

## Sport



The Pakistan national team, led by Salim Malik (2nd from right), arrived in the city yesterday to play two exhibition matches against Bangladesh in the Gold Leaf One-Day Series. Intikhab Alam (3rd from left) and Majid Jahangir Khan (centre) are the team and tour managers respectively.

## Azharuddin for a change

LUCKNOW, Jan 22: Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin has said that a long-term cricket manager will give fillip to the national team, reports PTI.

"It would be great help. For this would give continuity and enable us to plan on a longer time frame. I would suggest that such a step be taken," Azharuddin told newsmen yesterday, replying to a specific query on whether India needed a long-term cricket manager.

Cricket manager Ajit Wadekar said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) constitution does not permit such a step, but agreed that a long-term manager would enable better planning.

Wadekar said he is enjoying his job and would continue as long as the board wishes.

Wadekar was appointed cricket manager for the tour to South Africa in the winter of 1992 in which the team lost the Test series.

Thereafter, however, Wadekar's association with Azharuddin brought a remarkable turnaround in the Indian team's prospects as India won three consecutive Test series last year and capped it with the five-nation Hero Cup limited overs tournament in November.

After beating England 2-0 and Zimbabwe 1-0, India registered an overseas Test series win after a hiatus of seven years beating Shri Lanka 1-0 last July.

The Wadekar-Azharuddin association has brought India four wins, one defeat and six draws in 11 tests.

## England A play safe

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Jan 22: Hugh Morris' England A side, fresh from their Free State mauling last week, crawled to 2% for six, against Buffalo here at Buffalo Park on Friday, reports AFP.

What England sparkle there was came from openers John Crawley and skipper Morris in a safety first performance.

The England captain's decision to bat on what appeared a good batting strip was the right decision as the pair put on 35 runs of just 42 balls.

But Morris was first to go, run out by Peter Strydom for 15, and from then until the close the pace of the game fell sharply.

The worst offenders were Steven Rhodes (58 not out) and Mal Loye (71), who took 379 balls to reach 131 during their fifth-wicket partnership before Loye was bowled by Ian Howell.

The Border pace attack of Alan Badenhorst and Brendon Fourie looked hell-bent on helping get the game moving.

Both were guilty of straying down the leg and offering the batsmen a tempting variety of short-pitched deliveries.

Badenhorst ended the day with the best figures, claiming the wickets of Crawley and Paul Taylor, caught behind for one, while conceding 65 runs off his 21 overs.

But the reluctance of the England batsmen to get on with the task at hand saw Howell send down 18 maidens in his 28 overs, during which he claimed Loye's scalp while conceding only 16 runs.

Nadim was at the crease on 22 with Saegeer Abbas when the run-chase came to an end.

Rafique, Bipul and Totam got one wicket each while the other batsman to fall Neaz, was run out.

For City, Saiful and Sajal claimed two wickets apiece.

In the relegation league affair at the Mirpur Pallabi ground, Agrani Bank had an easy six-wicket triumph over Evergreen Club, thanks to a superb unbroken knock of 65 from Bipul.

## Lance Cairns to lead NZ XI

WELLINGTON, Jan 22: Former New Zealand Test cricketer Lance Cairns will captain a New Zealand selection XI in the opening match against Pakistan on January 30, reports AFP.

The team for the first tour match was announced today and Cairns will play with his son Chris, a current New Zealand Test player.

Cairns, 44, played 43 Tests between 1973 and 1986 and his total 130 wickets for New Zealand was exceeded only by world record holder Sir Richard Hadlee's 431.

Premier batsman Martin Crowe, now recovering from knee surgery, has also been named in the team.

Pakistan are to play three Tests against New Zealand and five one-day internationals.

The team announced today for the first match in Hamilton is: Lance Cairns (captain), Blair Pocock, Graham Burnett, Martin Crowe, Stephen Fleming, Barry Cooper, Grant Bradburn, Chris Cairns, Jeff Wilson, Adam Parore, Simon Doull.

## Bangladesh face world champs today



A 19-member Pakistan cricket team arrived here yesterday evening to play two one-day matches of the Gold Leaf

series against the Bangladesh national team, reports UNB.

For the first time, Saleem Malik, a right-handed middle order batsman and right arm leg-break and slow-medium bowler, is leading the Pakistan team in Bangladesh and on their New Zealand tour.

The world champions will play two one-day matches — today and tomorrow — at the Dhaka National Stadium. The 45-overs-a-side contests begin at 9:15 am.

Two former national skippers — Roquibul Hasan and Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu — will act as adjudicators.

The Bangladesh national team, now preparing for the ICC Trophy, will be meeting the Pakistanis in their last warm-up matches before leaving for Kenya on January 25.

The matches will be very significant for the Bangladesh boys who, in the meantime, have completed preparatory tours of India, Shri Lanka, and ASM Sajid Hasan.

Chef de mission — KZ Islam; Manager — Reza-e-Karim; Associate Manager — Golam Farooque Apu and Coach — Mahinder Amarnath.

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