

Sport

QUOTABLE QUOTES

LONDON, May 17 (AFP): Who said what at the 1999 cricket World Cup:

"Frankly, Sri Lanka — and the game overall — would be better off without him. Yes, there is plenty of animosity between Ranatunga and myself. I don't like him and I'm not in a club of one."

Australian leg spinner Shane Warne on Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga on the opening day of the tournament.

"Warne's comments say more about Shane Warne and Australian culture rather than about me and our culture."

"We have a culture that is 2,500 years old — I think we all know where they (Australians) come from," Ranatunga on response.

"It's just good to hear a helpful voice."

Hansie Cronje after being caught using a radio ear-piece to receive instructions from coach Bob Woolmer while fielding against India.

"I often write 10-dakkar so it was quite nice to wear the 10 shirt."

Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar after discovering his World Cup shirt number.

"The best way of silencing those who question my commitment to Pakistani cricket is to do well and bring the World Cup back to Pakistan."

Wasim Akram, who is facing match-fixing allegations in his home country.

"I have read it would be the death of English cricket if we lost but we just came here and did the job."

England captain Alec Stewart after beating Sri Lanka in the World Cup opener.

"I would love to bowl at 100mph. I like to see fear in a batsman."

Pakistan pace sensation Shoaib Akhtar.

"Looking back, being dropped from the Test team in the West Indies (in March) might have been the best thing that ever happened to me."

Warne on his gradual return to form.

"It's the selectors, not the critics, who made me captain. Only they can remove me from the job."

India captain Mohammad Azharuddin after being criticised in his home press before the tournament.

"Go and ask the doctors."

West Indies captain Brian Lara, after the umpteenth inquiry about his wrist injury.

The Duckworth Lewis (scoring system) requires a computer programme comparable with the one which beat Kasparov at chess. If the scientists really want to guard against every computer on the planet blowing up on January 1, it's not the millennium bug they should be working on, but the Duckworth/Lewis."

Martin Johnson in The Daily Telegraph, on the World Cup's complex system to adjust scores in rain-affected matches.

"It's laughable how they (England) keep selecting players over 30 for one day matches. Guys like Ian Austin and Adam Hollioake are very average cricketers, nothing more. They will never get anywhere near a Pakistan team."



England's Andrew Flintoff (L) and skipper Alec Stewart share a light moment during practice session at Canterbury on May 17. —AFP photo

Cricket camp for U-19 team

A three-day cricket camp for players selected from three divisions begins in the city on Friday to form the under-19 cricket squad, reports BSS.

A total of 48 cricketers were named from the three divisions.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday requested all selected players to report to coach Moshuddin Ahmed Montu and Dipu Roy Chowdhury by 3 PM on May 20 at the BCB office at the Bangabandhu National stadium.

The BCB will provide food and lodgings for the players.

The division wise names of the selected cricketers are:

Chittagong Division:

Moshedul Alam (Coxsbaazar), Shadatul Rahman (Bandarban), Bishwajit Das (Chandpur), Nazir Moshed Nipun (Chandpur), Ishmail Khan Bhutto (Chandpur), Taimur Ranman (Chandpur), Zahurul Hug (Comilla), Badiul Alam (Comilla), Hasanul Hye (Barisal), Al Amin (Barisal), Anwar Azim (Noakhali), Firoj Khan (Chittagong), Namul Hasan Chowdhury (Chittagong) and Galib (Chittagong).

Sylhet Division:

Khandakar Md Razin Saleh, Alam, Golam Maula Chowdhury Tusher, Tanbir Hossain Chowdhury, Golam Mabud Chowdhury Shishir, Junma Abbas Raju, Rana Mia, Alok Mani Dev, Ejai Ahmed Khan, Tapas Kumar Boishaw, Golam Rahman Chowdhury, Mohammad Sumon Sarker (Habiganj), Babul Hossain Babar, Khanbader Mohammad Rezaul Hug (Nayene), Rini Roy (Habiganj) and Imran Rahim (Lalit).

Khulna Division:

Mohammed Tarafiq Islam, Mohammad Altaf Hossain, Sheikh Tusher Imran, Khorshed Alam, GM Shariful Islam, Manirul Islam Taj, Md Azad Hossain, Syed Shamsul Islam, Kazi Manjurul Islam, Rana, Mashraki Bin Murtaza (Koswari), Md Sazzadul Hasan Setu, Tahmin Bashir Tusher, Hasan Sharif, Mohibul Islam, Mahirul Islam (Chhoto Babul), Md Selim, Ajmul Huda Upal, Shafiqul Islam Sabuj and Touhidur Rahman Jani.

M'singh Zila, Scholastica proceed

Mymensingh Zila and Scholastica won their respective group semifinals in the ANZ Grindlays Bank national schools cricket at different venues yesterday, reports UNB.

BRIEF SCORES

MYMENSINGH ZILA: 248 for 9 in 40 overs. Lipon 43, Sintee 35, Riad 35, Sagar 32, Babu 28, Sumon 27, Extras 23; Rony 3/25, Sujon Sr 2/50 and Pnu 2/29.

NABAKUMAR INSTITUTE: 137 all out in 36.2 overs. Mahbub 33, Puna 23, Rony 21, Rashed 17, Extras 20, Riad 2/14, Rubel 2/22 and Sadi 2/49.

SCHOLASTICA: 183 all out in 39.2 overs. Raiyan 60, Hasan 24, Tezhib 17, Shahdad 16, Extras 35, Nadim 2/27; Kabir 2/30 and Sajid 2/37.

GOVT LABORATORY: 154 all out in 37.2 overs. Arif 20, Jami 18, Sajid 17, Shams 13, Asif 13, Extras 36; Hasan 3/23.

'Anelka

Arsenal's'

LONDON, May 17: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said on Sunday he was "95 per cent certain" that French striker Nicolas Anelka would be staying at the club, despite a string of reports linking him with a move to Real Madrid, reports Reuters.

Minutes after Arsenal were deposed as English league champions by Manchester United, Wenger was asked about Anelka's future at Highbury and replied, "It is 95 per cent certain that he will stay here."

Keith to miss next match

BRISTOL, England, May 17 (Reuters/Internet): All-rounder Keith Arthurton will miss West Indies next match against Bangladesh in Dublin on Friday after straining foot ligaments in the match against Pakistan, team officials said on Monday.

They said Arthurton had suffered a serious strain when he turned his ankle while fielding and would not be able to walk properly for several days.

Arthurton had bowled one over when he was injured and Pakistan plundered 73 runs from the nine overs of part-time bowlers Jimmy Adams and Ricardo Powell, allowing them to build a total of 229 that West Indies fell 27 runs short of reaching.

The officials said Shivnarine Chanderpaul, West Indies' best batsman with 77, would be fit for the Bangladesh match despite being hit on the foot by a yorker from fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar.

Captain Brian Lara admitted after Sunday's defeat that he may have made a tactical blunder by selecting only three seam bowlers and that he may need a fourth for future matches.

This is likely to pave the way for Reon King or Henderson Bryan to be brought in at the expense of debutant Ricardo Powell, who failed with both bat and ball against Pakistan.

Hagi's desire

BUCHAREST, May 17: Gheorghe Hagi, who retired from the Romanian national team after last year's World Cup finals, has announced he intends to return for a single match — Romania's critical European 2000 qualifier against Hungary, reports Reuters.

Hagi made the announcement on a Sunday night talk show on Antena 1 television, saying he could not turn down so many requests from fans. National team coach Victor Pitura had also asked him to come back.

"I thank coach Victor Pitura for calling me again in the national team," said a clearly touched Hagi.

He hoped the home match against Hungary, on June 5 would amount to the real final curtain of his time on the national team.

Nicknamed "Maradona of the Carpathians", Hagi, 34, has now established himself as a mainstay of Galatasaray Istanbul.

But he has resisted repeated appeals to abandon his decision to end an illustrious international career during which he captained Romania to three World Cup finals and the 1996 European finals, earning 114 caps and 33 goals.

His last match in a national jersey was in the second round of the 1998 World Cup finals in France, when Romania lost 1-0 to Croatia.

Since Hagi's departure, Romania have slipped in world rankings. The Hungarian match is critical as Romania have dropped into second place in Europe 2000 group seven after a disappointing home goalless draw against Slovakia in March.

Romania have never beaten Hungary. The two teams drew in their first encounter in the group in Budapest last autumn.

Final analysis

Razzaq then took three for 22, including the vital wicket of Brian Lara for 11.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul top scored with 77 for West Indies but after Lara's dismissal they rarely looked capable of overhauling the modest Pakistan total.

The ground fielding was atrocious, the throwing pretty ordinary and the overall performance of rated no more than five out of 10, he said.

Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram was a much happier man after his side got out of jail against West Indies in Bristol.

They recovered from 42 for four, Akram hitting a top score of 43 in 29 balls, to post 229 for a eight and then bowled out West Indies for 202 in 48.5 overs.

"We knew that one of their part-timers had to bowl five or six overs and I timed it to come in at that stage and it worked," said Akram.

Australia, second favourites behind South Africa, dropped three catches and delivered 22 wides and eight no-balls as they allowed the Scots to post a more than respectable 181 for seven from their 50 overs.

Australia were then made to work hard for their opening Group B success. They were indebted to Mark Waugh's 67 and brother Steve's 49 not out as they reached their target with 5.1 overs to spare.

"I'd rate our performance at five out of 10," said Waugh. "The ground fielding was atrocious, the throwing pretty ordinary and we've got some work to do."

"I'd say we can't field that badly again in the tournament."

Akram played a captain's innings in Bristol to lift the Pakistan innings to respectability. Fast bowler Abdul

A little right in all the wrongs

Irish Zaker

It's a little past lunchtime at Chelmsford. Bangladesh are all out for 116, New Zealand, in reply, are at 31 for the loss of Nathan Astle and Craig McMillan. Not much has gone right for our boys today. And they have not been a friend to their fortunes either.

Much of Bangladesh's collapse has been self-inflicted, as the top batsmen have gotten out playing one ridiculous shot after another. There has been one Bangladeshi performer, though, that has not faltered. And that is the one in the stands.

In a tournament that has generally lacked colour, both in the crowd and atmosphere, yesterday's game has been a welcome respite. The Bangladesh crowd has drummed up quite a carnival. They have been vociferous yet polite. They have cheered every run with great heart and have not let repeated bating failure choke their roar.

The Bangladeshi contingent has comprised most of the crowd and there is proud waving of the glorious green and red everywhere the cameras turn. One wonders how long it is going to be before the excitement of the crowd acts as positive en-

ergy rather than nerve strainer for the players. Bangladeshis are weary of repeated instances where we provide the colour and they take the prize.

Among the players, Hasibul Hossain has been the prime performer. There was nothing peaceful about Shanto's performance with the willow. He batted with fresh belligerence, hitting a marvelous straight six off a Chris Harris floater among other enterprising ventures. He could be forgiven for feeling a little hard done by after being given out off a no-ball.

Hasibul also bowled well before the lunch break, conceding only two from his four overs and would consider himself a touch unlucky that three miscued shots fell exuberantly short of the fielders.

Post lunch, the Royal Bengal paceman has taken the wicket of Macmillan and generally bowled with great heart. His aggression is something other players should be infected with.

Other than that and a trying effort from Manjurul, one can only hope for more of the bright Bangladeshi sun on rest of the day's game and the following matches of the tournament.

Minhaz to quit after WC

LONDON, May 17: Experienced batsman Minhazul Abedin will retire from the international cricket immediately after the World Cup, reports BSS.

Minhazul, who was dropped from the first match against New Zealand today, said, "I will say goodbye to cricket after the World Cup."

The former captain of Bangladesh team, who made his debut in the one-day international in the Asia Cup against Pakistan in Colombo in 1985-86, said that he would continue playing club cricket.

"I will try my best to satisfy my fans, who put pressure on the board for my selection at the last moment," he added.

A BCB official justified the dropping of Minhazul and said off-spinner-cum-batsman Naimur Rahman was included in his place as the New Zealand's have a number of left-handers.

Aussie-American Davis Cup tie on hardcourt

SYDNEY, May 17: Australia will play the United States on hardcourt in their Davis Cup quarterfinal in Boston in July after Australian players threatened a boycott over a plan to play on clay, tennis officials said today, reports AFP.

The decision follows a month of speculation over the surface to be used by the July 16-18 tie, which was moved to Boston from Australia to mark the centenary of the Cup tie between the US and Great Britain at the Longwood Cricket Club.

Chelmsford sports

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nounce any with comfort or conviction.

PUZZLING INDEED

The Press Box at Chelmsford gives a view from mid-wicket or extra cover. There is no way of getting a look at the line of the ball, which was the privilege of the ball-to-ball television commentators.

Stands were not more than four to five rows deep in most places. A section of the boundary was marked by a row of tents. The ground was adorned with publicity strips of sponsors on the green grass. Seeing the Bangladesh batting, someone commented whether he should fly back home by Emirates, or ring for new recruits over Vodafone, have a Pepsi to wet his dry throat or ask the batsmen to pen their account in the NatWest bank.

Former England one-day captain Adam Hollioake has escaped with a warning for making offensive gestures to spectators during a World Cup warm-up game against Essex.

A number of spectators complained to Essex officials after Hollioake made three V-signs to a section of the crowd who had booted him toward the end of England's win a week ago.

England Cricket Board spokesman Brian Margatroyd said Hollioake, who played in the tournament's opening game against champions Sri Lanka on Friday, had been reminded that gestures could be misinterpreted.

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Bob Woolmer, South Africa's highly successful coach, said he was keen to talk the cricketing authorities round on the one-way radio issue which sparked controversy at his team's game against India on Saturday.

South African captain Hansie Cronje fell foul of the match umpire when he was ordered to remove an earpiece with enabled Woolmer to give him advice during the game.

"I'd like to discuss it with the ICC (the game's ruling body)," said Woolmer. "Talking through a radio device was quicker than sending a 12th man out with messages."

"We don't want to upset anyone. We just want to get on with the game, speed it up. I've tried to be innovative."

ANSWER QUIZ,

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