



NOTHING CAN STOP HIM: Likhon (R) of Tokai Stadium goes on the offensive against Tokai Mirpur during the Tokai kabaddi final at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. The young boy, who lost one hand, picks up loose papers in the stadium area.

Mirpur clinch Tokai Kabaddi

UNB, Dhaka

Tokai Mirpur emerged champions in the Orient Bread Tokai Kabaddi competition, when they beat Tokai Stadium 61-44 with three creditable bonus points in the final at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Tokai Khilgaon finished third with a 43-34 victory over Tokai Gulistan.

Mohammad Likon from the runners-up team was adjudged best player of the tournament.

After the final, sponsor Orient Bread's managing director Mahbubuzzaman distributed prizes as a gesture of appreciation.

Nothing special for Murali

AFP, Sydney

Cricket Australia on Friday denied introducing special security measures to protect Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidaran from crowds Down Under, saying existing measures would catch any offenders.

Muralidaran arrived this week for his first full Australia Test tour in 12 years, braced for a chilly reception from fans as he bids to break local hero Shane Warne's Test wicket record.

His arrival on Wednesday raised eyebrows when a federal police officer escorted him through the media throng in Adelaide, unusual in laid-back Australia, where England players last year often mingled freely with fans.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported Friday that plainclothes security officers would be sent to sections of Australian grounds near Muralidaran's fielding positions to swiftly identify and eject troublemakers.

There are fears the Sri Lankan could receive unsportsmanlike treatment in Australia, where he has been called for "throwing" on two previous tours and subjected to constant crowd calls of "no ball".

Sensitivities about crowd behaviour in Australia are particularly high after the recent one-day series in India, when the only black player in the Australian side, Andrew Symonds, was subjected to racial abuse.

The Sri Lankan boycotted a 2004 tour to Australia because of constant crowd abuse about his bowling action -- and Australian Prime Minister John Howard's assertion that he was a "chucker".

Cricket Australia said its existing crowd monitoring program, introduced after South African players were racially abused two years ago, would protect Muralidaran.

"But we have a national program to ensure that we have a family friendly environment in cricket, and as part of that we do have plainclothes people in crowds."

"We (also) have closed circuit television and any spectator who subjects a player to inappropriate behaviour will be detected and ejected very, very quickly."

"Murali" needs just nine wickets to overtake Warne's 708 Test scalps in the Test matches in Brisbane and Hobart starting on November 8 and 16.

Mashud nears

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vigour. Wicketkeeper-batsman Anwar struck his first half-century this season with the help of seven boundaries in 117 balls. After lunch, leg-spinner Alok Kapali had Shamsur caught by Tapash Baisya for 30, ending an 84-run stand for the second wicket. Anwar fell soon after for 54, also to Kapali.

But Dhaka has a strong middle-order and this came to the fore when the experienced Al Shahriar and Mehrab Hossain made sure that Dhaka had no further damage. Al Shahriar followed Anwar's mark as he also reached his first 50 of the season, in 93 balls with seven sweetly-timed fours.

Mehrab continued his good form as he reached 49 at stumps, with Mohammad Ashraful's replacement Marshall Ayub, unbeaten on 15. The two Dhaka youngsters have so far added 43 for the fifth wicket.

Apart from Kapali's two wickets, Nazmul and Imtiaz took one each.

BRIEF SCORES

RAJSHAHI: First innings 187-5 in 90 overs (Jahurul 4, Rabiu 1, Rafiqul 13, Naeem 0, Mashud 86*, Mushfiqur 67, Anisur Rahman 0*; Talha 2-34, Sajidul 2-43, Arafat 1-48).

DAHAKA: First innings 237-4 in 91 overs (Javed 1, Anwar 54, Shamsur 30, Al Shahriar 54, Mehrab 49*, Marshall 15*; Nazmul 1-29, Kapali 2-34, Imtiaz 1-10).

Shakib slams

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SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA: First Innings: 361 for 7 in 90 overs (Sadiq 15, Kayes 52, Bashar 22, Tushar 51, Shakib 108, Sahagir 47, Mashrafe 21, Salim 10 not out, Ziaur 4 not out, extras 31; Ashiqur 3-71, Sajju 3-73, Ehsanul 1-57).

'Woolmer was strangled'

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

murder, it sparked feverish speculation that it was related to corruption in international cricket.

In June, Jamaican police said that further investigation had indicated that Woolmer died of natural causes. That was the finding of three overseas pathologists who reviewed Seshiah's findings -- Nathaniel Cary of Britain, Michael Pollanen of Canada and Lorna Martin of South Africa.

All three have testified that in their opinions Woolmer died of natural causes, probably related to heart disease, and all three have said Seshiah's post mortem procedure was flawed.

Seshiah hit back on Thursday at the "unusual and unacceptable" review procedure, saying Cary's opinion is not final and should not be taken into consideration, while Martin gave her findings without seeing the histology and toxicology reports.

He said the position in which Woolmer was found, lying on his back with his head under the toilet bowl, indicated another person in the room.

"In my opinion, it is not possible for the disease to put him in such a position, this definitely speaks to a third party," he said.

He said he didn't know if the reviewing pathologists had seen the same pictures.

He also addressed the fact that the other pathologists disagreed with his conclusion that the hyoid bone in Woolmer's neck was broken.

While Seshiah noted an abnormality in the structure during the autopsy, he admitted that an X-ray showed it might not, in fact, have been broken.

"But even if there is no fracture of the hyoid bone, I stand by my opinion," said Seshiah, who is also of the opinion that Woolmer also was weakened by pesticide poisoning.

Woolmer died from asphyxia due to manual strangulation, associated with cypermethrin poisoning," Seshiah testified.

The inquest, presided over by coroner Patrick Murphy and 11 jurors, is expected to last until early November.

Laying new markers

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ashes loss in 2005 that he would exit at the 2007 World Cup and doesn't regret stepping down.

"I sat up initially and watched a Twenty20 game in South Africa," he says. "It was to get a bit of a feeling for the game and also to assess did I really want to be there. The answer was clearly no." He had been in charge for more than seven years.

Back at home in Brisbane he has accepted assignments that range from speaking to corporate groups, writing a book that is due for release soon, and being an ambassador for Cricket Coaches Australia and the Australian Sports Commission.

They are more relaxed roles and Buchanan is moving more easily without international stress. As he works with the ungrateful group he laughs freely, instigates banter and shouts encouragement like it was his gang. It is a different face to the serious one that turned up to deflect questions after Australia's poor days.

Buchanan believes he is returning to a corner too fast while cycling and his elbow and ribs thud into the ground, cracking with the impact. While it makes him grimace at times, the pain does not stop him from gliding between groups of adults as they complete skill drills designed to give children an interest in cricket.

Watching novices fail to complete basic activities is an immediate change from fine-tuning the world's finest squad, but Buchanan is comfortable with the intensity drop. He decided after the

Australia won 77% of Tests under Buchanan and the record may develop into a coach's version of Bradman's batting average.

Buchanan could travel anywhere and spread his sometimes convoluted words to other nations, but has chosen to give back to the game that allowed his methods a chance. Educating and training coaches, from those in the community to the high-performance managers in all sports, are some of his new goals. Helping children become more active is another.

"I'm a very firm believer in the business of providing kids with an active and fun-filled environment," he says. "Our social organisation at the moment means kids are less exposed to physical activity than when I was growing up. There's a decline in physical education provision in primary schools. Coaching and coaching activities can play a significant role in children's development." Some of his former internationals were prone to teenage outbursts, but swapping elite athletes for more genuine babies is a "noble" act for such a qualified practitioner.

Until his arm heals Buchanan won't be able to be hands-on and his managing duties will be similar to his role with Australia. Telling Ricky Ponting to tighten his grip on the bat wasn't his specialty; challenging his players to find ways to improve individually and as a team was. Now the same techniques will be used in his growing business of coaching coaches.

Lamps sings Drogba praises

Football

AFP, London

"He's a great lad to have in the dressing room and always fights to the end. The way he's played in the last 18 months, there's no-one better in world football."

"It's very important (to keep him) because players like Drogba you want beside you. He makes his decisions but when he's here playing for us, even with all the controversy that's been around for the last week, his performances show what he is all about."

Drogba stunned the Blues last week when he announced that he wanted to follow former coach Jose Mourinho out of Stamford Bridge.

But Drogba, who scored 33 goals last season, later said he regretted making his comments public and reaffirmed his commitment to Chelsea's cause.

Since then Drogba scored in their win over Middlesbrough in the Premier League and again in Wednesday night's victory over Schalke 04 in the Champions League.

But Lampard, who has yet to commit his long-term future to the club, insists it is important Chelsea hang on to Drogba.

The England international said: "He's the best, it's as simple as that. There are different types of player - Wayne Rooney is a world-class player who comes off and creates and scores. As an out-and-out striker, there's no-one better than Drogba."

"His all-round game: pace, power, team player, scores goals with his head and his feet. He's the best I've played with."

"That's just a load of talk. We want to win, play to win - if that means good football it means good football but there is a fine line between playing with freedom and overplaying."

"We have to make sure we don't do the wrong things and make sure

we are doing the right things."

"There are changes, every manager has different ideas - the overall aim is to win games so we are all fighting in the same direction. Results have shown that over the last few days. So we've moved on abit."

Lampard's England international colleague Joe Cole insists he is happy to play with more freedom under the style Grant, and his assistants Henk ten Cate and Steve Clarke, have introduced.

Cole declared: "There's a definite shift in the style of play, especially the forwards, and myself. It's important we are picking up wins while we are adjusting."

"We are learning new positions and looking at a new style of play. I feel we are going to get better and learn the style. We seem to have more of the ball."

"I'm listening and learning and trying to take in everything I can. I love my football so that is all I can do. A new style of play and a new challenge."

"There are definite changes and you were starting to see them against Schalke, we had a lot of the ball."

"A new manager comes in with a new style and you have to adjust. We're picking up points at the moment which is good. I'm enjoying working with the new manager."

SA make it 2-2

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between Pakistan and South Africa at the Multan Stadium on Friday:

PAKISTAN	Score
Hameed c Gibbs b Pollock	10
Afridi c Nel b Ntini	0
Younis Khan c Gibbs b Nel	82
Yousuf run out	5
Malik c Smith b Kallis	45
Misbahul Boucher b Nel	7
Akmal c Pollock b Bortha	28
Rehman b Morkel	31
Iftikhar not out	2
De Villiers not out	1
Gul c Ntini b Botha	1
Asif not out	0
Extras: (lb-8, w-5, nb-3)	16
Total: (For 9 wkt in 37.4 overs)	233
Did not bat: Boucher, Duminy, Extras: (lb-13, nb-1, w-5)	19

Total: (For nine wkt in 50 overs) 230

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-20, 3-38, 4-129, 5-158, 6-159, 7-219, 8-227.

Bowler O M R W

Asif 8 0 64 0

Gul 5 0 52 0

Anjum 5.4 0 27 2

Afridi 9 0 43 1

Rehman 10 0 39 0

Result: South Africa won by 7 wickets and level 5-match series 2-2.

Man-of-the-match: Shaun Pollock.

Toss: Pakistan.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and BF Bowden (New Zealand)

TV umpire: Zameer Haider

Match referee: AG Hurst (Australia)