket**

AFP, London

Play in the fourth Test here at The Oval was overshadowed by a controversial decision by the umpires to penalise Pakistan five runs for ball tampering on the fourth day here Sunday.

The decision to invoke the penalty, the first time it had been awarded in a Test match, came at the end of the 56th over, bowled by paceman Umar Gul.

Following an inspection by the umpires, Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove, Australia's Hair tapped his shoulder to signal the penalty runs and England's score rose from 230 for three to 235 for three.

There then followed an animated discussion, involving Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq, as England's batsmen chose a replacement ball as authorised by the playing regulations.

In the match itself England were 298 for four when bad light forced an early tea, a deficit of 33 runs, with Paul Collingwood 26 not out and Ian Bell nine not out in a four-match series the hosts had already won at 2-0 up.

### Iqbal keeps up the tradition

AFP, London

Pakistan middle-order batsman Faisal Iqbal admitted on Saturday that he's happy to carry on a family tradition of Test match backchat.

The 24-year-old has been engaged in a summer-long battle of wits fielding at short-leg during the ongoing series against England prompting comparisons with fiery, former skipper Javed Miandad who happens to be his uncle.

"I enjoy fielding close in, I have always talked to the opposition," said Iqbal of his tendency to chat away to England's batsmen.

"They give it back too me when I'm batting. It must be in my genes. It's natural and normal. I like to have a chat."

Iqbal hit an unbeaten 58 on Saturday in Pakistan's 504 all out in the first innings of the fourth and final Test at The Oval as the tourists look to salvage some pride after already losing the series 2-0.

The Karachi middle-order batsman had endured a poor series up until Saturday making just 91 runs at an average of 15.16.

### PFL still

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Acting BFF general secretary Monjur Hossain Malu however dismissed the demand, saying that everybody should consider the greater interest of the game before taking any tough stance.

"BFF president (SA Sultan) has already sent letters to the respective clubs where he mentioned that federation will compensate the clubs if it failed to start the league on time, but everything should be settled on mutual understanding," said Malu.

On the other hand Mizanuddin Ahmed, general secretary of Brothers Union Club, told the press that it was hard to keep faith in the current BFF authority anymore.

"We have agreed to play the Professional League because Kazi Salahuddin requested us to start it for the greater interest of the game. But the reality is the league chairman is no more with the federation," said Mizan.

Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunu, director of Abahani Limited, Sheikh Ataur Rahman, vice-chairman of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad, president of Sheikh Russel Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Moinul Islam, general secretary of Arambagh Krira Sangha, were also present at the briefing.

## Cricket was hurt: Sonn

AFP, Colombo

World cricket boss Percy Sonn said on Sunday he was disappointed at South Africa's decision to abandon the tour of Sri Lanka for security reasons, but declined to impose sanctions on the Proteas.

"I am deeply disappointed at their decision to go home," Sonn, a South African lawyer who heads the International Cricket Council, told a media conference in the Sri Lankan capital.

South Africa last week cancelled a limited-overs tri-series against India and Sri Lanka following a blast close to their team hotel on August 10 which killed seven people and wounded eight.

Cricket South Africa said the decision to pull out was based on reports from their own security officials and an ICC-commissioned

independent assessment which ruled that "the current risk to the team in Colombo was at an unacceptable level."

India, however, decided to stay on in Sri Lanka to play three one-dayers against the hosts in lieu of the cancelled tri-series following increased security and positive assurances from New Delhi's diplomatic mission here.

"South Africa withdrew for reasons that had nothing to do with cricket," said Sonn, who took over as ICC chief last month from Pakistan's Ehsan Mani.

"That is not the spirit of cricket which says the game must go on in most circumstances."

"The cricketers are there to play the game and bring joy to millions of cricket fans around the world."

Sonn, in Colombo at the invitation of Sri Lanka Cricket, however

## Cruciani wants to stay

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He said if he stayed two more years in Bangladesh, he could improve the level of football and the players. But he suggested that the clubs should a vital role to help the booters.

"Alfaz seems to be the only one the country has. But he is ageing. In junior teams there are very few skilled strikers. But we need tall, strong men who will be dangerous in the air and have powerful shooting. Also our attacking midfielders have some problem. I have seen the league last year where foreign players dominating the scoring."

"Our players are weak not only mentally, but also technically. Technique is natural and the coach's job is to help you perfect it. You have to practise long hours individually."

"Bangladesh have to start grooming players from the age of 11 or 12 years. They should have a big league of junior players, teach them shooting, control...all the techniques. A good idea would be to put a foreign coach with local coaches to assist him. The local coaches also need foreign training. The federation should take a long-term programme."

"In Argentina, we have a very good coaching manual. Even people from Europe come to study in our school of coaching, introduced by Menotti."

"If the BFF does not like me to continue, its okay. But I'll feel very,

very sorry to leave. I know the players have the ability to play good football although in brief periods. Thirty years ago Bangladesh faced strong oppositions but why not now? Because football has been going down here," said Cruciani who has offers from clubs of Argentina, Mexico and Europe.

"To boost the game, the federation must set a plan to improve the level. And I feel that ex-players should be associated with football."

"In my country too, people who were not players are part of the football associations. Sometimes we have to fight with them. But one thing is sure that even the officials in our country know the game from childhood. That is the difference with our officials and in Bangladesh. They should take advice from former players."

"My job is not complete here. I need minimum three years, which is also not enough. But three years' work, another coach can come and work on that and then another. With this process, Bangladesh can be a strong team in Asia in ten years," hoped Cruciani, under whom Bangladesh have played attractive football with Latin American flavour occasionally, but without much success.

### Shoaib gets ODI call-up

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan selectors have included uncapped batsman Shahid Yousuf and fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar in the squad to play five one-day internationals against England.

"Yousuf is a fine batting prospect who has done well for the A side in recent months in two major tournaments," chief selector Wasim Bari told Reuters on Sunday.

"We have decided to retain Akhtar for the one-day series as he has recovered well from his ankle injury."

Yousuf, 21, scored consistently for the A side in the Eurasia Cup in Abu Dhabi and the Top End series in Australia this year and also played against England last winter in Pakistan.

Akhtar, who has not played international cricket since February, had knee surgery in Australia and then broke down with a stress fracture of the ankle.

Efforts were made to play him in the final Test at The Oval but Bari said the consensus was that it would be better for him to wait for the one-day series.

The decision when to play Akhtar would be up to team management, who are monitoring his fitness, he added.

Yousuf and all rounder Shoaib Malik, who also missed the Test series due to an elbow injury, will join the team this week.

Batsman Faisal Iqbal and pacers Shahid Nazir and Mohammad Sami will return to Pakistan after the Test series. Salman Butt, Taufiq Umar and pacer Samiullah Niazi were released from the touring squad before The Oval Test.

The one-day series starts in Cardiff on August 30 and ends on September 10 at Edgbaston.

### SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Hafeez, Shahid Yousuf, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Kamran Akmal, Imran Farhat, Shoaib Akhtar, Navedul Hasan, Rao Iftikhar, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul and Danish Kaneria.

### Tennis with a difference

AP, Connecticut

The tennis establishment is embracing change by allowing on-court coaching and instant replays.

Anne Worcester, the longtime director of the Pilot Pen tournament, is delighted.

"It was a major investment," Worcester said. "But it makes tennis more fan-friendly, more exciting and we're 100 percent sure we wanted to be a part of it."

The first round gets under way Sunday and ends with title matches Aug. 26 in the coed field, the final tuneup before the US Open. The event features defending champions Lindsay Davenport and James Blake.

The Pilot Pen is part of the US Open Series that links 10 ATP and WTA Tour tournaments to the US Open, offering bonus money to those who finish atop the series rankings.

Earlier this season, both tours instituted instant replays for various tournaments, including the Pilot Pen. This year's US Open will be the first Grand Slam event to review disputed line calls electronically. Worcester called it the biggest innovation in the sport since the tie-breaker.

The fans and players seem to like it, but it comes with a price -- nearly 100,000 dollars. Worcester said tournaments need 40,000 dollars for the technology and about 50,000 dollars for a big-screen Jumbotron, but do get financial help from the US Tennis Association and both tours.

"Electronic line calling trialed in Miami and was found to be very entertaining for the fans," Worcester said. "As soon as the players call a challenge, all eyes go to the Jumbotron."

The Pilot Pen also is one of only two venues this season that the WTA has chosen to test on-court coaching. Players may request their coach on court once per set and during set breaks. During their on-court conference, they'll be wired for sound for the benefit of the television audience, Worcester said.

There are some logistics that have to be worked out. "Where do the coaches sit? How do we get the mike to the player? What if there's a foreign language? There's a thousand issues," Worcester said. "It's just very much in its infancy. The jury is still out on whether it will be formally adopted."

The women's field features the world's No. 1 player in Amelie Mauresmo, winner of two Grand Slam events this year, and the 2005 Pilot Pen runner-up, Justine Henin-Hardenne. She is coming off a knee injury and playing her first tennis since losing to Mauresmo in the Wimbledon final.

The men's side includes Nikolay Davydenko, Marcos Baghdatis, Jarkko Nieminen and David Ferrer.

The 1.25 million dollar purse offers 600,000 dollars in prize money for the women's field and 650,000 for the men.

## Test thrown into chaos after Pakistan's refusal to play

**Cricket**

AFP, London

Pakistan risked forfeiting the fourth and final Test against England at The Oval here Sunday after refusing to come out for the last session of the fourth day after they'd been penalised for ball tampering.

Pakistan were docked five runs for altering the condition of the match ball unfairly at the end of the 56th over which had been bowled by Umar Gul.

It was Gul's 14th over with England 230 for three when the umpires inspected the match ball.

Veteran Australian umpire Darrell Hair, standing with West Indian official Billy Doctrove, then signalled to the scorers that five penalty runs were to be added to England's total, taking it up to 235.

Then, after an early tea had been taken because of bad light, the umpires walked back out onto the field only for no Pakistan fieldsmen to follow behind them before walking back in.

Television pictures then showed Pakistan players in their dressing room with the door shut behind them.

Minutes later the umpires returned following by England not out batsmen Paul Collingwood and Ian Bell only for the Pakistan team to remain in their dressing room.

The batsmen and umpires walked back in, with Pakistan - already a losing 2-0 down in the series - in danger of forfeiting the match.

Both umpires removed the balls, returned to the pavilion and the covers came on.

Cricket's Law 21.3 states clearly states "that, in the opinion of the umpires, a team refuses to play, the umpires shall award the match to other side."

This was the first time such a five-run penalty for ball-tampering had been imposed in Test cricket, an International Cricket Council (ICC) spokesman said.

## Hingis walks on

**Tennis**

AP, Montreal

Martina Hingis reached the Rogers Cup final when Anna Chakvetadze quit during the second set Saturday because of an injured right arm.

Hingis led 6-3, 3-1 when her 19-year-old Russian opponent informed the chair umpire she could not continue. Chakvetadze stopped after her fourth on-court visit from a trainer, prompting a smattering of boos from the Uniprix Stadium crowd.

"It's kind of disappointing to win a match like this, but I was already up a set and 3-1," Hingis said. "She was hurting, but she continued. You still have to keep your focus and make her play because you and don't know how much it's hurting."

Chakvetadze was the seventh player in the tournament to either withdraw from a match or fail to finish because of injury. Several stars pulled out even before the hard-court event began.



PHOTO: AFP

Swiss star Martina Hingis reaches for the ball to volley towards Anna Chakvetadze of Russia on her way to a semifinal win at the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Saturday.

tampering following a one-day international against South Africa in Sri Lanka while Azhar Mahmood was fined for "abetting" the infringement in the same match.

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, ruled out of the current series with England because of an ankle injury, received a reprimand in November 2002 for the same offence after a Test match against Zimbabwe in Harare.

And the following year, in May, Shoaib was given a two-match ban for ball tampering after a one-day international against New Zealand in Dambulla.

But high-profile players from other countries have been banned for similar offences with India batting great Sachin Tendulkar receiving a one-game ban in November 2001 after a Test match against South Africa in Port Elizabeth.

Tendulkar's fellow India batsman Rahul Dravid was fined 50 percent of his match fee, after being found guilty of ball tampering during India's 24-run victory over Zimbabwe at Brisbane. Dravid was caught by the TV cameras rubbing a cough lozenge on the ball.

Then England captain Mike Atherton also caused controversy back in 1994 when he was spotted rubbing dirt from his pocket into the ball during a Test match against South Africa at Lord's.

However, the prompt intervention of then England chairman of selectors Raymond Illingworth, who fined Atherton, spared the opening batsman official punishment for the incident.

### Andy powers into finals

AP, Cincinnati

Powering up his vintage serve-and-volley style, Andy Roddick overcame Chile's Fernando Gonzalez 6-3, 6-3 on Saturday night to reach the finals of the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters.

"I looked and felt like old times. I haven't felt like this on a tennis court in a long time," he said.

The American is back on the attack just in time for the US Open. He dropped out of the picture this summer, when he was sidelined by injury and hearing suggestions that he was a thing of the past at age 23.

"I haven't had good form the first six months of this year," said Roddick, who hasn't won a tournament this year. "But they were talking about my career in terms of it being finished almost, which was surprising to me."

### Bayern hunt

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Bremen managed to hold on to their striker this summer, though despite the striker insisting he is "very happy" at the club, he still has his heart set on a move to one of Europe's top clubs.

"I'm assuming that Werder wouldn't stand in my way if I received a big offer in 2007" Klose added.

### Messi picked

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**Midfielders:** Javier Mascherano (Corinthians), Pablo Zabaleta (Espanyol), Maxi Rodriguez (Atletico Madrid), Juan Roman Riquelme, Leandro Somoza (both Villarreal), Luis Gonzalez (Porto), Federico Insua (Borussia Muenchengladbach)  
**Forwards:** Lionel Messi (Barcelona), Carlos Tevez (Corinthians), Sergio Aguero (Atletico Madrid), Daniel Bilos (St Etienne), Cesar Delgado (Cruz Azul)

### Golden

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the shooting competition. The hockey competition also starts today at Matala, some 15 kilometres away from the picturesque hill-station Kandy with Bangladesh facing Sri Lanka. The second ever hockey competition at the Games, first since 1995 at Madras, has lost its gloss after heavyweights India and Pakistan, who face off later today, have decided to send understrength squads.

### BANGLADESH IN GAMES TODAY

**HOCKEY:** Bangladesh v Sri Lanka (at Matala)

**SWIMMING** (men's): Jewel Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam in 100m butterfly; Rubel Rana in 100m backstroke and (women's): Mahfuza Khatun in 100m freestyle

**SHOOTING:** Sharmin Akhter and Suraiya Akhter (women's 10m air rifle)

**CYCLING:** Aslam Bishwas, Mominur Rahman (men's individual time trial)

**WEIGHTLIFTING:** Azizur Rahman (85kg), Biddut Kumar Roy (94kg)  
**OTHERS:** Boxing, squash, table tennis