

Angry Anwar threatens quitting

AFP, Lahore

Former Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar laid out national selectors Monday for ignoring him for the forthcoming Zimbabwe tour and hinted at possible retirement.

"If Pakistan has a better opener than me he must be selected, but I can't understand how they ignored me by saying I lack confidence," Anwar told AFP in an interview.

"I am consulting my seniors and may opt for retirement if the situation remains the same." Anwar, 34, who holds the world record for the highest one-day score of 194, failed to find a place in Pakistan's test and one-day squad for next month's tour of Zimbabwe.

Chief selector Wasim Bari reasoned Anwar lacked confidence in batting, noting he only scored three runs in a recent trial match.

Anwar, who last year became a devout Muslim after the death of his only daughter, blamed selectors for not giving him a chance in this month's series against Australia.

"Selectors did not pick me for the series against Australia (even though) I had told captain Waqar Younis and manager Yawar Saeed that I wanted to play," he said.

"Instead the wrong impression was created that I had asked for rest."

Pakistan suffered a devastating 3-0 drubbing by Australia in the series in the United Arab Emirates' Sharjah.

"I made 52 against Sri Lanka and 28 not out against the Netherlands in the Champions Trophy last month but was axed," said Anwar.

After tallying 4,052 runs in 55 tests and 8,605 runs in 242 one-day internationals, Anwar said he chose to leave the game two months back when he was dropped for the tri-series in Kenya.

"But selectors picked me for the ICC (International Cricket Council) event," he said.

Anwar said Pakistan cricket was "at a dangerous crossroads."

"Interest in cricket has waned and people have stopped watching cricket because of defeats," he said.

"If quick steps are not taken Pakistan cricket will suffer the same fate as hockey and squash."

Green Delta hockey

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Hockey Club defeated Combined Sporting Club 2-1 in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 1-0 through a Shafiq Alam field goal in the 27th minute.

Combined Sporting struck back when their skipper Ramzan found the net in the 43rd minute from a penalty corner.

However, Shakil converted a penalty corner for Dhaka Club two minutes from time to win the match.

Dilkusha Sporting Club take on Shishu Kishore Sangha in today's match.

Gulshan Club snooker

SPORTS REPORTER

JAM Nasir and Yasir M Farooque moved into the second round of the Gulshan Club President Gold Cup Billiards and Snooker Tournament yesterday.

Nasir of Winia Snooker Parlour outplayed hosts Shamsul Alam 3-1 while Dhaka Club's Yasir won all three frames against Fathum Mubin Khan of Bangladesh Billiard Centre.

Pollock praises Bangladesh

Cricket

REUTERS, Potchefstroom

South Africa captain Shaun Pollock thinks Bangladesh are improving as a test side, despite suffering their second crushing defeat.

Bangladesh were skittled for 107 in their second innings to lose by an innings and 160 runs before tea on Day Three, but Pollock believes the test newcomers' lack of success is understandable.

"They've obviously got to start somewhere," Pollock said. "They should probably play a lot more test cricket at home for the next few years. It's difficult for them to come into these conditions and be expected to perform well."

"But as the tour's gone on they've shown a lot of improvement and this experience will be invaluable for them."

Pollock was supported by his coach Eric Simons, who feels Bangladesh had made significant progress.

"I think they've shown a vast improvement over the course of the one-day and test series," Simons said. "We might look back in a few years time and say that it was a good thing that they came here."

"They themselves keep on saying that this is all part of a learning process for them and I've certainly felt that they've learned. But they're struggling a bit at the moment, there's no doubt about that."

Australia close

FROM PAGE 13

of 28.50, including 98 against Pakistan at Rawalpindi in 1998-99.

Mark Waugh's 128 Tests sits fifth on the all-time list of appearances, behind Allan Border (156), Stephen Waugh (151), West Indian Courtney Walsh (132) and former Indian great Kapil Dev (131).

Waugh is also 11th on the all-time run-scoring list, recording 8,029 runs at an average of 41.82. He has 20 centuries to his name.

But he has struggled in recent seasons, averaging 35 or less in his last four series and just 80 runs in four appearances during Australia's 3-0 whitewash of Pakistan earlier this month.

Australia's chairman of selectors, Trevor Hohns, said the decision to drop Waugh was a tough one for the panel.

"Unfortunately, the contribution and the form of Mark hasn't been

what he would like and ultimately, in the end, probably what we would like over the last 12 months, so we thought the time was appropriate."

Hohns said Lehmann's age was not an issue compared to younger contenders Jimmy Maher, Mike Hussey, Simon Katich and Michael Clarke.

"Darren has been the next cab off the rank for the last three or four tours and it's only natural that he warrants this opportunity," Hohns said.

SQUAD

Stephen Waugh (captain), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehmann, Damien Martyn, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Brett Lee, Andrew Bichel, Glenn McGrath (12th man to be named on morning of match).

Worn down

FROM PAGE 13

drop a catch it might lose the game for the team and I don't think that was the ideal way to play your cricket."

Waugh agreed that he had not scored enough runs, compiling just 25 from his last three innings as Australia crushed Pakistan in Colombo and Sharjah.

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns told Waugh on Saturday that he was out of the Test team because of his form.

Since his Test debut against England in the fourth Test at the Adelaide Oval in January 1991 where he scored 138, Waugh has been virtually an ever-present in the Australian eleven.

His peerless ability in the slips to snap up reflex catches netted him at the record 181 dismissals, an average of 1.41 catches a match with former Australian Test skipper Mark

Taylor next on 157.

Yet for a batsman of his stylish pedigree Waugh had a frustrating inability to go on and score big centuries. Of his 20 Test tons, Waugh's top score was an unbeaten 153 against India at Bangalore in March 1998.

Compare that to his brother Steve, who has a highest score of 200, and Test teammates Matthew Hayden's 203, Ricky Ponting's 197, Justin Langer's 223 and Adam Gilchrist's unbeaten 204.

He is also Australia's all-time leading run scorer in one-day internationals. He was a member of the Australian team that won the 1999 World Cup.

He made his Test debut after he was called in the Australian side at the expense of his brother. He was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year for 1991.



Scene from match between Yasir M Farooque and Fathum Mubin Khan during the Gulshan Club President Gold Cup Billiards and Snooker Tournament yesterday.

Div I handball

BSS, Dhaka

Victoria Sporting Club defeated Surjodoy Kriira Chakra 18-6 in the Bata First Division Handball League at the court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Victoria dominated the first half 13-6.

Tuhin netted six goals while Sagar added three for the winners. Raja reduced three goals for the losers.

Earlier, the first match of the day between Prime Sporting Club and Bhatratta Samaj Kalyan Sangha ended in a 14-14 draw with Bhatratta leading the first session 7-5.

Ripon scored the highest six goals for Prime Sporting, while Shaheen was the leading scorer for Bhatratta with four goals to his credit.

JU cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Physics moved into the quarterfinals of the inter-department cricket tournament of Jahangirnagar University (JU) beating Bangla by one-wicket at the Central playground yesterday.

Winning the toss Bangla batted first and scored 92 runs for eight in the stipulated 25 overs.

Arup was the highest contributor with unbeaten 29. Lion claimed 2 wickets for 15 runs.

In reply, Physics reached the target of 93 runs losing 9 wickets in 24.1 overs.

Lion scored highest 10 runs. Mobin and Saeed grabbed 3 wickets each for 9 and 12 runs respectively.

Physics will take on History on November 9.

Paradorn prevails

AFP, Stockholm

Paradorn Srichaphan steam-rolled Chile's Marcelo Rios with a 30-ace display Sunday to rip the sixth seed 6-7, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 for the title at the 650,000-dollar Stockholm Open.

Paradorn, the toast of his native Thailand after a run to glory which began with a second-round upset of Andre Agassi at Wimbledon and carried on for a first career title two months later at Long Island, was unstopable on serve at the Kungliga hallen. A sell-out crowd of around 4,000 turned the Swedish royal venue into a mini-Davis Cup, with chanting, flag-waving and singing.

A victory at Deportivo followed by a home victory over Lens should see Bayern through.

French club Lens will be hoping AC Milan's qualification for the

Double defeats

FROM PAGE 13

In the women's section there was disappointment too for Bangladesh when they lost to their 15th seeded Dutch counterparts 3-0.

IWM Rani Hamid fell to WGM Peng Zhaoquin, Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa was beaten by WGM Tea Bosboom-Lanchava and Zakia Sultana conceded to Schuurman Petra.

They remain on 1.5 points.

Russia led with six points, half a point more than defending champions China.

In Monday's third round matches the men play Cyprus while the women meet Yemen.

'Keep sports

FROM PAGE 13

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman moderated.

Hafizuddin said professional and efficient management was required to run the bodies. The former general secretary and president of Bangladesh Football Federation also appealed to keep politics out of sports.

Termining match-fixing as a dangerous insect, he said, "We never thought of doing such a thing during our days."

"Those involved in such an evil practice should be given exemplary punishment," he suggested.

Fazlur Rahman gave a brief report on sporting activities in the past year.

Another Colombian tragedy

AFP, Bogota

Colombian footballer Giovanni Cordoba died on Sunday, three days after being struck by lightning while training with Deportivo Cali, a hospital statement said.

Cordoba was the second player to be killed by lightning in the same incident after Herman Gaviria died shortly after arriving in hospital on Thursday.

It was a tragedy for the Colombian league leaders and the 44-million-strong population of a country which is passionate about football.

During a storm on Thursday afternoon when the team were training in a stadium in Pance, to the south of the Cali, Gaviria, Cordoba, Carlos Alvarez, Giovanni Hernandez and Julian Mauricio Espinoza were struck by lightning.

The five players were taken to hospital in Cali, 470km south west of capital Bogota, but 33-year-old attacking midfielder Gaviria died shortly after arriving at the hospital.

The 24-year-old striker Cordoba was in intensive care in a critical condition but the other three players were described as stable, according to a hospital statement at 7:15pm local time on Thursday (0015 GMT on Friday).

A further hospital statement on Sunday said: "Giovanni Cordoba died after the strong electrical charge caused irreversible damage to multiple organs."

Paradorn prevails

AFP, Stockholm

Paradorn Srichaphan steam-rolled Chile's Marcelo Rios with a 30-ace display Sunday to rip the sixth seed 6-7, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 for the title at the 650,000-dollar Stockholm Open.

Paradorn, the toast of his native Thailand after a run to glory which began with a second-round upset of Andre Agassi at Wimbledon and carried on for a first career title two months later at Long Island, was unstopable on serve at the Kungliga hallen. A sell-out crowd of around 4,000 turned the Swedish royal venue into a mini-Davis Cup, with chanting, flag-waving and singing.

A victory at Deportivo followed by a home victory over Lens should see Bayern through.

French club Lens will be hoping AC Milan's qualification for the

Nalbandian breaks the jinx

AFP, Basel

Wimbledon finalist David Nalbandian's long quest for his first ATP title finally came to an end here Sunday.

The Argentinian who had taken Wimbledon by storm in the summer until meeting his match in Lleyton Hewitt won the one million dollar Basel Open beating Chilean Fernando Gonzalez 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

The number six seed's landmark success on only his second full season as a member of the ATP tour took just 98 minutes, reflecting the one-sided nature of this all South American encounter.

Unbeaten Inter, who lost the services of World Cup winner Ronaldo to Real Madrid in the summer, leapfrogged neighbours AC Milan after they suffered their first league defeat of the season at Chievo on Saturday.

Inter have 16 points from six matches, three more than Milan who remain second.

Coach Hector Cuper admitted Inter's performance lacked imagination but was happy to take three valuable points in the club's pursuit for their first Italian championship in 14 years.

"It wasn't spectacular," said the chain-smoking Argentinian.

"We didn't play well but much of that was down to Bologna. They closed down the space and always had plenty of players behind the ball. They didn't make things easy for us."

The former Valencia boss defended his side's use of the long ball which has paid dividends in recent weeks at home and in Europe.

"It's a natural instinct for players to hit the ball long when there is little space to play," he added.

"We would like to play pretty football every week but that's not always possible."

"Performances are not always important, it's results that count."

Bologna coach Francesco Guidolin was disappointed not to leave with at least a point after keeping Inter at bay for almost two thirds of the match.

"We rarely looked in trouble until Materazzi's goal," he said.

"Inter had two chances and they took both of them."

Inter struggled to make the breakthrough at the San Siro against a stubborn Bologna side also protecting an unbeaten record.

But Materazzi eased the pressure on the home side by giving Inter the lead in the 66th minute, leading highest to meet Ivan Cordoba's free-kick and send a looping header into the corner of the net.

Bayern's last chance

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Paris

Four-time winners Bayern Munich must beat Deportivo La Coruna on Tuesday to have any chance of pulling themselves out of their crisis to advance in the European Champions League.

In the last four seasons, Bayern have reached the quarter-finals, semi-finals, finished runners-up and were the 2001 champions in a prime example of consistency in the continent's most prestigious and glamorous club competition.

Yet just one point from four games in first round Group G this season has thrust Otmaz Hitzfeld's men into this must-win situation in the northwestern Spanish city of Coruna.

Hampering Bayern's build-up, World Cup hero Oliver Kahn is out of Tuesday's fixture after tearing a thigh muscle in Wednesday's 2-1 defeat at AC Milan and will probably not return till early next month.

Stand-in keeper Stefan Wessels, who replaced Kahn early in the second half against Milan, will once more be between the posts in Spain.

Hitzfeld put a brave face on the predicament: "We have always been able to count on Stefan each time we have needed him. He has never let us down," he said.

Injured Kahn of course did not play in Munich's 3-3 German league draw against Hannover 96 on Saturday, instead deciding to play golf. Hitzfeld confirmed he had the blessing of the club to relax away from the pressures of the sport.

"The medical staff knew what he was up to and he needed to destress himself," Hitzfeld added. "He has been quite worked up in recent days."

Midfielder Owen Hargreaves is unlikely to play as he is still suffering from a high problem though Hitzfeld has included the England international in the travelling party.

French international defender Willy Sagnol, who hurt his left knee against Hannover, and Bosnian midfielder Hasan Salihovic, who hurt his groin in the same fixture, are further doubts.

"It's a race against time and we probably won't know much more till a couple of hours before the match," continued Hitzfeld.

A victory at Deportivo followed by a home victory over Lens should see Bayern through.

French club Lens will be hoping AC Milan's qualification for the

second round last week might bring complacency into their ranks in northern France in the other match in the group.

Lens will be at full-strength apart from long-term absentee Zoumana Camara, though there is a slight doubt over Senegalese midfielder Pape Boubou Diop with a groin injury.

Manchester United set off for their Champions League Group F clash with Maccabi Haifa on Sunday with a handful of youngsters in place of some of their biggest names.

United face the Israeli champions in Cyprus on Tuesday, but having already secured their place in the second phase they were able to rest David Beckham, Laurent Blanc and Fabien Barthez.

Ruud van Nistelrooy, who has a hamstring problem, Ryan Giggs, who missed Saturday's draw with Aston Villa with a knee injury, and Nicky Butt, who is to undergo ankle surgery on Tuesday, were also missing from the 19-strong party.

Paul Scholes was the only first choice midfielder to get on the plane and Cypriot fans can expect to get a glimpse of youngsters Mads Timm, Mark Lynch, Daniel Nardiello and Ben Williams.

With Barthez left at home, United are expected to start with Spain's Ricardo in goal.

Carsten Ramelow and Zoltan Sebesteny are doubts for Bayer Leverkusen in their home match against Greeks Olympiakos in the other match in the pool.

German international defender Ramelow, who missed the 1-1 draw at Hertha Berlin on Saturday because of flu, was not able to train on Sunday and is likely to miss the game.

Utility midfielder Sebesteny, who got a knee knock and was replaced midway through the first half against Berlin, will need a late fitness test.

Juventus host Feyenoord in tight Group E with the Dutchmen back to form after a recent run of poor results.

Bert van Marwijk's men thrashed Willem II Tilburg 5-1 in the Dutch league on Saturday after a sequence of five matches without a win in all competitions to ease the pressure on the under-fire coach.

Newcastle, buoyed by their 1-0 win over Juventus last week after three defeats, still have a ray of hope on the run-up to their home match against Dynamo Kiev.

Frenchman Laurent Robert, who hit the winner in their 2-1 Premiership win over Charlton, has hit top form and received high praise from Magpies boss Bobby Robson.

"Laurent missed an easy chance against Juventus, but on Saturday he scored with a cannon bolt," said Robson. "When his left foot is on song, his shots are unstoppable."

Barcelona, the other team apart from Milan and Manchester to have qualified, travel to

Belgium's FC Bruges in Group H and Turks Galatasaray host Lokomotiv Moscow.

FIXTURES	
European Champions League first round fixtures this week:	
TUESDAY	
Group E	Juventus (Ita) v Feyenoord (Ned)
	Newcastle (Eng) v Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
Group F	Maccabi Haifa (Isr) v Manchester United (Eng)
	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Olympiakos (Gre)
Group G	Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) v Bayern Munich (Ger)
	Lens (Fra) v AC Milan (Ita)
Group H	Galatasaray (Tur) v Lokomotiv Moscow (Mos)
	FC Bruges (Bel) v Barcelona (Spa)
WEDNESDAY	
Group A	PSV Eindhoven (Ned) v Auxerre (Fra)
	Borussia Dortmund (Ger) v Arsenal (Eng)
Group B	Liverpool (Eng) v Valencia (Spa)
	Spartak Moscow (Mos) v FC Basel (Swi) - postponed till November 6 as a mark of respect to the Moscow hostage crisis
Group C	AEK Athens (Gre) v Genk (Bel)
	Real Madrid (Spa) v AS Roma (Ita)
Group D	Inter Milan (Ita) v Rosenborg (Nor)

Serie A Inter back atop

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan reclaimed first place in the Italian football league as second-half goals from Marco Materazzi and Christian Vieri clinched a 2-0 home victory over Bologna on Sunday.

Unbeaten Inter, who lost the services of World Cup winner Ronaldo to Real Madrid in the summer, leapfrogged neighbours AC Milan after they suffered their first league defeat of the season at Chievo on Saturday.

Inter have 16 points from six matches, three more than Milan who remain second.

Coach Hector Cuper admitted Inter's performance lacked imagination but was happy to take three valuable points in the club's pursuit for their first Italian championship in 14 years.

"It wasn't spectacular," said the chain-smoking Argentinian.

"We didn't play well but much of that was down to Bologna. They closed down the space and always had plenty of players behind the ball. They didn't make things easy for us."

The former Valencia boss defended his side's use of the long ball which has paid dividends in recent weeks at home and in Europe.

"It's a natural instinct for players to hit the ball long when there is little space to play," he added.

"We would like to play pretty football every week but that's not always possible."

"Performances are not always important, it's results that count."

Bologna coach Francesco Guidolin was disappointed not to leave with at least a point after keeping Inter at bay for almost two thirds of the match.

"We rarely looked in trouble until Materazzi's goal," he said.

"Inter had two chances and they took both of them."

Inter struggled to make the breakthrough at the San Siro against a stubborn Bologna side also protecting an unbeaten record.

But Materazzi eased the pressure on the home side by giving Inter the lead in the 66th minute, leading highest to meet Ivan Cordoba's free-kick and send a looping header into the corner of the net.

Primera Liga Leaders leave it very late

AFP, Madrid