

Andrew antics amaze Pakistan

KARACHI, Oct 25: Andrew Flintoff destroyed Pakistan with a 60-ball 84 to steer England to an historic five-wicket victory in a high-scoring first one-day international on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The 22-year-old Lancashire all-rounder blasted three sixes and six fours in his swash-buckling knock as England overhauled Pakistan's mammoth 304-9 in 50 overs with 16 balls to spare.

It was England's highest reply in one-day games and the fourth best ever.

Flintoff, who returns home after the one-day series because of a bad back, received excellent support from Graham Thorpe after Nasser Hussain and Graeme Hick had done the repair work when the two openers departed at the score of 13.

Thorpe remained unbeaten with an excellent 64 that included four boundaries. The two featured in a 138-run fifth wicket partnership off just 102 balls.

Hussain played superbly for his 73 off 99 balls with eight boundaries while Hick hit polished, 56 off 52 balls with three fours and a six. The experienced batsmen added 114 for the third wicket off 104 balls.

Man-of-the-match Flintoff was at his brilliant best, maddling the ball nicely and stroking it with ferocious power. He was out with the score on 302 to an athletic catch by Pakistan skipper Moin Khan who accounted for four batsmen behind the wickets but still ended up on the losing side.

It was the third time Pakistan failed to defend a score of above 300.

Earlier, Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq completed his 55th half century off 68 balls studded with four boundaries and when 57 completed 1,000 one-day runs in the calendar year in 32 matches.

Yousuf Youhana is the other Pakistani to score over 1,000 runs in the year 2000.

The two teams meet in the second limited-overs match in Lahore on Friday.

SCORECARD

Full scorecard of the first one-day international between Pakistan and England played at National Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: 304 for 9 in 50 overs (Razzak 75, Inzamam 71, Youhana 35, Nazir 31, Ealham 2/49, White 2/70, Gough 2/71)

ENGLAND

Trescothick c Mushtaq b Waqar 11  
Stewart c Moin b Wasim 0  
Hussain st Moin b Mushtaq 73  
Hick c Moin b Razzak 56  
Thorpe not out 64  
Flintoff c Moin b Razzak 84  
White not out 0

Extras: (lb-4, w-5, nb-9) 18  
Total: (For 5 wks in 47.2 overs) 306  
Did not bat: M Ealham, A Caddick, D Gough, A Giles

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-13, 3-127, 4-164, 5-302

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Wasim, Waqar, Razzak, Saqlain, Mushtaq.

Result: England won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Andrew Flintoff.

Next match: October 27, Lahore.

Malcolm signs for Leics

LEICESTER, England, Oct 25: Former England fast bowler Devon Malcolm joined Leicestershire on a two-year contract today, reports Reuters.



Saudi players and officials are over the moon after their 'golden goal' win against Kuwait in the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup at Beirut on October 24. —AFP photo

Al Temyat takes Saudis through

BEIRUT, Oct 25: A sudden death golden goal from Nawaf Al Temyat fired holders Saudi Arabia into the Asian Cup semi-finals as favourites Japan crushed Iraq 4-1 to book their place in the last four here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Al Temyat's 109th minute left-foot thunderbolt settled a pulsating battle between the 1996 champions and their Gulf neighbours Kuwait, which went into extra-time after the two sides completed 90 minutes level at 2-2.

Kuwait's 3-2 defeat left several of their players in tears, and Czech coach Dusan Uhrin - who led his country to the Euro 96 final four years ago - was disconsolate.

"I think Kuwait must be the unluckiest team in Asian football tonight," he said in a post-match press conference.

"This was our best performance of the tournament, but we made defensive errors at important times and in the first half we were unable to score goals when we had many chances," said the 47-year-old.

The Saudis now face resurgent South Korea in Thursday's semi-finals, who reached the last four after knocking out mighty Iran also by golden goal on Monday.

After a tepid first half, the tie burst into life immediately after the interval, with the lead changing hands twice.

The Saudis lit the touchpaper in the 46th minute, Al Temyat calmly sidefooting home from just inside the area after a lovely jinking run from skipper Sami Al Jaber, who beat two men before laying off.

With Kuwait having no luck in front of goal for the umpteenth time in the tournament, the stage was set for a Saudi victory.

But the Saudis' gulf neighbours came roaring back with

two goals in six minutes to take the lead.

Bashar 'Bashardo' Abdullah levelled the scores on 62 minutes, latching onto a ball over the top to hammer home an unstoppable equaliser.

The goal also heralded the introduction from the substitutes bench of Kuwait's striking icon Jassem Al Houwaidi, coming on in place of Naser Alsoli in the 64th minute.

Four minutes later Al Houwaidi announced his entrance in typically clinical fashion, Abdullah slipped a low pass into the penalty area and Al Houwaidi was on hand to finish with aplomb and put the Kuwaitis 2-1 up.

But Saudi recovered from the setback with vigour, and within five minutes had restored parity. A neat build-up down the right saw forward Talal Al Meshal to steal in and shoot between keeper Falah Dabshah's legs to make it 2-2.

2003 women's World Cup in China

SYDNEY, Australia, Oct 25: China have won the vote ahead of Australia to host the 2003 Women's World football Cup, reports AFP.

Australian football federation president Basil Scarsella said he had been informed by football's governing body, FIFA, that the Committee for Women's Football had recommended to the FIFA executive that China stage the competition.

China, one of the powers in women's world soccer, held the inaugural tournament in 1991.

Scarsella said it was disappointing to be overlooked, especially when there were only two candidates, and China had already hosted the tournament in 1991.

"We have no doubt that China will hold an excellent event but we believe, after the success of the Olympic soccer, that we would have done it better," Scarsella said.

"We would have been as good if not better."

More than 350,000 spectators watched the 16 matches in the Olympic women's football tournament.

Scarsella said Australia would not bid for the 2003 World Club Championship.

Borg, McEnroe meeting for a last time?

SINGAPORE, Oct 25: Tennis legends John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg face off on Thursday for possibly the last time in an encounter 20 years after the "Match of the Century", a marathon Wimbledon final where Borg beat McEnroe in five sets, reports Reuters.

Borg, 44, plans to retire later this year and it's likely he will not clash competitively with McEnroe, 41, after the veterans' Champions Tour tournament in Singapore.

Mauresmo mauls Dokic

MOSCOW, Oct 25: Fifth-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France won her opening match in the WTA Kremlin Cup here Tuesday defeating Australia's Elena Dokic in their first ever head-to-head meeting, reports AFP.

Mauresmo, 13th in the WTA rankings, took control of the match from the start and won the first set 6-1 in just 20 minutes.

The former Australian Open finalist also broke early in the second to lead 2-0 and held on to clinch the match 6-4 in 35 minutes.

Russia's Elena Dementieva, seeded seventh, had to fight hard through three sets and 127 minutes before getting the better of birthday girl Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania.

Safin cruises

MOSCOW, Oct 25: Czech Jiri Novak bounced back to book his second round berth in the ATP Kremlin Cup after losing the first set to Croatia's hard-hitter Goran Ivanisevic here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Ivanisevic, who entered the main draw through the qualifiers' tournament, forged into a 3-0 lead in the first, eventually taking it 6-3.

However, Novak, the number eight seed and 45th in the ATP race, went on to take the next two 6-3, 6-4 to win the match in one hour 20 minutes.

Ivanisevic failed to attack purposefully and made too many unforced errors even though he served 13 aces against Novak's four.

Top seed Marat Safin of Russia comfortably cruised into the second round past Rainer Schuttler of Germany 6-4, 6-4.

Safin meets Italy's veteran Gianluca Pozzi in the second round.

The home crowd's long-standing favourite, dual Kremlin winner Marc Rosset of Switzerland, beat another Kremlin Cup two-time champion Andrei Cherkasov of Russia.

Rosset barely broke sweat beating Cherkasov in straight sets 6-2, 6-4 in just 70 minutes.

Australian Andrew Ilie easily saw off German Bjorn Phau 6-1, 6-2 in just 45 minutes to make his second round.

Sauvage turns the tables



SYDNEY, Oct 25: Louise Sauvage, denied a chance by a court ruling to re-run her controversial 800-metre wheelchair loss to Chapal Pettelerc, got her revenge on the track at the Paralympics here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old Australian wore down Pettelerc in the home straight to win her eighth career Paralympic gold medal in the 1500m T54 race with the Canadian fading to finish fifth.

The Australian race referee had wanted the 800m final re-staged on the opening lap at the tail of the field, but the Canadians argued that it had not affected the final result.

Late Tuesday the Court of Arbitration for Sport agreed with them and ruled against a re-staging of the 800m final.

The decision allowed 30-year-old Pettelerc to keep her gold medal after she inflicted

Sauvage's first defeat in a track final for eight years.

Sauvage, who accepted the CAS decision with grace, defended the 1500m title she won in Atlanta four years ago in a time of three minutes 48.52 seconds.

American Jean Driscoll was second and Mexican Ariadne Hernandez took bronze with the effort of a sharp sprint a lap from home telling on Pettelerc inside the final 200m.

"The pressure has been lifted to a certain extent in the last couple of days," said Sauvage, who did not learn until Wednesday morning that there would be no re-run of the 800m final on Thursday.

"I don't normally talk to Chantal very much so I'm sure everything is fine," she said.

Pettelerc, asked if she was happy for Sauvage, replied: "Yeah, I think so. I would be happier if I got the gold medal again. But she deserved it, the same way as I deserved it in the

800m. I can live with it. "I will go home with very good memories of the Paralympics. The fact that I won the 800m will be a stronger memory for me than the fact we had to go to court to get the gold medal."

Australia again dominated competition at their home Paralympics, winning a further 10 gold medals on Wednesday's seventh day. Great Britain added five along with Canada.

Australian Neil Fuller surged home on the inside of American Brian Frasure to pinch the T44 200m amputee final.

Fuller came from well behind in the straight to overtake Frasure in the final stride to win by 0.02secs in 22.78s.

MEDALS TABLE

Table with columns: Country, C, S, B. Lists medal counts for various countries including Australia, Spain, Great Britain, France, Canada, USA, China, Poland, South Korea, Czech Rep, South Africa, Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, Russia, Mexico, Italy, Iran, Denmark, Switzerland, Egypt, Sweden, Tunisia, Nigeria, Ukraine, Brazil, New Zealand, Hungary, Portugal, Greece, Cuba, Thailand, Austria, Belarus, Norway, Ireland, Algeria, Slovakia, Belgium, Israel, Chinese Taipei, Estonia, Iceland, Kenya, Bulgaria, Zimbabwe, Finland, Argentina, UAE, Faroe Islands, Kuwait, Bahrain, Slovenia, Azerbaijan, Panama, Ivory Coast, Latvia, Lithuania, Puerto Rico, Philippines.



Spaniard Athanasios Barakas is on his way to winning the men's long jump gold of the Paralympic Games in Sydney yesterday. —AFP photo

Unsporting Taliban!



KABUL, Oct 25: Afghan and Pakistani football players scattered in panic Tuesday as the religious police of the ruling Taliban militia raided a match to enforce a new law banning sport in the afternoon, reports AFP.

Witnesses said that minutes before the end of the match at the battle-scarred national stadium, an armed mobile team from the ministry for fostering virtue and preventing vice, known as the religious police, drove into the ground and chased away the players.

One of the players was seen being bundled away in the police jeep for unknown reasons. The turbaned police also tried to snatch the ball before it was kicked into the crowd.

Thousands of spectators, including Pakistani diplomats and senior Taliban officials, shouted in protest as the chaotic scenes developed before their eyes.

Some people in the crowd pelleted stones and other objects at the police as they drove off

the pitch. The match, between a visiting Pakistani side and a local team, was declared a draw.

"This is not good, even just because of how the police are treating our guests," one spectator said.

"They could have simply ordered the match to stop," said an irate Taliban official who was watching the match in the stands.

Sports officials said the match was raided because it had gone 10 minutes beyond a deadline set recently by Taliban supreme leader Mulla Mohammad Omar.

According to the new edict, all sport is banned for afternoon prayers from 4 p.m. until sunrise.

It is in an effect a total ban on sport as most Afghans are too busy working during the day to play or watch games before 4 p.m.

The dusty Chaman area opposite the stadium -- a huge park where young men often kick around footballs -- appeared empty Tuesday afternoon.

Tuesday's raid follows the recent appointment of Mawlawi Qalamuddin, the former religious police chief, as sports minister, replacing the more moderate Shokour Mutman.

Qalamuddin on Sunday said he was considering a ban on boxing, arguing that punching to the face was against "human dignity" and could cause mental and physical harm.

Football and boxing are two of the few sports played here and are among the very few forms of public entertainment in a country where television, cinema and music are banned.

In July the religious police in southern Kandahar province detained a Pakistani youth football team, shaved their heads and deported them because they were playing in shorts against Taliban dress codes.

The Taliban emerged in 1994 as a movement of religious students and quickly seized control of most of the country, imposing an ultra-conservative brand of Islamic and tribal law designed to create a pure Muslim state.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer LGED, Munshigonj. Second Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project (Ri.MIMP-2). Tender Notice No: 09/2000-2001. Details of contract schemes and tendering process.

Image of a group of people on bicycles. Text: Bangladeshis Kabir Hosney, Shah Alam and Saifuddin Mian have been travelling the world on bicycles since 1996 as part of an anti-drug awareness programme of their voluntary group Global Anti Drug Organisation (GADO). They plan to continue their mission up to 2003.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Cryptopquip puzzle. Includes crossword clues and a grid for the cryptopquip puzzle.