

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

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Herschelle Gibbs one of the others allegedly involved in the case has been replaced by batsman Boeta Dippenaar.

Peter 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 Gibbs has been replaced by batsman Boeta Dippenaar.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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namic 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 Jogmohan Dalmiya that accelerated our emergence as tenth Test nation. But would it have been possible for Saber 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 Saber took over as BCB chief.

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

Unknowingly, Saber probably exposed the difference between a cricketer and a non-cricketer. While Syed Ashraful Hug, his able deputy in the Test campaign, thanked his cricket community in a ritual way, Saber went beyond the sports fraternity.

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

Tribute from

From page 13
and the standard of the game in that country will improve. So, one cannot really oppose the decision.

Meanwhile another report

Colombo adds: SB Disanayake, 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 Disanayake.

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 Disanayake 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 Bangladeshi 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.

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 is 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 bat'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 fit in at Lord's and possibly in the one-day games against West Indies and Zimbabwe too.

Michael Vaughan will take over 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.

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

— 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.

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 old Ramnaresh Sarwan for his third Test.

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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.

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: West Indies won by 326 runs.

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 start of 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 breathtaking 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.

England captain Ted Dexter played one of the finest knocks seen at Lord's with an impudent 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 155.

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 victories to Allan Lamb.

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

Desmond Haynes fell for 17 at 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.

1990 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 in his first over with only five on the board to finish with three for 14.

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 of the match, 39 between John Stephenson and Jason Laney for the fifth wicket.

All the while Stephenson and Laney were in command as 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 for a top score of 29.

Meanwhile in division one,

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

Laney 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's bowlers who bowled tightly with Mascarenhas emerging with the best figures, three for 21 from only five overs.

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

to victory by nine wickets.

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