

British press heaps scorn on ICC

LONDON, Aug 29: British newspapers today heaped scorn on cricket's ruling body saying it had become the laughing stock of the world because of its refusal to clarify a furore over alleged ball-doctoring by Pakistan, reports Reuter.

"Lord's — laughing stock of world cricket," said the Daily Mirror, condemning the International Cricket Council (ICC) for what it called a whitewash statement.

An eagerly-awaited statement by the ICC five days after the umpire changed the ball during an England-Pakistan one-day international said the Council would give no details of the decision and considered the case closed.

England batsman Allan Lamb has accused Pakistan players of tampering with the ball to produce the swing that has devastated the England side during the current tour.

Pakistan has vehemently denied the accusations saying the ball was changed because it had gone soft. Bowlers Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram said on Friday they were considering legal action for libel.

The tabloid Sun said the failure to clear up the allegations was tearing cricket apart. It said the ICC should be re-named Indecisive Cowardly Clowns.

The Star said the ICC had ducked out of the one of the biggest issues to face the game of cricket for years. "Did the Pakistanis doctor the ball or not?"

Several British papers printed pictures which appeared to show Pakistan pace bowler Waqar Younis picking at the seam of the ball during play.

The Guardian said the refusal of the game's world ruling body to settle the complex dispute was ridiculous and unfair.

"If the Pakistanis have broken the laws of the game then everyone should be told. If they are not guilty as charged of course Pakistan deserve to be publicly and fully exonerated," the Guardian said.

The ICC was expected to have explained whether the ball was changed under law 5.5 covering damage through natural causes, or law 42.5 governing unfair play. It did neither.

Pakistan went on to win last Sunday's match by three runs despite the ball change 18 overs from the end.

Rani retains lead as Niaz falters

Sports Reporter

Grandmaster Niaz Morshed slipped down to third position after the completion of the seventh-round of the Lloyds Bank international masters' chess tournament now being held in London, according to a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release.

Niaz's slump was due to his sixth-round defeat at the hands of GM Murray Chandler of England. Another English Grandmaster Jonathan Speelman led the men's event with six points.

In the women's group, the rivalry between International Woman Master Rani Hamid of Bangladesh and WOM Susan Arkell of England, which has its origin in the recently concluded British Championship, was extended with Mrs Hamid leading by one point. In the British open, however, Rani Hamid failed to maintain her lead, finishing third.

More than one hundred and fifty competitors from different countries, including ninety-six women are taking part in the tournament. GM Niaz Morshed and IWM Rani Hamid are representing Bangladesh in the meet.

Zia champion

Sports Reporter

FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh became champion in the first Foundation Open chess tournament which concluded yesterday at the National Sports Council chess room.

Zia drew his last match of the nine-round Swiss league tournament with Niyamal Huq Niru to finish with seven and a half points.

The second position had to be decided on the basis of maximum wins as six players were deadlocked with seven points each.

National champion Reefat-bin-Sattar was placed behind Zia and Syed Tahmudur Rahman third.

Players securing fourth to ninth positions are: Ziaul Kader Tuhin, Khandaker Kayes Hassan, Niyamal Huq Niru, Kalimullah Khan, Almasur Rahman and Arifuzzaman Sikder.

The prize-giving ceremony of the tournament will be held today at 4 pm at the NSC chess room.

Australia 247 all out

COLOMBO, Aug 29: Playing under a heavily overcast sky, Australia limped to 247 all out in their first

innings on the second day of their second cricket Test against Sri Lanka on Saturday, reports AP.

Rain hampered the game for most of the day with just 34 overs bowled during the 123 minutes of play possible.

Wet patches on either sides of the wicket, caused largely because of rain seeping under the covers, delayed the start by 56 minutes.

Sri Lanka batted for a mere five minutes and at stumps were naught without loss when play was called off because of bad light.

Australia were 212 for eight when play resumed after lunch, but not a ball was bowled because of rain showers. The game didn't continue until 10 minutes after the scheduled tea break.

