

Inzamam not welcome?

Even as Pakistan Cricket Board chief Nasim Ashraf meets Inzamamul Haq to discuss his future, skipper Shoaib Malik reportedly does not want him back in the team which may become a crucial factor in deciding the former captain's fate.

The selection committee is facing a dilemma as they feel, Inzamam with an experience of 119 Test matches should prolong his Test career for the coming Indian tour and the home series against Australia.

They want Inzamam to put any retirement plans on a back-burner for a few months but Malik is reluctant to have his former captain back as he thinks that he could have a negative influence in the dressing room.

"Inzamam will be coming down to Karachi today and will meet with the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board and selectors to take a decision on his immediate future," onesource said.

"Originally the idea remains that Inzamam should announce his retirement before playing in the second Test at Lahore against South Africa, but now the selectors are having a second thought," he said.

Dhoni's got

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that he was undaunted by the task. "I have been selecting teams for a decade and a half. It is nothing new."

Vengsarkar also said the selectors' decision to bring back Sourav Ganguly and Zaheer Khan was vindicated by their performances. "There has to be a good blend of youth and experience in the team. In the Tests, temperament plays a major role," he said. "Though Sourav and Zaheer were not in the best of forms when selected, as selectors, it was important for us to back our gut feeling."

On Munaf Patel, Vengsarkar said he could be recalled if his regains both form and fitness. "Munaf has the potential to become the front-line bowler for India. However, he must realise that to bowl consistently fast match after match, he must be extremely fit. He just cannot be a line-and-length bowler, not in Test cricket."

Booters' lone

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"Our target is to draw against Tajikistan. Our fitness level is high this time but we lack match practice," told fullback Hassan.

Centre-back Nazrul said they never underestimate or overestimate oppositions.

"Be it a school team or a big name, we go to the ground with similar attitude. This time, we will forget that we lost 6-1 to Tajik the last time we played. Rather, we will remember the 2-0 losses we suffered to them in 2003 for the 2006 World Cup pre-qualifiers," said Nazrul.

"We have had special trainings for the match and if we can implement it, I am hopeful of at least a draw."

Recalling Bangladesh's biggest ever home loss in April 2006, Nazrul said that then coach Diego Cruciani of Argentina had tried a new strategy in that match which backfired.

"I have always said that we need to play against big teams before a competition. If we go abroad, our players can learn more," said Nayeemuddin during the team's training session.

"Even if we lose, it helps to gradually get better and learn how to draw and win."

"If you compare India's long preparation in Portugal ahead of the Nehru Cup and our short-term camp, I would say we played better."

"This team have better mental and physical strength and also very, very disciplined and committed. We will fight against the Tajiks but no one can predict a result beforehand," added the former India international and coach who will take back the side to the Savar sports institute after the pre-qualifier.

Night of upsets

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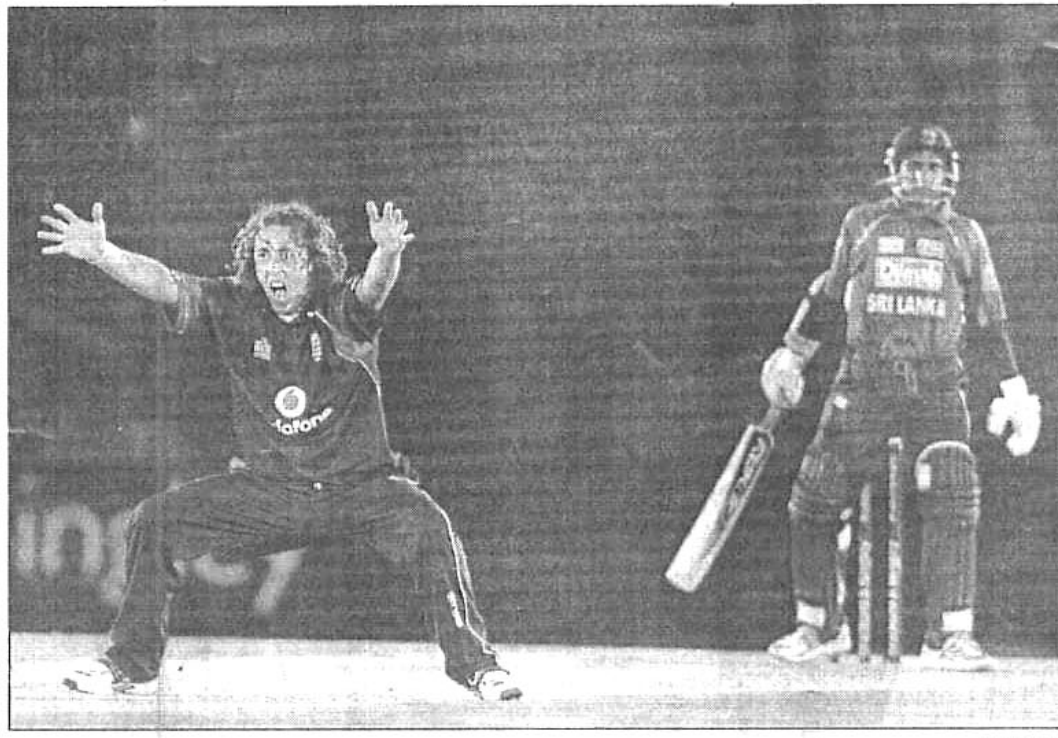
late strike, curling a 25-yard shot into the top corner of the net as the Liverpool back four stood off him with quarter of an hour left.

Real Madrid were twice pegged back by Lazio in their Group C clash which ended 2-2 at the Stadio Olimpico.

It was a case of doubles all round with Raul van Nistelrooy responsible for Real's goals and Goran Pandev starring for Lazio in a match billed rather unkindly given Lazio's performance as a 'David and Goliath' clash by one of the Italian sports papers.

In other matches, there were a number of away victories.

Porto won 1-0 at Besiktas in Group A, Schalke 04 won 2-0 at Rosenborg in Group B, while Olympiakos shocked Werder Bremen 3-1 in Germany in Group C and Shakhtar Donetsk of Ukraine triumphed 1-0 at Benfica in Group D.



MORE THAN AN APPEAL: England fast bowler Ryan Sidebottom appeals vociferously for an lbw decision against Sanath Jayasuriya during the third one-day international at the Rangiri International Stadium in Dambulla on Thursday.

'Let Indians talk'

CRICINFO, undated

The tone had been set before the first ball of the series was bowled. Andrew Symonds said he was spurred by India's elaborate Twenty20 victory celebrations. Robin Uthappa said India would challenge Australia and fight "fire with fire".

They did not turn out to be empty words. Tempers and emotions were freely expressed during the second one-day in Kochi and though Chris Broad, the match referee, did not dock anyone's match fees; he did speak to the two captains, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Adam Gilchrist, about the standard of on-field behaviour.

That was two days ago. Since then the action off the field has kept everybody entertained. Andrew Symonds said that he was "disappointed" with Sreesanth's behaviour and Harbhajan Singh said he was subjected to "personal and vulgar" words which was what he was responding to after he was stumped in Kochi. Ricky Ponting, who is due to

make a return in the third ODI, made an effort to downplay the whole issue but did not refrain from taking on Harbhajan who had said that there was "nothing gentlemanly about the way they (Australia) play".

"I don't really care what he (Harbhajan) has to say, to tell you the truth," Ponting said on the eve of the third ODI. "He has plenty to say on the field and then whenever someone says something back to him, he is the first one to run away from it. We play our cricket in a nice aggressive way and we play within the rules and within the spirit of the game."

"I don't really know what happened the other day but if you look at his (Harbhajan's) record and Sreesanth's record over the last few years and they have been involved in a lot of those altercations."

Ponting also suggested that India's aggression was a facade and not the natural way they play their cricket. While the Indians have matched Australia in verbal duels, they have lagged behind in terms of cricketing skills on display in Bangalore and Kochi.

"Aggression doesn't mean sledging or giving personal barrage, it is

having a presence on the field and playing good, aggressive cricket," Ponting said. "They are the ones who have come out and we've been here, this new India and the new aggressive outlook, the way they are going to play."

"That is not the way they generally play their cricket, so they have put on some sort of a brave face. We will go and play the best aggressive cricket we can and leave all the talking to the Indians. We have played some great cricket. I am looking forward to playing some better cricket."

Despite the altercations involving Sreesanth, Brad Haddin, Symonds and Harbhajan, Ponting said that "nobody stepped out of the line". "I think both teams were right on the limit the other day and the referee made that pretty clear to us after the game. Both sides were right on the edge. As long as cricket is played in the right way and everyone knows where the line is, it is okay. It is up to us as a playing group and the two captains to make sure everyone is playing in the spirit of the game."

Terry-fic show

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Chelsea, and Grant, a memorable win.

The victory has also rekindled Chelsea's European ambitions after a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Norwegian minnows Rosenborg in their opening Champions League fixture two weeks ago.

Chelsea now lead their group with four points from two games while Valencia and German side Schalke 04, who beat Rosenborg 2-0 on Wednesday, are one point in arrears.

"The message is that we are back. We showed great team spirit."

Maybe a little has been missing but it was all back tonight. This was just the kick-start we needed," said Terry himself.

Valencia were left to regret the fact that their defence was not up to the task of containing Drogha, who also made the first goal, and that their run of seven consecutive wins in La Liga and Europe came to an end.

"At the end of the day the small details are important and we made two big errors. We should have stopped Drogha but we forgot to do so and that was a mistake," reflected Valencia coach Quique Flores.

"The thing that big teams have is that they can win by getting the little things right. We have done it sometimes, but this time it has been done to us," added Flores after the game.

"Valencia didn't know how to stop Drogha," commented the respected Spanish mainstream daily El Pais, and those words provide a fitting summary to the game.

However, for many other people the enduring memory of Chelsea's win will still be the courageous play of Drogha's captain John Terry 'The Man in the Mask' to quote many British papers on Thursday.

Celtic surprise for Milan

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Milan have made a stuttering start to the Serie A campaign, winning only one of their first six matches, and that lack of form was evident as the Rossoneri struggled to get going.

But a team including Kaka in their ranks will never be totally subdued, as Celtic knew from bitter experience.

The Brazil midfielder had scored a superb goal to eliminate Strachan's side from the competition last season. So it was inevitable that Kaka's first incisive run sent a ripple of panic through the Celtic defence, although Artur Boruc dealt with his low shot easily enough.

This was the third time these teams had been drawn together since 2004 and that familiarity was

beginning to breed contempt.

Milan reacted to Celtic's physical approach with exaggerated tumbles and the temperature reached boiling point when Massimo Donati clashed with Gennaro Gattuso.

It was a complete shock when Celtic took the lead after 62 minutes with a scrappy goal befitting the nature of the contest.

Paul Hartley's corner flashed across goal to the far-post, where McManus scrambled it home via a deflection off Yoann Gourcuff.

Parkhead went wild, as Celtic in disbelief as triumph, but Milan's joy was short-lived as Milan drew level moments later.

Carlo Ancelotti's side had offered so little attacking threat that it was no surprise they had to be handed their equaliser on a

plate.

There appeared little wrong with Naylor's challenge in the 68th minute, but Merk saw what no-one else in the 60,000 crowd did and awarded Milan a penalty.

Kaka, playing his 50th Champions League game, wasn't going to refuse the gift and he calmly sent Boruc the wrong way from the spot.

Milan weren't content with that and pushed for a winner, but that adventure was to prove their undoing.

Nakamura set up Gary Caldwell on the edge of the area and the Celtic defender drove in a low shot that Dida weakly parried out to McDonald, who got the benefit of a borderline offside decision to side-foot home the winner.

