

Lloyd match ref for Aussie-Pak Test series

AFP, Karachi

Former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd will oversee next month's Test series between Pakistan and Australia as ICC (International Cricket Council) match referee, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced Monday.

ICC panel umpires Steve Bucknor of the West Indies and India's Srinivas Venkataraghavan will officiate in all three Tests.

Pakistan's Aleem Dar, Nadeem Ghouri and Asad Rauf will be television umpires.

The series will be played in two neutral venues after Australia refused to tour Pakistan over security fears.

The first Test starts in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on October 3. The remaining two will be played in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates from October 11-15 and October 19-23.

Pakistan was forced to shift its Golden Jubilee Test series following the September 11 attacks and the ensuing war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Pakistan played its first Test in 1952-53 and wanted to mark the jubilee with a tri-series one-day tournament and Test series, both involving Australia.

The tri-series was played in Nairobi in August-September with Pakistan and Australia sharing the trophy after the final was washed out.

Pakistan was forced to play its first ever neutral venue series in February-March this year after the West Indies refused to tour.

Black bags maiden crown

AFP, Hawaii

Cara Black of Zimbabwe earned her first WTA Tour title, capturing the 140,000-dollar Big Island Championships with a 7-6, 6-4 triumph over second-seeded American Lisa Raymond.

Ranked 61st in the world, Black broke through in just her second WTA final. The 23-year-old sister of ATP Tour players Wayne and Byron Black also defeated Raymond for the first time in five career meetings.

Black took home the 22,000-dollar top prize and prevented Raymond from adding this title to the one she won earlier this season at the Memphis hardcourt event.

BD's bad

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before he attempted to go down the wicket to Khaled Mahmud and was bowled.

But Irani and Shah repaired the damage with some sensible batting before the latter was run out for 45.

Blackwell's arrival in the middle saw the scoring rate improve, although the Somerset all-rounder was dropped twice -- once at cover and once at long-on.

He was eventually caught behind off Tapash Baishya but Irani continued on to reach three figures -- his first hundred in England colours, albeit in an unofficial fixture.

Bangladesh never seriously threatened England's target after Dominic Cork had picked up two for 10 in an excellent six-over spell.

Bangladesh won their first warm-up match against lowly Holland by four wickets on Friday.

Waqar stays

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Pakistan has run through a succession of coaches in the past four years, replacing Javed Miandad, Intikhab Alam, Pybus, Haroon Rasheed, Wasim Raja and Mushtaq Mohammad.

If the performance of the team is poor, then the coach is equally responsible, Zia said.

Straightening up



REUTERS, Colombo

After a poor Test tour in England earlier in the year, Sri Lanka skipper Sanath Jayasuriya is honing his batting to improve his overseas record as he faces trips to South Africa and Australia starting next month.

"I faced a few problems playing in England," Jayasuriya said on Sunday before his side's match against the Netherlands in the ICC Champions Trophy Pool Four on Monday.

The 33-year-old batsman, famous for his powerful square drives and flicks over mid-wicket, wants to get it straight this time.

At the nets, he practised playing straight and then said he was keen to avoid a repeat of his England failure.

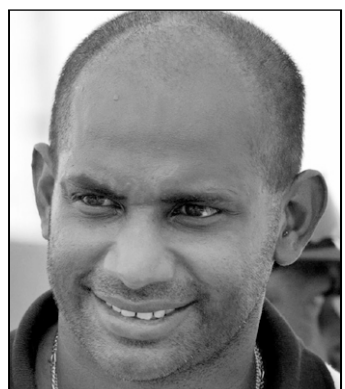
Jayasuriya managed just 99 runs from five Test innings as his side lost the three-game series 2-0. He struggled against swing bowling to be bowled, caught behind or trapped lbw on four occasions and run out cheaply in his other innings.

The poor England tour, where Sri Lanka also failed to reach the final of a one-day tri-series won by India, brought him criticism at home and some pressure on his captaincy.

But victory in a recent one-day

tournament in Morocco and the good Champions Trophy beginning have silenced detractors.

The explosive left-hander has remained awesome on slow sub-continent pitches, the latest example being his 102 not out which



SANATH JAYASURIYA

inspired the hosts to thrash Pakistan by eight wickets in the Champions Trophy opener on Thursday.

But Jayasuriya is eyeing battles ahead and wants his players to be ready for bouncer pitches in South Africa and Australia.

A good show in the February-March World Cup in South Africa will also help Sri Lanka to erase memories of their abysmal showing in the 1999 tournament in England.

Jayasuriya exploded on to the

international scene in 1996 with his big hitting during the first 15 overs when field restrictions are in place, a huge factor in his side's surprise World Cup win.

He has since grown in stature as a Test player, scoring 340 at home to record the fourth highest Test score, in 1997 against India. In all, he has scored 4,751 runs at a healthy average of 41.72 in his 75 appearances.

But he has found bit scores abroad tough to achieve, having scored only two of his 10 centuries away from home.

Both Sri Lankan batsmen and bowlers have begun training on bouncer tracks specially laid out.

Jayasuriya said: "The biggest thing is to practise in different conditions, on pitches with more bounce."

He criticised younger batsmen in the side, such as the talented Mahela Jayawardene and Russel Arnold, for not taking the initiative.

Their inconsistency has won a recall for the 36-year-old Aravinda De Silva, one of the heroes of the 1996 triumph and a destructive batsman in the mid 1990s. He had been ignored in the last two years as selectors opted for fresh blood.

"We need players like Aravinda," said the captain. "Since 1999, youngsters have not performed up to the mark. Only a few have come up."

Flemo accepts the truth



REUTERS, Colombo

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming admitted his defending champions had been outclassed as they faced an early exit from the ICC Champions Trophy following a crushing 164-run defeat by Australia.

Australia scored 296 for seven and bowled New Zealand out for 132 in just 26.2 overs, with man-of-the-match Glenn McGrath taking five for 37, including his 250th one-day international wicket.

The defeat, New Zealand's worst in 85 one-day internationals against Australia eclipsing the 154-run loss in Christchurch in 1989-90, also marked a change in fortunes for the two sides as New Zealand won three of their four meetings in the triangular series earlier this year.

With Bangladesh the third side in Pool One, the result should spell elimination from the competition for New Zealand, a humiliating reverse for a side that won the event when it was last played, in Kenya two years ago.

"You have to get the ball in the right areas bowling-wise and be thorough in your batting and we did neither," Fleming said. "The fielding was lazy as well so we were well under par in all facets of the game."

"Against a top side like Australia you need to exceed yourselves but it was something we failed to do," said Fleming.

New Zealand's problems started when Matthew Hayden (43) and Adam Gilchrist (44) got Australia off to a flying start, and then got worse as they dropped three catches. Two of the chances, offered by Hayden and Ricky Ponting (37), were not too costly, but a third proved crucial.

Gillespie started New Zealand's slide, trapping Nathan Astle lbw for a duck in the second over before McGrath took charge.

He found himself on a hatrick after removing Fleming (12) and Lou Vincent in successive balls, the New Zealand captain lbw to a ball of full length and Vincent caught at second slip by Martyn as he pushed forward.

The tall fast bowler also had Scott Styris and Matthew Sinclair caught behind by Gilchrist before reaching his latest milestone when he removed Jacob Oram.

McGrath became the 10th bowler and the second Australian after Shane Warne to reach 250 wickets in one-day cricket when, in his 161st match, he induced Oram to leave a ball that cannoned into his off-stump.

McGrath also had the satisfaction of his fifth five-wicket haul in one-day internationals and his best figures against New Zealand.

A last-wicket stand of 50 between Kyle Mills (23 not out) and Shane Bond (26) at least allowed New Zealand to avoid the indignity of their worst-ever one-day loss, a 174-run defeat by India in Hyderabad in 1999.

But not even that interlude, including two dropped catches, could take the gloss off the day for Australia as they won a match in the tournament for the first time, at the third attempt.

Fleming spilled an edge from Damien Martyn off Shane Bond's bowling when the batsman was on two and he went on to top-score with 73 from 87 balls.

Martyn ensured the rapid start provided by Gilchrist, Hayden and Ponting was not wasted as he and Darren Lehmann, returning to the side after a fractured finger, added 74 after Australia had slipped to 143 for three.

The total, which passed India's 288 for six as the highest of the tournament, was imposing and it looked even better after McGrath and Jason Gillespie got to work,

effectively ending the contest inside the first 13 overs as New Zealand slumped to 51 for six.

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Pak-SL tie being looked into

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistan's eight-wicket rout by hosts Sri Lanka in the ICC Champions Trophy has come under the scanner of the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) of cricket's world governing body, official sources said on Monday.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has asked the television company producing pictures of the 12-nation event to hand over tapes of the match played last Thursday, the sources said.

ICC spokesman Mark Harrison declined to comment on the matter, but commentator Tony Greig confirmed the tapes were handed over to the ACU.

"Yes, the tapes were given a few days back," Greig told the Times of India. "I don't know why the ICC is not willing to confirm that."

The ACU, which has four officials supervising the tournament, is expected to review the tapes in Colombo later on Monday, sources told AFP.

Electing to bat first, Pakistan were shot out for 200 with two deliveries to spare and Sri Lanka romped home in the 37th over after an unbeaten century from captain Sanath Jayasuriya.

Seasoned opener Saeed Anwar (52) and rookie Misbahul Haq (47) were the only Pakistani batsmen among the runs as six others failed to reach double figures on the slow wicket.

Of particular interest to the ACU was the run out of Yousuf Youhana for zero early in the innings, the sources said.

Pakistani captain Waqar Younis said he was aware the ICC had asked for the tapes.

"Yes, I have heard about the inquiry," Younis said in Colombo. "But I am not in a position to comment on the whole issue."

"All I will say is we have played our cricket in an honest manner."

A Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman reacted sharply to the news.

"It's baseless and ridiculous and we do not want to make any comments on that," the spokesman told AFP.

"No one from the ICC or ACU has contacted us," he said.

The PCB has been in contact with country's law ministry to evolve a system to take any person or publication to court over false charges of match-fixing.

"We have conducted two matching inquiries and have settled the matter once and for all and would take legal action if someone levels allegations on team and players without any proof," PCB chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia said two months ago.

The ACU was formed two years ago after the match-fixing scandal which led to life bans on three Test captains -- Hansie Cronje of South Africa (since deceased), Mohammad Azharuddin of India and Salim Malik of Pakistan.

President's Cup Kafelnikov's

REUTERS, Tashkent

Yevgeny Kafelnikov has overcome a painful hand injury to win his first President's Cup title, beating Belarusian qualifier Vladimir Voltchkov 7-6, 7-5.

"I still had a lot of pain and I don't think I would have finished the match if it had not been a final played in front of so many people, including the President (of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov)," said Kafelnikov.

But he added: "This title is a very special for me. I wouldn't trade it for any other in the world, even a Grand Slam."

Accuracy aided

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out for about 100, but there was some sloppy fielding towards the end of the day," he said.

"But we took the initiative away from New Zealand early on with some good aggressive batting. That laid the foundation and the other batsmen chipped in."

"I'm a bit disappointed that none of the top-order batsmen went on to make a big score after they got started, but all in all it was a very satisfying day for us."

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming conceded his team put in a below-par performance against strong opponents.

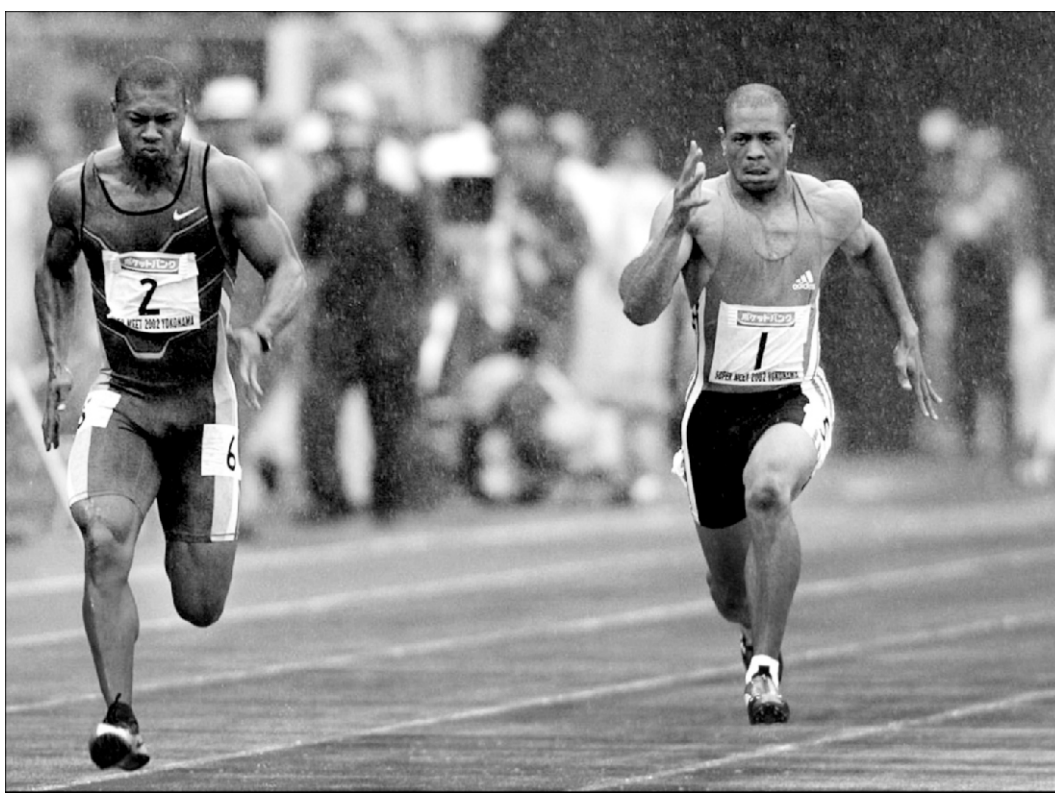
"We didn't execute our game-plan well enough. To beat Australia you have to execute in the right areas and be thorough with your batting."

"The fielding was a bit lazy as well. In that sense we were under par and to beat a side like Australia you probably have to exceed expectations. That didn't happen today."

Fleming said he felt his team had failed to cope with the pressure.

"They bowled a good line and length, but it was still a good wicket to bat on. We probably fell a bit to pressure as well."

"When there's a big score you've to be aggressive and when you're aggressive you push the limits. The limits were too far today and we lost wickets. We had no partnerships, we had no tempo and they dominated the game."



American Bernard Williams (L) edges out compatriot Maurice Greene in the men's 100-metre final at the Super Track and Field meet in Yokohama yesterday.

Greene goes down again



REUTERS, Yokohama

World and Olympic champion Maurice Greene has produced another disappointing performance by finishing fifth in the 100 metres at the Yokohama Super Track and Field meeting.

Two days after fellow American Tim Montgomery eclipsed his world record in Paris, Greene could only clock 10.56 seconds behind compatriot Bernard Williams who won in 10.21.

Nobuharu Asahara of Japan was second in 10.28 in drizzly conditions on Monday at International Stadium, with Davis Patton of the US third in 10.33.

Greene, who only arrived in Japan from Paris late on Sunday after pulling out of the Grand Prix athletics final at the weekend, blamed jet-lag for his slow time and insisted that he would be back to his best next year.

"My body feels asleep. I just

wanted to finish the season healthy and I did that. Now I have to be ready to defend my world title next year," said Greene.

Montgomery clocked 9.78 to shave 0.01 seconds off his three-year-old mark but Greene vowed to take the record back, warning: "It belongs to me, it will come home."

Meanwhile, world champion Allen Johnson held off rival Anier Garcia of Cuba over the final 30 metres to win the 110 metres hurdles in 13.28.

Garcia, the reigning Olympic champion, clocked 13.35 with world record holder Colin Jackson of Britain third in 13.44.

"From hurdles five to the finish Garcia is by far the best in the world, so it's always important for me to get out ahead of him then and keep my rhythm," said Johnson. "Fortunately I was able to hold him off today."

The American added that he felt Jackson's world mark of 12.91, which has stood since 1993, could be in danger at the world championships in Paris next summer.

"I said last year that this year was going to be the year for it, so it is one

of my goals next season. If I can come out on top in the final in Paris, I feel I will be close to the record," he said.

Meanwhile, Patton followed his third place in the 100 by winning the 200 in 20.29 with Shingo Suetsugu runner-up in 20.55. American Shawn Crawford finished third in 20.79.

In the hammer throw, 1996 Olympic champion Balazs Kiss led a Hungarian one-two to win with a best effort of 80.78 metres. Tibor Gecsek placed second after a throw of 76.30.

In the women's events, Sri Lankan Susanthika Jayasinghe won the 200 metres in 22.91 with Zhanna Bliukchik-Pintusevich of the Ukraine second in 23.32.

World junior champion Meseret Defar of Ethiopia won the 5,000 metres in 15 minutes, 26.45, edging out compatriot Deraratu Tulu, the world and Olympic champion over 10,000 metres, in a tight finish.

Guga ends title drought



REUTERS, Salvador

Gustavo Kuerten has beaten unseeded Argentine Guillermo Coria in a dramatic final to win the Brazil Open and claim his first title for 13 months.

The former world number one, whose last title was in Cincinnati in August last year, saved a match point on his way to a 6-7, 7-5, 7-6 win in a bad-tempered encounter littered with disputed line calls.

It was the 17th title of Kuerten's career, but the first he has won in his native Brazil. It came at the same tournament where his dramatic slump in form began exactly one year ago.

Kuerten had won six ATP titles in the first eight months of 2001 before being knocked out in the first round of last September's tournament.

After the defeat, he plummeted 50 places down the Champions Race rankings, failed to reach even the last four of a tournament and underwent a hip operation which sidelined him for nearly three

months.

"I'm sure that if they had written a soap opera about this final, they couldn't have come up with anything more dramatic," said Kuerten, seeded sixth.

The first set began with three service breaks in a row -- two to

matched Kuerten stroke for stroke, spraying the ball around the court from the baseline in a match of long, keenly-fought rallies.

The first 10 games in the second set went with serve but Kuerten, having successfully served to save the match in the 10th game, finally ground his opponent down in the next when he broke serve.

It was a significant psychological blow as Coria became less aggressive and made a series of unforced errors.

Kuerten held serve to win the second set, then broke in the first game of the final set and appeared to be heading for a comfortable win.

But a lapse of concentration in the eighth game allowed Coria to break back and regain control.

The Argentine, placed 67th in the Champions Race rankings, reached match point two games later but Kuerten saved on his second serve.

The set went to another tiebreak in which Kuerten raced to a 5-2 lead. Coria doubled faulted the next point, then hit an attempted volley into the net to hand the Brazilian victory after nearly three-and-a-half hours.

Kuerten and one to Coria -- and eventually went to a tiebreak which Coria won 7-4.

The 20-year-old Argentine, who has one ATP title to his credit,

Arantxa breaks the jinx



AFP, Tokyo

Fading former French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario declared she still loved the game after ending a seven-week losing streak at the Princess Cup tournament here on Monday.

"I don't have to prove anything, because I've done everything in my whole career," the 30-year-old Spaniard said after a 6-2, 6-0 win

over Maja Matevzic of Slovenia.

"Maybe now it's more time to enjoy myself and that will make me improve."

"Without getting injuries you can enjoy more, so hopefully, I'm trying to do that. But I love to play, I love to compete. Tennis is my passion. That's why I keep going."

Sanchez-Vicario's win over Matevzic ended a dismal run of poor form that saw her lose three straight first-round matches at Montreal, New Haven and the US Open.

She has failed to get past the first round 11 times from 19 tournaments this year.

"It's been a different year for me," Sanchez-Vicario, ranked 34 in the world, said.

"But the good thing about that is not to give up, I keep working and I know I have to improve, I know my mistakes. I just need to win a couple of matches and that will turn everything around. I just have to play more."

Sanchez-Vicario's slump can be attributed to two main factors, aside from her age in a sport where teenagers often dominate.

She has struggled since splitting from her ex-husband, Joan Vehils, almost a year ago, and a wrist injury kept her out of action for almost two months before the hard court season.

However the 1994 champion of this event and five-time runner-up declared she was ready to again challenge the world's best after easily defeating her 62nd-ranked opponent.

"I served very well, I attacked the ball well, so everything worked very well for me today. I didn't make many mistakes. So I'm happy with my first match. Playing this way gives you a lot of confidence," the tournament eighth-seed said.

Matches were held only on the Ariake Coliseum centre court on Monday with its roof closed due to steady rain.



Action from yesterday's DSA Cup football league match between Hong Kong Boys Club and Quasem Smriti Sangsad at the Khulna Stadium. Quasem Smriti won the match 5-3 in tie-breaker.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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