

Pakistan influenced

From page 13

choice because they had beaten the Indians. So they had Sri Lanka in the final of their own choice. That's not good for cricket and obviously for the spectators, for the viewers, everyone. So, I think they have to go for some changes in the points system. Plus, whenever there is an Asian Championship, the league match between India and Pakistan should be played last, so that nobody can influence the result.

DS: Don't you think the points system should be applied in both the innings?
SB: If somebody wins a match, there is no need for (bonus) points in the second innings. But you must have some incentives in the second innings so that the teams go for a result -- at least go for those points. This system in First Class cricket in Pakistan always has a problem. Whenever a team gets a chance to force a certain team out of the tournament, they play a fixed kind of a match. It's not the money which is involved, it's the strategy. They play in such a way that a good team can stay away from the final or the semifinals. So, it will always happen and it will always be like this. You have to change that and there are some people who are working on it. I am sure in the future we are going to see some good points system.

DS: Do you have any suggestions?
SB: They should have bonus points for the (first) 100 overs in the second innings also so that the teams can go and fight for the points in the second innings too. In that case the second innings will not be that dull; like somebody took a lead, got good points and played for a draw in the second innings. But if you have points, they might go for that and there might be more excitement.

DS: One-day cricket is ruining Test cricket. Do you agree with this statement?

SB: Yes, one-day game is affecting Test cricket. First of all, you are getting results in the one-dayers. That's the best part of it because the players will get more aggressive. But the class of batting is missing. We don't see players like Sunil Gavaskar, Geoffrey Boycott and Ian Chappell any more. Most of the batsmen who are playing are aggressive. They like to play in the air. Even five years ago, players were not used to playing in the air. They played rolling shots. That's the big difference and I think we are missing classic batting.

On the other hand, one-day matches have influenced Test matches in terms of getting results. People love to go and see result-oriented matches rather than sitting there and waiting for a draw.
DS: People are not very happy with the way Pakistan cricket is going. Even some have doubts whether Pakistan can do well in the forthcoming World Cup. Can you comment on that?

SB: Yes, of course, there was a problem as long as Wasim Akram was not captain. But now they have done a good thing -- very wisely they have appointed Wasim Akram as the captain of the side. And obviously he is the man who is leading from the front. And, whenever he is the captain, he bowls well and he is the main strike bowler for Pakistan. You have already seen that in the last three Test matches. Pakistan team is combining now and they are playing well. I am sure they are going to surprise everyone in the World Cup.

DS: How do you see the exclusion of Salim Malik and Amir Sohail from the World Cup problem?
SB: Salim Malik was not scoring runs and, secondly, age is not on his side. That's why he has been dropped from the side. As far as I'm concerned, his days are over. And Amir Sohail is not attending the camp. He has been making statements against Pakistani cricketers, which is not good. If you bring him in the side, there will be a rift in the team which is not healthy for the team. That's why the selectors kept him away from the squad.

-- to keep the team united without any problems and infighting. I also praise the Pakistan board for bringing in a lot of youngsters who are performing well and will gradually occupy the places of those seniors. Do you think Amir Sohail's complaints are true?
SB: I don't know because ever since I know him, he has been making complaints and statements, which is his nature. Usually I don't pay notice to his complaints.

DS: What is the future of the Quayum Commission, which is investigating Pakistan cricket's bribery scandal?

SB: I don't know much about it. I'm not involved in it. I'm also not a part of the investigations. As I haven't seen anything, I don't believe this. I haven't seen anyone taking bribes or being involved in that. I don't think there is any truth in it. As far as the commission is concerned, it knows better than me.

Kim to accept IOC decision

SEOUL, Mar 13: The highest-ranking official implicated in the Olympic scandal said Saturday he would not contest a serious warning about his conduct recommended by IOC investigators, reports AP.

Kim Un-yong, a powerful IOC executive board member from South Korea, barely escaped expulsion when IOC investigators said Friday that they recommended severe censure against him.

There is no regulation about 'severe censure' in the IOC charter. I understand I will get a very serious warning," Kim told The Associated Press before leaving for a special IOC general assembly in Lausanne, Switzerland.



BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury formally announcing the name of the title sponsor for the forthcoming three-nation limited-overs tournament at a press conference yesterday. —Star photo

Rain blocks SA progress



CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 13 (Reuters/AP): Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis, unbeaten by New Zealand's bowlers, were defeated by the country's weather when just 40 balls were possible on the third day of the second Test at Lancaster Park today.

