

Wasim calls Inzamam dictator

CRICINFO, undated

Wasim Akram, the former Pakistan fast bowler and captain, has lashed out at Inzamamul Haq and called him a "dictator" in Pakistan cricket.

In an interview on ESPN, Akram said that Inzamam had become so powerful that Bob Woolmer, the former coach who died under unexplained circumstances in Jamaica, and the support staff approached him for leave.

"I have seen senior PCB officials sitting at his residence and awaiting orders," Akram said. "These things are not good for cricket." With Pakistan looking for a new captain, after Inzamam resigned from the post and announced his retirement from ODIs, Akram felt that Shoaib Malik, the all-rounder, was a good choice.

"The only ones who can handle the job are Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Yousuf," he said. "Malik is young and he is talented. I don't think we have much of a choice, if Younis (Khan) is not interested."

Woolmer was poisoned?

PTI, London/Kingston

The long-awaited toxicology report in Bob Woolmer's murder case has indicated that the Pakistan cricket coach was poisoned before being strangled in his hotel room.

According to a source close to the Jamaican police, the investigators probing in Woolmer's mysterious death believe the South African was poisoned to incapacitate him before murdering him in his Jamaica Pegasus hotel room around one month ago, London daily 'The Sunday Times' reported.

But Mark Shields, the Deputy Police Commissioner leading the inquiry, refused to confirm poison was found and said the toxicology samples and post-mortem report would be sent to Britain for further analysis.

"If he was manually strangled and asphyxiated, why didn't he put up a fight? I've always said there was a possibility he was incapacitated by something else. If I tell you they (the results) have come back and we are conducting further tests, I suggest you draw your own conclusions," he said at a press conference in Kingston yesterday.

Shields described the toxicology results as "encouraging" but said the probe could take a "long haul".

"There are three possibilities. One is that someone could give themselves up. Two, there could be a massive breakthrough or, three, we are here for the long haul."

"At the moment we are certainly in category three. We would love to move to one but I think that is unlikely at this stage," said Shields.

He quashed the speculation that it was the drug aconite, which causes asphyxia.

Mobi passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

Former handball international and a renowned basketball player Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury Mobi died of a heart attack at the BIRDEM Hospital on Saturday. He was 39.

Mobi, who left his wife, two daughters and a host of friends and relatives, represented the national handball team in the late 80s and won numerous first division basketball league titles with Vega and Mariners.

He was buried in his hometown in Bogra yesterday.



Mobi, who acted as hockey and handball secretaries for Mariners, was an executive of ad firm Madonna. He was also the captain of Residential Model School cricket team that lifted the inaugural Nirman School Cricket title in 1982.

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club mourned the untimely departure of the sportsman turned organiser and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul. The club also expressed its deep sympathy for the bereaved family.



Abahani's two-goal striker Emily (C) tries to evade Farashganj defender Riyad (L) during their yesterday's B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium as referee Mansur Azad looks on.

Emily puts Abahani atop



SPORTS REPORTER

A brace by Zahid Hossain Emily shot Abahani to the top of the B. League table for the first time with a 3-1 win over Farashganj yesterday.

Abahani conceded their first goal in the competition after Biplab's 540-minute record of a clean sheet at the sky-blues goal but the management was happy to see national striker Emily return amongst the goals after a five-match drought.

Chennai forward Awudu Ibrahim slotted the other goal for Diego Cruciani's current leaders who went two points clear of Sheikh Russel with 14 points from six games.

Robin capitalised on a defence lapse to reduce the arrears for the ridders, who remained on six points after as many games, in second-half stoppage time.

With an attacking 4-3-3 formation, Abahani began brightly as confidence oozed from the strings of neat passes that gave them absolute domination against a side

that eventually cost their premiership trophy in the last season with two goalless draws.

However, superior ball possession was not enough as Farashganj -- who held local heavyweights Brothers, Mukti Jodha and Sheikh Russel in three of their last four outings -- packed their defence with eight men.

Ujjal fired wide at the far post after Argentine striker Parodi set him free in the fifth minute while Ibrahim's final passes on a couple of occasions were inaccurate.

The pressure told in the 20th minute when centre-back Nazrul won a tackle in the opposition half for Ujjal switching it to Emily, who separated the two sides with a sublime shot. The Abahani No. 10, who has been kept in the side despite showing poor finishing in the earlier games, unleashed a right-footed volley from 40 yards into the top left corner, giving Farashganj keeper Azam no chance to react. It was the first time Abahani have scored in the first half.

Azam however did well to flick an Ujjal effort from 20 yards into his side netting midway through the half before denying Parodi on one-on-one. Two minutes before the break, skipper Joy who had another good day on the pitch, saw his header on a corner clear the crossbar by inches.

Farashganj scored a consolation goal in the first minute of the injury time when the tightest backline of the season made the first slip with Abahani right fullback Siraj handing a gift to Mohammed Ali. The substitute Farashganj attacker sped into the box and beat Biplab with a square pass for Robin to tap in for his third goal.

"We have conceded our first goal due to that sloppy piece of defending by Siraj. Otherwise I am satisfied with the overall performance," told Abahani's Argentine coach Cruciani.

"We played better today and the possession was superb. The goal by Emily was great and I am happy that our main striker has finally scored."

"I am disappointed that Parodi wasted a certain chance but he told me that he failed to make proper contact due to awkward bounce," the former Bangladesh coach added.

Farashganj assistant coach Rezaul Haque Jamal admitted his side were too defensive. "We faced three big teams in the last four weeks. Not only that we worked hard but also lost key players due to injuries. That is why we tried to defend but Abahani played really well," he said.

