

Fazlur again on UNESCO body

PRESS RELEASE

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman has been reelected chairman of the Working Group on Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Games and Sports at a



FAZLUR RAHMAN

meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Physical Education and Sports (CIGEPS) of UNESCO at its headquarters in Paris recently.

Ridon sets

FROM PAGE 13 The former national defender however said that the next match against Nepal would be different.

"Nepal will be playing an attacking game like us. So, hopefully it will be a more open contest.

On the other hand, his Pakistan counterpart Siddique Sheikh blamed inexperience for the result on Monday.

"Bangladesh boys played around four tournaments before this match while we had played only a few practice matches against mediocre local teams. That's why Bangladesh looked better today. But I am not unhappy with the effort of my boys," Sheikh said.

Bangladesh will play Nepal on December 5. Only the winners of this group will advance into the 16-team final round to be held in Malaysia next September.

Teams Bangladesh: Piru, Shiraji, Zahir, Robin, Faisal, Maruf, Sharif, Anwar, Ridon (Shamim), Parvez and Arup (Sujon).

Pakistan: Zulfiqar, Akhter, Waqas, Umar Farooq, Mubashar, Saleem (Asif), Imran, Farooq Shah (Ahsan), Misbah, Rafique and Ahmed.

Referee: Sunder Raj Balu (India).

Clijsters to skip Olympics

REUTERS, Brussels

World number two tennis player Kim Clijsters will not represent Belgium at next summer's Olympic Games, the 20-year-old said on Monday.

But Clijsters will fly the flag for her Fed Cup team next year after turning her back on the Belgian cause last month.

Missing Clijsters and her number one-ranked compatriot Justine Henin-Hardenne, the Belgian team -- including Clijsters' younger sister Elke -- fell in the semifinals to an under-strength U.S. team.

PCB boss quits

FROM PAGE 13 the chairman and demanded his resignation after Pakistan failed to go beyond the first round in the World Cup early this year. But the general weathered the situation and continued.

Musharraf is likely to appoint former chief executive Arif Abbasi or the current PCB chief executive Rameez Raja to replace Zia.

India hold on to draw



REUTERS, Sydney

India held out for a draw on Monday after being given a fright by an inexperienced Queensland Academy of Sport line-up.

Set a near-impossible 305 to win in two sessions, the Indians crawled to 121 for four when the captains agreed to an early finish.

The Academy, made up of mainly part-time players with little first-class experience, declared at lunch on 208 for six with Lee Carseldine 109 not out, to go with his first-innings hundred.

India play Australia in the first test starting at the Gabba on Thursday and Academy captain Aaron Nye predicted the tourists would struggle.

"You could see that they want to compete, which is pretty important, but they're going to have to go the next notch up...because the Australian team don't give you an inch to move," Nye said.

"We worked out we probably

didn't lose a session at all. In general we felt we were pretty much on top."

With 60 overs available, the Indians used their time to get some valuable batting practice.

They looked in trouble when they lost Virender Sehwag, Akash Chopra and Deep Dasgupta cheaply to slump to 32 for three.

But Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly and Sadagoppan Ramesh steadied the ship with a 57-run stand.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at end of drawn three-day match between India and Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) at Allan Border Field on Monday:

QAS: First innings 304 for 6 declared (Carseldine 112, Phillipson 85, Simpson 43; Kumble 4-74)

INDIA: First innings 208 for 9 declared (Laxman 74, Dravid 38, Ramesh 21; Dawes 3-36, Magoffin 2-28, Brant 2-39)

QAS: Second innings (overnight 79-2)

Payne lbw b Sehwag 35

Simpson lbw b Pathan 5

Carseldine not out 109

Nye lbw b Kumble 16

Phillipson c Ramesh b Pathan 11

Farrell st Patil b Kumble 2

Hartley c Sehwag b Balaji 8

Leloux not out 12

Extras: (b-4, nb-5, lb-1) 10

Total: (For 6 wickets in 52 overs) 208

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-73, 3-121, 4-142, 5-156, 6-194

