

## Inzamam faces disrepute, ball tampering charges

AFP, London

Pakistan cricket captain Inzamamul Haq was charged Monday with ball tampering and bringing the game into disrepute by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The charges follow the sensational forfeit Sunday of the fourth and final Test between hosts England and Pakistan at The Oval after accusations of ball-tampering against the Pakistan team.

The ICC said in a statement: "Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq will be required to answer two charges relating to 'changing the condition of the ball' and 'bringing the game into disrepute'."

Both charges will be considered at a hearing to be conducted by ICC chief match referee Ranjan Madugalle in London on Friday.

If found guilty he faces a fine of between 50 and 100 per cent of his match fee and/or a one Test or two ODI ban.

The ICC said that Inzamam was "deemed responsible" for the actions that led to his team forfeiting the Test.

## President behind Pakistan captain

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has telephoned the country's cricket captain to offer his support in the row that wrecked the fourth Test against England, officials said Monday.

"The president spoke to captain Inzamam-ul-Haq and supported the stance the team took in protest against the allegations of ball tampering," a senior government official told AFP.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said Musharraf also spoke to the team management soon after the dispute erupted on the fourth day of the Test at the Oval.

Pakistan refused to take the field after tea to protest at a decision by Australian umpire Darrell Hair to award five runs to England and change an allegedly tampered-with ball.

When the Pakistani team refused to take the field, the umpires forfeited the match and awarded the Test to England.

Protests broke out in Pakistan on Monday as angry mobs torched newspaper photographs which showed Hair removing the balls at The Oval.

Inzamam defended his decision to stay off the field initially, saying he was defending Pakistan's pride.

## Juventus appeal

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"The sanctions imposed on Juventus are disproportionate," the club said in a statement.

"It's incomprehensible that Juventus should be treated with the most severity."

Juventus, who were found guilty of rigging matches in the 2004-05 season, will take their case up with the Regional Administrative Court (TAR) of Lazio, which has the authority to overturn rulings made by sports federation bodies.

Juventus were given their punishment by the Italian football federation (FIGC), but appealed to the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) for a lighter sentence.

CONI, the governing body of Italian sport which oversees the activities of all the various federations, including the FIGC, turned the appeal down and the likelihood is that the TAR will do the same given their reluctance to interfere in sports matters.

The match-fixing scandal broke in May after transcripts of the then Juve general manager Luciano Moggi telling the head of Italy's referees association which officials to appoint to specific Juventus games were published in Italian newspapers.

Moggi used his power and influence as the key figure at Italy's most successful club to assert control of the pool of referees and high-ranked FIGC officials.

## Hamburg

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Hamburg drew 0-0 in the first leg in Germany and face a tricky second leg in Spain with 10 million euros riding on the match.

Doll has lost Belgian international defender Vincent Kompany - an eight million euro signing from Anderlecht - through injury but said his team was ready for Tuesday's tie.

"We will be well prepared for Tuesday and there will be a different Hamburg on the pitch," Doll insisted.

If Hamburg can qualify the Champions League it would be a real shot in the arm for their despairing fans.

# 'My players not cheats'

## Woolmer apologises to fans



AFP, London

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer and tour manager Zaheer Abbas both insisted their side had not been guilty of ball-tampering during their sensational forfeit of the fourth and final Test against England at The Oval.

"I think there was a genuine feeling that, by inference, we had been cheating," Woolmer told Sky Sports.

"I personally asked every member of the team, under oath basically, whether they had at any time scratched the ball during the innings and to a man they said no.

"I looked at the ball and came to my own conclusions.

"I didn't see any undue tampering with the ball - and in 38 years (of involvement in cricket) I have seen tampering with balls," former England all-rounder Woolmer added.

"It had been hit into the stands on numerous occasions by Kevin Pietersen. I didn't think there were any undue marks, but that is a personal opinion." "Having asked my team I can concur with them that there was probably just damage from concrete and whatever."

