

Cronje the culprit

MELBOURNE, Feb 12: South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje has apologised to Australian authorities for spearing a stump through the umpires' room door after his team lost the controversial third Test match, reports AP.

The South African players were upset at a decision from television umpire Steve Davis, who gave century-maker Mark Waugh not out to a hit-wicket appeal late in the match.

Cronje led a spate of on-field anger directed at the umpires, then speared a stump through the officials' room door at the end of the match.

Australia managed to hold on for a draw in the match, earlier this month, and claimed the three-match series 1-0.

In a short statement Thursday, Australian Cricket Board chief executive Mal Speed confirmed the board had received an apology from Cronje and regarded the matter as closed.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, named Cronje as the player responsible Thursday, after earlier saying he would not reveal the identity of the player.

Cronje appears certain to escape any sanction for his action. Cricket authorities have recently clamped down on bad behaviour by players during heated games between South Africa and Australia.

Australia's Shane Warne was fined 680 dollars by the match referee after being reported for abusing South African opening batsman Andrew Hudson in the Johannesburg Test in 1994. He was also fined 2,700 dollars by the ACB.

In March last year Ian Healy was suspended for two games for dissent when he threw his bat down in disgust after being dismissed by the South Africans in Pretoria.

But Bacher said the latest matter was closed and the South African board would take no action against Cronje.

Kashem memorial cricket Fakir Abdul Kashem memorial Gold Cup cricket tournament begins at Parashuram thana headquarter under Feni district today, says a press release.

FBUTA President and DU teacher Dr Mostafa Chowdhury will formally inaugurate the tournament at Parashuram High School ground at 10 am.

About nine local clubs are participating in the tournament.

off the mat here today and flattened Australia with a seven-wicket win in the third one-day cricket international, reports AFP.

Australia scored 236 which New Zealand overhauled with a 240 for three.

It was marked by a brilliant captain's knock with Stephen

Fleming scoring 111 not out, while bowler Chris Cairns took a career best five for 42.

It was also a game that saw Australia lose their way - inept fielding and bowling marred their otherwise outstanding performance.

After the game Fleming said it was a magic moment. "It is very sweet, it is a moment I will cherish," he said.

"We did a lot of soul-searching, we played pretty badly over the last two games... We needed a big effort.

The pitch was slower than the Australians expected and the lights were somewhat weak for the fielding side. The outfield was sandy as well.

Australian captain Steve Waugh said after 40 overs they were set for 260. "But full credit to New Zealand, they fielded very well in the last 10 overs," Waugh said.

Australia leads the series 2-1 with the final Saturday in Auckland.

Australia won the toss and went into bat. Darren Lehmann

scored 44 runs before being caught by wicketkeeper Adam Parore off Cairns' bowling. Mark and Steve Waugh both ran 42 apiece, with Steve another of Cairns' victims.

The Australians were looking to post a big total when they were five for 209, but were bowled all out for 236 with an over to go. Cairns eventually finished with figures of 5-42 off 7.4 overs.

The innings was marked

Saqlain, M Akram assaulted Pak-SA first Test at stake

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 12: Pakistan threatened to boycott the first cricket Test against South Africa after two of their players were mugged outside the team hotel, officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Angry captain Rashid Latif said unless the team was provided with full protection, they had no option but to boycott the first Test at Wanderers starting Friday.

The two players, fast bowler Mohammad Akram and off-

spinner Saqlain Mustaq, were assaulted by three men 20 yards (metres) away from the team hotel on Wednesday night as they went out for dinner.

"It's a very big issue," said

our country and my first task as captain is to ensure the safety of my players."

Latif noted the West Indies and Australia had both refused to play in the last Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka because they feared for the safety of their players.

"As far as I'm concerned the United Cricket Board of South Africa is responsible for the safety of my men," he said.

Team coach Haroon Rashid described the incident as "sad and very scary."

