

We won't allow terrorists dictate cricket: Clarke

PTI, London

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Giles Clarke has indicated that Kevin Pietersen and his men will be back in India for next week's Test series, insisting he would not let terrorists dictate cricket.

"Under no circumstances will we allow our cricket to be dictated by terrorists. India is an enormous country and there are large parts of it that have never seen terrorist activity. In 2005 the Aussies were sensible and we are doing the same here," Clarke was quoted as saying by the Press Association.

Traumatized by the mayhem in Mumbai, top players like Andrew Flintoff and Steve Harmison are unwilling to return to India after abandoning the last two one-dayers last month.

The England Cricket Board has sent security expert Reg Dickason to take stock of the arrangements for the two-match Test series to be held in Chennai and Mohali. Dickason has okayed Chennai and will soon visit Mohali before submitting a report to ECB.

Clarke said he was happy with the BCCI's efforts at tightening the security.

"A lot of progress has been made and some extremely good and constructive meetings have taken place," Clarke said.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India are doing all it can to facilitate the tour but we must do what we have to do properly and thoroughly. It is what every England player wants and deserves," he added.

The ECB has also demanded that a 20-man commando force be put on duty at every venue.

Fine win

FROM PAGE 17

(Faruque 66, Imran 50, Arafat 49*, Talha 30; Roy 3-67, Nabil 2-77).

DHAKA: First innings 142 and second innings 251-7 in 96.5 overs (Riyad 105, Shamsur 49; Delwar 3-55, Shuvo 2-81).

RAISHAHI: First innings 283 all out.

KHULNA: First innings 301-9 dec. and second innings 54 all out in 34.1 overs (Kamrul 5-21, Younus 2-5, Tariq 2-15).

CHITTAGONG: First innings 121 all out and second innings 199 all out in 51.2 overs (Faisal 79, Kamrul 29, Dollar 4-57, Ziaur 2-35).

Result: Khulna won by 35 runs. Man-of-the-match: Ziaur Rahman.

BCB-GP sign

FROM PAGE 17

match Test series between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Grameenphone Tri-nation Cup involves hosts Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe and there will be an ODI series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

Grameenphone, a patron of sports since its inception, has been the official sponsors for the national cricket team since 2003.

The first Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from December 26 while the second Test will be held at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium from January 3.

The tri-nation series will begin on January 10 while the Zimbabwe ODI series will start on January 19.



Members of the Ferdous-Kiran panel show v-signs after yesterday's sweeping victory in the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation election at the National Sports Council.

Gayle ready for Kiwis

CRICINFO, undated

Chris Gayle, the West Indies captain, says he's ready to play a "big part" during the upcoming Test series against New Zealand. Gayle, who leads a 15-man squad with four players yet to make their Test debut, has said he expects a closely-fought series.

"The battle is going to be a very competitive one. New Zealand have some inexperienced batsmen who will be looking to prove a point," he said. "We have some new players who will be looking

for opportunities to make a name on the international stage. I'm feeling confident. Whenever the first match comes we will be ready for the main assignment."

Gayle was the leading run-getter during West Indies' recent assignment, the three-ODI series against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi. He scored 235 runs, including two centuries, but West Indies failed to win a single game. On West Indies' last tour of New Zealand, in 2005-06, he scored 235 runs at 47.00 an took six wickets at 21.16 in the three Tests. But he managed only 51 runs in the five ODIs.

"I have a big part to play as a

Yuvraj primed

FROM PAGE 17

two in an Under-22 tournament. It would have helped the duo if the ECB had not scrapped England's lone practice game.

The bowling unit is likely to be retained, with Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma sharing the new ball and Harbhajan Singh and Amit Mishra being the two specialist spinners. Munaf Patel will continue to be the third seamer, but the fate of his partner, RP Singh, is not so clear. There were reported differences between Dhoni and the selection panel over RP's selection ahead of the ODI series against England and it boiled over into a controversy after a selector leaked

it to a member of the press. If the selectors opt for a 15-man squad, there is a strong likelihood of a third spinner being picked. Piyush Chawla is the leading candidate, especially after the shoulder injury Pragnan Ojha suffered while fielding in the Cuttack game against England.

PROBABLE SQUAD Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, M Vijay or S Badrinath, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Amit Mishra, Munaf Patel, RP Singh.

BCCI confident

FROM PAGE 17

good and constructive meetings have taken place," ECB chairman Giles Clarke said on Tuesday.

"The security advice we are receiving has not changed and we are getting a lot of help and co-operation from everyone in India.

"The BCCI is doing all it can to facilitate the tour but we must do what we have to do properly and thoroughly. It is what every England player wants and deserves."

England, meanwhile, are considering travelling to Abu Dhabi to set up a base camp and train there before resuming their journey to Chennai.

Reports from Abu Dhabi claimed England will train and play a warm-up game at the Abu Dhabi Cricket Club later this week before flying to Chennai.

England great Geoff

Boycott said they were not in favour of the series taking place.

"Given what has just happened in India, it is monstrous for the ECB even to be thinking about sending the team back out again," Boycott wrote in his column in The Daily Telegraph.

"It's all very well to say 'We mustn't let the terrorists win', but what about the grieving families who have lost loved ones.

"Sport is supposed to be enjoyable, entertaining and essentially fun. But I don't know how any of that can be possible when India is burying more than 200 victims of terror.

"In fact, the ECB are showing a lack of moral judgment by pressing ahead with all these meetings and security inspections. The whole thing is just too raw."

Kiron beats Dana in BWSF polls

SPORTS REPORTER

The Ferdous-Kiron panel recorded a sweeping victory in the election of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation (BWSF) yesterday.

The panel, backed by the so-called Forum and also supported by the present Bangladesh Olympic Association leadership, won all the 29 posts including 19 members.

The president and a member will be later nominated for the 31-member executive committee.

Ferdous Ara Khan was elected senior vice-president beating Rawshan Akhter while Mahfuza Akhter Kiron stunned former badminton ace Kamrunnahar Dana by 53-43 votes in the most talked about battle for the general secretary.

The other office bearers are: Kamrunnahar Aziz, Anjumana Ara Akzir, Rasheda Rahman, Naznin Shamim, Dolly Cruz (vice-presidents), Zobera Rahman Litu, Farhad Jasmine Liti (joint secretaries) and Mahfuza Nazrul (treasurer).

BSWA award ceremony cancelled

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) has suspended its tomorrow's award-giving programme due to unavoidable circumstances.

The BSWA regretted for the temporary suspension of the programme scheduled to be held at the newly built NSC Tower. It, however, hoped that they would soon be able to hand over the awards for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 to the nominees through a formal ceremony.

Mahtab holds

FROM PAGE 17

FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, Abdul Momin, Sharif Hossain and Nahid Parvez.

Both Mahtab and Obaidul won their respective sixth round matches.

PCB in favour of England return

CRICINFO, undated

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is in favour of England resuming its tour of India after the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, believing the move will send out a "positive signal for cricket in the subcontinent".

"If England returns despite the carnage caused by the Mumbai attacks it would give out positive signals for cricket in the subcontinent. We feel it will also go a long way in India playing us," Saleem Altaf, the Pakistan board's chief operating officer, told PTI. "I fully support the statement of England captain Kevin Pietersen that we can't let ourselves down towards our fans. These terrorists who caused so much carnage in Mumbai have to be given out a clear message that people in the region want to live a normal life."

England were five matches into their ODI series against India when the attacks took place last month. The teams were due to play the second Test in Mumbai starting December 19, and were slated to stay at the Taj Mahal hotel, one of the locations targeted. In the wake of the attacks, the final two ODIs of the seven-match series were called off, and the England squad headed back home.

The ECB is now awaiting a report from their Reg Dickason, their security expert, who is assessing the situation in Chennai and Mohali, the new venues for the two Tests instead of Mumbai and Ahmedabad. However, there are doubts whether all of England's first-choice squad are going to India if the tour does proceed as planned; the board has maintained it will leave

the decision to the individuals concerned. Giles Clarke, the ECB chairman, said the board would make a sensible choice. "Under no circumstances will we allow our cricket to be dictated by terrorists," he said. "India is an enormous country and there are large parts of it that have never seen terrorist activity. In 2005 [when terrorists attacked parts of London], the Aussies were sensible and we are doing the same here." Clarke's statements came after the ICC chief executive, Haroon Lorgat, urged England to tour India if the security situation is deemed safe.

The Pakistan board is also expecting a decision on India's visit to the country next year. There have been reports the tour would be cancelled as the Indian government take a tough stance on ties with Pakistan after the attacks.

"So far the Indian board has just told us that they are waiting for directives from their government and that is the present status quo," Altaf said. "Our [PCB] chairman Ijaz Butt will meet with his Indian counterpart in Colombo this week during the Asian Cricket Council meeting to discuss things while I am also going to attend the ICC chief executives meeting and we hope to make some headway on the Indian's tour."

Altaf was hopeful the tour goes ahead; the PCB in the past has said neutral venues would be considered if India are wary about the security situation in Pakistan. "Cricket has to resume in the subcontinent," he said. "We know that the Indian board wants to support us. Hopefully, the series will be played on schedule right now that is the most important thing for us."

Cricket's orphans: Abbas

FROM PAGE 17

"We are placed at No. 6 in the ICC Test rankings and the only way to improve is if we play more Test matches."

Pakistan is the only one of the nine active Test playing nations which did not play a Test match in 2008.

Abbas, who scored 12 centuries and 5,062 runs in 78 Tests, said it was high time that Pakistan started taking its own decisions.

"Look, we have banned all the players who are competing in the Indian Cricket League and our cricket is almost stuck with this security scenario," he said.

Pakistan has suspended all 19 players including present cricketers -- Rana Naved, Imran Farhat, Imran Nazir and Abdul Razzaq -- for joining the unsanctioned, rebel ICL in India.

"We should start taking our own decisions and lift suspension on ICL players," Abbas added.

"By doing so we will make our team more strong in international cricket."

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has sought its government clearance over sending its team to neighbouring Pakistan and is still waiting for the response.

Imran warns Eng cricketers

PTI, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan has cautioned England's cricketers against returning to India for the two-Test series in the wake of terrorist strikes in Mumbai.

"I would advise them to be very cautious in taking a decision and I think if an individual player decides not to go to India others will also follow him," the former Pakistan captain was quoted as saying by the London-based 'Express' newspaper.

Imran said since the terrorists had specifically targeted foreign tourists in the Mumbai attacks, England players need to be very careful if they return to India.

পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাম উন্নয়নের গোপান. ঘরক নং-পরিবো/তথ/বরি/পকো-১৪/২০০৮/১০১৭. দরপত্র/পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. তারিখ: ০০/১১/২০০৮ ই.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 34-unc. DOWN 16-Ultra-modernist. 1 Pocket-escorted. 1 Macadamize. 2 Terrible. 3 Pinball. 4 Loath (to). 5 Tardy. 6 Will. 7 Smith. 8 biopic. 9 Isle of. 10 Cheery. 11 place? 12 Satan's. 13 Orange. 14 variety. 15 On the. 16 Prior to. 17 Welch. 18 Obe-. 19 dience-. 20 school. 21 lesson.

CRYPTOQUIP. M A G M F G E G J Z U C. D G E N T K G M T K W Q T M X D. M U T J T G C X H B T J H Y W Z B. T M ' Y Y Q Z G M X H W A D G N M. M X D X Y Y X P I.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: Y equals L. Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF A COUPLE OF AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIALS WERE BATTLING IT OUT, MIGHT THAT BE WOMBAT COMBAT?

১১. অন্যান্য নিয়ামকসমূহ: ক) নিয়ামক তথ্য ও শর্তসমূহ তুলনায় উল্লেখ আছে; খ) চিহ্নিতকৃত ওয়াক অফেন্ডিং শব্দে এক দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়ে প্রয়োজনীয় চিহ্নিতকৃত মনি পল্লী বিদ্যুৎগ্রাম বোর্ড/জকা এর অনুমোদন বাহ্যিকভাবে যোগান করা হবে; গ) উৎস্ব দর সফরকারী বিদ্যালয় মোতাবেক প্রদেয় মূল্য সংযোজন কর সহ উৎস্ব বিলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে।