

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 Zeeshan 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 tie on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

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 as 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

in his career. Pakistan's accurate attack and good ground 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 Mohammad Azharuddin helped India to a moderate score after some early reversals, including the cheap dismissal of their star batsman Tendulkar.

David 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-pat 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, 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 46

David c Elahi b Saqlain 38

Azharuddin at Moin b Sohail 29

Kamli b Moin b Mushtaq 23

Jadeja b Akram 31

Joshi run out 3

Srinath c Saqlain b Akram 0

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 3

Saqlain 10 0 45 2

PAKISTAN

Anwar c Tendulkar b Kumble 28

Elahi c Kamli b Srinath 4

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.

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.

"When I think about the past, I can think I was number three and I won a Grand Slam tournament," said the Frenchwoman, after a 7-5, 6-2 win over the South Korean.

"Now, I'm number 10.... It's different. But I've expected that and I know what I need to get back in the top. I just have to believe in myself."

Kimberly Po of the US upset sixth seeded hometown favourite Ai Sugiyama 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 to become the only unseeded player to reach the quarterfinals.

Po will now face fourth-seeded Pierce.

"I think (Sugiyama) plays similar to how I play, so I was kind of covering what I would hit and I happened to be right most of the time," said Po, who beat Kimiko Date of Japan in the first round of the US Open.

Second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the 1994 champion, advanced when she beat Italy's Rita Grande 6-2, 6-2 and will face eighth-seeded Wang Shi-Ting of Taiwan who won 6-1, 7-5 against Germany's Andrea Glass.



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.

Tillekeratne hits 5th ton

COLOMBO, Sept 19: Hashan Tillekeratne hit a maiden century as Sri Lanka took command of the second Test against Zimbabwe today, report agencies.

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

Gurusinha 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, caught behind by Andy Flower, slashing at a ball outside the off-stump from Guy Whittall.

Chaminda Vaas came in and struck a towering six off Paul Strang, only to be stumped in Strang's next over, leaving the total on 276 for seven.

Ravindra Pushpakumara was undefeated on 17, including three boundaries, at the close, sharing an unbroken 41-run stand with Tillekeratne.

On Wednesday, Sri Lanka's left-arm leg spinner Jayantha Silva captured four for 16, and off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan grabbed four for 40, and eight Zimbabwe wickets fell within the space of 22 runs.

Zimbabwe lost the first match of the two-Test series by an innings and 77 runs inside four days.

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)

Mahamada c A Flower b B Strang 03

Jayasuriya c A Whittall b P Strang 41

Gurusinha c Wishart b B Strang 88

De Silva c & b P Strang 16

Ranatunga c Wishart b B Strang 06

Tillekeratne not out 100

Kaluwitharana c A Flower b G Whittall 27

Vaas st A Flower b P Strang 08

Pushpakumara not out 17

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

Total (for 7 wickets in 114 overs, 466 minutes) 317

Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-58; 3-86; 4-102; 5-216; 6-267; 7-276.

To bat: Muttiah Muralitharan, Jayantha Silva.

Bowling (to date) O M R W

Olunga 23 4 77 0

B Strang 20 6 63 3

A Whittall 27 6 70 0

P Strang 28 7 58 3

G Whittall 14 4 32 1

G Flower 2 0 13 0

French-Italian tie again

NANTES, France, Sept 19: At home for the third time this year, France's Davis Cup team looks to another shutout against Italy to qualify for the final again, five years after winning the title, reports AP.

Thursday's draw had France selecting Cedric Pioline and Arnaud Boetsch for the singles. The doubles team is Guy Forget and Guillaume Raoux but France Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah can change up to an hour before Saturday's starting time.

Italy went with Renzo Furlan and Andrea Gaudenzi in the singles with Gaudenzi and Diego Nargiso scheduled for the doubles. Italian captain Adriano Panatta can also change his lineup if he wants.

It will be Pioline against Gaudenzi followed by Boetsch versus Furlan in Friday's singles. The reverse singles are set for Sunday with Pioline and Furlan in the first match.

In 1991, the year it upset the United States for the title, France played all four rounds at home.

France hasn't lost a match so far this year against lowly-ranked Denmark and a German team without Michael Stich and Boris Becker in singles.

Both French players are ranked ahead of their Italian counterparts. Pioline is No. 17 with Boetsch No. 23 in the latest ATP Tour rankings. Furlan is No. 38 and Gaudenzi is No. 55.

Panatta doesn't worry about the rankings.

"The Davis Cup, it's pure tennis," Panatta said. "We don't speak of rankings or points. You just have to beat the opponent. The psychological conditions are so different."

The Italians consider themselves underdogs.

"On paper it's 65-35 in favour of the French," said Furlan. "But it won't be a miracle if Italy wins."

Panatta estimates Italy's chances about 40 per cent.

On paper Italy was not favoured in its first two rounds.

Italy upset Russia, a losing finalist the last two years, in the first round then topped South Africa in the quarterfinals. Both matches were in Italy on clay.

Now the encounter is indoors in France on Greenset, although the French players are complaining that the surface is too slow compared to other

times they played on the indoor court.

"There was a problem when we came here on Monday," Noah said. "But we aren't thinking any more about it. We worked. We adapted like changing the tennis in the racks."

However Furlan found the surface an agreeable surprise.

"It was better than we expected," Furlan said, who is more at home on the slow clay courts than he is on fast surfaces.

The last time France and Italy met was in 1977 when Italy won with Panatta winning both singles and having a hand in the doubles victory. Overall Italy has a 5-4 edge.

The winner of this semifinal takes on the victor of the Sweden-Czech Republic match happening in Prague over the weekend.

Jansher survives a scare

CAIRO, Sept 19: World champion Jansher Khan survived a daunting experience in front of a hostile Egyptian crowd to reach the semifinals of the Gezira Open squash championship on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Jansher beat local hero Ahmed Barada, the 19-year-old former world junior champion, 15-5, 8-15, 15-4, 15-14 in 81 minutes but was unimpressed by the behaviour of his opponent or the home supporters.

Pakistan's Zubair Jahan Khan received a walkover into the last four when the seventh seed Mark Chaloner of England withdrew with severe food poisoning.

Kent axe their skipper

LONDON, Sept 19: Former England fast bowler Alam Iqbal and recent skipper Mark Benson are being released by Kent even though both still have a year left on their contracts, reports Reuters.

Neither has played first-class cricket this season because of injury.

Benson, 38, has scored more than 18,000 runs for the county since 1980, but faces another knee operation next month after being hurt playing football in pre-season training.

Iqbal, 32, next month, has played only seven first-class matches and 13 one-day games in the last two years.

He won the last of his three Test caps against the West Indies in 1993.



Mary Pierce of France makes a forehand return against South Korea's Park Sung Hee at the Nichirei Open in Tokyo yesterday. Pierce won the match 7-5, 6-2.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Friday 20th September
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in group programmes)

BT

Morning Session

8:00am Opening Announcements

8:10 News in Bangla 8:15

Alor Disha 8:40 Aye Prihiti

9:05 Educational Film: The World of Mathematics/Numbers

and Figures 9:30 Comedy Series: Murphy Brown 10:00

The News 10:05 Moner Mukta: Retrospect of Selected Drama

11:15 English Film 11:55 Shikha-Dhaka 12:30 Evening

Transmission

Evening Session

2:30pm Opening Announcements

Al-Quran Programme

Summary 2:40 Recitation from the Tripitaka 3:00 Bangla

Feature Film 4:00 News in Bangla 5:00

News in Bangla 6:05 Documentary Film: Silk Road 7:00

News in English 7:05 Open University 7:25 Malancha: Modern Songs

7:45 Apasider Chitri Pelam 8:00

Drama series: Thunder in Paradise 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Tomorrow's programme summary 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC Newsroom Inc.

World Business Report/Asia Today

Headlines 9:05 Without A City

Wall 10:00 BBC Newsday 1:00

BBC World Headlines 1:05

Without A City Wall 2:00 BBC

World News 2:30 Time Out: Fat

Man In France 3:00 BBC World

News 3:30 Time Out: The

Farnborough Air Show 4:00

BBC Newsdesk 6:00pm BBC

World Headlines 6:05 Without A

City Wall 7:00 BBC World News

7:15 World Business Report

7:30 BBC Newsroom Asia and

Pacific 8:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's

Hours 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight

CHANNEL V

6:00am Frame by Frame 7:00

Revised VJ Sophia 8:00 Jump

Start VJ Trey 9:00 Frame by

Frame 11:30 The Vibe VJ Luke

12:30noon By Demand VJ Trey

1:30 Revised VJ Sophia 2:00

Frame by Frame 2:30 First Day

First Show 3:00 Videocam

Flashback 3:30 Soul Curry 4:00