

Maynard leads by example

LONDON, May 29 (Internet report): Captain Matthew Maynard hit a superb century to steer Glamorgan to a commanding total in their rain-affected Benson & Hedges Cup semi-final against Surrey.

Resting on 99 for two after rain and bad light restricted play to just 24.1 overs on Saturday, play finally began 45 minutes late.

The crowd were clearly frustrated by the weather, which caused the day's other semi-final between Gloucestershire and Lancashire to again be postponed.

When play eventually began, both Maynard and Michael Powell were looking to add to their undefeated 72-run partnership.

They did that and more on a slow pitch where runs were hard to come by and forged a 133-run partnership off just 166 balls to help Glamorgan reach 251 all out.

Maynard, who resumed on 34, dominated play and finally fell just five overs before the end of the innings, having reached his 109 off just 115 deliveries, hitting one six and six fours.

Powell played a key supporting role, reaching a career-best limited-overs score of 67 before being outwitted by Alex Tudor's slower ball and chopping on to his stumps.

Rival captain Adam Hloake ended Maynard's brilliant innings nine overs later when he attempted an ambitious smash over the top off the back foot and picked out Ian Salisbury at long on.

Beyond the boundary

From page 13

kind of tourists. We are of course referring to two of the best sides in Asia and possible contenders for the title of the best team in the continent. Provided, of course, such a title means much at all.

Then, venues had to be shaken and picked from the helmet. And finally decided upon. To no one's surprise Dhaka won the raffle, in what now appears to be a boring and familiar ritual in grabbing both the cake and Edith too.

Lastly, on a more philosophical plane, all things temporal do have a bearing on the pathetic normal lives of us, lesser mortals. What better time, Zarathustra, than end of May to stage this mother of all tournaments, bagging any Tom, Dick and Abdul in our Met office he could have told anyone who had cared to ask a year ago, it would be miserably wet and unholly for cricket at this time of the year. Unabashedly and shamelessly idiotic as I am, I had obviously missed the point. My IQ, in all unblinking modesty, is dangerously below the poverty level. But, I would have thought, minds more qualified than mine, would have erred on the more professional side of sanity and reason.

Be that as it may we do have a tournament to play, and miles to go through waterlogged cover and extra cover (no pad been touched) before we get to sleep. Nightmares cannot be cured for organisational insomnia.

At the moment the designer for the uniforms of the Bangladesh team is waiting with bated breath. What might he choose as the colours for the swimsuits? Can Sanath Jayasuriya hope to get out of his lungis and walk the stately steps of Bangabandhu Stadium in the colours of his country? Or, will he be doomed to pace the length and breadth of the corridors of Sheraton? What of the reluctant coach of the Indian team? Will his team take him seriously and perform, knowing how dead against he had been on playing this tournament? Will Pakistan spent and jet-lagged and reeling from the shock of the Qayyum report be able to give us our money's worth?

And speaking of money, what is the official stand on refund of tickets if, perchance, thought, not a ball, or let's say, not enough balls are bowled in this competition? The President of the BCB did the right and bold thing by announcing that tickets would be refunded only to be contradicted by a lesser minion of the Board, that such a thought has definitely not crossed anyone's mind in that hallowed office. We wait and expectantly so, as we all did while the stock market crashed not so long ago. More importantly, will it be fair to expect the general public to pay good money for the privilege of watching matches curtailed to 25 overs or less? The answer must somewhere be blown in the wind.

Can Pepsi sell enough of the official drink in such wet and clammy conditions? Or, will my friend M. H. Murad who is perennially complaining of dwindling tea prices in the export market, finally make his move in the local market this week? Will the enthusiastic crowds of Bangladeshi cricket lovers finally expect some respect from those who sell the tickets for these sorts of tamashas, in the form of access to an adequate number of toilets in the stadium. I know that people relieved themselves on the streets below, from the upper tiers back in 1970. In the year 2000 more people are still indulging in the same activity.

The 20, or so thousands of women, who might be there for the cricket, during this week, may well be visiting their doctors with urinary problems.

Whatever may be the outcome of this tournament, the Pepsi Asia Cup will certainly ask more questions than it can answer. Are we ready for them?



DIFFERENT CONDITIONS, DIFFERENT PLAYERS: With no cricket possible yesterday and the players understandably staying away from the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) supremo Saber Hossain Chowdhury took the centre stage while explaining the situation to the pressmen. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Vintage Wasim wrecks havoc

3rd Test delicately poised



ST. JOHN'S, May 28: With both sides unwilling to concede much to the other, Pakistan lead West Indies by 153 runs with five second innings wickets standing to leave their third and decisive cricket Test dangling at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday here, reports AFP.

Behind on first innings by four runs, Pakistan reached 157 for five at stumps on the third day thanks mainly to the efforts of their two in-form batsmen, Inzamam-ul-Haq, who scored 68, and Yousuf Youhana, unbeaten on 41.

Wasim Akram had earlier put behind him the middle of match-rigging allegations to bring Pakistan back into contention with six wickets for 61 runs from 26.2 overs, then Inzamam and Youhana shared 80 for the fourth-wicket to enhance their position after losing three early wickets.

Knowing full well they needed to bowl tightly and punitively to limit their opponents and keep themselves in with a chance to win the match, West Indies restricted Pakistan to 49 for three at tea.

World record holder Walsh moved to within one of an unprecedented 450 Test wickets, when opening batsman Imran Nazir, a century-maker in the second innings of the previous Test in Bridgetown, played a square drive straight into the lap of gully fielder Ramnaresh Sarwan to be out for nought.

Three overs later, Curtly Ambrose moved a little close to joining the "400 Club", when Yousuf Khan's miserable form in the international matches was perpetuated.

Pulling at a short-of-a-length ball, he was adjudged lbw for two to leave Pakistan three for two.

Mohammad Wasim and Inzamam, two batsmen with a very languid approach to batting, shared 46 runs for the third-wicket to add some beef to the total. They would have been looking to carry their side through to the break, but for a minor miscalculation by Wasim.

Offering no stroke to a ball moving back from King, Wasim could hardly believe his eyes, ears and everything else when the ball clipped the top of the off-stump for him to be bowled and prompt an early tea break.

For a shade over two hours, Inzamam and Youhana got Pakistan back on track with their partnership.

Both were quite willing to punish anything loose with easy, flowing strokes particularly through the off-side, but mixed their aggression with flawless defence.

Inzamam with an enviable record against West Indies might have had visions of completing his second century of the series and third against this opponents in nine Tests.

He however, flashed wildly at the fourth ball of Franklin

Rose's first over of a second spell to offer a thin-edge for Jacobs to clasp his fifth catch in the match.

Clearly upset by the decision of umpire Billy Doctrove, standing in his first Test, he took an eternity to return to the pavilion.

Match referee Peter Burge took a dim view of his actions and fined him 50 per cent of his match fee for showing dissent.

The match had taken another swing West Indies' way and when Moin Khan flicked an over-pitched ball on leg-stump from King to square-leg fielder Wavell Hinds, they would have considered the extra 1 1/4 hours of cricket worth the effort.

One of a group of players implicated in the match-fixing report by Judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum released earlier in the week by the Pakistan Cricket Board, Akram took a wicket in each of his last six overs in a spell of 11.2-4-19-6 broken only by lunch to limit West Indies to a negligible first innings lead.

Overnight 214 for three, in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 269, West Indies crumbled to 272 for nine at lunch as Akram produced his best spell of the series to wreck any thoughts his hosts had of a sizeable first-innings lead.

After Waqar Younis made the breakthrough in the fourth over of the morning by gaining an lbw verdict against Jimmy Adams, who did not add to his overnight 60, Akram went to work and finished with the second best innings analysis at the ground behind Courtney Walsh's six for 54 against Australia five years ago.

Adams, the West Indies captain, batted just over four hours, faced 180 balls and struck four fours, before Waqar trapped him plumb in front on the backfoot by a delivery which straightened on him.

For close to an hour, Shivanine Chanderpaul, with whom Adams added 134 for the fourth wicket, and Ramnaresh Sarwan, playing his second Test, defied the Pakistan attack with Akram bowling fast, straight and getting appreciable movement both through the air and off the pitch.

Struck a painful blow by Akram on his right knee, Sarwan appeared a little tentative afterwards and was adjudged lbw to one moving back from the left-arm fast bowler, although he indicated to New Zealand umpire Doug Cowie he might have gotten an inside edge.

There was little resistance from the rest of the West Indies batting and Akram completed a five-wicket haul for the 23rd time in 95 Tests to move closer to entering the "400 Club".

He now has 393 wickets that puts him fourth behind Walsh (449), India's Kapil Dev (435) and New Zealander Sir Richard Hadlee (431).

Ridley Jacobs, whose form and confidence with the bat has been shot over the last two months, was lbw for nought to a

toe-crushing, inswinging yorker from Akram that would not have done him any good.

West Indies would have been glad however, that Chanderpaul, one of the key elements in their batting, showed some return to form ahead of the England tour in his innings of 89 before he was bowled inside-edging a full toss from Akram.

His top score lasting 339 minutes and 219 balls contained nine fours and one six.

Franklyn Rose's little cameo of 15 off 17 balls helped his side draw level, but facing an expert bowler like Akram, the West Indies' tailenders were almost powerless to stop him in this mood.

He knocked them over cheaply, although Walsh and Reon King made sure the innings ended in the first over after they had carried West Indies to 272 for nine at lunch.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the third day of the third and final Test between West Indies and Pakistan at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 269 (Yousuf Youhana 103 not out; Courtney Walsh 5-83)

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 214 for three)

Campbell	c Youhana b Mushtaq	31
Griffith	b Mushtaq	22
Hinds	run out (Mushtaq)	26
Chanderpaul	b Akram	89
Adams	lbw b Waqar	60
Sarwan	lbw b Akram	10
Jacobs	lbw b Akram	0
Rose	c Razaq b Akram	15
Ambrose	c Youhana b Akram	0
King	c and b Akram	3
Walsh	not out	2
Extras	(b-1; lb-10; nb-4)	15
Total	(All out in 106.2 overs)	273

Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-73, 3-84, 4-218, 5-235, 6-243, 7-254, 8-258, 9-269

Bowler O M R W
Akram 26.2 7 61 6
Waqar 21 8 41 1
Mushtaq 24 3 68 2
Saqlain 23 5 48 0
Razaq 12 1 44 0

PAKISTAN: Second innings
M Wasim b King 21
Nazir c Sarwan b Walsh 0
Younis lbw b Ambrose 2
Inzamam c Jacobs b Rose 68
Youhana not out 41
Moin c Hinds b King 10
Saqlain not out 2
Extras: (b-2; lb-2; nb-9) 13
Total: (For 5 wits in 64 overs) 157

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-3, 3-49, 4-129, 5-150
Bowler O M R W
Ambrose 15 5 23 1
Walsh 13 2 30 1
Rose 15 3 47 1
King 15 4 35 2
Adams 6 1 18 0

White unwell

LONDON, May 28: England all-rounder Craig White is to undergo a brain scan after collapsing in the street earlier this week, reports Reuters.

He will not be considered for the second Test against Zimbabwe starting at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, next week.

Zimbabwe boost morale

LEEDS, England, May 28: Zimbabwe raised their confidence just in time for the second Test match at Trent Bridge starting on Thursday with a fine 32-run win over Yorkshire at Headingley here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Needing 180 for victory, the home side were bowled out for 147 as Pommie Mbangwa and left-armers Bryan Strang exploited a helpful pitch.

Mbangwa did most of the early damage and finished with four for 39 for match figures of 10 for 53 after his impressive first innings return of six for 14.

Yorkshire slumped to 13 for four, with Mbangwa taking three of the wickets, but they were revived by a stand of 41 for the fifth wicket between debutant Michael Lumb (66n.o.) and Gary Fellows.

Lumb played strongly off his legs and through the covers, and Fellows also batted positively to make 22 before he edged Strang to be caught at the wicket by Andy Flower, back behind the stumps in place of the injured Tatenda Taibu.

Lumb continued to play his shots and with Gavin Hamilton took the score to 94 for five.

Then a bowling change was rewarded when Miledi Nkala had England one-Test wonder Hamilton caught behind off the first ball of his second spell to end a partnership of 40.

Lumb, son of former Yorkshire opener Richard, hit Mbangwa for two boundaries in one over to reach his maiden first-class half-century but he eventually ran out of partners.

Simon Guy, also making his debut, briefly threatened to pull the game round as he hit Mbangwa over square leg for six - but in the next over he played a poor stroke at Strang to be caught by Andy Flower.

Paul Hutchison was caught in the slips off the next ball as Strang finished with four for 41, and it was appropriate that Mbangwa should take the last wicket when Matthew Hoggard fell lbw as he swung across the line.

Lumb finished unbeaten, having hit 12 fours from 120 balls.

Zimbabwe manager Dan Stannard said: "We had a chat with the players before play began this morning, and I told them that there was no question of any players being flown in for the second Test."

"The side will be selected from the squad we have already named, and I stressed I wanted them to do their best to recapture their best form and above all enjoy their cricket."

"I think that gave all of them a lift, and they responded brilliantly to claim this victory."

SUMMARISED SCORES

Score summary on the final day of the four-day match between Zimbabwe and Yorkshire at Headingley Saturday:

ZIMBABWE: 235 (G Whittall 89; J D Middlebrook 4-89) and 68 (G Hamilton 5-22, M Hoggard 3-18). **YORKSHIRE:** 124 (M Mbangwa 6-14) and 147 (M Lumb 66 no; M Mbangwa 4-39, B Strang 4-41).

Result: Zimbabwe bt Yorkshire by 32 runs.

Fixing bookies identified

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Internet report): A string of bookmakers linked to the Hansie Cronje cricket match-fixing scandal have been identified, according to Indian police.

New Delhi Police Commissioner Ajai Raj Sharma said his detectives were collecting more evidence to firm up allegations that disgraced former South African cricket captain Cronje and team mates, Herschelle Gibbs, Nicky Boje and Pieter Strydom took money to fix matches while touring India.

Sharma said: "I cannot say we have been able to identify all the bookies involved in the case, but we have definitely identified seven to eight prominent bookies."

The breakthrough comes a day after a team of journalists and a veteran Indian cricketer released a secretly filmed videotape as new evidence of match fixing by top cricket players.

Former cricketer Manoj Prabhakar claims conversations with former officials and players point the finger at senior national figures in the Indian game.

Cronje was sacked in April after admitting to being dishonest with the South African cricket board over his activities in India.

He said he had received money from an Indian bookmaker in exchange for information about matches.

Sharma said the half-dozen bookmakers identified by his detectives were based in Bombay, Calcutta and New Delhi.

The police allegations relate to five one-day internationals South Africa played in India between in March which India won 3-2.

Police say they have tapes of purported conversations between the disgraced South African skipper and bookmakers as proof.

Akram's conscience clear



ST. JOHN'S, May 28: Pakistan paceman Wasim Akram, fined and censured following a report into match-fixing earlier this week, said on Saturday his conscience was clear, reports Reuters.

Speaking after his six-wicket haul in the third Test against West Indies, Akram said: "The team is supporting me 100 per cent, the Pakistan board is behind me as well. My conscience is clear and I'm enjoying my cricket."

"I have nothing to worry about. I wish I could say more but unfortunately, or fortunately, I'm in the Pakistan team and under our code of conduct, I can't say anything."

A former captain of the Test team, Akram was one of four members of the touring side to be censured and fined following the release of a report in Pakistan on Wednesday by Judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum.

Akram, fast bowler Mushtaq Ahmed, and batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq were censured and fined for either bringing the game into disrepute or failing to co-operate with the inquiry.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has said the players can continue playing as no charges against them have been proved.

Akram said the report had brought the team together.

"This type of thing always brings the team together," he

It also suggests he should be kept under careful watch and have his finances investigated after Justice Qayyum claimed: "He cannot be said to be above suspicion."

His alleged links to corruption in the game have led to C4

Five of his wickets came in a 22-ball spell that cost one run.

Not having the captaincy has meant that I can concentrate on my cricket," said Akram, who now has 393 Test wickets and says he plans to continue playing for at least another two years.

COMMENTATOR'S DEAL HANGS IN THE BALANCE

Meanwhile, AFP says from London that Akram will discover in the next few days whether he is still required by British station Channel 4 (C4) television for commentary this summer.

Akram's participation as part of their television coverage of England's Test series against West Indies has been in doubt ever since he was named in Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum's report into match-fixing in Pakistan.

The report, which was published last week and recommends a life-ban for Salim Malik and Ataur Rehman, advises that Akram should never captain Pakistan again and be censured and fined 3,750 pounds (6,000 dollars).

But executive producer Gary Franes said on Saturday: "We have made no decision about Wasim yet and we will probably not make one until next week."

WHAT'S EATING 'EM? Superstar Sachin Tendulkar (R) pondering over something while Ajay Jadeja also looks like having things on his mind upon the Indian team's arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo



WHAT'S EATING 'EM? Superstar Sachin Tendulkar (R) pondering over something while Ajay Jadeja also looks like having things on his mind upon the Indian team's arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo

French Open from today



PARIS, May 28: Pete Sampras will be aiming to defy the odds and make tennis history when the French Open begins here on Monday, reports AFP.

The American will be aiming to complete his Grand Slam collection by winning the men's singles at the 11th attempt -- and to surpass the record of 12 Grand Slam titles that he currently shares with Australian Roy Emerson.

Fate was not kind to Sampras at Friday's draw, however, when he was paired with powerful Australian Davis Cup star Mark Philippoussis in the first round.

Sampras, 28, has had a poor build-up to the slow red clay of Roland Garros and would clearly have preferred a less

WOMEN'S SEEDS

Martina Hingis (Svi)
Lindsay Davenport (USA)
Monica Seles (USA)
Venus Williams (USA)
Conchita Martinez (Spa)
Mary Pierce (Fra)
Nathalie Tauziat (Fra)
Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spa)
Amanda Coetzer (Rsa)
Sandrine Testud (Fra)
Anke Huber (Ger)
Julie Halard-Decugis (Fra)
Anelie Mauresmo (Fra)
Anna Kournikova (Rus)
Jennifer Capriati (USA)
Barbara Schett (Aut)

onerous opening task. He holds a 7-2 career record against Philippoussis, but lost to him at the 1996 Australian Open and was in trouble last year at Wimbledon before the Aussie quit with an injury.

Sampras lost in the second round of the Hamburg Masters Series event and won only one match in the World Team Cup in Dusseldorf -- disappointing form even from a man who has never shone on clay.

With Spanish clay court specialists Alex Corretja and Juan Carlos Ferrero in his quarter of the draw, Sampras faces a fight to survive the first 10 days -- especially remembering he hasn't made it past the third round here for three years.

The draw was far kinder to Sampras' compatriot and friend Andre Agassi, who will be defending the men's title he won 12 months ago.

Agassi has played only briefly on European clay this year -- preferring to practice back in the United States -- but he has the opportunity to ease his way into the tournament with an opener against French wild card Anthony Dupuis.

Dangerous Slovak Karol Kucera, however, is a probable second-round opponent for the Australian Open champion.

Looming among the major rivals to Agassi and Sampras are two men who have shone on clay this year -- the brilliant Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten and 20-year-old Russian prodigy Marat Safin.

Kuerten won at Roland Garros in 1997 and proved he is in top form by winning in Hamburg just over a week ago.

Safin is in equally fine form with a pair of clay court titles this year and a final loss to Kuerten in Hamburg on his CV.

Kuerten, the fifth seed, opens against talented young Swede Andreas Vinciguerra, while 12th-seed Safin faces George Bastl of Switzerland.

Third-seeded Magnus Norman of Sweden, who has two titles to his name this year and heads the ATP Champions Race, begins his campaign against French qualifier Thierry Guardiola.

The field includes former champions in Spaniards Carlos Moya and Sergi Bruguera and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who is the fourth seed, but a repeat triumph for any of that trio would be a surprise on current form.

MEN'S SEEDS

Andre Agassi (USA)
Pete Sampras (USA)
Magnus Norman (Swe)
Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus)
Gustavo Kuerten (Bra)
Cedric Pioline (Fra)
Nicolas Kiefer (Ger)
Thomas Enqvist (Swe)
Lleyton Hewitt (Aus)
Alex Corretja (Spa)
Nicolas Pietrangeli (Ecu)
Marat Safin (Rus)
Tim Henman (Gbr)
Dominik Hrbaty (Svk)
Younes El Aynaoui (Mar)
Juan Carlos Ferrero (Spa)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Vacation-ing
4 Proscription
7 Modern-day currency
8 "10" star
10 Bring the food
11 In the neighborhood
13 "Columbo", e.g.
16 Downsize
17 Canadian emblem
18 Succor
19 Without
20 Mid-March
21 Ascend
23 Superficial
25 Peevishness
26 Sainthood
27 Song of praise
30 Cudgel
33 "ER", e.g.
36 Kill material
37 Rarin' to go
38 Flannel and mohair
39 Runners indoors?
40 TV show that's celebrated its silver anniversary
41 Crafty
43 Downsize
44 Bizarre
45 Without
46 March
47 Ascend
48 Superficial
49 Peevishness
50 Sainthood
51 Song of praise
52 Cudgel
53 "ER", e.g.
3 A plant mister?
4 Aquamarine, o.g.
5 Obeyed
6 Neither masc. nor fem.
7 Perrier
8 Extinguishers
9 Works dough
10 Nashville awards
11 Bizarre
12 Desiccates
13 Downsize
14 Carry on
15 Gridiron stats.
19 Seek damages
20 "And — the opposite shore —"
21 North Dakota State Fair site
22 Proverb
23 Soccer shout
24 Van Buren's sib
25 "Humbug!"
26 Unisex casual wear
28 Mountain-ering spike
29 In any way
30 Hardly snug
31 Singer Ed
32 Pitch
34 Experts
35 Actor Julia

Solution time: 25 mins.

CLUE CHA CANT LAVA RAW ALAN AMEN ATLANTIC YANGTZE VIOLA LAY BIN BERET YODELER AMT HZOTICE MUBARK HPHLOX BOY PLEU CROSE DEADSEA LAKEERIE OUMP AGIN INV LETS MEET GEE ETRIE

Saturday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

NAZXAC PDX DXVCH FX IWAEPXXEUNAE PWUEIUXPKKH YUCNKUZ

ACCEH N VCFNU ECFCYFKK. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SOMETIMES BELIEVE WORKING AS A MARKETING MANAGER WOULD BE AN ADVENTURE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals H. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

