

Waugh finds ICC at fault

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Australia cricket great Steve Waugh says the International Cricket Council has shown itself unable to eradicate match-fixing in the sport.

And he called on players to take the lead to stamp out the problem. Waugh said: "I think it is disgusting, but what do you do to stop it? I don't think the ICC knows how to stop it or it would have been stopped before."

"Really it's about the players, they have to put their hands up and say I'm 100% or sign declarations." Cricket's showpiece event, the World Cup in the Caribbean, has been overshadowed by the death of Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer, who Jamaican police say was strangled. Speculation has been rife that his death more than two weeks ago could be linked to the shadowy world of match-fixing, with few other plausible theories emerging.

Waugh is in little doubt that match-fixing is still going on seven years after the former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje admitted taking money to lose a match.

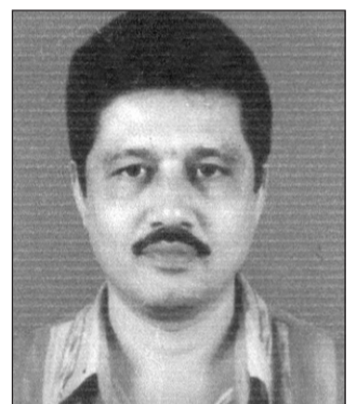
Waugh said: "Something has to be done because it is damaging the sport. Something serious has to happen now or the game will be damaged for ever."

Footballer Panna passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's football fraternity suffered yet another shock as Anwarul Haque Panna became the third footballer to die inside five days.

Panna, a defender who played for Victoria Sporting Club for a long time, died of a heart attack at a local



ANWARUL HAQUE PANNA

hospital in the early hours of Tuesday. He was 50.

Panna, who left behind his mother, wife, three sons and a number of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death, was the coach of the national youth team. A holder of B-Licence (coaching), Panna trained in Germany. He was also the treasurer of Football Coaches Association of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Football Federation, Victoria, Football Coaches Association of Bangladesh and Sonali Oit in their condolence messages prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed their deep sympathy for the bereaved family.

Striker Nazir Ahmed, popularly known as Baro Nazir, passed away on Friday while stylish defender Badrul Huda Khan Batu died on Saturday.

Dungarpur

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When it was pointed out that Chappell's tenure has not yielded better results than Wright, Dungarpur agreed, but said "We mostly played against softer teams under John." "But still I do not want to take the credit away from him. I think Greg did his best. If he took three steps forward, the standard of Indian cricket and the approach of players took four steps backward. After all, it requires two to play a tango," he said.

England

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"We've got three different types of fast bowlers, four different kinds of spinners and then when it comes to the batters we have variety there as well." "Sanath at the top, workers in the middle and then guys who can finish off with a bang at the end."

And Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody, long touted as a contender to replace Fletcher in the England job, added: "We are very excited about the game, we've done well against them recently."

"We'll feel it's a game that we can win," said the former Australia international. "And that's the frame of mind we need to have."

SQUAD

ENGLAND (probable): Ed Joyce, Michael Vaughan (captain), Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Paul Nixon (wk), Ravi Bopara, Sajid Mahmood, James Anderson, Monty Panesar.

SRI LANKA (probable): Upul Tharanga, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara (wk), Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Chamara Silva, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Dilhara Fernando, Chaminda Vaas, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralidaran.

Umpires: Asad Rauf and Billy Bowden.



England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff (L) watches his captain Michael Vaughan execute a sweep shot off left-arterm Monty Panesar during a practice session at the Recreation Ground in St. John's on Monday.

Watson out for three weeks

BBC ONLINE, undated

World Cup holders Australia will be without all-rounder Shane Watson for at least three weeks.

Watson suffered a calf muscle tear in the match against Bangladesh and he had to leave the field during play.

It means he will not be available until the World Cup semifinals, which are being held on 24 and 25 April.

"I want to review it later in the week. It all depends on how quickly he's improving," said Australia physiotherapist Alex Kontouris.

"If he is feeling great by the end of the week, the prognosis is very good. If it's not, it's probably going to take a lot longer to recover."

"You would probably want him to be as close to 100% as possible for him to come back -- because you wouldn't want it to re-occur," Kontouris added.

The injury is the latest setback for 25-year-old Watson, who missed the winter Ashes series because of a hamstring injury.

Australia's next match is against England on Sunday and there is no like-for-like replacement in the squad. The likes for the selectors would be to play Brad Hodge as an extra batsman, or supplement the seam bowling attack with either Mitchell Johnson or Stuart Clark.

"Losing an all-rounder out of your side does change things around quite a bit."

"If he is going to miss the next game we will have to really think about what the best line-up is going to be."

"He's been playing as our fourth quick, [and] happens to be pretty handy with the bat," said Ponting.

The match against England offers Australia a chance to avenge their 2-0 defeat in the Commonwealth Bank series final.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

INDEPENDENCE CUP TENNIS
Mofazzel Hossain clinched the under-16 title of the Independence Day tennis tournament at the Ramna Tennis Complex with a comprehensive 6-1, 6-1 win over Hanif Munnah.

In the men's doubles final, Amal Roy and Ranjan Ram trounced Alamgir and Dipu Lal pair 6-4, 6-2 to clinch the trophy.

Aziz talks of Indo-Pak failures
PTI, New Delhi
The disastrous performance of the Indian and Pakistani teams in the Cricket World Cup apparently weighed heavily on the mind of Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz as he Tuesday drew an analogy between cricket and SAARC.

"We (SAARC) need to score more runs," Aziz said in his opening remarks as he addressed a press conference on the sidelines of the 14th SAARC Summit that opened here Tuesday.

The Pakistani Premier, however, promptly quipped that "cricket may not be the best analogy for some of us," clearly referring to the early exit of India and Pakistan from the world cup being played in West Indies.

Pakistan also found itself embroiled in a controversy, with its coach Bob Woolmer found dead in his hotel room shortly after the team's exit from the World Cup.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, both of which beat India in the initial round of the world cup, resulting in their 2-0 defeat in the Commonwealth Bank series final.

LADESH V NEW ZEALAND SCORES
FROM PAGE 20
Franklin 6 1 27 0 -
Oram 9.3 0 30 3 w-1
Vettori 10 0 34 0 w-1
Styris 10 1 43 4 -
NEW ZEALAND
R M B 4s 6s
Fulton c Tamim Iqbal b Syed Raseel 15 41 30 2 0
Fleming not out 102 118 92 10 3
Marshall not out 50 76 54 2 1
Extras: (w-11) 11
Total: (For one wicket in 29.2 overs) 178
Did not bat: Styris, McMillan, Oram, McCullum, Vettori, Franklin, Bond, Mason.
Fall of wickets: 1-44.
Bowler
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza 6 0 41 0 w-1
Syed Raseel 7 0 22 1 w-2
Abdur Razzak 8 0 38 0 w-2
Mohammad Rafique 5 0 37 0 w-2
Shakib Al Hasan 3 0 33 0 -
Mohammad Ashraf 2 0 7 0 -

Result: New Zealand won by nine wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Shane Bond.
Toss: New Zealand
Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and R Koertzen (South Africa)
Match referee: M Procter (South Africa)

Greg facing
FROM PAGE 17
Ganguly and Virender Sehwag retain their places even as calls from the media and public for their ouster get louder?

Quick decisions are needed since India are due to visit Bangladesh in May for two Tests and three one-dayers, a tour that has assumed greater significance since Bangladesh's stunning win over the Indians at the World Cup.

A recent CNN-IBN television poll of 60 former and current first-class cricketers showed that a majority wanted Chappell and Dravid to continue, but hoped Tendulkar will quit one-day cricket to concentrate on Tests.

Chappell secured 48 per cent of the votes, followed by former India star Mohinder Amarnath with 30 per cent. Renowned Australian coaches John Buchanan and Dav Whatmore managed just two per cent votes each.

Dravid was favoured as captain by 86 per cent of the cricketers, but 56 per cent of those polled wanted Tendulkar to play only Test cricket, while 33 per cent felt he should quit the game altogether.

Meanwhile, officials will continue to milk the cash cow, irrespective of the team's performance.

India are scheduled to play 15 Tests and a minimum of 40 one-dayers at home and abroad over the next 12 months, besides the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa in September.

Win or lose, the bean counters will still have the final say in Indian cricket because the World Cup debacle will soon be a forgotten chapter.

Younis gives conditions for captaincy

PTI, Karachi

Vice-captain Younis Khan met Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Naseem Ashraf and agreed to take over the captaincy following the team's World Cup debacle, sources said Tuesday.

The sources in the Board told PTI that Younis met Ashraf last night and had a detailed discussion over captaincy and the future vision of the national team.

Contrary to reports that Younis was not interested in taking up the captaincy, the sources said he had told Ashraf he would accept the responsibility if offered by the Board.

"Younis said he had no problems captaining the side but the Board should keep some things very clear in their mind. Younis made it clear that he was prone to speaking his mind if he felt any player was not giving his 100 per cent or if the team was not responding to the captain," the source said.

"He told Ashraf the Board should keep this in mind when appointing him as captain as he would not compromise when it came to the national team's performance," the source disclosed.

Ashraf had called the meeting to discuss the short-and long-term future plans for the team. Inzamam-ul-Haq stepped down as captain after Pakistan were shocked by Ireland and eliminated from the World Cup.

Inzamam said at a recent press conference that according to him Younis was the automatic choice to become captain since he had been vice-captain for last two years now.

But some media reports had suggested that Younis was not interested in the post after having a bad experience in the Champions Trophy in India last year.

Fleming praises

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Mason had a leg injury while Franklin suffered a migraine.

"The bowling on a good batting track like that was a great effort," said Fleming who hit a century as New Zealand eased to a victory which kept up their 100-per cent record in the competition.

"We lost two bowlers and to get them out for 174 was a great effort. It was very impressive. The players who have been in form continue to be in form."

Scott Styris collected four wickets, Jacob Oram three with Shane Bond finishing with 2-15 off 10 overs.

"Shane gets wickets when he comes back on, Scotty and Jacob also bowled well. It's all working well for us at the moment."

"When we batted it was nice to be able to put the hammer down and think about the run rates. We could capitalise on our strong position."

Bond, who was named man of the match, said he was enjoying the challenge of pitting his pace against the slow Caribbean pitches.

"Things are going well for us at the moment. The challenge will be to keep it going until the business-end of the tournament," said the former policeman.

"The wickets are different every time you turn up so it's a question of adjusting every time and using your variations. The other guys also do a good holding job which makes my work easier."

"Guys like Shaun Pollock and Glenn McGrath are the ones you strive for and even though I'm a quick bowler, on these kind of wickets, I still need to put the ball in the right areas and I've managed to that so far."

KP wary of Murali

AFF, St John's



ICC Cricket World Cup WEST INDIES 2007

Kevin Pietersen may have once disdainfully reverse-swept Muttiah Muralidaran for six but that hasn't lessened the England batsman's respect for the Sri Lankan spin wizard.

The South Africa-born strokeplayer's extraordinary shot during the course of a century in last year's Edgbaston Test will live long in the memory of all who saw it.

Now England will hope for similar heroics when they face Sri Lanka in a World Cup Super Eights match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here Wednesday.

"It's just a case of watching the ball, trying to pick him and trying to hit your areas when you're facing Murali because he's a special bowler," said Pietersen, now rated the world's leading one-day international batsman.

"Murali doesn't say a lot, he just winds you up and winds you up because he knows he's going to get you out. He just smiles and laughs."

"He's a really happy guy, a nice guy -- I call him the silent assassin -- he has so much talk on the cricket ball he doesn't have to say much."

And Pietersen, 26, said the off-spinner, a key member of the Sri Lanka side that won the World Cup in 1996, was even trickier to cope with than his friend and Hampshire captain Shane Warne, the Australia leg-spin great and Test cricket's leading wicket-taker.

"He's a true great of the game. Muralidaran is the hardest bowler in the world to face, definitely -- even more difficult than Warne."

England's bid for a World Cup semifinal spot is about to enter a potentially decisive few days.

After the Sri Lanka match, they take on world champions Australia in Antigua on Sunday.

Having failed to carry through any points after losing to Group C winners New Zealand in the first round, England know that losing twice this week will all but end their World Cup challenge.

"It's a massive week for us," said Pietersen of an England side that have failed to impress during victories over non-Test nations Canada, Kenya and Ireland.

"We cannot finish on Sunday with no points from these two games."

"I know there is a small mathematical chance of going through if we win the last three games, but we've got to get at least another two points out of this week and the guys are upbeat about it."

"It's clear how hard we're all training. There is no laughing, no joking out there. There is still enjoyment at what we're doing but there is a lot of hard work going in."

England have never won the World Cup, although they were losing finalists in 1979, 1987 and 1992. But their recent lack of ruthlessness doesn't augur well for their chances at this tournament.

"We've had a good chat about intensity and we need to have our fingers on the pulse this week," Pietersen said.

"The other day against Ireland we got six wickets and then the last few batters scored a load of runs. The intensity dropped off a bit, but that's natural."

"Against Sri Lanka or Australia you cannot slip up for five or 10 overs in the one-day game, you've got to nail the full 100 overs."

Bracken loves new cherry

AFF, St John's



ICC Cricket World Cup WEST INDIES 2007

Australia quick Nathan Bracken believes the new ball may not be an advantage to fast bowlers at the World Cup.

Pitches in the Caribbean have tended to become slower as matches progress, making strokeplay more difficult the longer a game goes on.

And with all fielding restrictions in place for the first 10 overs, Bracken believes that batsmen will look to get their sides off to a flying start.

World champions Australia have won all five of their matches at the tournament so far.

But they were given a fright when South Africa opens Graeme Smith (74) and AB de Villiers (98) shared a stand of 160 in 21 overs as they chased a daunting 378 to win in St Kitts on March 24.

Australia held their nerve and dismissed the Proteas for 294, Bracken finishing with two for 40 from nine overs.

"It's a lot harder with the new ball than I thought it was going to be. In the South Africa game, they came at us hard."

"I know there are going to be games where they are going to come out hard on flat wickets and take us on and we've just got to be prepared for that."

"The wickets just slow up a little bit and when the ball gets older and softer, it just doesn't quite come on as well," the left-arterm added.

"So the best time to go is with the new ball. We've seen that now, we know how to set up for that so we've prepared."

Bracken, 29, was a member of Australia's squad at the 2003 World Cup but didn't play a game. However, he has since established himself in the side and is now playing an important role as

a member of an Australia pace trio featuring leading World Cup wicket-taker Glenn McGrath and express quick Shaun Tait.

During this tournament Bracken's seven wickets have come at an average of 18.57 apiece but his real value so far has come from a miserly economy rate of 3.71 runs per over.

Bracken said he and the rest of the attack are all better off for the ditching of the rotation policy although he added that it had played a useful role in the run-up to the World Cup.

"We do understand that it basically keeps us on the pad-dock and probably doing that through the summer has allowed us to bring the bowling lineup we have here without as many injuries as what some of the other countries have," he said.

"You enjoy it (now) and you start to get used to each wicket, get into your rhythm."



A GRAND BATTLE: Grandmasters Ziaur Rahman (L) and Refaat Bin Sattar concentrate hard during their 33rd National Chess Championship encounter at the federation hall room yesterday.

Kiwis get

FROM PAGE 20

staff that there was a racially based comment made in the players' lounge as everyone was assembling," Crocker said.

"We talked to the catering staff and we quickly found there were three or four people in the room at the time," Crocker also told reporters here Monday.

"They weren't able to tell me who they were, they indicated they were older members of the group."

"The three had been talking on the other side of the room and the catering staff thought they heard this one word 'nigger' in the conversation."

"They weren't sure if they heard it accurately, they didn't hear any other comments, and the comments weren't directed at the catering staff," Crocker added.

"It became clear to Michael (Hall) and myself there was no great substance to this. There was no complaint or allegation from staff whatsoever."

"As far as we were concerned it died then and there."

But having seen the story make headlines, Crocker added: "It was an enormous surprise to see those rumours have been embellished the way they were."

"The report was grossly embellished based on a rumour which is utterly inaccurate." New Zealand's multi-cultural squad features batsman Ross Taylor, whose mother is Samoan,

and off-spinner Jeetan Patel, both of whose parents are from India.

Crocker said it was "highly unlikely" any member of the Black Caps party could be guilty of racism.

Hall told the Sun the incident was a "misunderstanding" while a spokesman for the catering company in Barbados said they were unaware of any complaints made by staff at the ground.

Pak detective

FROM PAGE 17

inquiry said Monday they were studying the possibility that poison was used to incapacitate the burly coach before he was strangled.

However, the fact detectives are still awaiting toxicology reports on Woolmer more than two weeks after his death has led to questions over whether Jamaica's criminal justice system is capable of handling such a complex inquiry.

Four police officers from Britain's Scotland Yard are due to arrive in Kingston on Tuesday to review the course of the investigation.

Ashraf, who was himself due to leave for South Africa Tuesday to attend the memorial service for Woolmer, reiterated that no Pakistani player or official had any role in Woolmer's death.

"I can say in categorical terms that no Pakistani player or officials have anything to do with this crime," he said.

Brothers return

FROM PAGE 17

In a next-minute counter foray, Mamun headed a Masud Rana freekick wide at the near post but Brothers continued to dominate and went ahead again in the 64th minute.

Jalal, who had a superb outing, curled an excellent 25-yarder but Piru was equally brilliant to foil the attempt for a corner, which provided Junior the chance to drive home from a melee for his third league goal.

Topu should have scored when he got possession of a rebound after Jalal's long-range shot smothered Piru but the Brothers substitute lost control before the goalmouth.

Jalal also had a hand in their third goal that sealed the victory for Syed Nayeemuddin's side ten minutes from time. The midfielder broke an off-side trap at the left flank with a through by Manju for their own half before cutting a long square to the path of Faisal but Sharif's clumsy effort to clear saw the ball slam into the back of the Arambagh net.

Yellow card: Shuvra (Brothers)

TEAMS

BROTHERS: Ali, Shuvra, Jewel, Masud Rana, Rony, Shakil (Topu), Inani (Faisal), Rintu, Jalal, Mamun (Manju) and Junior.
ARAMBAGH: Piru, Shamim (Moshed), Ramjan, Biketi, Akram, Sharif, Iddi, Zuku, Dominic (Malay), Dimas and Tabith (Ritu).
Referee: Azad Rahman.