SPÖRT

Inzamam can't wait anymore

Pakistan cricket captain Inzamamul Haq Tuesday said he was anxiously waiting for Saurav Ganguly's Indian team, after India's announcement of plans to tour its rival for the first time in 14 years.

"I want the wait to end as quickly as possible, not only me but billions of people across Pakistan and India and other parts of the world want to see both play each other as soon as possible, Inzamam told this news agency.

India Sunday announced it is all set to tour Pakistan in March and April next year for a full Test series, their first tour since the 1989-90 season.

"It's a long and undue wait," said Inzamam, who featured in all three Tests when Pakistan last toured India in 1998-

"I sincerely hope that we play series at least once in two years.'

Inzamam's counterpart Saurav Ganguly on Monday said he was delighted at the prospect of touring Pakistan.

"The frenzy is catching up and people have started to call us and say that they want us to beat India on home ground," said Inzamam, who now leads a young side undergoing a rebuilding phase.

Inzamam, batsman Yousuf Youhana and wicketkeeper Moin Khan, if selected, are the only survivors in Pakistan's current team which played the series in India four

What to watch

DD Sports

TVS Cup Triangular Series Live at 3:00 pm **ESPN**

Football Focus Repeat at 9:00 am West Indies vs Zimbabwe Second Test, Day One Live at 1:50 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Tennis Masters Series Live at 7:00 am Bangladesh vs England Third ODI Live at 1:30 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 9:30 pm

India enter crunch week CAB in lead UNB, Comilla

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

World champions Australia struggled to stifle a yawn on Tuesday as hosts India welcomed back captain Saurav Ganguly for the final stages of the TVS Cup tri-

Australian captain Ricky Ponting lamented his side may be short of match practice going into the November 18 final in Calcutta after being made to play just two games in 15 days prior to the big day.

"It's a bit strange to have that much of a break between games and it is not ideal going into a final," Ponting said ahead of Wednesday's day-night encounter against India here

"But that's the way it is and we've got to put up with it and prepare ourselves as well as we can for Calcutta.'

Ponting's remarks in an era when teams often complain of over-work may sound strange, but they highlight the lopsided schedule drawn up for the series by Indian cricket officials.

The Australians played four matches in nine days before November 4, but since then they have had just one more game

tremendous opportunity for

Bangladesh to generate enthusiasm

"It will also give a chance to show the

world the warmth and hospitality of

Bangladeshi people and finally to build

new facilities and acquire expertise for the

benefit of future generations," Mani said.

He also expressed his satisfaction with the

Bangladesh would be financially benefited

from this event but it will certainly assist the

growth of cricket through construction of

He also categorically said that there was

no looking back for Bangladesh since

joining the Test family. "After the South

Africa World Cup, there were some sugges-

tions that the ICC was reconsidering the

Test status of Bangladesh. This was never

the case. The ICC believes that there is a

future of cricket in Bangladesh. We have

been working very closely with the BCB on

anumber of targeted initiatives

He said that neither the ICC nor

among the youths of the country.

preparations so far.

infrastructure.

Logo, trophy

against New Zealand at Guwahati last Sunday.

After Wednesday night's match at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Ponting's men will have five days off before the final at the Eden Gardens next Tuesday.

final with four wins from five games, leaving New Zealand and India to battle for the other spot. Irrespective of what happens on

Australia ensured their place in the

Wednesday against Australia, India must still defeat New Zealand at Hyderabad on Saturday to advance to the final on Ganguly's home ground.

 $Ponting\, said\, the\, return\, of\, Ganguly\, into$ the Indian side did not matter much for

"There is no added pressure on us. There might be some pressure on him as he did not play any cricket for quite a while," the Australian captain said.

Ganguly returns after a three-week lay off due to a thigh injury which forced him to miss the second Test against New Zealand and four matches of the one-day "It was very frustrating sitting out and

watching the team play," Ganguly said. "I am desperate to get back to action."

Coach John Wright said Ganguly's return will bolster the batting which has

"Already significant staff appoint-

ments have been made to help the national

team. The Mirpur Stadium has been

allocated to cricket by the government. The

preliminary design work on a high perfor-

mance centre has been completed," said

Mani adding that recently there were signs

that Bangladesh were slowly closing the

also agreed that since Bangladesh is a full

member so there was no question of taking

Fazlur Rahman assured the ICC chief that

the present government would help to

Board is making every effort so that the

event is a memorable one after the ICC

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed

State Minister for Youth and Sports

BCB president Ali Asghar said that the

Mani and Speed are scheduled to

attend the foundation laying ceremony of

the indoor training centre at the Sher-e-

Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

gap with other top cricket nations.

awaytheir Test-playing right.

make the event a grand success.

Knockout World Cup in 1998.

worked in fits and starts to leave India with

modern cricket and we welcome him

back," Wright said. "He was missed a lot."

Ganguly will be dashing opener Virender

Sehwag, spinner Anil Kumble and left-

arm seamer Ashish Nehra for his first

game since the World Cup final in March.

injury sustained during the World Cup.

while Sehwag and Kumble missed the

previous game against New Zealand at

"Gosh, its such a crunch week," Wright

said. "That New Zealand game will be like

a semifinal but we must beat Australia

With the Indian team for the upcom-

ing tour of Australia to be named here on

Thursday morning, Ganguly's men will

not be short of motivation or incentive to

Australia are expected to field a full-

strength batting line-up on Wednesday

after resting Adam Gilchrist and Matthew

around too much leading into a final, so

we'll probably be fielding a fairly strong

Ugandan recruit Harry as Muktijoddha

Manik however criticised the con-

gested and 'unplayable' ground at

Kamalapur and also blasted the organ-

isers for providing only one match ball.

right-flank and Moni had no problems

to head into the net in the 27th minute

minutes when Taju's header off a

Shoaib corner to beat country's num-

ber one custodian Aminul (1-1).

the ball in (2-1).

Shamim (Rahmatganj).

TODAY'S MATCHES

(Both matches start at 2:15 pm)

Tushar brilliantly lobbed from the

But the Reds were stunned after six

But Tushar again brought relief

when his corner found an unmarked

Harry in the 39th minute, who nodded

Yellow cards: Moniruzzaman and

Mohammedan SC v Sheikh Russel KC

Dhanmondi v Dhaka Wanderers Club

Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam

side against India." Ponting said

were spared their blushes.

Abahani sail

"We don't want to be changing things

Hayden against the Kiwis at Guwahati.

Cuttack last week

Nehra has fully recovered from a leg

"Saurav is one of the finest batsmen in

Returning to the side along with

just one win in four games.

Debaraj missed a ton by just one run as Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Under-17s scored a moderate 239 runs in their first innings on the second day of the three-day match against BCB Development U-17 side at Comilla Stadium

Trailing by 39 runs on the first knock, the BCB boys faced a top-order collapse in the second as they reached 19 for three when the day's play ended. SCORES IN BRIEF

BCB DEVELOPMENT UNDER-17: First innings 200 (Farhad 73, Rezaul 41; Amit 4-72) and Second innings 19-3 (Majharuddin 7; Amit 2-3)

CAB UNDER-17: First innings 239 all out in 78.3 overs (Debaraj 99, Debobrato 75, Souray 16; Ilias 4-60)

Chittagong

FROM PAGE 13 conceding only nine runs in his 10-over quota while Masum gave away 18 runs in 10 overs for his four victims.

In reply, opener Masum hit an unbeaten 41 off 49 balls as Chittagong reached the target of 78 runs losing two wickets only in 18 overs

runs in 4 overs. At Dhanmondi, Jessore scored 193

Spinner Saikat took two wickets for 16

runs before being all out in 49.4 overs after deciding to bat first.

One-down Shahriar Kabir scored team highest 62 runs off 119 balls and added 78 runs with national discard Tushar Imran for the fourth wicket. Imran's contribution was 39 off 53 balls.

Rezaul Haq Nayeem grabbed four wickets for 35 runs in 10 overs while Enamul Hag Jr picked up three wickets for 29 runs in 9.4 overs.

In their turn, Sylhet were bowled out for 170 in 47.1 overs with Imtiaz Hossair making highest 49 off 57 balls.

Kabir Turjo captured four wickets for 39 runs in 10 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AIUBvChittagong Venue: Mymensingh Stadium

AIUB: 77 all out in 45.1 overs (Rajib 21 Murshed Ali 4-9, Masum 4-18) CHITTAGONG: 78 for 2 in 18 overs (4)

not out, Al Shahriar 17, Mithu 10; Saikat 2

with cricket. For example, we intro-Result: Chittagong won by eight wickduced the 'cricket credit card'. An

Jessore v Sylhet

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium IESSORE: 193 all out in 49.4 overs (Shahriar 62, Tushar 39; Naveem 4-35, Enamul 3-29, Nabil 2-37)

SYLHET: 170 all out in 47.1 overs (Imtiaz 49, Saniid 34, Nahid 32, Golam Mawla 24; Turjo 4-39, Murad 2-25) Result: Jessore won by 23 runs.

Srinath's end has come goes on. And obviously Whatmore's

(Kamalapur).

will be named here on Thursday.

Srinath last played for India in the World Cup final at Johannesburg in March, but opted out of subsequent matches to recover from the injury sustained during the tournament. Srinath missed this season's he

Test matches against New Zealand and the ongoing TVS Cup limited-overs series also featuring world champions Australia.

He said last week that he would quit the game if he did not recover in time to make the tour of Australia.

"There is no point hanging around if I am not fit," Srinath said. "I have no regrets, in fact I am happy that Indian fast bowling is in good health with the likes of Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra around."

The Karnataka bowler, who made his Test debut on the Australian tour in 1991, claimed 236 wickets in 67 Tests at an average of 30.49.

He was India's second most successful fast bowler after stepping into the shoes of the legendary Kapil Dev, who retired in 1994 with a then world record tally of 434 Test wickets.

Srinath also played in 229 one-day internationals in which he took an Indian record of 315 wickets, including 16 in the last World Cup.

His best Test figures were 8-86

against Pakistan in the Asian Test Championship match at Calcutta in 1999, but it was not enough to prevent the arch-rivals from winning the

been a pleasure playing alongside him.

him for so many years.

"At the end of the day it was his personal decision. His motivation to play for the country only when fit is to

turned out for Gloucestershire and Leicestershire in separate stints in English county cricket, had been a reluctant starter for India over the last

Srinath announced his retirement after the tour of the West Indies in April 2002. but was persuaded by Ganguly to play in the Champions Trophy in Sri

South Africa by helping India win eight matches in a row to reach the final.

FACTBOX

REUTERS, New Delhi

ment from international cricket on Born: August 31, 1969, Mysore. Right-

arm fast bowler. Leicestershire, Durham, India.

Tests: 67. 236 wickets at an average of 30.49, best 8-86 v Pakistan in Calcutta, 1999. 10 five-wicket hauls, one 10wicket match.

wickets, average 28.08, best 5-23. First-class: 533 wickets in 147 matches, average 26.31. India's pace spearhead since the

retirement of all-rounder Kapil Dev in 1994. India's most successful one-day bowler, and second best among fast bowlers in Tests behind Kapil's record

Aged 21, burst into the side as a tearaway in-swing bowler, but brought in more variety later in his career. Played his first 12 Tests abroad and was

largely sidelined for home fixtures until 1994, Kapil and Manoj Prabhakar taking the two pace-bowling slots in a

made a strong comeback to bowl some of his best spells.

Performed better on bouncier overseas pitches - 128 wickets from 35 games versus 108 from 32 at home - but still produced two of his finest efforts on spin-friendlyhometracks.

spell on a slow, dusty pitch to lift India to victory over South Africa in the third Ahmedabad Test, clinching a 2-1 home series win.

haul (13-132), including his best effort in an innings, in an Asian Test Championship game against Pakistan in Calcutta won by the visitors.

2002: Announced retirement from Test cricket after a series in West Indies in June, but came back to play two more Tests against West Indies at home in October.

Indialost to Australia in the final. 2003: Joined Durham for his third county stint, having also played for

was sidelined for India due to a trou-

Lara feels the pressure

Cricket

you to do so?

West Indies captain Brian Lara admitted on Tuesday that his side were outplayed by Zimbabwe in the first Test and called on his players to raise their

The second Test begins at the Oueens Sports Club here on Wednesday

Zimbabwe were denied what would have been only their eighth Test win in

scale sponsoring of the ongoing Test

and one-day series between

Bangladesh and England. What led

DF: What we decided to do with

the England cricket tour of

Bangladesh was this is the first

England tour to Bangladesh and at the

same time Standard Chartered is a

And we decided to try and com-

bine these two special events. Given

that we already sponsor schools

cricket and we have a lot of involve-

ment with Bangladesh Cricket Board.

this was a good way of extending that

to something that the whole country

DSS: What is the response you

DF: We have been very happy with

have got so far from sponsoring this

it. We have a very good working rela-

tionship with Bangladesh Cricket

Board. It has gone very smoothly so

far. And there has been some very

good cricket. So, we are very pleased

DSS: Do you have any plan to

DF: What we are doing is we have

been able to launch banking products

important feature of the card is a

certain percentage of every pack goes

towards a cricket development fund

Though the series is lost the training

boys were concentrating on how to

tackle the short-pitch bowling line of

attack successfully adopted by the

England bowlers in the second Test

and the first two one-day internation-

"We have practised pull and hook

shots because none of our batsmen

have done it successfully. Okay, we

may have started it late but it's never

too late to learn something. It's not

that our batsmen can't play those

shots but most of them were shy to do

And the Bangladesh captain

agreed that there was no point of

occupying the crease if the runs did

so." said Mahmud.

One last try

contribute in the development

process of Bangladesh cricket?

with the outcome so far.

in Bangladesh.

could see and enjoy.

150-years-old as a group this year.

12 years when West Indies' tailenders Ridley Jacobs and Fidel Edwards hung on grimly to salvage a draw in the first Test which ended on Saturday in

Lara admitted his side had been given a shock.

"Zimbabwe were better than us in every department at Harare," he added. But in scrambling a draw with our last pair together at the close of play, now instead of trying to draw the series, we can simply try to go out to win it."

Lara said that Omar Banks, who missed the Harare Test because of

have got from the Cricket Credit

DF: It has been very encouraging.

We had an awful lot of inquiries.

People want to understand more

about the card's features. And so we

DSS: Would you encourage the

DF: We recruit staff on the basis of

whether they can fulfill certain

requirements. There would certainly

be no discrimination against cricket-

ers but equally I don't see that there is

any positive discrimination for crick-

chools chess. Do you play chess?

DSS: You are also sponsoring

DF: Personally, I don't play chess.

It is a game that I have never actually

played. But for us it is a small way of

encouraging children to develop their

expand sponsorship in other sports?

on with the schools cricket and

schools chess. However, our commu-

nity activities are not all centered

round sports. We have to strike a

balance between what we are doing in

the sports arena and other initiatives

such as the work done in the eye

Again I won't rule out that we

"The only way to push our oppo-

take advantage of the first ten overs.

Asked if they had worked out any

plan to contain the power hitting of

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff,

who took both matches away by

storm, Mahmud could only laugh and

him you can only plan when you have

a score to defend. We have scored

bellow 150 in both matches and that

left us with only one option that is to

attack. In dealing with Flintoff attack

was never a part of the plan. Beside.

the task was made more difficult if you

give a batsman like him a chance.'

"For a destructive batsman like

said that was there any point.

would sponsor other sports. In fact,

we might sponsor the senior cricket

hospital and children's hospital.

team's tour in the future

runs will come, he said.

DSS: Do you have any plans to

DF: We certainly are going to carry

mental skills.

recruitment of cricketers in you

have already issued plenty of cards.

Chartered for cricket



stomach problems, would be available for selection. "There is a fight on for

Fast bowler Jeremy Taylor's lower back problems are "not as bad as was expected" and he also has every chance

place for Mervyn Dillon.

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak

we were unable to finish it off," said

things we could have done differently. But we were so close to winning, we feel we can win this one. It is a good feeling because we know now it really is possi-

TEAMS

WEST INDIES (probable): Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Daren Ganga, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Brian Lara (captain), Shiynarine

Stuart Matsikenyere, Craig Wishart, Tatenda Taibu, Heath Streak (captain). Andy Blignaut, Ray Price, Blessing

Parreira

tion for having a selfish streak but Parreira said that it was only natural for such a great player to be an individualist

who wants to share will never be the world's top goalscorer. "Ronaldo is something apart.

nents is to put some runs on the board. any tactical scheme. Maybe we don't have ninch-hitters to

"He has to wait up front and the ball But if we can preserve wickets then

> Meanwhile, Parreira replaced Ronaldinho with Elano of Santos for the two qualifiers against Peru on November 16 in Lima and Uruguay at Curitiba three days later after the Barcelona superstar was sidelined

Ronaldinho's injury adds to Parreira's injury woes after Leandro Silva was drafted in to replace Roberto Carlos after the Real Madrid defender tore a left thigh muscle in their 0-0

places," he said.

of playing. If so, this means there may still be no

said his side are "taking a lot of positives" from the first match despite finding it impossible to winkle out either Jacobs or Edwards. "We were really disappointed that

"There might have been several

Chanderpaul, Ridley Jacobs, Vasbert Drakes, Jerome Taylor, Corey Collymore, Fidel Edwards. ZIMBABWE: Vusi Sibanda, Trevor Gripper, Mark Vermeulen, Stuart Carlisle,

Mahwire. Jordaan Nicolle is 12th man.

"The great goalscorers are individualists. It's a characteristic. And that's why they're great goalscorers. A player

Ronaldo is Ronaldo, a phenomenon who decides matches. He doesn't fit into

has to get to him. Then he sorts things

Monday for a possible five weeks after Primera Liga action.

Champions League draw at Partizan Belgrade.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 35 Affection-DOWN ate one 1 Radiate balist's 38 Say it 2 "Clue" Honeyoattern isn't so weapor moon' 5 Michael 39 Downsize 3 "Gotcha" 26 Mixed Jackson 40 American ancestry Wilson's 28 Exploit album 42 Drink of 8 Underbane 29 It's here Ecclesi today and the gods goes 45 Trip astical 12 Come in to a tomorrow last better

rage 14 Aswan Dam 50 Antilocale 52 Aim 15 Frankfurter 16 Nipper's 54 Meadov 55 Sicilian 17 Verifiable 56 Flavor 18 Frank

13 It's all the

20 Maestro 22 Hirsute 57 Powell Addams 58 Picnic cousin 23 Madison's 24 Applies lightly

27 Type of 32 Kimono closer 33 "--- was saying, 34 Gary Cooper's affirma-

Solution time: 25 mins.

spouter

co-star

enhancer

30 New 6 Curve 7 Hand out York place 49 "I cannot hands news 8 Involve paper 9 Frozen-31 Mole. quated food pioneel 53 Arrange 10 Despon-

11 Crystal

gazer 19 Tagged

21 Lamb's

dam

Bugs

maybe 36 Range 38 Cloakanddagger book 24 Elmer, to 42 Siestas scat 44 Somersault 46 Teeny

VZD IVSTW IETT QUEQ E 47 Indian princess Milne's

51 Composer

ZV-PBZ NBQSEQBVZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS AT A NUCLEAR REACTOR, THE CORE PROBLEM MUST BE IDENTIFIED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals E

PUDZ E HERD

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CRYPTOQUIP

DZWN BZ

BREHBZD

The Indian team for the Australian tour

Indian captain Sauray Ganguly paid rich tributes to Srinath, saying it had

"It's been a pleasure playing with

be respected." The Mysore-based engineer, who

Factbox on India fast bowler Javagal Srinath, who announced his retire-

Teams: Karnataka, Glouces-tershire,

One-day internationals: 229. 315

434 victims.

spin-oriented attack. 1997: Suffered a nearly career-ending

 $time\ with\ distinction.\ We\ thank\ him\ for$ making Indian cricket proud," Ganguly

Lanka in September. He also missed the Test series in New Zealand in December, but was a roaring success at the World Cup in

rotator cuff tear in his bowling shoulder and was sidelined for eight months, but

1996: Captured 6-21 in a devastating

1999: Took his only 10-wicket match

2003: Guided an impressive pace attack at the World Cup in South Africa where Gloucestershire and Leicestershire, but