

## Waqar joining Warwickshire

AFP, London

Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis is set to sign for English county Warwickshire as a replacement for injured New Zealand paceman Shane Bond.

A source close to the Pakistani fast bowler told AFP on Monday: "Waqar said the deal would be announced tomorrow (Tuesday)."

Waqar, 31, is already in England, where he has done commentary work for satellite broadcaster Sky, and is due to take part in a celebrity cricket match on behalf of London-based charity Cancer Research UK next month.

Bond returned home last week from New Zealand's tour of Sri Lanka with a back injury. If he is out of action for more than four weeks, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) regulations allow a county to sign a replacement.

On Monday, a Warwickshire spokeswoman refused to confirm or deny if Waqar was on the brink of arriving at Edgbaston but told AFP a statement would be issued Tuesday in the light of more information about Bond's injury.

Waqar has plenty of county experience, having previously played for both Surrey and Glamorgan.

He is available for another spell in county cricket after being sacked as Pakistan captain following the team's first round exit at the World Cup.

Waqar was one of eight players left out of the squad for the subsequent Sharjah tournament.

And a withering report by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) released last month said Waqar's "stubborn" style of captaincy had played a major part in the team's failure to live up to expectations in South Africa.

## SA taking

FROM PAGE 13

Ntini, Shaun Pollock, Dewald Pretorius, Jacques Rudolph, Martin van Jaarsveld, Morne van Wyk

### TEST SQUAD

Smith (captain), Boucher (vice-captain), Adams, Boeta Dippenaar, Gibbs, Kallis, Gary Kirsten, McKenzie, Ntini, Robin Peterson,

# Protesters Lord's-bound



AFP, London

Opponents of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's regime will stage a protest outside London's Lord's cricket ground when the first Test between England and Zimbabwe starts there on Thursday.

Organiser Washington Ali told AFP on Monday that it would be a peaceful gathering outside the main entrance to Lord's and that there were no plans to disrupt the match itself.

The protest is due to start at 1100 (1000GMT), the traditional start time for Test matches in

England, although this season Test matches are scheduled to begin 15 minutes earlier.

A group of protestors are also due to travel through central London on an open-top bus to the Zimbabwe High Commission to hand over a letter to the High Commissioner calling for an end to what the protestors called "state sponsored political violence in Zimbabwe" that has taken place under Mugabe's rule.

The bus will then continue to Lord's.

"First and foremost we are looking for the attention of the whole international community," Ali, a Zimbabwean who arrived in England in 2001, told AFP on Monday.

"We want them to focus on Zimbabwe," said Ali, who added that he himself had once been arrested without trial by the Mugabe regime.

"People are not getting the nitty-gritty details about Zimbabwe.

"We've got (Zimbabwean) people here who have been gang-raped and been buried up to their necks for 21 days," Ali added.

Ali was not specific about how many protestors would be at Lord's but said several bus loads, including the one in London, would be coming "from all parts of the UK."

Meanwhile, back at Lord's, other protestors will be handing out black armbands to spectators in the hope that these will be worn inside the ground while the match is in progress.

This follows on from the protest during this year's World Cup by Zimbabwe cricketers Andy Flower and Henry Olonga.

During Zimbabwe's opening match in February, against Namibia in Harare, the duo wore black armbands and issued a statement lamenting the 'death of democracy' in Zimbabwe under Mugabe.

Both men, who have since quit international cricket, are in England.

Flower is playing county cricket for Essex while Olonga, who was reported to have only narrowly escaped arrest by Zimbabwe security personnel in South Africa, is playing for a club side in Kent.

Mark Harrison, a spokesman for the Zimbabwe cricket team in England, told AFP on Monday: "They respect the right of people to have a peaceful protest and they hope they (the protestors) respect their rights as cricketers to play cricket in England."

So far protests at Zimbabwe's three tour matches leading up to the first Test have been restricted to just a handful of demonstrators in each case.

However, larger protest have been promised at international games in England involving Zimbabwe over the next few months.

After Lord's, Zimbabwe are due to play the second and final Test at Durham's Riverside ground starting on June 5.

They are then involved in a triangular one-day series with England and South Africa. The first match of that series sees Zimbabwe up against England at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, on June 26.

## Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsad posted a 243-run victory over Islampurpara Sporting Club in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsad scored 325 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs.

The winners then shot Islampurpara out for 82 in 16 overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

ABUL HOSSAIN KHAN SRMITI SANGSAD: 325-8 in 40 overs (Kishore 75, Mansoor 55, Sajib 45; Sumon 2/43, Litu 2/55, Newton 2/84).

