

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Saeed Anwar

(Master Pakistani batsman)
"Cricket is a funny game and you can't take chances. I have learnt the hard way that concentration is the key to success."

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Competition-112

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1. Who is the new Real Madrid soccer coach?
Hiddink Toshack Sacchi

2. Pakistan won the hockey series against India by
5-1 6-3 4-3

3. Who is the first woman referee to officiate a First Division soccer match?
Danielle Carolina Janet

4. Who won the boys' singles title in the ITF tourney in Rajshahi?
Chang Weaver Wala

5. How many players are taking part in the United Insurance GM chess tourney?
10 13 20

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Club House (West) Tk 400

Club House (East) Tk 350
International Gallery Tk 300
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Galleries (East & West) Tk 50

All tickets except the Hospitality Box ones, will be available at the counters of the Bangabandhu Stadium on the day of the match.

Tickets for both (AC/Non-AC) the hospitality boxes can be collected from the accounts section of the BCB office.

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY DRAMATICALLY HISTORIC

Shakil Kasem

Cricket is akin to theatre; played out on a stage, where the plot occasionally thickens, the cast always have assigned roles to play, and performances are at a premium, berated or applauded as the case may be by an audience which could be either indifferent or rapt depending on what's happening on stage.

The third day of this Test meandered through the eddies and gullies of predictability un-

paid for his entry. Almost predictably and by design, both Ijaz and Inzamam completed their double hundreds. With each run they remorselessly hammered another nail into the Sri Lankan coffin. Whilst doing so, they further cemented their place in the Pakistani middle order. Eat your heart out, Salim Malik.

Two double hundreds ensured that Pakistan almost got to the 600 mark, although I sus-

this is an imperfect world.

In what amounted to a form of Black Humour, Sri Lanka had more misfortunes to tackle. This was not Fat Lady Falling on Ice; but it was quite baroque in its own way. The bizarre lay an inch below the surface. Having bowled Pakistan out for 596, the Sri Lankan captain did not get any respite to ponder on what is, what was and what must be. The Sri Lankan team, already on the floor, then got kicked in the guts by Wasim Akram. The perfect schoolboy bully.

I always maintained that old age and treachery win over youth and enthusiasm. This was the master displaying his art for the world to see. This was Arnold Schwarzenegger and Steven Seagal rolled into one. This was mayhem. This was chaos, this was High Definition Performance. Kenneth Tynan would have been lost for words. It was theatrics of the highest order.

Hattricks do not occur every day, least of all in Test matches, and back-to-back hattricks (that too against the same team) match the odds for a hole in one on a designated hole. I don't

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High on hattricks

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"This is a proud moment for me. I missed the hattrick at Lahore but fortunately I could be present here to watch this one," said the Lahore-based man, on his first trip to Dhaka.

Only two other bowlers did it twice in the 123 years of Test cricket. Australian TJ Matthews achieved the unique feat of performing two hattricks in one Test against South Africa at Manchester way back in 1912.

However, H Trumble, another Australian, was the first bowler to claim two hattricks, that too against England at Melbourne in 1901-02 and 1903-04 seasons.

Only 22 bowlers -- nine from England, seven from Australia, three from West Indies, and one each from South Africa, New Zealand and Pakistan -- could have achieved a hattrick so far.

Akram meanwhile is the only bowler to do the three-stroke magnum opus in both forms of cricket -- Test and one-day international. He also holds the enviable record of doing it twice in Tests and one-dayers.

Akram's unique feat only overshadowed the double centuries by Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamamul Haq, which had left Sri Lanka on the brink of a heavy defeat. Ijaz made 211 and Inzamam an unbeaten 200 as Pakistan amassed 594 shortly before the close of play.

Opening the Pakistan attack with young speedster Shoaib Akhtar, Akram then stepped in to seize the spotlight as Sri Lanka, needing 364 to avoid an innings defeat, slipped to 9-3 in 13 deliveries before stumps were drawn for the day.

Akram had Avishka Gunawardena caught brilliantly in the slips by Shahid Afridi off his fifth delivery. His sixth ball broke night-watchman Chaminda Vaas' off-stumps in two pieces.



After an over from Shoaib at the other end, Akram found his third victim in Mahela Jayawardena for the rare hattrick. The Sri Lankan, who hit a double hundred against India, gave a simple catch in the slips. The umpires called off play at that stage, much to the relief of the Sri Lankans, who had to spend the whole day under the

hot mid-March sun.

"It was quite unbelievable," said a delighted Akram, who took his Test haul to 378 to capture the fifth position on the all-time leading wicket-taker's list, pushing West Indian great fast bowler Malcolm Marshall (376) down to the sixth place.

"After taking two wickets, my plan was to bowl between the stumps and let the batsman do the mistake. And he (Jayawardena) made the mistake," said an all-smiling skipper.

When asked to draw a comparison between the two hattricks, the 32-year-old man from Lahore said, "Hattrick is hattrick. This one is little better because this was (done) with the new ball and (against) the top order."

Veteran West Indian quick Courtney Walsh, with 408 wickets, and Akram are the two likely candidates to topple Indian Kapil Dev's world record of 434 Test-haul. Can the Pakistani get there?

"I think Walsh will certainly get there and I hope I can follow suit."

"I have got another 50-odd wickets to get there. I'm getting older, it's getting more difficult now. But I hope I would be able to do that. Let's see what happens," Akram said.



Wasim Akram is delighted after bowling out Lankan night-watchman Chaminda Vaas.

— Star photo

Championship nuggets

Hasan Masood

The trophy of the inaugural Asian Test Championship, sponsored by Coca-Cola, will reach the capital today from Bombay. The crystal trophy, with gold ornamentation, has been designed by Creative Awards, a Bombay based designing firm.

The winners of the final will be richer by 1,00,000 US dollars while the runners-up will receive 60,000 dollars. India, the other team to have participated in the three-nation championship, have already been awarded with 20,000 dollars.

Meanwhile, the crests for the man of the final and man of the series, reached the capital yesterday.

The man-of-the-final will receive 5,000 dollars. The amount will be doubled for the man-of-the-series.

Big British Bloomer

British Airways has awarded legendary England cricketer Geoffrey Boycott the much wanted knighthood. The national airlines of United Kingdom has arranged a reception for Boycott, who is now in the capital as one of the six member commentary team of Star Sports, at a city hotel tomorrow evening.

Boycott was titled "Sir" in the invitation card. However, it is common knowledge that the British sovereign never bestowed the title upon him.

What a mistake by his native airlines!

Double milestones for the Is

Apart from the Wasim Akram hattrick, two Pakistan

batsmen Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamamul Haq also achieved personal milestones by hammering their first double hundreds yesterday.

Ijaz, who was unbeaten on 118 at stumps of the second day's play on Saturday, went onto score 211 before being caught behind of Upul Chandana. Meanwhile, Inzamam, who resumed on an overnight score of 77, remained unbeaten on exactly 200 when Pakistan were all out for 594.

On his way to 211, Ijaz



UPUL ... 6wks on debut

crossed three-thousand runs in his 54th Test match and also bettered his previous highest score of 155 against Australia in Peshawar last September. On the other hand, Inzamam also crossed his previous highest score of 177, made against West Indies in Rawalpindi last season.

With their respective double hundreds, Ijaz and Inzamam became the 25th and 26th batsmen for Pakistan to score two hundred runs in a Test innings.

The present Pakistan coach and former middle order batsman Javed Miandad leads the list with six double centuries in Test cricket, followed by Zaheer Abbas who slammed four.

Legendary right hand batsman Hanif Mohammad, the only Pakistan to have scored a triple century (337), and his son Shoaib Mohammad have scored two double hundreds each.

A dilemmatic debut

A six-wicket haul on debut should be more than good enough a start for a leg spinner. But does Sri Lankan leggie Upul Chandana agree?

No, he doesn't!

The lanky 27-year old islander, who is playing his first Test, captured six wickets in the first innings of his Test career conceding 179 runs in 47.4 overs. But that was not good enough to bring back smile on his face at the end of the day as Sri Lanka were reeling at nine for three at stumps, needing another 354 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

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HATTRICK HEROES

FR Spofforth (Australia) v England at Melbourne 1878-79.
W. Bates (England) v Australia at Melbourne 1882-83.
J. Briggs (England) v Australia at Sydney 1891-92.
G.A. Lohmann (England) v South Africa at Port Elizabeth 1895-96.
J.T. Hearne (England) v Australia at Leeds 1899.
H. Trumble (Australia) v England at Melbourne 1901-02.
H. Trumble (Australia) v England at Melbourne 1903-04.
T.J. Matthews (Australia) v England at Manchester 1912.
T.J. Matthews (Australia) v New Zealand at Christchurch 1929-30.
M.J.C. Allom (England) v South Africa at Johannesburg 1938-39.
T.W. Goddard (England) v West Indies at Leeds 1957.
P.J. Loader (England) v West Indies at Cape Town 1957-58.
L.F. Kline (Australia) v South Africa at Cape Town 1957-58.
W.W. Hall (West Indies) v Pakistan at Lahore 1958-59.
G.M. Griffin (South Africa) v England at Lord's 1960.
L.R. Gibbs (West Indies) v Australia at Adelaide 1960-61.
P.J. Petherick (New Zealand) v Pakistan at Lahore 1976-77.
C.A. Walsh (West Indies) v Australia at Brisbane 1988-89.
M.G. Hughes (Australia) v West Indies at Perth 1988-89.
S.K. Warne (Australia) v Pakistan at Rawalpindi 1994-95.
S.K. Warne (Australia) v England at Melbourne 1994-95.
D.G. Cork (England) v West Indies at Sydney 1998-99.
D. Gough (England) v Australia at Sydney 1998-99.
W. Akram (Pakistan) v Sri Lanka at Dhaka 1999.



