

Six months here & the other 6 there?

HAVANA, May 27: Diego Maradona says in an interview released Friday that he now hopes to split his life between his native Argentina and Cuba, where he has been undergoing drug abuse treatment since January, reports AP.

"I'm not thinking about returning to Argentina," Maradona said in an interview with the weekly newspaper Granma Internacional. "I'm going to ask Fidel (Castro) for permission to stay here and I'm thinking about spending say, six months of the year in Argentina and six months here."

"It's a decision I have to think about carefully," the former captain of the Argentine national team added in his first interview with the Cuban media. "Argentina is a difficult country, with a lot of corruption and poverty."

"In Cuba I feel like I'm at home," Maradona is quoted as saying in the English translation of his interview, conducted in Spanish. "The people have given me care and support that nobody else in any other part of the world has ever given me because the world is materialistic. It's almost rotten."

Ronaldo in Rio for long rest

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 27: Ronaldo arrived home in Brazil today to begin a long period out of the spotlight after surgery on a knee injury last month, reports Reuters.

"I'm here to rest. That's all I can do at this stage," said Inter Milan and Brazil striker Ronaldo as he arrived at Rio's international airport.

Jessore, Tangail

In the tie-breakers, Joyntal, Joy and Tipu of Jessore converted correctly but none of Jhenidah players could score. In Jamalpur, Tangail booked their place in the final round by beating Netrokona 2-1 at the Jamalpur Stadium. Ranjan put the winners ahead in the second minute while Jhony of Netrokona restored parity in the 39th minute. Bakhtiar scored the match-winning goal for Tangail just one minute before the long whistle.

Earlier, five teams — Chittagong, Khulna, Bhola, Rajshahi and Comilla — booked final round berths as zonal champions.

In the day's other matches, Bangladesh Army beat Bangladesh Navy in the opening Services Zone match in Dhaka. Rashid scored the lone goal for Army in the 71st minute.

The other Services Zone match between Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Air Force ended 2-2.

Babar and Tara scored for the police men while Hassan and Awal netted for Air Force.

Reid means

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JR: I am very happy. I was the match referee during the ICC Trophy in Malaysia when Bangladesh qualified for the World Cup along with Kenya and Scotland. I also saw them in England during the World Cup last year. They have a fair way to go. They are keen and the whole country is behind them.

You need the support of the other Test-playing nations. So, I think the move by the ACB (and) UCB are all right. Although they have a fair way to go it is best to start at the bottom Test-playing ladder. So they can have a go at Zimbabwe, New Zealand and England at the moment.

DSS: What do you know about our stadium?

JR: I played here in 1955. I remember flying across from Lahore in a Dakota and seeing Mount Everest on the left-hand side. So I'm looking forward to seeing it again and also the country as well.

DSS: When did you receive the OBE?

JR: I received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) medal in 1963 which was towards the end of my career for services to cricket. At that stage I was the captain of the New Zealand team that won the first Test match and next two Tests on tour in South Africa.

DSS: Do you recollect any weird happenings?

JR: No, not exactly. I'm a pretty serious person. Let's talk about Brian Lara's 375. I was the referee for that match. It was certainly a momentous occasion for cricket. Then I saw Sanath Jayasuriya score 360 against India. Where did Sanath get caught with 360 on the board? Can you believe it... at silly mid-off!

My third memorable moment was when Shane Warne took a hat-trick. I think it was against England. In fact, I've witnessed three other hat-tricks.

DSS: And any regrets?

JR: I am quite happy with my role as a referee. It's a whole new dimension for me.

DSS: Describe your family.
JR: Besides my son who works in Nike, I have two daughters one of whom played squash for New Zealand. They are all married and have children. My wife hardly misses me. She sometimes accompanies me. We are going to celebrate our 50th anniversary on January 19.

DSS: How do you enjoy your leisure time?

JR: My hobbies include trout fishing and taking snap shots of the places I visit.

Foes play like friends

BERLIN, May 27: Diego Maradona made an emotional return to the soccer stage for the farewell game of his old rival Lothar Matthaeus on Friday, reports Reuters.

The Argentine with the magical skills, on the mend from a life-threatening heart condition blamed on drugs and drink, almost stole the show from the perennial German.

The pair, who have fought many battles against each other over the years, looked like joyful teenagers on the pitch of Munich's Olympic Stadium.

The real star of the night was record-breaking Matthaeus as the game between a Bayern Munich XI and Germany on his favourite playground was being played in his honour. It ended 1-1.

But Maradona, eager to show the world that his passion for football is still alive, might have been the happier of the two.

The hero of the 1986 World Cup is 39 years old, like Matthaeus, but — unlike the captain of Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning side — it had been a while since he felt the thrill of a high-profile match. "When Lothar invited me I didn't hesitate for a second," said Maradona. "Like me, he is a man who lives for football and it is simply amazing that he is still playing at top level at this age."

While Matthaeus is warming up for his last major tournament, the European Championship starting on June 10, Maradona has other things to worry about.

Under treatment in Cuba since mid-January, the kid from a Buenos Aires shantytown who became a soccer icon appears to be making a reasonable recovery.

Doctors gave him the go-ahead for Friday's party, asking him to return immediately after the game.

Maradona looked overweight but in cheerful mood, waving at the fans before kick-off. Playing for the Bayern XI under his cherished number 10 shirt, he pleased the crowd with delightful passes, clever back-heal flips and other tricks which made him a living legend.

He left at halftime to a standing ovation after demon-

strating for 45 minutes that he remained a unique footballer. Matthaeus played a half for each side, marshalling the defence with calm authority as he has always done since he abandoned the playmaker role to become a libero.

The second half for Bayern was probably the one which meant the most to him as he played his last match for them in March, leaving club closest to his heart to start a new adventure with New York-New Jersey MetroStars.

In the 82nd minute it was his turn to leave, with 47,000 people chanting his name. He had tears in his eyes and was still clearly moved when he came



A combo picture shows Lothar Matthaeus (R) and former Argentine superstar Diego Maradona entertaining the crowds during the former's farewell soccer match between the German national team and Bayern Munich at the Olympic Stadium in Munich on May 26. — Internet photo

back shortly afterwards for a lap of honour in a white tee-shirt saying "Thank-you" in German, English and Italian.

"The atmosphere was amazing," he said. "I will never forget that moment. It will stay with me for ever."

Nobody cared too much about the score. Carsten Jancker opened the scoring for Bayern after 10 minutes and Thomas Haessler, back in the Germany team after a two-year absence, levelled in the 26th minute.

Juergen Klinsmann, who has had his arguments with Matthaeus, came on in the second half to show there were no hard feelings between the two greatest German players of the

past decade. Maradona and Matthaeus have a rich history in common and have faced each other in two World Cup finals.

In 1986 in Mexico, Maradona enjoyed the finest moment in his turbulent career with a 3-2 triumph over Germany. But four years later in Rome Matthaeus took revenge, leading his men to a 1-0 victory over Maradona's Argentina.

They also frequently met in the Serie A, when Maradona graced Naples while Matthaeus played for Inter Milan.

Matthaeus will have little time to rest as today he was due to fly to Mallorca, where Germany are setting up a training



A combo picture shows Lothar Matthaeus (R) and former Argentine superstar Diego Maradona entertaining the crowds during the former's farewell soccer match between the German national team and Bayern Munich at the Olympic Stadium in Munich on May 26. — Internet photo

camp to complete the preparations for the defence of their European title.

"I want to play eight more matches for Germany," he said, eager to increase his world record of 146 matches.

Playing eight more matches would mean he would retire on a high note after the Euro 2000 final on July 2 in Rotterdam — a prospect which seems unlikely given Germany's dismal showings of late.

Maradona packed his boots and headed back for Cuba, where he plans to stay until the end of the year.

"I want to get 100 per cent healthy," he said. "I'm not there yet but I'm working on it."

Zimbabwe score 68

LEEDS, England, May 27: Gavin Hamilton and Matthew Hoggard plundered the Zimbabwe tourists deeper into crisis on the third day of the four-day game at Headingley here on Friday, reports AFP.

The Yorkshire pair took eight wickets between them as Andy Flower's men were skittled for 68, the third lowest total they have ever made on a tour.

Hamilton finished with five for 22 and Hoggard, talked of as a future England bowler, took three for 18.

Scotland-born Hamilton did not score a run, take a wicket or claim a catch in his solitary Test appearance against South Africa last winter but found the Zimbabwean batting much more to his liking.

In left the Zimbabweans facing defeat even though they had claimed a first innings lead of 111 and the game might well have been over in three days but for the intervention of the weather shortly after lunch.

Yorkshire added five runs in the morning before being dismissed for 124, left-earner Bryan Strang taking the last wicket when he had Hoggard caught behind the wicket for one.

Debutant Simon Guy was left unbeaten on 29 and Pommie Mbangwa finished with six for 14 from 18 overs.

But this fine effort in the field was soon ruined by weak batting, fully exploited by Hamilton and Hoggard.

The innings developed in to a procession from the moment Grant Flower was bowled by Hoggard in the third over of the innings.

The tourists lost half their side with only 42 runs on the board as Hamilton supported Hoggard's opening burst with excellent seam bowling, going to claim five for 22 in only 7.3 overs.

Tufnell back in the swing

LONDON, May 27 (Internet report): Phil Tufnell returned his best county championship figures for nearly four years before rain washed out the Division Two contest between Northamptonshire and Middlesex at Wantage Road.

The 34-year-old left-arm spinner, overlooked by the England selectors so far this season, picked up two more wickets on the final day to finish with six for 92 from 38 overs as Northants were dismissed for 319, giving them a first-innings lead of 102.

Middlesex openers Mark Ramprakash and Ben Hutton had reduced the arrears by 24 when a heavy hailstorm drove the players from the field two balls after lunch, and the match was abandoned as a draw.

Resuming on 265 for seven after a black day on Friday, the home side were boosted by David Ripley and Michael Davies who carried their eighth-wicket stand to 60 before Tim Bloomfield had the wicket-keeper caught by Justin Langer at first slip for a solid 55 from 119 balls.

Tufnell then tied up the innings, sending back Davies who top-edged a sweep to wicket-keeper David Nash, and Devon Malcolm courtesy of another slip catch by Langer.

The slow left-armers' haul was his best in the competition for Middlesex since September 1996, while Bloomfield ended with four for 46 from 16 overs.

Northants needed to make early inroads if they were to put any significant pressure on the visitors. But Ramprakash moved fluently to 16 from 26 balls, getting in some practice for Thursday's second Test against Zimbabwe, before the heavens opened for a quarter-of-an-hour.

Umpires John Hampshire and Allan Jones then inspected the conditions, accompanied by the two captains, and they quickly decided that no further cricket was viable.

England pick same bunch

LONDON, May 27 (Internet report): The England selectors have named an unchanged squad of 13 for the second Test against Zimbabwe which starts next Thursday at Trent Bridge.

There is a doubt over Craig White, who did not make the final XI at Lord's, but if he is deemed unfit the squad will simply be reduced to 12 players.

White was taken ill on Tuesday and spent the night in hospital. He is expected to be told to rest for a week.

Lancashire leg-spinner Chris Schofield was preferred to Durham pace bowler Steve Harmison at Lord's and it could be a late choice between those two in the final line-up.

Schofield did not deliver a ball in his Test debut while the fast bowlers did the job but still enjoyed the experience of the big occasion after just 16 first-class games.

Other injury problems have been avoided by the resting from county duty this week of captain Nasser Hussain, Michael Atherton, Alec Stewart, Darren Gough and Andy Caddick in accordance with the conditions of the England Cricket Board's new contract system.

Mark Ramprakash missed out on England's run spree in his first opening role in 39 Tests, so his new position has still to be assessed.

SQUAD

N Hussain (c), M Atherton, M Ramprakash, G Hick, A Stewart (wkt), N Knight, A Flintoff, C Schofield, A Caddick, D Gough, E Giddins, S Harmison

C'paul, Adams steady WI

ST JOHN'S, May 27: Two vital pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that is the West Indies middle-order

batting finally dropped into place to shorten Pakistan's lead in the second Test on Friday here, reports AFP.

Left-handers Shivnarine Chanderpaul and captain Jimmy Adams, whose batting has been a letdown over the last two years, batted for close to four hours to give substance to a West Indies total of 214 for three at stumps on the second day, replying to Pakistan's first innings 269.

Chanderpaul and Adams, whose batting averages have plummeted from the lofty heights they attained early in their international careers, have so far shared an unbroken fourth wicket stand of 130 that lifted West Indies from the insecurity of 84 for three.

It was not pretty cricket for another modest Antigua Recreation Ground crowd to watch from Adams and Chanderpaul though. There was not the volleys of strokes that has characterised West Indian batting in the 72 years of their have contested Test matches.

It was however, steeped in purpose, passion and perseverance, three qualities West Indies have come to epitomise in the last two months and has kept their side's hopes alive of maybe, just maybe, clinching the series-deciding win.

Chanderpaul has batted just over four hours and faced 172 balls for his unbeaten 68 that contains six fours, and Adams has faced 169 balls in his 60 not out spiced by four fours.

It was their 19th and 12th half-centuries in their 42nd and 44th Tests respectively.

It came after fast bowler Courtney Walsh captured the last two Pakistan wickets to end with his 19th five-wicket haul in his 117th Test to move his world record career tally to 448 and Pakistan leg-spin bowler Mushtaq Ahmed had continued his absorbing battle with the West Indies batsmen.

Walsh needed only the first over of the day to clear away the rest of the Pakistan batting.

Waqar Younis miscued a hook to backward square leg off the second legitimate ball, and Mushtaq edged to provide wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs with his fourth catch of the innings.

It left Younis Youhana unbeaten on 103, the sixth century against West Indies in their five home matches for the year, one in each of the Tests, two against Zimbabwe and three against the Pakistanis.

Mushtaq then outfoxed opening batsmen Sherwin Campbell and Adrian Griffith either side of lunch and had a hand in the dismissal of Wavel Hinds that left West Indies struggling at 84 for three.

Campbell set about some short, loose Pakistan bowling from Wasim Akram and Waqar to gather six fours, including one all-run, in his 31 that lasted 60 minutes and 44 balls.

Campbell hit three fours off the last three balls in Wasim's second over: A savage pull, an involuntary steer to third man, and a rasping cut through point.

The West Indies vice-captain was really flowing when Pakistan captain Moin Khan called upon Mushtaq. A little tentative against the leg-spinner bowling his first over, Campbell tried to clear mid-wicket and hit the ball straight into Younis Youhana's lap.

Things could have been worse for West Indies had Pakistan taken the two chances offered by Adrian Griffith.

His place in the side under question, the left-hander did little justice to himself in an innings of 22 that lasted close to two hours.

On one, Griffith was dropped by Moin off Waqar and on ten Younis put him down off Mushtaq at short leg.

He just seemed to allow the pressure of the moment to get the better of him and after carrying West Indies to lunch at 60 for one alongside Hinds, Mushtaq finally put him out of his misery.

Sweeping at his 65th delivery, a googly pitched outside the leg-stump, he was bowled behind his back and immediately raised the prospect of Chris Gayle being the first-choice opening batsmen when West Indies arrive in England, unless

he can redeem himself in the second innings here.

Hinds, the hero of the previous Test with knocks of 165 and 54 has grown in confidence against the Pakistani spin bowlers, particularly Mushtaq.

He had just taken eight runs, including his only boundary off the leg-spinner, when he was run out going for a sharp strike.

Taking a few expletive steps out of his crease, he got no response from Chanderpaul and, trying to scamper back, was beaten by a throw to Moin from Mushtaq on his follow-through.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second day of the third and final Test between West Indies and Pakistan on Friday:

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 267-8)

M Wasim c b Rose	13
Nazir c Rose b Ambrose	10
Younis c Jacobs b Ambrose	4
Inzamam c Griffith b Walsh	55
Youhana not out	103
Razaq c Jacobs b Walsh	2
Moin c Jacobs b Rose	24
Akram c Campbell b King	26
Saqin c Campbell b Walsh	4
Waqar c Sarwan b Walsh	4
Mushtaq c Jacobs b Walsh	0
Extras (nb-20, lb-4)	24
Total (All out in 91 overs)	269

Fall of wickets: 1-21: 2-27: 3-33: 4-130: 5-132: 6-173: 7-209: 8-247: 9-268.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ambrose	14	4	30	2
Walsh	26	2	83	5
Rose	19	4	48	2
King	16	3	48	1
Adams	14	2	40	0
C'paul	2	0	16	0

WEST INDIES First innings

Campbell c Youhana b Mushtaq	31
Griffith b Mushtaq	22
Hinds run out	26
Chanderpaul not out	68
Adams not out	60
Extras (nb-4, lb-3)	7
Total (For 3 wts in 83.2 overs)	214
To bat: R Sarwan; R Jacobs; F Rose; C Ambrose; R King; C Walsh.	

Fall of wickets: 1-40: 2-73: 3-84.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akram	15	3	42	0
Waqar	13.2	4	27	0
Mushtaq	24	3	68	2
Saqin	21	4	44	0
Razaq	10	1	30	0

Wadekar, Sidhu know nothing

NEW DELHI, May 27: The CBI today said that the investigations so far have revealed name of a former Indian cricketer as having indulged in match-fixing even as former Indian team manager Ajit Wadekar and opener Navtej Sidhu have denied the allegations of bribery made by Manoj Prabhakar against Kapil Dev, reports PTI.

Indian cricketer as having indulged in match-fixing even as former Indian team manager Ajit Wadekar and opener Navtej Sidhu have denied the allegations of bribery made by Manoj Prabhakar against Kapil Dev, reports PTI.

Wadekar, in their deposition before the agency, denied that they were aware of allegations made by Prabhakar that Kapil Dev had offered him 25 lakh rupees to play below his potential in a match against Pakistan in a triangular series in Sri Lanka.

Sidhu has been named by Prabhakar as a witness to the offer allegedly made by Kapil Dev in a hotel room he shared with the former Indian opener.

Sidhu, during his 30-minute deposition, conveyed to the agency officials that there was no truth behind the allegations, the sources said.

Wadekar, during his deposition before the agency in Mumbai last week, also denied that Kapil Dev was involved in any match-fixing, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the CBI will decide on filing a regular case only after examining Kapil Dev, they said.

The sources said things would be more clear after examining Kapil Dev and corroborating the deposition of former all-rounder Prabhakar before the agency.

The agency had launched a preliminary enquiry (PE) in the case on May 2 after receiving request from the sports ministry to probe various aspects of match-fixing.

The sources said if the agency did not find any substantive material after examining Kapil Dev, it might consider closing the investigations.

Among the witnesses cited by Prabhakar, CBI has already questioned Wadekar and Sidhu and will shortly be examining others including former skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri, the sources said.

Prabhakar claimed that the offer was made in the presence of his hotel roommate Sidhu and following his angry outburst wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia and medium-pace Prashant Vaidya also rushed in and were witnesses to the commotion. However, a report said Vaidya has denied the claim of Prabhakar and said he was unaware of what his former colleague was talking about.

Former Indian cricketer Manoj Prabhakar displays a video tape during a press conference to press his allegations against Kapil Dev in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP photo

Malik appeals to military

LONDON, May 27 (Internet report): Salim Malik said he would take his appeal against a life-ban for match-fixing to the country's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf.

The disgraced former Pakistan captain told reporters at a packed press conference on Friday that he was innocent of the charges and was being targeted unfairly.

"I have done nothing wrong and am targeted. I will appeal to General Pervez Musharraf and President Mohammad Rafiq Tarar against the ban," Agency

was quoted as saying. The 37-year-old Malik and former bowler Ata-ur-Rehman were banned for life from all cricket activities by a one-man judicial commission led by Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum.

The commission also suggested a 1 million-rupee fine (around \$20,000).

Malik, who hasn't played for Pakistan since the World Cup of 1999, said he was waiting to hear officially that he'd been banned from the game.

"Once I get that in writing I will consult my lawyers and move the court," he said.

Former captain Wasim Akram and five others — Mushtaq Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis, Saeed Anwar and Akram Raza were also fined, though none of them were accused of actual match-fixing.

"I don't talk about other players — they will defend themselves. But I have been made a scapegoat," Malik said.

The life ban imposed on me was due to baseless allegations of Australian players Shane Warne and Mark Waugh," he said.

CBI sources said the agency had gathered some evidence against a Delhi batsman, who is at present abroad, and further probe was on.

The sources said Sidhu and Wadekar, in their deposition before the agency, denied that they were aware of allegations made by Prabhakar that Kapil Dev had offered him 25 lakh rupees to play below his potential in a match against Pakistan in a triangular series in Sri Lanka.

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