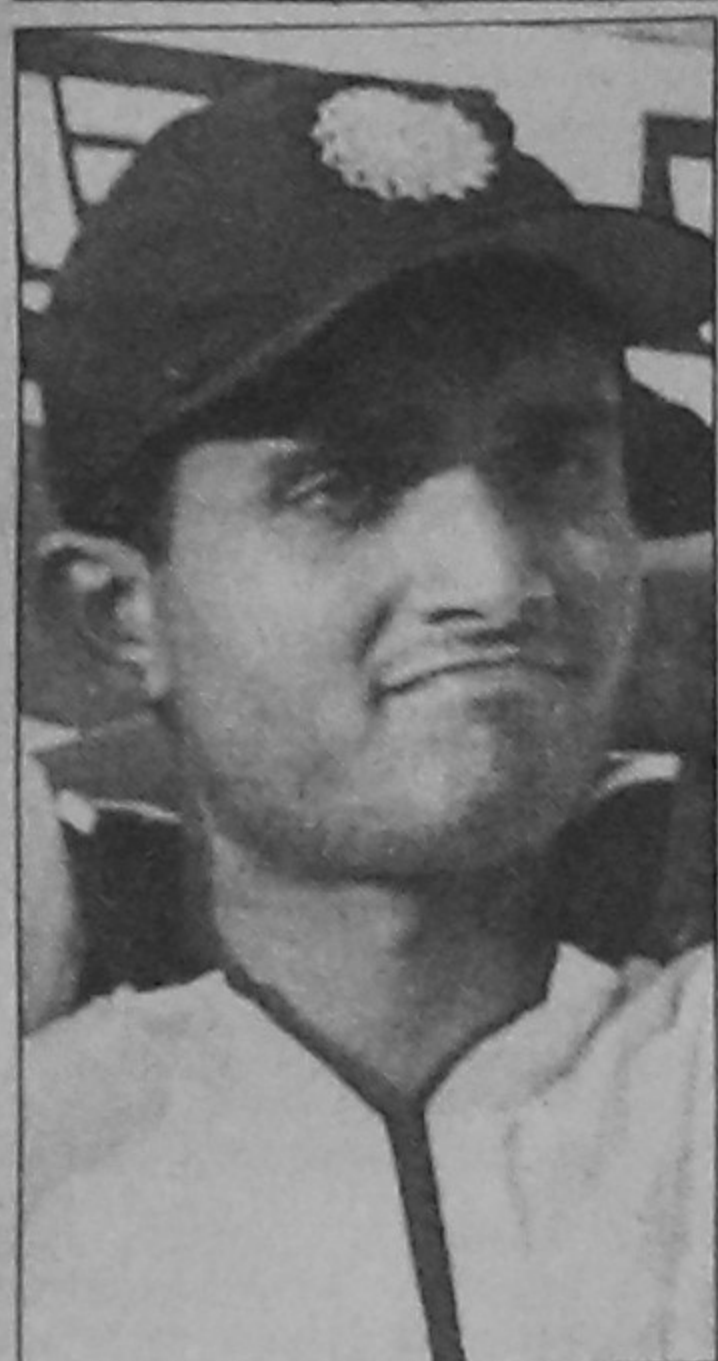


SPORTS TALK



Saurav Ganguly
(Indian cricket captain)

"I was really upset when we lost the third match at Jodhpur. So this win is particularly satisfying. I had been looking for a 5-0 margin, but 4-1 will not be bad."

After winning the one-day series against Zimbabwe.

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 140
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to *Star*
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 15, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who is IAAF's female athlete-of-the-year?
Marion Jones, Marlene Ottersley, Mary Jose, Perez
2. Who lifted Intercontinental Cup soccer title?
Boca Juniors, Real Madrid, Arsenal
3. Which country lifted the Fed Cup women's tennis title?
America, Russia, Spain
4. Who clinched ACC Trophy?
UAE, HK, Malaysia
5. Who became Premier Div football champions?
Mohammedan, Abahani, Mukaddha

Name:
Class: Roll No.:
School Address:
Phone: (If any)

Condon council to investigate CBI charge

MADRAS, India, Dec 12: World cricket's chief corruption investigator Paul Condon said here on Monday that the powerful body will probe Indian charges of match-fixing against national players in other countries, reports AFP.

Condon, the anti-corruption commissioner of the International Cricket Conference (ICC), said he hoped to make substantial progress before the next World Cup cricket tournament set for South Africa in 2003.

"Our task now is to follow up on allegations and gather evidence in areas over which the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has no jurisdiction," Condon told reporters in the southern Indian city.

India's CBI on November 1 said five Indian and nine foreign players, besides an Indian physiotherapist were involved in match-fixing and betting.

The foreign players named in the CBI report included ex-Test captain Alec Stewart (England), Brian Lara (West Indies), Haidee Cronje (South Africa), Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda De Silva (Sri Lanka), Martin Crowe (New Zealand) and Asif Iqbal and Salim Malik (Pakistan).

Australia's Mark Waugh and former Indian physiotherapist Ali Iqbal were also named in the CBI's bombshell report.

India's cricket board after an independent enquiry last month banned Azharuddin and former Test player Ajay Sharma for life, and handed down a five-year ban on star Ajay Jadeja and whistle-blower Manoj Prabhakar.

Condon is visiting India with Greg Mellick, special investigator of the Australian Cricket Board, New Zealand official Tim Gresson and Sri Lankan official Desmond Fernando. They arrived in India last week.

Earlier Monday, Condon held a closed-door meeting with Indian cricket board chief AC Mithal and other officials here.

"We are here to gather and share information with the Indian authorities to carry the investigation into this obnoxious practice forward," Condon said.

Tomorrow's train sets out

Sports Reporter

The youth development programme of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) which began on Monday in time different zones across the country, has created an ocean of enthusiasm among the youngsters.

The Bangladesh National Stadium, venue for Dhaka Zone's talent search programme for three different age groups, turned into a moving panorama as around three thousand boys turned up at the big bowl to display their skills with bat and ball.

Even the tiny tots parents couldn't conceal their emotions too. As the children struggled to come to terms with their oversized cricket gear, the proud fathers and mothers cheered them on from the sidelines waiting anxiously to know about their performances.

A mother of an eight-year-old kid tried to console her weeping son whose patience ran out while waiting for his turn to bowl. His disappointment turned into ecstasy when he was finally handed the ball. In a carnival-like atmosphere, some indeed proved their prowess - driving the ball like a pro, negotiating a rising

delivery with near perfection and trying to bowl fast, leg-spinners, googlies and what not.

More than 30 under-10 boys turned up to surprise the organisers, who actually expected would-be cricketers between ages ranging from 13 to 17 for trials.

They are amazing. Even some of them are well below eight years. But the way they hold the bat and take the ball before running up to the wicket, it's very interesting," said Sri Lankan coach Carlton Bernardus who is in charge of the programme for the Dhaka zone.

"Now we need to create a new age group for the under-10 boys. Because they will get themselves injured if they train with under-13s," added Carlton, one of the four Lankan experts appointed by the BCB for its development programme. Six local coaches including Nazmul Abedin Khan and Wahidul Karim are assisting Carlton in the clinic which will run up to December 20 for the first phase.

However, the U-10 boys need only to play and enjoy. It's not time for them to learn about techniques. That's why we should not put them along with boys of under-13 group be-

cause some lessons would be imparted to their immediate seniors.

"We had around twelve hundred boys in each of the U-13 and U-17 groups. But the number was nearly half in the under-15 group," revealed Carlton to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

"We started our programme with the screening of players. The number of participants in under-13 and under-15 groups have already been reduced to 130 and 115 respectively.

"However, the screening of U-17 group has not yet been completed. We have a plan to cut the number to 40 for each of the senior groups within the next two days. Each group will form two teams for different national age group competitions," he said.

The competitions are expected to start from the 10th of next month. Then a final selection of unspecified players will be made after observing the performances of the boys in the countrywide tournaments. They will be drafted in a long-term coaching programme.

Milo and Siemens have joined hands with the Board to fund its development programmes.



Scene from yesterday's Victory Day Hockey tournament match between Bangladesh Army's Red and Green teams at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium. - Star photo

Gilchrist given the reins

MELBOURNE, Dec 12: Wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist was named on Tuesday as Australia's 41st test captain for the third cricket Test against the West Indies in Adelaide starting on Friday, reports AFP.

Gilchrist was promoted by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) to take over from the injured Steve Waugh with batsman Ricky Ponting assuming Gilchrist's vice-captaincy role.

ACB chairman Denis Rogers Tuesday stressed that Gilchrist's confirmation as Australia's 41st Test captain should not be seen as anointing the West Australian as permanent captain in waiting.

"Nothing more should be read into it than just what the board has done," Rogers said.

Gilchrist spoke of the "huge responsibilities and huge expectations" of the job but asked that his suitability for the permanent job not be judged on how the team performs in Adelaide from Friday.

"It will give me a chance to learn a bit about it, see how to go about it and if I can handle it, and the ACB and the selec-

FACTFILE

MELBOURNE, Dec 12 (Reuters): Factfile on Adam Gilchrist who was named on Tuesday as Australia's 41st test cricket captain to replace the injured Steve Waugh.

Full name: Adam Craig Gilchrist

Test debut: Versus Pakistan, Brisbane, 1999

Tests: 11

Runs: 727

Centuries: 1

Average: 55.92

Highest score: 149 not out

Catches: 48 (four stumpings)

First class career (New South Wales and Western Australia):

Matches: 88

Runs: 586

Centuries: 12

Average: 42.07

Highest score: 203 no

Catches: 374 (18 stumpings)

One-day internationals: 99

Runs: 3,102

Centuries: 6

Average: 33.35

Highest score: 154

Strike-rate: 89.11 runs per 100 balls

Catches: 130 (19 stumpings)

tors will have a great opportunity to see how I handle it and cope with all the responsibility," Gilchrist said.

"Whether it's one game or two games who knows, but with things like this you need time to tell how a person can perform in a certain position."

Some regard the combined burden of captaincy, wicket-keeping and batting to be too much for a single player at Test level, but Gilchrist said his occasional experience as Western Australian captain did not bear that out.

"I haven't found that it (captaincy) has interrupted my personal game in any way," Gilchrist said.

"I can't promise or guarantee that'll be the case in Test cricket."

Gilchrist is not so ambitious as to use the Adelaide Test to make radical changes to Australia's game, promising no significant tactical deviation to the Waugh path.

"There's several other guys that could easily have done the captaincy job and done it very well so we'll both be utilising that experience throughout the game," Gilchrist said.

See page 15



An AFP file photo shows Australian wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist (R) and Justin Langer celebrate after they beat Pakistan in the second Test of the three-match series last year. Gilchrist was named captain for the third Test against the West Indies yesterday.

BFF deals with 'truant five' today

Sports Reporter

The five players that refused to join the national camp as part of Bangladesh's preparations for the 2002 World Cup qualifiers in Saudi Arabia next February, are likely to face serious disciplinary action by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Although the quintet under scrutiny - Abdul Kayum Senit, Biplob Bhattacharya, Tushar and Selim - attributed their absence to various reasons, the BFF felt that all their excuses, which they termed as failure to comply with the national interest, were lame.

Abdullah and national reserves custodian Biplob cited his exams while the other truant ascribed family commitments for being unable to attend training which is now on at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Prothisthan (BKSP) in Savar.

The camp started on Sunday under the tutelage of the new Hungarian coach George Cota.

The technical committee has already submitted its recommendations to the BFF. The body advocated suspending them from all domestic competitions for an indefinite period.

The BFF will discuss the issue during its meeting today. Besides, composition of a team that will take part in the Rovers Cup in Bombay is also going to be finalised in the meeting. The invitational tournament kicks off in the Indian film capital on December 20.

Army Red, Navy to meet in V-Day hockey final

Bangladesh Army Red team booked the final berth in the Shaheed Salimullah Cup Victory Day hockey tournament crushing their Green counterparts 8-0 at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

They will play the final against Bangladesh Navy on Friday at 2.30 pm.

The winners led the first half 6-0.

Siraj struck six times to earn a double hat-trick. He struck in the 10th, 20th, 28th, 33rd, 47th and 65th minutes all field goals.

Earlier, Shahjahan opened the account for the Red team in the 8th minute while Humayun scored the remaining goal in the 30th.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Hockey Federation trainees' team also played Barick Samaj 8-0 at the same venue in the afternoon.

Prime Bank Rating Chess

Sports Reporter

Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplit of Titus Club earned a solo lead in the Prime Bank International rating chess tournament after defeating Nazrana Khan Iva of Dhaka University in the sixth round yesterday.

With his fifth win in six outings at the NSC chess room, Ruhul, the younger brother of former national woman champion Syed Shabana Parveen Nipa, earned highest 5.5 points.

On the other hand, the defeat pushed Iva down to the crowded third position occupied by Khondker Annuul Islam, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed and Kajal Mahmud with each having collected 4.5 points.

Shawkat Hossain Pallab of Ansars is in the second spot with five points.

Meanwhile, at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi, six girls - Zakia Sultana, Iva, Afroza Khanum Bably, Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury, Noorjahan Haque Chowdhury and Anvaya Lodhi - were leading the Open Women Chess Tournament race collecting two points each on completion of the second round on Tuesday.

Two India cricketers face penalty

MUMBAI, Dec 12 (Internet report): India's convincing victory in the fourth one-day international against Zimbabwe may have come at a cost. Saurav Ganguly and Vijay Dahiya have been cited by the match referee, Barry Jarman.

Between them, the two players stand accused of transgressing three clauses relating to player conduct, bringing the game into disrepute, showing dissent, and intimidating the umpire.

Ganguly's appeals were often protracted and excessive. On occasion, they were accompanied by a jumping routine, which was mockingly imitated by Brian Strang when Zimbabwe bowled - to the amusement of the umpire and the irritation of Ganguly, who was involved with an on-field altercation with Strang.

England fly home high

KARACHI, Dec 12: England cricketers left Pakistan on Tuesday vowing to move further up the Test cricket ladder after a historic series win, reports AFP.

"We were in Pakistan to show that we want to rise up the Test cricket ladder and this win caps a good year for English cricket," captain Nasser Hussain said before the departure.

His team, which started the tour as underdogs, beat Pakistan by six wickets in the last

minutes of the third and final Test at the National Stadium in Karachi on Monday, clinching the series 1-0.

The tourists became the first English side to win a Test in Pakistan since Ted Dexter's side won 1961-62. They also ruined Pakistan's 46-year unbeaten record in Karachi.

"We knew it's a great challenge for us when we arrived here but kept faith and kept our spirits high and achieved something very special for English cricket," Hussain said.

England's last away series win was a 2-0 victory against New Zealand, was back in 1996-97.

But with the tutelage of Duncan Fletcher, a former Zimbabwean coach, they have steamrolled Zimbabwe 1-0 and then achieved their first win over the West Indians for 31 years with a 3-1 win in five Tests.

"This series win in Pakistan is the icing on the cake and everyone associated with game should look back on it and be very proud of it," Hussain said.

Michael Atherton, with 341 runs in the series, was dominant with the bat, followed by Graham Thorpe who scored 118 in the first Test, 79 in the second and a match-winning 64 not out in the last.

All-rounder Craig White proved his ability with innings of 93, 45 and 31, as well as a useful bag of wickets. Left arm spinner Ashley Giles also boosted his reputation with 17 wickets in the series.

"Pakistan lost the series due to bad planning while England showed they are a united and fast improving side," former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam said.

"It is something extra special achieved by a side which started off as underdogs. I think that eased the pressure on them and put extra pressure on Pakistan," Alam said.

Pakistan lost its fourth home series in succession.

The combinations with which Pakistan played were unbalanced," Alam said.

Pakistan never tried their most successful batsman of recent years, Ejaz Ahmed, and kept pacer Waqar Younis out in the first two Tests.

The home side started the series on the wrong foot when seven of its top players staged a revolt against coach Javed Miandad. The crisis was quickly resolved but it affected team spirit.

ACE pacer Wasim Akram was criticised for lack of form but his supporters pointed out that he was playing on wickets that did not suit his bowling. Akram's controversial withdrawal from the final Test due to injury was interpreted as a broad hint that all was not well in the Pakistani camp.

Pakistan officials are now hoping Akram and pacer Shoaib Akhtar are fully fit for the tour to New Zealand in February and then to England in May.



England cricket captain Nasser Hussain shows off the Pepsi trophy on his team's arrival at the Heathrow Airport yesterday. - AFP photo

Media grills Moin's men

KARACHI, Dec 12 (Reuters): Pakistan cricketers came under fire from local media on Tuesday following England's dramatic third and final Test victory.

England dazzled in fading light to make history. The News newspaper headlined with reference to England's victory in virtual darkness that gave them their first series win in Pakistan in 38 years.

The Dawn newspaper, which carried pictures of Nasser Hussain and Moin Khan displaying contrasting face expressions, said "Pakistan plunged to depths of despair under darkness."

It was Pakistan's first defeat in 44 years at Karachi's National Stadium. They had won half the Tests and drawn the others.

The local Urdu-language newspapers were full of hard-hitting stories, lambasting the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for preparing dull pitches and demanding the immediate sacking of some senior players ahead of the 2003 World Cup.

"If Pakistan has to lose with these sloppy seniors, why not lose with the youngsters? At least Pakistan will get some future players," The Express said.

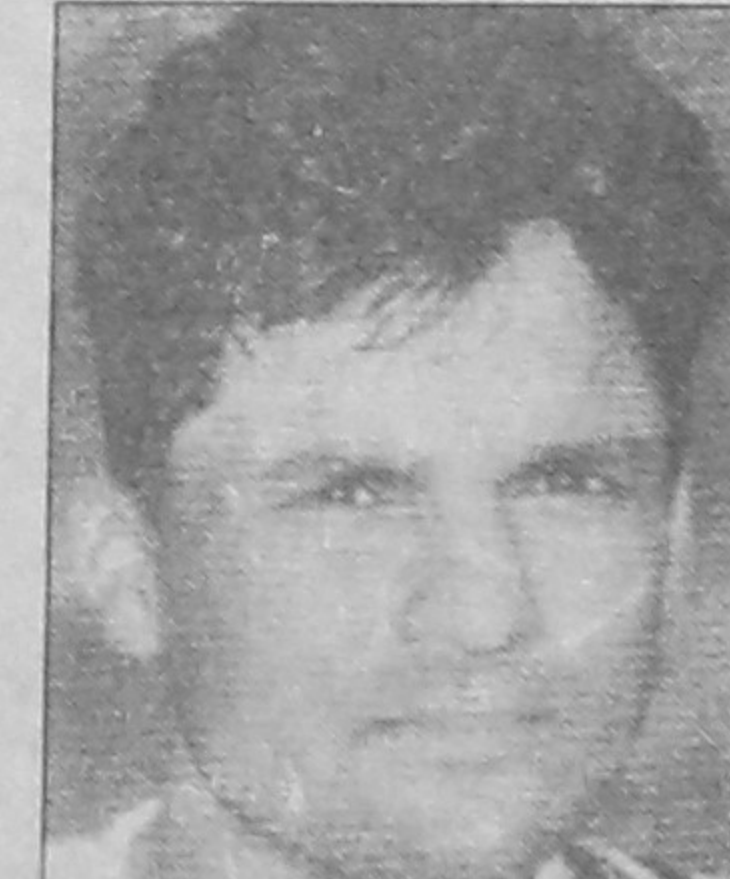
The Dawn said England deserved to win because they were more focused and determined

than the Pakistanis, who it said were only engaged in a war of words.

"There can't be any two opinions that England were a much better team than Pakistan who did nothing but try to play the game of words."

The tourists were composed, united, ambitious and determined to continue the good work they had started back home five months ago by defeating the West Indies 3-1 for the first time in 31 years.

Taking a shot at the home team, the newspaper said: "Pakistan batting proved disgusting, their bowling pathetic, fielding horrendous and Moin



MOIN KHAN

Khan's captaincy and wicket-keeping far from satisfactory."

... Pakistan are left to carry out soul-searching and probably an overhauling because some of the players just don't deserve to be in the trade."

While the Dawn played down the fading light issue, The News was sympathetic saying Pakistan have every reason to feel unlucky.

Pakistan might have every reason to think that (umpire Steve) Bucknor was unfair to them in allowing the batsmen to continue the chase in conditions under which normally even a first-class game cannot be held," the paper said.

The two leading newspapers of the country carried stories of Pakistan coach Javed Miandad engaging in a verbal confrontation with the umpires (Bucknor and Nazir Junior) and match referee (Ranjan Madugalle) after the conclusion of the match.

According to the papers, Miandad would lodge an official complaint against the attitude of the two umpires.

The conditions were not equal to both the teams," Miandad told the Dawn, which recalled the incident dating 14 years back when Viv Richards led his team off the field complaining of poor light in a one-day match at Gujranwala with Miandad and Salim Yousuf batting.

The match was later awarded to West Indies.

Dujon foresees a comeback Australia A-WI tour tie drawn

HOBART, Dec 12: West Indies assistant coach Jeffrey Dujon believes Brian Lara's brilliant 231 against Australia A is a turning point for the beleaguered tourists, star batsman, reports AFP.

With the potentially decisive third Test starting in Adelaide on Friday, Dujon believes with Lara back in form, the confidence of the entire team has picked up.

"It's right, then the rebirth of Lara is the best source of motivation to arise from the match against Australia A which drifted to an inevitable draw here Tuesday."

Lara came into the match with Test scores of 0, 4, 0 and 17, a hamstring injury that wouldn't go away and the West Indies management not even sure if he would be able to play in Adelaide.

Now he goes into the third Test with the dodgy hamstring picked up during his big innings, but also with, according to Dujon, a different attitude.

"You could see his confidence coming back after the first night (when he was 62 not out) and you could almost predict what would happen next day," Dujon said.

Dujon hinted that Lara's problems were partly in the mind.

The better you start to feel mentally, the less your mind focuses on negative things," he said.

"With the level of confidence

he now has, mentally he'll be more prepared to cope with his injuries."

"I'm not worried about him. It will be the first time he's really looking forward to going out there."

Dujon said Lara's return to form, plus the century by former wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs, has given the team new heart.

"The fielding today, the body language and the better line and length bowling showed there was a confidence lift," he said. "It augurs well for Adelaide."

Each Roger Harper made a similar point. The 365-run sixth wicket stand by Lara and Jacobs, which started with the West Indies reeling at 80 for