

'Cricket is not free of racism'

West Indies' star batsman Chris Gayle has disclosed that he too has experienced racial remarks while playing cricket around the globe. His comments, posted on Instagram, came in the backdrop of the ongoing protests in the US after an African-American man, George Floyd, died from police brutality. The 40-year-old wrote: "Black lives matter just like any other life. Black people matter, p***k all racist people, stop taking black people for fools, even our own black people wise the p***k up and stop bringing down your own! I have travelled the globe and experience racial remarks towards me because I am black, believe me, the list goes on. Racism is not only in football, it's in cricket too. Even within teams as a black man, I get the end of the stick. Black and powerful. Black and proud."



'It could just add a year or two'

AGENCIES

James Anderson is already the oldest English fast bowler to take the new ball in more than 50 years, but he says the COVID-19 hiatus may extend his career even further.

"It could just add a year or two at the end of my career," 38-year-old Anderson said on his Tailenders podcast.

"I've really enjoyed being back and as odd as it is just bowling into a net. I got up to speed quite quickly. I'm off my full run up and I feel like I'm ready to play now. I need to just calm down a bit," he added.

It's not inconceivable that Anderson could even become the first English fast bowler since Les Jackson in 1961 to play a Test after his 40th birthday.

'Youngsters need pace'

Lance Klusener was one of the most exciting seam-bowling all-rounders of the last 30 years. He peaked during the 1999 World Cup but the tournament ended in agony for the South African heavy hitter when he looked on helplessly as Australia edged a thriller of a semifinal. Adjudged player of the tournament in 1999, Klusener is now involved in coaching and his expertise as a hard-hitting left-hander and his controlled pace bowling is particularly suited to modern cricket. The man nicknamed 'Zulu', the current head coach of Afghanistan, spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin over phone and opened up about various issues. The excerpts of the interview are given below:

The Daily Star [TDS]: Not an ideal situation surely at the moment, but I must ask how life's going for you at the moment?

Lance Klusener [LK]: Obviously a lot of people around the world are battling due to coronavirus. From a personal point of view, I have been spending some quality time back in South Africa, although we have been under lockdown. I am looking to the future hopefully and hope by the year's end we can get back to getting on the park.

TDS: You had the opportunity to work in Bangladesh during the BPL for Rajshahi Kings in 2018. They also announced your retention for the next season. Tell us how was it working in Bangladesh?

LK: Thoroughly enjoyed my time in Bangladesh, especially with Rajshahi Kings. First of all, it is a hospitable, friendly nation. I always enjoy my trips

there, the cricket as well, the supporters of course. Certainly, looking forward to the Bangladesh experience, not looking forward to sitting in traffic and spending hours in the bus but that's a small price to pay for the wonderful people I have met and the close friends.

TDS: What are the areas that a young seam-bowling all-rounder should work on to become handy in both departments?

LK: For me the biggest difference is not the batting ability of our current all-rounders; it's the fact that they are bowling 125 kmph. All-rounders in the past from South Africa bowled 145 -- that for me is a big difference. That elevates you as a fast bowling all-rounder to be able to bowl consistently around 140 kmph.

I guess that's the challenge to becoming a world-class all-rounder like Ben Stokes. He can do that, he can bowl

140 kmph and is a fine batsman but therein for me is the slight difference -- something that young all-rounders may need to focus on, making sure that they are not just bowling medium pace. It's the pace that you need [to be] right up to be considered as a fast bowler as well as a handy batsman.

TDS: I am sure you have answered this question many times but I must ask you, does the 1999 semifinal still haunt you?

LK: No regrets and no nightmares about the 1999 World Cup, as I was in the form of my life. Of course, we would like to have won that game and gone through. During the 1999 World Cup, we were always under pressure with the bat. We never scored enough runs consistently and the top six never really performed consistently. We just kept leaving ourselves [with too much to do] towards the end in too many games and



too much reliance on number eight, nine, 10 and 11 to get us through. You can get away once or twice but you can't leave too much for your number eight and downwards.

TDS: Do you agree with the tag of chokers that has been associated with

the South African cricket team?

LK: Yes, 'chokers' has been tagged with South Africa but if you look at world cricket, teams choke all the time. There have been tight games where Australia also choked. That seems to be associated with South Africa and you have to live with that. As a team I think we have to deal with that and get over the line and win a World Cup or whatever and finally shake that off. It's a nasty word, however it does say that South Africa have put themselves in contention of winning big tournaments, hence I guess the significance of the word 'chokers' speaks a lot to their performance in big competitions. I think in the last World Cup, South Africa were extremely poor. So that's a good thing and I think we can use that as a positive. Yes, we have choked and couldn't get over the line and we have choked in big games, which counted for a lot.



Sri Lanka head coach Mickey Arthur (2nd from R) talks with his charges during a practice session at the Colombo Colts Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, a day after the cricketers got together for the first time in more than two and a half months ahead of a potential restart to the game. Cricket in the country came to a halt on March 13 due to the outbreak of coronavirus.

PHOTO: AFP

Formula One unveils 8-race schedule

AFP, Paris

The curtailed Formula One season will start with two races behind closed doors in Austria on July 5 and July 12 followed by six other grand prix in Europe, the organisers said on Tuesday.

"While we currently expect the season to commence without fans at our races we hope that over the coming months the situation will allow us to welcome them back once it is safe to do," said F1 chief executive Chase Carey.

"But we know the return of Formula 1 will be a welcome boost to sports fans around the world."

The F1 season was thrown into chaos with the cancellation of the traditional curtain-raising Australian Grand Prix in March only hours before practice was due to coronavirus pandemic.

Klopp assures no let-up

REUTERS, Undated



Liverpool will not ease up in their nine remaining Premier League games even after they secure the wins they need to seal a first top-flight crown in 30 years, manager Jurgen Klopp said.

The club have a 25-point lead over second-placed Manchester City as the Premier League prepares to resume this month following the COVID-19 disruption.

Liverpool can also secure the title with a win against Everton in their first match back if City lose to Arsenal when the league restarts on June 17.

"It's nice to think about it but we are not champions yet and we know that," Klopp told the BBC. "We know we're close but close is not there. There are 27 points left for us and we will try everything to take them all."

"We don't want to stop winning after two games..." The league was suspended on March 13 due to the pandemic, with teams returning to training in small groups before voting last week to return to contact training.

"I have missed it so much it's unbelievable," Klopp added.

"I know it's not the most important thing in life but it is my passion. I hope the people are looking forward to it because we are."



Muhammad Ali and 'Thrilla in Manila'

AFP, MANILA

When Muhammad Ali survived 14 brutal rounds with Joe Frazier in the 'Thrilla in Manila' 45 years ago, it wrote a page in boxing folklore but left both men forever diminished.

Fought in the Philippines' stifling daytime heat, with barely functioning air conditioning, Frazier was beaten nearly blind and Ali was on the verge of surrender.

In the end, it was Frazier's trainer who threw in the towel to hand Ali victory on October 1, 1975, settling their head-to-head 2-1. But the fight came at a cost to both men.

"Ali and Frazier would never be the same again, after pouring and spending practically all their power and durability in Manila," said Recah Trinidad, a Philippine boxing columnist.

Ali, who had beaten George Foreman in the 'Rumble in the Jungle' in Zaire a year earlier, came into the fight at 33, his best years well behind him.

They battled inside the 25,000-seat Araneta Coliseum with such

chilla, and a killa, when I get the gorilla in Manila," Ali boasted, coining the nickname that still resonates today.

On fight day the momentum swung back and forth between the men, who were in their third and final match-up.

One Frazier punch sent Ali's mouthpiece flying into the fifth row, but neither fighter fell.

The fight in the tropics was staged in the daytime to suit US

His biographer Thomas Hauser told the 2008 documentary that at the end of the round an Ali cornerman heard the champion telling trainer Angelo Dundee to "cut 'em (gloves) off".

"Round 14 was the closest I've seen somebody come to killing somebody," Ali's fight doctor Ferdie Pacheco told the documentary makers.

But after the Thrilla, "both men were never the same again", said



television audiences, but the crowd and TV lights overwhelmed the air-conditioning.

"At 125 degrees -- we were fighting each other (as well as) against the heat," Frazier said in the 2008 documentary "Thrilla in Manila". Ali's blows had swollen Frazier's right eye nearly shut, and he was nearly blind in his left due to a training injury.

His face soaked in blood, Frazier argued with his trainer Eddie Futch to let him come out for the 15th round, but Futch stopped the fight.

Later, it was revealed that Ali himself wanted to quit.

Nick Giorgio, a sports analyst at the Manila Bulletin.

He said that although Ali would defend his world title a further six times, and regain it in a rematch after losing to Leon Spinks in 1978, the self-styled "Greatest of All Time" never fully recovered from the "brutal beatdown" Frazier had inflicted.

Ali would finally hang up his gloves in 1981 aged 39, following consecutive losses to Larry Holmes and Trevor Berbick. He retired with a win-loss record of 56-5.

The "Louisville Lip" died on June 3, 2016 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.



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