South Africa's young batting stars advanced, their second wicket partnership from their overnight 102 to 120 before the grey, clinging drizzle that prevented play from starting until 3.15 pm (0215 GMT) returned and drove the players from the field after just 29 minutes.

Gibbs, who resumed on 101 not out from 286 balls in six hours and 52 minutes, immediately tried to raise the tempo in the short time available adding two boundaries to reach 113 with a total of 13 fours and one six.

Kallis, who resumed on 53, square drove Vettori through point and added a single to move his score onto 58.

Having bowled their hosts out for 168 on the first day, South Africa's lead stands at 79 runs with nine wickets in hand. An extra hour will be added to the fourth and fifth days play in an attempt to make up lost time although a total of seven hours and 53 minutes, equating to 116 overs, has been lost already.

There are still around 210 overs left in the match and, although it's been badly frustrating, we believe there's still

enough time left in the match to produce a result," Hansie Cronje said when play was finally abandoned at 4.55 pm.

The tourists' hopes of winning the rain-plagued Test suffered a major blow when strike bowler Allan Donald was ruled out for two weeks with a muscle tear.

Donald, who strained his stomach muscles during the drawn first Test in Auckland, was forced to leave the field during the New Zealand first innings due to a recurrence of the injury. He picked up three wickets.

The ace fast bowler will remain with tour party and continue with his rehabilitation.

Although not ruling out Donald's further participation in the Test, coach Bob Woolmer said his fast bowler might produce a wicket-taking spell before packing up.

"We hope Allan will be ready for the rest of the one-day series," Woolmer said. "It will take him two weeks to be 100 per cent right. He is going nowhere and will be treated on the tour."

Donald, South Africa's leading wicket-taker, has struggled to finish his last three Tests after breaking down.

"It has been a concern for us and the decision taken is mainly keeping the World Cup in mind and also his future. Allan wants to take 300 wickets before he finishes," Woolmer said.

Medium paceman Steve Elworthy will replace Donald in the third and final Test in Wellington.

Also on the injury list is all-rounder Jacques Kallis, with a torn tendon on the big toe of his left foot. Kallis' workload as a medium paceman in the first innings was cut short to five overs.

With the bowling options thin and just two days left, South Africa will be straining its resources to force a 1-0 lead before the final Test.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the third day of the second Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Lancaster Park on Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 229-1)

Kirsten c Astle b Vettori 65
Gibbs not out 113
Kallis not out 58
Extras (lb-7, nb-4) 11
Total: (For one wk) 247
Fall of wkt: 1-127

To bat: Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje, Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|---------|------|---|----|---|
| Doull | 19.5 | 7 | 26 | 0 |
| Allott | 28.4 | 9 | 76 | 0 |
| Nash | 17 | 5 | 38 | 0 |
| Astle | 5.1 | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Vettori | 24 | 6 | 73 | 1 |
| Stead | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Harris | 12 | 6 | 14 | 0 |

Shevchenko: Ukraine's nuclear product



KIEV, Mar 13 (AFP): Andrei Shevchenko's footballing career may be blossoming now but it was nearly buried under the cloud of radioactive waste which spewed out of the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant in April 1986.

Shevchenko, who has set the Champions' League alight this year, was but a budding 10-year-old hopeful and an occasional ball-boy on Dynamo Kiev's books when the world's worst civilian nuclear accident occurred little more than 100 kilometres away.

The younger was evacuated from Kiev to the Crimean Black Sea coast along with thousands of other children to protect them from the Chernobyl fallout. All dreams of rising through the ranks to become Ukraine's number one footballer were put on hold, and almost forgotten altogether.

Shevchenko was finally rediscovered by coach Alexander Shpakov, who found the young prodigy months later languishing in a Black Sea sanatorium and brought him back to the big time.

His speed and technique immediately stood out even in the early years, and coaches would mention him in the same breath as Oleg Blokhin, the famous Kiev and Soviet Union international striker, who was awarded *ballon d'or* in 1975.

By 1995, the dreams Shevchenko had when he first

came to Dynamo as a nine-year-old a decade earlier were coming true, as he became a regular first team player at the reigning champions of a by now independent Ukraine.

Shevchenko's creative playing and extraordinary scoring abilities quickly established him as an integral member of the squad, and he has since scored 53 goals in 107 games for Dynamo in the Ukrainian domestic league.

Europe would become the next stage for the striker's scoring passions. Last year in the Champions' league group match against Barcelona at the Nou Camp Stadium, the striker netted a stunning hat-trick during the Ukrainian champions' astonishing 4-0 success.

Olimpia owe Dezotti

SAO PAULO, Mar 13: Olimpia's Dezotti snatched a late goal to give the Paraguayan team a 1-1 draw against Group 3 leaders Brazil's Palmeiras in the Libertadores Cup, reports AP.

Three minutes from time, Palmeiras goalie Velloso failed to clutch a deep cross and Dezotti lifted the ball over him into the net.

The unexpected goal prompted the handful of Olimpia fans at the Parque Antartica stadium here to go wild Friday.

This year's Champions' League matches also proved his ability to score in the most important matches, his equaliser in the away group match against Arsenal as well as the opener in the quarterfinal game against Real Madrid were vital for his team.

Shevchenko, who is 22 now is no lone ranger but a genuine team player whose strength, speed and skill has terrorised defences across Europe this season and created scoring chances for his partners. Together with his teammate forward Sergei Reborek he formed Kiev's arrowhead, dangerous for any opposition.

His creative playing persuaded daily newspaper the Voice of Ukraine to name him the republic's footballer-of-the-year for three consecutive seasons.

His international career began soon after his appearance for Dynamo. Though his 1995 debut against Croatia was a 4-0 disaster, Shevchenko and Ukraine have matured and become tougher since. Ukraine currently are leading the qualifying Group four of the 2000 European Championship ahead of World Cup winners France.

Shevchenko has been capped 18 times and scored six goals for Ukraine.

Shevchenko's second greatest sporting love is tennis and he is a passionate fan of the game and a close friend of Ukraine's top player Andrei Medvedev.



Winners of the second Emirates golf tournament pose with their trophies at the Kurmitola Golf Club. President of the club and Chief of Army Staff M Mustafizur Rahman, BB, Charge D'Affaires UAE Embassy Salem Al-Suwedi and manager Bangladesh, Emirates E. Rateer are among them.

Meril to sponsor tri-nation cricket

Sports Reporter

The forthcoming three-nation one-day tournament involving Zimbabwe, Kenya and hosts Bangladesh, will be sponsored by Meril, a brand name of Square Toiletries Limited.

This was revealed by Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Anjan Chowdhury Pintoo, managing director of Square Toiletries, and BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Huq were also present on the occasion.

According to Saber, the title of the tournament, billed for a March 19 start, will be "Meril International cricket tournament 1999". Saber also disclosed that the board was going to receive Taka 15 lakh for the title sponsorship.

AFC warns Lebanon

ZURICH, Switzerland, Mar 13: Lebanon risks losing the 2000 Asian Cup unless they can prove to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) that they will be able to host Asia's football showcase to the rest of the world, reports AFP.

According to AFC sources, political infighting within Lebanon could force the AFC to switch the tournament to either China or Malaysia.

The Lebanese Football Association has until May 26 to deliver a progress report to the AFC and confirm that the stadiums will meet strict AFC regulations.

"We will do everything we can to make sure Lebanon hosts the cup but they must meet our standards. The cup is our showcase to the world," said AFC general secretary Peter Velappan here on Friday.

"With the World Cup being held in Asia for the first time it is our duty to ensure the 2000 Asian Cup is a success. But the Lebanon FA must make sure that our security and safety standards are met," he added.

The problem is a plan to build a new stadium at Saecda. AFC sources says the proposed stadium does not meet their standards.

AFC officials had planned to visit Lebanon next week but the trip was cancelled and the May 26 deadline set.

"Both China and Malaysia could stand in if necessary but we would much prefer to see Lebanon host 2000," said Velappan.

Heiko Dortmund's hero-turn villain

BONN, Mar 13: Striker Heiko Herrlich was both hero and villain in Borussia Dortmund's 1-0 victory over Bayer Leverkusen in the German First Division on Friday, reports Reuters.

Herrlich scored the winner in the 13th minute and was sent off for a second bookable offence with two minutes left in the game in Dortmund.

The 1997 European champions, who were cheered on by over 67,000 fans, climb one place to fourth while Leverkusen, who suffered only their third league defeat of the season, remain second.

Leaders Bayern Munich will move 15 points clear of Leverkusen if they beat Hamburg Saturday.

In Friday's other match, SC Freiburg scored three second-half goals to crush 10-man Hansa Rostock 3-0.

Rostock lost German defender Marko Rehmer when he received his marching orders for a second booking in the 58th minute.

Freiburg opened the scoring two minutes later through Georgian striker Levan Kobischvili. Tunisian Zoubair Baya gave them a 2-0 lead in the 80th minute and fellow midfielder Marco Wisshaupt completed the demolition one minute later.

Freiburg rise two places to ninth while Rostock stay 17th in the 18-strong league.

Lahiri lifts Emirates golf title

Brig Devashish Lahiri won the second Emirates golf tournament held at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday, says a press release.

Ok Kyung Jang was the Ladies' Winner, ambassador of Japan Yoshikazu Kaneko the Senior Winner and youngster Farhan Khan the Junior Winner.

Chief of Army Staff and president Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) Lt General Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman BB, inaugurated the tournament and distributed the prizes.

A total of 247 golfers including 19 ladies and 16 juniors took part in the tournament.

The KGC president praised the high standard of skill and lauded Emirates for arranging the event.

Edris Taher, manager Bangladesh-Emirates announced that the airline would make the tournament an annual event and thanked the KGC members for helping them to make it a grand success.

Charge d'Affaires UAE Embassy Salem Al-Suwedi joined the KGC Chief of hand over the prizes.

Lara declines to say



KINGSTON, Jamaica, Mar 13: Brian Lara on Friday ducked a question on whether his job as West Indies captain was on the line in the second Test against Australia starting today, reports Reuters.

Lara said, "My career is not on the line, that's the main thing."

"As far as I'm concerned the West Indies Cricket Board and I have had a very fruitful relationship for the last couple of weeks. We've all realised our responsibilities and they support me."

"This probation period has been sensationalised."

Nat'l youth cricket scores

Chapainawabganj moved into the semifinals of the 19th national youth cricket championship beating Pabna by 10 runs at the Jyopurhat Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Chapainawabganj scored a respectable 220 all out in 50 overs with Sohel contributing 57.

In reply, Pabna were all out for 210 in 48.2 overs.

Natore will take on Bogra today at the same venue.

Away at Habiganj Stadium, the hosts and Sylhet moved into the regional final of the championship.

Habiganj defeated Moulvibazar by 70 runs while Sylhet beat Sunamganj by 74 runs.

Lara, heavily criticised for his captaincy on the recent South Africa tour where West



BRIAN LARA

Indies lost the Test series 5-0, was reappointed skipper for only the first two matches of the four-Test series against Australia.

They suffered a humiliating defeat in the first Test in Port of Spain after being bowled out for 51, their lowest Test score.

"I'm not concentrating on what criteria were set or anything like that," said Lara. "I'm going out there to play to the best of my ability and try to level the series."

"Whatever the board decides after that it's still my priority to play West Indies cricket in

whatever capacity they see fit. Lara dismissed suggestions that in the circumstances the Kingston Test was the most important match of his career. "They're all important," he said. "I don't think I should place any more importance on this match than the last match or the five matches in South Africa."

Trinidadian Lara said he was not fazed by the possibility of being given a hostile reception by Jamaican fans still aggrieved over him replacing Courtney Walsh as captain.

"My relationship with the Jamaican public has been very good over the years," he said. "Of course, everyone is very emotional about their cricket. They have a lot of pride in it and they expect us to do well all the time."

"They will vent their feelings when things don't go well so as captain you have to expect a bit of flak."

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Mar 13: New Rising Stars crushed Rupatali Housing Estate Pathagar-O-Club by 221 runs in the First Division cricket league here today.

New Rising Stars scored 309 all out in 33.3 overs. Shaheen made 56. He was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

In reply, Rupatali Housing Estate were shot out for 88 in 17 overs.

Tomorrow Arunoday Super Stars Club face Shaheed Sentu-o-Rintu Smriti Sangha.



The Pakistan 'supporters' club'. —Star photo

New-look Brazil to tour Far East



RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 13 (Reuters/AP): Ronaldo has been left out of Brazil's 20-man squad for a brief tour of the Far East at his own request.

Coach Wanderley Luxemburgo said on Friday he had spoken to Ronaldo, whose season with Inter Milan has been plagued by injury, and he had asked not to be included.

"I will not put pressure on Ronaldo, he needs time to get himself ready again," said Luxemburgo who is building a side to defend the Copa America title in Paraguay in July.

Ronaldo has played only 38 minutes football in the past two months but now appears to be fully fit. He is expected to play in the second half of today's Italian championship derby against AC Milan.

He has not played for his country since last year's World Cup final against France.

Among the veterans, only Rivaldo and Cafu were starters on the Brazilian team that lost 3-0 to France in the World Cup final. Emerson and Ze Roberto were reserves.

By contrast, the new team contains five new faces, part of Luxemburgo's preparation of an

under-23 squad for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

The big surprise was forward Rivaldo of Rio's Fluminense. The talented 21-year-old forward has blossomed under coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, who managed Brazil's World Cup champions in 1994 and now is resurrecting Fluminense from the Third Division.

Another newcomer is Juninho, the playmaker of Copa Libertadores champions Vasco da Gama. Two other Vasco players, defenders Odvan and Felipe, also were named.

The other rookies were Cruzeiro midfielder Marcos Paulo, Gremio fullback Scheidt and Santos forward Alessandro.

Seven of the 20 play in Europe, including the four World Cup returnees. The others are Amoroso, Fabio Junior and Elber.

Among the notable absences were Denilson, the World Cup revelation now struggling on Spain's Betis; and goalkeeper Dida, bogged down in a complicated transfer from Cruzeiro to Italy's Milan.

Such a move is likely to upset the players in European clubs as the Brazilian tour coincides with a crucial stage of

the European season. Brazil have played three games under Luxemburgo who took over after Mario Zagallo was sacked following Brazil's defeat in the World Cup final.

The first match, a 1-1 draw at home to Yugoslavia, was devalued by the controversial performance of a Brazilian referee.

Brazil won the next two 5-1 but the opponents were a below strength Ecuador and a second-string Russian side.

Brazil will play South Korea in Seoul on March 28, before travelling to Tokyo to face Japan three days later.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS: Rogerio (Sao Paulo), Andrew (International)

DEFENDERS: Cafu (AS Roma), Serginho (Sao Paulo), Felipe (Vasco da Gama), Scheidt (Gremio), Rouque Junior (Palmeiras)

MIDFIELDERS: Ze Roberto, Emerson (Bayer Leverkusen), Flavio Conceicao (Deportivo Coruna), Alex, Rogerio (Palmeiras), Rivaldo (Barcelona), Amoroso (Udinese), Juninho (Vasco da Gama), Marcos Paulo (Cruzeiro).

FORWARDS: Fabio Junior (AS Roma), Elber (Bayer Munich), Alessandro (Santos), Roni (Fluminense).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Moist

5 "appetite"

8 First victim

12 Wings

13 Wish

14 Circle

15 Theater

17 Highway

18 Biz execs

19 Quenches

21 Departed

24 - Amin

25 Paint

28 Indian

30 Tango

33 "Equi"

34 Bulldog's

35 Listening

36 Nth degree

37 Shake-

38 Cold War

39 Le Carre

41 Period

43 Point a

46 Watch's

50 Exemplar

51 Package

54 Grime

55 Journalist

56 Luminary

57 Halves of

58 "Oh yeah?"

59 Vagrant

1 Blycreem

2 Fraternal

3 Skirt length

4 Mortar

5 Bikini part

6 Chic no

7 Capone foe

8 Onward

9 Rectangu-

10 Pennsyl-

11 Back

12 Language

20 Jim Carrey

21 Slight

22 Slight

23 April re-

24 Conway or

25 Curry

26 Team's

27 Game

28 Witty

29 Witicism

31 Existed

32 Stick

34 Serenades

35 Abrupt

36 Drop-kicks

42 Pussycat's

43 Late-show

44 Invent

45 Undergoes

46 Quite

47 Involved

48 Wound

49 From one

50 To other

52 Corrida

53 Tally-

54 Agents

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

K'E NRCRXDOOL ERQVXKIR

WDNCRG QDORQWRC DQ

IRKCN FRXL DGGXDVGKPR.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU MEAN THAT COMICAL COWBOYS ARE SOMEWHAT LIABLE TO HORSE ARROUND?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals M

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.