

Saqlain wins Yardley's heart

PERTH, Australia, Oct 30: Australia's former off-spinning legend Bruce Yardley astonished media colleagues when he leapt from his television commentary box seat and screamed with delight at the WACA ground here today, reports AFP.

"Grant, good on you" he exclaimed, overcome with emotion when Pakistan's youthful little off-spinner, Saqlain Mushtaq, snatched his first wicket in Australia on the third day of the match against Western Australia.

There was something very special for Yardley about that initial scalp for the 18-year-old.

It came the day after Yardley had a long session with Saqlain, passing on some of the tips he learned during his long and fruitful career which produced 126 wickets, an average 31.63, in 33 Tests.

Yardley must have transferred some of his own playing magic to the budding star, because Saqlain went on to complete a dream-like 5-39 from 16.2 overs.

"I had watched him bowling in Western Australia's first innings of the match and I could see there were a few fundamentals he had wrong," Yardley explained.

"So I wanted to have a word with him after play Sunday night, he obviously had great potential, but he had to learn how to bowl in Australian conditions.

"It is a different game in Australia, you have to create your angles. I drew some diagrams for him to illustrate my point."

Saqlain's initial victim was former Test left-hander Justin Langer, snapped up at slip by Inzamamul Haq and from only the teenager's eighth ball of the day.

Just to show Yardley's lesson had well and truly sunk in, Saqlain also snipped up Mark Lavender, one of the form batsmen of Australian cricket, former Test batsmen Tom Moody and Damien Martyn and Adam Gilchrist, a wicketkeeper batsman tipped to be Australia's next Test keeper.

And the final word from Yardley: "I believe he is a young player with a great future."

Jabbar instead of Johnson

TAIPEI, Oct 30: US basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar and the all-star team arrived in Taiwan on Sunday to play two exhibition games, said officials for the games promoter, reports AFP.

Jabbar was replacing Magic Johnson, who was barred from coming to Taiwan because he carries the AIDS-causing Human Immunodeficiency (HIV) virus, they said.

The health department's decision to bar Johnson triggered strong protests from basketball fans and players here, while anti-AIDS activists said the ruling was a "counter promotion of AIDS prevention in Taiwan."

Johnson was originally scheduled to give a lecture on AIDS prevention for young people here.

Oman book KL berth

NEW DELHI, October 30: Oman defeated India 2-1 to enter the final round of the Olympic soccer Asian qualifying competition in Goa on Sunday, reports Xinhua.

Playing in Asian zone Group D, Oman took the lead in the 15th minute through M Sultane while India's Shabbir levelled the score in the 36th, but S Abdallah scored the winning goal in the 75th minute for the visiting team.

The final round is to be held from March 13-31, 1996 in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia, with eight group winners participating. The top three teams book the berths in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

The eight teams in the final round are China, Japan, South Korea, Iraq, Kazakhstan, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

FIFA team to explore ROK's WC worthiness

SEOUL, Oct 30: A FIFA team will begin a week-long tour here this week to inspect South Korea's preparedness for hosting the 2002 World Cup, before travelling on to rival prospective host, Japan, the Korean bidding committee said Monday, reports AFP.

Salim ready to strafe

KARACHI, Oct 30: Former Pakistan cricket captain Salim Malik, under a cloud over bribe allegations, says he is ready to face the Aussies in the forthcoming cricket series and does not need any flak jacket.

"I am a brave man and not a coward. I have scored runs against all kinds of bowlers all around the world and I am confident about scoring heavily against Australia," a confident and seemingly unperturbed Malik told AFP today, at the National Stadium in Karachi.

Malik had gone to the stadium to collect his travel documents hours before flying to Australia.

Malik will join the touring Pakistan squad in Perth tomorrow.

"I am not afraid of the Australians. I know how to handle hostile Australian press and players. I have known since my first tour to Australia that they use abusive language freely during matches," said the 33-year-old Pakistani cricketer, who has represented Pakistan in 210 one-day international matches and scored 4,804 runs in 84 Test matches including 13 centuries.

"I don't need any flak jacket or boxing gloves. I am going there to play cricket, in Australian conditions."

