

Pak plea to Aussie stars

Cricket
REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan cricket officials have pleaded with leading Australian players to consider their positions carefully before pulling out of a scheduled tour there later this year because of security fears.

"I don't want to respond to what the Australian players are saying," PCB director Brigadier Munawwar Rana told the news agency on Tuesday after several voiced their disquiet over the trip following a bomb attack last week in Karachi.

"We would just like to repeat that we feel the other boards should allow time for the situation to be evaluated in its proper perspective," he said.

Media reports on Tuesday quoted leading Australian players as saying they would not tour Pakistan later this year even if the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) approved the tour in September and October.

Shane Warne, Steve Waugh, Glenn McGrath, Adam Gilchrist were named as the players who were not keen to tour Pakistan for security reasons following the suicide bombing outside the New Zealand team's hotel in Karachi last week which killed 14.

"We had requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) and member boards earlier that they

should put their statements on hold and wait for things to settle down," said Rana.

"In the present context we can understand the immediate reaction from different quarters given the impact the incident has had through the world media," Rana said.

"But we maintain that they should let the dust settle and then the scenario should be evaluated," he added.

Warne said he put safety and family ahead of cricket, while McGrath was reported as saying that "at the end of the day, we play cricket and we love what we do but to put your life on the line for a sport, is not what it's all about".

ACB chief executive James Sutherland has said the situation would be carefully monitored and it was too early to make any decision on the Pakistan tour.

"The Pakistan board itself regrets the incident and the loss of the valuable lives or the trauma caused to players from both teams. But it is something beyond our control," Rana said.

Rana was among a group of top PCB officials who met in Islamabad on Monday with PCB chairman Tauqir Zia to take stock of things in the wake of the New Zealanders aborting their tour.

Rana said so far the PCB had not contacted the ACB on this matter or on the coming series and would do so after allowing things to settle down.

Kumble to be fit in time for England tour

AFP, Bangalore

India's star spinner Anil Kumble will undergo immediate surgery on a fractured jaw to enable him to make the tour of England starting next month, his doctors said on Wednesday.

The leg-spinner, who had his jaw broken by a rising ball from West Indian fast bowler Mervyn Dillon during the fourth Test in Antigua, consulted specialists immediately on his return on Tuesday night.

Surgery has been planned for Thursday and doctors were confident that Kumble will be fit to return to competitive cricket in four weeks time.

What to watch

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Live at 11:30 pm

STAR Sports

Trans World Sport
Int'l Sports News
Taped Version at 8:30 am

Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 12:00 pm

Soccer World Cup Heroes
Charlton
Repeat at 3:00 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix
Taped Version at 8:30 pm

Gillette World Cup Preview
Taped Version at 10:00 pm

Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 10:30 pm

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Manias
5 Part of L.A.
8 Burn some
12 From square one
13 Fre- quently
14 Tra- iler
15 Baldwin competi- tor
17 Teensy bit
18 Disposi- tion
19 Cilia
21 Environ- mentally friendly
22 "Born Free" heroine
23 High-arc shot
26 Band- leader
Kyser
28 Not so many
31 Marge's son
33 Party bowlful
35 Learned one

36 Not-so-prized fur
38 Woods stat
40 Kippur
41 Sheltered side
43 Fabulous flier
45 Severe experi- ence
47 Timely word?
51 Karpov soldier
52 Our galaxy
54 Smell — (suspect)
55 Second person
56 Computer brand

57 Works with bricks
58 Reuben holder
59 Salinger girl
DOWN
1 Speedy
2 Slud fee?
3 Consider
4 Filch
5 Deceitful
6 "Birth — Nation"
7 Elsa
8 Seminars
9 Shake- speare
10 Lotion additive
11 Football team

16 Bottle part
20 TV alien
23 Scale abbr.
24 Feedbag morsel
25 Cohan territory
27 Kennel cry
29 I, in old Rome
30 Sleep inits.
32 Skills
34 One let out early
37 Wonder- land quaff
39 Elvis' forte
42 He's had some bad hare days
44 Warren Beatty role
45 October stone
46 Avis
48 adjective
49 Tranquil
50 Football's Rote
53 — League

Solution time: 21 mins.

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TIRE VEE OVAL
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PHOTO: AFP

Teammates applaud Vijay Ratra of India as he walks up to receive the man-of-the-match's award after the end of the fourth Test against West Indies in Antigua on May 14.

Dreary draw in Antigua

FROM PAGE 13

clean hitting as he scored 59 of the 89 runs scored by his team in the morning session after resuming at 405-5.

Chanderpaul batted extremely slow and reached his hundred just before lunch when he flicked a low full-toss from Zaheer to mid-wicket for his 15th four.

He then removed his helmet, hugged Jacobs and kissed the pitch to mark the occasion.

Chanderpaul also completed 400 runs in this series, having scored 140, one, 67 not out and an unbeaten 101 in the previous three Tests.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the fourth Test between the West Indies and India at the Antigua Recreation Ground here on Tuesday:

INDIA: First innings 513-9 decl (Laxman 130, Ratra 115 not out, Dravid 91, Jaffer 86; Cuffy 3-87, Dillon 3-116, Collins 3-125)

WEST INDIES: First innings (over- night 405-5)

Gayle c Ratra b Zaheer	32
Hinds b Tendulkar	65

Sarwan lbw b Zaheer	51		
Lara lbw b Kumble	4		
Hooper c Nehra b Tendulkar	136		
Chanderpaul not out	136		
Jacobs c Laxman b Dravid	118		
Dillon b Jaffer	43		
Collins c sub (Harbhajan) b Jaffer	11		
Sanford c Zaheer b Laxman	2		
Cuffy not out	0		
Extras: (nb-6, w-6, lb-9, b-10)	31		
Total (for 9w kts decl)	629		
Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-121, 3-135, 4-196, 5-382, 6-548, 7-697, 8-625, 9-628			
BOWLING	O	M	R W
Srinath	45	19	82 0
Nehra	49	16	122 0
Zaheer	48	14	129 2
Ganguly	12	0	44 0
Tendulkar	34	4	107 2
Kumble	14	5	29 1
Laxman	17	6	32 1
Dravid	9	3	18 1
Jaffer	11	3	18 2
Das	8	2	28 0
Ratra	1	0	1 0

Result: Match drawn
Man of the match: Ajay Ratra (Ind)
Fifth Test: Jamaica (May 18-22)

Sehwag in, Srinath out

Cricket
AFP, Bombay

India's cricket selectors on Wednesday recalled dashing batsman Virender Sehwag for the one-day series against the West Indies later this month.

Sehwag, sidelined from the ongoing Test series in the Caribbean due to a dislocated shoulder, was named in a 15-man squad that omitted pace spearhead Jagavall Srinath, who was rested.

Sehwag will fly out with batsmen Yuvraj Singh and Mohammad Kaif, seamer Ajit Agarkar and left-arm spinner Murali Kartik later this week to join the Indian team in the West Indies.

The first of five one-day internationals will be played at Sabina

Park, Kingston on May 25, three days after the fifth and final Test ends at the same venue.

Srinath, who has preferred to skip one-day matches in recent times to concentrate on his Test career, will return home with Wasim Jaffer, Sanjay Banger, Shiv Das, Deep Dasgupta and Sarandeep Singh after the deciding Test.

The inclusion of Sehwag, Kaif and Yuvraj leaves the tour selectors eight batsmen to choose from for the one-dayers.

Ajay Ratra was retained as wicket-keeper after scoring a century in the drawn fourth Test at Antigua, while the return of Agarkar bolsters the seam attack in Srinath's absence.

Kartik, who forced his selection after rich hauls in domestic cricket, will be the second spinner in the squad alongside Harbhajan Singh.

Kartik, who has played four

NBL v'ball final today

UNB, Dhaka

Sonali Bank will take on Fire Service in the final of the NBL Metropolis First Division Volleyball League at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium at 4.30 pm today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will be the chief guest in the final and later he will distribute the prizes.

Pabna cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Sangram Club outplayed Oviatree Cricket Club by eight wickets in the Pepsi First Division Cricket League at the Pabna Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Oviatree decided to bat first and made 78 runs all out in 38 overs.

In reply, Sangram reached the target of 79 runs for the loss of two wickets in 17.1 overs.

Onus on Vaas

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by a season as Kent's overseas player, has looked in good touch during the warm-up games.

And the England bowlers will also be aware of the threat from Marvan Atapattu and Mahela Jayawardene.

Of Atapattu's nine Test hundreds, five have been turned into double centuries - an extraordinary conversion rate.

Meanwhile, the consistent Jayawardene is on the verge of true greatness with a Test average a fraction under 50.

England, looking for their first win in five series, have lost their key bowler Darren Gough for the whole series as the Yorkshire quick continues to battle a knee injury originally sustained on tour in New Zealand.

Fast bowler Alex Tudor has been recalled in Gough's place, for this match, after impressing on England's Academy tour of Australia.

Dav spurs bowlers on

Cricket

AFP, London

Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore called on his bowlers to put their "shoulders to the wheel" ahead of Thursday's first Test against England here at Lord's.

Sri Lanka go into the opening game of this three match series without key spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, out because of a shoulder injury.

He has frequently bowled Sri Lanka to victory on his own and Whatmore said it was time for the rest of the attack to take on their share of responsibility.

"You don't have to be Einstein to know that you're going to miss a guy who has taken 412 Test wickets," Whatmore told reporters at Lord's on Wednesday.

"Every other bowler who represents Sri Lanka in this match has to put his shoulder to the wheel and help us to take 10 wickets in each innings."

In Muralitharan's absence, left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas becomes the spearhead of the attack and Whatmore said he had been pleased with the paceman's progress.

"Chaminda's developed extremely well in the last year and a half. He's turned the corner and we're looking to him to continue that form," said Whatmore of Vaas, who

needs just four more dismissals for 200 Test wickets.

Sri Lanka come into this match on the back of nine successive Test wins, albeit eight of those were at home and the other in Pakistan.

"You'd rather win nine in a row than not," said Whatmore, who admitted conditions at Lord's would be vastly different.



DAV WHATMORE

"We can take confidence from that because we know that we've been doing in those games we've been doing well."

Previously Sri Lanka have only been granted one-off Tests in England and Whatmore said the fact they now had a full series would provide some extra incentive.

"Playing at Lord's is great motivation in itself but to have three Tests here is great for the guys,"

Hooper not surprised

Cricket

AFP, St John's

West Indies captain Carl Hooper said Tuesday he was not surprised to see Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble bowl with a broken jaw in the fourth Test here.

"I wasn't really surprised to see Kumble come on to bowl," said Hooper after the drawn Test here.

"He (Kumble) obviously realised the wicket was turning a bit and maybe the bounce was a little inconsistent. He thought he could come in and see if he could make some early inroads.

"If he'd picked up a few more wickets, we'd have had to come back today and had to bowl."

The Indian leg-spinner returned to bowl with a fractured jaw Sunday, giving a scare or two to the West Indies during his 14 disciplined overs.

Kumble, struck on the jaw by a rising delivery from fast bowler Mervyn Dillon while batting on Saturday, trapped Brian Lara leg-before for four and then had Hooper caught by Shiv Das at forward short-leg off a no-ball.

"Maybe we missed a spinner, but you always seem to be wiser after the event," said Hooper.

"We played with four fast bowlers because we thought that would

do the job for us. It worked for us in Barbados and we thought it'd work again. Maybe it's something to learn from for the future."

Hooper said he was disappointed with the result as the pitch never encouraged fast bowling.

"It's disappointing," he said. "After two good Tests in Trinidad and Barbados, I expected the game here to have a result. It was not great to see the first innings of each team was not even completed."

The West Indies amassed 629-9 declared in reply to India's 513-9 declared.

"I don't think the wicket was very encouraging for the quicks," he said. "Though it broke in the last two days, I don't think there was any great turn. Even if there was, it was more off the rough."

"Our tactics are based on seamers, so obviously we want something that'll encourage fast bowlers. We don't want a flat track. We want a wicket where if you put in something, you get something."

The West Indies captain, who has so far scored 556 in four Tests, said winning the series mattered more than personal achievements.

"I've said time and again that the figures and facts are not important for me. I want to win this Test series more than anything else."

West Indies coach Roger Harper praised wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs and openers Chris Gayle

and Wavell Hinds for solving some of the team's problems ahead of the crucial fifth and final Test, starting in Jamaica on May 18.

"It was really heartening to see Jacobs come out and score runs the way we know he's capable of. That adds a lot of depth to our batting and makes us feel more comfortable," said Harper.

Jacobs smashed a career-best 118 for his second Test century, while Hinds made an impressive 65.

"After the third Test, our main concern was top and lower-order batting," said Harper.

"We had a bit of a start in this match and it was a pity one of the openers couldn't carry on and get a century. With Jacobs scoring a hundred at number seven, the lower order has been strengthened."

Harper said his bowlers had been doing well in the series and if they could get help from the Jamaica pitch, they would deliver again.

Jacobs said scoring a century at home was a dream come true for him.

"It's a great feeling," he said. "Getting a century at home is always something you want to do and it's a dream come true. It was one of my sweetest moments."

"I honestly wanted to dedicate this to all the mothers on Mothers' Day (May 12). It may have been a bit late, but this is or my mother."

Stewie to go on forever

Cricket

AFP, London

Alec Stewart, English cricket's grand old man, will look to prove to the selectors that they cannot afford to do without him following his recall for Thursday's first Test against Sri Lanka.

Stewart, 39, wants to quit international cricket at a time of his choosing.

That means he still aims to be involved in this winter's Ashes tour of Australia and the World Cup in

South Africa which follows although he admitted he would probably retire shortly afterwards.

He owes this latest Test chance to the broken arm sustained by Essex keeper James Foster.

"If James had been fit, I would not be playing the first few games of this summer," admitted Stewart set to make his 116th Test appearance on Thursday

"It's a very unfortunate injury for him but from a purely selfish point of view, it gives me a chance now to get back into the side," he added.

Foster, a county team-mate of England captain Nasser Hussain, seized his opportunity after Stewart

decided not to tour India and was consequently not selected for New Zealand.

Despite some dodgy displays with the gloves the England management continued to back Foster and showed their faith by awarding him a central contract at the start of the season.

But just as Stewart's recall was down to Foster's injury so, effectively, was the Essex rising star's initial inclusion sealed by Stewart's fitness problems.

"At the end of last season I could not lift a mug of tea without discomfort. I had had five cortisone injections in both my elbows.



PHOTO: AFP

Australian Jelena Dokic eyes the ball for a return against Israeli Anna Smashnova at the Rome Masters Series tennis tournament yesterday.

Dokic, Clijsters cruise

AFP, Rome

Defending champion Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia made a winning start to the defence of her 1.244-million-dollar Masters Series title here Wednesday, beating Anna Smashnova of Israel 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in her second-round match.

Dokic, whose victory here on the red clay at the Foro Italico last season was the first major title of her career, had an indifferent second set but other than that looked to have picked up where she left off in 2001 with some fine passing shots.

Her reward in round three is a match-up with the victor of the tie between Magui Serna of Spain and Russia's Anastasia Myskina.

Earlier Kim Clijsters of Belgium powered her way into the last 16, overpowering Elena Likhovtseva of Russia 6-3, 6-2.

The 18-year-old third seed proved too hot to handle for Likhovtseva who yielded in little more than an hour with the Belgian setting up a third-round clash with Tatiana Panova of Russia, the 16th seed who beat Slovakia's Henrieta Nagyova in her match.