



BFF president Kazi Salahuddin speaks during a meeting with Aktel CEO and MD Jefri Ahmad Tambi (R) as BFF senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedi (L) looks on at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

BCCI silences Kirsten

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

India coach Gary Kirsten and his assistant Paddy Upton, who is the mental conditioning coach of the team, have been asked by the Board of Cricket Control of India (BCCI) to stop airing post-match comments and writing columns on Kirsten's website.

"He had already taken permission about his website, so there's no issue there. But he cannot write post match comments or columns. The same holds true for Upton too. That's as per our policy," BCCI CAO Ratnakar Shetty said on Wednesday.

Kirsten has given his views on audio in the website about the matches which have been played by India in the ongoing Asia Cup in Pakistan and has also written columns, the latest one dated June 25 dealing with the importance of introducing a rotation system for players.

In his last column Kirsten has written that one of his most important tasks as head coach "will be to implement a rotation policy for the national squads in order to keep our best players rested and fresh".

Stating that implementing this won't be a child's play, Kirsten has written that the players were

mature enough "to accept that there is simply too much cricket for any single player to perform at his best all the time".

Kirsten has also indicated that India's limited over captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni "is probably the most obvious example of a man needing a break" adding that going by his own experience "by the time a player is feeling tired or flat it is already too late to rest him".

"The rest needs to happen before fatigue sets in. MS is a brilliant cricketer and the sort of man who is happy to play every game, but he knows that it is not practical. Fatigue can also lead to loss of form as well as injuries, both of which can adversely affect a player's long-term career," he has written.

Dhoni had recently criticised the Asia Cup schedule, in particular the back-to-back matches, and the BCCI responded by stating that anyone was free to take a break if he feels so.

The website also contains columns (four so far) by Upton and the BCCI has also directed him to stop his columns.

The Board has already stopped chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar from writing his regular columns in a Marathi daily owned by its chief Sharad Pawar's brother.

Interestingly, the coach's website also contains a section 'Ask Gary', which is an interactive one, with the fans seeking answers from

Kirsten on coaching matters.

One of the queries concerned the much-discussed juniors vs seniors issue and Kirsten has again touched on the relevance of a rotation policy in his answer.

"In today's world of professional sport with really demanding schedules, I believe strongly in a rotation policy as well as succession planning," Kirsten has answered.

"A time comes in every organisation for its Sustainability and long term success, that senior statesmen (who will always perform) make way for a younger generation that will successfully take the organisation into the next generation," Kirsten has answered, adding it was happening in Indian cricket too, especially in one-day cricket.

"Whilst senior players should not be discarded just for the sake of it, the focus will be more and more on youth."

"Test match cricket is a different proposition with experience playing an extremely important role as you begin to introduce younger players," he ended.

The coach has apparently referred to the discarding of former captains Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid from the limited over format of the game since the beginning of the triangular series in Australia won by Dhoni and his men to create history.

Bhola, Swapan keep winning

UNB, Dhaka

Bhola Lal of Sonargaon Hotel and Basundhara Group's Swapan Parvez recorded their third consecutive victories in the Premier Division of Delta Life Open Squash tournament at the Dhaka Club squash court yesterday.

Bhola crushed Bishu Nath of Gulshan Club in straight sets while Swapan beat Masud Rana of Dhaka Army Club in 2-1 sets. Raju Ram of Navy Club defeated Dilu of Gulshan Club by 2-1 sets.

In the B division, Faisal of Dhaka Club beat Commander Gani of Navy Club by 2-1 sets while in the C division, Swapan of British Club defeated Shamim of Army Club by 2-0 sets while Dr Zebun Nasrin of BUET Club beat Shahid by the same margin.

In the above-50 group, Kamaluzzaman of Dhaka Army Club beat Rezwan by 2-0 sets.

BSWA honours 3 veteran journo

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) yesterday accorded reception to three veteran sports writers on the occasion of the World Sports Journalists Day.

Sirajul Islam Bachchu, Prof. Ashraf Uddin Khan and Jibon Bose were accorded the reception at the National Sports Council (NSC) tower.