England draw level

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Jayawardene battled to get settled, but Tillakaratne Dilshan took the aggressive to give Sri Lanka hope. With the fifth-wicket partnership forming, they were ahead of England in terms of runs and Paul Collingwood knew he needed to continue taking wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Sri Lanka and England at the Rangiri International Stadium in Dambulla on Thursday.

Nervous

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"One of our prosecutors will look at the document and decide whether to open an investigation," he said. "I don't want to presume anything."

"There is a whole range of possible punishment. But, of course, there are precedents for the same kind of incidents."

ENGLAND

Cook b Jayawardene b Vaas 1

Mustard c Mubarak b Maharoof 28

Bell b Maharoof 23

Pietersen c Jayawardene b Fernando 12

Collingwood lbw b Fernando 42

Shah c Silva b Maharoof 82

Bopara b Dilshan 34

Swann run out 8

Broad not out 1

Sidebottom not out 7

Extras: (lb-2, w-5) 234

Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs) 234

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-25, 3-56, 4-61, 5-139, 6-142, 7-212, 8-230

Did not bat: Anderson

Bowler

O M R W

Vaas 8 1 27 1

Malinga 10 1 58 0

Maharoof 9 2 30 3

Fernando 10 0 45 2

Dilshan 10 0 49 1

Jayasuriya 3 0 23 0

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Cook b Sidebottom 8

Jayasuriya c Bell b Sidebottom 10

Sangakkara c Mustard b Broad 9

Jayawardene c Pietersen b Collingwood 23

Silva c Collingwood b Broad 0

Dilshan b Swann 29

Mubarak not out 44

Maharoof c b Swann 6

Vaas c Mustard b Collingwood 2

Malinga run out (Bell/Swann) 0

Fernando run out (Collingwood) 20

Extras: (lb-16, w-2) 18

Total: (All out in 44.3 overs) 169

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-21, 3-38, 4-38, 5-90, 6-90, 7-121, 8-126, 9-126

Bowler

O M R W

Anderson 8 1 30 0

Sidebottom 10 2 23 2

Broad 8.3 0 42 2

Collingwood 8 1 31 2

Swann 10 3 27 2

Result: England won by 65 runs and level the series at 1-1.

Man-of-the-match: Owais Shah.

Toss: England.

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen and Tyrone Wijewardene.

Booklet for PWDs launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts called on the authority to include games and sports for the persons with disability (PWD) in the national policy for their recreation during the launching ceremony of a booklet yesterday.

Sports not only help increase physical strength but also build stronger character through mutual cooperation and interaction with each other, they noted.

They were speaking at the launching ceremony of 'Sport And Fun For All' organised by Handicap International (HI) Bangladesh at the Women Sports Complex in Dhanmondi.

HI Bangladesh published the booklet that contains necessary guidelines for the organisations to include PWDs in community life through sport, physical and recreational activities.

Chief guest Joseph Guntern, head of operation of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), said the booklet is a good example of an endeavour to create a supportive environment for PWDs so that they can enjoy life through sports.

He urged the authority to consider sports and games for PWDs for their recreation.

Speaking as special guest, former captain and a current national selector Akram Khan said the physically challenged people do not need sympathy but support from the able persons of the society.

Flintoff out

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Peter Moores.

England's second tour of the winter will see them leave for New Zealand on 28 January for two Twenty20, five one-day internationals and three Test matches.

That series is likely to be a more realistic proposition for Flintoff, according to BBC 5 Live cricket correspondent Pat Murphy.

"Flintoff's England career is not on the line yet," said Murphy.

"The main thing is to give him time and let nature deal with the healing process while medical options are considered, under the guidance of the ECB's chief medical officer Nick Peirce.

"Peirce went to Amsterdam with Flintoff last week to see an ankle specialist as information on Flintoff's chronic ankle condition continues to be gathered.

"That will take some time before a definitive conclusion can be drawn."

"So, Flintoff cannot realistically be considered for England duty for the rest of this year."

"An optimistic forecast is that he will be fit for the Test series in New Zealand starting in five months time."

