

Anil may join Middlesex

AFP, London

India's most successful spinner Anil Kumble could be on his way to Middlesex for the 2004 county championship season.

"We are looking to sign him. We just need to get confirmation from the Board of Control. He is happy to come," John Emburey, the coach of the English side, told the BBC website.

If the deal gets the go-ahead, Middlesex would be the 33-year-old's third county following previous spells with Northamptonshire and Leicestershire.

Kumble, currently on tour with India in Australia, has 370 Test wickets and 313 victims in one-day internationals.

The player needs permission from the Indian Cricket Board of Control to play in the English County Championship.

Tigers' training

FROM PAGE 13

BCB's cricket committee chairman Mahbubul Anam informed yesterday that the camp would continue till January 25. Bangladesh will leave for the African nation of Namibia on January 28 for a pre-tour conditioning camp.

The Tigers' two-week stay in Namibia will see them take on the hosts in three limited-over matches and a three-day.

Bangladesh will land in Zimbabwe on February 10 to play two Tests and five one-day internationals.

The four-member selection committee led by Faruque Ahmed has already called up a 17-member preliminary squad for the camp.

PRELIMINARY CALL-UPS

Khaled Mahmud, Habibul Bashar, Khaled Mashud, Tapash Baishya, Hanna Sarker, Shahriar Hossain, Rajin Saleh, Alok Kapali, Mohammed Ashraf, Ehsanul Haque, Mohammad Selim, Mohammed Rafique, Tareq Aziz Khan, Manjarul Islam Rana, Anwar Hossain Monir, Mushfiqur Rahman and Hasibul Hossain.

Nalbandian sidelined

AFP, Adelaide

Top seed Argentine David Nalbandian on Saturday pulled out of the Australian hardcourt championships starting here on Monday with a wrist injury.

Javed blames

FROM PAGE 13

pressure earned him praise from skipper Stephen Fleming.

"We were under a lot of pressure but Eden Park is a tough ground to defend and as long as we had Scotty there I knew we were in with a chance," said Fleming.

Sylhet start

FROM PAGE 13

Fall of wkts: 1-33, 2-34, 3-53, 4-53, 5-6, 6-77, 7-84, 8-107, 9-128, 10-130

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jakwan	12	4	35	0
Nayeem	10	4	10	2
Parvez	8	4	14	2
Nabil	15	5	23	3
Imtiaz	5	0	16	2
Ejaz	7	0	22	1

SYLHET: First innings

Imtiaz c Shahin b Tariquul 46

Mabud batting 42

Nayeem batting 1

Extras: (lb-4, nb-4, w-4) 12

Total: (For one wkt in 24 overs) 101

Fall of wkts: 1-95

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anisur	3	0	18	0



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa wicketkeeper Mark Boucher drives square of the wicket on way to scoring an unbeaten 122 against West Indies on the second day of the third Test at Newlands yesterday.

Proteas put up huge total



Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

Wicketkeeper Mark Boucher hit his fourth Test century but first in four seasons as South Africa moved into a powerful position on the second day of the third Test against the West Indies at Newlands on Saturday.

Boucher made an unbeaten 122 as South Africa reached a total of 532 before being bowled out shortly before the scheduled tea interval.

Boucher and Jacques Kallis snuffed out West Indian hopes of dismissing South Africa for a relatively low total, putting on 146 for the eighth wicket after the home team had been reduced to 315 for seven in the second over of the day.

South Africa, leading the four-match series 2-0, topped 500 in the first innings for the third match in succession.

Kallis, who retired hurt Friday with his score on 23 after being struck on the right forearm by a ball from fast bowler Fidel Edwards, returned after Shaun Pollock was caught behind off Edwards in the second over of the morning.

Although his right arm was strapped, Kallis appeared in no discomfort as he saw off Edwards, who took the second new ball in the sixth over of the day.

Kallis played some crisp strokes

as he reached his half-century off 71 balls when he struck Adam Sanford through the covers for his tenth four.

He then played more cautiously, adding only 23 more runs off 74 balls before he was given out leg before wicket when he went back to a ball from Adam Sanford which replays suggested would have gone over the stumps.

Boucher was fortunate when he was yorked by an Edwards no-ball when on 15.

The ball flew off his stumps for four byes. Boucher went on to reach his half-century off 90 balls off the last delivery before lunch. He hit ten boundaries.

Unlike Kallis, Boucher accelerated after notching his fifty, going to his century off 151 balls with 17 fours. He had another escape when he was dropped by substitute fielder Carlton Baugh at backward point off Vashbert Drakes when he was on 59.

