

ACB won't say anything now

AFP, Melbourne

Australia's cricket tour of Pakistan remains in doubt with the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) saying it is too early to react to reports Australia will play Pakistan at a neutral venue later this year.

Australia's scheduled tour of Pakistan has been under threat because of security fears after New Zealand cancelled its tour in May following a bomb blast which killed 11 people outside the team hotel.

That risk was escalated by the increased tensions between Pakistan and India over the disputed Kashmir region.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has released a statement confirming Australia's tour in October would be played outside Pakistan.

But PCB director Brigadier Munawwar Rana later dismissed the statement, saying a decision was weeks away and that no formal decision had been made despite talks with the ACB last week.

Hoggard could be dropped

AFP, London

England could drop Matthew Hoggard for their next NatWest match after the fast bowler's rocky start to the triangular one-day series, coach Duncan Fletcher admitted.

In England's opening two matches of the tournament, against Sri Lanka and India, Yorkshire quick Hoggard's combined 18.5 overs have yielded just one wicket for 111 runs.

Now ahead of Tuesday's match, against Sri Lanka, Hoggard may be removed from the firing line even though the game is being played on his home ground of Hedingley.

Cruyff speaking

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"Total football" began to take control. However to his dismay he feels Brazil's style of play that took them to a record fifth World Cup is destroying the beautiful game.

"Brazil deserved their win but they aren't a team. They play anti-football and only took advantage of the mistakes of their opponents," added Cruyff.

"The first goal wasn't down to the brilliance of Ronaldo but as a consequence of the errors by the German defence and Kahn.

"Despite winning the name of the Brazilian coach won't go down in history because he was scared of the Germans."

Cruyff added: "They (Brazil) have set the standard for the rest of the World with their anti-football. I hope that the Netherlands don't follow this example."

The former Barcelona coach did, however, find time to issue some words of praise - to Germany and South Korea coach Guus Hiddink.

"Germany are a good team with Oliver Kahn and a good mentality. The collectiveness of the Germans was good however they lack a strong personality like Franz Beckenbauer or Gerd Mueller," Cruyff said.

"We should rejoice at the performances of Turkey and South Korea. Guus Hiddink deserved a gold medal for nothing more than the extraordinary way he represented the Netherlands."



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2. Who is Brazil captain?
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3. Pakistan won the last ODI against Australia by
Ronaldo

9 wkts 17 runs

4. Who will lead Bangladesh in the two-Test series against Sri Lanka?
K Mashud | A Khan | Al Islam

5. Who won the French Open title?
Name:
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Agarkar inspires India



AFP, London

Ajit Agarkar and the rest of the underrated India pace attack were the architects of a four wicket victory over Sri Lanka here at The Oval on Sunday - a result that sent Sourav Ganguly's side into the outright lead of the triangular series table.

Man-of-the-match Agarkar (three for 44) and Zaheer Khan (three for 48) strangled the life out of the Sri Lankan innings after captain Sanath Jayasuriya marked his 33rd birthday by winning the toss.

But India made harder work of their second win in 48 hours than they should have done before finishing on 203 for six with 28 balls to spare in reply to Sri Lanka's 202 for eight.

Sachin Tendulkar top scored with 49 but the real heroes of the innings were Yuvraj Singh (31) and Mohammad Kaif (38 not out), who put on a decisive 42 for the sixth wicket.

Yuvraj's 64 not out helped India beat England by six wickets at Lord's on Saturday and the 20-year-old found himself involved in his second recovery mission of the weekend.

Appropriately, Agarkar (seven not out) was on the field at the finish.

For Sri Lanka, Mahela Jayawardene top scored with 62 in a total that never gave the bowlers enough runs to realistically defend.

"I think we played very well," said Ganguly. "It was not an easy pitch to bat on," he added in a reference to the pacy Oval wicket.

"Playing back-to-back one dayers is not too easy. But we always knew we could take wickets and our form and fitness have improved recently."

Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore said: "After we play England (at Hedingley on Tuesday) we will be at halfway and if we lose that one it will be very difficult to come back."

Sri Lanka lost to England by 44 runs in Thursday's tournament opener at Trent Bridge.

"But I can't fault our team for effort and if they can improve slightly in key areas we can turn things around," Whatmore added.

Vaas' endeavour was beyond doubt, the left-arm quick manfully leading the Sri Lankan attack with two for 38.

He had Ganguly plumb lbw to leave India 17 for one in the third over and then had Virender Sehwag (12) caught by Jayasuriya at mid-off, India now 26 for two.

Dinesh Mongia made 33, adding 71 in 86 balls with Tendulkar before

mishooking he was caught off DiHara Fernando by Vaas at fine leg.

But as long as Tendulkar was at the crease an Indian victory looked assured.

However, one short of fifty, he was caught behind off Zoysa.

Following a prolonged appeal Tendulkar was sent on his way by a nod from South African umpire Dave Orchard.

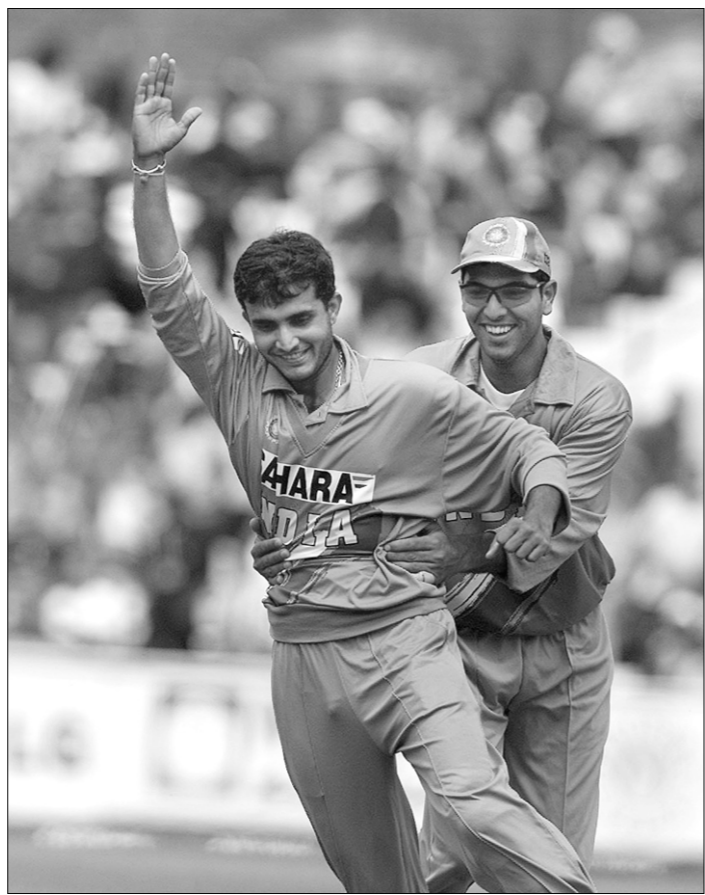
He faced 70 balls including one

at The Oval on Sunday:

SRI LANKA: 202 for 8 in 50 overs (M Jayawardene 62, S Zoysa 36; A Agarkar 3-44, Zaheer Khan 3-48)

INDIA

Ganguly lbw b Vaas	7
Sehwag c Jayasuriya b Vaas	12
Mongia c Vaas b D Fernando	33
Tendulkar c K'harana b Zoysa	49
Dravid b Chandana	8
Yuvraj c sub b D Fernando	31
Kaif not out	38



An ecstatic Sourav Ganguly (L) is being congratulated by Yuvraj Singh after the former took the wicket of Naveed Nawaz at The Oval in London June 30.

six and three fours but Sri Lanka now had an outside chance of a dramatic win.

But it was not to be as Yuvraj and Kaif kept their cool.

Earlier India's seamers maintained a disciplined line and length to reel off three successive maidens, Sri Lanka scoring just six runs in five overs from the 16th to the 20th.

India's next match sees them take on England at the Riverside, Durham, on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard of the NatWest triangular series one-day international between India and Sri Lanka

Agarkar not out	7
Extras: (lb-2, w-9, nb-7)	18
Total: (For 6 wkts in 45.2 overs)	203
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-26, 3-97, 4-113, 5-135, 6-195	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	10	1	38	2
Zoysa	10	0	46	1
D Fernando	10	0	53	2
B Fernando	3	0	11	0
Chandana	10	1	46	1
Jayasuriya	2	0	5	0
Arnold	0.2	0	2	0

Result: India won by 4 wickets. Man-of-the-match: Ajit Agarkar.

Chris Guile



AFP, St. George's

Opener Chris Guile blew apart New Zealand's bowlers, scoring 204 as the West Indies scored 394 for five in their first innings of the second Test match on Sunday.

Guile smashed 29 fours and two sixes in an innings that lasted two minutes over eight hours and included 332 balls. West Indies were 21 runs ahead of New Zealand at the close.

His innings ended with six overs to go when he got the finest of edges to a Shane Bond ball and was caught behind by Robbie Hart.

On a flat wicket in boiling sunshine, the hard-hitting Jamaican started the day on 23 and tore through a New Zealand bowling attack that could do little other than watch his shots scream past them on their way to the Queen's Park boundary.

Sunday's innings was a career-best for the 22-year-old, whose only previous century was 175 against Zimbabwe last year. Hitting the ball so hard that at least one fielder suffered a hand injury, Guile delighted the 8,000-strong crowd watching a Test match in Grenada for the first time.

West Indies overhauled New Zealand's first innings total shortly before the close and will be aiming to build a lead on the fourth day and try to bowl out the tourists on the last day.

Guile has entrenched himself as

the West Indies opening batsman in one-day matches but his Test place seemed less secure until Sunday. He scored two half-centuries in the one-day series against New Zealand and 73 in the first Test, which the West Indies won by 204 runs.

On Sunday he only gave two clear chances, when Mark Richardson dropped him at mid-on after he had walloped pace bowler Shane Bond for a straight six. He was also dropped at cover on 199.

At lunch he was 88 not out, taking part in a 100-run partnership with Ramnaresh Sarwan, who ran himself out for 39 taking on veteran fielder Chris Harris with the score on 128.

Guile was then joined by Brian Lara, who batted brightly to score 48, including seven fours, until he presented Scott Styris with his debut Test wicket to add to the debut Test century he scored on Saturday, edging an out-swing to the wicketkeeper with the score on 204.

Styris took the shine off his own performance when he dropped Guile on 199.

Captain Carl Hooper had only scored 17 when New Zealand took the new ball and he stood no chance with a viciously fast delivery from Shane Bond that trapped him leg before wicket. Guile was 137 not out at tea.

At 246 for four, the prospect of scoring more than 500 was looking distant but Guile and Shivanine Chandepaul then put together a sparkling partnership of 142 in the last session as New Zealand's

bowlers wilted under the sun and Guile's merciless batting.

With Guile gone, Chandepaul picked up the baton and struck a sweet 51 not out, including seven fours.

On a gruelling day for bowlers, Bond was the only one to present a real threat, taking three for 88 from 24 overs, while spinner Daniel Vettori toiled hard to record figures of none for 103 from 34 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between New Zealand and the West Indies at the Queen's Park on Sunday:
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 373 (S Styris 107, M Richardson 95, N Astle 69; P Collins 4-68, C Hooper 2-44, C Cuffy 2-76)

WEST INDIES: First innings

Hinds b Bond	10
Sarwan run out (Harris/Vettori)	39
Lara c Hart b Styris	48
Hooper lbw b Bond	17
Chandepaul not out	51
Jacobs not out	2
Extras: (lb-4, b-1, nb-13, w-5)	23
Total: (For 5 wkts in 118 overs)	394
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-128, 3-204, 4-246	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bond	24	5	88	3
Butler	17	4	66	0
Styris	22	3	77	1
Vettori	34	7	103	0
Astle	6	2	15	0
Harris	15	4	40	0

Umpires: Rudi Koetzten (South Africa) and Sr Venkatraghavan (India).

Salute Scolari

FROM PAGE 13

caught by television cameras threatening a referee who had just sent him off, yelling at the official: "I'll wait for you outside, mate."

Was this the end of the Beautiful Game, Brazilians wondered.

In his early days as Brazil coach, the worst fears appeared to be justified. Scolari packed his team with up to eight defensive players and, after they suffered a 2-1 defeat to Argentina in a World Cup qualifier, he berated the players for not doing enough time-wasting.

As Brazil continued to struggle in the qualifiers, he could have gone down in history as the man who was in charge when the country missed out on the World Cup for the first time.

But as Scolari -- who said this week that his first three months had been hell -- became more confident and settled in, the team's results improved and Brazil went into the World Cup with an unbeaten seven-match run.

The coach, who made a point of trying to turn his squad into a family, instilled a team spirit rarely seen in the Brazil camp, where the clashing

of egos often threatens to make them self-destruct.

"We played with vibrancy, friendship, union, participation and dedication to the cause," he said.

He also proved he could dance according to the music, sending his team into all-out attack in their first four games, and then tightening them up for the later matches.

"In the beginning, we needed to revive the image of a winning Brazil by using our attacking strength and respect that we didn't have in the qualifiers," he said.

Scolari also paid tribute to his defence, which was seen as a possible weakness, especially before the quarter-final against England.

"The defence, which everybody criticised so much, is the best in the world because not only do our players work together, but they also have good technical ability," he said.

He suggested that his history-making team could be an example to be followed by the politicians back home.

be disciplined when they want to be," he said. "Everybody knows that I don't like politics, but I think this is the way Brazil can improve."

It's for Ronald

FROM PAGE 13

Inter Milan ace Ronald, 25, vowed he had to do something so his pride and joy would never make the same mistake again.

While others would have opted for a short back and sides, he went for something a little more extreme.

And because he did not have much hair to play with in the first place, Ronald was forced to go for a style that resembles a complete opposite of England manager Sven Goran Eriksson.

Ronald said: "Why did I have my crazy haircut? I'll tell you. I called home and Milene said Ronald had rushed to the TV and kissed it, shouting 'It's Daddy, Daddy.'"

"But it wasn't me. It was Roberto Carlos! Can you imagine? "He's so ugly and I said to Milene that cannot happen again. I have to do something to make it impossible."

World Sports Journalists' Day

SPORTS REPORTER

Today is World Sports Journalists' Day.

The day will be observed in Bangladesh along with 142 countries in a befitting manner.

The Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) has arranged a day-long programme.

It begins with a rally at 7 am today. State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will attend the function as the chief guest. Golam Quddus Chowdhury, the executive director of Transcom Beverage Limited, is the special guest.

Seniors sports writers Ziaul Haque and Ikramuzzaman will be accorded a reception at the NSC auditorium at 3pm.

Later sports journalists, sportsmen and organisers will get together at a local hotel in the evening.

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock and Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Sadek Hossain is expected to be the chief guest.

Chess stars off to Europe

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar and Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib left for Europe last night to take part in two international competitions.

They are scheduled to play in the Paris International Chess Championship from July 6-14. Also they will compete in the ZMD Open of Dresdner Schach festival in Dresden, Germany.

The nine-day festival starts on July 18.

Bangladesh Biman has provided free air tickets while Zia has been given additional financial support from Navana Group.

Two ESPN Star Sports officials in city

SPORTS REPORTER

Two officials from ESPN Software India Private Limited, a sister concern of ESPN Star Sports, arrived in the capital yesterday to reconnoiter the Bangabandhu National Stadium and MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

ESPN Star Sports, who have won the right to telecast all the international matches held in Bangladesh for next five years, will be providing coverage of the home series against West Indies in November and December.

Raymond Hume, the director of cricket and Indian production, and Kaushik Basu, producer of production operations, spent the afternoon at the big bowl.

They are scheduled to go to Chittagong today along with Bangladesh Cricket Board director and secretary electronic media Ahmed Sajjad Alam.

Oh no!

FROM PAGE 13

"Kahn opens the gate for Brazil's fifth World Cup title," their headline read. In a commentary, the Frankfurt newspaper insisted that Germany were the better team even though Brazil had several brilliant individual performers.

"Brazil is the world champion -- Germany has the best team in the world," the FAZ wrote.

"It sounds like a contradiction. But the question was what happens when two different football empires square off in the final. Germany were beaten by two Ronaldo goals. But Germany proved that as a team they knew how to stay even with Brazil."

Bild, continental Europe's best-selling newspaper with more than four million copies sold each day, put the blame for the loss squarely on Kahn.

"Kahn's tragic mistake," read its front page, of the man it had praised with a series of giant page one pictures and headlines for the last few weeks.

"The football god must be Brazilian after all," Bild added. "We were so close."

Bild also praised coach Rudi Voeller, who took over the team two years ago after three humbling defeats in Euro 2000, and predicted Germany would win the 2006 tournament at home.

"Thanks Rudi, you made football fun to watch again," Bild added. "Keep your heads up lads, now we'll just have to win it in 2006."

The Berliner Morgenpost said in a commentary that the "aesthetic team" from Brazil had beaten the "pragmatic" side.

"In all honesty, we are disappointed," the Morgenpost said. "We've been dragged through the deserts of no success for years and we had hoped our pragmatism would prevail over the aesthetics of Brazil."

Berlin's Der Tagesspiegel wrote a simple page one headline "Germany, What a shame!" It added on its sports front page "Ronaldo masters Kahn!"

"The dancers from Brazil won," Der Tagesspiegel wrote in a commentary. "Germany would have been worthy champions as well. Perhaps the Dutch, French and Spanish would disagree. They are probably relieved the worst-possible-accident was avoided: Germany winning the World Cup?"

"That would have been a horrible scenario for the cultural pessimists around the world," it added. "The international press have been calling Germany the 'unbeatable monsters'."

Battle of Britain on cards?



AFP, London

The battling and brash figure of controversial Australian Lleyton Hewitt looks like being the only player capable of stopping Britain putting an end to its miserable 66-year long wait for a men's champion at Wimbledon.

In this topsy-turvy championship, where only two of the top sixteen men's seeds have made it into the second week, it seems only the 21-year-old Hewitt, top seed and world number one, has the armoury to quell the seemingly irresistible surge of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski towards a Battle of Britain in next Sunday's final.

The decimation of the seeds, which has seen seven-time champion Pete Sampras, fellow American legend Andre Agassi as well as former US Open champion Marat Safin all departing before the Centre Court grass has had a chance to get too bare, means it is the worst showing by the top sixteen seeds at a Grand Slam in the Open era.

It has also led to many here predicting that if Hewitt blows his chance, then it will be the year of

either Henman or Rusedski.

"It's good to be alive in this tournament because so much has happened," said fourth seed Henman who beat respected grass-courter Wayne Ferreira to reach the fourth round.

"It's a question of almost starting again and being ready for my next opponent," added the Briton who was a controversial winner over the South African who claimed he was robbed of a great chance of victory by a controversial overrule in the third set tie-break of his four set, third round defeat on Saturday.

"I have had some tough losses here but I have always said that one day I believe I will win this tournament."

"If I lose next week, it won't alter that belief," added Henman, three times a semifinalist in the last four years.

Henman, who is seeded to face Hewitt in the last four, faces Switzerland's unheralded Michel Kratochvil on Monday for a place in the quarterfinals.

Although all the top contenders are keen to play down their chances, there are respected figures in the game who believe that the title is there for Hewitt's taking.

"The courts seem to be slower and I think that will suit Hewitt's

game," said former French and Australian Open winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov, another of the seeds to suffer a first week exit.

"They are not as fast as they used to be and that will have a big effect on the serve-volleyers."

Rusedski, seeded 23, is in the bottom half of the draw where the highest remaining seed is Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti who's a lofty 22.

Rusedski, whose best performance here was a quarter-final spot in 1997, is expected to ease past Belgium's Xavier Malisse before coming up against either Mark Philippoussis of Australia or Dutchman Richard Krajicek, the champion in 1996.

"I'm taking it one match at a time. I can't get too far ahead of myself because this tournament has been a little crazy with all the upsets," said Rusedski.

"I know there is a lot of expectation on both Tim and myself, but I've been in the background and I don't mind that."

Despite his caution, Rusedski is in the more comfortable half of the draw and should he get as far as the semi-finals, he could face David Nalbandian of Argentina, Lapentti, Frenchman Arnaud Clement or big serving Aussie Wayne Arthurs.