

SA were undisciplined?



INTERNET, undated

In a controversial leaked report, the South African team has been accused of undisciplined preparation for the World Cup.

The players mentioned included Herschelle Gibbs, who was accused of "bingeing", Allan Donald, excessive drinking, and Lance Klusener of poor fitness.

The report filed to the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa by Andrew Gray, fitness trainer of the South African team, was published in a Cape Town newspaper.

However, Gray, now with the national team touring in Bangladesh, clarified that the report did not refer to preparations just before the World Cup. He said the comments were made in

December last year as part of letters to individual players in the World Cup squad.

But Gerald Majola, the UCB chief executive, admitted to the South African media that some of the issues raised in the report were of great concern, and are being addressed as part of an ongoing process to improve the team's performance.

The report also allegedly accused all-rounder Jacques Kallis of having a poor lifestyle outside cricket, branded Andrew Hall, Charl Langeveldt and Klusener as "fatties", and Shaun Pollock of being a chocolate addict.

Reacting to the report, Klusener called it a "huge red herring". He told the Daily Mercury: "Our failure (in the World Cup) had nothing to do either with our condition or the way we prepared for the tournament. It had more to do with our skill levels."

He pointed out that all the players had passed a fitness test at Cape Town's Sports Science Institute two weeks

before the tournament.

Reacting more sharply, Donald called the published report "absolute rubbish". He told the South African media: "Gray will never say that about the players. Prior to the World Cup, we were advised on how to prepare for matches and when we could relax a bit. We are all professional sportsmen. We're not idiots who'll drink too much before South Africa's cricket matches."

Donald told News 24 that the South African players on tour in Bangladesh were very disappointed about the report. "I spoke to Corrie van Zyl (bowling coach) and he said that he felt like a boxer who was being knocked down as soon as he tried to get up from the canvas.

"As a result of this load of rubbish the players won't get any recognition for their achievements in Bangladesh. Everything's blown out of proportion. I'm very frustrated. It's almost unbelievable and it's yet another attempt to further sink South African cricket."

Twenty 20 finals at Trent Bridge

INTERNET, London

Trent Bridge is to replace Lord's to host the finals of the Twenty20 Cup, county cricket's newest competition, after locals objected to loud music at the home of cricket.

The Nottingham venue got the nod from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Thursday, a month after Westminster City Council turned down an application for an entertainment licence at Lord's.

The July 19 finals day involves the two semifinals and the final of the competition, which sees each team bat for 20 overs, and a host of other rule changes.

The ECB admitted Lord's with a capacity of 28,000 had been the original choice.

But there was a body of opinion within English cricket's governing body that the tournament, with a mandate to attract a new audience, should move away from its traditional base.

Simons angry, frustrated



INTERNET, Chittagong

Eric Simons, coach of the South African cricket team, says he learned with "anger and frustration" of the negative article published in South Africa about his World Cup squad.

"It was with anger and frustration that I learnt about the article that appeared in the Argus Newspaper and its sister publications on Wednesday April 23. Clearly it was written by a journalist with no understanding or knowledge of the team or our World Cup campaign.

"Highly confidential reports have been leaked by a person or people who obviously have little or no sense of moral integrity to a reporter who has acknowledged to the UCB that he knows very little about the game.

"The fitness trainer's report is grossly misinterpreted in the article and it is an indictment on the editors of respected newspapers that they are prepared to publish a front page story in a manner that befits the cheapest form of journalism and under such lurid headlines.

"At no stage did the journalist bother to discuss the contents of the report with anyone involved in compiling the report in the interest of presenting a fair and complete picture.

"Obviously, as coach I have seen both the report and the article and it is clear that the writer has chosen to exaggerate and twist the content purely for the sake of sensationalism as the article makes no attempt to present the facts fairly.

"The bulk of the article refers to an

assessment exercise the squad did four months prior to the start of the World Cup. In the exercise we looked for any potential weaknesses that may have existed among the potential squad members.

"This was done in consultation with each individual and agreement was reached that the areas in need of attention receive the necessary attention well in advance of the tournament.

"When the issue of weight is brought up in our assessment we are

The team has a policy of no alcohol from two days before, and obviously throughout any international match, and this was policy throughout out world cup campaign.

"Mr Gray's report goes on to state that every provisional World Cup squad member passed a fitness test prior to the naming of the final squad, but the reporter does not bother to mention this as, clearly, it does not suit the overall tone of his story.

"I could continue explaining why



ERIC SIMONS

talking about a few kilograms either way. To use the word "fatties" is a disgrace to all journalists and an example of gutter journalism. When we talk about binges, we are talking about players who prefer to miss meals and to eat once a day.

"The words "alcohol" and "binge" are each mentioned once in the entire report, yet reference to them managed to find its way to the bloated headlines!

this article is a disgrace, and simply an attempt to suit someone's own selfish ends.

"As a squad we wanted to leave no stone unturned in our preparation for the World Cup, and even the smallest potential problem such as the injury potential of someone like Jonty Rhodes was considered.

"Obviously as a squad we are desperately disappointed in our perfor-

mance and the outcome of our World Cup campaign. But the issues raised so sensationally in this article were dealt with months before the tournament and were not, in any way, a factor at any stage in the tournament.

"I have found the endless, destructive attacks by certain sections of the SA media disappointing in the extreme, particularly when the positive angles are so often ignored.

"In this case, it seems that the need to be destructive was motivated by the need to sell newspapers and enhance careers. All of which is very frustrating as we endeavour to make our nation proud of their team.

"None of us has ever claimed to be perfect, but we do need and appreciate the incredible support we have from our public in spite of these attempts by some media to be destructive.

"The South Africa cricket team is in an exciting transitional phase, and we are already seeing some encouraging signs on our tour in Bangladesh.

"The story reached us just before our team meeting on Wednesday night, and I can honestly say I have never experienced a more subdued and dejected meeting as the one that followed. And this, just twelve hours before a Test match!

"The team expects justified criticism when playing at the highest level, but the sense of hurt and disappointment felt at the injustice of this article was tangible in all those affected.

"The captain did his best to pick the team up in the meeting, and in the end they understood the need to look forward and focus on the Test match and an exciting future.

"This team will move forward not because of article like this but in spite of it."

WHIZZ KID-192

winner

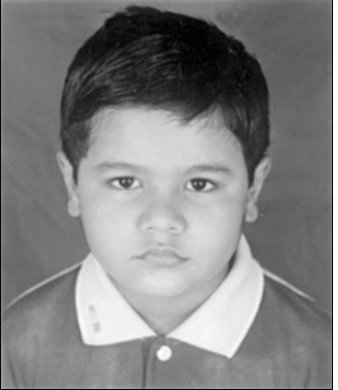
Mahid Haider Chowdhury

(Anada Niketan, Sylhet)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on May 4.

WHIZZ KID-191

winner



Sheikh Jawad Ibrahim

(Ever Green Int'l School, Dhaka)



BTV

Bangladesh vs South Africa

First Test, Day Three

Live at 9:55 am

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs New Zealand

First Test, Day Two

Live at 10:30 am

ESPN

English Premier Football League

Bolton Wanderers vs Arsenal

Live at 5:25 pm

&

Sunderland vs Newcastle

Live at 7:55 pm

Primera Liga

Athletico Madrid vs Osasuna

Live at 1:30 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

Bangladesh vs South Africa

First Test, Day Three

Live at 9:55 am

English Premier Football League

West Bromwich vs Liverpool

Live at 7:55 pm

Kent hold upper hand



INTERNET, London

Paul Nixon rescued Leicestershire from a first-innings collapse on the second day with a dogged 113 not out against Kent in their county championship game at Canterbury on Thursday.

With the help of Darren Maddy (63), he bumped up Leicestershire's total to 270, a lead of 25 on the first innings.

For Kent, Martin Saggers took 4 for 75, and Mark Ealham was his usual tidy self with 2 for 36 from 20 overs.

In the second innings Phil DeFreitas took centre stage when he struck three times in quick succession before the end of play. Rob Key, Ed Smith and Greg Blewett all fell to him in the space of 14 runs as Kent were left in a spot of bother on 147 for 4.

At Old Trafford, heavy showers meant just 39 overs were played during the day in which Nottinghamshire carefully steered their way to 113 for three.

Lancashire paceman Jimmy Anderson removed opener Jason Gallian for nought, and Usman Afzaal soon followed when he was caught behind off Glenn Chapple for 6.

That left Notts in trouble at 11 for 2 but Darren Bicknell (30 not out) and Chris Cairns (51 not out) made sure no further damage was done with an

unbeaten partnership of 69.

Meanwhile, in an exciting day's play at Lord's in which 15 wickets fell, Sussex took a strong grip on a low-scoring match against Middlesex, who scored 239 in the first knock on Wednesday.

Middlesex never really recovered from their overnight score of 79 for 4 as they slumped to a below-par 116 all out, as James Kirtley and Mushtaq Ahmed took three wickets apiece.

They fought back well in the second innings, however, and Chad Keegan produced a fine spell of 4 for 27 to restrict Sussex to 194 for 9, an overall lead of 317.

At Edgbaston where Warwickshire and Essex are playing, just ten overs and one ball were bowled on a gloomy day, in which rain and bad light stopped play before lunch.

Dropped on 125 by John Dakin, Wednesday's hero Jim Troughton moved on from 107 to 129 not out, and with the help of Mohamed Sheik, increased Warwickshire's first innings total to 446 for 7.

In Division Two, Dimitri Mascarenhas smashed a stunning 100 not out off just 78 balls as Hampshire declared on 531 for 7 against Glamorgan at Cardiff.

Mascarenhas' knock included 13 fours and four sixes, with Alex Wharf and Robert Croft both conceding over 100 runs each.

In reply, Glamorgan made a decent

start until Chris Tremlett broke through, and then Mascarenhas rounded off his great day with the wicket of Ian Thomas for 41, Glamorgan finishing on 128 for 2.

At Wantage Road, Northamptonshire added just 14 runs to their overnight score to finish on 352 as Gloucestershire's Martin Ball took 5 for 104 from 40 overs.

The Gloucestershire innings was curtailed to only 17 overs due to rain, but slow left-armner Monty Panesar had Phil Weston caught by Mark Powell at short-leg for 13 to reduce them to 61 for 1.

Meanwhile at Taunton, wickets continued to tumble on Day Two.

Somerset's last five first-innings wickets added only 45 runs to be all out for 171 as Steve Harmison and Vince Wells claimed three wickets apiece.

Jonathan Lewis followed his 78 in Durham's first innings with a brave 50 in the second, but they were soon in trouble again at 66 for 4 after Nicky Peng was out for just 4.

But after Lewis went, Danny Law (35 not out) and Andrew Pratt (19 not out) calmed Durham's nerves to hold on till stumps, taking the score to 153 for five.

Lewis set for comeback



AFP, Los Angeles

Britain's Lennox Lewis will not be defending his World Boxing Council crown when he fights Canada's Kirk Johnson here on June 21 and Mike Tyson is not yet signed to fight on the same heavyweight card.

Those details were revealed here Thursday when promoters announced the fight card to be conducted at Staples Center, a venue secured in part because California agreed to provide Tyson with a license to fight.

Tyson is expected to fight Oleg Maskaev of Kazakhstan but has not yet signed a contract for the fight, promoter Gary Shaw said.

"We just haven't completed a deal for Mike to fight on this card, but we are cautiously optimistic," Shaw said.

Lewis was not worried about Tyson, 50-4 with 44 knockouts. His addition on the card could mean tens of millions of dollars in pay-per-view sales.

"Were optimistic about it. I'm not really worried about that right now," said Lewis. "I'm the champion. With Tyson on the card, it's an added bonus."

The WBC had threatened to strip Lewis of his crown if he did not face Vitali Klitschko, the top-ranked challenger from Ukraine, or Tyson, who said he needed more fights before a rematch with the man who knocked him out last June.

Instead, the WBC will not sanction the fight against Johnson. The only true crown at stake for Lewis is the "linear"

title, going to the man who beat the prior champion in the ring, regardless of sanctioning body decisions.

"That's the biggest belt out there," Lewis said. "There is no higher."

Adrian Ogun, Lewis' manager, said that if favored Lewis beats Johnson, talks are set to begin in July for a bout with Klitschko. Ogun blamed Klitschko's promoter for their four million-dollar offer to the fighter being rejected.

"We believe there is a problem there," Ogun said. "We believe the problem will be resolved. We will start neogitians in the first of July."

Asked if that meant Lewis would fight Klitschko next, Ogun replied, "We will uphold their (WBC) rules", which could leave open the door for a Tyson fight.

"There are still a lot of Tyson fans out

there and a lot of disbelievers in the first fight," Lewis said. "I'm the emperor. If he wants to fight, I'm here. If not I understand."

Lewis said the Ukrainian's promoter, Universum Box-Promotion, has scuttled deals even though Klitschko wants to fight Lewis.

"I believe Vitali Klitschko wants to fight me," Lewis said. "His promoter just wants to be bigger than me."

Lewis justified fighting Johnson by saying he is a more dangerous opponent than Chris Byrd, the International Boxing Federation champion who won the IBF title Lewis gave up rather than fight him.



PHOTO: AFP

Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero plays a forehand against Italian Filippo Volandri at the Barcelona Open on April 24.

Fleming leads Kiwi way

FROM PAGE 13

Both teams went in with five bowlers at the start of the short-two-Test series.

Sri Lanka, as expected, played three specialist spinners, including debutant leg-spinner Kaushalya Lokurachchi, with the option of a fourth slow bowler in Sanath Jayasuriya.

The Kiwis fielded two spinners in Daniel Vettori and Paul Wiseman and a three-man pace attack of Shane Bond, Jacob Oram and Daryl Tuffey.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at the Tamil Union ground in Colombo on Friday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings: Richardson b Vaas 85, Horne c Dharmasena b Nissanka 4, Fleming not out 112, Sinclair not out 114, Extras: (nb-1, w-1) 2, Total (For 2 wks in overs 93) 207

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-192

To bat: Scott Styris, Robbie Hart, Jacob Oram, Daryl Tuffey, Daniel Vettori, Paul Wiseman, Shane Bond

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	18	5	44	1
Nissanka	14	7	21	1
Dharmasena	22	6	46	0
Muralitharan	27	10	48	0
Lokuarachchi	9	2	35	0
Jayasuriya	3	0	13	0

SRI LANKA: Hashan Tillakaratne,

Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Ata-pattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardena, Ramesh Kaluvi-tharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Kaushalya Lokurachchi, Chaminda Vaas, Prabath Nissanka

Toss: New Zealand

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia) and Simon Taufel (Australia)

Jadeja allowed

FROM PAGE 13

charges were not framed against Jadeja.

Mehra said the board had acted "in haste and with a predetermined mind". The BCCI was seeking legal advice on the arbitrator's verdict, and said it had three months to decide its future action.

Jadeja was among four players who were banned by the BCCI for their alleged involvement with illegal book-makers.

Former captain Mohammad Azharuddin and batsman Ajay Sharma were banned for life, while Jadeja and Manoj Prabhakar were suspended for five years.

A probe by India's Central Bureau of Investigation said the cricketers had worked with bookmakers to fix matches.

B'DESH-S AFRICA SCOREBOARD

FROM PAGE 13

Dawson, Charl Willoughby, Makhaya Ntini

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza	17	2	78	1
Khaled Mahmud	13	5	32	0
Tapas Baishya	17	7	44	1
Enamul Hoque	32	10	73	0
Alok Kapali	18	2	57	0
Mohammad Ashraful	8	0	31	0
Habibul Bashar	7	0	38	0

Toss: Bangladesh

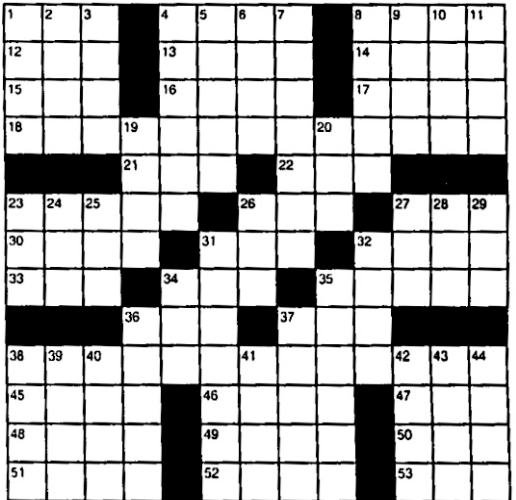
Umpires: Billy Bowden (New Zealand) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies)

TV umpire: Mahbubur Rahman (Bangladesh)

Match referee: CH Lloyd (West Indies)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Delaney or Catrall	3 World according to Arp?	23 Pub order
1 Founda-tion	37 "Caught yul"	4 Canolol monarch	24 Plead
4 Vipers	38 Warm spread	5 "The West Wing" star	25 Willerard old witch
8 Boutique	45 Sheltered stat	6 Brandy ingredient, sometimes	26 Tasseled hat
12 Mound	46 Do it in November	7 2002 U.S. Open champ	27 Answer to the Sphinx's Riddle
13 Comical	47 Shade	8 Chide	28 Literary collection
14 Select	48 "The Green —"	9 Heave	29 Apiece
15 Remnant	49 Unoriginal one	10 Toast topper	31 Dismissal (from office)
16 Squad	50 Decora-tive vase	11 Blizzard aid	32 Indigent
17 Hydrox rival	51 Survey	19 Walked (on)	34 Snapshot
18 Place to rest your head	52 Monocle part	20 "And — the opposite shore ..."	35 Black-smiths, generally
21 Panly-hose problem	53 Baby-talk syllable		36 Prepare to propose
22 Scepter			37 Frequently
23 Detest			38 Moist
26 Enthusiast			39 Medley
27 Chart			40 Jack
30 Steer			
31 Scalo notes			
32 Glazier's sheet			
33 Quiche maker's need			
34 It's dis-pensed			
35 Echo-location method			



CRYPTOQUIP

GI QIA VKKB YSLY LBB  
XEBIYR' BEMKFRKR RSIABG  
XWIDLDBQ DK XWEFYKG  
IF V B Q X L X K W ?  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHAT WOULD ONE CALL THE LEADER OF A CHURCH IN FRANCE'S CAPITAL? PASTOR OF PARIS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals L

The Cryptquip 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.