

Quetta-BCB tie quite a tie

Sports Reporter
The visiting Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven tied their fourth President's Cup National One-Day Tournament group match against Quetta Cricket Association at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday.

According to a telephonic message, the tourists totalled 185 for nine in their stipulated 50 overs after Habibul Bashar won the toss.

Middle-order Hasanuzzaman top-scored with 55 off 110 balls while Mahbubur Rahman chipped in with 29.

Faisal Imran of the home team captured four for 33.

In reply, Quetta were all out for 185 off the last ball of the match.

Medium-paceer Mushfiqur Rahman was the wrecker-in-chief with a four-wicket haul which cost 27 runs. He received the man-of-the-match award.

BCB Eleven will face Hyderabad in their last match tomorrow.

Khulna lift inter-district kabadi title

Khulna emerged champions in the Green Delta inter-district kabadi tournament beating Tangail 62-43 in the final at the outer stadium court yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 34-20.

Managing Director of the tournament sponsors Green Delta Insurance Company AR Bhuiyan was the chief guest at the closing function and distributed prizes.

President of Bangladesh Amateur Kabadi Federation Alhaj Habibur Rahman Molah, MP, presided over the function. Federation general secretary Monir Hossain was present.

Earlier, in the semifinals, Khulna beat Rajshahi 94-38 while Tangail beat Dhanpur 76-70.

Dhanpur came third beating Rajshahi.

In all, 16 teams took part in the three-day meet, the first ever in the country.

Div I cricket Gopibagh beat Dhanmondi

Gopibagh Friends Association maintained their winning run earning a three-wicket victory against Dhanmondi Club in the First Division cricket super league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

This was the twelfth win for Gopibagh FA from 13 matches.

Dhanmondi Club were all out for a paltry 102 in 37.3 overs.

Masud Raihan scored 20 off 43 balls with two boundaries while Tariqul made 15 off 38 balls that included two fours.

Raju took three wickets for 22 runs while Russel and Jewel took two wickets each.

In reply, Gopibagh reached their target in 24 overs with Russel making 30 off 38 balls with three boundaries and one over boundary.

Tariqul Islam claimed four for 47 in 10 overs while Palash captured three for 39 in 9 overs.

Div II cricket

Uttara Friends Club, Nabin Sangha and Bangladesh Railway won their respective matches in the Acme Second Division cricket league at different venues in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Uttara FC defeated Gulshan Youth Club by four wickets. Uttara scored 120 for six in 30.2 overs in reply to Gulshan's 111 in 27.5 overs.

Nabin Sangha beat Ekota SKS by two wickets at the Old DOHS ground. Ekota scored 194 in 40 overs. In reply, Nabin Sangha made 200 for eight in 39.4 overs.

At the Kalindi Cricket ground, Railway earned a massive eight-wicket win over Khelaghar SKS. Railway scored 136 for two in 19.2 overs, replying to Khelaghar's 135 in 28.3 overs.

Beijing hopeful

BEIJING, April 10: China hoped Thursday that political disputes with the United States and other countries would not hinder Beijing's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games, reports AP.

Beijing Mayor Liu Qi, with Chinese Olympic Committee chairman and sports minister Wu Shaouzi at his side, formally submitted Beijing's offer to the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Wednesday.

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch expressed delight at Beijing's bid. China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The bid is China's first since its disappointing one-vote loss to Sydney, Australia, in 1993 for the 2000 Olympics. Then criticisms by human rights groups and civil liberties made it unfit to host the Games may have played a role in Beijing's loss.

"We hope that no political issues will be involved and that obstacles can be removed so that our efforts can yield success," Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi said at a twice-weekly media briefing.

Sun added that the Chinese government fully backed the bid.

Beijing is believed to be the front-runner in a crowded field that includes Toronto; Osaka, Japan; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Istanbul, Turkey; Paris; and Seville, Spain.

Jadeja India's hero

SHARJAH, Apr 10 (AP/Reuters): Acting skipper Ajay Jadeja, grabbed three wickets in a single over Friday to spearhead India's thrilling 20-run victory over England in the third game of the Champions' Cup one-day tournament here.

Jadeja, who took over the team's game strategy after skipper Mohammad Azharuddin had to abandon the match due to a bruised toe, grabbed three crucial wickets, to stifle out England for 202 in 47.5 overs.

England were 196 for six in pursuit of a victory target of 223 in the 50 overs day-night match when Jadeja brought himself on for the 47th over because his specialist bowlers had almost completed their quotas.

