



Gary Brent of Zimbabwe took 4 for 30 in the second one-day international against Bangladesh at the Harare Sports Ground on February 6. It was the third time he has taken four wickets in a match, second against Bangladesh.

Empty stands

FROM PAGE 20 Michel Platini will meet Italian footballing officials Friday to discuss what venues Italian clubs can use in European competition, a UEFA spokesman said.

AC Milan said meanwhile that they might play their next home Champions League match in Geneva or Newcastle. The club owned by Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's former prime minister and now opposition leader, are set to host Scottish giants Celtic in the Champions League last 16, second leg, on March 7.

Authorities spent overnight Wednesday examining video footage of the clashes, dealing with images that were clouded by tear gas and smoke bombs.

Before Thursday's arrest, 34 other people, including 11 minors, were picked up, but none were thought to be directly linked to Raciti's death.

Raciti, married with two sons, died after a home-made bomb was thrown into his car.

According to the Italian press, the 17-year-old arrested Thursday was already known by the police as a troublemaker.

In Brussels, meanwhile, Platini accepted an invitation from EU Justice and Security Commissioner Franco Frattini, himself an Italian, to discuss football hooliganism and racism with EU officials.

Given the urgency of the meeting, it will be held "in the days and weeks to come," said Commission spokesman Friso Ascam Abbing, although no time or place has yet been agreed.

Among the likely points on the agenda will be "whether or not football hooligans can travel freely to football grounds in the EU," he added.

Racism both inside and outside grounds will also be discussed along with the possibility of "fan coaching for developing a new positive and non-violent attitude."

The talks will also discuss the possibility of an EU-level approach to the problem "with of course the cooperation of UEFA and, if possible, fan associations," Ascam Abbing said.

Fergie hails

FROM PAGE 20 West Ham have won just once in the league since Alan Curbishley took over in December and the Hammers boss admits his side now face a decisive run of fixtures.

Curbishley said: "There are now some defining matches coming up, starting with Saturday's against Watford, followed by the trip to Charlton, and the players know that they are must-win games. They realise the seriousness of the situation."

Watford are 10 points from safety and even their relentlessly up-beat manager Adrian Boothroyd is beginning to fear the worst.

"We have got ourselves in a hole and we have got to get out of it," he said. "But if we carry on playing like we did against Bolton we will only make it deeper."

Barca target

FROM PAGE 20 could also be without Fredi Kanoute, the Spanish first division's leading scorer with 16 goals, for the second successive game as the Malian striker is still struggling to overcome a slight groin strain.

Valencia are the team in form at the moment and are third, only three points away from Barca, after winning seven out of their last eight games.

They will be looking to keep up the pressure on the leading pair with a win at Getafe on Sunday.

The current form of the 2002 and 2004 Spanish champions was demonstrated with five of their squad starting for Spain in their 1-0 defeat of England on Wednesday, which was a record for the club.

"Getafe are having a great season and they have got great players like (striker) Daniel Guiza but we are planning to get our revenge after they beat us in the Cup," said Valencia winger Joaquin Sanchez.

By contrast, fourth-placed Real Madrid are in the doldrums, not helped by the controversy about whether coach Fabio Capello should swallow his pride and recall David Beckham.

"It is very hard for me because I would like to help the team," the former England captain said.

"I'm desperate to play again. I don't know if I will but I've got to keep on training. I want to leave this club on a high."

Bookie to 'help out'



AFP, New Delhi

The alleged bookmaker with links to West Indian cricketer Marlon Samuels said on Friday he was ready to be investigated because he had done nothing wrong.

Mukesh Kochar, speaking by phone to several Indian television stations, denied he was a cricket bookie but admitted to knowing Samuels who was "like a son" to him.

"I am not a bookie," said Kochar, adding he was an Indian businessman based in Dubai where he was taking calls from reporters.

"I know Marlon for some years now. He is like a son to me. I spoke to him after all this started. Like me, he is also shocked."

Police in the central Indian city of Nagpur stunned the cricket world late Wednesday when they accused Samuels of passing on team information to Kochar, described by them as a well-known cricket bookie.

Police said they had taped conversations between the two ahead of the first of four one-day internationals between India and the West Indies in Nagpur on January 21.

The police stressed they had no evidence that money had changed

hands, but Samuels faces a life ban from cricket if the allegations of any wrongdoing are proved.

Indian cricket officials have passed on the police report to the Dubai-based International Cricket Council (ICC) whose anti-corruption unit is investigating.

Kochar said he will co-operate with any inquiry conducted by the ICC.

"If they contact me, I will be the first person to help them out," he told the news channels. "I am willing to visit them whenever. My heart is clear."

Asked if he bet on cricket, Kochar retorted: "Who doesn't bet on cricket? It's a different matter whether I am into punting or not."

When confronted on why he wanted team information from Samuels, Kochar said: "I was only wanting to encourage Samuels to do better. As I have explained I have advised Samuels as a friend and as a father (figure)."

Kochar also dismissed police claims he had links with underworld figure Dawood Ibrahim, India's most wanted man accused to masterminding the 1993 Mumbai blasts that left 257 dead and many injured.

"That is not correct," he said. "Who doesn't know him by his name? Every day on TV and newspapers you see his name."

Police said they were keeping a watch on a house in Gurgaon on the

outskirts of New Delhi which they claimed was owned by Kochar.

Jamaican Samuels, 26, who has played 23 Tests and 83 one-dayers for the West Indies, has also denied any wrongdoing while admitting he knew Kochar.

PTI adds: The Nagpur police on Friday failed to throw more light on the mysterious name of 'Robin Singh' which had figured in the taped conversations between West Indian all-rounder Marlon Samuels and alleged bookie Mukesh Kochar.

As speculation continued on who could be the person referred to during the conversation, the city Police Commissioner SPS Yadav declined to comment on it.

"I can't comment on it," city Commissioner of Police, S P S Yadav told PTI.

Yadav said police were not sure whether Samuels and Kochar in their conversation was referring to "Robin Singh or Robinson".

"Although the name figured, it was difficult to identify the right player or person (Robin Singh or Robinson)," he said.

Yadav had on Wednesday written a letter to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) informing them the violation of ICC's code of conduct by Samuels by disclosing his team's composition ahead of the West Indies' one-day match against India here on January 21.

Samuels-Kochar in talks



CRICINFO, undated

Below is the transcript of the conversation the Nagpur police say took place between Marlon Samuels and Mukesh Kochar, an alleged bookie, before the India-West Indies match at Nagpur on January 21.

Samuels was staying in Room 206 of the Pride Hotel in the city. The transcript is verbatim from the police records:

Bookie (Mukesh Kochar): Connect to 206

Receptionist: 206, sir?

Bookie: Yes

Receptionist: Hello, room no 206, Marlon

Bookie: Hello, how are you Marlon?

206 (Marlon Samuels): (not clear)

Bookie: Just relax buddy

206: Just relax

Bookie: Hello my son, that's way I am here, came for my some work and am held up

206: OK

Bookie: Tomorrow (January 21) night I am going back

206: OK

Bookie: So how are things with you and how is the preparation?

206: Preparation is good enough

Bookie: Well, wish you all the best

206: Thanks

Bookie: You play well

206: (Not clear) Talking to Robinson

Bookie: Robinson...Yes

206: Yes, our fielding well

Bookie: Ya, good that's a high-scoring game

206: Early in the morning... Batting move around the pitch...

Bookie: an in the evening lower down

206: Slow down...

Bookie: What you think that, who will bat...

206: Well...

Bookie: Who, who?

206: Dwayne (not clear) He's is making a debut tomorrow (Jan 21)...

Bookie: New batsman, bowlers...

206: All-rounder...

Bookie: He is a good player...

206: Making debut

Bookie: Ya, I can understand that Chris is in form...

206: (Not clear)...

Bookie: And how is your batting going on?

206: My batting is good...

Bookie: Big... a... tall score tomorrow (Jan 21)

206: (Not clear)

Room no 206: (not clear)

Bookie: When do you get down to bowl?

206: (not clear)

Bookie: Which over you will be bowling

206: One down

Bookie: Normally after 17th or 18th over

206: By tomorrow (Jan 21)...

(not clear) than I can bowl... (not clear)

Bookie: He is seamer or spinner

206: Seamer

Bookie: He is a seamer, who will start bowling tomorrow (Jan 21)

206: Dwayne

Bookie: Dwayne

206: Dwayne, tail and Bradshaw

Bookie: Tail and Bradshaw, they will open. You will be as the third bowler

206: Jerome Taylor, Chris Gayle will be 4th and 5th bowling

Bookie: You have got a nice allrounder team now

Bookie: As a first match, I want you to play well confident and don't hurry up, don't give the catches, play well, consolidate your position as well as possible if even if you can want couple of balls, it doesn't matter, don't get run out... don't get excited, have a strong position

206: (not clear)

Bookie: After this you guys going to Cuttack, that's another place

206: (not clear)

Bookie: I am going back, we will be in touch with you

206: Most welcome

Bookie: Whenever you come back to Bombay? Most probably may be I will come there for one or two days

206: I want to stay there for couple of days

Bookie: Yeah, after (not clear)

206: Yeah

Bookie: Let me know I am flying back tomorrow (Jan 21)

206: Not yet

Bookie: Yeah my flight (not clear) o'clock & from their I will fly back to Bombay

206: (not clear)

Bookie: Thank you very much chief

206: (not clear)

Bookie: All the best, after this I will have to work

206: (not clear)

Bookie: Ok good.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan's prolific batsman Mohammad Yousuf pulls towards midwicket during his 79-run knock against South Africa in the third one-day international at St. George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Friday.

Feyenoord lose

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shown that we must work together to eradicate all forms of hooliganism or violence from our game."

Feyenoord's financial director Onno Jacobs said on Feyenoord's Web site on Friday: "We have to accept this decision, though it is unpleasant for us.

"Our club and our real fans are being punished for the misbehaviour of people we have nothing to do with.

"We emphasized that we were powerless in this matter because the people who misbehaved did not get match tickets from us."

During the trouble at Nancy, tear gas was used to control rioting Feyenoord fans who spilled onto the pitch. The match was suspended for half an hour.

Feyenoord fans were in trouble earlier in the competition when a beaker of beer was thrown and hit Blackburn Rovers player Morten Gamst Pedersen in another group match.

The pairing of Spurs and Feyenoord created a first in European soccer as never before in any competition had two sides been drawn to play each other in five successive decades.

Although that record still stands in a sense, the games will now not go ahead leaving Spurs deprived of gate receipts and TV income from the tie.

Spurs have had no comment on the decision apart from telling supporters who have already purchased Feyenoord tickets they will be able to use them for the home match against either Braga or Parma at White Hart Lane scheduled for March 15. The first leg of that tie will be on March 8.

Pele to start

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like lawyers or bankers," said one of the backers, Celso Santos Grellet.

Lausanne-Sport said the ten-year partnership was a huge boost for the club and its emerging sports-education programme.

"In sporting terms it brings us tremendous added value, because even if the fruits of the work will only emerge in three or four years time, I don't have to point out that Brazilian players are still the best in the world," senior club executive Francois Laydu said.

Lausanne-Sport are currently 10th in the Swiss second division.

Stadia decision

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Roma was unaffected, he added.

"We'll try to find the best possible solution, which may include playing games at a neutral venue," Gaillard said.

UEFA was more sceptical about the idea of playing European matches in Italy behind closed doors, because fans from both teams would effectively be penalised.

'Paul typifies us'



BBC ONLINE, undated

England hero Paul Collingwood reflected on the vagaries of batting form after a second successive century saw them to victory over Australia in Melbourne.

"I went through a period where I felt I was battling with a stump in my hand," the Durham all-rounder commented.

"Thankfully I got that hundred earlier in the week (against New Zealand) and it gives you a lot of confidence.

"I went out there with a positive attitude again and it's a great feeling to bring the boys home."

Collingwood finished with an unbeaten 120 as England won the first game of the best of three Commonwealth Bank Series final by four wickets.

Stands of 133 with Ian Bell and 74 with skipper Andrew Flintoff kept the team in contention and Collingwood saw it through to the end for his highest score in a limited overs international.

"I'm not the hardest hitter in the world, so I have to pick the ones and twos up and the big fields over here suit my game a little bit.

"That's the way I play. I don't want to go outside my bubble and try to play like a Freddie Flintoff or a Kevin Pietersen. I play like Paul Collingwood and hopefully that's good enough," the 30-year-old added.

England went into the game handicapped by the absence of captain Michael Vaughan, who was ruled out of the finals because of a recurrence of his hamstring problem.

But they raised to the occasion in a performance which delighted stand-in skipper Flintoff.

He hailed Collingwood's innings as the best he had seen in a one-day match by an England batsman.

"The way he knocked ball round, the stamina and mental strength, the skill and timing was something to behold.

"This side is renowned for scrapping and showing a lot of character and Paul typifies that -- he leads in that respect," said Flintoff.

He admitted the nerves had been jangling in the closing overs, adding: "I was a little bit excitable, clapping every run as you can imagine, but while Colly was out there I had every faith (we'd do it)."

Sonargaon defy Akram ton

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shared 80 runs in the opening wicket with Shahriar.

Earlier, Mahbubul Alam, Ashiqur Rahman and Alok Kapali each took two wickets each to cut DOHS's momentum and Nadif Chowdhury's (33) stupid run out turned out to be a costly one for his side.

VICTORIA-PEGASUS

Victoria slipped to third position as Pegasus showed their fighting spirit again to secure their fifth win by chasing down a paltry total of 226.

Mohammad Sharifullah hit a 78-ball 57 and Raisul Islam hammered 42 off 39 balls as Pegasus posted 229-8 in 46.2 overs.

Earlier, Victoria's innings was built around on Mohammad Mustakim's 66 after they lost the first half with 108 runs on board.

MOHAMMEDAN-PARTEX

Left-handed opener Zunaed once again showed his big-hitting ability in an otherwise disappointing batting effort by the inserted Mohammedan who were all out for 218 in 44.4 overs.

Zunaed smote 12 fours and five sixes during his 115-ball 120 while the second team highest of 23 came from Faisal Hossain.

Rezaul Haque was peak of Partex attack with 4-46 in 8.4 overs.

The total, however, looked too good as promotes Partex lost wickets at regular interval before being bowled out for 162 in 44.4 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Lara plans ending

AFP, London

West Indies skipper Brian Lara dreams of bringing the curtain down on his international one-day career by leading his country to World Cup victory in April.

To make the dream sweeter, the Windies legend wants his team to see off defending champions Australia in the title showdown.

"It would be nice to shake hands with Glenn McGrath (who will also retire after the tournament) at the end of the final in Barbados with the trophy in my hands," said Lara.

"What could be more joyful than having the World Cup in my hands and saying goodbye to the one-day game."

Lara, who intends to keep playing Test matches after the March-April World Cup, also believes that the tournament could lead to a renaissance in the game in the Caribbean.

"It's very important for the West Indies to have a strong showing. In the 1970s we were the best in the world," the 37-year-old told Sky Sports.

"Now cricket has to compete with other sports like soccer and American sports, computer games."

"But I hope that the World Cup can create the infrastructure which can help all those who want to play the game. There are lots of 18 and 19-year-olds who have the talent but there isn't the infrastructure to harness that talent.

"This tournament could be a watershed to develop youth."

Lara has piled up 11,953 runs in Tests and 10,136 in one-dayers as well as hitting the highest ever Test score of 400.

But he still has one ambition left. "We are playing a Test series in England in June and I still haven't made 100 at Lord's," he said.

Mahmud's 2nd

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Yesterday, the gutsy all-rounder was very unhappy after being given out LBW while he repeated the offense when DOHS took the field and leg-before decisions were turned down.

Mahmud's frustration was for all to see but most LBW appeals were repeated several times by the DOHS fieldsmen during the match.

Sonargaon beat DOHS by five wickets.

Tigers make

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Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mpofu	8	1	32	0
Ireland	10	0	53	3
Chigumbura	5	0	26	1
Utseya	10	1	33	0
Brent	7	0	27	1
Dabengwa	5	0	23	1
Williams	5	0	30	0

ZIMBABWE

Duffin st Rahim b Razzak	37
Sibanda c Bashir b Sharif	64
Masakadza c Baisya b Sakibul	6
Williams run out	8
Taylor run out	13
Chigumbura c Aftab b Mortuza	33
Dabengwa b Baisya	18
Brent run out	7
Utseya c Aftab b Baisya	0
Mpofu run out	3
Ireland not out	1
Extras: (lb-5, w-12, nb-7)	24
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs)	214
Fall of wickets: 1-91, 2-115, 3-124, 4-140, 5-149, 6-202, 7-204, 8-206, 9-210, 10-214.	