"Anything could have happened if they hadn't been dis-

turbed," Rashid said. "We are here to play cricket and we want the right environment for it. We don't want to be confined to hotel rooms and live as prisoners."

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Latif, who himself will be missing the Test because of a neck injury. "These two bowlers are our main weapon and this is a really serious issue. If they can't play on Friday, we will boycott this Test match."

Akram suffered a cut on his bowling hand. Both players were beaten around the rib cage and chest and robbed of their personal belongings, Latif said.

Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said extra security has been arranged for the team.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

Akram, who is expected to share the new ball with Waqar Younis, was sent to a nearby hospital for X-rays and treatment for lacerations. He is doubtful for the Test.

Both players were knocked unconscious by the attackers, who fled after being disturbed by the passing traffic.

"We are sure this will not happen again," Bacher said in a press release after meeting the two players and tour manager Ased Ahmed Aziz in his office.

Bahrain move to the top spot

Bahrain took a solo lead in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group IV competition outplaying all-losers Brunei by straight 3-0 matches on the fourth day of the week-long meet at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

With the victory, Bahrain, one of the two favourites in the seven-nation tourney, maintained their all-win record with full points in a step forward to move to the Group III.

Another favourites and hosts Bangladesh, who jointly dominated the points table with Bahrain having full three points from three ties till Wednesday, had a rest day yesterday.

In the day's other two ties, Iraq beat United Arab Emirates (UAE) 3-0 while Jordan earned a 2-1 victory over another all-losers Oman at the same venue.

Prabhakar feels it's all because of bookies

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: Former cricketer Manoj Prabhakar, who is facing one million dollar defamation suit filed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), yesterday said the entire system seemed to be ganged up against him and his family for his 'exposure' of batting and match-fixing in Indian cricket, reports PTI.

Prabhakar filed an FIR against an intruder who allegedly came looking for him and assaulted his colony's security guard Tuesday night, hours after the reports of the suit against him appeared in the media.

"The entire system seems to be ganged up against me and now they seem to be targeting my wife and son also," said Prabhakar later.

Stating that he would contest the suit till his logical conclusion, Prabhakar charged BCCI with being interested only in publicity but not the truth.

He also said that the former BCCI secretary and now ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, had not taken him into confidence though he wanted to know everything.

"I spoke to him in strict confidence, but suddenly I found the Chandrachud committee appointed. Venkat Rao, manager for the 1994 New Zealand tour, himself had come out against certain players but back-tracked and denied everything during the enquiry. Nobody seems to be interested in bringing out the truth," he said.

Stating that he would contest the suit till his logical conclusion, Prabhakar charged BCCI with being interested only in publicity but not the truth.

He also said that the former BCCI secretary and now ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, had not taken him into confidence though he wanted to know everything.

"I spoke to him in strict confidence, but suddenly I found the Chandrachud committee appointed. Venkat Rao, manager for the 1994 New Zealand tour, himself had come out against certain players but back-tracked and denied everything during the enquiry. Nobody seems to be interested in bringing out the truth," he said.

Stating that he would contest the suit till his logical conclusion, Prabhakar charged BCCI with being interested only in publicity but not the truth.

He also said that the former BCCI secretary and now ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, had not taken him into confidence though he wanted to know everything.

"I spoke to him in strict confidence, but suddenly I found the Chandrachud committee appointed. Venkat Rao, manager for the 1994 New Zealand tour, himself had come out against certain players but back-tracked and denied everything during the enquiry. Nobody seems to be interested in bringing out the truth," he said.

Stating that he would contest the suit till his logical conclusion, Prabhakar charged BCCI with being interested only in publicity but not the truth.

He also said that the former BCCI secretary and now ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, had not taken him into confidence though he wanted to know everything.

"I spoke to him in strict confidence, but suddenly I found the Chandrachud committee appointed. Venkat Rao, manager for the 1994 New Zealand tour, himself had come out against certain players but back-tracked and denied everything during the enquiry. Nobody seems to be interested in bringing out the truth," he said.

Stating that he would contest the suit till his logical conclusion, Prabhakar charged BCCI with being interested only in publicity but not the truth.

He also said that the former BCCI secretary and now ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, had not taken him into confidence though he wanted to know everything.

"I spoke to him in strict confidence, but suddenly I found the Chandrachud committee appointed. Venkat Rao, manager for the 1994 New Zealand tour, himself had come out against certain players but back-tracked and denied everything during the enquiry. Nobody seems to be interested in bringing out the truth," he said.

Stating that he would contest the suit till his logical conclusion, Prabhakar charged BCCI with being interested only in publicity but not the truth.

He also said that the former BCCI secretary and now ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, had not taken him into confidence though he wanted to know everything.

"I spoke to him in strict confidence, but suddenly I found the Chandrachud committee appointed. Venkat Rao, manager for the 1994 New Zealand tour, himself had come out against certain players but back-tracked and denied everything during the enquiry. Nobody seems to be interested in bringing out the truth," he said.

Stating that he would contest the suit till his logical conclusion, Prabhakar charged BCCI with being interested only in publicity but not the truth.

He also said that the former BCCI secretary and now ICC president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, had not taken him into confidence though he wanted to know everything.

Akram yet to be acquitted

KARACHI, Feb 12 (Reuters, AP): The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said today that there was no proof of former captain Wasim Akram's alleged involvement in match-fixing and betting but said a further and final inquiry would be held into the matter.

"As far as the cricket board is concerned, Wasim is innocent as we have no concrete evidence against him," Khalid Mahmood, who recently took over as board chairman, told the Urdu-language Jang newspaper.

"However, an in-depth investigation will be carried out to settle the issue once and for ever," Mahmood said.

Former captain Akram was dropped from the South Africa and Zimbabwe tours last month.

Akram, who denies all the accusations, is presently in Islamabad trying to approach top government officials for help in clearing his name.

"I have succeeded in contacting quite a few officials but since Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is presently in China I couldn't meet him," the player told the newspaper.

"However, I have a scheduled meeting with President Rafiq Tarar next week," added Akram who will be going to South Africa with Lancashire next month on a training trip to prepare for the new English

season. Akram's efforts have apparently created an in-road for him as he has been told to prove his fitness by PCB chief Mahmood.

"I have told him to start training and remain mentally fit. He might have to fly to join the team in Africa," said Mahmood.

The PCB chairman also hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

"The matter will be discussed at length in the next council meeting because we feel that all the problems start whenever we lose there," he said.

Meanwhile another report hinted that Pakistan might stay away from future Sharjah one-day tournaments.

committee on sports to clear his name. "I have always played for Pakistan... I have never asked any Pakistani player to take money to lose a game," Akram told the committee headed by Iqbal Javed, a retired judge of the Lahore High Court.

Akram said the allegations were being leveled by disgruntled Pakistani players who had been dropped from the team because their performance was poor.

But after a day of hearings, the committee wasn't convinced of the Pakistani cricket team's innocence and ordered further hearings.

Rather Javed accused the Pakistan Cricket Board of trying to protect the players. "I am not satisfied that there has been no wrongdoing," said Javed. "The performance of the Pakistan team has been poor and we want to try to find out what has caused Pakistan's defeat in international matches."

No date was set for the next round of hearings, nor has the committee been given a deadline by which time its report has to be submitted to the government.

If Akram is exonerated he will be returned to the Pakistan team, however, the cricketer said he wasn't sure he when would be able to play.

"I want my name cleared," he told. "But mentally I don't know when I would be ready to play for Pakistan. It has been very difficult for me," he said.

If he is found guilty he could be fined and thrown off the team.



SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ



MOHAMMAD AKRAM

spinner Saqlain Mustaq, were assaulted by three men 20 yards (metres) away from the team hotel on Wednesday night as they went out for dinner.

"It's a very big issue," said

off the mat here today and flattened Australia with a seven-wicket win in the third one-day cricket international, reports AFP.

Australia scored 236 which New Zealand overhauled with a 240 for three.

It was marked by a brilliant captain's knock with Stephen

Fleming scoring 111 not out, while bowler Chris Cairns took a career best five for 42.

It was also a game that saw Australia lose their way - inept fielding and bowling marred their otherwise outstanding performance.

After the game Fleming said it was a magic moment. "It is very sweet, it is a moment I will cherish," he said.

"We did a lot of soul-searching, we played pretty badly over the last two games... We needed a big effort.

The pitch was slower than the Australians expected and the lights were somewhat weak for the fielding side. The outfield was sandy as well.

Australian captain Steve Waugh said after 40 overs they were set for 260. "But full credit to New Zealand, they fielded very well in the last 10 overs," Waugh said.

Australia leads the series 2-1 with the final Saturday in Auckland.

Australia won the toss and went into bat. Darren Lehmann

scored 44 runs before being caught by wicketkeeper Adam Parore off Cairns' bowling. Mark and Steve Waugh both ran 42 apiece, with Steve another of Cairns' victims.

The Australians were looking to post a big total when they were five for 209, but were bowled all out for 236 with an over to go. Cairns eventually finished with figures of 5-42 off 7.4 overs.

The innings was marked

with brilliant catching, particularly by Fleming.

New Zealand looked bad with the score at 2-5 but Fleming and Craig McMillan then joined together to pull off a much-needed win.

McMillan was dropped by Steve Waugh off his brother's bowling when he was on 26. McMillan went on to score 53 not out, including two powerful sixes late in the game.

It was the first time New Zealand had won at home under lights.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the limited-over match between Australia and New Zealand in Napier Thursday:

Table with columns: AUSTRALIA, Gilchrist c Cairns b Nash 40, M Waugh c Parore b Vettori 42, Wilson c Fleming b Harris 30, Ponting c Fleming b Cairns 44, Moody b Vettori 3, S Waugh c Parore b Cairns 42, Law c Nash b Cairns 1, Bevan run out 10, Bichel c Fleming b Cairns 10, Robertson not out 11, Wilson Fleming b Cairns 12, Extras: (lb-6, w-4, nb-1) 11, Total: (all out in 48.3 overs) 236, Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-98; 3-136; 4-141; 5-209; 6-210; 7-214; 8-215; 9-226; 10-236.

Table with columns: NEW ZEALAND, Howel c Gilchrist b Wilson 4, Astle run out 55, Parore b Bichel 0, Fleming not out 111, McMillan not out 53, Extras: (lb-1, w-3, nb-7) 17, Total: (for 3 wickets in 48.3 overs) 240, Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-5; 3-121.

Table with columns: Bowling, O'Connor 5 0 20 0, Cairns 7.3 0 42 5, Doull 7 0 28 0, Nash 6 0 37 1, Vettori 10 0 35 2, Astle 3 0 16 0, Harris 10 0 52 1.

Table with columns: Bowling, Wilson 6.2 0 42 1, Bichel 10 0 42 1, Moody 10 0 39 0, Robertson 10 0 38 0, Waugh 10 0 56 0, Law 2 0 16 0.

Result: New Zealand won by seven wickets.

Australia lead four-game series 2-1.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Player of the match: Stephen Fleming.

Panchagarh Sugar Mills Ltd Panchagarh Re-Tender Notice for Purchase of Tyre-Tubes

Sealed re-tenders are hereby invited by the General Manager, Panchagarh Sugar Mills Ltd, Panchagarh from the genuine importers/suppliers/stockists for supply of Tyre-Tubes. Stores are to be delivered to Panchagarh Sugar Mills General Store at the suppliers own risk/cost. Tender will be received on 25-2-98 up to 12.00 Noon simultaneously in the tender box to be kept in front of the office of the Chief (Purchase), BSFIC, Purbarag