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- Who will be the match referee in the Bangladesh's inaugural Test against India next month?
Shepherd | Subba Row | Ducknor
- Who lifted the Princess Cup tennis title?
Sreena | Hings | Dokic
- Who is the new managing director of United Cricket Board of South Africa?
Peter Pollock | Gerald | Duncan | Fletcher
- Who won the Shaheed Major Nazimul Haq International rating chess title?
Refaat | Rakib | Rajeeb
- Who is new cricket coach of Zimbabwe?
Houghton | Rackemann | Pycroft

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SPORTS TALK

BD's losing spell on

BLOEMFONTEIN. South Africa, Oct 18 (AFP) Bangladesh suffered their second consecutive defeat in South Africa losing a one-day match to President's XI by seven wickets here Wednesday.

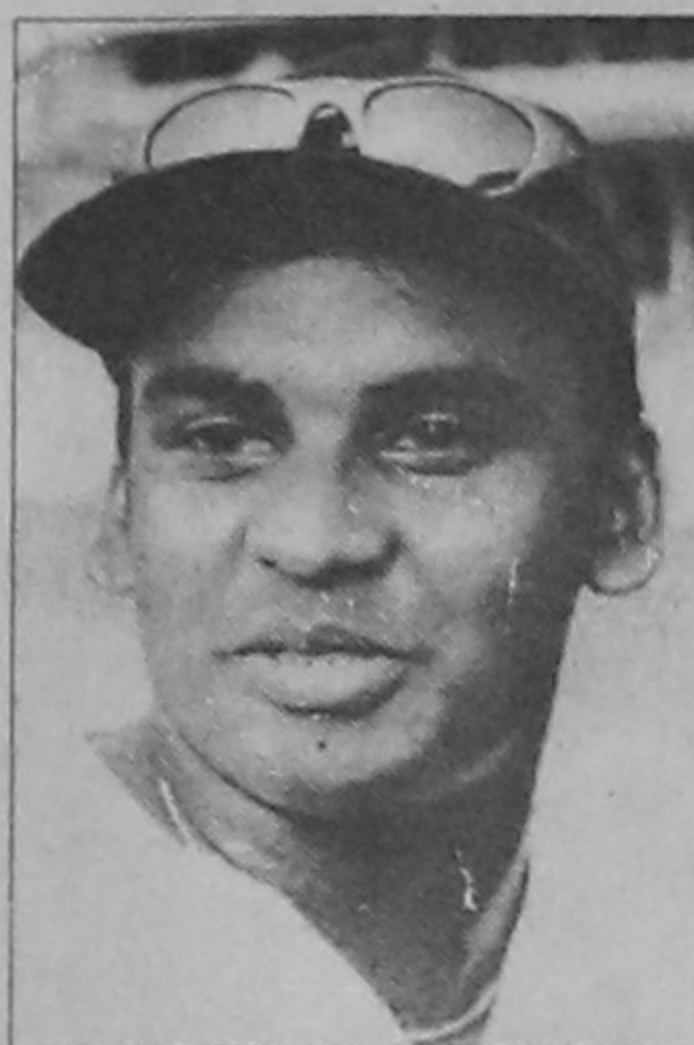
The South African selection, composed largely of players on the fringe of the national senior team, made 181-3 in reply to 178 by the visitors, who never fully recovered from losing their first two wickets for just 14 runs.

Only captain Naimur Rahman (52) and opener Ali Shahriar (38) made much impression on a batting-friendly wicket in the central city, where disgraced former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje was born.

A 104-run opening partnership by KawaZulu-Natal pair Mark Bruvins (55) and Doug Watson (39) set the South Africans on the road to victory and an unbeaten 44 from captain Dale Benkenstein sealed success.

Enamul Haq was the only Bangladeshi bowler to impress, finishing with 2-32, including the wickets of Bruvins and Watson.

BANGLADESH		SAURAV GANGULY'S INDIA	
Javed c Anila b Pretorius	36	Rudique not out	12
Ali Shahriar c Nel b Morkel	38	Enamul c Ontong b Morkel	5
Habibul c Potias b Nel	0	Bikash c & b Nel	6
Anamul c Pretorius b Langerfelt	23	Extras (lb-5, nb-3, w-1)	19
Akram lbw b Nel	12	Total (all out in 35.4 overs)	178
Mushfiq lbw b Langerfelt	0	Fall of wickets: 1/13; 2/14; 3/82; 4/82; 5/83; 6/125; 7/156; 8/159; 9/177	
Naimur run out	52	Bowler	O M R W
K Masood c Anila b Pretorius	11	Pretorius	8 2 24 2
		Nel	9.4 0 36 3
		Morkel	10 2 40 2
		Langerfelt	8 0 27 2
		Benkenstein	5 0 21 0
		Ontong	5 0 25 0



NAIMUR... 52

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the first limited-over match between Bangladesh and South Africa on Wednesday.

Pakistan seek spin edge

KARACHI, Oct 19 (Reuters). Pakistan's cricket selectors have named a squad with four spin bowlers for next Tuesday's first one-day international against England.

All-rounder Shahid Afridi, wrist spinner Mushtaq Ahmad and finger spinner Shoab Malik were recalled to assist Saqlain Mushtaq, who is tipped to play a decisive role in the series.

"We have named four spinners because we want to exploit England's vulnerability against quality spinners," said Wasim Bari, chairman of the selectors' committee.

However, there was no place for middle-order batsman Ijaz Ahmad and off-spinner Arshad Khan, who paid the price for

Pakistan's recent semifinal loss to New Zealand in the ICC Knockout tournament in Kenya.

In that match Ijaz scored one run while Arshad was hit for 54 from his nine overs as the eventual champions achieved the victory target of 253 with six balls and four wickets to spare.

Pakistan captain Moin Khan said he thought the spinners would make the difference.

"We want to win the initial psychological battle against the tourists and I believe the spinners will matter in the end," he said.

In 1987, Abdur Qadir was the difference between the two sides. I am looking forward to a similar performance from Mushy," said Moin, referring to Qadir's 30-wicket haul in the series which Pakistan won 1-0.

Mushtaq also took three for 41 in Pakistan's 22-run victory over England in the 1992 World Cup final at Melbourne.

In addition to three one-day internationals, there will also be three Tests.

It is England's first tour of Pakistan since the controversial trip 13 years ago which is remembered for a finger wagging incident between captain Mike Gatting and Pakistan umpire Shakoor Rana.

SQUAD
Moin Khan (captain), Inzamam-ul-Haq (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Salim Elahi, Inran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Yousof Youhana, Faisal Iqbal, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Abdur Razaq, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmad and Shoab Malik.

Daei makes the difference

BEIRUT, Oct 19. Asian footballer of the year Ali Daei fired pre-tournament favourites Iran safely into the Asian Cup quarter-finals here on Wednesday with a late goal to give his team a 1-0 victory over arch-rivals Iraq, reports AFP.

The result saw Iran top Group A with seven points, keeping them apart from a showdown with in-form Japan in the last eight, Iraq, who could have played bitter enemies Kuwait if they had topped the group, claimed the second automatic berth after Lebanon and Thailand played out a 1-1 draw in Beirut.

The Thais were left kicking themselves as they let another one goal slip - just as they did against Iran - but can still dream of making the last eight as one of the two best third placed teams.

For the organisers though the spectre of even sparser crowds looms as Lebanon exited after finishing bottom of the group.

Pitaruana, who scored in the 1-1 draw with Iran on Sunday, netted in the 58th minute and the Lebanese, who missed a succession of chances, finally levelled with seven minutes to go through Brazilian midfielder Luis Fernandez.

"It's frustrating because we didn't take all our chances just as we didn't against Iran," Thailand's English coach Peter Withe said.

"It is a feature of South East Asian football that the finishing isn't the highest standard and we must aspire to be like Japan who showed against Uzbekistan (8-1 winners) how to put them away," he added.

His Croat-born counterpart Josip Skoblar, formerly coach of elite Croatian side Hajduk Split, said that his side had suffered from lack of experience in playing in front of so many people.

However, he rejected criticism over his policy of drafting in the five so-called Lebanese Brazilians in the lead-up to the tournament.

"I still think that I selected the best possible team and that they did Lebanon proud... I see a great future for their football team if they continue to play in a similar style," added Skoblar, whose contract finishes next month.

Fernandez, who also had a golden chance to win the match in the dying seconds but saw his header sail over the bar, levelled the game when he was left free after keeper Kittisak Rawangpa dropped the ball.

Sakesan, leading scorer in the Thai league, put away the chance from rightback Anuruck Sriker's superb curling cross which beat the outstretched leg of Brazilian defender Jadir Morgenstern - keeper Ali Fakih was stranded at the near post - that set the goal up.

IRAN - 1; IRAQ - 0

Hertha Berlin striker Daei pounced in the 77th minute, scrambling in a rebound from close range after team-mate Karim Bagheri had blasted a low-shot at the Iraq goal.

"The important thing is that we won and we came top of the group," satisfied Iran coach Jalal Talebi said afterwards.

"We have to be happy with our first round performance. We can now concentrate on the quarter-finals. I don't care who we play, everyone from this part of the competition will be difficult."

It was a far from impressive performance by Iran, who struggled to break down a compact Iraq team, who appeared content to defend in numbers and wait for an opportunity to catch their opponents on the break.

Talebi's pre-match prediction that the bitter history between the two countries would not be a factor proved accurate in a largely passionless affair.

"The fact that we beat Iraq didn't mean anything special for us. We welcome any victory, and the fact it was Iraq makes no difference," Talebi said later.



DEADLY DAEI: Ali Daei, the Iranian ace, is ecstatic after scoring against Iraq in their Asian Cup clash at Sidon on October 18.

THAILAND - 1; LEBANON - 1
That star striker Sakesan

Hungarian coach for nat'l booters

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced the appointment of Hungarian George Kottan as new national team coach.

The 57-year-old Budapest-based coach arrives in the capital on November 9 as per a financial package of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The regional sports governing body will pay Kottan 3,000 dollars-a-month. The BFF as customary will take care of logistics - accommodation, transport etc.

Kottan's first assignment will be to oversee Bangladesh's World Cup qualifying campaign in Saudi Arabia next February.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport, BFF assistant general secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu revealed that German coach Holger Oberman helped to negotiate the deal.

Bachchu was unable to provide details on the Kottan's career background. Apparently the Hungarian's CV is in the hands of colleague Badal Roy who is now in America.

Kottan will be the second AFC-appointed coach after Englishman Mark Harrison.

Harrison worked with the national team for a month in May this year before returning to Britain on a short leave. He never came back.

Sharjah show starts today

SHARJAH, Oct 19 (AFP). The chief organiser of cricket in Sharjah on Thursday dismissed allegations that the popular desert venue was a haven for match-fixing.

Abdul Rehman Bukhatir, who heads the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS), vigorously defended his managerial organisation on the eve of the Sharjah three-nation series between India, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe starting on Friday.

"No-one has come out to substantiate the allegations that match-fixing happens in Sharjah. For that matter, none of the off-shore centres have featured in the allegations."

The CBFS, which hosted its first one-day international in 1984 to cater to the cricket-crazy Asian expatriate population in the region, has now organised more matches (160) than any other venue in the world.

"All matches are day/night and will be played at Sharjah Cricket Association Stadium."

SCHEDULE

Date	Match
Oct 20	India v Sri Lanka
Oct 21	Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka
Oct 22	India v Zimbabwe
Oct 25	Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka
Oct 26	India v Zimbabwe
Oct 27	India v Sri Lanka
Oct 29	Final

The match will start at 4 pm (BST). SetMax will show it live.

Saurav Ganguly's India take on Sri Lanka in Friday's opener. Each team plays the other twice in the preliminary league with the top two clashing in the final on October 29.

The Indians are here after a remarkable trip to Kenya for the recent ICC Knockout tournament, where they beat world champions Australia and South Africa, before losing to New Zealand in the final.

They hope to mark their resurgence by winning the series.



SAURAV GANGULY

The Pakistan-born Bukhatir, once ridiculed by Indian cricket officials for a pro-Pakistan slant at Sharjah matches, stressed that cricket here was clean.

"Pakistan is alleged to be the most fixable team, but they have won over 90 per cent of their matches here," he told the newspaper.

Pakistan, however, are not playing in the series, since the dates clash with the home Test and one-day series against England starting next week.



SANATH JAYASURIYA

but their opponents are equally determined to prove a point.

The Sri Lankans, who defeated South Africa in both the Test and one-day series at home in July, lost to Pakistan in the quarter-finals in Kenya.

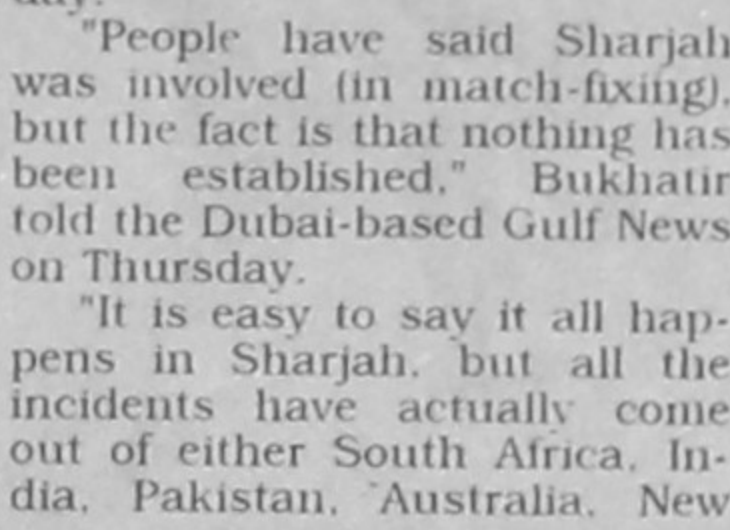
Heath Streak's Zimbabwe, who tour India next month, lost to the Kiwis in the quarter-finals after beating them in the home series last month.

Asia XI beaten convincingly

Sports Reporter
Pakistan XI defeated Asia XI by 80 runs in a limited-over match at the National Stadium, Karachi Wednesday.

Batting first, Pakistan XI piled up 270 for three in 45 overs thanks to a superb 104 from opener Saleem Elahi. In reply, Asia XI, which also played Khaled Mahmood of Bangladesh, were all out for 190 in 38 overs with Shahid Afridi top-scoring with his trademark 78-ball 88, studded with 12 fours and two sixes.

Mahmud, who along with opener Mehrab Hossain went to Pakistan to play an exhibition match organised to celebrate Pakistani cricket magazine Akbar-e-Wattan's publication anniversary, was thrashed for 46 off his 5 overs and later scored 6 while batting down the order.



CHRIS CAIRNS

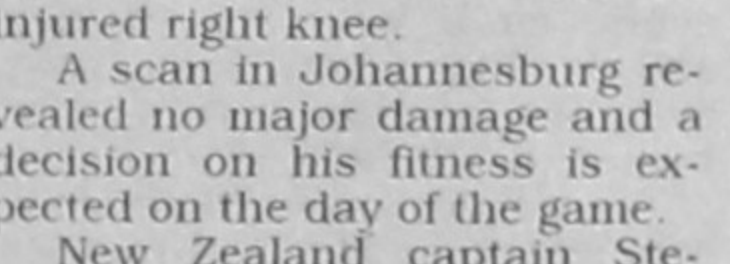
SCOREBOARD
Scorecard of Asia XI in their exhibition match against Pakistan:

ASIA XI	
Afridi run out	88
Makannama b Waqar	11
Solanki c Youhana b Mushtaq	2
Alyene b Razaq	2
Lull c Mahmood b Mushtaq	2
Wasim st Moin b Malik	18
Mandad not out	25
Babar b Waqar	0
Salman run out	0
Mahmud c Razaq b Malik	6
Safar c Mahmood b Faisal	7
Extras (lb-4, w-11, nb-5)	20
Total (all out, 38 overs)	190

DNB: Abdur Qadir
Fall of wicket: 1-37; 2-96; 3-100; 4-103; 5-140; 6-152; 7-155; 8-157; 9-168

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Waqar	8	0	45	2
Mahmood	5	0	31	0
Razaq	5	0	28	1
Mushtaq	9	0	25	2
Malik	8	0	41	2
Nazir	2	0	11	0
Faisal	1	0	5	1

Result: Pakistan XI won by 80 runs
Umpires: Islam Khan and Afzaal Ahmed
TV Umpire: Junaid Ghaloor



S FLEMING

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Geoff Allott, Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Craig McMillan, Chris Nevin, Shane McInnes, Chris Nevin, Shane McInnes, Adam Parore, Craig Spearman, Scott Styris, Glen Sulzberger, Daryl Tuffey, Roger Touse, Brooke Walker and Paul Wiseman.

Umpires: Dave Orchard and Rudi Koertzen (both from South Africa).

New kings' real test

POTCHEFSTROOM, South Africa, Oct 19. Newly-crowned International Cricket Council (ICC) knockout champions New Zealand face a tough challenge when they play South Africa in the first of six limited-over internationals in Potchefstroom Friday, reports AFP.

The fitness of all-rounder Chris Cairns shapes as a key

factor. Cairns hit a match-winning century Sunday when New Zealand beat India in the ICC Knockout final in Nairobi, Kenya, but struggled throughout the tournament with an injured right knee.

A scan in Johannesburg revealed no major damage and a decision on his fitness is expected on the day of the game.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming took a realistic view of his side's status following their shock win in Nairobi, which netted the side 340,000 dollars in prize money, the biggest purse in cricket history.

"It doesn't mean we are the best side in the world," said Fleming, "it was very much an on-the-day thing."

But the triumph will give the Black Caps confidence against a powerful South African side, long regarded as one of the best one-day sides in the world.

South Africa won a close series 3-2 in New Zealand early last year and beat the Kiwis on the way to winning the Singapore Challenge tournament in August.

Friday's match will be the first international game played at the North West Stadium in Potchefstroom, a mining and university town about 100 kilometres (60 miles) southwest of Johannesburg.

The playing surface is regarded as good for batting but the side fielding second in the day-night game could have problems with dew. The Kiwis in a domestic 45-overs match last Friday the strong Western Province team could not defend a total of 258 against home side North West and claimed dew was a factor.

Five of six previous matches at the ground, however, were won by the side batting first.

South African opening bowler Roger Telemachus was ruled out of the game when he was banned for one match after

Magura cricket

From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, Oct 19: Akai Smriti Sangha moved into the final defeating Shaheed Mintu Sangha by 4 wickets in the Abdus Sattar Smriti cricket tournament at the Mithun-Kazal-Musa playground today.

Batting first, Shaheed Mintu Sangha scored 124 losing all wickets in 17.5 overs.

In reply, Akai Smriti reached the target of 125 for six wickets in 14.5 overs.

BRIEF SCORES
SHAHEED MINTU SANGHA: 124 all out in 17.5 overs (Rakib 20, Shukesh 14, Litu 12, Rubencl 12, Rusel 11; Ali 4/22, Rubel 2/20, Shajib 2/24, Gora 1/25).
AKAI SMRITI SANGHA: 125 for 6 in 14.5 overs (Gora 52, Bappi 18, Shajib 11 not out, Haradhon 10, Shipon 4/23, Shukesh 2/20).
Result: Akai Smriti Sangha won the match by four wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Gora.

Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Oct 19: Durgapur Krira Sangstha defeated Bagha Krira Sangstha 3-1 in the second round of the Rajshahi inter-upazila football tournament at the Rajshahi Stadium today.

In the other match of the day at the same playground, Puthia Krira Sangstha and Mochapur Krira Sangstha shared points as the match ended in a goalless draw.

'Indian coaches below par'

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 19. A senior Indian cricket official launched an astonishing attack on his country's former greats like Kapil Dev, saying home grown coaches could be biased reports AFP.

Raj Singh Durgapur, past president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), justified the search for a foreign coach for the national team, questioning both the integrity and ability of Indians who have held the post.

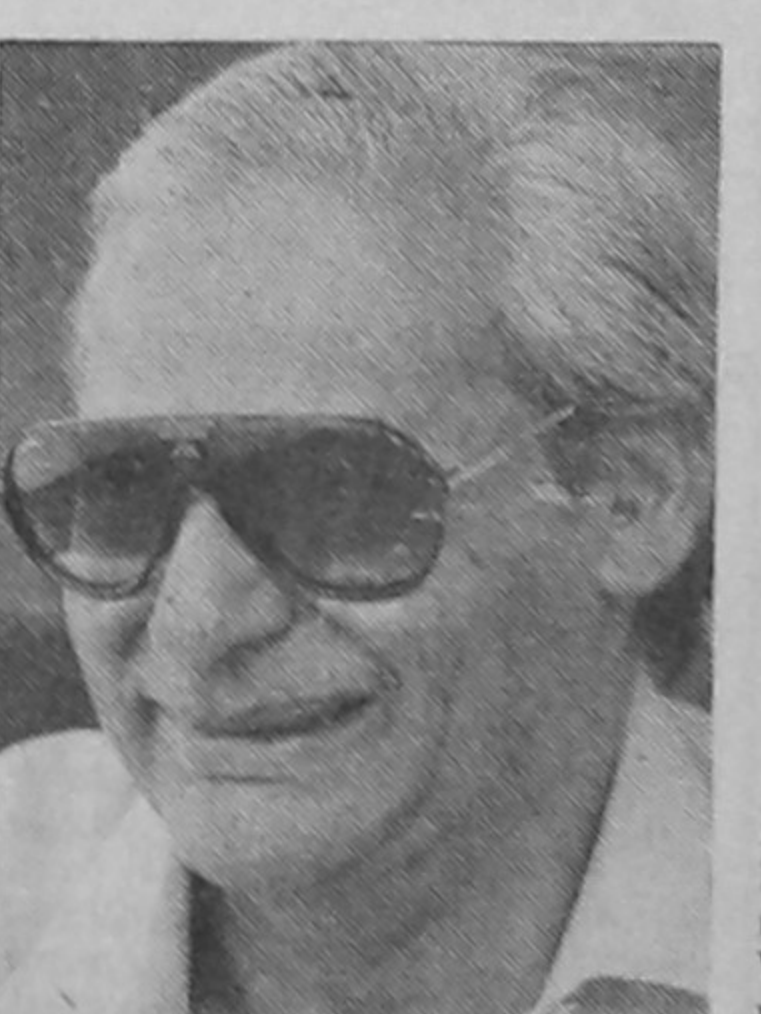
"Indian coaches could be biased," Durgapur told the Dubai-based Gulf News newspaper on Thursday.

"Most of the former Test cricketers represent various associations and chances are they could be biased towards certain players."

"This factor can be eliminated when we choose a foreign coach."

Durgapur and current BCCI president A.C. Murli are due to meet former New Zealand opener John Wright and ex-Australian captain Greg Chappell in Madras on Monday to select the first ever foreign coach for the team.

The job, one of the toughest in world cricket, fell vacant



DURGAPUR

when national icon Kapil Dev quit midway through his two-year term after being investigated on match-fixing charges.

Kapil, Test cricket's leading wicket-taker till West Indian Bedi Ajit Wadekar, Sandeep Patil, Madan Lal and Anshuman Gaekwad.

Gaekwad, currently in charge of the Indians for the Sharjah tri-series starting here on Friday, declined to comment on Durgapur's outburst.

But the former Test batsman, who was sacked as coach after last year's World Cup only, to be brought back temporarily when Kapil resigned, told reporters last week he did not favour a foreign coach.

Durgapur, however, believes Indian coaches are not qualified for the job.

"In India, former Test cricketers turn to coaching but they do not go in for advanced training," he told the Gulf News.

Durgapur cited the example of other countries going in for a foreign coach. Sri Lanka have Australian Dave Whatmore, the architect of their World Cup triumph in 1996, while England have gone in for Zimbabwean Duncan Fletcher.

South Africa used Bob Woolmer of England for many years before he was replaced after the World Cup by home grown Gerald Ford.

Wright, the front-runner for the Indian job, is coach of English county side Kent, for whom Indian star Rahul Dravid played last summer.