

## Sport

## SA match-fixing interim report due Friday

CAPE TOWN, Aug 9 (AP): The official commission investigating corruption and match-fixing allegations in South Africa cricket will present its interim report to the government Friday, the South African Press Association reported Tuesday.

Commission chairman Edwin King is expected to present his findings to Sport and Recreation Minister Ngonde Balfour.

It is unclear when the report will be made available to the media, but SAPA reported it would be made public after President Thabo Mbeki has had a chance to study it.

The commission was established following accusations by Indian police, who said they had tapes of a conversation between cricket captain Hansie Cronje and an Indian bookmaker discussing the manipulation of a match.

Cronje initially denied any wrongdoing, but later admitted taking about 100,000 dollars from gamblers in exchange for match information regarding other matches.

Two other cricketers said they had agreed to accept a bribe to play badly in a match against India earlier this year, but claimed they had reneged on the deal.

The King commission finished its first round of public hearings in June and is scheduled to resume hearings Oct. 2. Several witnesses including Cronje and United Cricket Board CEO Ali Bacher are expected to be recalled.

## Japan rules out Confederations Cup hosting

TOKYO, Aug 9: Japan has knocked back an offer from world football governing body FIFA to co-host next year's Confederations Cup with South Korea, officials said here Wednesday.

A Japan Football Association said they had rejected a request from FIFA to host the event because of insufficient preparation time.

"We told FIFA we cannot accept the offer, because we received no information beforehand and it's almost impossible to change the schedule now," the JFA official said.

FIFA had been hoping to use the tournament as a test run for the 2002 World Cup finals, to be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

But Japan are reportedly planning to stage a pre-World Cup tournament of their own involving France and Italy.

## Rain spoiling

Muralitharan who trapped him lbw with the total at 107.

Jonty Rhodes and Lance Klusener put on 45 in 95 minutes taking no risks against the spinners who found appreciable turn.

Rhodes completed his half-century in 150 minutes with five fours, and off the next over was missed by wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara when he got an edge to a delivery from Sanath Jayasuriya.

However at 54, Rhodes pushed forward to Muralitharan and the resulting pad-bat catch was held by Mahela Jayawardene at silly mid-off.

Klusener who made an unbeaten 95 in the first innings was 27 not out with Mark Boucher on two.

Muralitharan had figures of three 41 off 29 overs.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day of the third and final cricket Test between Sri Lanka and South Africa played at the Sinhalese SC ground on Wednesday.

## SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

SRI LANKA: First innings

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 27 for no loss)

Kirsten lbw b Muralitharan 40

McKenzie run out 17

Kallis b De Silva 0

Cullinan c Arnold b Muralitharan 3

Rhodes c Jayawardene b Muralitharan 54

Klusener not out 27

Boucher not out 2

Extras: (lb-2, nb-12) 14

Total: (For 5 wkt at close in 77 overs) 157

Fall of wickets: 1-50; 2-50;

3-59; 4-107; 5-152.

Bowler (to date): O M R W

Vaas 10 2 22 0

Perera 2 0 13 0

Arnold 2 0 2 0

De Silva 18 5 40 1

Muralitharan 29 11 41 3

Jayasuriya 13 2 24 0

Chandana 3 0 13 0

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