All-rounder Greg Matthews capped an outstanding tour with his second Test 50 in two successive innings as Australia added 46 more runs for the loss of overnight batsmen Dean Jones and Matthews, and Ian Healy and Craig McDermott.

Australia lost their last five wickets for 70 runs.

Medium paceman Asanka Gurusinha struck early in the second morning, knocking out both Jones and Healy through a couple of controversial umpiring decisions, McDermott perished while attempting to play a ball that turned viciously from off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan.

Matthews, who so often has come to Australia's rescue during his short Test career,

shouldered the responsibility of restructuring his side's middle after medium-pacepacer Dilip Lyanage threatened to cut it short on the opening day.

With his calm and collective batting, Matthews laboured for 195 minutes to reach his half century with an edged push to third man for two runs.



GREG MATTHEWS ... 55

He celebrated his 50 runs with a thunderous square cut off the next ball, but was caught a couple of balls later by Muralidharan at extra-cover while trying to repeat the shot in the same over off Champaka Ramanayake.

Matthews faced 132 balls in his stay and helped himself to four boundaries. He shared a brief 39-run ninth wicket stand with Tony Dodemaide who remained unbeaten on 16 when number 11 Michael Whitney fell victim to the

fourth lbw decision of the day. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard on the second day of the second cricket Test between Sri Lanka and Australia on Saturday.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings (overnight 177 for five)

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----|
| T Moody c Kaluwirthana | b Lyanage | 1 |
| M Taylor c Jayasuriya | b Hathurusinghe | 15 |
| D Boon c Jayasuriya | b Lyanage | 27 |
| D Jones lbw b Gurusinha | 28 | |
| M Waugh c Jayasuriya | b Ramanayake | 0 |
| G Matthews c Muralidharan | b Ramanayake | 55 |
| I Healy lbw b Gurusinha | c McDermott lbw b Muralidharan | 9 |
| A. Dodemaide not out | 16 | |
| M. Whitney lbw b Ramanayake | 1 | |
| Extras: (b-10, lb-14, w-2, nb-6) | 32 | |
| Total: (96.3 overs) | 247 | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-34, 3-69, 4-72, 5-109, 6-181, 7-183, 8-200, 9-239. | | |

Bowling: O M R W
Ramanayake 23.3 7 64 3
Lyanage 30 10 66 3
Hathurusinghe 9 1 26 1
Gurusinha 9 2 18 2
Anurastr 8 0 17 0
Muralidharan 17 2 32 1

SRI LANKA: First Innings

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| R Mahanama not out | 0 |
| C Hathurusinghe not out | 0 |
| Extras | 0 |
| Total | 0 |

To bat: A Gurusinha A de Silva, A Ranatunga, S Jayasuriya, R Kaluwirthana, C Ramanayake, D Lyanage, M Muralidharan, D Anurastr.

Bowling (to date): O M R W
McDermott 1 1 0 0
Whitney 0 2 0 0

Sleeps ton livens up dreary draw

SCARBOROUGH, England, Aug 29: A breezy 182 by Australian Peter Sleep livens up a dreary draw between the World XI and Pakistan at the Scarborough festival here on Friday, reports AFP.

Sleep's 209-minute stay included 20 fours and four sixes in 214 balls.

He hit three successive sixes off left-arm spinner Aamir Sohail but his innings finally ended when he was leg before to Rashid Latif, who had given up the wicket-keeping gloves to become Pakistan's 10th bowler of the innings.

The teams did no declaration deals, and the World XI piled up a big score of 385 for eight, in reply to Pakistan's 253 for six declared as the game fizzled out into a draw.

New Zealand Test player Dipak Patel struck a fine 72 as he shared in a 190-stand with sleep but there was little other entertainment for the festival crowd in a match badly affected by rain over the first two days.

SCOREBOARD

Overnight: Pakistan 253-6 dec (Shoaib Mohammad 105 not out).

WORLD XI: First Innings

| | |
|---|-----|
| Phil Simmons c Rashid Latif b Aamir-Rehman | 23 |
| Mark Greatbatch c Rashid Latif b Aamir-Rehman | 45 |
| Richie Richardson c Aamir Sohail | 5 |
| Mushtaq Ahmed | 5 |
| Peter Sleep lbw Rashid Latif | 182 |
| Gordon Greenidge c Zahid Fazal b Aamir Sohail | 24 |
| Roger Harper c Rashid Latif b Inzamam-ul Haq | 11 |
| Dipak Patel c Aamir Sohail b Aaqib Javed | 72 |
| AC Parore not out | 2 |
| Chris Pringle b Rashid Latif | 0 |
| Winston Benjamin not out | 0 |
| Extras: | 21 |
| Total: for 8 wickets | 385 |
| Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-76; 3-85, 4-138, 5-183, 6-373, 7-385, 8-385. | |

Did not bat — Mudassar Nazar

World XI v Pakistan, match drawn.

Bowling: O M R W
Aaqib Javed 22 4 73 1
Naved Anjum 5 1 17 0
Mushtaq Ahmed 16 5 51 1
Aamir-Rehman 9 1 59 2
Shoaib Mohammad 5 0 17 0
Rashid Latif 5 2 17 2
Aamir Sohail 22 1 87 1
Zahid Fazal 9 1 48 0
Inzamam-ul-Haq 1 0 5 1
Moin Khan 1 0 3 0

Indians irked by Gower's gall

NEW DELHI, Aug 29: Indian cricket officials on Saturday denied the allegation by England batsman David Gower this week that Indian bowlers had illegally tampered with the ball during a Test match in 1990, reports Reuter.

Gower's accusation comes in his new book in which he said India interfered with the ball during the match at the Oval on their last tour of England.

"We strongly refute the malicious charge by David Gower," said Chandappa Nagaraj, secretary of the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI).

"It is unfortunate that Gower has made such a grave charge without any basis two years after the series was played in the best traditions of the game," Nagaraj told Reuter in a telephone interview from the southern Bangalore city.

"There were no controversies whatsoever at that time," Nagaraj said.

The official Indian reaction to Gower's book comes a day after the International Cricket Council (ICC) refused to clarify

a furore over alleged ball-doctoring by Pakistani bowlers during the recent series in England.

Their refusal has brought scathing criticism from British newspapers.

Gower said India's efforts to make the ball wobble around did not preclude some surreptitious scuffing-up on one side of the ball.

"This was quickly snuffed out by umpire Nigel Plews," he adds.

The book, which appeared in shops on Thursday ahead of its scheduled publishing date next month when the England team to tour India early next year will have been named, says no more about the incident.

Nagaraj said: "I am shocked that the Test and County Cricket Board has allowed this malicious statement to go through its scrutiny before the book's publication."

"We shall lodge a strong protest against the infringing statement," Nagaraj said.

He said the BCCI would take up the issue with the ICC.

"The Indian Cricket Board will discuss the sorry state of

affairs kicked up by this statement and decide upon the course of action," Nagaraj said.

The manager of India's 1990 cricket team, Madhav Mantri, expressed surprise at Gower's remarks.

"I cannot believe this charges," Mantri said in a statement from Bombay.

"I met the umpires after every match of the tour and they had only good things to say on the players'."

"I did meet umpire Nigel Plews during the (Oval) Test and his views were the same as the other umpires to who I spoke during the tour," Mantri said.

Nagaraj said: "The allegation, coming on the eve of England's tour of India, is an extremely poor taste.... An attempt to sensationalise."

Gower's autobiography may have threatened his chances of touring India as he also criticises retiring England manager Micky Stewart as being "unconvincing and uninspiring."

He described Stewart's team talks on the 1990-91 tour of Australia as "basically meaningless."

Cowdrey calls for prescription against ball doctoring

COLOMBO, Aug 29: The chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Sir Colin Cowdrey,

said on Saturday that tampering with cricket balls during matches was not new but all Test-playing countries would have to agree on a solution to stop it, reports Reuter.

Cowdrey added he was not concerned at press criticism of the refusal by the ICC to clarify a furore over alleged 'ball-doctoring' by Pakistani bowlers during their recent series in England.

"I am not worried about the ICC losing credibility over this issue. The ICC comprises nine Test playing countries and it is up to them to come up with an agreed solution to the problem," Cowdrey told a news conference in Colombo.

"Tampering with the ball has been going on for three or four years. Lots of countries are doing it, even those in the under 19, under 23 age groups are trying to ape the thing," he said.

The 'ball-doctoring' issue flared up after umpires at a one-day match between Pakistan and England last Sunday changed the ball. There was no explanation as to whether it was changed under a law covering damage through natural causes or another law governing unfair play.

England batsman Allan Lamb then accused Pakistan fast bowlers Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram of doctoring the

ball to make it swing when it was several overs old.

The Pakistanis denied these allegations.

The ICC, in an official statement on Friday, refused to clarify the issue and British newspapers condemned the sports ruling body on Saturday.

Cowdrey, who arrived in Sri Lanka after a short tour of India, said that what had come up was a "fantastic issue."

"We are starting on this as if we had a murder hunt. If there is a murder, how are you going to start on it," he asked.

"Next week, when I go back to London, I will be looking at all the umpires' reports, talking to the umpires who stood during the season, looking at match referees' reports and writing to each of the Test playing countries saying this is what has happened this summer and requesting them to study the report and suggest solutions to stop this," Cowdrey said.

Cowdrey was to leave for Madras on Saturday night before flying back to England.

AP adds: The whole controversy was one of "unprofessional" gamesmanship, Cowdrey observed, adding: "The ICC will be speaking to all nine Test playing nations on this issue and an answer will be found soon."

He said a meeting would be summoned next week to study the reports submitted by umpires and match referees on the England-Pakistan Test series, which Pakistan won 2-1.

in the last two years, the best umpires in the world following the game very closely. They couldn't find anything wrong. However, as chairman of the ICC, I have got to see and make certain the image and conduct of the game is preserved," he said.

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French manager Michel Platini resigned after France also failed to make the semifinals.

Taylor shrugs off media criticism

LONDON, Aug 29: England soccer manager Graham Taylor has shrugged off criticism of his performance, saying he was not cracking under media pressure following England's poor showing in the European Championships last June, reports AP.

One English newspaper calls him "turnip head," and others question his suitability for the job, following England's failure to make the championship semifinals in Sweden.

"To say I'm sulking or cracking up is absurd," Taylor said Friday. "I can assure everyone that I am fine and looking ahead to the new international season."

French manager Michel Platini resigned after France also failed to make the semifinals.

Brazil qualify for world youth championship

MEDELLIN, Colombia, Aug 29: Brazil defeated Ecuador 2-0 here Friday in the final phase of the South American youth football championship, earning a spot in the 1993 World Championships in Australia, reports AFP.

Both goals came in the second half, the first through Yan in the 47th minute and the winner from Magrao in the 74th.

However, Brazil dominated the match from the start against an Ecuadorian side that failed to attack throughout.

Magrao set the tone less than 30 seconds into the game, firing a header that hit the post.

The Brazilians had no less than eight near misses in the first half, four of them saved by hard-pressed Ecuadorian goalkeeper Borja.

In Friday's second match, Colombia drew 0-0 with Uruguay. The tournament finishes Sunday, when Uruguay meet Ecuador and Colombia face Brazil.

The top three finishers qualify for the World Championships in Australia in March of next year. Brazil, who have three points going into the final day, are sure to qualify. Colombia and Uruguay have two points apiece, while Ecuador have one.

Kenyan domination at Brussels GP

BRUSSELS, Aug 29: Moses Kiptanui became the third fastest man ever over 5,000 metres on Friday

as the exhilarating Kenyan men's team took over the Brussels Grand Prix athletics meeting, reports Reuter.

The 20-year-old soldier from the talented Nandi tribe just missed out after a spirited attack on Said Aouita's five-year-old world record.

But in the process Chelimo destroyed a field containing compatriot and world champion Yobes Ondieki plus Italy's European champion Salvatore Antibo.

His time of 13 minutes 00.93 seconds was outside Aouita's mark of 12:58.39 but only the little Moroccan and Britain's former world record holder David Moorcroft have ever run faster.

