

Sport

Indian betting

MUMBAI, Sept 3: Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar, former Captain Mohammad Azharuddin, stumper Nayan Mongia and former coach Sandeep Patil are to appear before former chief justice YV Chandrachud on Thursday, reports PTI.

Justice Chandrachud is probing the betting and match-fixing charges against the Indian cricketers accused by former Test player Manoj Prabhakar, after being appointed as the one-man commission by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

He has already conducted two sittings at New Delhi and Mumbai since being appointed.

Former Test captains Ajit Wadekar, Kapil Dev, Dilip Vengsarkar and Prabhakar, Test doctor Sanjay Manjrekar and Sunil Dev, the Delhi and districts cricket associations' sports secretary who was manager for the tour to South Africa last year, have already appeared before the committee.

Patil was cricket coach in India's tour to England last year and Azharuddin led Indian squad.

County cricket roundup

LONDON, Sept 3: Australian Stuart Law stole the limelight from county championship pacemakers Kent and Glamorgan by blazing 155 from 131 balls for Essex against Lancashire at Old Trafford on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Law hit 23 fours and three sixes after coming in when his side were 68 for two.

He scored his 155 out of 199 runs added while he was at the crease. Essex were eventually dismissed for 389.

Kent, joint top of the table with Glamorgan, made 305 against third-placed Gloucestershire at Canterbury. 35-year-old Allan Wells top-scoring with 77.

Gloucestershire replied with 12 for no wicket by the close.

Glamorgan dismissed Surrey for 204 at The Oval with England off-spinner Rober Croft and seamer Darren Thomas each taking three wickets.

Skipper Matthew Maynard then guided his side to 133 for two in reply with an unbeaten 56.

England bowlers Phil Tufnell and Andy Caddick were in impressive form in front of watching chairman of selectors David Graveney as Middlesex played Somerset at Taunton.

Tufnell, the hero of England's sixth Test win over Australia last month, took four for 53 as Somerset were bowled out for 241.

Caddick, though, refused to be outshone and took three for 25 in eight overs for the home side. Middlesex were 80 for three at the close.

Mark Waugh scored his first championship century for Warwickshire who amassed 338 for five against Durham at Chester-le-Street.

The 20-year-old reached 1,000 first class runs for the season on his way to 124.

Rio Ferdinand omitted

LONDON, Sept 3: England coach Glenn Hoddle on Tuesday omitted West Ham's teenage defender Rio Ferdinand from his 'squad' to play Moldova in a World Cup qualifier next week after a drink driving incident, reports AFP.

A statement from Football Association director of external affairs David Davies said: 'The England coach has been informed by West Ham of a drink driving incident involving Rio Ferdinand which the player deeply regrets.'

Rio Ferdinand has been omitted from the squad from which the team and substitutes for the Moldova World Cup match will be selected.

'He has lost the chance of making his England debut in the match next Wednesday. He will, however, attend training sessions over the next few days. Glenn Hoddle will make no further comment today.'

It is understood the offence happened in London over the weekend and has already been dealt with by magistrates.

If he had played, 18-year-old Ferdinand, cousin of England striker Les Ferdinand, would have been the youngest player since Duncan Edwards in the 1950s to have played for England.

Spirlea, Williams in semis

From Special Correspondent

NEW YORK, Sept 3: Irina Spirlea of Romania produced her best form to beat Monica Seles in the quarterfinals of 1997 US Open at the Arthur Ashe Stadium Tuesday.

Down a set the number 11 seed came back strongly mixing her shots to upset the slow moving Seles 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 to reach the first Grand Slam semifinal in her 7-year-old professional career. Her best showing was a quarterfinal berth at the Australian Open last January. By virtue of this win Spirlea settled a score with Seles so far this year.

The five-feet-nine Irina who according to experts modelled her game after Steffi Graf, held her serves against an attacking Seles in the first set but her backhand dropshots constantly bothered her as they all hit the net making points easier for Seles to come by. Even then she continued to play that shot.

"I know that she doesn't like

to run," said Spirlea. And then at the tie-break she blew a 5-4 lead on her serve.

The second set went pretty much the same manner but Seles tiring a bit because of running around the court. The 24-year-old number 2 seed gradually fine-tuned her grunting as each player held to her serve. And again in the tie-break Spirlea squandered a 4-1 lead but finally managed to win 10-8 to clinch the second set 7-6. The third set was almost a one-side affair as the grunting became louder and louder for Seles committed more and more mistakes and finally succumbed 3-6. "I just felt she just played better on the key points. She went for her shots. I was hitting short and to the middle. She mixed it up really well. Serve was going a lot better than my serve. That made a big difference."

It was party time for the Romanian. She is the second woman to have reached the quarters at Australian Open this year since Virginia Ruzici in 1980, also surpassed the one million dollars in career-prize money and also the first Romanian to reach the US Open semifinals.

Meanwhile as her ranking jumped a 101 spots during the last two months, so did she Tuesday night as she brushed aside a mighty challenge from Sandrine Testud of France. Yes, 17-year-old Venus Williams of the United States reached the semifinals Tuesday night 7-5, 7-5. Williams' billed as the "champion of the future" may prove that the future could be next Saturday, the why she had been going. Prior to the US Open Venus had played at the Wimbledon and Roland Garros this year and first and second round disaster were the outcome.

But she was a vastly improved player. The five feet 11 inches Floridian upset the No. 9 Iva Majoli at the 1997 Indiana Wells as a wildcard entry eventually losing to the champion Lindsay Davenport in the final. She does not have any title to her credit today but the way she had been shaping up these will be no problems for her in very near future. She had the will, determination and powerful shots coupled with an intelligent court sense that would take her a long way. For Testud this was her first quarters in a Grand Slam since 1989. The 25-year-old upset the No. 4 seed Iva Majoli in the second round at the Open this year. Venus meets Irina in the semis — two unseeded players.

Striker Debeto, another 1994 World Cup regular, had also been tipped to end a long national team absence on Tuesday but was left out because he is still recovering from injury.

Full-back Russo, who plays for Vitoria, international striker Christian and defender Bordon of Sao Paulo were the only uncapped players named Tuesday.

The six foreign-based players, including uncapped midfielder Emerson Ferreira, had been named the week before.

Several regulars, including Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos, were left out because they have already used up or are near to using up the quota of friendly internationals for which their clubs are obliged to release them this year.

The game will be in the northeastern city of Salvador on September 10.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Carlos Germano, Zetti.

Defenders: Junior Russo, Bordon, Cleber, Junior Bajano, Goncalves Cafu, Ze Roberto, Alair.

Midfielders: Denilson, Dorigo, Richardinho, Rodrigo, Zinho, Emerson Ferreira, Mauro Silva, Rivaldo.

Forwards: Christian, Dodo, Donizete, Sonny Anderson.

Police Red runners-up

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Police Red emerged runners-up in the KM Moinuddin Smriti Premier kabadi league with an easy 17-6 victory over Bangladesh Rifles Juniors in the play-off held at the kabadi court near Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first

half 5-1, from 1-1.

13th seeded Australian Patrick Rafter roars in ecstasy after winning his fourth round clash against Andre Agassi of the United States at the US Open in New York on Sept 2.

— AFP/UNB photo

U.S. OPEN FROM FLUSHING MEADOWS

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

FLUSHING MEADOWS, Sept 3: Michael Chang survived a close call against the unseeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline Tuesday night and is now the only bearer of the Stars and Stripes' at the 1997 US Open men's singles event. With Agassi's removal by the tough Australian Patrick Rafter, the number 13 seed all speculations of at least one American reaching the final received a jolt. Andre Agassi and Michael Chang were drawn in the lower half of the draw and had Agassi survived he would have, in all probability, played Chang in the semifinals.

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