

## Sarwan out of ODI series

AFP, Karachi

West Indian vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan was on Friday ruled out of the five-match one-day series against Pakistan after suffering a hairline fracture on his right foot.

Pakistan and the West Indies play the first of five one-day matches in Rawalpindi on December 5.

The 26-year-old Guyanese will fly back to the West Indies in the next couple of days, said Khan.

Sarwan only returned to the West Indies team in the third Test after being left out of the second Test at Multan due to poor batting form.

He was batting on 35 in the pre-lunch session in the third Test when Gul's yorker hit him on the foot. He returned to the pavilion and went to hospital for an X-ray.

The West Indies next play a four-match one-day series in India in mid-January.

## INTRA NSU SOCCER Batch 05 maul MBA

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiq, Shaon and Tanzil scored two goals each as Batch 05 crushed MBA 8-0 in the opening game of the North South University Intra-Batch Football tournament at the WAPDA ground in Banani yesterday.

Apart from the trio, Mithun and Qyym chipped in with a goal each to round off a big win.

In the other match of the day, Saaolat struck the all-important winner as Batch 04 edged past Batch 03 by a single goal.

Batch 04 will take on Batch 02 today while newcomers Batch 06 face Batch 05 in the other game at the same venue.

## Shakil sinks

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182 for nine in 50 overs. Proshanto and Romel Nondy scored 41 each while Nurul Amin took four wickets for Jamalpur. But when they came to bat, seamers Biswajit Roy and Moni Baul captured three wickets each to bowl out Jamalpur for just 71 runs.

Gopalganj rode on Lincoln's 56 to score 166 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs against Shariatpur at the Faridpur Stadium. Then Gopalganj bowled out their opponents for 120 runs, with Faruq and Shamim taking three wickets each.

Nilphamari trounced Thakurgaon by six wickets at the Dinajpur Stadium with Jaidee taking four wickets for the winners while Feni also won in similar margin against Brahmanbaria at the Chittagong Stadium with Kamaluddin producing an all-round show -- taking two wickets and scoring 36 runs.

## Sidhu convicted

**FROM PAGE 17**  
He courted controversy in 1996 by deserting the Indian team during a tour of England after a spat with captain Mohammad Azharuddin.

The former cricketer's use of proverbs and cliches on TV shows has become so popular that his one-liners are known as 'Sidhuisms'.

The verdict comes just days after India's coal minister, Shibu Soren, was found guilty of conspiracy in the murder and abduction of a former aide who was allegedly blackmailing the minister in a bribery scandal.

Soren -- the first cabinet minister to be found guilty in a murder case -- could get the death penalty when the court announces the sentence Tuesday.

A day after Soren's conviction, the BJP took the government to task for giving ministerial positions to politicians facing police charges.

# Lara sets sight on WC



AFP, Karachi

West Indian captain Brian Lara put on a brave face after losing the Test series to Pakistan, saying his team's main focus now was on next year's one-day cricket World Cup in the Caribbean.

"Our performances in Test matches need improvement but in the one-day arena we played very good cricket and our main focus is now on the final at Barbados in the World Cup," said Lara.

West Indies lost the three-match series against Pakistan 2-0 on Friday.

The West Indies were bowled out for 244 runs in their second innings chasing an improbable 444-run target, handing Pakistan the third and final Test by 199 runs.

Pakistan won the first Test by nine wickets in Lahore while the second Test ended in a draw at Multan.

The West Indies, who play Pakistan in a five-match one-day series with the first match in Rawalpindi on December 5, have lost 39 of their 45 Tests abroad against major Test playing countries.

Yet they finished runners-up to Australia in the Champions Trophy one-day competition in October and earlier in a tri-series in

Malaysia.

The West Indies only have one-day matches to play until the start of the World Cup in March-April next year and Lara said they can take some positives from the Pakistan Test series.

"I think coming to Pakistan and to play a Test series you could only be positive, it's the toughest conditions but we still have some young players coming out like (Denesh) Ramdin," he said.

"We are not down in the dumps, we are moving to the one-day games and the game we play a lot better than the Test arena, and we remain positive about it," said Lara, whose team is among the favourites for the World Cup 2007.

Lara said Pakistan deserved the credit for their series win.

"Of course it's disappointing to lose a series, but you have to give credit toward the end to the Pakistanis for playing tough cricket throughout, but I'm still proud of my team.

"They worked very hard after the first match and played pretty good cricket in Multan. The pitch here didn't offer us much. Of course, Pakistan adapted to the conditions better than we did."

Lara said that his team needs to improve their fielding.

"We dropped a few chances and this is one area where we need improvement," said Lara, whose team dropped as many as dozen

catches in three Tests, including six off Mohammad Yousuf.

Yousuf accumulated 665 runs in the series and deservedly won the man-of-the-series award.

Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq said his team deserved the credit in general and Yousuf in particular.

"The team deserves the credit for every win, but Yousuf was exceptional in this series," said Inzamam, who also singled out paceman Umar Gul for his 16 wickets in the series.

"Gul bowled well on such inconducive pitches. We were missing two of our key bowlers but Umar did well and was ably supported by Shahid Nazir and Danish Kaneria," said Inzamam, under whom Pakistan won four of their last five series.

Pakistan were without their key strike bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif, both banned over failed dope tests.

Inzamam justified keeping the same squad throughout the series - only the second time that has happened in Pakistan's 54-year history of playing Tests. The last time was against New Zealand in 1964.

"I am being criticised for keeping the side. On such slow tracks you can't play four fast bowlers and once we won the first Test and drew the second we kept the same team," he said.

## Ganguly pledges good show

PTI, Kolkata

Recalled to the Indian team after nearly a year, a confident Sourav Ganguly on Friday said he would bank on his experience of playing on bouncy tracks to come good in the three-match rubber in South Africa.

"I'm happy to be back," Ganguly told reporters, giving restrained and cautious replies to a barrage of queries thrown at him minutes after his selection to the national squad.

"My job is to go and do well. I've been playing well for ten years. I've a lot of runs behind me and experience of playing on bouncy pitches in South Africa," said the left-hander who last played in the Karachi Test in January this year.

"I have done very well in Australia where there is a lot of bounce. I have played with the same group of players earlier. I hope I can continue in the same way," he said at the Eden Gardens after a practice session with his Bengal teammates.

However, Ganguly would not turn out for the state team in the December 1-4 home fixture against Mumbai as he has been asked by the BCCI to report in Mumbai by December 3 evening ahead of his African Safari.

Asked whether he was relieved at his comeback into top-flight cricket or considered the opportunity as a challenge, Ganguly answered, "Every series is a challenge whether it is your first Test or any other series."

## DAVIS CUP FINAL

## Davydenko draws first blood

AFP, Moscow

Nikolay Davydenko gave Russia the first point of the Davis Cup final tie against Argentina here on Friday, beating Juan Ignacio Chela 6-1, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

Davydenko, the world number three, won in 3hr 05min to record his first victory over the 27-year-old Argentinian, who had won all five of their previous meetings.

Davydenko started confidently, breaking his rival's serve early to clinch a comfortable 3-0 lead before Chela chalked up his first point in the match.

The 25-year-old Russian increased his advantage with another break in the sixth game to lift himself one set up in 37 minutes.

## Blatter rules

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"For 2018, under the system of rotation of the World Cup, we can say that the bid is open and a bid by China would be welcome," said Blatter.

China took part in the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea for the first time, but failed poorly and then failed to qualify for the 2006 edition in Germany.

## Footballers

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time too," said the footballers referring to delays for the umpteenth time. "This is a farce and we want assurance that the transfer will begin on December 5."

Ex-national players joined the current footballers and former national captains Kazi Salahuddin and Badal Roy conveyed their support by phone. The banners and placards that were carried by the booters read: 'If hockey and cricket can be played in the midst of political rest, why not football?'

The footballers, who have decided to continue the sit-in programme everyday for one hour till the transfer starts, have also demanded resignation of the BFF officials who have 'failed to handle the situation'.

## Goals not

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a long drawn out extended contract.

"As far as I know Beckham is happy at Real," said Mijatovic, who said that the midfielder would not necessarily remain out of the starting eleven for long.

While the champions look set to come from any one of the current leading trio fourth-placed Real Zaragoza are pushing hard on their heels just three points behind Real Madrid.

A draw at Vigo last week represented two points lost for Zaragoza, who have never won the title, but the club will look to Argentine hitman Diego Milito, joint second-top scorer in the country with Seville's Freddy Kanoute, to roll over strugglers Osasuna.

Valencia, having seen former Real Madrid forward Fernando Morientes fail to see off his former teammates last week in slumping to eighth in the table, tackle promoted Huelva hoping to end a terrible run which has brought just two points from five games.

In addition, star striker David Villa is being linked -- in the British media at least -- with a move to Chelsea.

Huelva, currently a surprise package in seventh spot, will be out to ensure they stay ahead of their illustrious visitors.



PHOTO: AFP

Russia's Nikolay Davydenko jubilates after beating Argentine Juan Ignacio Chela during the first game of the Davis Cup final in Moscow on Friday.

# Pietersen caught in storm



CRICINFO, undated

Kevin Pietersen has found himself at the centre of a storm after comments made in an interview with the South African edition of GQ magazine led to the South African board (CSA) writing to the ICC and England board (ECB) demanding that action be taken.

At the heart of the furore are comments made by Pietersen concerning events that led to him leaving South Africa and moving to England. He claimed that he was forced out of the game in South Africa because of racist policies against white players. There is a quota system where each first-class team in South Africa is expected to contain at least four non-white players.

What is more surprising about the timing of CSA's complaint is that Pietersen's comments have

been aired many times before, including in his autobiography Crossing The Boundary published in September.

If the ICC decide there is a case to answer then he could be charged with bringing the game into disrepute, which covers inappropriate public comment. It carries penalties ranging from a ban of two to four Tests or four to eight one-day matches.

It emerged on Thursday that CSA demanded an ICC investigation, claiming that his comments amounted to accusations of racism against the country's cricket system. CSA also asked the ECB to take action against Pietersen for his constant criticism of Graeme Smith, South Africa's captain.

The South African authorities are also thought to be livid at implications made by Pietersen over match-fixing. "At the end of the day (cheating) is wrong," he was quoted as saying. "But I can see how it happens. Hansie copped a

lot more than he should have. I think he took the brunt for the players. There are a lot of people who I think that have done stuff that people don't know about and got away with it."

Pietersen's comments about the appointment of Ashwell Prince as South Africa's stand-in captain also rinkled. "I just thought it was further evidence that things were going downhill ... it's got nothing to do with the colour of his skin. It's just that better players are being left out for political reasons and until that system changes, South African sport will continue to go downhill."

"I've got some mates who are now on the fringes of playing domestic cricket in South Africa who are better than three or four of those players in the South African side. I've got a very good mate who is actually a better player than me, who is now working for SA Breweries, because he can't get into the side for political reasons and that's wrong."

# Pakistan clinch series

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Lara, who needed 96 to become the first man to score 12,000 Test runs, was dismissed off an uppish drive off Umar Gul, which was smartly snapped by Shoaib Malik at mid-off. Lara hit nine boundaries during his 92-ball knock.

The Lara-Sarwan stand for the third wicket yielded 80 runs.

Sarwan, who regained his place in the team after being dropped in the second Test, had to return to the pavilion after he was hit on the right foot by a full-length delivery from Gul.

Sarwan, who went to hospital for an X-ray, had made 35. His report revealed a hairline fracture and he was ruled out of the one-day series which follows the Test series.

Morton hit two boundaries and a six off Danish Kaneria before giving the Pakistani leg-spinner a return catch to leave the West Indies at 144-4 at lunch.

After the break, Nazir dismissed Bravo with an edge to the slips to break the stubborn fifth-wicket stand and raise hopes of a Pakistan win.

After Kaneria's double strike and

Abdul Razzaq's removal of Jerome Taylor for one, Pakistan were left with just one wicket to take.

Razzaq then trapped Corey Collimore leg before for nought to wrap up the innings with Sarwan unable to resume. Razzaq took 2-23.

The West Indies' target was always tough as no team in history has chased more than the 418 which the West Indies achieved for the loss of seven wickets against Australia in St John's in 2003.

But it was the big-scoring Mohammad Yousuf, who deservedly won the man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series awards, who was the difference between the two teams with his 665 runs in three Tests.

Yousuf hit a century in each innings in the third Test and broke the 30-year-old world record of West Indian great Viv Richards with 1,788 Test runs in a calendar year. He also set a new record with his nine centuries in 2006.

Pakistan and the West Indies start the five-match one-day series with the first match in Rawalpindi on December 5.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the National Stadium in Karachi on Friday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 304 (Yousuf 102; Collymore 3-57)

**WEST INDIES:** First innings 260 (Ganga 81, Ramdin 50; Gul 4-79)

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings 399-6 decl (Yousuf 124, Hafeez 104, Inzamam 58 not out)

**WEST INDIES:** Second innings (overtime 39 for 2)

Gayle b Gul	2
Ganga lbw b Nazir	2
Lara c Malik b Gul	49
Sarwan retired hurt	35
Chanderpaul lbw b Kaneria	69
Morton c and b Kaneria	16
Bravo c Younis b Nazir	26
Ramdin not out	25
Powell c Younis b Kaneria	0
Taylor lbw b Razzaq	1
Collymore lbw b Razzaq	0
Extras: (b-9, lb-5, nb-5)	19
Total: (All out in 76 overs)	244
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-17, 3-97, 4-126, 5-183, 6-227, 7-227, 8-236, 9-244.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gul	19	2	89	2
Nazir	18	6	49	2
Kaneria	26	6	69	3
Malik	1	1	0	0
Razzaq	12	5	23	2
<b>Note: Sarwan retired on 35 with the West Indies on 101-3 after injuring his right foot.</b>				
<b>Result: Pakistan won by 199 runs to take the three-match series 2-0.</b>				
<b>Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Yousuf.</b>				
<b>Man-of-the-series: Mohammad Yousuf.</b>				

his century and was stumped, had occupied the crease for 277 minutes by the close.

Bell hailed his teammate Collingwood as a gutsy cricketer who always gives his all for England.

"Mentally he's a gutsy cricketer," said Bell, who scored a patient 60 in three hours.

"The difference between Colly and other players that have played in the past is that he's such a gutsy cricketer and gives it everything.

"He's not frightened of tough situations and I think he's shown that on this tour already that when it's tough he'll get in there and fight for England."

Collingwood will have his third Test century on his mind overnight before he resumes on Saturday's second day in a quest for his first hundred against Australia.

He scored 134 not out against India in the first Test at Nagpur last March and 186 against Pakistan at Lord's in July.

"He's deserved it. He's played really well and coming in from the Gabba and playing as well as he

played he's done exactly the same on Friday and hopefully he can go on tomorrow and get his century because he's played fantastically well," Bell said.

"We'd have liked him to have got it tonight. We were dead keen to see him get a hundred after getting 96 at the Gabba."

Bell said a team meeting a few days before the Adelaide Test laid the foundations for a much-improved performance after their heavy 277-run defeat in Brisbane last Monday.

"It's important for us to get as many runs as we can and grind away and keep Australia out there as long as possible," he said.

"We did have a meeting. It was the players who spoke, there was no management, it all came from the team and it was a bit of honesty to say we weren't good enough at Brisbane.

"Whatever we did whether it was bowling or batting we had to do it well from ball one and we've pretty much done that with the bat on Friday."



AFP, Adelaide

Paul Collingwood again came to England's aid with another gutsy innings in the second Ashes Test here Friday and was poised to claim a century after the heartbreak of missing out in Brisbane.

Collingwood shared in two century partnerships to steer England from a parlous 45 for two to be 266 for three at stumps against Australia on the opening day at Adelaide Oval.

The Durham right-hander followed on from his 96 in Brisbane to be unbeaten on 98 with Kevin Pietersen on 60, after captain Andrew Flintoff won the toss.

The pair rattled an unbroken 108 runs for the fourth wicket in just 115 minutes after Collingwood combined with Ian Bell to put on 113 runs for the third wicket.

The under-rated Collingwood, who sacrificed a century in Brisbane when he charged Warne four runs short of

# Clark gloomy at underuse



AFP, Adelaide

Stuart Clark is expecting to bowl more overs Saturday after Australian skipper Ricky Ponting surprisingly restricted him to just two overs after tea in the second Ashes Test despite claiming two big England wickets in the morning session.

Medium-pace Clark followed up his seven wickets in Brisbane with the scalps of openers Andrew Strauss (14) and Alastair Cook (27) inside his first impressive six overs in the morning session.

Strauss continued his poor series after Gabba scores of 12 and 11 when he misused a leading edge to a diving Damien Martyn at mid-on and then had Cook caught behind by Adam Gilchrist.

But Clark only bowled two overs after tea and finished with 2-25 off 15 overs.

"It's always disappointing when

you don't bowl overs, you can't get them out standing at fine leg and it's very boring out there sometimes," Clark admitted.

"Ricky went down a different path, he had a few ideas in mind and I'm sure I'll get my turn tomorrow (Saturday)."

Ponting delayed taking the second new ball until the 85th over nearing stumps, preferring to stick with leg-spinner Shane Warne (0-51) and part-time spinner Michael Clarke (0-27) while Clark cooled his heels in the outfield.

"We kept it tight and they probably got away from us in the final session, but if we get two wickets early tomorrow and get them 5-270 then we're right back in the game again and almost on top," he said.

"We sensed that in the second innings in Brisbane and today England came out and showed that they are a very good team and make sure that what happened in the first innings in Brisbane (bowed out for 157) doesn't happen again."

Adelaide Oval is traditional a batsman's paradise on the opening days and Clark sees more tough work ahead for the Australian bowlers on Saturday's second day with England 266 for three.

Paul Collingwood followed on from his 96 in Brisbane to be unbeaten on 98 and Kevin Pietersen was on 60, after captain Andrew Flintoff won the toss.

The pair rattled an unbroken 108 runs for the fourth wicket in just 115 minutes.

"It's more like a day two wicket rather than a day one wicket, so I can only imagine it's going to get flatter and probably break up for spin," he said.

"It was always going to be hard work on Friday. If we won the toss we would have batted as well so the game will come down to us bowling well tomorrow (Saturday) and batting well for a couple of days and seeing how the pitch deteriorates and what's on offer."

# Qatar's moment

**FROM PAGE 17**  
training sessions," a spokesman for the Indian shooting team reporters. "We have brought it to the notice of the organisers."

Details of the opening ceremony, starting at 1600 GMT, have been kept under tight wraps although organisers said it will be the biggest and boldest ever seen in Asia, eclipsing the Sydney Olympics.

Sections are expected to focus on the history of Asia, the Silk Road and Arabian horsemanship.

"With a cast of 7,000 local people, this will be the biggest ceremony Asia has ever seen," said Sharif Omar Hashisho, the director of ceremonies and cultural events for the Asian Games.

The three hour 20 minute ceremony at the 50,000-seater Khalifa Stadium will be beamed live around the world to a potential viewing audience of three billion people.

Hong Kong's Cheung, a movie star and pioneer of Cantopop, will perform a song specifically written for the event while Bollywood sensation Sunidhi Chauhan will sing Reach Out as a salute to the athletes taking part.

The event will be notable for South and North Korean athletes marching together in the first sign of reconciliation since the communist North staged a nuclear weapons test on October 9, raising tensions on the

divided peninsula.

The two sides have agreed to march under a blue and white "unification flag", officials quoted by Yonhap news agency said, although there will be no joint team with nuclear tensions souring any chance of that.

It will also be the first Games in 20 years for Iraq.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad head the guest list for the opening gala.

Ahmadinejad, who this week launched a scathing attack on President George W. Bush's policies, toured the athletes village Friday amid tight security, with reporters and photographers barred.

He was scheduled to meet Qatari emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, a key US ally, to discuss regional and global issues of mutual interest.

It is the first time that the Games has been held in the Gulf region and only the second time in the Middle East. Iran was host in 1974.

Other than the opening ceremony, no events are scheduled for Friday with the competition proper kicking off on Saturday.