

Marlon Samuels to replace Chanderpaul

PERTH, Dec 5: Stylish Jamaican right-hander Marlon Samuels was named here today as the replacement batsman for injured Shivnarine Chanderpaul for the remainder of the Test series against Australia, reports AFP.

West Indies tour manager Ricky Skerritt said Samuels, 20, would fly out of the Caribbean Tuesday and would join the team in Hobart, Tasmania, Friday.

It was hoped he would be able to play in the four-day match against Australia. A starting in Hobart Saturday.

Uncapped at Test level, Samuels played for the West Indies in the World Youth Cup in Sri Lanka early this year and was also in the senior squad competing in the recent ICC one-day tournament in Kenya.

RU cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 5: Zoology defeated Language by five wickets in the Rajshahi University inter-departmental cricket tournament at RU playground today.

Winning the toss, Language batted first and made 126 for all in 85 overs.

In reply, Zoology scored 131 for five in 30 overs.

Economics beat Bangla by 4 runs on the other match of the day at Habibur Rahman Hall playground.

Winning the toss, Bangla invited Economics to bat first.

Economics collect 93 for all in 30 overs.

In reply, Bangla were bowled out for 89 in 28.3 overs.

Demise

1998 after the selectors decided that the burden of captaincy was affecting Sachin Tendulkar's batting, but after a disastrous World Cup last year he was again given the boot.

Azharuddin was first linked to the current cricket crisis by the testimony of Hansie Cronje. The disgraced former South African captain told the King Commission that it was Azharuddin who introduced him to MK Gupta, the Indian bookmaker whose testimony brought Cronje down in an Indian hotel in 1996.

Azhar is a religious man who friends say is without ambition. But other reports paint him as a voracious consumer who loves expensive English suits and has more watches than Imelda Marcos had shoes.

When the allegations first surfaced, he was dropped from the Indian squad.

He will never play cricket again.

Instead of being remembered as a fine batsman, Azharuddin will be known for tainting the gentleman's game.

Rashedul

From page 13 middle order contributed a patient 40 (75 balls). He hammered a quartet of fours and a sixer.

Chittagong in their chase, always struggled despite a sedate 42 from opener Azam Iqbal. Their defeat was never in question once superstar batsmen—Minhazul and Akram Khan—departed in quick succession.

Minhaz scored only 16 and Akram, struggling for runs, made 32 before becoming one of the five victims of Rashedul.

The victory raised Dhaka's tally to six points from three games. Chittagong, on the other hand, remained glued to their previous collection of 14 points.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the One-day match of Green Delta National Cricket League between Dhaka Division and Chittagong at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

DHAKA: Haron c Minhazul b Suja 20. Sadek lbw b Anis 16. Rashedul c Ehsanul b Sajal 67. Mazharul b Sabbir 10. Fahim c Sabbir b Sajal 7. Solih not out 31. Zakir c Enamul b Anis 8. Biplob c Sajal b Ehsanul 8. Ehsanul b Sabbir 8. Sajal b Ehsanul 0. Lablu not out 0. Extras (b-2, lb-6, nb-16, w-4) 30. Total (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 214. Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-81, 4-157, 5-163, 6-177, 7-198, 8-208, 9-212.

Bowler O M R W Anisur 10 1 24 3 Sajal 5 0 27 2 Suja 10 3 19 1 Enamul 10 2 44 0 Ehsanul 5 0 30 2 Sabbir 8 0 43 2 Minhazul 2 0 19 0

CHITTAGONG: Azam b Zakir 42. Nafiz c Bikash b Fahim 14. Ehsanul run out 6. Minhazul c Rashedul b Biplob 16. Akram c Lablu b Rashedul 32. Enamul b Rashedul 13. Jahangir c Biplob b Fahim 6. Sabbir c Lablu b Rashedul 4. Sajal b Rashedul 2. Anisur lbw b Rashedul 0. Suja not out 0. Extras (b-5, nb-14, w-14) 33. Total (All out in 44 overs) 169. Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-74, 3-86, 4-114, 5-127, 6-155, 7-164, 8-168, 9-168.

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Akram's future at stake



WASIM AKRAM

KARACHI, Dec 5 (Reuters): Wasim Akram has been warned by Pakistani cricket chiefs he could be dropped if his performance does not improve in the final Test with England starting on Thursday.

Akram barely survived the axe after his poor performance in the first two drawn Tests at Lahore and Faisalabad.

But the selectors and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Tauqir Zia warned he would need to perform in the Karachi series decider with England to guarantee his tour place for New Zealand next February.

Zia said on Tuesday: "We want performance. Gone are the days when players used to play on their past records. If we have to compete against the best, all the players will have to play their part equally and Wasim (Akram) is no exception."

"Wasim has to deliver the goods in the third test to press his future selection."

Hours before Zia warned Akram, PCB selection committee chairman Wasim Bari said the third Test side selected in the past few days was "strong because of his excellent record against England rather than on his current form."

Akram picked up 53 wickets on Pakistan's previous three tours to England in 1987, 1992 and 1996. But in the current series, he has managed just a couple, conceding 123 runs.

Akram, who celebrated his 100th Test at Faisalabad, has managed just 15 wickets at 24.80 in 100 Tests.

34.46 in his last seven Tests that include series losses to Australia, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

He missed two Tests against Sri Lanka and one against Australia. Ironically, he took 16 wickets at 18.37 against the West Indies in 1997 which was the last time he captained his country in a home series.

But skipper Moin Khan was confident that his strike bowler would be able to find his form and rhythm in the Karachi Test.

"The wickets (in the current series) have not been to his liking. He could be a bit rusty but as a captain I am confident that he has tried his best," Khan said.

The media has been calling for Akram's head and there is

no sympathy from former Test pacers as well.

"He (Wasim Akram) is a spent force. Instead of investing on him, it is time that the board should groom a youngster so that he is experienced by the time 2003 World Cup starts," former Test bowler Sarfraz Nawaz said.

But it is not only Akram who is giving headaches to the Pakistan camp.

Pakistan played four spinners at Lahore and three at Faisalabad only to find a determined and disciplined under-rated English side thwarted their hopes of victory.

Pakistan are now contemplating playing a rejected Waqar Younis in a three-pace attack at Karachi's National Stadium, where Pakistan have never lost a Test in 32 matches.

Younis, 29, has 308 wickets in 67 Tests and was also man-of-the-series in the last home series against Sri Lanka.

Saqibain Mushtaq, who has captured 12 wickets in the series, is expected to pair up with leg-spinner Danish Kaneria, who made his debut at Faisalabad and went wicketless in the second innings after bagging two in the first.

Pakistan coach and former captain Javed Miandad was optimistic his side would win the final Test and the series.

"Here 90 overs will be bowled in a day. We could have also won at Faisalabad but 30 odd overs were lost because of poor light."

Pakistan have won the last five series against England with the last defeat being 18 years ago in England.

Rajshahi sports

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 5: Baikun Sangha and Firoz Smriti Cricket Academy won their respective matches of the Sixth Jahangir Smriti cricket tournament today at Rajshahi Railway ground.

Baikun defeated Tiger Sporting Club by nine wickets in the first match.

Tiger Sporting scored 129 for eight in allotted 25 overs after winning the toss.

In reply, Baikun made 131 for one in 21.4 overs.

In the other match, Firoz Smriti beat Kazihata Sporting Club by 15 runs.

Winning the toss, Firoz Smriti batted first and made 163 for nine in stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Kazihata were bowled out for 147 in 25 overs.

HANDBALL: Serail Sporting Club moved into the final of the Rajshahi First Division handball league today at the Shaheed AHM Kamruzzaman Stadium.

Serail beat North Bengal Sporting Club 33-13 in the first semifinal.

FOOTBALL: Rajshahi moved into the semifinal of the Rajshahi inter-district football tournament today at Shaheed AHM Kamruzzaman Stadium.

Rajshahi beat Bogra 4-0. Serail will take on Pabna in tomorrow's quarterfinal.

Lord Cowdrey

From page 13 many runs against us but he was a very good batsman.

"He was such an easy looking player - you would never think he was going to make much of a mistake. Nobody's perfect, but he always looked in command."

"After he had finished playing he helped a lot with the administration of the game, and he upheld the high moral standards that existed in our days."

Close's former Somerset teammate Ian Botham said Cowdrey's death was a "sad loss to everybody."

"I was lucky enough to play against him and spend quite a bit of time with him socially on the golf course and when sharing a glass of wine at the end of the day," said the former England all-rounder.

"He is a sad loss to everybody and our condolences go to the Cowdrey family. I wish them well in their grief."

Botham told SkySports.com what a fine player Cowdrey was.

"He had this knack of playing what looked like a forward defensive stroke and it went for four through extra cover."

"He had exceptional timing with the ball, he was one of the guys who could have fitted into any era, like Bradman or Sobers."

"He would have been a bit like me I think. I don't think he would have enjoyed the training that we do nowadays, but he was still a very elegant player."

Lord Cowdrey's son Chris today flew home from Pakistan, where he has been commenting for talkSPORT radio on England's Pakistan tour.

"Obviously the whole family is deeply saddened by the news," he said. "It came as a great shock as he was recovering well from a recent stroke."

Chris asked that the family be left alone to have time to grieve for Lord Cowdrey.

Boris, Barbara part company

MUNICH, Dec 5: Germany's retired tennis star and former three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker has separated from his wife Barbara, his spokesman said Tuesday, reports AP.

"For some time, we've had to realise that our understanding of the priorities of our relationships was too different," Becker said in a statement released by his spokesman Robert Luebenhoff.

"We realised that it cannot go on like this," Becker's statement said. There was no question of divorce, the tennis star said.

Becker, 33, and his wife Barbara, the daughter of a German mother and American father, have a six-year-old son and a one-year-old daughter.

They were married in December 1993.

Saurav slays Zimbabwe



SAURAV TENDULKAR

AHMEDABAD, India, Dec 5: Indian captain Saurav Ganguly hit 144 off 152 balls as the hosts demolished Zimbabwe by 61 runs on Tuesday to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match one-day series, reports AFP.

The Indians piled up 306-5 from their stipulated 50 overs and then restricted Zimbabwe to 245-8 in a disappointing match before 40,000 home fans at the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad.

India, who also won the first one-dayer at Cuttack on Saturday, will bag the series if they win the third match at Jodhpur on Friday.

The game became a no-contest as Zimbabwe struggled to match India's run feast, led by left-hander Ganguly's 16th one-day century that included nine boundaries and six sixes.

Rahul Dravid chipped in with 62 in a second-wicket stand of 175 with Ganguly as the Indians ran amok after electing to take first strike.

Zimbabwe's innings revolved around identical knocks of 51 from Andy Flower and captain Health Streak which helped them recover from a disastrous start of 96 for four.

Andy Flower put on 45 for the fifth wicket with Guy Whittall, before both batsmen fell in the space of three overs to make it 147-6 in the 34th.

Dirk Viljoen and Streak prolonged the battle by adding 58 for the seventh, but the asking rate rose to more than 14 runs an over towards the end.

Left-arm spinner Sridharan Sriram, recalled in place of seamer Ajit Agarkar, claimed three for 47 from eight overs. Fellow spinner Sunil Joshi finished with 2-30.

David and Ganguly, who came together after master batsman Sachin Tendulkar was dismissed by Travis Friend for eight in the sixth over, hogged the spotlight until the 40th over.

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one-day international between India and Zimbabwe on Tuesday.

INDIA: Tendulkar c A. Flower b Friend 8. Ganguly c Mariller b Viljoen 144. Dravid run out 62. Yuvraj Singh c Saurav b Murphy 17. Joshi c Campbell b Olunga 22. Badani not out 17. Sodhi not out 4. Extras (b-5, lb-8, nb-3, w-16) 32. Total (For five wickets in 50 overs) 306. Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-197, 3-242, 4-255, 5-295.

Zimbabwe: Flower c Ganguly b Dravid 51. Prasad c Ganguly b Dravid 26. Karisibe b Zaheer 1. A. Flower c and b Sriram 51. G. Flower c Yuvraj b Joshi 8. Whittall c Prasad b Sriram 26. Viljoen c sub (Das) b Joshi 26. Streak not out 51. Friend c Zaheer b Sriram 8. Murphy not out 4. Extras (b5, lb11, w8, nb2) 36. Total (For eight wickets in 50 overs) 245. Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-35, 3-55, 4-96, 5-141, 6-147, 7-205, 8-220.

Bowler: O M R W Olunga 10 0 59 1 Friend 10 1 37 1 Streak 10 0 63 0 Murphy 8 1 51 1 Viljoen 7 0 39 1 Mariller 5 0 44 0

ZIMBABWE: Campbell c Dravid b Tendulkar 32. Mariller b Prasad 2. Karisibe b Zaheer 1. A. Flower c and b Sriram 51. G. Flower c Yuvraj b Joshi 8. Whittall c Prasad b Sriram 26. Viljoen c sub (Das) b Joshi 26. Streak not out 51. Friend c Zaheer b Sriram 8. Murphy not out 4. Extras (b5, lb11, w8, nb2) 36. Total (For eight wickets in 50 overs) 245. Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-35, 3-55, 4-96, 5-141, 6-147, 7-205, 8-220.

Bowler: O M R W Zaheer 6 0 24 1 Prasad 6 0 15 1 Tendulkar 10 0 53 1 Sodhi 8 1 31 0 Joshi 8 0 30 2 Sriram 8 0 47 3 Badani 2 0 15 0 Yuvraj 2 0 14 0 Result: India won by 61 runs. Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly.

SCOREBOARD: Scoreboard of the second match series 1-0 with leg-spinner Abdul Qadir taking a record 30 wickets.

"I am pleased the way the boys have performed and have been learning with each game," England captain Nasser Hussain said.

"We have played some good cricket on this tour, nearly forced Pakistan to follow-on in the first Test and took the lead in the second Test and did not deserve to lose."

"We still have one week to go in this tour and I hope the team will maintain the fight."

The tourists can hold their heads high even if they lose the final Test as they were expected to be routed by Pakistan's spinners.

If they exploit Pakistan's confusion and win here, Hussain's team will be the first English side to beat Pakistan in a Test series since 1982.

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