

WOMEN'S CRICKET 'Indo-Pak series will be friendly'

AFP, Lahore

The captain of India's junior women's cricket team said Tuesday their first-ever cricket series with Pakistan will be a friendly encounter, unlike the bitter contests between their male colleagues.

"I don't think there will be as intense a rivalry as the men's teams show," captain Karuna Jain told AFP. "We are here for a friendly competition."

Jain's 14-member Indian Under-21 team arrived for their landmark tour in Lahore late Monday, accompanied by coach Kalpana Venkataswar and manager Anjali Pendharkar.

"This is the most exciting tour for all the players, none of whom have ever toured Pakistan before," said Jain, who featured in India's runners-up finish to Australia in the women's world cup early this year.

"The warmth we received at the airport made us feel at home."

Lahore will be the venue of their first one-day match to be played on Wednesday. Three other matches on September 29, October 1 and 2 are also scheduled in the city.

The 20-year-old right handed batswoman said the series would not be one-sided in India's favour. Pakistan, led by left arm pace bowler and right handed batswoman Shamsa Hashmi, failed to qualify for the world cup.

"Pakistan is different territory and this Indian team is also very inexperienced," she said.

India and Pakistan revived sporting ties last year amid a thaw in relations between their two governments, when the Indian men's cricket team visited Pakistan for the first time since 1989.

Indian coach Venkataswar said since it was the first-ever tour by any Indian women team "It makes the occasion very special".

Cricket has always been the most popular sport across the sub-continent but women's cricket in Muslim Pakistan flourished only in the early 1990s, along with other sports.

Transfer ends

FROM PAGE 12 who took part on the last day of transfers:

ACME: Habibul Bashar, Hannan Sarkar, Hasibul Hossain, Javed Omar, Mohammad Rafique, Naimur Rahman, Imran Ahmed, Alamgir Kabir, Ali Arman, Towhid Hossain, Dollar Mahmud, Sajidul Islam, Enamul Haque, Sabir Hossain, Lavtur Rahman and Nasiruddin Faruque.

BEXIMCO: Akram Khan, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Ashraf, Nazmul Hossain, Ashiqur Rahman, Shahriar Hossain, Ali Shariar, Talha Jubair, Morshed Ali Khan, Mehrab Hossain Jr, Shahin Hossain, Nadif Chowdhury, Moniruzzaman, Rashidul Haque, Mohammad Shahjada, Abdur Razzak Raj, Mahabub Alam, Syed Adil Ahmed, Faisal Hossain and Masudur Rahman.

ISPAHANI: Minhazul Abedin, Mithu, Imruz, Mazhar, Rabbi, Arafat, Rashed, Robin, Sumon Shah, Rajib, Papon and Raihan Arafat.

BIMAN BANGLADESH: Mehrab Hossain.

JAMUNA BANK: Mafuz Kabir, Arif Ahmed, Asadul Habib, Ziaur Rahman, Mohidul Islam, Abdullah Al Rasel, Sanchoy Chakrabarti, Niaz Murshed, Saiful Alam, Bishwanath Haldar, Asadullah Khan, Rezaul Islam, Anul Kabir, Sumon Barua, Saim Mehdi, Masud Ullah, Shahriar Habib, Wahiduzzaman Shamir, Ashiq Ahmed and Zahurul Islam.

ARAF: Khalid Mashud.

METRO REAL ESTATE: Sagar, Sharif, Sunny, Raj, Saad, Sajib, Sentu, Jhony, Real, Rajesh and Murad Khan.

SECURITY AIR EXPRESS: Habib Mobalek James, Mazharul Haque and Zakir Hossain.

BANGLACAT: Sumon Shaha, Nuruzzaman Nayan, Rafiqul Islam, Shamimul Haque, Jubair Ahmed, Asim Chowdhury, Rubayet Haque, Mahbub Alam, Enamul Haque Jr and Aminul Islam.

Flintoff No. 1

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to play before then. We are not going to get too far ahead of ourselves. We will take a break, go to Pakistan and move on. We are looking forward to it but we are going to have to work very hard. To beat them in their own countries will be tough."

With the exceptions of Michael Vaughan, the England captain, Kevin Pietersen and Simon Jones, the majority of the English side were present for the ceremony. And the occasion held enough glitter and glamour for Test-cricket, revelling in his new-found status as national hero, to mutter to reporters, "It's the first time I've seen the red carpet out there."

Ian Botham was named the greatest England cricketer of the last 25 years, while David Shepherd, who retired from umpiring at the weekend, received the England and Wales Cricket Board Special Award.

Sourav loses

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for several years in the Indian Football Association. A popular figure on the maiden, the city's sports hub, Chatterjee also served as the manager of Bengal Ranji trophy team.



CLOWNS? Real Madrid's English star David Beckham (R) smiles as his Brazilian teammates (L-R) Ronaldo, Robinho and Roberto Carlos celebrate Ronaldo's first goal against Alaves at the Mendizorrosa stadium in Vitoria on Sunday.

'It was just fun'

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo has defended his "cockroach" goal celebrations after Alaves president Dimitry Piterman criticised him and two team mates for behaving like clowns.

Ronaldo, who scored twice in Sunday's 3-0 victory over Alaves, dived to the ground after his goals and lay on his back waving his arms and legs in the air, while his Brazilian compatriots Robinho and Roberto Carlos joined in.

"I want to make it clear that it was just a bit of nonsense between friends and we never wanted to offend anyone or insult the opposi-

tion fans," Ronaldo told the Cadena Ser radio station on Tuesday.

The celebration was slammed by Piterman at a news conference on Monday.

"It may have been funny for them to pretend to be cockroaches dressed in white, but they looked ridiculous," he said. "If they were Alaves players I would have their heads examined. They acted like circus clowns."

Ronaldo said Piterman, who has had several run-ins with soccer authorities and has appeared naked on the cover of a popular weekly magazine in Spain, was not one to give lessons about how to behave.

"He is entitled to his opinion, but I don't think what I did was that bad," he said.

United fans lambasted

Football

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United assistant manager Carlos Queiroz has slammed the fans who booed manager Alex Ferguson off the pitch after their 2-1 defeat to Blackburn as stupid.

"People have been crying out for us to use a 4-4-2 formation and we played with that system for the first time and lost," he said.

"We played what the public wanted and lost. This is why in football stupidity and imagination have no limits."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger for once came to the rescue of his arch-rival.

"I found the booing appalling," he said.

"You know I'm not Ferguson's best friend and, of course, like the players we are only as good as our last game."

"But what this guy has done for the club, I find it horrendous and nearly unbelievable."

Ferguson has refused to comment on the booing and was backing United's supporters to create a good atmosphere against Benfica when they meet in the Champions League on Tuesday.

"European nights have always been special at Old Trafford," said Ferguson.

"They have always had an extra edge and I am sure the supporters will be great."

"I don't want to talk about

myself. The game is the most important thing and we are doing a good job getting the players back from Saturday's defeat."

Ferguson bore the weight of anger on Saturday as growing criticism over his team's tactics and the surprising omission of Wayne Rooney in the starting line-up led to tempers in the stands boiling over.

The defeat to Rovers left United sixth in the Premiership table, 10 points behind leaders Chelsea.

Darren Fletcher has pledged United will turn on the style against Benfica as they look to win over their disgruntled supporters.

"Our objective in every game is to play exciting, attacking football and score two or three goals," he said.

"Every week there is a real determination to show the real Manchester United - to go forward and create chances and that is what we will be trying to do against Benfica."

Two of United's three previous encounters with the Portuguese giants have gone down in the annals of club history.

While few expect a repeat of the 5-1 annihilation of the Lisbon side in 1966 which led to George Best being christened 'El Beatle' or the extra-time triumph at Wembley two years later which saw United become the first English side to win Europe's most prestigious club competition, the Red Devils support will demand a performance equal to the one which saw their side beat Fenerbahce 6-2 at the same stage of last season's competition.

Spain has a super-fast hero

AFP, Sao Paulo

Less than six years after he watched his first Formula One race, 24-year old Spaniard Fernando Alonso was crowned Formula One's youngest world champion on Sunday.

Alonso knew little of the legends amongst whom his name will now sit, young winners like Emerson Fittipaldi and Jim Clark, when he switched the television on to watch Michael Schumacher battling Mika Hakkinen for the title in 1999.

But since then the 24-year old, who hails from the northern city of Oviedo, has had a meteoric rise up to the pinnacle of the motorsport ladder and single-handedly transformed the following of the sport in his home country on the way.

"I think the first race I saw was in 1999 with Hakkinen or Michael," admitted Alonso who was third in the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday earning the six points he needed to secure the title.

"Before that, in Spain, we had no Formula One. It was never obsessed with making it to Formula One. I was never certain that I could become a Formula One driver, although I have raced since I was very young.

"Until a few years ago, I thought I would be a go-kart mechanic.

thing. I never thought about these old cars or about racing at that time. Formula One didn't exist in Spain even three years ago.

"Now we have seven million people watching the TV every race! There are lots of people who have been hoping to see me do well and the only way to make that happen is to work hard and do my best."

Alonso's Renault car is, by sheer coincidence, painted in the colours

of his home region of Spain and his presence on the grid has seen those colours waving throughout the country since his rise to the top.

He signed up with managing director Flavio Briatore before his



FERNANDO ALONSO

Formula One debut with Minardi in 2001 and took his place in the Renault race team in 2003 after a stint learning the ropes as a test driver.

As assured off the track as he is on it, Alonso is the model professional, taking care of sponsors, making sure the quote-hungry international media is satisfied and, most importantly, making sure his car is as fast as it can be.

"I only concentrate on my job which is to play, score goals and celebrate them. He didn't like it, but he's hardly the ideal person to start criticising and calling me, Roberto and Robinho clowns."

"The idea came from two friends who dared me to do it if I scored. I told them that if I did it they would have to dine out with me at a restaurant dressed up as women. I've fulfilled my part of the bargain and now they have to fulfil theirs."

Real's win lifted them to third in the table while Alaves slipped to the bottom.

Real host Greek side Olympiakos in the Champions League at the Bernabeu on Wednesday, but Ronaldo will miss the Group F game because of suspension.

The challenge without 'el gordo'

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid must prove that they are capable of winning games without the help of leading striker Ronaldo when they host Olympiakos Piraeus in the Champions League at the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

The Brazilian scored two of his side's goals in their 3-0 win over Alaves at the weekend, but is banned for the match against the Greek champions.

Ronaldo is serving the second match of a two-match ban given after being sent off against Juventus last season.

Real made a shaky start to the present campaign, slumping to

three successive defeats including a 3-0 trouncing by Olympique Lyon in their opening match in Group F, but a 3-1 win over Athletic Bilbao in midweek and their victory at Alaves makes them confident they have turned the corner.

"Talking about a crisis after just three games was madness," fullback Michel Salgado said after the Alaves game.

"Our attitude is good, we are more compact and are beginning to play more like we did last season when we controlled games and did a lot of damage on the break."

But the team continues to be overly dependent on the finishing power of Ronaldo, affectionately known as "el gordo" (fatty) by his teammates.

"El gordo walks around for 70 minutes, but he gets one chance and

puts it away - he always makes the difference," said midfielder Pablo Garcia.

In Ronaldo's absence, his fellow countryman Robinho, who started the Alaves match on the bench, is set to partner Raul in attack.

With Zinedine Zidane still in the final phase of recovery from a thigh injury, Real coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo faces a quandary over selection in midfield.

In the Lyon defeat he took the more conservative option of playing Garcia and Thomas Gravesen in midfield, but the recent fine form of the more creative Guti could lead him to change his tactics.

Central defender Jonathan Woodgate missed the Alaves match through suspension after his calamitous debut against Bilbao, in which he scored an own goal and was then

sent off. The England centre-back is unlikely to displace Ivan Helguera and Sergio Ramos from the starting line-up after they helped Real keep a first clean sheet of the season against Alaves.

Olympiakos lead the Greek championship with a 100 percent record but, although they have been unstoppable in domestic competition, like Real they made a poor start in Europe with a surprise 3-1 home defeat against Rosenburg.

Coach Trond Sollied has made no secret of his dissatisfaction with his side's form even though they extended their winning run to four matches with a 2-0 win over Akritatos at the weekend.

"If we play against Real the way we did against Akritatos we should stay at home," the Norwegian said after the game.

A Brit invented samba!

Football

AP, London

They're some of the greatest names in Brazilian soccer -- Pele, Zico, Ronaldo, Charles Miller.

Charles Miller? Born in Sao Paulo of a Scottish father and English mother, Miller was educated in Britain but returned to Brazil in 1894 carrying his soccer boots, two balls and a book of rules.

He set out to teach the locals how to play the game.

Five World Cup titles later, Brazil still is saying thank you.

"He's very famous in Brazil," said Gilberto Silva, who was on Brazil's 2002 World Cup-winning team and now plays for Arsenal in England.

"Most of the people know about the man who introduced football to Brazil, although I didn't know he was born in Sao Paulo. I've watched some old videos of Charles Miller in Brazil. He loved British football, and I think he created a very good mixture of British football and Brazilian football."

The story of how Miller introduced soccer to Brazil is recounted in British writer Josh Lacey's book God Is Brazilian, which was released this week in London. Lacey describes how Miller's parents, who met and

lived in Sao Paulo, sent their 9-year-old son to England so he could get an English education.

Miller also became an accomplished sportsman, especially at soccer, and played for what later became the pro club Southampton and the amateur club Corinthians. At 19, he took a boat from Southampton back to Sao Paulo.

"His luggage," Lacey writes, "contained eight items that would change the course of Brazilian history -- an air pump, two football shirts, a pair of football boots, a book of rules and two footballs."

"Now, hardly more than 100 years later, Brazil is the undisputed ruler of world football, winning the World Cup with infuriating regularity, producing an endless stream of players who make the rest of us look like lumbering glooms."

The book quotes Sao Paulo newspaper O Imparcial's description of Miller being met by his father at the dock. Instead of holding a school degree, his son was carrying a soccer ball in each hand.

"What is this, Charles?" the father said.

"My degree," his son replied. "Your son has graduated in football."

Miller was amazed to discover no one else shared his love for a game already well-established back home in England.

Adriano extends contract

AFP, Milan

Brazil international Adriano, perhaps the best centre forward in the world, has extended his contract with Inter Milan by two years till 2010, the Italian first division club said on Monday.

The 23-year-old striker, who joined Inter in January last year, has been a bit inconsistent for his club this season though he did score a hat-trick against Treviso on August 28.

Adriano, a complete striker who can shoot well with both feet as well as having excellent ability in the air, is expected to be one of the stars of next year's World Cup finals.

Inzy changes

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would be available for the Super Series if selected.

"Once it was understood that he was available... the selectors discussed replacements for Tendulkar and Herschelle Gibbs of South Africa and selected Inzamam for the Test squad only," an ICC spokesman told AFP.

Inzamam is due to travel to Australia later in the week but will break his journey to avoid a recurrence of the back trouble which forced him to miss two Tests in Australia last year.

Pakistan will host England for three Tests and five one-day internationals between November-December this year.

Uneasy truce

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because of the coach's attitude and double standards."

Chappell's e-mail to the BCCI said: "I have serious reservations about the attitude of some players and about Sourav and his ability to take this team to a new high, and none of the things he has done since his reappointment has caused me to change my view."

"This team has been made to be fearful and distrusting by the rumour-mongering and deceit that is Sourav's modus operandi of divide and rule."

"We have developed parameters of batting, bowling, fielding and captaincy... and Sourav falls well below the acceptable level in all areas."

Unexpectedly, Chappell's management drew criticism from South Australia, whose state team he had coached for five years.

Former South Australian player Paul Wilson said on Tuesday: "Chappell's a fantastic individual skills and batting coach, but he was a poor coach when it came to looking after a group of people."

"There wouldn't be too many guys who played under him in SA who'd be disappointed to see he's not going all that well over there (India)."

Cronje a bestseller

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The book's thrust is that Cronje took the rap for others who were also implicated in match-fixing.

It suggests Cronje was delivered to the authorities by Indian gambling denizens to punish him after he refused to act in accordance with their wishes.

Little of the interest in the book seems to have come from a South African cricket community that was once led by Cronje.

"I have a copy, but I haven't read it, I will one day," Ali Bacher, who was managing director of the United Cricket Board (UCB) when news of Cronje's involvement in the game's underworld broke in 2000, told Reuters.

Percy Sonn, who was UCB president at the time, told Reuters he had no interest in reading the book.

Cronje's former team mates mostly say they have not read the

book. Jonty Rhodes is an exception.

"After the first day of the King commission (the South African investigation into Cronje's conduct) I couldn't watch the rest," Rhodes told Reuters.

"So, while I was familiar with the ground covered in the rest of the book, I found that section interesting."

"I thought the book gave Hansie's life a broad background, and the key for Frans and the rest of the family are the lessons of Hansie's life."

Frans Cronje was not surprised by the seeming indifference of the official cricket world towards the book.

"We really tried hard not to make it a cricket book, it appeals to a much wider community," Cronje told Reuters.

"It's much bigger than a cricket story." Cronje was speaking on Monday, a day after what would have been his brother's 36th birthday.

"I missed him the most this birthday but maybe I'm just tired," Cronje said as his voice thickened.

"We didn't sleep last week -- we literally didn't sleep -- because we've been so busy with the book."

Greg rebuked

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"His opinion seemed to form pretty quickly that this group is not responding so we'll have to look elsewhere, so they searched for interstate players and by and large they failed."

Wilson said Chappell's Indian appointment came as a surprise to many of the players he had coached.

"I hope he does a reasonable job for the sake of Indian cricket, and in this battle with Ganguly he may actually be in the right, but there wouldn't be too many guys who played under him in SA who'd be disappointed to see he's not going all that well over there," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Worn DOWN 19 Shade provider

1 "Fumble down 1 Dogfight

in the 43 Chart parti-

Jungle" format pants

contender 44 Incursion 2 Missis-

4 Hatch- 46 Song - sippi

back, e.g. of senator

7 Leave at praise 3 Grooving

the altar 50 Sherlock on

11 Pt. of 4 Stocky

speech 53 Lepre- horse

13 "So that's 5 "Hi, sailor" Famous

it, eh?" dance 6 Autom- Men" writer

14 Hexagonal 55 Neighbor- hood

15 Comment 56 Acknowl- edge

to Brutus 57 Eggs 8 Judge

16 Go up 57 Eggs 8 Judge

and down 58 Michelle Lance

17 Capital of 9 Felon's city

Togo arena flight 31 Siesta

18 Pilfered 59 Coloring 10 Article in

20 Boo-Boo's 60 Bottom- line 12 "Victor/

mentor 60 Bottom- line 12 "Victor/

22 Under the 61 Clitic "Victoria" star

24 Froot Loops spokes- bird

28 1-Across' opponent

32 Kansas river

33 Notion

34 Method

36 Staff

37 Marie's brother

39 Processions

Crossword grid with numbers 1-49 indicating starting positions for across and down words.

CRYPTOQUIP

X O X L R L K A D W X B L Y U

R X Z L K D A W S L Q X W B S L A

O I D D K . X ' Y Z K D F U T I H

B K H " G A U Q L G U I X R L I "

Saturday's Cryptquip: I'M GUESSING THAT

THE WORLD'S MOST ILLUSTRIOUS PODIATRIST

WAS PROBABLY PAUL BUNION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals D