

Lanka bans sports on full moon days

AFP, Colombo Sri Lanka's surprise announcement Saturday that all sporting events will be banned on full moon days has raised serious concerns for two home Test matches against the West Indies and Zimbabwe, officials said.

The cabinet of ministers said it had decided to amend the Holiday Act to prevent any sporting event taking place on full moon days. Every full moon day is also a Buddhist holiday.

Cricketers officials said they were yet to be informed of the decision, but warned that the Third Test against the West Indies was scheduled to be played on November 30, a full moon day.

A Test match with Zimbabwe is also to be played on a full moon day in December, cricket officials said.

"We have already drawn up the itinerary and contracted with television broadcasters," an official said. "To make changes at this stage would derail all our plans."

The government's sudden decision was seen by many as a move to appease the country's influential Buddhist clergy ahead of the December 5 parliamentary elections.

The government said it was also banning private tuition classes on Sunday in an apparent move to encourage students to attend religious classes.

Out of 30 cabinet decisions announced Thursday, 10 related to salary increases and making permanent appointments to public servants or creating new jobs and granting pensions.

Mystifying

Table with 4 columns: Batsman, Runs, Balls, Wickets. Includes names like B'ulleke, M'tharan, Buddika, Jayasuriya, S'weera.

SRI LANKA: Second innings

Jayasuriya not out 6 Atapattu not out 6 Total: (For no loss in 0.4 overs) 6

Bowler O M R W Stuart 0.4 0 6 0

Result: Sri Lanka beat West Indies by 10 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Muttiah Muralitharan.

Umpires: John Hampshire (England) and Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka).

Second Test: November 21-25, Kandy.

Titans take

FROM PAGE 13 points, Kamalapur Samaj Kallyan and Kriya Sangha won against Bangshal Progoti Samaj Kalyan Sangstha 3-1, Leomine Chess Club round Dhaka Daba Ghar 4-0 points, Mohakhali Prodig Sangha prevailed over Farashganj Sporting Club 2.5-1.5 points, Anu Memorial Club sailed over Narayanganj Chess Players Association 3-1 and Nakhapara Jubo Kalyan Sangha outplayed Crescent Club 3.5-0.5.

The third round will start on at 2:30pm at the same venue today.

A dream

FROM PAGE 13 moment, Bashar responded emphatically. A cricket-addict Bashar, in his teens, was once caught playing here for a local school under the alias of Rajib Dhar.

The century-maker, however, still rates his 76 as his best knock so far because he made the runs on a tricky wicket.

Zimbabwe coach Geoff Marsh also praised Bashar for his brilliant batting. "He is the best among the lot," said the former Australian opener while talking to The Daily Star Sport at media centre.

His compatriot and Bangladesh coach Trevor Chappell hailed the one down batsman. "He showed the others how to bat on a perfect wicket."



Zimbabweans successfully appeal in unison after Dion Ebrahim (L), who was fielding at forward short-leg, took a low catch offered by Mohammad Ashrafal on the third day of the second Test in Chittagong yesterday.

Hardy Herschelle

Cricket

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Century-maker Herschelle Gibbs took one look at the green, seaming pitch and decided to attack the Indian bowling on the opening day of the second Test.

After South Africa lost the toss, Gibbs, who eventually got out for 196 on the second day, dominated the day's play with a superb, undefeated 155 out of South Africa's total of 237 for five.

Batting with characteristic flair Gibbs hit a six and 21 fours (on the opening day), most of them through the off-side -- from the 283 balls he faced.

It was Gibbs' fifth Test century and his second of the series after his 107 in the first Test in Bloemfontein, which South Africa won by nine wickets.

"Looking at the wicket, we knew it wasn't going to be easy," Gibbs told reporters. "There was a bit of lateral movement but there wasn't a lot of steep bounce and pace."

"Unfortunately Gary (Kirsten) got out early, but I just kept on going in a positive frame of mind and it went well today.

"On these sorts of wickets you can either approach it in a negative fashion or in a positive way, because

you know the wicket is assisting the bowlers quite a lot.

"As long as your feet keep moving and you're being positive and backing yourself, it will help your confidence."

Batting conditions improved after lunch and the sky brightened in the final hour of the day's play as the weather forecast of a 40 percent chance of rain came to nothing.

"The pitch was covered for two

days, so obviously that dampened things up," Gibbs said. "I think it might be quicker tomorrow (Saturday) if the sun comes out.



HERSCHELLE GIBBS

back home, I would hand deliver the order that he made at Lord's.

He was several years my senior but, having always beaten age with his frail bones and features and the youthful twinkle of his eyes, jeans trousers and Wild West gait, he induced me to call him by his name.

He never complained even when he heard me addressing men his junior as 'Bhai'.

He was a prolific writer, among the very best English sports journalists of the sub-continent. He had his ongoing and undecided bout with his Bangladesh Observer colleague BDMukherjee (now a tea planter) on how economic a report could be.

A run-of-the-mill match would get the five-liner it deserved, but a clash of the giants would bring out the gem in both of them. Roulful was the more hard-hitting.

Roulful was very possessive about journalism, his Observer, his BSA.

I remember him blasting the desk at Dhaka over telephone from Jessore stadium in the mid-70s because the man was not able to rake down his report. Afterwards he did not even bat an eyelid as he pushed through the crowd that he had drawn by his verbal outburst.

The man exuded an air of confidence whether in the Press Box or the Darbar Hall.

If you talked to him for a few minutes he would convince you that

Hooper admits Muttiah truth

Reuters, Galle

West Indies captain Carl Hooper said that there was no easy way to counter Muttiah Muralitharan after the off-spinner spun Sri Lanka to a 10-wicket victory in the first Test.

"When you play against world class bowlers I don't think you can plan," he said. "It is not as if he's got one particularly strength. He bowls virtually everything.

"He's got a straighter ball, a flighted ball and a flat ball, so basically, you've got to play what you see, I don't think you can plan for someone like Muralitharan."

Sri Lanka won after Muralitharan took five for 44 as West Indies collapsed to 144 all out in the second innings. Muralitharan claimed overall figures of 11 for 169.

"But there's not a lot of pace there, and there's not as much lateral movement as everybody thought there would be."

Veteran paceman Javagal Srinath took three for 51 and Gibbs said he was more difficult to deal with than Ajit Agarkar, the only other frontline seamer India selected for the match.

"Srinath hardly bowled a bad ball the whole day and Agarkar, with his away swing, does give you one or two balls to put away," Gibbs said. "That takes the pressure off."

Since his return to Test cricket after serving a six-month suspension for his role in the match fixing scandal Gibbs has scored 949 runs at an average of 63.26 in nine matches. He has scored three centuries in his last four Tests.

"Some batsmen mature earlier than others and maybe I thought about things in the six months I had off," the 27-year-old added. "I thought I should go and play the way a lot of people knew I could."

"My balance and shot selection has been a lot better than in previous years and maybe a bit of maturity is starting to set in."

Gibbs said South Africa would aim to post a first innings total of around 400 on Saturday.

"If we get another 150 runs it wouldn't be too bad, because it is staying a bit low every now and again and you never know what is going to happen."

Nitol-Tata soccer

UNB, Dhaka

Barisal T&T Club emerged zonal champions to book a seat for the final round of the Nitol-Tata National Football League eliminating Udaykati Jubo Samity of Pirojpur by 3-1 in the tiebreaker in Barisal yesterday.

The match was locked in a goalless draw in the stipulated 90-minute.

In the day's other matches, Chittagong Abahani, Jessore Shaheed Muktiyoddha Moin SS, Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Memorial Club and Narayanganj Mohsin Club won their respective matches to reach the next round.

In Cox's Bazar, Chittagong Abahani KC beat Chandpur Natun Bazar KC 2-1. Jalal Sr and Saiful scored for the winners in each half while Jahangir netted the only goal for the losers.

In Jessore, Shaheed Muktiyoddha Moin Smriti Sangsad of Jessore earned a convincing 5-1 victory over Chuadanga Uddipon Club. The match was locked in 1-1 in the first half.

Lucky, Hafiz, Jamal, Polish, Ashrafal scored for the winners while Milan netted the consolation goal for the losers.

In Rajshahi, Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Memorial Club of Bogra outplayed Sirajganj Jamuna Traders 3-0 with Bulbul scoring twice and Hanifone.

In Gopalganj, Mohsin Club of Narayanganj overcame Al-Helal Green SC of Mymensingh 2-1 in tiebreaker as the match was locked in 2-2 in the regulation time.

Kiwi coach talks positive

Reuters, Adelaide

New Zealand's acting captain Craig McMillan scored 49 not out to lift the tourists to 110 for three at the close of play on the second day of their four-day match against South Australia.

South Australia had resumed their first innings on 281 for eight and declared at 297 for nine before reducing New Zealand to 40 for three at one stage on a rain-shortened second day's play.

But McMillan hit five fours and one six in his 86-ball innings, sharing an unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership of 70 with Lou Vincent, who unbeaten on 26 at the close.

But things had started very badly for New Zealand, when their opener Matthew Bell was run out for a duck with the score at six.

Then former Australia Test leg-spinner Peter McIntyre (2-42) removed both Mathew Sinclair, caught behind for 10, and opener Mark Richardson, lbw after an 83-ball innings of 16.

The tourists were forced to play defensively as McIntyre and left-arm spinner Brad Young (0-41)

India in Pollock

FROM PAGE 13

Makhaya Ntini then heaved the last ball of the morning to Shiv Sunder Das at deep backward square leg to give Srinath his 10th five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

Two overs after lunch Srinath, who kept to a tight line and length, and bowled at considerable pace, uprooted Mormantau Hayward's middle stump for a duck. Boucher batted aggressively for his 68 not out, hitting nine fours and a six in 70 balls.

India's problems began in the fifth over, when Pollock trapped Shiv Sunder Das in front for one.

Four overs later David saw his middle stump cartwheel for two, and in Pollock's next over Tendulkar mistimed a pull shot and was easily caught by Lance Klusener at mid on for a single.

Fast bowler Ntini added to India's woes when he bowled makeshift opener Deep Dasgupta for 13, ending a stabilising fourth wicket stand of 32 scored with Ganguly.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the second Test between South Africa and India on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 237-5) Gibbs c Sehwaq b Tendulkar 196 Kirsten c Laxman b Srinath 4 Kallis b Srinath 24 McKenzie b Harbhajan 12 Dippenaar c Dasgupta b Agarkar 29 Klusener c Laxman b Srinath 9 Pollock c Harbhajan b Srinath 3 Boucher not out 68 Boje lbw b Kumble 1 Ntini c Das b Srinath 10 Hayward b Srinath 0 Extras: (lb-2, nb-4) 6 Total: (All out in 121 overs) 362

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-87, 3-116, 4-221, 5-230, 6-244, 7-324, 8-325, 9-353

Bowler O M R W Srinath 30 6 76 6 Agarkar 22 2 85 1 Ganguly 2 0 21 0 Kumble 29 10 67 1 Harbhajan 34 6 89 1 Tendulkar 4 0 22 1

INDIA: First innings Das lbw b Pollock 1 Dasgupta b Ntini 13 David b Pollock 2 Tendulkar c Klusener b Pollock 1 Ganguly not out 37 Laxman not out 4 Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-2) 5 Total: (For 4 wickets in 22 overs) 63

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-13, 3-15, 4-47

To bat: V Schwag, A Agarkar, A Kumble, J Srinath, H Singh

Bowler O M R W Pollock 7 1 13 3 Hayward 7 4 12 0 Ntini 5 2 10 1 Kallis 3 1 26 0

PCB to see footage first

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will review video footage of controversial fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's recent performance in Sharjah before deciding whether to put him through Stage Two of a bowling action review process.

"We have received a letter from ICC (International Cricket Council) chief executive Malcolm Speed informing us that our request to treat Shoaib's case as a special case cannot be entertained," PCB director Munawwar Rana said.

"As a result we have reached a mutual agreement with the ICC that we will have an expert or our bowling action review group study footage of his bowling action in Sharjah," he added. "After that we will decide on our next line of action."

Shoaib was reported for a suspect bowling action by ICC match officials for the third time since December 1999 after the recent one-day triangular Champions' Trophy tournament in Sharjah.

The PCB asked that Shoaib be treated as a special case as a medical report earlier this year by the University of Western Australia's biomechanics department had said

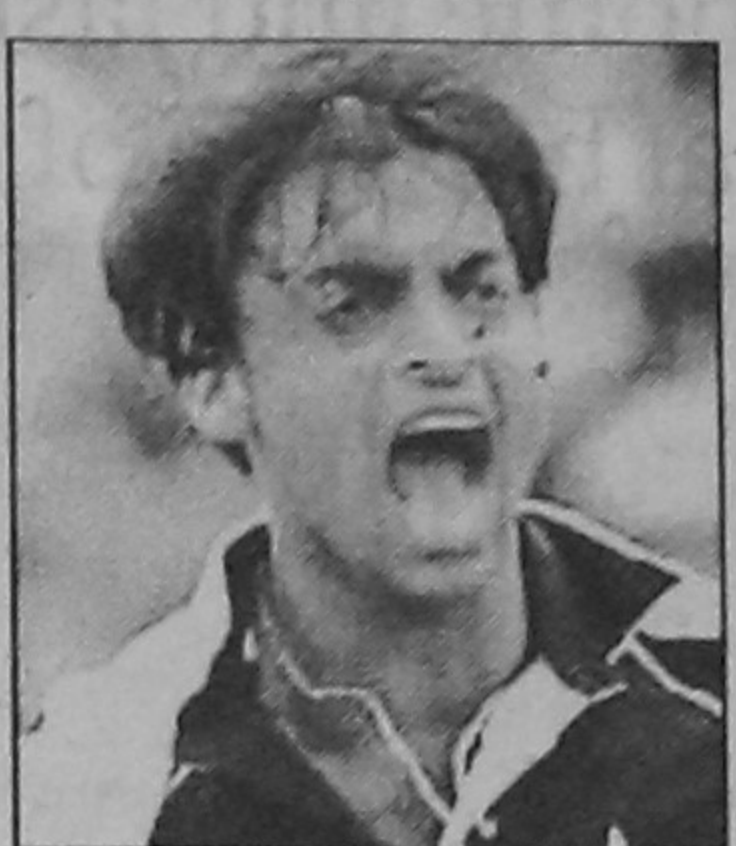
the ICC bowling action review process was finalised last year with the mutual agreement of all cricket boards they cannot set a precedent by treating Shoaib's case as a special one," he added.

The ICC had said that if the PCB did not put Shoaib through stage two of the review and work with appointed bowling adviser Michael Holding, he would go directly to stage three and be suspended for one year if reported again by match officials.

"After much thought we have decided mutually that first we should have a closer look at his footage from Sharjah before the PCB decides on the next step. We are awaiting the footage from the ICC," Rana said.

Shoaib, one of the fastest bowlers in the world and dubbed the "Rawalpindi Express", has been a cause of great debate since he made his Test debut in 1997/98 against the West Indies.

His 16-Test career has also been plagued by injuries, with him making his most recent comeback in Sharjah after limping out of the Pakistan team in England in June.



SHOAIB AKHTAR

the bowler's problem lay in a physical deformity in his bowling arm joints and that he did not throw.

"The ICC however believes Shoaib's case cannot be treated as a special one, as the medical reports do not guarantee or mean he cannot throw again," said Rana.

"They have also told us that since

McMillan steadies NZ

Cricket

REUTERS, Adelaide

New Zealand's acting captain Craig McMillan scored 49 not out to lift the tourists to 110 for three at the close of play on the second day of their four-day match against South Australia.

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The tourists were forced to play defensively as McIntyre and left-arm spinner Brad Young (0-41)

bowled to attacking fields.

But McMillan, who is leading the side as Stephen Fleming rests ahead of next week's second Test against Australia, made it quite clear that he was not going to play off his back foot by hitting both bowlers for lofted boundaries down the ground.

McMillan also hit McIntyre for a straight six, no mean feat at the Adelaide Oval, which is regarded as one of the most intimidating straight-hit boundaries in world cricket.

New Zealand's three-match series against the world champions resumes with the second Test starting in Hobart on November 22.

The first Test in Brisbane was drawn.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the four-day tour match between New Zealand and South Australia at the Adelaide Oval Saturday:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 281-8) S Deitz lbw b Tuffey 4 D Fitzgerald c Sulzberger b Vettori 50 G Blewett c Parore b Sulzberger 106 D Lehmann c Bond b Vettori 0 Young 13 1 41 0 McIntyre 10 2 42 2

Bowler O M R W Tuffey 18 5 71 3 Martin 20 4 70 0 Bond 17 5 43 1 Vettori 30 8 60 3 Sulzberger 8 1 39 1 Vincent 1 0 2 0

NEW ZEALAND: First innings M Richardson lbw b McIntyre 16 M Bell run out (Higgins) 0 M Sinclair c Manoub b McIntyre 10 C McMillan not out 49 L Vincent not out 26 Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-2, nb-3) 9 Total: (For 3 wickets in 44.3 overs) 110

Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-131, 3-137, 4-170, 5-195, 6-233, 7-235, 8-275, 9-292

To bat: A Parore, G Sulzberger, D Vettori, D Tuffey, S Bond, C Martin

Bowler O M R W Harry 6 2 9 0 Rofe 9.3 3 11 0 Smith 6 3 3 0 Young 13 1 41 0 McIntyre 10 2 42 2

Hewitt-Grosjean finale

Tennis

AFP, Sydney

Newly-crowned world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt will get a preview of what he faces in the upcoming Davis Cup final on grass at Melbourne Park.

Hewitt remains on course for an unbeaten run at the Masters Cup and should he beat Grosjean in Sunday's final he will walk away with 1.52 million US dollars.

He has already beaten Grosjean over three sets in the round-robin stage of the tournament.

Hewitt, the youngest player at 20 to finish a season at No. 1 since Jimmy Connors in 1974, showed little discomfort from a hamstring injury he developed in Friday's straight sets win over compatriot Pat Rafter on Friday.

The single-minded Australian

broke Ferrero on his fifth break point in the seventh game of the opening set and went on to take the set in 46 minutes.

His skilful manoeuvring to set up points in rallies was too much for Ferrero, who won only one game in a run of eight games dominated by Hewitt.

Ferrero virtually lost the match when Hewitt broke his opening two service games in the second set to open a 4-0 lead. There was no way back for the 21-year-old Spaniard from there even though he gained a service break in the sixth game to trail 4-2.

Grosjean, who finished second behind Hewitt in the John Newcombe round-robin group, swept to victory over Kafelnikov in one hour nine minutes.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes clues like 'Jessica of de', 'Dark choice', 'Expert', 'Throttle', 'Gives a hoot', 'New Look designer', 'Bobby of hockey', 'PBS', 'Unrivaled individual', 'Lattice-work pavilion', 'Gentleman Prefer Blondes' writer, 'Dianoyland figure', 'Alpha's opposite', 'Accomplished', 'Miss Piggy, self-referentially', 'Macadamize'.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with numbers 1-55. Includes a solution key at the bottom: J L W N E J U S O H N M W K X K R D L E X H N S D S V W E K V L J S O W R H E J L J U L J M M X D L H U H S D L D U W.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: AT THE WEEKLY BLOCK PARTIES WE BRING LEGOS AND PROCEED TO PLAY ALL NIGHT LONG. Today's Cryptogram Clue: L equals M. The Cryptogram 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.

his Observer was the best managed newspaper in the country where only the selected best were invited to contribute. His loyalty, despite his lethargy for the commonplace, must have been an asset for his newspaper.

One lazy summer afternoon several years back, I found him lounging in the BSA office. He ordered someone, replicate of the disposition at Lord's, to switch the TV channel from a film something to AXN. 'What silly things you are watching? Come on, let me see some action'.

It was my rare visit to that office after quite some time. Only to strike up a conversation, I asked Roulful almost in a whisper, 'Who is the BSA president now?' He retorted while straightening from his laid-back position, 'Bloody fool! You don't know who the president is! You are talking to him.' I don't remember if I apologised. It did not matter to him. He was a friend.

He led a life of eccentricity even his best friends would admit. Despite that he was deeply loved for his openness, obviously admired for his talent, greatly feared as a ruthless journalist.

Occasionally wayward in life, Roulful was deeply religious. Once he narrated to me on the veranda of the old Mohammedan club premises how a Muslim who made only one correct sidda in his lifetime would go to heaven. I am sure Roulful made more than one.

Today I can almost hear him say with a smile, 'Not every one is privileged to die on a Thursday evening'.

Roulful Hasan passed away at 6pm on November 15, 2001.

The inefficient delivery man still has his picture and although he may rebuke me for the delay, I know deep inside he would want me to share it with you. Even though he shall order no more, I shall abide.

Putu Bhai

FROM PAGE 13 Divisional Sports Association and the Chittagong Jila Kriya Sangstha was 70.

Taber, a confirmed bachelor and national sports awardee, was an ace winger in the East Pakistan football team in sixties. He also played for Dhaka Wanderers Club.

A pall of gloom fell upon the local sports arena with his death news. A cross section of people including sports organisers, political leaders and his admirers rushed to his home to pay respect to the soft-spoken personality.

One-minute silence was observed by the players at the beginning of the third day's play of the second Test here.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Lalidighi Maidan after Zohr prayers and later he was buried at Chaitanyagali graveyard yesterday.