

Daddy Strauss leaves Lord's

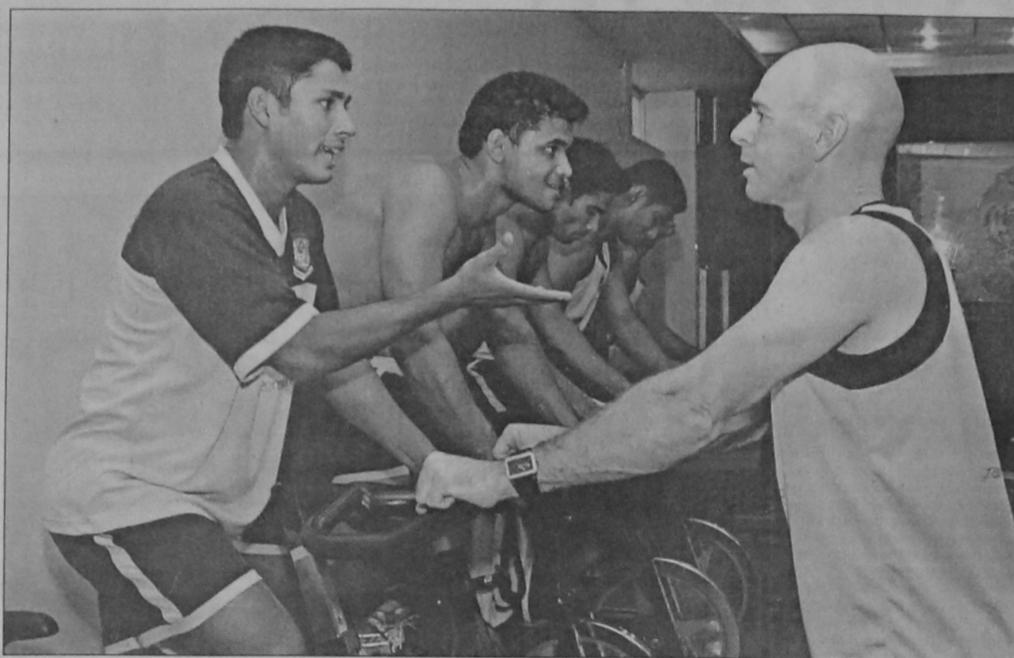
England batsman Andrew Strauss left Lord's on the final day of the first Test against South Africa here on Monday to be with his wife Ruth, who was due to give birth to the couple's second child.

With the opening match of this series heading towards a draw and the Proteas batting, it was no great inconvenience for England to let Strauss join up with his wife.

England captain Michael Vaughan led the way in adopting a more 'family friendly' approach when, three years ago, he raced off the field at Headingley during a Test against the West Indies in order to be at the birth of his first child.

Left-handed opener Strauss himself followed his skipper's lead by missing the final Test against Pakistan in December 2005 and flying home to be present at the birth of his son, Sam.

But all-rounder Andrew Flintoff adopted a more old-fashioned outlook when he remained in India two years ago after being given the England captaincy instead of flying home to be at the birth of his second child, Corey.



BEMOANING THE OTHER ASHRAF: Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful (L) makes a point to national coach Jamie Siddons while biking during a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Monday. The Tigers have started training for the three-match ODI series against Australia in Darwin next month.

Pakistan again delay naming Trophy side

AGENCIES, undated

Pakistan have again delayed announcing their 30-man preliminary squad for the Champions Trophy. The selection committee and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) management met in Lahore on Monday, but didn't name the squad.

A release said the team is likely to be named on Tuesday.

Although the release said "the availability status of few cricketers is still unconfirmed", Cricinfo has learnt the announcement was delayed till the identity of the player who tested positive in the Indian Premier League was revealed. This was done in order to "avoid further controversy", an official said.

Last week Pakistan had deferred naming the squad after disagreements between selectors and a board committee over some names in the list and the confusion over Shoaib Akhtar's eligibility.

Akhtar's chances of being named in the preliminary squad however receded after his lawyer said he would not pay a hefty fine in time to be considered for selection.

The PCB sent a notice to the paceman asking him to pay the seven million rupees (247,600 dollars) fine imposed on him by an appeals tribunal in June.

A PCB spokesman said on Friday: "Shoaib's name would only be considered for selection if he clears the fine first."

Sohail calls for action against PCB chairman

CRICINFO, undated

Unhappy with the functioning of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Nasim Ashraf, Aamer Sohail, former Pakistan opener and captain, has demanded that Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, the board's patron, remove the incumbent.

PCB's new chairman should be a good combination of cricket and administrative knowledge, which are essential to run the affairs of the game," Sohail told the Karachi-based Dawn. "The responsibility also lies with the president, who as patron appointed Dr Nasim Ashraf as the PCB chairman. The whole nation is burning with curiosity as to what action he takes against the man's reckless decisions about Shoaib Akhtar and Saleem Altaf, director cricket operations for World Cup 2011, particularly after the courts gave a decision in the two cases against the board."

Altaf had been sacked by the PCB, but was reinstated by the Lahore High Court -- a decision upheld by the Supreme Court -- pending the resolution on the writ filed by his lawyers. In April, a disciplinary committee had banned Shoaib for five years from playing for or in Pakistan. The ban was reduced to 18 months and a fine of Rs 7 million by a board-appointed appellate tribunal. Shoaib then filed a writ petition in the Lahore High Court, which suspended the fast bowler's 18-month ban till a final judgment.

Manna retains

FROM PAGE 17 maintained joint lead in group KG to V with six points each.

In the other seventh round matches of the Class VI to X group, Babu beat Debopati Dey of Kolkata, Saif beat Mosabbir Khan Shibli, Asim beat Shahidul Alam Abir, Nikesh Dwal of Nepal drew with Rupesh Jaiswal of Nepal, Shariat beat Saiful and Sifat drew with Shubam Das.

In the KG to V group, Aditya beat Fahad Rahman, Sayan beat Mohammad Fahim, Santa beat Swargajyoti of India, Afzal beat Bappi, Sapanil beat Al Amin, Moksedul beat Debdeep and Rifatul beat Altaf.

Ballack finally lucky

Football

INTERNET, undated

Michael Ballack's run of bad luck looks to have finally taken a turn for the better. The Germany captain's miserable summer got a massive boost Monday, July 14 when he married his long-time partner Simone Lambe.

Most men are nervous before they tie the knot. But Michael Ballack may have had more reason to be anxious than most.

The Germany captain has been the bridesmaid and not the bride so many times in his recent career that he may have feared that when he actually came to the altar, his fiancée Simone Lambe may have already married his best man.

Ballack has come close to winning the English Premiership, the European Champions League and the European Championships in the last few months and ended up

the loser in all three. He also has a record of losing the big games stretching back to his days at Bayer Leverkusen where he lost the Bundesliga, German Cup and European Cup in the space of a couple of weeks before missing out in the 2002 World Cup final a couple of months later.

However, Ballack's luck looks to have finally changed.

The Chelsea and Germany midfielder married Simone, the mother of his three children, on Monday in a civil ceremony at a castle in Kempfenhausen, near Lake Starnberg at the foot of the German Alps.

The Ballacks plan to have their marriage blessed in a church ceremony on Tuesday and will celebrate with friends and family afterwards with a party at the lake's Bavarian Yacht Club. The festivities will continue when Ballack treats his guests to a hangover-curing breakfast at the Four Seasons hotel in Starnberg.



German captain Michael Ballack is all smiles along with bride Simone as the couple leaves the church right after nuptials in Kempfenhausen on Monday.

Lord's awaits a draw

FROM PAGE 17 Initially in defensive mode, McKenzie, off Monday's sixth ball, cover-drove Monty Panesar for four.

In the first innings the left-arm spinner had taken four for 74 but it was a different story second time around with Panesar, at tea, having bowled 58 overs -- the most he'd delivered in a Test innings -- without a single wicket.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 247 (Prince 101; Panesar 4-74) SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 242-1) Smith c Pietersen b Anderson 107 McKenzie c Ambrose b Anderson 138 Amla not out 88 Kallis b Sidebottom 13 Prince not out 4 Extras: (b-8, lb-8, w-5, nb-1) 22 Total: (For 3 wks in 157 overs) 372 Fall of wickets: 1-204, 2-329, 3-357

To bat: De Villiers, Boucher, Morkel, Harris, Steyn, Ntini Bowler O M R W Panesar 58 13 116 0 Pietersen 6 1 19 0 Kallis b Sidebottom 13 Prince not out 4 Extras: (b-8, lb-8, w-5, nb-1) 22 Total: (For 3 wks in 157 overs) 372 Fall of wickets: 1-204, 2-329, 3-357

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the fifth and final day of the first Test between England and South Africa at Lord's in London on Monday: ENGLAND: First innings 593-8 declared (Bell 199, Pietersen 152, Broad 76, Cook 60; Morkel 4-121, Harris 3-129)

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Asif IPL's

FROM PAGE 17 In October 2006, Asif was banned for one year and fellow fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar for two years after they failed dope tests conducted internally by the PCB.

The bans were however overturned on appeal. Asif, who made his international debut in January 2005, has so far played 11 Tests and taken 51 wickets at an average of 23.13.

He also has 36 wickets from 31 one-day internationals and 12 wickets in nine Twenty20 internationals.

India can

FROM PAGE 17 ensure a series victory. That will be on top of everybody's mind," said Kumble.

"I am sure that at some point of time, Sachin will cross the landmark. It will be a huge achievement not just for him, but also for Indian cricket. He is confident. He has come back fully fit from a groin injury."

India lost 2-1 on their last Test tour of Sri Lanka in 2001, with Tendulkar and Kumble both unavailable due to injuries.

Pioneer League draw held

SPORTS REPORTER

The Metropolis Football League Committee (MFLC) yesterday completed the draw of the second phase of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League.

Twenty qualifiers split into four groups take part in the second phase which kicks off July 18 at the Shaheed Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

The four group champions move into the semifinals with only the finalists getting promotion to next year's third division league.

MFLC chairman Manzoor Hossain Malu, co-ordinator Azfaruzzaman Sohrab and others were present at the draw.

The teams are: Group A: Golam Mostafa Lane KS, Swadhinata KC, Lalbagh TS, Jatrabari JS and Dhaka XI. Group B: Tangail FC, Arambagh KS Juniors, Mir Hazaribagh KC, Madrassahpara SC and Noakhali FA.

Group C: Rampura KC, Maghbazar KC, Mansur SC, Samaj Kallayan and Krija Sangsad Mugdipara and Surjosena SC.

Group D: Tejgaon Nabataranga, Samajik and Sangskritik Sangha, Bangladesh SC, Nawabpur KC, BKSP and Mohammadpur JSKS.

Tharanga gets his chance

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan batsman Upul Tharanga was on Monday given a chance to stake his claim for the upcoming home Test series against India after being named in the 12-man squad for a warm-up match against the tourists.

India arrive in Sri Lanka on Tuesday and open the tour with a three-day practice game against a Sri Lanka Board XI in Colombo on Friday. It is the tourists' only fixture before the three-Test series starts on July 23.

They will also play five one-day internationals after the Tests.

BOARD XI

Jehan Mubarak (captain), Mahela Udawatte, Upul Tharanga, Chamara Kapugedera, Chamara Silva, Thilina Kandamby, Kaushal Silva, Chanaka Welagedera, Sujewa Silva, Dammika Prasad, Rangana Herath, Dilhara Fernando.

China remain

FROM PAGE 17 Its 2008 report gives China a rise of 25 golds, silvers and bronzes for its home Olympics, putting it top of table with 88 compared to 87 for the U.S., which is predicted to drop by 16 medals compared Athens.

"The combination of the home country effect and the state support for sport... is expected to lead to a particularly significant boost to Chinese medal performance, allowing them to challenge the U.S. for top position in the medal table," read the report.

Cui's message, though, seems to have got through to the Chinese people, certainly if a random sample of Beijingers on the streets surrounding the vast sports ministry compounds in the south of the city last week is anything to go by.

"I don't think China will top the medals table," said a school caretaker in his 50s surnamed Zhang. "In table tennis, China will do well but besides that it will be difficult."

A designer, Li Xiaobo, predicted about 40 gold medals for the hosts and reflected the thoughts of many in China, who believe performing on home soil will prove to be a double-edged sword.

"We could have the most gold medals but in total medals, the U.S. will be stronger," the designer said.

Proteas skipper pleased

Cricket

AFP, London

South Africa captain Graeme Smith was proud of the character he and old school friend Neil McKenzie demonstrated after their hundreds battered the Proteas towards an unlikely first Test draw against England.

The duo shared a stand of 204 before Smith was out shortly before the close but the left-hander's innings of 107 played a major role in South Africa reaching stumps on 242 for one after they'd been made to follow-on.

That still left them 104 runs behind England's first innings 593 for eight declared.

However, Michael Vaughan's men headed into Monday's final day knowing they had to take nine wickets, having managed just one on Sunday, to have a chance of going 1-0 up in this four-Test series.

For the 27-year-old Smith, this was his second Test hundred at Lord's.

Five years ago the Western Province batsman made 259, the highest individual score by an overseas batsman in a Lord's Test, a match the Proteas won by a crushing 107 runs and 92 runs.

Smith, who batted for over five hours after being dismissed for just eight in the first innings, acknowledged this was another sort of century entirely after England dominated the first three days of this match.

"The first few days were very different to 2003. We've been outplayed and England have been more precise," he said.

He added: "One thing you learn is to bat the situation. It was really good hard Test cricket today, man-on-man, and it defines the character of people."

The South Africa skipper, who prior to this Test had been at the crease for just two hours on tour, after suffering a hamstring injury while playing in the Indian Premier League, added: "It's got to be one of my best innings, considering the pressure we'd been under."

McKenzie's hundred was his

fifth Test century but third this year after nearly four years out of the side.

But the decision to convert the 32-year-old from a middle-order batsman to an opener has proved a good one and he will resume Monday on 102 not out, having already defied England's attack for nearly seven hours.

"It's great for me to have 'Mac back in the set-up,'" said Smith. "We took a risk pushing him up from but we backed his mental strength and technique and it's been a terrific performance by him."

Looking to the final day, Smith said: "The morning session tomorrow is crucial for us."

"The ball will still be pretty new. Monty Panesar will still be a big threat but we've played spin pretty well for the last year and I would like to see that continue."

Neither side will have much time to recover ahead of Friday's start of the second Test in Leeds and Smith added: "We let ourselves down and the bowlers are hurting. Hopefully, we can only improve at Headingley."

Daily grind begins

Football

AFP, Vienna

Barely two weeks after the final whistle of Euro 2008, teams from around the continent are heading back to Austria, this time to prepare for their upcoming seasons.

Over half of the German Bundesliga sides, as well as Italian, English, Spanish, Turkish and Romanian clubs - in all, about 60 foreign teams - are holding their pre-season training camps in the small alpine country, whether in mountainous Vorarlberg in the west, or the plains of Burgenland in the east.

And the Euro can take little credit for this.

The two most prestigious teams, Arsenal and Real Madrid, have been coming here for years: Arsene Wenger's troops will arrive on July 21 for their eighth visit, while the Spaniards, arriving the same day, will be here on their sixth outing.

"We started a little by chance with AS Roma in 1996," says Nikolaus Pichler, whose firm IFCS runs a dozen camps, mostly in

southern Styria province. "They liked it so much that they came back eight years in a row. After that, others came too."

For Paul Strassl, whose SLFC company manages camps in Salzburg province, success is due to a combination of factors: "We have big hotels, Austrian cuisine is well known and we have quality sport facilities."

"The mountains are also ideal for physical training, it's not too hot."

Visiting teams get the full treatment when they arrive here.

"We take care of everything: we fetch them at the airport, we drive the players to training, do the laundry. So they can focus on their game," says Ingo, a student who has catered to several teams over the past few summers.

With Austria as an increasingly popular destination, specialised agencies, sanctioned by the European football governing body UEFA, are now even planning friendlies between teams training in the same region.

"That's another bonus," says Pichler.

And the European football

championship in June, which Austria co-hosted with Switzerland, brought just a little more publicity to this small country, whose performance on the pitch has been rather poor in recent years.

Now Strassl is hoping the Euro will bring him more business, especially from clubs in Spain, Greece and Russia, whose national teams were based in Salzburg and nearby Tyrol during the championship.

"We need word-of-mouth," he says.

Local governments in both Styria and Salzburg also have a stake in IFCS and SLFC.

"We expect between 15,000 and 20,000 more overnight stays this season, thanks to these camps," says Salzburg tourism director Leo Bauernberger.

In other words, the local economy will make a profit of about 4 million euros (6.36 million dollars).

And with images of these training camps creating further publicity on television, the two provinces are hoping to attract even more tourists in the future... whether they play football or not.

TOUR OF INDIA Scheduling upsets ECB

Cricket

AFP, London

English cricket chiefs reacted with "disappointment" on Monday after receiving the proposed itinerary for England's tour of India later this year, warning they'd yet to accept it fully.

What particularly upset officials at the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) was the lack of international matches at India's major grounds such as Kolkata's Eden Gardens, Bangalore and Chennai while neither of the scheduled two Tests is being played in Delhi, which they said represented a snub to fans.

