



The England A team which arrived in the capital yesterday for a ten-day visit to Bangladesh. They will play two limited-over matches on February 20 and 22 followed by a three-day match starting from February 24.

England A team in Dhaka

A 15-member England A squad arrived in the city yesterday to play two limited overs and one three-day exhibition matches.

Veteran Allan Wells is leading second string representatives of England, who only recently demolished their Indian counterparts making a clean sweep in the unofficial three-test series.

Following are the thumbnail sketches of the England A players:

ALAN WELLS: Captain; Sussex; RHB; Born 2-10-61; One of the most consistent batsmen in English cricket in recent years.

MARK RAMPRAKASH: Vice-captain; Middlesex; RHB; OB; Born 5-9-69; Still regarded as one of England's finest batting prospects despite the fact that he has passed 50 only once in his 14 Tests.

GLEN CHAPPEL: Lancashire; RHB; RFM; Born 23-1-74; Toured New Zealand, Canada, Pakistan and India with England Young Cricketers.

PAUL NIXON: Leicester; LHB; WK; Born 21-10-70; Combative wicketkeeper-batsman who had his best season last year, scoring more than 1,000 runs, including three centuries, and claiming 62 dismissals.

DAVID HEMP: Glamorgan; LHB; Born 8-11-70; A gifted left-hander, he toured Barbados, Trinidad, New Zealand and Australia with various Welsh teams before making Glamorgan debut in 1991.

KEITH PIPER: Warwickshire; RHB; WK; Born 18-12-69; Lively wicketkeeper-batsman who was an integral part of the Warwickshire team which completed a treble by winning the County Championship, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League last season.

DOMINIC CORK: Derbyshire; RHB; RFM; Born 7-8-71; Made Derbyshire debut in 1990; Toured Australia with England Young Cricketers and is making his fourth 'A' tour, following trips to West Indies, Australia and South Africa.

JASON GALLIAN: Lancashire; RHB; RM; Born 25-6-71; Made Lancashire debut in 1990 and scored 874 runs, including highest score of 171, at an average of 42 last season.

RICHARD JOHNSON: Middlesex; RHB; RFM; Born 29-12-74; Made Middlesex debut at 17; Still a novice but hit the headlines last season when he ran through the Derbyshire batting to become the first bowler to take all 10 wickets in a championship match for 30 years.

NICK KNIGHT: Warwickshire; LHB; Born 28-11-69; Made county debut for Essex in 1991; A talented left-hander, he had his best season in 1994, scoring 944 runs, including four centuries and disappointed Essex at the end of it by leaving to join Warwickshire.

PAUL WEEKES: Middlesex; LHB; OB; Born 8-7-69; Made his Middlesex debut in 1990. Last season was his best so far, producing 648 runs — and his maiden century — at an average of 34 and 41 wickets at 33 apiece.

Leicester debut in 1989, taking eight catches on his debut against Warwickshire.

MINAL PATEL: Kent; RHB; SLA; Born 7-8-70; Leading wicket-taker in English cricket last season when his looping left arm spin claimed 90 victims, including five or more in an innings six times, at 22 runs apiece.

IAN SALISBURY: Sussex; RHB; LBG; Born 21-1-70; England's first specialist leg-spinner for 20 years; Made Sussex debut in 1989, and winning his first Test cap two years later.

RICHARD STEMP: Yorkshire; RHB; SLA; Born 11-12-67; Began his first-class career with Worcestershire in 1990; Was in the England Test squad against New Zealand last year.

MICHAEL VAUGHAN: Yorkshire; RHB; OB; Born 29-11-74; Made his Yorkshire debut in 1993 and scored more than 1,000 runs, including three centuries, at an average of 36 in his first full season in 1994; Also picked up some useful wickets with his tidy off-spin bowling.

PAUL WEEKES: Middlesex; LHB; OB; Born 8-7-69; Made his Middlesex debut in 1990. Last season was his best so far, producing 648 runs — and his maiden century — at an average of 34 and 41 wickets at 33 apiece.

BCCB announces nat'l squad

Akram Khan retained his job as the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday announced a 14-member Bangladesh contingent in view of the exhibition matches against the visiting England A team from tomorrow.

The burly Chittagonian, who has been there since the unceremonious exit of Faruque Ahmad, the leader of Bangladesh's failed ICC Trophy campaign in Kenya, will captain Bangladesh in the two one-dayers followed by a three-day match all at the Dhaka Stadium.

Hasibul Hossain, Zakaria Imtiaz, Khaled Masud and Naimur Rahman have either won promotion to the national squad or won back their position in the national team after proving themselves for the youth or the A team in the recent spate of exhibition matches involving Kenya, Hong Kong and the Hyderabad Cricket Association.

Batsmen Habibur Bashar, Ziauddin Ahmad and spinner Sharfuddinul Haque have been relegated to stand-bys.

Although the combination of players remained unchanged, former national cricketer Riqibul Hassan replaced Tanveer Haider, another national cricketer of the yester years, as the manager of the team.

During their ten-day tour of Bangladesh England A team will play two one-day matches on February 20 and 22 and a three-day from February 24 to 26.

NAT'L SQUAD

Akram Khan (skipper), Minhazul Abedin, Aminul Islam, Athar Ali Khan, Jhangir Alam, Enamul Huq, Mohammed Rafiq, Saiful Islam, Anisur Rahman, Hasibul Hossain, Zakaria Imtiaz, Javed Omar, Belim, Khaled Masud, and Naimur Rahman.

Sun wants to steal the sky

BEIJING, Feb 18: China's Sun Caiyun, who broke the women's indoor pole vault world record three times in less than a week returned to Beijing to a heroine's welcome on Friday and said she hoped to keep setting the standard, reports Reuter.

"I hope I can clear 4.20 metres in the near future," Xinhua news agency quoted Sun as saying.

The 21-year-old Sun from China's booming southern province of Guangdong, cleared 4.15m at the Erfurt indoor athletics meeting in Germany on Wednesday.

"That vault broke the 4.13m record she set in Karlsruhe on Sunday completing an extraordinary series in Germany where she set five world bests in under three weeks.

Sun who stands 1.7m tall set her first record with a vault of 4.10m in Swebiruecken on January 28. Six days later she managed 4.11m in Pulheim then cleared 4.12m in Berlin on February 10, two days before competing in Karlsruhe.

Her coach, Chen Guoming, was optimistic: she could smash the world record again.

Harare Test nicely poised

HARARE, Feb 18: Pakistan and Zimbabwe shared the honours on the third day today to leave the third and final cricket Test evenly poised, reports AFP.

Pakistan finished the day on 235-6 and had an effective lead of 223 with two days to go.

At the close, Pakistan vice-captain Rashid Latif was 1 not out and Wasim Akram was yet to score.

The Pakistan total was in the main indebted to a 116-run fourth wicket partnership between Inzamamul Haq and Ijaz Ahmed.

They took the score from 88-3 to 204-4 with the inform Inzamam scoring his fourth half century of the series.

He was finally out for 83 in the 80th over, slashing at a wide Guy Whittall delivery to be taken superbly by Grant Flower in the slips.

Inzamam, who earlier in his innings passed 300 runs for the series, faced 180 balls and hit 12 fours in an innings lasting four hours and nine minutes.

Zimbabwe came back strongly in the final hour, striking twice more and taking the last three wickets only for 29.

Aamir Sohail, who batted lower down the order because of a back problem, made a quick 19 before cutting straight to Grant Flower in the gully in the 84th over.



INZAMAM... 83

Three overs later and the second with the new ball Ijaz Ahmed's 223-minute innings ended when he top-edged a hook shot straight to Whittall at deep square leg.

Ijaz, who has also had a good series with the bat, made 55 off 165 balls and hit six fours.

The most economical bowler was Bryan Strang who finished with 1-27 off 26 overs with 16 maidens. Heath Streak took two wickets to take his tally for the series to 20.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the third Test between Zimbabwe and Pakistan at the Harare Sports Club on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 231 (Inzamamul Haq 101; H Streak 4-53)

ZIMBABWE: First innings 243 (Aaqib Javed 4-64)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 26 (Shakeel Ahmed c A Flower b B Strang 33; Inzamamul Haq c G Flower b Whittall 83; Salim Malik c Carlisle b Whittall 5; Ijaz Ahmed c Whittall b Streak 55; Aamir Sohail c G Flower b Whittall 19; Rashid Latif not out 1; Wasim Akram not out 0; Extras: (lb-2, w-3, nb-8) 13; Total: (for six wickets) 235

Fall of wickets: 1-58; 2-72; 3-88; 4-204; 5-230; 6-233

Bowling (to date) O M R W
Streak 15 3 44 2
Brain 14 2 55 0
Whittall 22 3 66 3
B Strang 26 16 27 1
P Strang 13 3 41 0

Majid Khan's new job

ISLAMABAD, Feb 18: Former Pakistan skipper Majid Khan is being tipped to lead a new national cricket body to prepare to host the 1996 World Cup with India and Sri Lanka, a report said Saturday, reports AFP.

The changes are expected after Javed Burki, head of a special cricket affairs committee since the dissolution of the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) last year, returns home from abroad.

Associated Press of Pakistan said the BCCP, of which President Farooq Ahmed Leghari is chief patron, would be renamed the Pakistan Cricket Board.

The official agency said Arif Ali Khan Abbasi was expected to retain his post as secretary.

Some former Test players have strongly criticised what they call the slow and flawed preparatory work for the World Cup matches.

Burki, who is currently in Zimbabwe, is also to visit London for talks with International Cricket Conference (ICC) officials on bribery allegations against Pakistani cricketers by Australian players.

Haynes loses his fight for Test recall

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Feb 18: Desmond Haynes has lost his fight to be considered for a recall by West Indies in their forthcoming Test and one-day series against the touring Australians, reports Reuter.

West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) rules stipulate players must take part in five Red Stripe Cup first-class games to be eligible for selection, but Haynes took up a contract in South Africa and played in four matches.

WICBC said in a statement on Thursday it had considered a report by a committee set up to review Haynes's request for a dispensation on the grounds of exceptional circumstances, but decided with regret that no new grounds had been advanced on Haynes's behalf which warranted a reversal of its earlier decision.

"In first enunciating this policy in 1983, the board was guided by its commitment to its sponsor and more particularly its responsibility for the long term development of West Indies cricket," the statement added.

Opener Haynes did not go on West Indies' tour of India late last year nor their recent visit to New Zealand.

Australia's two-month tour of the Caribbean opens on March 5 and includes four Tests and five limited overs internationals.

Bruno on title chase again

SHEPTON MALLET, England, Feb 18: British heavy-weight Frank Bruno has gone to an out-of-the-way place to start his bid for another shot at a world title, reports AP.

Bruno, who has lost title bouts to Tim Witherstone, Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis, fights for the first time in 16 months Saturday when he takes on Puerto Rican Rodolfo Mariq at the less-than-renowned West of England Show-ground.

Sarfraz serves a stunner

ISLAMABAD, Feb 18: Corruption in Pakistani cricket is widespread according to a special adviser to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and he has asked a government committee to launch an investigation into the sport, reports AP.

"Even local matches are fixed in Pakistan," former Test cricketer Sarfraz Nawaz told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from his home in the eastern city of Lahore.

"Betting is very high. It goes into the millions of rupees," he said recalling one report that Pakistani cricketers were offered 10 million rupees or \$1.3 million to throw a match against South Africa.

Nawaz's comments come in the wake of allegations that spin bowlers Shane Warne and Tim May were among Australian players offered bribes to throw matches during their tour of Pakistan last October and November.

