

Mahmood laid to rest

PTI, Karachi



Thousands of mourners turned up showing their love and respect to former Pakistan cricket captain and legendary fast bowler Fazal Mahmood who was buried in Lahore on Tuesday.

Fazal died on Monday after suffering a cardiac arrest in his Ayesha Textile Mill office at the age of 78.

The cricketer, who remained Pakistan's leading wicket-taker with 139 scalps which stood for 25 years before Imran Khan broke it, was largely remembered for his 12 for 99 against England in the 1954 Test at The Oval.

Fazal's teammates, former Test stalwarts, politicians, people from media and officials of the Pakistan Cricket Board attended the burial.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz also condoled his death while remembering the great fast bowler as someone who conquered the hearts of not only the Pakistanis but all the cricket lovers with his performances, attitude and discipline.

As a mark of respect, the Pakistan cricket team will wear black arm bands in the second Test against the West Indies starting at Jamaica from June 3.

England

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but Graveney, an uncapped former county off-spinner, was adamant the upcoming campaign, which starts at Lord's on July 21, represented their best chance in years.

"In past situations we made errors of our own making and we have been behind the eight ball early on in the series. The expectation of the nation is huge, which is great, but we know we have to play at our best.

"There is a confidence in the team and we have got every chance of beating Australia."

TEST SQUAD

Marcus Trescothick, Andrew Strauss, Michael Vaughan (captain), Ian Bell, Graham Thorpe, Andrew Flintoff, Geraint Jones, Gareth Batty, Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison, Simon Jones, Jonathan Lewis.

ONE-DAY SQUAD

Vaughan (captain), Kabir Ali, Paul Collingwood, Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Darren Gough, Harmison, G Jones, S Jones, Lewis, Kevin Pietersen, Vikram Solanki, Strauss, Trescothick.

Federer, Nadal set for showdown



AFP, Paris

Spanish fourth seed Rafael Nadal set up a potentially classic French Open semifinal showdown against top seed Roger Federer on Tuesday when he beat compatriot David Ferrer 7-5, 6-2, 6-0 in his last eight clash.

The Spanish 18-year-old, bidding to become the first man since Mats Wilander in 1982 to win the French Open on his debut, overcame a battling first set performance from the 20th seed to move into his first career Grand Slam semi-final.

Ferrer, who came back from 0-4 in the final set to knock out defending champion Gaston Gaudio in the fourth round, matched Nadal shot-for-shot in a gruelling 56-minute first set.

He even had set point in the tenth game, but after falling two breaks

down to slip 1-4 behind in the second set, he needed treatment on his injured back and thereafter won just one more game.

Nadal had broken to lead 4-3 in the first set before Ferrer, who had lost twice to the Spaniard already in 2005, hit back to level at 4-4.

Federer took another confident step closer to becoming only the sixth man to win all four Grand Slams when he outclassed Romania's Victor Hanescu 6-2, 7-6, 6-3 in the quarterfinals.

The result marks the 23-year-old's best ever performance at Roland Garros where he had failed to get beyond the third round in his last three visits.

Federer has yet to drop a set in the tournament so far and although the unseeded Hanescu, playing in his first Grand Slam quarter-final clash, did his best to make a fight of it in the second set, he was made to look every bit the world number 90.

Pak greats find out the reason



AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan greats Imran Khan and Wasim Akram Tuesday blamed selectors for the first Test defeat against West Indies saying that a lack of good bowlers lost them the chance of a series win.

"It was over-confidence reflected in dropping Shoaib Akhtar. The West Indies were rated as the third from bottom and against them we lacked a wicket-taking bowler," Imran told AFP.

Pakistan dropped Shoaib from the 17-man squad on fitness grounds, and also said the fast bowler needed to improve his attitude.

"It's a fundamental rule in cricket that you never underestimate your opponent. Pakistan did underestimate the West Indies, there was complacency."

Pakistan, riding high after their 3-0 one-day series win over the West Indies, got a crushing blow with a 276-run defeat on the fourth day of the first Test at Barbados on Sunday.

Pakistan have not won a series in the West Indies in their previous five tours. They now face a tough task of squaring the series with the second and final Test starting at Jamaica on

Friday.

"Pakistan committed one of the most bizarre mistakes of dropping Shoaib. Mohammad Sami got injured so where were the bowlers to get the opposition out twice?" said Imran, who served as captain when Pakistan levelled the series 1-1 in the Caribbean in 1988.

Wasim also agreed Pakistan needed a wicket-taking bowler on flat West Indies pitches and criticised selectors for dropping Shoaib.

"One-day cricket is different. In the one-dayers Pakistan had bowlers who bowled 10 overs and took wickets but in Tests you need to get 20 wickets and there were no bowlers to bowl the opponents out twice," said Wasim, who took 414 wickets in 104 Tests for Pakistan.

