

Sport

Bits and pieces

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a better performance from our players?" was the comment of the perplexed cricket organiser.

MANJURUL'S FEAT

Manjurul Islam of Bangladesh was the second most economical bowler in the World Cup after New Zealand's Gavin Larsen at the end of the Bangladesh match at Dublin.

Manjurul's runs per over was two point five from 15 overs and Larsen's was 2.2 from 20.

Equal to Manjurul was Shaun Pollock of South Africa, but from 27 overs. Also in contention are South Africa's Steve Elworthy and West Indian Courtney Walsh with RPO of two point six.

LEFT WHO?

SOUTHAMPTON, May 23: New Zealand's cricket World Cup clash with the West Indies here on Monday will see the best two left-handed batsmen on the planet facing each other, reports AFP.

Well, according to Roger Twose anyway.

When Brian Lara — widely regarded as the world's best left-hander — was signed by English country side Warwickshire in 1994, shortly after scoring a world Test record of 375, he was greeted by a sign on his changing room clothes peg that read: "Welcome to the second best left-hander in the world."

Twose's tongue-in-cheek joke was soon put into perspective when, a few weeks later, Lara scored 501, the highest individual innings ever made in first-class cricket, against Durham. Twose, however, who later emigrated to New Zealand after failing to make his mark with England, may yet end up with the last laugh at the World Cup.

Lara has yet to shine in the tournament, with two knocks of 11 and 25, while Twose has scored 110 runs for New Zealand without being dismissed, including an undefeated match-winning 80 against Australia.

SPEED GUNS COMING SOON

LONDON, May 23 (AFP): Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar could be officially crowned the world's first 100-miles-per-hour bowler at the cricket World Cup after all.

Organisers have agreed to allow the installation of speed guns from the Super Six second round.

They had initially demanded a two-million-pound (3.2-million dollars) fee to install the devices for the tournament's 42 matches but have now settled for a smaller, undisclosed sum.

The gun measures the bowler's speed of delivery from the moment the ball leaves his hand until it bounces.

Akhtar, who has captured the public imagination during this event, was timed at 97 mph during the Sharjah Cup one-day tournament in April. South African Allan Donald and Australia's Glenn McGrath are not far behind. Australia's Jeff Thompson still holds the record for the quickest delivery on record, a 99.70 balls in 1975 in Perth.

KENYANS UNAWARE

BRISTOL, May 23 (Reuters): Kenya have not been contacted by cricket authorities over allegations that one of their bowlers has been reported for bowling illegally.

Team coach Mohammad Kureishi said on Saturday he had read British newspaper allegations that debutant Jimmy Kamande had been reported for "chucking" after Kenya's first match against Zimbabwe.

"We have heard nothing about this from the cricketing authorities but we have read about it in the press. He's been bowling in the nets today and he looks fine. I don't understand what the problem might be," Kureishi told Reuters.

Kamande, 20, made his debut against Zimbabwe a week ago in Taunton, where he took none for 38 from nine overs.

The Daily Telegraph said the umpires had reported Kamande to cricketing authorities after the Zimbabwe match.

Jubilo on top

TOKYO, May 23: Jubilo Iwata moved closer to winning the first stage of the J-League season with a 1-0 victory over Gamba Osaka on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Defender Koji Maeda had the lone tally in the match with a 53rd minute goal and the win put Jubilo two points clear at the top of the J-League standings.

This year's Asian club champion Jubilo can clinch the first stage as early as Wednesday with a victory over lowly Avispa Fukuoka. Jubilo has 32 points from 13 matches.

Shimizu S-Pulse, managed by former Tottenham captain Steve Perryman, pulled off a 1-0 victory over Vissel Kobe to claim second spot on the standings board with 30 points from 14 matches. Midfielder Yoshiaki Kuboyama scored the lone goal in the match.

Verdy Kawasaki, with 30 points, followed form for the day and also posted a 1-0 victory over Kashima Reysol. Verdy, third on goal difference, got its score from forward Keisuke Kurihara.

Last year's league champion Kashima Antlers lost 2-1 to Nagoya Grampus Eight at Tokyo's National Stadium. Under-22 international striker Kenji Fukuda scored an extra-time golden goal to give Grampus Eight two points with 11.

In other matches, Cerezo Osaka beat JEF United Ichihara 2-0, while Yokohama F Marinos beat Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3-2.

Avispa beat Urawa Reds 2-2 and Kyoto Purple Sangha beat Bellare Hiratsuka 4-3.

Struck by

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ters and swing and slower balls as England played and missed their way to 103, their lowest one-day score against the South Africans.

It was pretty indigestible stuff for home supporters.

What made it even harder to stomach was that, well - whisper it quietly - they just can't help liking Donald.

If it has been the sledging Glenn McGrath doing the damage on Saturday, it might have been okay. They love to hate Australian pace bowlers here; they've had plenty of practice, after all.

But the 6ft 2ins Donald is as good as one of their own. He's married to an Englishwoman and settled in the Birmingham area. He's been applauded and lauded at Warwickshire since the late 1980s.

Donald himself had said before the World Cup that if he played against England at Edgbaston during the tournament, "they'll probably cheer me but want South Africa to lose."

A South African defeat, however, an Edgbaston or anywhere else, is looking increasingly unlikely. Their performance against England confirmed what everyone knew but did not want to admit - that Hansie Cronje's side are a class apart.

Openers Gibbs and Gary Kirsten put on 111 for the first wicket at almost a run a ball. Klusener gave impetus to the end of the innings, Jonty Rhodes fielded like, well, Jonty Rhodes and Kallis and Pollock bowled with menace.

And then there was that other chap, that hazy bloke on the edge of things. Forget his name ... been around a bit, think he got a wicket or two ...

Kiogora wins Sydney title

SYDNEY, May 23: Kenyans Stephen Kiogora and Godfrey Kiprotich dominated the Sydney half-marathon here today finishing one and two, reports AFP.

The Africans surged away from their leading Australian rivals Shaun Creighton and Pat Carroll near the halfway stage of the 21.1 kilometre race around the Sydney CBD.

Kiogora maintained a lead of between 10 and 15 metres over the closing stages before finishing in one hour three minutes 17 seconds, seven seconds ahead of his compatriot, who also finished second last year.

Umpires: DB Cowie (NZ) and ID Robinson (Zim).

TV Umpire: JW Holder.

Match Referee: PJP Burge (Aus).

Stuart tons fall short



LONDON, May 23: Stuart Law's second century of the match was not enough to save Essex from defeat against Yorkshire at Chelmsford in the English county cricket championship on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The 30-year-old Australian, who scored 150 in the first innings, offered the only significant resistance as Yorkshire cruised to a 174-run victory.

Law finished 113 not out as Essex were dismissed for 237. Left arm spinner Ian Fisher took 5-73.

Law's compatriot Michael Di Venuto was the inspiration behind a Sussex two-wicket win against Gloucestershire at Hove.

Sussex were set 452 for victory, a formidable target given their first innings total of 145. But they were boosted by 162 from Di Venuto and 126 from Tony Cottey.

Di Venuto, who began the day on 56, was finally trapped lbw by Gloucestershire captain Mark Alleyne. His innings laid the foundation for the victory secured by Umer Rashid and Robert Kirley.

Gloucestershire's Australian bowler Ian Harvey finished the innings with three for 109.

Nixon McLean, Hampshire's West Indian fast bowler, took three wickets as Middlesex posted a second-innings total of 339 at Lord's, setting Hampshire a target of 217 to win from a minimum of 42 overs.

Hampshire, who have won both of their county championship games so far, were boosted in their run-chase by 64 from Giles White.

Lancashire secured their first win of the season, beating Nottinghamshire by three wickets at Old Trafford. They reached their victory target of 332 for the loss of one additional wicket. Somerset beat Leicestershire by nine wickets.

who made a quick-fire 55 before being caught off the bowling of West Indian Vasbert Drakes. Graham Lloyd finished unbeaten on 120.

Warwickshire moved towards the summit of the championship table, with victory over Worcestershire at Edgbaston, Tim Munton took four wickets and Ashley Giles three as Worcestershire were all out for 320, 52 runs short of their target.

The margin of victory would have been greater but for a late effort from Worcestershire's lower order. Steve Rhodes and Nathan Batson contributed valuable runs but Richard Illingworth, unbeaten on 28, ran out of partners.

Derbyshire and Somerset both completed victories on Friday. Derbyshire, inspired by a first innings 171 from Australian Michael Slater, beat Northamptonshire by eight wickets. Somerset beat Leicestershire by nine wickets.

Soon after arriving back in England on Saturday, Tendulkar was in the nets, smashing his team's best bowlers around the ground with a concentration that belied the fact he had just stepped off a long-haul flight.

His voice breaking with emotion, the baby-faced Tendulkar said his mother had persuaded him to return to the World Cup and win for his father.

"I just have to go in there and think of my father looking down at me," he said.

Little wonder, then, that Tendulkar raised his eyes to the skies as first he reached his 50 and then his century.

From the last ball of India's innings, Tendulkar casually lofted a six over midwicket and at the same time passed his previous World Cup best of 137. But it will be for other reasons that he remembers the overcast day in Bristol in 1999.

Aminul & Co

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tel booking'. Tanveer blasted the organisers, adding "They (the Scots) are absolutely incompetent".

Responding to a query, the receptionist at the Stakis Grosvenor said, "We knew they (Bangladesh cricketers) were coming, but we did not know they were coming so early. Our checkout time is 11 am and our check-in time is 4 pm".

Some of the Bangladesh players finally got their rooms at 1.40 pm, but not the manager and the captain and several others. The hotel management assured this correspondent that the rest would soon get their rooms.

Perhaps vexed by the developments since morning, Tanveer and Aminul took several others out of the hotel for lunch.

The Bangladesh team is 'scheduled' practice the Grange Cricket Club ground - venue of tomorrow's match -- sometime after the filing of this report.

Farmer's favourite

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times - and four wickets for 21 in Albury, Australia, during the 1992 World Cup.

That game, the sides' only meeting in the tournament, saw Ian Botham bowl Zimbabwe for 134 and Brandes bowl out England for 125.

In his early days Brandes, who made his first-class debut in 1985 and who was a schoolfriend of Graeme Hick, was a fast-medium opening bowler.

Now, worn down by injuries and his commitment to chickens, he is more medium-medium, coming on as first change behind Heath Streak and Neil Johnson and mixing up swing with line-and-length seamers.

He remains effective, despite the loss of pace.

In November Zimbabwe knocked out Sri Lanka in the first round of the Champions Trophy in Sharjah, defeating them twice. Brandes was instrumental in their first success, dismissing Avisha Guawadewana, Marvan Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya - all plumb leg-before - in his first six overs.

His bowling style should be as well suited to English conditions as it is to English batsmen.

From Sachin

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a reverse sweep for four, straight drives and faint leg glances that taunted the Kenyan fielders.

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Counting on cold

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perform now because we all know this is a game we are capable of winning. We believe we have better players than Bangladesh but we need to perform.

"Everyone has been really positive about our performances so far and the spirit within the squad is excellent - it would be fantastic to build on that with a win."

With a vociferous travelling contingent of Bangladeshi supporters joining an enthusiastic home gathering, a carnival atmosphere is ensured at the Grange, Scottish cricket's ancestral home.

Bayern have had more games lately and have had to give 100 per cent - and there was practically no rotation," Heynckes wrote in Sunday's Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

"That can work for a while because the players are riding on a wave of success. But sooner or later you have to pay the price for the enormous efforts you have to make."

Bayern's players were unfazed by United's 2-0 victory at Wembley over Newcastle United.

Their squad, which includes 18 internationals, killed themselves out in traditional Bavarian lederhosen to parade the Bundesliga trophy before a capacity 63,000 crowd who had waited 15 years for a title.

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United, Bayern are on for an historic treble. United have already secured their domestic double, while Bayern have still to contest the German Cup Final against Werder Bremen in mid-June.

Even the great Bayern side of the 1970s, which featured Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Mueller and Sepp Maier, failed to do the treble despite collecting plenty of silverware both at home and in Europe.

But although the Bayern team may be fresher than United, on past form their clash should be a cliffhanger. The teams drew both their matches in the group stage of the Champions League.

And, with Sheringham showing the type of form that once made him an England regular, Bayern might have even more to worry about as the final approaches.

Manchester did not return home after the game for a civic parade but instead are heading to Spain by Concorde on Monday, 30,000 United fans travel-

Babes' battle

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SQUADS

SCOTLAND (probable): Bruce Patterson, Gavin Hamilton, Mike Smith, Ian Stanger, George Salmon (capt), Michael Allingham, James Brinkley, Alec Davies, John Blain, Asim Butt, Nick Dyer.

BANGLADESH (probable): Shahriar Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam (capt), Minhajul Abedin, Khaled Mahmud, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Mashud, Enamul Hoque, Hasibul Hussain, Manjurul Islam.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Scotland, who do not yet have official one-day or Test status, won two friendly matches against Bangladesh last year.

Bangladesh, however, now accepted as a one-day but not a Test side - defeated Scotland in the World Cup qualifiers in Malaysia in 1997.

Players to watch