BSWA officials declared that their office will remain a 'tobacco free zone' from today in accordance with the slogan 'tobacco free sports arena' of the World Sports Journalists Day.

NSC Secretary M Akbar Hossain and Director and CEO of Bangladesh Olympics Association Col (ret) Wali Ullah were also present on the occasion and expressed their solidarity with BSWA.

BSWA, an affiliated body of International Sports Press Association (IPSA), will also organise a rally in the capital on Saturday to coincide with the World Sports Journalists Day.

The rally will start at 7am from the Public Library and end at the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium premises. Sports journalists, sports writers, photographers, players and organizers have been requested to take part in the rally.

Director of Exim Bank and chairman of the audit committee Nurul Fazal Bulbul was the chief guest at the function, chaired by BSWA president Sarwar Hossain.

Managing director of Epyllion Group Riazuddin Al Mamun and WHO professional officer Dr Mustafa Zaman were present as special guests where BSWA general secretary Rafiqul Islam welcomed the guests.

Countrywide

FROM PAGE 17

Abu Yusuf, who had submitted his resignation as a BFF coach after his failure to take the national team into the semifinals of the recently concluded fifth SAFF Championship, is among the 14 chosen to run the camps.

The coaches: Ahsanullah Montu (Bharmabarua, Habiganj), Jobair Nipu (Manikganj, Tangail), Abdur Razzak (Narail, Khulna), Kazi Altaf Haq (Narayanganj, Munshiganj), Golam Rabbani Choton (Bogra, Thakurgaon), Deepak Chandra Nath (Netrokona, Kishoreganj), Ahsanuzzaman Jhontu (Sherpur, Jamalpur), Abu Yusuf (Chapainawabganj, Naogaon), Mahmud Alam Babu (Gaibandha, Rangpur), Shahidul Haq Khokh (Meherpur, Chuadanga), Sarwar Hossain Joarder Modhu (Patuakhali, Barisal), Nurul Haq Manik (Dinajpur, Natore), Mahbubur Rahman Litu (Madaripur, Jessore) and Sheikh Shukkur Mohammed Totam (Feni, Lalmonirhat).

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Michael Vaughan (captain), Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Tim Ambrose (wicketkeeper), Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Ryan Sidebottom, Monty Panesar, Chris Tremlett.

England unchanged

Cricket

AFP, London

National selector Geoff Miller announced an unchanged 12-man England squad here Thursday for next week's first Test against South Africa at Lord's.

That left open the possibility of England fielding the same XI for six consecutive Tests, which would be a new world record.

England captain Michael Vaughan was included despite concerns over his fitness after he suffered a recurrence of his long-standing knee problem.

There was no place for all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who has not played Test cricket in over a year and who only recently returned to action following six weeks out with a side injury.

Flintoff, who struck 59 off 62 balls for Lancashire in their victory over county champions Sussex on Wednesday, can now expect more county action against Hampshire in a match that starts 24 hours after the first Test.

Significantly, however, this squad was for the opening Test alone, so potentially paving the way for Flintoff to return in the second of this four-match campaign at Headingley starting on July 18.

"Andrew Flintoff has worked extremely hard to be back playing some very good cricket for Lancashire which is a credit to his determination and patience," said Miller at a Lord's news conference.

"The selectors are keen to see Andrew get more overs under his belt and spend more time in the middle before recalling him to the Test side."

"We're all eager to see him back playing for England but there's nothing to be gained from rushing him back until he has proved he's ready to meet the demands of Test cricket," the former England off-spinner added.

"There is a lot of cricket on the horizon and we want Andrew to be a part of that without jeopardising his fitness."

England have won four of their last five Tests, all against New Zealand, with one draw whilst

fielding an unchanged side. Last month they concluded a 2-0 win in the three-match home series against the Kiwis.

"The England Test side has won four of its past five matches and most recently the Test series against New Zealand so we feel there's no need to change a winning formula," said Miller.

"There have been a number of players pushing for selection in recent weeks which is extremely pleasing but consistency in selection and consistency in performance has led us to maintain the same squad for the first power Test against South Africa."

Third-placed England are currently just a point ahead of South Africa in the world Test rankings heading into this four-match campaign.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Michael Vaughan (captain), Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Tim Ambrose (wicketkeeper), Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Ryan Sidebottom, Monty Panesar, Chris Tremlett.

NZ too hot for Scots

AFP, Aberdeen

New Zealand rounded off their tour of the United Kingdom with an eight-wicket thrashing of Scotland in a one-day international here on Thursday.

In a match that again exposed the gap in class between cricket's elite Test nations and the rest, New Zealand bowled out their hosts for 101 with seamers Jacob Oram (three wickets for 13 runs) and Grant Elliott (three for 14) doing the bulk of the damage.

Ross Taylor's 61 not out, made from just 41 balls with two sixes and eight fours, saw New Zealand to their target of 102 for the loss of two wickets inside 15 overs, the Black Caps winning with more than 35 overs to spare.

Scotland were bowled out inside 34 overs meaning that a match scheduled for 100 overs saw the players on the field for just 48 in all.

Defeat denied Scotland a place on the official one-day rankings following their five-wicket win over Ireland on Wednesday.

New Zealand overwhelmed Ireland by a record 290 runs on Monday.

That was the biggest margin of victory in the history of one-day international cricket, surpassing India's 257-run defeat of Bermuda at last year's World Cup.

Earlier on their tour, New Zealand were beaten 2-0 in a Test series by England and then lost a lone Twenty20 international by nine wickets.

Mercurial they remain

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back, albeit after everyone had their laugh. "He will keep playing where he has played."

Though careful to say what was needed about Malik, Misbah said that he had tried to change mood as well as tactics. "I just focused on certain things. We were looking a little negative and I told the players to just be positive. We played with a different strategy. We have kept wickets in hand in previous matches and tried to up the tempo later, but this time we changed that. We had two stroke-playing openers and I just told them to play their own game."

More important than even what Misbah did as captain is what he did as batsman. Tonight he did what he is meant to do, what he has been so close to doing so many times before. He finished a match, even hitting the winning runs. "It gave me great pleasure to do that," he said. "Sometimes you get close but it doesn't happen, but when you don't do it, you shouldn't take pressure from it. You just try and finish the next one. Today (Wednesday) was very good in that sense."

Today was very good, tomorrow it might not matter. Beyond the morning, some will begin to argue however, this result assumes greater importance. But beyond even that, where the query as to what motivates Pakistan on such days resides? That riddle we are no nearer to unravelling.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Pakistan and

India Asia Cup Super League match at the National Stadium in Karachi on Wednesday:

INDIA: 308 for 7 in 50 overs (Dhoni 76, Rohit 58, Sehwaig 49, Pathan 38 not out, Yuvraj 37, Gambhir 35; Ifikhar 3-51, Rauf 2-66)

PAKISTAN
Butt run out 36
Jamshed retired hurt 53
Younis not out 123
Yousuf Chawla 20
Misbah not out 70
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-2, nb-3) 7
Total: (For 2 wickets in 45.3 overs) 309
Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-165

Bowler O M R W
Kumar 8.3 1 61 0
Irfan 10 0 68 0
Ishant 10 1 63 0
Yusuf 4 0 29 0
Chawla 8 0 53 1
Sehwaig 5 0 33 0
Result: Pakistan won by eight wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Younis Khan.
Toss: India.
Umpires: Ian Gould and Tony Hill.

ICC still

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changes to six out of nine if Zimbabwe are not allowed to vote. England can count on South Africa, New Zealand and Australia; India can count on Bangladesh and Pakistan. Sri Lanka are likely to go with India but the ECB has the carrot of an out-of-tour series in England next year. West Indies' position is unclear but they may lean towards England.

Venus strolls

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point, all the next nine points ended in errors. Leading 3-2, Dementieva reeled off three straight forehand errors, a backhand mistake and then another forehand error on match point.

Ricky downplays whitewash

Fourth Aus-WI ODI today

Cricket

AFP, Basseterre

Ricky Ponting has played down talk of Australia sweeping West Indies in a one-day international series for the first time in the Caribbean.

