

## Anil leaves hospital

AFP, Bangalore

India's 'Smiling Assassin' Anil Kumble, discharged from a hospital here Friday, said he would have continued to bowl in the Antigua Test had he got more wickets.

"If I had stayed on and was able to get more wickets, India would have got the result," said Kumble, who underwent surgery for a fractured jaw.

"I would have continued to bowl if I had got a couple of wickets," said the leg-spinner, who bowled despite the injury in the fourth Test against the West Indies.

"I got the wicket of Lara and even Hooper, but of a no ball. I would have reconsidered the decision of returning to India had more wickets fallen."

Kumble, who was hit by a rising ball from West Indian fast bowler Mervyn Dillon, said the Test which ended in a draw was more painful than his fracture.

Kumble stunned spectators last week when he fought off acute pain and a bandaged face to bowl 14 overs on the trot and claimed the prize wicket of Brian Lara.

But he was unable to take the field on the last two days and flew home to consult specialists here.

"I am feeling a lot better after the surgery," Kumble said. "In two weeks' time I hope to be able to bowl again."

The Antigua Test ended in a high-scoring draw on Tuesday, leaving both India and the West Indies locked 1-1 going into the fifth and final Test starting in Jamaica Saturday.

India are due to tour England from June 26 for a one-day tri-series also featuring Sri Lanka, followed by four Tests against the hosts.

## Kuerten shocked

AFP, Hamburg

Roger Federer wrecked Gustavo Kuerten's French Open preparations on Friday when he reached the semifinal of the Hamburg Masters Series with a 6-0, 1-6, 6-2 victory over the Brazilian showman.

Swiss 11th seed Roger Federer overwhelmed Kuerten in a 20-minute opening set where the Brazilian, who only returned from hip surgery two and a half weeks ago after three months off, made 17 unforced errors to three for the Swiss.

And although Kuerten battled back to level the contest it was 20-year-old Federer who had more left in the tank in the decider, breaking serve three times and completing victory in the pair's first meeting with a 6-1 win after 1hr 26min.

Kuerten said the loss means he does not see himself as a favourite for Roland Garros, starting on May 27 in Paris, where he is dreaming of completing a hattrick and fourth title in all.

## What to watch

FROM PAGE 13

UEFA champions League

Leverkusen vs Real Madrid

Repeat at 11:00 pm

## STAR Sports

Primera Liga

Highlights

Taped Version at 1:00 pm

Cricket Programming

Super Selector

Repeat at 1:30 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix

Repeat at 2:30 pm

West Indies vs India

Fifth Test, Day One

Live at 11:35 pm

## Spurred by Zidane

FROM PAGE 13

"If he'd lost again he would have arrived here in a bad mood, very disappointed. It would have taken him a few days to get over it. Now he's going to be upbeat," Dugardy said.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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