



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

AFP, 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 changed 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

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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 feel 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



AFP, 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."

Ricky Ponting, captain of Australia's World Cup-winning team, said he was shocked and saddened by Sonn's passing.

"First and foremost my thoughts are with Percy's family and friends," Ponting said.

"I will always associate Percy with one of the happiest moments of my career as he was the man who handed over the Cricket World Cup trophy to the Australia team at the end of the tournament in Barbados last month."

"He and his wife then flew with us back from Barbados to London where we went our separate ways and to think he is no longer with us less than a month later is a huge shock."

"I have been told of his lifetime of service to the game in what, for many years, must have been difficult circumstances in South Africa. Cricket obviously owes him a huge debt of thanks."

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.

Series could be over for Sarwan

BBC ONLINE, undated

West Indies captain Ramnaresh Sarwan has conceded he may miss the remainder of the tour of England after damaging his shoulder in the Headingley Test.

He sustained ligament damage to the right acromioclavicular joint when fielding on day one and did not bat in West Indies first innings.

"We will sit down after this Test match and make a decision about my further involvement in the series," he said.

Daren Ganga, the official vice-captain, is standing by to deputise.

Sarwan, 26, whose career has been blighted by injuries, said: "When I fell I heard a crackling sound but I am happy that there is no fracture."

"I did sustain some damage to the ligaments but at this stage we do not know how long it will take to heal."

"It is obviously disappointing to be injured so regularly but I will have to overcome this injury as I have overcome all my previous injuries."

If there is any realistic chance that West Indies can save the second Test, Sarwan may bat in the second innings at Headingley.

Sourav

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Sreesanth, who had to opt out of the Bangladesh tour due to injury, makes his return to international cricket after being named as Munaf Patel's replacement in the 11-member Twenty20 team. The Twenty20 match will be played in Bangalore on June 5, and will be followed by three ODIs -- on June 6 in Bangalore, and on June 9 and 10 in Chennai.

ODISQUAD

Sanath Jayasuriya, Virender Sehwag, Upul Tharanga, Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Sourav Ganguly, Mohammad Yousuf, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wicketkeeper), Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Dilhara Fernando, Mashrafe Mortaza, Mohammad Rafique, Mohammad Asif.

TWENTY20TEAM

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

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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, Sohail shared points with Chanchal while Maleq drew with Debraj.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Favourites BKSP will take on Tgail in the final of the Western Union National Youth (Under-18) Football Championship today. The match will kick off at 3.30pm at the Sathkira Stadium.

VOLLEYBALL

Dhaka Sabuj Club blanked Bangladesh Bank Club 3-0 on the opening day of the National Bank First Division Volleyball League at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium. Nine clubs are taking part in the meet.

In second division, Bhai Bhai Sangha beat Juba Sangha in straight sets.

Setback for Flintoff

AFP, Leeds

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff suffered a setback in his recovery from an ankle injury after he was ruled out of Lancashire's one-day match against Leicestershire on Monday.

England coach Peter Moores had been keen for Flintoff to play either in Lancashire's one-day match against Scotland on Sunday, where he didn't take the field, or Monday's fixture as well as Lancashire's forthcoming four-day County Championship match away to Sussex in a bid to prove his fitness ahead of the third Test against the West Indies at his Old Trafford home ground starting on June 7.

But the decision by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Lancashire medical staffs to rule Flintoff out of the one-day matches in the hope he will play in Wednesday's Championship match at Hove appeared to represent something of a blow for the 29-year-old.

The all-rounder, who missed the drawn first Test of a four-match series at Lord's and the ongoing second Test at Headingley, suffered discomfort in his left ankle, operated on twice over the last three years, during Lancashire's drawn championship match with Hampshire earlier this month.

Moores has repeatedly made it clear he wants Flintoff, the hero of England's 2005 Ashes winning side, to play as a full-fledged all-rounder, able to contribute his fair share of pace bowling, and not just as a batsman only.

The four Test series is 0-0.

Mere speculation

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the fact that players make a coach. They go out there and bat, bowl and take catches. They go to the battlefield. The coach just has to make sure they get all the help."

Whatmore, who played seven Tests for Australia in 1979 as a top order batsman, is rated as one of the best cricket coaches ever since mastering Sri Lanka's triumphant World Cup campaign in 1996.

He returned from the recent World Cup in the Caribbean with his reputation enhanced after Bangladesh qualified for the second round for the first time and secured wins over India and formidable South Africa.

He also coached English county side Lancashire and had another stint with Sri Lanka, before taking up the challenge to transform Bangladesh cricket in 2003.

Under Whatmore, Bangladesh secured their lone Test win over Zimbabwe and won five one-dayers against established teams, including world champions Australia, South Africa, India (twice) and Sri Lanka.

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.

13 eye the Pak job



AFP, 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.

But the names of the candidates for one of the toughest jobs in the sport will remain secret until a final decision is made, hopefully by July 1, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Nasim Ashraf 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 in Islamabad.

"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.

Ashraf said the PCB had no particular preference about where the new coach hailed from -- they merely needed the right man for the job.

"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 added.

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

ECB had to take Donald



AFP, 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 Donald 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 had been washed out, told reporters: "The thinking was this was an opportunity where we couldn't afford not to have a look."

"I know Allan pretty well, he's been known as a guy who worked very hard at his game. He's got fantastic experience both in one-day international and Test match cricket."

"So for us to have a look at him, and him to have a look at us, and see if it fits, makes sense."

England fast bowling coach Kevin Shine has come under the spotlight since succeeding Troy Cooley last year.

England's pacemen failed to fire for much of their recent 5-0 Ashes drubbing and were largely off-target in the first Test of the ongoing four-match series against the West Indies at Lord's, their drop in form coinciding with the return of the highly-regarded Cooley to his native Australia.

Cooley, who now holds a similar position with Australia, was replaced by Shine, whose role has been called into question amidst suggestions he will soon be con-

centrating solely on developing up and coming England bowlers.

But Moores insisted the involvement of the 40-year-old Donald, who knows English cricket well from his time as an overseas player with Warwickshire, didn't represent a threat to Shine's position.

"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 Test matches, Kevin will still 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 a bowler who has had little involvement with the national side for six years.

Ryan Sidebottom, playing only his second Test since making his debut against Pakistan at Lord's in 2001, was called up after Matthew Hoggard withdrew with a thigh injury.

Left-arm quick Sidebottom took four for 42 as West Indies were bowled out for 142 in reply to England's first innings 570 for seven declared, which featured Kevin Pietersen's Test-best 226 and captain Michael Vaughan's 103 in his first Test after 18 months out injured.

Sidebottom, who began his career at Headingley with Yorkshire before joining Nottinghamshire in 2004, then took two for 12 as West

Indies followed-on.

Moores said Sidebottom's performance was also a vindication of county cricket, much criticised for its inability to produce top-class players.

"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

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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	
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	2	3	0	151	79	50.33	92.63	0	2	0	15	6	
Rajin Saleh	2	4	1	110	42	36.66	58.82	0	0	0	18	0	
Shahadat Hossain	1	1	0	31	31	31.00	56.36	0	0	0	5	0	
Mohammad Ashraful	2	3	0	72	67	24.00	116.12	0	1	1	12	2	
Shakib Al Hasan	2	3	0	72	30	24.00	45.00	0	0	0	9	0	
Javed Omar	2	4	1	59	52*	19.66	59.00	0	1	2	9	1	
Mohammad Sharif	1	2	0	30	17	15.00	31.91	0	0	0	3	0	
Khaled Mashud	2	3	0	35	25	11.66	28.22	0	0	0	2	0	
Habibul Bashar	2	4	0	46	37	11.50	66.66	0	0	1	8	0	
Mohammad Rafique	2	3	0	32	12	10.66	68.08	0	0	0	4	1	
Shahriar Nafees	2	4	0	39	32	9.75	49.36	0	0	0	3	0	
Syed Rasel	1	2	2	3	2*	-	15.78	0	0	0	0	0	
Enamul Haque	1	1	1	0	0*	-	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	
BOWLING													
Player	M	O	M	R	W	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	5	10	Ct	St
Shahadat Hossain	1	25.0	4	106	5	3/76	5/106	21.20	4.24	0	0	0	0
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	2	64.3	10	233	6	4/97	5/133	38.83	3.61	0	0	0	0
Mohammad Rafique	2	77.0	7	307	6	3/27	4/126	51.16	3.98	0	0	1	0
Rajin Saleh	2	3.0	1	12	0	-	-	-	4.00	0	0	2	0
Mohammad Ashraful	2	9.0	0	40	0	-	-	-	4.44	0	0	2	0
Enamul Haque	1	16.0	0	65	0	-	-	-	4.06	0	0	0	0
Shakib Al Hasan	2	32.0	3	91	0	-	-	-	2.84	0	0	0	0
Mohammad Sharif	1	25.4	2	109	0	-	-	-	4.24	0	0	0	0
Syed Rasel	1	23.4	0	109	0	-	-	-	4.60	0	0	0	0
Habibul Bashar	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0	
Javed Omar	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0	
Khaled Mashud	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
Shahriar Nafees	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ODI													
BATTING													
Player	M	I	NO	R	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	0	4s	6s	
Javed Omar	2	2	0	91	80	45.50	60.66	0	1	0	8	2	
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	1	1	0	42	42	42.00	190.90	0	0	0	1	5	
Mushfiqur Rahim	2	2	1	36	35	36.00	81.81	0	0	0	3	1	
Aftab Ahmed	2	2	0	56	40	28.00	98.24	0	0	0	6	1	
Shakib Al Hasan	2	2	0	55	50	27.50	72.36	0	1	0	3	0	
Tamim Iqbal	2	2	0	52	45	26.00	80.00	0	0	0	7	0	
Habibul Bashar	2	2	0	43	43	21.50	47.77	0	0	1	0	2	
Mohammad Ashraful	2	2	0	41	29	20.50	117.14	0	0	0	4	0	
Mohammad Rafique	2	2	0	24	13	12.00	92.30	0	0	0	0	2	
Abdur Razzak	2	1	1	9	9*	-	81.81	0	0	0	1	0	
Syed Rasel	2	1	1	4	4*	-	57.14	0	0	0	0	0	
Shahadat Hossain	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BOWLING													
Player	M	O	M	R	W	BBI	Ave	Econ	4	5	Ct	St	
Abdur Razzak	2	19.0	1	94	2	2/59	47.00	4.94	0	0	2	0	
Shakib Al Hasan	2	16.0	0	83	2	2/43	41.50	5.18	0	0	1	0	
Mohammad Rafique	2	20.0	0	106	3	3/59	35.33	5.30	0	0	2	0	
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	1	10.0	0	57	1	1/57	57.00	5.70	0	0	0	0	
Syed Rasel	2	19.0	1	115	4	2/49	28.75	6.05	0	0	0	0	
Shahadat Hossain	1	7.0	0	43	1	1/43	43.00	6.14	0	0	0	0	
Aftab Ahmed	2	4.0	0	25	0	-	-	6.25	0	0	1	0	
Habibul Bashar	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	
Javed Omar	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	
Mohammad Ashraful	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	
Mushfiqur Rahim	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	