

'IPL money for development'

PTI, Mumbai

Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi says the revenues from the Twenty20 League will be used by the Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) to improve the game's infrastructure on a priority basis ahead of the 2011 World Cup to be held in the sub-continent.

"The revenues of the DLF Indian Premier League would go a long way in vastly improving the on-ground cricketing infrastructure and stadia within the country in preparation of the 2011 World Cup," he told PTI in an exclusive interview.

"The BCCI has always maintained that refurbishment of all of our cricketing infrastructure and stadia prior to the 2011 World Cup is top-priority and would be given the highest level of importance so that we can stage a truly unique World Cup -- one that the cricketing world has never seen," he explained.

Maintaining that the BCCI was a non-profit organisation and all money that is raised are "re-deployed into improving the level of cricket in India", Modi pointed out that presently the country has more cricketers from rural and tier II cities playing for "the men in blue" than ever before.

"Why is that? It is due to the efforts of the BCCI's talent grooming programme. Our cricketers today are privy to the best coaches, facilities and training methodologies to help them develop and hone their skills and the results are there for all to see," he said.

Modi, a vice-president of the BCCI, was responding to a query on why the Board, which gets tax exemption from the government, should not contribute towards social development through the taxivity now that it's making a huge amount of money.

One of my bests, says KP

REUTERS, Hamilton

England batsman Kevin Pietersen said the 42 runs he painstakingly scratched out against New Zealand on the third day of the first test was one of the best test innings he had played for his country.

The normally aggressive and flamboyant Pietersen took 131 balls to make 42, in England's total of 286 for six at the close of play on Friday at Seddon Park, well below his normal strike rate of 64.68 runs per 100 balls.

"To be honest today (Friday) was one of my better innings for England," Pietersen told reporters. "In my whole innings I didn't try anything stupid."

"It was really hard batting conditions out there. The wicket didn't help to score freely. A lot of balls I would normally drive I had to defend because there was a bit of nip or kept low."

"I wanted to work to my own game plan -- just bat time, play the balls under my eyes and score as and when I needed to score."

"I knew I needed to score a big innings and I was on course to do that but it was just an unfortunate dismissal. I'm happy I didn't chuck it away on 20 and I'm happy I didn't chuck it away on 42. That ball... for it to go back to the bowler was unfortunate."

He added: "I was really upset at getting out. Not the way I got out, but because I got out on 42 after doing such hard, hard work."

New Zealand off-spinner Jeetan Patel said his side were pleased with their bowling effort on the pitch, which offered spin and sharp bounce.

Rubel keeps

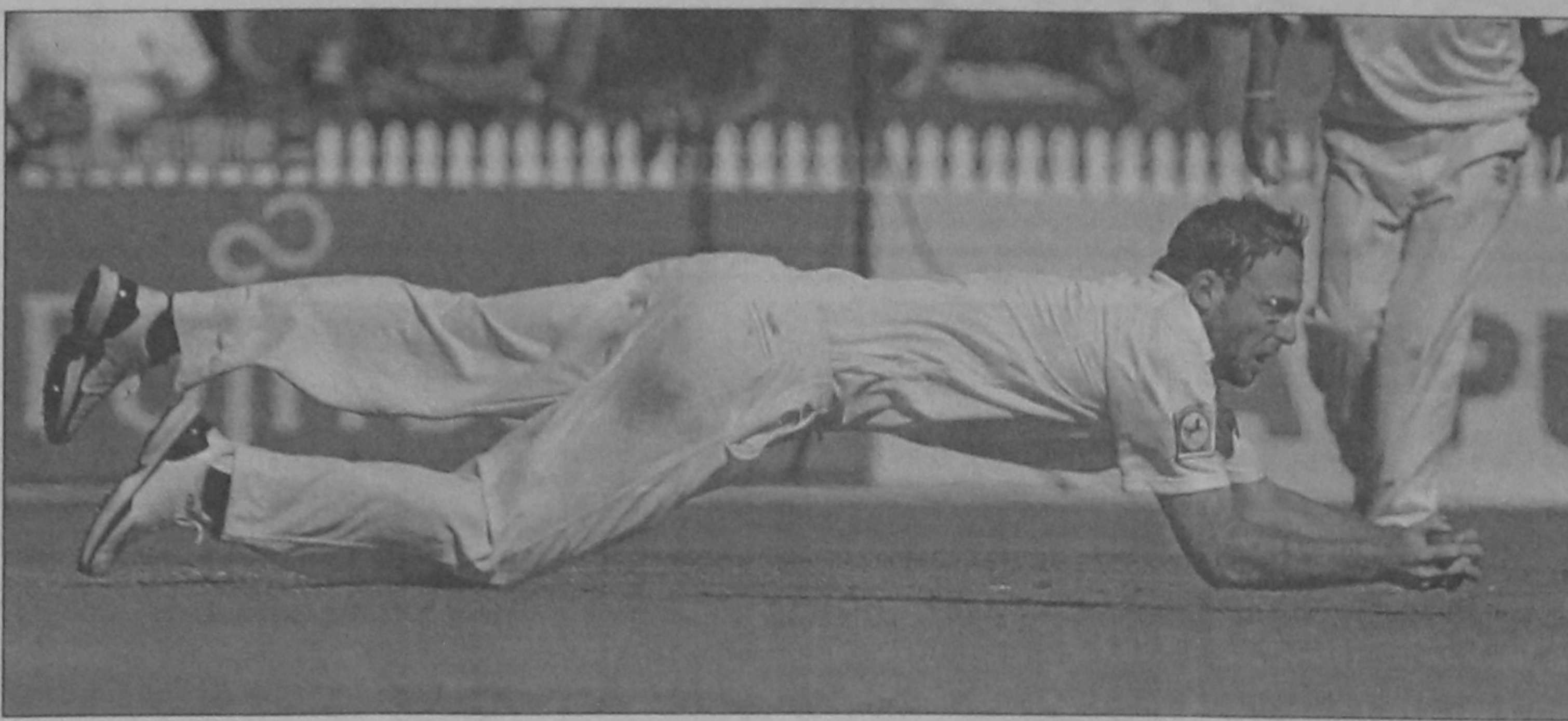
FROM PAGE 17

Riyad not out	37			
Forhad not out	20			
Extras: (b-10, lb-3, nb-1, w-9)	23			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	243			
Did not bat: Mosharraf Hossain, Rubel Hossain.				
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-51, 3-61, 4-119, 5-127, 6-175, 7-199.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Steyn	6	1	38	1
Langeveldt	10	2	33	0
Nel	6	0	36	1
Morkel	7	0	43	1
Botha	9	0	29	1
Morkel	4	0	21	0
Harris	8	0	30	2

SOUTH AFRICA

Smith c Dhiman b Mosharraf	70			
Gibbs c Dhiman b Rasel	0			
Amla c Naem b Rasel	19			
De Villiers lwb b Mosharraf	20			
Duminy c Dhiman b Naem	25			
Peterson c Forhad b Mosharraf	9			
Morkel run out	57			
Botha b Rubel	34			
Morkel not out	1			
Extras: (b-1, nb-2, w-5)	8			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	243			
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-40, 3-106, 4-122, 5-140, 6-167, 7-242, 8-243.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Rasel	10	1	46	1
Sajidul	3	0	22	0
Rubel	3	0	21	2
Forhad	5	0	32	0
Naem	10	0	38	1
Mosharraf	8	2	19	3
Riyad	7	0	42	0
Shakib	4	0	22	0

Result: Match tied.  
Toss: BCB XI  
Umpires: Enamul Haque and S Ibne Shahid (BD)  
TV umpire: Abdul Awal (BD)  
Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)



LEADING FROM THE FRONT: New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori takes a sharp return catch to dismiss England batsman Kevin Pietersen on the third day of the first Test at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday.

England kidding nobody

CRICINFO, Hamilton

The third day at Hamilton was either stultifying or gripping, depending on how slowly you like to cook your contests. England creaked along at a rate of 2.14 an over, gas mark 1 by the standards of the modern game, but New Zealand kept stirring the pot gently with wickets at opportune moments, to leave their opponents in an undeniable stew. There have been all manners of remarks about the turgid nature of this pitch, but they've been completely at odds with the hand-grenade mentality that has gripped England's batsmen. If they are this anxious on day three of the contest, imagine how they'll cope if asked to bat time on a final-day minefield?

Hyperbole is a part of Kevin Pietersen's game, and at times you have to take his comments with a pinch of salt, but it was pretty revealing after play when he described his agonisingly slow innings of 42 as one of the best of his life. "Test matches are tough and I love playing challenging cricket," he said. "There is nothing better than having to show up and really fight for your runs and beat yourself up in terms of stuff that you go and do. It's great and I love it. The tougher it is, the better." Pietersen may have been pumped which bodes well for England's prospects, but that's not the talk of a man who's envisaging a peaceful death to this game.

There's no question that Pietersen scrapped hard for his runs. Only twice has he played a significant innings at a slower tempo than his strike-rate of 32.06, and both came in the midst of terminal batting collapses at Melbourne and Sydney last winter. In fact, there's been a cautiousness about his cricket that runs very close to negativity since that series. It would not be surprising if it stems from a lack of faith in his colleagues.

Today was a day for hundreds, that most elusive of landmarks for England's cricketers. Instead, each man batted himself to a standstill, focusing so intently on survival that they forgot to keep the scoreboard moving. If you leave aside the anomaly of a desperately poor West Indies side in May and June, that's been the attitude of their

Bond's urgent plea

CRICINFO, undated

New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond has pleaded with cricket's administrators to sort out the "nonsense" caused by rival Twenty20 leagues in India.

Bond's international contract was terminated after he signed for the unsanctioned Indian Cricket League.

Governing bodies around the world, including New Zealand, are instead supporting the Indian Premier League.

But Bond told BBC Sport: "It's an untidy landscape and it needs to be sorted out quickly."

The 32-year-old took 216 wickets for New Zealand in Test, limited overs and Twenty20 cricket despite being plagued by various injury problems during his career. And despite signing a three-year contract with the ICL in January, he was keen to continue representing his country.

Bond said he initially received permission to play in India from New Zealand Cricket officials, who then reversed their decision. "By then I'd already signed the contract with the ICL. To me, once you sign a contract, you honour it, so it left me in a catch-22 really," said Bond.

"The way it finished was really disappointing. From the point where I knew I wasn't going to get

cricket ever since the Ashes -- in particular since Adelaide, when the dangers of attritional cricket have never been more vividly displayed. New Zealand themselves know a thing or two about the safety-first approach, and nothing could have played more perfectly into their hands. "When a team gets defensive, it let's us play with tactics," said their offspinner, Jeetan Patel. "It lets us bowl in different areas, makes us ask different questions which is great, rather than have them ask us different questions. We can bowl dead straight or half a foot outside off stump and see what's going to happen. We get a chance to play the game and play it our way."

Patel is a cricketer that England have treated with disdain so far on this tour. Dimitri Mascarenhas flogged him for four sixes in a row in the Twenty20 at Auckland and Pietersen himself climbed into him in the warm-up in Dunedin. He is playing only his second Test match, and a side with self-belief would have bullied him out of the attack, as Pietersen briefly threatened to do with his third-ball swat for six over long-on.

But then Daniel Vettori dropped a man back to the rope as cover, and Pietersen didn't play another shot in anger for 40 overs, a fact of which he was perversely proud. "I'm a mature enough player, and in my whole innings I didn't try anything stupid," he said. "I'm happy I didn't chuck it away on Friday." Except, of course, he did, with a bat-padded chip back to the bowler Vettori, a dismissal he wrote off as "unfortunate". That may be so, but the Pietersen of old would have had 130 on the board by the time his luck ran out, and England would have had enough momentum to put all thoughts of defeat to one side.

It's not his fault, of course. The criticism is all relative because he can only do what he thinks is right for the situation, and as it turned out he was right not to go for broke because his colleagues didn't give the impression they would have coped had he failed. Besides, New Zealand's bowlers applied themselves superbly, producing a five-pronged assault that put England's feeble attack to shame. "I thought they'd come at us a bit harder," said Patel, "but it just shows how well we did bowl, how straight and how much we did with the ball, which is exciting for the last day."

The day was particularly notable picked, to the point where it came to closure was about a month. "In that time, you go through those emotions where you're angry, disappointed and bitter, I suppose, and then you start thinking about what's after. So, because it took a month, by the time it was resolved I was reasonably at peace about it."

Bond will play for Delhi Giants in the second ICL competition, which starts on Sunday, and he is one of eight recent New Zealand players involved.

His hopes, however, of following it with a spell in English county cricket for Hampshire hang in the balance.

The England and Wales Cricket Board is also taking a tough line against players involved in the ICL, stating that they are "determined to disassociate and distance themselves from any promoter, agent or individual involved in such events."

"I'm trying to find out what's going on behind the scenes. It's frustrating because you're worrying about getting your family over there -- at the moment, I'm in the dark," he said.

Bond believes that legal action by players for restraint of trade is on the cards if the situation continues, although he is unlikely to be the one to put his head above the parapet.

"My understanding from talking to my lawyers at home is that it's better a case is brought in England, with all the precedents that it sets there. "Once that's done, it will open up whether players can do both and whether there can be bans on players playing internationally," he commented. "What will happen at the end of the day if this sort of nonsense continues is the players will get so fed up, they will just decide to do it."

"I really don't want to do that through the English system, so it will probably be a Kolpak player or an English county player who's been told he can't play county cricket anymore."

Bond said it was good for players that there was so much money "floating around" in India, but the ICL should be treated the same as the IPL.

"It's all very well banning players, but they have families and want to provide for their families and there seems to be a lack of thought about that. "Players sweat their guts to try to play for their country and (for a board) then to turn round and say 'We don't like where you're playing, you're not playing (for us) any more' is very harsh."

"There's a lot of talk always about being loyal to the boards, but where's the loyalty back?" He added: "All the (ICL) players are asking for is to be granted the same as the IPL -- that when time permits, we can come and play in a league of our choosing."

Shaun Tait is expected to be ready for a first-class comeback at the start of next season, according to his manager Andrew McRitchie. Tait walked away from cricket indefinitely following his unsuccessful return to the Test team in January, citing physical and emotional exhaustion.

However, McRitchie said things were looking up and Tait was keeping in peak physical shape by training with a football team in country South Australia. "We expect he will be ready to go by game one next season," McRitchie told the Advertiser.

"Shaun is thinking about what he has to do to get back to playing at the highest level, which is a good sign. If you think back to when he first stepped away, none of those things were in his sights and now they are. He wants to be back playing but knows he has a bit of work to do."

The Redbacks are playing their last match of the season in Sydney, meaning Tait will have to wait until the start of 2008-09 to consider a comeback. "He could quite possibly put his hand up in readiness for the West Indies (tour in May) but the fact he hasn't played any cricket would probably be held against him," McRitchie said.

Ryan Harris, who has been one of South Australia's leading bowlers in Tait's absence, said the players had caught up with Tait since he walked away. "He is just taking a break and seems happy," Harris said. "Whether we get him back this season or next is his decision. Hopefully he does come back next season but he has to be happy with that and his life."

McRitchie said Tait had received support from several AFL players who had suffered similar problems and also from Marcus Trescothick, whose battled with a stress-related illness was well documented. "Marcus' message was: 'hang in there and just realise there is more to life than playing international cricket,'" McRitchie said. "Marcus also went through a tough time in a high-profile situation."

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 Women's Sports Complex. The third-place play-off and the final will also be held in the afternoon at the same venue.

Maple Leaf confirmed their semifinal berth with wins against Radiant and Playpen yesterday while Sunnyday beat Canadian International School on the concluding day of group stage.

PREMIER KABADDI UNB: Bangladesh Air Force beat Jatrabari KC 11-5 in the 11th Pran Juice Metropolis Premier Division Kabaddi League at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court. In the day's other matches, Bangladesh Navy outplayed Sonali Bank 24-8 and Shaheed Mozaffar Smriti Sangsad defeated Jurain Jamata Club 21-16.

I'm transparent: Dhoni

Cricket PTI, New Delhi

His habit of being openly critical about teammates has raised quite a few eyebrows, but Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni insists there is nothing wrong in being "transparent" if it ends up getting good results for the side.

"I am a transparent person. Whatever happens on the field... I just repeat it at the press conference. There is nothing confidential about it," Dhoni told NDTV when asked about his critical comments against his own players when they have a bad day on the field.

"More importantly I have a good rapport with my team, they respond well to me and that is why they understand me. After the end of every match I speak to them," he said.

Describing himself as a funny

captain, Dhoni said he loves his teammates.

"I am funny, sarcastic and aggressive. Not very vocal but can be if I am angry and I love my teammates," he said.

Refusing to rate himself as skipper, Dhoni said he only gets worried when things don't go as planned.

"I am not really supposed to rate myself... As long as everything is fine and we are winning, it's fine. But the problem starts when we don't do well. Then we come under lot of scrutiny. But that's how it is... Till everything is OK, then good enough," he said.

Dhoni, who led the team to their ODI tri-series triumph in Australia, said the three-month tour Down Under was a test for youngsters and they passed with flying colours.

"It is very special beating Australia in Australia. A lot was said about them and how tough they are in big matches like finals. But it was

good to see our youngsters taking up the responsibility. I hope we get a few easy outings now but jokes apart nothing is easy in international cricket," he said.

Meanwhile, Dhoni returned home in Ranchi to a rousing welcome after winning the cricket tri-series in Australia.

Sporting a black top and jeans, Dhoni waved to his fans at the Birsra Munda airport, where he was greeted with tribal songs and dances amid Z-grade security.

"We are happy that Dhoni is back among us after a long tour. He will have his favourite home-made dishes, particularly milk items he is fond of," Dhoni's cousin Prem Chandra told the waiting media.

Sports Minister Bandhu Tirkey said "we will honour Dhoni on March 16, the last day of a tribal festival at the historic Mohrabadi Ground. The government, however, has not yet decided on what gift Dhoni should be given."

Jose wants to 'kill' Chelsea

Football THE GUARDIAN

Jose Mourinho has warned Chelsea he is out to "kill" them when he returns to club management.

The former Blues boss reiterated his love for the club he managed for more than three years before his sensational departure in September, but declared he is desperate to meet them in the Champions League next season and knock them out of Europe.

"I hope to play them next season in the Champions League," said the Portuguese. "If I play them in the Champions League, I want to go there and kill them - that's my message."

Mourinho was replaced by Avram Grant, who had originally been brought to Stamford Bridge as director of football, and the Portuguese refused to express an opinion on his successor. "I feel nothing for him," he said. "I feel everything for the club, but not for him personally. I still feel Chelsea is a part of me, I'll have Chelsea in my heart forever. I left and for five months you couldn't get a bad word from me in relation to the club and you cannot do it in the future too."

Mourinho's departure was shrouded in mystery, with the build-up dominated by rumours of a falling out with billionaire owner

Roman Abramovich. But he revealed he and the Russian had kept in contact and were on good terms. "I think it was last week that I spoke with people from the club," he said. "I was speaking with Mr Abramovich and Peter Kenyon because we still keep in touch. I was telling them I wish them always good, I wish them always to succeed, I wish them always to win."

Earlier yesterday Mourinho issued a come-and-get-me plea to Europe's top clubs and expressed his desire to coach in either Italy or Spain next season. He also confirmed that he intends to return to English football in the future before ending his career as coach of the Portuguese national team.

In an interview with La Gazzetta dello Sport, the 45-year-old revealed that, although he does not intend to return to club management in the immediate future, he plans to resume his career next season, with either Serie A or the Primera Liga his destination of choice.

"From next year," he said. "[In] Italy or Spain. Afterwards I want to go back to England and finally be national coach of Portugal."

Mourinho guided Chelsea to two Premier League titles, an FA Cup and two Carling Cups, but after a stuttering start to the current league campaign, he parted company with the club. Since turning down the chance to manage England in

December, the controversial coach has been linked to a number of high-profile managerial positions, including Barcelona, Juventus and AC Milan, who were knocked out of the Champions League by Arsenal on Tuesday night.

"I respect Milan [coach Carlo] Ancelotti but Arsenal deserved to qualify over the two games," added Mourinho, who has also been associated with the Internazionale job following press allegations that he recently met up with Nerazzurri owner Massimo Moratti. "I respect him very much as a person that loves football and his club deeply," he said. "However I have never talked with him."

Mourinho neglected to say which club he would prefer to join next season, saying only "which-ever club wants me the most". However, following their Champions League exit against Roma on Wednesday night, Real Madrid are likely to join the growing list of potential suitors for the Portuguese, who first came to prominence when he won the Champions League with unfancied Porto in 2004.

Mourinho said his next employers would be "whoever believes totally in my next project. Whoever has complete belief that I am their ideal man. I am free. I have not signed any pre-contracts or made any gentleman's agreement."

PCB bracing for pull-out

Cricket CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan are concerned that there will be long-term implications if, as expected, Australia pull out of their scheduled tour there due to security issues. It has become increasingly unlikely the series will go ahead in Pakistan but Shafiqat Naghmi, the PCB's chief operating officer, has continued to rule out playing the games at a neutral venue.

"Neutral venues are a dangerous option in terms of not benefiting the cricket of both the playing countries as there will not be a crowd from both the countries and such series are played for the sake of viewers of TV," Naghmi said in the Australian. "If we accept it (playing at neutral venues) then in future there will be no end to this practice and it can ruin cricket around the world."

"A cricket series not only involves two playing teams but also millions of fans from both sides. There are always huge crowds to witness such encounters and cricket series are not just for the sake of cricket's television viewers."

Naghmi was also confident that if the ICC was asked to assess safety in Pakistan it would find no reason teams should not tour. "All the countries have agreed to come here," Naghmi told the Age. "If it comes to that it would be nine countries versus one in the sense that other countries have been happy to tour Pakistan. It is only Australia that hasn't come here for many, many years now."

Cricketer Australia was briefed by the Australian government this week following bomb blasts in Lahore on Tuesday. Australia's players are reluctant to play in Pakistan and the Australian Cricketers' Association will not send a representative with a pre-tour security delegation. Naghmi said Pakistan were ready for Australia to pull out, although they hoped that would not happen.

"If they think they cannot tour we will think about the steps to follow at that stage," he said. "We are bracing ourselves for all decisions. The worst is that they will not come. We will be disappointed, obviously."

Selection now

FROM PAGE 17 The 2007-08 domestic season. Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Ishant Sharma are among those who will get a break before the South Africa series.

In an earlier interview, Vengsarkar had pointed out that it was with the amount of international cricket being played, it was difficult to get players in the national side to play domestic cricket.

South Africa will arrive in Chennai on March 21 for three Tests, the first of which begins at the MA Chidambaram stadium on March 26. The next second and third Tests will be played in Ahmedabad and Kanpur between April 3-7 and 11-15.

Meanwhile India's Test specialists will have to undergo routine tests at the NCA over the next three days in accordance with a BCCI policy, which states that players who have been out of action must undergo periodic check-ups prior to all selections. Laxman, Jaffer, Ganguly, Dravid, VVS Singh, Pankaj Singh and Kumble haven't been part of the side since the Adelaide Test in January and will need to go through fitness tests before their names are cleared for selection. They will undergo tests under Paul Chapman, the trainer at the NCA, Paul Coche, the physiotherapist, and Dav Whatmore. The NCA will in turn forward the reports to the board on Saturday.

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**Tender Notice**

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Armed Forces:

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
		From	To			
1.	Lambda Cyhalothrin, 4,000 litre	12-03-2008	08-4-2008	9-4-2008	Local	984/P-8

3. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1005 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

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Maj  
For Director General