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Johnson was originally scheduled to give a lecture on AIDS prevention for young people here.

Jabbar and the all-star team, made up of former National Basketball Association (NBA) players, will take on the local Hung Fu Rams on Monday in the central city of Taichung and on Wednesday in the northern city of Taoyuan, the officials said.

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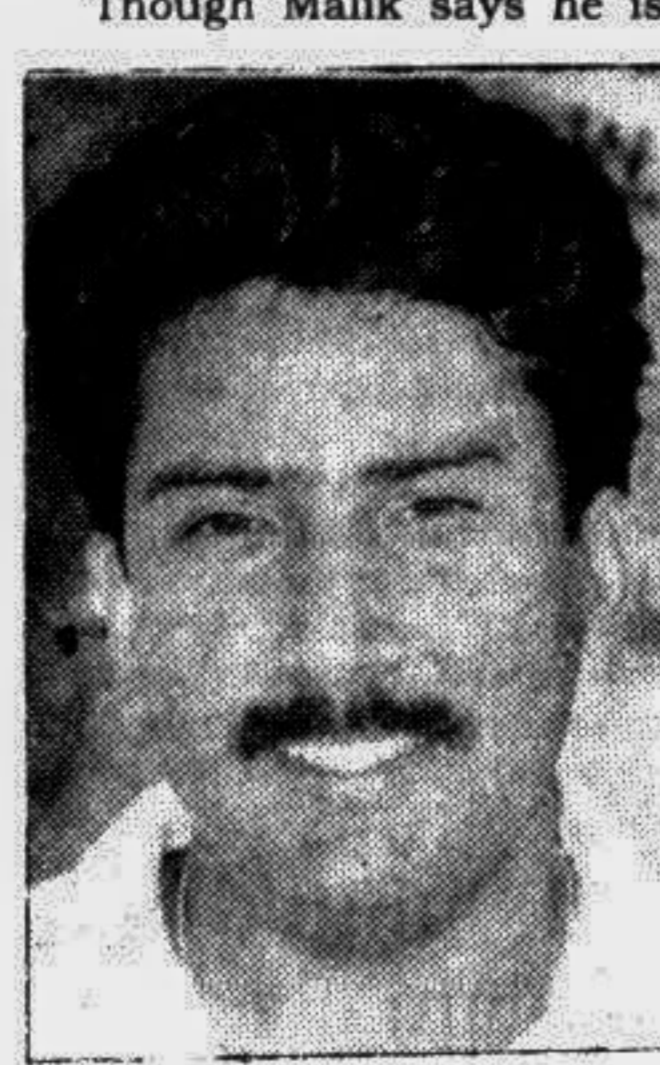
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not for a wrestling match," he says. "It will be challenging for me and I am confident about it."

"The whole period of suspension was very difficult," Malik says. "It was tense and I used to play golf to relax. But I knew I would be back and thanks to the prayers of my wife and all others, I am back in the game I have always loved so much," he said.

Though Malik says he is confident about his return to the crease in Australia, he admits that he lacks match practice.

"I did not play cricket at all and I think it would have been better had I played



SALIM MALIK

some matches. I did not even play domestic or club cricket. I only played golf. But I hope three or four days in Australia will be sufficient for me," he said.

"I have been under pressure since I made my debut, but great players are bound to perform under pressure. I have confidence in myself."

"I thought about the option of not playing in Australia, but I am a professional cricketer and took it as a challenge," he added.

Salahuddin Ahmad, a member of the selection committee, said Malik is a classic player and would adjust himself in Australia "pretty well." PCB chief Arif Abbasi agreed to the notion. "The fact that he agreed to go to Australia simply shows that he was not disturbed at all and has a will to show his talent," Abbasi said.

Malik is also looking forward to facing Shane Warne, a leg-spin magician who can make the ball do amazing things. "He levelled charges against me most probably because he could not take my wicket in the last series," Malik remarked.

"I heard that he is not playing in the series. Then I would definitely miss him," he said. "He gives you two or three loose balls in an over and I will take care of them," Malik said.

Pakistan start climbing

PERTH, Oct 30: Pakistan face a big test of character in their bid to avoid outright defeat in the opening first-class clash of their Australian tour, reports AFP.

But a display greater steel today on the third day of the four-day match gives the side at least some hope of not adding to an ignominious record against Western Australia.

The state side have won four of the five previous first-class games between the sides, with Pakistan hanging on for a draw in the other.

Prospects of a Pakistan win seemed no more than theoretical when skipper Damien Martyn closed Western Australia's second innings at 189-7, leaving the tourists needing 428 for victory from 122 overs.

And Western Australia's fifth win looked to be only a matter of time when acting captain and opening batsman Aamir Sohail was snapped up for eight with only nine runs on the board.

But second-wicket pair Salim Elahi and Rameez Raja were grimly resolved in the final 55 minutes before bad light ended the day's play prematurely.

They added 45 runs as Pakistan reached 54-1, leaving them seeking another 374 runs for an improbable victory on the final day.

The impressive Elahi is on 23 and former captain Rameez is batting on 21.

The day belonged to Pakistan's 18-year-old off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq.

In his initial first-class appearance in Australia, he grabbed a thoroughly creditable 5-39 from 16.2 superbly controlled overs.

He used the stiff breeze skillfully to obtain drift and also turned the ball appreciably.

His high-profile victims included three batsmen with Test experience: Justin Langer (40), Tom Moody (26) and Damien Martyn (15). As well as opener Mark Lavender (49) and Adam Gilchrist (20), tipped as Australia's next Test wicketkeeper.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the four-day tour match between Western Australia and Pakistan at the WACA ground today:

W AUSTRALIA: First innings 402 for five declared (M Hussey 146, B Hogg 101 not out).

PAKISTAN: First innings 164 (Moin Khan 56, Salim Elahi 54; Julian 3-32, Angel 3-42, Oldroyd 3-45)

W AUSTRALIA: Second innings Elahi b Mushtaq 17 Lavender c Elahi b Saqlain 49 Langer c Inzamam b Saqlain 40 Martyn c Moin b Saqlain 26 Moody c Inzamam b Saqlain 25 Julian c Moin b Mushtaq 6 Hogg not out 7 Gilchrist c Rameez b Saqlain 20 Extras: (lb-1, nb-8) 9 Total: (for 7 wkts, 61.2 overs) 189

Fall of wickets: 1-34; 2-110; 3-115; 4-151; 5-162; 6-162; 7-189.

Bowling: Rehman 7 0 25 0 Nazir 11 0 48 0 Mushtaq 23 4 68 2 Saqlain 16.2 6 39 5 Waqar 4 0 8 0

PAKISTAN: Second innings Sohail c Gilchrist b Angel 8 Elahi not out 23 Rameez not out 21 Extras: (nb-2) 2 Total: (for one wicket) 54

Fall of wickets: 1-9

Bowling: (to date) O M R W Reid 7 2 15 0 Angel 6 2 15 1 Moody 3 1 16 0 Julian 2.4 1 8 0

Rain ruins England's prep

SOWETO, Oct 30: Play was abandoned without a ball being bowled on the fourth and final day of England's match against a South African Invitation XI at the Elkah Oval on Monday, reports Reuter.

Heavy overnight rain left the outfield waterlogged and umpires abandoned the match as a draw an hour before play was scheduled to begin.

On Sunday the South African Invitation XI were 25 for one at the close on the third day chasing 405 to win.

Earlier England declared their second innings at 282 for five wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the third day of the four-day cricket match between a South African Invitation XI and England here Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings 332 SA INVITATION XI: First innings 210

ENGLAND: Second innings Atherton ret hurt 22 Stewart not out 101 Crawley c Rhodes b Davis 1 Smith c Mazkizana b Pringle 0 Hick c Mazkizana b Williams 55 Russell c Toyana b Cronje 43 Watkinson b Williams 26 Illott not out 6 Extras: b-9, lb-5, nb-13, w-1 28 Total: (For five wkts decl, 80 overs) 282

Fall of wickets: 1-48; 2-56; 3-165; 4-230; 5-269

Bowling: O M R W Pringle 17 2 87 1 Williams 22 5 77 2 Davis 25 8 66 1 Stroydom 4 0 17 0 Cronje 12 3 21 1

SA INVITATION XI: Second innings Arthur b Wilkinson 12 Amm not out 10 Pringle not out 0 Extras: (lb-1, nb-2) 3 Total: (For one wicket, 14 overs) 25

Fall of wicket: 1-25

Bowling: O M R W Malcolm 5 1 17 0 Fraser 4 2 3 0 Watkinson 3 1 4 1 Illingworth 2 2 0 0

Result: Match drawn after being called off due to waterlogged field.

Samsung to sponsor '98 Asiad

BANGKOK, Oct 30: Samsung Electronics Co Ltd signed a sponsorship contract here Friday for the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games, for which the South Korean company will provide nine million dollars in cash and products, reports AFP.

Under the agreement, the first sponsorship deal for the Bangkok Games, Samsung will provide electronic equipment in return for use of the official emblem and other advertising rights, the company said in a statement.

Samsung was planning a major advertising campaign for South Korea and the rest of Asia using the Asian Games emblem and sponsorship title, it said.

The deal, which Samsung clinched after beating out competition from leading Japanese companies, would also give the company first choice in sponsoring national teams attending the Games, it said.

Samsung would hold official partner status in the Asian Games new three-tiered sponsorship programme, giving it greater advertising rights at venues than official sponsors and suppliers.

The statement said that the contract marked the first time that sponsorship rights were being expanded to the 45 participating countries in the Games.

The South Korean company would also have first chance to sponsor the next Asian Games, the statement added.

Muster passes muster

ESSEN, Germany, Oct 30: French Open champion Thomas Muster Sunday smashed his stereotype a one-dimensional clay-courtier by defeating hard-hitting American Malivai Washington in four sets in the final of the 2.09 million dollars Essen Open, reports AFP.

World No 3 Muster came good 7-6 (8-6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-4



Clay-court maestro Thomas Muster of Austria goes into ecstasies after overcoming a spirited American Malivai Washington at the final of the Essem Open tournament in Germany on Oct 29. The world number three beat Washington 7-6 (8-6), 2-6, 6-3.

— AFP/UNB photo

on the medium speed tarreflex carpet at the Grugahalle in only his fourth career final indoors.

The Austrian lost the previous three — including one last week in Vienna to Belgian qualifier Filip Dewulf.

Muster, winner of the clay-classics this year at Monte Carlo and Rome along with Roland Garros, ran his 1995 title string to an even dozen tournaments. Of his 35 trophies, 33 have come on

clay.

Muster claimed a single outdoor hard court title in 1990 in Adelaide, Australia. His winner's cheque at Essen totalled 315,000 dollars and put his yearly total of official tournament earnings to near the 2.5 million dollars mark.

The 28-year-old stunned the critics, who had insisted that his place was on the clay-courts.

"I had an awfully good clay-court season. I wanted to see what is possible on the other surfaces," said Muster, second seed starting Monday at the Paris Indoor at Bercy.

The Austrian left-hander is renowned for his ironman work ethic on court and in training. "There's no luck in this game. When you work hard, you get a payback," he said.

Muster lost an early break in the first set, which went to a tie breaker. But the Austrian won the set on his second match point with a volley winner at the net.

Washington, ranked 54th by the ATP with three career titles, broke to start the second and moved into command 5-2. He levelled the sets with an ace on the first of three set points.

But Muster's famed grit and drive came to the fore. The Austrian, who has made a habit this year of coming from behind, kept up the pressure on the American who earlier this week knocked out world No 1 Andre Agassi to move into a 2-1 lead on sets.

There was no stopping Muster in the fourth as he powered ahead and claimed the indoor crown when Washington returned a serve long on first match point for Muster.

Breathing under new sun

SOWETO, South Africa, Oct 30 (Reuter): Sylvia Tshoma loves cricket so much she took leave from her teaching job to organise the historic match marking the debut of the first-class game in a black South African township.

