

Anil leaves hospital

**AFF, 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 week's 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

**AFF, 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 deft lob 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 hatrick 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," Dugary said.

De Silva despair, SL atop



**AFF, London**

Aravinda de Silva became the second Sri Lankan Friday to miss out on a landmark Lord's score.

But that did not stop the tourists reaching 495 for six at tea on the second day of the first Test against England with Hashan Tillekeratne one not out, and Chaminda Vaas two not out.

On the ground where he made his Test debut in 1984, de Silva was in sight of his first Test hundred at 'the home of cricket,' having already seen opener Marvan Atapattu (185) narrowly miss out on a double century.

But on 88 de Silva gloved Dominic Cork down the legside where wicket-keeper Alec Stewart took the catch. He had faced 225 balls and hit 12 fours.

Eight balls earlier, with the score still on 492, Sri Lanka lost their fifth wicket.

Russel Arnold had made an attractive 87-ball fifty but the next delivery he faced saw him surrender his wicket, cutting Matthew Hoggard straight to Marcus Trescothick on the third man boundary.

Atapattu's marathon innings ended when he pulled Cork directly to Trescothick at fine leg to leave Sri Lanka on 407 for four

But Trescothick's catch was the only one England held onto in the session, several dropped chances costing them dear as Atapattu and de Silva put on 146 in 52 overs.

Earlier de Silva had added 13 to his overnight score of 24 when he edged Flintoff to Nasser Hussain at first slip in the ninth over of the day.

But the England captain spilled the routine catch and he would have been relieved to see Australian umpire Daryl Harper had called no-ball.

Then Atapattu, when he had made 163, nicked Hoggard. However, Flintoff, diving across from second slip, never got his hands round the ball when it looked as if it was going straight to Hussain.

Sri Lanka were then 364 for three and nine runs later it was de Silva's turn to be rewarded.

This time Andrew Caddick was the unlucky bowler, Flintoff failing to hold on to the difficult head-high catch.

Sri Lanka had resumed on 314 for three and, regardless of England's errors, carried on from where they left off Thursday with some superb strokes.

To the first ball of the morning,

Atapattu, 133 not out overnight, flicked Hoggard off his legs for four.  
However, England's four-man pace attack - without the injured Darren Gough - bowled with greater zest and accuracy than they had managed on Thursday, at one stage reeling off three successive maidens - a minor triumph in the circumstances.  
night 314-3)  
Atapattu c Trescothick b Cork 185  
Jayasuriya run out 18  
Sangakkara c Flintoff b Hoggard 10  
J'wardene c Trescothick b Flintoff 107  
De Silva c Stewart b Cork 88  
Arnold c Trescothick b Hoggard 50  
Tillekeratne not out 2  
Vaas not out 1



PHOTO: INTERNET

Marvan Atapattu of Sri Lanka, who made 185, ducks a delivery from England fast bowler Andy Caddick on the second day of the first Test at Lord's yesterday.

And their improved performance was rewarded when Atapattu took the bait of a Cork's short-pitched delivery having faced 351 balls including 24 fours after more than eight hours of resolute strokeplay.

Sri Lanka have won their last nine Test and now, thanks to their batsmen, it seems that at the very least they will not lose this one.

<b>Extras:</b> (b-1, lb-11, w-1, nb-21) 34	<b>Total:</b> (For 6 wkts in 146 overs) 495			
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-38, 2-55, 3-261, 4-407, 5-492, 6-492				
<b>To bat:</b> N Zoysa, B Fernando, R Perera				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Caddick	32	4	125	0
Hoggard	35	4	139	2
Cork	31	9	82	2
Flintoff	31	5	85	1
Butcher	3	0	17	0
Vaughan	14	2	35	0

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the First Test between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's on Friday:  
**SRI LANKA:** First innings (over-

Lankans cross Murali fingers

**AFF, London**

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who is in Australia recovering from a shoulder injury, is due to join the Sri Lanka team in England later this week, tour manager Chandra Schaffter said Thursday.

"We hope Murali will arrive in England at the end of the week," said Schaffter after watching his side pile up 314 for three on the first day of the opening Test here at Lord's.

"But I don't expect him to play until Old Trafford (where the third and final Test starts on June 13) and maybe not even then."

Muralitharan, 30, suffered a dislocation and torn ligaments in his left shoulder during the Sharjah Cup final against Pakistan last month.

Pabna cricket

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna**

PYC (Green) and Ekota Sporting Club won their respective matches in the Pepsi First Division Cricket League yesterday.

In the first match at Pabna Stadium PYC defeated Ishwardi Cricket Club by five wickets.

Batting first, Ishwardi collected 82 runs all out in 28.1 overs.

In reply, PYC reached the target of 83 runs for five in 24.3 overs.

In other match, Ekota outplayed Shikkharti Club by 193 runs at the Pabna Edward College ground. Winning the toss Ekota decided to bat first and scored 267 runs for nine wickets in 50 overs.

In reply, Shikkharti were all out for 74 runs in 20 overs.

Henin reaches last four

**AFF, Rome**

Justine Henin of Belgium was made to battle Friday as she booked a place in the semifinals of the 1.24-million-dollar Tennis Masters Series tournament here.

Henin, seeded five, had to grind out her victory over unseeded Spaniard Virginia Ruano Pascual 6-3, 6-4 and next faces either third-seeded compatriot Kim Clijsters or eighth-seed Sandrine Testud of France.

Henin, who last week won the Berlin Open, said she was enjoying her rich seam of good form, pointing out that she was proving that her memorable year 2001, when she reached the Wimbledon final, was no flash in the pan.

Ze Roberto agrees to join Bayern

**REUTERS, Munich**

Bayern Munich made sure of their third major recruit for the new season when Brazilian Ze Roberto agreed to join them from Champions League finalists Bayer Leverkusen.

A Bayern spokesman said the final details between the two clubs would be cleared on Saturday, with the 27-year-old set to sign a three-year contract for an undisclosed transfer fee in the next few days.

Ze Roberto, who was suspended when Leverkusen lost 2-1 to Real Madrid in Wednesday's Champions League final and was omitted from Brazil's World Cup squad, is regarded as one of the most gifted midfielders in the Bundesliga.

The left-footed south American, who is a great crosser of the ball and a set-piece expert, will be reunited at Bayern with Germany midfielder Michael Ballack, also leaving Leverkusen for the Munich club.

Bayern have purchased another valued midfielder in young German international Sebastian Deisler, who is joining from Hertha Berlin.

The combination of Ballack, Deisler and Ze Roberto means Bayern will have arguably the three finest midfielders in the Bundesliga in their ranks next season.

Ze Roberto joining Bayern is bad news for Leverkusen, who have lost two of their most inspirational players in Ballack and him.

The goal for Bayern is to improve on their disappointing showing last season when the 2001 Champions League winners finished without any silverware for the first time since 1995.

BAF swimming

**BSS, Dhaka**

BAF Base Paharkanchanpur clinched the BAF Inter-base Swimming Championship title with six gold, six silver and four bronze medals.

The championship concluded at the Naval Headquarters Complex Swimming Pool at Banani on Thursday.

BAF Base Matuir Rahman became runners-up with six gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

Sergeant Fakhruel de Bask Zahurul Haq was adjudged the best swimmer-of-the-meet.

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshall Fakarul Azam gave away prizes among the winners.

Flops' time to deliver



**AFF, Kingston**

Brian Lara and Sachin Tendulkar both have a point to prove in the crucial fifth and final Test between India and the West Indies, which gets underway here on Saturday.

With the series tied at 1-1, the two superstar batsmen have the



SACHIN TENDULKAR

perfect opportunity to wipe out the memory of what has, so far, been a bitterly disappointing series for both of them.

Tendulkar has made just 204 in six Test innings, including three zeroes, while Lara has managed only 158 from five.

But West Indies skipper Carl Hooper believes it is only a matter of time before one of them reproduces the fireworks they are famous for.

"We haven't seen the best of Brian or, for that matter, Tendulkar," Hooper said.

"I'm confident Brian would come good in the fifth Test. He's a big-match player. If Brian and Sachin fire, it's going to be a fitting finale to a well-contested series."

Hooper and his Indian counterpart Sourav Ganguly also have a lot riding on the outcome of the match at Sabina Park.

The West Indies are yet to win an important Test series under Hooper

and a Ganguly-led India are still without an away series victory.

Hooper, 35, returned from retirement last year to lead the West Indies against South Africa at home, but could not stop his team from suffering a 2-1 defeat.

Then came a 3-0 whitewash in Sri Lanka and a 2-0 rout against Pakistan at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, described by Hooper as the "lowest points of my



BRIAN LARA

captaincy". The West Indies beat Zimbabwe 1-0 in a two-Test away series last year, but the win failed to satisfy the captain.

"No disrespect to Zimbabwe, but they're not as strong a team as Sri Lanka or Pakistan," said Hooper, who has so far led his team to just three wins in 16 Tests.

Ganguly enjoys a better record as he has led his country to 10 victories in 22 Tests, but is as keen to win here as his counterpart.

His team's fortunes have been steadily nosediving since a stunning 2-1 victory over Steve Waugh's Australians at home last year.

If India win, it will be their first Test series victory outside the sub-continent in 16 years. His team settled for a 1-1 draw in Zimbabwe last year and then lost in South Africa and Sri Lanka.

"If we win here, we'll think we've done extremely well on the West

Indies tour," said Ganguly, 29.

Hooper was often criticised for not bridging the gap between potential and performance, but he has been at his best in the current series.

He has so far scored 556 with the help of a maiden double-century and two hundreds, making a mockery of the pre-series belief that it is all about Tendulkar vs Lara.

Hooper's closest rival is fellow-Guyanese Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who has not been dismissed in his last three innings on way on to an impressive series tally 445, which includes three centuries.

This was the first time Hooper had scored 500 in a Test series in his 96-match career.

"Statistics are not important for me. I want to win this Test series more than anything else," he said.

Hooper said he hoped the pitch would encourage his fast bowlers in the crucial match.

"Most of the Test pitches we've have played on here have been supportive. We had a good win against South Africa here last year and I hope it won't be any different this time."

India won the second Test by 37 runs at Port-of-Spain and the West Indies the third by 10 wickets at Bridgetown.

TEAMS

**INDIA** (from): Sourav Ganguly (capt), Wasim Jaffer, Shiv Das, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Ajay Ratna, Javagal Srinath, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Sanjay Bangar, Deep Dasgupta, Sarandeep Singh, Dinesh Mongia, Tinnu Yohannan.

**WEST INDIES** (from): Carl Hooper (capt), Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnareesh Sarwan, Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ridley Jacobs, Mervyn Dillon, Pedro Collins, Cameron Cuffy, Adam Sanford, Ryan Hinds, Dinanath Ramnarine.

**Umpires:** David Shepherd (Eng) and Russell Tiffin (Zim).

Akram's appeal



**REUTERS, Karachi**

Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram has urged Australian players not to make any hasty decisions about touring Pakistan later this year because of security concerns.

"I know it is difficult for them at this moment. I can understand what they are saying. But you can't just rule out coming to Pakistan," Akram told Reuters.

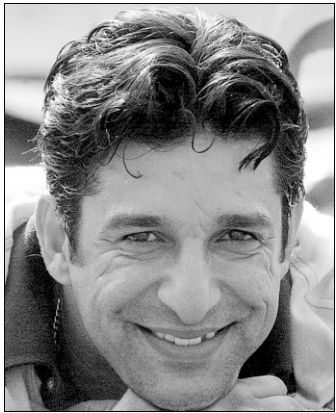
The tour was put in doubt after a suicide car bomber killed 14 people and injured scores on May 8 just outside a Karachi hotel where the New Zealand and Pakistani cricket teams were staying. New Zealand aborted their tour.

Leading Australian players Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Steve Waugh said earlier this week they would not tour in August and October even if the Australian Cricket Board went ahead with the tour.

"It is very unfortunate what happened, it was a trauma for

everyone," Akram said. "But I would say allow things to settle down, there are still six months to go before the tour."

"The response of the New Zealanders was understandable. They were scared and worried after they had witnessed the incident from close. They wanted to fly back home on the first available flight.



WASIM AKRAM

"It was a trauma even for the Pakistan players. I could not get the

pictures of the blast site out of my mind for three days. But in today's world these things happen.

"It was a coincidence it happened near the team hotel. And it is unfortunate such a thing happened. It is also the first time such a thing has happened with a touring side.

"You can't just rule out touring Pakistan. There is still six months. There is still a lot of time left for a sane decision to be made. The situation should be different in six months time.

The 36-year-old Akram -- a veteran of 104 Tests -- advised the Australian players to refrain from speaking out against the planned tour at this juncture and wait for things to settle down.

"They should make a decision after taking proper stock of things."

He said the International Cricket Council (ICC) and its member boards needed to support and back Pakistan cricket through these difficulties.

Pakistan themselves are due to tour Australia in June and Australian selectors named a 13-man squad on Friday to face them in a three-match limited-overs series.

Lee wants it here & now?



**AFF/AP, Sydney**

Express bowler Brett Lee wants to crack the 100 mph (160kph) barrier against Pakistan next month after being retained in the Australian one-day squad for the Super Challenge cricket series.

Lee said Friday he was relieved to be included in the 13-man squad for the three-match series in Melbourne and Brisbane.

There were no surprises in the squad with Ricky Ponting named captain and Adam Gilchrist his deputy.

But Ian Harvey wasn't so lucky. His time ran out with selectors, who omitted the all-rounder and young off-spinner Nathan Hauritz from the squad, which crushed South Africa

5-1 in a limited-overs series in the republic last March and April.

Batsman Jimmy Maher was retained after a promising South African series, Steve and Mark Waugh were again overlooked and young all-rounder Shane Watson was preferred to Harvey.

Lee's place was also expected to come under scrutiny after an expensive tour of South Africa.

He took nine wickets in four matches at a costly 5.82 runs per over.

That left his career economy rate at 4.95 but Lee wasn't panicking about the flow of runs from his bowling.

He wants to add some variety but he doesn't want to cut down on his pace as he prepares for a speed showdown with Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar in the Super Challenge, which begins on June 12. The series

includes matches at Colonial Stadium in Melbourne (June 12 and 15) before concluding at Brisbane's Gabba on June 19.

The series against Pakistan was only finalised last month after Australia's planned tour of Zimbabwe was called off because of security fears.

Pakistan are expected to name their squad later this month.

"I'm probably in the side as a different type of bowler because I'm really in there trying to get a quick breakthrough," Lee said Friday.

"And when you're a fast bowler in one-day cricket it can be quite different because you get snicks through the slips and other shots that go to the fence pretty quickly."

Asked if he could match Shoaib's 160kph breakthrough, Lee said: "I'm a chance to one day, who knows maybe in this series."

Akhtar hit 161kph (100mph) in a one-day international against New Zealand in Lahore last month, although the accuracy of the radar gun was questioned.

But Lee and Akhtar will have the same conditions and same measuring apparatus next month to decide the fastest bowler in a sideshow to the series.

Lee clocked his fastest reading of 157.4km in Cape Town in early March while Australia was wrapping up the three-Test series against the Proteas.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD

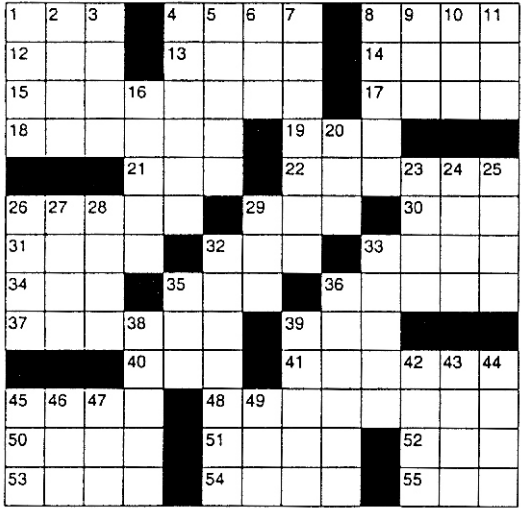
Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist (vice-captain), Michael Bevan, Andrew Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Matthew Hayden, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Jimmy Maher, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne, Shane Watson.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Mercury or Saturn  
4 Indian princess  
8 Skewer  
12 Pindaric piece  
13 Implacable  
14 Macadam-ize  
15 Ammunition measures  
17 Cameo stone  
18 "The Joy Luck Club" author  
19 Victim of deflation  
21 — carte  
22 "Arabian Nights" title  
26 Burn with steam  
29 Pigs' digs  
30 Ovine remark  
31 Cheat sheet  
32 Cruces  
33 Preceder  
33 Reaction of relief  
34 Connect-cut collection

**DOWN**  
1 Andean shrub  
2 Eve's mate  
3 Hinge (on)  
4 Lewd  
5 Sports venue  
6 Postal Creed word  
7 Entomologist  
8 Roman emperor  
9 Bob's uncle  
10 Thread holder  
11 "Peter —"  
12 Wall crawler  
13 John Tyler  
14 Ritter's father  
15 Crib  
16 Mediterranean nation

**Solution time: 25 mins.**



CRYPTOQUIP

Y S E L Y K B H F U O Y J V S U

A Q L A K L , A P J E Z L X Z S K

L K Q X Z B V K Q F O Q U X V Q X

Q X B Y C C U Q J J Y J P H K

Yesterday's Cryptogram: TITLE OF A NEW COOKBOOK BY THE WORLD-RENOWNED CHINESE CHEF: "WOK THIS WAY."

Today's Cryptogram Clue: L equals R

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Cup Corner

**FROM PAGE 13**  
year's tournament, according to Bayern Munich defender Robert Kovac.

"That (1998) generation had (AC Milan midfielder) Zvonimir Boban, the head, creator and mastermind of the team. Now we no longer have such a player but we are a whole that stills know how to do the job," Kovac was quoted as saying in Friday's Vecernji List newspaper.

"I am therefore convinced we are not weaker than those who got the bronze," he said, adding the team's 'minimum ambition' was to get through to the second round.

Croatia face Italy, Mexico and Ecuador in the group stages of the tournament which starts on May 31.

"All we need is a little luck to repeat the 1998 feat," Kovac said. Kovac is likely to pair up with Inter Milan's Dario Simic at the back, after central defender Igor Tudor of Juventus dropped out at the last moment to undergo ankle surgery.

"I actually prefer that system, the four-man backbone, with two full backs and two wingers, that way the wingers can switch into the attack more quickly," the 27-year old said.