

Pak cricketer accused of raping

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept 3: A member of Pakistan's under-19 cricket team was released on bail on Monday after being charged with allegedly raping a woman at her hotel, where the cricket team was also staying, a police spokesman said, reports Reuter.

Zeehan Pervez, 18, was released from jail after posting 5,700 US dollars bail, the spokesman said.

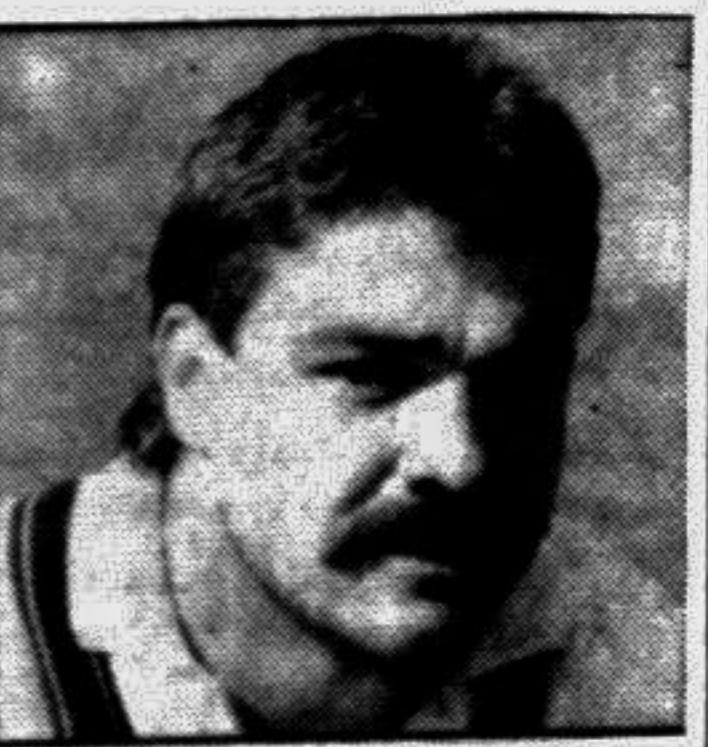
A court hearing will be held tomorrow to determine if there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial, authorities said.

The 36-year-old visitor, a Jamaican who has lived in the United States since 1978, told police the incident occurred on Saturday night.

The 15-member Pakistani youth cricket team began a four-day match against Jamaica on Saturday in Kingston. Pervez batted for 6 that day but did not play on Sunday.

Team officials told reporters he was out due to "food poisoning" but in fact he was in police custody at the time.

Durham rope in Boon



LONDON, Sept 3: Former Australian Test batsman David Boon will join English county side Durham next season, cricket officials said today, reports Reuter.

Boon, 35, signed a two-year contract after Durham's director of cricket Geoff Cook flew to Australia to clinch the deal, the club said.

Boon retired from Test cricket last year after scoring 7,422 runs, including 21 centuries, in 107 Tests at an average of 43.

He will take over as captain from Mike Roseberry, who resigned on Saturday with Durham bottom of both the English County Championship and the Sunday League.

Boon, currently captain of Tasmania, is expected in England in April, the club said.

Kent knock down Notts

LONDON, Sept 3: Kent moved to the top of the English County Championship on Monday after trouncing to a seven-wicket victory over Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells, reports Reuter.

They edged one point ahead of previous leaders Derbyshire, who beat Worcestershire on Saturday, nine points ahead of Leicestershire, and 10 ahead of Surrey.

Kent's eighth championship win of the season came courtesy of a century stand between Trevor Ward (54 not out) and Carl Hooper, whose 86 included 13 fours and a six.

Nigel Llong joined in with 34 not out, including a six which shattered a nearby window.

Nottinghamshire had set the home side a target of 213 by advancing from an overnight 167 for six to 242 all out, thanks mainly to lower order resistance from Chris Tolley (67) and Kevin Evans (54).

Kent's Martin McCague finished with four for 80 and a match analysis of eight for 135, while Mark Ealham, playing his first match since recovering from a rib injury, took five for 52.

Yorkshire needed just an hour to mop up Essex's last five wickets and clinch a 96-run win at Headingley which revived their slender title hopes.

Left-arm spinner Richard Stemp took four for 19 in 10 overs as Essex, who had won their previous five matches, slumped from 100 for five to 149 all out.

John Crawley, who had a debut Test century against Pakistan at The Oval eight days ago, compiled an unbeaten 112 as Lancashire beat Sussex by five wickets at Hove.

He shared a third-wicket stand of 150 in 29 overs with Neil Fairbrother as Lancashire claimed only their second championship win of the season.

Nantes, Lyon split points

PARIS, Sept 3: Nantes rallied to salvage a 2-2 draw at home to Lyon on Monday night as they tried to bounce back from their worst start to a French league season for 30 years, reports AFP.

Nantes' champions two seasons ago, now have taken just two points from a possible 15 in the opening five rounds of the French championship.

But the news was just as bad for Lyon, who lost rising attacking star Florian Maurice with an Achilles tendon injury that could sideline him for up to six months.

Cameroun-born Japhet N'Doram scored the equaliser for Nantes in the 86th minute — his second goal of the game. Alain Cavegilia and Sylvain Delaplace netted for Lyon.

De Silva rules the day

COLOMBO, Sept 3: Aravinda De Silva hit a masterly unbeaten 27 to guide world champions Sri Lanka to a six-wicket win over Zimbabwe and maintain their 100 per cent record in the four-nation Singer World Series today, reports AFP.

The master strokemaker, who hit an unbeaten 49 against India and plundered 83 off Australia without losing his wicket, single-handedly carried Sri Lanka past the improved Zimbabwe team.

A court hearing will be held tomorrow to determine if there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial, authorities said.

The 36-year-old visitor, a Jamaican who has lived in the United States since 1978, told police the incident occurred on Saturday night.

The 15-member Pakistani youth cricket team began a four-day match against Jamaica on Saturday in Kingston. Pervez batted for 6 that day but did not play on Sunday.

Team officials told reporters he was out due to "food poisoning" but in fact he was in police custody at the time.

De Silva... m-o-m

The Zimbabweans, outplayed in their first two matches, appeared easy prey for the islanders when they were restricted to a modest 227 for the sixth over.

But fast bowler Henry Olonga, playing his first match in the tournament, raised Zimbabwe's spirits by removing star opener Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana by the sixth over.

Olonga had Kaluwitharana top-edging an intended pull in his second over, before shattering left-hander Jayasuriya's stumps with an express delivery ball later.

From 25 for two, Sri Lanka reached 100 without further loss as Asanka Gurusingha and De Silva put on 75 for the third wicket.

Gurusingha, whose contribution in the stand was a sedate 15, and skipper Arjuna Ranatunga (20) fell in quick succession to make the hosts a shaky 129 for four by the 30th over.

De Silva, whose brilliant century helped his team win the World Cup final against Australia in March, and Hashan Tillakaratne (34 not out) ensured their team's victory with an unbroken 99-run stand for the fifth wicket.

The 32-year-old De Silva, who hit 13 boundaries and a six in his brilliant 123-ball knock, was former Sri Lankan captain Anura Teneekoon's expected choice for man-of-the-match.

Sri Lanka now await the winners of Thursday's crucial clash between Australia and

England.

Evans not out

Whittall not out

Extras: (lb-1, w-13)

Total: (5 wickets in 50 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-48; 3-

48; 4-66; 5-180.

Did not bat: W James, H

Streak, H Olonga, A Whittall

Bowling: O M R W

Wickremasinghe 9 1 33 1

Pushpakumara 6 0 27 2

Muritharan 10 1 36 1

Ranatunga 5 0 22 2

Chandana 10 0 48 0

Jayasuriya 10 1 54 0

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya b Olonga

Kaluwitharana c Wishart b Olonga

Gurusingha run out

De Silva not out

Ranatunga c Olonga b A Whittall

Tillakaratne not out

Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-8, nb-4)

Total: (4 wickets in 47 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-25; 3-

100; 4-129.

Did not bat: M Atapattu, U

R Chandana, P Wickremasinghe,

R Pushpakumara, M Muritharan

Bowling: O M R W

Streak 8 0 24 0

Olonga 6 0 47 2

G Whittall 5 0 26 0

A Whittall 10 1 30 1

Strang 10 0 50 0

Wishart 4 0 24 0

G Flower 1 0 10 0

Evans 3 0 14 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by six wickets

Man-of-the-match: Aravinda de Silva

Lankan fans.

The difference is that in Sri Lanka it was the crowd that was hostile to the Australians. But in Australia it was the Australian players who were hostile to Sri Lankan players," an Asian diplomat here said.

However, the two most wanted Australians — former skipper Mark Taylor and star spinner Shane Warne — skipped the Singer Cup because of injuries.

Nevertheless, spectators gave vent to their anger. A banner at the Premadasa Stadium read, "Warne's finger in trouble. Probably shoved it in the wrong hole."

Another read, "Taylor hospitalised for a badly needed backbone."

Taylor had refused to play in Sri Lanka in February and Warne had said he was afraid he would be killed while shopping in Colombo.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar has already dubbed Warne a "sissy" for wanting to go shopping during cricket matches.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga confirms that the relations between the two sides leaves a lot to be desired. "We have an excellent rapport with Indians or anybody else we can't say the same about the Australians."

Indian players say they can sense an enormous amount of tension between Sri Lankan and Australian players. The acrimony is certain to raise the stakes at Saturday's Singer Cup final if Australia beat India on Thursday and meet Sri Lanka once again.

They edged one point ahead of previous leaders Derbyshire, who beat Worcestershire on Saturday, nine points ahead of Leicestershire, and 10 ahead of Surrey.

Kent's eighth championship win of the season came courtesy of a century stand between Trevor Ward (54 not out) and Carl Hooper, whose 86 included 13 fours and a six.

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Agassi, Muster in qtrs

Agassi... m-o-m

Open with four-set victories on Monday, but only Agassi was smiling, reports AFP.

Despite dropping the first set to wild card David Wheaton,

At least one Sanchez made it

Agassi... m-o-m

Agassi was pleased with the way his game is shaping up.

I did what I needed to do," he said. "Some players, you can't just come at them. David Wheaton is the kind of guy, if you give him the pace, he can hurt you. I mixed it up well."

Agassi, who benefited from the US Tennis Association's decision to vary from the world rankings in selecting the seedings for the Open, denied that his quarter-final with Muster was a grudge match.

Muster, who earned the world number one ranking earlier this year and is now the world number two, was demoted to third by the USTA.

The Austrian beat 13th seed Thomas Enqvist 7-6 (7/4), 6-2,

4-6 and 6-1 on Monday, but he was suffering with a digestive ailment that kept him up much

Sport

Fans catch Diego fever

TORONTO, Sept 3: Diego Maradona, playing what was billed as the last game of his career, scored a goal, leading his brother Lalo's Toronto Italia club team to a 2-1 victory, reports AP.

There were eight wides in a total of 13 runs by the second over when Ravindra Pushpakumara had Grant Flower caught by Kaluwitharana for no score.

The Sri Lankans bowled only five more wide balls for the rest of the innings.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Singer World Series one-day international between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe here on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE

G Flower	c Kaluwitharana	0
P Strang	c Kaluwitharana	24
A Flower	c Kaluwitharana	11
b Wickremasinghe	b Muritharan	54
b Wishart	c Chandana b Ranatunga	7
E Evans	not out	96
b Whittall	not out	15
Extras: (lb-1, w-13)		20
Total: (5 wickets in 50 overs)		227
Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-48; 3-48; 4-66; 5-180.		

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