

Indians stuck in Bulawayo

PTI, Harare

Indians have stayed put in Bulawayo to nurse their wounds but it is a different matter they would treat this unwanted sojourn as adding insult to injury.

Curious as it may sound, Indians were not able to leave Bulawayo on Saturday because the air tickets were not available, as Indian captain Sourav Ganguly explained to the mediapersons after the humiliating defeat to New Zealand in the triangular series on Friday.

So even as the Indian media and other personnel connected with the tour were boarding the flight for Harare where the action now shifts in the series, the cricketers were left to cool their heels in Bulawayo.

Now Bulawayo is many things – The City of Kings, according to a tourist brochure; 'the place of killing', in the words of a literal translation from the Ndebele language. The Indian top order would like to go with this assessment but in essence a sleepy town where everyday is a Sunday.

So far in the tour, the Indians have been left to do the catching up - arriving late, overstaying in Harare when they should have been in Bulawayo and now held up in Bulawayo when they should be in Harare.

To add more spice, if not rubbing salt to their wounds, New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming pompously announced that his side could do better on a seaming track in Harare than Bulawayo where the wicket favoured the batsmen.

Too late to ban Zim

CRICINFO, undated

Henry Olunga, the former Zimbabwe fast bowler, has criticised the British government's call for his country to be banned from international cricket, saying that such a move is 'too late.'

The ICC is presently meeting in Dubai and will consider the call for a ban, after British ministers wrote asking for Zimbabwe to be excluded because of human rights abuses.

But Olunga is of the opinion that something should have been done much earlier.

"The rest of the world has just sat by and watched this tragedy unfold," Olunga told BBC Radio Five Live.

"It's almost like they're waiting for something massive to happen before they intervene. I think yes, it's too late."

Olonga said that the call to ban Zimbabwe from international cricket was hardly new.

"The controversy surrounding Zimbabwe cricket has been raging for many years," he said.

"When I first came to England in 2003, Zimbabwe had a tour of England and the question of whether Zimbabwe should be involved in international cricket was being asked back then."

"But I think the media attention only comes when something drastic happens in Zimbabwe."

Roy Bennett, an official with the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in Zimbabwe said that the world's cricket authorities should stand by the people of Zimbabwe.

"That cricket (in Zimbabwe) is being broadcast across the world projects normality," he said.

"There are people being abused, having their lives taken away from them, and they (the ECB) need to stand by those people. The players, the ECB, the ICC, those countries' cricket boards – they all need to stand together in solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe by speaking out against what's happened in Zimbabwe."

Australia

FROM PAGE 12
(Flintoff 102, G Jones 85, Trescottick 65, Vaughan 58; Warner 4-102, Tait 3-97)
AUSTRALIA: First innings (over-night 99-5)
Langer c Bell b Hoggard 27
Hayden lbw b Hoggard 7
Ponting lbw b S Jones 1
Martyn lbw b Hoggard 1
Clarke lbw b Harmison 36
Kitchin c Strauss b S Jones 45
Gilchrist c Strauss b Flintoff 27
Warne c Bell b S Jones 0
Lee c Bell b S Jones 47
Kasprowicz b S Jones 5
Tait not out 3
Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-16) 19
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs) 218
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-21, 3-22, 4-58, 5-99, 6-157, 7-157, 8-163, 9-175

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harmison	9	1	48	1
Hoggard	15	3	70	3
S.Jones	14.1	4	44	5
Flintoff	11	1	54	1

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (following-on)
Langer not out 54
Hayden c Giles b Flintoff 26
Ponting not out 28
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-4) 7
Total: (For 1 wk in 31 overs) 115
Fall of wickets: 1-50

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	7	2	25	0
S.Jones	4	0	15	0
Harmison	11	1	44	0
Flintoff	7	2	23	1
Giles	2	0	5	0



NIGHT OF THE REDS: Liverpool players pose with the UEFA Super Cup after their 3-1 victory against CSKA Moscow in Monaco on Friday.

Bekele rewrites 10,000 history

Athletics

AFP, Brussels

Ethiopian running phenomenon Kenenisa Bekele destroyed the men's 10,000 metres world record at the Golden League meeting here on Friday.

The 23-year-old Olympic and two-time world champion timed 26 minutes 17.53 seconds to break his old record of 26:20.31 set in Ostrava in June 2004.

While he succeeded two other world champions failed in their bids for world records as Russian pole vaulter extraordinare Yelena Isanbeyeva failed three times at 5.02 metres and Qatar's two-time steeplechase world champion Saif Saaeed Shaheen also missed out.

However, Isanbeyeva's compatriot Tatyana Lebedeva moved inexorably towards the 1million dollars Golden League bonus as the 29-year-old sauntered to victory in the triple jump and now she must win in Berlin on Sunday week and turn up at the Grand Prix finals later in September to collect.

Bekele, though, was the star of the show and it was made even more memorable as his 18-year-old brother Tariku paced a lot of the race for him.

"I was so happy that at the end we didn't find the right words but we didn't need them," said Tariku, who failed to medal in the 5000m final at the World Championships.

While Justin Gatlin overcame a poor start to once again stamp his superiority on the 100m his predecessor as the dominant force Maurice Greene cast a sad sight as the 31-year-old's miserable tour of Europe possibly reached its nadir.

The former world record holder and 2000 Olympic champion had promised he would finish under 10 – he did though not quite as he intended as the 'Kansas Comet' finished ninth and last in a time of 10.56sec – time perhaps for the sprinting great to give up the day job.

Another African to have opted to take money by transferring allegiance to a Gulf state Rashid Ramzi was brought crashing back to earth as Bahrain's Moroccan-born recently-crowned 1500m and 800m world champion was soundly

beaten by Kenya's young hope Daniel Kipchirchir Komen. The 20-year-old Kenyan, who failed to progress from the heats in Helsinki, was metres clear of the Bahraini, whose pretensions to replace former compatriot Hicham El Guerrouj as the king of the distance were brutally exposed.

Neseret Defar had set the stage for her compatriot Bekele earlier in the evening as she recorded the best time this year in the 5,000m and set a new African record with a time of 14min 28.98sec.

The 21-year-old Olympic champion – who had to give second best to teammate Tirunesh Dibaba at the world championships -- lived up to

her name which means 'bold' in Amharic as her front running style saw her come home well clear of fellow Ethiopian Berhane Adere and Dibaba's elder sister and dual world bronze medalist Ejegayehu.

America's up and coming women's 400m hurdler Lashinda Demus at last put one over her arch rival and world champion Yuliya Pechonkina as the 22-year-old American – who took silver in Helsinki – came with a late run to overhaul 36-year-old compatriot Sandra Glover while the powerful Russian was third.

Real Madrid's new striker Robinho could face disciplinary action in his native Brazil after television footage showed him slapping an opponent during his last game for Santos.

"I'm going to ask for the video to decide on a possible punishment," Luiz Zveiter, president of Brazilian soccer's disciplinary commission, told reporters on Friday.

Pictures showed Robinho slapping Paysandu midfielder Maraba in the face on Wednesday. Santos rallied from 2-0 down to win the match 3-2.

Zveiter said any possible punishment would only take effect if Robinho returned to play in Brazilian club football.

"The tribunal has to enforce the rules, independently of the player's situation," he said.

"The punishment will not apply abroad."



Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia on way to winning the 10,000m gold at the Brussels Golden League meet on Friday.

Davenport back on top

Tennis

AFP, New Haven

Lindsay Davenport reclaimed the women's world number one ranking after her straight set victory here on Friday at the 600,000-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament.

The 29-year-old American beat Russian Anna Chakvetadze 6-3, 6-3 to move into the final of the US Open tune-up event.

With her victory, Davenport captured her number one crown back from Russian Maria Sharapova who had dethroned her earlier this week for the first time.

Sharapova will be the top seed at next week's US Open regardless of her world ranking.

In the other semifinal on Friday, Amelie Mauresmo narrowly escaped defeat.

Down a set and a break, the second-seeded Frenchwoman regrouped to outlast Spains Anabel Medina Garrigues 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2

in two hours and 52 minutes. Giant killer Medina Garrigues missed her chance to nail another big seed after beating fourth-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva in the quarter-finals.

Mauresmo, 26, slumped from the outset and played well below her best. The Spaniard, ranked 33rd, made third-ranked Mauresmo twist and turn before closing out the set on her serve.

Members: Sailab Hossain Tutul (140), ASM Faruque (123), Mirza Salman Ispahani (121), Asaduzzaman Khasru (118), MR Siddiqui Lemon (120), Shaheen Aftabur Reza Chowdhury (118), Ahmed Iqbal Hasan (117), Al Fuad Redwan (116), Mizanur Rahman (114), Kabir Ahmed (114), Shahiduzzaman Shahid (114), Kazi Mohiuddin Bulbul (113), Mahmud Jamal (110), Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir (109), Abdul Qayum Chowdhury (109), Shamim Kabir (107), Lutfar Rahman Badal (100), Syed Zahid Hossain (100), Syed Farhad Ahmed (95) and Shafulul Islam (93).

It's shame that Munnha Bhai has not been elected. It is also a shame that person like Golam Rasul Molla with no credential has been elected as a vice-president," said a conciliator without disclosing his name.

"It's the price you pay for loving the game."

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Super Cisse show

Football

AFP, Monaco

Djibril Cisse came off the subs bench to lead Liverpool to a 3-1 Super Cup win over CSKA Moscow on Saturday.

The France international, who has been upset by speculation that he might be shipped out of Anfield to make way for the possible return of Real Madrid's Michael Owen, could not have made a more eloquent or timely argument in favour of keeping him at Merseyside.

Advertisement
CSKA drew first blood when Brazilian Wagner Love ripped open the Red's defence, slipping the perfect through ball to Daniel Carvalho who fired low underneath Spanish goalkeeper, Jose Manuel Reina in the 28th minute.

Then Cisse, who came on in the 79th minute, pulled Liverpool level with eight minutes left to send the tie into extra time.

The striker put Liverpool ahead in the 103rd minute and then set up

Garcia's 109th minute goal with a sublime cross from the left post.

"For sure scoring two goals have given me a lift, there's been a lot of speculation in the last few weeks," he said.

"It's been a little difficult but you have to be strong and resilient.

"My future is with Liverpool, I'm happy here. I want to stay. I don't know why I should move.

"We've never spoken about leaving with the coach. I've signed for five years with Liverpool, I've still got four years to go.

"I'm still at Liverpool, and I hope to be able to stay till the end of my contract."

His manager Rafael Benitez, while refusing point blank to be drawn on the Owen/Cisse affair, explained why he'd only introduced Cisse late in the game.

"Why did I bring Cisse on so late? We had control of the match, we were attacking. But at the end it was necessary to change things, and it's then that I brought in Djibril.

"Djibril scored an important goal, he must be happy."

Champions League winners

Liverpool were missing their injured captain Steven Gerrard, who had to watch from the stands.

Keeper Jersey Dudek also missed the match through injury.

Liverpool's weakened side didn't stop them from making chances, but they failed to convert.

Spanish international Garcia had the best early chance in the 25th minute when the midfielder beat the off side trap with only Russian goalkeeper, Igor Akinfeev to beat, he chipped the keeper only to watch his effort bobble past the upright.

Liverpool only really got going when Cisse came on with 11 minutes of normal time remaining and three minutes later he'd grabbed an unorthodox equaliser when a deflected clearance fired against his chest and all he had to do was walk the ball over the line.

Then in the 103rd minute the Reds went in front when Cisse latched onto Dietmar Hamann's long ball to fire past Akinfeev, and victory was completed when he whipped over a cross for Garcia to head home.

SOCCER CAPSULES

AP, Stockholm

Former Sweden goalkeeper Magnus Hedman announced his retirement from soccer Friday.

The 32-year-old, who dropped to third-choice 'keeper at Celtic last season, played 58 games for Sweden. In 2000, he was named Sweden's player of the year.

He was Sweden's first-choice 'keeper at the 2000 European Championship and 2002 World Cup, where Sweden won a first-round group containing England, Argentina and Nigeria before losing in the round of 16.

A substitute when Sweden finished third at the 1994 World Cup, Hedman had a five-year stint at England's Coventry City. He also played for Ancona in Italy.

LIVERPOOL ADMIT OWEN INTEREST

AP, Liverpool

Michael Owen could be going back to Liverpool after all.

Although rival Newcastle negotiated a transfer fee with Real Madrid for the England striker, Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry said Friday that his club might make a move before next Wednesday's transfer deadline.

Owen has said he would prefer to move to Anfield.

Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez has made little comment on speculation and consistently told reporters he prefers to hire a right winger and a central defender.

That prompted speculation that he and Parry had disagreed over whether to bring Owen back to the club where he spent the first eight years of his career before moving to Madrid a year ago.

"There has never been a split between us and Rafa over Michael Owen or any other player," Parry said.

"It's not a no or a yes. There has been plenty of speculation and we will see next week. It's always encouraging when a player says he wants to come to Liverpool."

POLICE ARREST

Maradona has no conflict of interest

Football

REUTERS/AP, Buenos Aires

Former Argentina captain Diego Maradona's television commitments are not interfering with his role as director of football at Boca Juniors, club president Mauricio Macri said on Friday.

"I think he can do both jobs, more than anything because we have agreed that Diego will take it easily at first," said Macri in a radio interview.

"He will take on more responsibilities in the near future but not immediately.

"In the medium term, he will dedicate himself more to football and leave the communication (television) role to one side."

Maradona presents a two-hour television show called 'The Night of the 10' every Monday.

The 44-year-old Maradona has made a good recovery after undergoing drug rehabilitation last year and a gastric bypass

operation in March.
The most popular club in Argentina, Boca has always been close to Maradona's heart. He supported them as a boy and had two stints there as a player.

Meanwhile, a red 1996 Ferrari Spider once owned by Maradona has been auctioned on the Internet for 670,000 dollars.

A website manager for MercadoLibre.com said Thursday that the winning bidder, an Argentine whose wasn't identified, beat more than 150 other serious contenders in frenzied, fast-paced bidding.

Juan Martin De la Serna said auctioning drew more than 100,000 visitors.

De la Serna said the current owner, who acquired the car in 2000, wasn't being publicly identified. Maradona, who reportedly owned the car from 1996 until 2000, used to be seen driving it to the training field of his beloved Boca Juniors squad.

VIETNAM REF

AP, Hanoi

Vietnamese police have arrested a soccer referee and launched a probe against his three assistants for allegedly receiving bribes to fix the result of a soccer match in the country's first division, officials and state-controlled media reported Friday.

Luong Trung Viet was taken into police custody Thursday in the southern Mekong Delta province of Tra Vinh, some 150 kilometers southwest of Ho Chi Minh City, said Trinh Van Phan, director of Tra Vinh's Sports Department.

The initial investigation alleges that Viet and his three assistants received 20 million Vietnamese dong (2,940 dollars) from the Ho Chi Minh City-based East Asia-Povina Steel team to influence an April match against Huda Hue in its favour, the state-run Youth newspaper said. East Asia-Povina Steel won the match 2-1.

This is the first time in Vietnamese soccer history that a referee has been arrested for bribery.

BCCI receives telecast bids