

Leics after Sehwaq?

INTERNET, Leicester

Leicestershire have targeted Indian batting star Virender Sehwaq as one of their overseas players for next season.

BBC Radio Leicester reports that the county are currently in discussions with Sehwaq, who recently starred for India at the ICC Champions Trophy.

Sehwaq also scored 98 from only 85 balls for India during a 50-over match against Leicestershire at Grace Road in June.

Australian one-day batsmen Michael Bevan was the county's overseas player in 2002, but his deal has now expired.

The county have appointed opener Iain Soutcliffe as captain, rewarding the left-hander with a new three-year contract after scoring 1,000 runs for the second successive season.

Last season's skipper Vince Wells has been offered a new one-year deal but only as a player.

Darren Stevens, due to travel to Australia with the England Academy has also been granted a three-year contract, and veteran paceman Devon Malcolm has been offered another year.

Wicketkeeper Neil Burns has been released along with reserve Stephen Adshad, prompting speculation that Paul Nixon could return to the county.

Nixon, who had his contract severed by Kent last month after refusing to take a pay-cut, previously spent ten seasons with the Foxes.



THE STAR'S FAMILY: The family of Indian master batsman Sachin Tendulkar waits for him in the car upon his arrival at the Bombay Airport on October 1.

Jones' regret

INTERNET, Cardiff

England and Glamorgan pace bowler Simon Jones says he is disappointed that the world's fastest bowler will not be playing in Wales this weekend.

Shoaib Akhtar was due to play for the Rest of the World side in a one-off game of Power Cricket at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on Friday and Saturday.

Jones was hoping to compare notes with the Pakistan star and pick up a few tips before heading out with England for the Ashes tour in Australia.

But the Pakistan Cricket Board have told Akhtar to stay at home.

Jones said: "He's obviously one of the quickest bowlers in the world."

"He bowled very quickly in the ICC Champions Trophy and it would have been nice to meet him, have a chat and get some ideas off him."

Despite Akhtar absence, there will certainly be no shortage of world-class cricketers on show under the Millennium Stadium roof.

The British side, captained by England skipper Nasser Hussain, features five members of the current England Ashes squad and Glamorgan favourites Robert Croft and Matthew Maynard.

Their opponents include some of the finest current one-day internationals, as well as West Indies legend Courtney Walsh.

"I can't wait to play at the stadium," said Walsh.

"I have fond memories of playing Test and county cricket in England -- but not the time spent in pavilions waiting for the rain to stop."

Power Cricket is a shortened version of the one-day game played on an artificial pitch.

The match is divided into four 15-over innings where the batting team is rewarded with extra runs for reaching designated scoring areas.

PCB's no

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Between games, he said.

"These guidelines come into effect immediately. The ICC does not agree with too much cricket and we have taken things to a stage where we need to put the brakes on," Speed said.

"These suggestions have come out of the captains meeting held in July," he added. "But it is up to the national boards to comply with the recommendations."

Losing warm-up

Cricket

AFP, Soweto

South Africa's second-string fast bowlers sounded a warning to Bangladesh on Tuesday when South Africa A gained a comfortable 72-run win over the tourists at the Soweto Oval.

David Terbrugge took four wickets as Bangladesh, chasing 280 to win, were always behind the asking rate, and although they managed to bat through their 50 overs, the tourists finished on 207 for eight.

Terbrugge's probing opening spell earned two important early breakthroughs for the South Africans, the seamer completing his 10 overs with figures of four for 23.

The touring team management's largest concern would be the difficulty of its top-order batsmen playing the faster bowlers, even though the Oval in Soweto township was one of the slowest the batsmen were likely to encounter on the tour.

All-rounder Khaled Mahmud gave the Bangladesh innings some respectability by making an aggressive unbeaten 49 off 44 balls but the specialist batsmen struggled, especially against the new ball.

Opening batsman Hannan Sarkar, who was not in the Bangladesh squad which competed in the recent ICC Champions Trophy tournament in Sri Lanka, made 37 and survived for 20 overs, while Sanwar Hossain and Alok Kapali made 42 and 38 respectively.

Earlier, the South African innings (279-5) was anchored by Ashwell

Prince who made 87 from 103 balls including five boundaries before holing out in the deep off the bowling of Taposh Baisya.

McKenzie, the captain, hit an aggressive 77 as he shared a third wicket stand of 102 off 129 balls with Prince.

McKenzie, a surprise discard from the national team, lifted the tempo of the innings and made his 77 off 55 balls before being caught in the deep in the 49th over.

The left-handed Prince, who played in three Tests against Australia last season but has yet to play in a one-day international, made his 87 off 103 balls.

Martin van Jaarsveld, who has been picked for the full South African team for the one-day international in Potchefstroom, made 50 as South Africa A recovered from a slow start.

Bangladesh opening bowlers Monjurul Islam and Taposh bowled steadily with the latter showing that he could spearhead his team's attack in the international games. Taposh finished with four for 49.

Leg-spinner Kapali was also impressive, conceding only 30 runs in eight overs. He followed up by batting stylishly.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the limited-overs practice match between Bangladesh and South Africa A at the Soweto Oval on Tuesday:

SOUTH AFRICA A: 279 for 5 in 50 overs (A Prince 87, N McKenzie 77, Van Jaarsveld 50; T Baisya 4-49)

BANGLADESH: Hannan c Tsolekile b Zondeki 37

Al Shahriar c Tsolekile b Terbrugge 1

Bashar c Hall b Terbrugge 0

Imran c Tsolekile b Zondeki 26

Sanwar c Tsolekile b Peterson 42

Kapali c Tsolekile b Terbrugge 38

Mashud c Van Jaarsveld b Terbrugge 0

Mahmud not out 49

Rafique c Hall b Zondeki 2

Baisya not out 3

Extras: (lb-5, w-3, nb-1) 9

Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs) 207

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-17, 3-65, 4-70, 5-131, 6-138, 7-174, 8-188

Did not bat: Monjurul Islam

Bowler O M R W

Nel 10 2 46 0

Terbrugge 10 1 23 4

Zondeki 10 1 38 3

Hall 10 0 39 0

Peterson 10 0 56 1

Result: South Africa A won by 72 runs.

Man-of-the-match: David Terbrugge.

Doper Yemenis sent home

AFP, Busan

Three bodybuilders from Yemen have been sent home from the Asian Games in the first doping-related controversy to hit the sporting event.

The International Federation of Bodybuilders (IFBB) said in a statement the three athletes had been kicked out for failing to submit a report detailing the results of dope tests taken prior to the competition.

The three bodybuilders were named as Aref Sharaf Al Shaer, the favourite for gold in the men's +90kg class, Ali Ahmed A. Ayesh and Ziyad Moqbel Saleh.

The three bodybuilders pleaded for leniency from the IFBB, insisting they had not known the regulation is also applied to the Asian Games.

Henman hopeful

REUTERS, London

Tim Henman's persistent shoulder injury has forced him to pull out of next week's CA Trophy in Vienna.

The injury is a recurrence of the problem that plagued him throughout the US Open and last month's Davis Cup tie against Thailand.

Ascan taken last Friday revealed that there is no serious damage, and he hopes to be fit enough for the Masters Series event in Madrid, which begins on October 14.

Henman said: "During the Davis Cup tie, I felt no pain whatsoever in my shoulder, so I was delighted and really felt the worst was behind me."

"However, last Wednesday I awoke with a lot of pain, almost as much as when I originally became injured in Indianapolis."

"I decided to have the MRI scan on my shoulder. Fortunately the news is good in that there are no new injury worries, more a recurrence of the old one."

"I have some bruising of the bone, which they think has been caused by a posture problem which may take a long time to heal."

"However, the pain shouldn't get any worse, and over time the posture work I am doing I should make a full recovery."

AEK boss gets 12-year jail

AFP, Athens

The boss of one of Greece's top football clubs was handed a 12-year prison sentence by a court here Tuesday after falsely accusing a Greek government minister of accepting bribes.

AEK Athens' president Makis Psomiadis ran a story in the tabloid newspaper he owned, To Onoma, targeting Costas Laliotis, general secretary of the ruling PASOK socialist party.

In the 1996 article To Onoma published a false bank statement suggesting that Laliotis had pocketed 13 million euros worth of back-handers from a German construction company, Hochtief.

The year before Laliotis had signed a contract for the construction of a new airport in Athens with a group made up of the State and private firms including Hochtief.

ICC to fix

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Cricketers Association (FICA). "I believe it is easy to deal with One body, like in some of the other sports," Gray said.

"But there are some countries which have a different cultural background, employer-employee relationship with others."

"But this doesn't mean we can't talk to FICA."

Sino sweep on Day Four

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

AFP, Busan

China pulled further ahead in the Asian Games gold medal stakes here Wednesday thanks to a clean sweep by their powerful rowers and a world-record performance from the shooting team.

Buoyed by the success of their swimmers in the pool on Tuesday night, China's athletes started Day Four of the games where they had left off, winning all nine gold medals in early action.

Six of the golds went to the Chinese rowing squad, who have dominated the sport in Asia for two decades.

The six wins now mean that since rowing was introduced into the Games in New Delhi in 1982, China has won 51 of the 53 gold medals contested.

In Bangkok four years ago, the Chinese won all 11 and they were in awesome form straightaway Wednesday when 23-year-old Zhu Zhifu won the men's lightweight single sculls, coming home four seconds clear of the field.

Fu Fengjin then added gold in the women's event winning in a time of 9min 0.81sec ahead of Thailand's Phuttharaksa Nikree with Hong

Kong's Yung Ka-yan in third. Easy victories in the men's and women's coxless fours followed.

China's other golds came on the shooting range.

In the women's 10m air rifle team event, the Chinese trio of Zhao Yinghui, Gao Jing and Du Li notched 1,194 points to break the world record by just four points and take gold ahead of India and South Korea.

That was quickly followed by victory in the men's 50m pistol team event, China amassing 1,690 points to beat South Korea and North Korea into silver and bronze medal positions respectively.

Another gold in the men's 10m air rifle team event completed the medal haul. China scored 1,788 points, ahead of both Japan and South Korea who shared silver with 1,772.

But Chinese domination of shooting was broken by North Korea's second gold medal of the games in the women's trap team title.

Though China should add to their overall tally in the swimming pool later Wednesday, all the indications are that Japan are planning a strong fightback after sinking without a trace on Tuesday.

In the morning heats, Kosuke Kitajima was fastest qualifier in the 200m breaststroke as was Shunichi

Fujita in the 400m freestyle, setting a new Asian Games record of 3min 53.23sec.

Japan's Noriko Anada was strongest in the women's 100m backstroke in 1:02.01 with Korea's Shim Min Ji one second adrift.

Japan's Yuko Nakanishi was also quickest in the 100m butterfly but can take nothing for granted in the final, with China's Zheng Xi and compatriot Maki Mita likely to challenge strongly.

China's women look good for at least one gold in swimming later Wednesday, with Xu Yanwei the fastest qualifier in the 100m freestyle.

Elsewhere Wednesday, the opening bouts in the boxing competition take place against a backdrop of concern from participating teams fearing a repeat of past judging controversies.

South Korean fighters have been given a kind draw for the tournament, with one guaranteed medal and four opening round byes allowing the hosts to avoid most of the favoured fighters in the early rounds.

Meanwhile, the tennis competition begins with Thai stars Paradorn Srichaphan and Tamarine Tanasugarn, both enjoying their best professional seasons, favourites for the gold medal in singles.

David exits, Anna cruises

Tennis

AP, Moscow

Wimbledon finalist David Nalbandian lost to Rainer Schuttler 7-6, 6-4 Tuesday in the first round of the Kremlin Cup.

Nalbandian led the tiebreaker 6-3, before Schuttler won five straight points to win the first set. Schuttler needed just one service break to win the second set and the match. He finished with four aces, Nalbandian none.

Defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia came back from one set down to beat Vladimir Votchkov of Belarus.

The 98th-ranked Votchkov broke the Olympic gold medalist after a decisive break in the eighth game to go up 5-3 before winning the first set.

In the second set, second-seeded Kafelnikov took a 3-0 lead and closed the set in 33 minutes to stay in the match.

Seeking his sixth consecutive title here, Kafelnikov went 4-1 up in the decisive third set, but Votchkov managed to fight back to make it 5-5 and the players held their serve to go into the tiebreaker. Down 3-0 in the tiebreaker, the Russian won five consecutive points, closing the match in 2:42.

Anna Kournikova reached the second round by defeating Marie-



Russian Anna Kournikova stretches to play a forehand against Marie-Gaiane Mikaelian of Switzerland at the Kremlin Cup on October 1.

Gaiane Mikaelian of Switzerland 6-4, 6-3. Kournikova, still without a tour singles title, was a wild-card entry to her 116th career tournament.

"I was playing really well today, and it was a nice feeling on the court," Kournikova said.

Two weeks ago Kournikova came close to winning her first career title, but lost to Anna Smashnova in final of the Shanghai Open. That was Kournikova's first final since she lost to Martina Hingis in the Kremlin Cup final in 2000.

In other action Tuesday, eighth-

seeded Silvia Farina-Elia was upset by wild-card entrant Dinara Safina of Russia, 0-6 7-6, 6-4. Cyril Saulnier beat Davide Sanguinetti 6-4, 6-1, and Paul-Henri Mathieu ousted Tommy Robredo 6-7, 7-5, 6-2. Wayne Ferreira beat Fernando Vicente 7-6, 6-4, and Andre Sa ousted Michel Kratochvil 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Amanda Coetzer defeated Lubise Prusova 6-4, 6-4. Maja Matevich eliminated Rita Grande 6-4, 7-5, and Elena Bovina got past Vera Zvonareva 2-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Hewitt humiliates Chang

Tennis

REUTERS, Tokyo

World number one Lleyton Hewitt overpowered Michael Chang 6-2, 6-2 in the second round of the Japan Open on Wednesday and his path to the title was eased by the defeat of Carlos Moya and two other top

seeds. Hewitt, the winner in Tokyo last year, needed less than an hour to beat Chang, who could do little against the Australian's heavy artillery.

The defending champion overwhelmed the 30-year-old with a stream of baseline winners and committed hardly any unforced errors.

"I felt that I got better and better as the match went on. I played pretty well in the end," Hewitt told a news conference.

Chang said Hewitt was not much he can do in the face of a good performance from the Wimbledon champion.

"He's playing some great tennis. There is not much else you can say, but take your hat off if he plays too good and I would say today was one of those days," Chang said.

For Chang, the loss has shattered his hopes of making a victorious farewell to the singles tournament in what he has said will be his last event in Japan.

Thunderous applause erupted as the American walked off the court, bidding farewell to the fans who still idolise him in this part of the world.

"I have great memories here in Japan. The people and the country have been very kind to be over the years, so I'm very thankful for that," Chang told reporters.

Chang still has a shot at the doubles title as he and partner Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia advanced to the second round.

Hewitt said Chang was his role model in many ways and that he had learned the importance of quickness around the court and mental toughness from the former world number two.

"He was very unlucky not to have become number one in the world at some stage," Hewitt said.

Chang, whose 14-year-career was launched into orbit when he won the French Open as a 17-year-old in 1989, has said he will probably retire next year.

In other action on Wednesday, third seed Moya fell 6-4, 7-5 defeat at the hands of Germany's Alexander Waske, while another Spaniard, fourth seed Alex Corretja, succumbed to Karol Kucera of Slovakia 3-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Ecuadorian seventh seed Nicolas Lapentti was also beaten, 7-5, 6-2 by qualifier Magnus Larsson of Sweden.

There was better luck for Spain in the women's draw, with Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario cruising through to the second round by disposing of Russia's Maria Kirilenko 6-3, 6-2.



Lleyton Hewitt of Australia plays a backhand against American Michael Chang at the Japan in Tokyo yesterday.



Action from yesterday's 10th school kabaddi tournament match between Nawabpur School and Haider Ali School at the court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Arrest, slangily
5 Nourished
8 Attention-getter
12 SSS classification
13 Thai language
14 Eastern princess
15 Connecticut city
17 Terrible guy?
18 Echo-location method
19 Senescence
21 Laze
24 Longing
25 Assume an attitude
28 "— Free"
30 Actor
33 Sunbeam
34 Spiral
35 Reverence plus
36 Mess up
37 Hedge-podge
38 "That's a relief!"
39 Cleo's slaver

41 Anne Frank's father
43 Squabble
46 Pole staff?
50 Malaria symptom
51 West Coast city
54 42-Down's mom
55 Compete
56 Luminary
57 Author
58 Skilled player
59 Sharpen

DOWN
1 Spring-sleeve title
2 Golden Rule word
3 Hayes of "Will & Grace"
4 Mexican entree
5 "Alice" spinoff
6 Corn spike
7 Fuddy-duddy
8 Leo's family?
9 "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" city
10 Fly in the ointment
11 Fork purchase
16 To and fro
20 Wildcat
22 First victim
23 Page number
25 Grand —, Nova Scotia
26 Dinghy prop
27 Big East's Orange-men
29 Mass uprising
31 Lamb's dam
32 Morning in the moisture
34 Clinton's hometown
38 Shoe store
40 Type of trap-shooting
42 Sen. Kennedy
43 Zinger
44 Lab assistant?
45 Invitation initials.
47 D.C. denial
48 Cardinal O'Connor's successor
49 Angry
52 Melody
53 Modern (Pref.)

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CRYPTOQUIP

F S P J U Z T F N J D D Z
J X C C Y P L S P P K P X J L S T G L S .
D G U K F X K K . X D ' K S Z Y X P G
D S N J D S P Z D S P G K .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK ALL BASKETBALL PLAYERS NEED BIBS WHILE PLAYING. THEY'RE ALWAYS DRIBBLING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals S

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.