

## Inzamam for one captain

PTI, Karachi

Inzamamul Haq, who has stepped down as captain after Pakistan's humiliating exit from the World Cup, on Thursday suggested to have one captain for both the Test and one-day sides for practical reasons.

Inzamam said he was not in favour of having separate captains for Pakistan's Test and one-day sides as other countries had experimented in the past but failed.

"I just feel that when you have one captain the players are also comfortable in both formats of the game as they know their captain's style and thinking. It is not easy adjusting for players to playing under different captains in different forms of the game," he said.

Inzamam, who has also retired from ODIs but has made it clear he wants to continue playing Test matches, said he was not surprised by allegations levelled against him after Pakistan's poor performance in the World Cup.

On the charges that he was an autocratic captain and ran a one-man show, Inzamam said in the Pakistan cricket history there were quite a few captains who were strong and did things their own way.

"Imran Khan is a prime example. He was a very strong captain compared to others. So if I tried to be strong what is wrong with that. But to say I didn't consult the selectors or other players while taking decisions is wrong. I always believed in seeking other opinion before deciding on something important regarding the team."

## Imran to sue Sarfraz

PTI, Karachi

Fed up with Sarfraz Nawaz making "defaming" allegations time and again, former Pakistan captain Imran Khan on Thursday promised to take legal action against the ex-teammate and ask him to prove his unsubstantiated and baseless statements.

"This man (Sarfraz) thinks he can say anything against anyone and get away because people don't like to associate themselves with someone of his calibre and low character. But this time he has said enough I am going to take him to court and file a defamation suit against him for damages or else he proves his allegations in court," Imran told a popular radio channel on Thursday.

Imran and Sarfraz formed one of the most lethal bowling attacks for Pakistan in their prime in the late 70s and early 80s and Imran has generally credited his teammate for making him a world class bowler.

But in recent years both have fallen out and Sarfraz has developed a knack of making loud statements and serious allegations against anyone under the sun.

In his latest outburst he told a television channel that Imran had demanded money from former Pakistan player Younis Ahmed to play him in the side on a tour.

## BCB's clarification

FROM PAGE 21  
a copy of the document that shows the CAs sent a "Tax Invoice" to the BCB on February 28, 2007. Besides, a board high official while talking to the reporter admitted that the first instalment has already been disbursed.

In our report it was mentioned that board officials knew about the progress of the negotiation but were unaware of the signing of the agreement.

## Reza flies out

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following further investigation, it has been found that the injury is more serious than it was first thought and he would require 6 to 8 weeks of rehabilitation. It is expected that Baisya would make a full recovery within the period mentioned.

Baisya would return home on the first available flight from the West Indies.

All-rounder Forhad Reza will be flying in to join the squad as Baisya's replacement. Reza, who played for Bangladesh A in their recent tour of Sri Lanka, has played twelve one-day internationals for the Tigers. A right-handed batsman who bowls medium-pace, Reza made his international debut against Zimbabwe in Harare last year.

## BCB slams

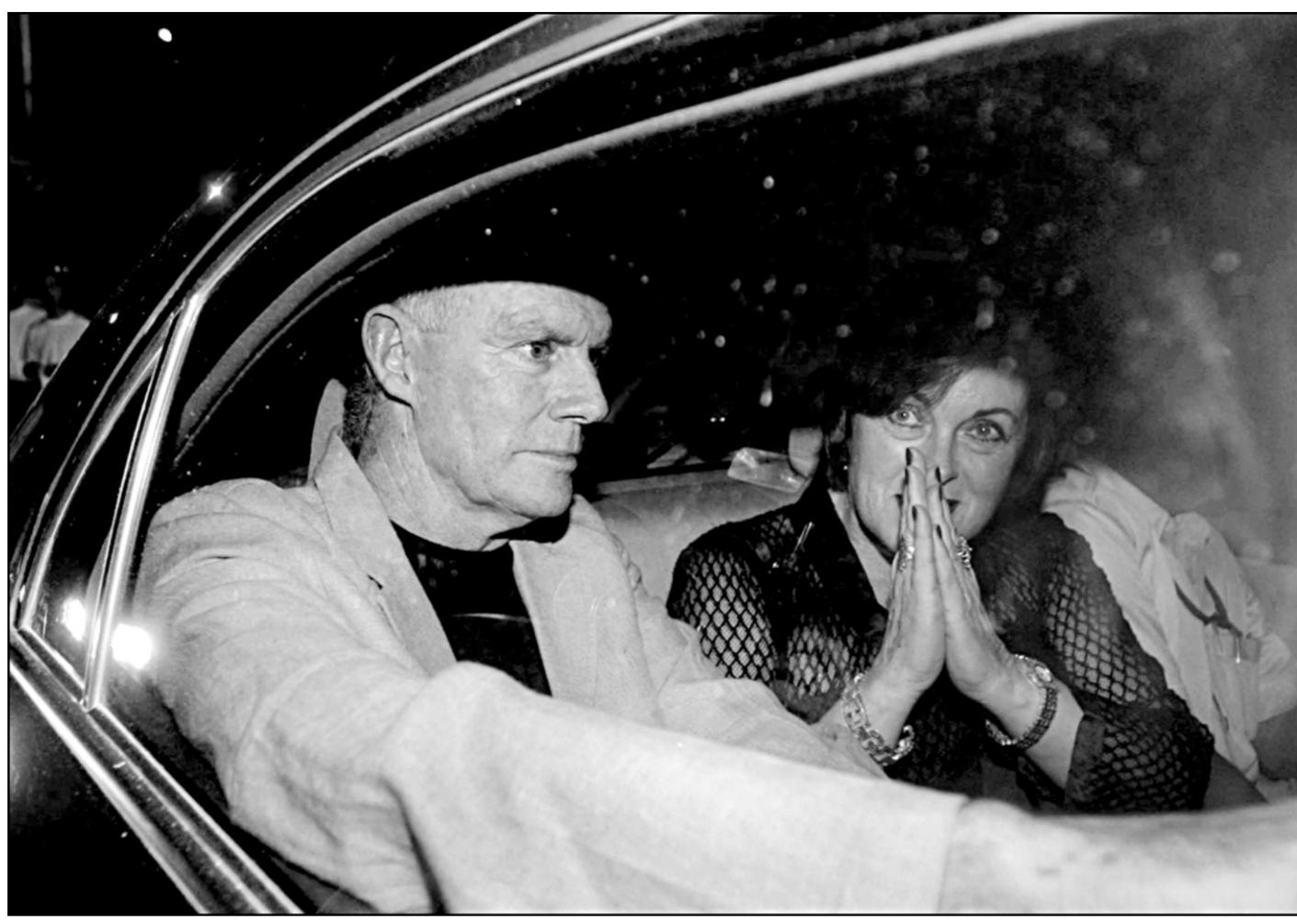
FROM PAGE 21  
Reazuddin Al Mamun, a joint-secretary of the BCB, said.

"He should not have said so when we have a contract with him."

Whatmore's contract with BCB ends in May.

Whatmore conveyed his keenness to coach India after Chappell handed in his resignation on April 4.

"If there is a position and an opportunity there, I will be very interested," he told the television channel CNN-IBN.



LEAVE US ALONE: Indian cricket coach Greg Chappell (L) and his wife Judy leave a city hotel in Mumbai on Wednesday.

## Vaughan eyes semis spot

AFP, St John's



England captain Michael Vaughan insists his team can still reach the World Cup semi-finals despite an agonising two-run defeat against Sri Lanka and a looming Sunday showdown with old rivals, and defending champions, Australia.

"It's a big game. But not many people give us much hope of turning up and putting Sri Lanka under pressure. We'll try to do the same on Sunday and hopefully get the two points," said Vaughan.

Set 236 to win against Sri Lanka, England finished on 233 for eight after 21-year-old all-rounder Ravi Bopara, in only his fifth match at this level, was bowled off the last ball by Dilhara Fernando needing just three to win.

Defeat was especially tough on Bopara, whose career-best 52 not out nearly guided England, who'd collapsed to 133 for six before his stand of 87 with wicket-keeper Paul Nixon (42), to an improbable win.

But defeat left England fifth in the standings on two points ahead of their return to the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to take on table

toppers Australia. Sri Lanka, New Zealand and South Africa -- the other teams widely tipped to make the semi's -- occupy the next three spots.

If England are to have a realistic chance of joining them, they need to beat either Australia here on Sunday or world number one South Africa in Barbados on April 17.

England held Sri Lanka to 235 all out, with fast bowler Sajid Mahmood taking a career-best four for 50.

But that was always likely to prove a tough target for a side with a faltering top three.

Vaughan was caught behind for nought as England slumped to 11 for two.

Then the unlucky run out of Ian Bell for 47, after bowler Sanath Jayasuriya deflected the ball onto the stumps, sparked a collapse that saw England lose four wickets for 32 runs as 101 for two quickly became 133 for six.

"We lost two early wickets but we were 101 for two with 25 overs left -- that's all you'd buy every game," said Vaughan.

"But we just didn't get a guy to 80 or 100 which we keep talking about," he added of an innings where Kevin Pietersen, rated the world's leading one-day batsman, top scored with 58 before being caught and bowled by off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran.

Vaughan hinted that opener Andrew Strauss, close to selection for this match, could come in after Ed Joyce made just 10.

"It was a difficult decision but we are going to discuss what we feel is the best formula going into the game on Sunday," said the captain.

Bopara, asked what his plan was when he came to the crease, said: "I had a quick chat with 'Nick' about knocking it about for the next 10 or 15 overs and then seeing where we were at for the last five."

There was added tension when Fernando stopped in delivery as he prepared to bowl the final ball before re-starting his run and dismissing Bopara.

"I think he was just trying to see which way I'd go. But I can't stop him from stopping," said Bopara.

Vaughan admitted he thought the game was up when Bopara came in.

"It was looking a long shot to be honest," he said.

"The way Bopara played a gem of a flick over fine leg (for four in the last over off Fernando), I thought it was there. Full credit to Fernando. He held his nerve in the last two balls."

## Players drove coach out?

AFP, Mumbai



Greg Chappell chose to walk out than be shown the door after it became increasingly evident that India's cricket chiefs would not extend his tenure as coach.

Chappell, the former Australian captain, sent an e-mail to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday saying he did not want to seek an extension due to "family and personal" reasons.

The decision came ahead of crucial BCCI meetings here on Friday and Saturday to take stock of India's dismal World Cup performance where they were knocked out of the Cup ended.

"It's not that we are defending ourselves. We do realise that we played badly and, as a team, we take full responsibility for that. But what hurt us most is if the coach has questioned our attitude."

Former India players and television experts, Ajay Jadeja and Arun Lal, were convinced Chappell's days were numbered even before the World Cup ended.

"If Tendulkar was forced to speak, things must have been really bad between Chappell and the senior players," said Jadeja.

"I will believe Tendulkar more than Chappell. And the BCCI also would rather stick with the players."

Lal said he had also not expected Chappell to continue.

"His mandate was to make a team for the World Cup. Maybe two years was not enough, but no one also expected such a poor performance," he said.

Under Chappell, India won 32 of their 62 one-day internationals and seven of 18 Tests. But the team faltered when it mattered most.

The link finally snapped when senior pro Sachin Tendulkar responded to media reports that Chappell had blamed the unhelpful attitude of senior players for the disastrous World Cup campaign.

Chappell distanced himself from the snowballing controversy, saying he will not speak till he had submitted his report to the BCCI on Friday.

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