

Kumble sledging shocks Yousuf

CRICINFO, undated
Mohammad Yousuf was so surprised that Anil Kumble sledged him, that he lost his concentration, and ultimately his wicket, on the third day of the third Test in Bangalore.

"Moments before I got out, Anil Kumble threw a few words at me. I just walked up to him and told him that it doesn't look good for a senior player like him to behave in such a manner," Yousuf wrote in his column in the Times of India. "It was completely unexpected from someone like him."

The incident happened at the end of the 70th over, bowled by Harbhajan Singh. Kumble exchanged words with Yousuf, who was then on 23 from 71 balls. Just before the next over, bowled by Irfan Pathan, Yousuf walked over to gully where Kumble was fielding and continued with the verbal volley.

He was visibly agitated, Kumble patted him on the back and asked him to continue batting but Yousuf even had a word with the umpires Simon Taufel and Rudi Koertzen.

Six balls later, the addition of just one run, Yousuf chased a wide one from Pathan and drove it straight to Yuvraj Singh at point.

V-Day sports

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Army drubbed Eagles Club 93-48 at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday for their second win in the Total Victory Day basketball tournament.

Tuja scored 18 and Baten 16 for Army, who led the first half 53-20. Co-favourites Bangladesh Navy also won, edging BKSP 76-62 after a keenly contested match.

Siraj caged 22 and Lutfor 21 for the sailors who were 39-36 ahead at the break. For BKSP, Setu and Mithun each collected 19 points.

VOLLEYBALL

UNB adds: The Victory Day, Top-Five volleyball tournament will begin today at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium.

Bangladesh Volleyball Federation president Golam Quddus Chowdhury will inaugurate the six-day tournament involving Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Rifles and Power Development Board.

Besides, Bangladesh Ansar will play Village Defence Party in a five-match series for women also from today after the men's opening match between Army and Air Force.

What a big

FROM PAGE 17
I thought it was one of my mates having a "joke," Pomersbach told reporters.

"I asked him whether he was joking, and he said 'no mate get yourself to the rooms as quick as you can'."

Pomersbach made his way to the dressing room to meet his illustrious teammates then made another big impression when he got the chance to play, scoring a brisk 15 off seven balls, including a six and a four, before falling in the last over of Australia's innings.

Impending

FROM PAGE 17
to begin on January 8. "We talk about development all the time and there is no other way to develop without playing a lot of cricket. There will be a huge impact on cricket if there is a problem with the league," said Ashraf's predecessor Habibul Bashar.

He however praised the latest improvement in CWAB, saying that its more structured approach and affiliation with Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) has made it a better platform for the national players as well. Ashraf agreed, saying that CWAB will take their side in certain matters.

CWAB convener Debabrata Paul also assured that within the next 15 days, there can be some developments in this matter.

If the legal wrangling continues, the transfer date has to be postponed and as a result, the cricket will be held back. And with the leagues set for a late-January start, there is danger of a complete no-show, leading to a situation last seen in 2004.

Crunch time

FROM PAGE 20
fight for the runners up spot. The Turkish champions have the more favourable tie as they play host to bottom of the group CSKA Moscow while PSV welcome Inter in a bid to advance to the next phase.

Arsenal and Sevilla have both booked their tickets out of Group H and into the last sixteen. However Wednesday's ties will decide who qualifies top of the group.



Former South Africa player Nicky Boje leaves a New Delhi police station on Tuesday after being questioned of his involvement in the 2000 match-fixing scandal.

Nicky denies any link

AFP, New Delhi
South African bowler Nicky Boje on Tuesday denied charges of match-fixing under questioning by Indian police probing the scandal which hit cricket seven years ago, officials said.

Crime Branch detectives who are investigating the scandal grilled the 34-year-old, who was escorted to a New Delhi interrogation centre by two Indian diplomats, for nearly two hours, they said. "He denied his role in the match-fixing scandal and so questions on all relevant aspects of the case was asked," Police spokesman Rajan Bhagat told AFP.

Bhagat however said the left-armed spinner, "cooperated nicely" after coming voluntarily from the northern Indian city of Panchkula, where he is playing in the rebel Indian Cricket League until Sunday. Boje was indicted in connection with the match-fixing scandal involving then skipper Hansie

Cronje and three of his teammates during South Africa's tour of India in 2000. Crime Branch chief Satyandra Garg said the player, who retired from international cricket last year, was extensively questioned. "We have interrogated him on all aspects of the case," Garg said in a statement after a visibly-relieved Boje was allowed to return to Panchkula.

"Whatever questions we wanted to ask him, we have done, that and we will now conduct further enquiries," he added as others said Boje was also asked about his links with a South African bookie and if he held a bank account in London. The police had issued a summons Wednesday, ordering Boje to "assist" detectives in the ongoing probe. Cronje, who died in an air crash in 2002, was banned for life over the scandal.

Crime Branch officers said they had presented a written questionnaire to Boje. "He was asked to corroborate various things told to us by (South Africa's Herschelle) Gibbs when we interrogated him last year," a police officer who declined to be named told AFP. Boje had previously skipped two tours of India after failing to obtain assurances that police would not detain him. Boje and batsman Gibbs were found guilty of being part of the skipper Cronje's conspiracy in a public inquiry in South Africa. They were heavily fined and banned for six months after Indian police exposed the racket. Boje, Gibbs and Cronje are listed as the key suspects in India, where police registered a criminal case in May 14, 2000. Gibbs was questioned by detectives when he flew to India for the Champions Trophy last year and admitted accepting money from Cronje to score fewer than 20 runs against India in a one-day match during the 2000 March-April tour. He named three teammates as co-conspirators. Delhi police say they recorded Cronje's telephone conversations with bookies in India in which he struck deals to throw one-day matches.

Aussies too pacy

FROM PAGE 17
celebrated his promotion with 18-3. Kiwi all-rounder Jacob Oram restored some respectability and gave another reminder of his hitting ability with an unbeaten 66 from 31 balls, hitting five sixes in eight balls from the spin of Symonds.

Australia's imposing total was built around a typically brutal knock from Andrew Symonds, who faced just 46 balls, hitting seven fours and three sixes.

Australia was not in great shape at 73 for three after 10 overs, but Symonds teamed with rookie Adam Voges (26) for an 80-run stand that accelerated the innings.

Michael Clarke, captaining the Australian side for the first time, opened the batting with Adam Gilchrist and made 33 from 26 balls. Gilchrist could scarcely believe his misfortune when he slashed at a wide ball from Mark Gillespie in the second over and hit it sweetly, only for Ross Taylor to take a freakish one-handed catch to his left at gully.

Unlucky Australian batsman Brad Hodge was a late omission from the side, when he hurt his back just an hour before the game. Hard-hitting local youngster Luke Pomersbach, who was walking into the ground to view the match as a spectator when he got the surprise call-up, replaced him.

Pomersbach's international debut came with the 23-year-old still suspended from first-class cricket by his state side, Western Australia, for disciplinary reasons. He made 15 from seven balls, clubbing the third delivery he faced, from Gillespie, over mid-wicket for six.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 186 for 6 in 20 overs

First Division Chess starts today

SPORTS REPORTER
The Metropolitan First Division Chess League will begin today with two top names missing from the top competition. Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Titus Club have not entered this year's fray where 14 teams will compete.

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman will face last year's runners-up Leonine in one of the opening day's seven matches at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room. The other teams are: Chittagong Mohammedan, Destiny 2000, Narayanganj City Chess Club, Sonali Bank, Dhaka University Chess Club, Mohakhali Pradip Sangha, Friends Chess Power, Farashganj SC, Faith Chess Club, Agragati Chess Club (Toyota Motors), Prime Life Insurance Company and Sultana Kamal Smriti Pathagar.

Sultan to talk

FROM PAGE 17
have given some suggestions so he can go and explain the situation. I hope tomorrow's BFF meeting will take decisions about this and help us solve this temporary problem through talks with the international bodies like FIFA and AFC.

"Had this open discussion been held at the initial stage, things would have not become so complicated," he added. Badal Roy also expressed his satisfaction saying that the president has welcomed the public sentiment.

"The BFF chief has admitted the need of holding a general meeting because if the DFAs are formed without an EGM or an AGM, it would face legal battle. "Also, the BFF is still working under the NSC acts where DFAs don't exist. It has to be amended. This would be the right way. I believe that his BFF colleagues have always opposed him to come to us for discussions or holding a general meeting.

"Now I hope that he would get the vote of confidence from his committee to present our situation to the world football governing body," the former footballer added.

Masterly Mahela

FROM PAGE 17
But England were frustrated by the slow wicket that offered no assistance to the bowlers. The nearest England came to taking a wicket in the morning session was when Panesar got one to spin sharply across Jayawardene's bat, but wicketkeeper Matthew Prior failed to take the thin edge.

Jayawardene moved to 88 when he edged Harrison to gully where Ian Bell dived in front, but indicated to the umpires he had picked up the ball on the half-volley and was not claiming a catch.

Kevin Pietersen was given out similarly on the first day after umpire Daryl Harper declined to call for television replays which showed that Chamara Silva had grassed the ball before holding it. Sidebottom was England's most successful bowler on the slow pitch, claiming three wickets for 72 runs. Panesar went for 111 runs from his 32 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between England and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club on Tuesday: ENGLAND: First innings 351 (Cook 81, Vaughan 87, Collingwood 52, Prior 79; Muralidaran 5-116) SRI LANKA: First innings (over- night 105-2) Vandort lbw b Sidebottom 138 Tharanga c Prior b Sidebottom 10 Sangakkara c Prior b Sidebottom 1 M Jayawardene not out 167 Silva c Bopara b Harmison 49 Mubarak not out 2 Extras: (b-5, lb-6, w-1) Total: (For four wkts in 128 overs) 379 To bat: P Jayawardene, Vaas, Fernando, Malinga, Muralidaran. Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-22, 3-249, 4-377. Bowler O M R W Sidebottom 25 3 72 3 Broad 25 4 63 0 Harmison 28 8 67 1 Panesar 32 4 111 0 Pietersen 12 0 43 0 Collingwood 1 1 0 0 Bopara 5 2 12 0

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Olympics 2020 to see cricket?

REUTERS, New Delhi
Cricket is eager to again play an active role in the Olympic movement after getting provisional recognition from the governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) gave the status to cricket, which figured in the 1900 Paris Olympics, at its executive meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland this week.

"This is great news for cricket," ICC president Ray Mali said in a statement. The decision is expected to raise cricket's profile in regions where it is still a developing sport. "Our goal has been to become an international federation that is recognised by the IOC and we are pleased to have achieved this target," Mali said.

"We want to play an active role in the Olympic movement and we will be looking at ways in which we can work with the IOC for the benefit of cricket, sport and society in general." The IOC recognition is the first step on the long road to inclusion in the Olympic programme, although it would have to wait at least until the 2020 Games.

The IOC executive board will also receive a presentation by Paul Condon, chief of the ICC's anti-corruption and security unit, on issues relating to betting in the sport.

Watching Test cricket in Sri Lanka may not always whet the appetite - it's often played to half-empty stands and a few crowds. Dead silence is the order of the day, at least for most of it, interrupted by the occasional vociferous appeal and tunes from the local band. However, the scenes are quite different when England are in town. Supporters walk around in packs and fill up the seats, the budget travellers park themselves on the grass and just have a raucous time. In the age of dwindling audiences in Test cricket, an England visit is a godsend for the local organisers.

England cricket teams are rarely without home support, irrespec-

Base Zahurul retains title

SPORTS REPORTER
BAF Base Zahurul Haque retained the title of the inter-base athletics championship of the Bangladesh Air Force by bagging nine gold, as many silvers and five bronze medals at the BAF Base Kurmitola sports ground yesterday.

BAF Base Matur Rahman finished runners-up with nine gold, three silver and four bronze medals. LAC Rouf of BAF Base Matur Rahman was adjudged best athlete of the meet.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshall SM Ziaur Rahman distributed the medals and trophies among the winners. He also gave away the BAF Sports Colour to Wing Commander Imran Majid for his overall performance in sports.

HT districts in semifinals

SPORTS REPORTER
Rangamati thrashed Gaibandha 5-0 at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday to move into the semifinals of the Inter-district women's football tournament as Group C winners.

Sainu Pru, whose double hat-trick earlier sunk Shariatpur, scored a brace while Maina, Lina and Jaya added one goal each for the winners.

Khagrachari, another team from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, also sealed a last four place from Group B after a goalless draw with Rajshahi while Jessore blanked Sirajganj 3-0 in the day's other match.

Dhaka were first team to enter the semis on Monday.

Shorter WC

FROM PAGE 17
In 2003, the ICC had a super sixes stage after the preliminary round, followed by the knockout stage matches.

In the 2007 edition in the West Indies, the format of 16 teams drew criticism for lasting over a month. Pakistan and India also bemoaned the first round format, which saw their teams eliminated from the competition after just two matches.

"The format on we have reached a consensus will save time and also provide every team a chance to play a minimum of six matches in the preliminary round before the knockout stages," the official said.

The four countries also discussed having a single visa for visitors to the World Cup, which would enable them to go to all four countries on the same visa.

Saha fears

FROM PAGE 20
between Paris St Germain and Sochaux at the Parc des Princes. "I made a bad mistake of choosing the wrong coffee, so I went over to get another - but the area was full of skinheads.

"My father decided to stand up to them, and I was very impressed. He showed me how to react by being very calm and willing to do anything to protect me. From that day, I thought that is the way to fight - because it is not right.

"We should not have to accept it in the 21st century, and things like this have to change. I have to think about the future of my children as well - and since having two children of mixed colour, I've become more passionate about this.

"Everyone has to understand it is a bad thing, that they shouldn't get used to it or turn their back. That's not the way to fight it. Everybody has to understand it is not acceptable anymore."

Barmy Army at its best

Cricket
CrICINFO, undated
Take one look at the grass embankment on the foot of the giant scoreboard at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo, you could be forgiven for thinking you were watching an Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval. The England flags dot the railing near the fence, the vocal cords are in full flow, the beer tent's a constant hub of activity and supporters brave the heat and humidity of Colombo with a sense of purpose. The only thing missing from an identical resemblance to the ground in South Australia is a cathedral in the background.

Watching Test cricket in Sri Lanka may not always whet the appetite - it's often played to half-empty stands and a few crowds. Dead silence is the order of the day, at least for most of it, interrupted by the occasional vociferous appeal and tunes from the local band. However, the scenes are quite different when England are in town. Supporters walk around in packs and fill up the seats, the budget travellers park themselves on the grass and just have a raucous time. In the age of dwindling audiences in Test cricket, an England visit is a godsend for the local organisers.

England cricket teams are rarely without home support, irrespec-

tion only spurred them on, and the sounds emanated from all corners of the field for once. When asked about the reasons for the unusual silence in the morning, one fan blamed it on the influence of alcohol from the previous night. It wasn't exactly surprising.

The second day turns out to be livelier than the first and the stands fill out much quicker as well. England are bowled out for a mildly disappointing 351, but suddenly, all's well as Monty Panesar sprints towards the boundary, takes his position in the deep, and earns a few encouraging cheers for his efforts.

The Barmy Army section at the opposite end from the embankment is abuzz as well after Ryan Sidebottom snares two early wickets. There are trumpet renditions of Jamaican Farewell, the theme track from the film Rocky and Bon Jovi's hit Livin' on a Prayer.

One supporter, wearing a rather hilarious combination of a striped blazer, a dhoti and a straw hat to top it all, does the honours serving the beer. After serving his clan, he reaches out to a group of security guards, who are laughing nervously at the prospect of bending the rules while on duty. They politely turn down his offer, but he refuses to give up: "C'mon lads. Nobody's looking."

Unfortunately for them, when England are in town, everyone's watching.

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Pietersen's spontaneous reac-

Misbah limits damage

FROM PAGE 17
Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh was the lone wicket-taker in the morning, when he had Akmal stumped by Dinesh Karthik.

Akmal executed some handsome shots and added 33 to his overnight score of 32. He hit 12 fours in his eighth half-century.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third and final Test between India and Pakistan on Tuesday: INDIA: First innings 626 (Ganguly 239, Yuvraj 169, Pathan 102; Arafat 5-161, Kaneria 3-168) PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 369-5) Butt c Karthik b Ganguly 68 Hameed lbw b Kumble 19 Yousif b Harbhajan 80 Yousif c Yuvraj b Pathan 24 Misbahul not out 133 Iqbal c Gambhir b Sharma 22 Akmal c Karthik b Harbhajan 65 Arafat b Sharma 44 Sami b Sharma 1 Akhtar c Gambhir b Sharma 1

good games is not enough," Kahn told German magazine Kicker on Monday. "Bayern are not Marseille or Fiorentina, we are more like Milan, Real, Manchester United or Barcelona."

"They have to be far more consistent." And according to Die Welt newspaper, Kahn left Bayern's Christmas celebrations in Munich too early for Hitzfeld's liking.

Kahn will retire from the Bundesliga at the end of this season having first joined Bayern in 1994.

Ronaldo not

FROM PAGE 20
Ronaldo had gone through "more difficult times," pointing to his two-year layoff with a knee injury before coming back to help Brazil win the 2002 World Cup in Japan.

Ronaldo scored twice in Brazil's 2-0 win over Germany in the 2002 final at the Yokohama International Stadium, which is also the venue of AC Milan's semifinal in this year's Club World Cup.

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Action from yesterday's inter-district women's football match between Gaibanda and Rangamati at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS 41 Color worker 1 Burred for the alternative 43 Vast expanse of sand 2 "Sad to say, ..." 45 "I am Lammormoor" 3 Atomizer output 27 WWI infantryman 13 Payable jalousies: 5 5 Rhyming concern 29 Say it ain't so 14 Cheshire boats: -- 6 PETA 31 Mound of snow 15 Fine Vegas 7 Retainers 32 Jewel 17 Peruse alias 8 Concur 34 Othello was one 18 Tiger port 55 In olden times bigger than 38 Bursts forth 19 Weapons 56 Arduous journey a --? 40 Cow catcher 21 Pull an all-nighter 57 BLT 10 Talleteller 42 Moose's cousin 24 Scarlet top 11 Concludes 43 Rose feature 25 Continues 58 Uncultivated 16 Scratch 20 Quarry 44 Emancipation unit 45 Open slightly 34 Singer Eddie 47 Dagwood's boss's wife 35 Raw rock 36 TV role for Ed Asner 48 Couple, in a gossip column 37 Porlent 49 Requests 38 Pre-diploma hurdle 52 -- Khan 39 Day -- paint 53 Intimidate

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59

CRYPTOQUIP

MQD UPRTT. IQRKAF XEQDXE. LIQABBLW JAFE MTW JRFLLD FRKZU. AU KAXZKRPLW FEL

XAUFLDK XERBLT. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY FAILS TO HAND YOU A CERTAIN CONDIMENT BOTTLE, I SUPPOSE SHE DIDN'T PASS MUSTARD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals R