



GM Nguyen Anh Dung (L) of Vietnam relaxes during his game against local boy Abu Sufian Shakil in the United Leasing and Insurance Eighth Grand Masters chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

Sadik had a great day as he struck 90 but his side were bowled out for 166 runs in 28 overs. He was named man-of-the-match.

DIV 2 HOCKEY

Barnak Samaj emerged as unbeaten champion in the Green Delta Metropolis Second Division Hockey League beating Rakim Sangha 4-0 in the last league match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

With the day's feat, Barnak Samaj, which secured nine points from three straight wins from all three super league matches, earned the right to play in First Division from next season.

Rayer Bazar finished runners-up in the league collecting four points from three league games.

In the day's match, Mohammad Arafat struck a hattrick for Barnak.

Mahmood ruled out

AFP, London

England fast bowler Sajid Mahmood has been ruled out of the remainder of his country's matches against the West Indies after his county, Lancashire, announced on Saturday he would undergo surgery.

Mahmood, 25, will have a double hernia operation on Tuesday and is unlikely to play again for five to six weeks.

"He has been having some discomfort since returning from the World Cup. Our medical staff decided we needed to find out the cause, and he will be having the operation next week," Lancashire's cricket manager, Mike Watkinson, said. "England are aware of the situation," he added.

Mahmood, bowled 27 overs in the First Division County Championship match against Sussex at Hove, but has been hampered when fielding as a result of the injury, according to Watkinson.

"It will take five to six weeks before we can expect to have him back on a cricket field," the former England all-rounder added.

Dav in line

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Kapil was apparently baffled by the fact that though they had never worked with Australian Dav Whatmore, the senior players threw their weight behind him, after he opted against an extension of his contract with the Bangladesh team after the World Cup.

"The players have never worked with Whatmore, how can they recommend his name," a miffed Kapil told *'Aaj Tak'*.

He was against the preference for a foreign coach and if the trend continued, he said, "One day, things will be such than Sachin (Tendulkar), VVS Laxman, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly will be in contention for the coach's job but would never get it." During the recent Bangladesh tour, Tendulkar, Dravid, Ganguly and Anil Kumble reportedly met BCCI President Sharad Pawar and requested him to get a foreigner to take over as the new coach.

Kapil felt projecting Whatmore as the front-runner for the job undermined the authority of the seven-member committee which meets in Bangalore on Monday.

Headed by BCCI President Sharad Pawar, the committee includes former captains S Venkataraghavan, Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri.

"The committee has several greats in it and the selection of the coach should be left entirely to them. If the BCCI has already made up its mind on someone, then what is the purpose of having this committee?" Kapil said.

A face that doesn't fit

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Mathew Sinclair went fishing the day he received the news most of us expected but somehow hoped wouldn't happen. He didn't catch anything.

On the way home, he ran out of petrol, then strained his ankle while walking to the gas station.

He returned home to find the cat had crashed on the carpet. He then dropped a can of baked beans on his toe while making a toasted sandwich and then discovered when he jumped in the shower that his wife had used all the hot water.

All of which is untrue, of course, except for the fact he went fishing but at the end of the day, it was he who was gutted.

We've been here before. In 2005, his name was inexplicably missing from New Zealand cricket's chosen 20 - Chris Harris and James Marshall were preferred! The embarrassment of him being subsequently awarded the Redpath Cup forced the selectors to list him in 2006.

Russel halt MSC run

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the ball back for Yusuf whose awkward volley harmlessly skinned the post.

Yusuf again was in the thick of the action but the diminutive striker, who dodged past Kamal after being picked up by Iqbal's diagonal throughball, failed to beat Himesh's stretching right hand with a low drive on the hour.

An otherwise off-colour Zahid then put some power behind a freekick from 25 yards but was off target.

Manik's boys began to put everything behind the ball and Russel made two great escapes as the match got into the last 15 minutes.

Nigerian skipper Paul unsettled the rival defence with another chipped freekick and his compatriot Emeka's header was lost from Shakil's grip. But the black and whites could not make most of the melee as Saadane's sidevolley rescued Russel.

England stay

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although Hoggard, whose injury opened the door for the Nottinghamshire bowler's international recall, could be fit for the final Test at Chester-le-Street starting on June 15.

"Matthew has worked hard to overcome the injury, but ultimately time was against him," Graveney said Sunday.

"We're prepared to give him as long as he needs to ensure the injury does not become a longer-term problem. We are hopeful that with further rehabilitation he will come into calculations for the fourth Test in Durban."

Graveney said he hoped Lancashire star Flintoff will be inspired by the return of captain Michael Vaughan.

Flintoff, who hasn't played in this series, underwent a third operation on three years Friday on his persistent left ankle problem.

He is now set to miss both the remaining Tests and one-day internationals against the West Indies but hopes to feature at some stage during the subsequent home internationals against India.

Graveney marked his return to the Test arena after 18 months out, mainly with a knee injury, by scoring a century on his Headingly home ground.

"Andrew successfully underwent surgery on Friday and following rehabilitation and strengthening work we are

60.76) to ever be truly effective in his 45 one-day internationals and that provided the selectors with enough ammunition to drop him.

While his point is valid that he can't be expected to improve his one-day ranking unless given a chance, there are plenty of players in that boat. The selectors can't give everybody a shot just to check they haven't suddenly found a cure.

Perhaps the biggest problem is the weighting system used. Perhaps the 1:1.25 ODI to Test ratio is not enough.

Those are fundamental questions that New Zealand Cricket and the Players' Association will have to address.

After all, if Test cricket is the ultimate, and surely that hasn't changed, then how can a one-day specialist like Michael Mason be preferred to a Test specialist, regardless of whether they bat, bowl or keep wicket?

All this will be cold comfort for an understandingly disenchanted Sinclair. This won't make him feel any better either but it's sadly true: it's nothing you did, Skip, your face just doesn't fit.

The right-hander is not without fault. He has always relied on feel and touch rather than sound technique and is regarded as something of a flat-track bully. In that regard, he has plenty of company.

He scored far too slowly (SR

Atapattu set for recall

CRICINFO, undated

A similar chance went astray ten minutes from end and this time, Emeka was denied by a defensive wall before Zahid's final push hit the base of the post.

Zahid, however, was lucky to be on the pitch when he elbowed Iqbal in the face while retaliating after a foul in the 84th minute but referee Abdul Hannan ignored the acts of the Mohammedan midfielder, who had already been cautioned.

Yellow cards: Emeka, Kamal, Zahid (Mohamedan) and Aminul, Tanvir (Russel)

TEAMS

Mohammedan: Himesh, Arif, Odafe, Biabla, Zahid, Kamal (Belal), Mithu (Santu), Divine, Enamul, Paul and Emeka.

Russel: Shakil, Aminul, Burdif (Jahirul), Hassan, Mishu, Pappu, Saadane, Iqbal, Tanvir, Yusuf and Younes.

hopeful he can play a part for England at some stage later in the (northern) summer," Graveney said.

"Given his latest injury setback we all feel for Andrew and look forward to him making a strong recovery.

"I've no doubt Andrew will draw strength from the way Michael Vaughan made a successful return to Test cricket following a lengthy period out of the game through injury."

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Michael Vaughan (captain), Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Matthew Prior, Liam Plunkett, Stephen Harmison, Ryan Sidebottom, Monty Panesar.

Re-laid track

FROM PAGE 17
programme to enhance the quality of the wicket, not only at the MAC stadium but in also other grounds in Mysore, Davangere and other districts.

"This is a completely KSCA initiative and had nothing to do with the hosting of Afro-Asia Cup," Patel said.

Ehsan, Dung share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Masters Ghaem Maghami Ehsan of Iran and Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam won their respective penultimate round matches yesterday to share the lead in the Eighth United Insurance and United Leasing Grand Masters chess tournament.

They secured seven points each while local Grand Master Reebat Bin Sattar slipped to second position after sharing points with Indian PDS Girinath to bag 6.5 points at the NSC conference room.

International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib was in third position with six points.

In the ninth round matches, Ghaem beat IM Enamul Hossain Rabib, Nguyen beat FM Abu Sufian Shakil, Rakib beat FM Amrinul Islam.

The 10th and last round games will take place today at the same venue.

Uganda and Argentina closer to WC

AFP, Darwin

Uganda and Argentina go forward into the next phase of qualifying for the 2011 World Cup after reaching the final of the ICC World Cricket League Division 3 played here.

Uganda will progress as champions into November's Division 2 qualifier after beating Argentina by 91 runs in the final on Saturday.

Frank Nsubuga's 38-ball 55, including four fours and two sixes, and Patrick Ochan's whirlwind 56 off 34 balls with a four and four sixes helped lift Uganda from 79 for seven to 241 for eight of their 50 overs.

The pair then shared seven wickets as the Argentines were dismissed for 150 in 46.3 overs. Nsubuga claimed 4-27 and Ochan 3-25, each from 10 overs.

Nsubuga, named man of the match, put on 80 runs for the eighth wicket with wicketkeeper Lawrence Sematimba (39 not out) off 76 balls.

After Nsubuga's departure, Ochan, who played in last year's Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka, provided an impetus to the innings by adding an unbroken 82 runs for the ninth wicket with Sematimba.

Switzerland hold

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Asked about Juan Roman Riquelme, a near compulsory presence at the heart of midfield until he pulled out of international football after last year's World Cup, Basile replied with a cut "no comment."

The 28-year-old has been in inspirational form recently on loan to Boca Juniors.

The unsettled Swiss, who played their best match since the World Cup last summer, were deprived of their top scorer, Borussia Dortmund's Alexander Frei, as well as Lazio defender Valon Behrami, because of injury.

"After the depression we suffered following the World Cup, I think we've found our way again," Swiss coach Jakob "Koebi" Kuhn said.

Marvan Atapattu is likely to play his first Test for Sri Lanka in nearly 18 months later this month when Bangladesh arrive for a series of three Tests and three ODIs.

Atapattu has been a near-permanent presence in most squads but has played little part in Sri Lanka's recent resurgence.

He was part of the World Cup squad but failed to get a game in the Caribbean. That may be about to change now, with Asantha de Mel, chief selector, backing Atapattu's return. "Marvan Atapattu will definitely be considered for the Test and the one day series against Bangladesh," said de Mel.

"I think Marvan is too good a player to be left out considering his experience and ability. We will initially look at him for the Tests and, depending on his form, will consider him for the one-day games too. He was left out of the matches against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi, but we have decided to reconsider him," he added.

One veteran who might not be part of the action is Sanath Jayasuriya, de Mel suggesting that he may get a well-deserved break.

"We have also taken a decision to rest some of the seniors for this series. It is very likely that Sanath Jayasuriya will be rested. Sanath is a player of undisputed class and he is in no danger of losing his place. He can afford to rest and come back."

"We will take the opportunity to try our new players who are on the fringe of breaking through as we feel Bangladesh is a side we can afford to experiment against."

De Mel also confirmed that Muttiah Muralidaran, Kumar Sangakkara and Chaminda Vaas, currently in England playing county cricket, will be available for the home series.

"Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralidaran and Kumar Sangakkara will definitely be available for the series. We have been told of their availability. We want to look at every angle before we decide on the squad. The availability of the trio will give us an excellent balance in the squad for the series."

The trio skipped the ODI series in Abu Dhabi against Pakistan because of their county commitments.

Akram for foreigners

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistani bowling legend Wasim Akram on Sunday recommended foreign coaches for both the Pakistani and Indian cricket teams, saying their players felt at ease with overseas experts.

"I think the culture in Pakistan and India is such where the players feel at ease with a foreign coach, so I feel that a foreigner can help in a better way," Wasim, a former Pakistan captain, told AFP.

Australians Steve Rixon and Dav Whatmore would suit Pakistan and India respectively, the onetime left-arm paceman said.

"I have played with Boon but know little about him as coach," Wasim added.

A foreign coach needed to have adequate support, including direct contact with the top man running cricket affairs, or else people in between can create problems, he said.

Pakistani coach Bob Woolmer died in the team's hotel in Jamaica barely a day after his team crashed out of the competition following defeat against extreme outsiders Ireland.

India dispensed with Australian

coach Greg Chappell in the wake of team's failure to go beyond the first round after an upset defeat by Bangladesh.

Whatmore is the frontrunner in India, but Pakistan are looking at various possibilities, including Rixon, Leicestershire county coach Tim Boon, Australian Geoff Lawson and Whatmore.

Wasim praised Rixon, saying an Australian can bring much-needed aggression.

"Rixon can guide this young Pakistan side well because he has the experience of taking forward a young New Zealand side and groomed Stephen Fleming," said Wasim of Rixon, who coached New Zealand from 1996 to 1999.

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