

Pakistan says Shoaib will play

KARACHI, Dec 28: Pakistan cricket officials are confident fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar will play in a forthcoming limited-over series in Australia despite his action being questioned, reports Reuters.

"We are absolutely sure that Shoaib Akhtar will be in action," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Tauseef Zia told the news agency from Islamabad today.

Pakistan's squad was set to leave on Wednesday, a day before a nine-man International Cricket Council (ICC) advisory panel on illegal deliveries was to hold a telephone conference to discuss Akhtar's bowling action.

His action was questioned by New Zealand match referee John Reid during Pakistan's recent three-Test series in Australia, which the touring side lost 3-0.

Zia said he did not expect an ICC decision on Akhtar's action until after the tri-nation series, which also features Australia and India, and is being played between January 9 and February 6.

Pakistan team manager Intikhab Alam said from Lahore that Akhtar had a perfect bowling action.

"He has been cleared by the PCB panel and I am confident that he will earn the ICC's nod as well," Intikhab said.

Reid has expressed concern about the straightening of Akhtar's arm immediately before a particularly fast delivery or a bouncer.

Zia also said he did not feel increased political tension between India and Pakistan would affect his team.

The players are professionals and this issue should not divert their attention from their assignment," he said.

Pakistan has denied Indian allegations that it is involved in the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane which is now parked at Kandahar airport in southern Afghanistan with 155 hostages aboard.

Mukul Niketan lift Lila Devi soccer title

MYMENSINGH, Dec 28: Mukul Niketan School emerged champions in the traditional Lila Devi Shield football tournament here today, reports UNB.

They beat Hazi Osman Ali High School 5-4 in tie-breaker after the regulation 90 minutes ended goalless.

Imran of Osman Ali High was adjudged player-of-the-tournament.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Abdul Halim was the chief guest in the closing function and distributed prizes.

Windies made

From page 13
by Stephen Fleming at first slip.

SCOREBOARD

The scoreboard at the end of the third day of the second Test between New Zealand and the West Indies at the Basin Reserve on Tuesday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 5-1)

Griffith c Fleming b Nash 67
Campbell lbw Cairns 0
Perry c Parori b Cairns 3
Chanderpal c Parori b Cairns 5
Lara b Vettori 67
Adams c Stead b Vettori 8
Jacobs not out 19
Rose c Parori b Cairns 0
King run out (Vettori) 0
Walsh b Cairns 0
Extras: (lb-2, b-4, w-2, nb-2) 10
Total: (All out in 91 overs) 179

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-5; 3-17; 4-12; 5-141; 6-174; 7-175; 8-176; 9-179.

Did not bat: D. Ganga 0
Bowler: O M R W
Cairns 19 5 44 5
Nash 18 8 23 1
Vettori 31 10 69 2
O'Connor 19 8 25 0
Astle 4 1 12 0

SECOND INNINGS

Griffith not out 0
Campbell not out 2
Extras: 0
Total: (For no wicket in 3 overs) 2

Bowler: O M R W
O'Connor 2 1 1 0
Vettori 1 0 1 0

Brett strikes

From page 13
Langer lbw b Srinath 8
M Waugh c b Agarkar 41
S Waugh c M Prasad b V Prasad 32
Ponting lbw b Srinath 67
Gilchrist c Ganguly b Agarkar 78
Warne c M Prasad b Agarkar 2
Fleming not out 31
Lee c and b Srinath 27
McGrath run out 1
Extras: (b-9, b-1, nb-14, w-1) 25
Total: (All out) 405

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-28; 3-123; 4-192; 5-197; 6-341; 7-343; 8-345; 9-404.

Bowler: O M R W
Srinath 33.1 7 130 4
Agarkar 28 7 76 3
Prasad 26 6 101 2
Ganguly 2 0 10 0
Kumble 23 3 78 0

INDIA: First innings

Ramesh b Lee 4
Laxman c M Waugh b McGrath 5
David c Gilchrist b Lee 9
Tendulkar c Langer b Fleming 116
Ganguly c M Waugh b McGrath 31
Kanitkar lbw b Warne 11
Prasad b Lee 6
Agarkar lbw b Lee 0
Srinath c M Waugh b Lee 1
Kumble not out 26
V Prasad not out 10
Extras: (b-8, nb-8) 16
Total: (For nine wickets) 235

Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-11; 3-31; 4-108; 5-138; 6-167; 7-167; 8-169; 9-212.

Bowler: O M R W
McGrath 18 3 39 2
Fleming 15 0 62 1
Lee 17 2 44 5
Warne 24 5 77 1
M Waugh 1 0 5 0



England players gather round paceman Andrew Caddick in Durban yesterday. Caddick took career-best 7/46. — AFP photo

Caddick forces SA to follow on



DURBAN, South Africa, Dec 28: Career-best figures by Andrew Caddick forced South Africa to follow on for the first time in more than 30 years on the third day of the third Test against South Africa at Kingsmead Tuesday.

Caddick gained high bounce from the Kingsmead pitch. Gibbs showed impressive timing in South Africa's second innings, making 24 not out off 16 balls with five fours.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day of the third Test between South Africa and England at Kingsmead Tuesday:

ENGLAND: First innings

(overnight 366-9)

Butcher c Klesner b Adams 48
Atherton b Hayward 1
Hussain not out 146
Maddy c Adams b Donald 24
Stewart lbw b Hayward 95
Adams b Adams 19
Flintoff lbw b Cronje 5
Caddick lbw b Cronje 0
Gough c Klesner b Donald 9
Silverwood c Boucher b Pollock 0
Tufnell not out 20
Extras: (b-1; lb-14; w-3; nb-1) 19
Total: (For 9 wickets) 166.4 overs dec) 366

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-82, 3-138, 4-294, 5-336, 6-345, 7-345, 8-363, 9-362

Bowler: O M R W

Donald 23.4 3 67 2
Pollock 33 14 55 1
Hayward 20 3 74 2
Kallis 23 9 38 0
Klesner 17 5 38 0
Adams 43 17 74 2
Cronje 7 5 5 2

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

Kirsten c Stewart b Caddick 11
Gibbs c Stewart b Caddick 1
Kallis c Stewart b Caddick 0
Cullinan b Gough 20
Cronje c Stewart b Caddick 28
Klesner c Maddy b Tufnell 15
Tufnell not out 64
Pollock c Caddick 0
Donald c Atherton b Caddick 0
Hayward not out 0
Extras: (b-4; lb-1; w-1; nb-1) 7
Total: (All out in 50.5 overs) 156

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-21.1, 3-24, 4-57, 5-74, 6-84, 7-84, 8-84, 9-154

Bowler: O M R W

Pollock 15.5 6 36 2
Caddick 16 5 46 7
Silverwood 6 1 38 0
Tufnell 10 1 24 1
Flintoff 3 0 7 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings

Kirsten not out 3
Gibbs not out 24
Extras: 0
Total: (For loss in 6.1 overs) 27

Bowler: O M R W

Caddick 3.1 1 10 0
Silverwood 3 0 17 0

Barisal to cop

From page 13
in their last match.

Kulhna also could not win a match in their last eight outings. They are presently filling the fourth place with six batting points.

England captain Nasser Hussain responded by bringing on left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell, who had the hard-hitting lefthander caught at short leg by Darren Maddy with an instinctive left-handed catch off his third ball.

Caddick came back and had Cronje caught behind with his first ball, bowled Mark Boucher with his third delivery and had Allan Donald caught at first slip two balls later.

He took some punishment from Pollock before bowling the allrounder when Pollock stepped away to force the ball to the offside and the ball crashed into his stumps off an inside edge.

Gough then wrapped up the innings by accounting for Adams, enabling Hussain to invite Cronje to bat again.

The start of the day's play was delayed because of a wet outfield following rain, prompting Hussain to declare at his team's overnight total. Hussain was 146 not out after bat-

ting for ten and a half hours and facing 463 balls.

It was announced that play would start an hour late but there was a further delay of 20 minutes when the heavy roller, requested by South African cap-

tain Hansie Cronje, did not start because of a flat battery.

Gibbs showed impressive timing in South Africa's second innings, making 24 not out off 16 balls with five fours.

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