Jadeja's gamble - he had not taken a wicket in one-day internationals for more than two years - was rewarded as he swung the game India's way by dispatching Robert Croft, Neil Fairbrother, who hit England's top score of 57, and Darren Gough with his medium paces.

England slumped to 199 for nine and were eventually dismissed for 202 to give India their first win in the triangular tournament.

India made 222 for five in their 50 overs.

Pakistan head the standings after winning their first two matches in the round-robin stage while England are bottom after losing twice.

Jadeja's superb bowling performance earned him the 1,000 dollars man-of-the-match award.

Indian bowlers Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad and Joshi also bowled superbly to mop up a fighting English tail end and win by 20 runs.

Fairbrother, who hit 57 off 77 balls was the key players of the English innings along with Andrew Flintoff who made 32 off 40 balls. The two set up a stand of 72 for the fifth wicket.

Prasad, shaking off the effects of Thursday's fever, periodically disturbed the English wickets with a neat figure of 26 for 3.

He clean bowled Nick Knight, Flintoff and Mark Ealham.

Graeme Hick and Graham Thorpe rebuilt the innings with a stand of 55 runs from 14 overs after the double blow on 25 when both openers, Nick Knight and skipper Alec Stewart, were dismissed.

Hick (32) was stumped by Rahul Dravid taking over the wicketkeeper's duties from the injured Nayan Mongia, who was struck on the mouth when a ball bounced higher than expected.

This was Dravid's first victim in international one-day-

ers as a wicketkeeper.

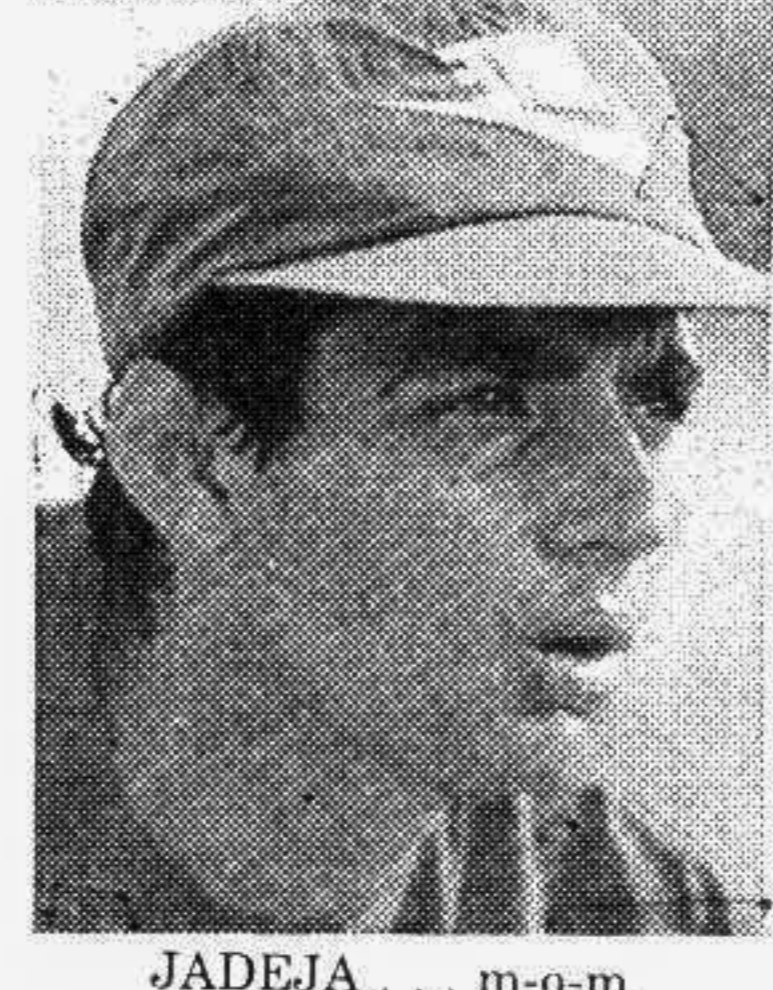
Left-arm bowler Sunil Joshi, bowled brilliantly to take two for only 38 runs in his ten overs while Anil Kumble kept a tight rein on the batsmen in his nine over spell.

Earlier when batting, skipper Azharuddin hit an unbeaten half century and paced India to 222 for five.

Azharuddin, looking more positive than he did in Thursday's defeat to arch-rivals Pakistan, struck 74 off 85 deliveries, including two sixes, one each off pacemen Gough and Flintoff. He also had two boundaries while opener Sadagoppan Ramesh contributed 60 from 97 balls to hold the early part of the innings together.

However, the Indians, who have called up replacements for their flu-stricken side, found runs hard to come by against a committed English side.

Gough and Alan Mullally



JADEJA... m-o-m

contained the Indian batsmen, who failed to exploit a batting strip.

India struggled for runs early, losing Saurav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid easily as the tight fielding added to the pressure.

Gough had Ganguly caught by wicketkeeper Stewart with the score at 24 in the ninth over, while off-spinner Hick caught Dravid off his own bowling, leaving India at 61 for two by the 20th over.

Azharuddin, playing in his 314th one-day match, sparked the innings when he joined Ramesh. The pair adding 59 runs in 71 balls.

Ramesh, playing in just his fourth one-day international, reached his 50 from 82 balls and had five fours before he was dismissed.

Left-hander Ramesh's innings ended when he gloved a simple catch to Stewart.

Azharuddin provided the momentum to India's innings, despite a determined fielding ef-

fort by England.

England's only blemish was a dropped catch by Mark Ealham off Robin Singh in Flintoff's bowling. However, Flintoff recovered and had Singh caught by Hick two balls later.

Gough bowled another impressive spell in hot and tiring conditions, finishing with two wickets.

Mullally took no wickets in the match, but he bowled a neat spell including one maiden and giving away only 32 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Champions' Cup triangular series match between India and England on Friday:

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	10	0	42	2
Mullally	10	1	32	0
Austin	9	0	35	0
Ealham	8	0	36	0
Croft	7	0	22	0
Hick	5	0	18	1
Flintoff	5	0	24	2
Extras: (lb-3, nb-7, w-3)			13	
Total: (For five wks in 50 overs)			222	
Fall of wks: 1-24; 2-61; 3-120; 4-159; 5-175.				
Did not bat: Sunil Joshi, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad.				

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Flintoff	5	0	24	2
Extras: (lb-3, nb-7, w-3)			13	
Total: (All out in 47.5 overs)			202	
Fall of wks: 1-25; 2-25; 3-80; 4-83; 5-155; 6-169; 7-196; 8-197; 9-199.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	9.5	1	35	1
Prasad	10	2	28	3
Kumble	9	0	31	0
Joshi	10	1	36	2
Singh	7	0	43	0
Ganguly	1	0	14	0
Jadeja	1	0	3	3

Man-of-the-match: Ajay Jadeja.
Results: India won by 20 runs.
Playing on Sunday: England v India.

STANDINGS

Standings in the Champions Cup triangular series after Friday's match:

Team	P	W	L	Pts	Net run-rate
Pak	2	2	0	4	2.06
Ind	2	1	1	2	-0.96
Eng	2	0	2	0	-1.10

Gullit: I'd be stupid to be jealous of Keegan

NEWCASTLE, Sunday, April 10 (Mail/Internet): One winter evening goes, thieves break into St James' Park. Under cover of darkness, they moved through the main stand, filling their bags with swag.

Next morning, police informed the Newcastle chairman of the robbery. 'My God!' he said. 'Did they get the cups?' The policeman reassured him. 'No sir,' he said. 'They never got as far as the kitchen.'

Now I cannot vouch for the truth of the tale, but I would not dismiss it out of hand. For more years than most, I can remember, the club has behaved with the cheery optimism of an aristocrat fallen upon difficult times.

Lesser institutions might tend to panic at the persistent lack of success, but at Newcastle they point to their glorious past and tell themselves that the great days will soon return.

It is an attitude which irritates the hell out of Ruud Gullit. 'Don't live in the past,' he says. 'That's what I try to say at Newcastle. It doesn't matter how good or bad the past was, the point is you didn't win anything.'

'People get very romantic about the past. Big mistake. The only time you can romanticise is when you win things. Real Madrid always had style, but they lived on their European victories in the Sixties and Seventies.'

'And Liverpool, they played all that great one-touch football, but people remember them for winning their cups. In the end, it's the one question that matters: What did you win?'

In Newcastle's case the answer is both brief and ancient. The last FA Cup was secured in 1955 and the last League championship in 1927. Their most recent major triumph came with the equivalent of the UEFA Cup, but that was in 1969, and since then the cupboard has remained depressingly bare.

Now if you listen to the propaganda swirling around the city you could believe that, once again, things are about to change. Newcastle are to play an FA Cup semi-final against another club whose greatest glories lie in the distant past. Tottenham should not represent an insuperable obstacle. Then it's Wembley, where anything can happen.

That, at least, is what managers always say. As ever, Gullit is the exception. 'We have achieved nothing so far,' he says. 'Absolutely nothing. All right, we are building.'

'The players are responding well, the place is buzzing and people are confident again. But I must tell you, it would be amaz-

ing if we won something this season. Just amazing.'

Say what you will about Ruud Gullit, but you could never accuse him of cock-eyed optimism. And, ironically, it is that single, sobering trait which may prove his biggest problem.

For Tynesiders love a character in the manager's chair, an expansive, volatile, heart-on-sleeve extrovert with passion to burn. Kevin Keegan was their ideal, the answer to a black-and-white-striped prayer.

They showed him what they thought of him when he came on for the last few minutes of Peter Beardsley's testimonial match a month or two back. The ovation seemed to last forever and there were those who suggested that the frenzy of the welcome represented a telling contrast to their cooler, more formal relationship with Gullit. The Dutchman brides at the thought.

'So they have an affection for Keegan. A great affection. Well, why not?' he says. 'That's the way it has to be. For him, it was good to realise the Newcastle...



RUUD GULLIT

crowd don't forget him. And I'll tell you, in 10 years' time they won't forget him. If that made me jealous, then I would be very stupid.

People appreciate Kevin Keegan here. That's a great thing for him. When I go to Milan, people appreciate what I did for them here. I like that. And, you know, players notice things like that. And they think: 'If I do my job well here, maybe one day they will do that for me.'

I understand that. If I didn't, I would be really pathetic.' Gullit has clearly given some thought to the image he presents, especially in those reaction shots much favoured by lazy television directors.

'When I was at Chelsea, I just used to sit there and think about tactics when we scored the first goal,' he says. 'I never celebrated it. I always knew we were the better team, so I always expected us to score. My cheers came when we got the second goal. I used to tell myself: 'Hey, we killed them off.' That gave me a reason.'

Now I see things in a different way. We're not as good as Chelsea were, so when we score I jump and shout and celebrate like mad. I am a happy man.'

Rather like Basil Fawlty and the war, 'Chelsea' is not a word which often crops up in Gullit's conversation. It was the club which sent him packing after he had won them the FA Cup, the club which branded him a grepping brute.

'I don't like to talk about them,' he says. 'Once it affected me very badly. But not any more. I didn't let it damage my self-confidence.'

You smile at the idea that any force on earth could disrupt his self-esteem, yet Gullit is not smiling. In fact, you notice that he smiles only when he makes the joke. Many great sportsmen flirt with self-absorption, but in Gullit the trait has become a mild obsession.

You notice it in his mundane dealings. Most managers dislike Press conferences, but Gullit treats them with undisguised contempt.

On Friday afternoon he kept a roomful of journalists kicking their heels for almost two hours while he dallied after training. From time to time, a minion would arrive bearing bulletins. 'He's been delayed...he's gone for a run...he's having a shower.' The reporters grumbled, the way reporters do. 'He'll turn up without apologising, sit down and talk utter bloody shite for 10 minutes. Then he'll dash off,' said one.

He was right on all counts. Gullit offered a few mundane reflections on football and life, refused to discuss the composition of his team for yesterday's game at Derby. 'I'm not gonna show you my cards. Why should I?' - then adopted his ruthless pose.

'Women will be focused on more'

LAUSANNE, Switzerland. April 10: Women's football is going to play a bigger role in future Olympics, declared Sepp Blatter, the head of football's ruling body here today, reports AFP.

The FIFA president revealed that the number of women's teams is to be increased from eight to 12 for the 2004 Games in Athens.

BCB XI lose friendly game

Sports Reporter
Anfords English Cricket Club of Pakistan beat Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven by 13 runs in a friendly match at the Aga Khan Gymkhana ground in Karachi on Friday.

After being sent in to bat, the local side scored 153 runs before they were all out in 34.4 in the 35-over-a-side game. Mohammad Hasnain made a magnificent 66 while Mafizur Rahman was the most successful BCB bowler, finishing with three for 29 off his seven overs.

In reply, the tourists were bowled out for 140 in 34.3 overs, skipper Habibul Bashar made highest 44 while Javed Omar chipped in with 17.

Hasnain was again the Anfords' hero as he scalped four BCB batsmen for only 15 runs in his quota of seven overs. He was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

Juventus clear the air

TURIN, Apr 10: Italian champions Juventus denied newspaper reports on Friday they were in talks to sell world-footballer-of-the-year Zinedine Zidane reports Reuters.

Italian papers speculated that the Turin side were thinking of selling Zidane to either Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid or Manchester United, who drew with Juventus on Wednesday in the champions League semifinals.

But Juve director general Luciano Moggi insisted the French playmaker was not for sale.

'I have never spoken to United chairman Martin Edwards,' he said. 'If I had wanted to meet him I would have done it at the officials lunch on Wednesday.'

'We don't want to talk about Zidane for the simple reason that he is not for sale and he will be part of the Juventus squad next year,' Moggi said.

Zidane has a contract until 2004 and he has never said he wants to leave and certainly Juventus are not thinking of changing their plans.

Zidane has been dogged by a dip in form and minor injuries this season but returned from a short lay-off to produce a masterful performance against United in the first leg.

Turbing-based newspaper Tutto Sport said Zidane was considering leaving the northern Italian city because his wife was unhappy. It said she did not want to move to Manchester because of the weather and there for Zidane was considering a transfer to one of the two Spanish sides.

Hamburg recover to win at Duisburg

BONN, Apr 10 (Reuters/Internet): Hamburg SV fought back to win two goals down to win 3-2 in at MSV Duisburg in the German first division on Friday.

Duisburg made a perfect start with goals from Markus Osthoff in the sixth minute and fellow midfielder Tomasz Hajto one minute later.

Midfielder Martin Groth reduced the arrears in the 57th minute. Polish striker Jacek Dembinski levelled in the 63rd minute before sealing victory with his second goal in the 75th.

Duisburg midfielder Stefan Emmerling and Hamburg defender Thomas Gravenen were sent off after a shoving match in the 67th minute.

Hamburg moved up one place to eighth. Duisburg remained 10th.

Werder Bremen sank 10-man SC Freiburg with two second half goals.

Substitute Torsten Frings put them ahead in the 52nd minute and Rade Bogdanovic put the issue beyond doubt nine minutes from time.

Freiburg's Georgian midfielder Levan Kobiaschwili was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 25th minute.

Bremen rose to 11th, one spot above Freiburg.

IOC constitutes reform panel

NEW YORK, April 10: The International Olympic Committee said Wednesday that former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger and 1984 Games head Peter Ueberroth had accepted appointment to a panel to restructure the IOC in the wake of the Salt Lake bribery case, reports AP.

Also appointed was Anita DeFrantz, an IOC vice president from the United States, according to committee spokesman Franklin Servan-Schreiber.

Bill Hybl, president of the US Olympic committee, was the first member announced earlier this month. The only other member of the panel appointed so far has been Juventus soccer club owner and Italian industrialist Giovanni Agnelli, Servan-Schreiber said in a telephone interview from IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Kissinger had no further comment on his appointment, his spokeswoman Sheila McGinly said. Ueberroth and DeFrantz were travelling and unavailable for comment.

IOC 2000 was set up last month as the committee's primary engine for change after the Salt Lake scandal, in which six members were expelled in a million-dollar gifts-for-votes scheme involving the US city's quest for the 2002 Winter Games.

The commission will have 20 to 24 members, half from the IOC and half 'leading personalities who understand sport,' and essentially will come up with a new version of the Olympic Charter, the IOC's century-old bylaws.



A goalmouth melee during the Bremen-Freiburg clash of the Bundesliga at Freiburg on April 9.

BSkyB-MU merger blocked

LONDON, Apr 10: The British government's decision to bar BSkyB's takeover of Manchester United met with a predictably frosty response today in papers owned by the satellite chain's boss Rupert Murdoch, reports AFP.

In sharp contrast however, other newspapers equally predictably hailed the move as a victory for football and for common sense.

Underlying most of the press comment was the concern: Will Murdoch papers now revise their recent cautiously friendly stance toward Tony Blair's Labour government?

On Friday the government blocked the planned takeover of United possibly the world's most popular club arguing that it's sale to BSkyB would damage English soccer and competition.

Stephen Byers secretary of state for trade and industry said it 'would adversely affect competition between broadcasters' and 'damage the quality of British football.'

Central to the government's fears was that ownership of United would give BSkyB which has an exclusive contract to show all live Premiership soccer up until 2001 an unfair advantage when television rights are renewed.

Murdoch's two daily newspapers here the mass-selling Sun tabloid and The Times said the decision was wrong.

The Sun called it a 'disgrace' and 'a sorry testament to this government's proclaimed belief in competition.'

It said United could not have bought international stars last

between Murdoch papers and the government.

'Will Rupert only sing for claims to back competition has succumbed to an orchestrated and hysterical propaganda campaign by embittered rivals of BSkyB. Soccer not BSkyB will be the loser,' it added.

The Times said the decision would restrict the amount of interest generated by television.

'Soccer has a long and honorable history of competition with other media groups or football in general. The Labour government's posture of defensive cringe towards Murdoch's cheap press interests has, at a stroke been replaced by the confident stance of squaring up to a bully.' The Independent wrote in an editorial.

It said Murdoch had now been reduced to competition with other broadcasters on 'something resembling a level playing field.'

'Murdoch Football 1' was how The Guardian saw it, hailing 'an important milestone' in the development of English football and 'an even bigger victory for the public interest.'

The commission's report and Byers' acceptance of it may herald a stronger approach to competition policy, it predicted.

The Financial Times refrained from comment restricting itself to a news report and analysis which said the rejection now made other similar deals in the pipeline even less likely.

The Express applauded the government. 'In daring to incur the wrath of Murdoch ministers have done a fine thing.'

But it also called for a fresh look at the whole issue of the ownership of football clubs by media companies to 'ensure the independence of the sport is not threatened again in future.'

Fowler found foul

BIRMINGHAM, England, Apr 10: Liverpool's England striker Robbie Fowler was banned for six games, and fined a record 32,000 pounds (51,450 dollars) after the Football Association found him guilty of two misconduct charges on Friday, reports Reuters.

Fowler, experiencing a miserable 24th birthday, received a two-match suspension for an incident involving Chelsea defender Graeme Le Saux on February 27 that was triggered by Fowler provoking his fellow international with homosexual taunts.

Le Saux received a one-match ban and a 5,000 pounds (8,000 dollars) fine after the commission decided he had been the victim of extreme provocation from Fowler.

Fowler was handed a further four-match ban and the fine for his controversial goal celebration in last weekend's Merseyside derby at Anfield when he pretended to snort cocaine from along the goalline in response to chants from the Everton fans.

Liverpool, who face being without him for much of their remaining matches this season, had already fined him two weeks wages (about 64,000 pounds) for his antics against Everton, according to media reports, taking the total of fines to as much as 96,000 pounds.

Liverpool confirmed they will appeal against what the player's lawyer described as an 'unjustified and disproportionate sentence.'

Television evidence had showed Le Saux striking Fowler on the back of the head with his elbow. The left wing-back, married with a child, later revealed he had been taunted about his sexuality.

The FA's acting chief executive David Davies said after the five-hour hearing: 'On behalf of Graeme Le Saux he admitted that he didn't seek to justify

what he had done in striking Robbie Fowler.

'He didn't condone violence of any kind but he had suffered a torrent of abuse from a fellow professional, the origins of which were the totally unfounded and long-standing allegations that he was gay.'

'For his part Robbie Fowler denied saying, or doing anything, that was intended to question the sexuality of Graeme Le Saux.'

'But on his behalf it was accepted he had acted inappropriately in his behaviour at Stamford Bridge.'

'As far as last Saturday was concerned, Fowler said his actions had been spontaneous and impulsive. He had only realised how stupid they were several hours later.'

'He had suffered for several years in his home city of Liverpool from untrue and damaging allegations of drug taking. He'd agreed this week to assist Merseyside police with their anti-drugs programme.'

Davies added: 'The commission couldn't and wouldn't condone violent action by any player in any circumstance. They did accept that Graeme Le Saux had been subjected to considerable provocation.'

'The commission believes that highly paid international players are role models. They are also human beings whose behaviour sometimes falls below the standards expected of them.'

'But mutual respect for each other is the absolute minimum requirement.'

Kevin Dooley, Fowler's solicitor, said: 'After talking to the player it is my view that I should express disappointment on his behalf on what I believe to be an unjustified and disproportionate sentence which we will be appealing against.'



Robbie Fowler arriving at the Football Association disciplinary hearing in Birmingham on April 9.

Prosecutor under prosecution

ROME, April 10: Italian state prosecutor Consolato Labate is facing prosecution here tomorrow after failing to disclose his job with Italy's World Cup squad in France last year, reports AFP.

Labate, who was in charge of Italian security at France '98, failed to ask permission from the country's Higher Council of Magistrates, whose disciplinary committee will judge him on Friday.

Accused of falling short of the standards of behaviour expected from a member of his profession, Labate risks anything from a warning to being struck off the legal register if found guilty.