

## Randell story exposed more

HOBART, Australia, Aug 4 (AFP): A woman told a court Wednesday she had not complained about international cricket umpire Steve Randell stroking her in her bedroom when she was 11 because he had power over her.

The woman, who was taught by Randell at a Tasmanian school in 1981, said she was anxious to get through the school year and he had the power to hold her back.

She was giving evidence on the third day of the Tasmanian Supreme Court trial in which Randell, 43, has pleaded not guilty to 18 charges of indecent assault against 10 young girls in 1981 and 1982.

The woman said that about once a fortnight Randell would call her to the front of the class to read a story.

He would put his arm around her, sometimes pulling out her shirt, rub her back and stomach and work his way up to her breasts, she claimed.

At other times, she told the court she could see his arm around other girls and movement under their clothes.

The woman said Randell frequently and unexpectedly visited her home and on five or six occasions came into her bedroom and sat on her bed, talking to her and rubbing her body.

She said the rubbing was "all very gradual and slow", moving under the bedclothes to her pyjama top and then on to her skin.

Once her mother came in when he was lounging on the bed and touching her, the court heard.

He removed his hand, stood up and left.

The woman said that after a time she "wised up" and when Randell visited, she would hurry to bed, turn the light out and pretend to be asleep.

On one occasion in 1981 when Randell was at their home, he said he was going to the toilet but when he had not returned after about 15 minutes, the woman's mother said that she went looking for him and found him in her daughter's bedroom.

He was lying on the top of the bed with his head on the pillow, she told the court.

"I was horrified," the mother said. "I said 'Look Stephen, you had better come out and have a cup of coffee.'"

He got up and followed her to the kitchen where he told her he had craved affection since his mother died.

Another woman said there had been rumours around the school about Randell, such as him putting his hand up girls' jumpers while looking at their work.

There were also stories that he did not have a home and sometimes slept on a mattress in his classroom and would get dressed in front of girls, she told the court.

Randell is Australia's most experienced international cricket umpire with a record 36 Tests to his name. The trial continues Thursday.

## Inconsistency NZ's worst enemy

LONDON, Aug 4 (Internet report): John Bracewell believes New Zealand's greatest enemy is not England, but their own inability to sustain a winning run.

Former Kiwi off-spinner Bracewell, now coach of Gloucestershire, is backing his countrymen to win the current series ahead of Thursday's third Test at Old Trafford.

But he is well aware of their tendency in recent times to produce a superb performance - such as the one they delivered at Lord's - and then fall to follow it up.

Bracewell, who won 41 caps from 1980 to 1990, said: "If New Zealand have had one problem in the past, it's been continuing the roll. It's like teams who think they've won the final by getting to the final.

"Winning at Lord's is not the end of the story and now it's time for Stephen Fleming and the coaching staff to keep them on track for the following two Tests.

"They haven't been used to winning at Test cricket, especially back-to-back Tests; they've been used to winning one Test in a series and winning well. They now have to put it together two in a row to nail it down."

England were routed by nine wickets in the second Test, having triumphed in the first game of the series inside two-and-a-half days at Edgbaston.

It is the hosts who have all the problems going into tomorrow's game and 41-year-old Bracewell said: "I rate the win at Lord's as probably New Zealand's best-ever Test win. They went out there and did the business without letting the pressure off at all."

## Goetsch sent packing

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, Aug 4: Qianhong Goetsch of Germany was the first leading seed to crash out of the women's singles at the World Table Tennis Championships when she lost to Chinese qualifier Nan Li 22-20, 21-17, 21-16, 21-14, reports Reuters.

The fourth-seeded Goetsch, one of many players of Chinese origin who play for a European country, looked uneasy throughout the four games of the first round match.

The world number five had never played for Germany at world, Olympic or European championship level and her coaches said she had been extremely nervous beforehand.

Her defensive style and attacking shots as well as a victory in this year's European Top 12 competition made her a serious contender in Eindhoven.

# Wasim remains hopeful



Karachi, Aug 4 (Internet report): Pakistan's ousted skipper Wasim Akram Wednesday stated that he had not given up hope of playing for Pakistan again despite being suspended and an inquiry against him.

"I am very keen on breaking Kapil Dev's record," Akram, the only bowler to have taken 300-plus wickets in Tests and one-day Internationals, was quoted as saying in a report of India's Mid-Day newspaper. At present, he is just 44 wickets short of overtaking Kapil's world record of 434 Test wickets. "That is why I would be back in Pakistan to make myself available for selection. I want to play for Pakistan. I don't care if they don't retain me as captain, what matters is that I be allowed to represent my country again," said Akram, who was to leave for England last night for commentary duties for Channel-4 on the third Test between England and New Zealand starting tomorrow.

"After having played for the country for so many years, it does hurt to be in such an unwanted situation, where I am suspended from representing my country."

"But my sessions with the Ehtesab (Accountability) Bureau officials have been very positive. Yet, the ad hoc committee has not said if it would withdraw my suspension orders," said the all-rounder from Islamabad, where in the past few days he along with batsman Ijaz Ahmed was questioned by officials of the national anti-corruption cell on his alleged involvement in match-fixing. The cell (Ehtesab Bureau) submitted its findings to the Pakistan cricket board (PCB).

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WASIM AKRAM

Copies have also gone to the president of Pakistan and the Justice Malik Qayyum Judicial Commission.

However Akram has high hopes the report would go in his favour. "The meetings turned out to be very good. Everything was discussed; my assets and cricket affairs in general."

He made it clear that he had returned to Pakistan midway through a busy schedule in England because he wanted to co-operate with the EB. "My only objective is to ensure that the investigation come to an end once and for all. If the issue was not settled, it would do irreparable harm to Pakistan cricket and the players."

"It was said to read Saqlain Mushtaq's statement in the papers today. It just conveys the sort of pressure the players are under."

On Sunday, Saqlain said he was ready to face hanging if

proved guilty of match-fixing and bribery. "If I'm found guilty, I am even ready for public execution. But if it proves wrong then the accusers should be punished," said the star off-spinner to AFP before his departure for England where he plays for Surrey.

Akram meanwhile dismissed reports that the EB officials had grilled him and Ijaz during marathon sessions of interrogation.

"The impression created by the newspapers is that we were questioned and treated like ordinary criminals. This is not true. The factual position is that the EB officials were cooperative and well behaved. They asked a number of questions and we answered them honestly. They did not mistreat us at any stage."

Under immense pressure in the last week after being summoned by the EB officials to Islamabad and then being informed of his suspension by the Pakistan cricket board ad-hoc committee, Akram said he was trying to remain positive about the ban placed on him.

"If the officials are convinced we've not done anything wrong, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) should also reconsider the ban on me."

He said after his meetings with EB officials he had not got a chance to discuss the suspension with ad-hoc committee chairman Muejibur Rehman.

However what the new chief selector of Pakistan cricket had to say on the future of Pakistan cricket would not have come across as good news to Akram.

Former Test wicket-keeper Naushad Ali, who along with Rameez Raja and Abdul Raquib constitutes the new selection committee, said he planned to build a new team for the future.

## USA finish third

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, Aug 4: The United States defeated Saudi Arabia 2-0 Tuesday to take third place in FIFA Confederations' Cup, in a match marked by little strategy but fine US passing and shooting near the goal, reports AP.

The victory capped a strong performance in the tournament by the US squad, who defeated Germany 2-0 and came close to tying Brazil - the cup favourites against Mexico in Wednesday's finals - in a 1-0 match.

Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Bin Shehan knocked a pass into the US goal with his arm at the 23-minute mark, and officials quickly disallowed the goal. Though the Saudis had several shots on goal during the rest of the match, most lacked force.

The United States opened the scoring at 26 minutes on a break by forward Paul Bravo, who outwitted defenders and Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed Al Deayea with a clean shot into the goal.

The United States played much of the second period short of one player, after Matt McKee was red carded at the 64-minute mark.

Brian McBride headed a pass into the Saudi goal in the 79-minute to seal the US victory.

The US squad allowed the Saudis' relatively little time with ball and put up a solid defense that kept the quicker Saudi forwards from penetrating near the goal.

## Lanka pledge adequate safety

COLOMBO, Aug 4: Sri Lanka on Wednesday assured safety to Australian and Indian cricketers who arrive later this month to participate in Test and one-day series, reports AP.

"We have the experience and the expertise to ensure that the visitors return safely after enjoying their stay here," said senior superintendent of police Sarath Jayasuriya.

Jayasuriya heads the island nation's top anti-terrorist set up, which comprises highly-trained commandos.

"We are taking extraordinary measures to ensure total safety," said Renuke Wijetilleke, the chairman of the Sri Lankan cricket board.

Some Australian officials recently visited Sri Lanka and discussed steps to be taken during the Australian team's tour. The visitors will play a three-Test series and then participate in the three-nation limited-over competition that will also include India.

Tamil rebels fighting for a separate homeland often target the Sri Lankan capital to project their 16-year-old campaign in the north and east. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, have killed government leaders and damaged government property in heavily-guarded Colombo.

Last week, a suspected Tamil rebel suicide bomber jumped on to the car of a moderate Tamil leader and killed him in the Sri Lankan capital.

## Blatter hopeful

MEXICO CITY, Aug 4: FIFA president Sepp Blatter and Peter Velappan, head of the Asia Football Confederation, said yesterday they were optimistic that an Asian boycott of the 2002 World Cup would be avoided, reports Reuters.

The AFC has threatened to boycott the World Cup qualifying tournament if FIFA does not meet its demand for an extra berth in the championship jointly hosted by Japan and South Korea.

Blatter, in Mexico for FIFA's Confederations Cup, said "More news" on the dispute would be issued before the end of August.

Blatter said he was "very confident that the family of FIFA will be united" before the draw for the qualifying tournament in Tokyo on December 7.

He gave no details but confirmed that he and AFC secretary general Velappan had met in Mexico to discuss the issue.

Asia's entire delegation stormed out of a July FIFA congress in Los Angeles over the issue.

With Japan and South Korea automatically qualifying for the finals as host nations, the 43 remaining AFC members will have to battle for the two spots left under the current Cup layout. The region had four spots in last year's finals in France.



Captain of Brazil's Confederations' Cup squad Emerson obliging autograph hunters at Mexico City on August 3. — AFP photo

# Hosts face the ultimate test



MEXICO CITY, Aug 4: Mexico didn't need to be at the best to advance to the Confederations' Cup final. They won't have that luxury Wednesday night against powerhouse Brazil, reports AP.

Brazil, as FIFA president Sepp Blatter said Tuesday, have enough quality players to field three equally strong national teams.

Brazil totally dominated their group in Guadalajara, defeating Germany 4-0, the United States 1-0, and New Zealand 2-0 and then rolling over Saudi Arabia 8-2 in the semifinals.

Mexico advanced with less than the satisfying victories over Saudi Arabia 5-1 and Bolivia 1-0, a tie with Egypt 2-2 and then squeezed past the United States in the semifinals 1-0 in overtime.

Brazil are playing without some of their top players after winning the Copa America tournament in June, but had more than enough young stars, led by Ronaldinho de Assis Moreira, to reach the final.

Ronaldinho has scored six goals in four games.

"We are going with the best we have, with our most experienced players," Mexican coach Manuel Lapuente said. "We are going to go with everything from the very beginning."

Then he summed up what

Mexico has to do: "Have a very good defence and a better attacks."

Ronaldinho said the expected 100,000 fans at Azteca Stadium will put a lot of pressure on Brazil.

"I think the team that makes fewer mistakes will win," he said. "It will be a pretty final and Brazil will come out a winner."

Mexico will miss experienced striker and top scorer Luis Hernandez, who has yet to recover from a muscle pull and has seen only 25 minutes of action in the competition.

He will be replaced by Jose Manuel Abundis. Another youngster who will see action is Rafael Marquez, who was sold to Monaco of the French League on Tuesday for an estimated 6 million dollars.

Lapuente said he will keep the lineup secret "until the last minute."

Defender Evanilson Ferreira, injured in the match against Saudi Arabia on Sunday, is a doubtful starter for Brazil and will be replaced by Flavio Conceicao.

In a news conference Tuesday, Blatter said the Confederations' Cup had been a success with an average attendance of 60,000.

Blatter said the only problem was what he called "bad behaviour" of the Egyptian team during their match with Saudi Arabia when three of their players were expelled. One player was suspended for one game and the others for two.

Blatter said FIFA has asked the Egyptian Soccer Federation for an explanation of the team's behaviour and a possible sanction will be decided by the Disciplinary Committee.

"I understand that the entire executive committee of the Egyptian Federation has resigned as a result of this," Blatter said.

"Egypt, who ended the game with eight players, lost to Saudi Arabia 5-1 in a first-round match."

## AT A GLANCE

FIRST ROUND

Group A

Team GP W D L GF GA Pts

\* Mexico 3 2 1 0 8 3 7

\* Saudi Arabia 3 1 1 1 6 6 4

Bolivia 3 0 2 1 2 3 2

Egypt 3 0 2 1 5 9 2

Group B

\* Brazil 3 3 0 0 7 0 9

\* United States 3 2 0 1 4 2 6

Germany 3 1 0 2 2 6 3

New Zealand 3 0 0 3 1 8 0

\* — qualified for semifinals.

July 24: At Guadalajara, Brazil 4, Germany 0.

United States 2, New Zealand 1.

July 25: At Mexico City, Bolivia 2, Egypt 2.

Mexico 5, Saudi Arabia 1.

July 27: At Mexico City, Saudi Arabia 0, Bolivia 0.

Mexico 2, Egypt 2.

July 28: At Guadalajara, Germany 2, New Zealand 0.

Brazil 1, United States 0.

July 29: At Mexico City, Saudi Arabia 5, Egypt 1.

Mexico 1, Bolivia 0.

July 30: At Guadalajara, United States 2, Germany 0.

Brazil 2, New Zealand 0.

## SEMIFINALS

Aug 1: At Mexico City, Mexico 1, United States 0.

At Guadalajara, Mexico, Brazil 8, Saudi Arabia 2.

## FINAL

Third Place

Aug 3: At Guadalajara, Mexico, United States 2, Saudi Arabia 0.

# Richie on captain's role



SYDNEY, Aug 4 (AFP): Former West Indies skipper Richie Richardson has urged authorities to review the traditional role of national team captains, saying the pressures of tolerating one's own team's slumps they would not have had before and that some duties should be shared by other players.

He wants other high-profile former players, such as recently retired Australia captain Mark Taylor, to join him in lobbying for change.

"If players don't look after themselves, no-one else will," he told The Australian newspaper.

Richardson, 37, said the added responsibilities of captaincy had led to many skippers suffering from slumps they would not have had before and that some duties should be shared by other players.

"Captains these days are suffering and realising how difficult it is," he said. "Most captains these days seem to have a slump in either their bowling or batting."

"Authorities need to review their role and give them more opportunity to improve their own game rather than the off-field activities."

Richardson, who still captains English club side Lashings, is in Australia to promote

Internet gambling as the representative of Interpops.com.

He told the paper such a review may minimise the need for selectors having to decide whether captains should be



RICHIE RICHARDSON

dropped or not, an issue that faced the Australian selectors when Taylor suffered an extended loss of form.

"I think anyone can be dropped if they're not playing well but you must base it on why he is failing," he said.

"In a lot of American sports,

players have more assistance from the coach and others on the team. In cricket, the captain does everything. When I took over, I was captain, coach, psychologist - everything."

He also had some explanations for the West Indies slump since the retirement of Viv Richards, saying the players had become despondent.

"A lot of people didn't see that," he said. "A lot of people blamed me for the decline which started while Viv was captain. When you lose a number of great players you'll have a bit of a slump."

Some players had become too involved with the media and believed everything they read.

"You can't play with guys who don't believe in themselves. The guys mentally have not been right and not confident enough to back themselves," he said, adding that there was enough talent in the West Indies side to be competitive but a new training structure needed to be instituted.

"You need to be preparing them long before they get into the side."

He also believed the game was not being promoted well enough in the Caribbean with other sports appealing more to the younger generation.

# Moin slams accusers



ISLAMABAD, Aug 4 (PTI/Internet report): Pakistan wicketkeeper Moin Khan has dismissed betting and match-fixing allegations against the cricketers and has charged that there was a particular lobby trying to defame the country's cricket.

Moin, tipped to replace suspended Wasim Akram as captain, said the allegations in the wake of Pakistan's defeat in the World Cup final had demoralised the players and appealed to fans in the country to support them in this hour of trial.

The Pakistan vice-captain told English daily The Dawn that because of the allegations, they (players) are depressed, they have lost self-confidence. They, in fact, are so scared they are trying to avoid discussing anything on cricket.

"These allegations are not new for us. For the last three or five years, a particular lobby is trying to defame the Pakistan team by promoting such rubbish," he said.

The lobby has caused lot of damage to the Pakistan cricket by raising doubts in everybody's mind, the 28-year-old alleged.

Moin was among the eight members of the World Cup side named in the PCB probe committee's interim report on betting and match-fixing that was made public by the Accountability Bureau recently.

The PCB is currently being run by an ad hoc committee af-



MOIN KHAN

ter the board was also suspended following investigations into the scandal. A new selection committee was named on Tuesday.

Ex-captain Rameez Raja, former wicket-keeper Naushad Ali and former spinner Abdur Raquib will make up the panel.

The committee wants to start preparations for the next international season by having a camp at Lahore from last week of August.

Naushad told 'The News' from Lahore that the camp would definitely start between August 21 to 25 after consultations into the scandal. A new selection committee was named on Tuesday.

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tions with manager Yawar Saeed and the new coach, yet to be announced by the Board. The camp will be organised regardless whether the Sahara Cup is held or not in September.

On the appointment of a new coach, he did disclose that the Board was negotiating with some foreigners including Bob Woolmer and also some Pakistani players. "The coach should be announced in next few days, the criteria being he should be a non-controversial and capable person in his field."

The former Test player said that in all probability South African Richard Pybus would be retained as trainer to look after the physical training of the boys, as he reportedly did a good job during the World Cup.

Naushad also maintained that around 25 to 30 boys would be invited to the training camp and there was no bar on players like Rashid Latif or Amir Sohail being in the camp. "The criteria for inviting players is form and fitness and, naturally, past performances. No attention would be paid to other issues." Incidentally, Latif spoke to the ad hoc committee chairman Muejibur Rehman on Tuesday and he has asked him to make himself available for the camp. Asked if Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed would be invited for the camp, the chief selector stated this depended on the Board first clearing them to play for Pakistan.

# Cairns keeps his cool



LONDON, Aug 4 (Internet report): Chris Cairns enters Thursday's third Test against England at Old Trafford determined not to let the standards of his recent performances slip in



CHRIS CAIRNS

the most crucial match of this summer's four-match series. The 28-year-old all-rounder was largely responsible for dragging New Zealand back into the series at Lord's, claiming six for 77 in England's first innings as well as contributing 31 vital runs batting at number nine to help secure a nine-wicket triumph.

That performance followed an equally impressive haul of seven for 46 against Kent in Canterbury, the seventh-best first-class bowling this season, to earn the right to take the new ball at Lord's in the absence of the injured Simon Doull.

Instead of headlines branding Cairns as an enigma or hot-head - labels he has suffered more than once during a controversial 10-year international career - he was for once hailed for his match-winning performance.

It is unlikely to affect Cairns' attitude greatly in Manchester this week, though,

having suffered more than most over the past decade and he is well aware that a return to one of his more mediocre performances is likely to last in people's memory just as long as his Lord's display.

"It's a short trip from the penthouse to the outhouse and if you get carried away and start believing in your own publicity, you are more susceptible to falls," he stressed.

"People rate you game by game because it's an instant society these days, but hopefully by the end of my career I'll have taken a couple of hundred Test wickets and people will think I wasn't that bad a player after all."

He currently has 120 Test wickets from 39 Tests - just 11 away from eclipsing father Lance's record - and has set his sights on a target of 150 before he does finally end his career

and take control of a promising confectionery business he runs with his dad.

"I would never say I've finally achieved consistency despite my recent performances because you never know what's going to happen in this game," he said.

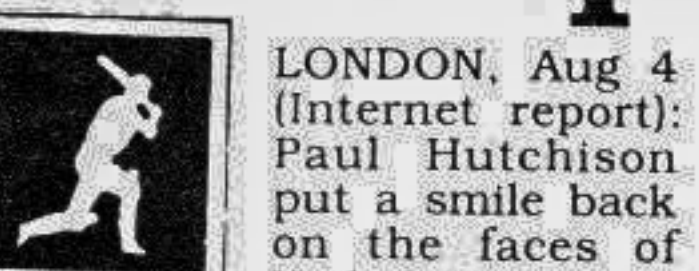
"I'm sure the inconsistencies are still there but perhaps in my past I've been a bit impetuous and wore my heart on my sleeve a little too much."

"I'd like to think I've got three of four years left in my career and when I'm finished perhaps then I can sit back and look at what I've achieved."

But for a damaging calf injury, which sidelined him for the whole of New Zealand's recent series against South Africa after further impressive performances against India, Cairns would be looking back on a very consistent last year.



Jubilant USA players celebrating their 2-0 victory over Saudi Arabia in the third place decider of the Confederations' Cup. — AFP photo



porters with a sizzling PPP County Championship six-wicket haul as his county bowled out Worcestershire at Headingley before lunchtime for just 90 Wednesday.

Smarting from their Benson & Hedges