Yellow cards: Ujjal (Abahani) and Faisal, Arup (Farashganj).

TEAMS
Abahani: Biplab, Siraj, Nazrul, Caporale, Joy, Ujjal, Sanchez (Zahed), Ibrahim, Parodi (Tipu) and Emily (Parvez).

Farashganj: Azam, Jamal, Faisal, Riyad, Khaled (Liton), Kutub (Ali), Kabir, Arup, Amirul (Tariq), Rony and Robin.

Referee: Mansur Azad.

Yet Ireland happy

AFP, Bridgetown



Ireland captain Trent Johnston believes his team can improve if they get more exposure against top teams like Australia despite suffering a nine-wicket mauling at the hands of the world champions here on Friday.

"It's necessary for our development," said Johnston whose team was shot out for a paltry 91 in the World Cup Super Eights match at Kensington Oval.

Australia had the match wrapped up by lunch after skipper Ricky Ponting won the toss and decided to give his bowlers a workout on a a pitchy pitch.

Glen McGrath (3-17) and Shaun Tait (3-39) made the match between the defending champions and the debutants a no-contest by removing the top four for 12 runs inside five overs.

Australia then stormed into the semifinals by chasing down the target in just 12.2 overs.

"You learn with such experience, so with more exposure against high profile teams we can do better," said Johnston whose team now face Bangladesh here on Sunday and Sri Lanka on April 18 in Grenada.

"Up until against Australia we did well. We knew that Australia would be a big challenge. We must take one positive in that we played the best sides in the world and have learned something."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Eights match between Australia and Ireland in Barbados on Friday:

IRELAND

Bray b McGrath 1
Porterfield lbw b Tait 1
Morgan c Hayden b McGrath 0

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist b Johnston 34
Hussey not out 30
Symonds not out 15
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-8) 13

Total: (For one wkt in 12.2 overs) 92

Fall of wickets: 1-62.

Bowler O M R W

McGrath 7 1 17 3
Tait 6 1 39 3
Clark 8 1 19 1
Hogg 6 2 9 1
Symonds 3 1 7 1

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist b Johnston 34
Hussey not out 30
Symonds not out 15
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Total: (For one wkt in 12.2 overs) 92

Fall of wickets: 1-62.

Bowler O M R W

Langford-Smith 3 0 27 0
Rankin 4.2 0 24 0
Johnston 3 0 18 1
Mooney 1 0 14 0
McCallan 1 0 5 0

Result: Australia won by nine wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Glenn McGrath.

Toss: Australia

Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL) and Rudi Koerten (RSA)

Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Islamic University, National University, Haji Danesh Science and Technology University, Chittagong Science and Technology University, Noakhali Science and Technology University and the host JU will take part in the two-day competition.

Visitors take

FROM PAGE 17

Rokibul contributed 51 off 66 deliveries that saw nine boundaries.

Nafid Chowdhury was the other notable scorer with a 51-ball 34 that featured two fours and as many sixes.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH ACADEMY: 243 all out in 68.2 overs (Nazmus 7, Mehrab 71, Nazimuddin 21, Rokibul 51, Nadir 34, Mosharraf 17 not out, extras 27; Nafid 5-38, Sohail 2-46, Atif 2-81, Babar 1-24).

PAKISTAN ACADEMY: 82-0 in 19 overs (Khurram 34 not out, Babar 44 not out, extras 4).

SL to do the 'impossible'

FROM PAGE 17

From what we've seen, the pitch in Grenada is slower and takes some turn. It will be a big test for us and probably suit Sri Lanka."

McGrath, the World Cup's leading bowler of all-time with 63 wickets, said Australia's lack of a close game in the Caribbean wouldn't be an issue as the World Cup neared its conclusion.

And the 37-year-old, due to retire after the tournament, insisted now was the time when players such as himself and fellow two-time World Cup winners Ponting and Adam Gilchrist would come into their own.

The next two weeks for us is the showcase time for the whole tournament, and our senior players, who have been in World Cups before, I think that's when you'll see them stand up and start enjoying the tournament for what it is."

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (probable): Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Brad Hodge, Michael Hussey, Brad Hogg, Nathan Bracken, Shaun Tait, Glenn McGrath.

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

Umpires: Billy Bowden and Aleem Dar.

Semis itself

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team to play against Australia which means no rest for key fast bowler, the injury-plagued Shane Bond.

"We did a lot of that before the World Cup," said the skipper.

"The only thing that would sway me is if someone is carrying an injury."

Fleming said New Zealand were not concerned at this stage who they played in the semifinals or whether they had to travel to Jamaica or St Lucia for the game.

"I guess we'll see over the week who we're likely to play and what we can control," he said.

RICA V N ZEALAND SCOREBO

FROM PAGE 20

Bond 10 1 26 2 nb-1, w-1

Oram 5 2 23 0

Patel 10 1 36 0

Styris 3 0 16 0

McMillan 5 0 23 3

R M B 4s 6s

Fulton Hall b Ntini 16 30 32 3 0

Fleming c Boucher b Pollock 50 133 84 6 0

Taylor lbw b Ntini 10 22 17 1 0

Styris c Gibbs b Peterson 56 141 84 4 0

McMillan not out 38 84 55 2 1

Oram b Ntini 10 22 18 1 0

McCullum not out 4 1 1 1 0

Extras: (lb-3, w-8, nb-1) 12

Total: (For 5 wickets in 48.2 overs) 196

Did not bat: Vettori, Franklin, Bond, Patel.

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-