

Junaid dropped for 5th ODI

AFP, Rawalpindi

Pakistan's selectors Friday dropped the son of Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Tauqir Zia from the team for the fifth and final one-day international against Bangladesh.

Junaid Zia, 19, was a controversial choice when selectors chose him over other notable performers for the first one day match in Multan on September 9 and retained him for the next three matches despite poor form.

With Pakistan leading 4-0, the two sides will wrap up the series in Karachi on Sunday.

In the four matches played so far Junaid only managed to take three wickets for 127 runs at a cost of 42.33 runs per wicket. He came away wicketless from the fourth match, conceding 46 in his six overs.

The selectors have made one change in the 15-man squad with uncapped pacer Abdul Rauf replacing Junaid.

SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Hameed, Imran Nazir, Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Abdul Razzaq, Mohammad Sami, Abdul Rauf, Shabbir Ahmed, Umar Gul, Kamran Akmal, Salman Butt, Danish Kaneria.

McGrath in doubt

CRICINFO, undated

Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath is a rated no more than 50-50 to be fit to play in the first Test against Zimbabwe at Perth starting on October 9. McGrath underwent surgery on his ankle in August and only started bowling in the nets on Wednesday.

Errol Alcott, Australia's physiotherapist, said that McGrath would not be rushed back into action.

"He now has to increase his workload and not pull up with any soreness, he explained. "At this stage it's still touch and go, we still have to go through a few check-points first."

McGrath is due to have his ankle re-examined next week, although a final decision on whether he will play in the match is not likely to be made until the end of the month.

Div III soccer

UNB, Dhaka

Both the matches of the Meghna Life Insurance Metropolis Third Division Football League ended in draws at the Bir Sherestha Sepoy Shaheed Mohammad Mustafa Stadium in Kamapur yesterday.

Matauli Udayan Sangsad drew goalless with Dhaka Sporting Club in the day's first match while Mirpur Ekadosh played out a one-all draw with Swadesh Samaj Kallayan Parishad in the other match.

16 teams

FROM PAGE 13 decision is expected at a meeting of the playing committee next year.

"It is a complex issue, made more complex by the advent of sport science and the fact that we have very high quality slow-motion replays of bowlers' actions," he told reporters.

"The committee felt the interests of players, both bowlers and batsmen, are a bit strained by the two-stage process."

The subject came under the spotlight again in May after West Indian Jermaine Lawson was reported for a suspect bowling action.

Australian Brett Lee and Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar are other leading fast bowlers to have their actions queried since the throwing controversy was revived in 1995 with the no-balling of Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

Ganguly's men falter

Cricket

AFP, Madras

India captain Saurav Ganguly was forced onto the defensive Friday as a parade of star Test batsmen lost the lead in a major domestic match ahead of a busy international cricket schedule.

Ganguly made a four-ball duck as his star-studded Rest of India side conceded a 95-run lead to national champions Mumbai, led by batting great Sachin Tendulkar, in the Irani Cup match here.

Mumbai were 11 for no loss in their second innings at stumps on the second day of the five-day game for an overall lead of 106.

The Rest, containing five Test batsmen, were shot out for 202 in their first innings in reply to their opponents' 297.

Opener Virender Sehwag began the procession when he insidedged seamer Avishkar Salv's delivery on to his stumps after contributing 16.

Test batsmen Venkatsai Laxman scored a 53-ball five and Sanjay Bangar 29, while one-day specialist Yuvraj Singh made 27 as Mumbai seized the initiative despite having just one Test seamer in Ajit Agarkar.

Rahul Dravid top-scored with 41 before being brilliantly caught by a diving Tendulkar at short mid-wicket off Ramesh Powar.

Off-spinner Powar finished with 4-61 off 23 overs, adding to Ganguly's worries ahead of next month's Test series against New Zealand.

New Zealand are scheduled to arrive next week for two Test matches and a triangular one-day series also involving world champions Australia.

India tour Australia later this year



Indian cricket captain Saurav Ganguly walks past Bombay players on the second day of the Irani Cup match in Madras yesterday.

for four Tests and a tri-series also featuring Zimbabwe.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MUMBAI: 297 (S. Tendulkar 94, S. Bahutule 58, W. Jaffer 43, Z. Khan

5-77, A. Kumble 2-64, L. Balaji 2-47) and 11 for no loss

REST OF INDIA: 202 (R. Dravid 41, R. Powar 4-61, A. Agarkar 2-29, A. Salvi 2-52)

Plans for super cricket series

AFP, Bombay

The top Test and one-day international cricket teams will take on the Rest of the World in a new Super Series being planned by the sport's governing body to boost its finances, sources said on Friday.

The series, which includes one five-day game and three limited-overs internationals, will be held every two years starting in September 2005 in South Africa.

The Rest of the World teams, to be selected by the International Cricket Council (ICC), will be pitted against the ICC's top-ranked team in each version of the game.

"The four matches may get official status, we are working out the details and modalities," an ICC source said on the sidelines of the cricket management committee meetings here.

Australia are currently both the champion Test and one-day side, but the inaugural Super Series will feature the top-ranked teams in early 2005.

This is the second fund-raising event developed by the ICC to augment its finances to develop cricket in all parts of the world.

The Champions Trophy one-day tournament, featuring the 10 Test-playing nations and two associate members, is held every two years.

The first three tournaments were held in Bangladesh (1998), Kenya (2000) and Sri Lanka (2002). The next will be played in England in September 2004.

Previous matches involving Rest of the World sides, who played 'Tests' in England and Australia in the early 1970s and took part in a Princess Diana Memorial match at Lord's five years ago, were all unofficial.

The toe that will

FROM PAGE 13

the last 20 years its been only cricket. It is not easy to keep playing, you have to maintain your fitness level.

"I...just keep trying, not look at how many years are left in me. I have no target. I just want to play."

Tendulkar said his immediate task was to do well in next month's home series against New Zealand and the tour of Australia later in the year.

"We have to beat New Zealand for sure," he said, but refused to regard the two Tests as an opportunity to take revenge for the heavy defeats in New Zealand last year on bowler-friendly wickets.

"I'm not saying give them rank turns but I feel cricket is all about adaptability," he said.

"In New Zealand last year, there were some wickets where everything was happening. It gave false confidence to the fast bowlers and demoralised the batsmen, who began to look for technical flaws which didn't exist."

"It didn't disturb me because I knew we were playing on tracks that were not of international standards."

Tendulkar regarded the tour of Australia as the ultimate test for the Indian team.

"We all know what's in store for us, it's going to be a tough series and tough men are going to survive there."

Tendulkar is the world's leading run-getter in one-day internationals with 12,219 runs and 34 centuries.

He has also amassed 8,811 runs with 31 hundreds in 105 Tests, leaving him three centuries short of equalling compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's world record of 34.

Houllier makes peace

BBC ONLINE, Liverpool

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has vowed to put his protracted war of words with Graeme Souness behind him.

The pair traded public insults after a fiery match at Ewood Park in which Liverpool lost two key players -- Jamie Carragher and Milan Baros -- to broken limbs.

Carragher is expected to be out for six months after Lucas Neill's challenge broke his leg, while Baros should return in January.

"I have said all I want to say on the subject, but it is a shame that a fine team performance has been overshadowed," said Houllier.

"I have drawn a line and I have no intention of saying anything else. I am now only focused on our matches."

"We have ended up with two major injuries and the best way we can help their recovery is for the rest of the squad to make sure we are still in contention when they return to the side."

"Jamie has been very down -- he is the worst person to have his football taken away because he loves it so much and is so fully committed."

"But he is a strong character and he will bounce back."

"Milan too is a good guy, a good player and a good person. He will be back playing a lot quicker than Jamie."

Houllier was upset that both Souness and Neill waited two days to express their sympathy for Carragher.

Malcolm's parting shot

Cricket

AFP, London

The limits on foreigners playing for English clubs need to be increased, according to former England fast bowler Devon Malcolm.

Speaking on the occasion of his retirement Friday, Malcolm said that he feared the English counties were mortgaging the long-term health of English cricket for the short-term gain offered by overseas players.

"All we are doing is feathering the nests of Australia and South Africa and others by acting as a finishing school for their Test candidates," Malcolm told the Daily Mirror.

"You have to pay their wages, give them a car, rent them a flat, look after their families -- where is all that money coming from?"

"There is supposed to be a limit of two overseas players per county but every time one of them is called up for international duty the counties just go out an sign another one on a short-term contract."

"So instead of giving our best prospects experience in the County Championship, we are preparing these guys to come back one day and bite the hand that once fed them."

Malcolm, who took 128 Test wickets in a 19-year career, is calling



DEVON MALCOLM

it a day at 40 with over 1,000 first-class wickets under his belt but admits he has one big regret.

"One of my few regrets is that I never had the chance to play in Australian cricket because I'm sure it would have made me a better player," he said.

"The last time England won an Ashes series, guys like Ian Botham

and Graeme Hick were playing in Australia but those opportunities don't seem to exist for English cricketers any more."

Malcolm is leaving county cricket before his famous pace is reduced by age.

"I've had a privileged career and I would not have swapped the last 19 years for anything," he said.

Missing Bond

Kiwis fly to India today

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Fast bowlers have never been known to queue up for service in India, and expressions like "graveyard" and "nightmare" enter the fast men's lexicon and tend to sum up the reputation the pitches enjoy in India. Shane Bond, despite the success that elevated him to international status in India two years ago, will probably be more than happy at home getting ready for the Christmas series against Pakistan.

His absence has cost New Zealand their most valuable strike weapon, but it has provided an opportunity for others to stake their claim for what is one of the busiest nine months in New Zealand cricket history. Home series against Pakistan and South Africa and a tour to England are all in the offing once the India-Pakistan tour is completed at the end of November.

That's where Daryl Tuffey and Ian Butler step in for consideration as the new-ball attack, with Jacob Oram as first change and spinners Daniel Vettori and Paul Wiseman. The Northern Districts pace pair have bowled together at club, first-class and Test level, and are the frontrunners to do it again in India. There is the prospect of competition for the job from Michael Mason, untried at Test level, but a steady performer on the New Zealand domestic scene.

Tuffey, 25, and Butler, 21, do have Test experience. Tuffey goes into the tour on 47 Test wickets at 26.85, while Butler, who last played in New Zealand's Test series-winning victory in the West Indies midway through last year, has 14 wickets at 32.50. Both are under no illusions about what lies ahead. For Butler, it is a chance to get back into selectors' favour after missing out during the last home season, while Tuffey knows there will be some Indian batsmen gunning for him after the last series in New Zealand.

"There will be a bit of vengeance on their minds," said Tuffey.

"As both sides bowled well on those tracks last summer -- we just made the most of it. I'm looking forward to getting over there in their conditions. We'll be much more of a potential match for them than per-

haps they expect. We won't be a walkover, that's for certain. We'll be looking to take matches into the fifth day and putting some pressure on there."

Butler, the relative tyro of the pair, had no qualms about the expected conditions.

"Everyone has got to bowl on them. If you want to be a good bowler you have to be able to bowl in all conditions," he said.

Having suffered the disappointment of non-selection last summer, Butler had to go back to domestic cricket, but said it had been beneficial to his approach, especially in one-day cricket.

"I knew my one-day record wasn't good, but I managed to put in some good spells for Northern Districts, and it was good to win the State Shield with the side. We always enjoy it when our international players come back to the side, like Daryl or Daniel Vettori, and I wanted to help the side when I came back."

It was during the domestic one-day competition that Butler reaffirmed the potential that saw Sir Richard Hadlee and his fellow selectors pluck him from nowhere to be Bond's replacement for the England series in the summer of 2001-02. While not as fast as Bond, yet, Butler has shown the capacity to learn and spend time this year at Gloucestershire where he came under the eye of incoming New Zealand coach John Bracewell.

"It is disappointing that Shane won't be in India, but I'm rapt that I've got a chance. With the amount of cricket we have to play in the near future, I want to make sure I put my hand up for consideration," he said.

Tuffey knows there has been a perception -- real or imagined -- that he has been a slow starter in seasons past, but given the build-up of the New Zealanders had in Christchurch and then over eight days in Brisbane, he is sure he can hit the ground running in India.

"It has been great to get back into the groove, and our build-up has been structured really well by Ashley Ross. We spent a lot of time in the nets, and so did the batters. We've been working to different work loads but the weather was great, the wickets were flat and they were similar conditions to what we will face in India, although probably

not as hot as it will be."

Part of the intention of the workload development was to have the bowlers perform as well in their third stint of the day as in their first, and Tuffey felt that had been achieved. Equally, the pressure is on to bowl well in partnership with others in the attack, and Tuffey and Butler enjoy a natural association through their provincial ties.

"I think we complement each other nicely, with him bowling his outswinger and me bowling them in," Butler said.

"In fact, it is not only Daryl and I, but you have to work with all the bowlers. You have to look at your over and not ease pressure achieved at the other end by bowling a loose ball that gets hit for four. Daryl helped me when I was in the Counties-Manukau squad at age 17. I looked up to him and what impressed me about him was that he was so consistent and he made the utmost of what he had."

"He's looking very good at the moment and is hitting the crease hard which helps his action," Butler added. Both have been working on their strength during a winter at home this year, and Butler said it had allowed him to make the most of the time in Brisbane.

"It was superb and getting outside gives you some confidence you can do the job. There is nothing like bowling on an outdoors length. The indoor length is completely different," he said.

Tuffey rates highly the developing maturity of Butler, who he says is "a bit like Shane. One of his weapons is pace, and that is a good foil for me. Accuracy is my biggest thing, and by doing that I can let them fire them down at the other end. I've got to know him pretty well, and he's maturing into a fine cricketer, he's learning all the time and is pretty receptive to advice. He's been out of the team for a year and the hunger is there and with everyone looking to be involved for the whole season, he wants to be one of the first to put his hand up."

The New Zealanders fly out on Sunday for two months of tough cricket. But they are relishing the challenge against an Indian team preparing well for the big event, and their own big season.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Have herd
4 Tic
9 Comic DeLaise
12 D.C. persona
13 Love material
14 "How Can — Sure?"
15 "Ziggy" cartoonist
17 Japanese pond fish
18 Eggs
19 Lumber-jack's call
21 Baked potato holder
24 Salon concern
25 Show to a seat, jocularly
26 Roulette bet
28 Hoteller Helmsley
31 Use a teaspoon
33 Second-stringer
35 Trade
36 Mexican entrees
38 Tie up the phone
40 Pinch

DOWN

1 Make a decision (to)
2 Court Charles' dog
3 Shade provider
4 Very thin cartnailist
5 Kind of exercise
6 Foolish one
7 Indolence
8 Servile
9 "Hagar the Horrible" cartoonist
10 Reed instrument
11 Name in Israel's history
16 Moo goo gai pan
20 Architect — van der Rohe
21 Equitable
22 The
23 "Blondie" cartoonist
27 Grooved on
29 Neet competitor
30 Some computer programs (Abbr.)
32 Street
34 Blake
37 Spirit in the food
39 Summon with a gesture
42 Trap
44 Enemy
45 Worked at a loom
46 Algerian port
50 Trail the pack
51 Triangle part
52 Caustic solution
53 Nevertheless

Solution time: 24 mins.

ACROSS: 1 HERD, 4 TIC, 9 COMIC, 12 D.C., 13 LOVE, 14 "HOW CAN I BE SURE?", 15 "ZIGGY", 17 CARP, 18 GOLDFISH, 19 EGG, 20 ARCHITECT, 21 EQUITY, 22 THE, 23 BLONDE, 27 GROOVED, 29 NEET, 30 SOME, 32 STREET, 34 BLAKE, 37 SPIRIT, 39 SUMMON, 42 TRAP, 44 ENEMY, 45 WORKED, 46 ALGERIAN, 50 TRAIL, 51 TRIANGLE, 52 CAUSTIC, 53 NEVERTHELESS.

DOWN: 1 DECISION, 2 COURT, 3 SHADE, 4 THIN, 5 KIND, 6 FOOLISH, 7 INDOLENT, 8 SERVILE, 9 HAGAR, 10 REED, 11 ISRAELI, 16 MOO GOO GAI PAN, 20 VAN DER ROHE, 21 EQUITY, 22 THE, 23 BLONDE, 27 GROOVED, 29 NEET, 30 SOME, 32 STREET, 34 BLAKE, 37 SPIRIT, 39 SUMMON, 42 TRAP, 44 ENEMY, 45 WORKED, 46 ALGERIAN, 50 TRAIL, 51 TRIANGLE, 52 CAUSTIC, 53 NEVERTHELESS.

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CRYPTOQUIP

M E C H E F Z V U L B P F G C

V U I O I Z B O J P F W W C T

G E C L C P I V F P Z G P C X U P

E C X U T C M U Z "T U P H F G I"

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IS THERE A NAME FOR VALUABLE ORE THAT'S STILL BURIED IN THE EARTH? NEVER MIND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals F

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Straightforward Athar

FROM PAGE 13

done on such situations was to react instantly. I did not correct him but instead gave my views as straight as possible. That way, I tried to make sure that the producer or the commentator in question, got the message.

DSS: Did you feel any problem criticising the Bangladesh cricketers, especially since you are a selector?

AAK: I'm not shy of criticising at all. I'm not biased towards Bangladesh. If somebody plays a good shot, I always appreciate that and if somebody plays a poor shot, I'll criticise it. It has got nothing to do with me being a selector.

DSS: What is your evaluation of Bangladesh's performance so far in this series?

AAK: I have never seen Bangladesh play better cricket. I didn't see them in action in Australia but just by looking at the scorecards, I thought they played brilliantly down under. But I think the Tigers have taken their level of improvement one step ahead in Pakistan.

Lancashire keen on Cork

BBC ONLINE, London

Lancashire are interested in signing Dominic Cork, who has asked to be released by his contract with Derbyshire.

But they will only pursue the signing if the former England all-rounder is willing to take a drop in salary to comply with the wage structure currently in place at Old Trafford.

"I've always been a big Dominic Cork fan ever since he made his England debut and I still believe he is a good player," said Lancashire chairman Jack Simmons.

"If reports of his salary are to be believed I don't think he will fit into our structure."

"I won't break our wage structure for anyone but if Dominic Cork will come to us and fit in with our structure then I'm sure we would be interested."

"But it would have to come from the dressing room and the captain and the coach would have to want him."

Cork is set to leave Derbyshire after new Director of Cricket David Houghton indicated that he would not be re-offered the captaincy for next season.

Chief executive John Smedley said: "The club hopes to have the opportunity to meet Dominic and his advisors within the next few days to conclude the matter."