

PFF won't take it lying down

LAHORE, Pakistan, Aug 3: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) said Tuesday it would contest any move to suspend the country from international football, reports AFP.

"The recommendation of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to suspend PFF is totally unilateral and we would not allow this to happen," PFF president Mian Muhammad Azhar told a news conference.

The Kuala Lumpur based AFC had recommended Pakistan's suspension after two different teams were sent to an Asian Youth Championship qualifying tournament in the United Arab Emirates last month.

Azhar said the world's football governing body FIFA had been misled by the "suspended" PFF secretary, Hafiz Salman Butt, into believing that two parallel PFF bodies existed.

But, Butt told AFP he had talked to the FIFA general secretary, Sepp Blatter, by telephone and was told that FIFA had suspended Pakistan from international football for six months.

Azhar said he had not received the FIFA decision while Butt said his fax had been faulty and that he had now given a new number to FIFA to receive the decision.

The two PFF officials have been locked in a bitter dispute that has thrown PFF affairs into confusion. Butt dismisses as invalid his suspension from the national body by Azhar.

Azhar said the PFF general council had suspended Butt and the decision had been communicated to the AFC.

Anand needs only a point

HYDERABAD, Aug 3: A crucial, seventh match between American Grandmaster Gata Kamsky and India's Vishwanathan Anand was adjourned Wednesday, with Anand just one win away from a berth in the semifinals of World Chess Championship, reports AP.

With one more match to go, Anand leads 3.5-2.5 over Kamsky in the quarter-finals of the \$150,000 prize money tournament sponsored by the World Chess Federation, known by its French acronym FIDE.

The other matches of the day - between Russian Vladimir Kramnik and Boris Gelfand of Belarus and between Dutch Jan Timman and Russian Valery Salov - ended in draws.

Kramnik and Gelfand, who have just one more match, their eighth, to play, are tied at 3.5 points each. The first to get 4.5 points qualifies for the semifinals.

Timman and Salov have two more matches to go and are tied at three points each. In their sixth game, they agreed to split points after the 42nd move.

Six Grandmasters are competing in the 17-day championship during which each pair plays eight matches. If there are no winners, they go into a tie-breaker round.

On Wednesday, Kamsky having won one game against Anand, played confidently and took risks in a king-side attack early in the game. The game was adjourned with Kamsky at an advantage.

The \$150,000 prize money semifinal would be held at the same venue in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh beginning February 1995. Ravi Sanghi, an organiser announced.

Barnes not finished yet

LIVERPOOL, England, Aug 3: Ex-England international John Barnes has given Liverpool manager Roy Evans a major pre-season boost by declaring: "I want to prove I'm not finished."

The 30-year-old has spent the summer running and dieting and returned to Anfield in his best condition for some time, reports Reuters.

With the new season less than three weeks away, he said on Tuesday he was looking forward to rediscovering the form that once made him the most thrilling winger in the country.

"I've been injured for the past three seasons," said Barnes, who has been plagued by a series of major problems and played just 65 matches since the start of the 1991-92 campaign.

"I may still get injured, but this is the best I've felt for three years. I have to prove to myself, my teammates and the manager that I'm not finished."

Barnes added: "I know I'm not. I don't think my skill or technique has gone because of the injuries, but if you lose your fitness you lose the ability to produce that skill on the field."

"I could have got away with it elsewhere in Europe, but not in England, because here you've got to be fit."



A midfield tussle between Abahani and Wari players during their Star Premier Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

It's Wari for Abahani again

Star photo

Wari, it seems, will never stop coming on when it comes to confrontation of this traditional but unfancied club with the more popular and vaunted names of local soccer.

The proven giant-slayers from old Dhaka conjured the rather familiar sight of being the bogey team for former champions Abahani Krira Chakra when they came back from behind to hold the Dhanmendi team to a one-all draw in yesterday's second Star Premier Division football league match, billed for the Dhaka Stadium.

The second upset of the inchoate Premier league came hot on the heels of the drawn match between Mohammedans and Youngmen's Fakirpool Club on Tuesday in which the latter took a stunning lead against the reigning champions before surrendering it and the distress of a big team for the second successive day gives and early indication of the pattern of the context this year's ten-team Premier league is supposed to unfurl.

The result was not an upset given Wari's long tradition of turning up the biggies with the latest meeting of the two teams recalling a 1-1 draw last year and more so after the new polarisation following Mukti-joddha's emergence as a serious bidder for the title.

Unlike their arch-rivals Mohammedans, Abahani, the DMFA champions, did shoot

Sports Reporter

into the lead in an up and down, entertaining encounter under the flood lights.

Nazar Ali, one of Abahani's two Iraqi recruits, fired the ball home from the edge of the penalty box in the 58th minute after receiving a cross from the right.

Wari custodian Selim, who played for the sky blues last year, had earlier averted a possible disaster for his team when he clung to a 35-yarder pile drive from Abahani skipper Monem Munia that ricocheted off a Wari defender.

Far from being daunted by this early second half set back and drawing inspiration from glorious past spangled with stunning feats of presenting many sleepless nights for the big teams and their supporters, Wari regrouped themselves wonderfully before it was too late.

And the man who provided the touch was the roving, relentless and irrepressible Maqbool who started appearing everywhere in the Abahani citadel much to the horror of the defenders of the sky blues.

After Jewel muffed up any easy chance when Yusuf's minus from the left landed at his feet and the hasty attempt at the goal went out off Abahani defender Partha's body, Wari drew level.

Yusuf released a lovely through and accelerating Shankar outpaced Sohel Reza before letting fly a fierce grass cutter that nestled at the far corner of the net giving absolutely no chance to the Abahani

custodian, Dhanu.

During the last 14 minutes of the match Abahani came across a chance but substitute Mosharraf Hossain Tutul, who was a terror to all the big teams during his stay with Wari before switching to Abahani this year, failed to connect from Nazar Ali much to the chagrin of his new admirers.

Wari, who lost their opener to Brothers 1-3, collected their first point while Abahani garnered their third after a 4-0 victory against Fakirpool in their inaugural match.

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Dhanu, Emdadul, Munna, Sohel, Partha, Zakir (Shamim), Swapan, Jassim, Mehdi (Gaus), Mintu, Aslam (Tutul) and Nazar Ali.

WARI CLUB: Selim, Razzak, Ripon, Shaheed, Chanchal, Kabir (Shoeb), Yusuf, Mantu, Shankar, Jewel and Mokbul.

In day's first match at the same venue, PWD registered their first victory in the Star Premier league, beating Agrani Bank by virtue of a 25th minute goal by Bulbul.

East End and Shamondhi shared points in a goalless encounter in the lone Star First Division tie at the Mirpur Stadium.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Farashganj AC vs Dhaka Wanderers 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

Muktijoddha vs Bangladesh Boys 4-30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Brothers Union vs Arambagh 6-30pm (")

Race for Ronaldo over

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil, Aug 3: PSV Eindhoven have beaten rival Dutch club Ajax in the race to sign rising Brazilian star Ronaldo from Belo Horizonte club Cruzeiro for six million dollars, reports AFP.

The 17-year-old striker was in Brazil's World Cup winning squad although coach Carlos Alberto Parreira chose not to field him in the United States.

Cruzeiro president Cesar Masci said PSV and Ajax both offered six million dollars for the player but only PSV was prepared to meet additional sums payable to the player and to Brazilian Football Federation.

Masci said Ronaldo will play his last game for the Brazilian club against Notogato on Sunday and will leave for the Netherlands early next week.

"We can't force him to stay here and miss a golden opportunity," he said.

Effenberg to go back home

FLORENCE, Italy, Aug 3: Stefan Effenberg, booted off the German World Cup squad for making an obscene gesture at jeering fans, is to leave Fiorentina and return to a Bundesliga club a spokesman for the Italian side said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Werder Bremen and Borussia Moenchengladbach are interested in signing the abrasive midfielder while Bayern Munich have also been in contact with newly promoted Fiorentina, club general manager Giancarlo Antognoni said.

"We have to sell Effenberg. Our problem is that we have four top quality foreign players and can't afford to keep them as we are not involved in European competition," Antognoni added.

Former Italian champions Fiorentina, who have bounced back to the elite Serie A just a year after their shock relegation, have signed Brazilian defender Marcio Santos and Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa.

They also have Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta on their books and with Italian clubs only allowed to field three foreigners in domestic matches there is no room for Effenberg.

English newspapers had suggested Effenberg, who celebrated his 26th birthday on Tuesday, might join Tottenham or another Premier League club but Antognoni said the player wanted to return to Germany rather than move to England.

Amunike's dilemma

LISBON, Aug 3: Nigerian World Cup striker Emmanuel Amunike arrived in Lisbon on Tuesday hoping to join Sporting Lisbon, despite having signed for Duisburg, of Germany's Bundesliga before the World Cup finals, reports Reuters.

Amunike, 22, told reporters on arrival that his deal with Duisburg was made under pressure from Nigeria's Dutch World Cup coach Olemens Westerhof.

Resounding win for Pakistan

COLOMBO, Aug 3: Pakistan batsmen bludgeoned their way to an easy nine-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in their first one-day international cricket match in Colombo Wednesday, reports AP.

Choosing to bat first, Sri Lanka made 200 for six in the allotted 50 overs after their middle-order collapsed. Sanath Jayasuriya scored a career-best 77.

Rain forced organisers to reduce Pakistan's winning target to 168 in 42 overs. Pakistan were 35 for no loss when rain forced players off the field for 38 minutes.

Pakistan scored 169 in 30.2 overs, losing just one wicket.

Left-hander Saeed Anwar and Inzamam-ul Haq ensured Pakistan's victory with an undefeated second wicket stand of 98 runs off 104 balls. Anwar, who remained not out on 70, was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

Aamir Sohail and Anwar made 71 runs off 78 balls for the opening partnership.

For Sri Lanka, Jayasuriya and Sanjeeva Ranatunga with 31 seemed set to build a large total until Pakistan skipper Salim Malik made a breakthrough in the 26th over. Malik claimed the wickets of Jayasuriya and Sanjeeva Ranatunga.

Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga

with 33 runs off 38 balls tried to push the scoreboard, but was soon run out.

Wednesday's match was first event of Pakistan's Sri Lanka tour. Two more one-



SAEED ANWAR... m-o-m

days and three Tests would be played during the tour.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sri Lanka v Pakistan one-day (50 overs - a-side) cricket match on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA
Jayasuriya c Raza b Malik 77
S. Ranatunga st Latif b Malik 31

Gurusingha b Raza	5
P. Silva run out	15
A. Ranatunga run out	33
Tillekeratne run out	13
Kalpage not out	7
Desanayake not out	5
Extra: (lb-4, w-6, nb-4)	15
Total: (six wickets, innings closed)	200
Fall of wickets: 1-80; 2-97; 3-133; 4-143; 5-180; 6-194.	
Did not bat: H. Ramanayake, C. Wicremasinghe, M. Muralidharan	
Bowling	O M R W
Akram	10 0 38 0
Waqar	8 2 38 0
Ashfaq	8 1 33 0
Raza	10 1 27 1
Malik	10 0 44 2
Sohail	4 0 16 0

PAKISTAN
Saeed Anwar not out 70
Aamir Sohail c Tillekeratne b Muralidharan 38
Inzamam-ul Haq not out 53
Extras: (b-3, lb-5) 8
Total: (For one wicket, 30.2 overs) 169

Fall of wickets: 1-71.
Did not bat: Salim Malik, Asif Mujtaba, Zahid Fazal, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Akram Raza, Waqar Younis, Ashfaq Ahmed.

Bowling	O M R W
Wicremasinghe	7 0 43 0
Ramanayake	7.2 0 38 0
Kalpage	9 1 34 0
Gurusingha	1 0 10 0
Muralidharan	4 1 21 1
Jayasuriya	2 0 15 0

Result: Pakistan won on faster scoring rate.

England-S Africa 2nd Test begins today

Testing time for skippers

LEEDS, England, Aug 3: Mike Atherton is facing the sternest examination of his England captaincy in the second Test while South African counterpart Kepler Wessels is confronting a battle to be fit, reports Reuters.

Atherton has a more complex task for the match starting at Headingley on Thursday in the wake of the dirt-in-the-pocket controversy.

The incident in the first Test at Lord's when Atherton was seen on television rubbing his hand in his trousers pocket and then rubbing the ball, provoked a rumpus and tarnished his previously impeccable image.

England's captain initially denied any wrong doing but later admitted having dirt in his pocket to dry the ball. Actions which brought strong criticism from match referee Peter Burge and a 2,000 pounds sterling 3,050 dollar fine from chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth.

Now Atherton must cope with any distractions that may follow the affair while orchestrating the fightback against South Africa's buoyant team, who lead the three-Test series 1-0 after their momentous victory in the opening match.

South Africa in their first appearance for 29 years in a Lord's Test, underlined their

combative virtually outplaying England to win by 356 runs with a day to spare.

The touring team employed a four-pronged pace attack that mirrored the West Indies' successful strategy, and they can expect to be even more effective in traditional seam bowling conditions at Headingley.

South Africa's concern is over the fitness of Wessels, their first-innings century-maker at Lord's who has a suspected hairline fracture of his right arm.

He suffered the injury when hit by a nasty rearing delivery from Leicestershire left-arm pacesman Alan Mullally on the final day of their three-day match on Monday.

But Wessels, who has been undergoing intensive treatment, is adamant he will play at Headingley.

England's own injury problems worsened on Tuesday when all-rounder Craig White was ruled out not only of the second Test but for the remainder of the season and even possibly the Ashes tour of Australia.

X-rays showed White, who admitted being in pain almost every time he bowled, was suffering a double stress fracture of his left leg.

England already had injury worries about pace pair Darren Gough and Phillip DeFreitas which had prompted the selectors to name 13 in their initial squad.

However, both appeared to be fit on Tuesday and Illingworth said no replacement would be called up for White.

But Illingworth announced a change of policy by playing six specialist batsmen instead of five, a move that follows England's spineless second innings display at Lord's where they were routed for 99.

He said either uncapped seamer Joey Benjamin or recalled left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell would be left out on Thursday ensuring the return of left-hand batsman Graham Thorpe, overlooked since the four of West Indies earlier this year.

Tufnell has been called up for the first time this season following a troubled start to the summer when he appeared in court and was fined after being found guilty of assaulting his former fiancée.

The Middlesex slow bowler returns with a warning from Illingworth "We welcome him back and we believe he can bowl at this level, but he must not step out of line again it could be curtains if he does."

Tufnell is preparing for his comeback in positive mood "I think I'm the best England spinner around and it means so much to me to play for England."

"It's hurt me not playing this summer, but my personal affairs are my business. My job is bowling."

Press irritates Klinsmann

BONN, Aug 3: German striker Juergen Klinsmann on Tuesday slammed British newspaper reports that he would pick up a cheque for every goal at his new English club Tottenham and that had a reputation as a "comman" in the penalty area, reports Reuters.

"That is just rubbish they made up," Klinsmann said in an interview with the German news agency SID.

"Do you really believe that I would make my salary depend on the number of goals? I need to learn a bit about the English media but the German journalists should not believe everything they read in the British tabloids."

Calling Klinsmann a "dive bomber" for a tendency for theatricals in the box, the tabloid Daily Mirror said Klinsmann would be earning 1,000 sterling (1,538 dollars) for every goal he scored.

Even the conservative Times said Klinsmann was one of the most hated figures in world football, saying he was "regarded first and foremost as football's supreme comman."

Klinsmann, Germany's best player in their disappointing World Cup campaign, agreed last week to join Tottenham from French side Monaco in one of the biggest surprises of the pre-season transfer deals.

But the former Internazionale Milan and VfB Stuttgart striker has faced critical headlines in the British media since the deal was announced.

Asked about the reports that English referees would be less likely to be fooled by diving in the area than in the rest of Europe, Klinsmann said: "I can only repeat the comment (I made about the money reports)."

"Anyway, the English defenders are hard but they are

not unfair. The defenders in France seem more unfair than in England."

Klinsmann's move to England came as a surprise to the German football world. During the World Cup the former apprentice baker said he had turned down an offer from England's Everton because he wanted to play in Italy or Spain.

But the 30-year-old forward said he was impressed with

ford, the club said on Wednesday.

Klinsmann who signed from French league club Monaco earlier this week, is expected to partner England international Teddy Sheringham who is returning to the side following an ankle injury.

Tottenham's other World Cup-signing Romanian Ilie Dumitrescu flies into the country at the weekend.

Leeds United received written confirmation from the department of employment on Wednesday that South African striker Philomen Masinga has been granted a work permit.

They have agreed a fee of 275,000 with Johannesburg club Mamelodi Sundowns from 25-year-old Masinga, and the government department's decision could open the way for more South African footballers to join English clubs.

Masinga, who is with Leeds at a training camp in Italy, is expected to play in England for the first time when Leeds visit Port Vale for a pre-season friendly on Saturday.

Stars provide early spur for Spurs

LONDON, Aug 3: Even before they have kicked a ball, the 4.6 million pounds (£6.9 million) English soccer club Tottenham spent on World Cup stars Ilie Dumitrescu and Juergen Klinsmann has proved a sound investment, reports AP.

With three weeks before the season kicks off, Tottenham reported Wednesday they are struggling to keep up with demand for tickets and expected to sell more than 500,000 pounds worth of season tickets before than. Each home match at White Hart Lane is tipped to be a sell-out.

Golla flashes with willow

Sports Reporter

Javed Omar Belim Golla flashed with the willow for the second successive day to lead a rather youthful looking Bangladesh eleven to its third victory on a trot in the ongoing international youth cricket tournament over hosts Malaysia by a better run rate.

At the Victoria Institution ground in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Golla batted admirably to remain unbeaten when rain intervened with the Bangladeshi score at 123 for three in reply to the modest host collection of 162 for nine in 49 overs, the quota for the day owing to a rain-delayed start.

The result meant that Bangladesh, who had beaten

ing bat, along with Jeevan Nair provided some sort of resistance for the second wicket until Golla, who returned useful figures of one wicket for nine runs in four overs, got into the act. His only wicket of the match came when Rohan found himself plumb lbw after scoring a painfully cautious 11.

With Rohan's departure, things started to fall apart for the host cricketers and wickets fell regularly.

Although Suresh scored the highest individual score of 73, the Malaysians never really recovered and at the end of the 49th over, they were 162 for nine wickets.

Mostadir Litu claimed three scalps for 33 runs in his spell of nine overs while four Bangladeshi bowlers picked one each. Skipper Durjoy got the pricey wicket of Suresh when he lured the batsman out of his crease to give Khaled Masud, his deputy behind the stumps, enough time to whip the balls off.

Set to score 163 in 49 overs, Bangladesh were given a solid start by the opening pair of Golla and Mafizul Islam Biplob putting on 43 runs for the first wicket. Biplob was the first to go, caught Shankar bowled Rohan for 10.

Mehrab Hossain Opi, the centurion in Bangladesh's previous match, then joined forces with Golla and together they took the score to 117 when Rohan struck again, sending the one-down batsman back for 32.

Cronje joins Leicestershire

LEICESTER, England, Aug 3: South African Test vice-captain Hansie Cronje has signed a contract to play for English county Leicestershire next season, reports AFP.

The 24-year-old batsman, who will replace Phil Simmons when the West Indian joins his Test party touring England, chose the Grace Road side ahead of offers from several other counties.

Leicestershire manager Jack Birkenshaw said: "I'm delighted Hansie has decided to join us."



Caen's Swedish international Kennet Anderson (foreground) is involved in an aerial deal with Cannes' Ludovic Pollet during a French league match on August 2. Caen lost 1-0.

— AFP photo