

## Fraser's desire

LONDON, Mar 4: Middlesex and England seamer Angus Fraser still wants to play international cricket and intends to meet the selectors to discuss his future, reports Reuters.

Fraser, 34, has not represented his country since December 1998 despite taking more than 50 wickets for England in that year.

"I want to play international cricket again and I still believe that I can compete at the top level," said Fraser on Friday.

"I have not played for England since Australia even though I finished that year as the fourth highest wicket taker in world cricket."

"For some strange reason they decided not to pick me for the following test matches but I have not given up hope of playing at test level again."

Fraser will shortly seek a meeting with the English Cricket Board to establish whether he has a Test future.

### Rain scare

From Page 13

former captain Arjuna Ranatunga from their line-up after fracturing his left thumb.

Ranatunga helped his team scrap through to win on the final day of the first Test, scoring a painstaking 29 not out and partnering Romesh Kaluwitharana in a valiant 43-run ninth wicket stand.

His place is likely to go to right-handed batsman Tilakaratne Dilshan who hit a mature 163 in only his second Test against Zimbabwe last year.

Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore said his team was determined to capitalise on Pakistan's problems and wanted to seal the series in this frontier town.

"Bad weather is not good for anyone but if it happens, we will still try our best to do one better than what we have done till now," said Sri Lankan coach Dav Whatmore, whose team beat Pakistan 3-0 in a one-day series before the Test series.

"We will decide about the combination once things improve," he said.

The pitch at the ground here traditionally helps fast bowlers and with Akram and Akhtar back, Pakistan is likely to play with four seamers.

Off-spinner Arshad Khan and leg-spinning all-rounder Shahid Afridi will vie for the last spot.

John Hampshire of England and Mohammad Nazir will supervise the match as umpires.

### TEAMS

**PAKISTAN** (from): Saeed Anwer (captain), Aamir Sohail, Wajahatullah Wasti, Shahid Afridi, Inzamamul Haq, Younis Khan, Younis Youhanan, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Arshad Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Akram, Atiquzzaman, Mohammad Naveed, Shahid Nazir, Waqar Younis and Abdur Razak.

**SRI LANKA** (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Russell Arnold, Mahela Jayawardene, Aravinda de Silva, Tilkeran Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Idika de Saram, Nuwan Zoysa, Upul Chandana, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Ranjana Herath, Pramod Wickremasinghe and Indika Gallage.

**Umpires**: John Hampshire (England) and Mohammad Nazir (Pakistan)



Sri Lanka cricket team members during a visit to Machni Post along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border on March 3. —AFP photo



KINGSTON, Mar 4: Jimmy Adams is under no illusions about the enormity of the task that lies ahead of him after he was Friday named the new West Indies captain, reports AFP.

The 32-year-old left-hander, who captained Jamaica to the 2000 Busta Cup, West Indies' first-class championship last month, was predictably named Lara's successor for the forthcoming home series against Zimbabwe and Pakistan.

"Captaincy carries a lot of pressure and I think it would be a little unwise to think that it wouldn't add a little bit of pressure," Adams said.

"Over the years, pressure has not been one of the things that has bothered me! I have come through some pretty tight situations in the past and overcomes quite a few pressure situations, so I am actually looking forward to the challenge."

The post of West Indies captain had become vacant after Lara's resignation last week and his subsequent withdrawal on Thursday from the home series against Zimbabwe and Pakistan has left a huge void in the West Indies batting.

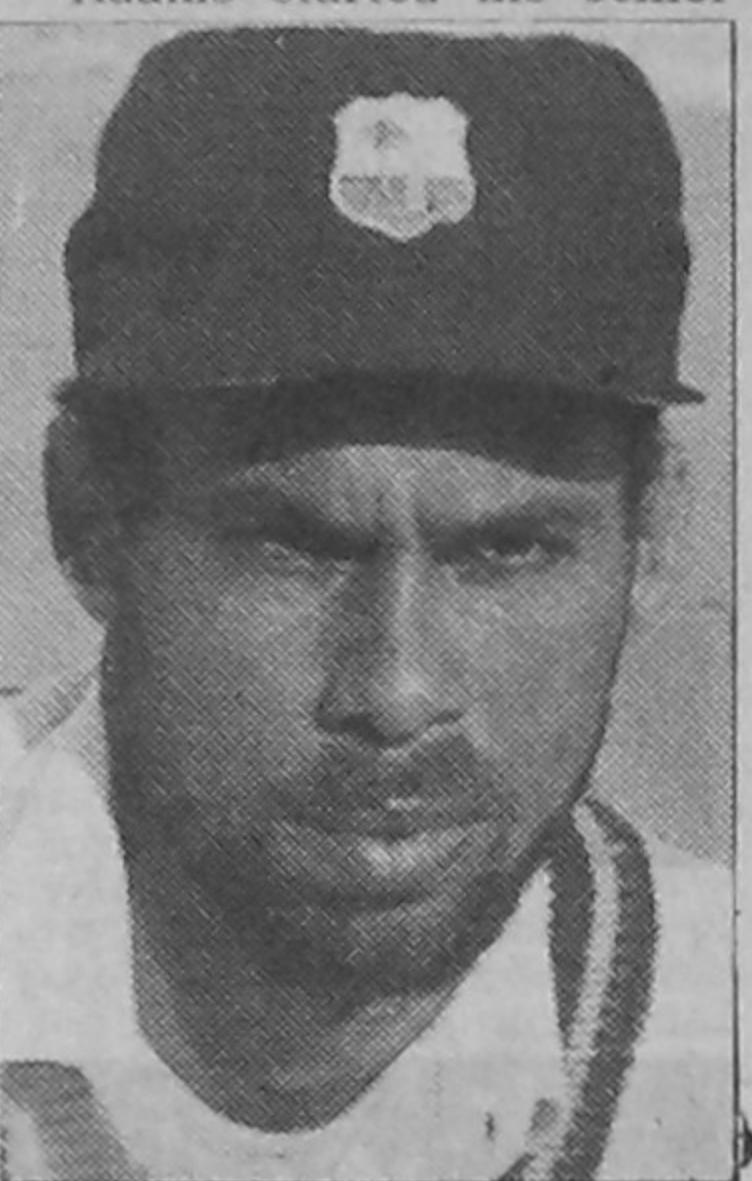
"I think (his withdrawal) was a little unfortunate, but I am always one who believes in looking forward," Adams said.

"With Brian having made his decision, we will all have to accept it, wish him well and get on with the job at hand. We have a pretty big job coming up in the next few months. We have to focus on what is ahead of us and get to it."

"When I heard that I was the person (to be captain), I immediately told myself I must get the guys to play to their full potential and that will bring about good results."

He, however, says his players must not be distracted by Lara's decision.

Adams, a left-arm spin bowler and occasional wicket-keeper, was always the front-runner for the Lara's job. He



JIMMY ADAMS

West Indies career eight years ago in the Test at Kensington Oval in Barbados that marked South Africa's return to international cricket.

A veteran of 39 Tests and 104 limited-overs internationals, his batting has come under the microscope of late with some observers arguing it could be difficult for him to find a place in the current side.

The basic thing for me is that I am hitting the ball well, but I have not carried on from a few starts that I have gotten in

recently. Adams said his players must not be distracted by Lara's decision.

Adams, a left-arm spin bowler and occasional wicket-keeper, was always the front-runner for the Lara's job. He

was vice-captain to Lara for last year's home series against Australia, last year's World Cup and the ill-starred 1999-2000 tour to New Zealand.

"I feel a lot fresher mentally than when I returned from New Zealand because it was a pretty hectic tour. Coming off a few days of rest, I hope everything will start flowing again in the international matches."

Adams has scored 2,326 Test runs, including five centuries, at an average of 45.60, and 1,797 runs at an average of 30.45 in limited-overs internationals.

He will lead West Indies against Zimbabwe for two Tests, the first at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad from March 16 to 20, as part of a home series that includes three Tests against Pakistan and a triangular limited-overs series.

There is so much at stake both for Zimbabwe and for West Indies, Adams said. "I just anticipate that every international we play in the next few months will be very, very important for both teams. I do not believe there will be a lifting of pressure because we are playing Zimbabwe."

Glad to have veterans Curly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh in his side, Adams wants to see his younger players mature during the series at home.

"It's nice to have Curly and Courtney around because they have been around so long and have been top performers for so many years that it's a bonus to have both of them still bowling well, fit and ready to go," he said.

The existence of young talent has never been a worry for me though, because I do not feel that we are short of talent. I think it is going to be a series where quite a bit of this talent is going to be exposed and I am quite confident that a lot of these young players will start maturing and get on the road to turning themselves into top-class international cricketers."

Officials said Antic would start work today and be on the bench for Sunday's league match at home to Real Betis.

Ranieri's resignation came as a shock to the club. "I have lost the motivation to coach this club," the Italian said.

Ranieri said his resignation had been accepted by the club's government-appointed administrator Miguel Jaume.

On Tuesday, Jaume had told the Spanish media that Ranieri was secure until the end of the season.

His prepared statement suggested he would leave the country.

"I have had a wonderful two years here and I want to thank the Spanish very much," he told a media conference before making an abrupt exit.

Ranieri, giving only brief reasons for his departure, said the club's legal and financial problems had contributed to his decision to leave.

The worse moment came in December not just now ... I called Gil and said "thanks for everything but I'm going," Ranieri added.

They also qualified for the current Champions League after finishing fourth in the Spanish first division last season.

But he struggled to make an impact at Atletico after his summer move, beset by off-pitch problems over Gil's financial dealings and series of injuries to key players.

Atletico, 17th in the 20-team first division, were held 2-2 at home by Lens in a UEFA Cup fourth-round, first-leg match on Thursday.

## Sport

### US-Russia soccer friendly April 26

CHICAGO, Mar 4: A United States football squad will travel to Russia for the first time for an April 26 friendly in Moscow between former Cold War rivals, reports AFP.

The Americans have won only once in nine matches against Russian talent. That triumph came in Detroit in 1992 when Eric Wynalda and Marcelo Balboa scored in a 2-1 US win over the Commonwealth of Independent States.

### Ramzan hits

From Page 13

Ziaul Haq 10 0 5 2

### VICTORIA SC

Sajjad b Suja	16
Moni lbw b Ramzan	0
Nuruzzaman lbw b Enamul	37
Iqbal c Parvez b Anis	62
Rashed lbw b Anis	18
Sammir lbw b Minhazul	9
Zahid b Minhazul	3
Ziaul b Enamul	25
Biplob c Imran b Enamul	12
Shahnewaz run out	6
Kamu not out	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-1, w-13)	19
Total: (All out in 47 overs)	208
Fall of wickets: 1/10; 2/29; 3/105; 4/150; 5/151; 6/166; 8/195; 9/203	

Bowler: O M R W

Anis 8 0 36 2

Ramzan 8 1 27 1

Stuja Erfan 10 1 40 1

Minhazul 9 0 44 3

Enamul 9 0 43 3

Rafiqu 8 0 13 0

Result: Surjo Tarun won by 56 runs.

### Klusener

From Page 13

caught by Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar at mid-off for one.

South African captain Hanse Cronje (12) was bowled by a Srinath Insingher, leaving Boucher and Donald to see through the last few overs before stumps.

South Africa won the first of the two-Test series in Bombay in just three days.

India has not lost a Test series at home since 1987.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the second Test between India and South Africa on Saturday:

**INDIA:** First innings 158 all out

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings (overnight 254-3)

Kirsten c Jafer b Kumble

Gibbs lbw b Kumble

Boje b Kumble

Kallis c Jafer b Kumble

Cullinan c Jafer b Kumble

Klusener c Tendulkar b Karthik

Cronje c Srinath

Pollock c Tendulkar b Karthik

Boucher not out

Donald not out

Shahnewaz run out

Ganguly 6 1 18 0

Kaiif 3 0 4 0

Total: (For eight wickets)

To bat: M Hayward

Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-171;

3-186; 4-271; 5-435; 6-441; 7-449; 8-468.

Bowler: O M R W

Srinath 30 6 53 1

Kumble 67 15 136 2

Chopra 24 3 78 0

Karthik 49 10 123 2

Sachin 10 2 33 0

Ganguly 6 1 18 0

Kaiif 3 0 4 0

Three female booters test positive

LONDON, Mar 4: Three players from the Women's Premier

League have been charged with misconduct after failing random drug tests, England's Football Association (FA) said on Friday, reports AFP.

United were unconvincing in

defence, however, could

Mickael Silvestre's attempts to

dribble the ball out of his own

wings although Westerveld's

handling was superb.

However, Keane, slid in with

a perfectly-timed tackle to deny

the Czech international.

United were a different

proposition going forward

and Solskjaer was unlucky not

to find the