



The Chinese synchronised swimmers perform in the team technical routine preliminaries of the 13th FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome yesterday.

Friends come face-to-face!

PTI, Nagpur

Barely five days after his remarks against Sachin Tendulkar created a controversy, former India player Vinod Kambli on Saturday came face-to-face with his celebrated childhood friend at a public function here.

Tendulkar and Kambli made their first joint appearance at a felicitation programme where their coach Ramakant Achrekar was also honoured.

At the event, titled "Gaurav Guru Shishyancha" (in honour of the coach and his pupil), the two childhood friends were seated on either side of Achrekar and were seen talking to each other.

Both seemed to be in a relaxed mood and were also seen sharing some jokes.

Tendulkar paid rich tributes to his mentor Achrekar and said he could attain such heights because of the 'sir'.

Tendulkar recalled an incident when his coach told him to play for 'B' team of his school. Instead of batting, he preferred sitting in the gallery and cheering his schoolmates.

In the evening, when he came across Achrekar, he was asked how many runs he had scored. Taken aback, Tendulkar told him that he was clapping and cheering up. Then came a slap which shattered his myth.

Kambli, who started off his career with a flourish but fizzled out after innumerical comebacks, had recently stirred a controversy by accusing Tendulkar of not helping him enough in a TV reality show.

Among others felicitated at the ceremony were Praveen Amre and Sameer Dighe. A local arts and cultural academy organised the function which was presided over by Board of Control for Cricket in India president Shashank Manohar.

Owen lifts

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was tipped over the bar. United though were clearly rusty and missed the flair of Cristiano Ronaldo, with passes going astray and Malaysia being given too much room.

Despite this, United doubled their lead on 27 minutes after Rooney timed a pass perfectly to Nani who slotted the ball home with his left foot from close range.

But complacency crept in as half-time neared and Van Der Saar was caught napping by Yahyah who cleverly lobbed the ball over the Dutchman's head from 30 yards to set the crowd alight.

Ben Foster replaced him for the second half but fared no better, committing a schoolboy error when he failed to clear a back pass, which Yahyah lunched on to draw Malaysia level after 52 minutes.

It prompted Ferguson to make four substitutions with Owen, Wes Brown, Zoran Totic and Fabio all coming on.

The match looked headed for a draw before Owen worked some of his old magic to get their pre-season off on the right foot.

Higuain

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highest order, but that doesn't mean we didn't have any before. Those who have joined us this summer did a lot at their previous clubs and we hope they do the same at Real Madrid," said Higuain.

Real will play a friendly match against current Irish champions Shamrock Rovers on July 20, two days before its training camp in Ireland ends.

Hinds sides with players

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Former West Indies international Wavell Hinds has added his voice to those critical of the way the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has handled dealings with its players.

"I am very disappointed in the statements I have seen coming from the WICB which certainly do not represent the issues as I know them to be," Hinds, who is currently playing for Derbyshire, said. "They've attempted to paint our players in a particular light while I know that there are a number of fundamental issues that the WICB have failed to address repeatedly that go to the core of any contractual relationship."

"I cannot sit idly by and not comment when there seems to be a great deal of misinformation in the public domain. Fortunately the public knows how the WICB has conducted its affairs and should be in a position to judge if and when all the facts are available to them and the public knows who has been most transparent on this issue."

"I am seeing the WICB's position and I am flabbergasted since... I sat for almost 14 hours and arrived at an agreement on Retainer Contracts, Fees for First Class Cricketers and Injury Payments among other things on April 2 in St. Lucia. I am at a loss to understand the WICB's current stance on its agreements with the West Indies Players' Association."

"While many people have supported the stand taken by the players, there are some who seem to believe that the players should accept this kind of treatment. However, I wish to make it abundantly clear that all persons should be treated with respect and that is what our players want."

Hinds said that despite being in England, he had followed events closely and believed there was solidarity among the players. "How much do [the WICB] really care about the players who represent the West Indies team? Do they care about the public, the sponsors and key stakeholders or is there something else that we should know about?"

"When the first-class players did not take the field earlier this year, many were kicked out of their hotels but I note that the WICB has seen it fit to finance full page ads in many newspapers. Is this a statement on their priorities? They need to answer those questions and a number of others. The WICB needs to be accountable and transparent and to honour their agreements with the players. The players have had enough."

Hinds explained his belief that the WICB's claim the players were in breach of agreements "would do very little to improve the relationship between board and players". He continued: "This approach by the WICB may be taken as very confrontational. I can say without fear of contradiction that WIPA stands ready and willing to negotiate with the WICB to resolving all of the outstanding issues but will not be bullied in anyway by the WICB."

Tigers spin their way

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Dowlin caught at extra cover trying to force his way to a landmark hundred with an inside-out shot.

The 32-year-old Dowlin batted for close to 3-3/4 hours to smote seven fours and one six from 162 balls.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings
Richards c and b Mahmudullah 69
Phillips c Tamim b Shakib 23
Dowlin c Tamim b Shakib 95
Hinds c and b Mahmudullah 2
Reifer lbw b Mahmudullah 1
Bernard c Ashraf b Shakib 17
Sammy lbw b Enamul 1
Walton c Ashraf b Enamul 2
Austin hit wicket b Shahadat 19
Best b Enamul 0
Roach not out 4
Extras: (lb-1, nb-3) 4
Total: (All out in 76.1 overs) 237

Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-104, 3-106, 4-114, 5-157, 6-158, 7-160, 8-219, 9-220

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahadat	9	2	30	1
Rubel	6	0	27	0
Enamul	24	2	62	3
Shakib	21.1	7	59	3
Mahmudullah	13	2	44	3
Ashraf	3	0	14	0

BANGLADESH: First innings
Imrul c Walton b Sammy 14
Tamim not out 14
Enamul not out 5
Extras: (lb-1, w-1) 2
Total: (For 1 wkt in 10 overs) 35

Fall of wickets: 1-26
To bat: Zunaed, Shakib, Ashraf, Rokibul, Mushfiq, Mahmudullah, Shahadat, Rubel

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	3	0	14	0
Best	4	0	16	0
Sammy	3	1	4	1

England go slow

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stumps just missed with Pietersen, unaware of where the ball had gone, well out of his ground.

Johnson, billed as the spearhead of Australia's attack after a successful series in South Africa this year, had struggled for line and length during England's first innings.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the second Ashes Test between England and Australia at Lord's in London on Saturday:
ENGLAND: First innings 425 (Strauss 161, Cook 95; Hilfenhaus 4-103, Johnson 3-132)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 156-8)

Hughes c Prior b Anderson 4
Katich c Broad b Onions 48
Ponting c Strauss b Anderson 2
Hussey b Flintoff 51
Clarke c Cook b Anderson 1
North b Anderson 0
Haddin c Cook b Broad 28
Johnson c Cook b Broad 4
Hauritz c Collingwood b Onions 24
Siddle c Strauss b Onions 35
Hilfenhaus not out 6
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-2) 12
Total: (All out in 63 overs) 215

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-10, 3-103, 4-111, 5-111, 6-139, 7-148, 8-152, 9-196, 10-215.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	21	5	55	4
Flintoff	12	4	27	1
Broad	18	1	78	2
Onions	11	1	41	3
Swann	1	0	4	0

ENGLAND: Second innings
Strauss c Clarke b Hauritz 32

Cook lbw b Hauritz 32
Bopara not out 19
Pietersen not out 28
Extras: (b-12, lb-5, w-1, nb-1) 19
Total: (For 2 wts in 40 overs) 130

To bat: Collingwood, Prior, Flintoff, Broad, Swann, Anderson, Onions.
Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-74.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hilfenhaus	16	5	38	0
Johnson	10	2	28	0
Siddle	10	4	35	0
Hauritz	4	1	12	2

Jimmy gets

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play around his front pad early in his innings. But there was some controversy attached to his exit. Anderson appealed initially for lbw but the ball carried to England captain Andrew Strauss at first slip.

On-field umpires Rudi Koertzen and Billy Doctrove referred the appeal to TV official Nigel Long, only empowered to rule if the catch was fair. He did and Ponting had to go, although replays suggested the ball had missed his bat.

"I was originally going up for lbw," Anderson said. "There were two noises there. The other guys were going for the catch and Strauss was alert enough to take it."

Known as a swing bowler, Anderson insisted England had not received excessive help from the cloud cover which eventually enveloped the ground.

2011 WORLD CUP PCB rejects boycott talks

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) chief operating officer, Saleem Altaf, on Saturday rebuffed claims that Pakistan was considering boycotting the 2011 World Cup under instruction from its government.

"No such thing or option has ever been discussed within the board or with the government," Altaf told PTI.

Reports claimed the government was contemplating advising PCB to boycott the 2011 World Cup to be jointly hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh after Pakistan was delisted from hosting matches during the tournament over security fears.

Pakistan was due to host 14 matches of the tournament but the International Cricket Council moved these matches to the other three host countries due to safety concerns.

Pakistan has contested the ICC decision and has asked the disputes resolution committee of the ICC to take up the case.

The PCB has also threatened to take legal action if its hosting rights were not restored.

Harmy reminds once again

AFP, London

Discarded England fast bowler Stephen Harmison gave the selectors another indication of his Ashes credentials as he bowled county champions Durham to the brink of victory over Nottinghamshire.

Harmison, released from England's squad before the start of the ongoing second Test at Lord's, took dramatic figures Friday of six wickets for 20 runs at Trent Bridge.

Earlier this season, bowling for the England Lions, he took six wickets against Australia, having been dropped from the Test side during England's tour of the Caribbean this year.

But with England reducing Australia to 156 for eight at stumps on the second day of the second Test -- still 70 runs short of avoiding the follow-on -- and James Anderson taking four for 36, Harmison could be waiting a while yet for an international recall.

Russia lead the pack

AFP, Rome

Favourites Russia continued their fine tradition in team synchronised swimming events by topping the scorecards in the technical team preliminaries on Saturday.

Russia only just edged out Spain by half a point with a score of 98.000 while China finished third ahead of Canada and Japan.

Russia has not lost a team event in synchronised swimming for well over a decade, claiming the last six gold medals on offer, dating back to 1998.

3rd Division cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket of Pirates emerged Group J Champions beating Dakhin Khan Nabo Udayan Sangha by six wickets in the qualifying round match of the Metropolis 3rd Division Cricket League at the City Club ground yesterday.

Batting first, Dakhin Khan Udayan Sangha scored 176 runs in stipulated 45 overs with Saiful making 40.

In reply, Cricket of Pirates reached the target making 178-4 in 34.1 overs with Issa contributing 58.

In the day's other match, East End Club Cricket Academy (118/8) beat Alhaj Kazi Abdus Samad Smriti Sangsad (117 /10) by two wickets at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Earlier, Amiran Smriti Club (Group A), Fear Fighters SC (Group B), Young Talent Cricket Academy (Group C), Mirpur Friends Club (Group D), Sunamganj Ragib Rabeya Cricketers (Group E), Cricketer Coaching School Academy (Group F), Ahmed Lokman Memorial SC (Group G), Sk Jamal Smriti Cricketers (Group H) and Taj Property Cricket Club (Group I) clinched the group titles to reach the next round.

School kabaddi begins on Thursday

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka DC School Kabaddi (Boys and Girls) tournament will commence at the Kabaddi Stadium on Thursday.

A total of 16 schools, eight boys and eight girls will compete in the meet.

Boys' teams include Bhasha Shaheed Abdul Jabbar Ansar VDP School & College, Sanarpar Sheikh Mortaza Ali High School, Siddeswari Boys High School, Dolaipar High School, Islambagh Ashraf Ali High School, Rahmatullah Model High School, Churain Tarini Bama High School and Dhalpur High School.

Among the Girls' teams are Bhasha Shaheed Abdul Jabbar Ansar VDP School & College, Dolaipar High School, Rahmatullah Model High School, Sanarpar Sheikh Mortaza Ali High School, Islambagh Ashraf Ali High School, Vigarunnisa Noon School & College, Nutunkuri High School and Siddeswari Girls School.

MU reject Indonesia plea

Football

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Manchester United on Saturday rejected an Indonesian plea to reconsider their decision to cancel a match in Jakarta, saying they had a responsibility to ensure the safety of their players.

The Premier League champions were due to take on an Indonesian All-Star team on Monday but pulled out after a bomb attack on the Jakarta hotel they were due to stay in on Saturday and Sunday night.

Indonesian Presidential spokesperson Dino Patti Djalal was quoted by the Jakarta Post as urging United to press ahead with the visit.

"There is no more powerful message to the world than to continue with the Jakarta match as planned," he said.

"Of all the great feats that have been, and will be, achieved by Manchester United as a great football team with a heart, proceeding with the match in Jakarta as a measure of solidarity will be long remembered by history."

But the club refused to budge. "The decision to cancel the Jakarta leg of the

tour was not taken lightly, but after an act of terrorism," it said in a statement Saturday.

"The club received advice from a variety of sources, including our own Foreign Office. That advice has not changed and so the club's decision has to stand."

"Everyone at the club is disappointed not to be able to play in Indonesia, but it has a responsibility to its players and staff."

Indonesian police were Saturday studying DNA evidence from the remains of the two suicide bombers who carried out the twin attacks on the Ritz-Carlton and Marriott hotels, as security was tightened across the country.

Suspected Islamist militants detonated powerful devices in an upmarket business district on Friday, leaving nine dead and up to 50 injured including at least 18 foreigners.

United have yet to decide what they will do to fill the void left by the cancellation of their Indonesia visit, although they have indicated they will remain in Kuala Lumpur.

Football Federation Australia said they had approached the team about staging a hastily-arranged fixture in either Sydney or Melbourne against A-League champions Melbourne Victory or Sydney FC.

But a spokesman said logistical issues put paid to the plan.

Gone in one week!

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia have only themselves to blame after going from "flat track bullies to hapless hookers" in less than a week during their Ashes battle with England, Australian media said on Saturday.

Ashes holders Australia were 156 for eight at stumps after the second day of the second Test on Friday.

At 269 runs behind England's first innings total of 425, they need a further 70 runs to avoid the follow-on as England bid for a first Test win over Australia at Lord's in 75 years.

"In less than a week Australia's batsmen have gone from flat track bullies to hapless hookers as they handed England a huge advantage in the second Test," The Australian's Malcolm Conn said.

"They have been the masters of their own demise with some dumb batting against a persistent but hardly devastating England attack."

Despite seeing four batsmen score centuries for the first time in an Ashes innings before declaring on 674 for six in Cardiff last week, Australia have experienced a reversal of fortune in the second Test at Lords.

The Sydney Morning Herald said Australia collapsed when the real Jimmy Anderson revealed himself with a destructive display of swing bowling as the touring team failed to recover from the controversial dismissal of captain Ricky Ponting.

Vaas's farewell

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fourth seamer alongside Nuwan Kulasekera, Thilan Thushara and Angelo Mathews on a wicket that has taken a lot of rain over the past three days.

That would leave out right-arm spinner Ajantha Mathews, who has been unimpressive so far in the series with just five wickets in four innings.

Sri Lanka won the first Test before lunch on the fourth day and took the second inside three days despite the absence of world bowling record holder Muttiah Muralidaran due to a knee injury.

Muralidaran, 37, who has 770 Test wickets, will again miss out despite having recovered from the injury as the selectors prefer to rest him ahead of a busy season.

Sri Lanka play five one-dayers against Pakistan after the Test, followed by two Tests against New Zealand in August and a tri-series with the Kiwis and India in September.

Sri Lanka will also compete

in the Champions Trophy in South Africa in September-October before touring India at the end of the year for a Test and one-day series.

Former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene, who stood down in March to concentrate on his batting, said his successor Kumar Sangakkara deserved credit for outclassing Pakistan in the series.

"Winning the series was a fantastic achievement and a great effort from all the guys in the team," Jayawardene was quoted as saying by Cricinfo.

"To play below par and take a 2-0 lead is really pleasing. But the fact is that we are not playing brilliant Test cricket right now and there is some way for us to get to our best."

"The thing with captaincy is that you need to make bold decisions and you need to think out of the box. Sangakkara has been doing that."

School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The fifth round of the 11th Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament ended on Saturday at the N.S.C Tower Auditorium Lounge.

Abdullah Al Saif and Debotol Dey (India) are jointly leading the points table with maximum five points each. Ikramul Haque Siam and Rupesh Jaiswal (Nepal) are jointly holding 2nd position with 4 ½ points each in the same group.

In the Girls' Section, Tanzina Akter Tani and Sweta Saha (India) are jointly leading in the points table with maximum five points each at the end of the fifth round.

In the KG- Class V group, Debdeep Das of Kolkata is leading in the points table with maximum five points. Fahad Rahman and Abigyan Mukherjee (India) are jointly holding the 2nd position with 4 ½ points each.

6th round games of all three groups will take place on Monday at the same venue.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Whatever amount	3 Buffalo Bill	25 Sound receptor
1 Punch	39 Every crumb	4 Money of Malawi	26 Cudgel
5 Biol. or bot.	40 Acid type	5 Religious offshoots	27 Conger, for one
8 Pack (down)	43 Actor	6 Wagon	28 Pirouette
12 Vittles ...	46 Gould	7 Judge	29 Potent stick
13 ... and what to do with them	47 Lots of power?	8 Lance	31 Pigpen
14 Operatic show-stopper	49 Expanded	9 Hire	34 Potassium
15 Verdi work	50 Press	9 Vicinity	35 Sufficient, old-style
16 Alamo casualty	51 "CSI" evidence	10 Catcher's need	36 Under the weather
18 Refuse to buy	52 Long lunch?	11 Maze option	37 Trivial
20 Moor	53 Antitoxins	12 Burn something	39 Sacrifice site
21 Possesses	54 Rowing need	13 Sturdy tree	40 Parisian pals
22 Chinese chairman	55 — River, N.J.	22 Pie ingredient?	41 Unembellished
23 Enthusiast		23 Gov. agcy.	42 "Young Frankenstein" role
26 Longtime TV variety star		24 Pi follower	

Solution time: 21 mins.	
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SHREDS GUILTY	
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SANDBURG GOOD	
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