

Australia whack NZ

BUDEFIM, Australia, Sept 6: Australian opener Mark Waugh belted an unbeaten 98 as the Commonwealth Games-bound side warmed up with a nine-wicket win over New Zealand on Sunday, reports AP.

Waugh led the Australians, with brother Steve sitting out, and hit five sixes and five fours in a 63-ball innings.

Both teams will play in the 16-team Commonwealth Games competition which starts Wednesday, two days ahead of the opening ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Australia bowled out the mid-strength New Zealand for 151 in 44 overs and made 156 for one off just 23.3 overs, with Waugh hitting a six for the winning runs.

"I was hitting the ball pretty well out there and hopefully I can keep it going at the Commonwealth Games," said Waugh. "The whole team played good cricket today and we want to be able to do that in Kuala Lumpur."

Waugh's opening partner Adam Gilchrist dominated Australia's first wicket stand of 86 with 51 off 50 balls.

New Zealand's openers Nathan Astle (33) and Matthew Horne (59) made a bright start and reached 90 for no loss in the 18th over before the team collapsed, losing its last 10 wickets for 61.

Off-spinner Gavin Robertson was Australia's best bowler with 3-19.

Maekelae to help Ali out

STOCKHOLM, Sept 6: Boxing legend Mohammed Ali is seeking help from a Finnish expert in his fight against Parkinson's disease, reports AFP.

The former multiple heavyweight world champion has consulted electrophysiologist Reijo Maekelae to battle the disease which attacks the body's nervous system, a Swedish newspaper reported here Saturday.

Maekelae has developed a treatment based on a diet of vitamins and herbs as well as acupuncture which is designed to slow down the illness by stimulating the thyroid gland.

Mohammed Ali, 58, regarded as the greatest fighter of all time, developed Parkinson's disease in the mid-1980s. The illness has slowed down his speech and movement.

Kapil wants a shot at administration

NEW DELHI, Sept 6 (Hindustan Times/Internet): Kapil Dev hopes the fire that helped him succeed as a cricketer will enable him script a similar story in cricket administration.

"Touch wood, I would like to think I was somewhat successful as a cricketer. I am sure I will succeed as an administrator as well," he says, having launched a career as cricket administrator less than a month ago when he was elected secretary of the Gurgaon District Cricket Association (GCA).

Speaking to the media at his office, an anguished Kapil Dev admits he was blind to such realities as 'pathetic administration' during his playing days, Indian daily Hindustan Times reports.

"Now that I have consciously stepped into cricket administration, I am becoming aware of the situation and can only say that I am shocked by what I have discovered over the past two months or so. I feel cheated, I feel bad," he says.

The former Indian captain is clearly hurt by the Board of Control for Cricket in India president Raj Singh Durgapur's reported statement that former players like Kapil Dev had no time for cricket.

"I would like to tell him that Kapil Dev has ample time for cricket but it will be difficult for anyone with self-respect to offer anything constructive if the atmosphere is as bad as in the Haryana Cricket Association (HCA)," he says.

"Nothing significant has happened in the 23 years that Ranbir Singh has been HCA secretary. Can you imagine that just one man has held that post for nearly a quarter century and has done nothing to lift the game in Haryana. We have fantastic talent. It is only that the players are not reaching anywhere."

"Things have come to such a pass in HCA that India's captain to the Commonwealth Games Ajay Jadeja has written to HCA that he would not like to play for Haryana if the situation did not improve," Kapil Dev says.

"It is sad that a player of Ajay's calibre should be even thinking of moving out. I am shocked."

To be sure, the Haryana Cricket Association has failed to live up to its stated objectives of promoting the game in the State through its district



National footballers sported black head bands in yesterday's Sabbir-Munna flood charity match in demand of Bangabandhu Stadium for football. — Star photo

Flood rolls football on to the ground Charity tie turns political

Sports Reporter

Rumman-bin Wali Sabbir Eleven blanked Monem Munna Eleven by 3-0 in a charity football match organised yesterday by Russel Krija Chakra to raise fund for flood victims.