The match director of England's current four-day game against a South African Invitation XI, which President Nelson Mandela attended on his opening day, is a sports mistress at a school in Soweto, the country's largest black township.

Having blacks involved in what is mostly a white game in South Africa is rare enough but having a woman involved in the male-dominated sport is almost unheard of.

"I'm proud because everybody is saying the match is wonderful but yesterday my principal was here and she was saying... they are missing me at school," said Tshoma, who took five-week's leave from her job to organise the match.

Although South African cricket has always been dominated by white males, eight years ago — before the demise of apartheid — the country's cricket governing body began taking the game to impoverished black town-

ships where the main sport is soccer.

Tshoma and other South African cricket officials see the match in Soweto as one of the highlights of the development programme — and for many the culmination of a dream. "For the first time in the country we are having a four-day first-class match in a township."

"I think it is a very big achievement which I did not think would take place. I hope it is going to contribute to (the development) of our youngsters in Soweto," Tshoma told. The match played at Soweto's Elkah Oval — the home of cricket in the township's Rocklands District — was declared abandoned due to heavy rain.

The green field make a stark contrast with the dusty streets and refuse strewn open tracts of ground in Soweto, which borders the financial capital Johannesburg.

Where a few years ago black political rivals battled each other with assault rifles and home-made weapons at the height of political violence, cricketers now do battle with bat and ball.

"Winning the Test series is important but as far as I am concerned, the Soweto match is just as important."

Les less than Wardrope

LONDON, Oct 30: History eluded Les Ferdinand and Newcastle's 100-year-old Newcastle record of scoring in nine straight matches.

They also cost the club a record of nine consecutive victories.

Spurs were refused two penalties for hand-ball, partially balanced by the visiting view that Chris Armstrong's 21st minute goal looked half a metre off-side.

Against that, David Ginola's stunning equaliser in the 47th minute, the Frenchman's second goal for Newcastle, came after a clear, shirt-pulling foul on Dean Austin.

Walker's two late saves from Ferdinand denied the striker the chance to equal Willie Wardrope's 100-year-old Newcastle record of scoring in nine straight matches.

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A tough challenge by Walker on Keith Gillespie after six minutes had Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan urging Tottenham officials not to show potentially inflammatory replays on the giant television screen.

Newcastle now have 28 points from 11 games, two clear of Manchester United, who beat Middlesbrough 2-0 on Saturday.

The match was full of thrills and goalmouth incidents and featured Ruel Fox, who joined Tottenham from Newcastle for 4 million pounds (6.33 million dollars) earlier this month, having an outstanding match against his former teammates.

Fox created most of Tottenham's attacks as the London side matched the league leaders in aggression, skill

and commitment.

For Newcastle, Ginola, on the left wing, and Gillespie, on the right, kept the Tottenham defence stretched throughout the game, and especially the second half, but Tottenham's notoriously porous back line was only breached once.

While both managers — and the 32,000 crowd who gave the players a standing ovation at the end — agreed it was an outstanding match, Keegan said he was unhappy with Tottenham's giant TV screen.

"I object to it totally," said the Newcastle boss.

Keegan persuaded Spurs to stop showing replays after just six minutes and said: "I think it's terrible for a lot of reasons and I'm going to write to the FA about it."

Let's say a referee makes a bad decision. He's not only got to put up with it on the pitch and take whatever abuse comes from that, he's actually got a replay of it coming up on there.

"I find it very off-putting while the match is going on and I don't think it should be allowed."

Tottenham manager Gerry Francis added: "It was a fantastic game, and probably a fair result. No-one deserved to lose."

Tottenham scorer Chris Armstrong added: "Newcastle are one of the best sides we've played this season and if they carry on like that, they must have a great chance of the championship."



Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somborn Rahong (L), Sheikh Ahmad Fahad, president of the Olympic Council of Asia and Jae-Hong Min (R), president and CEO of Samsung Asia Ltd, toast after signing the maiden sponsorship agreement for the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok on October 30.

— AFP/UNB photo

Tshabalala dead

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 30: South African light-heavy weight boxing champion and world title contender Ginger Tshabalala is dead after being shot by car hijackers, police said today, reports AFP.