Pakistani Test cricketers, on a tour of Zimbabwe, have vehemently denied the charges. Test team captain Salim Malik said he was shocked at the allegations.

Most Pakistanis wonder why the allegations are being made five months after the alleged bribes were offered.

A local sports editor, Gul Hameed Bhatti, said "the timing is suspicious." Many Pakistanis say the allegations are being made five months after the alleged bribes were offered.

But Burki, chairman of the ad hoc committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) said he wanted Pakistan's name cleared.

"I do not believe any member of the Pakistan side is involved with all these allegations... we are keen to ensure that Pakistan's name is cleared," Burki was quoted as saying in The News, an English-language daily newspaper.

Most Pakistanis wonder why the allegations are being made five months after the alleged bribes were offered.

A local sports editor, Gul Hameed Bhatti, said "the timing is suspicious." Many Pakistanis say the allegations are being made five months after the alleged bribes were offered.

The International Cricket Council in London is investigating the media reports — which surfaced in the past week in Australian newspapers, and is scheduled to meet next week on the matter.

Nawaz said the domestic investigation into local cricket would be welcomed.

"I think in the end this (controversy) will be good for our cricket because the culprits should be revealed," he said.

But it has been the bribery claims in Test cricket that have gained international attention.

Javed Burki, chairman of the ad hoc committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) said he wanted Pakistan's name cleared.

"I do not believe any member of the Pakistan side is involved with all these allegations... we are keen to ensure that Pakistan's name is cleared," Burki was quoted as saying in The News, an English-language daily newspaper.

Most Pakistanis wonder why the allegations are being made five months after the alleged bribes were offered.

A local sports editor, Gul Hameed Bhatti, said "the timing is suspicious." Many Pakistanis say the allegations are being made five months after the alleged bribes were offered.

But Burki, chairman of the ad hoc committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) said he wanted Pakistan's name cleared.

"I do not believe any member of the Pakistan side is involved with all these allegations... we are keen to ensure that Pakistan's name is cleared," Burki was quoted as saying in The News, an English-language daily newspaper.

Most Pakistanis wonder why the allegations are being made five months after the alleged bribes were offered.

A local sports editor, Gul Hameed Bhatti, said "the timing is suspicious." Many Pakistanis say the allegations are being made five months after the alleged bribes were offered.

Reynolds reigns in Ohio

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Feb 18: Riding high on an emotional wave of hometown support, Butch Reynolds claimed victory in the 400 metres in his first and only appearance on the US Indoor Athletics Tour on Friday, reports Reuter.

"It was great to come out and get that standing ovation," the 30-year-old from Akron, Ohio, said after winning in Cleveland in 48.45 seconds.

Reynolds, whose 1988 world record of 43.29 in Zurich still stands, was suspended in 1989 by the International Amateur Athletics Federation for alleged steroid use.

Reynolds, who consistently denied any steroid use, has since been reinstated after a lengthy battle.

But he remains on the outs with his own national association. Reynolds is receiving no appearance money to compete on its newly created indoor circuit, unlike other top athletes.

But Reynolds said he gets constant home support in his continuing struggle with the USA Track and Field Association.

Other faces more familiar on the North American Indoor Circuit, which culminates at the USA Mobil Indoor Championships in Atlanta on March 3-4, also enjoyed victories.

Three-time Olympic gold medal winner Jackie Joyner-Kersey (heptathlon 1988 and 1992, long jump 1988) continued her winning ways in 1995 by edging Jamaican Michelle Freeman in the 60 metre hurdles.

"I got out poorly but still kept my concentration," said Joyner-Kersey. "And I feel this is my best time (7.93) this year for the 60 meter hurdles.

Last week in Reno, Nevada, Joyner-Kersey set a new US indoor record for the 50-metre hurdles with a time of 6.67.

the USA Mobil Indoor Championships in Atlanta on March 3-4, also enjoyed victories.

Three-time Olympic gold medal winner Jackie Joyner-Kersey (heptathlon 1988 and 1992, long jump 1988) continued her winning ways in 1995 by edging Jamaican Michelle Freeman in the 60 metre hurdles.

"I got out poorly but still kept my concentration," said Joyner-Kersey. "And I feel this is my best time (7.93) this year for the 60 meter hurdles.

Last week in Reno, Nevada, Joyner-Kersey set a new US indoor record for the 50-metre hurdles with a time of 6.67.

Other faces more familiar on the North American Indoor Circuit, which culminates at the USA Mobil Indoor Championships in Atlanta on March 3-4, also enjoyed victories.

Three-time Olympic gold medal winner Jackie Joyner-Kersey (heptathlon 1988 and 1992, long jump 1988) continued her winning ways in 1995 by edging Jamaican Michelle Freeman in the 60 metre hurdles.

"I got out poorly but still kept my concentration," said Joyner-Kersey. "And I feel this is my best time (7.93) this year for the 60 meter hurdles.

Last week in Reno, Nevada, Joyner-Kersey set a new US indoor record for the 50-metre hurdles with a time of 6.67.

Other faces more familiar on the North American Indoor Circuit, which culminates at the USA Mobil Indoor Championships in Atlanta on March 3-4, also enjoyed victories.

Three-time Olympic gold medal winner Jackie Joyner-Kersey (heptathlon 1988 and 1992, long jump 1988) continued her winning ways in 1995 by edging Jamaican Michelle Freeman in the 60 metre hurdles.

Two English fans sentenced

LONDON, Feb 18: A Dublin court sentenced two English soccer fans to two months in jail Friday for their part in Wednesday night's riot at the Ireland-England game in Dublin, reports AP.

The photograph of Stephen Sloan and Stephen Cairns attacking a steward at the game had appeared in many newspapers in Ireland and Britain. They were arrested after a tipoff from a member of the public who recognized the faces.

Sloan, 21, and Kearns, 23, both from Birmingham, pleaded guilty to causing a breach of peace and were freed on bail pending an appeal. Kearns' brother, Anthony, admitted chanting slogans and making threatening gestures and was fined 200 pounds (\$320).

Meanwhile, the English Football Association was swamped with calls from fans who rang a special telephone hotline to report the names of hooligans recognized from television coverage of the riot.

British newspapers also tracked down many of the offenders and published their names and photographs. Many that were interviewed freely expressed pride in their actions and made remarks sympathetic with right-wing extremist groups.

Some 40 people were injured, including one press photographer with a fractured skull, when the violence erupted at Lansdowne Road, adding another chapter to England's sorry history of hooliganism. The game was abandoned in the first half.

The FA said it would place the names of anyone shown to have taken part in the violence on its register of hooligans and try to prevent them from getting tickets to future England away games. English ticket allocations for such games are strictly controlled by an official travel club, although that didn't stop the hooligans from buying tickets from scalpers outside the stadium Wednesday night.

The KNVB is considering an eight day suspension, two days before next Wednesday's international friendly in Eindhoven, and five days after it.

But since Ajax play Saturday at Dordrecht, but not again until March 1 in the European Champions Cup, the players, led by striker Marc Overmars and defender Frank de Boer, appear unconcerned.

They are planning a training period in Greece, leaving on Monday and returning Saturday, said Ajax spokesman David Endt.

The Ajax eight are protesting the KNVB's decision to reschedule a Dutch Cup quarter-final match for March 8, which will require the Ajax players to play six games in 18 days.

Ajax are scheduled to play league games on March 5, 11 and 19. Champions Cup matches on March 1 and 15, and the Dutch Cup match March 8.

The Dutch Cup match was rescheduled to make room for the friendly against Portugal. When the roster was announced, national team coach Guus Hiddink called eight members of Ajax, but no more than two from any other club.

Manchester United player, Eric Cantona, accompanied by his son arrived at Orly Airport in France yesterday from Point-a-Pitre (Guadeloupe) where he spent his holidays. Cantona is suspended until the end of the season by his club for having attacked a spectator during a match against Crystal Palace in January.



Manchester United player, Eric Cantona, accompanied by his son arrived at Orly Airport in France yesterday from Point-a-Pitre (Guadeloupe) where he spent his holidays. Cantona is suspended until the end of the season by his club for having attacked a spectator during a match against Crystal Palace in January.

Ajax octet in a mess

AMSTERDAM, Feb 18: The Dutch Soccer Federation said Friday it likely will suspend eight Ajax players who are refusing to play for the national team against Portugal, but the players say they don't care because they'll be in Greece, reports AP.

"We have not banned them yet, but I am sure it will happen very shortly," said KNVB spokesman Rob de Leden. "According to FIFA regulations, this is the penalty we have at our disposal."

He added that the KNVB was considering further action against the players and Ajax officials.

The KNVB is considering an eight day suspension, two days before next Wednesday's international friendly in Eindhoven, and five days after it.

But since Ajax play Saturday at Dordrecht, but not again until March 1 in the European Champions Cup, the players, led by striker Marc Overmars and defender Frank de Boer, appear unconcerned.

They are planning a training period in Greece, leaving on Monday and returning Saturday, said Ajax spokesman David Endt.

The Ajax eight are protesting the KNVB's decision to reschedule a Dutch Cup quarter-final match for March 8, which will require the Ajax players to play six games in 18 days.

Ajax are scheduled to play league games on March 5, 11 and 19. Champions Cup matches on March 1 and 15, and the Dutch Cup match March 8.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fool
4 Ruin the veneer
7 Assigned stations
12 Adverse
13 Raw rock
14 Battle cries?
15 Madhouse
16 Rapid transit, of a sort
18 Finale
19 Ring matches
20 Editor's place
22 Dos Passos trilogy
23 Lady of the Haus
27 Scull need
29 Take the "A" train?
31 Long
34 1966 song, "Walk Away, —"
35 Poor substitute
37 Gal of song
38 Connery or Penn
39 Rocks
41 Arp's genre
45 Equine

noise
47 Become one
48 A common carrier
52 Peninsula St.
53 "My Friend Flicka" author
54 Blackbird
55 Einstein's birthplace
56 Fleming or Cass
57 Minus: abbr.
58 Vegas opener?
DOWN
1 Evaluated, with "up"
2 Stag
3 Trudges

4 Ancient Dead Sea kingdom
5 Manchester mail?
6 Picture puzzle
7 Chums
8 — pro nobis
9 Sermon subject
10 Central X
11 Away from NNW
17 Beehive State
21 Text comprised of 114 suras
23 Scandinavian

plateau
24 Sought office
25 Expert
26 Luau strings, in brief
28 Rubber-tree plant mover
30 George's brother
31 Absolutely
32 Prior to
33 Simile center
36 Galvanizing stuff
37 Calm
40 "Over There" composer
42 Terrible
43 Perry's aide
44 Either of two presidents
45 Command to Fido
46 Advanced math course
48 Bribe
49 Start of many titles
50 Joplin's style
51 Work unit

EBB PLEB CUBA
PAY LOGO APOD
INTHEWAY DONE
MOD DEMANDS
AVENGE REV
ROW ELK LEWIS
ALAS FIG RACE
LEVIE POS TOE
ALA DEFEND
PATRICK CUR
EMIT MOTORWAY
ROME ELAN AVE
USED SAND YAW

Solution time: 25 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP

B Q Z J Y U H J P V C X P K Q -
C Y A Y K R A U P K Z U N H N P H
J Y C I I P Z X B B C V B R .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY CLEVER THIEF
ROBBED MUSIC STORE DOWNTOWN AND MADE
OFF WITH THE LUTE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.