



Action from the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match between Usha KC and Azad Sporting at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Asif, Shoeb yet to get visa

SPORTS REPORTER

Injured shooters Asif Hossain Khan and Shoebuzzaman's departure for Bangkok was further delayed due to visa problem.

The national shooters, who have been hospitalised since October 2 following brutal police torture, were due to leave Dhaka yesterday for the Thai capital for better treatment but they were yet to receive visa.

The two, still in tremendous pain, will be flown to Bangkok as soon as they receive the visa. National Shooting Federation's joint-secretary Iftaque Ahmed Babloo is expected to accompany them.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth and SAGames gold medallist Asif's mother Rehana Khan expressed worries over her son's complete recovery.

"If the decision to send him abroad had been taken earlier, it would have been better. We hope that it's not already too late," said Rehana over phone.

"I feel that my son will recover and return home but he might not be the same shooter again. His career as a sportsman is at stake," she feared.

"He is really down both physically and mentally. He has already told us that he wants to return his Commonwealth gold medal and we have agreed. It's a long process."

"He is not the person I knew, so what shall I do with a piece of gold?" asked the mother in agony.

Pollock claims 350th wicket

REUTERS, Mumbai

South Africa paceman Shaun Pollock has become just the fifth bowler in one-day international cricket to claim 350 wickets.

The 33-year-old all-rounder reached the mark when he bowled New Zealand opener Lou Vincent for 17 runs with a delivery that cut back in a Champions Trophy group match at the Brabourne Stadium on Monday.

It was the former captain's 262nd ODI match.

Former Pakistan left-arm paceman Wasim Akram heads the list with 502 wickets.

He is followed by Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralidaran (419), retired Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis (416) and Sri Lanka paceman Chaminda Vaas (358).

Chris Rogers and Marcus North fell four runs short of the biggest partnership in Australian first-class cricket as Western Australia took charge of their Sheffield Shield cricket match against Victoria at the WACA Ground here Monday.

The two left-handers continued on from where they left off on the opening day, putting on 459 runs for the third wicket before Rogers holed out to a Cameron White full toss for 279.

That left the pair just five short of Mark and Steve Waugh's record partnership of 464, set at the same ground, as WA declared their first innings closed at 608 for three.

North was unbeaten on 239 at the time of the declaration.

Victoria struggled early in their first innings, former Zimbabwe all-rounder Sean Ervine claiming two wickets in his first-class debut for WA as the Victorians stumbled to 146 for four at stumps on the second day.

The PCB said all-rounder Yasir Arafat and left-arm spinner Abdul

Lee in love with India



AFP, Sydney

Australia's express pace bowler Brett Lee can't get enough of India, with Bollywood acting offers, burgeoning business interests and music projects in the pipeline, reports said Monday.

Lee, in India for the Champions Trophy one-day tournament, is immensely popular and his fondness for the teeming cricket-infatuated nation has blossomed into a full-blown love affair.

The 29-year-old self-confessed Indophile says he was offered a lead role in a lavish Bollywood production when he visited Mumbai on his way home from Australia's tour of Bangladesh last April.

The notion was floated by Amitabh Bachchan, or the Big B, one of the biggest and most recognisable stars in India's huge film and television industries.

"He asked me if I wanted to play the major role with him," Lee told

The Australian newspaper in Mumbai.

"I said 'mate, I've had no acting experience in my life' and he told me that was okay, that they could sort that out."

"The only reasons I didn't do it was, first, I would have needed to make sure it was the right sort of role for me."

"And second, they needed 50-odd days to film and I just didn't have that time."

"But it's something that, down the track, I would definitely like to be involved in."

Business interests -- he promotes watches and footwear -- have lured Lee to Mumbai and New Delhi at least annually in recent years.

He has also been a guest on one of India's highest-rating television chat shows, where he played guitar and was presented with a sitar, which now holds pride of place in his Sydney home.

Lee also has plans for a couple of future music projects working alongside leading players in the Indian industry, and adds to his growing Hindi vocabulary with each visit.

The fast bowler rates the sub-continent as his preferred travel destination outside Australia.

"In Australia, you might be admired as a sportsperson, which is quite humbling," Lee says.

"But over here it's as if they want to crowd you with love."

"They feel the need to get close. They want to see Ricky Ponting or Adam Gilchrist in the flesh."

"Over here, we are seen much more as entertainers than sportsmen. And they know that, if they don't push themselves forward to get past the person who's in front of them, they're going to miss out."

