

Moin & co fined for slow play

REUTERS, Wellington
Pakistan captain Moin Khan was still smiling on Thursday night despite his side being fined for slow play in their defeat to New Zealand on Tuesday in the second game of the five-match one-day series.

He was able to shrug off the 25 per cent match-fee fine because his team bounced back from their six-wicket loss against New Zealand in Napier to record a 28-run win in Wellington on Thursday and take a 2-1 lead in the series.

Moin said the team, which contained three changes from the side that lost on Tuesday including the loss of Shoaib Akhtar through injury, provided a good combination.

"It was a good combined effort today," he said. "Everybody did their bit today, but I was particularly pleased Yousuf Youhana got among the runs. He helped provide a good last 10 overs and he made a big difference."

Kiwi umpires' head stands by Shoaib

REUTERS, Wellington
New Zealand umpires' chief Brian Aldridge has backed Akhtar's controversial bowling action, saying both umpires and the match referee for the first one-day international in Auckland had not reported any problems with the fast bowler's action.

Aldridge told Wellington's Dominion newspaper that none of the officials for the first one-day international in Auckland on Sunday had reported any problems with the fast bowler's action.

Akhtar, who took five for 19 in the match won by Pakistan by six wickets, had come under scrutiny by both major television networks who analysed his action in news bulletins.

The bowler was banned after a Test in Perth, Australia last year, but the ban was subsequently overturned by the International Cricket Council. The New Zealand tour is the first occasion where his action has been seen since then, because he has been injured since April 23, 2000.

The Dominion quoted Aldridge as saying: "I was in Auckland for the game and I spoke to the umpires afterwards. I didn't talk to them about Akhtar. I have confidence in them to report anything untoward and believe it is important not to put the umpires under extra pressure by saying anything

Kumar

FROM PAGE 13
on the 7th, 9th. But the best was to come three birdies on the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th. But couldn't capitalise on the par-five 7th and 17th.

Harmeet also had a quite few birdies on the 3rd, 8th, 9th, 11th, 14th and 15th. But couldn't capitalise on the par-five 7th and 17th.

- SCORES AFTER 36 HOLES
134-Vijay Kumar
136-Harmeet Kahlon
Mukesh Kumar
138-U.S. Mundy
Vishal Singh
139-Vinod Kumar
143-Indrajit Bhalotia
Chand Mia
AMATEURS
144-Mohd Milon
152-Raiyan Rab

Another blow

FROM PAGE 13
Alexander Volzhin of Russia yesterday. With 2.5 points, the FIDE Master, who beat GM Barsov on Wednesday, has occupied the second spot along with IM Vakhidov Tahir. Despite the draw, Valzhin however maintained lead with 3 points.

Meanwhile, Niaz Murshed continued to disappoint his admirers when the lone GM of the country lost to IM Sandipan Chandra.

In the day's other matches, GM Jaan Ehlvest and GM Nigel Davies drew with GM Normunds Miezis and IM Vakhidov Tahir respectively.

The 5th round games will start today (Friday) at the same venue at 2:30 pm. The matches are: Prakash v Rakib, Barsov v Zia, Volzhin v Reefat, Ehlvest v Rajib, Sandipan v Miezis, Tahir v Niaz and Raisis v Davies.

King's

FROM PAGE 13
King Commission. King, meanwhile, said he had asked for permission to end his commission of inquiry.

In a statement he said this was prompted by the threat of legal action by Cronje. "I have now formally approached the president to close the commission at my request, subject to the compilation of my final report," King said.

Pakistan retake lead

Cricket

AGENCIES, Wellington

Wasim Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq each grabbed three wickets as Pakistan beat New Zealand in the third one-day international here on Thursday to go 2-1 up in the five-match series.

They skittled New Zealand for 215 with ten balls remaining to win by 28 runs after topping their previous batting effort by more than 100 runs in scoring 243 for nine in their 50 overs.

An opening burst by Akram and fellow pacer Waqar Younis quickly reduced New Zealand to 18 for three in reply, all but guaranteeing victory.

