

Kale breaks down during inquiry

CRICINFO, undated
A distraught Abhijit Kale reportedly broke down and cried as witnesses testified against him in a marathon meeting of the Indian board's disciplinary committee on Sunday.

The meeting, which lasted almost nine hours, was held to probe allegations that Kale had tried to bribe Kiran More and Pranob Roy, two of the Indian selectors, to get himself selected to the national team for India's tour to Australia last winter.

Jagmohan Dalmyia, the Indian board president, said that the committee would announce its final decision in a week's time, since Kamal Morarka, a member of the committee, was absent from the proceedings due to personal reasons.

But to assuage the fears of those who might claim that these investigations have already taken long enough, Dalmyia said, "The hearing has been concluded, and there will be no further hearing."

Marsh won't

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up as his successor.
Simmons has been in Zimbabwe for the past several weeks coaching at the Academy in Harare.

"I'll be very happy to work with him until he takes over" he said.

Simmons played 26 Tests for West Indies. The chief executive of the ZCU Vincent Hogg declined to comment on Marsh's resignation nor whether they had approached Simmons to take over.

Glenn wanna go

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lia's last nine Tests due to injury, said that his 10-month lay-off through ankle surgery has made him stronger and capable of bowling for another three years.

Although 34, he believes that this new beginning will lengthen his career, when previously he thought that the 2005 Ashes tour would be his swansong.

"My goal now, for me, is the 2007 World Cup," he said. "Before I thought I wouldn't play that long but now I think it's a realistic goal and something I want to achieve, so hopefully there's three years left in me."

McGrath has taken 430 wickets in 95 Tests and 284 wickets in 185 ODIs, but if he gets to the West Indies in 2007 he should become the fourth bowler to reach 500 Test wickets, after Courtney Walsh, Muttiah Muralitharan and Shane Warne.

Stars coming

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leading the side.

Their Indian recruit Sandeep Sharma is also in excellent touch and he is expected to be joined by the tournament's hottest star, Yuvraj Singh. The explosive Indian southpaw is due in the city today.

GrameenPhone meanwhile, have all but finalised their line-up with out-of-favour Pakistani opener Imran Nazir certain to join the side this morning. Nazir is a well-known figure in Dhaka domestic cricket having played for big clubs like Abahani and Kalabagan.

"We have arranged his (Nazir's) visa. He will reach here tomorrow morning," GrameenPhone team co-ordinator Mohammed Bakr Billah told The Daily Star Sport on Sunday.

The other player will be Romesh Powar.

"We have finalised talks with Powar who will fly from Kolkata tomorrow," he said.

Powar, an off-spinner and hard-hitting batsman from Mumbai, toured Pakistan with the Indian team. He will replace his Mumbai teammate Sanjay Bangar, who went back home after playing two games for the cellular phone operator.

SL govt backs Murali



AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahindra Rajapakse is all set to sue the International Cricket Council (ICC) over its decision to outlaw spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan's controversial "doosra" delivery.

Rajapakse said in a statement Sunday that he would defend the off-spinner even though Sri Lanka Cricket had asked the bowler to cut out the away-going delivery from his armoury.

"The Prime Minister has decided to take legal steps against the ICC for banning (Muralitharan's) doosra," a statement from his office said. "The Prime Minister is already in consultation with a team of lawyers."

Rajapakse said that Muralitharan, who is now the most successful bowler in Test history with 523 wickets, was a national asset and he would do everything

within his power and that of the government to defend the bowler. Muralitharan, whose unorthodox action has seen him being no-balled for 'throwing' in the past, came



MAHINDRA RAJAPAKSE

under fresh scrutiny because of the "doosra" and was told last week that if he persists with it he could face a year-long ban.

The off-spinner was sent to

Australia to work on his action with a biomechanical expert after he was reported by a match referee last month.

After the first stage of the review process had been completed, ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said the report forwarded to him by Sri Lanka Cricket but compiled by the University of Western Australia, meant the 'doosra' could no longer be tolerated.

"The report forwarded by Sri Lanka Cricket proves that the degree of straightening is well outside the ICC's specified levels of tolerance," said Speed.