"They are a bit more forward because they know that, if they don't grab their chance, then they're not going to get anywhere due to the sheer weight of people here."

"But I've never felt anything other than welcome here. I've never felt threatened or in danger."

"And if you feel welcome in a place, then you're going to want to return."

Kiwis fly on Femo

FROM PAGE 17
bowled Lou Vincent for 17 to end an opening stand of 27.

Pollock, 33, joined the rare club led by Pakistani Wasim Akram (502 wickets) and followed by Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka (419), Waqar Younis of Pakistan (416) and Sri Lankan Chaminda Vaas (358).

When South Africa batted, Mills struck with the fifth delivery of the innings when he trapped Boeta Dippenaar leg-before.

The notion was floated by Amitabh Bachchan, or the Big B, one of the biggest and most recognisable stars in India's huge film and television industries.

"He asked me if I wanted to play the major role with him," Lee told

here on Friday. South Africa take on the Sri Lankans in Ahmedabad on October 24.

Meanwhile, Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf returned home from India following the death of his mother. Rauf, who was due to be the television umpire on Monday, was replaced by Rudi Koerten of South Africa.

Rauf is unlikely to return for the rest of the tournament which ends on November 5.

Oram, who took over after Mills completed his opening spell of six overs, was smashed for two boundaries by Smith in his first over.

But the seamer hit back to have Mark Boucher caught behind for eight, forced the well-settled Smith to spoon a catch to mid-on and then removed Pollock to a catch in the deep.

New Zealand next play Sri Lanka

Mills not out 4
Patel run out 2

Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-1, w-11) 20

Total: (All out in 45.4 overs) 195

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-74, 3-76, 4-86, 5-99, 6-135, 7-156, 8-180, 9-192.

Bowler O M R W

Pollock 6 1 18 1

Ntini 6 0 35 0

Nel 6 2 15 1

Hall 4 0 25 1

Kallis 7 0 28 3

Peterson 8.4 0 34 2

Smith 8 0 32 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Smith c Vettori b Oram 42

Dippenaar lbw b Mills 0

Gibbs b Mills 0

Kallis c and b Mills 8

Boucher c McCullum b Oram 8

Kemp not out 26

Pollock c Patel b Oram 1

Hall c Vincent b Patel 13

Peterson c Fleming b Vettori 0

Nel b Patel 0

Smith c Vettori b Oram 1

Extras: (lb-5, nb-3, w-1) 9

Total: (All out in 34.1 overs) 108

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-3, 3-25, 4-50, 5-69, 6-71, 7-99, 8-100, 9-105.

Bowler O M R W

Mills 6 0 18 3

Franklin 10 0 33 0

Oram 8 1 26 3

Vettori 7 1 15 1

Patel 3.1 0 11 3

Result: New Zealand won by 87 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Stephen Fleming.

Toss: South Africa

Wiese stokes

FROM PAGE 20
Bochum we will put five past Bayern too," Wiese said.

German international defender Christian Schulz is also confident of turning over the champions.

"It is a nice feeling to look down

on the other teams and we want it to

stay like this with victory over

Bayern," Schulz declared.

Bremen host Bayern on

Saturday in a repeat of this season's

league cup final -- which Bremen

won 2-0 -- although both sides are

on Champions League duty first.

Bremen entertain Levski Sofia on

Wednesday while Bayern travel to Sporting Lisbon on the same day.

Wiese had been finalised as

replacements.

Stunned Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer said he would "take responsibility" for tests.

The steroid claims cap two

months of controversy swirling

around the squad.

The chaos started in the fourth

Test against England at the Oval in

August, when captain Inzamamul Haq refused to take his team back

on the field after it was accused of

ball-tampering.

Inzamam was cleared of that

charge but was still handed a four-

match ban for bringing the game into disrepute.

His replacement Younis earlier

this month refused to lead the side

for the Champions Trophy, saying

he did not want to be a "dummy"

captain.

Then-PCB chief Shaharyar Khan quit the next day because of his

decision. Shaharyar's replacement

Asif reinstated Younis as skipper.

Former Pakistan skipper Rashid

Latif told AFP said the positive

tests results on two of its key players,

the cricket chief said.

"We didn't cover it up... We don't

care about losing or winning. We

need to educate the players

because this is a very serious

matter."

Pakistan deserved credit for

immediately revealing the positive

test results on two of its key players,

the cricket chief said.

"We did not cover it up... We don't

care about losing or winning. We

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