

India might hold 'quake' tourney

AFP, New Delhi
India plans to organise a four-nation limited-overs tournament in April to raise funds for victims of the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, the country's cricket chief said on Friday.

AC Muthiah, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said the likely teams, dates and venues will be finalised on the sidelines of the meeting of the International Cricket Council in Melbourne this weekend.

"I will be talking to officials from other countries in Melbourne and explore the possibilities of organising a tournament to raise funds for an important cause," Muthiah told this news agency.

Muthiah said Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe were likely to be approached to play in the tournament.

"Everything depends on which teams are available in April," he said.

Muthiah sidetracked a question on whether Pakistan, whose offer to play in a fund-raising event in Sharjah this month was rebuffed by the Indian government, would be approached.

It remained to be seen how the BCCI adjusts the national team's busy schedule in April to squeeze in the proposed tournament.

They may resort

FROM PAGE 13
sacked for threatening not to play in two one-day matches against Sri Lanka A in Mombasa last month.

"Your above mentioned conduct and actions were and are in serious and substantial breach of your obligations under the contract between yourself and KCA ... entitling KCA to serious action against you," the letters said.

"Your contract with KCA is hereby cancelled forthwith. In addition to the above, please note KCA reserves the right to call you for disciplinary action."

Odumbe said the letter was "laughable," saying the demands made before the Sri Lanka matches — medical cover, a better salary and a larger appearance fee — were not unreasonable.

Odumbe said some players on the side received less than 20,000 shillings (\$250) a month.

Kenya is one of 11 countries with one-day international status.

The side made headlines in 1996 when they beat the West Indies in a World Cup Match in Pune, India. They have also beaten India but a large gulf between Kenya and the test-playing nations remains.

Mark murders

FROM PAGE 13
wicket with Ricky Ponting (63) and 137 off 104 balls for the fourth wicket with Michael Bevan (58).
Australian skipper Steve Waugh was justifiably proud of his team's efforts in going through the season unbeaten.

"It's been a fantastic year," he said. "I'm certainly very happy to be captain of this side. I feel very privileged to lead a great bunch of players."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second one-day cricket final between Australia and the West Indies at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday:

AUSTRALIA
Gilchrist c Hinds b McLean 5
M Waugh c Lara b Samuels 173
Ponting c Hinds b Nagamootoo 63
Symonds c Nagamootoo b Cuffy 7
Bevan c Williams b Samuels 58
Harvey c McLean b Samuels 2
S Waugh not out 10
Martyn not out 4
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-12) 16
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs) 338
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-137, 3-155, 4-291, 5-311, 6-328

Bowler O M R W
McLean 10 1 58 1
Cuffy 10 0 53 1
Nagamootoo 10 0 54 1
Williams 8 0 72 0
Samuels 10 0 71 3
Adams 2 0 26 0

WEST INDIES

Hinds c Ponting b Symonds 60
Powell lbw b Warne 21
Lara c Martyn b Warne 0
Samuels c Martyn b Warne 63
Adams c and b Fleming 18
Jacobs c S Waugh b McGrath 59
Nagamootoo b Fleming 5
McLean c S Waugh b Bevan 16
Ganga b McGrath 18
Williams not out 10
Cuffy c Martyn b Warne 6
Extras: (b-2, lb-8, w-8, nb-5) 23
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 299
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-56, 3-128, 4-159, 5-201, 6-218, 7-237, 8-279, 9-288

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 10 1 48 2
Fleming 8 0 49 2
Warne 8.3 0 48 4
Harvey 10 0 59 0
Symonds 8 0 55 1
Martyn 2 0 10 0
Bevan 3 0 20 1

Result: Australia won by 39 runs and win the series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Mark Waugh.

Man-of-the-series: Brian Lara.



PHOTO STAR

Dhaka WASA's deputy managing director Shahanal Hossain inaugurating the annual sports competition of Saint Gregory's High School at the school ground yesterday morning. About 100 sportsmen took part in the 14-event day-long meet. Later, the Head Master of the school Brother Robi Purification distributed prizes. The three group champions are KM Imtiaz (junior), Kazi Anisur Rahman (intermediate) and Habibur Rahman Shakil (senior).

2 birds with one stone!

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Australian Test fast bowler Brett Lee said Friday the operation to repair his damaged elbow required bone grafts and screws.

Lee, 24, said he will be out of cricket for 10-12 weeks when it would then be assessed for his chances of making Australia's Ashes touring team to England in mid-year.

In a two-and-a-half-hour operation here Tuesday, surgeons chose to not only repair the elbow ligament and tendons he ruptured in Sunday's one-day against Zimbabwe in Perth but mend an old fracture in his arm.

A bone graft was taken from Lee's hip and two screws were inserted to fix the fracture in the ulna bone which had not knitted properly since he fractured it as a 17-year-old.

"I was about 17, I basically threw the ball and snapped my elbow and had a big fracture going through the ulna bone," Lee said.

"That's never united and basi-

cally that's what caused the medial ligament to snap.

"I've got 10 or 12 weeks off so I thought I may as well get it repaired."

"They had to get some bone off my hip to unite that fracture which has all come out very clean and should be right for the future."



BRETT LEE

Lee was released from hospital Friday and, after watching the second one-day final against the West Indies on television, plans to stay with his parents near Sydney as he recuperates.

"I've got time on my side, I'm young and fit and there shouldn't be any problems," Lee said.

"I'm trying to be as positive as possible and make sure when the blokes get back from India I'll try to get focused for the next tour and give myself every opportunity possible of going on that."

"If it's not ready in three months' time I won't be rushing back but I'll cross my fingers and hope it will be ready."

Lee didn't anticipate having to change his bowling action or losing any of his seaming pace as a result of the setback.

"There's a lot of athletes out there that have come back from bone fractures and from torn muscles and have had no problems, so I can't see why I'd be any different," Lee said.

In seven Tests since his debut against India here a year ago Lee has taken 42 wickets at 16.07.

Troubled Serie A clubs

Football

REUTERS, Rome

Inter Milan and fellow Serie A club Udinese could be docketed points for their role in an escalating scandal over false European Union passports, an official at the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) said on Thursday.

Andrea Manzella, chairman of a committee set up by FIGC to look into the scandal, said the two clubs were most at risk because they had fielded players whose passports had been proved without doubt to be false.

Around 20 other players are also under investigation but their cases are still pending and therefore their clubs do not face an immediate threat of sanctions.

"The simple fact which counts is that they have used players in the championship as EU players who were not entitled to that status," Manzella told reporters.

If Inter and Udinese are found guilty of complicity in obtaining false documents for their players they could be relegated automatically, although FIGC sources said they were more likely to be docketed points.

Manzella said that could happen even if the clubs had acted in good faith.

Udinese are seventh in the 18-team Serie A while Inter are ninth, eight clear of the relegation zone.

The Milan giants have never been relegated to Serie B in their 93-year history.

Inter's problems stem from Uruguayan forward Alvaro Recoba, who joined them in 1997 and obtained an Italian passport in September 1999.

Magistrates confiscated the passport on January 30 and declared it to have been issued illegally. Recoba appeared before investigators this week before returning to Montevideo to put his papers in order.

He was due to return to Milan at the weekend and will be eligible to play for Inter immediately, but only as a non-EU player on his Uruguayan passport. Inter have fielded him dozens of times as an EU player over the past year.

Meanwhile, magistrates are continuing to probe Inter to find out how Recoba came to have a false passport.

Udinese's case is similar and involves Brazilian midfielder Alberto, whose Portuguese passport has also been declared false.

He has been registered as an EU-player since joining the Italian club from Brazil's Atletico Paranaense in December 1999.

He is now playing on his original Brazilian passport.

While Inter and Udinese are currently under the spotlight, their cases could represent merely the tip of the iceberg.

There are 182 foreign players registered to play in Serie A and

over 100 of them have EU passports.

Many of them were born in the EU but some are from outside the bloc and have obtained passports to aid their transfer to their Italian club sides. Around 40 Serie A players have dual citizenship.

Serie A clubs are allowed up to five non-EU players on their books and can field a maximum of three at any one time.

Many footballers take advantage of Italian, Spanish or Portuguese ancestry to gain EU citizenship and so free their clubs to take on more non-EU players.

The FIGC has already referred two clubs -- Udinese and former Italian champions Sampdoria -- to its disciplinary committee as part of its probe.

It has also cited players and officials from those two clubs and from first division Vicenza.

Magistrates in Udine say they are investigating 24 players from seven Serie A clubs, thought to be Udinese, AC Milan, Bari.

Inter Milan, AS Roma, Parma and Napoli.

The case of Lazio's Argentine midfielder Juan Veron is slightly different because it involves alleged false ancestry rather than a false passport.

Veron's passport is genuine but a Rome judge is probing whether the claim he made in order to obtain it -- that his great, great grandfather was an emigrant from southern Italy -- is true or not.

Moin to raise light issue

INTERNET, undated

Pakistan captain Moin Khan will ask for clarification on bad light rule during the meeting of Test captains in Melbourne on Monday.

Moin complained about the rules after bad light aided England win the third Test and the series in Karachi in December. The ball was barely visible by the time the winning runs were hit by England.

Moin's appeal for bad light turned down three times by West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor, but the efforts of the fielding side to extend the match as late as possible with slowing tactics were also criticised by onlookers.

Currently the laws only allow for the batsmen to be offered the chance of going off for bad light, but Pakistan complained that their fielders could not see the ball during that match.

"The bad light law needs to be clearly defined," Moin told the Dawn newspaper. "If I had been in Nasser Hussain's place, I would also have liked to carry on but what about the fielders? The light at the centre is different to what it is in the outfield."

Dilshan dazzles

AFP, Colombo

Tillekeratne Dilshan announced to the national selectors that he was ready for a recall to the Sri Lanka Test team when he stroked an attractive century for the Board President's XI against the touring England side here Friday.

Dilshan hit 16 fours in his innings of 121 which occupied 250 minutes to help Board XI to 265 all out at the end of the second day of the four-day contest.

England had earlier made 329 after resuming at 307 for nine.

Dilshan shared in a seventh wicket stand of 93 with Tilan Samarawera who scored 22 to take the Board XI to within 64 runs of the England total.

Off-spinner Robert Croft was England's most successful bowler finishing with figures of three for 77, having taken a wicket off his first delivery in the innings when he dismissed Michael van Dorst for 27.

Croft's spin partner Ashley Giles took only a solitary wicket for 69 runs, but part-time off-spinner Michael Vaughan chipped in with two tailend wickets conceding only eight runs.

Ajay's hearing on March 29

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian cricket-player Ajay Jadeja's appeal against his five-year ban from the game over match-fixing allegations will be heard in March, his lawyer said on Friday.

"The court has given March 29 as the next date of hearing and is issuing notices to the respondents, asking them to say why the ban should not be revoked," Vincent Malhotra told this news agency.

The court will also ask the respondents to file their replies explaining why a temporary suspension of the ban should not be granted until the case is decided, he added.

"I have come here looking for justice," Jadeja told reporters outside the Delhi High Court, where his case against the Indian government and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was filed on Tuesday.

Jadeja was one of four Test cricketers banned by the BCCI late last year after it conducted an internal inquiry into a federal report on cricket match-fixing.

He and former Test all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar were banned for five years while former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin and Ajay Sharma were banned from the game for life.

Square Cup golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Raiyan Bab and M H Yoon clinched the men's and ladies titles in the third Square Cup Golf Tournament held at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

President of the club and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Harun-Ar-Rashid teed-off the record 316 golfers in the 18-hole event in the morning. He later gave away prizes.

Following are the other winners:

Senior Winner: F George
Junior Winner: Arslan-ur-Rahman
Best Gross: Rabih Bashar
Ladies Best Gross: Jin Sook Yoon
2nd Best Gross: Syed Emdad Ali
Runner-up: CS Jang
Ladies Runner-up: Farzana Islam
2nd Runner-up: Brig Najeeb Hasan

Junior Runner-up: Syed Faisal Hossain

Front Nine Winner: Manzoor Ahmed
Back Nine Winner: Col M Aminul Islam

Longest Drive: Gurmest Singh
Nearest to Pin: Brig Mohtaran
Most Pars: Sidiq Qudus

Let-off for Vieira

Football

REUTERS, London

Arsenal's French international midfielder Patrick Vieira escaped with a one-match ban -- thanks to his improved disciplinary record -- after being found guilty by the Football Association of kicking an opponent.

An FA statement suggested Vieira, who was also fined 10,000 pounds and costs, could have been given a stiffer penalty following last November's incident with Leeds United's Olivier Dacourt but for his success in cleaning up his game.

The Frenchman was banned for five games after two successive red cards in Arsenal's opening two Premier League matches this season against Sunderland and Liver-

pool but has since picked up just one booking in 25 matches. Vieira was cleared of a second charge of butting Norwegian midfielder Eirik Bakke in the same match.

"The first charge that he head-butted Eirik Bakke was dismissed, but the panel decided that the second charge of kicking Olivier Dacourt was proved," said the statement.

"He will also have to pay the costs of the hearing. In making their finding, the commission noted Patrick's improved discipli-

nary record."
His ban will take immediate effect, meaning he misses this weekend's league match against Ipswich Town.

The disciplinary panel's decision goes against the FA's own guidelines, introduced at the start of the season in a new 'zero tolerance' strategy aimed at cleaning up the game's image.

Under the guidelines the mandatory tariff for violent conduct is a three-match ban.

Vieira left the hearing without commenting to reporters. French midfielder Dacourt had written to the FA in Vieira's defence.

Vieira's Arsenal career has been clouded in controversy ever since his 3.5 million pounds move from AC Milan in 1996.

He has been sent off six times and has amassed 78,000 pounds in



An AFP file photo shows Arsenal's Patrick Vieira (L) trying to draw the attention of the referee after Leeds' Olivier Dacourt (on ground) screams following a dangerous tackle in a Premiership match. Vieira was fined and faces a one-match suspension as a result of the incident.

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appearances.
1996: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger brings him to the English premier league club as his first signing.

1997: Wins first international cap for France against the Netherlands.

- Investigated by police over claims he made gestures to Southampton fans.

1998: Wins league and FA Cup double with Arsenal.

- Wins World Cup on home soil, providing the pass for the third goal of a 3-0 victory over Brazil in the final.

- Fined 3,000 pounds by the FA after an FA Cup quarterfinal replay clash with West Ham United's Ian Pearce.

- Fined 20,000 pounds for making gestures to Sheffield Wednesday fans after a premier league clash but cleared of assaulting a police officer.

- Given three-match ban for being sent off after appearing to elbow Neil Redfern, despite Arsene Wenger accusing the Charlton Athletic midfielder of cheating.

1999: Escapes punishment for a clash of heads with Manchester United captain Roy Keane, who scored both goals in a 2-1 defeat of Arsenal at Highbury.

- Receives six-match ban for spitting on West Ham United's Neil Ruddock and clashing with a police officer in the tunnel after he is sent off. Fined 45,000 pounds. Claims Ruddock racially abused him.

2000: Wins European Championship with France after 2-1 golden goal victory over Italy in Rotterdam.

- Sent off in Arsenal's opening game of the season for lashing out at Sunderland's Darren Williams.

- Makes it two dismissals in successive matches with a red card against Liverpool. Receives five-match ban.

- Linked with a move abroad after becoming disillusioned with the English game.

- Caught on camera kicking Olivier Dacourt in a premier league match against Leeds United in which seven Arsenal players are booked.

2001: Accuses Lazio defender Sinisa Mihailovic of racial abuse in a Champions League game.

- On the receiving end of wild tackle by Carlisle's Richard Prokias in an FA Cup tie at Brunton Park, which provokes angry criticism from Arsene Wenger.

- Receives one-match ban and 10,000 pounds fine for misconduct over Dacourt incident.

MU deal questioned

Football

REUTERS, London

Analysis expressed scepticism on Thursday about the immediate benefits Manchester United will reap from its joint marketing deal with the New York Yankees.

"The actual announcement is a good one, but it is not going to materially affect Manchester United in the short term," Paul Wedge at stockbrokers Collins Stewart said.

"In the short term there is probably more downside in that the expectations of the players, of players' wages, will go up."

And the London market appeared to agree, as the soccer club's shares dipped to 219 pence by mid-session on Thursday, having closed Wednesday at 225 pence.

The deal between the world's

richest soccer club and Yankee's Nets LLC, the New York Yankees' parent company, will nonetheless be of critical marketing and branding importance.

"In the short to medium term, the deal will probably have zero effect. In the medium to long term, it will have a huge effect. The name Manchester United is massive in Europe, and is becoming a bigger brand in the Far East. The U.S. is totally untapped," a London-based trader said.

"If this thing works out, what is stopping the two teams from merging altogether and becoming a single entity, with several different sporting clubs under one banner?"

Paul Rawnsley at Deloitte and Touche added: "They're in a win-win situation. It doesn't look like any cost is going to be incurred."

The deal will capitalise on the immense popularity of the two

clubs, home to such sporting giants as Babe Ruth, Derek Jeter, George Best and David Beckham, to help the teams cross-market each other's goods.

The fact that the Yankees have limited marketing rights beyond New York City may, however, pour cold water on United's plans.

"Even if (the marketing) was restricted to a geographical area in the States, it is still an area untapped by Manchester

United, and by any other club in the Premier League," Rawnsley said.

Others are less optimistic about Manchester United's appeal in the U.S. and the Yankee's appeal in Britain.

"Are Manchester United going to sell lots of Yankees shirts through their superstore at Old Trafford? The answer is probably no," Wedge said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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