But it was more a victory for the popular game at the Outer Stadium which wore a festive look with almost all the national booters assembling at the bumpy ground for the noble cause.

National striker Intiaz Ahmed Naquib, shaven-headed midfielder Arif Khan Joy and Milon scored for the Sabbir-led team, which perhaps made the most of the absence of Monem Munna, the rock-solid former national defender who did not play due to an injury.

But Munna was present among a host of star footballers who came to express solidarity with the flood-hit people of the country.

The unique programme however left a bad taste in the manner some Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials

tried to instigate the enthusiastic football fans to take possession of the adjacent Bangabandhu National Stadium. The mood was of course set by the players who donned black head band in demand of the Stadium for football. Perhaps totally out of context, an enthusiastic BFF official, taking over the PA system, vowed to build up a movement to regain the possession of the national stadium, the apple of discord between the BFF and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Surprisingly, the pseudo-revolutionary did not utter a single word criticising the BFF president Mayor Mohammed Hanif, who has been conspicuously absenting himself from

BFF meetings for much of his tenure. Mohammed Hanif however made his rare appearance in a football ground yesterday and witnessed the match alongside the State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, and a host of football fans.

TEAMS

Sabbir XI: Dulal Hossain Dhanu, Nazrul, Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Titu, Arif Khan Joy, Arman, Mahabubur Rahman Roxy, Alfaz Ahmed, Sabbir, Intiaz Ahmed Naquib and Milon.

Munna XI: Aminul, Gobinda, Moon, Soh-el-al Masum, Hasan-al Mamun, Iqbal, Masud Rana, Liton, Zakir, Rakib and Mizan (Gaus)

Asian dreams literally over Bahrain bend Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh suffered a 0-2 defeat at the hands of Bahrain in their second group league match of the Asian Youth (under-16) football championship in Qatar. The match finished on late Saturday night BST.

According to a faxed message from the Qatari capital of Doha yesterday, Bangladesh conceded a goal in each half despite dominating most of the proceedings. Bahrain took the lead in the 30th minute from a curling flag-kick, which took a deflection off the post to reach the back of the net but not before the outstretched Bangladesh custodian got a hand to it.

Undaunted by the set-back, Bangladeshi booters played out to their heart's content for the

equaliser even in the second half. But 'lady luck' once again smiled on Bahrain, when in the 65th minute, an attempt from their striker found the Bangladesh net, but not before yet another wicked deflection from the defensive wall.

With this defeat Bangladesh's hopes of progressing into uncharted territory has effectively evaporated. Bangladesh has never gone beyond the first round in the final phase. The disappointing outcome in their second group league match leaves Bangladesh with 'one point which they snatched from holders Oman in a creditable one-all drawn encounter earlier last Thursday.

Bangladesh will take on fancied South Korea in their next group league match tomorrow.

13th national school chess

Parag wins in photo-finish

Sports Reporter

Mehdi Hasan Parag clinched the 13th national school chess championship, but not before going through a three-way heady battle which fittingly climaxed in the final round at the Chess Room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Royal's sensational defeat left Javed at par with Parag, both finishing with eight points. But Parag had the last laugh in the tie-breaker, winning 42 points against Javed's 38 in the progressive score. Javed finished runner-up while the vanquished Royal, a student Arafat's Scientific School, who was so close yet so far, finished third with seven-and-a-half points.

Mahabub Uddin Robin, who defeated Faisal in the final round, captured the fourth position.

One hundred and sixty-one students from different schools took part in the nine-round Swiss-league meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, the chief guest at the concluding ceremony, gave away prizes among the winners. President of the Bangladesh Chess Federation M Mostafa Chowdhury was also present on the occasion.

opponent Tanveer Talukder Newton for not only a desperately needed win, but also with a silent prayer for a defeat of table leader Yanur Rahman Royal. And, in a bizarre turn of events, Parag found everything going his way. He defeated his St. Jude's counterpart in style and Royal, collapsed against Javed, a student of Armanitola High School.