It was Boucher's first Test century since he made 108 against England in Durban four seasons ago.

The dismissal of Kallis was not the end of the West Indies' suffering as Makhaya Ntini helped Boucher add 52 in 49 minutes for the ninth wicket.

Sanford was the most successful West Indian bowler, finishing with a career-best four for 132 off 36 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between South Africa and the West Indies team at Newlands on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 308-6)

Smith c Lara b Sanford	42
Gibbs c Jacobs b Sanford	33
Rudolph lbw b Mohammed	101
Kallis lbw b Sanford	73
Kirsten c Sanford b Edwards	16
McKenzie b Mohammed	76
Adams b Edwards	0
Boucher not out	122
Pollock c Jacobs b Edwards	9
Ntini c Jacobs b Mohammed	18
Nel c Jacobs b Sanford	4
Extras: (b-6, lb-12, nb-18, w-2) 38	
Total: (All out in 145 overs)	532
Falls of wickets: 1-70, 2-90, 3-162, 4-304, 5-305, 6-305, 7-315, 8-461, 9-513	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Drakes	26	7	64	0
Edwards	30	3	132	3
Sanford	37	4	132	4
Smith	2	0	4	0
Mohammed	33	5	112	3
Gayle	10	0	39	0
Hinds	7	2	31	0

WEST INDIES: Lara, Gayle, Hinds, Ganga, Sarwan, Smith, Jacobs, Drakes, Mohammed, Sanford, Edwards.

Fans anger Gilchrist



Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Adam Gilchrist lashed home fans for taking a "soft option" by booing the under-fire Australian cricketers as they toiled with limited success against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

The boos came when Stuart MacGill dropped VVS Laxman at mid-wicket when he was on 177 before India reached stumps at 650 for five at the end of Day Two.

Gilchrist said the 41,000 fans who came in the hope of seeing skipper Steve Waugh bat in his final Test would have been disappointed at the day's proceedings but that was no excuse to turn against their team.

"The crowd has been hyped-up and built up hoping for a huge performance from the Australian team, obviously for Steve Waugh, but it hasn't panned out that way," Gilchrist said on Saturday.

"It's not through any lack of application by us but by a brilliant

performance by the Indians. So there's probably a mixture of frustration and disappointment that the crowd's not part of a fairy tale that they hoped for.

"And it's the end of a long day when they've probably had a fair amount to drink too, but it's a pretty easy option to boo it's a soft, cheap option to boo because we're trying our best."

But Gilchrist said the boos had not affected the team.

"We know as quickly as they boo, the moment we do something well they'll cheer that's just the fickle nature of the business we're in."

Gilchrist refused to accept that the match was lost even though Australia was staring at the daunting prospect of making 451 runs at this stage just to avoid the follow-on.

"We never give up hope. Whilst there's a competition still on we're still a chance," he said.

The wicketkeeper-batsman said the past two days in which India has amassed the most runs by a touring team in a single innings

had been the hardest in his four years playing for his country.

"It's the toughest home series (in which) I've been involved it's just been a real challenge for us to try to find ways of getting these guys out."

"It's been tough work it's been physically and mentally taxing."

He admitted the absence of Australia's best bowling attack had been a factor in India's great batting performances.

With Glenn McGrath injured, Shane Warne suspended, Brett Lee unavailable for two matches in this series and Jason Gillespie out for one, Australia has struggled to impose itself with the ball.

"What India have been able to do is bat long periods of time against us and I don't know whether that's because we haven't had McGrath, Warne, Lee and Gillespie fit for the whole series at once."

"I don't know whether (their absence) means we haven't been able to knock teams over or that the Indians have played exceptionally well. I sense a bit of both."

Waugh to carry on with NSW

AFP, Sydney

Steve Waugh will play out the domestic first-class season with New South Wales after completing his Test match career.

The Australian captain will not have much spare time after his 168th and farewell Test against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground before he pads up again for the Blues against Victoria in a Sheffield Shield match at Newcastle, two hours north of Sydney, from Friday.

The retiring 38-year-old Test skipper could have been excused for withdrawing after his mentally and physically draining big occasion, but he has told NSW officials he will play for his stateside.

If Waugh's service to the Blues continues this season he has nine more appearances before he can really put his feet up and enjoy life after cricket.

Waugh's last definite game is the Sheffield Shield game against Queensland at the SCG from March 4, but the shield final is scheduled from March 12 at a venue yet to be determined.

He has already made NSW his top priority on one occasion this season when he had a good reason to be elsewhere.

Invited to meet US president George W. Bush in the national capital last October, Waugh instead attended to his duties with the Blues' one-day squad in the NSW country town of Bowral because he had promised he would.

Waugh led NSW to the Sheffield Shield and one-day titles last year.

BRAC basketball

PRESS RELEASE

Spring '02 won the BRAC University Second Inter Semester Basketball Tournament defeating Fall '02 at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium on Friday.

The final score was 48-38 points.

Six teams took part in the competition. Later Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, VC, BRAC University, distributed prizes among the winners.

'Very Very Special'

FROM PAGE 13

2001, which turned the series India's way, but he has also made scores of 167 at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1999, 148 in Adelaide earlier in this series and 178 in the fourth Sydney Test.

Laxman surprisingly rated his 75 in the first innings of the opening Brisbane Test as his best effort of the series.

"The best knock for me on this tour was in Brisbane. I was playing really well rhythm-wise in Brisbane, but it's always good to get a hundred."

Laxman and Dravid (180) became national sporting heroes for their decisive role in India's famous 171-run win over Australia at Eden Gardens in Calcutta in March 2001 with their match-turning 376-run fifth-wicket partnership.

India were forced to follow on after trailing by 274 runs on the first innings, only for Laxman and Dravid to turn things around with a belligerent 383-run lead to dismiss Australia for 212 and claim a legendary fighting victory.

Laxman and Dravid again combined in a 303-run fifth-wicket partnership that overcame Australia's 556 first innings to win the second Adelaide Test of this series.

And in his latest triple century stand he added 353 runs for the fourth wicket with Tendulkar in the biggest Indian Test partnership in Australia and the biggest for the wicket in all Tests at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Laxman reached 1,000 runs against Australia in Adelaide in his 10th Test against Australia the same as pre-war England batting giants Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe.

Styris styles Kiwi win

FROM PAGE 13

further loss. Fleming had won the toss and put Pakistan into bat on a wicket which gave exaggerated movement for the seam bowlers.

It appeared the right decision as the tourists fumbled their way to 120 for six before Khan left fly.

He blazed eight fours and a six in his rollicking 72 not out, at better than a run a ball, as Pakistan added 102 runs in their final 10 overs, underlining yet again New Zealand's inability to contain at the death.

It was the former Pakistan captain's highest one-day innings and was not without an element of luck when umpire Doug Cowie turned down what appeared to be an elementary caught behind of Styris's last ball.

SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard in the one-day

international between New Zealand and

Pakistan on Saturday:

PAKISTAN	
Farhat b Cairns	24
Hameed b Oram	19
Elahi lbw Styris	20
Youhanan c Styris b Oram	5
Malik c McCullum b Styris	4
Inzamam b Styris	19
Moin not out	72
Razaq run out (Oram/Tuffey)	22
Mahmood not out	26
Extras: (lb-8, w-10)	18
Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs)	229
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-55, 3-60, 4-79, 5-84,	

6-120, 7-183

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tuffey	10	1	49	0
Oram	10	3	28	2
Cairns	9	1	37	1
Adams	9	0	63	0
Styris	10	3	34	3
Vettori	2	0	10	0

NEW ZEALAND	
Fleming: Samib Mahmood	45
Cumming run out (Malik)	1
Marshall c Hameed b Shabbir	14
Styris not out	101
McMillan c Razaq b Malik	12
Cairns lbw b Malik	3
Oram c Moin b Razaq	3
McCullum not out	13
Extras: (lb-16, w-20, nb-2)	38
Total: (For 6 wkts in 49.1 overs)	230
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-35, 3-102, 4-141, 5-	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sami	9.1	1	37	0
Shabbir	10	1	53	1
Mahmood	10	0	35	1
Razaq	10	0	61	1
Malik	10	1	28	2

Result: New Zealand won by 4 wickets

and take 1-0 lead in the 5-match series.

Man-of-the-match: Scott Styris.

Toss: New Zealand.

WORLD FOOTBALL BRIEFS



Football

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier insisted Saturday that he was not concerned by rumours linking his Celtic counterpart Martin O'Neill with the Anfield job.

O'Neill himself has called reports as "totally and utterly untrue" while Houllier said he and the team had not taken them seriously.

"It made me laugh, it is not a new story," said the Frenchman.

"But it is not unsettling, it just does not affect us. The players just ignore it, but I joke with them about it all. I am quite relaxed and confident, it is nothing new. But it is not about me, it is about the club. The club is more important than me, that is all that matters."

O'Neill himself said: "It's totally and utterly untrue. How many times have I got to say it."

The Reds are bidding not to become the latest high-profile victims of non-league Yeovil in Sunday's FA Cup third round at Huish Park, with striker Michael Owen set to make his return from injury.

VALDERRAMA

RETURNING!

REUTERS, Bogota

Former Colombia captain Carlos Valderrama, famous for his exquisite ball control and his wild mop of yellow hair, will return to his hometown club Union Magdalena after a brief retirement, officials said on Friday.

"We have spoken with him and he has agreed to sign up with Union Magdalena. I think he can still play soccer and has the capacity to lead the lads," Magdalena coach Eduardo Retat said. The terms of the

deal were not immediately known.

Nicknamed "El Pibe" (The Boy), Valderrama, 41, played at the 1990, 1994 and 1998 World Cups and was voted South American footballer of the year in 1987 and 1993. He retired in April 2003.

His deft touches, apparently lazy style and eccentric hair-do turned him into a icon in Colombia, where a seven-tonne, six-metre tall statue of him was unveiled in 2002, in front of Magdalena's stadium in the Caribbean port city of Santa Marta.

His career took him to Millonarios, Deportivo Cali, Atletico Junior and Medellin in Colombia, Montpellier in France, Valladolid in Spain and Tampa Bay in the United States.

INSPECTORS COMING

TO LIBYA, EGYPT

REUTERS, Johannesburg

FIFA's World Cup inspectors will visit Libya and Egypt this month to complete their assessment of the five African candidates seeking to host the 2010 finals, officials said on Saturday.

The five-man FIFA team, headed by Jan Peeters of Belgium, will visit Libya from January 7-14 and Egypt from January 23-30.

The three other candidates -- Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia -- were scrutinised last year.

The inspection team, which also includes representatives from Chile, Finland and France, has to produce a report on each of the countries seeking to host the World Cup in 2010, the first time the tournament will be staged in Africa.

The reports must be finished by March and will be handed to the 24-man executive committee, who decide on the 2010 host in Zurich on May 15.

The inspectors check stadia, training grounds, hospitals, hotels and other essential infra structure as well as meeting with local political and sporting leaders.

Figo's heart with Real



Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid's Portuguese international midfielder Luis Figo is ready to sacrifice a "childhood dream" of playing in England in order to pursue his ambition of taking his teammates to even greater heights.

Several unnamed English Premiership clubs are understood to have fluttered their eyelashes at the 31-year-old Figo, who has made more than 100 league appearances for Real since his controversial signing from bitter rivals Barcelona in the summer of 2000.

But with two years left on his contract Figo says life can't get any better than the one he is enjoying with the meringues and he intends to see out his commitments with Real's blessing.

"I am very happy here. I've had four fantastic years and that's what counts. My future lies with Madrid," Figo told Saturday's Marca sports daily.

"Playing in England is a childhood dream but dreams don't always come true. I always said I'd like to play there some day but I have two years left on my contract," said the man whose place on the right flank appeared briefly threatened by the arrival of David Beckham.

Beckham's success in slotting into a more central role than the one he habitually filled at Manchester United has given Figo free rein on the flank.

As a result, Real have charged to the top of the league table and progressed to a round of 16 Champions League encounter with old foes Bayern Munich.

Two points clear of second-placed



LUIS FIGO

Valencia, Real, eight home wins out of eight at home this campaign, were resuming their league campaign Saturday night against lowly Murcia, who have just one win under their belts all term.

Real have lost twice on their

travels - at Valencia and Sevilla - but Figo says that kind of off day can happen to anyone.

"We aren't machines - it's normal that we have our off moments."

Double is his reply

FROM PAGE 13

"I would put this particular innings right up there. Throughout the innings I maintained discipline and there were a couple of errors here and there."

"On a couple of occasions my judgement went wrong, so I thought if it was not working my way I needed to change something."

Tendulkar said he received the much-appreciated support of his teammates during his dark times earlier in the series.

"There were plenty of senior players who came to help me who said 'don't worry, it's just bad luck. One bad judgement was costing your wicket, so don't worry there's nothing wrong'."

"Many times you feel you are battling well, but sometimes you are the last one to realise something is going wrong, so I just asked my teammates and they

supported me and I would like to thank each and every one for supporting me."

Tendulkar said he enjoyed watching the artistry of Laxman's batting during their seven hours together at the crease.

"The way he was batting I decided not to try to do what he was doing. I needed to do my job