



Iranian GM Ghaem Maghami Ehsan (L) makes a move against Bangladesh player Mohammed Javed during the second round proceedings at the federation hall room yesterday.

Inzamam hails Sonn's role in Oval dispute

APP, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq Monday praised late International Cricket Council president Percy Sonn for his handling of the Oval Test controversy last year.

Inzamam said Sonn, who died Sunday aged 57 in Cape Town, had ensured Pakistan were treated fairly after they forfeited the fourth Test against England in August.

"Mr Sonn ensured Pakistan got a fair trial in the Oval case and because of his efforts the truth prevailed," Inzamam said.

"Sonn backed Pakistan's legal stance and because of him, the investigations were impartial and ended in Pakistan's victory."

Pakistan refused to take to the field after tea on the fourth day of the Oval Test after umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove penalised Pakistan five runs and charged the ball over allegations of ball tampering.

It was the first forfeit in the 130-year history of Test cricket.

Inzamam was cleared of tampering but was banned for four one-day matches on charges of bringing the game into disrepute. Hair, meanwhile, was dropped from the ICC's elite panel of umpires.

"Personally I admired (Sonn's) love for cricket and under him international cricket prospered a great deal," said Inzamam, who quit as captain after the World Cup two months ago.

"His contribution for the game will be remembered for a long time."

Tevez proud

FROM PAGE 20 admitted a fondness for English football.

Tevez told The Sun: "I still don't know where I will play next season."

"Chelsea and Real Madrid have been talked about but I still don't know where I'll go. I'm staying calm and I hope everything gets resolved as soon as possible."

"I don't know if I'm worth 40 million pound but it makes me proud that a club as important as Chelsea is interested."

"I don't have any preferences about where I'll play - my desire is to continue playing football and I don't mind if it's in England or in another league."

"One of the things I like most about English football is the contact you have with the fans."

"It's special to be able to celebrate goals by going to the crowd and hugging some of them."

"If I have to stay in England it wouldn't be inconvenient because I've completely adapted."

"The last three months I felt really good in England, very comfortable."



Did U Know?

Dinesh Karthik of India scored 129 runs from 212 balls in the first innings of the second Test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on May 25. It was his maiden century.

More tributes to Sonn

APP, Cricket

APP, Sydney

International Cricket Council president Percy Sonn had a vision for cricket becoming a genuine world sport, Cricket Australia said Monday, following the South African's death.

Sonn, the first African to head up the ICC, died Sunday aged 57 in a Cape Town hospital following complications after a minor colon operation.

Cricket Australia chairman Creagh O'Connor said Australian cricket was saddened by his death.

"Percy devoted a large portion of his life to cricket, initially within South Africa and then globally through his role at the ICC, and we will miss him," O'Connor said in a statement Monday.

"Personally, what impressed me most was that he had a vision for cricket developing as a genuinely

world sport.

"I had the good fortune to spend some memorable cricket moments with him, in Australia when he visited last summer, and most recently at the just concluded ICC World Cup in the West Indies, and his passion for the game shone through to the end."

"On behalf of all of us at Cricket Australia, I pay tribute to a man who loved cricket and did his best to make it a better game, and offer our condolences to his family."

Afp adds from Colombo, Sri Lanka's cricket governing body paid tribute on Monday to Sonn.

"Mr. Sonn was a close friend and supporter of Sri Lanka Cricket. With his passing away, Sri Lanka has lost a dear friend and an able administrator," Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement.

Sonn, 57, the first African to head the ICC, died in a Cape Town hospital following complications after a colon operation.

He visited Sri Lanka in August last year after succeeding Ehsan Mani at the top of the world governing body.

Ex-Aussie Test player Archer no more

APP, Cricket

APP, Sydney

Australian cricket Monday mourned the death of another Test cricketer with the passing of all-rounder Ron Archer over the weekend.

Archer died of lung cancer at the age of 73, Cricket Australia said Monday.

His death comes just two days after his former teammate and 'Invincibles' fast bowler Bill Johnston died at the age of 85.

Archer played in 19 Tests as an all-rounder between 1953 and 1956, scoring 713 runs at 24.58, including a top score of 128 against the West Indies, and taking 48 wickets at 27.45, with best bowling figures of 5-53.

The Queensland player was groomed to replace Keith Miller in the Australian team, but he was forced to retire after just 19 Tests by

knee injuries at the age of 23.

His older brother, Ken, now 79, played five Tests for Australia as an opening batsman.

"Ron Archer had a brief and very successful Test career which was tragically cut short by an injury of the type that modern sports medicine would today probably have overcome," Cricket Australia Chairman Creagh O'Connor said in a statement Monday.

"While his international playing career was too short, he still devoted an energetic and cheerful lifetime of support to the game that he loved, contributing right up until his final summer."

He worked as a volunteer administrator, match referee, Code of Conduct Commissioner and through Lord's Taverners.

"His work was rewarded with life membership of Queensland Cricket, and with the deep affection of all those who knew him," O'Connor said.

England closer

FROM PAGE 17

His side were already without senior batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul, not playing in this match because of a knee injury.

Rain meant only four overs were possible before lunch on Monday. But that was enough time for paceman Plunkett to dismiss a squared-up Chris Gayle, edging to Prior for 13, after West Indies responded to 22.

England took the field without batsman Ian Bell, who was continuing to receive treatment to his lower back following a spasm he suffered on Saturday.

Before play began on Monday, players and officials observed a minute's silence in memory of International Cricket Council (ICC) president Percy Sonn, who died on Sunday, and wore black armbands as a mark of respect.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Test between England and West Indies at Headingley on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings 570-7 declared (Pietersen 226, Vaughan 103, Prior 75).

WEST INDIES: Second innings 146 (Sidebottom 4-42, Plunkett 35).

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight: 22-2) Gayle c Prior b Plunkett 13

Hargreaves

FROM PAGE 20

some wonderful titles. I have won everything a player can in Germany -- titles, the Champions League and even the World Club Championship.

"It is now about experiencing that somewhere else and I can't wait to start over again. The prospect of adding a Premiership winner's medal to my collection is incredibly exciting."

Tamim Iqbal, Imran Nazir, Mohammad Ashraful, Shoaib Malik (captain), Tillakaratne Dilshan, Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal (wicketkeeper), Farvez Maharoof, Abdur Razzaq, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, S Sreesanth.

All four Asian Test teams are looking for a new coach.

While Chappell quit India after the World Cup, Pakistan's Bob Woolmer died during the tournament and Sri Lanka's Tom Moody opted to return home to coach Western Australia.

India will have a new coach in place before the tours of Ireland and England commence in late-June.

LOCAL SNIPS

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdullah Al Rakib posted solo lead in the 8th United Insurance and United Leasing Grandmasters Chess Tournament when the local International Master won his second match in a row yesterday.

In the second round, Rakib beat Indian IM PDS Girinath at the federation chess-hall to extend his collection to two points.

Eleven players followed Rakib half a point behind. They are GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Reefat Bin Sattar, GM Niaz Morshed, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Nasir Ahmed, FM Aminul Islam, Iranian GM Ghaem Maghami Ehsan, GM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam, Pakistani veteran IM Mahmood Lodhi and GN Gopal of India.

In other second round matches, Zia drew with Gopal, Lodhi drew with Nguyen, Reefat drew with Nasir, Ghaem beat Mohammad Javed, Rajib defeated FM Rezaul Haque, Niaz beat Lalith Babu of India, Parag beat Emon, Taibur Rahman beat Monir Hossain, Sohel shared points with Chanchal while Maleq drew with Debraj.

The 13 include Pakistani as well as foreign coaches. There are important people among the foreign coaches from England, as well as Australia," he said.

"We have received 13 applications so far. Unfortunately I cannot tell you their names because these are confidential and we are negotiating with them," Ashraf told reporters.

"The 13 include Pakistani as well as foreign coaches. There are important people among the foreign coaches from England, as well as Australia," he said.

"We are trying our best to select a coach before July 1. But I want to tell you that we will not be doing this in any haste," Ashraf added.

No suspects have been arrested over Woolmer's death, which recent reports suggest may have

13 eye the Pak job

Cricket

APP, Islamabad

Pakistan said Monday it has received 13 applications from as far afield as England and Australia for the job of national cricket coach following the death of Bob Woolmer.

"More important than whether it is a foreign coach or a domestic coach, it is the criteria of a coach that we are looking for, what skills he should have, what duties he has," Ashraf said.

"We need a highly educated, young, skilled coach who should be very much computer literate."

The new coach also needed "fresh ideas about modern cricket. Cricket has significantly changed during the last 10 years," Ashraf said.

Former England international Woolmer, 58, was found dead in his hotel room in Jamaica the morning after Pakistan crashed out of the World Cup tournament. Police said in March they believed he was murdered.

No suspects have been arrested over Woolmer's death, which recent reports suggest may have

been from natural causes. The PCB advertised the position worldwide in late April.

The ad said the appointment would be for an initial period of two years starting from June 2007 and that terms and conditions were negotiable. It set a deadline of May 15 for applications.

The PCB said on May 10 that it was interested in hiring outgoing Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore, although bitter rivals India were also in the hunt for the former Australia Test player.

Local media have said that former India coach John Wright, a New Zealander, and Tim Boon, coach of English county side Leicestershire, are among the favourites.

"We are trying our best to select a coach before July 1. But I want to tell you that we will not be doing this in any haste," Ashraf said.

"We will hire the best available coach, who should prove the best for Pakistani cricket."

ECB had to take Donald

Cricket

APP, Leeds

England coach Peter Moores said the chance to bring Allan Donald in to advise their fast bowlers was one they had to take after the South Africa great was effectively given a five-week trial.

This week the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said Woolmer would assist England's fast bowlers on a short-term consultancy basis from the lead-in to the third Test against West Indies at Old Trafford starting on June 7 through to the end of the one-day series against them in July.

Moores, speaking after the third day's play in the ongoing second Test here at Headingley on Sunday, said: "It makes no change at all to Kevin. He is the national lead for pace bowling. Kevin will be his direct line manager. When we do the warm-up for the Tests, Kevin will be here with Allan working with him.

"Kevin's worked with those bowlers for 12 months so we don't want to say to them 'here's a load of new information'. We want to filter that in and make sure it's right for the player."

Asked if Donald's role might lead to a permanent position, Moores said: "Budgets and stuff like that come into it."

"If he fits with Kevin Shine and with the bowlers then we will be looking at what opportunities we have to work with him more."

England are well-placed to go 1-0 up in their four-Test series against the West Indies, despite Sunday's washout, thanks mainly to Ryan's record to know he takes his wickets at under 25.

"It's great when somebody comes in and does really well early on. For Ryan it's really special, on a ground where he learnt his cricket, and he bowled beautifully.

"In some ways it's quite a fillip for county cricket that he's come out of that and done so well. I'm really pleased for him and he's put us in a good position. You only have to look at Ryan's record to know he takes his wickets at under 25.

"His opportunity has come along when he thought it wouldn't come again. But so far he's grabbed it with both hands and done what he does in county cricket and put the ball in the right areas a lot."

Tigers' selection

FROM PAGE 17

but suddenly, he has lost his rhythm," he said.

But the main question was whether the selectors will continue with their same old policy of carrying veteran Javed Omar as a temporary solution or make a fresh start in the next series.

It was learnt that the selection panel is in favour of taking a bold decision about Javed, considering some new guys for the tour, but Faruque said that he was not in a position to make any comment on team selection.

"It is too early to make comments because I have yet to sit with my colleagues. But I can assure you that we have to do everything with eyes on the future, especially the next World Cup in 2011," he said.

BANGLADESH-INDIA TEST & ODI SERIES AVERAGES

TEST												
BATTING												
Player	M	I	NO	R	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	0	4s	6s

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