

Baro Nazir no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazir Ahmed, the famous footballer of 60s and 70s popularly known as Baro (senior) Nazir, died of cancer in the early hours of yesterday at his residence in Duri Aungul Lane, Nawabganj. He was 68.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn the death.

The centre-forward, who was well known for his bicycle kicks and headwork, was laid to rest at the Azimpur graveyard in the morning.

Nazir made his first division debut in 1959 for PWD but made his name at BJMC (also EPIDC, BIDC). Also called Lucky Nazir for giving breakthroughs against odds, he played for Rahmatganj, Sadharan Bima and Farashganj before coaching Dhaka DSA, Dhaka Wanderers, BKSP, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Navy, BDR and Dhaka Wasa.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence tomorrow.

Bangladesh Football Federation and Dhaka Metropolis Football League Committee condoled the death and expressed their deep sympathy over the bereaved family.

President asks Ashraf to stay

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has declined to accept the resignation of Dr Naseem Ashraf following the team's World Cup debacle and asked him to continue as the chairman of the cricket board.

Ashraf had resigned owing moral responsibility of Pakistan's disastrous campaign in the World Cup. Pakistan lost to Ireland and was knocked out in the first round before crisis compounded with the murder of coach Bob Woolmer in Kingston.

Geo TV quoted officials here saying that President Musharraf did not accept his resignation and instructed him to continue as head of the board.

Ashraf had said that though he had decided to quit the job, he might continue if President Musharraf, also the chief patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board, asked him to continue.

A senate committee had also advised Ashraf to withdraw resignation for the sake of continuity in the board.

ICC goes easy

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hearing the following day after play concluded in Georgetown on Wednesday," said ICC.

"Peterson admitted to have breached 1.2 of the ICC Code which relates to actions outside the course of normal cricket such as hitting or kicking the wickets.

"Peterson's attitude in response to the breach was appreciated realising his momentary mistake in the heat of the moment after a dramatic finish. He apologized to the umpires on the field after the incident," said match referee Jeff Crowe.

"It was reiterated by the umpires there was no malice in his actions but there is a responsibility to maintain standards of behaviour as well as potentially damaging the costly stump cameras," said Crowe, former New Zealand captain.

"Also, I accepted that it was a momentary mistake in the heat of the moment, an out-pouring of relief after a tense and dramatic finish to the match."

PCB wants

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were either visiting or staying at the Pegasus Hotel in the days leading up to Woolmer's death.

Jamaica deputy police commissioner Mark Shields on Tuesday warned that the murder investigation was not going to be solved "in 45 minutes," describing the inquiry as a slow, arduous process.

"We are going to do it properly, thoroughly and professionally and at the end of it, it may be that we might identify a suspect," said Shields.

"It really is down to the painstaking work of trying to sift through as much information as we can to try and track down the killer or killers."

Ashraf said the Pakistan Cricket Board, through the Pakistani foreign office, had requested Jamaican authorities "to allow a senior official to join the investigative team" in Jamaica.

A Washington-based senior Pakistani diplomat will remain in Jamaica "to closely monitor the situation and provide the update to the board on (a) daily basis," he said in a statement.

And a PCB official, Asad Mustafa, would stay in Jamaica until the ongoing investigation ended, the statement added.

The PCB is also in contact with Woolmer's wife and "all possible support is being provided to Woolmer's family," it said.



TIRED OF BATTING? Australia captain Ricky Ponting on his delivery stride during a practice session ahead of their World Cup Super Eights match against Bangladesh at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in St John's on Friday.

Charl learning everyday

AFP, Georgetown



Former prison guard Charl Langeveldt may not have the pace of South Africa teammates Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini, but he's second to none when it comes to delivering in crunch situations.

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South Africa were fortunate to find Langeveldt in superb form in their opening World Cup Super Eights match against Sri Lanka, just when they needed it most.

He finished with a career-best haul 5-39 off 10 disciplined overs, only the second time he had grabbed five wickets in an innings in 42 one-day internationals since making his debut in 2001.

He shared the man-of-the-match award with Sri Lanka paceman Lasith Malinga, who became the

first bowler in the one-day history to take four wickets off successive balls.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith was all praise for Langeveldt, saying he played a crucial role with both ball and bat in a tense match.

"Charl has been bowling well for a while. He is a superbly skilled bowler and he showed that," said Smith, whose team completed a thrilling one-wicket victory in the maiden one-day international at the Providence Stadium.

"He got the ball to swing and he bowled very well at the death for us and he blocked out ten balls with the bat in the last few overs."

Langeveldt came in to bat in pressure situation after Malinga had grabbed South Africa with four wickets in his second spell. He faced nine balls in scoring just one run before teammate Robin Peterson hit the winning four.

"When I was batting there at the end, my heart was in my ... I don't know where it was. I was just thinking to get bat on ball but I never expected that I would have to bat," said Langeveldt, 32.

"I had been saying to the other guys that I would not have to bat. But

that's cricket. You learn every day."

Langeveldt, who combined his first-class cricket with his job as a prison warden early in his career, caught the selectors' eye with his ability to swing the ball. It was his movement that caught the Sri Lankans on the wrong-foot.

When asked whether he would like to open the bowling, Langeveldt said: "No, I prefer first change. I like it when the ball's swinging and it was moving around against Sri Lanka in overcast conditions but I prefer first change."

The Caribbean seems to be a happy hunting ground for Langeveldt, who took a hat-trick to script his team's sensational one-run victory over the West Indies at Bridgetown in Barbados in 2005.

The West Indies were strongly placed at 281-6 chasing South Africa's total of 284 before Langeveldt changed the course of the match with his maiden five-wicket haul.

Langeveldt has given his skipper more options with his variations as he has the ability to strike at crucial moments. He has so far bagged 56 wickets in 42 one-dayers.

Ranjan reaches

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of the incident in August last year.

The then Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq refused to take the field after tea on fourth day against England after umpires Darrell Hair of Australia and West Indian Billy Doctrove charged Pakistan with ball tampering.

The Test ended in a forfeit -- the first in Test cricket's 129-year history.

The ICC conducted an inquiry through Madugalle who cleared Inzamam of all tampering charges but banned him for four one-day matches for bringing the game into disrepute.

Watch

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The 41-year-old Moody, who played eight Tests and 76 one-day internationals for Australia, said his team fell short by 20-30 runs which in the end were decisive factor.

"The wicket was impressive and so was the outfield, and we were 20 to 30 runs light and considering it was a big match for both teams, South Africa were in a desperate situation and from our point of view we played good cricket up to Wednesday."

Moody praised Malinga for his late burst.

"It turned out to be a heart stopping match and to be fair I didn't think we should have been near the contest but cricket is a funny game and the way Malinga bowled at the end it turned the game on its head and we had a good chance to win," said the coach.

"Malinga has been doing this for the last six to eight months, he has been devastating with the old ball and it's no surprise to us that he is going to bowl the guys with ones in the blockhole, he has honed this skill," said Moody of Malinga who finished with 5-54.

Fleming hints

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The modest Oram said of his haul:

"There was movement in the air and off the pitch. If you got it in the right areas and hit the right locations you were going to be in business."

"Unfortunately, circumstances in December meant we had to look overseas for a Kolpak player. We have reminded the ECB that we are not the first club to sign a Kolpak player and we will certainly not be the last."

"Jacques has committed himself to Yorkshire for three years at the prime of his career and is bringing his wife here who is a doctor. They intend to start a new life and are very excited at the prospect."

"In signing a sworn affidavit, Jacques has given his word that he is serious about his commitment."

Rudolph has played 35 Tests, with a top score of 222 not out, and 45 one-day internationals.

"I am just glad that the long wait is over and I can now make plans to come to Yorkshire," said Rudolph.

"I cannot wait to join my new teammates and start my Yorkshire career. I have been keeping up to date with developments at the club and it is certainly looking good for 2007."

As for Styris, Fleming said: "He's keeping was pretty special," said Fleming of McCullum.

"It's the little things he's doing not just the catches, the catches and work up at the stumps has been very good, the work he's doing off the ball and the energy he's generating is very important to the side."

As for Styris, Fleming said: "He's playing very well. We're delighted with our all-round players at the moment and the qualities they bring to the side."

McGrath issues

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Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Michael Hussey, Shane Watson, Brad Hogg, Nathan Bracken, Shaun Tait, Glenn McGrath

BANGLADESH (from): Habibul Bashar (capt), Mohammad Ashraful, Aftab Ahmed, Tapash Baisya, Shakib Al Hasan, Shahadat Hossain, Tamim Iqbal, Mashrafe Mortaza, Javed Omar, Shahriar Nafees, Mohammad Rafique, Mushtaq Rahim (wk), Syed Rasel, Abdur Razzak, Rajin Saleh.

Umpires: Aleem Dar (PAK), Billy Bowden (NZL).

Time up

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and mental strength, as the ageing process generally makes a player more progressively conservative.

"Tendulkar hasn't worn as well; his last three or four years have been a shadow of his former self."

Chappell said a string of tennis elbow, back and shoulder injuries in recent years had taken a toll on Tendulkar's batting.

"The Indian has suffered a lot of injuries where his play has deteriorated and there is nothing that melts your mental approach quicker than physical handicaps," he wrote.

"For whatever reason, Tendulkar hasn't been able to maintain his extremely high standards for the last few years and unless he can find a way to recapture this mental approach he's not doing his team or himself any favours."

"If Tendulkar had found an honest mirror three years ago and asked the question: 'Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the best batsman of all?'

"It would've answered: 'Brian Charles Lara.'

"If he asked that same mirror right now: 'Mirror, mirror on the wall, should I retire?'

"The answer would be: 'Yes.'

ECB agrees on Rudolph

Cricket

AFP, London

Yorkshire's signing of South African batsman Jacques Rudolph under the Kolpak ruling was on Friday approved "reluctantly" by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

Rudolph, 25, renounced his intention to play for his country in January so he could sign a three-year contract at Headington without counting as an overseas player.

ECB regulations however state that to qualify for Kolpak status players must not have played international cricket within the previous 12 months.

Kumble is best known for taking all 10 wickets in an Test innings against Pakistan in New Delhi in 1999, only the second bowler to achieve the feat after Englishman Jim Laker.

His best one-day performance was six wickets against South Africa at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata during the Hero Cup tournament in 1993.

Indian captain Rahul Dravid led tributes from the cricketing fraternity for the soft-spoken veteran, who made his debut in 1990.

"What Anil has performed for India over the last decade and a half has been legendary," said Dravid. "He is one of our greatest cricketers."

Former captain Kapil Dev, who held the previous Indian record of 434 Test wickets, said Kumble's hard work and dedication was a lesson for youngsters.

"Anil has really gone far than anybody could have imagined," he said. "I never thought he had so much ability, but with time and determination he went beyond anybody's imagination."

Hayden struts

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In fact, it was merely the beginning of a remarkable renaissance. In Tests, Hayden seized upon his lifeline and embarked on a scoring spree to rival his millennium mountain. He raised centuries in each of his next three Tests, and added two more before the end of 2006. But in the one-dayers his recall proved elusive, as Australia tinkered at the top of the order, with Simon Katich, Phil Jaques and even Shane Watson coming in for a test drive. Eventually the selectors twigged, there was no alternative.

Hayden had to endure an even longer spell on the sidelines at the start of his Test career -- between his debut in March 1994 and his recall six years later, he played in just six matches (he hasn't missed a game since). And once again the hunger of exile has spurred him to greater heights and few have been greater than his feats of the past month. Australia have topped 300 in six consecutive innings, and Hayden's contributions have been three centuries and a 60, among those a career-best 181 not out at Hamilton and a World Cup-record 66-ball hundred at Basseterre.

But none, surely, has been greater than his effort on Tuesday. An innings compiled under cloud cover, on a virgin wicket, at a new stadium, against the host nation, in a World Cup. He took 18 balls to score his first run, but eventually left the crease with 158 from just 143 deliveries. Such a blend of power and willpower are the ingredients that can deliver a third consecutive world title for this ultimate heavyweight.

Sanchez, who had a mixed day, caught Apel napping with a long-range shot but failed to put the rebound into an open net as his weak lob from the goalmouth.

Apel showed the urge to score making three changes but

Substitute Tipu found the net with seven minutes remaining but the goal was ruled out for offside, a decision that seemed to be a bad omen.

However, a freekick ten yards out of the penalty area in the second minute of injury time gave Abahani the lifeline. Ujjal chipped the ball over the wall to find three Abahani players inside the penalty spot but it was Nazul who won the race and toe-kicked the ball over Apel's head for the match winner.

Yellow cards: Parodi (Abahani) and Babu, Emru, Apu (Rahmatgan).

TEAMS