

Shoab sounds a pacy caution

BBC ONLINE, undated
Pakistan's Shoab Akhtar has voiced his concern for the long-term future of fast bowling...

The Rawalpindi Express, now free from injury, criticised the authorities for rules and wickets that suited batsmen.

Shoab, who has played 33 Tests since his debut in 1997 but has been injured for many more, criticised the extensive itinerary that awaits his team.

"They don't realise they are finishing the fast bowlers," he insisted.

"Then 10 days after that, we are off to the Caribbean."

Shoab was expected to have been pitted against Brett Lee, his rival for the accolade of world's fastest bowler...

New Zealand were recently beaten 2-0 by the Australians, having been without their star pacer Shane Bond...

"No matter how tough you are, even if you are the ironman you are still going to bend it," Shoab said.

"Even a Ferrari sometimes needs to stop after two laps for a workshop."

"People like to enjoy the fast bowlers."

"It is one of the charms of cricket and they are slowing it down."

Leonine further
FROM PAGE 13
IM Abdullah Al Rakib Bear Mojibur Rahman while Star Vision's Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan upset Biman's FM Rezaul Haque...

In other matches, Narayananj City Chess Club beat Destiny 2000 3-1, Bangladesh Ansar beat BM Uttarahdikari Sangsad 4-0...

Pakistan's chance
FROM PAGE 13
four-day match starting on Thursday are also included in the team, including Mike Hussey, Chris Rogers and Murray Goodwin.

TEAMS
CHAIRMAN'S XI: Justin Langer (captain), Beau Casson, Tony Dodemaide, Ben Edmondson, Murray Goodwin, Michael Hussey, Geoff Lawson, Marcus North, Chris Rogers, Luke Ronchi, Dominic Thornely, Peter Worthington (12th man to be named).

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan, Shahid Razaq, Shoab Akhtar, Shahid Afridi, Younis Khan, Mohammad Sami, Shoab Malik, Danish Kaneria, Yasir Hameed, Imran Farhat, Kamran Akmal, Asim Kamal, Rana Naveed, Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Khalil.



GrameenPhone's marketing director Mehbub Chowdhury (2nd from R) addresses a press conference on Sunday to announce the introduction of the GrameenPhone-Prothom Alo Sports Award 2004.

Selector backs Kasper

Cricket
AFP, Brisbane

Australian cricket's head selector Trevor Hohns Monday backed Michael Kasprowicz after his nightmare over cost Australia victory in the opening Chappell-Hadlee Trophy one-dayer against New Zealand.

Kasprowicz was clouted for 22 runs off the third-last over of the innings as the Kiwis stormed home to a four-wicket victory over the world champions with two balls to spare in Melbourne on Sunday.

Further pressure was applied on Kasprowicz after Test 12th man Brett Lee made an impressive international return in taking 2-40 heading into the first Test against Pakistan on the traditionally-quick WACA ground in Perth, starting on December 16.

Hohns said he was encouraged by Lee's performance but he did not blame Kasprowicz for the last-over loss, rather he praised the big Queenslander's 2004 form.

"Kasprowicz has been an outstanding performer over the last 12 months and he went for a few runs in one over in a one-day game and that can happen to anybody at any time," Hohns said Monday.

"It was one over in a one-day game."

The 22-run over -- which featured two boundaries by Brendon McCullum, another from Hamish Marshall and a leg-side wide that went to the rope for five -- was the fourth most costly over by an Australian in one-day history.

Taking it away, Kasprowicz had 1-31 from eight otherwise tight overs.

"I'm not the first bowler to go for a few runs in a one-day game and certainly won't be the last. Unfortunately it happened at that point in time in the game," said Kasprowicz, who has been Australia's standout one-day bowler in 2004.

Since returning to Australia's team in Sri Lanka in February, he has taken 26 wickets at an average of 13.36 and economy rate of 3.67 per over.

"I'd like to think (I've) done a lot of good things over the last 12 months and it's only been six balls, and only a couple of those went really wrong," he said.

Lee will get another chance to impress on Wednesday when he is to bowl in tandem with Glenn McGrath and possibly also Jason Gillespie in the second Chappell-Hadlee match in Sydney.

Div I Cricket Partex off to a flier

UNB, Dhaka
Partex Sporting Club got off to a flying start in the First Division Cricket League with an eight-wicket victory over Rupali Bank at BKSP in Savary yesterday.

Batting first, the bankers were dismissed for 150 in 45.1 overs with opener Nazmul Hossain making 31 off 46 balls. Tariqul claimed 4-20 in nine overs.

In reply, Partex raced to 151-2 only in 28.1 overs. Shakil Haider contributed 69.

In other matches, Young Pegasus B (175-7) earned a 45-run victory over Kalabagan Kira Chakra (130) at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University while Surjo Tarun (222-7) beat Azad Sporting Club (206-7) by 16 runs at the City Club ground.

Open chess from Dec 9

SPORTS REPORTER
The Open Swiss Chess Tournament organised by Bangladesh Chess Federation and sponsored by Maan Bangladesh Ltd. will begin in the city from December 9.

The event is open to players above 2150 rating.

Grand Masters, International Masters and rated players from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam are to participate in the event.

UCB sacks chief selector Henry

REUTERS, Johannesburg
The United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa confirmed on Sunday they had sacked convenor of selectors Omar Henry on the eve of England's arrival for a five-Test series.

UCB chief executive officer Gerald Majola was quoted in the Sunday Times as saying Henry had been replaced by Haroon Lorgat but will continue to serve as a selector until his contract expires in April.

"Our major concern has been the effective management of the selection process. We believe Haroon will do a very good job," the Sunday Times quoted Majola as saying.

The paper also quoted Henry as saying: "I'm now 52 and I've got a fair appreciation of cricket politics."

"If I was 20 years younger, I might have reacted differently. This was only ever a temporary job. I didn't want to be in it indefinitely."

Vaughan focuses

FROM PAGE 13
uxpiness that Zimbabwe had not fielded their strongest side, with former captain Heath Streak among those still sidelined following the racial selection row which saw 15 senior, white players all axed earlier in the year.

England were due to fly out to Johannesburg on Monday to join the remainder of the squad preparing for the five-Test series against South Africa starting in Port Elizabeth on December 17.

But before they crossed the border, Vaughan urged Zimbabwe cricket chiefs to bring the likes of paceman Streak, spinner Ray Price and batsmen Stuart Carlisle and Grant Flower back into the fold.

"I find it disappointing when you see Heath Streak in the stand just watching," Vaughan said.

"I don't want to get involved in the political wrangles going on, but Zimbabwe certainly are not putting their best team out on the pitch at the minute. I am just a bit baffled. They are not picking their strongest team at the minute."

England were due to fly out to Johannesburg on Monday to join the remainder of the squad preparing for the five-Test series against South Africa starting in Port Elizabeth on December 17.

Australian govt has no sympathy for Marion

Athletics
AFP, Canberra

Australia's government said Monday it would support any moves from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to strip US sprint queen Marion Jones of her five Sydney Olympic medals if she were found guilty of a doping offence.

Sports Minister Rod Kemp said Jones should lose all her medals if there was enough evidence to prove she used performance-enhancing drugs at the 2000 Games.

"No-one who cheats should have a medal," Kemp said.

"The case has got to be proven and there's got to be proper processes to make sure that is done."

"But there is no room on the winner's podium for a cheat and the mere fact they may have been able to get through without being found out doesn't mean that down the track, when we find out that cheating has occurred, that that person should lose those medals, there is no doubt about that."

But any Australian attempt to seek retrospective measures on the issue is likely to hit a dead end with the IOC's own charter stating no decision made at an Olympic Games can be challenged after a period of three years from the day of the closing ceremony.

Australia's 2004 Athens Olympics triple gold medallist Petria Thomas said if found guilty, Jones should not keep the three gold and two bronze medals she won in Sydney.

"If they're proven to be guilty of taking performance-enhancing drugs there's no doubt in my mind that they don't deserve to be holding a gold medal," butterfly swimmer Thomas said.

"I think athletes who take drugs are a bit of a disgrace to sport to be honest and I don't think they should be holding any sort of medal or any accolades whatsoever."

"I think when there is strong enough proof that someone has done the wrong thing then action should be taken."

Victor Conte, the head of a California lab that allegedly provided steroids and other banned drugs to elite athletes, said he gave performance-enhancing drugs to Jones and fellow sprinters Tim Montgomery and Kelli White.

Jones said through her attorney that she would sue accused steroid peddler Conte over his allegations and she had instructed her lawyers to "vigorously explore a defamation lawsuit against Victor Conte."

Jones has repeatedly denied ever using banned drugs.

When life was beautiful



WHEN LIFE WAS BEAUTIFUL: A file photo of American Olympic champion Marion Jones competing in the 100 metres final at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Taking it in his stride

Tennis
AFP, Seville

US world number two Andy Roddick was bloodied but insisted he was unbowed after Carlos Moya taught him a clay-court lesson in Spain's Davis Cup final win Sunday over the United States.

Roddick came to Spain looking to set a triumphant seal on a season which had promised much and largely delivered in the shape of tournament wins at San Jose, Miami, Queens' and Indianapolis -- but notably left him empty-handed in Grand Slams.

But having already been sent packing by teenager Rafael Nadal in his opening singles match on Friday Roddick again found himself clutching at straws as 1998 French Open champion Moya, desperate to win the Cup after missing his country's 2000 win through injury, ground him into the red dust.

Moya swept to victory 6-2, 7-6, 7-6 to delight 27,000 home fans and Roddick admitted that Team USA have some way to go to compete on the slow surface at this level - though he did spy some improvement on previous setbacks.

"I think we put up a better fight here than in Paris two years ago. I felt like we were a little closer," said Roddick, referring to a 2002 semifinal humbling by France at Roland Garros.

"I got off to a slow start but then it was pretty much dead even," said Roddick.

"I had my chances -- I just didn't convert them," added the 22-year-old Nebraskan whose concentration was briefly interrupted in the tenth.

Celebration gone wrong

REUTERS, Bern

A player in Switzerland's top division has been left without a finger after a goal celebration went horribly wrong.

Servette midfielder Paulo Diogo was forced to have his left ring finger amputated on Sunday after catching it on a perimeter fence during his side's 4-1 win at Schaffhausen.

The 29-year-old Swiss-Portuguese player jumped up on the fence in celebration after setting up his team's third goal.

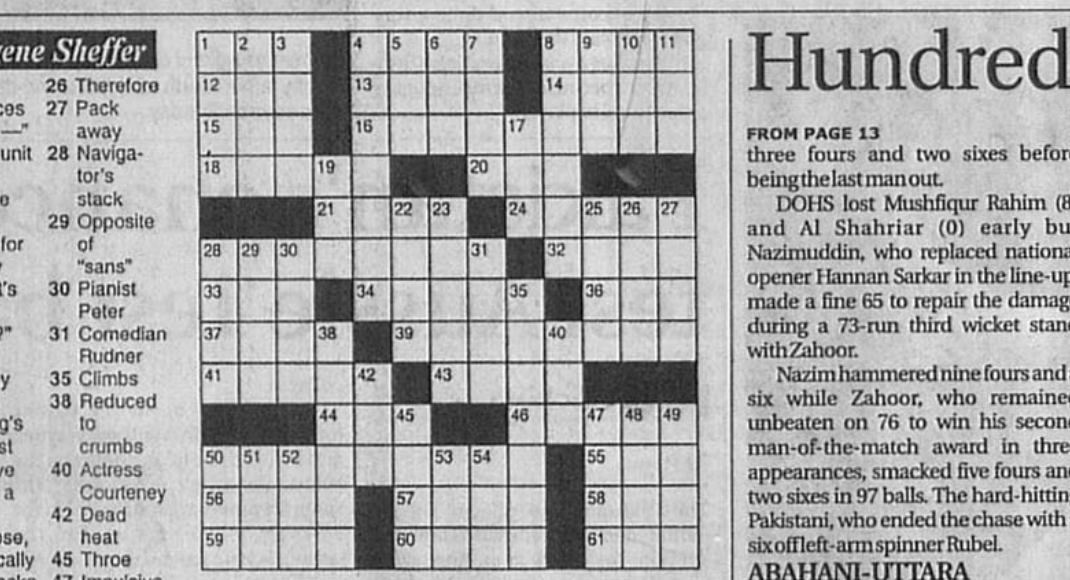
Diogo, who got married recently failed to notice, however, that his wedding ring was caught in the metal barrier and severed the top two joints of the finger as he jumped back down.

He was then shown a yellow card for his excessive celebration.

Doctors at a Zurich hospital were unable to re-attach the finger joints and advised the amputation of the remaining stump.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS
44 Try the
1 Performer
46 Display
4 Red Hot Chili Peppers
50 Like square
8 Arrived
12 Hallow-
een, shout
13 Deserve
14 In due
15 Shade
16 Very com-
pelling
18 Forbidden
20 Victory
21 Tool used
22 Morris'
28 Hall &
Oates hit
32 Saucy
33 "Hail,
Caesar!"
34 Bulgaria's
capital
36 Diva's
downfall,
maybe
37 Hair salon
39 Accepts
defeat
41 Tonto's
horse
43 Cantina
order



COME BACK SOON: Former Zimbabwe cricket captain Heath Streak is cheered on by fans as he arrives to watch the fourth and final one-day international against England on December 5.

CRYPTOQUIP
C D F M E I Y B J E " K ' W
H F M L K M T W E T P J L F M
M I C " K G Y Z Z I G F H D P H ' G
P C F F L K M T P M M I Y M B F W F M H.
Yesterday's Cryptopuzzle: IF A RUNNER
CHOOSES ILL-FITTING SHOES, SHE COULD
EASILY FEEL THE AGONY OF DE-FEET.
Today's Cryptopuzzle Clue: M equals N
The Cryptopuzzle 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.

Hundred percent

FROM PAGE 13
three fours and two sixes before being the last man out.

DOHS lost Mushfiqur Rahim (8) and Al Shahrir (0) early but Nazimuddin, who replaced national opener Hannan Sarkar in the line-up, made a fine 65 to repair the damage during a 73-run third wicket stand with Zahoor.

Nazim hammered nine fours and a six while Zahoor, who remained unbeaten on 76 to win his second man-of-the-match award in three appearances, smacked five fours and two sixes in 97 balls. The hard-hitting Pakistani, who ended the chase with a six-off-left-arm spinner Rubel.

ABAHANI-UTTARA
The ground at BKSP kept producing low-scoring matches but Abahani, who lost their opening match to Biman, were in deep trouble losing four top wickets for 20 runs after restricting lowly Uttara to 138 in 49.4 overs.

Pakistani Test-discard Taufeeq Umar was dismissed for one, his fellow opener Saqib failed to open his account, Neeayur Rashid (5) could not respond to a promotion up in the batting order while national all-rounder Manzarul Islam contributed just three before Naimur came to the wicket.

Naimur has been in stupendous form in the league and the former Bangladesh captain once again showed his maturity to take home his weakened side without any further damage.

His captain's knock of 79 (six fours, three sixes) not out during a 120-run partnership with one-down Imran Ahmed (37 off 95 balls) took Abahani to victory in 35.3 overs.

Naimur's had also shone with the ball, his off-spin bringing him two wickets for seven runs off 4.4 overs.

AGRANI-INDIRA ROAD
A breezy 121-run opening stand between Golam Mabud (66 off 69 balls) and Rakibul Hassan (68 off 93 balls) steered Agrani Bank to topple Indira Road Kira Chakra's handsome collection of 244-6 with 14 deliveries to spare at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

After the openers, who survived 22 overs, departed in the space of seven runs, Agrani had a minor hiccup but the tail hung on. Mabud hit ten boundaries while man-of-the-match Rakibul cracked seven fours and six.

Earlier, wicketkeeper-opener Sagir Hossain Pavel made 72 off 109 balls with six fours and one six and Jahurul Islam scored a breezy 55 featuring eight fours and one six to shape the Indira Road innings with a 92-run partnership for the second wicket.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
Office of the Director, CEMSU, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229

Notice Inviting International Tender
Tender No: CEMSU-COMM-/2004-2005
Sealed tenders under two stage method are hereby invited from the manufacturers having their office in Bangladesh or having respective representative as a local agent specialised in supply, installation and commissioning of PA System in different Airports/Organization having installed such system in at least 2 international airports are eligible to participate in the tender competition for the undermentioned work which will be received up to 12.00 hrs on 19-01-2005 in the Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka and in the office of the Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 hrs. in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representatives (if any). There will be a pre-tender meeting in the Office of the Director, CEMSU on 28-12-2004.

Celebration gone wrong
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