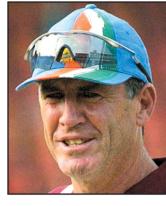


Pakistan, for the first time, recorded four victories in a row in a ODI series in India. The only previous occasion when Pakistan won four games in a row in a series against India, was in 1998 at Toronto





John Wright

(Former Indian cricket coach) "I can cope with defeats, but when I see carelessness and lack of effort, it's hard to tolerate." After losing the ODI series



ESPN

Football Focus Live at 6:30 pm Sportscentre Live at 8:30 pm English Premier Football League Middlesbrough vs Fulham Live at 12:55 am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline Live at 8:00 pm **English Premier Football League** Bolton Wanderers vs Southampton Live at 12:55 am (Wednesday)

Nebitchi arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

Nebitchi FC of Turkmenistan arrive in Dhaka today to play their AFC Cup away match against Mukti-joddha Sangsad Krira Chakra. The match will be take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Muktijoddha officials said yester-

day that the Turkmenistan club was scheduled to reach Dhaka on

Muktijoddha won the first

SLC to begin coach hunt

encounter by a solitary goal.

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka will start the hunt for a new cricket coach next week after the completion of John Dyson's 20month contract.

The new government-appointed committee in charge of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), headed by businessman Jayantha Dharmadasa, is due to meet officially to discuss the issue on Monday, although preliminary talks have already taken place.

"As John Dyson's contract has now expired the recruitment of a new coach is a very high priority and will be discussed in the coming week," board secretary Tryphon Mirando told Reuters.

"We want to recruit a new coach as soon as possible for at least a twoyear tenure so we can start our thinking and planning for the future."

A fresh contract for Australian Dyson is a possibility with the board due to contact him this week to discuss what his terms would be for

"We want to talk to as many possible good candidates that are interested before making our final decision." Mirando added

Former Sri Lanka coach Day Whatmore, who left Sri Lanka after the 2003 World Cup to take up a two-year assignment with Bangladesh, is one name that will

be discussed. Whatmore is in the frame for the India job, available after John Wright's departure, and has been offered a

contract extension by Bangladesh. Former Australia captain Steve Waugh has also been linked with

the Sri Lanka job.

A Red & Orange Fed Cup?

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

With Muktijoddha Sangsad and Brothers Union rapidly gaining strength, popular colours like the Black and White and Sky Blue have started to fade away from the limelight of domestic football.

In recent years, traditional powerhouses Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani have become accustomed to turning up with weak teams, resulting in takeovers by Muktijoddha and Brothers who have already played in the final of the season's first tournament.

As another tournament begins within a couple of days, Red and Orange once again look well tuned to become the final pairing of the Federation Cup, pushing the bigger names to the backseat.

If Brothers were the dominant force last season by winning two titles, in-form Mukti's look like the team to beat this year after lifting the Independence Day Gold Cup with a 2-0 win over their rivals from Gopibagh.

Muktijoddha's impressive run in the AFC Cup will also make the Fed Cup holders hot favourites to retain the prestigious trophy.

But Muktijoddha coach Shafigul Islam Manik, who has a number of match winners in his side and probably possesses the most solid defence, is not thinking about the Federation Cup at all.

"All our concentration is now on tomorrow's AFC Cup game against Nebitchi. We feel that the nation has a lot of expectations on us after our away win against them in Turkmenistan," Manik told The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

"We have time in hand and we will start thinking about the Federation Cup two days later. I know, there will be a lot of expectations on us to go all the way but my first target is reaching the semifinals," said the former national footballer in a humble tone.

"It could be anybody's game in the knockout stages," he added. Brothers manager Amer Khan

saw some positives in the their defeat to the Mukti's in the Independence Day Cup final. "I think it was better that we lost.

The players were over confident in the rematch after scoring early in the postponed game. We had our chances but conceding a goal in the dving moments probably unsettled the whole team." told Amer. "We missed Edward but the

Russian striker is now fully fit. We have the right team to face the challenge in a tough group involving Muktijoddha and Sheikh Russel and whatever the result is, playing more games before the league will help us," the former Brothers midfielder

Drawn in the same group, both

Abahani and Mohammedan tents feel that their foreign players were a

letdown in the Independence Cup. Mohammedan sacked Korean coach Man Young Kang and two Korean booters after their elimination from the semifinals while Abahani also sent their South

American players packing.

"We are trying to recruit a coach and two footballers from Nigeria but I don't think they will be here before the final," informed Mohammedan manager Amirul Islam Babu.

"We will have to continue with local players. We had a few injury problems but all are fit now. We have to win at least two group matches to make it to the semis and if we reach the final, then we might use foreign players." he added.

Abahani, who suffered their worst defeat in domestic football in 30 years when they crashed 4-0 to Brothers last month, have strengthened their squad bringing in Cameroonian midfielder Ndem Kiyek "Ghanaian striker Audu Ibrahim

is due to arrive in Dhaka today and we will have our key defender Pradip Poddar back from suspension in the Fed Cup," told Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu.

Pradip was banned for five matches and has to sit out one more game but the Sky Blues are hoping SEE PAGE 13 COL 5 STANCHART CRICKET **BKSP-B** run

riot again

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP-B continued their run feast in the Under-15 Standard Chartered Young Tigers School Championship as they outclassed Teikunipara High by 335 runs in their second match at the Lalmatia Housing Society School ground yesterday.

Fresh after their mammoth 621 runs against Scholastica, BKSP-B rode on a 113-ball 157 by Sanjib Das to amass 422 and then wrapped up Tejkunipara for 87.

In the day's other matches, Sabuj Bidyapith High (90) beat Junior Laboratory High (89) by 8 wickets, Mishu Pre-Cadet & High (322) defeated Manarat International (252) by 70 runs, Scholastica (291) outplayed Badda Alatunnesa High (149) by 142 runs, Nabakumar Institution (124) managed a onewicket victory over BSMAR Rifles College (123), West End High (180) beat National Bank High (169) by 11 runs. Uttara Bidvaniketon (121) defeated Bangladesh International (85) by 36 runs, Government Laboratory High (137) beat Dhanmondi Tutorial (136) by nine wickets, Blue Birds International (266) defeated Paramount High School (219) by 47 runs and Adhunik Bidyalaya (248) beat Cephalon International (244) by 2



A file photo of Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar who played a brilliant innings for a West Indies selection on Sunday. **Bashar bashes Proteas**

Making the impossible possible

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

While the talk of the town was the unbearable heat that was sweeping the country for the last couple of days, the members of The Daily Star sports section chose to discuss another kind of heat wave that had just ended at the Ferozeshah Kotla in New Delhi on Sunday.

Obviously they were talking about the mouth-watering series between the two great cricketing nations -- India and Pakistan. The topic of the discussion was not the results since it is history -- a 1-1 draw in the three-match Test series and a comprehensive 4-2 ODI success for Pakistan.

Rather it was a humble analysis of the series gone by. Here are some points that we felt stood apart

STAR VALUE COUNTS **FOR NOTHING**

At the start of the series, Pakistan's first across the border in six years, all the predictions suggested the dominance of India's formidable batting over a Pakistan team that was branded by many as the weak-

est ever from the day the rivalry began in 1952.

But in reality it was not the case. Apart from the flashes of power hitting by opener Virender Sehwag and Rahul "The Wall" Dravid, the real value of India's batting never came to the party. When you talk about India it revolves round one man -- Sachin Tendulkar. But the little master never lived up to his billing after narrowly missing what could have been a world record 35th Test hundred in the first Test at Mohali, VVS Laxman also made no impression except for an unbeaten half-century in the third Test at Bangalore.

When India's star value backfired, Pakistan were lucky to leave behind pace spearhead Shoaib Akhtar, who was considered the lone ace for the visitors to counter the threat of the Indian batsmen.

And that worked well for them as nobody got special attention. They worked like a team with Inzamamul g the strings and that unit paid off handsomely. Who would have expected an unheralded wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal to score a match-saving hundred in Mohali or Younis Khan, the vicecaptain under scrutiny, to brush off the failure in Mohali with a hundred in the second Test at Kolkata followed up with a magnificent double

hundred at Bangalore?

True, Inzamam has never been branded in the same select company with Tendulkar or Brian Lara, but the sleepy giant proved that he too belonged to that distinguished circle with a masterly 184 in his 100th Test at Bangalore.

ORDINARY BOWLING

India's bowling inadequacy was exposed as early as in the first Test when even with all their frontline bowlers except Harbhajan Singh, they failed to bundle out a stuttering Pakistan on the final day. Instead Pakistan got a hundred under pressure from the most unlikely of sources -- Akmal, as they went on to achieve a most creditable draw. The bowling was again found wanting in the third and final Test. The likes of Anil Kumble and Laxmipathy Balaii achieved five-fors in the Test series but did they ever threaten to run through the Pakistani batting?

Then came the ODI series or most benign pitches you are ever likely to come across and not one Indian bowler showed that special quality to peg the opposition back. By contrast Pakistan, who had no pace bowler to stir the imagination. no spinner to turn it on, adapted better to the demands on unforgiving tracks. Navedul Hasan found zin

and extra bounce, Danish Kaneria tested Indian resolve and Shahid Afridi was a talismanic influence whenever the cherry was thrown at him by his skipper.

OVERDOSE OF CRICKET

It is all good and true bringing India and Pakistan back to the game. It was necessary because cricket has definitely been poorer without two proud nations doing battle in the middle. Until the groundbreaking tour of friendship by Sourav Ganguly's men to Pakistan in early 2004, political tensions prevented a bilateral series taking place.

apprehensions, that historic visit across the border paved the way for a return series. But it now seems in an attempt to appease moneyhungry corporations, this series suffered an overkill. Cricket is good to watch, nobody

Having overcome the initial

will dispute that fact but at the same time all good things need to be done

NO MORE LIONS AT HOME Year after year, India built their reputation as being Lions at home

and even world-record holding SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

hold out against South Africa in a two-day match.

Cricket

AFP, St. Augustine

Habibul Bashar, the Bangladesh captain, top-scored with an undefeated 77 and Indian youngster Shikhar Dhawan supported with 66, as the Vice-Chancellor's XI reached 250 for five, replying to South Africa's first innings total of 395 for six declared on Sunday.

Half-centuries from two guest

players helped the University of the

West Indies' Vice-Chancellor's XI

Bashar hit 15 boundaries from 86 balls in two hours and added 95 with retired West Indies wicketkeeperbatsman Ridley Jacobs, who scored Dhawan had hit 14 fours from 86

balls in 2-1/2 hours to hold the top

order batting together, after opening batsmen Tishan Maraj and Ryan Ramdass were dismissed cheaply. He added 86 for the third wicket with West Indies batsman Marlon

Samuels, who scored 36, before Nicky Boje made the breakthrough when he bowled Samuels. When Dhawan was caught close

to the wicket to become the second of three wickets for 51 runs from 11 overs for Charl Langeveldt, and Shirley Clarke was lbw to same

bowler to leave the Vice-Chancellor's XI 155 for four, it looked like the visitors might have their way.

Bashar and Jacobs batted through tea to frustrate the South Africans, who were going through final preparations for the third Test starting at Bridgetown on Thursday. Earlier, South Africa continued

three and declared after batting for close to an hour. They lost three wickets, all to unorthodox left-arm spin bowler Dave Mohammed, who ended with five wickets for 115 runs from 27.1

from their overnight total of 349 for

Boeta Dippenaar, who was last out, top-scored with 184 that contained 21 fours and two sixes from 278 balls in 6-1/2 hours batting. It helped to earn him the man-of-the-

match award. Mark Boucher also used the relaxed atmosphere to score 63 before being caught in the deep, and Jacques Kallis was stumped for

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the two-day tour match between South Africa and a University of the West Indies' Vice-Chancellor's XI on Sunday **SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings

De Villiers b Mohammed Dippenaar c Dhiwan b Mohammed 184 32 Prince c Samuels b Best Gibbs st Jacobs b Mohammed 81

Hall not out Extras: (b-2, w-1, nb-1) Total: (For 6 wkts decl) Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-106, 3-229, 4-367, 5-392, 6-395 Bowler Edwards 3 38 39 Best 27.1 4 115 Mohammed 47 Browne 2 48 Samuels Dhawan 0 36 Clarke 0 UWI VC's XI: First innings Ramdass c de Villiers b Ntini Maraj c de Villiers b Langerveldt 0 Dhawan c Boucher b Landerveldt66 Samuels b Boje Bashar not out Clarke Ibw b Landerveldt Jacobs not out Extras: (lb-2, nb-8) Total: (For 5 wkts) Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-52, 3-138, 4-

Kallis st Jacobs b Mohammed

Bowler R Langerveldt 23 Ntini Zondeki Kallis Hall Boje Prince Boucher Result: March drawn.

Sourav may appeal again!

6-match ban against Indian captain stands

Cricket

PTI, Kolkata

Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president Jagmohan Dalmiya on Monday indicated that India captain Sourav Ganguly may go for an appeal against the decision of International Cricket Council (ICC) Appeal Commissioner Michael Beloff on the six-match ban slapped on him.

"The match is not yet over," Dalmiya told reporters immediately after emerging out of a meeting with Ganguly and senior lawyer Siddhartha Shankar Ray. AFP adds from London, Ganguly

has no further right of appeal within

the ICC as their Code of Conduct states that the decision of the appeals commissioner shall be final and binding. Earlier, Ganguly's appeal against a six-match one-day international ban was rejected by the

ICC on Sunday. However the world governing body said, in view of the disruption caused by the uncertainty over Ganguly's availability, the last two matches of the recently concluded six-match series against Pakistan would count as the first two games of the ban.

The remainder of the ban should take effect during India's participation in August's triangular one-day series in Sri Lanka, also featuring the West Indies.

Ganguly's appeal was against a sentence imposed by Match Referee Chris Broad.

The former England batsman, who had already fined him 70 per cent of his match fee for the team's slow over-rate in the third international in Jamshedpur, imposed the ban after India fell three overs short in the following match in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Pakistan won both matches to square the series at 2-2 before going on to win 4-2 after a 159-run victory at New Delhi on Sunday a match batsman Ganguly missed, even though as his appeal was pending he was eligible to play, ollowing poor recent form.

Beloff endorsed Broad's decision in a 23-page written judgment provided to the India captain earlier



SOURAV GANGULY

In his judgment Beloff, a leading English lawyer, said he did not accept the argument put forward by Ganguly that heat was the reason for failing to achieve the over rates.

"Cricket is a game played in all kinds of climates: it cannot be right that the mere fact of the heat and humidity will excuse a failure to achieve the minimum over rate," his dgment said.

Ganguly had requested the hearing be heard via video-

conference link. It was via such a link that he won an appeal in November against a previous ICC decision to suspend him from two Test matches for a similar offence during a one-dayer against Pakistan

However, Beloff heard the

appeal based on written submis-

sions but stressed: "It must be

recalled that natural justice does not

at Kolkata's Eden Gardens.

automatically require an oral hear-ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed, explaining the decision to take the last two games of the India-Pakistan series as the first two games of the ban, said: "The initial decision of the match referee to impose this ban

clearly had an impact on the ability of the Indian team to determine and select the make-up of its side. "In light of this, the last two matches of India's series against Pakistan, where the possible suspension of the Indian captain impacted on the selection decisions

of the (Indian) Board, will count as the first two matches served under

Collins out of third SA Test

A slight back injury will sideline West Indies fast bowler Pedro Collins for the third Test against South Africa, starting on Thursday in his native Barbados Collins, who has become the

spearhead of the attack over the last year, has missed out on selection previously because of the back injury. SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

and fooled goalkeeper Francisco FLYING AGAIN: Real Madrid superstar Ronaldo celebrates with a substitute near the team's bench after scoring the first of his two goals against Lavente at Valencia on April 17.

PRIMERA LIGA Rivals win

alike REUTERS, Madrid

Ronaldinho inspired Barcelona to a 2-0 win over Getafe at the Nou Camp to match Real Madrid's earlier victory over Levante as the Catalans remained six points clear at the top

of the Primera Liga on Sunday. The Brazilian World Player of the Year settled his side's nerves when he scored with a curling free kick on the half hour and then provided a brilliant assist for Ludovic Giuly to add a second soon after the break.

The victory allowed Barca to maintain their advantage over second-placed Real with just six games left to play. Earlier Real, who beat Barca 4-2 at the Bernabeu last weekend, had

heaped pressure on their arch-rivals

when a Ronaldo double gave them a

2-0 win at Bernd Schuster's

Levante. Ronaldo has had a below-par season but on Sunday, and after months of mediocre performances, the Brazilian superstar reminded people why he's been the World Player of the Year three times. He grabbed his first by smashing in from six metres shortly before halftime and took his season total to 15 with a

Barca are top on 72 points, Real have 66 and Sevilla, who lost 1-0 at home to Osasuna on Saturday, are a distant third on 52, level with Villarreal who drew 0-0 at home to fellow high-flyers Real Betis. Frank Rijkaard's side poured

superb solo effort in the closing

forward from the first whistle against Getafe but although they peppered the visitors' goal with a succession of shots they had to wait for a set-piece before they were able to take the Ronaldinho stepped up to take a free kick a metre outside the area

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6