

SPORTS TALK

Lankans in a mess



CARDIFF, July 19: The touring Sri Lankans were starting defeat in the face here on Saturday after they were dismissed for just 54 in their first innings...

The English county champions, who made 224 in their first innings spearheaded by captain Matthew Maynard's spirited 99, then reduced the reigning one day world champions to 35-2 by the close of a disastrous first day.

The Sri Lankans first innings catastrophe, which was the lowest total ever posted by a touring side against Glamorgan, lasted just 21.5 overs and 91 minutes.

However, despite Maynard, a former England international, getting into full throttle his fellow batsmen fell at regular intervals as the Sri Lankan attack bared its teeth.

From 110-0 Glamorgan lost 10 wickets for just 114 more runs as tricky off-break bowler Muttiah Muralitharan led the fightback with five victims.

Sri Lanka's batsmen had been unable to come to terms with a slow pitch of low bounce in the morning session, nor with the seaming conditions which suited Glamorgan's medium-pacers.

Arnold, a double centurion against Somerset at Taunton in their last match, fell in the fifth over of the innings to a fine catch by Maynard at second slip. Andrew Davies sent back Jayawardene to a catch at point.

But it was the introduction of Adrian Dale and Darren Thomas that really undid Sri Lanka, the pair combining to claim the tourists last eight wickets for just 30 runs in only 10 overs.

Dale finished with a season's best four for 10, and Thomas took four for 10 in four hostile overs.

Three Sri Lankans failed to score; seven more were unable to reach double figures, and Atapattu's modest 19 was their highest individual score.

Maynard had dominated Glamorgan's opening partnership and reached his third consecutive half-century off just 59 balls. But as wickets fell around him he was forced to withdraw into his shell.

He lost three more partners before tea, when Glamorgan stood at 175 for four, and was fifth out in the second over after the resumption, caught at the wicket of Mario Villavayren for 99, scored off 151 balls with

eight fours and a six. Sri Lanka's batsmen had been unable to come to terms with a slow pitch of low bounce in the morning session, nor with the seaming conditions which suited Glamorgan's medium-pacers.

David Beckham (England midfielder) "It was without doubt the worst moment of my career" On his sending-off in the World Cup game against Argentina.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-99

Tick the correct answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm on July 24, 1998

- 1 How many goals has Del Piero scored at France '98? 0 2 3
2 How many times have Uruguay won the World Cup? Once Twice Thrice
3 Who was the highest scorer in Italia '90? Linaker Schilachi Cannigia
4 Who scored highest number of goals for Holland in France '98? Kluitert Davids Bergkamp
5 How many ODI centuries has Tendulkar scored so far? 17 18 19



IN GREAT TOUCH: MCC's West Indian batsman Shivnarine Chandernaul flicks while Rest of the World's wicketkeeper, Zimbabwean Andy Flower, watches in anticipation during the Diana Memorial exhibition match at Lord's on July 18. Chandernaul hit a superb 127.

Slater's swashbuckling ton



DERBY, England, July 19: Michael Slater plundered 185 runs off South Africa's bowling attack to rescue Derbyshire from a seemingly hopeless position on the first day of their three-day match on Saturday, reports Reuters.

In deep, trouble at 94 for six, the Australian came to Derbyshire's rescue with a sparkling innings which included 28 fours and a six in his side's eventual total of 337 all out. In reply, South Africa, were 88 for two.

The Australian Test opener was in awesome form from the first ball of the match, which he hit for three. He hit Makhaya Ntini for three boundaries to give his innings early impetus and reached his half century from 49 balls with three more boundaries in an over off Jacques Kallis.

A seventh wicket stand of 69 with Glenn Roberts (40) started the home side's revival but Slater assumed total control once the left arm spinner was caught at square leg.

His century came from 129 balls with 15 fours at which point the South African attack appeared to be completely at his mercy.

His third 50 came from 38 deliveries and he swept spinner Paul Adams for six over the longest boundary at the Racecourse ground at deep mid wicket.

His eventual departure ended four hours and 23 minutes of agony for the South African team who looked shell-shocked for most of the afternoon. His 185 came from 206 deliveries.

Earlier, Gary Kirsten began a brilliant catching display by the South Africans by claiming opener Michael May at fourth slip off Pollock's second ball of the match and Kallis took Robin Weston (10) at second slip off Ntini.

Darryl Cullinan held a low catch at first slip to remove Matt Cassar (1) off Pollock and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher held a straightforward edge off Mortantau Hayward to remove Ben Spendlove for a duck.

Jonty Rhodes took a sharp catch at third slip to remove a disbelieving Karl Krikken for seven off Kallis.

Right arm pace bowler Trevor Smith squeezed a delivery between Kristen's bat and pad to bowl him with the third ball of the tourists' reply and Slater completed a memorable day by holding a juggling catch at slip to remove Kallis (25) off the same bowler.

Gerhardus Libenberg was unbeaten on 43 and Cullinan 17 not out.

Bonev retained

SOFIA, July 19: Hristo Bonev, Bulgaria's embattled soccer coach, hung onto his job Sunday despite his team's disastrous performance at the World Cup finals in France, reports AP.

At a closed-door meeting, Bulgaria's top soccer officials voted 12-0 to reelect Bonev, although he had announced his resignation. Bonev will sign a four-year contract, it was a unanimous decision, said Bulgarian Soccer Union spokesman Nikola Ekserov.

Despite harsh criticism from the media and leading players, Soccer Union president Ivan Slavkov proposed Bonev's re-election. Bonev himself wouldn't comment. He had declared he would quit after Bulgaria's 1-6 loss to Spain in Group D at the World Cup finals.

In earlier World Cup action, Bulgaria lost 0-1 to Nigeria and played Paraguay to a scoreless draw.

With almost the same team, Bulgaria finished fourth at the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States after beating Argentina and Germany.

Bonev succeeded Dimitar Penev in 1996 after Bulgaria's bleak performance at the European Championship in England.



A reception was arranged at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday in honour of Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra football team. The club enjoyed an unprecedented 1997-98 season winning several trophies - Premier league, Mahanagari Cup and McDowell Cup in Calcutta. The function was attended by Post, Telecommunications, Housing and Works Minister Mohammed Nasim as the chief guest while Dhaka City Mayor and president of Bangladesh Football Federation Mohammed Hanif and State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader were the special guests respectively.

The Super League hush, hush!

LONDON, July 19 (AP): The owners of several of Europe's top soccer clubs reportedly met in secret Sunday with a view to forming their own breakaway Super League in the 2000-2001 season.

According to reports in Germany and England, the main movers behind the idea were powerhouses AC and Inter Milan, Juventus, Real Madrid, FC Barcelona, Paris St. Germain, Ajax Amsterdam, Manchester United and Bayern Munich.

The Sunday edition of the German publication Bild reported that Bayern Munich's vice president, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, and general manager Uli Hoeness flew to the gathering.

The meeting apparently was somewhere in London but, according to the Sunday Telegraph, it was so secret that the clubs wouldn't even admit it was taking place.

The Premier league, which runs the 20-club top flight in England, said it knew of no such meeting. "It sounds like another bout of speculation," said a spokesman.

The idea of a Super League, which would effectively undermine UEFA's own competitions, has been around for two decades.

The reports said that the richest clubs would prefer the concept of playing each other on a regular and lucrative basis rather than travelling to remote eastern European locations to play first round elimination games which attract very little revenue.

Aware of what damage it would do to the Champions Cup, UEFA has already taken steps to try and stop a Super League taking shape.

Four seasons ago it changed the format to bring in a group structure at the mid-point of the competition and even went as far as changing the name of the tournament to Champions League.

To make it more attractive to the big clubs, UEFA then altered the rules so that runners up in the high profile leagues also would take part. That opened up the prospect of the Champions Cup being won by a team that wasn't a champion.

The latest move is to change the league format from six groups of four to four groups of six to ensure even more matches and make it even more of a league structure.

Extremadura get Kalla

ALMENDRALEJO, Spain, July 19: Newly promoted Spanish First Division club Extremadura said today they had signed Cameroon international defender Raymond Kalla, reports Reuters.

Divided within



RIO DE JANEIRO, July 19 (AFP): Ronaldo was harmed by the "lack of transparency" within the Brazilian football federation (CBF) on the controversy surrounding his fitness for last Sunday's World Cup final, according to Brazil captain Dunga.



Dunga hit out Saturday at what he believed were contradictory tales on the Ronaldo affair from the CBF. He conceded the CBF had good intentions to protect their

top striker, but believed it all ended in yet more heartbreak as the Brazilians crashed to defeat against France.

"In principle they were protecting the man before the player. But really only the doctors should have had a say," Dunga told the Folha de Sao Paulo.

Confusion reigned before the game as Brazilian officials mullied over whether Ronaldo should play. First off, his name was left off the team sheet and then reinserted, leading to a major row within the team delegation.

Dunga admitted that, just minutes before the final was due to start, arguments had raged among the players as to whether Ronaldo should start. Just hours earlier he had reportedly suffered convulsions.

"Some players were more favourable to Ronaldo playing while others were more cautious," said Dunga.

"Initially I was against his inclusion but Leonardo was in favour. But there are differences of opinion even in a family of four. So it's normal this should be the case in a group of 60 people," he added.

But Dunga reiterated that whatever the players thought, the doctors should have made the final decision.

Leonardo, one of Ronaldo's closest friends in the squad, said he had been one of the players pushing for the striker's inclusion for the final.

"Before his medical tests I thought he maybe shouldn't play. But afterwards he felt alright and he said he wanted to be in the team. I defended him."

Today, I believe he shouldn't have played but I understand



it's difficult to analyse everything. Anyway, how could we have left out the best player in the world? Leonardo asked.

Vogts keeps his job



BÖNN, Germany, July 19(Reuters/Internet): German soccer bosses said on Saturday they had confidence in coach Bert Vogts and he would continue to head the national team.

The German Soccer Federation (DFB) announcement followed a so-called "crisis meeting" held in Stuttgart to discuss the future of the national side after a disappointing performance at the World Cup.

The DFB committee have stated their full trust in trainer Bert Vogts for the rebuilding of the national team, the DFB said in a statement.

DFB President Egidius Braun and five of his officials met with Vogts in Stuttgart on Friday to analyse the team's performance in France and map out a future strategy.

The national team's 3-0 defeat at the hands of Croatia in a World Cup quarterfinal provoked a bout of soul-searching among many Germans, who regard their soccer team as a symbol of national pride.

The 51-year-old Vogts came

under public pressure to quit after Germany's ignominious exit from the competition in France, but the DFB said it continued to back him and that he

also used the occasion to reaffirm his commitment to standing for another term as DFB chief.

"I am ready with all my strength and motivation to take on the challenge of leading the DFB into the next century," the 73-year-old president said.

Braun is to put himself forward as a candidate at the next meeting of the DFB parliament on Oct. 24 this year. The next presidential term runs until 2001.

The statement also called for better cooperation between the Bundesliga and the national team and for special attention to be paid to the fostering of youth talent.

It said there was no intention to introduce a team of advisers for the national team, but added that a group of experts would be nominated to look into growth and development.

The task of rebuilding a side will not be easy. Germany had one of the oldest squads at the World Cup and many of their leading members such as captain Juergen Klinsmann are retiring from the international game.

Braun, regarded as Vogts' staunchest ally within the fed-



CRYPTOQUIP

I A A S I L M J W U I O I D Z R L T Z F G T L Z U T P N L M Z L K U P S I G D U K Z A J L K U N R W W I O F J M

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'D SUPPOSE THE ITALIAN REFEREE HAS OFTEN BEEN LABELED A ROMAN UMPIRE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals P 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.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

A FINE CARD READING BY NORTH

(Hand # 45)

- North: S:XXX, H:XX, D:AJ10XXX, C:XX
West: S:A1098X, H:10XXX, D:XXX, C:KX
East: S:QX, H:KJXX, D:XX, C:AQXX
South (D): S:KJX, H:AQX, D:KQ, C:J10XXX

BIDDING (East-West vulnerable)

South: INT, Pass; West: Pass, Pass; North: 3NT; East: Pass

As South opened 1 NT, North counted six tricks in Diamond. He thought East-West might have game in a major suit. Partly to block communication between East and West, and partly because he believed that South would have both KQ or K with three to four cards in Diamond, 3NT could be made North bid game in NT.

THE PLAY

West opened 10 of Spades (top of an interior series). South took East's Queen with the King. He then played the King of Diamond and overtook the Queen in the dummy, and ran the Diamond winners discarding 3 Clubs and a Heart from the closed hand. East discarded two Clubs, and two Hearts. West discarded three Hearts. At the 8th trick the declarer took the winning Heart finesse for his contract. Ultimately, he surrendered two Clubs and two Spades.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Upper bound, 4 Econ. stat., 7 Lace with liquor, 12 Stick figure?, 13 Prepare to fight, 14 External, 15 Lead-in to verse or com, 16 Vaudeville star, 18 Claiborne or Smith, 19 Give a discourse, 20 Beast with antlers, 22 See 20, 23 "— ben Adhem", 27 Pointed tool, 29 Nudges, 31 Bluenose, 34 Bracelet locale, 35 Clumsy, 37 Pink-slip, 38 Send packing, 39 Harvest goddess, 41 Alger's "before", 45 Ecstasy, 47 Wish, 48 "Cheers!", 52 Canine forename, 53 Pseudonym, 54 "— Blue?", 55 Keep talking, 56 Fellows line, 57 Bottom line, 58 "OK", 1 Had the skills, 2 Palmer, to fans, 3 Game-show giveaway, 4 Popular pets, 5 Drive forward, 6 See 5 Down, 7 Drench, 8 Bit of wordplay, 9 "Make— double", 10 Barbie's beau, 11 History chapter, 17 Cook a roast, 21 TV minus the pictures?, 23 The Yokum lad, 24 — choy, 25 Hooter, 26 Exploit, 28 Unsold of basketball, 30 Negligent, 31 "Cert", 32 "Yippeee!", 33 "Independence Day" vehicle, 36 Actress Celeste, 37 Take for granted, 40 Tower townie, 42 Organization, 43 Seeing Eye dog, e.g., 44 Faxes, 45 Springsteen epithet, 46 Skewer, 48 Purse, 49 Bullring bravo, 50 10th anniversary gift, 51 Sylvester, to Tweety

Solution time: 25 mins.
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