"We have never been able to win a series in the Caribbean and thought that this was our golden chance. But from dropping your main players, to poor management, we have spurned that chance."

BCB Green

FROM PAGE 12

Shahin 90, Alamgir 57 not out, extras 22, Raj 7-59).

BCB GREEN: First innings 275-5 (Shamsur 78, Sahagir 53, Sakib 56, Nazimuddin 34, Raj 13, Naeem 11 not out, Dhiman 8 not out, extras 22, Nabil 3-58, Mosharrar 2-52).

Windies bring back Best

AFP, St John's

The West Indies selectors on Monday made one change to their squad for the second Test against Pakistan which runs from June 3-7 at Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica.

Tino Best replaces Fidel Edwards who suffered a strained hamstring during the first Test which ended in Barbados on Sunday, which the West Indies won by 276 runs.

Edwards will be out for at least 10 days.

Ian Bradshaw has fully recovered from the viral infection which ruled him out of selection for the first Test while Dwayne Bravo is undergoing treatment on an ankle injury.

SQUAD

Shivnarine Chanderpaul (captain), Christopher Gayle, Devon Smith, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Brian Lara, Dwayne Bravo, Courtney Browne, Corey Collymore, Daren Powell, Reon King, Ian Bradshaw, Tino Best.

DIV I SOCCER

Badda hold Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jagarani put an end to Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society's winning run in the First Division Football League when the two sides drew 1-1 in yesterday's lone match at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Kamalapur Stadium.

Rahmatganj, who won all their previous three matches, took a 1-0 first-half lead with Mithu opening the account in the 41st minute.

Badda, who lost in the third round after starting the league with two wins, pulled off the equaliser through Nasir in the 68th minute.

After four rounds, Rahmatganj are still on top with ten points while Badda are on seven.

Mohammedan's revenge

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Arambagh were reduced to ten men in the 73rd minute when Rintu committed a serious mid-pitch infringement on Manju. Rintu, who had arrived on the pitch just four minutes earlier, was shown no mercy by referee Abdul Hannan who flashed the second red card of the league. The Arambagh player, however, ignored the rules of the game by sitting in the stands after getting his marching order with support from club officials.

Arambagh came back briefly in the 77th minute when Ritu's placing shot from the top of the box -- apparently going wide after beating goal-keeper Biplab -- was diverted into the post by two Mohammedan defenders. Nazrul tried to clear the ball but it deflected in off the legs of Kamal.

Mohammedan, facing a management crisis and playing under their third coach of the season, sealed the victory in the first minute

of the injury time when Rony made amends for his earlier mistake. The young forward, who met a square pass from veteran Nakib in a tight angle, fired the ball home off the far post to put the side on the top of table with better goal difference than title chasers Brothers, Abahani and Muktijoddha, who all won their first round games 2-1.

Red card: Rintu (Arambagh)

Yellow cards: Hassan, Nakib (Mohammedan) and Russell, Imrul, Dominic (Arambagh).

TEAMS

Mohammedan: Biplab Sr, Hassan, Nazrul, Biplab Jr (Kamal), Zahid (Rony), Asad, Munna, Arman Aziz, Faisal, Manju (Nakib) and Alfaz.

Arambagh: Mitul, Russel, Ramjan, Dulal, Akram, Juku, Faisal (Moshed), Imrul, Dominic, Ritu and Ridon (Rintu).

Million dollar question

FROM PAGE 12

Until a year before their promotion to Test status, Bangladesh had no significant first-class structure in place.

And that problem was compounded by a measure designed to ensure greater fairness.

For years newer sides such as Sri Lanka found themselves fobbed off with a solitary Test at the end of another series.

As part of its new Test Championship structure the ICC insisted that all sides must play a series (two Tests minimum) home and away against all other nine nations within a five year period.

What this has meant for Bangladesh is that they have been denied the gentler, if patronising, introduction afforded say New Zealand who took 26 years to win their first Test and had to wait a staggeringly unfair 27 years between their first and second series with Australia.

Bangladesh achieved their first Test win in just five years in January but that was only against a Zimbabwe side itself returning following a suspension imposed last year after questions were raised regarding racial bias in selection by former captain Heath Streak.

Zimbabwe's neighbours South Africa spent over 20 years in Test exile because of apartheid but no team has ever had its Test status stripped for not being good enough.

Suggestions made to improve Bangladesh and Zimbabwe's standard, range from additional A (2nd) team tours, the two countries playing more matches against non-Test nations, and two divisions of Test cricket.

In the meantime the only proposal set to take effect is a plan to put Bangladesh and Zimbabwe's

international matches on a six, as opposed to five, year cycle.

In October, following an inquiry into the structure of Test cricket, ICC president Ehsan Mani said the purpose of the review "was not to take away the Test status of any country" and nothing has emerged to suggest a major shift will take place at the governing body's June meetings.

After Lord's, Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore said: "Trying to achieve what everyone wants us to achieve is tough but to solely take Bangladesh out of international status is just pure folly, ridiculous. We need to have a means to an end."

English officials and players aren't risk getting drawn into the debate, chairman of selectors David Graveney summing up the party line on Monday by saying: "It's not for us to decide whether they (Bangladesh) should be playing Test matches or not."

Bangladesh are not without hope. Their Under-19s recently enjoyed an undefeated tour of Australia. The question now is how long will it take for their seniors to enjoy similar results.

CA backs Tigers

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given the best possible opportunity to do that."

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore has insisted calls for the Asian country to be stripped of its senior international status are folly.

"Trying to achieve what everyone wants us to achieve is tough but to solely take Bangladesh out of international status full representation is just pure folly, ridiculous. We need to have a means to an end," Whatmore said.

Sharapova shocked

FROM PAGE 12

Championship tables over the past 12 months," Sutherland said in a statement.

"It certainly recognises the performance of the Australian team and our team management who play such a vital role behind the scenes."

The payment comprised 250,000 dollars for topping the ICC Test Championship and 250,000 dollars for leading the ICC ODI Championship.

It is the first time the ICC has made a financial payment to recognise the achievement.

The Test Championship was introduced in May 2001 with the ODI table formed in October 2002.

"It is different this time as I have

more experience and more self belief. I am a calmer person on the court."

Bubbly Bulgarian Karatantcheva was seeking to depose Monica Sele as the youngest ever winner and she got off to a perfect start by easily taking the first set.

However, a combination of nerves and the greater experience of the 29-year-old Russian eventually proved decisive.

Cash reward

FROM PAGE 12

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Ronaldo released from duty



REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil have agreed to release striker Ronaldo from next month's World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay and Argentina as well as the Confederations Cup in Germany later in June.

"Ronaldo said he had personal problems which prevented him from dedicating himself to the Brazilian national team at the moment," coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

"So the technical staff have decided to release him."

Ronaldo said last week that he wanted to skip the Confederations Cup, which will be held from June 15-29, but had not asked to be left out of the World Cup qualifiers.

On Monday, Ronaldo said he had talked the situation over with Parreira on the telephone and admitted he was surprised to have been left out of this Sunday's home game against Paraguay and the one in Argentina

the following Wednesday.

"I was ready and prepared for these two games, but it's the CBF's decision and I have to respect it," he said in a television interview.

"I needed a rest and a chance to forget about the things I've been going through," added Ronaldo, who split up with fiancée Daniella Cicarelli at the start of May, three months after throwing a lavish engagement party at a Paris chateau.

"I'm going to prepare well for next year."

Parreira, who has previously warned players that missing the Confederations Cup could jeopardise their places at the 2006 World Cup in Germany, denied that Ronaldo was being punished.

"The national team is not a place for retaliation or to harbour grudges or resentments," Parreira said.

"But I think we're going to have to do without him for these two games."

"He confessed that, because of some personal and professional matters, his head is not really in the right place."

Brazil, who are second in the 10-nation South American World Cup qualifying group with 24 points from 13 games, called up Sao Paulo striker Grafite as Ronaldo's replacement.

Ronaldo won and converted a hat-trick on penalties when Brazil beat Argentina 3-1 last year and is the leading scorer in the competition with eight goals.

Last week, Parreira issued a stern warning to the striker after hearing that he did not want to go to Germany.

"It would be great just to play the World Cup," Parreira said.

"Personally, it would be great for me if I could just coach the team at the World Cup and not have to worry about the qualifiers and the friendlies, where there is a lot of wear and tear."

"Every player should feel happy when he is picked. But if a player really doesn't want to play for his country, then he has every right to ask to be released."

"Nobody is irreplaceable."

Figo's Real uncertainty



AFP, Lisbon

Luis Figo, happy to be back with Portugal's national squad after a nine-month break from international football, admits he is unsure of his future at Real Madrid.

"I don't know what is going to happen. I would like to have some decisions regarding my professional future at this moment, but I don't. I am waiting for news," said Figo, who has one year left on his contract with Real.

The former European and world player of the year has been relegated to the bench at Real since early April.

But he was happy to be back in the Portugal colours.

"It is always a great honour to be able to serve my country. I have said this a thousand times. After a pause it feels as if it was my first day," he said.

The 32-year-old said in August he was halting his 13-year international career because country commitments on top of his schedule with Real Madrid were hurting his fitness.

His return comes with Portugal facing main Group 3 rivals Slovakia in Lisbon on June 4 in a vital World Cup qualifier. They then play in Estonia four days later.

"I went through a phase where I dedicated myself to other things that I also needed to pay attention too, but sometimes it was a bit strange,"

he said.

"I left by the full void which was managed by the national team with some aspects of my private life. Now I am dedicated to helping the team," he added.

Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari substituted Figo several times during the Euro 2004 finals when Portugal finished runners-up to Greece.

And he faces competition for a midfield spot from Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona's Brazilian-born Deco.

Figo has played 110 games for Portugal, a record shared with defender Fernando Couto. He has 31 goals.

Schumacher not ready to retire

REUTERS, Berlin

Seven-times world champion Michael Schumacher is having a great time racing despite not winning a grand prix this season.

Brushing off questions about whether it was time to quit now that a pack of younger Formula One drivers have beaten him in all seven races this year, Schumacher told Tuesday's Bild newspaper that he was not thinking about retiring.

"Let me say this more clearly so you can write it down: I'm not thinking about quitting," said the 36-year-old, who is having his worst start to a championship.

"I've always said that I'd retire if I couldn't keep up with the younger drivers," Schumacher said when asked about past interviews in which he indicated he would quit if drivers came along who were better than him.

"That's different than what's happening now. I'm very much able to keep up with them. In all honesty, with all the duels going on right now, racing is a lot more fun for me than a lot of people would imagine."

Schumacher, the oldest man on the Formula One circuit, is the most successful driver in the history of the sport.

But his chances of taking an eighth drivers' title faded further on Sunday when he finished fifth, nearly a minute off the pace at the European Grand Prix. He is 43 points behind Spain's championship leader Fernando Alonso.

"I'm a realist and can evaluate my chances better than anyone on the outside," he said when asked why he looked so relaxed on Sunday despite the defeat.

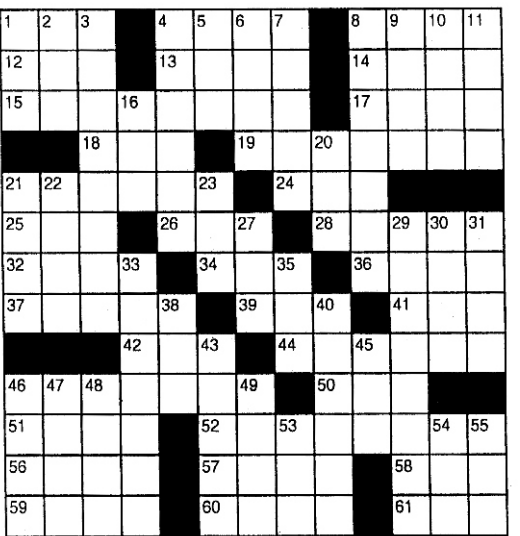
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chop
8 Jostle
12 Thick
13 mass
14 Actress
15 MacGraw
17 Largest of the seven
18 Song-
19 Sweet
21 Bathlub
24 Sigh
25 Succumb
26 History
27 Kreskin's
28 Strength
32 Early
34 Mad
36 Hatter's
37 Telegram
38 Takes
39 Blond

DOWN

1 "Hee
2 "—
3 Actor
4 Cush-
5 Talkative
6 types
7 MacGraw
8 Edge
9 Seuss's
10 "If — the
11 Zoo"
12 Trachea
13 Cancel
14 Fire opal
15 Out
16 Satan's
17 specially
18 Set
19 ablaze
20 Reaches
21 a conclu-
22 sion
23 Hinge
24 (on)
25 Enervate
26 Keg
27 contents
28 Desire
29 Superlat-
30 ending
31 Shell-
32 game
33 need
34 Mini-golf
35 obstacle
36 battle
37 site
38 Pull to
39 pieces
40 Leaves
41 marooned
42 Cleo's
43 city
44 slayer
45 Brillo
46 rival
47 Almost
48 not at all
49 Leafy
50 shelter
51 Party
52 bowlful
53 Be a
54 benefac-
55 tor
56 Golfer's
57 selection
58 Invasion
59 Electric-
60 ally
61 charged
62 Goose
63 egg
64 Chart
65 type
66 Greek
67 vowel



CRYPTOQUIP

J Q N Y P M G S
T C J B Y J Q C G J B X J N Q N Y W .
J A C W U X A C T Y X M ' R
J Q N Y P M G S T A C G U E M P N T ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A NEW FLICK
CONCERNING SOME LEGENDS OF
FILMMAKING WAS ENTITLED "REEL PEOPLE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals Y

The Cryptoquip 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.