Australia umpire Darrell Hair made it clear to all in the ground what had happened when he signalled the penalty to the scorers at the end of the fourth day's 56th over which had been bowled by pacesman Umar Gul.

It was Gul's 14th over, with England 230 for three in their second innings, when the umpires inspected the match ball and then decided that the five-run penalty would be applied for the first time in a Test match.

Their decision came shortly after Gul had snared England batsman Alastair Cook lbw for 83 with a reverse-swing yorker.

However, Woolmer was adamant that Pakistan were not told the Test was over until much later in the day. "We didn't find out until 9.15pm that evening. If he (Hair) had forfeited the innings someone should have told us.

"It's a very black day for cricket... I would like to say that I and the team are very sorry to the British public we are not playing cricket today (Monday)."

However, Zaheer Abbas, Pakistan's team manager said there was no way the team could simply accept the officials' decision to penalise the side five runs for ball-tampering. "Somehow you have to protest something."

He too stressed that Pakistan wanted to continue with the match. "We spoke to each other and we all came to the conclusion that we should go ahead and play.

"At that point in time when we were ready to go in, the boys were late. We were late, there's no doubt about it," the Pakistan batting great admitted at The Oval on Monday where the team were collecting their kit.

"We have all, (the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Pakistan Cricket Board) requested that he (Hair) should come back but he said 'no I don't want to come back'."

"We are here to play cricket, we are not here to make problems. The ECB and Pakistan have a very good relationship.

"We would love to have played. It could have been sorted out nicely.

"We would like to say we are sorry to the British public that we are not playing cricket today - we are prepared to play cricket today," Woolmer told Sky Sports News television the day after the match.

"Unfortunately, circumstances yesterday were such that we deemed it necessary to make the protest, which we did, but we do apologise for not playing cricket," Woolmer said.

# Nasser bats for Inzamam



AFP, London

Former England captain Nasser Hussain said he sympathised with Pakistan skipper Inzamamul Haq for refusing to play in the fourth Test after the tourists were accused of ball-tampering at The Oval.

Pakistan forfeited the match, which still had a day to run, as a consequence.

Umpire Darrell Hair, the man at the centre of the controversy, said Monday: "I have nothing to say."

And while the veteran Australian official maintained his silence, and with it any evidence of wrongdoing, Hussain told the Daily Mail: "Did Darrell Hair actually see a member of the Pakistan team tampering with a cricket ball? Has he got proof?"

"If he hasn't then he has made a massive mistake," Hussain added: "If I had been accused of cheating in this way then, as long as I was sure of my innocence, I would have done exactly the same thing as Pakistan."

"I wouldn't have come out after tea, either. People have said that Pakistan should have waited until the close of play and then gone down the right channels, but they wouldn't have seen it that way.

"To Pakistan, if they had carried on playing, they would have been admitting their guilt."

Former England captain Mike Gatting told Sky Sports that the International Cricket Council (ICC), the global governing body, had erred in selecting Hair for Test matches involving Pakistan.

"Perhaps the ICC might have been more understanding. It might have been they had the wrong man with Hair there.

"Because of his previous run-in with Pakistan it might have added a little difficulty. The idea of neutral umpires was meant to stop this."

But in a separate interview with the BBC, Gatting said once Pakistan had refused to come on to the field the officials had no choice.

"It was very difficult once, unfortunately, Pakistan didn't come out, when the umpires got out to the middle they couldn't really do much else."

Gatting was asked whether the incident compared with the one he was involved in during the third day of the second Test in Faisalabad in 1987.

Then, umpire Shakoor Rana suggested Gatting was cheating by moving a fielder behind the batsman's back while Eddie Hemmings was running into bowl, leading to unseemly finger-pointing between the England skipper and the official.

"I understand how much it hurts and how aggrieved you feel, but at the same time we never stopped our match in Faisalabad and I don't think I would ever have thought about stopping a match...," he said.

# Mini Hitler: Pak legends



AFP, London

Pakistani cricket greats Monday laid into umpire Darrell Hair after the chaos-hit fourth Test against England, with legend Imran Khan describing the Australian as a "mini Hitler".

The former players also backed captain Inzamamul Haq's decision to keep his team off the field at The Oval on Sunday after Pakistan were penalised five runs over ball-tampering allegations.

"Hair is one of those characters, when he wears the white umpire's coat, he metamorphoses into a mini Hitler," former captain and all-rounder Imran said in an article in the Nation newspaper.

"Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq and the team were in their right to protest. The pride of an entire people has been tarnished by his ludicrous and highly insensitive decision."

After five hours of talks on Sunday night Pakistan were

deemed to have forfeited the game, handing England a 3-0 victory in the four match series.

The story led the front pages of most Pakistani newspapers, which all made punning references to the umpire's name.

"Hair-raising row turns Oval Test on its head," said the conservative Dawn newspaper above a story accusing the International Cricket Council of "ensuring that Hair follows Pakistan around the globe."

The News said "Hair comes trouble!" while the Nation ran a comment piece by former captain Rameez Raja under the headline "Pakistan in the cross-Hair".

Raja described Hair - who called Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran for "chucking" in the Melbourne in 1995-96 - as seemingly biased against players from the subcontinent.

"His arbitrary and insensitive style of judgement sparked an absolutely needless controversy that has put the Test match in serious jeopardy and brought infamy to the game," he wrote.

Former Pakistani Test batsman

Shafiqat Rana said Hair's role in the "biased" decision on Sunday made it look "as if the Australian was looking to settle a score with Pakistan."

"Hair has tried to destroy Pakistan's image in world cricket" by accusing Pakistan of being cheats on the basis of no apparent evidence, Rana wrote in the same paper.

"I firmly believe Inzamam's decision not to return to the field after the incident was justified because the Pakistani skipper felt the team has been penalised for the offence which wasn't committed at the first place," he added.

However a dissenting voice came from former Test cricketer Sarfraz Nawaz - known as the "Sultan of Reverse Swing" for pioneering the technique - who blamed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for managing the affair badly.

# Lankans give Hair

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Had been the captain, I would have had no hesitation in walking off.

"I think former captains like Imran Khan of Pakistan and Sunil Gavaskar of India would have done the same thing because Hair has something against Asian nations.

"Hair is a misfit in today's cricket because he acts in a high-handed manner whenever he officiates."

Former Sri Lanka cricked chief Thilanga Sumathipala demanded that Hair be removed immediately as a Test umpire.

"Hair no longer stands in Sri Lanka's games, I don't think he should stand against any team," said Sumathipala.

"He is an attention-seeker and wants commercial value for whatever he does."

"On that 1995-96 tour of Australia Hair officiated in earlier

four games where Muralidaran played and did not question his action.

"But he chose the Melbourne Test to do it when he knew the whole world was watching.

"He published a book after the Muralidaran controversy, don't be surprised if he comes out with another book now. He needs a platform for himself at the cost of the game.

"Hair thinks he is bigger than the players, the spectators, officials and above all the game. He should be sacked immediately."

The ICC accepted Sri Lanka's request not to have Hair as umpire in their games following the Muralidaran controversy.

# Pakistan to press ahead with ODIs

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan will remain in England for the one-day series despite the unprecedented decision to forfeit the fourth Test at The Oval on Sunday, a senior Pakistan Board official told Reuters.

"The one-day series has nothing to do with the Test," the PCB's director of cricket operations Saleem Altaf said on Monday.

Altaf said the board officials and team management were handling the issue in England.

"But as far as I know there are no penalties for the team to return home early," he said.

"The ODIs are part of our contractual obligation with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)," he added.

Pakistan would face a heavy penalty under the existing International Cricket Council (ICC) regulations if they refused to play the one-day series.

## Chelsea rout

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that took a wicked deflection off Dunne and flew past the wrong-footed Nicky Weaver.

Georgios Samaras should have reduced the deficit just before half-time when he sprinted onto Sinclairs lobbed pass, but the Greek striker missed his kick completely with the goal at his mercy.

As well as excelling as a midfield anchor-man, Essien proved he has plenty to offer going forward when his long-range drive forced a fine save from Weaver.

Andriy Shevchenko was quiet on his Premiership debut but the Ukraine striker showed a glimpse of why Mourinho paid a British record 30 million pounds to sign him from AC Milan when he twisted away from Distin and fired in a shot that cannoned off Dunne to safety.

A dispiriting day for City took a turn for the worse when Corradi, a pre-season signing from Valencia, was sent off in the 63rd minute after his late lunge on Essien earned a second yellow card in quick succession.

Chelsea rarely needed to extend themselves after the break but were still able to extend their lead in the 79th minute.

## Susanthika

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Olympics for our nation and everybody is looking forward to seeing me." Susanthika told during a training session at the Sugathadasa Stadium.

She will compete in the 100 and 200 metres sprints and hoped to set new regional records.

The 30-year-old won a bronze in the 200m at Sydney Olympics in 2000 but for a hitch with the federation, was ignored for the Athens Games.

"My first target is to do well here. So I'll know about my chances in the coming Asiad and the Asian Championship. I need hard work if I have to fight for another Olympics medal," said the sweetheart of Sri Lanka, who won an Olympic medal for the islanders after a 52-year gap.

"The secret of success is having the self-belief and training hard. Most of the local athletes come from remote villages like me. And the federation gives us support within its limit. It is not enough. But everywhere in South Asia, the scene is similar," said Susanthika adding that she has decided to quit the tracks after 2008.

## Chelsea tie up

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New England skipper Terry played despite a slight groin problem, which was causing him discomfort towards the end of the game.

Mourinho said after the City match: "In a short squad and, in a country where you can have only 16 players in a match, it's important to have cover for many positions.

"Now I have three options for the centre - Ricardo, Boulahrouz and John Terry. I can have Paulo or Boulahrouz on the right side and I can have Wayne Bridge or Boulahrouz on the left."

Speaking to Chelsea television, assistant manager Steve Clarke said: "He is a good competitive player and will be a good addition to our squad.

"He can play centre-back or either full-back. It is important to have one or two players around the squad who can play in a number of different positions."

The arrival of Boulahrouz will not end Chelsea's long-running pursuit of Arsenal's England left-back Ashley Cole, with the transfer window closing in 10 days' time.

Boulahrouz began his career at Dutch side RKC Waalwijk, where current Tottenham boss Martin Jol was his coach.

He spent two seasons at Hamburg and made his international debut in September 2004.

Boulahrouz played in the World Cup and was one of four players sent off in the Netherlands' second round defeat to Portugal.



US tennis star Andy Roddick gives high fives to fans as he runs around the court after defeating Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain to claim the Cincinnati Masters in Mason, Ohio on Sunday.

# Roddick ends title drought



AFP, Cincinnati

Andy Roddick fancies his US Open chances after ending a one-year slump in the ATP Cincinnati Masters on Sunday.

The revitalised American, who will move back into the Top 10 on Monday, defeated former world No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-4 in little more than an hour.

Roddick finished with a flourish with three straight aces to run his match total to 17.

"The way I'm playing now, I like my chances as well as anyone else not named Roger," said Roddick, in reference to defending champion Roger Federer at the grand slam which begins next Monday.

Roddick planted a kiss on the

sweltering hardcourt in victory, then raced a victory lap around the sold-out stadium, exchanging high fives with any spectator who could reach him in from the first row.

"It hasn't hit me yet, but I'm so excited," said Roddick, the 2003 Cincinnati winner who also beat Ferrero for the U.S. Open crown a few weeks later during that magical year.

"I haven't had my best year. But I'm so happy to be back and playing good tennis again."

Roddick said he got a stern talking-to over the phone from senior advisor Jimmy Connors after struggling through a first-round match over Italian Daniele Bracciale.

"I had been hitting well in training with him last week in Austin," said the player who earned his first trophy since Lyon last October.

"I just couldn't apply what I'd

learned in that match.

"It was frustrating -- and Jimmy let me know he was frustrated also. There's not much I can say to Jimmy Connors."

"But after getting through that match, I wasn't questioning any more if I could again play well. That was a huge relief."

"I'm excited to win here and hopefully it will carry over to the Open."

Roddick improved to 38-13 on the year as he won his fourth Masters Series shield with his third defeat of Ferrero, who stood atop the rankings in early 2004 before his form hit the skids through injury.

"I don't know if Juan Carlos gets all the respect he deserves," said Roddick.

"He's been No.1 and it's good to see him playing well again."

# 'It's just not cricket!'



AFP, London

The controversial end to the Test cricket series between England and Pakistan dominated the front pages of Britain's newspapers on Monday after the tourists forfeited the fourth Test at The Oval.

Similar pictures of Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq inspecting a ball with umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove graced page one of The Guardian, The Times, The Daily Telegraph and The Financial Times, with The Independent dedicating its cover to Pakistani bowler Shahid Nazir holding a ball, under the headline "It's just not cricket!"

Pakistan staged a dressing room protest during the tea interval on the fourth day of the final Test match on Sunday to register their anger at being penalised five runs over allegations of ball-tampering.

But when they eventually returned to the field, Hair and Doctrove stayed in the pavilion believing that Pakistan had forfeited the match with their original protest.

The controversy was sparked when veteran Australian umpire Hair penalised Pakistan five runs after pacesman Umar Gul had completed his 14th over of the innings.

Hair believed that the condition of the ball had been unfairly altered. After five hours of talks, it was eventually ruled that Pakistan had

forfeited the match and England were declared the winners. The home side took the series 3-0.

The result was, according to former England bowler Angus Fraser writing in The Independent, "the day cricket spun out of control".

He went on to write that Sunday's events "left an indelible stain on the sport, just 12 months after England regained the Ashes".

On the newspaper's back pages, one columnist asked whether "the collapse of a single match, shocking enough in itself, was not simply another pitiable example of a wider death throes."

"Were we seeing still another blind march to the point where the very meaning of sport falls into the most painful of ridicule?"

The newspaper even dedicated an editorial to the chaos at The Oval, lamenting: "A cricket match should not end like this."

"Not a cricket match." "Whatever turbulence rocked the world... one thing could be relied upon. A Test match was a Test match and a Test match was cricket."

"It was played in whites; it paused for lunch and tea; and a player walked back to the pavilion without demur, however preposterous the umpire's ruling."

The Daily Telegraph put the sport on a considerably lower pedestal, declaring that "cricket proved yet

again that it is capable of wrapping itself so thickly in politics, race, argument and drama that it resembles anything but a sport synonymous with fair play."

Both newspapers referred to a 1987 stand-off between English batsman Mike Gatting and Pakistani umpire Shakoor Rana, describing a history of bad blood between the two sides, who faced off in the 1992 World Cup final, a match Pakistan won.

## Sharmin

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in the 94kg category at the Colombo University gymnasium. He finished a distant third after Pakistan's Shuja Uddin (320kg) and Sri lankan DKR Jayathilake (270kg).

Azizur Rahman finished fourth in the day's first event, the 85kg category with a lift of 241kg.

CYCLING

The two Bangladeshi cyclists participating in the Games put on a dismal show in the roads of Colombo with Mominur Rahman finishing 16th (1hr03:54.90) and Aslam Bishwas (1hr06:55.78) 18th among 20 contestants in the 40km individual time trial.

# Oval Test called off

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England 230 for three in their second innings when the umpires inspected the match ball. This was the first time, an ICC spokesman said, that this punishment had been applied in a Test match.

Play was eventually called off for the day at 6.13pm local time (1713GMT) with England 298 for four in their second innings, a deficit of 33.

The controversy began at 2.30pm local (1330GMT) when veteran