

Lanka rope in Moody

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australian Tom Moody has been appointed as Sri Lanka's new cricket coach.

Moody, Worcestershire's director of cricket, arrived in Colombo on Wednesday for contract discussions with officials of Sri Lanka's interim board.

A formal announcement will be made at a news conference on Thursday. Sri Lanka Cricket spokesman Ray Illangakoon said.

Details were not immediately available, though sources suggested 39-year-old Moody's term would be until after the 2007 World Cup.

BCCI unaware of Ganguly's county stint

PTI, New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday denied knowledge of English county club Glamorgan seeking captain Sourav Ganguly's services for two months and more from June 1.

"We have not received any request from the player, nor has the county approached us seeking his release," BCCI president Ranbir Singh Mahendra told here.

News reports from England said Ganguly, facing a six-match ODI ban, has signed to play for Glamorgan in June and July and the contract could be extended if Ganguly's appeal against the ban was to be turned down.

The report said Glamorgan were awaiting an official confirmation from the BCCI exempting him from attending the team training camp in July.

Div I soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society registered their second consecutive victory in the First Division Football League when they managed a solitary goal win over Agrani Bank at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Bashir struck the all-important goal in the 63rd minute.

THIRD DIVISION

Kawran Bazar blanked Rainbow Sporting Club 3-0 in the Third Division Football League at the Bangladesh Army Stadium yesterday.

The match between Kasaituli SKP and Muttail ended in goalless draw while Rahmatganj SC drew 3-3 with Lalbagh SC.

Don't get carried

FROM PAGE 12

young stumper will replace Khaled Mashud behind the stumps sooner rather than later.

"Mashud is Mashud and this boy has a lot of things to prove if he is really trying to push an inseparable Mashud."

Bashar however might be in a dilemma about what to do if he wins the toss tomorrow. But he can take the advice of an English journalist as a good omen.

"Win the toss and put England in and tell your bowlers to take advantage of the first day pitch which will be moving a lot and then make sure you are getting the chance to bat on the third if it not the second day under sunshine."

No Tendulkar for 4 months

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar is set to miss international cricket for at least four months following corrective surgery in his left elbow in England, an official said on Wednesday.

"I can confirm that Tendulkar underwent surgery in London on Monday and it went off well," secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Karunakaran Nair told.

Nair said he was awaiting a report from the Indian team's physiotherapist John Gloster, who is assisting Tendulkar in London, for further details.

"Before the surgery we were told Sachin may be out of action for four weeks. A clear picture will emerge only after receiving a medical report from Gloster."

The surgery will keep Tendulkar out of a triangular one-day series in Sri Lanka in August which also features the West Indies. His chances of touring Zimbabwe in September for two Test matches also appear dim.

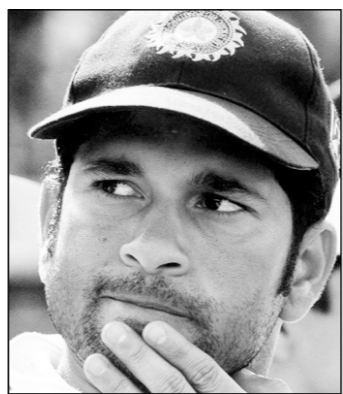
Tendulkar, 32, was plagued by a tennis elbow injury for almost a year which forced him to miss three major one-day tournaments and two home Tests against Australia.

The Asian Age newspaper quoted orthopaedic surgeon Andrew Wallace of London's Saint John hospital as saying that the corrective surgery was successful.

"Sachin underwent a surgical procedure under local anaesthetic

for a condition affecting the extensor tendons," Wallace said. "The procedure was successful and there were no complications. He should be fit to play top-level cricket in approximately 16 weeks."

The prolific batsman is the world's fourth-highest scorer in Test cricket with 10,134 runs in 123 matches, and needs just one century to surpass compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's world record of 34 Test



SACHIN TENDULKAR

hundreds.

Tendulkar is also the world's most successful one-day batsman with 13,642 runs and 38 centuries.

The elbow trouble was the latest in a series of injuries the master batsman has suffered in the past few years. He endured a back injury in 1999 and has since suffered toe, finger and ankle problems.

Tendulkar has been criticised by an unforgiving media in recent months for not batting in the aggressive manner he did at the start of his career 16 years ago.

Tendulkar enjoyed mixed success in recent home Tests against Pakistan as he hit three half-centuries in five innings but could not prevent the rivals from forcing a 1-1 draw.

In the six-match one-day series, which Pakistan won 4-2 after being 0-2 down, Tendulkar had scores of four, two, six, 123, one and nine.

Former West Indian great Vivian Richards said recently that Tendulkar may never be the flamboyant batsman he was, but will remain vital to India's cricketing ambitions.

Richards, arguably the most destructive batsman in history, defended Tendulkar's changed approach to batting.

"Tendulkar is now a very mature player," he said. "He is now more into a fortifying role and not flamboyant. But you must respect that he has grown older and cannot always fulfil the things that are expected of him."

Tendulkar also received support from Australian legend Greg Chappell, the Indian team's new coach.

"He's been around for about 15 years and most of those 15 years have been extraordinary," Chappell told the Australian Herald-Sun newspaper last week.

"He's had some down periods recently. He's had some injuries. He's perhaps had a bit of a crisis about what his role is in the team."

"I just need to sit down with him and work out where he's at and where he wants to go, what expectations and goals he has. Hopefully, I can motivate him and present him with some new challenges."

Maradona in airport bust-up

INTERNET SOURCE, Istanbul

Diego Maradona had a furious bust-up with TV crews Wednesday night as he arrived in Turkey for the Champions League Final.

Police had to cool down the clash at Istanbul's Ataturk airport.

Former Argentinian superstar Maradona, a Uefa guest to the final, was waiting to meet security and a driver after clearing customs when TV crews spotted him.

He ordered them to stop filming while gesticulating angrily. A witness said: "He was standing on his own when the TV crews saw him. It was obvious that he was unhappy having his picture taken."

Maradona, 44, who looks much slimmer after stomach stapling surgery, has been living in Cuba as he battles drug addiction.

Akram won't coach India

PTI, Islamabad

Wasim Akram, who had drawn criticism for helping India seamer Irfan Pathan during a tour of Australia last year, has said in no unclear terms that if given a chance he would coach the Pakistani team in future but not the Indians.

"I'll coach Pakistan but not India," the legendary left-arm seamer said in Karachi at a function organised by the sponsors of Pakistan's domestic competition.

Akram said that when he had helped out Pathan with some bowling tips he had been surprised at the reaction from some quarters over this development.

"After the reaction I saw I know that the day I coach India people will kill me," Akram, however, soon added that he did not envisage to see himself as a cricket coach in near future.

"I don't see myself being a coach since to be honest I'm not an organised person. And to make a good coach you need to be as organised as say like Bob Woolmer, Dav Whatmore and John Wright," he was quoted as saying in the local daily the News.

Worldwide bridge from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The worldwide pair bridge contest takes place at the National Sports Council (NSC) auditorium tomorrow.

All bridge players have been requested to confirm their entries before the 4 pm start.

Open tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

The Scandex Bangladesh Open Tennis tournament will begin tomorrow at the Ramna National Tennis Complex.

A total of 127 players from six different districts and BKSP will take part in seven categories in the five-day meet.

Sponsor Scandex will provide Tk 1 lakh out of a Tk 1.5-lakh budget.

The details were disclosed at a press conference at the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) conference room yesterday.

A reception

FROM PAGE 12

was anxiously calling someone on the cell phone most of the evening. After my initial look at all of them, one thing that struck me was how young all these players were. They all were just kids. It was really refreshing to see the fresh but confident faces. I could literally feel the new found self belief in the team by being around them. The only old face of the team was of course that of Whatmore's. He literally looked like the father. Dav was making good use of the wine and was in a jovial mood.

As the food was served, there were lots of familiar faces in the crowd and the event became a mini networking session. As the pretty ladies were serving food and the music of Habib (Krishno Ailo Radhar Kunje) was playing in the background, looking at Tower Bridge, my thoughts started to wonder. I imagined myself sitting in Lord's this Friday and cheering on a century by our captain. I imagined the gritty opening stand by Nafis Iqbal and Javed Omar and a fiery opening spell by Shahadat and Mashrafe. Maybe life is this beautiful.

Suddenly, my dreamspell came to an abrupt end. "Asif bhai!!!" It was Shameran, my fellow Bangladeshi member. "The manager is calling you." Me? Why me? I looked up and sure enough Col. Latif, the manager was nodding at me. He said, "I noticed that you are a true fan getting all the players' autographs and taking their pictures. I will give you the team sheet with everyone's autograph and pictures tomorrow."