ISLAMPURPARA SPORTING CLUB: 82 in 16 overs (Mamun 14, Litu 11, Tony 6; Arif 4/10, Mansoor 3/13, Sumon 1/4).

**Result: Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsad won by 243 runs.**

**Today's match:** Faruk Smriti Sangsad vs Udayan Sporting Club.

## All in good time

REUTERS, Oakland

Pete Sampras' coach Paul Annacone has not ruled out a comeback for the 14-times grand slam winner and says watching this year's Wimbledon championships on television will help him decide.

Sampras, who has won the grass-court Grand Slam seven times, last week pulled out of next month's tournament, a decision that fuelled speculation that he had played his final match.

The 31-year-old's last competitive appearance on court was in beating old sparring partner Andre Agassi in September to win his fifth US Open title.

"Once he goes through watching Wimbledon on TV (he'll) see how it feels not to be there," Annacone said. "It will be a pretty good indication of whether he's rejuvenated to go for the US Open or just call it a day."

"I don't know how not being at Wimbledon will affect him. I also know that everyone in life needs challenges to motivate them -- superstar athletes need it even more."

"His mindset right now is that he's not ready to commit, but he's also not ready to retire."

Annacone said Sampras trained hard at the beginning of the year and was physically ready to return to action in San Jose in February but "the desire wasn't there." Sampras subsequently pulled out of tournaments in Indian Wells and Miami.

## Malik makes

FROM PAGE 13

Daryl Tuffey and Kyle Mills, losing openers Mohammad Hafeez (3) and Taufeeq Umar (2) in the space of two runs and five balls.

Hameed and Yousuf Youhana (17) appeared to have steadied the innings with a 47-run stand for the third wicket before left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori (3-35) struck to put Pakistan on the back foot.

Malik then counter-attacked to ease the pressure, hitting two successive fours off Harris and then swinging Vettori over mid-wicket for a six to help his team set a competitive total.

### SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard of the last league match between New Zealand and Pakistan in the triangular one-day cricket series at the Rangiri Stadium on Tuesday:

<b>PAKISTAN</b>				
Hafeez b Mills	3			
Umar b Tuffey	2			
Hameed c Styris b Harris	25			
Youhana lbw b Vettori	17			
Younis c sub (Home) b Vettori	26			
Malik c McCullum b Vettori	74			
Latif c Cairns b Wiseman	2			
Razaq c Mills b Tuffey	23			
Akhtar not out	18			
Sami c Vincent b Styris	0			
Kaneria not out	0			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-10)	13			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	203			
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-10, 3-57, 4-61, 5-102, 6-108, 7-179, 8-191, 9-201				

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Tuffey	9	1	31	2
Mills	10	0	36	1
Styris	5	0	31	1
Vettori	10	1	35	3
Harris	10	0	41	1
Wiseman	6	0	27	1

<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>				
Nevin c Sami b Kaneria	28			
Fleming c Latif b Sami	17			
Vincent lbw b Hafeez	2			
Styris c Malik b Kaneria	46			
Cairns b Kaneria	28			
Harris lbw b Sami	24			
McCullum c Younis b Akhtar	0			
Mills c Umar b Akhtar	11			
Vettori c Latif b Akhtar	4			
Wiseman b Sami	2			
Tuffey not out	2			
Extras: (lb-3, nb-3, w-11)	17			
Total: (All out in 48.1 overs)	181			
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-40, 3-71, 4-113, 5-160, 6-161, 7-163, 8-172, 9-179				

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Akhtar	9.1	0	36	3
Sami	9	0	34	3
Hafeez	10	1	33	1
Kaneria	10	1	31	3
Malik	9	0	39	0
Razaq	1	0	5	0

**Result: Pakistan won by 22 runs.**

**Man-of-the-match:** Shoaib Malik.

**Umpires:** Daryl Harper (Australia) and Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka)

**Final: New Zealand v Pakistan, May 23.**

# Fear factor



REUTERS, Duesseldorf

Lleyton Hewitt goes into the French Open in Paris next week as the top seed but with a nagging fear in his head: he is worried that he may never win it.

The world number one, who will defend his Wimbledon title next month and who won the US Open in 2001, has never been beyond the quarterfinals at Roland Garros and knows it will take a monumental effort if he is to become the first Australian to win the title since Rod Laver in 1969.

Hewitt was seeded ahead of former champion Andre Agassi and Spanish clay-court experts Juan Carlos Ferrero and Carlos Moya by Roland Garros organisers who followed the current ATP world rankings.

For a man who thrives on confidence and who arrived on the tour at the age of 16 with a stunning victory over Agassi in Adelaide, it is quite an admission. Not that he has given up. He is, after all, only 22.

"Maybe I have to work a bit harder on clay," Hewitt said. "It's a challenge and I've always liked challenges. Whether I will ever win the French (Open) and master playing on clay, who knows? But I'll give it a shot."

Hewitt, who was fine-tuning his game by playing for Australia in the World Team Cup in Duesseldorf this week, admitted he was at a disadvantage on the surface.

"Not having grown up on it means that it takes me a little longer to get used to it but I enjoy playing on clay, the strategy and the patience you need."

After taking time off to rest and recover from a breathing problem which affected him last year, the Australian began his clay-court season only last week at the Hamburg Masters Series, where he lost to Fernando Gonzalez of Chile in the third round.

"I didn't expect to win the tournament in Hamburg but I had three good matches which is as good as I could have wished. I think

everyone there played probably as well as they could against me.

"That's something that you



LLEYTON HEWITT

FRENCH OPEN SEEDINGS	
<b>Men's singles</b>	<b>Women's singles</b>
1. Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)	1. Serena Williams (USA)
2. Andre Agassi (USA)	2. Kim Clijsters (BEL)
3. Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPA)	3. Venus Williams (USA)
4. Carlos Moya (SPA)	4. Justine Henin-Hardenne (BEL)
5. Roger Federer (SWI)	5. Amélie Mauresmo (FRA)
6. Andy Roddick (USA)	6. Lindsay Davenport (USA)
7. Guillermo Coria (ARG)	7. Jennifer Capriati (USA)
8. David Nalbandian (ARG)	8. Chanda Rubin (USA)
9. Albert Costa (SPA)	9. Daniela Hantuchova (SVK)
10. Paradorn Srichaphan (THA)	10. Jelena Dokic (SEM)
11. Rainer Schuettler (GER)	12. Anastasia Myskina (RUS)
12. Sjeng Schalken (NED)	13. Elena Dementieva (RUS)
13. Jiri Novak (CZE)	14. Eleni Daniilidou (GRE)
14. Sébastien Grosjean (FRA)	15. Magdalena Maleeva (BUL)
15. Gustavo Kuerten (BRA)	16. Ai Sugiyama (JAP)
16. Alex Corretja (SPA)	17. Amanda Coetzer (RSA)
17. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (RUS)	18. Meghann Shaughnessy (USA)
18. Gaston Gaudio (ARG)	19. Patty Schnyder (SWI)
19. Fernando Gonzalez (CHI)	20. Elena Bovina (RUS)
20. Felix Mantilla (SPA)	21. Lisa Raymond (USA)
21. Gaston Gaudio (ARG)	22. Vera Zvonareva (RUS)
22. Wayne Ferreira (RSA)	23. Anna Pistolesi (ISR)
23. Youssef El Aynaoui (MAR)	24. Conchita Martinez (SPA)
24. James Blake (USA)	25. Nathalie Dechy (FRA)
25. Tim Henman (GBR)	26. Silvia Farina Elia (ITA)
26. Xavier Malisse (BEL)	27. Alexandra Stevenson (USA)
27. Mikhail Youzhny (RUS)	28. Clarisa Fernandez (ARG)
28. Tommy Robredo (SPA)	29. Elena Likhovtseva (RUS)
29. Vincent Spadea (USA)	30. Paola Suarez (ARG)
30. Jarkko Nieminen (FIN)	31. Laura Granville (USA)
31. Juan Ignacio Chela (ARG)	32. Francesca Schiavone (ITA)
32. Arnaud Clement (FRA)	

# Grand thinking



REUTERS, Berlin

Justine Henin-Hardenne has mixed memories of the French Open, which she will enter this year with higher expectations than ever.

"I'm not saying I'm going to win but my big goal is to win a Grand Slam and I think the French Open is the one I have the best chances of winning," the 20-year-old Belgian said after defending her German Open title earlier this month.

As Henin -- she got married last year -- the Belgian burst into the limelight at Roland Garros two years ago, reaching the semifinals, where she lost to compatriot Kim Clijsters.

"That match was like a dream," she said. "I can hardly remember how I played or what happened. Just being in that match was so special."

Last year she travelled to Paris as one of the big favourites, having previously won in Berlin with a memorable final victory over Serena Williams before advancing to the Italian Open final.

She had just entered the world top five and was full of confidence but suddenly fell ill with bronchitis and disappeared in the first round.

"What happened last year makes me very cautious," she said. "All I'm saying is I'd love to win the French Open but you can't plan those things."

Henin-Hardenne, who has a relatively light frame -- standing at 1.67 metres and weighing 57 kg -- is at her best on clay, where raw power is less of a factor than on faster courts.

Her patience in rallies, her

speed and her ability to cover the court as well as her superb single-handed backhand make her one of the world's finest players on the slow surface.

"To me Justine is the best player on clay at the moment," Clijsters said after losing to her compatriot in a close German Open final.



JUSTINE HENIN-HARDENNE

Providing she has fully recovered from a knee injury sustained in a gruelling Berlin final which forced her to pull out of the Italian Open last week, Henin will definitely be a top contender in Paris.

Another fact that speaks in her favour is that she has a record for upsetting Serena Williams -- the defending French Open champion and current world number one.

She overcame Williams in the Berlin final last year before ending the athletic American's 2003 21-match winning streak by beating her in the Charleston final last month.

As determined as she is soft-

have to expect, as number one, that everyone will come at you all guns blazing, but I feel like I can still go up a notch."

Hewitt has struggled on clay, particularly against the Spaniards, Carlos Moya and Juan Carlos Ferrero, players whose weight of shot is tough for him to handle. That, Hewitt said, would come with experience.

"I feel like I'm getting better and better on it each year but I know I'm going to have to play my best if I'm going to stand a chance of winning the French."

The problem for Hewitt is that on clay, unlike on grass or on a hard court, even his best may not be good enough to win at Roland Garros.

# Zimbabwe in his gloves



AFP, London

If Tatenda Taibu were an Englishman he probably would not be playing Test cricket right now.

But, come Thursday's first Test at Lord's, 20-year-old Taibu will not only be keeping wicket for Zimbabwe he will also be the Africans' vice-captain against an England team whose govtman, Alec Stewart, is twice his age.

However, what makes the ascent of Taibu a black player in what has historically been a 'white' sport in Zimbabwe all the more impressive is that until the age of 14 he had never been a wicketkeeper at all.

And even then Taibu only

donned the gloves by accident.

"I was playing for a team called the Strugglers XI and the wicketkeeper did not turn up so I volunteered," he told AFP.

"Bill Flower (father of former Zimbabwe keeper Andy), who was watching, said I had good hands and feet. He later gave me a pair of Andy's gloves," explained Taibu who at 5ft 4ins is one of the shorter players in world cricket today.

Up until that point he had been an off-spinner. But in many ways the switch from slow bowler to stumper was the least remarkable aspect of Taibu's cricket career which began in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

"I started off playing cricket at Chipembere Primary School when I was eight," Taibu said.

"We used to play during break-time. There were no nets, just trees

with stumps painted on. But I never batted because the big boys pushed me out of the way."

Nevertheless, a chance to



TATENDA TAIBU

receive proper coaching, in good facilities, was at hand if Taibu could collect one of the four annual cricket scholarships offered by Churchill High School.

However, just before the scholarship exam, disaster struck. "I injured my arm so I couldn't hold a bat properly. I didn't get the scholarship."

But fate intervened. A businessman, whose son had played alongside Taibu, provided funds so that Stuart Matsikenyeri due to be a member of Zimbabwe's one-day squad in England was promoted to a full scholarship and Taibu took his place.

All the while Taibu and other young hopefuls were receiving coaching from Steven Mangongo of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU), now a national selector. "Steven ran the whole show. He was very tough," a smiling Taibu recalled.

At school he enjoyed many other sports including athletics in which he excelled in the pole vault.

But it was his skill at cricket that ensured he did not return to his father's barber shop although Taibu's self-confessed "passion for accounts" might have been useful.

Taibu captained Zimbabwe at the Under-19 World Cup where he received coaching from Worcestershire keeper Steve Rhodes, the former England international, who recently described Taibu as "one of the most naturally talented players I've ever seen."

Despite that some say making Taibu vice-captain smacks of politics Zimbabwe skipper Heath Streak is white.

And following the World Cup black armband protests against carried out by Andy Flower and Henry Olonga against Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe a gesture which effectively signalled the end of the duo's international careers the squad has been subjected to political demonstrations in England.

But Taibu remains resolute about a side given no chance by many pundits.

"We are here to win. Obviously, the side has changed. We've lost big players but the younger guys who have come in are willing to learn and will give everything to win."

That's certainly true of Taibu himself. The man who said 'good things come in small packages' may yet be proved right again.