



TAKE IT: Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq throws (L) the ball to Mohammad Sami (R) as coach Bob Woolmer looks on during practice at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

England's Zim decision

Cricket

REUTERS, London

England's cricketers will not attend any state functions during their tour of Zimbabwe in November, England Cricket Board (ECB) chairman David Morgan said on Tuesday.

In a statement on the ECB's website Morgan said neither the board nor captain Michael Vaughan condoned the situation in the African state.

"I would like to re-emphasise that the team will not be involved in state functions during this tour," Morgan said.

Britain has campaigned for Commonwealth sanctions against Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe because of his redistribution of white-owned farms to landless blacks and his 2002 re-election in a poll which international observers said was gravely flawed.

Vaughan was named on Tuesday to lead a 14-man squad for the five one-day internationals in Zimbabwe, although he said he would have welcomed a break after a long international season.

Steve Harmison, the world's top-ranked bowler, asked the selectors to omit him from the tour for political reasons. Batsman Andrew Strauss expressed reservations but was named in the squad.

"I am proud to be captain of my country and feel that I have a duty to my teammates to lead the team on this tour," Vaughan said.

"While I certainly do not condone what is happening in Zimbabwe, I do not want to shirk my responsibilities as England captain and would not want to let the burden of responsibility to fall on another player's shoulders."

Last year England, captained by Vaughan's predecessor Nasser Hussain, pulled out of a World Cup one-day match in Zimbabwe because of what the ECB said were security concerns.

In March the International Cricket Council said any country refusing to fulfil their tour obligations for anything other than security reasons or governmental direction would face a minimum \$2 million fine and possible suspension.

The position was further complicated in June when Zimbabwe agreed to postpone their remaining Tests this year after a dispute in which their cricket board sacked 15 of the country's leading white players.

The conflict started on April 2 when Heath Streak was dismissed as national captain after questioning the composition of the selection panel.

Fourteen of his teammates aligned themselves with Streak and the group demanded arbitration on his removal from the captaincy and

the composition of the selection board.

The ICC will hold a three-day hearing, starting on Wednesday, in Harare into allegations that the team was being selected on racial grounds.

In his forthcoming autobiography, Hussain is highly critical of both the ICC and the ECB over their roles at the World Cup.

In a passage quoted in the Daily Mail on Tuesday, Hussain said ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed had treated the team dismissively by speaking to them for only half an hour to explain his viewpoint.

He said the ECB and its chief executive Tim Lamb had then used "emotional blackmail" to try to force the team to play in Zimbabwe.

"At one point Lamb broke down and cried in front of me," Hussain said. "A number of our players and officials disliked him. He would always say the wrong thing."

Hussain said the ECB had then changed tack when they were told that protesters in Zimbabwe represented a genuine threat to the team's safety.

"They insisted on saying we had made our decision purely on safety grounds but it wasn't like that," he said. "Safely was a consideration but the decision was made overwhelmingly for moral reasons."

Raul brings back life

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advantage.

Having taken the lead, Roma then dedicated themselves to getting men behind the ball and trying to play on the break, using Mancini as a wing back and pulling Christian Panucci across almost as a third centre half.

As a result Madrid dominated possession, but it was Roma who doubled their lead as Cassano hit a left footed shot from just outside the area that was good enough to beat Casillas and go in off the post.

The Bernabeu crowd reacted with a chorus of boos and whistles and Madrid reacted by continuing to probe at the Roma defence.

Madrid pulled a goal back on 38 minutes, but Raul had a stroke of luck as his toe poke from the edge of the box deflected off Traianos Dellas and looped over the helpless Ivan Pelizzoli.

Pelizzoli then did well to save a David Beckham shot from the edge of the area while at the other end Panucci wasted a great chance to restore Roma's lead heading over

from close range following Cassano's mazy run.

Luis Figo levelled from the penalty spot seven minutes into the second half after Panucci was adjudged to have pushed Raul - a decision by Russian referee Valentin Ivanov that was furiously contested by Roma players.

The home side now had their tails up and had Roma pinned deep into their own half although the Italians were making it easy for them by packing their penalty area but allowing Madrid space down the flanks and in front of the box.

They paid for that on 71 minutes when Raul was first to a low Figo cross to tip the ball past Pelizzoli and give Madrid the lead.

Fullback Carlos wrapped up a memorable win with a trademark thunderbolt from 20 metres out 11 minutes from time.

The game was a triumph for Raul who had been under pressure because of his poor early-season form. But the Spanish international said that victory was more important to him than his own personal performance.

mance.

Real are in third place in Group B three points adrift of leaders Dynamo Kiev who beat the Leverkusen 4-2 at home on Tuesday.

The Spaniards now face back-to-back fixtures against the Ukraine side in their next two games.

Bandarban soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Rowangchari Upazila and Sangu Boys Club shared points in the Bandarban Football League yesterday at the local stadium.

The match ended 2-2. The match held only for academic interest as both the teams have failed to move into the second round.

The first phase of the league will conclude today with the match between Reegrikhaong Juba Samity and Tiger Sporting Club.

Mahendra new BCCI president

BBC ONLINE, undated

India's powerful Board of Control for Cricket has selected a new president - Ranbir Singh Mahendra.

He won the election by one vote - with outgoing president Jagmohan Dalmiya casting the decisive vote in his favour.

The vote was delayed for several hours over a row about who should conduct it.

A retired judge, Justice S Mohan, had arrived to conduct the poll in Calcutta but Dalmiya refused to let him run the proceedings.

The leadership of the board is one of the most powerful posts in the game.

Cricket attracts three quarters of all sports advertising in India and millions watch the national team's games on TV.

There was confusion earlier on Wednesday as retired Supreme Court Justice Mohan arrived at a Calcutta hotel for the board's annual general meeting.

He was to oversee the election in keeping with an order from a judge in the Madras High Court.

However, Dalmiya objected and secured a delay to proceedings.

The Madras High Court subsequently ruled in favour of Dalmiya, saying the judge should not be involved.

Dalmiya and his supporters gave their backing to Mahendra, the current board vice-president from the northern state of Haryana.

Mahendra told journalists in Calcutta he wanted cricket to be free of politicians.

He said he was confident of his victory and claimed he would get at least 17 of the 31 votes in the election.

Div I kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Sinha Sangsad outplayed Suruj-Jamal Smriti Sangsad 65-35 with five lonas in the First Division Kabadi League at the outer stadium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half by 33-19.

Bangladesh Bank Club will take on Maniknagar Kabaddi Club at 3:30pm and Dhaka Wanderers Club will face Abedin SC at 4:30pm at the same venue.

BHF aims

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Junior Championship in Karachi earlier this year. Bangladesh, who finished second from bottom, were thrashed 10-0 by India in a group match.

However, the Indian team, which is scheduled to reach Dhaka today, will be travelling without five players of that squad who are currently touring Pakistan with the national team.

The home team, featuring seven stick-wielders with experience of playing for the national side including captain Zahidul Islam Rajan, have been training for 23 days at BKSP in Savar under Qamar.

Although the Pakistani coach was happy with the time he got, he showed his discontent over the federation's failure to provide the team the opportunity to train on the turf at the Maulana Bhashani.

Qamar's boys got the only chance to play a practice match against the seniors and lost 2-1. Qamar also mentioned that India would be the team to beat and by the time the two teams faced each other, his boys would be well tuned up.

He also complained about the unevenness of the Maulana Bhashani Stadium turf but BHF officials at a press conference yesterday informed that they had done the repair works.

It was also announced that Sadharan Bima Corporation and Jiban Bima Corporation would sponsor the tournament jointly. The two insurance houses will provide Tk 10 lakh.

BHF president and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhruddin Azam, general secretary Shamsul Bari, DG of BKSP Mohammad Ali Mondol and other BHF officials were present at the press conference.

Don't rule

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on Wednesday endorsed Ganguly's views on the importance of having Tendulkar in the side.

Asked if Australia would have picked Tendulkar if he was available at short notice, Buchanan replied: "Most definitely."

"If he says he is ready to play, he would be the first pick in the team."

Australia's champion leg-spinner Shane Warne said last week he expected Tendulkar to play in Bangalore.

"Even if he can't throw or hold a bat and ball, I am certain he will be there," Warne said.

Tendulkar's absence, even for one Test, will be a blow to India who are aiming to win their third consecutive home series against Australia after 2-1 successes in 1998 and 2001.

In seven home Tests against Australia, Tendulkar has scored 760 runs at an average of 63. Overall he is the fifth highest scorer in Test cricket with 9,470 runs in 114 matches at 57.39.

Tendulkar, who made his Test debut in 1989, has missed only one Test series in his 15-year career when a leg injury forced him to sit out the Sri Lanka tour in 2001.

The remaining Tests against Australia, who have not won a series in India since 1969, will be played in Madras (October 14-18), Nagpur (October 26-31) and Mumbai (November 3-7).

Night of the Rs



AFP, Paris

Manchester United may have no money left after signing Wayne Rooney but it was well worth it if his debut was anything to go by as the teenage star hit a hat-trick to see his team to a 6-2 trouncing of Turkish side Fenerbahce in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Rooney may have been the toast of one half of Manchester but Dutchman Roy Makaay was the hero of Munich as he struck a hat-trick as well, as Bayern Munich stroled to a 4-0 hammering of Dutch giants Ajax.

There was champagne being popped also in Madrid on which there has not been much to do so thusfar this season for Real Madrid as Raul rediscovered his scoring touch and netted two in a come from behind 4-2 victory over another crisis club AS Roma.

Raul took his overall European tally to 47 goals with two in Real's 4-2 win over Roma at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The Spaniard is now just two goals short of the all-time European scoring record established by Real great Alfredo di Stefano in the 1950s and 1960s.

Dynamo Kiev lead Real's group as they beat Bayer Leverkusen 4-2 to maintain their 100percent start to the campaign - having been given a 3-0 victory over Roma after the referee Anders Frisk was hit by a missile in their opening match in Rome.

Deportivo La Coruna would dearly love to have Makaay back as they fired blanks in the 2-0 reverse in Monaco, though it was an improvement on the 8-3 thrashing they took at the same opposition's hands last season.

Monaco will have been cheered too by Liverpool's surprise defeat at the hands of Olympiakos, the Greek side winning 1-0 and inflicting the English side's first ever loss at the hands of a team from their country.

Rooney, 18, who lasted the full 90 minutes, blasted two long-range first half goals and curled a spectacular second-half free-kick after Ryan Giggs had headed the home side in front in the seventh minute.

Rooney was wearing a United shirt for the first time after signing from English Premiership rivals Everton for 27 million pounds last month and since breaking a bone in his foot during Euro 2004 in June.

Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy and winger David Bellion scored two more goals for United near the end, while Fenerbahce's

Brazilian striker Nobre scored once and Tuncay Sanli a goal apiece for the visitors when the score was 3-0 and 4-1.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson purred about the offensive side of his side's play.

"Attacking wise it was very good but their set pieces were excellent. They always kept us on edge," said the Scot, who has seen both Rio Ferdinand and Rooney make immediate impacts on his team who had

"But don't forget he's still a young lad and he isn't over the adolescent stage yet."

Makaay has now scored ten times in as many Champions League matches for Bayern and moved the German powerhouse within touching distance of the knockout phase.

"We are delighted to win and it does not matter who scores the goals," said Makaay. "I know what I can do and I think people have seen

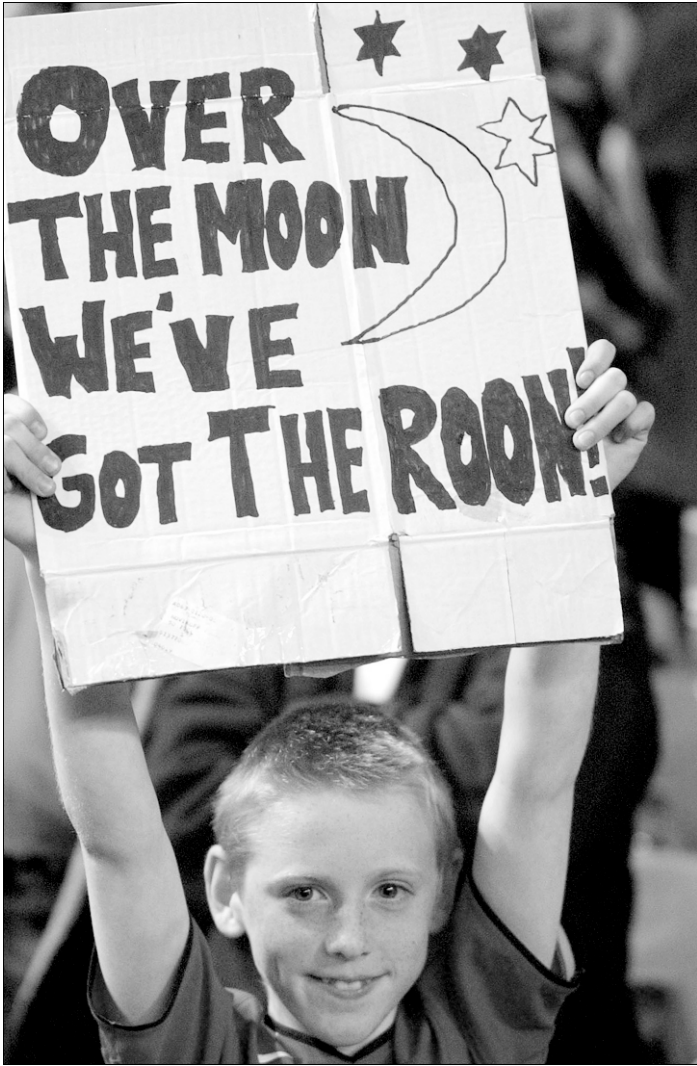


PHOTO: AFP

INDEED! A young Manchester United fan holds a sign after Wayne Rooney completed a hat-trick in his debut for the club against Fenerbahce at Old Trafford on September 28.

been struggling before then.

He was ecstatic too about Rooney's debut, though he added a word of caution about the striker's age saying that should be taken into account.

"Considering it was his first game it was magnificent.

"He tired in the last 20 minutes understandably.

today what Bayern are capable of.

Makaay has now scored 40 goals in 53 competitive matches for the Bavarian club.

"He is sensational at the moment and seems to score all the time," lauded team-mate Michael Ballack.

Ajax manager Ronald Koeman came here with fond memories after winning the 1988 European champi-

Kapali to lead

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custodian Adrian D'Souza.

India had forced two penalty corners but failed to pull back with Sandeep Singh off target, and after their second short corner Pakistan's counter attack saw Shakil Abbasi dodging two defenders and pushing the ball to double his team's lead.

India forced another short corner in the 27th minute but an indirect attempt was again aborted.

Pakistan led 2-0 at half time.

India dominated the second half as they went all out in their attempts for an equaliser and caught Pakistan's defence napping.

Striker Tushar Khandekar pulled one back in the 48th minute when he surprised the Pakistani goalie Salman Akbar with a scorching hit.

A minute later Adam Sinclair saw his push hit the goal post but Arjun Halappa compensated with a blistering hit on a cross from the left to tie the match.

With two minutes left, Abbas scored the winning goal when his rasping shot was deflected by D'Souza's gloves for Pakistan's third goal.

Abbas is now just five goals away from beating Dutchman Paul Litjens' all time goal record of 267.

The last match of the series will be played in Lahore on Friday before both teams move to India to play the last four matches between October 4-10.

JFA Cup

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tournament," said Helal.

JFA also wants the reports on youth programmes for assisting the BFF, Helal said adding that an observation committee would look for promising players through this meet and later BFF groom up them through proper training.

Fifty-eight district sports associations and two education teams -- Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan and Jessore Education Board -- will play in the knockout first phase.

Eight zonal champions, split into two groups, will take part in the final phase scheduled to begin on October 20 in Dhaka. The venues for the first phase are Barguna, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Natore, Rajbari, Laxmipur, Meherpur and Feni.

All the participating teams will receive Tk 8,000 as appearance money while winners in the first phase will get Tk 3,000. The eight finalists will receive Tk 25,000.

The JFA will provide around Tk 12 lakh (20,000 dollars) out of an estimated budget of 17 lakh taka.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan (C) addresses a press conference in connection with the JFA Cup Under-16 football tournament at the Conference Room of the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

onships in Munich with the Netherlands but it was a night he would rather forget.

"We gave Bayern a game but did not have enough to offer," admitted Koeman. "It is nice for Bayern to have someone like Makaay. We do not have a player like that and it makes all the difference at this level," added Koeman reflecting bitterly on the summer sale of Swedish marksman Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Elsewhere, Monaco failed to get close to their 8-3 win over Deportivo Coruna last November but still picked up three points with a 2-0 victory against the Spaniards in Group A.

Olympiakos Piraeus beat Liverpool 1-0 in the same group, although the Greek side finished the match with 10 men after Anastasios Pantos was sent off eight minutes from time.

There were also wins for Juventus, who beat Maccabi Tel Aviv 1-0, and Olympique Lyon, who came from behind to defeat Sparta Prague 2-1 away.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

AFP, Paris

Champions League collated results on Tuesday:

Group A
At Monaco
Monaco (FRA) 2 (Kallon 5, Saviola 10)
Deportivo La Coruna (SPA) 0
At Athens
Olympiakos (GRE) 1 (Stoltdis 17)
Liverpool (ENG) 0

Group B
At Kiev
Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 4 (Rincon 30, 69, Cernat 74, 90) Bayer Leverkusen (GER) 2 (Voronin 59, Nowotny 68)
At Madrid
Real Madrid (SPA) 4 (Raul 39, 72, Figo 51-pen, Roberto Carlos 80) AS Roma (ITA) 2 (De Rossi 3, Cassano 21)

Group C
At Munich, Germany
Bayern Munich (GER) 4 (Makaay 28, 44, 52-pen, Ze Roberto 55) Ajax (NED) 0
At Turin, Italy
Juventus (ITA) 1 (Camoranesi 37)
Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR) 0

Group D
At Manchester, England
Manchester United (ENG) 6 (Giggs 7, Rooney 17, 28, 54, van Nistelrooy 78, Bellion 81) Fenerbahce (TUR) 2 (Marcio Nobre 46, Sanli 59)
At Prague
Sparta Prague (CZE) 1 (Jun 7) Lyon (FRA) 2 (Essien 21, Wiltord 59)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

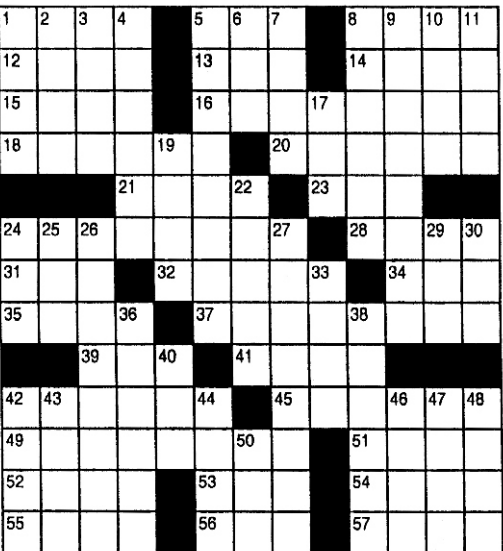
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There"

35 "Demon
Barber of
Fleet
Street"
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Maugham
39 Cartesian
conclu-
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Campbell
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54 "Beetle
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10 Anything
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expanse
19 Hollywood
clashers
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25 In olden
days
26 Heat
provider
27 Eternal
29 Raw
rook
30 Drenched
33 St.
Peters-
burg
river
36 Grayish-
red
38 Extremely
popular
40 Calendar
pp.
42 Discover
43 Pianist
Peter
44 React to
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46 Title
47 They're
often
connected
48 Big
bothers
50 Dress in

Solution time: 24 mins.

ANITA PASSIM
GLIDER IGUANA
IMPEDE POINTS
NASSA ADEEN SOIS
CHIEF LUGER VAKIE
SEXANDTHECITY
IMPS ERIN TAE
OKS OVER
ANS MAYA AUTO
LOUVER RAMROD
LAIRTIAT EMIGRE
SHEARS EPEELS



CRYPTOQUIP

L ' N J G C D M R R Z T S

M C R V L Y M V F G T S T Y Z

X T C A G D , O R V P A Z D R P O T D

L F T J G T M C T L Y S F P N X ?

Saturday's Cryptquip: FLASHLIGHTS OFTEN SEEM TO BE NOT MUCH MORE THAN CASES FOR HOLDING DEAD BATTERIES.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals G

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.