

Bari becomes PCB COO

AFP, Karachi

Former national captain Wasim Bari has been appointed chief operating officer of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)...

The appointment of 61-year-old Bari, currently director of human resources, comes after Altaf was sacked earlier this month...

"The governing board of the PCB... has appointed Bari as chief operating officer of the PCB with immediate effect," said a PCB press release.

Bari said he would do his best to lift the image of Pakistani cricket, tainted by security fears and a number of scandals.

"Pakistan cricket has suffered badly, but we are trying our level best to lift it and we will do it with the best of efforts," he told AFP.

"This new post is a great challenge for me. I will do my best to work for the promotion of the game in Pakistan. I like working together and with consensus, that is my principle," he added.

Bari played 81 Tests and 51 one-day internationals in 1960s and 70s, and also served as chairman of selectors as recently as 2007.

Ponting quits

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Ponting survived calls for his sacking after the Ashes loss but said he had considered his future during a break from the England tour...

"The last 10 or 12 days for me have been a lot about reflection, looking back to the Ashes and looking forward to my playing future," he said.

"As of today I've decided to retire from international Twenty20 cricket. The decision I've made is all to do with my longevity in the game."

He said opting out of Twenty20s would give him an extra four weeks' rest over the next 12 months. Australia's next Twenty20 International is on February 5 against Pakistan in Melbourne.

"That will give me an opportunity to get away and make sure that I'm ready to go for both the Test matches and one-day cricket that we have ahead of us in that period of time," Ponting said.

"I'm really passionate and committed to being the best player I can be for Australia for as long as possible," he added.

Ponting will continue to play for his home state of Tasmania in Australia's Big Bash tournament and will represent Kolkata Knight Riders in the lucrative Indian Premier League.

MSC sew up

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Although Mashrafe and Shakib is believed to get the record amount of Tk20 lakhs each.

"It is true a discussion was taken place and I had promised Abahani (to play for them in the upcoming season), but nothing was finalised as I did not put pen on the paper, or even taken any advance money from them and I have the right to consider other offers until I strike a deal and I also did the same thing last season," said Tamim, who claimed that he confirmed with Tk 20 lakhs with Mohammedan defending his move.

Ashraf promised a better show this time for the Black and White's and stated that Mohammedan is the number one team on paper in this season.

"I played for Mohammedan in 2007 but could not do enough. But I am confident that things would be different this time. Mohammedan made a champion team this time because it's a balanced side," said the ace batsman.

England captain Andrew Strauss called on his batsmen to be "smarter" during the remainder of their one-day internationals against Australia after falling further behind in the series here at Lord's.

Sunday's 39-run defeat left England 2-0 down in the seven-match campaign ahead of Wednesday's day/night clash in Southampton.

England, chasing 250 for victory, were well-placed at 74 without loss.

But a rapid collapse saw them lose four wickets for 23 runs in 33 balls as they slumped to 97 for four.

Despite the best efforts of Paul Collingwood, last man out for 56, they were unable to retrieve the situation and were dismissed for 210 as world champions Australia won with 23 balls to spare.

"Being 70-odd for nought we were in a great position to really come home quite comfortably but to a certain extent we were the architects of our own downfall," said Strauss.

The left-handed opening batsman made a stylish 47 off 53 balls, including six fours, before giving his wicket away on his Middlesex home

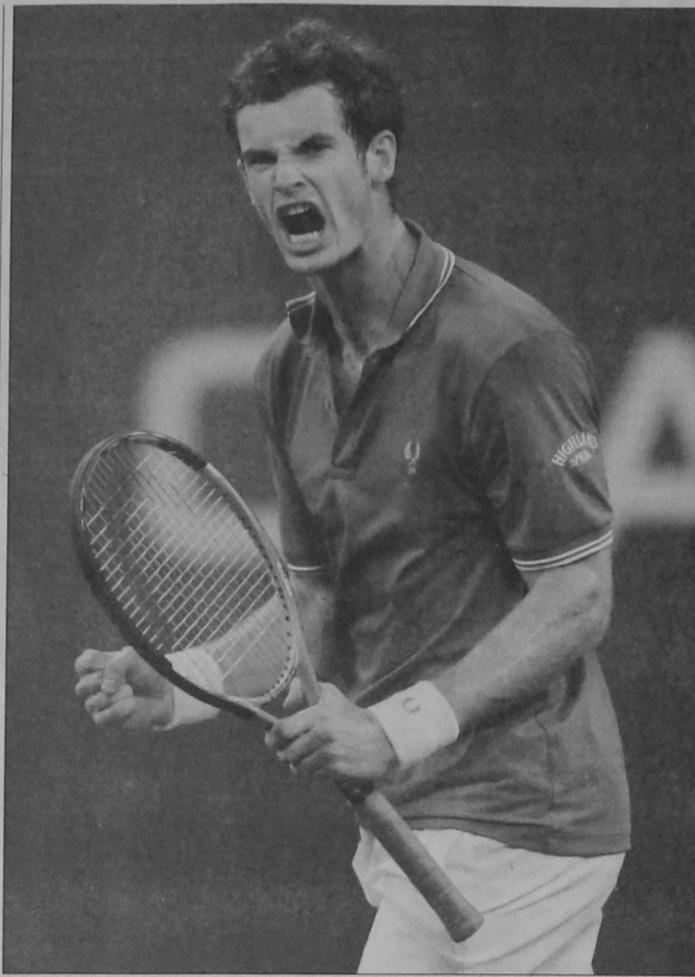


PHOTO AFP

British hope Andy Murray celebrates after winning the second set against Taylor Dent of the USA in their 3rd round tie of the US Open at the Flushing Meadows in New York on Sunday.

Nadal plays thru' pain Murray dents US hope

AFP, New York



Second seed Andy Murray of Britain blunted the big serve of American Taylor Dent to post a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory to reach the fourth round of the US Open on Sunday.

The Scotsman allowed the hard-hitting Dent only two 145 mile-per-hour (233.3 kph) aces, getting everything else back into the court and taking advantage of his superior all-around skills to win in a brisk 90 minutes on a chilly night.

Murray belted seven aces himself among 39 winners and faced only two break points in bringing the day seven programme to a close.

The 22-year-old Briton, runner-up last year to Roger Federer, will face 16th seed Marin Cilic of Croatia for a berth in the quarterfinals.

Rafael Nadal also advanced to the fourth round on Sunday in his quest to complete a career Grand Slam but a right abdominal muscle injury brought new health concerns for the Spanish third seed.

Nadal received abdominal treatment from a trainer in the third set of a 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 victory over 32nd-ranked countryman Nicolas Pietrangeli and his reluctance to speak about it after the match added more fitness worries.

Pressed on whether or not the treatment helped him in the third set, the six-time Grand Slam winner replied, "I won 6-4. You can see I didn't serve very fast but I think I played better from the baseline than before."

Nadal called the trainer after breaking to pull within 2-1 in the third set.

After laying on his back on the concrete for treatment of what could be a flare-up of a muscle strain suffered last month at Cincinnati, Nadal held serve, broke for a 3-2 edge and served out to win despite discomfort.

Nadal, whose best US Open run came into last year's semifinals, will play for a quarterfinal berth against French 13th seed Gael Monfils, who was ahead 6-3, 6-4, 1-0 when Argentina's

Jose Acasuso retired with left knee pain. "I have to come out ready for the next match," Nadal said. "For today it was enough but for sure I can do better."

Nadal, the reigning Australian Open champion, is coming off a two-month layoff due to knee tendinitis, a break that kept him from defending his 2008 Wimbledon crown.

"I just plan to keep on improving my tennis and keep playing this tournament because it's special to me," Nadal said. "It's special motivation when you try to come back and play your best as fast as possible."

Nadal and Almagro exchanged seven breaks in a first-set groundstroke clinic, but Nadal ended a run of four consecutive breaks by holding to end the set, then broke and held in the last two games of the second set to take charge.

"It was a difficult match," Nadal said. "He started with a break, I have break back. This kind of match is important to win."

A sore right knee forced French ninth seed Gilles Simon to retire from his third-round match against Juan Carlos Ferrero, the 24th-seeded Spaniard leading 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 1-0 when Simon called it quits.

Ferrero, the 2003 French Open champion and 2003 US Open runner-up who won his first title in six years at Casablanca in April, will face Argentine sixth seed Juan Martin del Potro for a last-eight berth.

Del Potro lost six games in a row at one stage but fired 20 aces in beating Austrian Daniel Koelliker 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

No Frenchman has won a Grand Slam singles crown since Yannick Noah at the 1983 French Open, but seventh seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, last year's Australian Open runner-up, and Monfils are still in the hunt to end the drought.

Tsonga ousted compatriot Julien Benneteau 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-4 to book a date with French Open semi-finalist and 2007 Australian Open runner-up Fernando Gonzalez, the Chilean 11th seed who beat Czech Tomas Berdych 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

ground when he chipped a gentle return catch to off-spinner Nathan Hauritz.

Strauss added: "Three reasonably soft wickets fell in a short space of time and suddenly we're in that situation where you're asking the bowlers to score runs for you, which is not really what we want to be doing."

"Maybe we just haven't been smart enough in what our percentage shots are and we've been a little bit soft in our dismissals. I firmly believe your top six have got to score the bulk of your runs in one-day cricket and we haven't done that for the last couple of games."

England dropped Adil Rashid at Lord's despite the leg-spinner conceding just 37 runs in his 10 overs and scoring 31 not out in Australia's series opening four-run win at the Oval on Friday.

But Strauss said England had been hampered by a neck injury to Stuart Broad which saw the all-rounder ruled out at Lord's.

"It wasn't an ideal situation to be in because he (Rashid) bowled so well and he showed so many encouraging signs."

"To a certain extent we were slightly hamstrung by the fact Stuart Broad wasn't fit and we felt we needed to bolster the batting."

"Our bowlers did a very good job, 249 is very chaseable. I thought it was a very flat wicket to be honest and so the batsmen have got to hold up their hands and say we weren't good enough."

Australia go 2-0 up

Cricket

AFP, London

Mitchell Johnson starred with both bat and ball as Australia beat England by 39 runs in the second one-day international at Lord's on Sunday.

Victory, achieved with 23 balls to spare, saw world champions Australia go 2-0 up in the seven-match series.

England, chasing 250 for victory, were well-placed at 74 without loss.

But a rapid collapse saw them lose four wickets for 23 runs in 33 balls as they slumped to 97 for four.

Despite the best efforts of Paul Collingwood, last man out for 56, they were unable to retrieve the situation and were dismissed for 210.

Earlier, man-of-the-match Johnson's rapid 43 not out helped boost Australia's total to 249 for eight. He faced just 23 balls, including five fours before taking two wickets for 50 runs.

Together with Nathan Hauritz, he shared an unbroken stand of 41 after Australia were in danger of being bowled out inside their allotted 50 overs.

Callum Ferguson top-scored with 55, his second successive fifty after his man-of-the-match winning 71 not out in Australia's four-run win in Friday's series opener at the Oval.

"Mitchell Johnson's innings at the end is a winning

innings. He got the runs quickly and that gave us a score to defend which we were able to do thanks to the bowlers doing a great job," said Australia captain Michael Clarke.

England skipper Andrew Strauss bemoaned his team's batting collapse.

"We should have won this one, we can't let opportunities like this slip through our fingers," Strauss said. "We lost wickets at regular intervals. We were the architects of our own downfall."

England were in dire straits at 168 for seven in the 37th over. They were given hope by a stand of 36 between Collingwood and Graeme Swann.

But the game was up for England when Swann was bowled by Nathan Bracken after an ugly heave across the line.

And, two balls later, 204 for eight became 204 for nine when Bracken bowled tailender Ryan Sidebottom for nought.

Brett Lee finished the match by bowling Collingwood, who faced 84 balls with three fours.

Strauss and fellow opener Ravi Bopara got the chase off to a sound start.

But all-rounder Shane Watson, the fifth bowler brought on by Michael Clarke, separated the pair when, with his fifth ball, he had Bopara lbw for 27.

Watson then made it two wickets for no runs in four

balls when Matt Prior was caught behind to leave England 76 for two in the 17th over.

Strauss, his concentration perhaps broken by a fly-past by a World War II Lancaster bomber, marking the 65th anniversary of Lord's reverting back to a cricket ground from a Royal Air Force (RAF) recruiting centre, fell next.

His innings of 47, off just 53 balls with six fours, ended in tame fashion when he chipped a gentle return catch to off-spinner Hauritz.

England's decline then continued when Owais Shah was run out after a wretched mix-up with Collingwood.

Luke Wright fought back with 20 at better than a run-a-ball before he was caught behind, off Lee.

After Strauss won the toss, Ferguson's innings helped Australia recover from losing three wickets for 11 runs as they declined from 62 without loss to 73 for three, with the deceptively quick Wright striking twice.

Cameron White, who also made a fifty on Friday, and Ferguson stanchied the flow of wickets with a stand of 69.

Their partnership ended when occasional medium-pacer Bopara struck first ball with White, trying to run the ball to third man, caught behind for 42.

And Australia were 155 for five when off-spinner Swann bowled Michael Hussey with a ball that turned past the left-

hand's outside edge.

Ferguson's 58-ball innings featuring five fours, ended when he was bowled hitting across the line by Anderson. That gave the Lancashire quick his first wicket in five international matches.

This series continues with Wednesday's day/night fixture at the Rose Bowl.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the second one-day international between England and Australia at Lord's on Sunday: AUSTRALIA: 249

ENGLAND

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Extras. Includes players like Strauss, Bopara, Prior, Shah, Collingwood, Morgan, Wright, Bresnan, Swann, Sidebottom, Bracken, Anderson, Extras.

Total: (All out in 46.1 overs) 210

Fall of wickets: 1-74, 2-76, 3-85, 4-97, 5-129, 6-157, 7-168, 8-204, 9-204.

Table with 4 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Lee, Bracken, Johnson, Hopes, Hauritz, Watson.

Result: Australia won by 39 runs and lead seven-match series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Mitchell Johnson.

Onus is on

FROM PAGE 17

He has paid more attention to his defence before the match instead of focusing only on attack.

There is also room to speculate on whether Maradona has any set objectives.

Maradona was obstinate in his approach to try and beat Brazil playing an all-out attacking football but he could have been a bit more cautious.

Before the Brazil encounter Argentina were occupying the fourth place in the table with 22 points while Ecuador were breathing down their necks in fifth position on 20 points. Ecuador had already lost their game against Colombia before Argentina kicked off against Brazil. So a draw would not have been a bad result for Argentina as it would have increased their lead over Ecuador. But Maradona's Argentina failed to adjust accordingly as the changed situation demanded.

Argentina's next test is away to Paraguay in a couple of days time and the fans are wondering if the unthinkable might happen. Another defeat and the prospect of not making it to the World Cup in South Africa looks a real possibility.

Argentina have little time to recover. They have to put all their miseries behind them and learn from their mistakes before it is too late.

Clearly the onus is on Maradona.

SL tri-series

FROM PAGE 17

after two series wins here in the last 13 months.

"It will be a great test for the Sri Lankan team."

Daniel Vettori's New Zealanders salvaged some of their reputation when they stunned the hosts in two Twenty20 internationals last week after being whitewashed in the preceding two-Test series.

"The guys will take a lot of confidence from that," Vettori said after his team's Twenty20 success.

"They can take that into the one-dayers. For us, to make the final will be a great stepping stone for the Champions Trophy."

Focus will be on Indian batsman Rahul Dravid and New Zealand paceman Shane Bond, returning to one-day sides after playing their last match in 2007.

Bond, 34, became eligible to play after severing links with the unauthorised Indian Cricket League, while Dravid, 36, was recalled ahead of India's busy international schedule for his wealth of experience.

Vettori was impressed with Bond's form in the Twenty20 matches in Colombo where the fast bowler bagged three crucial wickets.

"It's great for him to start the way he has and I think he'll get better and better," said Vettori.

"He looks confident and when Shane is confident, he's really a good bowler. I think we'll see more of that as the one-day series goes on."

Dravid got the selectors' nod after a couple of younger batsmen failed to cope with short-pitched deliveries in the

BCB's CEO

FROM PAGE 17

manager as logistics manager. Extension of national coach Jamie Siddons' job will also be on the agenda as his tenure will expire in November.

The BCB will also discuss the issue whether they will agree to play day-night Test in England during their tour in 2010.

And they will also take decision about the second venue for the 2011 World Cup, as they are expected to make it public that it will be Chittagong, subject to ICC approval.

Marcus set

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"Marcus Trescothick is in the squad as ways are sought to enable the former England opener to overcome the problems with travelling abroad to play cricket he has experienced as a result of his stress-related illness," a statement on the club's website said.

Trescothick was due to take part in Somerset's pre-season trip to the Middle East in early 2008 but only got as far as Heathrow Airport, having previously managed to play one tour match in Australia at the start of the 2006/07 Ashes series, before he decided he had to return home.

The batsman has since concentrated on playing for Somerset and helped them qualify for the India trip by finishing as runners-up to Sussex in this year's Twenty20 Cup.

Somerset, who will be captained by former Australia Test opener Justin Langer, begin the two-week tournament with a match against Deccan Chargers in Hyderabad on October 10.

Venus sent

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A Grand Slam tournament. Li herself was the first at Wimbledon 2006, where she lost to Clijsters, followed by Zheng Jie's wildcard run into the 2008 Wimbledon semifinals.

"Everything went perfect today," the 27-year-old 18th seed said.

"This was my dream to get to the quarters here and I hope I can win three more matches."

Pennetta saved four match points at 6-5 down in the second set against Zvonareva and then two more in the ensuing tie-break after which the Russian went to pieces.

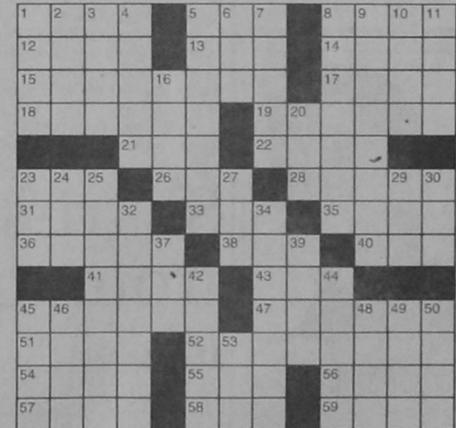
"In the beginning when they told me it was six match points I thought it was just three or four," she said.

"I just played aggressive as the match was almost over so best to play like that and not wait."

"Against Serena, she is the best player out there. But I will have nothing to lose."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP
BW LDBRD MEBMW RVQWZAO
BE BZ SURAUUS ZDMZ CVHTE
GQEZ MHLMOE SVW CVAGMH
WURTLUMA? ZBU-HMWS.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE PAIR OF GENIES HAPPEN TO BE FEUDING, COULD YOU SAY THEY'RE BOTTLING IT OUT?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals I



Did U Know?

Gyrgy Negyesy who died in 1992, just before his 99th birthday, was the longest living master chess player.