Nowhere safe, says Miandad

REUTERS, Islamabad

This week's bomb blasts in London show that nowhere is safe and England's cricket team should reconsider a decision not to play in Karachi, former Pakistani captain Javed Miandad said on Saturday.

England have refused to play a Test in the volatile southern port city of Karachi on their tour of Pakistan later this year citing security concerns for their players.

"The blasts in London prove that no city is safe today from terrorist activities but life has to go on, as it is going on in London. So why discriminate against Karachi?" Miandad asked.

Karachi, long plagued by violence between rival ethnic and sectarian gangs, has been hit by a spate of militant attacks including bomb blasts and shootings since the September 11, 2001, attacks on the

More than 50 people were killed in four blasts on London's transport network on Thursday.

Early worries for Windies

AFP, Colombo

Spinners Rangana Herath and Kaushal Lokuarachchi bagged three wickets apiece as the West Indies were bowled out for a paltry 110 by a Sri Lankan Board President's XI here on Saturday

The touring side, without star batsmen Brian Lara, Chris Gayle and Ramnaresh Sarwan because of a sponsorship row, were dismissed in 51 overs after being put in to bat in the two-day practice game at the Nondescripts ground.

In reply, the home side were 152-1 at close of the first day's play. Captain Marvan Atapattu, who is trying to regain fitness after a back injury, was unbeaten on 78 and lefthander Kumar Sangakkara on a solid 25.

Herath bagged 3-23 and Lokuarachchi 3-15 as none of the West Indian batsmen managed to stay in the middle with Omari Banks the top-scorer at 18. Only five batsmen reached double-figures.

Atapattu added to their woes as he reached his half-century off 85

The Sri Lankans fielded six regular players in a bid to give them match practice as they resumed international cricket after three

The first Test will be held at the Sinhalese Sports Club here from July 13 while the second match will be played in the hill resort of Kandy

Australia give go-ahead to last 2 ODIs

CRICINFO, undated

Australia have agreed for the final two NatWest Challenge matches to go ahead as scheduled. Doubt had been cast on whether the games, at Lord's and The Oval, would go ahead after Thursday's terrorist attacks on the capital.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board's director of cricket, John Carr, confirmed that the matches would proceed.

"There has been a comprehensive review of all the security arrangements in the light of Thursday's attacks," said Carr, "and we are grateful for Cricket Australia's co-operation in considering all the relevant issues.'

Pele scores

FROM PAGE 12

"I feel very happy because this is the bible of Pele's life. Because the young generation now have proof," he said.

However, as he pointed out, when he was breaking into the Santos team in Rio as a shy teenager with outrageous ball skills. TV was in its infancy, there was no videotape and matches were only filmed for newsreels.

"Everything you heard about movie stars and sports stars, we didn't have tape," he said, regretting that his father, a professional player named Dondinho, once scored five goals with his head in one game, but had no documentary evidence.

"My goal was for the new generation to compare, so they can say 'Oh, this is the legend.'"

When Pele came to the United States in 1975 to play for the Cosmos in the now defunct North American Soccer League, it was partly to promote soccer in the land of baseball and American football.

"I did a lot of clinics, but the

young kids, they didn't know. They iust knew my name."

But with the film, which took five years to make, Pele's feats will live

"I now have proof for the new generation and my grandsons, when they grow. I will have some-

thing of my life to show them." But it's not just a highlights reel,

"This message for the new generation is about winning and

Figo almost a done deal

Football

GUARDIAN UNLIMITED

Liverpool hope to complete the signing of Luis Figo from Real Madrid over the weekend, with the Portugal international nearing an agreement with the Spanish club to leave the Bernabeu on a free trans-

The 32-year-old midfielder was under the impression that he could leave the club he joined for 37 million pounds five years ago for nothing after being told by the president Florentino Pérez that he was surplus to requirements. However, his hopes of moving to Anfield were frustrated when Real reneged on that agreement and instead insisted that Liverpool, as potential rivals in the Champions League this season, would have to pay a 2 million pound

Figo returned to training with

Real on Friday while his representatives thrashed out a compromise with the club's hierarchy. Liverpool are confident a conclusion can still be reached by which they will sign him on a free transfer and they have already agreed a wage package for him which will see his weekly salary reduced by almost 30,000 pounds to about 60.000 pounds.

Alongside Figo's imminent arrival, Liverpool ended a traumatic week on a high after agreeing new four-year contracts with Steven

Gerrard and Jamie Carragher. Gerrard's signature on a deal worth 100,000 pounds-a-week was greeted with huge relief at the club after his U-turn over a move to Chelsea. Carragher, who has the same agent as his clubmate in Struan Marshall, has seen his wage increase from 40,000 to nearer 65.000 pounds a week

"Now we're going to make winning the Premiership title our top priority," said Carragher

"We know how much it means to everyone here to get the trophy. I don't know how soon we'll be able to do it and it's going to be tough to close the gap but there's no point being defeatist about it. We proved in Europe what we can do on the big occasion and we've got to produce the same on a consistent basis in The 25-year-old Gerrard said:

"Over the last 12 months there has been a lot of speculation and it hasn't helped my football. It's nice to sign a four-year deal to make sure this situation doesn't happen again. Next season you'll see a Steven Gerrard who has got a clear mind. I'll be a better player. I think the speculation has affected me.

"I spoke to the manager and players and apologised to them for all the speculation. I don't think it's been helpful. If we have a fully fit squad this year with Steven Gerrard on top form then we can bring more success to the football club.



Luis Figo going to Liverpool

Eng's best yet to come'

Cricket

Paul Collingwood believes England can improve on their stunning display against Australia in the first match of a three-game one-day international series this week

England achieved one of their ons on Thursday with a nine-wicket victory at Headingley.

That triumph followed a stunning comeback in Saturday's triangular NatWest Series final at Lord's when England recovered from 33 for five to claim a tie off the last ball and continue their run of success against Australia.

But Durham all-rounder Collingwood, who claimed four for 34 during Thursday's victory, believes there is a lot more to come from England's developing line-up as they build up to the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

"Winning has given us a lot of

heading in the right direction, but we also know as a team we're 20 per cent off," said Collingwood. "We're still not playing excellent cricket.

'There are still areas of the game when we're not quite on the ball, there are little things here and there that we still need to improve on and we realise that.

"There's still a long way to go, but we can improve and the good thing about this team is that we're winning and we can still improve.

One of the major strides forward made by England over the last year has been to end their five-year losing sequence against Australia. which spanned 14 matches and came to a halt in last season's ICC Champions Trophy semifinal.

England failed to lift the trophy after losing to West Indies in the final, but Collingwood believes the semi-final victory was a big factor in their development as a side.

"Last year's game in the ICC Trophy was a bit of a hurdle to get over, but it was no surprise to us

"We came out to win these games and we believed we could win from the start and to beat them is not a surprise to us.

"The ICC game was important because we hadn't beaten them in one-day cricket for such a long time. That was when we realised we could beat Australia and this year has been a progression from what we've done over the last couple of years, winning in West Indies and going to South Africa and winning the Test series there.

"We've put Australia under a lot of pressure and I think you've got to give us a bit of credit for the way they're performing. They're all great players, but they can be beaten and that's the way we've approached it."

England will train at Lord's Saturday ahead of Sunday's next match in the Challenge Series but are expected to name an unchanged line-up, with their only selection dilemma being whether to persevere with Vikram Solanki as their supersub or bring in Sussex's Matt Prior as their impact player.

Sport never stops for anything

either," he claimed.

Two of Britain's biggest sports events will go ahead as planned on Sundav despite Thurs-day's bomb-attacks in London.

Sunday sees both the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, central England and the England-Australia one-day international cricket match at Lord's, being staged just a few days after explosions Thursday left at least 50 dead and more than 700 injured.

But displaying the kind of stoicism that has been the hallmark of the British capital's response, a sentiment to be expected of a man whose job requires him to risk his life, Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher urged the expected 100,000 sell-out Silverstone crowd to turn out in force.

"It (the British Grand Prix) is an event that has been scheduled for a long time so the security measures were already well programmed," said

"These days you can't be certain to be safe in any place in the world. First the Twin Towers in New York and now these horrible things that just happened in London.

"But we have to go on, always for the same reason. And that is that there are people who watch and love this sport and we need to do what's possible to give them a smile."

Next week sees the British Oper golf championship at St Andrews, on the north-east coast of Scotland and

close to Gleneagles where leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) of the world's leading industrial nations met for a summit this week

Some 200,000 fans are expected during the four days of the tournament and spokesman Stewart McDougall said Friday: "The Open is definitely going ahead no question."

But New Zealand's US Open champion Michael Campbell voiced fears after speaking to a friend, involved with security at last year's Athens Olympics, who criticised safety standards at golf events. "I am heading to St Andrews with

genuine concerns. I have never had any concern but after listening to this fellow my view has changed dramati-At Lord's, cricket authorities were

resolute ahead of Sunday's one-day international between England and But a statement from ground

owners Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) warned the anticipated 28,000 crowd not to "leave their bags unattended at any time.' It was an echo of cautions regu-

larly handed out during the terror campaigns of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) on the British mainland during the 1970s and 1980s.

Meanwhile England captain Michael Vaughan said victory meant little compared to the severity of what had happened in London.

"Cricket is not that important when you see those things," he said. The attacks took place on the

same day that an England and Wales Cricket Board security team returned from Pakistan where a scheduled Test match in Karachi could be cancelled because of safety fears associated with terror attacks in the And nowhere is the global link

between the fields of politics and sport better demonstrated than the Olympic Games. London won the vote to host the

2012 edition on Wednesday in Singapore only for a mood of euphoria turning to grief in the space of 24 In its initial projections, the

London team said it had budgeted for a 200 million pounds security spend, less than half the amount spent by However, costs in Greece esca-

lated after the September 11 attacks and it was British experts who provided the backbone of the Athens security operation. And International Olympic

spokeswoman Giselle Davies nsisted Thursday: We have full confidence in the London authorities to secure the Games. It was at the 1972 Munich Olympics, where 11 Israeli athletes were killed by Arab terror groups, that

violence first became all too real. That same year saw Wales and Scotland refuse to play rugby union internationals against Ireland in Dublin because of IRAthreats.

the link between sport and such

Roman gets Putin's vote

REUTERS, Moscow

The Kremlin has invited Russia's richest man Roman Abramovich to seek a further term as governor of a remote Siberian region in a sign President Vladimir Putin still trusts the owner of Chelsea soccer club.

Interfax news agency reported on Friday that Abramovich was one of eight candidates approached by Putin's envoy in the Far East over the job of governor of Chukotka, an icy eastern outpost across the Bering Straits from Alaska. Inclusion on the shortlist is seen

as a seal of Kremlin approval, although the regional legislature still has to choose between the nominees. Observers say Abramovich will most likely get the nod from local

"Konstantin Pulikovsky made the offer to Roman Abramovich at a personal meeting," Interfax quoted

Pulikovsky's spokesman as saying. Abramovich, who controls Russia's fifth largest oil producer Sibneft and has won notoriety through a string of extravagant purchases including the British soccer club, was not available to

He became governor of Chukotka in 2000 and his term expires this year.

Abramovich has sold most of his Russian assets besides Sibneft and rumours have swirled in the business community that he felt increasingly out of Putin's favour and wanted to pull out of Russia alto-

Heinze Man U fans' choice

REUTERS, London

Argentina defender Gabriel Heinze has been voted Manchester United's player-of-the-year by fans.

Heinze, who took a third of the votes by 17,000 United fans, is the first defender and first non-European player to win the trophy named after the late United manager Matt Busby.

The 27-year-old, who helped Argentina to the Confederations in the 40th lifted South Africa, one of Cup final against Brazil in Germany last month, beat young strikers Wayne Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo, United said on their official

The accolade comes after his first season following a 6.9 million pound (\$12 million) transfer from

FED CUP

Myskina shocks Venus

AFP, Moscow

Russia's Anastasia Myskina battled from a set down to put the reigning Fed Cup champions Russia 1-0 up in the semifinal tie against the United States with a 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 win over Wimbledon champion Venus Williams here on Saturday.

"I felt slightly nervous in the opening set as I was playing against the Wimbledon champion in the first rubber of the tie," Myskina said after

"But I knew it was emotionally tough for her to play at her full capability throughout the match, after Wimbledon. I was ready for it and knew where and when she lost her concentration."

The opponents came into the match looking slightly rusty and trading breaks right from the start but Myskina, 24, played slightly more accurately clinching a 3-1

'Injured' Aftab

FROM PAGE 12 The team physio informed us that

there was nothing wrong in his X-ray report and we expect to see him in the last nets on July 13," he said. The 15-member Bangladesh A

team led by left-handed opener Shahriar Nafees, who showed impressive performance in the NatWest one-day series, will leave for England on July 15.

Aussies loving it FROM PAGE 12

"I'm not hoping for an injury, but if an opportunity came up I'd love to have my name in there for the selectors to choose." he revealed. "I'll be going back to Durham trying to get us promoted and win

the County Championship Second Division. "But if an opportunity came up to become involved in the Test squad and the Test team, that would be out of

this world -- that would be fantastic. Vaughan puts

FROM PAGE 12 way towards making a few people happy," said the skipper.

There's obviously a lot of unhappiness in London and around the country after what happened, but if our victory over Australia has made a few people happy then that's great.

Authorities at Lord's and The Oval said Friday both matches would go ahead as scheduled, albeit amidst heightened security.

Chelsea swoop for Ronaldinho

Football

BBC ONLINE

Chelsea are reportedly poised to make an audacious 83 million pound bid for Barcelona striker Ronaldinho, according to Italian newspaper Corriere dello Sport.

The 25-year-old Brazilian would be given a nine-year contract worth 10 million pounds-per-year as part of However, Ronaldinho's brother

Roberto de Assis, who acts as his agent, has rejected talk of any Chelsea offer. Ronaldinho has three years left on his contract at the Nou Camp and

has been negotiating a five-year Barca have already installed a 100 million pounds buy-out clause in his current deal which is designed to deter

any bids for the exciting frontman. Ronaldinho was rumoured to be unsettled at the Nou Camp following the resignation of former Barca vicepresident Sandro Rosell, who quit after a long-running dispute with president Joan Laporta.

Catalonia, and when interviewed last month said: "I can't see myself living anywhere else

"My family is very happy here and that was the main thing when I had to choose between Barcelona and Manchester United.



RONALDINHO

Mexico lose Gold Cup opener

Football

AFP, Carson (United States)

South Africa launched their campaign in the CONCACAF Gold Cup with a 2-1 victory over defending champions Mexico on Friday.

Goals from Philip Evans in the

27th minute and Elrio Van Heerden

two special invitees to the 12-nation North and Central America and Caribbean regional tournament. Francisco Rodriguez pulled one back in the 82nd for Mexico, who

have won a total of four Gold Cup South Africa claimed their first victory over Mexico in three encoun-

ters. Mexico beat the South Africans

4-0 in a friendly in Los Angeles in October of 1993 and 4-2 in a USA Cup match in Dallas, Texas, in June "This victory, against a team as

great as Mexico, encourages us that

we can get a good result in the Cup,'

said South Africa coach Stuart

Prior to the tournament, Baxter was low-key about the chances for his side, which is missing several key But their quick, skillful play saw

despite Mexico's control of the ball. In the 27th, a corner kick by Van Heerden was steered to Evans, who neaded the ball home.

'Owen and Figo have contracts

"If you are only here to play (and

"If Guti said he didn't like it here

and should be here. Whether they

are going to play or not is a different

story but they are Real Madrid

not accept a squad system) you

and was going to go and find

another club he should have gone.

But as he is here it is because he

didn't find another team and he

training was marked by the appear-

ance of England defender Jonathan

Woodgate who joined the main

squad for the first time since suffer-

Real's return to pre-season

should appreciate the work."

players." Luxemburgo added.

this south Los Angeles suburb when Van Heerden finished off a South African counter-attack by collecting pass from the right side and slotting the ball past Mexico keeper Jose de Jesus Corona.

continued to stand up to the pres-Rodriguez finally broke through and Mexico spent the final minutes fighting in vain to earn the draw

the second half, but South Africa

Mexico were more consistent in

South Africa next play Jamaica at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Sunday. On Wednesday they face Guatemala as the Group C teams move to Houston, Texas, for

Mexico play Guatemala on Sunday, and Jamaica on Mexico were still reeling from Evans's goal -- which roundly booed by the fiercely pro-Mexico crowd of

Luxemburgo's warning's

Football

REUTERS, Madrid Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo has warned that players unhappy with not being

guaranteed first-team football should leave the club. "If you are here it is be a member of the squad," Luxemburgo said at a news conference as Real returned

to pre-season training on Friday. Portugal winger Luis Figo and midfielder Guti have both voiced their disappointment at being used as substitutes towards the end of

play more regularly, while Figo has been linked in the press with a move to European champions Liverpool. With Brazilian forward Robinho

being chased by Real, England

striker Michael Owen's future at the

club has also been questioned in the

Stravinsky

15 Big rig

16 Pooch

17 Abe's

on it

18 Tangle

20 Mideast

strip

24 Coarse,

of the

Worlds'

invader

32 Tough nut

34 Bubble

36 Queens

37 Jabs

to crack

producer

stadium

39 Flashlight

power

41 Burglar

izes

43 Pitch

as humor

22 Stitch

28 "War

last season. Guti said he wanted to leave to

ing a recurrence of a long-term thigh njury last October. Woodgate has not made an appearance for Real since completing his move from Newcastle United

should go

them take charge in the first half their final two matches.

Park

completes

United move REUTERS, London

South Korea's Park Ji-sung has completed his transfer to Manchester United from PSV Eindhoven after being granted a

British work permit, the English

Premier League club said. Park, a member of the Korean side that reached the last four in the 2002 World Cup, signed a fourvear contract. United said on their

website The 24-year-old, who obtained his work permit in midweek, trained for the first time with the United squad on Friday. United are preparing for a pre-season tour of

Park, whose transfer fee has been reported in British media at four million pounds (6.95 million dollars), is United's second signing of the off-season after Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar from Premier League rivals

By Eugene Sheffer Actress

lander's memento 21 Speed 23 Comedian 25 Arthur of 26 Lascivi

5 E-diary look 6 Stogie 27 Wagon 7 Gold 28 Navigamedalis tor's stack 29 Oodles Nagano 30 Croupier's 8 Candle tool 31 Gist count 9 Chaney

40 Heavy demand 42 Serious member 45 Memorandum 47 Regrets 48 Sea

35 Doorstep

eagle **49** Pop 50 Stick 51 Timetable abbr.

52 "But

— on

forever

54 Bankroll

Fulham

UWMSHNW UQYZ

JQI LMNB SOMS BFYMBO HKBHBFWLSQKI FWPWBSNQMKB:

Saturday's Cryptoquip: MY DOG RECENTLY CAME DOWN WITH MANGE, BUT LUCKILY HIS BARK IS WORSE THAN HIS BLIGHT.

"BAPPWK QZFMLS."

The Cryptoguip 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.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

MJAHS

CROSSWORD ACROSS 44 Mount 61 See 60-12 "Fat 1 Prohibit Holyoke 4 English founder DOWN channel? 46 Spanish 19 Main-7 Seer's city that 1 Lowreading gave its pitched matter 2 Congrename to 11 Beyond sherry gational 50 Hoose control cry 13 "The Greatest" 53 Acknowl-Downey 14 Composer edge 4 Awful

applause

55 Modern-

money

dav

56 Incite

57 Greek

vowel

58 Take care

59 Helen's

60 With 61

Across

Bible?

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Solution time

10 "The

A-Team

cast

: 24 mins