

Pakistan bring Pybus back

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Tuesday confirmed South African-based Englishman Richard Pybus as their head coach for the tour of England starting later this week.

"We have finally engaged Richard Pybus as head coach for the tour of England," PCB chairman Lieutenant General Ishaq Zaidi told this news agency.

Pakistan's hunt for a new coach took nearly a month after they dumped former coach Javed Miandad for a poor showing in last month's New Zealand tour.

"Pybus' contract could be extended after the England tour but we want to see how he performs and he too wants to have short tour after what happened with him last time," he said.

"They approached me at the beginning of last week," said Pybus. "I've had a good chat with (captain) Waqar (Younis) on the phone and he is pretty upbeat and confident about the way things are."

Pybus was sacked mid way through his contract in 1999 after Pakistan lost to Australia 3-0.

He was initially hired as trainer for Pakistan team in the 1999 World Cup.

Pybus, 40, had played minor counties for Norfolk in England and is currently coaching South African state side Border.

Pakistan has also engaged Australian Daryl Foster as bowling coach cum consultant for the England tour.

ACB ropes in new faces

AFP, Sydney

Queensland paceman Ashley Noffke was the surprise recipient when the Australian Cricket Board announced its list of contracted players for the 2001-02 season Tuesday.

The 24-year-old Noffke was among 25 players awarded the contracts along with other additions paceman Nathan Bracken and batsman Martin Love.

While they were celebrating their national recognition, Andrew Bichel, Michael Kasprovicz, Matthew Elliott and Michael Hussey were not offered new deals.

New South Wales quick Bracken was handed the contract after making his international debut last season.

Noffke has played just six first-class matches but his man-of-the-match performance in the Sheffield Shield cricket final in March helped him bump out teammates Kasprovicz and Bichel.

Noffke, who has been likened to Australian spearhead Glenn McGrath for his bowling rhythm and build, had even figured in discussions for this year's Ashes tour to England.



WILL IT SEE LIGHT? A computer-generated image of the would-be Wembley Stadium.

Wembley heading for doom?

AFP, London

English football's governing body the Football Association (FA) admitted Tuesday that the Wembley Stadium project is doomed to failure unless the British government bails it out.

However, a spokesman for No 10 Downing Street warned the FA that they could not rely on more government money.

"We have made it clear that we remain committed to the proposals for a new national stadium and we will work with the various authorities to look at different options but that doesn't mean the Government can simply write blank cheques or act as a national bank for projects which encounter funding difficulties," he told the Press Association Tuesday.

"The Government cannot step in as a banker of last resort."

New Wembley, a 475-million-pound (£698-million-dollar) scheme has been beset by problems over the past two years and, having failed to secure adequate funding from the City of London, FA chief executive Adam Crozier assumed more responsibility for

the project, which was initially supposed to be completed in time for the 2003 FA Cup.

However, demolition work has still not been started, with only 120 million pounds (176 million dollars) of public money via Sport England, the government funding agency, having so far been received.

But 20 million pounds (£29 million dollars) of that grant is due to be repaid as the new stadium will not stage athletics events as originally planned.

"We cannot act as the sole sponsor of the scheme," an FA spokesman told the Press Association Tuesday. "Neither sports governing bodies, nor banks will take the risks associated with such a project."

"The scale of the commitment required (to take sole charge of the project) would put our own future in jeopardy and the development of football throughout the country," admitted the FA.

"The finance needed also far exceeds what the private sector can bear."

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport said: "The government regrets the Football Association's decision to

withdraw its support for the current plans for the redevelopment of Wembley Stadium.

"It is clear that escalating costs - which have risen from 334 million pounds (490 million dollars) to 660 million pounds (970 million dollars) - have played a key role."

"Given it is clear that the FA cannot complete its project, the government has decided to examine all the options that are available."

The FA's announcement is the latest in a long line of setbacks and controversies that have beset the new Wembley project.

Initially, it was intended to be a stadium which would incorporate both athletics and soccer, although the former element was eventually scrapped by Smith while a bid for the 2003 football World Cup was overwhelmed by winners Germany and runners-up South Africa.

Critics have pointed to Cardiff's Millennium Stadium - which is set to be used for FA Cup Finals until Wembley is rebuilt - and its relatively small costs, as proof that the new stadium was over priced and suggested that it should be built from scratch outside London.

A daunting task ahead

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's crisis-ridden cricket team face a daunting task in England when they begin their 54-day tour today.

Although Pakistan have won Test series on their previous three

tours to England, preparations for this year's battle have been far from impressive.

With the wounds of last year's upset home-series loss to England still fresh, the Pakistan cricket managers replaced Moin Khan as captain with Waqar Younis.

They then dropped Moin from the provisional squad and took

nearly six days to finalise the touring party amid media reports that Younis opposed the selection of veteran all-rounder Wasim Akram, who was eventually added as 17th player.

Controversial fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, middle-order batsman Yousuf Youhana and all-rounders Abdur Razaq and Azhar Mahmood were included in the squad with fitness clouds hanging over them.

Wicketkeeper Rashid Latif who fell out with fellow players after accusing them of match-fixing and betting, found himself back in the side after three years.

It was chiefly on the basis of his evidence that Younis, Akram, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Saeed Anwar, Mushtaq Ahmad and Akram Raza were censured and fined on the recommendations of a judicial commission of Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum.

Apart from Raza, all are part of this year's squad.

But Akhtar's inclusion means the first half of the English summer will certainly not be controversy-free.

Akhtar has twice been reported for a suspect bowling action. He was first cited in November 1999 in the Perth Test against Australia by Darrell Hair and Englishman Peter Willey.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) last week confirmed that the two men would officiate at the first Test starting on May 17 at Lord's - a decision which will certainly not please the pacer in particular and Pakistan in general.

There are also fitness doubts over Akhtar, who has not played competitive cricket since the Dunedin one-day match and has failed to complete his last two Test tours in a space of 14 months.

His last first-class match was in March 2000 at Karachi in the third Test against Sri Lanka where he had figures of three for 52 and one for 64.

In his other appearance in that series at Peshawar, Akhtar took five for 75 and two from 47. But his performances were not enough to save Pakistan from suffering their third series loss in a row at home.

But the inclusion of Akhtar, who is battling with Australian Brett Lee for the tag of the world's fastest bowler and has taken 43 wickets in 15 Tests at 35.84, gives Pakistan an edge over England as far as bowling is concerned.

Younis and Akram, who devastated England on their previous two tours by sharing 72 wickets between them, will be touring England for the last time.

Chess team off to Colombo

SPORTS REPORTER

A six-member Bangladesh chess team left for Colombo on Wednesday to take part in the qualifying round of the World Chess Championship.

The Zone 3.1 B qualifying round, also involving India and hosts Sri Lanka, commences from May 4 to 14 in Katunayaka, Sri Lanka.

There are four men and two women in the team. The group includes International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar, Fide Master Enamul Hossain, Taibur Rahman, Abu Sufian Shakil, International Woman Master Rani Hamid and Woman Fide Master Tanima Parveen.

'Give Akhtar a break'

REUTERS, London

England captain Nasser Hussain has offered his support to Pakistan pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar, arguing it is time to bury the controversy over his bowling action.

Hussain, whose side host Pakistan in a two-Test series starting this month, said it was time to end the uncertainty over the 25-year-old's future in the sport.

"Let's get on with it," he said. "I'm a bit tired of chopping and changing, one from the other, yes he chucks it, no he doesn't."

"He seems to be eligible to bowl, he's not a thrower and that's it as far as I'm concerned," he told Sky Television.

Hussain said Akhtar was a key member of Pakistan's world-class pace attack, adding: "You have a lad's career in the balance. I know if it was me I particularly wouldn't like it."

India go to SL July 15

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will play three Tests during their 50-day tour of Sri Lanka starting in July, as well as taking part in a triangular one-day series also involving New Zealand.

The match venues have yet to be announced.

ITINERARY
July 15: Arrival in Colombo.
July 18: Sri Lanka v New Zealand.
July 19: India v New Zealand.
July 21: Sri Lanka v India.
July 24: Sri Lanka v New Zealand.
July 25: Sri Lanka v India.
July 26: India v New Zealand.
July 29: New Zealand v Sri Lanka.
July 31: Sri Lanka v India.
Aug 2: India v New Zealand.
Aug 4: Tri-series final.
Aug 8-10: Three-day match.
Aug 13-17: 1st Test.
Aug 21-25: 2nd Test.
Aug 29-Sept 2: 3rd Test.
Sept 3: Departure from Colombo.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shaheed Mintu Sangha and Sotomittu (Yellow) moved into the final of the Begum Wazeda Ahmed Memorial Gold Cup cricket tournament at the local stadium on Wednesday.

Mintu Sangha defeated Sotomittu (Blue) by 46 runs in the first semifinal.

Battling first, Mintu Sangha scored 179 for six wickets in 30 overs.

In reply, Sotomittu (Blue) made 133 runs losing all wickets in 29.5 overs.

In the second semifinal, Sotomittu (Yellow) beat Babul Smriti Sangha by 22 runs.

Sotomittu batted first and collected 142 runs all out in the stipulated 35 overs.

In reply, Babul Smriti were all out for 120 runs in 34.2 overs.

It's Waldner's last?

AFP, Osaka

Jan-Ove Waldner, considered one of the greatest table tennis players in the sport's history, said Wednesday his current bid for a world title would probably be his last.

The 35-year-old Swede, speaking after winning his men's singles second round tie against Roko Tomic of Croatia, said he was "considering" playing in a tournament over the summer, but after that might retire.

And while refusing to absolutely rule out one more world championships, he admitted the next event, in Paris in 2003, was probably too far away.

"I don't know for certain if it will be my last championships, it is difficult to say for sure. But 2003 is a long time to go, maybe too long," he said.

Waldner, a double world singles champion and gold medalist at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, added he was happy with his progress so far in pursuit of a third title despite losing a game to his Croatian opponent.

Lankan duo quizzed

Cricket

AGENCIES, Colombo

ICC investigators have grilled Sri Lanka's ex-skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva in a probe that goes beyond match-fixing allegations originally made against them.

The International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) questioned de Silva in the company of his lawyer on Tuesday and questioning of Ranatunga was underway Wednesday, local investigator Desmond Fernando said.

The two players were implicated in last year's Indian Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) report that named several other international players too.

De Silva was questioned by Fernando as well as the chief investigator of the ICC's anti-corruption panel, Jeff Rees, and fellow investigator Alan Peacock.

"Questions suggested by the New Zealand (cricket) Board and Mr. Martin Crowe's counsel was also put to Mr. de Silva," Fernando said without elaborating on what the questions were.

The former New Zealand skipper Crowe has admitted receiving 7,500 dollars for what he believed was a series of media articles, but broke contact when he realised it was a scam involving an Indian bookmaker.

It has been alleged that Crowe

was introduced to bookmakers by de Silva.

Ranatunga and de Silva are accused in the CBI report of taking bribes to engineer a Sri Lankan defeat in the 1994 Test against India at Lucknow. The report contained testimony from an Indian bookmaker who alleged he gave 15,000 dollars to de Silva but it was not clear if money had also been given to Ranatunga.

Ranatunga has flatly the charges of corruption while de Silva maintained that he never took bribes, although he was approached by bookmakers.

The head of the ICC anti-corruption panel, former Scotland Yard chief Sir Paul Condon, said that international players named in the Indian match-fixing probe would be investigated beyond the charges made public against them.

Asked whether the inquiry would be confined to the Indian CBI report, Sir Paul said it would also look into matters not mentioned by the Indian investigators.

"There would be a whole realm of charges and not confined to the CBI report... It will expand to further material that would not be in the public domain."

Condon who was here on a brief visit since Saturday said all test-playing nations were affected by the allegations.

It was not immediately clear if more players were under investigation and the nature of the new investigation line, but Condon

said they had collected an enormous amount of information on how matches were fixed.

Sir Paul also made it clear that he will not preside over a whitewash and no effort would be spared to clean up the game. He said match-fixing had been going on for about 20 years.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Cricket Board on Wednesday said ICC investigators would visit the country later this month to probe allegations of match-fixing.

PCB director Munawwar Rana said the ICC team would be headed by Condon.

He did not give the date of the team's arrival in Pakistan.

Rana also said, openers Saeed Anwar and Shahid Afridi were interviewed by last month by Emirates Cricket Board investigators during the Ary Gold Cup tournament. ACU officials were present during the session.

Roddick rolls on

AFP, Houston

Teenager Andy Roddick, already tagged as the future of American tennis, breezed into the second round of the 400,000-dollars US Clay Court Championships here Tuesday.

Roddick scored a 6-3, 6-4 win against Raemon Sluiter of the Netherlands for the second time in two weeks. He beat Sluiter in the first round last week in Atlanta on his way to his first ATP title.

Marauding Marcus

Cricket

REUTERS, London

England opener Marcus Trescothick sustained his flying start to the season by blasting 113 off 120 balls to drive Somerset to victory over Glamorgan in the Benson and Hedges Cup on Tuesday.

The most gripping finish on the second day of matches in the 50 overs competition came at Edgbaston where defending champions Gloucestershire snatched a last-ball win over Warwickshire.

Chris Taylor smashed Warwickshire's new overseas player, West Indian Vashet Drakes, for four off the final delivery to level the scores. Gloucestershire were declared the winners because they lost three fewer wickets.

Somerset match-winner Trescothick's century came just four days after he struck 147 in the County Championship match against the Welsh side at the same Cardiff venue.

With Somerset needing 233 for victory, Trescothick hit 10 fours as he paved the way to success in a second-wicket stand of 121 with Keith Dutch, their close-season signing from Middlesex, who scored 55 from 87 deliveries.

Somerset eased home at 233 for four with three of their 50 overs in hand after Glamorgan had made 232 for six, to which Michael Powell contributed the top score of 67.

In the Edgbaston thriller, Warwickshire managed 213 for nine thanks mainly to Dominic Oslter (77) and new captain Michael

Powell (55) adding 136 for the fifth wicket.

The home county were contained by some penetrative bowling from Australian all-rounder Ian Harvey, who finished with five for 32 and the man-of-the-match award.

Robert Cunliffe (75) and Kim Barnett (34) provided the platform for Gloucestershire's reply before Matt Windows (42), skipper Mark Alleyne (26) and Taylor (six not out) fashioned a frenetic finish which saw them make the 10 runs needed off the final over to tie the scores at 213 for six.

Durham caused the first major Cup upset of the season with a convincing 54-run victory over four-times winners Lancashire at Liverpool.

Lancashire paraded a near full array of past and present Test players including newly-arrived Sri Lankan off-spinner Muthiah Muralitharan.

But after restricting Durham to 193 for seven in their 50 overs, the home side never recovered from losing their first four wickets for 39 runs, all to Neil Killeen.

Paceman Killeen had Lancashire's first three batsmen, Mike Atherton (7), John Crawley (4) and Joe Scuderi (11), all caught at first slip by Durham's new overseas player, Australian Martin Love.

Love was celebrating being one of two newcomers named by the Australian Cricket Board on Tuesday among their annual list of 25 contracted players.

There was no way back for Lancashire after Danny Law weighed in with the wickets of Neil Fairbrother (22) and Graham Lloyd (13) as they tumbled to 139 all out in 40.4 overs.

Killeen finished with his best Benson and Hedges return of four for 18 in eight overs.

Muralitharan had struck an early blow for Lancashire by dismissing Queenslander Love for 16 while conceding only 19 runs in his 10.

But opener Jimmy Daley compiled a maiden half-century in the competition with the top score of 70 paved the way for Durham's first win over Lancashire in any competition since 1992.



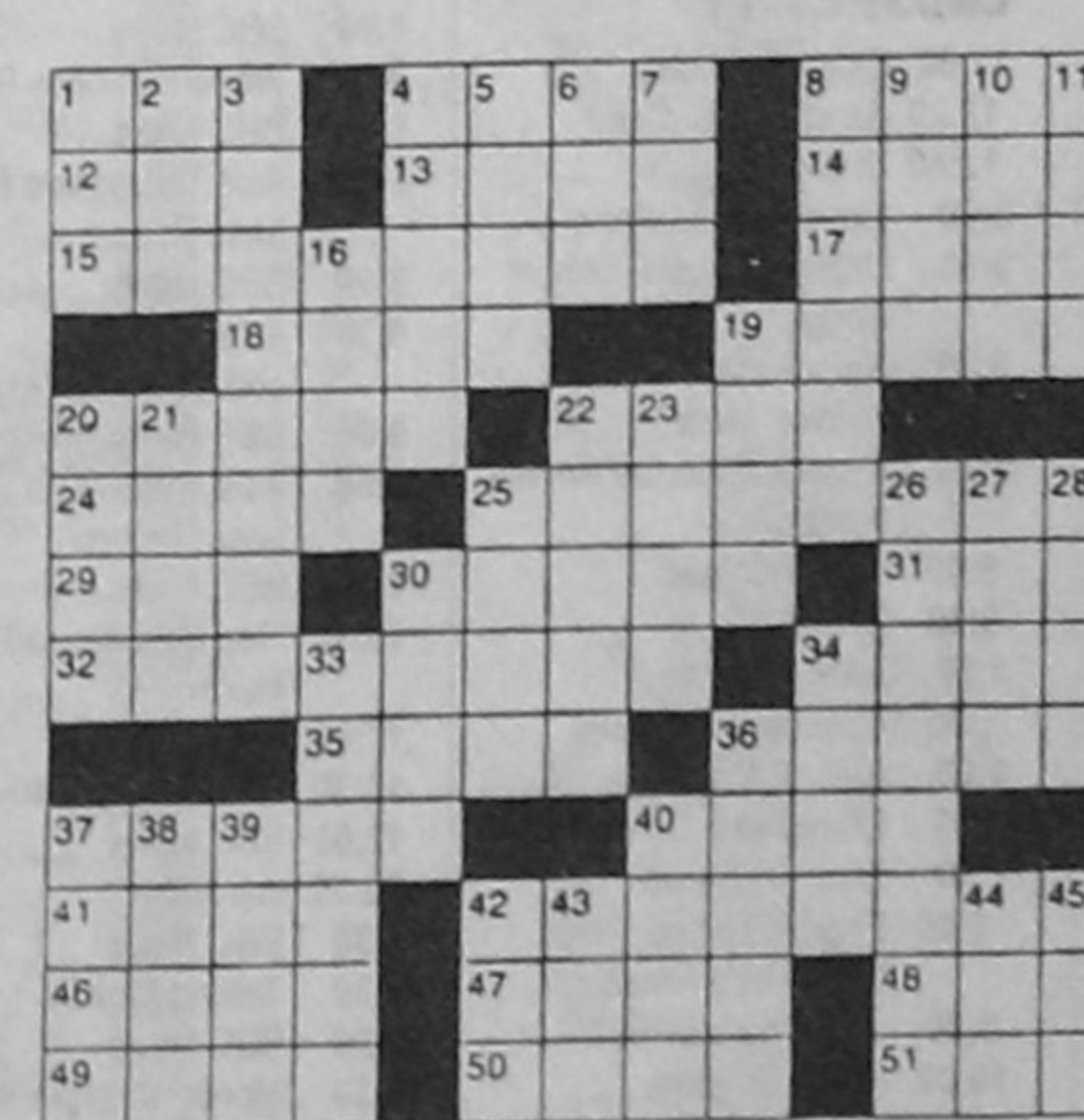
Mark Ramprakash of Surrey plays a sweep shot against Middlesex during their Benson and Hedges Cup fixture.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Blonde shade
4 Creche figure
6 Pleased
12 LXVII tripled
13 Rose's love
14 Interview with the Vampire author
15 Field event
17 Pacific island
18 Owl's remark
19 Noxious vapors
20 Like
22 Misstep
25 Enterprise, e.g.
29 Tyler or Ullmann
30 Monopoly piece
31 Altar
32 Restaurant employees
34 Lecherous look
35 Bohemian

DOWN
3 Congratulatory slap
4 Captain's superior
5 Touch
6 Edge
7 "Uh-huh"
8 Teams
9 Actor
10 Rue the run
11 ex-machina
16 Bentley's bonnet
19 Pink-slip
20 Guys' companions
21 Skip over
22 Den
36 "Abou ben Ali"
37 Diver's rival
40 Harrow rival
41 Codger
42 Honorable course of action
46 Competent
47 Jason's ship
48 Come up short
49 "Cheers" order
50 Disarray
51 Fresh
52 Eaten
53 Expletive
54 Bot. or phys.
55 SONG
56 UFO
57 LAO
58 EGAD
59 SHEA
60 GARDNER
61 TARA
62 GILBERT
63 MOORE
64 GEISE
65 TURNER
66 ATTACK
67 ACRES
68 EMBLEM
69 TOST
70 NEW

Solution time: 23 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP
Z X G X F R D U R X F D
K D L X Y R Y T U J L U H D
T Q T S J Z K T Q T S G K N H
G U Y T G T Q K S T G T N N H
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD A VET WHO TREATS DACHSHUNDS EVER BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE TO BE A DOG-TOR?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals I
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
টেন্ডার নোটিশ
(৩য় বার টেন্ডার)

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ঃ নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজটির জন্য ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তালিকাভুক্ত (আসবাবপত্র) ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের "টেন্ডার ফর ওয়ার্কস" ফরমে সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। কাজের পূর্ণ বিবরণ নিম্ন দেওয়া হইলঃ

ক্র.সং.	কাজের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয়	বায়নার টাকা	সিডিউলের মূল্য	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা
১।	ক) জলদ্রাঘ হলের জন্য আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ ঠিকাদারদের যোগ্যতা	৳ ৯৯,৯৮০/=	৳ ২,০০০/=	৳ ১০০/=	২১ দিন
২।	যে সমস্ত অফিস হইতে টেন্ডার সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে				
৩।	যে সমস্ত অফিসসমূহে সংরক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে টেন্ডার ফেলা যাইবে				
৪।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ				
৫।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়				
৬।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়				

মতিলাল সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (৪)
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/ dealers/suppliers (for enlisted firm only) for supply of the following item for Bangladesh "Army".

Sl No	Nomenclature	Date of Selling From To	Date of Opening	Currency	Tender No
1.	WS VRC-64 OR EQVT Radio Set Com-80-1 or Radio Set AN/VRC-46 complete with accessories and fast & slow moving spares. Qty = 16 Nos	2-5-2001 15-5-2001	16-5-2001	Foreign currency	214/1033/P-2
2.	Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (Non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).				

ISPR/Misc/2001/383
DFP-11286-25/4
G-807

Major
For Director General