

Atapattu new Test skipper

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan cricket authorities Wednesday named Marvan Atapattu to replace Hashan Tillakaratne as captain after the hosts suffered their first whitewash in a home Test series.

Sri Lanka Cricket president Mohan de Silva said they decided to name Atapattu in place of Tillakaratne, who stepped down after Sri Lanka lost the three-Test series 3-0 against Australia here Sunday.

Atapattu is Sri Lanka's skipper for one-day internationals.

Fleming Kiwi cricketer of the year

BBC ONLINE, undated

Captain Stephen Fleming has been named New Zealand cricketer of the year after averaging 56.31 in Test cricket.

Highlights of Fleming's year included 274 not out against Sri Lanka and 192 in the first Test against Pakistan.

New Zealand Cricket chief executive Martin Snedden said: "He is widely regarded as the premier captain in international cricket."

Fleming also gained the Walter Hadlee Trophy for the best one-day batting, with 728 runs in 21 internationals.

Former New Zealand captain, and international match referee Graham Dowling received the Sutcliffe Medal for outstanding service to cricket.

Test by Lord

FROM PAGE 13
numbers are spat out and you don't even see the number until it comes out in a graph," he said.

"It's absolutely ridgy didge (perfect) from that viewpoint. What the number is what actually happens."

Elliott, fellow tester Daryl Foster and a third expert will conduct a number of trials while Murali stays in Perth for five days to get an accurate representation of how he bowls.

They expect to finish their report late next week.

The will not test Murali's stock ball -- the off-spinner -- or his top-spinner, as both were given the green light in 1999 after it was concluded Murali's unique action created an optical illusion that he chucked.

If the elastic-wristed bowler, born with a bent elbow, is found to extend his arm by 10 per cent or more, he would have to decide whether to undertake remediation with the ICC or stop bowling the doosra.

"If it is found he extends then the decision is really with him," Elliott said.

"He could remove the ball from his repertoire and it's only been in his repertoire for the last year and bit anyway."

"It may be that the ICC would force him to remove that delivery from his repertoire but that is conjecture."

Kyrgyzstan

FROM PAGE 13
Each team will play against each other in the 60-minute friendly competition, which the AFC recently launched as part of its plan to create enthusiasm among the youths.

Fixture

April 5: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

April 6: Iran v Kyrgyzstan

April 8: Iran v Sri Lanka

Bangladesh v Kyrgyzstan

April 9: Sri Lanka v Kyrgyzstan

Bangladesh v Iran

England can do it now

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

West Indies are likely to make two changes to their line-up that lost the second Test at Port-of-Spain by seven wickets.

Adam Sanford has been dropped and Fidel Edwards has been brought back to bolster the pace attack that will be staffed by all Barbadians. It has been 20 years since Malcolm Marshall, Joel Garner, Wayne Daniel and Milton Small -- all Barbadians -- formed the

No one, least of all Michael Vaughan and his side, expected England to be leading the four-Test series 2-0 with two matches remaining.

But they have completely outplayed their opponents with disciplined cricket that has highlighted the deep cracks in the West Indies armour.

There is even speculation that England could claim their first series whitewash in the Caribbean, although they should cast their minds back to Australia's tour last year and South Africa's three years ago when those two sides failed in similar bids.

The home team have been rocked by the resignation of Ricky Skerritt, their manager for the last four years, but the West Indies Cricket Board has brought in Tony Howard, the former Test off-spin bowler and manager of the Barbados team that has dominated domestic West Indies cricket over the last two years in particular.

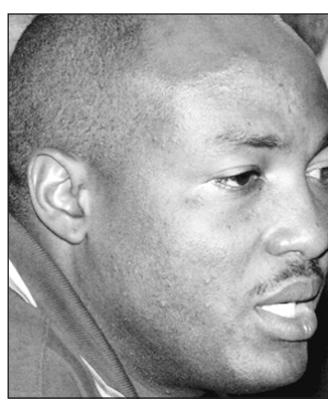
West Indies will be hoping the same virtues that Howard has extolled in those representing his native Barbados, six of whom join him for this Test, will rub off on the rest of the unit and help to transform the complexion of a series that for all intents and purposes has been all one-way traffic.

Deciding to be safe rather than sorry, the West Indies selectors

have drafted Daren Ganga, who struggled in the position on the recent tour of South Africa, into the squad to cover for Smith.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES (from): Brian Lara (captain), Tino Best, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Pedro Collins, Corey Collymore, Fidel Edwards, Daren Ganga, Chris Gayle, Ryan Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Ricardo Powell, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Devon Smith,



BRIAN LARA



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

West Indies pace bowling attack against Australia at Port of Spain.

The other change is likely to come in the middle of the batting. For all his talent, Dwayne Smith batted carelessly in the second Test and his place looks under threat from left-hander compatriot Ryan Hinds.

A third chance could also be on the cards. Opening batsman Devon Smith injured a finger during a private practice session in his native Grenada and there is some doubt about his ability to last five days.

Deciding to be safe rather than sorry, the West Indies selectors

Dwayne Smith.

ENGLAND (from): Michael Vaughan (captain), James Anderson, Gareth Batty, Mark Butcher, Rikki Clarke, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Stephen Harmison, Nasser Hussain, Matthew Hoggard, Geraint Jones, Simon Jones, Chris Read, Andrew Strauss, Marcus Trescothick, Graham Thorpe.

Umpires: Darrell Hair and Rudi Koertzen.

Speed calls for calm

Cricket

AFP, London

"The ICC has been asked by all its members to ensure that these rules are followed without fear or favour and we are ensuring that this happens."

Speed's comments came 24 hours after ICC president Ehsan Mani, a Pakistani, dismissed talk of a conspiracy against Muralitharan.

"The match officials are well within their rights to raise any concerns about any delivery from any bowler," Mani said.

"Given this reality it is deeply disappointing to read claims from

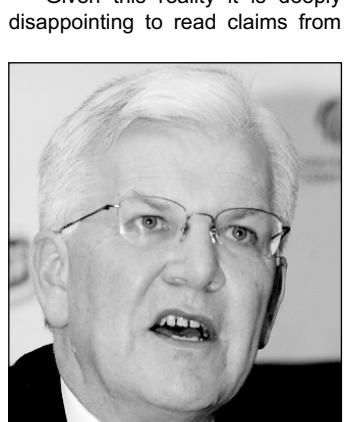
Malcolm Speed

some quarters about bias."

Murali is the fourth player to be reported to the ICC under its revised process to deal with potentially flawed actions in the past 12 months.

Shabbir, West Indies' Jermaine Lawson and Bangladeshi Sanwar Hossain have already been asked to undergo remedial work on their bowling actions.

And he insisted the ICC would be utterly impartial, no matter who the bowler was.



MALCOLM SPEED

Independence Day hockey

UNB, Dhaka

The Under-21 National Youth Hockey team registered a 5-1 goal victory over Bangladesh Navy in the Independence Day hockey tournament at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

Rajan and Chayan scored twice each while Shishu scored one goal for the winners and Rafiq netted the consolation goal for the losers.

Bangladesh Army beat hosts BKSP 3-1 in the day's other match. Sanwar hit the board twice and Thuyini Marma scored one for Bangladesh Army while Chandan netted the lone goal for BKSP.

Sheetal h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club outplayed Usha Krira Chakra 23-7 in the Sheetal Women Handball League at the outer stadium handball court yesterday.

The Motijheel outfit dominated the first half 15-5.

Jahanara, Sufia, Diba and Shibli netted five goals each for Mohammedan while Minu scored four for Usha.

In the other match, Madaripur Handball Training Centre made a hard fought 11-9 goals victory against Jatrabari Krira Chakra. The first half locked 3-3.

Zaheer extends the injury list

AFP, Multan

India's injury-list on the ongoing Pakistan tour increased on Wednesday after seamer Zaheer Khan was ruled out of next week's second Test due to suspected hamstring trouble.

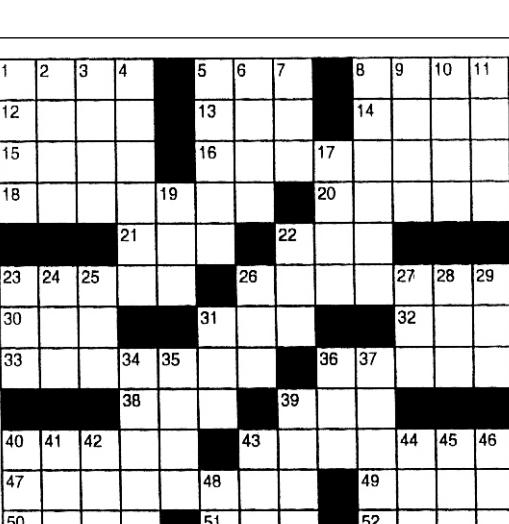
"Zaheer has damaged the muscles in his right leg, it could be a hamstring injury too, but he is definitely out of the second Test," team manager Ratnakar Shetty told reporters here.

It was a similar injury which had forced Zaheer out of the Australian tour earlier this season.

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly, who missed the ongoing first Test here, has also been ruled out of the second Test which begins at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on April 15.

Ganguly, who suffered a back injury during the preceding one-day series which India won 3-2, will return home on Friday to consult specialists in his home city of Calcutta.

CRYPTOQUIP



A V M K S R V I Q V E Q A J V
N V C Q R L Z V M F A J T K Q
O Q S S K T E U F L E U K Q S N V O Q R

Z Q L N L C Q K T E U R L K Q R I L E ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CELEBRITY ACCUMULATES A LARGE NUMBER OF FANS, MIGHT HE GET BLOWN AWAY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

The Cryptoquip 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.

Lenton's feat

REUTERS, Sydney

Lisbeth Lenton set a world record in the 100 metres freestyle at the Australian national championships and Olympic selection trials on Wednesday.

Lenton won the first semifinal in a time of 53.66 seconds to better the mark of 53.77 set by Dutchwoman Inge de Brujin at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Jodie Henry qualified second fastest for Thursday's final by winning the second semifinal in 53.77, which had been the world mark just three minutes earlier.

The red-suited Lenton gasped in shock during a pool side interview after her world record swim.

"Oh my God, I don't know what to say. I am in complete and utter shock," the Brisbane teenager said.

"I knew I felt good but I did not realise that I felt that good."

"I want to thank... mostly my Mum. She's just done everything for me," added the 19-year-old, one of four children in a single-parent family.

Lenton and Henry both need top-two finishes in Thursday's final to secure Olympic places in the 100m freestyle.

Lenton was third in the 50m freestyle final behind de Brujin and Australia's Alice Mills at last year's Barcelona world championships, while placing fifth in the 100m freestyle.

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