

Sehwag eyeing revenge

AFP, New Delhi

Key Indian
opener
Virender
Sehwag is
fully fit and
raring to go,
local media reported on
Friday, boosting the coun-
try's chances of glory at the
World Cup.

Sehwag, 32, was ruled out
of India's recent one-day
series against South Africa
due to a shoulder injury,
raising doubts over his fit-
ness ahead of the tourna-
ment, which starts on
February 19.

"I was feeling some pain
in my shoulder," Sehwag
told news channel CNN-
IBN. "So (I thought it was)
better to quit the South
Africa one-dayers."

"I didn't want to get
injured during the South
Africa tour and miss the
World Cup. So I came back
and went to Germany to
see a couple of doctors. I
got a couple of injections
and now I'm fine."



PHOTO: STAR FILE

India opener Virender Sehwag is eyeing revenge for their
2007 World Cup defeat when they meet the Tigers in the
opening match of this World Cup on February 19 in Dhaka.

Pakistan trio charged over corruption

AFP, London

Pakistan cricketers Moham-
mad Aamer, Mohammad
Asif and Salman Butt,
together with their agent,
have been charged with
corruption offences,
England's prosecution ser-
vices said on Friday.

The charges relate to
alleged incidents during a
Test match against England
last year when Britain's
News of the World tabloid
claimed the players,
together with agent Mazhar
Majeed, were willing to
deliberately bowl no-balls.

The newspaper alleged
the players had colluded in a
spot-fixing betting scam.

Simon Clements, head of
the Crown Prosecution
Service Special Crime
Division in a statement, said:
"We have decided that
Mohammad Aamer,
Mohammad Asif, Salman Butt
and their agent, Mazhar
Majeed, should be charged
with conspiracy to obtain and
accept corrupt payments and
also conspiracy to cheat."

"These charges relate to
allegations that Majeed
accepted money from a third
party to arrange for the
players to bowl 'no balls' on
26 and 27 August 2010, dur-
ing Pakistan's Fourth Test at
Lord's Cricket Ground in
London."

The statement said the
three Pakistan players had
been asked to appear in
court in London on March
17. They have been told to
return "voluntarily" to
Britain for the hearing or
prosecutors will seek their
extradition.

Britain-based Majeed
must also appear on the same
date at the same court, City of
Westminster Magistrates.

The Pakistan trio are
currently provisionally
suspended from interna-
tional cricket but a separate
International Cricket
Council (ICC) tribunal is on
Saturday due to announce
its conclusions following its
own probe.

Siddikur

FROM PAGE 16

Asian Tour, turned in 32
before adding three birdies
on his homeward nine. His
birdies were all within the
region of six to 10 feet and
he was beaming with confi-
dence with the comfort-
able lead.

"It was an excellent day
with another great round of
putting. I played very well in
the first round and that gave
me more confidence to go
out and just shoot another
low number," said Siddikur.

"If I continue to play like I
did, I believe it will be easy
for me to win. I'm feeling
confident and feel like I have
one hand on the trophy," he
added.

Tim injury worries Andy

AFP, Melbourne

England coach Andy Flower
says Tim Bresnan's tour-
ending calf injury is the biggest
worry for his team ahead of the
upcoming World Cup.

The English play the final
one-day international of their marathon
Ashes tour at Perth's WACA Ground on
Sunday, before heading home for what is
only a brief break for most of the players.

The 15-man English squad for the World
Cup departs on February 12 and five mem-
bers of that squad are currently injured,
including Bresnan.

Disconcertingly, all five are valuable
members of the attack, the others being Paul
Collingwood (back), Stuart Broad (stom-
ach), Graeme Swann (back), Ajmal Shahzad
(hamstring), while Chris Tremlett would
probably be the obvious late inclusion if any
of that group failed to prove their fitness, but
he too is sidelined by a side strain.

Flower said Bresnan's calf was the biggest
concern.

"Probably it's Bresnan, considering the
sight of his injury, just above his Achilles
tendon in his lower calf," Flower said when
asked which player was in most doubt.

"But he's not a man who has suffered
injuries, well not many injuries, in the past
and hopefully he will recover very quickly
and be ready somewhere near the start."

Flower admitted the injuries were far

from ideal so close to the tournament, which
starts in under three weeks.

"Of course the timing of them getting
back to full fitness is important for the start
of the World Cup," Flower said.

"We can't be absolutely certain of that at
this stage but we are monitoring them on a
daily basis."

The Ashes tour has dragged on beyond
three months and Collingwood was the fifth
player to fly home during the seven-match
ODI series, while Broad was sent back to the
UK during the Test series.

Flower had no doubt the length of the
tour was the reason for the spate of injuries
and that England's World Cup preparation
had suffered as a result.

He said he would like to be consulted on
his team's playing schedule in future,
although he admitted this wasn't always
feasible.

"Without a doubt the length of the tour is
a reason for the injuries," he said.

"We've been here over three months now
and with the intensity at which the guys play
their cricket, and with the intensity that we
demand in training, it is no surprise that
people will pick up injuries and break down
at the end of a long, hard tour."

"It would be quite sensible to look at how
these tours are set up, especially this close to
a World Cup, however, these are the sched-
ules that we are given and we will deal with
them as well as we can."

Where have all the beggars

FROM PAGE 16
bearded Khan.

Firoz Bhuiyan (65), who
has been selling envelopes,
pens, refills etc in front of the
General Post Office (GPO)
since 1980 was evicted on
January 28, was seen selling
only envelopes by walking
around the footpath and
said that his per day income
has reduced to Tk 50 to 100
from Tk 500 to 1000.

"Now I am taking peanuts
for lunch instead of a 40-taka
meal and I am planning to go
back to my home district
Narsingdi to find some work
there to live on," said the 65-
year old hawker.

"As we are not allowed to
sell our garment wares on
footpath, the owner may
release me for one month till
the end of World Cup and in
that case I have to remain
jobless," said a frustrated
Ferdous (20), who came from
Chandpur to work for Tk
4,000 per month.

Khan, Firoz and Ferdous
are among more than 5,000
vendors and hawkers who
live on the daily selling of a
number of commodities as
the footpath market (al-
though illegal) on both sides
of the stadium are popular
for those who are looking for
a bargain.

Not only the hawkers
around the Bangabandhu
National Stadium, nearly
25,000 vendors, cobblers,
key makers, vegetable and
fruit sellers, rickshaw stands
and tea stalls have already
been evicted from the foot-
paths on the major roads.

Some 50,000 more vendors
are on the verge of facing the
same fate as the Dhaka City
Corporation wants to ensure

a beautiful city to foreigners,
who are likely to gather to
watch the 14-nation cricket
extravaganza in Bangladesh.

"Making all footpaths free
from the illegal hawkers is an
ongoing process of the
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)
and ahead of the World Cup,
it has been enhanced to make the city
clean and secure during the
world cup," DCC executive
magistrate Khalil Ahmed
told The Daily Star yesterday.

"A city is a mirror of a
nation and ninety percent
inhabitants of the city are
happy after making the
footpath free from the hawk-
ers and the initiative has also
reduced eve-teasing as well as
pick-pockets," Ahmed said.

"However, we are going
slowly keeping the things in
mind that the hawkers and
vendors survive through
their daily selling as well as
low-income groups who also
prefer those markets."

"The authorities told us
that they want to clean up
Dhaka for the foreign guests
and showcase Dhaka as a
beautiful city but they are
doing that by taking away
the livelihood of poor people
like us," said Kamal
Siddique, convenor of the
Bangladesh Chinnomul
Hawkers Committee.

Kamal, however, categor-
ically accepted the govern-
ment decision in the greater
interest of the nation as they
will be kept away from the
footpath only for one
month.

The leader of the hawkers
union claimed that a total of
235,000 hawkers and ven-
dors would be evicted ahead

of the World Cup as people
come here from all over
Bangladesh for their liveli-
hood and most of the evicted
hawkers and vendors have
already left and have gone
back to their villages.

He also suggested the
government to rehabilitate
the street vendors disbursing
funds that the government
gets from UN and other
international organizations
as a climate-compensation
donation since most of the
hawkers and vendors of the
city are affected by river
erosion, drought, cyclone
and hurricanes.

Still some hawkers and
vendors were yesterday seen
trying to set up their shops on
the footpath avoiding the
police eyes and Hossain Ali, a
wallet seller, was one of them
as he is the sole bread-winner
of his nine-member family.

"Both the bowlers can
now spin the ball and have
good control of flighted
deliveries. And in one-day
cricket the most important
thing is how accurate you are
in your bowling," observed
Salahuddin adding that
Shuvo has to improve his
bowling.

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current form of the spinners
there is a bright picture for
the Bangladesh team and it's
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The uncaped players
have been placed in fixed
price brackets by the IPL -
those players who made
their first-class debut in the
last two years will be paid Rs
10 lakhs (\$22,000); those in
the field for two to five years
would get Rs 20 lakhs (\$44,000)
and those with more than five years' exper-
ience Rs 30 lakhs (\$66,000).

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ICC warns against fraud emails

AFP, New Delhi

Cricket's governing body on
Friday warned the public to
beware of fraudulent emails
that seek personal details to
give away non-existent cash
rewards ahead of the World
Cup.

The aggressive right-
handed said the team were
upbeat about their opening
tie against Bangladesh in
Dhaka. India lost to the
minnows in the 2007 World
Cup in the Caribbean, a
defeat that eventually led to
their early exit from the
tournament.

"Because we're playing
the opening game against
them in Bangladesh, Bangladeshi
people are expecting us to beat us
again," Sehwag said. "But
this time we have prepared well."

"You can say it is a
revenge game for us and we
won't take the game lightly.
We will give our best shot
and we will come hard on
Bangladesh."

India, World Cup champions
in 1983 in England, have
been placed in Pool B along-
side South Africa, England,
Bangladesh, West Indies,
Netherlands and Ireland.

Recipients are asked to
provide bank account infor-
mation and told to wire
funds to a third-party bank
account in order to facilitate
their receipt of the award,
the ICC said.

"The ICC wishes to place

on record that neither does it

conduct or authorise any

such sweepstakes or prize

promotions, nor does it

appoint any third parties to

do so," the governing body
said in a statement.

"Further, the ICC will

never ask you to send or

confirm personal informa-
tion via e-mail or to wire

funds to a bank account for

award eligibility."

The ICC said such emails

should not be replied to and

recipients should notify the

local law enforcement

agency.

Numerous competitions
are being organised in the
media and by businesses in

the run-up to the World Cup

which opens in India, Sri

Lanka and Bangladesh on

February 19, but had

delayed the appointment of

a captain.

"PCB (Pakistan Cricket
Board) announces Afzali as

captain of Pakistan team for

the World Cup. Misbah has

been announced as vice captain

for the event," the board said in a statement.

PCB chairman Ijaz Butt said the decision

had widespread backing.

"I think we've still got a well-balanced

one-day side going into this last game,

and we are taking a lot of confidence into it and

then onto the World Cup."

"We are still the number one one-day side

in the world so hopefully we win this series 6-1."

Australia enter the World Cup as the num-
ber one ranked side in one-day cricket, but

if they need any proof that pre-tournament