

Sport

Windies-England final Test begins at the Oval from today

Friends turn foes for a fitting finale

LONDON, Aug 7: There will be no room for sentiment when the fifth and final Test between England and the West Indies gets underway at the Oval here on Thursday, reports AFP.

For recalled England all-rounder Ian Botham will be doing his best to wreck the Test



The 39-year-old Antiguan is already assured of retiring from the international scene without losing a series as captain following his side's victory in the fourth Test at Edgbaston.

But Botham is fired up to take some of the gloss off another memorable summer for his big buddy as he returns to the Test arena for the first time in two years.

"I feel in pretty good nick and am looking forward to the challenge," said the 35-year-old, who will be playing in his 98th Test. "After all, they don't come much bigger."

"Clearly it's going to be tough, because they're such high-calibre opposition, but I'll be out there doing my best for Goochie and the other lads. Who knows? Anything might happen."

England have turned to Botham in a last-ditch attempt to salvage the series after some dreadful top-order batting at Trent Bridge and Edgbaston enabled the West Indies to recover from losing the first Test and open up a 2-1 lead.

It is asking a lot of the legendary all-rounder to serve up another miracle, but he is clearly in the mood, having recorded his best county championship bowling performance on Monday against leaders Warwickshire.

England will also be boosted by the return of exciting middle-order batsman Robin Smith and attacking spinner

Phil Tufnell. But the recall of Alec Stewart, son of manager Micky, as a batsman-wicket-keeper for Jack Russell, arguably the best bowler in the world, looks like a major blunder.

The West Indies could also make changes to their winning side, with pacesman Malcolm Marshall and batsman Gus Logie suffering from knee injuries, and fast bowler Courtney Walsh troubled by a sore shin.

In addition, left-handed opener Clayton Lambert has staked a claim for Phil Simmons' place with 335 runs in his last five innings against the counties.

However, Simmons, who has scored only 130 runs in four Tests, is likely to be retained because of his high-class close fielding and useful seam bowling.

Richards, who will be playing in his 121st Test, is relishing another battle with Botham.

"You couldn't write a better script," said the West Indies skipper. "I've admired Ian for years, shared a flat with him in our Somerset days and it's so appropriate that he should be back when I'm saying goodbye."

"When I heard England had picked him, I just had to make contact. I know his comeback will create a wonderful atmosphere. It couldn't be better."

With the Oval already sold out for the first four days of a match which will decide a fascinating series, the stage is

set. All it needs now is for the two principal actors to make their entrance.

Sadly, in Richards' case, a final exit will follow all too soon with no more than an encore during next year's World Cup in Australia to come.

"The cricket cannot go on for ever," he said. "This will be my last Test, but I would love to play in the World Cup and



IAN BOTHAM I'll be back here for a couple more seasons with Glamorgan.

Nat'l TT result

Bangladesh Biman, Dhaka DSA, Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) moved into the group finals of men's team event in the New Paper 16th national table tennis championship yesterday, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Biman beat Mymensingh DSA by 3-0 sets while Dhaka DSA eliminated Narail DSA by the same margin to reach the final of Group A at the National Coaching Centre yesterday afternoon.

Bangladesh Ansars outplayed Lalmonirhat and BTMC defeated Chittagong DSA by similar 3-0 margins to qualify for the final of Group B.

Biman will take on Dhaka DSA while BTMC will face Ansars in the group final today.

In the women's team event, which began yesterday, Bangladesh Ansars, Dinajpur and Narail DSA qualified for the semifinals.

The Ansars women confirmed their semifinal berth outplaying Panchagarh DSA by 3-0 sets, Dinajpur DSA reached the semis defeating Jessore DSA by 3-2 sets and Narail DSA made their way into the last four eliminating Gaibandha DSA by 3-0 sets.

Defending champions Bangladesh Ansars, Pirojpur, Mymensingh and Jessore DSAs reached the semifinals of boys' team event outplaying their contenders yesterday afternoon.

Ansars beat Lalmonirhat 3-0, Pirojpur defeated Gaibandha 3-0, Mymensingh eliminated defending champions Bangladesh Biman 3-1 and Jessore overcame Habiganj by 3-2 sets to qualify for the semifinals.

The final matches of boys' team, men's team and women's team events will be held today.



Gaibandha's Nigar seen in action during the women's team event, on the second day of the six-day national table tennis championships at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Pakistan keen to revive India tour

KARACHI, Aug 7: A senior Pakistani cricket official said today he would visit New Delhi next week to try to revive a cricket tour to India that was postponed late last year because of Hindu-Muslim violence, reports Reuter.

"I am going to explore the possibility of a short tour," Cricket Board Treasurer Arif Ali Khan Abbas told reporters. Abbas said he would suggest one or two Test matches and as many one-day games between October 25 and November 15.

"If India agrees to the proposal, we will then discuss the venues keeping in mind the weather," he said.

The Pakistani side will play four Tests and three one-day matches at home to Sri Lanka in November and December in preparation for the World Cup next February.

Abbas said a World XI's visit to Pakistan for five one-day matches before the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand had been postponed. He gave no further details.

BFF nominates 7 to DMFA

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday nominated seven of its officials to represent the body in the re-constituted Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), reports UNB.

The selection for the DMFA — which will organise all the metropolitan football leagues from this year — was made at a BFF meeting held in the evening.

Representatives of the BFF to the revived DMFA are: Dr Aminul Islam, Zakaria Pintoo, Shaheb Ali, Nabi Chowdhury, Anwarul Haq Helal, Ferdous Islam and the BFF General Secretary Harun-ur-Rashid.

Coventry booters fined for drinking

COVENTRY, England, Aug 7: English First Division side Coventry City have transferred three top players for a drinking session in Scotland last week, reports AFP.

Club captain Trevor Peake, former England full-back Kenny Sansom and midfielder Hardman Lloyd McGrath have been fined two week's wages for breaching club rules less than 48 hours before Coventry's match against Glasgow Rangers in the Kilmarnock tournament.

Coventry manager Terry Butcher, who ordered the trio home last week, said: "It was not an easy thing to do but the decision had to be made in the best interests of club discipline."

"I want my players to act in a professional manner at all times. I hope this unfortunate incident is now closed."

Defender Peake, 34, has played more than 300 first-team matches in eight seasons and would have qualified for a testimonial next season. McGrath, 26, is the club's longest-serving player, while Sansom, 32, Butcher's former England teammate, was signed from Queen's Park Rangers only last March.

Broad wields a broad bat

LONDON, Aug 7: Nott-inghamshire opening batsman Chris Broad showed just what England have

been missing this season as he went on the rampage against Sussex in the county championship at Eastbourne on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The left-hander, banned from international cricket after joining Mike Gatting's so-called "rebel" tour to South Africa in 1989-90, cracked 158 off 280 balls to lay the foundation for a Nottinghamshire total of 356 for.

He boosted his side's championship aspirations with 16 fours in a stay of nearly six hours after reaching his fourth century of the season off 185 balls with 11 fours.

Fellow England "rebel" Tim Robinson missed out on his ton, though, when, having made 95, he had his stumps spreadeagled by a lightning delivery from paceman Adrian Jones.

Neil Foster, another England "rebel" helped title hopefuls Essex to maximum bowling points against Derbyshire at Derby as the home side were skittled for 180 in just 45.2 overs. Foster took three for 57, but the chief destroyer was Don Topley, who capitalised on a seaming pitch to capture five for 75. It would have been worse for Derbyshire, too, had Essex not spilled six catches.

Lankans on the rack

BRISTON, Aug 6: Sri Lanka were humbled by club cricketer Martin Gerrard here on Tuesday on the first-day of their

three-day game against Gloucestershire, reports AFP. The 24-year-old left-arm seamer, on a one-year contract with the English county, bagged four for 20 as the tourists were shot out for just 97.

Gerrard and former Australian Test paceman Dave Gilbert, who captured four for 53, were the destroyers in chief as Sri Lanka folded after a 44-run opening stand be-



RUMESH RATNAYAKE between Roshan Mahanama and Brendon Kuruppu. However, the tourists, bowled out in just 34 overs, hit back to leave Gloucestershire 166 for nine at the close, with only a defiant 70 not out by Mark Alleyne in two and half hours providing the resistance. Paceman Rumesh Ratnayake finished and the day with five for 90.

Dermot Reeve, a player eligible for England but ignored



CHRIS BROAD since being 12th man for the third Test, proved a point to the selectors by inspiring leaders Warwickshire to maximum bowling points with a four for 54 haul against Surrey. The Hong Kong born all-rounder, who is 16th in the

batting averages and in the top 10 in the bowling list with 34 wickets at 21.2 each, bowled unchanged for 24 overs as Surrey slumped to 206 all out.

While Reeve and Tim Muntun were making light of the absence of leading paceman Allan Donald with a back strain, Mark Feltham led a brave recovery by making an unbeaten 69 off 152 balls, a season's best, to pilot Surrey towards respectability. Warwickshire closed on 35 for one from 16 overs.

At the other end of the table, Leicestershire opens Nigel Briers and Tim Boon both recorded tons against Yorkshire to compile the struggling Midlanders' highest stand of the season.

The pair added 219 before Yorkshire-born Boon was dismissed for 102, having struck 10 fours in 264 minutes off 216 balls.

Briers ended the day unbeaten on 108, made off 236 balls and including eight fours, out of a total of 225 for one from 79 overs.

Meanwhile, Kent's unsung wicketkeeper Steve Marsh hit a sparkling 73 against Hampshire at Canterbury to haul Kent out of trouble after they had been reduced to 121 for five in the 48th over.

Marsh, who found a staunch partner in Richard Ellison (61 not out), added 115 off 39 overs to help Kent reach 290 off 99.3 overs. Hampshire were 19 for one at the close.

Lewis to quit Leicestershire

LEICESTER, Aug 7: England all-rounder Chris Lewis announced on Tuesday that he would be quitting Leicestershire at the end of the season and immediately started a transfer battle, reports AFP.

Worcestershire and Kent wasted no time in throwing their hats into the ring for the talented 23-year-old, who will not be signing a new contract with Leicestershire because he wants to join a country more likely to press for honours.

Leicestershire's Australian team manager Bobby Simpson, whose team are bottom of the championship, said: "I'm very disappointed with Chris' decision."

"I've put a lot of work in with him over the last couple of years and I would have liked him to stay."

Worcestershire, who will release veteran England all-rounder Ian Botham at the end of the season, were the first to declare an interest in Lewis and are favourites to snap him up.

The club's cricket committee chairman Mike Jones said: "Lewis has proved himself this year to be one of the best strike bowlers of the younger brigade in the country and is capable of scoring runs quickly."

"We have three or four top quality bowlers who are all getting older and we must look to the future." Kent's Australian coach Daryn Foster said "Obviously we're very interested in a player of his class. He could play a vital part in our quest for higher honours next season."

Grafs taken to court

DELRAY BEACH, Aug 7: A Florida man who showered Steffi Graf with gifts wants protection from the tennis player's father and brother, reports AP.

Judge Michael Gersten, in rejecting the Grafs' request to dismiss James Leve's petition for a restraining order, Monday urged the two sides to settle their differences out of court.

Leve of Boca Raton and his fiancée, Jill Genson, last month asked the court to keep the Grafs away because of problems they say they had this year at Wimbledon and the French Open.

Leve, an heir to the Annenberg publishing fortune and a self-proclaimed sponsor of tennis players, said he gave Steffi a Porsche and dlr\$ 200,000 in cash and jewellery until a disagreement in 1989. Graf's agent said the spat occurred when the family, embarrassed by the gifts, asked Leve to stop.

"Attorneys for Steffi's father, Peter, and her brother, Michael, said their clients are in Germany."

Leve said Peter Graf struck him in the head during the French Open June 6, and Steffi was losing to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and that the elder Graf walked up to Genson in a threatening manner.

Leve also said that Michael Graf confronted him in a menacing manner during Wimbledon.

Leve intends to seek another restraining order in New York in time for the US Open later this month.

Tougher drug code urged

WELLINGTON, Aug 7: Four nations are preparing a motion to put to the International Athletics Federation (IAAF) calling for tougher drug bans, New Zealand's delegate Ian Boyd said here today, reports AFP.

The united approach has the support of IAAF president Primo Nebiolo but Mr Boyd told AFP it was not clear if he actually supported their proposed four-year ban.

He said Nebiolo had told British authorities that the united motion could go before the IAAF council meeting as well as the international congress in Tokyo next month. The fact that he wanted it in council "beforehand" was a "helpful thing", Boyd said.

Athletes testing positive for steroid use currently face a two-year ban but Britain, New Zealand, Ireland and Canada want that extended to four.

The last time the issue was debated in 1989 a tougher approach was defeated, but Boyd said the chances were better this time around.

"There has been a shift in attitude around the world about the use of steroids," he said, adding that the four-nation approach would also help. "We all had different motions on the agenda, running from the British who wanted a life ban, through to Ireland wanting five years," Boyd said.

There's still time for SA

MELBOURNE, Aug 7: A place is being kept for South Africa in next year's World Cup despite an order against the Springboks made by the world governing body organisers said Tuesday, reports AFP.

On the same day that the Australian Cricket Board lifted a 10-year ban on six players who took part in 1980s rebel tours, the World Cup Cricket Committee said South Africa would be welcomed to the tournament if the International Cricket Council approved.

"The World Cup Committee, for some time, has been carrying out a study on the possibility of South Africa competing in the World Cup," WCC chairman Malcolm Gray said.

"That study has shown that administratively, logistically and financially it is possible to be part of the World Cup as a ninth team."

"The ACB thinks the World Cup would be the appropriate stage for South Africa to come back to international cricket," said Gray.

He said South Africa had not yet formally applied to the ICC, but World Cup hosts Australia and New Zealand "need a decision fairly quickly and would hope in the next two or three weeks we would know one way or another."

South Africa's 21-year isolation from International Cricket was ended in July. But it was decided at the London meeting that South Africa should not be allowed to take part in the World Cup.

ICC chairman Colin Cowdrey said at the time no application had been received from South Africa. But he added: "If they did apply, I would have to use my chairman's prerogative and tell

them that the answer is now." Ali Bacher, Managing Director of South Africa's new multi racial United Cricket Board (UCB) has expressed hopes that the international body might yet have a change of heart.

ACB chief executive David Richards said the six formerly banned players would be allowed to play at State level in Australia this year.

A Test ban would have to be reviewed by the ICC, he said. Therefore, Richards said, the ACB had decided to lift its ban on Michael Haysman of South Australia, Rod McCurdy (Victoria), John Maguire (Queensland), Kim Hughes and Glenn Hughes (both of Western

Aussie PM wants them

SYDNEY, Aug 7: Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said today he would like to see a South African cricket team participate in the World Cup being played in Australia and New Zealand next year, reports BSS.

In a televised interview, Hawke said sporting sanctions would be among the first to be ended in a phased lifting of sanctions as the process of dismantling apartheid continued.

He included sporting sanctions, visa restrictions and the restoration of airline links among what he described as "people sanctions," which he said would be first to be lifted by Australia.

All that was required for sporting sanctions to be lifted was for each international body to acknowledge an end to apartheid in the South African sporting organisations.

He believed soccer would be first — "And I personally hope that they (South Africa) will be in the international cricket competition here in

the early part of next year." All that was needed now for visa restrictions to be lifted and air links to be restored was the completion of the release of political prisoners.

"That is something that could easily happen in the next week or so," he said.

But he said the lifting of sanctions on trade investment and financial links would require the establishment and interim government or "a constituent assembly" in which the African National Congress was involved.

However, an arms embargo would not be lifted until a new black majority government was in place.

"Having been at the forefront of imposing sanctions I want Australia to be at the forefront of responsibly removing them," he said.

He also confirmed that if the process of dismantling apartheid was progressing well and there was no question about their reversibility he would like to visit South Africa later this year.

Malaysians level Chinese score at will in Asian women's softball

JAKARTA, Aug 7: Favourites China battered India 35-0 in the fifth Asian women softball championship Monday, sending a sharp warning to other major sides that they will be hard to beat, reports AFP.

The Chinese women, defending the title they won four years ago, earlier thrashed North Korea 7-0 and brought their tally after the third day of the round robin competition to five victories in as many matches.

The other two Asian softball giants, Japan and Taiwan, kept their sheets clean. Taiwan drubbed Hong Kong 10-0 and later Indonesia 11-0 while Japan tamed the host nation's aspiration to make it into the last four with a 10-1 victory.

In other games played Monday, Malaysia beat South Korea 1-0, Singapore whipped India 10-0, North Korea drubbed South Korea 4-0 and the Philippines defeated Malaysia 9-0.

Malaysians level

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7: Malaysia carved out a 3-2 win over New Zealand in the second field hockey Test match here Tuesday, reports AFP.

In doing so the homesters, who led 2-1 at the breather, gained revenge for a 2-3 loss to New Zealand in Monday's first Test match.

Both teams participated in the six-nation Sultan Azlan Shah invitational field hockey championships which ended in Malaysia's northern Ipoh state last Saturday.

The New Zealanders, playing with more urgency, opened accounts in the fourth minute when skipper Peter Dajl relayed the ball to Gerg Russ for a deflected shot into the goal.

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