

'Pak tour to go on'

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Threats from radical Hindu groups to disrupt Pakistan's Test series in India later this year will not derail the tour, Pakistan's top cricket official said on Sunday.

Activists of the radical Hindu party, Shiv Sena, have said they would attempt to disrupt the one-day match in Delhi in protest at Pakistan touring India for a full Test series for the first time since early 1999.

"We have full confidence in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to look after the security and other arrangements for our team. We are not going to be affected by such threats," said Shaharyar Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

On the 1999 tour, Shiv Sena activists dug up a pitch at the Feroze Shah Kotla ground in Delhi in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a Test match taking place.

"We will not allow the one-day

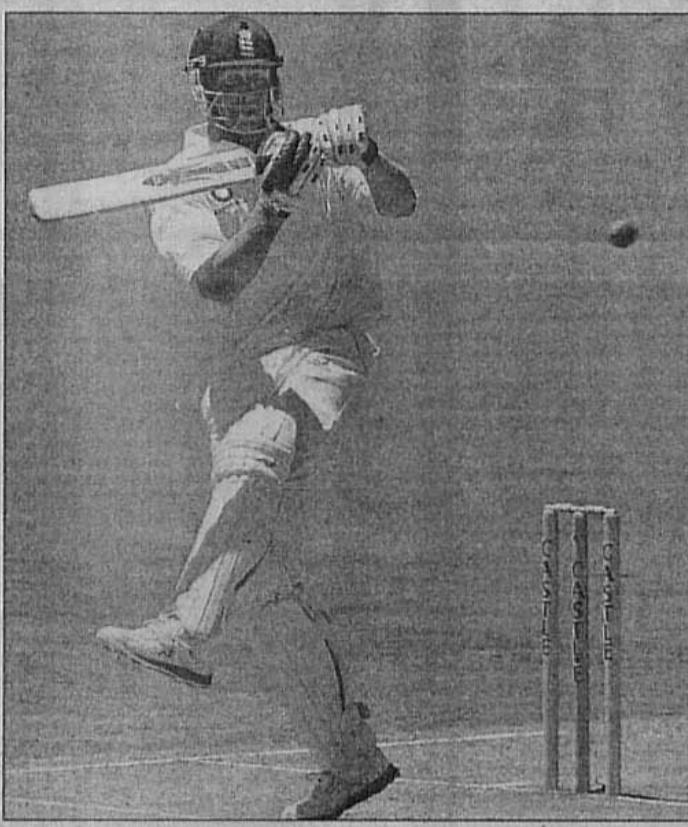
cricket match in Delhi at any cost," said Shiv Sena's local unit president Jai Bhagwan Goyal was quoted as saying by the Indian Express on Friday.

The BCCI on Thursday announced Mohali, Ahmedabad and Bangalore as the Test venues and Cochin, Vishakapatnam, Delhi, Kanpur and Jamshedpur as the one-day venues for the February 25-April 9 tour.

Ahmedabad, the major city in Gujarat, is controversial as the western state was rocked by India's worst communal riots for a decade in 2002.

Shaharyar said the board would give its response on the proposed venues, which India had announced as provisional, after a visit of a Pakistani security team there from January 24 to 29.

"These are proposed venues and there is always a process of dialogue between countries," he said. "When India visited Pakistan we took everything into consideration before finalising the venues."



England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff lets a wide delivery go during the fourth day's play of the fifth and final Test against South Africa at Centurion yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ex-Windies star battling cancer

AFP, London

Former West Indies Test all-rounder Bernard Julien is battling throat cancer, according to a newspaper report.

The 54-year-old has been given a 90-per cent chance of beating the disease.

"I want to live. It is life you are talking about," Julien told the Trinidad Express newspaper. "I want to beat this thing. I am not giving up."

Julien, who also played English county cricket for Kent, was a left-arm fast bowler and respected right-hand batsman.

Bashar vows

FROM PAGE 13
Mahmud c and b Rogers 1
Mashud run out 23
Masraheb b Mpofu 17
Bafisa c Taibub Hondo 3
Enamul not out 0
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-5, nb-1) 10
Total: (All out in 47.1 overs) 206

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-40, 3-130, 4-130, 5-160, 6-161, 7-165, 8-192, 9-205

Bowler O M R W
Panyangara 8 0 22 1
Mpofu 5.1 0 19 2
Hondo 10 0 52 2
Rogers 10 0 55 2
Matsikenyeri 4 0 17 0
Utseyra 10 1 37 1

Result: Zimbabwe won by 31 runs and take 2-0 lead in the 5-ODI series. Man-of-the-match: Barney Rogers. Toss: Zimbabwe. Umpires: Asad Rauf (Pakistan) and Mahbubur Rahman (Bangladesh).

PCB rubishes

FROM PAGE 13
The PCB also hired a lawyer in Australia and contacted the Pakistan High Commission to probe the matter.

"It (the report) was an attack on Pakistan cricket. The team management, as well as the PCB, from its sources, conducted a thorough probe but we found the allegations were baseless," said Zaidi.

"We said earlier that it was something very intriguing that an incident that happened three or four weeks ago -- with no lawyers hired and no police complaint made -- has been reported in the media," he said.

"Our players know their duties, and since they are forbidden from all off field activities through a central contract they would not do anything that would bring shame on them or their country," the spokesman added.

World XI draw level

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

A World XI put their humiliating weekend drubbing behind them Monday to beat New Zealand by three wickets here in the second one-day cricket match of a series to raise money for tsunami victims.

New Zealand had the man-of-the-match in century-maker Nathan Astle but the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA) World XI put in a genuine team effort to overhaul the home side's 256-9 with more than two overs to spare.

Half-centuries from Australian Matthew Elliott and Sri Lanka's Kumara Sangakkara as well as vital contributions from Australia's Andy Bichel and Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas down the order allowed the World XI to pull ahead when it counted.

Bichel may no longer be required by Ricky Ponting's Australian national side but no one did more to ensure New Zealand's defeat, taking 3-56 with the ball and following up with 37 runs from 38 balls, batting at number eight.

The steel of the visitors was in contrast to the series' first match in Christchurch on Saturday when a lack of team cohesion as well as not enough recent time in the middle from the world stars saw New Zealand race to a nine wicket victory in only 16.1 overs.

As well, there was no repeat of the weekend fireworks when Fleming hit a whirlwind 106 off 57 balls.

Opener Astle's century provided

the backbone in New Zealand's innings. He started aggressively before settling into the anchor role and batted through 44.3 overs.

Aste scored his 109 in 113 balls and hit nine fours and one six, finally being caught in the gully off the bowling of Bichel.

Aste and Matthew Sinclair (30) added a valuable 82 runs for the second wicket for New Zealand. Recalled batsman Craig McMillan scored 33, including three sixes before falling to Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya and Daniel Vettori made a quick fire 26 at the tail of the innings.

The World XI tracked New Zealand's progress in their own innings and got off to a confident start with openers Nick Knight and Elliott.

The sides will play the final and deciding match of the series on Wednesday in Hamilton. New Zealand Cricket is aiming to raise one million New Zealand dollars (700,000 US) for victims of the Asian tsunami from the series. A total of 752,000 NZ dollars had been raised after the second game.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day match between a World XI and New Zealand to raise money for tsunami relief at Westpac Stadium on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND
Fleming c and b Vaas 14
Astle c Rhodes b Bichel 109
Sinclair c Sangakkara b Klusener 30
Cairns c Warne b Klusener 9
Marshall c Vaas b Muralitharan 6
McMillan c and b Jayasuriya 33
McCullum c Sangakkara b Bichel 0
Vettori not out 26

Result: World XI won by 3 wickets and level the three-match series 1-1. Man-of-the-match: Nathan Astle. Toss: World XI. Umpires: Evan Watkin (New Zealand) and Doug Cowie (New Zealand).

wicket to fall was that of Hayden.

The big left-hander, once considered an automatic selection to open the Australian batting in limited-overs matches with the brilliant Adam Gilchrist, is now under increasing pressure from 23-year-old Michael Clarke.

Hayden was rested for the first two matches of the tri-series and since returning has made innings of six and 27 -- the latter of a laborious 65 balls in Sunday's match -- while Clarke delivered an unbeaten 103.

Katich, who is likely to play only his second one-day international in 11 months, made 38 from 48 balls as an opener in his only tri-series appearance this summer against Pakistan in Hobart.

Australia secured their berth with a nine-wicket thrashing of Pakistan in Sydney on Sunday when the only

But he is unlikely to be anywhere near the top of the order on Wednesday as Australia attempt to free Hayden and Symonds from their batting blues.

The team is considering elevating the hard-hitting Symonds up the order following five ducks in his last six one-day international knocks.

Veteran batsman Darren Lehmann said Monday he expected the Australians to persist with the 2003 World Cup here and predicted the powerful right-hander to end his run of shorts.

"He is in a bit of a rut, but he is a class player and he will come out of it and the only way he will come out of it is to keep playing," Lehmann said.

"I think he will probably bat up the order in the next couple of games and give him a good opportunity to bat for a long period of time, he has had a couple of good balls and played a couple of bad shots.

"But you get that in cricket and I am sure he will work through that."

A symonds is expected slot into the absent Martyn's spot at number four with Katich likely to come in at six in front of stand-in wicketkeeper Brad Haddin.

Vice-captain and first-choice wicketkeeper Gilchrist and Martyn will return to the side for the one-day match against Pakistan in Perth on Sunday.

The national selectors have been rotating senior players for the tri-series following a hectic calendar late last year and with a tour of New Zealand coming up next month.

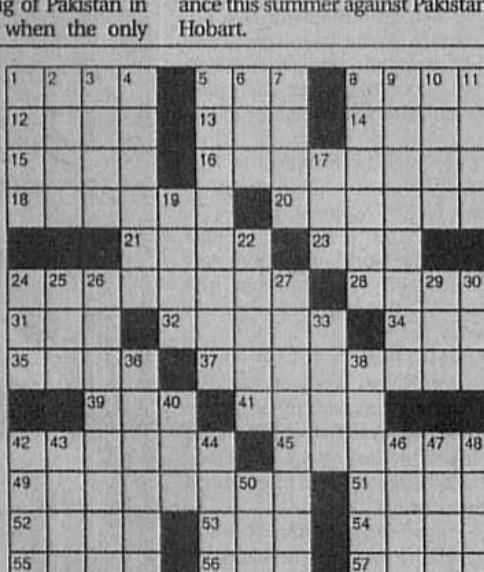
Australia's opponent in the finals is yet to be decided with only two points separating Pakistan and the West Indies. Both teams have two matches remaining.

Hefty fine

FROM PAGE 13
Africa's series-leveelling victory in Cape Town.

The offence was Gibbs' sixth serious run-in with cricket authorities.

His most significant breach came in August, 2000 when he was fined 60,000 rand and banned for six months for agreeing to underperform in a one-day international against India.



CRYPTOQUIP
A Q E Q S M N R U A T Z T
V E P X C E Z X C S , S X G M X G V F
O C X P E P V S T E S Z N R C R A T
M X U O X G Q F A Q Z R C R T Z
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT MOTHER TO FIND OUT, DO YOU SAY "MOM'S THE WORD?"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals N

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.

Lewis rules out return to ring

REUTERS, London

Former undisputed world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis has denied a newspaper report that he is making a comeback.

The Sunday Mirror said the 39-year-old Briton was planning to fight World Boxing Council champion Vitali Klitschko of Ukraine this year.

"I want to reiterate what I said when I retired in February 2004 that I was fortunate to leave the sport on my own terms and that I will be one of the few heavyweight champions in history to retire on top and stay retired," Lewis said in a statement.

Lewis has not fought since his bout with Klitschko in June 2003 was stopped after six rounds because of severe cuts to the Ukrainian, who had been dominating the fight to that stage.

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