

Miandad, Raja in advisory panel

ISLAMABAD, Dec 25 (Internet report): Former Test captains Javed Miandad and Rameez Raja were on Friday named on Pakistan Cricket Board five-member advisory panel.

Other members announced by PCB chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia included former Test cricketer Nasimul Ghani, former team manager Yawar Saeed and Dean of Lahore University of Management Sciences Wasim Azhar.

The advisory panel will assist the Board in all matters, including selection of the team. Tauqir Zia told the newsmen at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Flanked by captain Wasim Akram and chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed, Gen. Tauqir said that he wanted the PCB to be turned into a profit making institution.

Wasim Akram said the team was working hard and would achieve better results in the coming triangular series in Australia. "Our batting as well as bowling have improved and I am confident that the team will perform well," he said.

Chief selector Salahuddin defended the inclusion of opener Wahajuddin Wasti in the team and said he was a specialised opener and could support the side in crisis.

He described off spinner Shoaib Malik a future asset of the Pakistan team and aid he was selected because Australian batsmen faced difficulty in playing spinners specially off-spinners.

Salahuddin said dashing opener Aamir Sohail could make a comeback provided he showed improvement in his attitude. "The cricket abilities of Aamir are beyond any doubt but he has some attitude problem and was involved in unpleasant incidents with a number of Board officials in the past," he said.

No Vaughan, Mullally

DURBAN, Dec 25: Batsman Michael Vaughan and left-arm pacer Alan Mullally have been ruled out of the England side for the Third Test against South Africa starting at Kingsmead on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Vaughan has injured his right index finger while Mullally has failed to recover from a side strain.

Sub-jr chess

Mehdi Hasan Parag and Goolam Mustafa Bhuiyan took joint lead in the 20th national sub-junior chess championship securing full five points after the fifth round matches yesterday, reports UNB.

In the day's matches, Parag of Kamalapur, Santaj Kalyan Sangha beat Ziauddin Ahmed while Mustafa of Mymensingh beat Nayeem Arefin Ratul at the NSC chess room.

Nakibul Haq Udas followed the leaders with four-and-a-half points defeating Salehin in the fifth round encounter.

In other matches, Sajib beat Saad, Farhad beat Sakawat, Monir beat Arefin, Hafiz beat Khalid, Halim beat Kibria, Shimmi beat Salahuddin, Rajib beat Nazrul, Deepjon beat Mujahid, Obaid beat Daniel and Ali beat Ferdous while Suprakash drew with Moniruz-zaman.

Hooper on comeback trail

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Dec 25: Former West Indies Test all-rounder Carl Hooper will captain the Guyana national cricket side competing in the Caribbean's Busta Cup tournament, as the Australian-based batsman attempts a comeback to the West Indies team, reports AP.

Hooper, 32, retired abruptly during the limited-over series against Australia in the Caribbean this year, citing a lack of motivation. He then flew to Australia where he now lives with his family and plays for the Carlton Cricket Club.

Wellington Test

From page 13

Chris Cairns, Dion Nash, Daniel Vettori, Paul Wiseman, Shayne O'Connor.

WEST INDIES (from): Brian Lara (captain), Sherwin Campbell, Adrian Griffith, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ricardo Powell, Jimmy Adams, Ridley Jacobs, Dinanath Ramnarine, Franklin Rose, Courtney Walsh, Reon King, Mervyn Dillon, Pedro Collins.

Umpires: Evan Watkin (New Zealand), Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

Australia confident

From page 13

ago (in the first Test against Pakistan in Brisbane) and they didn't say my age was a problem then.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Steve Waugh (capt), Michael Slater, Greg Blewett, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Damien Fleming, Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath.

INDIA (from): Sachin Tendulkar (capt), Sadagopan Ramesh, Venkat Laxman, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Manava Prasad, Ajit Agarkar, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Anil Kumble.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England), Steve Davis (Australia).

Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka).

SA pace worries England

Third Test begins today



DURBAN, Dec 25: England's shaky batting lineup will confront South Africa's strong opening bowling in the third Test at Kingsmead Stadium Sunday, reports AP.

South Africa lead the five-Test series 1-0.

For all the consolation Eng-



HANSIE CRONJE

land have taken from the drawn second Test in Port Elizabeth two weeks ago where captain Nasser Hussain made steady gains, the penetration of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock with the new ball for South Africa will be a challenge.

And with the return of Jacques Kallis, a third prong to a pace attack has been added. That allows South Africa to let the stock-bowling duties fall to Lance Klusener and captain Hanie Cronje.

Add the spin of Paul Adams, who has improved immeasurably since the visit of Australian spin guru Terry Jenner, and bowling becomes South Africa's trump card.

For England, the continuing

poor form of Mark Butcher is a matter of serious concern, especially when it comes to blunting the Donald-Pollock juggernaut, which seems to take special delight in ripping the heart out of England's batting.

Hussain's form is heartening. He will have to be supported by the other batsmen of obvious class in the England team in Michael Atherton, Michael Vaughan and Alec Stewart if the tourists are to post a total that can challenge South Africa. In addition, Mark Ramprakash flew to South Africa to cover for Vaughan, who injured a finger in the rained-off match against a combined Border-Eastern Province team at the weekend, but seems likely to be included in the squad if Vaughan cannot play.

By contrast, South Africa seem to have an embarrassment of riches in the batting department to complement their pace bowling. Although Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs have yet to fire at the top of the order, Kallis and Darryll Cullinan provide good backup, and in the lower middle order, Klusener has been devastating with 246 runs in two innings against the tourists so far.

The pitch is almost certain to exacerbate the problems for England. Durban has been battered by a week of rains, causing the South African government to declare the Indian Ocean port and a nearby town disaster areas. That dampness, and Durban's normal humidity, will inevitably be beneficial to swing and seam bowling, and the pace of Donald and Pollock.

Both captains played down the effect the rain would have on the Test. "We're from England, so we're used to this," said Hussain. "We just have to take what opportunities we have, and the South Africans are in the same boat," he added.

"If I had to start worrying about the weather, playing Test cricket would become too com-

plicated," said Cronje. "Besides, we have no control over it."

For all that bravado, the square at Kingsmead, the outfield and the nets have all been put out of bounds by the ground staff in an attempt to get them dry. However, more rain is forecast for the area during the runup to the match.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Gary



NASSER HUSSAIN

Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Darryll Cullinan, Hanie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Allan Donald, Mornantau Hayward, Paul Adams.

ENGLAND (from): Michael Atherton, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (captain), Michael Vaughan, Alec Stewart, Chris Adams, Andrew Flintoff, Andrew Caddick, Darren Gough, Chris Silverwood, Phil Tufnell, Alan Mullally, Darren Maddy.

Umpires: Doug Cowie (New Zealand), David Orchard (South Africa)

Match referee: Barry Jarman (Australia). **TV umpire:** Wilf Driedicks.

Dhanmondi, Khelaghar post wins

Dhanmondi Club registered their second successive win in the Metropolitan First Division cricket league beating Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by 32 runs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent in to bat, Dhanmondi scored 170 before being all out in 48.5 overs with Tushar making highest 65 of 65 balls that included seven fours.

Sajid claimed three wickets for 31 while Khokon and Tapas took two wickets each both conceding 38 runs apiece.

In reply, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha were all out for 138 runs in 36 overs with number eight batsman Tota scoring 51 runs off 90 balls.

Number nine Nasim made 29 off 46 balls with six hits across the rope.

Rin captured three wickets for 21 while Dickens and Tareq took two wickets each for 11 and 35 runs respectively.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Dhanal Smitrit cricket champions Khelaghar SKS earned an impressive seven-wicket victory over Young Pegasus.

Sent in to bat, Young Pegasus scored a paltry 129 all out in 43.3 overs with one down Sohag making 24 and number ten Rashed 22.

Lal picked up three wickets for 18 runs while Tony and Simon took two wickets each for 12 and 26 runs respectively.

In Khelaghar easily reached the target of 130 losing three wickets in 38.3 overs with opener Bijon making 63 off 107 balls and Nadim an unbeaten 29 off 61 balls.

Jony captured two wickets for 27 runs.

Sportstar award for Azharuddin

CHENNAI, Dec 25 (Internet report): Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin on Friday received the Sportstar Sportsman of the Year award for 1998 from Board of Control for Cricket in India president AC Muthiah at a function in Chennai.

Speaking on the occasion, Muthiah said it was always a delight to watch Azhar play. Noting that he was an inspiration to young aspiring cricketers, Muthiah said Azhar should help produce more Azharuddins for Indian cricket.

Replying to the felicitations, Azhar said he looked forward to playing for India in the future again.

Looking as fit as any coltish newcomer in the Indian team, Azhar last played for the country in the World Cup in England.

Azhar is The Sportstar's fifth Sportsman of the Year awardee. The first winner was Sachin Tendulkar in 1994, followed by Viswanathan Anand, Leander Paes and Sourav Ganguly.

Vasco gets tough with 'Animal'



RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 25: Brazilian First Division side Vasco da Gama have suspended the wages of their maverick striker Edmundo, dubbed "the animal", because they believe the player's bohemian lifestyle has delayed his recovery from a muscle injury in his left leg, reports AFP.

The fine, the equivalent of 200,000 dollars, is likely to mean that the controversial Brazilian international forward will miss the inaugural World Club Championships to be staged in Brazil next month.

Rio club Vasco da Gama play their first match in that tournament against Australia's South Melbourne on January 6.

Vasco da Gama director Eurico Miranda told journalists that the club's directors said that the player's consumption of alcohol and his failure to rest the injury had contributed to an aggravation of the problem.

"I told Edmundo that he was free to do what he wants at night time but that he would have to take responsibility for his actions. When he is in condition to play again the club will be prepared to pay his salary," Miranda said.

The club is fulfilling what it has been required to do and Edmundo only understands one thing, that is to be hurt in the pocket."

Edmundo is theoretically resting in order to get fit for the World Club Championship but he did not do himself any favours by being seen by journalists at a recent nightclub opening looking haggard, apparently under the influence of alcohol and in the company of several women.

Edmundo has long had the reputation for being a devotee of Rio de Janeiro's famous - some would say infamous - nightlife.

He was blamed by many of his Fiorentina teammates, notably Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta, for the collapse of the Florence-based outfit's title challenge last season.

Edmundo had feuds with several team-mates and went absent to attend the Rio carnival at a crucial stage of the season with Fiorentina still in the lead. By the time he returned to Italy they had slipped down the table.

He is currently sentenced to a prison term for a fatal car crash which caused the deaths of three people but is at liberty while the courts decide how he should serve his sentence with the indications being he will be allowed to continue his career.

He also negotiated a clause in his Vasco da Gama contract which enables him to visit nightclubs - the club's other players are all under curfew.

He is currently out of favour with Brazil national team coach Wanderley Luxemburgo who is a renowned disciplinarian.

Edmundo is reputedly on a

3.4-million-dollar salary at Vasco da Gama since rejoining the Rio de Janeiro outfit after an "unhappy" stay with Fiorentina in Italy's Serie A. However, he reputedly earns 10,000 dollars a day including commercial deals.

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EDMUNDO

Vasco da Gama doctor Clovis Munhoz said: "It is obvious that any exertion will prejudice the recovery of an injured athlete."

On Thursday Edmundo took part in a light training session with his team-mates but had to return to the doctors with strong pains after kicking a ball.

Edmundo is reputedly on a

Bill assumes control of Everton

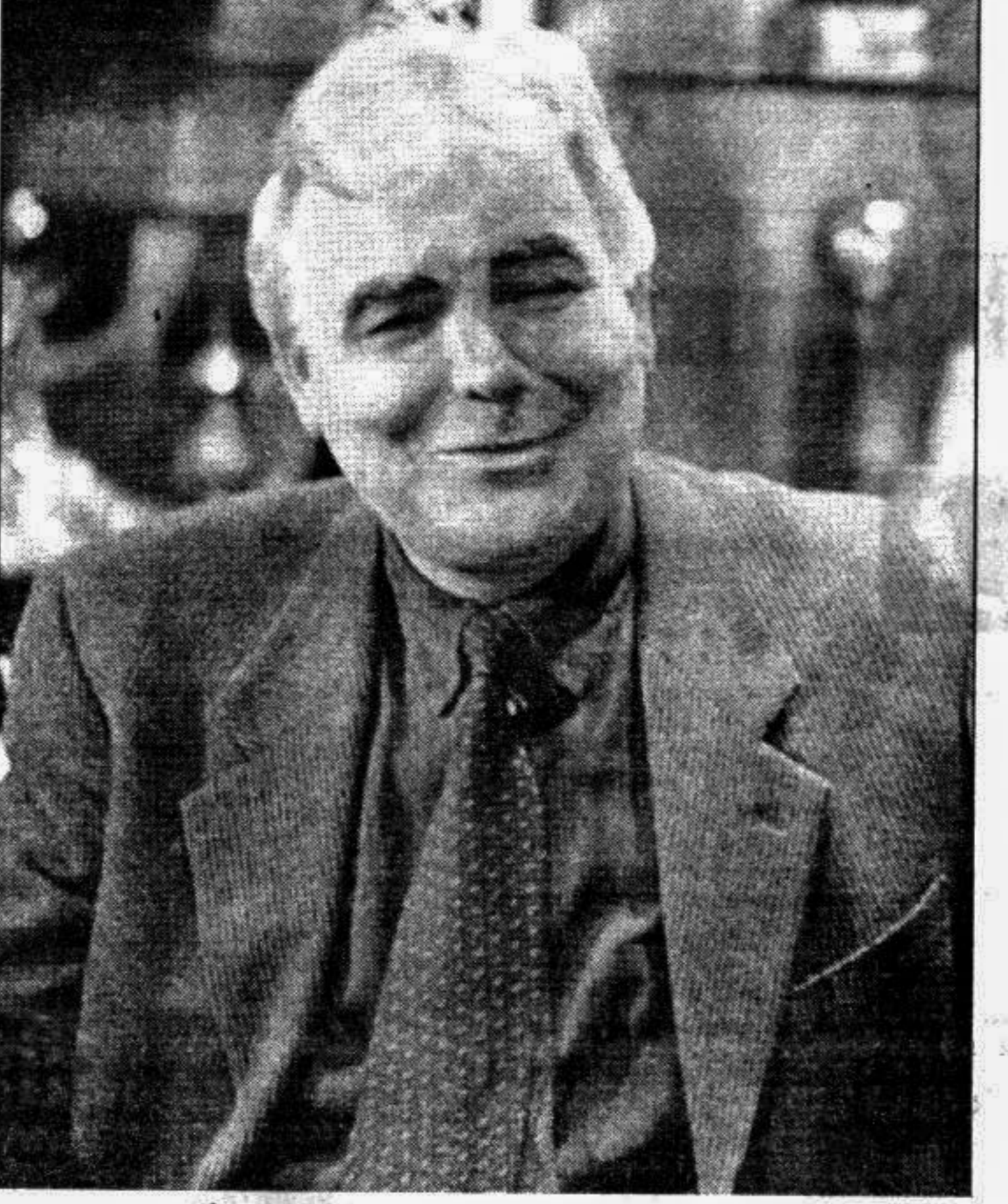
LIVERPOOL, England, Dec 25: Showbiz impresario Bill Kenwright has won control of English Premiership club Everton Friday in a dramatic Christmas Eve coup, reports AFP.

Kenwright, the club's vice-chairman, has struck a deal with Everton's majority shareholder Peter Johnson for a knock-down 20 million pounds (32 million dollars). Johnson had previously named 50 million pounds as his selling price for the Liverpool-based club.

The formalities will be completed after Christmas with scrutiny of the club's books to start after the holiday period but Everton fans, long time critics of Johnson, are likely to be delighted by the change.

Kevin Nolan, spokesman for the club's shareholders association, said: "This is a great Christmas present for all Evertonians."

"The news is fantastic that Peter Johnson is now going and Bill has taken over. It has taken him a very long time to get to this stage but he has the support of all Evertonians."



An AFP file photo of Bill Kenwright.

Pybus on his Pak plight



EAST LONDON, Dec 25 (Internet): Sacked Pakistan coach Richard Pybus has returned to East London looking for a rest from cricket.

"I need a break from cricket," said the former Border coach, who was dismissed by the Pakistan Cricket Board after their team was whitewashed 3-0 by a rampant Australia recently.

Pybus says he needs to wind down after a hectic year in which he guided a young Border team to two major South African championship finals, helped coach Pakistan to the World Cup final and later took over the reins full-time for the luckless Australian tour.

"Taking on the coaching of Pakistan was a huge challenge," says Pybus. "They're a talented side and with me being the first foreign coach they've ever employed, I knew things would be tough."

"They had always had former Test players as their coaches, but it must be remembered that Test players do not necessarily make the best coaches."

"Also, the fact that they had no less than four coaches this year before me was a challenge. I believe I had something to offer Pakistan cricket, but I needed time to develop the team, and this was not given to me by the PCB."

Ideally, Pybus would have liked a minimum of two years with the team to develop their skills.

"My aim was to introduce a fitness and fielding programme which would have turned Pakistan into real world-beaters."

"I had also made enquiries to the Board to engage a fitness conditioner as well as digital video equipment for training purposes, but never got a reply to these requests from them."

Pybus left South Africa for Pakistan in October and then flew directly to Sharjah where the Pakistan team participated in a tri-nation tournament which included Sri Lanka and the West Indies.

"I was led to believe by the PCB that I would take over the coaching of the team at Sharjah, but my predecessor, Wasim Raja, was still in control there."

This development Pybus found rather frustrating. "But that's how it works for Pakistan."

Pybus explained that to understand the politics of cricket there, one has to understand the politics of Pakistan itself.

The PCB is run virtually by the government. Whenever there's a change in government, there's a change in the make-up of the cricket board. And just as Pakistan's politics are volatile, so is the running of cricket there. And this of course also rubs off on the fans, who want their team to win at all costs."

Pybus says there was a number of factors which led to Pakistan's bad showing in the Australian series.

"The team had only played limited-overs cricket for eight months before the tour. There was the World Cup, followed by a low-key tournament in Toronto and then when we arrived in Australia, there was little time to acclimatise before the first Test."

"Any team needs time to adjust their play back to five-day

Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAH, Dec 25: Simla Sporting Club defeated Rajshahi Krira and Sangskritik Sporting Club by a solitary goal in the lone match of the Rajshahi First Division football league at the AHM Kamruzzaman Stadium today.

Sattar scored the all-important goal in the 48th minute. Mohammedam Sporting Club will take on Seroil Colony in tomorrow's match.

Faridpur cricket

FARIDPUR, Dec 25: Udayan Sangha beat Young Cricketers by seven runs in the inaugural match of the Faridpur District cricket league at the local stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Batting first, Udayan Sangha scored 137 runs for seven in the stipulated 30 overs with Regent making highest 31 runs.

Sony of Young Cricketers captured four wickets conceding 19 runs in five overs.

In reply, Young Cricketers were all out for 130 with Babu scoring 28 runs.

Boby of Udayan Sangha took four wickets for 26 runs.

In all, 25 teams are taking part in the league inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur.

Tests, and this was not given the team.

"Also, some of the bowlers were injured. Both Shoaib Akhtar and Wasim Akram were not 100 per cent fit during the tour, and spinner Saqlain Mushtaq had just recovered from a knee operation. Their young all-rounder, Abdur Razaq also struggled with injuries."

Pybus feels the PCB is doing a disservice to the cricketers by chopping and changing coaches.

"The players need consistency and continuation," he stressed. "This they have not got from their Board and this has also affected their results."

The Northumberland-born Pybus denied that ethnic, religious and cultural differences between himself and the team had contributed to their poor performances.

"It's not about where you come from," he says. "Look how foreign coaches have improved British soccer over the past few years."

He smiled when reminded that a top Pakistan official had rapped him over the knuckles for daring to "walk around naked while the team was praying" after Pakistan had won their semifinal match against New Zealand at the World Cup, which to the official proved that it would be wrong for a foreigner to coach Pakistan.

"The truth is I had just stepped out of the shower and did not know that at that very moment the team were giving thanks to Allah for their victory in one corner of the dressing-room," says Pybus by way of explanation.

"There is no way I would have shown disrespect to the team. It was blown out of all proportions by an official who had no time for a foreign coach, that's all."

For a coach who has tasted the glamour of international cricket, albeit fleetingly, Pybus feels the new year is the right time to start something fresh and far removed from the stresses of top-class cricket.

He would like to get involved in the motivational field, possibly putting packages together for businesses in the private sector with the accent on team-building and leadership.

He also hopes to spend more time with his wife, Lori-Ann and five-year-old daughter, Jessica.

Soccer fans score an own goal as ethnic tensions rise

By Naseem Akbarally from Port Louis

Politics and soccer are popular pastimes in Mauritius, but the mix can be explosive. An increase in ethnically-based violence by football fans, reports Gemini News Service has led to a ban on matches and government action to reorganise the basis on which clubs are formed.

RISING ethnic tensions in Mauritius have taken a new toll: football.

All soccer competitions in the Indian Ocean island state have been halted since last May, because off-pitch violence was getting out of hand.

The whistle was finally blown after hooligans damaged Anjalay Stadium, in the north of the island, after a match. They also set fire to 100 hectares of sugarcane fields, stoned houses and police stations, damaged buses and other vehicles on the streets before burning down a gambling club in the centre of the capital, Port-Louis. Seven people died in the blaze, including two women and two children. Several others were injured.

It was the most serious post-match violence ever seen in Mauritius, but there have been many less serious incidents since the first outbreak of trouble in 1955.

The biggest blunder came in 1955 when some people organised a football match between two Mauritian teams — one composed of white players and the other of black players," recalls Mahmud Elahee, one of the best players and national coaches the island has ever had. "Since then, things have deteriorated on ethnic grounds in the stadiums and on the streets after matches," he adds.

The 1.2 million Mauritians are made up of Hindus (52 per cent), Creoles and Whites (30 per cent), Muslims (17 per cent) and Chinese (1 per cent).

Trouble on the sportsfield, it is generally agreed, stems from the way teams used to be based on ethnicity — the Hindu Cadets, the Muslim Scouts (Elahee's team in the 1950s), Tamil Cadets, the (White) Dodo club, the (half-caste) Racing Club and the (Creoles) Fire Brigade.

"When two of these clubs opposed each other, it was as if the members of the communities they belonged to were opposing each other on a battlefield," says 53-year-old soccer fan Abedeen Korimbux.

Supporters repeatedly took to the streets and staged violent demonstrations. In the last two decades, thousands of buses have been damaged after matches.

By 1982 the situation was so bad that the newly-elected government of Prime Minister Sir

Anerood Jugnauth took the bull by the horns and banned the use of ethnic names for football clubs.

The names changed: the Muslim Scouts became simply Scouts, and the word Hindu was removed, leaving Cadets. Clubs opened their doors to players of other religious and ethnic groups. They even paid for foreign players from Madagascar, Tanzania and elsewhere in the region, irrespective of colour, creed or religion.

But the problems remained. Fans continued to organise themselves on ethnic lines, supporting the clubs they had always backed — even when

some of the players were from another ethnic group. Attempts to extend the policy were also stymied by several prominent figures who were worried that they might lose money: ethnically-based teams draw crowds of up to 25,000, compared with 1,500-2,000 for mixed sides.

Hooliganism became even more violent. Various measures were tried, including the banning of fans for several games at a stretch as punishment for rowdiness.

In a 1996 report following an inquiry into soccer hooliganism, Judge Robert Ahnee warned that "the communal hooliganism already present in

our stadiums" might explode ... with the possibility of serious consequences for the whole country."

Soccer faced a crisis which might even have "great consequences for the inter-racial harmony of the country," he said — which is exactly what happened three years later.

As well as imposing a match moratorium, the government secured approval for a Sports Bill that seeks to regionalise soccer, in the hope of destroying the ethnic basis of teams and thus of supporters as well. Though the regionalisation approach is not new, many people are prepared to give it another try. The idea is that players, whatever their cultural affinity, will be able to appear only in their regional team.

But Dr Satish Boolell, manager of the Police Football club team, says that other measures are needed.

"We cannot use regionalisation to cover our lack of discipline at the level of football administration in Mauritius," he says.

Calling for tougher application of laws against hooligans, he also recommends that no club based on ethnic grounds should qualify for registration; high-risk matches be played in the morning under the supervision of foreign referees; severe penalties be imposed for the use of foul or racially abusive language in stadia;