Australia lead the five-match ODI series 3-0, after winning the opening ODI by 84 runs in St. Vincent, as well as the second and third ODIs by 63 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis Method and seven wickets respectively in Grenada.

South Africa and Pakistan achieved ODI series sweeps in the Caribbean three years ago, when the Proteas won all five of their matches in a bilateral series, and the Pakistanis won all three in theirs.

The world ODI champions have easily stamped their authority and their reputation on the series. They have batted skilfully, bowled efficiently, and fielded athletically, leaving West Indies looking like schoolboys in their wake, and putting the reality of a series sweep on the table.

"We have been pretty impressive," he said. "We did not get everything our way in the series, but I think the second and third ODIs were probably our best performances."

"I think our response to each situation in which we found ourselves has been terrific. I am quite satisfied with the way things have gone."

"We have had a tough call to leave some of the guys out of the side, but the series has been played pretty much the way we would like."

But Ponting, the Australia captain, is not prepared to predict a result for the fourth ODI on Friday at Warner Park, or for the final ODI on Sunday at the same venue.

"We have been here to the Caribbean before, and been in this situation, and lost the last few matches, so we have to make sure that we are focussed and ready for Friday's game first before we get to

Sunday, and anything consideration about a 5-0," he said.

Australia's last two trips to the Caribbean have produced some of their closest ODI contests against West Indies.

They shared a seven-match ODI series nine years ago 3-3, after the fifth match was ruled a tie by ICC Match Referee Raman Subba Row, following a pitch invasion when the last ball was being delivered, and five years ago, they lost three straight matches in another seven-match series, after winning the first

four.

But Ponting knows his side has got West Indies in a jam, and he is a little surprised there has been little or no fight from the opposition.

"I really felt that we took the energy for a scrap out of them in the third ODI," he said. "We were able to drag things back after they got off to a flyer, and I think that is where the real energy was sucked out of their side."

"Although they got an early wicket, when we batted, once Shane and I settled down to the bat

there was little or no intensity out there. I guess we played reasonably well at that stage."

"But I guess that with there being a series on the line, you would have expected a little bit more from the West Indies."

West Indies have made some changes to their personnel for the two weekend games, and cut their squad to 13 at the same time.

Nikita Miller has come into the line-up for fellow left-arm spin bowler Suliman Benn, left-handed batsman Shawn Findlay has replaced Kieron Pollard, and teenager Kemar Roach has been shipped in to spare Jerome Taylor's overworked right shoulder, while wicketkeeper/batsman Patrick Browne has been dropped.

West Indies captain Chris Gayle has acknowledged that his side has performed way below par, and they need to end the series on a high note.

"We are looking forward to the two matches, since we still have a lot of pride for which to play," he said.

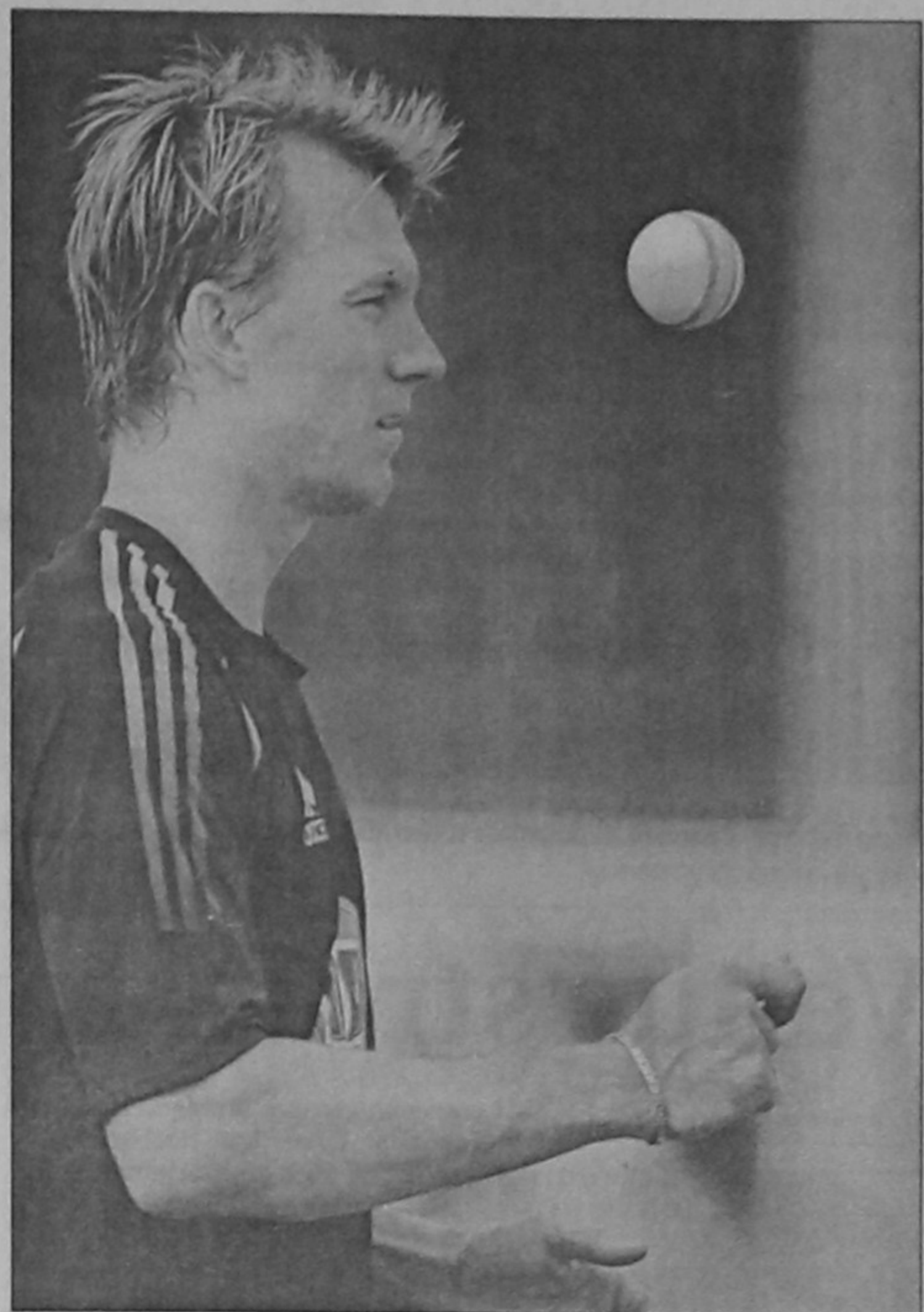
"We can't let this continue the way they have been going. It does not look good, and we need to pull our socks up."

"We have done a lot of talking, but this is not going to help us at this particular time. We need more action, and it's up to the individuals to work out what's gone wrong with their games."

SQUADS

WEST INDIES (from): Chris Gayle (captain), Ramnaresh Sarwan (vice-captain), Dwayne Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Fidel Edwards, Shawn Findlay, Andre Fletcher, Xavier Marshall, Nikita Miller, Daren Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Kemar Roach, Darren Sammy.

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke (vice-captain), Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark, Brad Haddin, James Hopes, David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Brett Lee, Shaun Marsh, Luke Ronchi, Andrew Symonds, Shane Watson, Cameron White.



Australia fast bowler Brett Lee prepares to bowl during a practice session on Wednesday at Warner Park in Basseterre ahead of the fourth ODI against West Indies today.

'Younis made it impossible'

PTI, Karachi

Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said his bowlers were helpless against a rampaging Younis Khan, who steered Pakistan to a comprehensive eight-wicket win against India and kept alive his side's hopes of making the final of the Asia Cup struck Sri Lanka.

Younis struck an unbeaten century, on Wednesday, to help Pakistan overhaul India's competitive total of 308.

"I think Younis Khan played a brilliant innings. The bowlers tried everything against him but he was always ahead of them. He didn't take pressure at all," Dhoni told reporters after the match.

The Indian skipper said the pitch was a better and even 308 runs were not enough to defend.

"It was a very good batting track and frankly speaking we tried everything. Nothing worked. When I and Rohit were batting we were under pressure because of the quick loss of wickets. On such tracks taking wickets is the key to victory."

"We will go in there and give it our best. But on these pitches you need experienced and quality spinners to tie things up." He also rejected suggestions that his players had not recovered from fatigue.

"Well, we will now sit down and find out where we went wrong. But it is not everyday you play back-to-back games and we are professional cricketers and we have to manage this," he said.

Lord's goes Olympic

AFP, London

The architects behind Beijing's 'Bird's Nest' Olympic Stadium were awarded another high-profile sports commission Wednesday when they were given the job of designing the redevelopment of Lord's.

Herzog and de Meuron have been selected by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the owners of Lord's, to design the 'Masterplan' for the northwest London ground, widely known as the 'home of cricket'.

The plan is expected to cost between 200 to 250 million pounds (400-500 million dollars) to implement.

Key aims include increasing the capacity of Lord's to between 35,000 to 40,000 from its current 28,500 and the installation of permanent but retractable floodlights which would enable the ground to stage day/night international matches.

A spokesman for the scheme told AFP on Wednesday that, once detailed talks between MCC and the architects had been concluded, an application for planning permission to the local Westminster Council would be submitted in the autumn of 2009.

Hunte warns WI

Cricket

AFP, Basseterre

West Indies cricket chief Julian Hunte has again warned the West Indies players that their performance must be closely linked to the level of payments which they receive for international matches.

The president of the West Indies Cricket Board has warned the players that there is an urgent need for them to improve, if their side is to continue enjoying the benefits of playing against the top teams in the World.

Hunte is attending a meeting of the Executive Board of the International Cricket Council in Dubai, and his comments come against the backdrop of discussion about a plan to establish a two-tiered system in international cricket.

The proposal would allow the teams ranked in the top seven of ICC Test and ODI rankings to play in the top division, and the bottom three and a number of ICC Associate nations to contest the second division.

"The West Indies team has to start winning matches against higher ranked opponents or we will end up being relegated to being a second division international team," said Hunte in a WICB news release.

West Indies are currently ranked eighth in both Tests and One-day

Internationals, and Hunte noted that West Indies players are the third-best paid in the World behind England and Australia.

But he noted their performances are inconsistent with the emoluments they receive, and this was unsatisfactory.

"We want our team to be No.1 both in performance and emoluments," he said.

"If we do not start winning however, we run the risk of being relegated, and we will not be able to earn the money that we require to regain our place at the pinnacle of World cricket."

The release indicated that the WICB's directors will deal with what it considers "a crisis in West Indies cricket" at its next meeting on July 24 and 25.

West Indies coach John Dyson will be asked to explain his plan to improve the technical skills of the players to make them more competitive and improve the World ranking of the team.

A new selection panel will also be put in place, since the contracts of the present members expired on June 30.

"We need to synchronise all our various efforts and plans to achieve the short-term objective of getting higher up in the rankings," Hunte said.

"We have to widen our pool of talent, have a clearly stated and objective selection philosophy, increase the amount of cricket played at the regional level, and

improve the standard of the players and teams in our tournaments, and we must do it all very quickly."

"If not, we will not be creating history, as we did in the past, but we will be history."

Lloyd replaces Sunny in ICC

CRICINFO, undated

Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies captain, will take over from Sunil Gavaskar as the chairman of the ICC's Cricket Committee, after Pakistan withdrew the nomination of Majid Khan.

Gavaskar stepped down from the post after the ICC asked him to choose between his committee duties and his role as a media columnist and commentator. Lloyd has been an ICC match referee for many years now, first appointed in 1992, and resuming his responsibilities in 2003, after a brief stint as the West Indies team manager.

Majid said perhaps Lloyd was a better choice for the ICC post. "Clive Lloyd was a great cricketer and captain during his time," he told cricinfo.com. "I wish Lloyd good luck."

Majid's withdrawal is believed to be because of his criticisms of the Pakistan board on the sacking of Saleem Altaf, a senior PCB official who has been temporarily reinstated following a court order.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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