"In light of this finding, Sri Lanka Cricket has now advised the ICC that it has instructed Muralitharan not to bowl this delivery in international cricket. The ICC supports this action," he added.

The report showed an initial straightening of the arm of around 14 degrees which after some remedial work was reduced to 10 degrees, five more than the level of tolerance for spinners.

Howard backs off



AFP, Sydney

Australian Prime Minister John Howard on Sunday backed away from the furore he ignited by calling Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan a chucker.

Howard, who bought into the sporting debate last week at a meeting of his Liberal party faithful on the New South Wales south coast, had nothing further to say after his comments set off a storm of indignation in Sri Lanka.

Muralitharan has subsequently threatened to boycott Sri Lanka's two-Test tour to Australia in June and July because of Howard's remarks.

A spokesman for the prime minister, who is an avid cricket fan, said on Sunday Howard had no further comment to make on the matter.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has backed Muralitharan, saying it would support the world record Test

wicket-taker if he sought to be excused from the Tests in Darwin and Cairns.

"If Murali makes a request not to go to Australia we will definitely give him that option," SLC president Mohan de Silva told his country's Sunday Observer newspaper from Zimbabwe.

"We will not force him to go to a country where he is not accepted. I can understand Murali's concerns after the remarks of the Australian prime minister."

"Naturally he must be hurt. He is made to look a man who is not wanted at a time when he has just broken the world bowling record."

"Instead of showering him with accolades people are trying to ridicule him. It is really not accepted."

Howard is the centre of controversy in Sri Lanka with his comments about Murali.

In response to a question at a party luncheon on Friday, if Murali "chucked", Howard said "Yes".

"They proved it in Perth too..." he added, referring to the

biomechanical study on Muralitharan's controversial "doosra" delivery conducted at the University of Western Australia last month.

Muralitharan was upset when Howard added to the pressure on him by joining the debate, saying he was "out of line" and should "be thinking of (running) his country".

"I will speak to our government about it (touring). I think our government will make this thing political and you shouldn't be trying to make this thing political," Muralitharan said on Saturday.

A Sri Lanka newspaper has demanded Howard make an "apology for his uncalled for comments".

"So far no one has interfered in John Howard's ability to administer Australia or about his politics, because it was his territory where others could not pass judgment," the Asian Tribune said.

"Similarly, he has no authority, professional qualification to pass a judgment on a cricketing professional."

Eng stick to WI heroes



AFP, London

England's selectors sprang no surprises when they announced their squad Sunday for the first Test against New Zealand starting at Lord's here on Thursday as they backed the side that thrashed West Indies 3-0 in the Caribbean.

Left-arm spinner Ashley Giles who missed the drawn fourth and final Test in Antigua through injury was recalled to a 13-man squad for the first of a three-match series against New Zealand.

Also included were batsman Paul Collingwood, whom England great Ian Botham has suggested should be one of those ying for former skipper Nasser Hussain's place, and Lancashire quick James Anderson.

In the West Indies Anderson found himself surplus to requirements during the Test campaign but the 21-year-old has made an impressive start to the English season including taking 10 wickets against Worcestershire in a County Championship match.

England's chairman of selectors David Graveney said in a statement: "Our Test series win in the West Indies was a magnificent performance by all concerned and we are

keen to keep the momentum going against New Zealand by drawing on the same group of players.

"We have a settled squad at



NASSER HUSSAIN

present and competition for places in the starting line-up is intense."

He added: "We will need to assess the overhead conditions and the pitch at Lord's before deciding on our final XI and have added James Anderson and Paul Collingwood to the squad so that all options are covered."

Essex batsman Hussain, 36, who could reach his publicly stated goal of playing 100 Tests this season, was also included.

Anderson made his Test debut at Lord's last year against Zimbabwe where he took five first innings wickets. But in the West Indies he found himself overlooked in favour of Glamorgan's Simon Jones.

When New Zealand last toured England, in 1999, they won the Test campaign 2-1 in what was Hussain's first series as England captain.

When the sides last met, in New Zealand two years ago, they shared a three-Test series 1-1.

SQUAD
Michael Vaughan (captain), James Anderson, Mark Butcher, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Stephen Harmison, Nasser Hussain, Matthew Hoggard, Geraint Jones, Simon Jones, Marcus Trescothick, Graham Thorpe.

Kiwis done in by Key

REUTERS, London

England discard Robert Key scored his second century of the match on Sunday as Kent comprehensively defeated New Zealand by nine wickets at Canterbury.

Key, who scored 114 in Kent's first innings, added an unbeaten 117 on the fourth day of the tourists' final match before the first Test starts at Lord's on Thursday.

New Zealand opener Mark Richardson, who started his career as a left-arm spinner, took the only wicket to fall, dismissing David Fulton for 67.

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand 409 and 211 and Kent 432 and 189 for one.
Result: Kent won by nine wickets.

Waugh sees it as pointless!

REUTERS, Melbourne

Steve Waugh has said Australia's tour of Zimbabwe could become a pointless exercise if the African side continue to be without their best players because of a selection dispute.

"If they (Zimbabwe) turn up with the present side they've got now, it will be pretty close to a waste of time," the former Australia captain said in a television interview on Sunday.

Top-ranked Australia departed for Africa on Thursday and will play a three-day match against Zimbabwe A in Harare on Monday. The first Test starts there on May 22.

"There's no doubt Australia will win the series easily if they (Zimbabwe) don't change their current lineup," said Waugh, who retired in January 2004 as the most-capped player in Test cricket.

Capriati sends Serena packing

AFP, Rome

Jennifer Capriati defeated top seed Serena Williams to book her place in the final of the clay court Rome Masters on Saturday.

Capriati, the fifth seed, took advantage of Williams' error-strewn performance to win an all-American semifinal 6-4, 6-4 and clinch a place in Sunday's showpiece against Amelie Mauresmo.

Razzaq laments

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missed the Test series because of a back injury.

He also questioned the constant debate over captaincy and coaching issues during the series.

"This is a big problem in Pakistan cricket as it always hangs over the head of coach and captain. And you know that every coach and captain work with different frame of mind but in Pakistan they do not get enough chances to do that," pointed Razzaq.

The Lahore cricketer has South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis in his sights.

"I can't say I'm the best because Kallis is more consistent with the bat and ball than any one else in the world," he added.

"I love to hit the ball and I think there is nothing special with my technique. I see the ball rather well," he said.

Razzaq is confident that he would not let the Dhaka crowd down like his compatriot Younis Khan, who scored an uninspiring 23 for Bangladesh Biman the other day.

"I have no idea about Bangladesh's domestic cricket but I'm a professional and hope to entertain the crowds here," Razzaq.



Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara raises his bat on reaching his double century against Zimbabwe in the second Test at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Sunday.

Marvan, Kumar

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catches.
But the unlucky stories remained with Muleki Nkala. He had three catches put down, including Sangakkara on Saturday before the eventual double centurion had scored.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard after Sri Lanka declared their first innings just after tea on the third day of the second Test between against Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Sunday:
ZIMBABWE: First innings 228 (Ebrahim 70, Matsikenyeri 45, Taibu 27; Vaas 3-41, Muralitharan 2-58, Maharoof 2-62)
SRI LANKA: First innings (over-night 443-1)
Atapattu c Taibu b C'bura 249
Jayasuriya c Taibu b Nkala 48
Sangakkara c Taibu b P'gara 270
Jayawardene not out 100
Samaraweera not out 32
Extras: (lb-5, nb-5, w-4) 14
Total: (For 3 wkts decl in 165.3 overs) 713
Fall of wickets: 1-100, 2-538, 3-627

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hondo	29	5	116	0
P'gara	25	4	120	1
C'bura	21	2	108	1
Mpariwa	34	1	136	0
Nkala	32	3	111	1
M'yere	23.3	1	112	0
Vermeulen	1	0	5	0

Schools h'ball

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St Jude's 11-1.
Favourites Viquarunnisa Noon School shared a 4-4 draw with Shyamoli Shishu Palli while BIS Shankled Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College 5-0.

In the day's other matches, Dhanmondi Tutorial beat Lake Circus School 4-2, Sunnydale defeated Banani Vidyanketan 6-4 while Lalmatia Girls' School edged Ispahani Girls' School 2-1.

Night to remember

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opposition camp.
"It's our objective to let the other team know that we are coming at you and we will fight all the way win or lose. I think we have managed to do that."

West Indies captain Ramnaresh Sarwan was also beginning to realise that it could be a walk in the park.

"Bangladesh bowled just in the manner which was required here. Credit must be given to them the way they got back in the game and I was nervous like anyone else in those dying moments."

"We had set ourselves a standard which we could not live up to. Tomorrow is a new day and we'll see how it goes as the pitch will be the same. But I must admit that Bangladesh will have the mental edge after today."

The pitch at Amos Vale has been

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Boroichara Cricket Club moved into the semifinals of Abdul Latif Smriti cricket tournament defeating Hazipur Sporting Club by 154 runs at the Mithunkaral Musa playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Boroichara Sporting batted first and scored 191 runs in 22.1 overs after being all out. In reply, Hazipur Sporting were bundled out for 37 in 12 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Boroichara Cricket Club: 191 all out in 22.1 overs (Kadar 46, Kamal 36, Johnny 32, Rakib 9, Tushar 8; Yusuf 4/30, Mosharrar 2/30, Rahim 1/24).

Hazipur Sporting Club: 37 all out in 12 overs (Mosharrar 13, Rahim 4, Shikhar 4/8, Soton 3/12, Rubel 1/10, Rakib 1/14).

Result: Boroichara Cricket Club won by 154 runs.

Man-of-the match: Kadar of Boroichara Cricket Club.

No rebels in A side also

REUTERS, Harare

None of the 15 white rebel Zimbabwe players were named in an A side to play a two-day match against Australia starting on Monday in a sign that a resolution to the crisis is no closer.

The rebels declared they were unavailable for selection last month in a dispute with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) over the end of Heath Streak's tenure as captain, the composition of the selection panel and the alleged poor conduct of ZCU officials.

The board fired the players on Monday after the players had accepted in principle to the board's offer of mediation.

On Friday the ZCU issued a statement saying the players had 21 days to return to work, raising hopes that an end to the impasse was in sight.

SQUAD

Wisdom Siziba, Greg Strydom, Eric Chauluka, Vusi Sibanda, Chamunorwa Chibhabha, Tafadzwa Mufambisi, Rangarirayi Manyande, Blessing Mahwire (captain), Amos Maungwa, Waddington Mwayenga, Ryan Bennet.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
40 Conk out
41 Tragic
43 Autumn lack
45 Most comfortable (Abbr.)
47 Develop
51 Reactions to fire-works
52 Kind of goose or shirt
54 Summer-time pest
55 Ram's ma'am
56 Cry from
57 Wields a needle
58 Started
59 Mars' counterpart
60 Diamond, or club
61 Staircase post
62 Instrument of Marxism?
63 Neither mate
65 Hinge (on)
66 Honey bunch
68 Hideaway

DOWN
1 Damon or
2 Dillon
2 Reed
24 Mason's instrument
25 Saxophonist
27 Terry
28 Numerical data, for short
29 Yalie
30 Caustic solution
32 Deacon's superiors
34 Extended, in a sense
37 "— Doubtful"
39 PBS science series
42 Lucy's partner in mischief
44 "Allakazam!"
45 Cranberry areas
46 Top-notch
48 Charlatan
49 Barn-roof adornment
50 Tackles team-mates
53 Amaze

Solution time: 21 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP
V K X Q U L N M O B O L Z K G
M O U H X L U Y O A N L N V Z ' V
X Y Y N B O H X X M : " U A N V V
N V U V Q X X H U V U A U K O ."
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOUR DOGGY REALLY LIKES HOW HE CAN BARK, WOULD HE BE CONSIDERED A SHOW-ARF?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals F

The Cryptquip 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.