

Mumbai, Kolkata may miss Pak cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Major Indian cities Mumbai and Kolkata are likely to miss out on hosting Pakistan's tour of the country.

"Test matches are scheduled for Mohali, Chennai and Bangalore," said a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) source.

"The one-day matches are scheduled for Kochin, Jamshedpur, Visakhapatnam, Kanpur and Faridabad."

The BCCI is set to announce a final itinerary for the tour, Pakistan's first since 1999, on Thursday.

The two sides will play three Tests beginning on March 4, 12 and 20.

They will be followed by five one-dayers, the first on March 28, and the tour will end on April 9.

Mumbai's exclusion is linked to security reasons as Hindu fundamentalist party Shiv Sena has voiced its opposition Pakistan playing there.

But Kolkata's omission can only be linked to Pakistan's three one-day victories there in 1987, 1989 and last year.

However, sources in the Pakistan Cricket Board said they would consider playing in Mumbai because they didn't want to deprive the city of a high profile match.

Mumbai did not host any matches on Pakistan's last tour in 1999, after death threats from Shiv Sena, whose activists also dug up the pitch.

Pakistan walk

FROM PAGE 13
Between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Gabba in Brisbane on Wednesday.

WEST INDIES				
Gayle c Malik b Razzaq	82			
Hinds c Butt b Hafeez	29			
Sarwan c Naved b Mahmood	76			
Lara c Hafeez b Naved	39			
Powell c Akmal b Naved	0			
Chanderpaul not out	25			
Extras: (b-1, w-9, nb-5)	22			
Totals (For 5 wks in 50 overs)	273			
Fall of wickets: 1-86, 2-149, 3-203, 4-211, 5-273				

Did not bat: Samuels, Browne, Bradshaw, Dillon, Collins

PAKISTAN				
Butt b Dillon	10			
Akmal c Lara b Bradshaw	124			
Hafeez c Gayle b Dillon	2			
Malik c Browne b Bradshaw	60			
Inzamam not out	62			
Youhana not out	9			
Extras: (b-1, w-3, nb-3)	7			
Total: (For 4 wks in 47 overs)	274			
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-36, 3-159, 4-239				

Did not bat: Razzaq, Afridi, Mahmood, Akhtar, Naved

Bowler				
Collins	10	0	50	0
Bradshaw	10	0	49	2
Dillon	10	0	46	2
Samuels	9	0	72	0
Sarwan	5	0	31	0
Hinds	3	0	25	0

Result: Pakistan won by 6 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Kamran Akmal.

Toss: Pakistan.

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and Peter Parker (Australia).

SERIES TABLE

Points table in the VB Series after Wednesday's match between the West Indies and Pakistan:

Team	P	W	L	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	11
Pakistan	2	1	1	6
West Indies	2	0	2	0

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Computer key

4 Kind of palm

8 Comedian

12 Animation frame

13 Oklahoma city

14 Vicinity

15 Delightful

17 Nibble

18 Go up against

19 Tackle moguls

21 Theater-goers' needs, for short

22 Holy

26 A place to 19-Across

29 Attention getter

30 Acapulco gets

31 Information

32 Frog's wife

33 Musical based on "La Boheme"

34 "Xanadu" band's monogram

DOWN

1 Canyon

2 Leaky

3 Put your hands together

4 Admirable

5 Wing, maybe

6 Hodges of baseball lore

7 Homer's story

8 Prestidigitator

9 Grecian vessel

10 Meadow

11 Ally

12 Proceed

14 Antitoxins

15 Detergent brand

20 Band-leader

21 Kyser

23 Some deer

24 Sea eagle

25 Access to Ranzel

32 "Born Free"

33 Cranberry territory

34 "What have we here?"

35 Humor

36 Ball-bearing item

SOLUTION TIME: 25 mins.

ACROSS

1 KEY

4 PALM

8 MARLIN

12 FRAME

13 OKLAHOMA

14 VICINITY

15 DELIGHTFUL

17 NIBBLE

18 GO UP AGAINST

19 TACKLE

21 THEATREGOERS

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CRYPTOQUIP

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L H Y M K K C B V F W F A

V K C W H E H E Z F G K E L S E K ' W

A F O . S C K Y J H E O H B M F Z K

L H W F O " L F J K M K F C L ! "

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WORDS OF WOE FROM A FAILING DIETER MIGHT BE "A WAIST IS A TERRIBLE THING TO MIND."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: L equals T

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.

Sania's date

FROM PAGE 13

Melbourne Park.

Kuznetsova has been caught in a drugs storm this week after authorities in Belgium revealed she had tested positive for the stimulant ephedrine at an exhibition event last month.

The 19-year-old fiercely denied being a dope cheat and took refuge from the controversy by bludgeoning her opponent with a near flawless performance.

"I'm a professional and I want to show that it doesn't affect me ... I didn't do anything wrong," said Kuznetsova.

But other seeds were not so lucky. Japan's 28th seed Shinobu Asagoe lost to China's Li, while Russian ninth seed Vera Zvonareva crashed 6-3, 6-3 to compatriot Vera Douchevina.

World number 64 Li, who made history last year by becoming the first Chinese player to win a title on the WTA Tour when she won in Guangzhou, advanced to the third round after downing Asagoe 6-3, 6-4 in 1hr 7min.

It was the latest in a series of notable results by Chinese women, who have come from nowhere in the past decade to establish themselves on the international circuit.

United coming to China

AFP, Beijing

Manchester United will bring its all-star squad to China in July for a friendly against Chinese Super League team Beijing Hyundai.

The Red Devils will take the field at Beijing's Workers' Stadium on July 26 as part of an Asian tour, club officials were cited as saying by the China Daily Wednesday.

"We hope that by playing the pre-season match in Beijing we will encourage local youngsters to take up the sport and inspire some of them to reach the very highest levels of professional soccer," said club commercial director Andy Anson.

It will be the English team's first appearance in Beijing. They played an exhibition game in Shanghai in 1999.

"You can be sure we will bring our full squad of players to Beijing, subject to injuries," said Anson.

The former Premiership champions will also play in Hong Kong on July 23.

Asia is seen as a key market for the world's richest sports club and over the past three years it has opened at least 10 of its own "Mega Stores" across the continent.

To further boost interest in their Beijing match, Anson said United's Chinese signing Dong Fangzhou would likely be part of the team.

Dong joined the club in 2003 in a three-year deal worth 3.5 million pounds (6.4 million dollars) and was loaned out to FC Antwerp in a bid to acquire top-flight experience before beginning his career in the Premiership.

FIFA world rankings No changes at the top

AFP, Zurich

World champions Brazil remain top of the FIFA world rankings in the first release for 2005.

With few matches being played over the end of the year period, the main mover was Germany who climb three places from 19th to 16th due to their successful tour of Asia.

FIFATOP 20

1. Brazil	842
2. France	791
3. Argentina	785
4. Czech Rep	777
5. Spain	764
6. Netherlands	757
7. Mexico	753
8. England	751
9. Portugal	747
10. Italy	738
11. USA	726
12. Republic of Ireland	716
13. Sweden	715
14. Denmark	711
15. Turkey	711
16. Germany	710
17. Uruguay	707
18. Greece	706
19. Japan	703
20. Iran	695

ALL-ROUNDERS (only five named)

Pos	Player	Country
1	J Kallis	South Africa
2	A Flintoff	England
3	S Pollock	South Africa
4	S Jayasuriya	Sri Lanka
5	C Vaas	Sri Lanka

TEST RANKINGS

Pos	Country	Points
1	Australia	132
2	England	109
3	India	108
4	Sri Lanka	103
5	Pakistan	101
6	South Africa	100
7	New Zealand	93
8	West Indies	73
9	Zimbabwe	42
10	Bangladesh	6

ONE-DAY RANKINGS

Pos	Country	Points
1	Australia	137
2	New Zealand	120
3	Sri Lanka	117
4	Pakistan	109
5	England	109
6	West Indies	105
7	South Africa	101
8	India	98
9	Zimbabwe	58
10	Kenya	26
11	Bangladesh	3

The ICC received a report from the umpires and match referee after Wednesday's limited-overs match between Pakistan and West Indies in Brisbane.

Under the ICC's regulations, Hafeez must spend the next six weeks with a biomechanist to identify and correct any flaws in his action but will be allowed to play during that time.

The ICC is considering changing its rules on suspect bowling actions by adjusting the degree at which bowlers can straighten their arm. A decision is expected when the council meets in Melbourne next month.

SL season cut short

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket has cut short their domestic cricket season because of the tsunami disaster.

The board announced that all tournaments would be abandoned after a request made by clubs affected by the tsunami.

"These clubs, which had lost players and equipment, have indicated their inability to continue playing in these tournaments," a board media release said.

Hambantota Cricket Club, a south coast club pushing hard for promotion in Division 2, lost seven members of their first XI squad.

Several of Sri Lanka's players met the traumatised team captain, Shihan Singawansa, while delivering aid to tsunami victims over the weekend.

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