

Sport

Warne's India tour in doubt

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept 19: Mercurial leg-spinner Shane Warne is rated only a 50-50 chance of being fit for Australia's cricket tour to India next month, his Victorian state coach said here today, reports AFP.

Warne is recovering from surgery on his right spinning finger last May and its slow rate of healing prevented Australia's main strike bowler from playing in the recent Singer World Series one-day internationals in Sri Lanka.

Warne is heading to Darwin Friday with the Victorian squad for a series of pre-season practice matches.

Victorian coach John Scholes said Warne bowled at an outdoor net session Wednesday for about 40 minutes but had suffered a reaction today.

That's to be expected after the break he has had, Scholes said.

Scholes said he rated Warne a better than 50-50 chance of returning to the national squad.

Scholes said Warne had been restricted to bowling medium pacers for much of the pre-season as bowling his stock balls, particularly his leg break, placed too much strain on his finger.

The Australians leave for India, where they will play one Test and a triangular one-day tournament also involving South Africa, on October 1.

Warne is eager to go to India after being disappointed at missing the Sri Lanka tour where Australia was crushed by the hosts in the final.

Australian captain Mark Taylor is another who has to prove his fitness for the Indian tour after recent back surgery.

Pak cricketer indicted

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept 19: A Jamaican judge indicted a member of the Pakistani under-19 cricket team Wednesday on charges of raping a Jamaican mother of three, reports AP.

Batsman Zeehan Pervez, 18, was arrested on Sept 1 on the Caribbean island during his team's tour through the West Indies.

He faces trial on Jan 17 at the session of the Home Circuit Court.

Pervez was free Wednesday to follow his cricket team to Guyana.

After his arrest, Pervez was released on bail of 200,000 dollars (5,714 US dollars). But Resident Magistrate Martin Gayle ordered him to surrender his travel documents and report to the police daily until the investigation was concluded.

If convicted, Pervez faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Prosecutors charge that Pervez raped the 36-year-old Jamaican woman at the Sutton Palace Hotel in Kingston, where both were staying.

He allegedly went to her room late at night and offered her towels for her children to go swimming.

With one child still asleep in the room, Pervez allegedly raped her.

The woman, whose name had not been released, was on vacation from the United States, where she has been a resident for 18 years.

Ravanelli runs riot

LONDON, Sept 19: Fabrizio Ravanelli added to his growing English reputation by scoring four times as Middlesbrough thrashed Hereford 7-0 in a league cup second round, first leg on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Italian striker took his goal tally for the season to 10 as his multi-national team ran riot, Brazilian pair Emerson and Branco also finding the opposition net.

Several Premier League sides had much tougher evenings, with Leeds, Everton and Sheffield Wednesday all facing awkward away second leg games if they want to progress.

George Graham's frustrating start as Leeds manager continued when Third Division Darlington held his side to a 2-2 draw. Everton had to come from behind to secure a 1-1 draw with York and Wednesday were forced to settle for the same scoreline against Oxford.

India pull Pakistan down



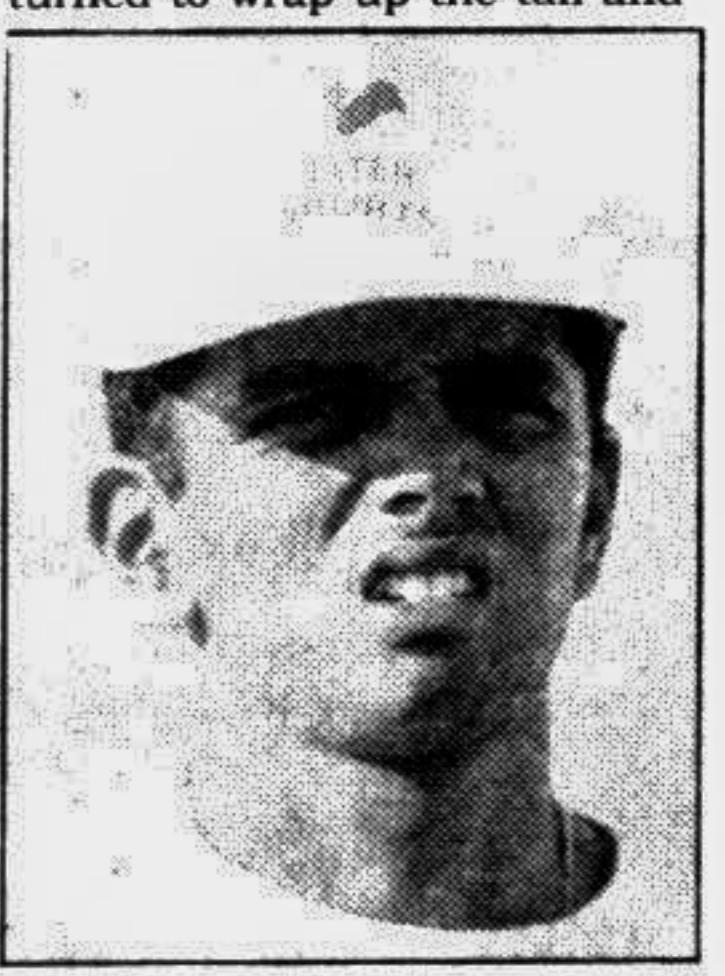
TORONTO, Sept 18: Aided by some gritty batting, fine bowling and poor umpiring, India swept to a 2-1 lead in the Sahara Cup cricket series with a 55-run victory over Pakistan in Toronto on Wednesday, report agencies.

The match, played on a deteriorating wicket at the Toronto cricket skating and curling club, favoured the bowlers from the outset and produced the lowest scores of the series.

Chasing India's score of 191 all out in 50 overs, Pakistan crashed to 136 all out in 42.4 overs. India had won the first match Monday of eight wickets and Pakistan turned the tables with a two-wicket win Tuesday.

Kumble's match-winning spell of four for 12 saw his return to form as he broke the backbone of their batting by dismissing free-stroking Saeed Anwar, Salim Malik, Azhar Mahmood and Wasim Akram in quick succession.

Medium-pace bowlers Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad, who had rattled the Pakistan innings early, returned to wrap up the tail and



RAHUL DRAVID.... m-o-m

justify skipper Sachin Tendulkar's decision to bat first after winning the toss.

Tendulkar said his decision to bat first was influenced by the same pitch being used for the third consecutive day.

The track was wearing out and it was never going to be easy scoring runs batting second on it, Tendulkar said.

English umpire David Shepherd, considered one of the best adjudicators in the world, smudged his fine reputation with two poor decisions which had Pakistan reeling after just six overs.

"We lost the game when we lost the first three wickets," Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said later.

Two of the three dismissals to leave Pakistan 16-3 came from the very least questionable decisions.

Aamir Sohail (11) and Ijaz Ahmed (0) both appeared to miss deliveries from paceman Venkatesh Prasad by the proverbial mile, but when wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia gloved the ball and the Indians went up to appeal, they got the caught behind decision they wanted from Shepherd.

Television replays showed that the deviations were not clearly off the bat. Sohail stayed at the wicket for a while before walking away.

Wicketkeeper Moin Khan was their top scorer with 42 runs off 67 deliveries. His knock included three towering sixes.

From the recognised batsmen only Saeed Anwar (28 runs) and Salim Malik (27 runs) showed the inclination for a long innings. Their 47-run partnership for the fourth wicket was the only bright patch in the Pakistan innings.

Indian wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia was involved in five dismissals for the second time

Bosnia offered cold-shoulder

ZURICH, Sept 19: FIFA soccer's world governing body said on Wednesday it had turned down a request by Bosnia to play next month's World Cup qualifying match against Croatia in Sarajevo, reports Reuter.

Instead, the European Group One clash between the former Balkan enemies will be held as planned on October 9 in the natural venue of Bologna, Italy.

After successfully staging an international athletics meeting earlier this month in the war-ravaged Sarajevo Stadium,

in his career.

Pakistan's accurate attack and good fielding enabled them to restrict India to a modest score.

The third-wicket partnership of 74 in 129 balls between Rahul Dravid and former skipper Mohammed Azharuddin helped India to a moderate score after some early reversals, including the cheap dismissal of their star batsman Tendulkar.

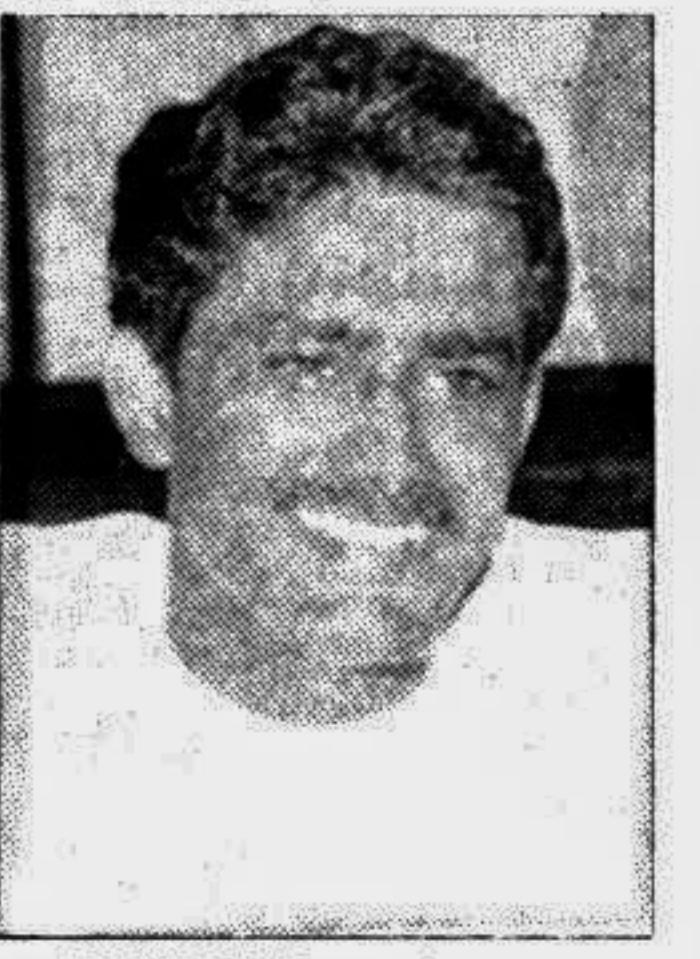
Dravid topped the Indian scoring for the second successive match with a gritty knock of 46 from 92 deliveries that included three fours.

Sir Gary Sobers, the former West Indies captain, who was the adjudicator for the man-of-the-match award, picked him for the prize.

Dravid was shaping for a big knock when Salim Elahi picked up the bat-pad catch at silly point off Saqlain Mushtaq's bowling.

Azharuddin has regained his form since losing the Indian captaincy and continued to his good work by scoring 38 runs before failing to master the flight of a delivery from left-arm spinner Sohail and was

SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ.... m-o-m



KUMBLE.... 4 for 12

neatly stumped by Moin Khan. He hit three boundaries in his 68-ball knock.

The Dravid-Azharuddin partnership came after Wasim Akram had disposed off the openers cheaply. Mongia was trapped leg before for two on the fifth ball of the innings with an in-swinger delivery while Tendulkar perished four overs later as Aamir Sohail turned a full-blooded drive into a catch at short-cover. Both openers scored two apiece.

Akram returned to the attack for his second spell to claim the wickets of Jadeja, clean bowled for 23, and Javagal Srinath, caught on the mid-fence by Saqlain Mushtaq after scoring three runs.

Akram, who finished the innings with four wickets for 35, is the leading wicket-taker in limited-over internationals with 295 wickets to his credit.

Left-hander Sunil Joshi's belligerent knock of 31, which was studded with two sixes to square-leg in one over from

SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ.... boosted the Indian total.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third limited-over international of the Sahara Cup between Pakistan and India played at the Toronto cricket, skating and curling club on Wednesday.

INDIA

Mongia lbw Akram 2
Tendulkar c Sohail b Akram 2
Dravid c Elahi b Saqlain 46
Azharuddin st Moin b Sohail 38
Kambl st Moin b Mushtaq 29
Jadeja b Akram 23
Joshi run out 31
Saqlain c Saqlain b Akram 3
Ashish c Mushtaq b Saqlain 0
Prasad not out 0
Kumble run out 2
Extras: (lb-8, w-7) 15
Total: (all out, 50 overs) 191

Fall of wickets: 5-1; 14-2; 88-3; 133-5; 179-6; 187-7; 189-9; 191

Bowling O M R W
Akram 9 0 35 4
Younis 7 1 15 0
Mahmood 5 1 28 0
Mushtaq 10 2 29 1
Sohail 9 1 31 1
Saqlain 10 0 45 2

PAKISTAN

Anwar c Tendulkar b Kumble 28
Elahi c Kambl b Srinath 4

AKRAM.... 4 for 35

SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ.... 4 for 12

HK Sixes cricket
Latif leads Pak squad

KARACHI, Sept 19: A six-member Pakistan cricket team, led by Rashid Latif, left here today to take part in the Hong Kong Sixes tournament, the Pakistan Cricket Board said. reports AFP.

The team includes fast bowler Aaqib Javed and batsman Basit Ali. Other members are Aamer Hanif, Muhammad Zahid and Ijaz Ahmed Jr. The tournament starts in Hong Kong Saturday.

Latif and Javed both played for their country in the World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka earlier this year.

Latif was recently dropped from the Pakistan Test line-up, which is currently playing the Sahara Cup in Canada in a series of one-day internationals against India.

"We are hopeful that we will win the tournament," Latif told the news agency.

"I think it will be relaxed cricket out there and we are looking forward to it."

All nine Test cricket countries are taking part in the tournament, in which each side will play five overs.



Hashan Tillekeratne (R) sweeps a Paul Strang delivery (not in picture) on his way to score an unbeaten century on the second day of the second Test against Zimbabwe at the Sinhalese Sport Club ground yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

Tillekeratne hits 5th ton

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground on Thursday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings 141 (G Flower 52; J Silva 4-16, Muralitharan 4-40.)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 86/3)

Mahanama c A Flower b B Strang 03

Jayasuriya c B Strang b P Strang 41

Gurusingha c Wishart b B Strang 88

De Silva & c B Strang 16

Ranatunga c Wishart b B Strang 06

Tillekeratne not out 100

Vaas st A Flower b P Strang 27

Pushpakumara not out 17

Extras: (w-3, lb-4, nb-4) 11

Total: (for 7 wickets in 114 overs, 46 minutes) 317

Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-58; 3-86; 4-102; 5-216; 6-267.

To bat: Muttiah Muralitharan, Jayantha Silva.

Bowling (to date) O M R W

Olonga 23 4 77 20

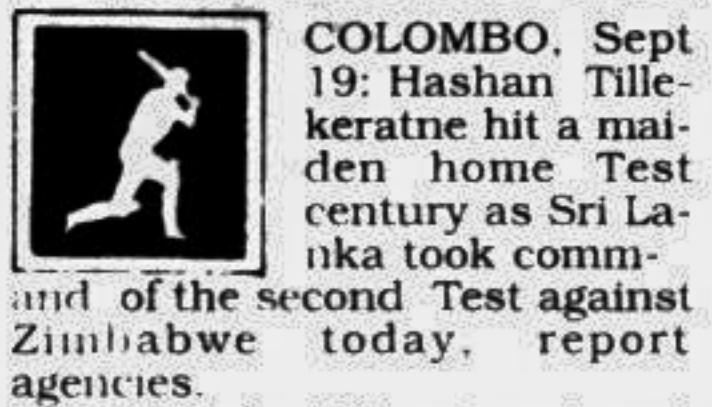
B Strang 20 6 63 3

A Whittall 27 6 70 27

P Strang 28 7 58 3

G Whittall 14 4 32 1

G Flower 2 0 13 0



Hashan Tillekeratne (R) sweeps a Paul Strang delivery (not in picture) on his way to score an unbeaten century on the second day of the second Test against Zimbabwe at the Sinhalese Sport Club ground yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

Nichirei tennis
Pierce, Vicario in qtrs

TOKYO, Sept 19: Defending champion Mary Pierce quashed a challenge from Park Sung-Hee in her first match in five weeks in the 450,000 dollars Nichirei International women's tennis tournament today, later saying she was ready to get back on top of the rankings, report agencies.

Pierce had 100 not out and guided his team to a second day total of 317 for seven, 176 ahead.

Tillekeratne completed his fifth Test century, his first in Sri Lanka, in the final over of the day.

The left-hander batted for 335 minutes and faced 254 balls in his chanceless innings. He struck 12 fours.

Tillekeratne arrived at 102 for four after captain Arjuna Ranatunga fell cheaply to left-arm fast bowler Bryan Strang.

Ranatunga lasted only seven overs before mistiming a drive to mid-on with his score on six.

Asanka Gurusingha and Tillekeratne added 114 for the fifth wicket to take Sri Lanka past Zimbabwe's first innings total of 141.

Gurusingha batted resolutely

for 294 minutes before he played a half hearted pull off Strang and was caught at short square leg for 88. He hit one six and eight fours.

Tillekeratne next shared in a 51-run stand for the sixth wicket with Romesh Kaluwitharana. The latter departed for 27