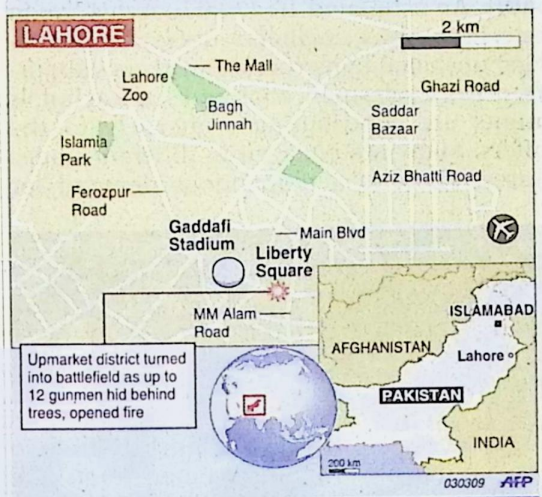
Pakistan attack

Brazen attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team just outside stadium in Lahore



Security concerns in Pakistan

- **September 2001** - New Zealand decide not to tour Pakistan following USA's military action in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. West Indies and Australia then decide to move their games in Pakistan scheduled for later in the year to neutral venues in Colombo and Sharjah.
- **May 2002** - New Zealand cancel their tour of Pakistan after a bomb blast outside Karachi's Sheraton Hotel where they were staying.
- **March 2008** - Australia postpone their tour of Pakistan slated for the end of March as a result of security concerns.The decision was taken in the aftermath of Benazir Bhutto's assasination in December 2007.
- **October 2008** - West Indies call off a proposed tour of Pakistan scheduled for November citing security concerns, a week after the West Indies Women had cancelled the Pakistan leg of their Asian tour.
- **December 2008** - The BCCI call off India's scheduled tour of Pakistan in 2009 following a directive from the government.
- **December 2008** - The PCB confirm that Sri Lanka will tour Pakistan after India decided not to after the Mumbai terror attack.
- **February 2009** - The ICC decide not to stage the 2009 Champions Trophy in Pakistan after some of the members expressed reservations about touring the country.

Source: CricInfo



This combination of pictures, shows Sri Lankan cricketers (TOP L/R) Ajantha Mendis, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara and (BOTTOM L/R) Thilan Samaraweera and Tharanga Paranavitana together with team coach Paul Farbrace. Masked gunmen opened fire on the Sri Lankan cricket team's bus in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore on March 3, 2009, killing at least eight people and wounding six team members, police said. Up to 12 gunmen attacked the team's convoy near the Gaddafi stadium with rockets, hand grenades and automatic weapons, triggering a 25-minute gunbattle with security forces, said Lahore police chief chief Habib-ur Rehman. AFP PHOTO

reaching the finals of the 2007 World Cup where they lost to the Aussies while nurturing some of the best talent in the world.

Perhaps their best-known star is spin-king Muttiah Muralitharan, who has underpinned their success by backing up the batting heroics of Sanath Jayasuriya and the now-retired Aravinda de Silva.

The injured players included star batsman Thilan Samaraweera, captain Mahela Jayawardene, vice captain Kumar Sangakkara, Tharanga Paranavithana, Thilina Thushara and Ajantha Mendis. None have serious injuries.

The tour was immediately cancelled with Rajapakse condemning the "cowardly terrorist attack targeting the Sri Lankan cricket team".

It was an inglorious end to a series that had already been split into two parts with the venues of some of matches changed at the last minute.

Sri Lanka were initially due to play three one-dayers in Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad in January but the third venue was dropped at Si Lanka's request, with no more details given.

The one-dayers went off without a hitch, ending on January 24 with the Sri Lankans winning the series 2-1 before the team left the country.

They returned on February 14 to play two Tests, with the first in Karachi ending in a draw before the second was called off on Tuesday after Sri Lanka posted 606 in their first innings. Pakistan were 110 without loss in reply.

AFP