



Did U Know?

Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, who was dismissed for two against Pakistan in the second Test at Lahore on Monday, narrowly missed the feat of becoming the first batsman in the history of Test cricket to aggregate 500 runs without being dismissed. However, his first dismissal in the game's longer version this year, took his average to 497 in three Tests.

TALK TURKEY



Harsha Bhogle
(TV commentator)
"Irfan Pathan is like a kid in a party, wide-eyed, waiting for the next show, aware that he is in fact that show."

What to WATCH

- ESPN**
English Premier League
Arsenal v Liverpool
Live at 5.25pm
A Decade of Great Goals
Football programme
Repeat at 7.30pm
Sportscentre India
Sports programme
Live at 8.30pm
Here We Go
Football show
Same day delay at 9pm
Goals
Repeat at 10.30pm
- STAR Sports**
Sportsline
Sports programme
Live at 8pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 209

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 9, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

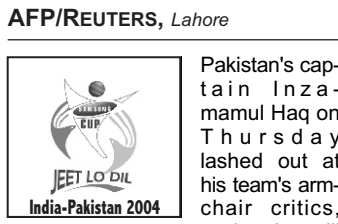
- Who will captain the Bangladesh football team at the SAF Games?
Monwar Alfaz Rana
- How many ODI hundreds has Sachin Tendulkar scored?
37 36 32
- Who clinched the Indian Wells ATP Masters Series title?
Federer Roddick Agassi
- Who lifted the Spanish Cup?
Zaragoza Real Madrid Villarreal
- Who became man-of-the-match in the fifth and final one-day international between India and Pakistan?
Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

Shiliguri tour U-16 squad named

SPORTS REPORTER
Mushfiq Rahim has been named captain of the Under-16 cricket team that will tour Shiliguri, India. The officials and fixture for the tour will be released later by the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Inzy's reply to critics

'Batting first might have been wrong'



AFP/REUTERS, Lahore
Pakistan's captain Inzamam-ul-Haq on Thursday lashed out at his team's arm-chair critics, saying he will resign if the negative appraisals did not stop.

Inzamam said his team's series-leveling win in the second Test against India here was a slap on the face of those former players and commentators who had written off Pakistan after the first Test defeat.

"I am glad the boys have come back in the series because the harsh and negative criticism after we had lost the Multan Test hurt me a lot," Inzamam told reporters.

"When a team loses, its supporters should try and lift the morale rather than pull it down."

"I agree with our coach Javed Miandad when he says he will quit if such criticism did not stop. I will also not like to stay as captain if people don't stop their rubbish."

Former Pakistani stars like Imran Khan, Sarfaraz Nawaz and Zaheer Abbas had lambasted the home team after India won the opening Test at Multan by an innings and 52 runs.

Pakistan came back strongly to level the three-match series 1-1 with a nine-wicket win at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Thursday to set up an intriguing battle in the decider in Rawalpindi from Tuesday.

"This is a great achievement by my young team because to come back after a bad defeat showed a lot of character," Inzamam said.

"But we must guard against being complacent because this is a very good Indian team and equally capable of bouncing back."

India's stand-in captain Rahul Dravid admitted his decision to bat first on a greenish wicket may have been wrong in hindsight.

"When we were four down on the first day, I had my worries," said Dravid, who was standing in for the injured Sourav Ganguly.

"In retrospect you can look at a lot of areas when you lose. We wish we had done a lot of things differently like the toss, or we should have batted better or we should have restricted their lead."

"We were not over-confident to bat on a grassy wicket, we have



GUL ... m-o-m
batted under such conditions before and it is not as if this was Headingley or Nottingham where the ball swung a lot.

"It's quite simple. Pakistan played better than us over the first three days and we did not play well."

This was the fourth time in the last three years -- after Zimbabwe, the West Indies and Australia -- that India had allowed the opposition to bounce back after taking the lead in an overseas series.

India have not won an overseas Test series since beating Sri Lanka

in 1993-94, though Dravid said the team was still hopeful of breaking that run.

"This series so far has been a very even contest and there is little difference between the two sides."

"It's been a competitive and intense series that has produced some great cricket and it should be no different in the third Test."

"Winning the first Test and losing the next is definitely an area we must work on," Dravid said. "But I don't think there was any complacency or someone did not work hard after the Multan win."

"(Umar) Gul was a surprise package for us," said Dravid. "His dismissals of (Virender) Sehwag, myself, Sachin (Tendulkar) and (Vangipurappu) Laxman were a big blow and we lost the initiative of winning the toss."

"If I'd known we would be four down at lunch I would have done things differently."

Dravid will make way for Ganguly, who will return to lead the side in the decisive Test after recovering from a back injury.

SCOREBOARD
Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between Pakistan and India at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Thursday:
INDIA: First innings 287 (Yuvraj 112, Pathan 49; Gul 5-31)
PAKISTAN: First innings 489 (Inzamam 118, Farhat 101, Kamal 73, Youhana 72; Balaji 3-81, Pathan 3-107)

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 149-5)
Chopra lbw b Akhtar 5
Sehwag c Akmal b Akhtar 90
Dravid run out 0

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LET'S CHEER: Pakistan's Taufeeq Umar (L) and Yasir Hameed celebrate their series-leveling victory over India in the second Test at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

Nat'l players can play in CCL

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday allowed the following 24 cricketers, under the national pool, to take part in the forthcoming Corporate Cricket League.

The players are: Habibul Bashar, Hannan Sarkar, Shahriar Hossain, Mohammad Ashraf, Al-Shahriar, Nafees Iqbal, Alok Kapali, Javed Omar Balim, Mushfiqur Rahman, Khaled Mahmud, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Rafique, Manjarul Islam, Enamul Haque, Faisal Hossain, Tapash Baishya, Alamgir Kabir, Tareq Aziz Khan, Monjurul Islam, Anwar Hossain Monir, Tushar Imran, Abdur Razzak, Khaled Mashud and Jamal Uddin.

'Pak bowlers have always tampered'

CRICINFO, undated

Abdul Qadir, the legendary Test leg-spinner, has apparently been axed by Pakistan Television (PTV), for attributing the success of Pakistan's fast bowlers, both past and present, to tampering with the ball.

Hasan Jilil, the host of a cricket-special programme that enjoys mass viewership in Pakistan, asked Qadir about Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Sami being off-colour in the current series.

Qadir's response had his fellow panelists, including a former Test fast bowler in Aaqib Javed, totally stunned. "We all know the ball has always been made up [tampered] by Pakistani fast bowlers, but with so much scrutiny on this series, this has not been possible."

"Even against Bangladesh in the Peshawar Test last year, the fast bowlers were unsuccessful till after a break [when] wickets fell in a heap."

Qadir, however, claimed that he hadn't received any information about being sacked.

He also threatened to take the matter up in court, and accused the TV channel of stifling "the truth."

"I have not received any official communication on this, but the courts will decide if this happens. When they signed me up for the series, I was not told what I could speak and what I couldn't. The real problem is, nobody wants to hear the truth."

AFC U-14 soccer

UNB, Dhaka

Kyrgyzstan trounced Bangladesh 3-0 in the four-team Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-14 Football Festival at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Central Asians led the first half two-nil.

Despite the defeat, the hosts earned 8.28 fair play points compared to the winners who bagged eight points.

In the day's first match, Iran put six goals past hapless Sri Lanka. The Iranians also earned 19.42 points against opponents' 18.57 points.

Vivian vexed at Windies team

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

West Indies chairman of selectors Vivian Richards has laid into the current team, accusing them of being "stagnant" and failing to progress as players.

Their eight-wicket defeat at the hands of England in the third Test leaves them facing their first home Test series whitewash.

"We have some individuals who remain totally stagnant in terms of the progress of learning," he said.

"You can play a lot but some have not learnt a lot."

Can Read it

Cricket

AFP, London

England wicketkeeper Chris Read believes his place in the Test team will be in jeopardy if his record as a batsman does not improve.

"I know I am not doing my job with the bat. I just hope I'll be given a few more chances," said Read who will be looking to improve his figures as England go for a 4-0 whitewash against the West Indies when the final Test gets underway in Antigua on Saturday.

"I know I've got the ability to score big runs. It's just that I haven't been able to prove it," Read told the BBC.

The Nottinghamshire player, who is under his pressure for his place from Geraint Jones, has managed just 162 runs in 11 Test innings since being recalled following Alec Stewart's retirement.

England coach Duncan Fletcher said Read had been given "quite a good run in there."

He added: "It's an area we might have to look at, even though his keeping has been very good."

Jones scored almost 900 runs for England in the 2003 World Cup.

Under Miandad, they have won their last three Test series against Bangladesh, South Africa and New Zealand.

But the side were heavily criticised after India came back from 2-1 down to win last month's five-match one-day series with some former Pakistan players making unsubstantiated charges that the matches were fixed.

"What hurts most is that there is criticism on the basis of just one or two bad performances," Miandad said.

Miandad, whose previous two terms as Pakistan coach ended in controversial circumstances in 1999 and 2001 after reports of problems with the board and the players, said he would welcome the

Miandad may quit if ...

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad might quit following the Test series against India after criticism of his team's performances during the 3-2 defeat in last month's one-day series, he said on Wednesday.

"I have a two-year contract with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) but I'll review my future with the team once this series is over," Miandad told this news agency.

"I've been very disappointed and upset with some comments in the media and I'm not sure if I want to continue," he added.

The former Test captain was asked to take charge of the team last year as Pakistan attempted to rebuild after a disappointing campaign at the 2003 World Cup.

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Crisis worsens in Zim

Cricket

REUTERS, Durban

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) held an emergency meeting on Thursday with a group of players who threatened to resign their contracts, with further discussions expected later in the day.

The group, which included most of Zimbabwe's top players, met with ZCU managing director Vince Hogg in Harare on Thursday over issues similar to that which has sparked crisis meetings between Hogg and former captain Heath Streak.

"We told them we wanted to resign over Zimbabwe's selection policies and the make-up of the selection panel, and we agreed to an emergency meeting," a player who declined to be named told Reuters from Harare.

Hogg said the players had delegated Streak, Grant Flower, Andy Blignaut and a lawyer to represent them.

"I've had a meeting with a group of players, and ... they are meeting with us again this afternoon at 1430 GMT," Hogg told Reuters from Harare. "We want to resolve all the issues, even if it takes all Easter weekend to do it."

Hogg has been in talks with Streak since Tuesday after the ZCU said the pace bowler resigned the captaincy over similar issues at the

weekend. Streak's father, Denis, said his son did not resign.

Hogg said his meetings with Streak over the bowler's own position were continuing.

"That's part of what we are discussing today."

AFP from Harare adds, Streak was to have a face-to-face meeting



HEATH STREAK
with ZCU chairman Peter Chingoka Thursday in an attempt to resolve the biggest crisis to hit Zimbabwe cricket since it became a Test-playing country in 1991.

Streak, who lost his job at the weekend after complaining about the make-up of the national selection panel, was accompanied by his lawyer Chris Venturas and senior players Flower and Blignaut.

Chingoka was flanked by Hogg and several members of the board of directors.

Senior Zimbabwe players met at a secret Harare location to decide their joint reaction to the ousting of Streak.

A Test player who asked not to be named said there was "a hint of a possible strike, which is still not impossible".

The ZCU says they have accepted Streak's resignation.

Streak said he would attempt at Thursday's meeting to resolve the situation "for the future of the game in Zimbabwe and to map out the way forward".

He said he was unable to make any further comment. The terms of his contract do not allow him to discuss publicly any aspect of his employment.

Streak was expected to have to withdraw his complaints about two selectors in return for being allowed to continue as a player, with Tatenda Taibu taking over the captaincy -- as has already been announced.

A resolution needs to be found quickly. Sri Lanka are due in Zimbabwe for a four-week tour of two Tests and five one-day internationals on April 17.

If the dispute cannot be settled before next Wednesday the tour might have to be called off.

Bond & Astle back for NZ

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand cricket named two veterans on the comeback trail, Shane Bond and Nathan Astle, to a 14-man squad to tour England next month.

Bond, who has 43 wickets from 10 Tests, only recently resumed playing in domestic cricket after suffering recurrence of a lower back stress fracture in May.

Astle also returned to the trail after injuring both his knees over the last year.

He has not taken part in a one-day international since the World Cup in South Africa and played his last Test in India in November.

New Zealand open their series on May 20 at Lords, followed by Tests at Headingley starting on June 3 and Trent Bridge on June 10.

The bulk of the team is expected to remain in England for the tri-series including the West Indies, with specialist one-day players to be added.

SQUAD
Michael Papps, Mark Richardson, Stephen Fleming (captain), Scott Styris, Craig McMillan, Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori, Daryl Tuffey, Chris Martin, Kyle Mills, Shane Bond.



AN IRANIAN PLAYER tries to go round the Sri Lanka custodian during their AFC U-14 Football Festival encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK: India captain Sourav Ganguly (L) listens to coach John Wright during a practice session at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore after the second Test ended yesterday.