

## India worried with Zaheer

CRICINFO, undated

India received a further jolt at the end of the Old Trafford one-day international with news that Zaheer Khan had twisted his ankle while batting. It was a potential knockout blow for India after the three-wicket loss left them trailing the seven-match series 3-1.

Zaheer, India's bowling spear-head throughout the tour, suffered the injury to his left ankle during his cameo of 20 from 19 balls. He pushed the final ball of the 47th over to the off side but pulled up as he reached the other end. He did not show any signs of discomfort during his first bowling spell but struggled when he returned for his final three overs.

"He came through fine and got through the game," Rahul Dravid said about the injury. "Now it's a question of waiting and watching, seeing how it is in the morning and putting some ice on it. We have got a couple of days (before the next match) and it's a good sign for us that he went through the game and bowled. It might be a bit sore after the game."

Zaheer has put in the most number of overs (228.2) among the Indian bowlers so far on this tour. He had suffered a groin strain before the start of the tour but came through the Tests, ending it as the Man of the Series. He missed the second ODI at Bristol due to a bout of flu but recovered to take part in the next two games.

There was also a minor concern over Yuvraj Singh, who top-scored with 71 and bowled two overs. He appeared in pain towards the end of the game and was well below his athletic best. He seemed to have recovered the next morning, with Rajeev Shukla, the administrative manager, saying, "He's absolutely fine. There is no problem."

India are set to leave for Leeds on Friday afternoon. The fifth ODI is to be held at Headingley on Sunday, a match that they need to win to stay alive in the series.

## Lara in Bears' all-time side

BBC ONLINE, undated

Record-breaker Brian Lara is one of four overseas stars named in Warwickshire's greatest ever team.

Lara made 501 not out against Durham in 1994, the highest first-class score in cricket history.

He was joined in the eleven, drawn up from votes by club members, by fellow West Indians Alvin Kallicharran and Rohan Kanhai and South Africa's Allan Donald.

The late Bob Woolmer, who died during the World Cup in March, was honoured by being named the club's greatest coach.

And Tom Dollery was announced as Warwickshire's best captain for his achievement in leading the team to the Championship title in 1951.

More than 1,000 supporters submitted their personal greatest elevens, with the overall side announced at a dinner at Edgbaston on Friday evening.

Among notable players to miss out were Norman Gifford, MJK Smith, Bob Willis, John Jameson and Geoff Humpage.

### WARWICKSHIRE'S GREATEST TEAM

Dennis Amiss, Nick Knight, Alvin Kallicharran, Rohan Kanhai, Brian Lara, Dermot Reeve, Keith Piper, Allan Donald, Gladstone Small, Eric Hollies, John Bannister.

## Bangladesh

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rattle the Pakistani defense.

Imran Warsi, Imran Khan and Muhammad Imran were beaten quite regularly by the speedy Japanese forwards led by Ono Tomonori with two field goals in the 29 th and 50 th minute.

Yamabori Takahiko scored the other goal for Japan in the 42 nd minute from a penalty corner while Shakeel Abbasi found the net for Pakistan in the 47 th minute with a field goal.

In the day's other match, Malaysia crushed Hong Kong 13-1.

## Hall ends

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Cricket Union's (KZNCU) chief executive said on Saturday, "Why else would he want out of his CSA contract? He would still be paid by them even if he was only playing franchise cricket."

Hall was attached to the KZNCU's Dolphins franchise, but he only played one match for them last season because of international commitments. He also represented Kent in the county season and recently toured Zimbabwe with the South Africa A squad.

Meanwhile Damien Martyn, the former Australian batsman, has also been linked to the ICL and an official announcement is expected soon. Martyn retired from international cricket midway through the Ashes last year.

# Antigua in his mind



AFP, Manchester

Ravi Bopara had said the bitter memory of just failing to guide England home in a World Cup run chase inspired him to help steer the side to a thrilling win over India.

Essex all-rounder Bopara, 22, struck an unbeaten 43 and shared an England record eighth-wicket stand of 99 with the 21-year-old Stuart Broad (45 not out) as their side, who'd collapsed to 114 for seven chasing 212 to win, beat India by three wickets in the fourth one-day international here at Old Trafford.

The victory put England 3-1 up in the seven-match series, which they will claim if they win again at Headingley on Sunday.

Thursday's success was all the more heartening for England as it was secured by the two youngest players in their team, both Bopara and Broad appearing in just their 13 th one-day international.

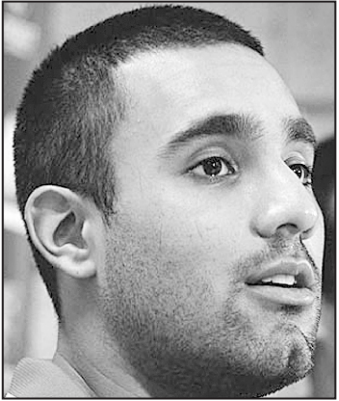
But Bopara's display was not the first time he'd been involved in a run chase on England duty.

One of the few highlights of England's otherwise dismal World Cup campaign came in April when Bopara announced himself by scoring 52 off 53 balls against Sri Lanka in Antigua only to be bowled off the last ball of the match in a nail-biting two-run defeat.

"I've never really been in a run-chase situation like that with

Essex, but I have with England in the World Cup and I used that," said Bopara.

"I thought out there that this was a similar situation and I didn't want to go through the disappointment of not finishing it off this time -- you learn from your mistakes I guess and I didn't want to fall short again.



RAVI BOPARA

"I don't think too much about the end result (in situations like that), I just think about what I need to do at the time and that helps me stay calm," Bopara explained.

"All you need to think about is that situation is let's get 10 more runs, and when you get that 10 you just have to get 10 more."

This series has seen Bopara in action against Sachin Tendulkar, his childhood hero, whom he spoke to during India's match against England Lions, the national A side, earlier this season.

## Waugh at 26?



INTERNET, undated

Equine flu has thrown the Melbourne Cup into disarray; the nation's two most popular football codes are besieged by scandal; the integrity of a football match this weekend is in serious question. Is there someone out there who could possibly rise above this dark cloud and once again make sport the issue?

Enter Shane Warne. With his flair for theatre and timing, he has returned sport to the sports lovers. They will be yarning about this for months. Warney hasn't lost it.

The king of leg spin has named Steve Waugh as the 26 th best cricketer he played with or against. Warne has managed to squeeze in his former skipper just behind Darren Lehmann. Waugh, Australia's second highest run-scorer, the man who until recently had made more hundreds than any countrymen, is three spots below Kiwi left-hander Stephen Fleming. He has been rated just ahead of Aussie off-spinner Tim May.

Lehmann, as we know, was a fine cricketer; a brilliant ball-striker who possibly should have played more than the 27 Test matches in which he wore the baggy green. Yet he played 141 fewer Tests, made 9129 fewer runs and scored 27 fewer centuries than Waugh.

Warne describes Fleming as the best captain he played against and appears to regard that as compensation for a batting record that is

less than outstanding. In more than 100 Tests, Fleming has averaged fewer than 40 runs an innings. Waugh averaged more than 50; whereas he scored a century roughly every five Tests, Fleming has scored one in every 11.

Among Australian players, May rates one position below Waugh. It's not clear whether it was only his 75 Test wickets at 34.7 that earned him such proximity to an icon, or whether Warne also factored in the 225 runs May carved out at 14.06. The wily offie must be flattered.

Warne's dim view of Waugh is indicative of the fact that there were, and remain, two schools of thought about the man who, for his defiant batting and successful leadership, became the people's hero.

The stereotype of the craggy-faced, redoubtable fighter carrying Australia to safety over and over again is not unanimously shared. The alternative view is that Waugh chose to bat in the less-challenging position of No. 5 when the team was desperate for a No. 3, and that he often showed little willingness to risk his wicket hunting quick runs when batting with the tail.

These are views that Warne clearly shares with the man who has been the greatest influence on him, Ian Chappell.

Chappell desperately wanted Warne to be made captain when a successor had to be found for Mark Taylor in early 1999. He was bitterly disappointed when Waugh got the nod.

For a time, it appeared he was right. In the months that followed,

"I had a brief chat with him during the Lions game and he gave me good advice," Bopara recalled. "He gave me 25 minutes of his time and I know that's a precious commodity for him, he's a very nice man.

"As a kid growing up you look at guys who excite you and he was the one, he plays the perfect shots plus the amount of runs he scores...he was the guy, he was the No 1 in the world.

"I tried to copy his style when I was young, who wouldn't? I guess some of that has carried on now, but I've added my own style to the way I bat."

Someone else Bopara has looked up to has been Essex great Graham Gooch, the former England opening batsman and captain.

"He's been a big, big influence, still is," Bopara said. "Since I first met him at 15 he's given me good advice, told me to work on my bowling so that if it comes down to a choice between me and another batsman I would get the nod.

"I even spoke to him before play on Thursday, he was in the middle doing a pitch report I think and he told me to play straight, do the basics right and get in before I started to try to whip it around. He was dead right."

Now Bopara, also a medium-pace bowler, hopes to break down England's Test team. "Any cricketer is looking to make that step but these are exciting times for me and I'm not looking too far ahead."

under Waugh's uncertain leadership, Australia struggled to square a series in the West Indies, a series in which Warne was dropped for the deciding Test. Then there was drama at the World Cup as Australia faltered early and hovered on the brink of first-round elimination. Such an outcome would have spelt the end of Waugh as captain.

At this time, I reported from England on information I'd obtained suggesting there was a division between Waugh and Warne over the leadership. Although both angrily denied that it was so, I have no doubt there was an issue and it was affecting the team.

That Australia fought its way back was a tribute to the qualities of both men. Warne recaptured his best form. Waugh found a way to unify his troops, then, at Headingley, played one of limited-over cricket's greatest innings against South Africa to keep the campaign alive. While Warne's assessment of Waugh describes him as "a match-saver rather than a match-winner", this was no match-saving knock.

Warne's list is significant. It will be cited through the years by historians and others who follow the game as the judgement of one of cricket's most significant figures.

It will state clearly that Warne regarded a contemporary Australian great as being flawed. Alas, such skewed comparisons between Waugh and players of clearly inferior records expose the man making them as being less than completely objective.

## Ramos happy at Alves stay

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22-year-old midfielder Antonio Puerta this week, had played the better in the first half and the UEFA Cup holders from Andalusia led at half time through Renato's header.

Ramos added: 'We wanted to win to dedicate the cup to Antonio but it was not to be.

"But when the group of boys have made the effort they have made there is nothing to reproach them for, I have nothing but praise for them.

'We did not have time to prepare for the match so of course it was difficult.

'The team is not happy after losing but when you have in front of you such a team as Milan, it is very difficult.'

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti said his side had wanted to play their part in providing a good match in memory of Puerta.

Ancelotti said: 'It was a very intense game. I think what has happened in the last few days with

Puerta's death created a very special atmosphere and Sevilla of course were much more affected.

'I think we were wary in the first half but recovered and did much better later on.

'It was difficult to face up to the situation but we also played for him and did it in the best possible spirit.'

Brazilian striker Ronaldo was not in the Milan squad but Ancelotti said he should be fit for next weekend.

## Nadal soldiers on

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US 12 th seed Venus Williams, who beat Ivanovic in a Wimbledon semifinal in July on her way to a sixth Grand Slam crown, fired 30 winners to beat Ukrainian 21 st seed Alona Bondarenko 6-1, 6-2 in 58 minutes.

"I feel like I win all the important points. That obviously makes a big difference," Venus Williams said. "I tell myself I can do it, I go out there and I execute. That's pretty much the game plan."

Ivanovic beat Russian Vera Dushevina 6-1, 6-3 and hopes to improve her 0-3 record against the elder Williams.

"She's in great shape. She's also playing good," Ivanovic said. "Definitely I think I have chances. I'm looking forward to that match because I'm in good shape. It will be exciting."

The younger Williams sister, who won her eighth Grand Slam title in January at the Australian Open, made 35 unforced errors but

managed to outlast Russia's Vera Zvonareva 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

"I'm getting better. I'm happy I was able to come through," Serena Williams said. "I was upset after the match. I didn't play well at all... I was mad at different points, different shots. I tried not to go as crazy as I usually do."

Crazy or not, she booked a fourth-round date with France's Marion Bartoli, who lost to Serena's elder sister in July's Wimbledon final, and moved closer to a potential quarterfinal showdown with world number one Justine Henin.

Henin breezed past Russian Ekaterina Makarova 6-0, 6-2 in 50 minutes. The Belgian, who won her sixth Slam title at July's French Open, next faces Russian Dinara Safina.

"I was very happy with the way I played," Henin said. "I was aggressive from the first point to the end. I'm very happy about that."

Third seed Jankovic rallied past

French tennis qualifier Alize Cornet 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 and will face Germany's Sybille Bammer in the round of 16.

Djokovic, who next plays 59 th-ranked Argentine teen Juan Martin Del Potro, was hugged by Stepanek after the stamina-shredding struggle.

"After such a match, it had to be done. I didn't plan it. I just felt it was something to do," Stepanek said. "That match was really special."

Spanish eighth seed Tommy Robredo beat American Marty Fish 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (7/9), 6-4 at Ashe despite squandering two match points in the fourth-set tie-breaker and falling behind 4-1 in the fifth.

"I wasn't thinking to win this match. I was just fighting to the end. I was praying to God for a chance," Robredo said. "I had a big monkey on my back that I had never won on this court. Now the monkey is gone."

## Afridi blitzes Uganda

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan began their preparations for the Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa in spectacular fashion by beating Uganda by 148 runs in the first match of the Twenty20 Quadrangular in Nairobi. Shahid Afridi's blistering 57 off 15 balls propelled Pakistan to 226, a target that proved too great for Uganda as they were restricted to 78 for 7.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to fifty in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Younis Khan, returning to the Pakistan side for the first time since the World Cup, added 67 with Butt as the two struck fours and sixes in every over. The arrival of Afridi at the crease plunged the already demoralised Ugandan bowlers into despair. Emmanuel Isanecz went for 34 runs in one over as Afridi clouted him for five sixes and a four. Uganda's situation was made worse when Lawrence Sematimba dropped Butt on 55. Joel Oluwreni, a right-arm medium-fast bowler, managed the best economy-rate of 8.50.

Pakistan's bowlers, however, were unable to bowl out Uganda despite having pinned them down at 46 for 5 after 12 overs. Umar Gul was their best bowler with 2 for 10 off three overs and only three out of eight Uganda batsmen reached double figures. Raymond Otim top scored with an unbeaten 27 off 29 balls.

### BRIEF SCORES

**PAKISTAN:** 226-3 in 20 overs (Butt 77\*, Afridi 57\*, Younis 51, Oluwreni 1-34).

**UGANDA:** 78-7 in 20 overs (Otim 27\*, Sematimba 14, Gul 2-10).

**Result:** Pakistan won by 148 runs.

## A yellow deluge!

INTERNET, undated

Arctic Monkey's fans have created a smelly problem at Old Trafford cricket ground after they urinated all over the pitch.

It follows the Arctic's huge shows at the venue earlier this month that saw over 100,000 people attend.

Apparently parts of the pitch were flooded by impatient people relieving themselves on the grass instead of in the portaloos.

Player from Lancashire and Hampshire were hit by the smell last week after a rain affected four day match at the ground.

Hampshire wicketkeeper Nic Potnas complained to the Sun: "The smell on the outfield was diabolical, and it was obviously stale wee."

"A couple of the Lancashire players went to them (the gigs) and told us they'd never seen so many people relieving themselves

"Men were peeing into empty pint glasses and emptying the contents on the outfield, and women were squatting to pee due to long toilet queues

"The main worry for the fielding side was when it came to having to shine the ball."

## Tigers tame

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considered.

Bangladesh will up against Pakistan at the same venue today.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Twenty20 match between Kenya and Bangladesh at the Gymkhana Club Ground in Nairobi yesterday:

<b>KENYA</b>				
D Obuya c Reza b Mortaza	23			
Jesani c Rasel b Mortaza	1			
Mishra b Reza	38			
Tikolo c Mahmudullah b Ashraful	24			
Odoyob b Reza	22			
C Obuya not out	14			
Kamande st Rahim b Razzak	6			
Bhudia st Rahim b Razzak	0			
Onyango not out	4			
Extras: (lb-1, w-5)	6			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 20 overs)	138			
To bat: Ongondo, Vairaya.				
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-29, 3-71, 4-113, 5-114, 6-121, 7-121.				

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Mortaza	4	0	29	2
Rasel	4	0	20	0
Razzak	4	0	22	2
Ashraful	4	0	32	1
Reza	4	0	34	2

<b>BANGLADESH</b>				
Iqbal c C Obuya b Ongondo	11			
Nazimuddin c Bhudia b Kamande	43			
Aftab c Odoyob b Onyango	17			
Ashraful c Odoyob b Ongondo	36			
Mahmud not out	17			
Mahmudullah c D Obuya b Odoyo	2			
Mortaza not out	7			
Extras: (lb-1, w-4, nb-1)	6			
Total: (For 5 wickets 17.4 overs)	139			
Did not bat: Reza, Rahim, Rasel, Razzak.				
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-61, 3-87, 4-115, 5-128.				

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Odoyo	4	0	28	1
Ongondo	4	0	21	2
Onyango	2	0	21	1
Bhudia	2.4	0	32	0
Kamande	3	0	21	1
Vairaya	2	0	15	0

**Result:** Bangladesh won by 5 wickets.

**Toss:** Bangladesh

**Umpires:** R D Mello and SR Modi

**Match referee:** M Procter (South Africa)

# Tendulkar Warne's best



AFP, London

India batsman Sachin Tendulkar has topped leg-spin great Shane Warne's list of the best 10 cricketers he has played with or against.

Tendulkar just edged out now retired West Indies batting star Brian Lara.

Warne, writing in Britain's Times newspaper, said: "You have to watch India in India truly to appreciate the pressure that Sachin Tendulkar is under every time he bats...This is cricket as Sachin has known it since the age of 16.

"I place him very slightly ahead of Lara because I found him slightly tougher mentally.

"It is such a close call, but here is an example of what I mean: in Australia in 2003-04 he was worried about getting out cover driving so he decided to cut out the shot. I saw the wagon wheel for his next innings: he scored 248 without a single cover drive.

"I have seen him run down the pitch and hit Glenn McGrath over

the top for six, and I have seen him hit me for six against the spin going around the wicket," Warne added.

"I have been lucky to get to know him off the field as well. He is quiet and humble. A great player and a great man."

Also included in Warne's list, in seventh place, was Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, just nine short of overhauling the Australian's world record of 708 Test wickets.

Murali could break Warne's mark in Australia, where his controversial action has seen him no-balled for throwing, when Sri Lanka tour there in November for two Tests.

"No matter what anybody thinks about his action, he is wonderful to bat against for the experience of facing a ball that turns so much," Warne said.

Australia's dominance of both Test and one-day cricket for much of Warne's career was reflected in the fact that five of his compatriots -- Allan Border, McGrath, current captain Ricky Ponting, Mark Taylor and Ian Healy -- made it into his top ten although none were in the

leading trio with Curtly Ambrose, the former West Indies fast bowler, in third place.

Tendulkar, Test cricket's leading century-maker, is currently with the India team in England and is expected to open the innings in Sunday's fifth one-day international at Headingley, the home of Yorkshire where he became the county's first overseas player, on Sunday.

Warne retired from international cricket following Australia's 5-0 Ashes whitewash of England in January.

However, he is still captaining English county Hampshire although a rib injury sustained last month could see him miss the rest of the season and dent the team's chances of winning their first Championship title since 1973.

### SHANE WARNE'S TEN

#### GREATEST CRICKETERS

1 Sachin Tendulkar, 2 Brian Lara, 3 Curtly Ambrose, 4 Allan Border, 5 Glenn McGrath, 6 Wasim Akram, 7 Muttiah Muralidaran, 8 Ricky Ponting, 9 Mark Taylor, 10 Ian Healy.

# 'Kapil knew of sacking'



CRICINFO, undated

President of the Punjab Cricket Association Inderjit Singh Bindra has issued a strongly-worded response to Kapil Dev's remarks that the Indian board did not inform him of its intention to sack him as the director of the National Cricket Academy (NCA).

"Kapil has been saying ad nauseam that no one from the Board has met him to tell him why he has been relieved of his responsibilities as NCA chairman," Bindra wrote in his column on the PCA's official website. "Let him touch his heart and admit what had been discussed when he met the Board president on July 16 and then me, a couple of days before the ICL launch."

"Both Sharad Pawar (the BCCI president) and I have made it clear to him that his position as chairman of the NCA would be untenable once he had made up his mind to take up the ICL directorship. He had even been told about the

working committee resolution to the effect."

Kapil was sacked as NCA head last week and had, in response, criticised the BCCI's refusal to talk to him prior to his sacking. "They (BCCI) did not bother to talk to me before announcing this. I think they felt it was below their dignity to talk to me. They have been doing this for the last 70 years and I'm afraid they will continue like this," Kapil told Aaj Tak, a Hindi news channel.

Bindra, a former president of the Indian board, also said Kapil was showing disrespect to former players with his statements to the media. "It is funny to find Kapil saying players are scared to talk against the Board as they are looking for some crumbs like a coach