

WICB names ODI squad

REUTERS, Mumbai

West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) bypassed the West Indies Players Association and named a 14-man squad for next month's triangular series against India and Australia.

West Indies' participation in the series, scheduled to be played in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, had been in doubt over disagreements over payments to players.

"On this occasion the invitations have been sent directly to the players, in spite of our best efforts it has not been possible to reach agreement with their representative, Dinanath Ramnarine," the WICB said in a statement on their Web site.

"In the event that any of the players do not accept the invitation by August 10, a suitable replacement will be chosen," it added.

The WICB handed out individual tour contracts directly to the selected players after negotiations between Ramnarine and WICB.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Marvan enters, but as a player

AFP, Colombo

Former captain Marvan Atapattu was on Saturday included in Sri Lanka's 15-man squad for a limited-overs tri-series against India and South Africa starting later this month.

Atapattu, 35, had been out of action since March due to a chronic back problem which required surgery in Australia in May. He missed the tour of England and the ongoing Test series against South Africa.

Mahela Jayawardene, who replaced Atapattu as captain for the England tour, will continue to lead the side with the former skipper confined to his role as a specialist batsman, a Sri Lanka Cricket release said.

Atapattu has scored 8,233 runs in 253 one-dayers at an average of 37.7 with 11 centuries.

Sri Lanka go into the August 14-29 tri-series buoyant by a 5-0 rout of England earlier in the summer.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Did U Know?

Officially soccer (or football) began in England around the middle of the 19th century. There are records of earlier games that resemble this modern one going back to as much as 2,000 years!



Shane Warne

(Australian spin great)
"To me, he is the new Monty Python: something completely different."
On Monty Panesar.

What to WATCH

BTV & STAR Sports

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
Fifth ODI
Live from 1:30 pm

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v South Africa
Second Test, Day 3
Live from 11:00 am

ESPN

England v Pakistan
Third Test, Day 3
Live from 4:00 pm

Whatmore's admission



SPORTS REPORTER

A day after Bangladesh's dream of winning their first away series shattered in Harare, coach Dav Whatmore made a dreadful observation that the Tigers were not good enough for the job.

"We simply were not good enough. We allowed them to win two matches as we could not sustain pressure," Whatmore was quoted on Saturday by tigercricket.com, the official website of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Whatmore left the Harare Sports Club ground in disgust after his 'bad' boys suffered a seven-wicket defeat in the fourth one-day international against Zimbabwe on Friday, thus losing the five-match series 3-1.

The series defeat with a match in hand at the same venue today was a bitter pill to swallow for the Sri Lankan-born Australian, who at the onset of the African tour termed his consistently inconsistent side as favourites.

But as it has always been the case, Whatmore refrained from going into the details of why his charges have been repeatedly making the same mistakes.

Stand-in captain Khaled Mashud, on the other hand, said that the batting was a total let down in the series.

"There was little we could do with that sort of total. It was good batting conditions and our batters just failed to capitalize on a position tailor-made for us," said Mashud, whose decision to bat in the crucial fourth one-dayer eventually backfired as Bangladesh slid from a strong 73 for one in the 15th over to a shameful 206-9 in 50 overs.

"The batting has let us down. If you look at the four matches I think we threw away 90 per cent off our wickets. In the first game we could have had 260 odd and in the third we should have really taken the game away from them after reaching 174 for three in the 32nd over. The fielding many would say was not up to the mark but I think we lost with the batting," he added.

The long-serving wicketkeeper, who saddled on the hot seat after skipper Habibul Bashar was ruled out

for at least a month after sustaining a finger injury in the second one-day match, felt that this was one series where they could not play to their potential and Zimbabwe just took advantage of that.

"When they (Zimbabwe) won the first game that put the pressure back on us and when they came back from the dead to win the third match confidence-wise they were on top. They held a mental edge over us and we were the side under pressure. However, I still believe that we have more quality than Zimbabwe but sadly we were nowhere near our best in this series.

"My message to the players is that they should try to perform individually in the next game and in the series against Kenya and that would in turn benefit the team. We just have to look ahead as we have lots of matches to come in the coming months."

Bangladesh will play three limited-overs matches in Kenya after the Zimbabwe trip.



PHOTO: AFP

England's Kevin Pietersen plays a magnificent straight-drive off Pakistan seamer Shahid Nazir on the second day of the third Test at Headingley in Leeds on Saturday.

Bell belts Pakistan



AFP, Headingley

Ian Bell's third hundred in as many Tests left England in a commanding position in the third Test against Pakistan at Headingley here Saturday.

At tea, on the second day, Pakistan were 66 for two in reply to England's first innings 515, a huge deficit of 449, after Bell, who'd made 119, had relegated Kevin Pietersen (135) to an unfamiliar supporting role in an interrupted stand worth 141.

In reply, Pakistan lost two wickets for two runs in 10 balls as they collapsed to 36 for two.

Younis Khan was 15 not out and Mohammad Yousuf, dropped on five, was unbeaten on 11. Openers Salman Butt and Taufeeq Umar, playing his first match of the series, put on 34 - Pakistan's best first wicket stand in three Tests.

Matthew Hoggard, wicketless at Old Trafford then struck on his Yorkshire home ground when Umar (seven) edged behind as he pushed forward with recalled wicket-keeper Chris Read, in for the dropped Geraint Jones, taking a good diving catch to his left.

Butt (20) was then run out by Pietersen's direct hit from gully after Younis set-off for a reckless single.

And Pakistan were almost 42 for three when Yousuf edged fast bowler Stephen Harmison to third slip Paul Collingwood, who dropped a low chance.

Bell was the first England batsman since Allan Lamb against the West Indies in 1984 to score hundreds in three consecutive Tests in the same home series.

The 24-year-old Bell made 100 not out in the drawn first Test against Pakistan at Lord's and an unbeaten 106 in the innings and 120-run second Test win at Old Trafford, which put England 1-0 up in the four-match series.

He fell shortly before lunch when he was bowled off-stump, trying to

steer leg-spinner Danish Kaneria, having faced 206 balls with 12 fours in a four-and-a-half hour innings.

England's total was boosted by a ninth-wicket stand of 56 in just 46 balls between Sajid Mahmood (a Test best 34) and Harmison (36).

Harmison, who hit two successive sixes off Shahid Nazir, went when he was caught off a top-edge sweep against Kaneria.

And six overs after lunch the innings was over when Mahmood was bowled by persevering pacesman Umar Gul, having faced 45 balls with four fours.

Gul took five for 123 and all four of Pakistan's main bowlers conceded more than 100 runs each, seamer Mohammad Sami (two for 135) the most expensive.

Pakistan, as had been the case in the first two Tests, again struggled without injured quicks Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Asif and Navedul Hasan.

After Lord's, Bell expected to be dropped for Andrew Flintoff but the all-rounder's ongoing absence with an ankle injury gave the right-handed batsman a reprieve.

England resumed on 347 for six with the 26-year-old Pietersen, who'd retired hurt Friday after scoring 104, facing first ball after going off with cramp in his left forearm on Friday.

Pietersen, who hadn't reached fifty in his previous six Test innings, opened up with a flamboyant cover-drive off Shahid Nazir, who on Friday had him caught behind on two but not given out, caught off a no-ball on 29 and dropped on 104.

Warwickshire's Bell had a nervy moment on 80 when he had to dive to regain his ground after Pietersen's straight drive was deflected onto the stumps at the non-striker's end by Gul.

He later on-drove Sami for four to complete his hundred, his fifth Test century and fourth against Pakistan.

South Africa-born Pietersen exited when he lofted Sami to Nazir at long-off.

He faced 169 balls with two sixes and 20 fours.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between Pakistan and England at Headingley on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings (over-night 347-6)

Trescothick c and b Sami	28
Strauss c Younis b Nazir	36
Cook c and b Gul	23
Pietersen c Nazir b Sami	135
Collingwood c Umar b Gul	31
Bell b Kaneria	119
Read lbw b Gul	38
Hoggard b Gul	0
Mahmood b Gul	34
Harmison c Sami b Kaneria	36
Panesar not out	5
Extras: (b-13, lb-6, nb-11)	30
Total: (All out in 123 overs)	515
Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-67, 3-110, 4-192, 5-345, 6-347, 7-421, 8-445, 9-501, 10-515	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sami	26	1	135	2
Gul	29	4	123	5
Nazir	28	7	101	1
Kaneria	34	4	111	2
Umar	2	0	8	0
Butt	4	0	18	0

PAKISTAN: First innings
Butt run out 20
Umar c Read b Hoggard 7

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: INTERNET

South Africa paceman Makhaya Ntini is overjoyed after dismissing Sri Lanka opener Sanath Jayasuriya on the second day of the second Test at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on Saturday.

SL tail wags timely



AFP, Colombo

Youngsters Chamara Kapugedera and Prasanna Jayawardene sparked a Sri Lankan batting revival after South Africa threatened to run away with the second cricket Test here on Saturday.

The duo put on 105 for the sixth wicket after a four-wicket haul by South African pace spearhead Makhaya Ntini reduced the hosts to 86-5 before lunch on the second day at the Sara Oval.

Veteran Chaminda Vaas (64) and Farveez Maharoof (56) continued the fightback by adding 117 for the eighth wicket as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 321 in reply to South Africa's 361.

The tourists, 40 runs ahead on the first innings, were six for no loss in their second knock at stumps with Herschelle Gibbs on four and Andrew Hall on two.

South Africa, seeking a series-leveling win after being thrashed by an innings and 153 runs in the first Test, lead by 46 runs with all 10 wickets in hand in an absorbing battle between bat and ball.

Seamer Dale Steyn finished with five for 82 and Ntini claimed four for 84 to help South Africa secure the lead.

Kapugedera, a 19-year-old playing his fourth Test, smashed nine boundaries and two sixes in 63 off 77 balls.

Wicketkeeper Jayawardene, who took over the gloves from Kumar Sangakkara in this series, made 42 with six fours and a six in his seventh match.

Both batsmen, however, departed in the space of six deliveries late in the post-lunch session to hand the advantage back to South Africa.

Kapugedera was bowled trying to sweep left-armers Nicky Boje and Jayawardene had his stumps scattered by a fast Steyn delivery.

Vaas and Maharoof pushed the South Africans back with superb strokeplay on both sides of the wicket before Steyn removed both batsmen with the second new ball.

Steyn clean bowled Maharoof, had Vaas caught down the leg-side by wicket-keeper Mark Boucher before forcing last man Muttiah Muralidaran to give a catch at mid-on.

Sri Lanka's top order setbacks contrasted sharply with their display in the first Test where captain Mahela Jayawardene hit the fourth

highest score of 374 after sharing a world record stand of 624 with Kumar Sangakkara (287).

Ntini struck in his second over when Upul Tharanga mistimed an attempted hook shot and the ball ballooned to Nicky Boje at mid-on.

Sangakkara, who batted close to 11 hours in the first Test, lasted only 31 deliveries to score 14 when he flicked Ntini to short mid-wicket where Hashim Amla took an overhead catch.

Skipper Jayawardene repeatedly slashed outside the off stump in his brief knock of 13 when another dangerous swish against Steyn found the edge to Boucher.

Ntini returned for his second spell just before lunch to remove

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Abahani recalls Sheikh Kamal

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina distributed gold medals and Tk 5,000 each to the country's sports personalities at a function at the Abahani Club ground yesterday.

The function was arranged to mark the 57th birthday of Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and founder of the club.

The recipients are Mohammad Rafique (cricket), Arif Khan Joy (football), Afzalur Rahman Sinha (patron), Zahidur Rahman Pushkin (organizer - posthumous) and Sheikh Kamal (organizer - posthumous).

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Office b'ball later this month

SPORTS REPORTER

The Office Basketball League will begin in the third week of August at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium.

Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF) has asked interested office teams to enroll their names on or before August 12 at its office with an entry fee of Tk 1,000.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina hands over the medal for best footballer of 2005 to Bangladesh captain Arif Khan Joy during a function at the Abahani Club on Saturday.

Ad

Ad