

Heavy fine on Best

BBC ONLINE, undated
West Indies' Tino Best has been fined 75 per cent of his match fee for breaching the International Cricket Council's Code of Conduct during the drawn Test against Bangladesh in St Lucia.

The 22-year-old paceman pleaded guilty to a level 2.5 breach that relates to deliberate physical contact during the course of play.

He was reported by umpires after moving into the path of a batsman who was seeking to take a run.

The fine was imposed by ICC match referee Roshan Mahanama.

The Key factor

AFP, London
Kent batsman Robert Key became the first to reach 1,000 first-class runs this season and gave a further nudge to the England selectors.

Key opened the batting against the County Championship favourites Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells in Kent and cruised to his sixth century of the season.

Remarkably it was also his fifth hundred in his last seven innings.

Key missed out on the mythical cricketing figure of 1,000 runs before the end of May by just two days.

He reached his hundred off 186 balls and, never the most athletic of figures, he eschewed the necessity of running by hitting 18 fours and a six.

He was eventually dismissed for 180 after more than six hours at the crease. Kent finished the day on 416 for 4.

Key narrowly missed out on improving upon his career best of 199 against Surrey at The Oval last week. In that match he batted for more than 12 hours.

What to watch

FROM PAGE 13
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 4 pm
Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 11 pm
ESPN
Sportscentre
Sports News
Live at 8.30 pm
EPL review



The Bangladesh players had a swimming session at the pool of the Hilton Hotel as a scheduled practice had to be cancelled on Wednesday afternoon because their cricket gears hadn't arrived in Kingston from St Lucia.

Saggers strikes early

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Martin Saggers took a wicket with his first ball in a home Test as New Zealand reached 36 for one at tea after losing the toss in the second Test against England here at Headingley on Thursday.

At the interval, brought forward because of bad weather, only 17 overs had been possible on a rain-marred day.

Michael Papps, called up into the team after Craig McMillan was ruled out with a broken finger, was 20 not out but had been dropped twice.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who moved down to number three so Papps could open, was two not out.

Saggers was only playing after Simon Jones was ruled out Thursday for this match, and the third and final Test at Trent Bridge, with a foot injury.

England might have been in an even stronger position had not Papps been dropped by both Mark Butcher and Graham Thorpe.

Papps, on 15 edged fast bowler Stephen Harmison only for

Butcher, diving forward at fourth slip, to just fail to cling on to the low catch with New Zealand 20 without loss.

He had added just five more runs to his total when he edged local hero Matthew Hoggard at comfortable height only for Butcher's Surrey team-mate Thorpe to floor the third-slip chance.

England captain Michael Vaughan, back in place of the retired Nasser Hussain after missing the seven-wicket first Test victory at Lord's with a knee injury, won the toss and chose to field first on his home ground.

The dark conditions overhead usually assist swing bowlers at Headingley while England were also looking to exploit any moisture in the pitch.

Obdurate left-hander Richardson, who ground out 93 and 101 at Lord's, had a lucky break when on 13 his inside edge off Harmison struck short leg Andrew Strauss on the helmet before the fieldsmen had a chance to react.

But Saggers, England's fourth bowler, made the breakthrough soon afterwards with a full and swinging delivery that Richardson could not keep out.

It was a storybook start for the 32-year-old seamer, who was

called up into the squad earlier this week after James Anderson withdrew with a heel injury.

Saggers's only previous Test was against Bangladesh at Chittagong during the off-season tour where he took three for 62 in the match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the second Test between England and New Zealand at Headingley on Thursday:

Table with columns: NEW ZEALAND: First innings, Richardson b Saggers, Papps not out, Fleming not out, Extras: (lb-1), Total: (For 1 wkt in 17 overs), Fall of wicket: 1-33, To bat: Astle, Styris, Oram, Cairns, McCullum, Vettori, Tuffey, Martin, Bowler: O M R W, Hoggard 7 2 20 0, Harmison 7 2 13 0, Flintoff 2 1 2 0, Saggers 1 1 0 1

ENGLAND: Trescothick, Strauss, Butcher, Vaughan, Thorpe, Flintoff, Geraint, Giles, Hoggard, Harmison, Saggers. Toss: England.

Muralitharan Number 2?

AFP, Colombo

Cricket officials have begun eyeing a 17-year-old schoolboy who has the potential to replace Sri Lanka's spin wizard and top world Test wicket-taker Muttiah Muralitharan, it was reported.

Student Sameera Ranatunga, who hails from the same Kandy region where Muralitharan grew up, was being groomed by his school's cricket coach to follow in the footsteps of the great man and become a deadly off-spinner, the Colombo-based Daily Mirror newspaper said.

"The young off-spinner is showing much promise and turns the ball as much as Muttiah Muralitharan does by following a similar action," the newspaper said.

Ranatunga, no relation of Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup winning captain Arjuna, is being guided by the same coach who spotted Muralitharan's talent as a schoolboy in Kandy, the papers said.

Muralitharan, 32, overtook West Indian Courtney Walsh's record tally of 519 during the recent tour of Zimbabwe and now has 527 Test wickets.

He has been at the centre of a controversy over his unorthodox bowling action, with the International Cricket Council banning his 'doosra', the delivery that turns the other way from the normal off-break.

Muralitharan said recently he planned to continue till the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies before deciding on his future in the game.

Baby first

REUTERS, London

England captain Michael Vaughan may rush away from the second Test against New Zealand in Leeds, which started Thursday, if his wife is about to give birth to their first child.

"The baby is due around the time of this Test and, if I get a phone call, I'll be leaving the ground," Vaughan told British newspapers on Thursday.

Vaughan, however, will try to put it to the back of his mind if he is batting when he gets the call.

"If I'm out in the middle batting at the time, it's just unlucky," he said.

"The hospital (in Sheffield) is pretty close, which is a good thing. But perhaps I will have to make sure she 'drops' (the baby) before 11 in the morning."

New Zealand said England must abide by the regulations, which state a player who is off the field for a long period cannot bat until five wickets have fallen in his team's innings.

"England asked us two questions," said New Zealand manager Lindsay Crocker.

"The first was if we'd object to them using a substitute fielder if Vaughan left the ground. We had no objection to that."

"The second question was whether Vaughan could still bat in any position. But we said the regulations should apply, as they did in the first Test when (New Zealand's) Nathan Astle had to bat at number seven after being off with the flu."

Vaughan is due to bat at number four for England, who lead the three-match series 1-0.

Cocktail

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given a temporary spot up to the tiny island of St. Marteen where the plane had a brief stopover.

After that he was placed between two of the fastest bowlers in the West Indies, Tino Best and Fidel Edwards. While Edwards was more busy listening to music, Best was in the mood for a sporting chat.

"I saw you in the one-dayers and you were running around. So how many are you guys getting in Jamaica, 144?" asked Best. Manjarul was prompt in his reply.

"If we get 144, you'll lose your ninth wicket at 120 and then maybe get to 150 at best."

Best took a moment and then roared back. "Good confidence buddy but I'll see you after Bangladesh are gone for 51."

Ansars and VDP

FROM PAGE 13

Sports Fazlur Rahman witnessed the match and distributed prizes.

Earlier, in the third-place deciding match, Maniknagar Government Primary School beat Nawabpur High School 78-61 with four Ionas.

Joy banned

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Narayanganj and Naogaon at Natore.

Joy, who was representing Dhaka University in the national championship, had an altercation with the referee watching during the match which prompted the organising committee to impose a ban on the national player.

The ban will be effective in the next domestic tournament. He has also been fined Tk 25,000. Dhaka University, Naogaon and Narayanganj -- who ultimately lifted the title -- were competing in the same group.

Nalbandian's turn



REUTERS, Paris

Gustavo Kuerten's love affair with Roland Garros turned sour on Wednesday as the three-time champion was upended in the quarter-finals by Argentina's David Nalbandian.

Kuerten has led a charmed life at the French Open since his unlikely run to the first of his trio of titles in 1997, but his luck deserted him on Centre-Court as he fell 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6.

The Brazilian's samba style was silenced. Instead the centre court pulsed to the tune of the tango.

Nalbandian joins compatriots Gaston Gaudio and Guillermo Coria in the last four -- the first time there have been three Argentine semifinalists at a Grand Slam tournament. Briton Tim Henman

completes the line-up. "It's truly unbelievable," Nalbandian said. "It's not easy to play against Guga here... I mean, he's almost a local, but I lucky... I won the match."

Former world number one Kuerten had never lost to a fellow South American in a Grand Slam tournament but Nalbandian proved too solid from the baseline.

"Everybody knows what it means to me to play in this tournament," Kuerten said as he left the court.

"I had a tough time today. Today he made me run a lot and I really suffered."

In the day's other quarterfinal, Lleyton Hewitt found that unflinching determination and bottomless heart were insufficient as his clay-court failings were exploited by Gaudio.

The resolve on which the Australian has built his career was

of little use against an Argentine master who ran rings round him on Centre-Court to reach the semifinals 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

"He was too good," was Hewitt's candid analysis.

"Today I just lost to a guy that was too good."

"You know, he's very good at any time, but especially today he was able to get that ball back extremely deep, so he didn't give me a lot of chances to actually attack him out there today. He's a class player on this surface."

For Gaudio, ranked 44th in the world, victory over the former Wimbledon and US Open champion propelled him into his first Grand Slam semifinal.

"It has always been my dream to win this tournament," the 25-year-old said.

"But there is a long way to go yet because the two most difficult matches are yet to come."

Coria faces Henman in the other semifinal. Coria comfortably saw off Carlos Moya on Tuesday while Henman became the first British man in more than 40 years to reach the French Open semifinals.

While Coria is the tournament favourite, Henman is a fast-court player with four Wimbledon semifinals behind him. He had never progressed beyond the fourth round of any Grand Slam tournament outside of Wimbledon, and had never won more than two matches in any of his nine previous visits here.

If Tuesday belonged to Henman, Wednesday was Nalbandian's day.

The 22-year-old barely put a foot wrong on a windswept centre court.

Try as Kuerten might, he was unable to repel the sturdy Argentine who bombarded him with forehand after forehand, punching the ball deeper and deeper into the corners.

Eventually Kuerten could resist no longer. Having failed to serve out the fourth set despite holding three set points he allowed himself to be overhauled in the tie-break to hand the eighth seed victory.

"I think the main problem was my own problem... my hip," he said, referring to a recurring injury.

Nalbandian was focused on the semifinal.

"It has always been my dream to win this tournament," said the baseliner who reached the Wimbledon final on his debut in 2002.

"I hope my dream comes true."



David Nalbandian of Argentina exults after defeating three-time French Open champion Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten on June 2. He won 6-2 3-6 6-4 7-6.

Practice-less Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

themselves on spotting the Bangladesh players. Reward for running the home team close in the one-day international series and denting their confidence with a dominating draw in the first Test in St Lucia.

But the Tigers have no time to sit on the positives from the tour as there is just a couple of days gap between the first and second Tests so they had planned afternoon practice at the celebrated Sabina Park, ground where history is made, hours after checking in at the Hilton on Wednesday. Alas, as it had been the case in Grenada, the cricket gears of both teams did not arrive on their flight and the Bangladesh players had to settle for a swimming session instead at the hotel pool.

There were no signs of the kits reaching on Thursday morning even and the practice at 10am (9pm Bangladesh Time) was postponed. Now the Tigers are desperately hoping to train some time in the afternoon provided they receive their gears. Otherwise they go straight into the match that starts on Friday.

Team manager and stand-in coach Faruque Ahmed and skipper Bashar were yet to have a look at the wicket but there is every likelihood of retaining the same twelve as the first Test.

There is the prospect of a double left-arm spin attack with Manjarul Islam partnering veteran Mohammad Rafique, taking into consideration the susceptibility they had shown against him in the ODIs. Manjarul's tenacious batting (he averages 52.50 in two Tests, by far the highest among the Tigers batsmen) is another added advantage. In that case, the most probable candidate to make way would be left-handed batsman Faisal Hossain after making five and one on debut in St Lucia and never looking comfortable.

The West Indies have inserted lanky off-spinner Omari Banks in their preliminary line-up. Banks is almost certain to step in for fast bowler Jermaine Lawson who looked short of match-fitness and pace in St Lucia. Trinidad paceman Ravi Rampaul is another player who has a chance to play.

Ronaldo abases

FROM PAGE 13

Ronaldo who had the last laugh, tripping over Cavallero's outstretched arms and slotting home his third penalty in the sixth minute of injury time.

"Actually, it was four penalties," he said.

"It was wonderful, marvellous."

All-Russian

FROM PAGE 13

tried something different and I was thrown off rhythm."

For Myskina it will be a first appearance in a Grand Slam final confirming her arrival amongst the elite of women's tennis after steady progress up the rankings over the last five years.

For Capriati there will be despair at missing out on a golden opportunity to add to the three Grand Slam titles she has already and at 28 years, one of the oldest players on the tour, she may never again have a better chance.

Dementieva had knocked out French hope Amelie Mauresmo in the quarter-finals and admitted she feared the crowd may have been against her as a result on Thursday.

"I thought the people would not forgive me for it," said the blonde Russian.

"It wasn't the case but it would still be great to win the final so that the crowd will not be angry over me beating Amelie."

The Russian was also relieved to have her career back on track after failing to live up to expectations after taking an Olympic silver medal as well making the US Open semi-finals in 2000.

"That was a good year, unbelievable. But I couldn't handle the pressure of so many people expecting me to do better," said Dementieva who will be chasing her fourth career title on Saturday.

Star Whizz Kid Competition 212. Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm June 4, 2004 and draw.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. 1 Mary's pet, 2 The Greatest!, 3 Brooks or Blanc, 4 Where to make a lot of dough?, 5 Collection, 6 It since 1920, 7 Voters, 8 Acid neutralizer, 9 "Bam!", 10 "Family Circus" cartoonist, 11 Asta's mistress, 12 Intestinal portions, 13 In favor of, 14 Digging, in a sense, 15 Bombyx mori, 17 Approach, 18 Partake at meal-time, 19 Haggard's "She", 21 Alaska's, 24 Level, 25 Griffith or Granatelli, 26 Our galaxy, 30 Untidy place, 31 Aids for the injured, 32 Carte lead-in, 33 County of Ireland, 35 Cornfield intruder, 36 Auto-maker, 37 Voters since 1920, 38 Acid neutralizer, 41 "Bam!", 42 Seethe, 43 "Family Circus" cartoonist, 48 Writer, 49 Brock or Boudreau, 50 French city, 51 Limbs, 52 Type units, 53 Lascivious, 21 Catch some rays, 22 Con, 23 Pastoral piece, 24 Helsinki populace, 26 Lower jaw, 27 Tepid, 28 Lotion additive, 29 React with, 31 Honeycomb chamber, 34 Eucalyptus eaters, 35 "American Idol" judge, 37 Stir-fry device, 38 The third man, 39 Source of riches, 40 Kasparov's concern, 41 Asset, 44 Charged bit, 45 Scotty's assent, 46 At present, 47 Remnant, 21 Catch some rays, 22 Con, 23 Pastoral piece, 24 Helsinki populace, 26 Lower jaw, 27 Tepid, 28 Lotion additive, 29 React with, 31 Honeycomb chamber, 34 Eucalyptus eaters, 35 "American Idol" judge, 37 Stir-fry device, 38 The third man, 39 Source of riches, 40 Kasparov's concern, 41 Asset, 44 Charged bit, 45 Scotty's assent, 46 At present, 47 Remnant.

Asia Cup miss for Shoaib

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's hopes of avenging their home defeat against India were dampened Thursday when fiery pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar was ruled out of next month's Asia Cup, cricket official said.

"The selection committee has been advised by Pakistan Cricket Board not to consider Akhtar for the Asia Cup and that is based on medical reports that the pacer has not fully attained fitness," chief selector Wasim Bari told AFP.

Besides Pakistan and India, hosts Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and two qualifiers, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Hong Kong, will feature in the event to be held from July 16 to August 1.

"Akhtar has not played consistently and we must get him fit for the future assignments like the most important tour of Australia later in the year," said Bari.

"Australians waited for Glen

McGrath for eight months to get fit for international cricket and we must allow Akhtar to be fully fit."

The 28-year-old Akhtar injured his wrist and rib cage when he fell during the last Test against India in Rawalpindi in April. He did not bowl in the Test but batted without any discomfort, raising suspicions over whether he faked the injury.

Medical reports in Pakistan, however, appeared to show that he had fractured his rib.

Akhtar has also not played regularly for Durham county in England for which he is under a contract as an overseas player.

Pakistan lost 2-1 to India in the Test series preceded by their one-day series defeat, their first against India on home soil, which forced a parliamentary committee to initiate an inquiry.

Akhtar said he was disappointed he would not feature in the Asia Cup.

"I want to play more and more for Pakistan but since I am not fully fit I would not take a risk and would better come after attaining full

fitness," Akhtar said from England.

Pakistan is also due to play a tri-nations series, with India and Australia, in the Netherlands from August 20-27 this year.

It is also scheduled to host Zimbabwe for two Tests and five one-day games in October, although the tour is hanging in the balance after Zimbabwe's Test status was questioned over a rift between white players and the Zimbabwe Cricket Union.

Pakistan is due to tour Australia for three Tests and a tri-nations one-day series from December to February 2005 and then tour India in March-April next year.

Athens torch

begins epic

voyage

BBC ONLINE, Athens

The Olympic flame left Greece late on Wednesday at the start of a unique torch relay around the world.

It signalled the final countdown to the Athens Olympics, which begins in little more than two months time.

The flame is being carried on board a jumbo jet to all five continents including, for the first time, cities in Africa and Latin America.

It was carried in a special lantern across the tarmac at Athens airport, to the strains of the Olympic anthem.

The flame arrives on Friday in the Australian city of Sydney, which hosted the last Olympics four years ago.

Kim jailed

REUTERS, Seoul

International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice-president Kim Un-yong has been sentenced to two-and-a-half years in jail on corruption charges by a court in South Korea, Yonhap news agency reported.

The 73-year-old Kim, long one of the most powerful officials in the IOC, was arrested while in hospital in January on charges connected with his leadership of the South Korean National Olympic Committee and the World Taekwondo Federation.

Officials at Seoul District Court were not immediately available to confirm the Yonhap report on Thursday. The agency said Kim was also fined 780 million won (37,000 pounds).



Members of the Ansars and VDP School team pose with the trophy of the 12th school kabadi tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.