Bowler O M R W

Agarkar 10 0 30 0

Pathan 13 0 54 2

Balaji 9 1 47 1

Kumble 17 6 58 2

Sehwag 3 0 14 1

INDIA: Second innings

Sehwag lbw b Dawes 4

Chopra c Carseldine b Magoffin 11

Dasgupta b Jurgensen 8

Ramesh not out 37

Ganguly c Nye b Simpson 35

Dravid not out 20

Extras: (lb-6) 6

Total: (For 4 wickets in 52 overs) 121

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-28, 3-32, 4-88

Bowler O M R W

Dawes 7 5 10 1

Brant 7 2 11 0

Magoffin 9 2 21 1

Jurgensen 5 2 13 1

Simpson 14 4 22 1

Phillipson 3 2 6 0

Leloux 7 0 32 0

Result: Match drawn.

MacGill's desire



AFP, Brisbane

Australian leg-spinner Stuart MacGill wants to be known as an entrenched Test bowler and not merely as Shane Warne's "stuntman".

The four-match Test series against India will shape MacGill's future with Warne returning from a 12-month ban in February before the three-Test tour of Sri Lanka.

The 32-year-old MacGill is keenly looking forward to taking on the Indians for the first time and on Monday talked like a man who expected to be selected in Australia's XI for the first Test at the Gabba, starting on Thursday.

His position is in question with left-arm quick Nathan Bracken's good form and Brisbane's pace-friendly reputation leaving the selectors to float the thought of a four-prong fast bowling attack.

But MacGill's strong Gabba record, his ability to turn the ball away from the Indian right-handers and captain Stephen Waugh's penchant for a proven spinner will provide the opportu-

nity to cement his place in the world's No.1 side.

"This series, whether I like it or not, is important in redefining me if you like," MacGill said on Monday.

"I'm either the replacement or

another spin bowler rather than the stuntman.

"(Another) reason I want to do well is because they (India) are supposed to be the best players of spin in the world."

MacGill has enjoyed a great career in his own right.

He has 133 Test wickets at an average of 26.3 and possesses a strike-rate comparable to the likes of Dennis Lillee and Glenn McGrath.

"I think my ability to take the ball away from the right-handed batsman might be important considering most of the Indians are right-handed batsmen," he said.

Skipper Saurav Ganguly is the only left-handed batsman in a top-order heavily reliant on Sachin Tendulkar.

"My record at the Gabba is pretty solid, the last time I bowled here was in the Sheffield Shield final and I got five-for," said MacGill.

West Australian Brad Williams is under most pressure in the push for Bracken but has strong claims by virtue of a solid Test debut against Zimbabwe in Sydney where he took four wickets in the match.

I'm able to stand alone consistently.

"If I do well, or hold my own at least, against these guys I can be seriously considered as just

slumped to 32 for three wickets in the second session.

Paceman Joe Dawes removed Virender Sehwag for just four when he trapped the opener in front.

This was the signal for India to shut up shop, with just 24 runs coming in their first hour at the crease.

India lost Akash Chopra (11) and Deep Dasgupta (8) on either side of the drinks break.

It brought captain Saurav Ganguly to the crease and he steadied the ship with Sadagoppan Ramesh.

Ganguly was caught by Nye off the bowling of off-spinner Chris Simpson for 35 in the dreary, abbreviated last session. Ramesh was left unbeaten on 37 with Rahul Dravid not out on 20.

The Indians announced that they will be joined Tuesday by former Australian fast bowler Bruce Reid, who has been signed up as the team's bowling coach.

'India must improve'



AFP, Brisbane

India will have to improve to give world champions Australia a run for their money in the Test series starting here Thursday. Queensland Academy of Sport captain Aaron Nye said Monday after the tourists drew with his side.

Nye claimed the Academy team -- virtually a Queensland state second eleven -- had scored a moral victory in the three-day clash at Allan Border Field.

"They are going to have to go to the next notch up for the Aussies because the Australian team don't give you an inch to move," he said.

"We worked out we probably didn't lose a single session in this match. We felt we were pretty much on top."

The game was called off 30

minutes early with India 121 for four wickets in their second innings after they had been set a victory target of 305 from a minimum of 60 overs.

The tourists made no attempt to hammer the runs, preferring instead to use the time to hone their skills for the first Test starting at the 'Gabba Ground here in three days.

Earlier in the day, Queensland Academy batsman Lee Carseldine tormented the Indian bowling again, adding 109 not out to the 112 he smacked in the first knock.

The dynamic left-hander -- unable to find a place in Queensland's senior side -- punished the bowling in thrilling fashion.

His efforts allowed the Academy to reach 208 for six wickets by lunch when they declared.

Far from looking for a victory, India appeared at one stage to be in danger of defeat as they

Lara lauds Zim effort

REUTERS, Harare

West Indies captain Brian Lara paid tribute to Zimbabwe's fighting qualities after his side had clinched the five-match one-day series 3-2 with an eight-wicket victory over the southern Africans on Sunday.

"We played good cricket, but credit must be given to the Zimbabweans for the way they played during both series," Lara told reporters.

"We came here expecting to win and they put up a good fight, and almost turned the tables in both series."

Zimbabwe had led the one-day series 2-1 going into the weekend, but lost Saturday's match at Harare Sports Club by 72 runs before being overplayed in Sunday's decider.

Chris Gayle was the architect of victory for West Indies in the final encounter, claiming four for 24 with his part-time off spin before hammering an unbeaten 112, his second century of the series.

"We needed to get to 250 or 260 to put pressure on them, so we always needed to attack," said Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak, after his side had slumped to 196 all out.

"But Chris blew us away. He bowled superbly, he changed the game.

"We didn't counter his bowling well, and we didn't put enough runs on the board."

Gayle's batting had been a significant factor during the series, Streak added.

"Chris rode his luck and played some superb shots," he said. "He was the key player for the West Indies throughout the series."

Gayle finished the one-day series with an aggregate of 385 runs at an average of 128.33, having scored a career-best 153 not out in the first match in Bulawayo.

He was the leading bowler in the series, claiming seven wickets at an average of 12.57.

"I'm a part-time spinner, but don't underestimate it because it can be very effective," Gayle said.

"The captain had the faith to give me the ball, and I got the job done."

West Indies travel to South Africa on Monday to play four tests and five one-day internationals.

Pole vaulter Emma retires

AFP, Sydney

Former world champion pole vaulter Emma George of Australia said Monday she was abandoning her dream of competing in next year's Athens Olympics and retiring from athletics because of chronic back problems.

Doctors told the 29-year-old former world record holder and Commonwealth Games gold medalist she had to retire or risk permanent injury following a series of back operations over the past two years.

A team camp

FROM PAGE 13 first batch as Athar Ali Khan will be replacing fellow selector GM Nowsher Prince. Young coach Shahidul Alam Ratan has been handed his first major test.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed and PCB's coach Sarwar Imran will take over in the second half of the tour.

The second batch of Bangladesh A team will start training on January 5.

"But we will prefer the second batch to play in the upcoming National League before the start of the camp," said Faruque.

The country's first-class competition involving the six divisions is scheduled to start on December 10.

Mission Revenge



AFP, Johannesburg

Brian Lara and his team will be seeking to erase the memories of one of the most humiliating episodes in West Indian cricket history when they arrive in South Africa Monday for a four-Test tour.

Lara was the captain when the West Indies toured South Africa in 1998-99 and suffered defeat in all five Tests -- the first and only time cricketers from the Caribbean have been hammered so badly.

Lara lost the captaincy a year after the South African tour, having won six, drawn two and lost 10 of 18 matches in charge.

He was reappointed earlier this year and although his side were beaten 3-1 in a series by Australia, they have come on top by 1-0 margins in two-match series against Sri Lanka at home and Zimbabwe away.

The recent series win over Zimbabwe was not easily achieved, however, as the West Indies narrowly avoided defeat in the first Test in Harare, with their last two batsmen at the crease when the match ended, while they suffered a batting collapse in the second innings of the second Test in Bulawayo before winning by 128 runs. It was Lara's first Test win as a captain on foreign soil.

Lara's own form will be crucial in South Africa. He has yet to make

a Test century against South Africa in 11 appearances but has made 22 hundreds in 87 matches against other nations.

In Lara's favour will be a loss of potency in South Africa's bowling resources. Five seasons ago, the West Indies ran into Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock when they were at the peak of their form. Donald has retired from international cricket and although Pollock remains one of the most reliable bowlers in the game, his pace has slowed.

FIXTURES

Dec 3: One-day v NFO XI, Randjesfontein

Dec 5-8: Four-day v Free State, Bloemfontein

Dec 12-16: First Test, Johannesburg

Dec 19-22: Four-day v Border, East London

Dec 26-30: Second Test, Durban

Jan 2-6: Third Test, Cape Town

Jan 9-12: Four-day v Easterns, Benoni

Jan 16-20: Fourth Test, Centurion

Jan 23: (D/N) One-day v South Africa A, Paarl

Jan 25: (D/N) First One-day international, Cape Town

Jan 28: (D/N) Second One-day international, Port Elizabeth

Jan 30: (D/N) Third One-day international, Durban

Feb 1: (Day) Fourth One-day international, Centurion

Feb 4: (D/N) Fifth One-day international, Johannesburg

Muralitharan cautious



AFP, Galle

Sri Lanka's star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan warned on Monday that England would not be easy to beat in the upcoming Test series.

"England are a very good batting side and their past record shows what they are capable of. It won't be easy for us even though we are playing at home," Muralitharan told this news agency.

England have won their last two series against the Islanders, securing a 2-1 verdict in Sri Lanka two years ago and a 2-0 scoreline at home last year.

Muralitharan, however, said those results will not put this team under any extra pressure.

"The pressure to perform is always there and this series is no different," said the prolific off-spinner, who has taken 459 wickets in 82 Tests.

Muralitharan denied he had surprises up his sleeve as had been

speculated in the media in recent months.

"It was amusing to read about



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

some special deliveries that I have been working on. I haven't said anything like that to anyone and was surprised to have been quoted as saying so," he said.

Muralitharan said he had great respect for England's batsmen, especially Graham Thorpe, who

The West Indies will be looking for Lara to hit batting form but will also hope that players such as Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan and Shivnarine Chanderpaul are able to find consistency.

The West Indian bowling is not what it was five seasons ago, with Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose both having retired.

Fidel Edwards, 21, a fast bowler from Barbados with a slingy action, will be tested by an experienced South African batting line-up after making an impressive start to his international career. Edwards took 14 wickets in his first three Tests, including two five-wicket hauls, and claimed an astonishing six for 22 on his one-day international debut against Zimbabwe in Harare Saturday.

It will be an important season for South African cricket as the national side play at home for the first time since failing to advance beyond the first round of the World Cup staged in South Africa earlier this year.

The South African selectors will meet in Paarl Wednesday to pick a side for the first Test, which starts in Johannesburg on December 12, with as many as four places up for grabs following South Africa's defeat in a two-match series in Pakistan in October.

scored 269 runs on England's last visit to Sri Lanka.

"They have some good left handers in the side, but bowling to them doesn't take much. We are doing it all the time and it is just a matter of going out and doing your best," the 31-year-old says.

Thorpe, opener Marcus Trescothick and Mark Butcher, all left-handers, are prominent members of England's batting line-up.

"One has to try different things all the time. Sometimes they work, sometimes they don't. But one has to try the best at all times," Muralitharan said.

He said he had fond memories against England, most notably his 16-wicket haul in the one-off Test at The Oval a few years back.

"That was a special moment when I helped my team beat England in their own backyard," he said. "I also have some good performances in Galle and hope to have a good start to the series."

The second Test will be played in Kandy from December 10-14 and the third at the Sinhalese sports club in Colombo from December 18-22.

Sami blows Kiwis away

FROM PAGE 13

Imran Farhat and Yasir Hameed provided the home team with a solid start of 115 for the first wicket, with the former reaching his maiden half-century.

Razzaq's 42 included two sixes and four boundaries, while Elahi and Shoaib Malik made 50 for the fifth wicket off just 39 balls. The home side hit 30 runs in the last two overs.

The third of five matches will be played in Faisalabad on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the second day-night one-day international between Pakistan and New Zealand played at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Monday:

Hameed c Cumming b Vettori 53

Farhat c Hitchcock b Vettori 68

Elahi c Vettori b Hitchcock 70

Yousaf c sub (Harris) b Vettori 11

Misbah c Cair