



Did U Know?

European teams have reached the final of every FIFA World Cup except in 1930 and 1950.



Franz Beckenbauer

(Bayern Munich president)
"It is not a courageous decision, it is an intelligent and thoughtful decision. Juergen Klinsmann brought success to the national team with his new methods and I am sure he will also be successful at Bayern."

While announcing that the former Germany boss will take the reins at the club next season.



SAB tv
New Zealand v Bangladesh
Second Test, Day Three
Live from 4:00am (Monday)

ESPN
English Premier League
Sunderland v Portsmouth
Live from 7:25pm

Bolton Wanderers v Blackburn Rovers
Live from 9:55pm

STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Levante v Real Madrid
Live from 11:55pm

Atletico Madrid v Valencia
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

Pawar won't pull the plug

CRICINFO, undated

There is no possibility India will pull out of their tour of Australia even if Harbhajan Singh's three-Test suspension is not lifted, according to the BCCI president Sharad Pawar. The board has given Pawar the sole authority to cancel the rest of the trip and earlier comments attributed to Pawar indicated he may use that power if he was not satisfied with the result of Harbhajan's appeal.

But Pawar now says the tour is not at risk. "There's no question of a pullout," Pawar told the Hindustan Times. "The series will not be affected. We are focussed on fighting Harbhajan's case, but it all should be within the game."

"We have decided to give full support to Harbhajan, and we will provide all the legal help to fight it out. If that means we have to seek legal assistance from abroad, we will do that."

Pawar also confirmed that he had asked Sachin Tendulkar, Harbhajan's batting partner at the time of the incident with Andrew Symonds in the Sydney Test, to explain exactly what had happened between the pair. "Sachin reported there was tension and provocation, but there was no question of racist comment," Pawar said. "If Sachin or Sourav (Ganguly) or Rahul (Dravid) or Anil (Kumble) say anything, I believe it 100% and accept it."

Pawar's comments came as Australia's Daily Telegraph reported that India were now expected to argue that Harbhajan had not called Symonds a monkey, as was originally alleged, but instead used a similar-sounding Punjabi term that would be regarded as offensive but not racist. There are also questions over Brad Hogg's alleged use of the word "bastard" as his code-of-conduct case draws nearer.

The Age has reported that both teams submitted a list of racially offensive words prior to the series and "bastard" did not rate a mention. The list was intended to inform ground managers what terms should be prohibited in crowds. However, the paper said that "monkey" was on the list.

Repeat offence

Cricket

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Wellington

The pitch at the Basin Reserve wore a more shaven look with the green grass taken out but the Bangladeshi batsmen found still found life difficult and were shot out for 143 after being put in. By close New Zealand had reached 134 for 3 with Stephen Fleming batting on a chancy 39.

Mohammad Ashraful lost his fifth toss in a row and under slightly overcast conditions Chris Martin found prodigious seam movement. His inswingers troubled the left-handed opening pair but it was Kyle Mills who gave New Zealand the breakthrough when Tamim Iqbal (15) sliced one straight to point (17-1 in 7.1 overs). Habibul Bashar (1) was out an over later when he pushed at a harmless looking delivery outside the off stump and edged to wicketkeeper Brendan McCullum.

The procession continued with Zunaed Siddique (13) edging in the slips after playing tentatively at a ball from Martin that swung from leg to off and Shahrar Nafees (6) gave catching practice to Peter Fulton also in the slips to leave Bangladesh on 68 for 4 in the 22nd over. Ashraful, who had come in at four, got away with some one-day style over the top flashes and a

difficult chance at mid off that was floored by Matthew Bell but on 35 was harshly adjudged caught behind off Iain O'Brien by umpire Nigel Long. Replays showed daylight between the bat's inner edge and the ball which just brushed the pad on way to McCullum (5-71).

For the second Test running Bangladesh had lost five wickets before lunch and mid-way through the post lunch session the tourists were bowled out. Aftab Ahmed, coming off a pair in the first Test, showed exemplary patience and calm this time around although his relief at getting off the mark after nearly half an hour at the crease was felt in the Bangladesh dressing room also. He was hit on the helmet and another ball painfully smacked him in the groin but he was not out on 25 off having played 73 balls when last man Mashrafe Bin Mortaza holed out at long on off the third ball of over 46.

Left-arm paceman Sajidul Islam, who shared the new ball with Mortaza was all over the place when Bangladesh came out as he struggled running in to the gusty wind blowing from the RA Vance Stand end. He got a lucky break however when in his first over umpire Long upheld an appeal for caught behind against Bell after the ball went beneath the bat from an attempted pull and went to 'keeper Mushfiqur Rahim off the thigh pad (1-2).

Mortaza was focused and found the perfect spot and swung the ball away from the right-handers. He had Peter Fulton lbw with the score on 35 and another error in judgment on part of umpire Peter Parker got Fleming off the hook. On 10 Fleming padded up to a Shahadat Hossain delivery that had come in and would have hit the off stump. The umpire turned down the appeal.

Towards the end of the day left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan had Craig Cumming lbw for 42 with a ball that was slanted in.

"There were fewer rash shots but we still lost the wickets. The batsmen are trying hard to follow the team rule and are leaving balls nicely but not enough of that is happening," said coach Jamie Siddons.

"The bowlers, especially Mortaza and Shahadat I think showed that they have learned some things from the first Test.

They were bowling in good areas more consistently and were building up pressure. That is what we will try to continue tomorrow," Siddons added.

The coach also said that he thought Ashraful was due for a big score.

"He would be the first to say that he is not scoring as many as he would've liked. However, he is doing the right things in training

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Steyn seals series

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Marlon Samuels made a defiant century but the pace of Dale Steyn secured a series victory for South

Africa on the third day of the third Test at Kingsmead Saturday.

Steyn took six for 72 as South Africa bowled out the West Indies for 317 to win by an innings and 100 runs. They won the series 2-1.

For much of the day, though, Samuels frustrated the South

African bowlers as he made a career-best 105.

The second new ball proved his undoing. He was bowled by Steyn's third delivery, a fast ball which straightened off the pitch and hit the top of the off stump.

Steyn shot out Darren Sammy and Daren Powell in his next over and finished off the match when Fidel Edwards was bowled in his third over with the new ball.

Samuels and captain Dwayne Bravo threatened to take the match into a fourth day with a fourth wicket stand of 144.

Steyn, who trapped Bravo leg before in the first over after tea, too ended that.

With Shivnarine Chanderpaul unable to bat because of illness, the resistance was effectively ended when Andre Nel had Denesh Ramdin caught behind after a bright innings of 25.

The West Indies were 230 for three at tea, still needing 187 to avoid an innings defeat but having recovered some pride after a miserable first two days in which they were totally outplayed.

The first three wickets fell early in the day before Samuels and Bravo came together to defy the South African bowlers for almost three hours.

Both men gave chances as the South African bowlers toiled on an unresponsive pitch in hot, sunny weather.

Bravo pushed a return catch to Nel's right when he had eight but the big fast bowler was off balance and could not hold the ball.

Samuels was dropped low down at second slip by Jacques Kallis off Steyn when he was on 41.

Opening batsmen Brenton Parchment and Daren Ganga fell quickly and Runako Morton followed after making a hard-hit 37 when he was leg before wicket to Shaun Pollock, who announced Friday that he was retiring from Test cricket after the current match.

Parchment, who faces a disciplinary hearing after play after

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: INTERNET

West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels drives during his century on the third day of the third Test against South Africa at Kingsmead in Durban on Saturday.

Pollock ends on Feb 3

Cricket

AFP, Durban

South Africa all-rounder Shaun Pollock has announced his retirement from international cricket following the second day's play against West Indies here Friday.

Pollock, 34, said he would retire from Test cricket after the current third and final Test against the West Indies.

He will play in the five-match one-day international series against the same opponents before retiring from all international cricket. His final appearance will be at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on February 3.

He will then play in the officially sanctioned Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition in April.

He said he had had received offers to play county cricket in

England this year but was undecided at this stage whether he would have a third stint in the county game. He played for Warwickshire in 1996 and 2002.

"I'd like to thank Cricket South Africa for allowing me the opportunity of representing my country for the last 12 years," he said.

"I thoroughly enjoy the honour and privilege of wearing the Protean badge and take with me some remarkable memories having played against some great players.

"I realise I have been blessed by God and feel I have nurtured my talents to the best of my abilities."

Pollock, who was playing in his 108th Test, has also featured in 298 one-day internationals for his country.

He said he had decided at the beginning of the season that it would be his last but he had not made an announcement because he had not been picked for any of

South Africa's first six Tests.

"I had wanted to make an announcement at the beginning of the West Indies series but having been left out of the New Zealand games (earlier in the season) the last thing I wanted was to catch a game just for sentimental reasons or as a last hurrah," he said.

Pollock said he believed his timing was right.

"It is pleasing to see the wealth of budding (South African) bowling talent in the wings and I am happy that I am finishing on my own terms."

Pollock is playing in his 108th Test. He is South Africa's leading wicket-taker with 420 after capturing four wickets in the first innings against the West Indies at Kingsmead.

He has also scored 3781 runs to rank among the leading all-rounders of all time.

Pollock has played in 298 one-day internationals, scoring 3476

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

NO COMMENTS: Bangladesh batsman Habibul Bashar (foreground) walks off as the New Zealanders celebrate his cheap dismissal on Day One of the second Test at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on Saturday.

ZC hopeful of England tour

CRICINFO, undated

Zimbabwe will look to the ICC to ensure that their future tour commitments go ahead as planned. Recent reports suggest that the UK government are uneasy in allowing Zimbabwe to tour the country as planned in 2009 and might not let the tour go ahead. However, while the government wants the series to be scrapped, it will allow Zimbabwe to take part in the ICC World Twenty20, scheduled to take place in England in 2009.

Peter Chingoka, president Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC), arrived in Karachi with the Zimbabwe team and said that he hopes the Future Tours Programme (FTP) will dictate the fate of the tour.

"Our focus is more about ICC, about ensuring that the FTP remains sacrosanct," Chingoka told Cricinfo. "We're looking to play more as opposed to excuses to not play each other. It's important that the family looks after every member and that all nations look after one another so that the business gets stronger and bigger. Otherwise we are not being true to the globalisation of the game."

Zimbabwe's tour comes at a time of increasing political uncertainty and violence in Pakistan: two days before their arrival a suicide bomb killed more than 20 people in Lahore, the latest in a series of such attacks throughout the country. Chingoka, however, said the team

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Veeru's superb reminder

Cricket

AFP, Canberra

Explosive opener Virender Sehwag made a strong case for a Test recall with a typically swashbuckling century on the final day of India's three-day tour match against an Australian Capital Territory XI here on Saturday.

And the man Sehwag is likely to replace in the third Test at the WACA Ground, Yuvraj Singh, again failed to reach double figures as his form woes mounted.

The match ended in a draw, India declaring its second innings at tea at 281 for four, an overall lead of 314, with the ACT 60 for 3 in reply when both teams agreed to an early stumps.

After making a scratchy 24 in the first innings, Sehwag capitalised on a flat pitch and modest attack to reach his hundred in well under a session, facing just 73 balls in the process.

Sehwag, who was considered close to a recall for the controversial second Test in Sydney but hasn't played at the top level for over a year, made his intentions clear when he opened the day by belting three boundaries from the first over.

He continued in that vein before being caught behind just minutes before lunch for 113, ending a frenetic 158-run opening partnership with Dinesh Karthik, who narrowly missed a century.

Sehwag hit 18 fours and two sixes and faced only 78 balls to finally give the Indians something to smile about at the end of a testing week on and off the field.

"It was good I spent quite some time in the middle," Sehwag said. "I just focused on being positive and wanted to perform well. I feel I am

The 29-year-old brought up his century by flicking a ball to the fine leg boundary, and then celebrated by smashing a four and six from the final two deliveries of the over.

Sehwag has played 52 Tests, with 12 centuries and an average of 49.46.

The entertaining knock dramati-



PHOTO: AFP

India opener Virender Sehwag raises his bat after reaching a blazing century during the final day of the tour match against ACT Invitational XI at Manuka Oval in Canberra on Saturday.

in good touch and timing the ball very well.

"I have got my rhythm back. I have got everything back," he added. "I think the Perth wicket is good for me and good for batsmen because the ball comes on (with) pace and bounce so you can play your shots."

cally increased the pressure on Yuvraj, who later in the day failed again.

He made just three after scoring only two in the first innings, and his spot in the side for the third Test, starting Wednesday, must be in grave doubt.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Sonali clinch V-Day crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Bank shrugged off Bangladesh Army's early lead to become unbeaten champions in the Dhaka Bank Victory Day Hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Star-studded Sonali Bank won the final 3-2 after leading the first half 2-1.

Sanwar hit the board after receiving the ball from Mostafa Sharifuzzaman to put Army ahead in the seventh minute but their joy was short-lived as the winners levelled the score after six minutes.

Striker Jahidul Islam converted the banker's first penalty corner with the combination of Musa Mia and Shahidullah Tito to make it 1-1.

The winners went for break with a lead when Jahid struck again in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Players of Sonali Bank gleefully display their cup and crests yesterday after triumphing over Bangladesh Army in the Victory Day hockey final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.