

Inzy will return for ODIs

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq said on Sunday it was tough to sit out the final Test against India due to back injury and vowed to return for the subsequent one-day series.

"Missing this important game was definitely the toughest decision of my career," said Inzamam.

"I desperately wanted to play but I was not feeling comfortable and fit. I underwent a fitness test this morning before deciding to withdraw."

"You need to be confident that you can last out five days and I was not."

Inzamam had scored a century in the drawn second Test at Faisalabad before the flare-up of a past injury forced him out of the game for the last three days.

The 35-year-old also missed the last two Tests on Pakistan's tour to Australia in 2004-05 and was advised by doctors not to take long flights to prevent recurrence of the back injury.

Inzamam said he will be back for the five-match one-day series against India which begins on February 6.

"I should be fit by the time the one-dayers begin. I can't afford to sit out for long," he said.

The first one-dayer will be played at Peshawar on February 6, followed by matches in Rawalpindi (Feb 11), Lahore (Feb 13), Multan (Feb 16) and Karachi (Feb 19).

Zaheer recalled for one-dayers

REUTERS, Mumbai

The Indian selectors have recalled paceman Zaheer Khan for the five-match one-day international series at the end of their Test tour of Pakistan.

At the conclusion of three-match Test series, the first one-dayer will be played in Peshawar on February 6, followed by matches in Rawalpindi (February 11), Lahore (February 13), Multan (February 16) and Karachi (February 19).

The 27-year-old left-arm pacer replaced all-rounder Irfan Pathan in what is the only change to the squad that drew the five-match one-day series against South Africa 2-2 in November. The other match was washed out.

TEAM

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wicketkeeper), Gautam Gambhir, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, Rudra Pratap Singh, Murali Kartik, Harbhajan Singh and Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

7-star Federer

FROM PAGE 12
and his fourth win over 20-year-old Baghdatis, who beat three top-10 players to reach his first Grand Slam final and only second tour final overall.

"It's like a dream that I just wake up at the end and it's fantastic," Baghdatis said, also wiping away tears.

"It's just been a fantastic two weeks... it's a dream come true, I'm in the final. I lost, it's just amazing."

"I want to thank my parents, they were amazing to me and all the sacrifices we did just paid up today," he said.



Did U Know?

Roy Emerson of Australia, won a record six Australian Open men's singles titles: first in 1961, and then from 1963 to 1967.



Talk Turkey



Justine Henin-Hardenne

(Belgian tennis star)
"I think it's very disappointing because I was playing so well (in earlier matches), and I had a lot of good chances to win here. When you lose that like this, it's pretty hard." After losing the Australian Open final to Amelie Mauresmo.



PHOTO: AFP
Egyptian forward Emad Moteab is over the moon after scoring his second goal against Ivory Coast in the African Nations Cup in Cairo on Saturday.

Joy for Pharaohs

REUTERS, Cairo

Egypt swept into the African Nations Cup quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Ivory Coast that also dumped 2004 finalists Morocco out of the tournament on Saturday.

Cairo celebrated to the sound of car horns after two goals from striker Emad Moteab and one by Mohamed Aboutrika propelled the host nation to the top of Group A.

Coach Henri Michel, whose Ivory Coast team had already qualified for the last eight, took a calculated gamble by resting several players, notably top striker Didier Drogba.

The decision may yet come back

to haunt the Frenchman as his side are now likely to face tournament favourites and Group B leaders Cameroon in the last eight.

A draw for Cameroon on Sunday with Democratic Republic of Congo would also qualify the Congolese, though Angola have an outside chance of securing the runners-up slot against Togo.

Egypt's joy at getting through in style was tempered by an injury to striker Mido.

The Tottenham Hotspur player, who left with a groin problem in the 24th minute, said the injury was not serious and he hoped to be fit for the next game.

Strike partner Moteab had already put his side in front by the time Mido left the pitch, nodding in from close range, while Arouna

Kone levelled for the Ivorians before the break.

Roared on by the 77,000 crowd at Cairo's International Stadium, Aboutrika restored Egypt's lead in the 61st minute before Moteab added the third to put the result beyond doubt.

There was little for Morocco to celebrate at the nearby Military Stadium as they could only draw 0-0 with an already eliminated Libya in their final game.

Egypt's victory meant even a win would not keep Morocco's qualifying hopes alive.

Poor finishing and the football federation's decision to appoint a new coach only two weeks before the tournament started were to blame for their exit, the players said.

Beckham plans Real stay

INTERNET, undated

David Beckham insists he has no plans to return to England and is looking to end his career at Real Madrid.

Speculation has been rife that Beckham could move back to England at the end of the season with reports suggesting the midfielder is unhappy in Madrid.

Beckham has moved to dispel the rumours and is hoping to stay in the Spanish capital for the rest of his career.

"I will always keep my house in London, but I will never hide the fact that I want to be here (Madrid) for the rest of my career," he said.

"I want to continue here at Real and continue being England captain. My children are in school here and I will remain for a couple of years, even after I finish my career."

Record crowd

FROM PAGE 12
American Taylor Dent fired down the fastest serve of the tournament with a 231 km/h (143.5 mph) thunderbolt.

The Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, were locked in a three-way tie with Australias Samantha Stosur, for the fastest women's serve, at 194 km/h (120.5 mph).

Comeback queen Martina Hingis and the underhanded men's runner-up Marcos Baghdatis were the most popular players among the four million users who racked up 17 million hits on the tournament's website, www.australianopen.com.

A dream

FROM PAGE 12
"It was a very important knock for my team. I came into the match under pressure but my captain told me just play positively and I did that. But I think it was an outstanding spell from Pathan with the new ball."

Akmal felt the ball would continue to seam around on all five days of the Test and batting would be a challenge in both innings.

"It is too early to say who will win the Test but we still need to do a lot in this Test. Because you can get runs on it if you play with patience," he said.



PHOTO: COURTESY
BSJA president Manzoorul Haque (2nd L) addressing a press conference at the BSJA office on Sunday.

National booters get back to action again

SPORTS REPORTER

The national footballers return to action today when they begin preparation for next month's Asian Cup qualifier against Uzbekistan.

Bangladesh, also pitted against Qatar and Hong Kong in Group-F, will begin their campaign with the group's top-ranked side in Uzbek capital Tashkent on February 22.

Coach Andres Cruciiani, who returned last week after a vacation, has picked 22 booters including two new faces for the non-residential camp.

Cruciiani and his fellow Argentine trainer Ariel Colman, however, will spend the first week to recover the players' fitness after a lay-off from the game. The boys will spend the morning at the Sports Zone gymnasium before returning for running at the Ramna Park in the afternoon.

Bangladesh will hosts Hong Kong in their second match in Dhaka on March 1.

JFA CUP

Rafiq treble takes Tangail into final

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammed Rafiq slammed a hat-trick as Tangail stormed into the final of the Second JFA Cup Under-16 Football Tournament with a 4-0 thrashing of Rangamati yesterday.

Tangail, who will take on Dhaka in tomorrow's final, led the first half of the second semifinal 2-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Man-of-the-match Rafiq, who opened the account after 18 minutes, struck again on the half-hour before completing his treble in the 54th minute. Awal sealed the victory two minutes from time.

Mostafa-Sagar play-off for title

SPORTS REPORTER

Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan and Minhazuddin Sagar were set to compete in a play-off match today for the title of the BASIC Bank 27th National Junior (Under-20) Chess Championship.

Mostafa beat Saif and Sagar beat Sharif in the ninth and last round yesterday to finish with eight points each.

Five players ended on seven points each. Imran Ali Elin secured third place after progressive tie-breaking scores. He was followed by Sharif Hossain, Shamima Akhter Liza, Mosabbir Khan Shiblu and Saidul Islam Sayed.

BFF calls 34 eve booters

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday called 34 women footballers for the Under-19 national squad which will take part in the AFC U-19 Women's Football Championship qualifiers in new Delhi.

The booters have been asked to report to BFF women's football committee secretary Quamrunnabha Dana on February 6 at the BFF Bhahan at 6pm.

24 teams to compete in Meril Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

The Fourth Meril Cup Media Football Tournament organised by Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) will begin today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

A total of 24 teams from newspapers, news agencies and electronic media houses will take part in the 7-a-side tournament. The organisers informed at a press conference that eight matches will be played everyday in the group stage. Eight group champions will advance to the quarterfinals. The final is slated for February 6.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will inaugurate the competition today at 9.30am.

Tournament Committee chairman Ajoy Barua, secretary Mosharrar Hossain, BSJA president Manzoorul Haque, and secretary Syed Mamun and Square Toiletries Ltd's assistant manager head of marketing Malik Mohammed Sayed were present at the press conference.

PRIMERA LIGA

Atletico on the rise

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

A rejuvenated Atletico Madrid provided further evidence they have turned the corner under new coach Pepe Murcia as they clinched a 3-2 win over Deportivo Coruna at the Calderon on Saturday.

A classy double from Argentine forward Maxi Rodriguez and a spectacular Antonio Lopez free kick gave Atletico a second successive win and only their third home triumph of the season.

The result left Atletico 11th in the standings while Depor remain sixth.

"We mustn't get carried away, we've only won two games in a row and we need to work extra hard for next week's match against Barcelona," Atletico boss Murcia told a news conference.

Earlier, struggling Athletic Bilbao scraped their fourth win of the season as a Pablo Orbaiz penalty gave them a much-needed 1-0 victory at home to Bernd Schuster's Getafe.

Orbaiz converted from the spot 16 minutes from time after fellow midfielder Fran Yeste was pushed in the back by defender Anibal Matellan as he waited for the ball in the area.

The win lifted the Basque side, who have never been out of the top flight, a point clear of the relegation zone although all their immediate rivals have yet to play this weekend.

SERIE A

Sampdoria trip up Milan

Football

AFP, Milan

AC Milan's hopes of catching Serie A leaders Juventus were dealt a potentially fatal blow after they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Sampdoria on Saturday.

Milan took an early lead when Andriy Shevchenko converted a dubious penalty, but Sampdoria were back on level terms before half-time when goalkeeper Nelson Dida completely misjudged Andrea Gasbarroni's drive.

Sampdoria's Sergio Volpi and Marcello Castellani both hit the post soon after their equaliser, while Milan's Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf was also denied by an upright 10 minutes from time.

A draw for Milan ended their 100 per cent home record and left them in third place on 47 points, nine behind Juventus who play away to Ascoli on Sunday.

In Saturday's early match, Palermo lost 3-1 at home to Siena, a defeat which cost Luigi Del Neri his job as coach.

Milan were awarded a penalty in the 13th minute at the San Siro when Volpi was judged to have climbed over Filippo Inzaghi to win a header and Shevchenko coolly tucked home the penalty.

Sampdoria, who won 2-1 when the teams met in Genoa earlier in the season, refused to let the early setback drain their confidence and they restored parity in the 36th minute.

Gasbarroni's 20-year shot was heading straight at Dida, but the Brazilian appeared to lose sight of it and the ball brushed his arm before finding the net.

Volpi's free-kick struck the post before the opposite upright kept out Castellani's powerful header.

Getafe, who thrashed Espanyol 5-0 last weekend but have now suffered seven away defeats in a row, remain ninth and are a comfortable 10 points clear of the drop zone.

Leaders Barcelona, who slipped to their first defeat in 25 games when they lost to Real Zaragoza in the King's Cup on Thursday, play relegation-threatened Real Mallorca on Sunday.

Atletico had their work cut out against Joaquin Caparros's gritty, hard-running Deportivo side who had lost just once on the road this season.

But with Ariel Ibagaza at the helm they drew the sting from the visitors and took the lead 12 minutes before halftime when the Argentine unlocked Depor's defence with a clever through pass to Martin Petrov on the left.

The Bulgarian winger clipped the ball across the face of goal and Maxi Rodriguez beat keeper Jose Molina with a volley at the far post.

No sooner had the second half started than Depor were back on level terms, a free kick from substitute Ruben bouncing past keeper Leo Franco and squeezing inside the far post after some poor defending by the Atletico back four.

The home side recovered the lead after 54 minutes with a spectacular free kick from Antonio Lopez as the Spanish international's shot ballooned over the wall and dipped sharply into the net beyond helpless Depor keeper Jose Molina.

Their celebrations were cut short just four minutes later when former Atletico player Joan

Capdevila equalised with a diving header after another loss of concentration in defence.

However, Petrov and Maxi combined once more to give Atletico a deserved win nine minutes from time when the Argentine steered the ball past Molina with an acrobatic, improvised volley after the Bulgarian had whipped in a cross from the left.

Real don't need Ballack, says Butragueno

AFP, Berlin

Real Madrid appear to have cooled their interest in signing Bayern Munich midfielder Michael Ballack with club vice-president Emilio Butragueno claiming the current squad is strong enough.

German international captain Ballack is available on a free transfer at the end of the season after refusing to sign a four-year contract extension at Bayern and Madrid was thought to be his next stop.

"Michael Ballack is without a doubt one of the best players in the world," Butragueno said in an interview with Welt am Sonntag.

"But our current squad is well-equipped to get out of the tricky position we find ourselves in."

Spanish giants Real are fourth in the domestic league, 13 points behind their arch rivals Barcelona.

Pakistan fight

FROM PAGE 12

Matthews and Hugh Trumble of Australia and Wasim Akram of Pakistan, have achieved the feat twice.

India abandoned plans to play five specialist bowlers and brought back former captain Sourav Ganguly in place of Harbhajan.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and India at the National Stadium on Sunday:

PAKISTAN: First Innings				
Butt c Dravid b Pathan	0			
Farhat c Dhoni b RPSingh	22			
Younis Khan lbw b Pathan	0			
Yousuf b Pathan	0			
Iqbal lbw b Zaheer	5			
Afridi b Zaheer	10			
Razaq lbw b RPSingh	45			
Akmal c Dhoni b Pathan	113			
Akhtar c Yuvraj b Pathan	45			
Asif c Laxman b RPSingh	0			
Kanerani not out	0			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-2)	25			
Total: (All out in 16 overs)	245			

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-13, 5-37, 6-39, 7-154, 8-236, 9-245.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	17.1	4	61	5
Zaheer	15	2	75	2
RPSingh	16	1	66	3
Ganguly	2	0	9	0
Kumble	10	1	32	0

INDIA: First Innings				
Laxman b Asif	19			
Dravid c Akmal b Asif	3			
Sehwag c Akmal b Akhtar	5			
Tendulkar b Razaq	23			
Ganguly not out	9			
Yuvraj not out	7			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-7)	8			
Total: (For four wickets in 16 overs)	74			

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-14, 3-56, 4-56.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	6	1	26	1
Asif	7	0	29	2
Razaq	3	1	18	1

Toss: India
Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS), Daryl Harper (AUS)
TV umpire: Asad Rauf (PAK)
Match Referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN	
1 Decrease gradually	38 Recipe measure	2 Dr. Comfort	24 Air-pressure meas.
6 Plot	40 Deficiency	3 "War of the Worlds" outcome	25 Shoe-maker's tool
12 Sense of taste	44 Formerly, the	4 LAX info	26 Linn argument
13 Gone from the program	46 Golden Rule word	5 Limit	28 Written argument
14 Areas for entertainment	50 Fly	6 Hawk	30 — jiffy
15 22-	52 Jawaharlal's daughter	7 Go on all fours	31 Do alterations
Across's lost love	54 Abraded	8 —	33 Perfume-label word
16 Traverse the runway	55 Okla-homan	9 Arcane	34 Tolkien creature
17 Story	56 Eastern potatoes	10 Unembellished	39 Prokofiev hero
19 Pinch of card	57 English home-work, maybe	11 Genesis locale	41 Praise Hack's duo
20 Freeway array	58 Free way	12 Memo-rized	43 Egg
22 Part of EAP	DOWN	18 Has at	45 Ohio
24 Cushion	1 Maeve	21 Hl	47 Name hidden in a
27 Roster	Binchy's "— Road"	23 Manel	48 Unlikely trick-taker
29 Tennessee emblem	Solution time: 27 mins.	24 Cushman	49 Obey the coxswain
32 Neil Diamond hit	FLU	25 Hil	51 Actor
35 "Casa-blanca" role	ACTS	26 Manel	Vigoda
36 Layer	LOS	27 Roster	53 Ph. bk. data
37 Cornfield comment	FIGHTS		
	ABSOLUTE		
	TOR		
	TO		
	SKIRT		
	ANNA		
	RON		
	ABSENT		
	PAUL		
	EXIST		
	LOC		
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