

Waqar in fresh controversy

SINGAPORE, Aug 23 (Internet report): Waqar Younis was picked up by television cameras apparently tampering with the condition of the ball in the Singapore Challenge match against South Africa on Wednesday.

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis could be heading for hot water after he was seen rubbing the ball on the zipper of a back pocket on his trousers.

The incident occurred after the umpires changed the ball in the 36th over, handing the Pakistani pacesman a new ball.

No cricket at Dubai?

DUBAI, Aug 23: A three-match one-day series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka scheduled for Dubai next month has been called off after the ICC failed to approve it, reports Reuters.

"We have not yet received approval from the International Cricket Council, though we applied for it well in advance," said Vikram Kaul, secretary of the Dubai Cricket Council (DCC).

Raman Subba Row, representing the ICC team, visited Dubai on August 18 to inspect the facilities at the DCC grounds. He was impressed with the infrastructure here, but still we have not heard from them."

Muktis beat

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drive home a searing left-footer in the 88th minute.

Coming in as a substitute to Mamun Joarder, who retired from competitive football yesterday, Liton silenced the black and white supporters when he, after receiving the ball from Asif, took a first time shot over the reserve Mohammedan custodian Rezaul Hakim.

The goal apart, the only notable incident of the match was an emotional farewell of former national winger Mamun Joarder. Sporting his trademark number 15 shirt, Mamun played about 38 minutes for Muktijoddha before calling it a day.

Both Mohammedan and Muktijoddha players garlanded Mamun in a traditional goodbye on the pitch. But many feel that it would have been a fitting farewell for the speedy winger had he been allowed to don his famous sky-blue shirt.

TEAMS

Muktijoddha: Aminul, Barua (Shamser), Prodeep, Rajani, Masud Rana, Joy, Mamun Joarder (Liton), Mintu, Asad, Farhad and Johnny (Saurav).

Mohammedan: Nizam (Rezaul Hakim), Ruhul Amin, Faisal, Jewel Rana, Titu, Motiur Munna, Selim, Rakib, Nakib and Montu (Rezaul) and Shoab (Bipul).

Referee: Ibrahim Nesar.

RAHMATGANJ V PRANTIK

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day, Prantik held a big-spending Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society 2-2.

Rahmatganj led the first half by a lone goal.

Interestingly, it was a field day for substitute players, where Prantik's super sub Shahidul struck twice and Rahmatganj's Monsur Ali, coming in the second half, scored with the first touch of the ball.

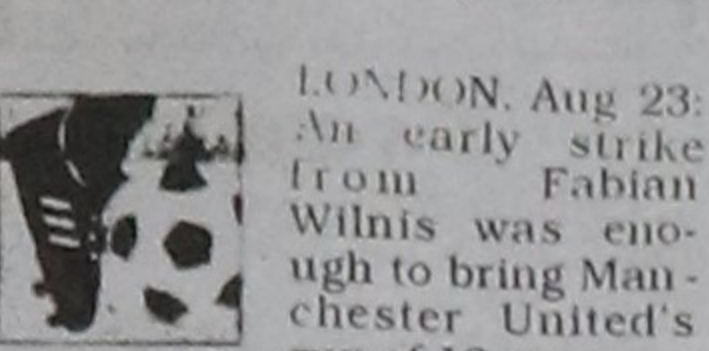
Shamim gave Rahmatganj a 36th minute lead stabbing the ball home from close. Prantik restored parity in the 63rd minute with Shahidul, who came in place of Roaza after the lemon break, driving home a neat grounder off a Ripon minus.

Rahmatganj regained the lead again in the 83rd minute with Monsur firing a powerful right-footer after being fed by Anwar deep inside the opponent's box. But Rahmatganj's joy lasted for only a couple of minutes as Shahidul scored his second goal with a neat grounder.

With this draw both Rahmatganj and Prantik picked up their first points after successive defeats against Muktijoddha and Mohammedan.

Premiership

MU stumble at Ipswich



LONDON, Aug 23: An early strike from Fabian Wilnis was enough to bring Manchester United's run of 12 consecutive

executive Premiership victories to an end as Ipswich held the champions 1-1 at Portman Road, reports AFP.

A David Beckham free-kick cancelled out the Dutch wing-back's sixth-minute strike just before the break but goalkeeper Fabien Barthez had to be in top form to help United avoid defeat against the Premiership newcomers.

Chelsea's brittle away form came back to haunt them when Bradford shocked them with a 2-0 victory at Valley Parade.

The Blues' title credentials were shown up again with a goal in each half by Dean Windass and debutant Benito Carbone securing victory.

The points were shared at the Riverside Stadium where Middlesbrough hit back to draw 1-1 with Tottenham.

Spurs took the lead four minutes before the interval through Norwegian international Oyvind Leonhardsen only for Mark Summerbell to level the scores with a firm header after 59 minutes.

Wilnis rocked Manchester United as the champions made a stumbling start against plucky Ipswich.

Portman Road, already at fever pitch to welcome Ipswich back to the Premiership, erupted when Wilnis applied a thumping right-footed finish to a sweeping move, started by a quick midfield exchange between Jim Magilton and Matt Holland.

Barthez kept United in the game with a string of fine saves before United pulled level in the 39th minute.

Wilnis collected a booking for fouling Philip Neville wide on the United left and Beckham stepped up to take the free-kick.

The United winger swung a dipping ball right-footed into a crowded goalmouth and home keeper Richard Wright was deceived by Ronnie Wallwork's dummy and the ball bounced into the far corner of the net.

Dwight Yorke, booked as he left the field at half-time, was narrowly off target with a long-range strike after the restart and Wright had to be alert to save from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Wright saved again from Solskjaer after a forward run by Mark Venus had left the hosts stretched at the back after mounting a speedy counter-attack while Barthez saved from Martin Reuser as both teams searched for the winner to no avail.

Bradford's attempt to take on their cosmopolitan opponents at their own passing game paid off as Chris Hutchings' side took the lead after 24 minutes.

Lee Sharpe found space down the left flank and swung over a cross which Windass nodded back across Ed de Goeij and inside the far post.

And Carbone sealed the game 16 minutes from time with a wondrous strike after a lapse from Chelsea substitute Christian Panucci.

The Italian full-back sold colleague Emerson Thome short with a pass just inside his own half and Windass insti-

gated a breakaway.

The widely travelled striker found Carbone on the right-hand edge of the area and de Goeij failed to keep out a fierce dipping 20-yard shot at the foot of his left-hand post.

Middlesbrough and Tottenham preserved their unbeaten starts to the new season in a hard-fought draw at the Riverside Stadium.

Leonhardsen put the visitors ahead with a 39th-minute header after George Graham's side survived an encouraging opening by the Teessiders.

Sergi Rebrov crossed from the right and Norwegian Leonhardsen rose to head into the top corner.

But the home side equalised with 59 minutes gone when Curtis Fleming got free down the right and delivered an inviting cross for the unmarked Summerbell, who rose majestically to fire a bullet header into the net.



Jaap Stam (R), Manchester United's Dutch international defender, intercepting Martijn Reuser (C) of Ipswich during their Premiership encounter at Portman Road on August 22. — AFP photo

Intertoto Cup

Stuttgart, Celta in UEFA Cup

PARIS, Aug 23: A second-half goal from Bulgarian ace Krassimir Balakov was the turning point for VfB Stuttgart as the German side drew 1-1 with valiant Auxerre to prevail 3-1 on aggregate in one of three Intertoto Cup final matches on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Spanish giants Celta Vigo who reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup last season will also be in the hat for the first-round draw this time round as they came from behind to beat Zenit St Petersburg 3-2 on aggregate.

A goal from Narcisse-Olivier Kapo had thrown Auxerre a lifeline after 39 minutes when a fierce shot from former French international Stephane Guivarch was only parried by the Stuttgart goalkeeper and Kapo was on hand to tap home the rebound.

Just moments later Krassimir should have restored the two-goal advantage but blasted his shot into the side netting from close range.

With the French club chasing an equaliser, Balakov was brought down on the edge of the Auxerre box.

He promptly picked himself up, dusted himself down before curling in a delightful left-footed shot that goalkeeper Fabien Cool could only help into the net.

From then on Stuttgart kept the French side at arms-length restricting them to only a few attacks on goal, hanging on to their 3-1 aggregate lead.

In St Petersburg, Primera Liga club Celta Vigo made their UEFA Cup berth after a 2-2 draw with hosts Zenit Saint Petersburg after their second-

leg match.

The hosts who lost the away match in Spain 2-1 were in desperate need of a victory and tried to stun guests with their attacking play but the Spanish side defended carefully and soon took the game under control.

However, in the 32nd minute Zenit's striker Gennady Popovich gave his side a 1-0 lead after he managed to beat the offside trap, sliding between two Spanish defenders and lobbed the ball home over Celta's goalkeeper Jose Manuel Pinto.

After the break the Spaniards moved up a gear and forced the Zenit keeper Roman Berezovsky to make several key saves but failed to find an equaliser.

Italian outfit Udinese qualified 6-4 on aggregate after beating Sigma Olomouc of the Czech Republic 4-2 after extra time.

His teammate Benny McCarthy then put his side into the UEFA Cup, drawing the teams level at 2-2 when he sent the ball home past the helpless Berezovsky, knocking in a rebound after Karpin's strike from outside the box had failed to be cleared.

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VfB Stuttgart's Bulgarian star Krassimir Balakov (R) being congratulated by an ecstatic team coach Rolf Rangnick after scoring against AJ Auxerre during their Intertoto Cup fixture at Stuttgart on August 22. — AFP photo

Venus, Monica move into qtrs

NEW HAVEN, Aug 23: Venus Williams showcased all facets of her game - the good, the bad and the blistering - and beat Elena Likhovtseva 6-3, 7-5 to advance to the Pilot Pen quarterfinals, reports AP.

Williams has not lost a set to Likhovtseva in five matches and had to fend off five set points in the 10th game of the second set Tuesday night to keep the straight-set streak alive.

Second-seeded Monica Seles also powered her way into the quarterfinals with a straight-set win over fellow Floridian Kristina Brandl.

Seles' 98 mph (158 kph) ace closed out the 6-2, 6-3 victory, but it was the zip on her pinpoint groundstrokes all afternoon that kept Brandl on her heels.

Seles won their only previous meeting - at Wimbledon in 1997 - in three sets on the slower grass surface. The hard courts of New Haven provided a speedy tuneup to next week's US Open, where Seles is seeded sixth.

In other matches, third-seeded Nathalie Tauziat defeated Meghann Shaughnessy, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4; Patty Schnyder upset eighth-seeded Julie Halard-Decugis 6-3, 7-5 (5); Ai Sugiyama beat Jana Kandarr 6-4, 6-4; and Fabiola Zuluaga defeated Meilen Tu 7-5, 6-1.

Rafter, Krajicek advance

COMMACK, Aug 23: Patrick Rafter overcame a slow start and beat Stefan Koubek 6-7 (3-7), 7-5, 7-6 (10-8) in a second-round match at the Hamlet Cup that lasted 2 hours, 38 minutes, reports AP.

On Day One in the majority of matches around the country, James (193 not out) and Elliott (177) both hit big hundreds to make a mockery of Sussex captain Chris Adams' decision to put the Welshmen in.

Elliott, who lost his Australian Cricket Board contract prior to the 1999-2000 domestic season, eventually played on to paceman James Kirtley after a county record stand for the first wicket.

But there was to be little respite for the visitors, with James ploughing on mercilessly and Michael Powell (48 not out) joining in the fun in a total of 457 for one.

Elliott's fourth ton of the summer took just 124 balls and included 10 fours and five sixes. James was the first to three figures though, hitting his third hundred of the season six minutes ahead of his partner but from eight balls more with 17 fours along the way.

Leicestershire's Aftab Habib and Phil DeFreitas kept tit-for-tatting Lancashire toiling in the field in a Division One clash as the visitors need to win to keep the pressure on table-toppers Surrey.

A measured 93 from Test discard Habib and a more aggressive, unbeaten 90 from all-rounder DeFreitas against one of his former counties helped the hosts post 362 for seven as Lancashire resorted to eight different bowlers on what is so often a responsive Grace Road pitch.

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SCORE SUMMARIES

County Cricket Championship scores on Tuesday:

Division One

At Derby: Derbyshire 167 (R Bailey 54) and 0-0 v Durham 144 (K Dean 6-52)

At Canterbury: Kent 268-9 (P Nixon 92 not out; A Mullaally 5-67) v Hampshire

At Leicester: Leicestershire 362-7 (A Habib 93, P DeFreitas 90 not out, J Dakin 50) v Lancashire

Division Two

At Colwyn Bay: Glamorgan 457-1 (S James 193 not out, M Elliott 177) v Sussex

At Bristol: Middlesex 207 (J Langer 77; J Lewis 4-72) v Gloucestershire 157-7

At New Road: Worcestershire 338 (V Solanki 160, D Pipe 54; E Giddins 4-75) v Warwickshire 140-8 (M Powell 75; C Liptrot 5-43)

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Five game ban on Vieira

LONDON, Aug 23: The English Football Association confirmed Tuesday that Arsenal's French international

midfielder Patrick Vieira would receive a five-match ban for his two red cards in the opening two games of the season, reports AFP.

Vieira, who received his marching orders against Sunderland on Saturday, was also sent off in Monday's 2-0 win over Liverpool together with Liverpool's Gary McAllister and Dietmar Hamann.

McAllister will be suspended for three games and Hamann for one.

The FA also made it clear that their recently-announced disciplinary crackdown had no influence on referee Graham Poll's decision to hand out three red cards in Monday's clash.

In a statement, the FA said: "Last night's game at Highbury saw three players sent off by the referee, Graham Poll."

Thankfully such an occurrence is unusual.

"What needs to be made clear is that all three decisions were taken by the referee under the laws of the game. They were his responsibility and his alone."

The FA's new disciplinary procedures, which were announced last month, in no way interfere with the referee's authority to make such decisions.

"Instead they have the important aim of bringing clarity and consistency once disciplinary action is underway and punishments have to be assessed and handed out."

"We have also introduced an advisory panel which can review particular incidents on video that the referee has not seen."

"It is crucial that everybody understands that the actual refereeing decisions to be reviewed only concern mistaken identity issues or alleged wrongful dismissal cases involving three-match suspensions."

"No sending-off for two bookable offences can be reviewed as the referee's decision is final. This is in line with an agreement reached with all sections of the game, including clubs, managers and players."

"This includes an extra match because it was the second time this season that he (Vieira) has been dismissed from the pitch."

send the Ukrainian side gleefully into the group phase 2-1 on aggregate.

Galatasaray had to work hard to overcome St Gallen as the Swiss club fought back from a two-goal deficit and nearly forced extra-time before finally bowing out 4-3 on aggregate.

Milan put any early nerves to rest with two first-half strikes from Ukrainian striker Andrei Shevchenko before a 56th minute effort from Spaniard Jose Mari put the Serie A club comfortably in front of Croatian club Dynamo Zagreb 6-1.

In Istanbul, Galatasaray rode two goals in five minutes from Brazilian Mario Jardel before Swiss outfit St. Gallen

pulled one back to give the throw them a lifeline although the goal that drew them to 4-3 came too late to force any late drama.

Jardel opening the scoring on 20 minutes to give the Turks a two-goal advantage but the killer blow for the Swiss side was a penalty conceded five minutes later once again converted by the Brazilian and meant St. Gallen had to score three goals just to send the game into extra-time.

They nearly managed the feat which would have been a huge blow for the Turkish treble winners although the Istanbul-based side held on to go through.

AC Milan superstar Andrei Shevchenko (R) being tackled by Mario Tokic of Dynamo Zagreb during their Champions League qualifier on August 22. — AFP photo

Under German basic law, it is illegal to make the Nazi salute and pronounce Nazi slogans.

Police said they would either keep the hooligans in detention until after the match, which was taking place later Wednesday, or expel them.

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Champs' League qualifying

Milan, Galatasaray through to group phase

PARIS, Aug 23: Italian giants AC Milan and UEFA Cup holders Galatasaray overcame potentially delicate third-round qualifiers Tuesday to reach the group phase of the prestigious Champions League, reports AFP.

Bundesliga club SV Hamburg carved out a 0-0 draw with the Danes from Bronby to qualify 2-0 on aggregate as Milan won 3-0 on the night and 6-1 on aggregate.

Czech side Slavia Prague were eliminated by an extra-time goal by Shakhtar Donetsk's Serguei Atlekin to

send the Ukrainian side gleefully into the group phase 2-1 on aggregate.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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