Ijaz Ahmed acknowledges the crowd's applause after reaching 200 runs.

— Star photo

ASIAN TEST SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the first Asian Test Championship final between Pakistan and Sri Lanka played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 361 (Aravinda 72, Atapattu 36, Vaas 20 n.o., Arshad Khan 5/38, Shoaib 2/36, Akram 2/45)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 299 for 2 in 100 overs)

Anwar c & b Arnold	57
Wasit c Jayawardena b Sajeeva	22
Ijaz c Tilkeratne b Chandana	211
Inzamam not out	200
Youhana c sub b Chandana	19
Afridi c & b Chandana	21
Moin Khan c Sajeeva b Arnold	10
Akram c Vaas b Chandana	8
Saglain run out	4
Arshad c Tilkeratne b Chandana	3
Shoaib c Tilkeratne b Chandana	4
Extras: (b-13, lb-14, nb-8)	35
Total: (All out in 184.4 overs)	594
Fall of wickets: 1-75; 2-117; 3-483; 4-515; 5-518; 6-534; 7-542; 8-555; 9-560	

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Vaas	32	4	101	0
Wickremasinghe	20	4	53	0
Sajeeva	25.4	3	75	1
Chandana	47.4	8	179	6
Aravinda	12	0	44	0
Arnold	37.2	6	80	2
Jayawardena	10	1	35	0

SRI LANKA: Second innings
Arnold batting
Gunawardena c Afridi b Akram
Vaas b Akram
Jayawardena c Wasit b Akram
Extras: 1
Total: (for 3 wks in 2.1 overs) 9

To bat: Marvan Atapattu, Aravinda de Silva, Hashan Tilkeratne, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Upul Chandana, Pramodya Wickremasinghe and Sajeeva de Silva.

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-5; 3-9

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Akram	1.1	0	5	3
Shoaib	1	0	4	0

200-PLUS PAK BATSMEN

Name	Venue	Opponent	Year	Score
Hanif Mohammed	Bridgetown	West Indies	1957-58	337
Javed Miandad	Hyderabad (P)	India	1982-83	280+
Zaheer Abbas	Birmingham	England	1971	274
Javed Miandad	Auckland	New Zealand	1988-89	271
Javed Miandad	The Oval	England	1987	260
Wasim Akram	Sheikhpura	Zimbabwe	1996-97	257+
Zaheer Abbas	The Oval	England	1974	240
Salim Malik	Rawalpindi	Australia	1994-95	237
Mudassar Nazar	Hyderabad (P)	India	1978-79	235+
Zaheer Abbas	Lahore	India	1982-83	231
Javed Miandad	Karachi	India	1982-83	215
Ijaz Ahmed	Dhaka	Sri Lanka	1998-99	211
Taslim Arif	Faisalabad	Australia	1979-80	210+
Qasim Omar	Faisalabad	India	1984-85	210
Intiaz Ahmed	Lahore (LG)	New Zealand	1955-56	209
Javed Miandad	Karachi	New Zealand	1976-77	206
Qasim Omar	Faisalabad	Sri Lanka	1985-86	206
Aamir Sohail	Manchester	England	1992	205
Hanif Mohammed	Lahore	New Zealand	1964-65	203+
Shoaib Mohammed	Faisalabad	Sri Lanka	1985-86	203+
Shoaib Mohammed	Lahore	India	1989-90	203+
Mushtaq Mohammed	Karachi	New Zealand	1990-91	203+
Mohsin Khan	Dunedin	New Zealand	1972-73	201
Inzamamul Haq	Lord's	England	1982	200
	Dhaka	Sri Lanka	1998-99	200+



A PROUD FATHER: Chowdhury Mohammad Akram, father of Pakistan skipper Wasim, is sitting beside his son during the post-match press briefing at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

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til it sparked to life, just before the day was dead. Not that the outcome of this match is in any doubt. What reservations there may have been lurking in the collective mind were swept conclusively away, as Sri Lanka continued to compound their miseries. It was Theatre of the Absurd. After a most dull and dreary second day, the cricket aficionado at the ground had something to gain from having

pect that they would ideally have liked to bat out the day and perhaps midway through the next as well. Something in the region of 700 plus would have shut out Sri Lanka from the match and snuffed out any challenge that they might have been contemplating to mount. The late order perhaps did not do justice to the earlier work done by the upper echelons of the batting society. But then,