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MEHDI HASAN PARAG

Parag, a student of Sher-e-Bangla Govt. High School, went into his final game against his

Nat West Trophy Lancashire's

LONDON, Sept 6: England star John Crawley guided Lancashire today to a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over Derbyshire in the rain-affected NatWest Trophy final at Lord's, reports AFP.

Lancashire captain and Pakistan pace bowler Wasim Akram took two wickets as Derbyshire, resuming on 92 for seven after Saturday's play was cut short, lost their remaining three batsmen in 19 minutes to be dismissed for 108.

It was the lowest total in the history of Lord's finals. Crawley then scored 53 not out in an unbroken stand of 81 with Neil Fairbrother (38) as Lancashire reached their target with almost 30 overs to spare.

Their only casualty was ex-England skipper Michael Atherton, dismissed by Dominic Cork for 10.

BRIEF SCORES

Derbyshire 108 all out in 36.4 overs; Lancashire 109-1 in 30.2 overs (J. Crawley 53 not out).

Railway, Bank win by like margin

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Railway and Sonali Bank won their respective matches of the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Railway recorded a lone goal victory over Dhaka Ansars, thanks to a 26th minute strike from Mainuddin.

The second match also witnessed an identical 1-0 win for Sonali Bank against Victoria SC with Titu notching the all-important goal at the stroke of the final whistle.

Today is a rest day. The fixture has no matches scheduled for today.

Pourheidari to coach Iran

TEHRAN, Sept 6 (Reuters/Internet): Iran have named Mansour Pourheidari, who led Tehran side Esteghal to the top of the Iranian league, to coach the national soccer team, newspapers reported on Sunday.

The daily Iran newspaper said the Iranian soccer federation appointed Pourheidari as the new head coach of the national squad on Saturday.

Pourheidari replaces Jalal Talebi, Iran's coach during the World Cup finals in France, who resigned last month.

Iran impressed many observers at the World Cup with gutsy performances, losing 1-0 to Yugoslavia and 2-0 to Germany. Most memorable, however, was Iran's 2-1 victory over political arch-foe the United States in a match which sparked mass celebrations across the Islamic Republic.

Pourheidari's most recent post has been as coach of the Fajr-e Sapassi club team from the southern city of Shiraz.

He coached Esteghal when the team became last season's champion of Iran's Azadegan League. He earlier played for Esteghal and Tehran side Darai.

Pourheidari is Iran's fifth coach in the past year, reflecting tensions and in-fighting in the country's politically-charged soccer federation.

Iranians are obsessed with soccer and national team coaches come under an intense media and public spotlight.

Gross bids Spurs bye

LONDON, Sept 6 (Reuters/Internet): Christian Gross' brief reign as coach of English premier league Tottenham Hotspur ended on Saturday when the 44-year-old Swiss left the job he had held only since November.

A club statement said that Gross had left with immediate effect and its director of football, former manager David Pleat, would coach the team for the time being together with deputy coach Chris Hughton.

"This will enable the club to take a sensible time in making the next very important appointment of our new head coach," the club said in a statement.

Tottenham narrowly avoided relegation last season and after they lost their first two games of this season, there had been widespread speculation that Gross, lured from Grasshoppers to replace Gerry Francis, would lose his job.

Spurs beat Everton 1-0 last Saturday but the fans' displeasure at Gross's tactics, based on discipline and hard work in his own words, has apparently triggered his departure.

Tottenham, traditionally one of the Big Five of English soccer along with Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool and Everton, are a club in crisis with owner Alan Sugar announcing last month he was looking to sell his controlling interest.

Gross's brief spell as Spurs boss has been dogged by controversy since he took over from Francis with Spurs ailing in 15th place in the 20-team premier league.

The three musketeers



KARACHI, Sept 6 (Hindustan Times/Internet): A copy of the interim report drawn up by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) committee probing match-fixing charges has named Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed as "the stalwarts of match fixing."

Internet reports said the latter two are players in the squad for the Sahara Cup and Akram is expected to be back as soon as he is finished with his county season in England.

The committee, headed by Ejaz Yousof, clearly sums up its investigation by asking the PCB not to consider accused players till they have been cleared of the match-fixing charges.

The committee expresses its apprehension that the presence of certain cricketers may harm younger players and new en-

trants. A signed 11-page copy of the report concludes that on the basis of the material so far collected, the committee considers very much appropriate to save the youngsters and new entrants in the game from being affected further.

"The stalwarts, mainly Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, against whom categorical allegations have come on record, may for the time being be kept away from the Pakistan team and not be considered for selection," the probe report says.

"However, the final decision against them and all others considered may be deferred till the finalisation of the inquiry," adds the report.

The report is signed by Justice Chaudhry Ejaz Yousof, who is chairman of the committee, and Nusrat Azim and Mian Muhammad Munir who are the PCB members on the committee.

The comprehensive report details the statements of Ataur Rehman, Aamir Sohail, Basit Ali, Saeed Anwar, Intikhab Alam, Aaqib Javed, Rameez Raja and Haroon Rasheed. Most of the statements appearing in the affidavit have already received wide coverage in the press.

Some statements like those of Aaqib Javed and coach Haroon Rasheed add increasing weight to the allegations already made by some of the players.

Ataur Rehman repeated the allegations he made in his affidavit. He revealed that after he had submitted his affidavit, he met with Salim Malik on March 30, 1998 at the Sheikhupura Stadium and Malik had asked him not to appear before the probe committee.

Wasim Akram too contacted him at the LCCA ground last October and asked him not to disclose anything about match fixing. Aamir Sohail reiterated that he stood by everything he had said in his interview in

March, 1997. He disclosed that he had received an offer of Rs five million to score less than 10 runs and to run out Saeed Anwar in the Asia Cup in Sharjah in 1994 but he told the person he had contacted the wrong player.

The report states: "Aamir Sohail maintained that as per his estimation the modus operandi was that initially Pakistan team players used to 'play according to their potential and when the odds were in their favour, then suddenly one or two matches were thrown away."

"He confirmed that in the year 1994 after the Johannesburg match, he had asked players to take oath on the Holy Quran. Thereafter, he was dropped from the team despite the fact that prior to the event his performance was exceptional. He had scored 250 runs in three matches, besides tak-

ing 3 to 4 wickets." Basit Ali said that in South Africa when he was collecting his key from the receptionist he had been informed by Moin Khan that a person in the lobby was the bookie Hanif Cadbury.

After a while, the said person came to the room of Ijaz Ahmed. When Basit objected to Cadbury's presence, Ijaz said "Cadbury is my friend and nobody has any business to object."

Saeed Anwar gave a very sketchy report of his views. Apart from accepting that he was aware of matches being fixed he could not pinpoint specific instances apart from the 1993-94 New Zealand tour when he accepted there were rumours that the fifth one-day match and third Test match were 'fixed'.

Intikhab Alam stated: "It is true that match fixing does take place." He also reported that while in Colombo in 1994 "one of the bookies had called and informed him by telephone that Pakistani players were fixing the match."

The bookie was furious as he had lost Rs four million. He further stated that subsequently Asif Iqbal had arrived from Washington and told him that bookies wanted to recover Rs four million lost by one of them.

Asif Iqbal thereafter took some of the Pakistani players to the corner and started talking to them in whispers.

He also stated that "Sharjah bookies had informed him that five to six Pakistan players, including Inzamam-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis, Moin Khan, Salim Malik and Wasim Akram, were in the books and that they were the main culprits."

He said that when Pakistan toured Sri Lanka in 1994 and Salim Malik was the captain, "he received a telephone call from one of the Pakistani players from Sri Lanka who asked if he (Aaqib) had to join the Pakistan team he would have to

contact Saleem Pervez of NBP who would pay him Rs five million, besides providing a vehicle for his personal use."

He said that later he found that the other players had accepted the money and the vehicles but he had persuaded them to return the vehicles although he did not know anything about the money.

He too said he had seen Cadbury "having close liaison with seven or eight Pakistani players."

When Aaqib objected, he was informed later "through Wasim Akram that he would not be included in the team so long as he was captain and it virtually happened."

Rameez Raja said that it was strange that "rumours regarding betting spread only when either Salim Malik was the captain or Wasim Akram was there." Pakistan's previous coach Haroon Rasheed said that

it was his gut feeling that players were not performing up to par and that there was evidence of foul play.

The committee noted: "While recalling the first match in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, he stated that Pakistan were required to score 225 runs. Salim Malik and Inzamam were batting and the target was well within their reach (when) Inzamam unnecessarily ran himself out on a call made by Salim Malik. Subsequently, Salim Malik also threw his wicket away. Pakistan lost by 15 runs."

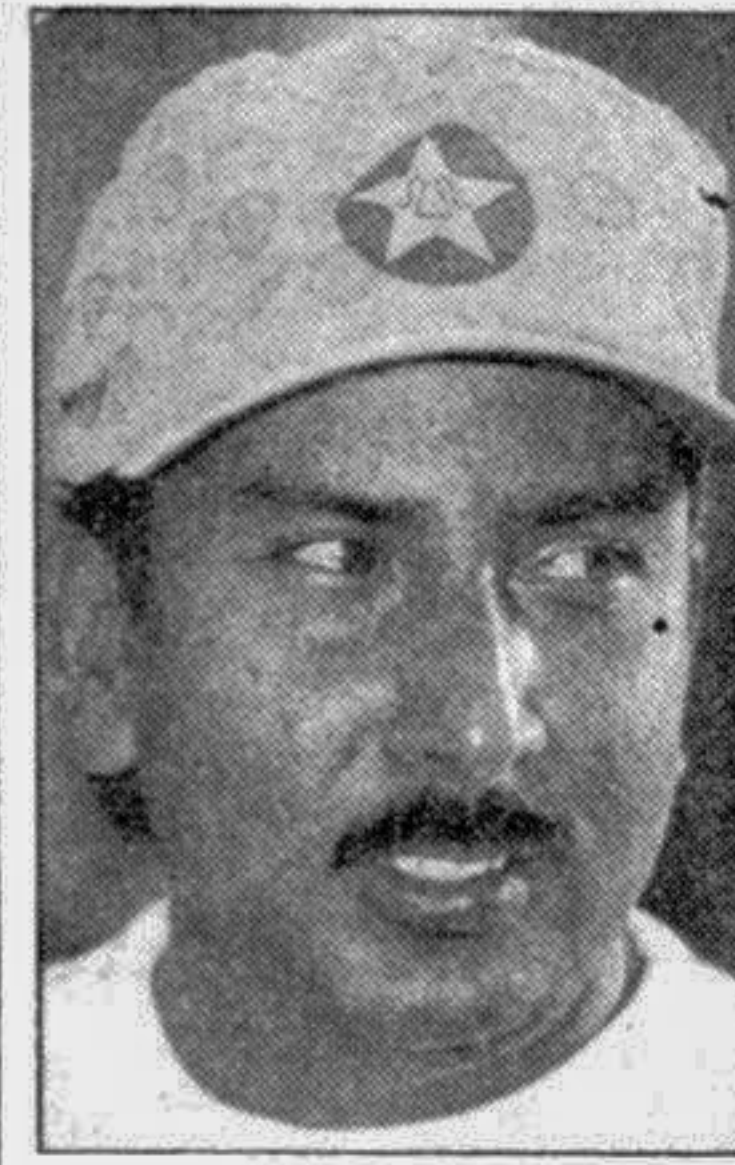
"In the second match in the Sahara Cup, Pakistan needed 208. Malik and Saqlain carried the innings ahead but thereafter Saqlain ran himself out. Malik followed him by throwing his wicket away in a similar manner as it was done by him in the Asia Cup."

Haroon then called a meeting and as coach pointed out that players' performances should not be casual and seniors should not play recklessly. "At this, Salim Malik instantly became furious and inquired from him why he was attributing allegations of reckless batting towards him."

He stated that in his estimation Malik's guilty conscious prompted him to act in such a manner.

He also pointed to instances in the quadrangular series game and in Sharjah last season when Wasim Akram deliberately sent out-of-form Ijaz Ahmed and himself despite Inzamam and Azhar Mahmood being in the form batsmen and Pakistan lost both games.

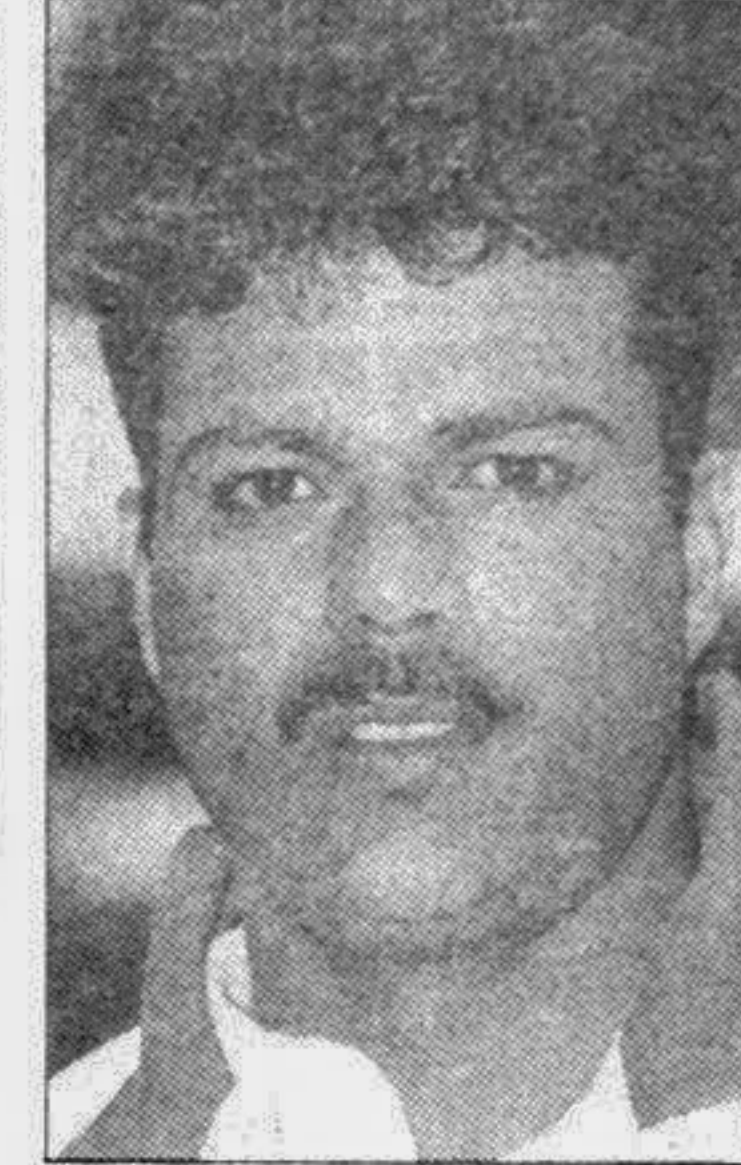
The committee concluded, "in order to complete the inquiry and in order to draw final findings and opinions, the examination of players accused of allegations, including Wasim Akram, Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Moin Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis and Saqlain Mushtaq would also be necessary and imperative."



SALIM MALIK



WASIM AKRAM



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