I was quite happy, feeling like a toddler who had just been handed a candy by a kind adult.

Barbados Test from today

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

Pakistan enter the first of their two Tests against West Indies on Thursday with high hopes of winning a Test series in the Caribbean for the first time.

The reason for Pakistan's optimism stems from the undeniable fact that an international home season that started with much promise for West Indies, in the form of a gutsy performance from an under-strength side against South Africa, has become engulfed in the gloom of defeat and despair.

It has culminated in Pakistan completing a clean sweep in the preceding three-match one-day international series that has given them a huge psychological advantage going into the Test series.

Pakistan however, will be weakened for the first Test because regular captain and long-standing batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq, and promising all-rounder Shoaib Malik will be out of consideration for their line-up.

Inzamam misses the Test following an ICC-imposed one-Test ban

for excessive appealing and showing dissent during his last Test against India in Bangalore a few weeks ago, and the Pakistan Cricket Board has disciplined Shoaib for throwing a domestic match in Lahore just prior to his arrival in the Caribbean.

Younis Khan, who is making his second tour of the Caribbean, is looking forward to leading the Pakistanis in Inzamam's absence. "It is a coincidence that I also led the team in the last ODI prior to the Test match which has given me a little bit of confidence as a captain," he said.

Pakistan, under Moin Khan, came close to clinching their first Test series in the Caribbean on their previous tour five years ago, but narrowly failed in their bid.

West Indies captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul still believes his side can put the disappointments behind them, and be competitive in the Test series. "The guys are mentally tough," he said.

"We have to take the positives out of the last couple of games."

Chanderpaul added that he was banking on the experience of his

players to pull them through the two Tests, despite a long season, and the string of defeats.

Kensington Oval, hosting its final international fixture before undergoing major renovations to host matches in the 2007 ICC World Cup in the Caribbean, has not been a happy hunting ground for West Indies in recent times.

The home team has lost its last four Tests there, including the third match of the recent four-Test series against South Africa a month ago.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES (from): Shivnarine Chanderpaul (captain), Courtney Browne, Ian Bradshaw, Dwayne Bravo, Corey Collymore, Fidel Edwards, Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Reon King, Brian Lara, Daren Powell, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Devon Smith.

PAKISTAN (from): Younis Khan (captain), Abdul Razzaq, Arshad Khan, Asim Kamal, Bazid Khan, Danish Kaneria, Rao Iftikhar, Kamran Akmal, Navedul Hasan, Salman Butt, Shabbir Ahmed, Shahid Afridi, Shahid Nazir, Yasir Hameed, Yousuf Youhana.

Umpires: David Shepherd and Darrell Hair.

Oranges end on a low

FROM PAGE 12

The Brothers custodian shut the angle quickly to block Ghaddar's 11th minute attempt from seven yards before denying Nassereddine in similar fashion six minutes later. He then made a one-handed save on a low drive by rival midfielder Moghrabi.

The local boys, who lost 4-1 in their first-leg match in Beirut, got possession twice in the opposition penalty area but Monwar and Khokon could not finish the moves due to tight marking. Nejme's Ghanaian medio Duah split the defence once again in the 42nd minute but his final pass went in vain as Hamieh's powerful shot from ten yards was saved by midfielder Abul from the goalline.

The pressure told one minute before the short whistle when Nassereddine, taking a through from Hamieh, dashed down the left flank to set up his national team partner Ghaddar who dodged Masud Rana to put a left-footer in the far corner of the net.

Tareq was working overtime after the breather also and had to leave his post to thwart Nassereddine's lone run but his teammates began to hit back, especially after Emily replaced Khokon. He almost scored with his first touch in the 58th minute when his feeble shot went through the legs of substitute keeper Tafah but the Lebanese managed to recover and save himself from embarrassment.

Brothers became lively afterwards and Parvez Babu rattled the crossbar in the 73rd minute when he

headed a corner by Siraji. A minutes later, Emily met Siraji's centre from the right but he nodded the ball just wide.

Brothers got their best chance to equalise in the 76th minute but Tafah's reflex parried Monwar's shot from point-blank range.

The two impressive Nejme forwards finally combined to seal the victory seven minutes from time when a tall and balding Nassereddine snatched a miss-pass by Abul in the middle and sent Ghaddar racing with a through. Ghaddar easily shrugged off his marker and went round the advancing keeper to push the ball into an open net.

"We have got two very good strikers who created enough space. They had ample chances early in the first half, many on one-to-one, but failed to use them. But in the end, they gave us what we needed," said a happy Nejme coach Fadi Ahmad Al Yamani after the match.

Brothers coach Wajed Gazi admitted that his plans did not work after Hicham early removal.

"We did not start the way I wanted. We began to dominate after bringing Emily in and if Parvez's header had not come off woodwork, we could have equalised," Gazi said.

Nejme topped the three-team group with maximum 12 points while Brothers, who finished level on two points with Nisa FC of Turkmenistan, slipped to the bottom for inferior goal difference.

TEAMS

NEJMEH: Wahid (Tafah, 72nd minute), Mirei, Zaher (Hachem, 69th), Dokmak, Houssainy, Hamieh, Moghrabi, Daniel, Duah, Nasser-dine and Ghaddar.

BROTHERS: Tareq, Sujan, Jewel, Masud Rana, Siraji, Monwar (Liton, 80th), Hicham (Pranatosh, 12th), Abul, Parvez, Khokon (Emily, 58th) and Edwards.

Referee: Rizwan Haq (India).

Shahadat to get

FROM PAGE 12

And then there is the potential thrill of meeting Harmison The Terrible.

"My favourite bowler is Harmison," he said. "I would like to meet him. He is a very fine bowler. I feel that I am tall like him and that I am a similar bowler."

Shahadat does not possess Harmison's steely bounce -- few in world cricket do -- but the speed gun has registered him at 88mph and he views that as a marker. "I wasn't bowling very fast that day. I think maybe I can reach 95mph like Harmison. I hope so."

Those who have seen his lively spells at Fenner's, in a draw against British Universities, and then down the hill at Hove, where he was the one of the few bright spots as Bangladesh took a caning from Sussex, will not lightly dismiss his ambitions. He hurtles into the crease before delivering with a primeval grunt that some Lord's members may not care for. Earpieces and a spot of Radio 4 might be the order of the day.

Son of a Dhaka bank manager,

the youngest of five children, Shahadat has emerged swiftly and spectacularly. He was not selected for the Under-19 World Cup in Bangladesh last year, but was called up as a net bowler.

"I broke three helmets in a single net session," Shahadat said. "I was trying to bowl my fastest and the ball rose up from just short of a length. The coach spotted it and drafted me into the team. Next time, they asked me to bowl slower."

Those batsmen, presumably still shell-shocked, have yet to progress to the senior side, but Shahadat now pounds in, with a shock of black hair and limitless ambition. On a tour of New Zealand, he broke Mathew and Sinclair's toe in a warm-up match and Sinclair took no further part in the series.



PHOTO: INTERNET SOURCE

IT'S OKAY NOW! Diego Maradona gives the thumbs up while watching an AC Milan training session at the Ataturk Olympic stadium in Istanbul on Wednesday. Maradona had earlier been involved in a bust-up with photographers at Istanbul Airport.

No sympathy for Ronaldo

Football

INTERNET SOURCE, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo has told star striker Ronaldo that he will be given the same holiday as the rest of his squad - but how the Brazilian feels it is up to him.

The Madrid players who are not on international duty begin their holidays on May 29 and do not return until July 8.

Ronaldo, however, has a busy northern summer schedule in store with Brazil.

He has to fly back to South America to participate in their World Cup qualifiers and has also been called up to Carlos Alberto Parreira's squad for the Confederations Cup squad, which will be played in Germany from June 15-29.

Should he play, the 28-year-old former Internazionale striker will

therefore have only nine days rest before he is due to begin his pre-season back in Madrid.

And bearing in mind that the World Cup finals take place at the end of next season, the striker faces a real risk of exhaustion.

Luxemburgo, though, is unmoved by his striker's situation and claims the matter is now out of his hands.

"The day he was called up, Ronaldo called me and said his holidays had been interrupted," the manager told Brazilian paper O Dia.

"Real Madrid's holidays are programmed from May 29 to July 8. Parreira has to know what is happening, but that is a problem between the player and the Brazilian confederation."

"I don't want to know anything about this and I don't want any misunderstandings. What is clear is that Real Madrid have given the players 38 days of holidays and that in the middle of July we are going on tour to the USA and Asia."

Eto'o fined for Real outburst

AFP, Madrid

Cameroon's African Footballer of the Year Samuel Eto'o has been fined 12,000 euros by the Spanish football federation for insulting his former club Real Madrid during Barcelona's Spanish League winning celebrations.

During the May 15 party organised by the club to celebrate the title win, Eto'o, microphone in hand, strongly insulted their arch rivals six times to 100,000 fans at the Nou Camp stadium.

Eto'o, who could have been fined 30,000 euros, has 10 days to appeal the decision.

The Spanish league's leading scorer with 25, he was once a fringe player at Real Madrid before making his name with Real Mallorca, whom he left for the Catalan club last summer.

He later apologised to Real and the club's supporters. He said he had been caught up in a "moment of sheer joy" and that "I never intended to show Real Madrid disrespect. There was no ill intention."

Ferdinand can't drive

AFP, London

Manchester United and England footballer Rio Ferdinand was slapped with his fourth driving ban Wednesday after a court heard he was clocked travelling at more than 169 kilometres (105 miles) an hour.

A magistrates court in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, disqualified the 26-year-old in his absence from driving for 28 days. It also fined him 1,500 pounds (2,180 euros, 2,740 dollars).

The driving ban was the fourth for Ferdinand, and his third in four years, following convictions for drink-driving in 1997 and speeding in 2002 and 2003.

"This court views speeding on local highways most seriously, particularly when the speed is more than 100 mph, and our view is that Mr Ferdinand must be disqualified," said judge Ashley Howells.

"He is a role model and should be a positive role model for young people in society and this does not give out the right message."

Ferdinand is currently in Africa doing charity work.

Prosecutors said Ferdinand's high-powered Chrysler was tracked by police travelling at an average of 105.9 mph over a distance of 1.8 miles on the M6 motorway in Staffordshire, in the West Midlands, on January 9.

French Open

AFP, Paris

Tim Henman's dream of repeating his great 2004 run at the French Open evaporated in the Paris sunshine when tough Peruvian baseliner Luis Horna stopped him in the second round with a 7-5, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4 win on Wednesday.

The British number one, who reached the semifinals last year and had high hopes for this season's claycourt grand slam, could not find an answer to Horna's powerful baseline play.

The usually cool Briton seemed distracted by the atmosphere at times and was once warned by the umpire for swearing. He also appeared to be suffering from a recurrent back problem but he insisted neither factor affected the outcome.

While Henman suffered, Kim Clijsters scurried into the third round with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Slovakia's

Ludmila Cervanová.

Venus Williams, like Clijsters a former world number one, had earlier needed three sets to move past Colombian Fabiola Zuluaga.

The athletic 24-year-old, who was a runner-up here in 2002, confirmed that the era of total domination by the Williams sisters was over by struggling at times during the 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 victory.

The American, whose younger sister Serena pulled out of the tournament because of a sprained left ankle, overcame a second-set fightback and allowed Zuluaga to come back after building a 4-0 lead in the third set but finally won through.

Elena Dementieva, a losing finalist here last year and one of several Russian contenders, was also made to work before taking control over Croatian Sanda Mamic to win 7-6, 6-2.

Many Pierce, the 2000 champion, then gave the home fans something to celebrate with a 6-1, 6-0 demolition of Croatia's Jelena Kostanic.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Height of fashion?
 4 Shirk work
 8 Pop
 12 In olden days
 13 Count
 14 Hertz
 15 Holmes' foe
 17 Defeat
 18 Tackles
 19 Devil's domain
 20 Aristophanes
 21 Stationery quantity
 24 Not pre-recorded
 25 Bergen's Snerd
 29 Blackjack component
 30 Small change
 31 Breakfast for Brutus?
 32 Cousin of Esther

DOWN
 1 Scenery chews
 2 Freudian concept
 3 Additionally
 4 Takes charge
 5 Galley supply
 6 Illustrations
 7 Aviate
 8 Hero material?
 9 "Metamorphoses" poet
 10 "Galloping dominoes"
 11 Shows curiosity
 16 "Bus Stop" writer
 19 Millinery
 20 Two-note drumbeat
 21 Puerto - Trajan
 22 Tacitus or Trajan
 23 "... -