

Wasim & Co go to camp on Dec 15

KARACHI, Dec 12 (Internet report): The conditioning camp of Pakistan cricket team will commence at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore from December 15 in which all-rounder Abdul Razzaq would also be watched to ensure he has recovered completely from a groin problem.

The conditioning camp is being held on the insistence of captain Wasim Akram. Pakistan team, which was white-washed (3-0) by Australia in the Test series earlier, would go down under for the triangular World Series on December 27. The one-day series, also involving India and Australia, begins from January 9, 2000.

Besides the 14 selected players for the triangular, the selection committee has also decided to invite some members of the Pakistan under-19 team, which is going to Sri Lanka for the World Youth Cup, to the camp.

Chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed stated that both teams would benefit from the camp, as both face a tough assignment ahead of them. The youngsters should get some valuable tips from their seniors, while the junior bowlers and batsmen will have a good workout in the camp against quality stuff. The junior team led by Hasan Raza is scheduled to leave for Colombo on January 6, while the World Cup starts from the 11th.

Razzaq meanwhile did not play in the last two Tests against Australia after playing in the opening Test in Brisbane and was said to be having groin problems for which he was advised by the team physiotherapist, Dale Naylor, who will be joining the team again in Australia for the triangular series.

V-Day v'ball

The Victory Day volleyball tournament began at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday with Bangladesh Army Red and Bangladesh Rifles winning their opening matches, reports UNB.

Army Red beat Bangladesh Navy 25-22, 25-23, 19-25, 25-16 in the first match while Bangladesh Rifles earned a 23-25, 25-21, 25-16, 25-7 points victory over Bangladesh Army Green in the other match.

The tourney matches will resume on Tuesday at 2 pm.

England A win Kiwi series

WELLINGTON, Dec 12 (Internet report): England A clinched a comprehensive 10-wicket victory in the second A Test at Wellington to seal a 1-0 series success against New Zealand today.

Mark Alleyne's side produced a superb performance in difficult conditions to seal the win inside three days. The two sides had drawn at Christchurch in the first Test.

David Sales was the architect of England's triumph by scoring his second century of the tour to help the tourists reach 309 all out in their first innings for a lead of 154.

Sales, who was 60 overnight, reached his hundred in 213 minutes off 147 balls with 17 fours and a six.

Then in a devastating session before lunch, England A destroyed New Zealand's top order while only conceding 13 runs. They were all out for 159.

Opens Michael Gough and Ian Ward achieved their target off just 10 deliveries.

Serie A

Milan blank Torino

ROME, Dec 12: AC Milan closed the gap on the leading trio in Serie A on Saturday as goals from Oliver Bierhoff and Andriy Shevchenko overcame stubborn resistance from Torino for a 2-0 victory at San Siro, reports AFP.

The three points bring the reigning champions level on points with neighbours Inter, who have a superior goal difference but face a tough trip to Juventus on Sunday.

Roma, Lazio and Juventus currently lead the way with 25 points from 12 games.

Saturday's triumph gets Milan back on track after last week's reverse against Fiorentina.

However, the Milanese were not firing on all cylinders against a tough-tackling and defensive-minded Torino who have a superior goal difference but face a tough trip to Juventus on Sunday.

Milan were fortunate in that they got off to a dream start with German international striker Bierhoff turning in the opener from a centre by Croatian Zvonimir Boban.

Artistic and Lentini thereafter took the game to the hosts but both spurned good chances and, having weathered the storm, Milan, who should have had a second half penalty for a foul on Boban.

Fortunately for Milan, referee Stefano Braschi did heed a second penalty appeal for a spotkick which Ukrainian Shevchenko duly converted to wrap up a vital win.

Australia nicely

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Langer c Gandhi b Kumble 38

M Waugh not out 0

Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-1) 7

Total: (for two wickets in 28 overs) 71

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-65

Bowler O M R W

Srinath 8 1 23 1

Agarkar 5 2 11 0

Prasad 7 2 14 0

Kumble 8 3 17 1



Khelaghar skipper Shamsul (L) receiving the 19th Damal Smriti cricket trophy from Fahmida Islam (C), the daughter of late Dr Mazharul Islam Damal, and BCB president Sabir Hossain Chowdhury yesterday. — Star photo

England stage fightback

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 12 (AFP): South African batsman Jacques Kallis survived a controversial decision as the England bowlers put a clamp on the South African batting on the fourth day of the second Test at St George's Park Sunday.

After leading by 77 runs on the first innings, South Africa crawled to 189 for four in 84 overs at close of play, an overall lead of 266.

The slow scoring rate ruled out any chance of South Africa making an early declaration and jeopardised their chances of extending a world record-equalling sequence of ten successive home wins.

Kallis was unbeaten on 74 after batting for 332 minutes and facing 231 balls, hitting only three fours.

But Kallis should have been out for 12. He edged a ball from left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell which went low to Chris Adams at gully. The England players celebrated but Kallis stood his ground. South African umpire Rudi Koertzen called for third umpire Dave Orchard to judge whether the ball had carried to the fielder.

Orchard could not be sure because of inconclusive video evidence but pictures taken by the English Sky TV station showed that it had been a fair catch. The Sky camera was not linked to the video recording system of the host broadcaster, South African Broadcasting Corporation, and the pictures were not seen by Orchard.

Match referee Barry Jarman of Australia said: "The technology available to the third umpire was inconclusive. However, it would be a marvellous thing if all the technology at the ground was made available to the third umpire." In an indirect comment on the modern trend for batsmen not to "walk" unless given out, Jarman said: "I wonder if the batsman saw

it." The incident was reminiscent of the confrontation between Mike Atherton and Allan Donald at Trent Bridge in 1998 when Atherton was caught off his glove while fending off a lifting ball from Donald at a crucial stage of the fourth Test. Atherton stood and was given not out by New Zealand umpire Steve Dunne. He then withstood a barrage of bouncers before steering England to victory.

Kallis was immediately on the receiving end of two bouncers from fast bowler Andrew Caddick, the second being fended over the slips cordon for a single. Still fired up, Caddick then knocked out Daryll Cullinan's middle stump to make a breakthrough for England.

Kallis batted exceptionally cautiously and hit his first boundary after batting for almost three hours and facing 129 balls. There were two fours in his half-century which was posted off 174 balls.

The England players did not applaud Kallis when he reached fifty but at the close of play Adams and Kallis walked off together in what seemed to be a friendly conversation, with Adams giving Kallis a pat on the back.

South Africa earlier bowled out England for 373. It took them 15 minutes to claim the last wicket for the addition of nine runs Sunday morning.

South African new cap Morne van Jaarsveld bowled Andrew Caddick for 35 off an inside edge with the 20th ball of the day. The 22-year-old fast bowler finished with four for 75. Haywood was timed at 151 kilometres an hour during the innings, making him the second fastest bowler in the world behind Shoaib Akhtar of Pakistan, who reached 156 kmh in Australia recently.

Any South African plans of trying to score quickly with a view to making a declaration had to be put on hold when Darren Gough and Andrew Caddick produced some fiery bowling to

reduce the home side to 17 for two in their second innings.

Gary Kirsten sliced a catch to Michael Vaughan at backward point off Gough to be dismissed for two and Herschelle Gibbs edged Caddick to Andrew Flintoff at second slip when he had ten.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the fourth day of the second Test between South Africa and England at St George's Park on Sunday:

South Africa: First innings 450 (D Cullinan 58, J Rhodes 50, L Klusener 174; P Tufnell 4-124)

England: First innings (Overnight 364-9)

M. Dutcher b Pollock 4

M. Atherton b Hayward 108

N. Hussain c Boucher b Donald 82

M. Vaughan b Hayward/wta w /AA1234/1

A. Stewart b Donald 15

C. Adams c Kallis/RNfX Y 25

A. Flintoff b Pollock 42

A. Caddick b Hayward 35

D. Gough b Donald 6

C. Silverwood c Klusener b Hayward 6

P. Tufnell not out 7

Extras (b-1, lb-8, nb-13) 22

Total (137.1 overs) 373

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-160, 3-228, 4-229, 5-264, 6-281, 7-336, 8-349, 9-364

Bowler O M R W

Donald 34 9 109 3

Pollock 34 7 112 3

Hayward 28.1 7 75 4

Klusener 25 9 48 0

Cronje 16 5 20 0

South Africa: Second innings

G. Kirsten c Vaughan/b Gough 2

H. Gibbs c Flintoff b Caddick 10

J. Kallis not out 74

D. Cullinan b Caddick 18

W. Cronje c Vaughan b Flintoff 27

J. Rhodes not out 35

Extras (b-1, lb-10, nb-1) 23

Total (64 wks, 84 overs) 189

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-17, 3-50, 4-98

Bowler O M R W

Gough 15 4 37 1

Caddick 18 4 29 2

Silverwood 10 1 24 0

Tufnell 33 9 63 0

Vaughan 2 0 9 0

Flintoff 6 1 13 1

Auckland thwart Windies

AUCKLAND, Dec 12: Auckland frustrated the West Indies on the third day of their four-day match, fending off the tourists' attack before being bowled out for 369 just before the close of play today, reports Reuters.

Auckland batted until 15 minutes before the close at Eden Park after hanging on to restrict the West Indies' first innings lead to just 11 runs.

The West Indies were 14 without loss at the close after openers Sherwin Campbell and Daren Ganga faced just two overs in a match which is likely headed for a draw.

The West Indies bowlers toiled hard for most of the day — there were two short stoppages for rain — but met stubborn resistance led by number three batsman Jolin Aiken with 84.

Number six Aaron Barnes chipped in with 52 before tail-enders Kyle Mills and Kerry Walsmsley put on 63 runs in a valuable last-wicket stand.

Auckland resumed on 120 for two and lost the wickets of middle-order batsmen Stephen Lynch and Richard King quickly.

Aiken, who was on 34 when play was interrupted by rain at tea on Saturday, looked far safer even despite a slow patch in the session between lunch and tea.

He and Barnes got the scoreboard moving again and figured in a fifth wicket partnership of 60 before Aiken fell to a sharp slips catch off the bowling of impressive left armer Pedro Collins.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of the third day of the four-day match between the West Indies and Auckland on Sunday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 380 (overnight 120-2)

AUCKLAND: First innings (overnight 120-2)

McIntosh c Adams b Perry 30

Pocock c Powell b King 29

Aiken c Powell b Collins 84

Lynch lbw Collins 11

King c Jacobs b Rose 9

Barnes c Jacobs b Rose 52

Walker lbw Collins 0

Young c Lara b King 29

Mills not out 45

Morgan lbw Perry 3

Walsmsley c Jacobs b Adams 26

Extras: (nb-30, b-10, lb-11) 51

Total: (All out in 141.1 overs) 369

Fall of wickets: 1-69; 2-98; 3-135; 4-160; 5-220; 6-220; 7-268; 8-301; 9-306

Bowler O M R W

Rose 32 6 96 2

King 33 13 74 2

Collins 29 7 77 3

Perry 37 13 67 2

Adams 5.4 0 23 1

Chanderpaul 5 1 11 0

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Campbell not out 13

Ganga not out 0

Extras: (nb-1) 1

Total: (for no loss in two overs) 14

To Bat: S. Chanderpaul, B. Lara, R. Powell, J. Adams, R. Jacobs, N. Perry, F. Rose, R. King, P. Collins

Bowler O M R W

Morgan 1 0 5 0

Mills 1 0 9 0

ACB seeks sledge talks

ADELAIDE, Dec 12 (Internet report): Australia is to seek an urgent meeting with executives of the Pakistan Cricket Board over allegations of excessive sledging by the home team during the recent three-Test series here, says a report of the Sydney Morning Herald.

The Australian Cricket Board is angry at the allegations, published in Dawn newspaper in Karachi last week and apparently the subject of a letter from PCB chief Dr Zafar Alfai to the ACB.

ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed said the letter had not arrived at the board's offices in Melbourne, but that he and chairman Denis Rogers would seek a meeting with Alfai when he arrives in Australia with the Pakistan team for the one-day series next month. The board is particularly incensed with Alfai's reported comments that the verbal exchanges went "across the line", hinting a racial tone.

"Dr Alfai said he thought that it had gone across the line or whatever. I've inquired of (team manager) Steve Bernard about that. He's inquired of Steve Waugh and that's not the case," Speed said.



Niclas Alexandersson (R) of Sheffield Wednesday being put under pressure from a Bristol City defender during their FA Cup match at Hillsborough on December 11. — AFP photo

FA Cup

Wrexham's glorious triumph

LONDON, Dec 12: Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United may have cried off defending the FA Cup but on Saturday his son Darren ensured he retained an interest by scoring the winner for Second Division Wrexham in the 2-1 home defeat of Premiership outfit Middlesbrough on Saturday, reports AFP.

Wrexham, whose only previous FA Cup encounter with 'Boro was a 1-0 win in 1974, scored cracking second-half goals through Robin Gibson and Ferguson after Brian Deane had given the 1996 finalists the lead.

Ferguson junior was watched from the stands by his proud father.

Afterwards Wrexham manager Brian Flynn put the result on a par with the club's historic victory over Arsenal in 1992.

Flynn said: "It was a memorable day again - absolutely fantastic. Obviously the Arsenal game was a bit special for us because it was the first one (after taking charge) and with all the circumstances surrounding it."

"But if you look at their team, the quality they had, I certainly rank it as high as the Arsenal game."

"I think we deserved to win. From start to finish it was an enthralling cup tie."

Tranmere Rovers boss John Aldridge was gobsmacked after his battling heroes 1-0 victory over West Ham at Prenton Park. Former Anfield favourite Aldridge simply said: "We were

absolutely tremendous." Nick Henry was Rovers' hero as he shot home from 25 yards as the Premiership side struggled to shrug off their miserable away form - the Londoners have not scored away from home since August 28.

West Ham manager Harry Redknapp knew his team had not done themselves justice. He admitted: "This is the first time this season that I have had to go in and tell them I'm disappointed."

Redknapp added: "We were second best all afternoon. We just couldn't come to terms with the way they played - we just couldn't handle it."

Andy Cook's 61st minute downward header was enough for Burnley to see off Jim Smith's Derby.

Burnley boss Stan Ternent hailed his team's victory as "a fantastic day" for the Second Division club.

"It was a thoroughly deserved victory. We played really well and I've always said if we perform to our full capability and potential we are capable of beating anyone and that's what happened today."

Chelsea stormed past Hull City 6-1 with Uruguayan star Gustavo Poyet hitting a hat-trick.

Gianluca Vialli was a happy man after his side proved they were not a bunch of southern softies.

"People think we are soft, I don't think we were that soft today," insisted Vialli.

"I'm happy with the result and the performance and the reaction of the players after our last defeat on the domestic front."

Non-league Hereford and Third Division Exeter both secured commendable 0-0 draws against Premiership opposition against Leicester and Everton respectively.

Leicester City manager Martin O'Neill was relieved after his side survived a second-half onslaught from non-league Hereford.

O'Neill said: "I knew before the game just how tough it was going to be. I told the boys beforehand that if we were in the fourth round draw in any shape or form then I would be delighted."

"I know from my Wycombe days just what this sort of game means to the smaller clubs and Hereford deserved the replay for the way they played."

"We had a couple of chances in the first half and I think the turning point came when Tony Cottee's shot rolled along the line and never went in."

That gave Hereford a bit of heart, and, with the wind and the slope in their favour, they really came at us in the second half."

Gary Rowett was injury-ravaged Birmingham City's hero as he headed home from Martin Grainger's corner to score the only goal to equal Graham Taylor's Watford.

Aston Villa recorded a narrow 2-1 success over Darlington, whose chairman George Reynolds had sworn that God would see them take the tie.

Sheffield Wednesday also prevailed against lower division opposition as goalstarved Andy Booth's goal was enough to give the Owls their first win in eight matches 1-0 at home to Bristol City.

Bundesliga

Dortmund's slip puts Bayern atop

COLOGNE, Germany, Dec 12: Borussia Dortmund had their chances but again failed to win at home Saturday as VfB Stuttgart held them to a 1-1 draw, extending their winless stretch to seven league games, reports AFP.

Bayern Munich, who beat Hansa Rostock 3-0, are now far out of reach on 30 points, followed by Bayer Leverkusen on 27 points, Hamburg on 26 and 1860 Munich on 25. Dortmund are fifth with 24 points.

Fredi Bobic put Dortmund ahead against his former club on 23 minutes but Stuttgart, who only threatened sporadically, equalised three minutes later when keeper Jens Lehmann blocked a Krassimir Balakov effort and Sean Dundee cleaned up with a header.

The home side, buoyed by a 63,000 black and yellow-clad crowd, were hoping to follow up their sensational win on penalties over Glasgow Rangers in the UEFA Cup this week with three points and put weeks of mediocre results behind them.

Bobic, Victor Ikpeba and Lars Ricken all had opportunities to break the deadlock before the break but were unable to convert any of them.

Bayern steamrollered Rostock with Paulo Sergio marking two goals in the 45th and 54th minutes. Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was pleased to see such determination after Bayern's dull win over Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League midweek.

With so many of his stars out injured or lacking form he pointed out that that grit was one of his side's most vital attributes.

"We've shown on a number of occasions this season that we can fight hard and tackle hard. It's obvious we're not in a position to play our most attractive football at the moment but the team believes in itself, it has a lot of character - and today was a game that required a lot of character."

Over the 90 minutes as a whole we held up well against Bayern," Rostock coach Andreas Zachhuber said. "But their goals came at really bad times for us - the 0-1 just before the break and the 0-2 just after it. When that happens it's tough to hold a team like Bayern which handles the ball so well."

Zachhuber was annoyed about the first Sergio goal, which came after a Bayern free

kick the Rostock coach insists should never have been awarded, while Sergio's second score came after he appeared to be standing offside by several metres.

Man of the match Sergio also set up Bayern's third, drawing several Rostock defenders in the area and then slipping a back pass to Roque Santa Cruz who scored on 65 minutes.

The lead see-sawed all day in Munich's Olympic stadium as 1860 Munich drew 3-3 with Schalke. Danish striker Ebbe Sand grabbed a point for the visitors - their seventh draw in nine games - with his second goal of the day on 89 minutes.

Prior to that both sides scored at regular intervals. Thomas Hassler (19th), Martin Max (55th) and Harald Cerny (71st) all hit the net for 1860, while Sand (35th and 89th) and Marc Wilmots were Schalke's sharpshooters.

Hertha Berlin took full points at Freiburg with a 1-0 win, Iranian international Ali Daei netting on 77 minutes.

On Friday, Werder Bremen drew 2-2 with Unterhaching and Arminia Bielefeld lost 1-0 to Duisburg.

On Sunday, SSV Ulm host Kaiserslautern, Hamburg travel to Leverkusen and Wolfsburg play Eintracht Frankfurt.

Primera Liga

Barca in ignominy

MADRID, Dec 12: Barcelona's faltering Spanish title hopes took a knock Saturday when they inexplicably slid to a 3-2 defeat at tailenders Seville, leaving the Catalan giants seven points behind leaders Deportivo La Coruna, reports AFP.

Barca might have guessed they were in for a tough evening had they consulted the record books beforehand. It was against the Catalan club that Seville scored their biggest ever win, 11-1, in the 1940-41 season.

Seville, who had previously registered one win all season, took a shock lead after 12 minutes through local-born star Gomez Diaz Juan Carlos, who latched on to a pass from Greek midfielder Vassilis Tsartas before firing home past keeper

Francesc Arnaiz. Juan Carlos, who had an effort ruled out for offside after barely a minute, escaped the visitors' defensive clutches again to level 10 minutes from the end after Dani had levelled on the half-hour and Luis Enrique had put Barca 2-1 in front with a header in the 59th minute following a Rivaldo cross.

In a titanic final surge, the aptly named Victor secured full points for the hosts in the 88th minute as Tsartas again turned provider to hand Barcelona their sixth league defeat and leave a big question mark hanging over their suspect defence.

The result leaves Barca, going into a third successive league crown as well as Champions League glory - both trophies would just about satisfy their ardent fans - on 23 points from 15 matches in fourth spot.