An ECB statement issued Monday said: "ECB are disappointed that, despite their representations, the itinerary doesn't offer the thousands of supporters who follow the England team abroad the opportunity to experience more of the great cricket grounds of India."

"As far as the ECB are concerned, the acceptance of the itinerary remains subject to acceptable logistical arrangements

and an acceptable security environment and security arrangements being in place at each of the venues."

England's tour, which begins in November, also features seven one-day internationals.

That follows an agreement the ECB reached with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) about the tour series to India in 2008 and the reciprocal tour to England in 2011.

The BCCI preferred England play two Test matches and seven one-day internationals rather than three Tests and five one-day internationals.

In 2011 the ECB's preference was for four Test matches, five one-day internationals and an international Twenty20 on India's tour of England.

ITINERARY

Nov 06: England arrive, Mumbai Nov 09: One-day warm-up match, Mumbai Nov 11: One-day warm-up match, Mumbai Nov 14: 1st ODI, Rajkot Nov 17: 2nd ODI, Indore Nov 20: 3rd ODI, Kanpur Nov 23: 4th ODI, Jamshedpur

Nov 26: 5th ODI, Cuttack Nov 29: 6th ODI, Guwahati Dec 02: 7th ODI, Delhi Dec 05: 3-day warm-up match, Baroda Dec 11: 1st Test, Ahmedabad Dec 19: 2nd Test, Mumbai

Police, Josephites in semifinals

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police and Josephites Club moved to the semifinals of the Federation Cup Basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Police beat Dhumketu Club 46-43 in the first match after leading the first half 29-24.

Tareq caged 14 points while Pintu 10 for Dhumketu. Rustam notched 11 points for Police.

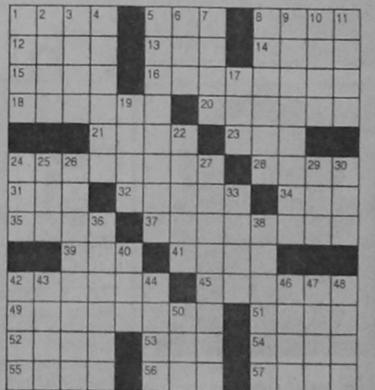
In the second match, Josephites defeated Hornets Sporting Club 94-77 after enjoying a 52-33 first-half lead.

Raja scored 20 points while Ibrahim 18 for Josephites Club. Ovi and Aziz netted 19 and 18 points respectively for Hornets.

The semifinals will take place at the same venue tomorrow.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 KFC 55 Remain 10 Vien- 11 Vicinity 56 Tavern liane's 12 Hot tub 37 Track 57 Bankrolls land 8 Stubborn star, 11 Right one perhaps DOWN 12 Predicate 39 Numerical 1 Eager, 17 Greek component prefix and then vowel 41 Concert some 19 Surround 13 Scoundrel halls 2 Start over 22 Mortar or 14 October 42 10 god 3 Love for short 15 "Ameri- Down's 4 Burning 24 German can" e.g. 5 Biology, 25 Born pronoun 16 World- 45 Improve botany, 26 Born wide- 49 Break 6 Play on words, 25 Quesa- police organiza- 49 Break 6 Play on words, 25 Quesa- tion into 7 Macramé, 27 Certain 18 Two 51 Liberator "decou- 43 Skewer 19 maybe 52 Potter's 8 Spokes- cat for 30 Scratch 20 Empha- 53 Actor 9 Lives 33 Nothing, in Nantes 36 Intelligent 21 Galvaniz- 54 Exort 9 Boxer's 38 Not wide material Wilson tactic 40 Hostel 24 Melody 24 Walkie- 42 Requests talkie's 43 Skewer 44 Impale 28 Surface 46 "The Matter Music Man" setting 31 Office VIP 47 Prompted 32 Raise an objection 48 Coop group 50 Historic 34 "My home, sweet home" 49 Historic time



CRYPTOQUIP

KLQXTFL YA HXRZSLD LJIPAF YXNCJR IXGXMLJPPF KTDFS. C DLQNPJ FZL'H KL QXGLH X MLMLD MPMMLD Saturday's Cryptquip: THE SHOW ME STATE HAS VERY RECENTLY ADOPTED A NEW TOURISM SLOGAN: "MISSOURI LOVES CANOPY." Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals P