

# Wasim sours 'friendship'



NEW DELHI, FEB 11 (The Electronic Telegraph/ Internet): Wasim Akram punctured the new-found harmony between Indian and Pakistani cricket yesterday when he made an outspoken attack on Test pitches here.

His implicit criticism of the home umpire in the second match could also land him in trouble with the International Cricket Council match referee, the West Indies' Cammie Smith.

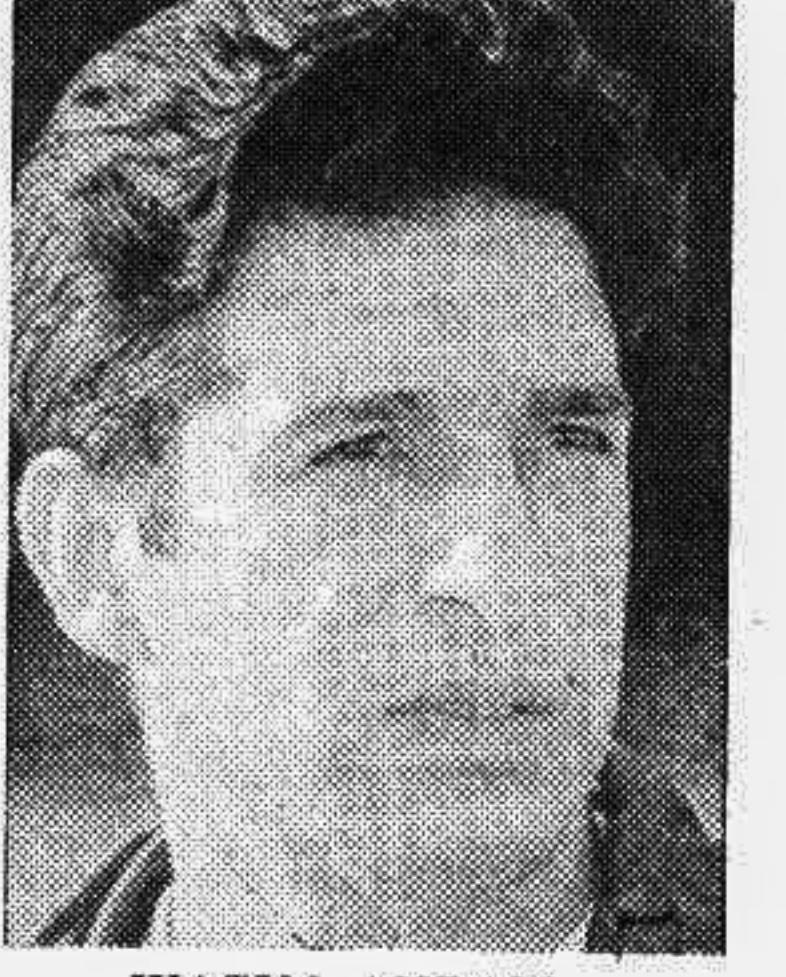
The Pakistan captain strongly praised the success of the 'Friendship Tour' and the warmth with which his side have been received. But his remarks directed at Indian cricket will be seen as untimely by many, particularly after one newspaper described the series - which finished 1-1 - as 'the willow path' to peace between the two nations.

Smith said he would be looking into Wasim's comments that in the second innings of the Test, which Pakistan lost by 212 runs, 'we got a couple of debatable decisions. In a needful match like this, experienced umpires are a must.'

Although Wasim did not name umpire Abdul Jayapra-

kash, he was standing at the end from which Anil Kumble took all his 10 wickets.

Opening batsman Shahid Afridi got a reprimand from Smith for staying too long after he had been given out caught behind and there were also



WASIM AKRAM

three leg-before decisions and two bat-pad catches.

"I think it is time we had two neutral umpires in all Test cricket and particularly in such a tense series as that between

Pakistan and India," Wasim added. "They do it in all other international sports so why doesn't cricket follow suit? Then if a neutral umpire makes a wrong decision both teams will accept it."

Two neutral umpires will for the first time stand together in the triangular Asian Regional Test tournament, also involving Sri Lanka, which starts next week. They will be Steve Bucknor, of the West Indies, who also stood in Delhi, and Rudi Koertzen, of South Africa.

Wasim, who took his 363rd Test wicket in the second match to become Pakistan's highest wicket-taker, added: "I was particularly disappointed in the quality of the Delhi pitch - it wasn't up to Test match standard."

India are always complaining they haven't got fast bowlers, but what can they expect? In all the years I have been coming here the pitches have never had any of the pace and bounce we have in Pakistan."

They have a fast-bowling academy run on the advice of Dennis Lillee but it's little wonder they can't produce pacemen with the kind of wickets they prepare."

## Kallicharan on Indian cricket

Chander Mehra

Nairobi, Feb 11 (India Abroad News Service): Former West Indies skipper Alvin Kallicharan says India has perhaps some of the best cricket players in the world today, but they need to learn to play as a team.

"They have decided the best batsmen in Sachin Tendulkar. But in recent matches (against New Zealand and the first Test against Pakistan), Sachin has been showing a lack of application," he said.

"Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly are, of course, excellent, as is skipper Mohammed Azharuddin when he gets going," Kallicharan, coach of the Kenyan team, told India Abroad News Service here.

"The Indian selectors do too many experiments, changing the batting order, bringing in new players suddenly against the best teams. And no coach, except Hanuman Singh, pays much attention to fielding and physical fitness," he claimed.

Kallicharan also praised Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad as "accurate fast and medium pacers" and Anil Kumble, who, he felt, "ranks with Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan as the best spinners in the world today."

"India can be world beaters. They have so many good players, one-on-one. But when it comes to working as a team,

they don't seem to click," Kallicharan said. "Apart from a good coach, they should have a psychiatrist on hand all the time."

He compared the Indian situation with South Africa's position: "Only Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald have real class, but other bowlers have nothing special about them. They come out well because of excellent fielding. They also have some excellent batsmen like Darryl Cullinan and Hansie Cronje. But they all work together as a team. That's how the West Indians suffered a humiliating 0-5 defeat. As a team, the South Africans are the best today and it looks as though they will snatch the World Cup in May-June."

Asked about India and Pakistan, Kallicharan said: "It's their fielding that lets them down. Fitness and sharpness in fielding is a major criterion the selectors should keep in mind before picking a squad. These days, I have seen even Azhar dropping simple catches. That's unpardonable. It sets a bad example for the rest of the players if the skipper is sloppy."

His advice to the Indians: "They should play like a well-oiled team, not as individuals. They must improve their fielding and they should not depend on just one or two players. Tendulkar, of course, is the best in the world. But it does not mean

that the whole team should place the entire burden on the little mega-master."

The West Indies and Sri Lanka "seem to be going through a bad period. But they will certainly rise again and Australia and England cannot be trifled with," said the Caribbean star.

There should be no controversy about Muralitharan's action, Kallicharan said. "The Sri Lankan is perhaps the best of all; he can spin viciously even on a glass surface. Can be really unplayable. I don't understand why the Australians are making so much fuss about him; he said.

Kallicharan was of the Windies giants offered large sums by apartheid South Africa in 1983 and given the status of "honorary Whites" for playing in the country with which the world had cut off all sporting links. Then Kallicharan, Colin Croft and Benard Julien were thrown out of a "Whites only" train by the white supremacists.

"That was humiliating and I just want to forget that incident," Kallicharan said, insisting that only Croft was thrown out of the train.

"Julien and I were not in the compartment. But we would also have faced the same treatment had we been in that compartment."

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## History, histrionics at Spanish derby



BARCELONA, Feb 11 (Reuters/ Internet): Former Barcelona coach Bobby Robson once painted a vivid picture of the volatile nature of the Spanish derby match against Real Madrid.

"Barcelona and Real Madrid is the only fixture in the world that draws more than 100,000 fans twice a year. Throw into the equation all the history, all the media attention and you are looking at a powder keg," Robson said two years ago when he was in charge of the Catalan club.

On Sunday, the two teams meet at the Nou Camp for their 69th league contest but, as usual, much more than just three points is at stake.

The rivalry is not so much one between two football clubs, which can both trace their roots back to the final decade of the 19th century, but almost a war between those representing Catalonia and the traditional seat of Spanish government in

Castile.

In the early years of their encounters there was little antagonism between the two clubs.

Barcelona got the better of their first ever official meeting in 1902 when they knocked Madrid out of the Spanish Cup but with no national league until 1928, meetings were on an occasional basis.

However, the division between the two sides became more entrenched after 1920 when Alfonso XIII gave the royal seal of approval to the white side and Real Madrid was born.

The independence-minded Catalans resented the favouritism shown by the unpopular monarch and meetings between the two clubs were never cordial again.

The split became total after the dictator Francisco Franco rose to power.

During the Spanish civil war between 1936 and 1939, and Franco's subsequent triumph, Catalonia was the main region of resistance to his rule.

For many years during the Franco era, the only place where Catalan could be openly spoken was at Barcelona matches.

By contrast, Franco -- no great football fan who briefly insisted that Madrid remove Real from their club title -- found it convenient to be identified with Real Madrid, especially during their glory years in the 1950s and 1960s when they were conquering Europe.

Real Madrid's six European Cup victories during this time was also to become symbolic of Spain's desire and ability to succeed on the European stage.

The restoration of democracy and the monarchy after the death of Franco in 1975 has not seen the rivalry diminish if anything it has become more vocal and violent.

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