Kiptanui, the world steeplechase champion, missed the Barcelona Olympics but has been in magnificent form this month, breaking the world 3,000 flat and steeplechase records.

Another Kenyan, Olympic silver medalist Richard Chelimo, also fell short in his attempt on the world 10,000 record but still finished half a lap ahead of Italy's Francesco Panatta.

Chelimo clocked 27:31.73 — more than 23 seconds outside 1987 world silver medalist Panetta second in 27:45.46.

Kenyan made a clean sweep of the steeplechase with Philip Barkutwo streaking to victory in 8:12.70, nearly four seconds ahead of Olympic silver medalist Patrick Sang with Olympic champion Matthew Birir in third place.

And William Tanui gave an action replay of his Olympic 800 victory over Nixon Kiprotich, striding strongly in the final straight, while Wilfred Kirochi beat Spain's Olympic champion Fermin Cacho with a devastating finishing kick.

For good measure there was a win for Paul Ruto in the men's 800m race, the last track event of the evening, to underline the astonishing depth in Kenyan middle and long distance running.

Chelimo, who was the Olympic champion for all of 12 hours before the International Amateur Athletic Federation jury of appeal reversed a decision to disqualify Moroccan Khalid Skah, soon fell behind world record pace in the 10,000

But Kiptanui, running the 5,000 for the first time, looked likely to emulate his great compatriot Henry Rono by adding the record to the two 3,000 marks, until just after the halfway stage when he began to drift off the pace.

"I'm sure Aouita tried more than two or three times before he broke it."

Apart from the Kenyans, there was plenty for the crowd of 36,000 to savour on a cool, windy evening far removed from the heat and humidity of Barcelona.

Nigerian Olapade Adeniken beat Olympic 100 metre champion Linford Christie for the third time since Barcelona, and Merlene Ottey was too fast for gold medalist Gail Devers in the women's sprint.

Christie has found it tough

to maintain a competitive edge since his Olympic triumph and faltered in the final metres. Adeniken finished in 10.12 to cap his spectacular triple. Adeniken had already beaten Christie once before the Games.

Christie took second place ahead of Canadian Bruny Surin and American Dennis Mitchell.

For Ottey, a win over Irina Privalova and Devers did little to gloss over her Olympic disappointment. She came from behind to beat Privalova at the tape in 10.89.

Merlene Ottey, who produced a sprint double in the women's 100 and 200 metres, later said she may still compete next year.

The 32-year-old Jamaican, cruelly dubbed the "Bronze Queen" by fellow competitors because of her failure to win a major title, revealed that she had planned to retire after Barcelona.

"I'm now going to take a two-month break in Jamaica and then decide," she said.

Debers progressively weakened during the race, but already had a win to look back to in the Grand Prix. Earlier, she came from behind in the 100 metres hurdles but still prevailed easily over Jamaican Michelle Freeman and fellow American Lynda Tolbert to clock 12.84 — the fourth-best time of the season.

Sandra Farmer-Patrick found it tough to regain a winning touch after defeat in Barcelona. She stumbled in the final straight of the 400 metres hurdles, allowing Margarita Ponomarevna of Russia to steal victory in a time of 54.01.

Farmer-Patrick was beaten at the Olympics by Britain's Sally Gunnel, a no-show in Brussels.

Kevin Young also had trouble with his rhythm late in his high-hurdle race, stalling at last hurdle, but had built a huge cushion early on to be comfortable winner in 47.71, almost a second off his world record set at the Olympics.

"I hit the last hurdle with my knee," he said. The collision broke the skin and he required medical attention.

Young, who became the first man to break 47 seconds when he clocked 46.78 in the Barcelona final to smash Ed Moses's world mark, said he thought he could bring the record below 46 seconds.

He said a sub-46 mark was possible if he could keep a 12-stride pattern between the flights.

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Capriati powers into Mazda Classic semis

SAN DIEGO, California, Aug 29: Second-seeded Jennifer Capriati maintained the momentum from her Olympic