

Inzy intends to mend fences with Shoaib

CRICINFO, undated

Inzamamul Haq has said that he intends to talk at length with Shoaib Akhtar in South Africa during the Afro-Asian Cup.

Both players have been selected to represent the Asian XI in the three-match one-day series starting August 17.

Inzamam, named captain of the Asian side, said he planned to "sit down" and discuss team issues with Shoaib.

"I want to tell him what plans we have in mind for him, what are we expecting from him as our main strike bowler in the coming season," he said.

"I would also like to hear from him about his fitness and form and how motivated he is for the coming series."

Inzamam also made it clear that he had no personal problems with Shoaib. "There is no personal grudge between us. I just want him to perform as a frontline bowler for the team," he was quoted as saying by PTI.

"We have no doubt in our mind that when he puts his mind to it he is a match-winner for us."

Inzamam said he would also talk to the other Pakistani players who are representing the Asian XI, and let them know what he expected of them.

Montreal Masters goes to Nadal

AFP, Montreal

Spanish sensation Rafael Nadal claimed the first hardcourt title of his career on Sunday, subduing US veteran Andre Agassi 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 to win the Montreal Masters Series crown.

The 19-year-old top seed, who was meeting the 35-year-old Agassi for the first time, captured his ATP Tour-best ninth title of the year, matching the record for tournament victories in a season by a teenager set by Mats Wilander in 1983.

Nadal's first eight titles of the year came on clay, including the French Open and Masters Series triumphs in Rome and Monte Carlo.

But with two weeks to go before the year's final Grand Slam, the hardcourt US Open, Nadal showed he can shine on cement as well.

"I knew I could play good on hard courts, because I've had some good scores this year," he said.

"But for me winning here is very, very nice. I have confidence now. I said before I came here my goal is to win any tournament on hardcourt this year, and I have that in the first, no?"

Nadal broke Agassi in the third and fifth games of the decisive set to improve his ATP-best record to 65-8 this year. He took home a winner's prize of 400,000 dollars from the 2.45 million-dollar purse.

Zimbabwe

FROM PAGE 12

Wishart c Astle b Franklin	30
Taibu not out	76
Streak c McCullum b Bond	0
Dabwengwa b Martin	17
Mahwire c Astle b Vettori	42
Cremer not out	7
Mpofu c Marshall b Vettori	7
Extras: (lb-4, nb-10)	14
Total: (All out in 79 overs)	231
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-3, 3-7, 4-65, 5-74, 6-74, 7-123, 8-211, 9-219	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bond	17	5	56	6
Franklin	12	3	43	1
Martin	13	4	42	1
Styris	4	2	9	0
Vettori	27	9	56	2
Astle	6	2	26	0

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

J Marshall c Carlisle b Streak	10
Vincent not out	20
H Marshall run out (Mahwire)	13
Extras: (nb-5)	5
Total: (For 2 wkts in 9.3 overs)	48
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-48	
To Bat: Fleming, Astle, Styris, McCullum, Vettori, Franklin, Bond, Martin	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Streak	5	1	27	1
Mahwire	4.3	1	21	0

Toss: Zimbabwe.



PHOTO: AFP

THE DIEGOS: Former Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (top) and his father Diego look on prior to the start of the Argentine First Division soccer match between Boca Juniors and Rosario Central at La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires on Sunday.

Sourav, Rahul get on well



CRICINFO, undated

After being re-appointed Indian captain, Sourav Ganguly has made it clear that there are no fissures in the side, and certainly no personality clash with Rahul Dravid, who had led the side while he served out a four-match suspension.

While admitting that the team's performance had declined over the past season, Ganguly categorically denied that different camps had sprung up within the squad.

"I want to make it very clear that there is no rift, no trouble, no problem between us (himself and Dravid)," he said, in an interview with the Mumbai Mirror.

"Rahul has also made that very clear. We know each other for a long time, we know how things work here. We've had a great working relationship, and we hope to continue our partnership."

Ganguly was also loathe to compare Dravid's style of leadership with his own. "Basically, every captain has his own way," he said.

"We have different styles but any two people will have different styles of leading a team. We may react differently to the same situation.

"I'm not going to comment of

which style is better because it is a very relative thing."

The debacle in the tri-nation tournament in Sri Lanka continued India's miserable run in one-day internationals since the team led by Ganguly lost the World Cup final to Australia in 2003.

Admitting that the slump was a matter of concern, Ganguly said: "Winning is a habit and we've got out of that habit. We just need to get a few wins under our belt, and then everything will get back in order."

"When we were losing last time in 2002, we got a few wins in the West Indies and that sparked off a great run, starting from England right to the Pakistan series last year. We just need to make something like that happen again."

There were plenty of frayed tempers on show in Sri Lanka, but Ganguly brusquely refuted suggestions that it had become every-man-for-himself.

"No, I don't believe that," he said, when asked whether it was true that the team had become faction-ridden. "But if anyone does this kind of stuff, they will themselves suffer. The most important thing is to have a winning team."

"If you're part of a side that's losing, whatever you do, all 16 members of the team will be shaky and unsteady. Scoring big runs or taking lots of wickets doesn't help

anyone's cause if the team is losing."

Having gone through a wretched run of form at the end of last season, Ganguly accepted that there would be pressure on him the next time he walked to the crease.

"I just got into a very bad patch during that (Pakistan) series. I was in bad form, and I'm not trying to make excuses. I didn't play well. If you don't play well, you will get under pressure."

However, he pooh-poohed notions that his perceived frailty against the short ball had been his undoing of late. "If I genuinely had a problem against short bowling, I wouldn't have scored runs in international cricket for the last nine years," he said.

"People would have figured me out long back. You can take a look at the stats, it's just a monkey that's riding on my back. Some people keep writing about it, that's all."

Ganguly, who scored a brilliant century at Brisbane in December 2003 after being greeted with headlines about "chin music" buttressed his argument by pointing out the case of his old adversary.

"Steve Waugh always looked uncomfortable against the rising ball, but look at how well he did. It's not about how you look, it's about how many runs you score."

Real win tribute game

AP, Budapest

Ronaldo scored the go-ahead goal in the 72nd minute, helping Real Madrid defeat a Hungarian select side 3-1 on Sunday in a match to benefit ailing soccer legend Ferenc Puskas.

Zinedine Zidane converted a penalty kick and 75th-minute substitution Michael Owen scored for Real Madrid as well, while Krisztian Kenesi tallied for the Hungarians, also on a penalty.

A crowd of about 40,000 attended the match at Ferenc Puskas Stadion - named in 2003 after the former Hungarian and Real Madrid striker.

The 78-year-old Puskas has been hospitalized for years with a series of ailments. Hungarian soccer officials said the amount to be donated to Puskas would be revealed next week.

Real Madrid's opponents, dubbed the "Ferenc Puskas Selection," were coached by former German international Lothar Matthaeus, manager of Hungary's national squad.

Puskas led Hungary to the 1952 Olympic title in Helsinki and scored 84 goals in 85 international appearances for Hungary. He also played four times for Spain.

Puskas defected to Spain after the 1956 Hungarian revolution, teaming up with Alfredo Di Stefano at Real Madrid. Nicknamed Panchito, he was the Spanish league's top scorer four times and won three European Cup titles and five league titles between 1958-67.

Jenas' red becomes yellow

AFP, Newcastle

Newcastle midfielder Jermaine Jenas has had the red card he received during Sunday's 2-0 Premiership loss at Arsenal downgraded to yellow after the match referee reviewed his controversial decision.

Jenas was sent-off by referee Steve Bennett in the 32nd minute at Highbury for a foul on midfielder Gilberto Silva, although television replays showed that the England international had only caught the Brazilian as his trailing leg followed through.

Furious Magpies boss Graeme Souness refused to speak to the media after the game and Bennett's rethink was confirmed Monday.

"Steve Bennett has been in touch via letter with manager Graeme Souness, Jermaine Jenas and the rest of the squad to apologise for his error of judgement during Sunday's game against Arsenal," said a statement released through Newcastle's official website, www.nufc.co.uk.

"He has requested that the Football Association downgrade the dismissal to a yellow card and this has been confirmed by the FA."

Jenas, 22, would have faced a three-match ban had his sending off stood, keeping him out of the trip to Bolton next Wednesday and the home games against Manchester United and Fulham.

With his future on Tyneside uncertain amid speculation that he could leave before the transfer window closes at the end of this month, his 32 minutes at Highbury could have been his last in a black and white shirt.

Crespo last

FROM PAGE 12 should have done better with.

"If we give everything we've got like that every week we'll be okay. If we do it week in, week out, we will surprise a few people."

"The only negative is the result - everything else is positive. We pushed them all the way and arguably had the better chances."

Shaun Wright-Phillips, who joined Chelsea from Manchester City in a 23-million-pound deal last month, had to be content with a place on the substitutes bench alongside Joe Cole and Crespo, who has returned to the London club following his successful loan spell with AC Milan.

Cech was forced into the first save of the game when called on to keep out a swerving drive from Camara after just three minutes before the Senegalese international lashed another effort into the side netting moments later.

The striker turned provider on 24 minutes when he found Alan Mahon with a clever cut-back but the midfielder's shot looped inches over Cech's crossbar.

Mourinho introduced Cole and Wright-Phillips at the start of the second half in a bid to inject more life into his lacklustre side.

It almost paid instant dividends when Wright-Phillips set-up Cole within a minute of the re-start but the midfielder's shot was sliced hopelessly wide.

Mourinho threw on Crespo on the hour mark in what looked like a final attempt to find a way through Wigan's stubborn defence, superbly led by Arjan De Zeeuw on his debut.

As Chelsea began to run out of attacking ideas, up stepped the Argentine again with his final act of the game to beat Pollitt and snatch the most dramatic, and cruel, victory.

Brazilians down Juve



REUTERS, Milan

Brazilians Kaka and Serginho scored as AC Milan came back to beat Italian champions Juventus 2-1 in the pre-season Berlusconi Trophy on Sunday.

Juventus had taken the lead through Frenchman Patrick Vieira but Fabio Capello's side suffered two injuries which could hamper their remaining preparation for the Serie A season.

Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved went off with an ankle injury and after the break goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon was stretched off with a shoulder injury.

Buffon, who was hurt after racing out to foil Kaka, is now doubtful for Italy's friendly match with the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on

Wednesday.

After an impressive start Juve went in front in the 20th minute when Jonathan Zebina put Vieira through and the midfielder, signed from Arsenal during the close season, confidently fired past Milan keeper Dida.

Juve's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, having gone close earlier with a fierce strike that hit Dida in the face, struck the post with a left-foot drive from the edge of the area as the champions dominated.

Kaka was the most dangerous threat from Milan and he went close twice before the break and then brought the defeated Champions League finalists level eight minutes after the restart.

It was a superbly worked goal with Clarence Seedorf sweeping the ball out to European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko on the right and the Ukrainian picked out

Kaka with a pinpoint pass which the Brazilian drove home with a first-time shot from the edge of the area.

Alberto Gilardino, the Italy striker bought by Milan from Parma, having earlier had an effort ruled out for offside, went close to putting Milan ahead before the Brazilian influence decided the match.

Milan's Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa put Serginho clear on the left and the winger cut inside before firing home from a tight angle.

The Berlusconi Trophy, named after Luigi Berlusconi, the father of AC Milan president and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, is followed by the Italian Supercup on Saturday which pits Juventus against Cup winners Inter Milan at the DelleAlpi stadium.

The Serie A season kicks off on August 28.

Makaay packs more punch

AFP, Munich

Roy Makaay has often drawn comparisons with former Bayern Munich striking icon Gerd Muller but statistics prove Netherlands international Makaay is more clinical in front of goal.

A hat-trick in the weekend 5-2 win over Bayer Leverkusen helped Makaay raise his Bayern goals tally to 50 in 67 Bundesliga matches meaning he reached the landmark before Muller.

West Germany's 1974 World Cup winner Muller needed 83 games to score 50 goals in Bayern colours before going on to net an incredible 365 goals in 417 matches.

"We both score a lot of goals but that is where I think the similarity ends," said Makaay. "Gerd Muller scored almost all of his goals in the penalty area while I score some of mine from outside."

Muller still holds the Bundesliga record of 40 league goals from the 1971/72 season although Makaay has his sights on the benchmark after scoring five goals in the first two matches of the season.

Radcliffe, Limo get it right

AFP, Helsinki

Paula Radcliffe and Benjamin Limo, two of the most gifted athletes of their generation, finally came of age here on Sunday when they were crowned champions of the world.

British golden girl Radcliffe rid herself of the demons of the Olympics, where she had failed to finish either the marathon or the 10,000m, as she coasted to victory in the women's marathon.

Kenya's Limo ended a run of three silvers at major championships and restored some of his country's battered pride with his 5000m triumph.

While they savoured their first world titles, Rashid Ramzi won his second of the week as the Moroccan-born Bahraini landed the 800m crown to become the first man to achieve the 800m-1500m double in a major championships since New Zealand's Peter Snell in the 1964 Olympics.

Russia carried on their strong showing as Tatyana Tomashova retained her 1500m title -- though their cleansweep was erased when second-placed Yuliya Chizhenko was disqualified -- and the women's 4x400m relay team eased to victory.

There was also a second world title for Cuba's Yoelis Menendez in the women's javelin as she regained the crown she won in 2001 in the best possible fashion by breaking her own world record.

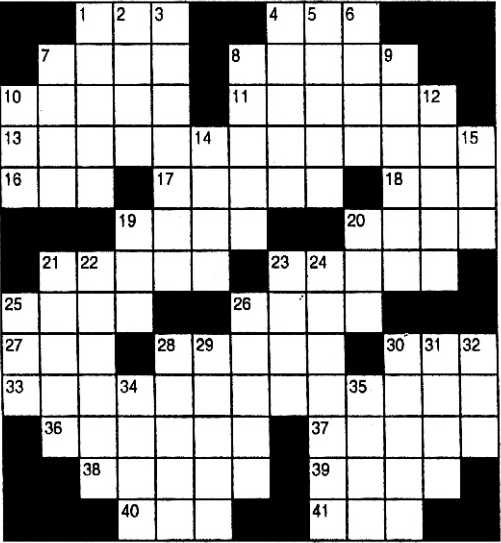


PHOTO: AFP

LONG WAIT IS OVER: British Paula Radcliffe celebrates, who won the women's marathon at the World Championships in Helsinki on August 14.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
1 Uncultured	28 Unfettered	2 "— Ask of You"	14 Calendar period
4 Tennis shot	30 Sra., across	3 Mom's "Maybe"	15 Despondent
7 Unrivaled	Pyrenees	4 Tennessees	19 Morsel
8 Tested	33 Swiss-Italian	see senator	20 Falsehood
10 Lagoons	border	Alexander	21 Be advised (to)
enclosure	peak	5 "Golden Boy"	22 Handles the helm
11 Brunch	36 Mourmlui	playwright	23 Indulge in
entree	37 Broad-cast	6 Sash	voagu
13 Sitcom	38 Super-man	7 Luminary	24 Mean
about the Winslows	comparison	8 John Lennon	25 Wrestling surface
16 Take a whack at	39 Alumnus	9 Dig more	26 "Psycho" venue
17 Big name in retail	40 Screw up	10 Sternward	28 "Star Wars"
18 One type of legume	41 Conger, e.g.	12 Stoke-on-—, Eng.	29 Playful water critter
19 ... and another	1 Spacious	Solution time: 21 mins.	
20 Give conditionally	ACROSS	DOWN	
21 Wicker material	WAVE TAW DRAO	WAVE TAW DRAO	
23 House coat?	ORIG LOVEBIRD	ORIG LOVEBIRD	
25 Mongrel	LOVEJOY ATLAS	LOVEJOY ATLAS	
26 Relocate	NAN ISO	NAN ISO	
27 Candle tally	BATTY JOYRIDE	BATTY JOYRIDE	
	ADO GROW	ADO GROW	
	HAYRIDE BRACE	HAYRIDE BRACE	
	ELS MOE	ELS MOE	
	APEAK HAYSEED	APEAK HAYSEED	
	BIRDSEED ECRU	BIRDSEED ECRU	
	ANNE ERA AHAAB	ANNE ERA AHAAB	
	BEOR LLOW LOTS	BEOR LLOW LOTS	



CRYPTOQUIP

H K O F L O W U H K W J M L C R I A

H R O J R I O X I T M W U L C

B L A H W R , T H B G U U G O U F L

O U L X G A H X O J E A I X E I W U ?
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: FOR BREAKFAST MEALS AT THE HAUNTED HOUSE, THEY ALWAYS MAKE BACON AND SCREAM OF WHEAT.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: E equals K

The Cryptiquip 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.



LANCE ARMSTRONG

Austin or in Texas is that it would mimic exactly what I've done: a ton of stress and a ton of time away from my kids.

"Why would I want to go from pro-cycling, which is stressful and a lot of time away, straight into politics?"

Armstrong said that retirement had brought him a lot of freedom.