

CBI in search of Mukesh

NEW DELHI, June 28: The CBI has today launched a nation wide hunt for Indian bookmaker Mukesh Gupta named by disgraced former South African captain Hansie Cronje as having offered him money to throw a match despite claim of his father and lawyer that he was not absconding, reports PTI.

Agency sources said the alleged bookmaker was still evading investigation by the CBI though his father and the counsel claimed he was holidaying. After media reports about his holidaying, sleuths of the Special Crime Branch had approached his father again to produce his son before the agency for questioning, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Sports Minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa yesterday said the CBI was doing its job in the cricket match-fixing scandal and the government was ready to take the assistance of any other agency to establish truth.

SL cops won't catch Boje

COLOMBO, June 28: Sri Lanka police said Wednesday they have no plans to arrest South African off-spinner Nicky Boje if he arrives on a tour next week, reports AP.

"We have heard nothing in this regard," Deputy Inspector General of Police, Bodhi Liyanage told this news agency.

Liyanage was commenting on a report in The Island news paper last week that said Boje, who was charged in India with match-fixing fraud, may be arrested on arrival in Sri Lanka.

Since there are no charges pending in Sri Lanka against Boje or any other South African cricketer, police will not take any action.

Also, there is no extradition treaty between Sri Lanka and neighbouring India.

The South African team is arriving in Colombo on Sunday to take part in a limited-overs triangular series involving Pakistan and hosts Sri Lanka. Then the South Africans will play a three-Test series against Sri Lanka.

Boje is one of three South African players charged in India, including former captain Hansie Cronje, who has admitted taking more than 100,000 dollars from Indian bookmakers over the last four years.

Herschelle Gibbs one of the others allegedly involved in the case has been replaced by batsman Boeta Dippenaar.

Pieter Strydom and Herschelle Gibbs are the other South African players charged in India. Gibbs has been replaced by batsman Boeta Dippenaar.

An apology

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namie leadership played a big hand in Bangladesh's off-the-field campaign for Test status. It was his vision and imagination coupled with the globalisation concept of former ICC president Joginderjit Dalmiya that accelerated our emergence as tenth Test nation. But would it have been possible for Sabar to single-handedly attain the Test tag unless our cricketers performed commendably of late? Is his four-year revolution only significant chapter of our century old cricket culture? The answer is anybody's guess.

Probably, for a person with a petty political mind-set it is possible to forget the hard work of others. The success of the ICC Trophy was built on the concept of playing domestic cricket on astro turf before Sabar took over as BCB chief.

Definitely Sabar has prove a point that destiny is what you make it. Had not Akram Khan came up with that decisive unbeaten 67 against Holland at Kuala Lumpur in 1997 Sabar would have been searching for words to convince the world cricket bosses.

Unknowningly, Sabar probably exposed the difference between a cricketer and a non-cricketer. While Syed Ashraf Hugi, his able deputy in the Test campaign, thanked his cricket community in a ritual way, Sabar went beyond the sports fraternity.

We have a caucous culture of distorting our history. Let's not suffer cricket the same fate.

Tribute from

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and the standard of the game in that country will improve. So, one cannot really oppose the decision.

Meanwhile another report Colombo adds: SB Dissanayake, Sports Minister of Sri Lanka was delighted when he heard that Bangladesh had been admitted as the newest Test playing nation.

"Bangladesh and its Cricket Board worked hard to join the cricketing elite. They proved themselves and fully deserve the honour," said Dissanayake.

"The International Cricket Council must also be congratulated for unanimously admitting Bangladesh as a full Test playing member."

Bangladesh beat the strong Pakistanis who entered the World Cup finals and proved their capabilities.

"Now that Bangladesh has been admitted a full member, they will improve with more competition and be a force to be reckoned with," said Dissanayake who reminded that Rome was not built in a day.

He also said that the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka would back and support the Bangladesh Cricket Board in all its endeavours to improve its cricket.

Injury worry for both hosts, WI

Hundredth Lord's Test



LONDON, June 28: West Indies players have been told to be ruthless and hardheaded in the historic Lord's game against England and not to lose focus by the venue's 100th Test starting Thursday, reports AP.

The visitors crushed England by an innings and 93 runs in the first Test at Edgbaston to end a 10-match away losing streak and team captain Jimmy Adams warned against complacency against an injury-hit England.



ALEC STEWART

England will be without skipper Nasser Hussain (cracked thumb) and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff (back injury) as they try to save face against a West Indies resurgence.

The home side has not beaten West Indies in a Test series in 31 years and the manner in which it has performed in the final drawn Test against Zimbabwe and at Edgbaston, a series win will remain a distant reality.

"You have to ask the individual players how they feel about it," Adams said of the history surrounding the 100th Lord's Test. "My own part, I will focus primarily on the Test match."

"We have to focus on the match ahead. England are not going to allow anyone to just

come to the country and run all over them. So we have a lot of work to do."

West Indies will give a late fitness test to in-form batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who is in danger of being ruled out with a strained ligament in his right hand. He would be replaced by 19-year old Ramnaresh Sarwan for his third Test.

Adams, who took over as captain from a troubled Brian Lara early this year, was heartened by the team's enthusiasm and commitment.

"We have a team of players who have committed themselves not to do well in one or two Test matches, but play a full series giving their best," Adams said. "We have been working hard on the team spirit and the team unity but at the end of the day it's the results that matter."

"We are committed to ensuring that we can give our best at all time. It's that level of commitment that I am most encouraged about. Because some time a player will not have a particularly good day — he might have got out of the wrong side of the bed — but when you know that everyone is committed to the cause, you can be more forgiving toward these players when things don't work out."

The perennial problem facing England is their inconsistency. Six weeks ago in the first Test of the summer England were basking in glory after thrashing Zimbabwe in a lopsided Test at Lord's. But in subsequent Tests they were trying to come to terms with batting's fragility and the bowling that has remained inept and at times innocuous.

Alec Stewart, who lost his captaincy to Hussain after a failed 1999 World Cup, will fill in at Lord's and possibly in the one-day games against West Indies and Zimbabwe too.

Michael Vaughan will take Hussain's place while fellow Yorkshireman Craig White is expected to come in for Flintoff, who is also in danger of missing the one-day triangular series.

White played the last of his eight Tests over three years ago — against New Zealand at Auck-

land in January 1997 — and his return will be all the more remarkable considering he blacked out last month while walking in the street. His condition remains a mystery to the doctors despite extensive tests and brain scans.

"Andrew's absence is an obvious disruption to our original plans regarding the team," England's cricket boss David Graveney said of Flintoff's withdrawal. "I'm disappointed for him, he's a young lad and I know he's regarded as an exciting talent."

England have recalled all-



JIMMY ADAMS

rounder Dominic Cork for the first time since November 1998. Cork took 7-43 on his debut against the West Indies in an England victory by 72 runs five years ago and later took a hat-trick in the same series.

TEAMS
ENGLAND (from): Alec Stewart (captain), Michael Atherton, Mark Ramprakash, Graeme Hick, Michael Vaughan, Nick Knight, Robert Croft, Craig White, Dominic Cork, Andrew Caddick, Darren Gough, Ed Giddins, Matthew Hoggard.

WEST INDIES (from): Sherwin Campbell, Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams (captain), Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Ridley Jacobs, Franklin Rose, Courtney Walsh and Reon King.

Five fabulous Lord's Tests



LONDON, June 28 (Reuters): West Indies have featured in five of the more memorable Test matches staged at Lord's since World War Two.

West Indies, who also won World Cup finals at cricket's international headquarters in 1975 and 1979, meet England in the second Test starting at Lord's on Thursday.

1950
West Indies lightened the drab austerity of post-war Britain and came of age as a cricketing power with a 3-1 series victory.

At Lord's they won their first Test ever in England, prompting an unprecedented, impromptu victory parade from exuberant supporters before the startled MCC members.

Teenage spinners Sonny Ramadhin and Alf Valentine demolished the England first innings and the giant Clyde Walcott smashed an unbeaten 168 in the second innings to put the match beyond reach.

Result: West Indies won by 326 runs.

1963
Three years after the breath-taking tied Test in Brisbane, West Indies were involved in another thriller.

Fred Trueman in his pomp took six for 100 in a West Indies first innings of 301.

England captain Ted Dexter played one of the finest knocks seen at Lord's with an imperious 70.

Dexter drove and cut with a blend of classical purity and primitive savagery against the pace and fury of Wesley Hall and Charlie Griffith in England's reply of 297.

Trueman, moving the ball away wickedly late, swept through the West Indies second innings with five for 52 and England needed only 234 to win.

In a magnificent exhibition of sustained fast bowling, Hall and Griffith bowled 70 overs. Their speed was matched by the reckless courage of Brian Close (70), who charged down the pitch to the two West Indies giants, and the bravery of Colin Cowdrey.

Cowdrey, his left wrist broken by Hall, came out at the fall of the ninth wicket with England still six runs short of victory but was not required to face a ball as David Allen calmly blocked the final two balls.

Result: Draw.

1966
Garfield Sobers, now at the height of his powers and captain of the unofficial world champions, was irresistible with bat and ball during the triumphant 1966 campaign.

He was at his peak during the Lord's Test when West Indies lost their fifth wicket at 95 in their second innings, only nine runs ahead.

In an epic partnership, Sobers guided his young cousin David Holford to a maiden Test century and scored an unbeaten 163 himself to steer West Indies

to safety.

Result: Draw.

1973
Sobers, his body now starting to creak, and his successor as captain Rohan Kanhai recaptured their old magic in their farewell Tests at Lord's.

In a match interrupted by a bomb scare, Kanhai struck 157 and Sobers was unbeaten on 150 in a West Indies first innings of 652 for eight declared.

England had no answers and went down by an innings.

Result: West Indies won by an innings and 226 runs.

1984
Graeme Fowler scored a plucky century in a respectable England first innings of 286 at a sun-soaked Lord's, defying the might of the West Indies four-pronged pace attack.

Ian Botham then swung the ball to great effect to take eight for 103 as England took a rare first innings lead.

Botham struck 81 in England's second innings and there was the first of three series centuries to Allan Lamb.

David Gower felt secure enough to declare, leaving West Indies 342 to get in 330 minutes.

Desmond Haynes fell for 57 to set the scene for one of the most astonishing innings ever seen at Lord's.

Gordon Greenidge reduced the bowling to impotent mediocrity with a stream of ruthless cuts and pulls in his 214 not out as West Indies swept to victory by nine wickets.

Result: West Indies won by nine wickets.

Bowlers do it for Surrey



LONDON, June 28: Martin Bicknell and Saqlain Mushtaq each took three wickets as promotion-chasing Surrey Lions fashioned an improbable 43-run National League Division Two victory over Hampshire Hawks at Southampton Tuesday, reports AFP.

Surrey were bowled out for a meagre 116 after choosing to bat first but then found little resistance as struggling Hampshire were bowled out for only 73 to preserve Surrey's unbeaten record in the competition.

Bicknell dismissed Giles White and Dimitri Mascarenhas while Hampshire bowled only five overs before being bowled out for 73.

Saqlain came on as first change and ran through the middle order to finished with figures of three for 12.

Hampshire, sensing only their second win of the season, never recovered from a parlous 18 for four despite the best stand of the match, 39 between John Stephenson and Jason Lacey for the fifth wicket.

All the while Stephenson and Lacey were in command Hampshire stood a chance of completing a form upset — but once Stephenson had been bowled by Ian Salisbury for a dogged 23 Hampshire collapsed.

They lost their last six batsmen for the addition of only 16 runs though Lacey batted gamely for a top score of 29

before he was last out to Salisbury attempting to farm the bowling.

Lacey faced 65 balls and hit three boundaries before top-edging Salisbury to leg slip where Saqlain completed the catch.

All this was in contrast to the Surrey innings where Hampshire bowled tightly with Mascarenhas emerging with the best figures, three for 21 from eight overs.

He was well supported by Alan Mullally, Shane Warne and Shaun Udal — who each took two wickets.

Mark Butcher made a bright 21 at the start of the innings but Ben Hollis was the only Surrey batsman to offer prolonged resistance, taking 77 balls to compile his 37 in an innings which included a six over long-on off Warne.

Surrey were 75 for eight at one stage but Salisbury and Saqlain offered Hollis a vital support in adding 41 for the last two wickets.

Warne and Udal extracted turn from the wicket with Warne dismissing Jeremy Batty and Alex Tudor while Udal finished off the innings when he bowled Salisbury for a defiant 13.

Tudor also bowled with menace and pace and gave Surrey a major boost when he bowled Hampshire dangerman and captain Robin Smith for five as Hampshire made a poor start in reply.

Meanwhile in division one,

Yorkshire Phoenix cruised to a convincing victory over Northamptonshire in the National League champions Lancashire Lightning as the Old Trafford floodlights failed for the second consecutive year.

Lightning were 96 for four in reply to Yorkshire's 225 for five when one of the four banks of lights went out in an exact repeat of last year's Roses clash.

After a 20-minute stoppage the power returned but Lancashire were left with an even steeper task by the Duckworth-Lewis method, which set them a new target of 208 from 40 overs.

Joe Scuderi was run out after a mix-up with skipper John Crawley from the first ball after the resumption and Yorkshire spinners James Middlebrook and Darren Lehmann skittled the rest of the Lancashire batting leaving Crawley unbeaten on 71 from 111 balls.

Middlebrook ended with two for 32, Lehmann took two for 13 and there were three stumpings for Richard Blakey.

Yorkshire's David Byas had chosen to bat first and makeshift openers Matthew Wood and Gary Fellows gave them a flying start with a stand of 66 in 16 overs.

Wood was then bowled around his legs by England leg-spinner Chris Schofield but Lehmann joined Fellows in a second-wicket stand of 85.

Fellows reached a 93-ball half-century before flicking Scuderi to mid-wicket and Blakey was brilliantly run out by Schofield.

Holland v Italy

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have a tight defence and give very few chances," he admitted on Tuesday, adding that Italy's other skill is to "score goals at the right moments."

"These are the things we have to look at," he declared. "But we should not neglect the way we play. We have to dominate the game right from the start."

Maldini, who should recover from a thigh strain or make way for Gianluca Pessotto, is equally clear about his team's tactics against the Dutch threat.

"We've just got to be careful, but then Italy are masters at that, at not giving opposing attackers any space," he said.

"They're a side who attack a lot," he said of Rijkaard's men. "But that means taking risks — and Italy have the players who can exploit that."

Holland will have the momentum, the form and the home crowd on their side in the Amsterdam Arena here. Italy have an unshakable belief in their defensive barricade. But on Thursday, only one school will get a good report.

Zimbabwe win easily

LONDON, June 28: Zimbabwe cruised to an eight-wicket win Tuesday against Durham at Chester-le-Street, where they face the West Indies on July 19, reports AFP.

Neil Johnson continued his prolific form as the tourists accelerated their build up to the triangular one-day series which also involves England.

The left-hander followed his century against Somerset on Sunday with 81 not out off 114 balls as Zimbabwe won with 9.4 of their 50 overs to spare.

Durham, who won the toss, sped to 30 for none after six overs but were all out for 168 after a feeble display against what was virtually a second string attack.

Durham lost their way after Muazam Ali sliced Bryan Strang's first ball straight to point and were badly let down by a left-arm spin of Dirk Viljoen.

Top scorer Jon Lewis fell for 37 when he top-edged a sweep at Viljoen's fourth ball straight to short fine leg and Martin Speight went the same way as the spinner took two for 20 in his 10 overs.

Zimbabwe made an even faster start with Johnson and Craig Wishart putting 43 on the board after six overs from Simon Brown and John Wood. They had reached 74 when Wishart was yanked by Ian Hunter, whose eight overs cost only 17 runs.

Murray Goodwin made only five before edging Neil Killeen to slip, but Stuart Carlisle played several attractive strokes in contributing 35 to an unbroken stand of 90 with Johnson, who hit 11 fours.

Henman bears British hopes

LONDON, June 28: The pressure was on Tim Henman as he stepped out on Court One to begin his quest for Wimbledon glory on Monday but the 25-year-old proved up to the task and hopes to make his critics eat their words, reports AFP.

After Greg Rusedski's five-set flop on Monday against "worst player in the world" Vince Spadea of the United States, who ended a record 22-match losing streak, Henman had to give the British fans something to shout about.

He promptly dismissed Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand 5-7, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 to provoke the kind of rapturous scenes courtside which normally belong more to final day — not something British players have experienced in living memory.

Henman, who next faces Frenchman Arnaud Clement, knows he has to find a breakthrough this year after two successive semifinal defeats at the hands of six-time winner and close friend Pete Sampras.

And with wife Lucy and his parents Jane and Tony sitting in the family enclosure, he did not let his army of fans down.

Henman said he had been careful not to go down the Rusedski road leading to an early exit from an event that no British man has won since Fred Perry completed his hat-trick in 1936.

However, if the draw holds up Henman will have to get past no less a man than Andre Agassi, the second seed, in the quarterfinals if his dreams are to come true here. But that doesn't worry him.

"Wimbledon definitely does bring out something extra in me. You know what you've got to do out there."

Just beat Agassi — and Sampras.

SL openers

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dene, Kumara Dharmasena, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Muttiah Muralitharan.

Bowler O M R W
Akram 10 4 12 0
Waqar 6.2 0 25 0
Arshad 17 1 45 0
Razaq 12 5 18 0
Mushtaq 8 1 34 0

BATSTAN: Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Younis Youhana, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Khan, Wasim Akram, Abdur Razaq, Moht Khan, Waqar Younis, Arshad Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka).



Italian trio Alessandro Del Piero (L), Vincenzo Montella (C) and Ciro Ferrara are in cheerful mood during a practice session at Geel's Sports Centre on June 27 ahead of their today's Euro 2000 semifinal clash against the Netherlands in Amsterdam. —AFP photo

Davenport, Agassi advance



LONDON, June 28: Former champion Andre Agassi reached the second round of the men's singles at Wimbledon here on Tuesday with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0, 4-0 win over 19-year-old US qualifier Taylor Dent, who retired injured with knee trouble, reports AFP.

Dent, son of former Australian Davis Cup player Phil, shocked Agassi by showing no traces of nerves on his Centre Court debut which was also his first senior appearance at the All England Club as he steamed through the opening set.

But Agassi quickly stepped up several gears and ensured there would be no embarrassing early exit as Dent began to be hampered by a knee injury which required the trainer.

Reigning women's champion Lindsay Davenport also had a truncated match as she made a winning start in bittersweet circumstances, also on Centre Court, as doubles partner and fellow American Corina Morariu had to withdraw with a shoulder injury in their first-round tie.

Davenport now plays Russia's Elena Likhovtseva.

While Agassi survived his early scare there was no such luck for seventh seeded Australian Lleyton Hewitt, who slid to an ignominious straight-sets defeat, to Jan-Michael Gambill.

—AFP photo

Gambill shocked the Aussie teen, who last week won the warm-up event at Queen's Club, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 as Hewitt appeared to freeze in the spotlight's glare on a packed Centre Court.

His defeat means the winners of all three English grass court warm-up tournaments — Queen's, Nottingham and Eastbourne — have crashed out here in the first round.

Nottingham champion Sebastian Grosjean of France lost to American Jeff Tarango while women's Eastbourne winner, France's Julie Halard-Decugis, was dispatched by Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands 7-6, 6-6, 6-1.

British eighth seed Tim Henman gave the home crowd something to cheer when he ousted Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan 5-7, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 on Court One to set up a meeting with Frenchman Arnaud Clement, who surprised three-time finalist Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Earlier, flag-waving Brazilians invaded the All England Club as their hero, French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, stormed into the second round, beating Chris Woodruff of the United States 6-4, 6-7, 7-5, 7-6.

Guga's next faces South Africa's Justin Bower, who knocked out Davide Sanguinetti of Italy 6-3, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-1.

Back among the women, third-seeded French Open champion Mary Pierce of France had little trouble disposing of Australia's Nicole Pratt 6-1, 6-3.

Joining Pierce and Davenport in the second round of the women's singles was Spanish fourth seed and French Open finalist Conchita Martinez, who finished her match held over from Monday against Luxembourg's Anne Kremer, winning 6-3, 7-6 after missing two match points.

The Spaniard now meets Sonya Jeyaseelan of Canada, who dumped out Erika De Lone of the United States 6-4, 6-4.

US sixth seed Monica Seles, a finalist in 1992 and bidding for the only Grand Slam singles title she has never won, recovered from a slow start to beat Karina Habsudova of Slovakia 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 and will now meet Belgian Els Callens.

Two French stars crashed out as seventh seed Nathalie Tauziat, a finalist in 1998, lost to Kim Clijsters of Belgium, the 17-year-old winning 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Spanish ninth seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, playing here for the 14th straight year and losing finalist in 1995 and 1996, ousted Belgian teenage debutante Justine Henin 6-1, 1-6, 6-1.

South African 12th seed Amanda Coetzer also marched on after scoring an impressive 6-4, 6-2 win over Mashona Washington of the United States and now tackles Lina Osterloh of the United States.

Jennifer Capriati of the United States