



The bails fly as a fine throw from Allan Lamb outruns Aamir Sohail, Pakistan's top scorer with 87 in the fifth and final Texaco Trophy one-dayer played at Old Trafford on Monday. England skipper Gooch looks on. — AFP photo

Intikhab dismisses ball-change controversy

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 25: Pakistan team manager Intikhab Alam gave a fresh twist to the ball-change controversy on Monday when he claimed the switch was not made under the law relating to illegally tampering with ball, reports Reuter.

Pakistan's cricketers were under a cloud after officials changed the ball during England's innings in the fourth one-day international at Lord's on Sunday.

But Intikhab said after the fifth and final limited overs match at Old Trafford that the umpires had changed the ball on Sunday under law 5 — dealing with replacing a ball unfit for play through losing its shape or going soft — not law 42, section five, which specifically covers ball tampering.

Intikhab said: "All the [media] reports are total rubbish. The ball change was

made at lunchtime yesterday under law 5, and therefore there is no cloud over us."

Under law 5 it is the responsibility of the fielding side to draw the ball's condition to

the attention of the umpires, but Intikhab said his team had not asked for a ball change.

Pakistan tour manager Khalid Mahmood had issued a statement earlier blaming the media for the controversy.

He said: "This is only an is-

sue raised by the media. The Test and County Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council (ICC) are saying nothing — I don't think there is anything to be resolved."

He added: "An impression has been created in certain sections of the press that the change of ball during the Lord's one-day international was due to tampering by the fielding side."

"Such insinuations are a distortion of the facts, and are totally unfounded and speculative in nature. Such press stories represent another false and scurrilous attack on the integrity, conduct and reputation of the Pakistan cricket team which is unjustified."

Intikhab said the Pakistan team were "not bothered" about the latest allegation on a tour marked by press insinuation that their fast bowlers achieved telling late swing with the old ball by illegally tampering with it.

The ICC is likely to launch

an inquiry into ball-doctoring after the match referee at Lord's on Sunday, former West Indies wicketkeeper Deryck Murray, said the ball was changed.

ICC secretary John Stephenson was unable to say on Monday whether the ball was changed because it had been tampered with, and said he was awaiting a written report.

The referee has taken this action by changing the ball and I believe that will be the end of this matter," he said after a telephone conversation with ICC chairman Colin Cowdrey, who is currently on an eight-day visit to India.

"But the whole question of ball-doctoring has been around for a long time and must be investigated."

"I think we should get together representatives of every Test playing country and find out whether they have any evidence of tampering," he added.

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Lure of lucre

BOMBAY, Aug 25: Indian cricketers can earn a maximum of Rs 23.98 lakh as prize money in both international and domestic cricket, as per the 1992-93 Sungrace-Mafatlal Victory Awards scheme which was announced to the press here yesterday, reports PTI.

A spokesman for Sungrace-Mafatlal told reporters that the new scheme possessed more or less the same features as that of last year's Inaugural scheme with a few additions to it notably a maximum available prize money of Rs 1.50 lakh for outstanding performance in domestic cricket.

In addition, there is an award carrying Rs 50,000 in all for 'winning contribution' to acknowledge a player's contribution which would have resulted in a victory for India even though it may not include feats like scoring a half century or taking three wickets which are the minimum parameters for awarding points in the existing scheme.

Acc all-rounder Kapil Dev also stands to gain Rs 50,000 if he can break Sir Richard Hadlee's world record Test haul of 431 wickets. The former Indian captain has already claimed more than 400 wickets in his illustrious career.

Nothing new from Krabbe & Co

FRANKFURT, Germany, Aug 25: Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe offered no new defence at a final hearing on Monday before the German Athletics Federation (DLV) imposes the expected four-year ban for failing a drugs test, reports Reuter.

"No new information came out of the hearing," the DLV said in a statement after its anti-doping commission met Krabbe and East German teammate Grit Breuer in Frankfurt.

Krabbe, the 100 and 200 metres champion at last year's World Championships, and world 400 metres silver medalist Breuer were suspended on August 14 after random dope tests in July showed they had taken the drug Clenbuterol.

The statement said the athletes only confirmed at the hearing what they had already admitted in writing that they had taken the muscle building drug.

Krabbe and Breuer repeated they had not known that the drug was on the list of banned substances. Their lawyer, Peter Woessner, asked the commission to lift the suspension.

The DLV will decide on September 11 whether to formally impose the four-year ban from international competition which is mandatory in the case of proven drugs violations.

Connors moves up in Hamlet Open

COMMACK, NY, Aug 25: Jimmy Connors, who turns 40 next week, whipped 21-year-old Nicklas Kulti of Sweden 6-3, 6-4 Monday night in the opening round of the Hamlet Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

Joining Connors in the second round was seventh-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia, who eliminated Switzerland's Marc Rosset, the Olympic gold medalist, 6-3, 6-4.

"I served well, especially when I was down," Connors said. "I'd be happy to play this well for the next two and a half weeks," added Connors with an eye toward the year's final Grand Slam which begins next Monday.

Connors, whose ranking climbed from 195 to 86 after his surprise run to the US Open semifinals last year, is currently ranked 33rd in the world.

"Connors plays different from the others," said Kulti, 21. "He plays a flat ball that doesn't bounce. It's difficult to do anything with the ball."

Connors reached 3-0 and 5-1 leads in the first set.

Kulti broke Connors for a 2-0 second set lead. But the American tennis legend immediately broke back and was firmly in control during the final two games as he won seven of the last eight points.

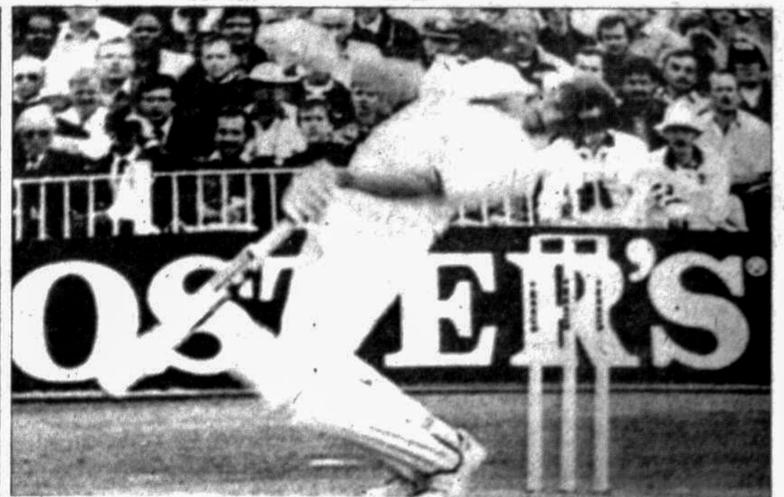
Volkov seized control midway through his match with the Barcelona gold medalist by taking five consecutive games — the last three of the first set and first two of the second.

American Brad Gilbert of the eighth seed, beat Clinton Marsh of South Africa 6-3, 6-2 in another first-rounder.

Other winners in the warmup for next week's US Open included Jimmy Arias and Carsten Arriens of Germany.

Gilbert, winner of 20 tournaments in 12 years on tour, overcame his own shaky serve to eliminate Marsh, a second-year pro playing only his second tour event this year.

The 20-year-old Marsh was better than Gilbert on first serves, producing 67 per cent to Gilbert's 49 per cent. But Gilbert broke Marsh's service in the last game of the opening set.



England's man-of-match Robin Smith takes evasive action to avoid a vicious bouncer from Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis during Monday's fifth and final Texaco Trophy one-dayer at Old Trafford. England won by six wickets. — Star TV photo by T A Khan

Aussie quickies make it quick

MATARA, Sri Lanka, Aug 25: Australian fast bowlers Michael Whitney and Tony Dodemaide skittled out the Southern Districts XI for a miserly 164 runs in the second day of the three-day game in Matara on Tuesday, reports AP.

Australia, having closed their first innings at the overnight total of 312 for nine wickets, scored 40 for two at the close of play Tuesday.

Australia lost opener Tom Moody and Damien Martyn. Moody drove away from his body and was caught by airborne Sanath Jayasuriya at second slip.

David Boon was unbeaten on 24 with Dean Jones on naught. Bowlers Whitney and Dodemaide bowled with discipline in the morning and afternoon sessions and wickets tumbled at regular intervals.

Aided by a strong southerly wind, they swung the ball on a wicket, which produced true bounce.

In an eight-hour burst in the morning, Dodemaide picked up the two openers and skipper Hashan Tillakaratne for just six runs.

Once lefthander Sanath Jayasuriya left — adjudge leg before wicket to Whitney — the middle order collapsed.

Whitney took four for five in 24 balls as five wickets went down for 19 runs.

Marvan Atapattu put up a minor rescue act with left-hander Asoka de Silva, sharing 40 runs for the ninth wicket.

Atapattu took 46 minutes to score his first, but in the 164 minutes he played, he scored

35 runs before he was caught by Mark Taylor at second slip off medium paceman Craig McDermott.

The Southern Districts XI tail wagged briefly as the last two wickets added 74 runs. De Silva remained unbeaten on 34. He batted for 95 minutes, faced 82 balls and struck five boundaries.

Whitney finished with four for 34, while Dodemaide impressed with three for 19.

Leg spinner Shane Warne, who has an inflamed arch on his right foot, did not take the field on the second day. He was given ultra-sound and ice treatment.

Warne played an important role in Australia's 16-run win in the first Test match against Sri Lanka last week. The Australians are concerned about his recovery considering the nature of the second Test venue, Colombo, on Friday.

SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA: First Innings

Boon not out 24
Moody c Jayasuriya b Lyanage 1

Martyn c Kaluwitharana b Ranatunga 13
Jones not out 0
Extras: nb 1, w 1 2
Total: (for two wickets) 40

Bowling: O M R W
Lyanage 7 1 21 1
Wijegunawardene 4 0 16 0
Ranatunga 3 1 3 1

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Last but not the least

LONDON, Aug 25: Last pair Neil Kendrick and James Boiling put on 24 to edge Surrey to a gripping one-cricket win over Yorkshire with two balls to spare in the county cricket championship on Monday, reports Reuter.

Spinners Kendrick and Boiling joined forces with Surrey on 282 for nine in pursuit of a target of 303 in 93 overs on the last day at Bradford.

The pair had to score 21 from the final 40 deliveries and their staunch batting secured the victory to which Graham Thorpe earlier contributed the top score of 79 from 172 ball, hitting nine boundaries.

Kend and Northamptonshire's attempts to close the gap on champions and leaders Essex were washed away at Northampton by rain which hit virtually all the day's matches.

A lunchtime declaration at 141 for one by Kent set the home side 253 to win in 69 overs, and they were solidly placed at 108 for one with 28 overs left when the weather closed in.

Openers Alan Fordhan (37) and Nigel Felton (50 not out) laid the foundation with a stand of 80 in 32 overs.

Second-placed Kent are 24 points behind Essex who were not involved in the current series of games, while Northants are in fourth spot, 32 points adrift of the leaders.

An unbeaten 66 from captain Nigel Briers was not enough to steer third-placed Leicestershire to victory against the clock over Nottinghamshire at Leicester.

Leicestershire were set 178 to win in 28 overs but despite Briers hitting eight fours in his 79-ball innings, they ended on 134 for six.

Leicestershire are 30 points behind Essex and have played two games more than the leaders.

Ripken reaps it rich

BALTIMORE, Aug 25: It appears highly likely that Cal Ripken now will spend his entire career with the Baltimore Orioles, reports AP.

Ripken will also be a very rich man. As a present on his 32nd birthday Monday, the Orioles gave him a dir 32.5 million, five-year contract believed to be the richest total deal in baseball history.

Ripken, a 10-time American League All-Star, will average dir 6.5 million a year under the contract, which in average annual value trails only the deal Ryne Sandberg of the Chicago Cubs agreed to in March, a four-year contract worth dir 7.1 million per season.

Multani exits from Asian Open snooker

BLACKPOOL, England, Aug 25: Indian snooker hope Sonic Multani bowed out of the 180,000-pound Asian Open here on Monday night, reports AP.

The 20-year-old from Ahmedabad went down 5-2 to Darren Clarke, a fast-potting Englishman, in the final qualifying round.

"I'm really disappointed with this defeat, because I desperately wanted to make the tournament proper," said Multani, who came into the match requiring two wins to book an appearance in Bangkok next March.

"Sometimes you get out of bed on the wrong side and everything goes wrong. That's what happened to me."

"I played so many bad shots and had so many poor contacts. It wasn't as if I didn't have opportunities."

"At top level all you need is one bad match and you lose. I just hope this is the last one I have."

Clarke won the first two frames, but Multani fired in a 77 break in frame three and snatched the next on the blue to go into the mid-session interval on level terms at 2-2.

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Paez stops Brown

INGLEWOOD, Calif, Aug 25: Jorge Paez won his fifth straight bout this year, stopping Brian Brown 59 seconds into the sixth round of a scheduled 10-round junior welterweight fight Monday night, reports AP.

Paez of Mexico played to the crowd throughout, entering the Forum ring in a ruffled shirt and top hat. He wore the skirt during the fight and paused in middle of the second round to do a few jumping jacks.

Paez then got serious, gradually wearing down Brown, from Evansville, Ind. By the sixth round, Paez had his opponent in the corner and unleashed a flurry of body punches.

Referee Chuck Hassett stepped in and stopped the one-sided bout when Brown ceased to defend himself.

Paez, a former International Boxing Federation featherweight champ, weight 140 1/2 pounds (57 kilos). The 26-year-old's record improved to 41-4-4 with 28 knockouts.

The 23-year-old Brown, 139 pounds (56.29 kilos), fell to 18-13-1.

Ziaur Rahman leads Foundation chess

FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman stayed on top of the table after the completion of the fifth round matches of the first foundation chess tournament registering his fifth straight win in yesterday's match against Kalam.

Bangladesh Biman players occupy the top two places in the table as two other FIDE Masters of the team national champion Rifat Bin Sattar and Syed Tahmidur Rahman — jointly share the second spot with four and a half points.

In yesterday's matches Rifat drew with Khandakar Kayes Hassan while former national champion Tahmidur Rahman beat Saufuddin Lavlu of BTMC.

However, Zia may have to share the top position with either Afroza Khanam Babiee or Ziaul Kader Tuhin who were trying hard to outwit each other in their fifth round match when this report was written last night.

Both Babiee and Tuhin have four points from four matches and only a drawn result will let Zia retain the top place. Such a result will leave Afroza and Tuhin tied on points with Tahmidur and Rifat in the second spot.



Scene from yesterday's fifth round matches of the Foundation Open chess meet at the NSC chess room. — Star photo