

Sport

Aamir Sohail's maiden Test ton is a delightful double
Pakistanis plunder 388 on first day



MANCHESTER, July 2: Aamir Sohail cracked a double century as Pakistan's top-order batsmen dominated England's bowling attack to reach 388 for three in Thursday's opening play of the third cricket Test at Old Trafford, reports AP.

Sohail's 200 came from 278 balls in 332 minutes, and included 32 fours. He was eventually bowled by Chris Lewis for 205 just before stumps.

His determined stand helped Pakistan become only the sixth Test team to record century stands in each of the first three wicket partnerships.

came on 105 when he edged debutant Tim Munton between wicketkeeper Jack Russell and Graeme Hick at first slip.

He and fellow opener Ramiz Raja set the pattern for the day with a stream of dazzling shots to give Pakistan a run-a-run attack with pace bowler Devon Malcolm and Test newcomer Tim Munton.

Munton a Test cap. The 6-foot 5-inch Munton was named to squads for the first two Tests but did not play.

SCOREBOARD
England and Pakistan at Old Trafford today:

Table with columns: Pakistan: First Innings, Aamir Sohail b Lewis 205, Rameez Raja c Russell b Malcolm 54, Asif Mujtaba c Atherton b Lewis 57, Javed Miandad not out 59, Moin Khan not out 7, Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-2, nb-2) 6, Total: (For three wickets) 388, Fall of wickets: 1-115; 2-240; 3-378.



AAMIR SOHAIL... 205 with 32 boundaries

Sohail and Ramiz Raja put together 115 before Rameez was caught behind by Jack Russell off Devon Malcolm for 54, then Asif Mujtaba joined Sohail for a 126-run stand before Mujtaba on 57 hit a Lewis delivery straight to Mike Atherton.

Captain Javed Miandad and Sohail then shared a 137-run third wicket partnership before Sohail's dismissal. Wicketkeeper Moin Khan joined Miandad as night-watchman. At stumps on what was a punishing day for England, Miandad was not out 59 and Moin not out 7.

England were never able to control the batsmen, and captain Graham Gooch was forced to use six bowlers. After dropping all-rounder Ian Botham and batsman Allan Lamb, in favour of batsmen David Gower and Mike Atherton, England lost pace bowler Philip DeFreitas through injury before the match to leave the attack looking weak.

Gooch gave Tim Munton, a 6-foot 5-inch left arm fast medium bowler, his Test debut to join fast bowlers Chris Lewis and Devon Malcolm and spin bowler Ian Salisbury. But Gooch was forced to bowl himself, and even brought on Graeme Hick to assist.

Pakistan maintained the same team which defeated England by two wickets at Lord's in the second Test June 8-11.

Reuter adds: Aamir Sohail struck a superb double century as Pakistan launched a blistering attack on England's ineffective bowlers.

The left-handed opener, who raced to his maiden Test hundred in only his third Test off only 127 balls, was out shortly before the close after figuring in three century partnerships.

Sohail took full advantage of a pitch with pace and bounce and often wayward bowling to become the first Pakistani to score a double century at Old Trafford.

His 284-ball innings, spanning 338 minutes, included 32 sweetly struck fours. Sohail's only moment of alarm - before Chris Lewis knocked out his off stump -

minute start to the match. At lunch Pakistan were one for 131, with Sohail not out 60 and Asif Mujtaba not out 13. Rameez was caught behind by keeper Jack Russell off Devon Malcolm in a curious dismissal for 54.

Russell appealed for the liveries. Pakistan's 50 came in the 12th over, and the 100 in the 21st over. Chris Lewis replaced Malcolm, but Gooch only brought one spinner Ian Salisbury after Rameez's dismissal.



MUJTABA...57

catch after Rameez was beaten by a ball angled into him which appeared to come off the top of the pad. Rameez looked startled when umpire Roy Palmer raised his finger, and television replays appeared to show Rameez had missed the ball completely.

The two openers had put on a run a minute as England captain Graham Gooch opened the

liveries. Pakistan's 50 came in the 12th over, and the 100 in the 21st over. Chris Lewis replaced Malcolm, but Gooch only brought one spinner Ian Salisbury after Rameez's dismissal.



MIANDAD...59 not out

same team which defeated England by two wickets at Lord's in the second Test June 8-11, while England had dropped Ian Botham and Allan Lamb to recall David Gower and Mike Atherton.

Bowler Derek Pringle, named to the 13-man squad, was omitted when Gooch named the team before play, as England preferred to award

Bangladesh CC shines in Beijing cricket league

BEIJING, July 2: The Bangladesh Cricket Club of Beijing defeated an Indian team on June 28 in the Beijing cricket league organised by the Beijing Cricket Club, reports ISS.

The Bangladesh team also defeated the Pakistan, Sri Lankan and Australian Club sides.

Bangladesh CC will play the England Exports Eleven later this month to enter the semi-final of the tournament.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Beijing, CM Shafi Sami is the chief patron and president of the club. The team is composed of Bangladesh students and embassy personnel.

The Bangladesh Cricket Club in Beijing was established this year. This is the first cricket tournament in China in which Bangladesh is participating. The club has been equipped with cricket gear contributed by Bangladesh Foreign Minister ASM Mustafaiz Rahman who is also the chief of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

Earlier, Evergreen Club, Kalindi Krira Chakra and Dhanmondi Pragati Sangha moved into the semifinals by winning their respective quarterfinal encounters.

The two semifinals are scheduled for tomorrow and July 5 while the final will be held on July 7.

The top two teams will play in the Second Division league next season.

A record number of 73 teams - split into eight groups - took part in the meet that began on May 20.

Lankans in for a cricket fiesta

COLOMBO, July 2: Shri Lankans, starved of Test cricket for five years because of civil unrest, will enjoy a fiesta when Australia, New Zealand, England, India and South Africa tour in the next 14 months, reports Reuter.

A 13-strong Australian side, led by Allan Border, arrives in Colombo in mid-August for a six-week tour that includes three Tests and some one-day matches, officials said on Thursday.

BFF calls up 31 jr booters

Thirty-one under-16 footballers have been picked by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to form a Bangladesh team which will play some exhibition matches in India's West Bengal state over the next two weeks.

The following players have been asked to report to Amalash Sen at the Dhaka Stadium at 7 am on July 7.

Goal-keepers: Selim Mian (BKSP), Milon Hossain (Khalna), Binay (Khalaghar SKS) and Jahangir (RC).

Defenders: Hafizur Rashid (Faridpur), Rafiqul Islam Siddiqui (Tangail), Shahjahan (BKSP), Monwar Hossain (Gulbagh KC), Sohul-al-Mamun (BKSP), Milu, Masud (Azampur HC) and Fatz (Esakton SS).

Mid fielders: Yousof (Narayanganj), Shamim (Rajshahi), Salam Khan (BKSP), Zainal (Comilla), Simon (Chittagong), Sagar (Rajshahi), Liton (Narayanganj), Rubel (Lalbagh TS), and Sharif (Esakton SS).

Forwards: Bazlur Rahman, Shimul Khan (Tangail), Alok Kumar Roxy (Bagerhat), Chapal (BKSP), Shamsuddoha Siddiqui Joy (Dhanmondi Club), Pava Pruc (Rangamatli), Iqbal (Gazipur), Ripon (Chittagong Brothers Union), Rana (Khalaghar SKS) and Mantu (Fakirpool).

Nat'l lifting meet

The three-day seventeenth national weight-lifting championships under the auspices of the Bangladesh Amateur Weightlifting Federation will get underway on August 22 at the National Sports Council gymnasium, states a press release.

Interested organisations have been asked to register their entries with the federation by August 15.

Fleet Club sail

Fleet Club maintained their title hopes when they beat Thunders Club in a one-sided match of the Second Division basketball league played at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Fleet Club, for whom it was the fourth successive win, led the first half 75-13 and finally wrapped the match at 141-48 with Bablu and Faisal doing the bulk of the scoring with 32 and 26 points respectively.

Nirmal and Tanveer were the main scorers for the losers with 23 and 11 respectively.

Fleet have eight points from four matches while Thunders have four from as many matches.

Saint Joseph's Jazz Club beat Kurmitola Young Stars 62-50 in the second match of the day.

The winners led the first half 36-23. Atiq of Kurmitola was the highest scorer of the match with 21 while Ullash with 17 did most of the scoring for Jazz Club.

With this win Jazz Club raise their tally to five points from three games while Kurmitola remain at five from four outings.

France wins FIFA vote for '98

ZURICH, July 2: France, who struck a deal with England to avoid splitting the European vote, saw a nine-year campaign come to a triumphant end on Thursday when they won the right to stage the 1998 World Cup finals, reports AFP.

Morocco's King Hassan II made an energetic personal drive but failed to convince FIFA, the game's governing body, they should be the first African country to host the world's biggest televised sporting event.

Switzerland, the other bidders, were never in with a chance once FIFA banned temporary stands following the disaster in Corsica in May when 15 people were killed when one such stand collapsed. Most of the Swiss stadiums have temporary stands and it would have cost too much to convert them all.

England was another candidate until last year when they pulled out after coming to an arrangement with France.

The French agreed to support England's bid for the 1996 European Championship finals in return and England were duly awarded that tournament earlier this year.

Morocco had argued that as FIFA gave the 1994 finals to the United States to promote the game in North America they should apply the same reasoning to Africa.

France successfully staged the European Championship finals in 1984. They have hosted the World Cup finals once before, in 1938.

The French federation decided in 1983 to apply for the 1990 finals but said they would withdraw if Italy made a bid. Italy did stand and was awarded the tournament.

France waited until after Paris failed to win the 1992 Olympics before going ahead with their plans and made an official bid in 1988 after receiving a pledge of financial assistance from the government.

They included national coach Michel Platini, France's best-known sportsman, in their bidding committee in the hope he could do for them what Jean-Claude Killy did for Albertville. Killy Alpine skiing's most famous personality, was credited with swinging the Olympic vote to Albertville's way for the 1992 Winter Games.

The finals will be played in 13 cities, but the most controversial choice was the site of a new national stadium with a capacity to seat 80,000 to replace the Parc des Princes in Paris which can hold only 50,000.

It quickly became a political football with conservative leader Jacques Chirac, former premier Michel Rocard and President Francois Mitterrand squabbling over the ball.

The Vincennes Forest on the eastern edge of Paris was the choice of football and Olympic officials, but when environmentalists objected the focus switched to Nanterre just behind the new business centre at La Defense.

Rocard argued that the eastern Paris region needed developing and the choice was then between Tremblay, near the Charles de Gaulle airport, and Melun-Senart, a new town development 59 km outside Paris. Melun-Senart was surprisingly chosen. It is 90 minutes by subway and train from the centre of Paris although a high-speed tgv line planned for 1995 should cut travelling time to 40 minutes.

However, if Chirac wins a parliamentary majority in the 1993 elections he says he will move the stadium back to Nanterre.

Ironically, France have won the tournament when its professional clubs are under investigation for fraud, tax evasion and embezzlement. And the federation president Jean Pournet-Fayard is facing criminal charges over the Corsican disaster.

The cumulated debt of professional clubs in France is estimated at 150 million dollars. Pournet-Fayard has been charged with manslaughter in connection with the Bastia disaster. It is claimed he was negligent in ensuring safety at a cup match played under the federation's auspices.

Bastia, looking forward to a money-spinning match with champions Olympique Marseille, built a makeshift stand to double the capacity of their stadium. Of fifteen people were killed and over a 100 badly injured when it collapsed.

THE SITES
The plans are for six preliminary round groups with matches being played in:

Group A: Paris (new stadium), Rouen or Lens. Group B: Strasbourg or Nancy. Paris (Parc des Princes). Group C: Lyons, St Etienne. Group D: Marseilles, Nice. Group E: Toulouse Montpelier, Group F: Nantes and Bordeaux.

New stadiums will be built in Paris, Nancy, Nice and Rouen, while Marseilles' decaying Velodrome Stadium will be renovated.

The opening match will be played at the new Paris stadium, which will also stage one of the semi-finals and the final. The other semi-final will be at Marseilles. Lyons will stage the third-place play-off.

LIST OF HOSTS
Host countries of the World Cup:

- 1930- Uruguay
1934- Italy
1938- France
1950- Brazil
1954- Switzerland
1958- Sweden
1962- Chile
1966- England
1970- Mexico
1974- West Germany
1978- Argentina
1982- Spain
1986- Mexico
1990- Italy
1994- United States
1998- France

Platini quits as coach

ZURICH, Switzerland, July 2: Michel Platini said here Thursday he was standing down after 42 months as France's national coach, reports AFP.

"I had made up my mind with France's World Cup organising team. He was reluctantly persuaded to take over as French coach in November, 1988, after Henri Michel was sacked following a drawn match in Cyprus which effectively ended France's chances of qualifying for the 1990 World Cup.

France narrowly failed to deny Scotland a place in Italia 90 but the team he put together for the 1992 European Championship qualifying campaign enjoyed a two-year unbeaten run.

They did not play with same flair as the side Platini excelled in but he said it was because he did not have players of the calibre of Alain Giresse and Jean Tigana. The midfield partnership he formed with those two steered France to two World Cup semi-finals, in 1982 and 1986, and the European Championship in 1984.

However, after becoming the first side to qualify for a major tournament by winning all its matches France flopped in Sweden.

Platini was three times European player-of-the-year from 1983-85 and scored a French record 41 goals in 72 internationals. He was captain a record 50 games.

He retired at 32 in 1987, two years after winning the European Cup with Juventus in a final against Liverpool marred by the deaths of 39 fans who died following a stampede caused by the English fans.

Organisers hope for a sell-out

ZURICH, July 2: Soccer Officials in the United States promise the 1994 World Cup will be a complete sell-out, and their biggest problem is not having enough tickets to satisfy American and overseas demand, reports Reuter.

"The initial interest we have had from home and abroad is overwhelming," Alan Rothenberg, President of the US Soccer Federation (USSF) and chairman of their World Cup organising committee, said on Wednesday.

"We will sell every single seat of the 3.5 million that are available for sale," he said, making it the largest World Cup ever. "Our biggest problem is not selling the tickets, but how to fairly allocate tickets so people in the US don't get shut out."

He said that since the nine host cities were announced the US Soccer Federation had been inundated with requests for ticket information and that international association were already sounding out how large their allocations would be.

land, Brazil and Italy about their needs, but we may not have enough tickets to satisfy those needs."

Rothenberg said the US Commerce Department had estimated 1.5 million people would visit the country to watch the World Cup.

"I don't believe that figure, but even if a third of that number come we would have a problem to fairly allocate tickets," he added.

If the Americans fulfil their promise, 813,000 people will watch games in Los Angeles alone at the 101,700-seat Pasadena Rose Bowl which will host the final and a semi final.

Evidence of the growing interest from Americans in the tournament came from an unusual source on Wednesday.

USSF general-secretary Hank Steinbrecher said: "The US World Cup '94 flags were stolen from outside our headquarters in Chicago last night. We do have fans."

Voeller set to join Marseille

MARSEILLE, France, July 2: French champions Olympique Marseille said on Wednesday that the signing of German striker Rudi Voeller should be finalised on Friday, reports Reuter.

The 32-year-old Voeller, who captained the German national team at last month's European Championship in Sweden before breaking his arm in the first match, will join from Italian club AS Roma.

Marseille general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes said Voeller's lawyer would be in Marseille on Friday to conclude the deal for the man billed to replace European player-of-the-year Jean-Pierre Papin, who has signed for AC Milan.

Voeller, who has just announced his retirement from the German national team, is expected to sign a three-year contract.

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Bernes confirmed that Croat forward Zvonimir Boban would not play for Marseille next season as originally expected.

Boban was to have been loaned by AC Milan as part of the Papin deal but decided he preferred to stay with the Italian club, who lent him to Bari last season.

Marseille, who have already sold Englishman Chris Waddle to Sheffield Wednesday, are losing two other players from the first team squad.

Bernes said midfielder Patrice Eyraud had signed for Toulon and defender Pascal Bulla would shortly join Strasbourg.

Gooch, Gower bury hatchet

MANCHESTER, England, July 2: Recalled David Gower and captain Graham Gooch took just two minutes to bury the hatchet as England assembled at Old Trafford in readiness for the third Test match against Pakistan beginning today, reports Reuter.

The reconciliation, 16 months after Gower's international career looked as if it might be finished, began at the weekend when Gooch telephoned the left-handed batsman to tell him he was included in the England squad.

A book by Gooch earlier this year in which he strongly criticised Gower for his attitude suggested there was little chance of him adding to his 114 caps.

But England's second Test defeat brought about selector changes and Gower's pedigree and current county form earned him back his place.

Any lingering doubts about whether the reunion between the two could work were dispelled soon after the squad assembled in Manchester.

"We've had the two minute chat we needed to completely clear the air," said Gower. "We're both happy and we are back to the relationship we had before."

Fraser features in Middlesex revival

LONDON, July 2: Former England paceman Angus Fraser led a revival of three Middlesex players involved in comebacks as champions and current leaders Essex struggled in their country match at Ilford on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Middlesex's 273 looked modest when Essex hurried to 62 without loss, but they had collapsed to 174 for six when rain ended play for the day.

Fraser took his first championship wickets of the season after 110 over fruitless toil in five previous matches.

John Carr completed his comeback from a two year retirement with his first century since 1989, while spinner Phil Tufnell confirmed his recovery from a mid May appendix operation with two wickets.

Carr, resuming the day with his score on 77, went on to make 102 which contained 16 fours.

Both Fraser, dogged for two years by a hip injury, and Tufnell snapped up two wickets apiece as Essex stumbled in their reply. An impressive spell of seam

bowling by Nottinghamshire's New Zealander Chris Cairns was the high spot at Maidenstone.

Kent, resuming at 311 for five, were dismissed for 359 as Cairns picked up three for 17 in 10 overs to finish with five for 75. Notts were 113 for three at the close.

Former England all-rounder David Capel scored his first championship century for nearly two years yesterday, then predicted: "Northants can go all the way this season."

Capel made 103, including 14 boundaries, as his county declared their first innings at 312 for eight against Surrey at the Oval.

He said: "This is the best balanced side I've played in since I joined. We have good variety in an attack and if we can steer clear of injuries then we have every chance of winning the championship."

Surrey seamer Martin Bicknell finished with six for 107 and at the close Surrey had replied with 62 without loss.

India to tour SA

JOHANNESBURG, July 2: The Indian cricket team's tour of South Africa late in October will go ahead as planned in terms of a reprieve granted to sports organisations by the ANC yesterday, reports PTI.

4 killed in soccer riot

LISBON, July 2: Four people have been killed in clashes with police after violence broke out at a football match in Cabinda in northern Angola on Tuesday night, the agency Angop reported here, citing Angolan radio, reports AFP.



ANGUS FRASER

Incident regretted

Sports Reporter
Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club fan Bacchu has expressed his regrets for manhandling Dainik Janata sports reporter Lutfur Rahman Badal at the Hockey Stadium on June 23.

A press release issued by the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) yesterday said Bacchu along with his guardian came to the association office Wednesday evening and expressed regret at the incident.

In a written statement he also pledged not to come to the Dhaka Stadium premises for the next four months.