

## Bad news for Naved

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan fear seamer Navedul Hasan will miss their four-match Test series against England starting next month due to a serious groin injury, an official said Thursday.

The 28-year-old Naved, who has played eight Tests and 45 one-day internationals, suffered the injury during the ongoing county season and returned home last week.

"Naved is a doubtful starter as he has been advised six weeks' rest and his groin injury seems very serious," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director Abbas Zaidi told AFP.

"A final decision will be taken after the PCB medical commission examine the reports in the next few days."

It is the latest blow to Pakistan's build-up for the tour after fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar was ruled out of the Tests due to an ankle injury last week.

Naved took 34 wickets in five matches for Sussex in the English season and received a special cash award for taking 27 wickets in the month of May.

His exploits in the county season were seen as a major boost for Pakistan in the Test and one-day series.

Zaidi said the PCB had sought foreign expertise to get Naved fit.

"We are also contacting experts in England to get him fit early and hope that he takes part in some matches on the tour. It's disappointing news for us," said Zaidi, who added that Rao Iftikhar or Samiullah Nazir may replace Naved in the 16-man squad.

## Roger wins on grass

BBC ONLINE, undated

Roger Federer won his first grass court match of the season, beating Rohan Bopanna 7-6, 6-2 in the first round of the Gerry Weber Open in Halle, Germany.

Three days after losing the French Open final to Rafael Nadal, the Swiss proved too strong for the Indian number one.

"I didn't expect much from this match," said Federer. "I was a bit exhausted from the pressure of recent weeks."

Federer, aiming for his fourth straight Halle title, plays France's Richard Gasquet in the second round.

The West Indies captain battled away for a little over 6-1/2 hours and faced 307 balls to give West Indies their lifeline.

He added 129 for the fourth wicket with his predecessor Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who scored 54, and put on 71 for the fifth wicket with compatriot Dwayne Bravo, who made 47.

Amil Kumble was the most successful Indian bowler with three wickets for 98 runs from 42 overs, and Munaf Patel took two for 50 from 21 overs.

Virender Sehwag, who scored 180 in India's mammoth first innings total of 588 for eight declared and snared four wickets in the Test, won the man-of-the-match award.

West Indies continued from their bedtime total on the third day



## Did U Know?

The man behind Chile's successful bid to host the 1962 World Cup Carlos Dittborn failed to fulfill his dream of seeing the tournament held in his country. He died of a heart attack at the age of 38, one month before the competition.



Five of the tourists were chased by up to 16 youths as they walked around the city on Sunday, while a house in which some of them were staying was stoned.

Nobody is believed to have been hurt in the incidents.

Politicians condemned the attack saying it confirmed Belfast's reputation as "Europe's racist capital".

Naomi Long, a cross-community Alliance Party member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, said: "This is yet another low -- a racist attack on visitors to our city. Locals and visitors alike will be suitably alarmed. This is another reminder of the need to destroy the scourge of racism in our society."

Bhasker Sharma, one of the team members said, "About 15 to 16 boys came and I don't know what happened. They just started chasing us."

Rajeev Khanna, another team member said: "It is not the first time we have come to the UK. It's been our eighth or ninth time. And we have never faced this situation anywhere in the UK." Robin Newton, the democratic Unionist Party councillor for East Belfast, said: "It is disgraceful that gifted young sportsmen cannot wander around admiring the capital without local thugs attempting to do them harm."

Carlos Alberto Parreira (Brazil football coach)  
"If you play your best at the start, then there's no room for improvement. We're thinking big, we intend to play seven games here and we want to go better as we go on." After beating Croatia 1-0 in their World Cup opener.



Sumi Akhtar (R), the lucky first prize winner of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2006 Round 2, receives a 21-inch Toshiba Bomba Flat TV from the managing director of Rangs Industries Limited Rumeet Hossain (L) at the Rangs Bhaban in Bijoy Sarani on Thursday.

## Another WI escape act

Cricket

AFP, Gros Islet

Brian Lara collected his 32nd Test hundred to earn West Indies a hard-fought draw in the rain-marred second Test against India on Wednesday at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

The 37-year-old Lara hit 120 -- only his second Test hundred against the Indians -- as West Indies, following on 373 runs behind of first innings, finished on 294 for seven in their second innings to leave the four-Test series level at 0-0.

Lara reached his hundred when he square drove Irfan Pathan for the ninth of his 10 boundaries and drew level with former Australia captain Steve Waugh for the third highest number of Test hundreds.

India's Sachin Tendulkar, who was prevented from making this trip by injury, heads the list with 35 Test hundreds.

Compatriot Sunil Gavaskar is second on the list with 34, and Lara and Waugh follow.

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## Racist assault on cricketers

PTI, Belfast

A group of teenage Indian cricketers were chased and threatened by racist thugs in Belfast city centre, and Police today said they are investigating a racist motive to the incident.

The young tourists, who were in Northern Ireland as members of an under-19 cricket tour, were terrified by the incident, according to a report in 'The Times'.

Five of the tourists were chased by up to 16 youths as they walked around the city on Sunday, while a house in which some of them were staying was stoned.

Nobody is believed to have been hurt in the incidents.

Politicians condemned the attack saying it confirmed Belfast's reputation as "Europe's racist capital".

Naomi Long, a cross-community Alliance Party member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, said: "This is yet another low -- a racist attack on visitors to our city. Locals and visitors alike will be suitably alarmed. This is another reminder of the need to destroy the scourge of racism in our society."

Bhasker Sharma, one of the team members said, "About 15 to 16 boys came and I don't know what happened. They just started chasing us."

Rajeev Khanna, another team member said: "It is not the first time we have come to the UK. It's been our eighth or ninth time. And we have never faced this situation anywhere in the UK." Robin Newton, the democratic Unionist Party councillor for East Belfast, said:

"It is disgraceful that gifted young sportsmen cannot wander around admiring the capital without local thugs attempting to do them harm."

of 43 for one, after a complete washout of the entire fourth day, and suffered two setbacks in the first half-hour.

Kumble, who became Test cricket's fourth highest wicket-taker, completely bamboozled Daren Ganga with a googly and bowled him for 26 offering no stroke.

Sarwan, the West Indies vice captain, whose batting helped the home team clinch the preceding limited-overs series, again failed, when he was caught behind for one off a well-pitched out-swinger from Patel to leave West Indies 52 for three.

Lara and Chanderpaul showed level heads however, to defy the Indian attack for the rest of the morning, and carried West Indies to 130 for three at lunch.

Lara had inside-edged a drive at a flighted delivery outside the off-stump from Kumble for two to the fine leg region to bring up his 50.

After the interval, Lara and Chanderpaul, easily West Indies' two most experienced batsmen, continued merrily along their way.

Chanderpaul swung Anil Kumble behind square for his sixth four to reach his 50, but trying to hit a full toss from the leg-spin bowler over mid-wicket he was caught at mid-on for 54. He struck half-dozen boundaries from 113 balls in just under three hours.

Lara continued to bat with grit and arrived at his landmark. He looked set for a much larger innings, when the umpire Asad Rauf dubiously adjudged him lbw to Sehwag to a ball that television replays clearly showed pitched outside off-stump and spun away.

His departure energised India, and bearing in mind West Indies' capitulation in their second innings of the first Test, the visitors moved in for the kill.

Bravo had shown great application for close 2-1/2 hours in which he struck three fours and one six

## Third Eye

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perhaps the best team goal of the tournament as Torres stabbed home a five-pass move. What is more worrying than the scoreline will be the zeal and enthusiasm with which the Spanish had played the game. Too often Spain have failed to live up to expectations. How they would cherish a different outcome this time. Their fans were doubtless screaming "Viva Espana" long into the night.

There was drama in Munich though, and of the good kind as perhaps the first Arab derby in the World Cup threw up a match that lived up to expectations. The futuristic Allianz Arena saw on display two evenly matched sides both of whom refused to give an inch. After Tunisia had taken a first half lead courtesy of Jazir's acrobatic effort, the Saudis fought back. But it was not until the second half when Qahani's sliding effort bought them back level. All this was prelude to the drama that unfolded in the last ten minutes of the match as the Saudi's first took the lead through old man Sami Al-Jaber's immaculately placed left foot effort. Incidentally the goal put him in the bracket of stars like Pele and Maradona in being one of the few men to have scored a World Cup goal 12 years after their maiden one. A famous victory was denied however to Jaidi who snatched a late goal to end the match all square.

There was no point in risking him but he should be OK for the Twenty20.

Paul Collingwood passed a fitness Test on his left thigh on Thursday morning but Glen Chapple's abdominal strain makes him a doubt.

Kevin Pietersen is likely to face Sri Lanka in Thursday's Twenty20 game after overcoming a hamstring injury.

Pietersen missed the one-day victory over Ireland on Tuesday as a precaution but new skipper Andrew Strauss said: "It's pretty much all right now."

But if there was drama in Munich, then pulses were racing at Dortmund where Germany finally managed to shed their European voodoo with a win over Poland. It marked the first time that Germany had beaten a European team in a major tournament since 1996. It is a monkey they will gladly have off their backs and it arrived in the most sensational of circumstances. Late second half substitute David Odonkor raced down the right flank and sent in a cross that was booted in by fellow

players to give the ball a nod to the goal.

The match takes place at the same venue where England beat Australia by 100 runs last year in their first ever Twenty20 international.

## ERRATUM

In Star Sport's issue of June 15, mistakenly both in the report under heading 'The local World Cup' and the caption BRAC Bank's managing director was named as Imran Ahmed. Actually his name is Imran Rahman. We regret the slip.

Sports Editor

## Pakistan to play WI this winter

REUTERS, Karachi

West Indies will play three Tests and five one-day internationals in Pakistan in November and December, a Pakistan Cricket Board official said Thursday.

"The tour is confirmed, however the itinerary will be finalised later due to some logistical reasons," PCB official Subhan Ahmed told Reuters.

Pakistan's efforts to confirm the itinerary will be delayed until the outcome of the ICC Champions Trophy being held in India between October 7 to November 5 becomes clearer.

West Indies have to play in the qualifying rounds of the Trophy from Oct 7 to 14 to make the main rounds for which Pakistan are seeded.

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