Yousuf now

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no way Yousuf is going to play in the ICL. Anybody saying that he will play in the ICL to avoid financial losses must know that the IPL will pay him handsomely."

The IPL is scheduled to be launched in April 2008 and will feature eight franchises participating in a 56-game season. The top four teams will then face off in the semi-finals, with the winners contesting the championship match.

BKSP retain

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consecutive youth title -- overall tenth -- just ten minutes from time with Ajit banging the board again.

With this defeat, 5-time champions Dhaka suffered their fifth successive loss in finals of the competition.

Bangladesh Hockey Federation president and Air Force Chief Air Marshall SM Ziaur Rahman witnessed the final as chief guest and later distributed prizes.

France miss

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Inter Milan midfielder Vieira has not played since picking up a thigh injury during France's defeat to Scotland last month, while leading Serie A goal scorer Trezeguet, who failed to impress against the Scots, lost out to Louis Saha.

Domenech said that Vieira had been reluctant to play because of his injury after playing France's last two games against his club's wishes, while Trezeguet was left out because he was spoilt for choice in attack.

"We took the decision together (with Vieira) which was wisest. He has to continue to prepare with his club, we agreed on that," said Domenech.

"As for David Trezeguet, it's about competition; there was a choice to make. The list isn't closed we'll have another match in the Ukraine (November 21), I'm not closing the door on anyone."

Meanwhile, in-form Paris-Saint Germain midfielder Jerome Rothen gets another chance to impress Domenech after missing the trip to Slovakia through injury.

Rothen, who is expected to cover for Florent Malouda on the left wing, has not played for France since a friendly against Germany in November 2005.

Scotland are top of Group B ahead of World Cup winners Italy with France third and needing to win all their last three games to reach next year's finals.

'Players poor at work'

CRICINFO, undated

The work ethic of the West Indies cricket team during the recent tour of England was a major concern of management officials. This was disclosed in comments by the acting Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) president Conde Riley, who is also a West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) director.

"The reports coming back from the English tour are not good with regard to work ethic on the part of our players," Riley said. "Territorial boards must address this issue. In Barbados, we are going to address all of the reports that come back from the WICB -- the managers and the coaches. It makes no sense to have people representing boards on tours and when they come back and report, you do not do anything about it."

While the reports on the players were generally unfavourable, Riley was heartened by positive feedback on the conduct of Corey Collymore and Dwayne Smith, the new Barbados captain and vice-captain, respectively. The acting BCA boss also responded to radio reports which claimed Smith did not attract encouraging reviews.

"Both of these gentlemen (Collymore and Smith) got excel-

lent reports out of the reports I consider to be non-acceptable. I want to congratulate them on their conduct on that tour," Riley said. "Dwayne Smith was complimented for attending extra training, being keen, being ready, being there first. The reports on Collymore and Smith made me proud to be a Bajan."

In an effort to tackle the problems within the West Indies team, Riley is hoping the new Centre of Excellence will be an avenue to turn things around.

Located at the renovated Kensington Oval, it will be run by a director of coaching with assistance from other coaches and the facility will include five turf pitches, two all-weather strips, a gym and a conference room.

The BCA will soon be announcing a list of 90 players -- 30 each from the seniors, Under-19s, and Under-15s -- who will benefit from the Centre of Excellence. "We are aware that we need to work with our guys from Under-15," Riley said. "We are working towards producing a better, well-rounded cricketer and we hope that by setting up the Centre of Excellence where we will have our guys in training- full-time -- that we will produce a better and more rounded player in the future."

Sourav, Ricky to play

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selection though fitting him in is trickier than Ponting. Bracken has an excellent record in India where he's taken 29 wickets in 14 ODIs at an average of 17 and an economy of just over four an over but the attack that Australia fielded in Kochi performed superbly. They completed at emphatic 84-run victory by dismissing India for 222 and the one spot that Bracken could fill is that of all-rounder James Hopes.

The ability of the Australian middle-order to recover from poor starts and the pinpoint accuracy of the bowlers is what has given them a 1-0 lead in the series. They were well prepared and executed their plans perfectly, a fact that Yuvraj Singh, the Indian vice-captain, admitted to on the eve of the third ODI. Yuvraj fell to one of those traps in Kochi, spooning a drive to Matthew Hayden strategically placed at short cover.

India also face a selection dilemma with Sourav Ganguly

passing the fitness test. A hamstring injury had ruled him out of the Kochi game and Robin Uthappa took his place, scoring 41 off 30 balls. If Ganguly were to return, it would have to be in place of Gautam Gambhir or Uthappa, unless the team management implement their rotation policy and rest either Sachin Tendulkar or Rahul Dravid.

Yuvraj said, "rotation is part of the future plan but we'll play our best XI tomorrow". Whether the best XI included Tendulkar, Dravid and Ganguly, or just two out of those three, he didn't say.

India frittered away a strong start in Kochi and allowed Australia's middle-order to reach 306. The off-spinners -- Harbhajan Singh and Ramesh Powar -- were particularly ineffective, conceded 87 off 15 overs between them without a wicket. Their batsmen failed to string together partnerships and the chase never gathered enough momentum to challenge the tar-

Break helps, says Kallis

AFP, Karachi

South African batsman Jacques Kallis said a long break from cricket did him a world of good after he scored a century in each innings of the first Test against Pakistan here on Thursday.

Kallis, who followed his 155 in the first innings with another brilliant unbeaten 100, reacted furiously last month after he was dropped from South Africa's Twenty20 World Cup squad.

He resigned from the vice-captaincy but South African selectors claimed he needed to rest ahead of the Proteas' busy schedule in the coming season.

"To get some time off was special, obviously it would have been nice to have played in the Twenty20 but on the other hand I've come into this series well rested," said Kallis.

"It's amazing what breaks can do for you, especially if you are an all-rounder and are in the game most of the time," said Kallis, whose feat allowed the tourists to set Pakistan a giant 424 to win.

"It's nice to start again and you are fresh after a good rest, certainly the longest break that I've had since I left school."

Kallis said he was proud to become the fourth South African batsman after Alan Melville, Bruce Mitchell and Garry Kirsten to score a century in each innings in Tests.

"I am one of three or four players who have done this for South Africa, something I will look back at the end of my career and then say I am very proud of," he said.

India were outplayed with bat and ball but matched Australia sledge for sledge in the second one-day. Yuvraj admitted that the verbal jousting between the two teams got out of hand during the first two games and wanted "more cricket and less talk" in the next game. The intention is all very well but will emotions be kept under check when the pressure mounts? Don't bet on it.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Brad Haddin, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark.

INDIA: Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Robin Uthappa, Yuvraj Singh, Rahul Dravid, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Ramesh Powar, Zaheer Khan, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

Another Kallis ton

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twin hundred in the match. He took them all in singles to reach three-figure mark off 210 balls in 289 minutes.

Alan Melville, Bruce Mitchell and Garry Kirsten were the other South Africans to score a century in each innings in Tests.

The tourists, looking for a match-winning margin on a spin-friendly pitch, resumed on 76-3 with a steady Kallis and Prince. The duo took the score to 132 without facing any problems.

Kanerla, surprisingly kept out of attack in the first hour, provided the home team with the much-needed breakthrough.

Rehman then baffled AB de Villiers with a sharp turner to bowl the batsman for one.

Debutant Rehman, who took four wickets in the first innings, was the pick of home bowlers with 4-105. Kaneria finished with 3-85.

The second and final Test starts

in Lahore from October 8.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between Pakistan and South Africa at the National Stadium in Karachi on Thursday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 450 (Kallis 155, De Villiers 77, Amla 71, Gibbs 54; Rehman 4-105)

PAKISTAN: First innings 291 (Malik 73; Harris 5-73)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 76-3)

Smith c Akmal b Rehman 25

Gibbs c Iqbal b Kaneria 18

Amla c Akmal b Rehman 0

Kallis not out 100

Prince b Kaneria 45

De Villiers b Rehman 1

Boucher c Misbah b Kaneria 29

Nel c Misbah b Rehman 33

Harris not out 12

Extras: (b-10, lb-2) 12

Total: (For 7 wickets declared in 89 overs) 264

Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-43, 3-43, 4-131, 5-132, 6-188, 7-251				
Did not bat: Steyn, Ntini				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Asif	6	1	14	0
Gul	12	1	35	0
Rehman	38	6	105	4
Kanerla	28	3	85	3
Hafeez	5	0	13	0
PAKISTAN: Second innings				
Hafeez b Steyn				1
Butt c Amla b Steyn				93
Younis not out				3
Iqbal c Kallis b Harris				44
Asif not out				1
Extras: (lb-4)				4
Total: (For 3 wks in 33 overs)				146
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-20, 3-134				
To bat: Malik, Misbah, Akmal, Rehman, Gul, Kaneria				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ntini	6	1	19	0
Steyn	9	1	44	2
Nel	7	2	35	0
Harris	9	1	24	1
Smith	2	0	20	0

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Oil cartel

5 Equitable

9 Upper surface

12 Plane-related

13 Farm measure

14 Pub order

15 Sullied

17 Carnival venue

18 Destiny

19 Poultry

21 Frequently

24 Arboreal

25 Piglet's papa

26 Cutters of a sort

30 "Town"

31 Accomplices

32 Brock of baseball

33 Place of great wealth

35 Tolerate

36 Pedestal occupant

37 Benefactor

DOWN

2 Shell game

4 Not quite

6 Blunder

8 Discuss

10 Dorothy's dcg

11 Menial

12 Howie Mandel

13 "Awa-some!"

14 Well- (prosperous)

15 Lilligant

16 Offer from

17 Howie Mandel

18 "Awa-some!"

19 Well- (prosperous)

20 Lilligant

21 Head-on

22 Praise in verse

23 Altar-lives to tables

24 Cacophony

25 Weak, as an excuse

26 PC symbol

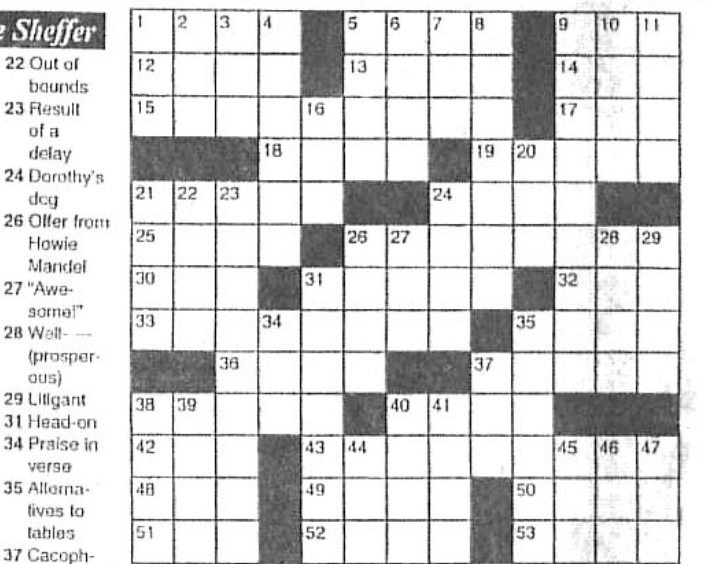
27 Snare

28 Almost raw

29 Charged bit

30 Ultra-modernist

31 Sphera



CRYPTOQUIP

FW SXBJ FQ R DRQEQ. F
ILXGG RQO GMEKHG
DETMXHFHFEQ TFISH VX
VFBXJ RG R ILBW
HELKQRTXQH

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A MECHANIC FINDS SOMETHING EMOTIONALLY PAINFUL, DO YOU SUPPOSE IT'S HEART-WRENCHING?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals S