

Injury woes for S Africa on eve of historic Test

PORT OF SPAIN, Apr 15: South Africa are worried about the fitness and form of at least two potential key players as they look forward to resuming Test cricket after 22 years' absence this weekend, reports Reuter.

Seam bowler Meyrick Pringle is a doubtful starter for the one-off Test in Barbados starting on Saturday after being told the breathing problems he had during the final one-day international against West Indies were connected to a rib cartilage injury.

"I'm struggling," said Pringle, who initially complained of a sore shoulder after tripping over at the Beach last week.

The 25-year-old bowler, who took four for 11 against West Indies in the World Cup last month, said he may have a cortisone injection to boost his chances of being fit in time.

All-rounder Adrian Kuiper, a disappointment during the one-day series which West Indies won 3-0, is also increasingly unsure of his place in the side.

Kuiper, a proven one-day hitter who cracked 117 in 67 balls against Mike Gatting's rebel English side in 1990, has averaged only 12 with the bat

on the tour so far. His World Cup performances were only slightly better and his medium-pace bowling has rarely looked Test class in the Caribbean.

Instead, team sources suggest the South Africans will concentrate mainly on occupying the crease for as long as possible in Bridgetown where West Indies have not lost a Test since 1935.

In the circumstances a draw would be a good result for the South Africans who plan to stick with the experiment of opening the batting with Andrew Hudson and Mark Rushmore.

Hudson has proved a brave player of pace and the gritty Rushmore is a player much better suited to first-class cricket than the one-day variety.

The experienced Kepler Wessels, whose swollen wrist has responded to treatment, and Peter Kirsten are pencilled in at three and four with Hansie Cronje at number five and either Kuiper or Jonty Rhodes at six.

Wicketkeeper David Richardson will bat at seven, leaving Pringle's fitness to determine the rest of the side. If he fails to make it, the final choice will lie between spinner Omar Henry and medium-

pace Corrie van Zyl. Several South African players privately admit the pre-tour withdrawal of all-rounder Brian McMillan has left a gaping hole in the team.

McMillan, one of the reasons South Africa reached the World Cup semifinals, pulled out on the eve of departure with an Achilles tendon injury.

The demanding itinerary, lacking a single warm-up match, has also prompted senior members of the team to suggest that politicians and money men have ridden roughshod over the players' interests.

Results suggest they have a point but there is something wrong if the tourists need to be motivated for a match which will complete their re-acceptance to world cricket.

One snag which remained hidden during the 20 successive one-day matches the South Africans have played since travelling to India in November is a shortage of slip fielders.

Only Wessels has regular experience in the position and coach Mike Procter admitted, "We have a problem behind the wicket."

Aussie selectors make 5 changes

MELBOURNE, Apr 15: Australia have dropped vice-captain Geoff Marsh and four other Test regulars for their cricket tour of Sri Lanka in August, reports Reuter.

Marsh, fast bowlers Bruce Reid and Merv Hughes, all-rounder Steve Waugh and off-spinner Peter Taylor have been axed after Australia's disappointing World Cup performance.

The selectors have named outstanding young Western Australian Damien Martyn, New South Wales all-rounder Greg Mathews and Victorian paceman Tony Dodemaide in a squad of 13 for the tour which includes three Tests and three one-day internationals.

Martyn, 20, scored 822 runs at 51.37 in his first full season of Sheffield Shield cricket while off-spinner Mathews forced his way back in the side when he became the first Australian this century to take more than 50 wickets and score more than 500 runs in Shield season. Dodemaide, who played his last Test three years ago, has been recalled after taking 43 Shield wickets at 19.95.



South African pacer Allan Donald has a resigned look on his face after West Indian opener Brian Lara hits him for a four in the first of three one-dayers at Kingston, Jamaica on April 7. The Windies won by 107 runs.

Gooch keeps his job



LONDON, Apr 15: Graham Gooch was selected captain Wednesday for England's summer cricket series against Pakistan, reports AP.

Gooch, who has won 10 of his 23 Tests as captain, said he was honoured to be re-appointed at the England committee meeting at Lord's.

He said England will not have an easier task in this summer's five Tests and five one-day internationals if Imran Khan is not fit to lead Pakistan. "I reckon Imran could yet turn up and play during the summer, despite what he has been reported as having said about his shoulder injury," Gooch said.

"But even if he doesn't come I still regard Pakistan as a very strong side. I am assuming Waqar Younis will also be fit, and they have three frontline bowlers who have all experienced a fair degree of success in English conditions."

"Pakistan were a better side than us on the day in the World Cup final, and we have to accept that. But I was very pleased overall with the way we played during the winter tour and we achieved a high level of consistency."

"We have worked very hard over the past couple of years to get to the stage where we are competing on even terms with the world's best sides — and there is no doubt Pakistan are

one of the best." Gooch said no discussion had taken place during the meeting about his availability for next winter's tour to India — or beyond to next summer's series against Australia.

Essex languish in curtain raiser

LONDON, Apr 15: Captain Graham Gooch was in bed with flu as his Essex side continued to suffer in the cold against England A on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

England A added a further 127 runs in 35 overs on the second day before a lunch time declaration on 456 for seven, the highest total against a champion county in this tradition's curtain-raiser to the English cricket season.

Paul Johnson fell to the new ball after hitting 53 from 85 balls.

In the four overs before bad light and rain intervened, Essex scored eight for the loss of Mike Garnham — Gooch's stand-in.

Durham, who will be making their debut in the county championship this season, made an impressive start to their opening first-class match before the weather intervened.

Openers John Glendenen and Paul Parker, the former Sussex captain, both hit half centuries as Durham reached 119 for no wicket against Oxford University at the Parks.

Seeds sail in Houston



HOUSTON, Apr 15: Seventh-seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy defeated Linda Harvey-Wild 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in a first-round match Tuesday in the Virginia Slims of Houston, reports AP.

"We both played in the semifinals last year, so this was a really tough first round," Cecchini said.

But the 27-year-old had little trouble after the opening set as she won 64 percent of her first-serve points.

Harvey-Wild and Cecchini exchanged service breaks in the fifth and sixth games of the third set and were even at 3-3 before Cecchini took control, winning the next three games, to advance to a meeting with Sabine Hack of Germany in the round of 16.

Magdalena Maleeva, seeded No 8, took only 80 minutes to

climate Cammy MacGregor 6-3, 6-2. Maleeva won 65 percent of her service points and 50 percent of her return points. Maleeva will face Bettina Fulco-Villella of Argentina on Thursday.

No 6 seed Laura Gildemeister of Peru beat Federica Bonagnoni of Italy, 6-2, 6-0. Hack, Chanda Rubin, Elise Burgin and Halle Cioffi were also first-round singles winners Tuesday.

In doubles, No 1 seeds Gigi Fernandez and Patty Fendick edged Renata Baranski and Laura Giltz, 6-1, 7-6 (9-7).

Fernandez, who is seeded No 4 in singles, received bye in the first round of the Slims. She plays 14-year-old Iva Majoli in Wednesday afternoon's second-round.

71 SA athletes for African meet

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 15: South Africa have named 71 athletes to take part in their return to international competition at the African Unity Games next weekend, including women's long-distance stars Zola Pieterse and Elana Mayer, reports Reuter.

Thirty-nine will fly to Dakar on Wednesday to prepare for the first leg of the games on Saturday. The rest will compete in the second leg a week later in Gormiston, east of Johannesburg.

Those selected after a meeting in Bloemfontein at the weekend include Pieterse, formerly Zola Budd who ran in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, and Mayer who has beaten her in recent races over 1,500 metres.

Others taking part are Johan Fourie (1,500 metres), Matthews Motshwaratu (5,000 metres) and Tshakile Ntlanze (100 metres).

Gay games

NEW YORK, Apr 15: New York city will welcome the fourth "Gay Games" organized by militant homosexual activists with some 15,000 athletes expected from 40 countries, mayor David Dinkins announced Monday, reports APF.

The Games, which are expected to inject more than 100 million dollars into the New York economy, are set for June 25 to July 4, 1994.

This coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, named for a Greenwich Village bar where homosexual patrons fought a police raid to spark the gay liberation movement in the United States.

The Games were held in San Francisco, California in 1982 and 1986 and in Vancouver, Canada in 1990.

Roses and rupees rain on Pak Cup heroes



LAHORE, Apr 15: Flowers and promises of money rained on Pakistani cricketers as they drove through Lahore town on Monday for the second time after winning the World Cup in Australia last month, reports Reuter.

But disorder awaited them at a civic reception at the end of their drive through Pakistan's second city, the capital of the most populous Punjab province. Police had to use batons to control the crowds there, witnesses said.

Traders and individuals announced millions of rupees in donations for a cancer hospital planned by skipper Imran Khan during a fund-raising drive through his home towns.

The total of the promised donations was not immediately available. But one traders organisation announced a donation of 7.5 million rupees

(dollar 300,000) at the start of the drive from a trading centre before an estimated crowd of 30,000.

But what were called "indiscipline and ugly scenes" marred a tea party given by the Lahore Metropolitan Corporation (LMC) where many of thousands of guests came uninvited, the official APP news agency said.

Lahore Mayor Mian Abdul Majid presented Imran with a cheque for 1.4 million rupees (dollars 56,000) for the proposed hospital.

"Due to a tremendous rush of the people eager to have a glimpse of the cricket captain, Imran thrice attempted to make a speech before he finally uttered a few words of gratitude," APP said.

The cricketers have received heroes welcomes at various towns since they returned at the end of March after winning the World Cup for the first time.

Agassi moves up in USTA meet



TAMPA, Florida, Apr 15: Andre Agassi, the highest remaining seed in the 2,35,000 US dollar USTA men's clay court championships of Tampa, moved into the second round on Tuesday with a straight-sets victory over little-known German Karsten Braasch, reports Reuter.

Agassi, the second seed, beat Braasch, 6-3, 6-3. Top-seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia was beaten on Monday.

Mal Washington, the third seed, used a big serve and all-around game to nullify the counter-punching tactics of Sweden's Jan Apell, winning 6-2, 6-3.

Horacio De La Pena of Argentina was the only seed to lose on Tuesday. De La Pena, seeded eighth, was upset by unseeded Frenchman Jean-

Philippe Fleurian 6-4, 6-3.

Agassi, who admits he is labouring in a slump, took a wild card into the Tampa event after failing to pass beyond the third round in six previous tournaments this year. In Braasch he faced an



ANDRE AGASSI

opponent, ranked 105th, who floxed up slices and slow floaters, even drop-shooting on the return of serve.

But Agassi, ranked 17th answered the slow-balling with his characteristic forehand winners, crosscourt and down the line, and led 3-0 before the German could hold serve.

Agassi held into his lead despite being forced to deuce in two subsequent service games. At 5-3, Agassi served out the set when Braasch missed a backhand slice.

Agassi broke in the third game of the second set with a backhand crosscourt winner and served confidently, anticipating more readily the German's disguised dropshots, often hit from the baseline. He broke again to take the set 6-3, winning the match with a backhand return down the line.

"His whole strategy is to keep you out of your game,"

said Agassi afterwards. "It's not easy to generate your own power when it's a no-pace ball."

Agassi admitted he is experiencing a worrying slump. "There is reason to be concerned," he said. "I've been doubting myself for three to four months already so I've gone back to not practising and not warming up and just relying on my ability."

Washington, ranked 33rd, waited for openings to attack the net and put away winning volleys against his 139th ranked opponent, a qualifier.

"I felt good out there," said Washington, who started the year well with a runner-up finish in Auckland, New Zealand in January and a title win in Memphis in February.

Sigma win New Year's bridge

"Sigma" has won the Bengali New Year's Day duplicate bridge team championship played at the Bangladesh Bank Club premises in Mottijheel on Tuesday last, said a press release of the Dhaka Metropolitan Bridge Association.

The 6-round Swiss League was participated by ten teams. Following were the results in victory points:

First: Sigma: 109, second: Bangladesh Bank Club-A: 101, and third-Arambagh Krita Sangha: 95.

The champions were represented by Air Com (Rtd) MA Quddus (captain), Amtnullah, Anwaruzzaman, and L H Bhuiyan, while the Bank Club comprised of M/S MD Shamsul Alam (captain), Humayun Kabir, AKM Azhar Rahman and MA Jalli and the third team consisted of M/S Mubolul Islam, RH Siddiqui, Abul Hossain and NG Saha.

DMBA's day-long Eid reunion meet will be held on April-17 (Friday) at 9.30 am at the same venue, the press release added.

Training course for referees

A six day refresher course for the football referees began in the city yesterday.

Forty-eight referees are taking part in the course conducted by S Kathresabalem, director training of the Asian Football Confederation.

SA plans big events



JOHANNESBURG, Apr 15: A top South African soccer official said on Monday the republic planned to apply to host a range of international tournaments following its expected readmittance to world competition this year, reports Reuter.

Secretary General Solomon Morewa of the South African Football Association told reporters: "Once we are accepted by FIFA we will apply to host the World Cup in 2006, the 1995 world youth tournament for under-20 players

and the 1998 Africa Cup of Nations."

Morewa was speaking at the end of a three-day courtesy visit by Joao Havelange and Sepp Blatter, resident and secretary general respectively of world soccer's ruling body.

The FIFA officials said before leaving that once South Africa was readmitted at a FIFA Congress on July 3 it could apply to stage any international tournament. Havelange reiterated earlier comments that he would recommend to his executive that South Africa be readmitted.

South Africa was expelled from FIFA in 1976.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	creature	2 Large	hawks
1 Boat-swain's place	38 American humorist	3 Holm oak	23 Large dog, for short
5 Dried's partner	39 Truth, in China	4 Type of mining	24 Altar promise
8 Fiddler on the reef?	40 Comb form in chemistry	5 Hooded snake	25 Spar
12 Legend's Swiss hero	43 Popular shrub	6 Japanese vegetables	26 Apiary denizen?
13 Harem room	47 Fast-growing maple	7 Price add-on	27 Schedule abbr.
14 — avis	49 Case for small articles	8 Table vessels	28 Point the rifle
15 Word before code or rug	50 Aconite	9 Frog genus	29 Darjeeling
16 Portable meal	51 Thus far	10 Circle segments	31 Had a bite
18 Twelve, at dice	52 Garden favorite	11 Coin of Thailand	34 City in ancient Syria
20 Baker's need	53 Iran ruler, once	17 Keen-sighted wildcat	35 Pedestal occupant?
21 Alfonso's queen	54 Before	19 Actress	36 Careless
22 Bank abbr.	55 Hardens DOWN	22 Hawaiian	37 Some Pullman berths
23 Zodiac sign	1 Attempt	Solution time: 24 mins.	39 Sticky cake
26 Good theater location			40 Desert garments
30 Commotion			41 Household pest
31 DDE's rival			42 Plant of the iris family
32 Even the score			43 Lager or bock
33 Child's flyer			44 Indian
36 Andean			45 Eject

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CRYPTOQUIP

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G N D R N X D P L X M A N P L F X A .
G M X M F J J V U E P F L G F X U M
E T P E R N P .

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals M

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.