Wasim trapped both openers, New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming (1) and Nathan Astle (10), leg before and Waqar had Roger Twose caught behind, also for a single.

However, their celebrations were dampened by the news they would be fined 25 per cent of their match fee for taking too long to bowl their allotted overs.

Off-spinner Saqlain claimed man-of-the-match honours with a tidy three for 26 off nine overs.

"It's been a concern all the way through, top order batting and an inability to cope with a world class bowling attack," New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said afterwards.

The game looked one-sided early in the chase once the top three Kiwi batsmen were out.

But Craig McMillan and Lou Vincent confidently mixed deft placement with aggressive running to add 50 off 54 balls, which Pakistan assisted through some average fielding and some wayward bowling.

Vincent was given a life on 26 when Yousuf Youhana dropped a comfortable catch at deep square leg.

Soon after posting the pair's 100 partnership off 127 balls in the 27th over, Vincent was given out by the third umpire, stumped for 34 by wicketkeeper Moin Khan off Saqlain.

McMillan soldiered on with help from Chris Harris, who made his 11th one-day 50 off 72 balls. He celebrated reaching the mark when he pulled Younis over square leg for six.

But on 64 from 83 balls, McMillan chipped Abdur Razaq to deep square leg. Worse came two balls later when Razaq struck again to remove Harris before wicket for 11.

When Vettori was bowled by Azhar Mahmood, New Zealand needed 77 runs off the last 10 overs with just three wickets left.

Only a late Adam Parore innings of 34 not out off 39 balls prolonged the outcome.

Pakistan coped ably without injured pacer Shoaib Akhtar, with replacement Azhar Mahmood taking one for 33 off 10 in his 100th match.

Earlier, Pakistan staged a big turnaround from their innings of 135 in Napier on Tuesday, thanks to a solid 57 from opener Saeed Anwar and 47 off 47 balls from

Youhana. Fleming won his second consecutive toss and again sent Pakistan in, but the visitors got off to a solid start to be 123 for two after 30 overs.

Nineteen-year-old Imran Nazir, one of three changes to the side, made a flying start with 32 off 23 balls including a big six off Chris Martin over mid wicket.

He and Anwar put on 45 for the first wicket then another newcomer Salim Elahi helped Anwar add another 60 runs.

Anwar, who was dropped on 22 by Astle, reached his 35th one-day 50 off 81 balls before being run out for 57 by some brilliant Vincent fielding.

Moin c Astle b Tuffey 15
Akram c Vettori b Franklin 9
Mahmood b Tuffey 17
Younis not out 5
Saqlain not out 1
Extras: (w-6, nb-2, lb-2) 10
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs) 243

Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-105, 3-132, 4-152, 5-172, 6-202, 7-216, 8-229, 9-242

Bowler O M R W
Tuffey 9 0 52 3
Martin 7 1 30 0
Franklin 8 0 61 3
Vettori 10 1 43 0
Harris 10 0 31 2
Astle 6 0 24 0

NEW ZEALAND
Fleming lbw b Akram 1
Astle lbw b Akram 10
Twose c Moin b Waqar 1



Pakistani all-rounder Azhar Mahmood makes an unsuccessful appeal for a leg before decision against James Franklin during the third one-day international in Wellington yesterday.

When Razaq was out it was 172 for five in the 41st over, but Youhana and some late blows from the tailenders helped Pakistan add 80 off the last 10 overs and 51 off the last five.

Among the New Zealand bowlers Daryl Tuffey took three for 52 off 10, while James Franklin took three for 61 off eight and Chris Harris snapped up two for 34 off 10.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the third one-day international between New Zealand and Pakistan on Thursday. Includes batting and bowling statistics for both teams.

Int'l Jr tennis Sania clinches girls' title

UNB, Dhaka

Top seed Sania Mirza of India clinched the girls' singles title of the 15th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis championship beating Chen Yi of Chinese Taipei 7-5, 6-3 in the final at the Ramna National Tennis complex yesterday.

Fourteen-year-old Sania, a student of class nine of Hyderabad Nar School took 80 minutes to win her second career singles title on foreign soil. She won her maiden title in Pakistan last year.

Chinese Taipei pair Hsieh Wang Cheng and WU Yi Wang won the boys' doubles title defeating Amanjot Singh (India) and Chan Kai Lung (Taipei) 7-6, 6-3 in the final, also held in the afternoon.

Finals of the boys' singles and girls' doubles will be held today afternoon, the last day of the week-long ITF approved world ranking meet.

Army Chief and the newly elected president of Bangladesh Olympic Association Lt Gen Hilarun-Ar-Rashid is expected to witness the finals as chief guest and distribute the prizes.

Sunil Kumar of India will meet Chan Kai Lung of Chinese Taipei in the boys' singles final at 3 pm.

In the girls' doubles, So Jung Kim (Korea) and Wang Ting Wen (Taipei) will encounter Thai pair Hirenratyia and V Thassa at 2:30 pm.

Generous Harris

INTERNET, Napier

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Harris was shocked to discover that, after his exploits against Pakistan at Napier on Tuesday, he had surpassed Sir Richard Hadlee's mantle as his country's greatest wicket-taker.

Harris passed Hadlee's record of 158 one-day wickets when he dismissed Shahid Afridi during the home team's six-wicket win over Pakistan at McLean Park.

And for a while there was even a glimmer of hope that he would go close to Ewen Chatfield's most economical figures of one for eight off 10 overs. But while he just missed out, Harris' final figures of one for 12 equalled the fourth most economical figures for New Zealand.

After taking some punishment from the Pakistan batsmen in the first match of the series, Harris was looking for improvement in Napier, but his start was hardly promising.

"After the first two balls when I got smacked over long off I thought 'here we go again,'" Harris told New Zealand Press Association.

"But I didn't drop short today and I think the pressure the guys applied earlier made it a lot easier job for me."

"You don't ever think you're going to go for 12 off 10. You aim to go for 30 and if you're under it's fairly pleasing."

It was Harris' 175th one-day international, while it took Hadlee 115 matches to reach the mark. Hadlee, the current convener of selectors, was on hand to offer congratulations afterwards.

"I didn't think about it a lot but it's a great honour to go past Sir Richard," Harris said.

"Hopefully there's a few more to come."

Both coaches content

REUTERS, Galle

Sri Lankan coach Dav Whatmore promised England more of the same after his side scored 221 for two on the opening day of the first Test on Thursday.

"The big plus for us is that we only lost two wickets," he said.

"We should forge ahead tomorrow and build up a sizeable total. We have eight wickets in the dressing room and two batsmen with their eye in."

Whatmore, however, said he had been impressed with England's ability to keep the run-rate down and their refusal to buckle in the hot and humid conditions.

"We were made to work hard," he said. "I have seen sides come here and lose it completely. The line goes, the length goes. England team did very well."

However, England coach Duncan Fletcher praised his team for their discipline after a tough opening day but warned them to keep their nerve.

Fletcher said Nasser Hussain's men had done well to restrict the home side to 221 for two despite sweltering conditions and little luck.

"Our bowlers had to keep their discipline and they did a good job," he said. "We always knew it was going to be hard."

"It was probably one of the hottest, most humid days we have played in and it's a flat wicket not offering much to the bowlers."

McGrath can't stop 'em

Cricket

AFP, Bombay

Fast bowler Glenn McGrath made an impressive start on the Indian tour on Thursday, bagging 3-46 before Australia let Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai off the hook in the three-day match here.

The hosts, electing to take first strike, recovered from 57-4 before lunch to post a creditable 328 for nine by stumps on the first day at the Brabourne Stadium here.

To add to the tourists' woes, Mark Waugh received five stitches on his left hand when he split the webbing while fielding in his first match on the tour.

Team officials, however, said the injury was not serious and Waugh will be able to bat in the match.

McGrath, who missed his team's previous tour three years ago, made light of a slow wicket to grab two wickets before lunch in his first outing on the current trip.

McGrath had former Indian opener Wasim Jaffer caught at second slip by Mark Waugh for 16 and then removed another Test batsman Vinod Kambli for no score to make early dents in Mumbai's batting.

Home captain Sameer Dighe made up for the absence of star batsman Sachin Tendulkar, to rescue Mumbai with a sparkling knock of 84.

Tendulkar was asked by the Indian team management to skip the game to rest a strained calf muscle.

Dighe added 117 for the sixth wicket with Sairaj Bahutule (51) and 63 for the eighth with Ramesh Power as the Australians sweated

in the heat to make an impression on the unresponsive wicket.

Dighe and Bahutule batted through most of the afternoon session before part-timer Ricky Ponting set Mumbai back with two wickets in successive overs after tea.

Ponting trapped left-hander Bahutule leg-before and then had Robin Morris caught behind to make Mumbai 202-7, but Dighe

More than 5,000 fans turned up to watch the Australians in their last practice match before the first of three Tests opens at the nearby Wankhede stadium here next Tuesday.

Steve Waugh's men, with a record 15 consecutive Test wins in the bag, are looking to win Australia's first series on Indian soil since the 1969-70 season.

SCOREBOARD

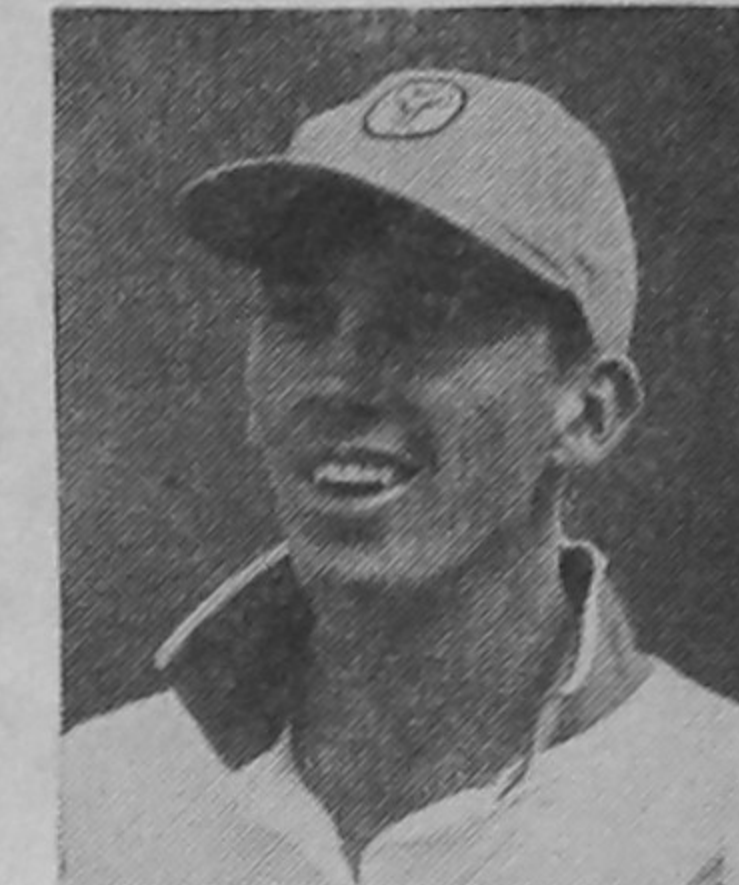
First day's scoreboard in the three-day tour match between Australia and Mumbai at the Brabourne Stadium on Thursday:

MUMBAI: First innings
Manc b Hayden 19
Jaffer c M Waugh b McGrath 16
Paranjpye c Fleming b Warne 27
Mazumdar lbw b Miller 1
Kambli c Ponting b McGrath 0
Dighe c Gilchrist b Fleming 84
Bahutule lbw b Ponting 51
Morris c Gilchrist b Ponting 2
Power not out 65
Mhambrey c Fleming b McGrath 19
Kulkarni not out 14
Extras: (b-5, lb-16, nb-9) 30
Total: (For 9 wks in 94 overs) 328

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-52, 3-57, 4-57, 5-82, 6-199, 7-202, 8-265, 9-296

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 19 6 46 3
Fleming 19 4 56 1
Miller 21 6 64 1
Hayden 7 0 37 1
Warne 19 4 81 1
M Waugh 3 0 13 0
Ponting 6 0 10 2

AUSTRALIA (from): Steve Waugh (captain), Mark Waugh, Michael Slater, Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting, Justin Langer, Damien Martyn, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Colin Miller, Glenn McGrath, Damien Fleming.



McGrath... 3/46

and Power hit out to add valuable runs for their team.

Power, a compact right-hander, struck 13 boundaries before returning unbeaten at close on 65 off 67 balls.

McGrath, who conceded just 19 runs from 14 overs in his first two spells, returned with the second new ball after tea to remove Paras Mhambrey.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne, also playing his first match on the tour, went for 1-57 in his first spell of 14 overs before finishing the day with one for 81.

Pierce sent packing

Tennis

AFP, Dubai

French Open champion Mary Pierce's poor run of form continued here on Thursday as she crashed out of the Dubai Tennis Championships on Thursday, losing 6-3, 6-1 in just 53 minutes to Australian qualifier Rachel McQuillan.

Still trying to find her form after a shoulder injury forced her to miss several months at the end of last year, the second seeded Frenchwoman looked sluggish and only occasionally showed a glimpse of the form that took her to the French Open title last year.

The 26-year-old was so outplayed by 11th ranked McQuillan that she lost eight consecutive games after recovering a break to level at 3-3 in the opening set, and it was not until she was down 5-0 that Pierce held a game point again on her serve in the second set.

"I feel a little bit tired I guess. I feel like I haven't stopped all year," she said.

"It's been a lot of travelling and a lot of playing, but no excuses

really. Rachel played a great match. She didn't miss a lot of shots and she served really well. It was really hard to read," she added.

McQuillan showed superb racket control and followed up some excellent serving by often coming to the net to execute some fine volleys.

It was a surprising performance from a player who failed to win a single match on the WTA tour last year, and McQuillan was as shocked as anyone at her form this week.

"I certainly surprised myself," said the 29-year-old Australian. "If you had told me that I'd be here I'd have laughed."

"I would have thought it was a joke, a sick joke. I'm so happy and it's something I've worked hard for my whole career."

"Girls like Mary can do this every week, and I'm just happy to do it one week in my whole life. I'm buzzing," she added.

McQuillan, who considered retiring when her ranking fell to 220 after being as high as 28, decided to keep playing through the crisis.

She enjoyed considerable success on the Australian satellite circuit at the end of last year to get herself back into a winning frame of mind, but still expected nothing of herself in Dubai.

"Every match this week I've been going into it not expecting anything," she admitted.

"I've just been playing every point that comes. But I've been playing really well, the best tennis I've played for a long time, and I'm playing with no fear and I'm not afraid to have a go."

"I knew against Mary I had to lift my game and serve very well, and just try and get the ball away from her whenever I could, and it worked very well."

"I'd have been very disappointed if I had gone out there and just poked around a bit and been just nervous with the whole occasion, which sometimes happens to me. I was very happy with the way I played out there," she added.

Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn also advanced to the semi-finals, the seventh seeded Thai ending the run of 16-year-old Russian Lina Krasnourtskaya 7-6(7-1) 6-3.



Anjan Chowdhury of sponsors Square Toiletries replying to a query by a reporter during a press conference organised in connection with the National Badminton Championship yesterday.

Nat'l badminton from tomorrow

UNB, Pabna

The 23rd National Badminton championship begins here on Saturday.

Pabna District Sports Association and Bangladesh Badminton Federation are jointly organising the five-day meet, sponsored by Square Toiletries.

Some 170 players from 35 districts and organisations will be vying for five titles - men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 28 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a key: Y V F H S W K X D B H V X W I K W L L B R F B S I Y H D Z H K Z Z B T E X F Y R Z D K T Y H E K X H S K L.

CRYPTOQUIP
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WE TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS, OUR DAD GENERALLY LIKED TO SAY, "THANKS A WATT!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals R