

England name ODI squad to face Pakistan

AFP, London

The England selectors named a 16-man squad on Wednesday for the one-off Twenty20 match and following five-match one-day international series against Pakistan.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Ian Bell, Stuart Broad, Rikki Clarke, Paul Collingwood, Alastair Cook, James Dalrymple, Darren Gough, Stephen Harrison, Ed Joyce, Kevin Lewis, Sajid Mahmood, Jon Petersen, Chris Read, Marcus Trescothick, Michael Yardy.

BCCI neutral until now

AGENCIES, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday said it had not taken any stance yet over the ball-tampering incident at The Oval, which resulted in Pakistan's forfeiture of the match to England.

BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah said the board would take a decision only if Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) approached it for support.

"At this point of time, we are not taking any stand. Nobody has approached us for anything (over the issue). When anybody approaches BCCI, we will take our decision," Shah told PTI.

Asked if the Board would favour the PCB or remain neutral, he said the decision on this would be taken at the appropriate time.

However, Shah on Tuesday told the Sydney Morning Herald, "We would never say no to any umpire that the International Cricket Council (ICC) supported."

"If the ICC is happy with (Darrell Hair), then we are happy. Let us see a report first, and if Hair has made a mistake, then we will see what happens. But it is up to the ICC to take action."

Though India and Pakistan have had a turbulent history on the pitch, it had been expected that India would support their neighbours in their stance against Hair and refuse to participate in matches in which he officiates.

BCB Academy

FROM PAGE 17

Hossain's early departure for 10 runs, BCB Academy team had a very good lunch when they put 76 runs on the board in the first session after the home side had invited them to bat first.

Opener Nazmus Sadat scored 64 off 105 balls that featured nine boundaries while Zahurul, who smashed a hundred and a fifty in previous matches, continued his good form with a patient 181-ball 53 with five hits to the fence.

Sahagir Hossain was the other notable scorer with 46.

Berbatov

FROM PAGE 20

Keane missed a second-half chance to make it 3-0 but was nonetheless given a standing ovation when he was replaced by Jermain Defoe with eight minutes remaining.

The England striker wasted no time in making his presence felt and twice forced Kenny into good saves as Tottenham swaggered to victory.

Spurs had lost 2-0 at Bolton in their opening Premiership fixture on Sunday when Sheffield United drew 1-1 with visitors Liverpool, who benefited from a dubious penalty decision.

Italy succumb

FROM PAGE 20

That scenario would mean that clubs and the country's various national selections would be banned from participating in international competition.

The FIGC has reacted quickly, however, saying it agreed with FIFA's stance. It said clubs who have been sanctioned by sporting authorities cannot then turn to the civil courts.

In a statement to Italian news agency ANSA, the FIGC said: "The federation will not hesitate in sanctioning clubs who have infringed article 27 of its rules, which forbids clubs taking cases to the civil courts and which states that whoever does so can be sanctioned."

Article 61-2 of FIFA's rules also states that appealing to civil courts is forbidden and that the only avenue remaining is the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Juventus were relegated to the second division, initially with a 30-point penalty, which was reduced to 17 on appeal to the FIGC.

The club has also been shorn of its last two league titles from 2005 and 2006.

On Monday the club decided to appeal to the civil courts in the shape of TAR, the Regional Administrative Court of Lazio, which has the authority to overturn rulings made by sports federation bodies.

The FIGC added in the statement that Juventus had not yet formally appealed to the TAR to hear its case.

ICC behind umpires



AFP, London

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed insisted Pakistan would have no right of veto over the appointment of Darrell Hair after the umpire ruled they had forfeited last week's fourth Test against England here at The Oval.

For the first time in the 129-year-history of Test cricket, a team were deemed to have forfeited the match after Pakistan refused to take the field following tea on Sunday's fourth day.

They did so in protest at the earlier decision of Hair and West Indian colleague Billy Doctrove to award five penalty runs to England because of what the umpires said was ball-tampering by Pakistan.

After previous run-ins with the Australian official, Pakistan made it clear they no longer wanted Hair involved in their matches.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan insisted his country were not "dictating" to the ICC in respect of Hair.

"Our team has a problem with his attitude on the field, that attitude has upset our team more than once, and if the ICC is sensitive to boards it will take due cognisance of what we have said," the PCB chief said at a London news conference Monday.

But Speed, who said Tuesday he'd received a letter from Shaharyar, stressed that there would be no change in the appointment procedure of officials. He also backed the stance taken by fellow Australian Hair and Doctrove.

"It is hugely regrettable that the match did not end with a great finish in front of a full house," Speed said in a statement issued from the ICC's Dubai headquarters.

"That is something that would have acted as an appropriate conclusion to a series full of exciting and absorbing cricket (the forfeit gave England the

four-match encounter 3-0).

"However it is not the role of the ICC to overturn the decisions of on-field umpires, the people who are enshrined in the Laws of Cricket as the sole judges of fair and unfair play, the ultimate arbiters of the game."

"In this instance the decision made by Billy Doctrove and Darrell Hair to award the match to England was the correct one under the Laws."

Speed then said there would be no change in the way Hair, or anyone else, was chosen to umpire a major match.

"It remains the role of the ICC and not our members to appoint umpires to Tests and one-day internationals."

"The choices are made by the ICC's chief executive together with the chairman of the cricket committee, Sunil Gavaskar (the India batting great) following recommendations from the ICC's cricket department."

"The appointments are made without fear or favour and are based on the performances of the umpires in international matches."

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq has been charged, in his role as skipper, under the ICC's code of conduct with altering the condition of the match ball and also with bringing the game into disrepute for his part in the no-show.

The star batsman faces a disciplinary hearing in front of ICC chief match referee Ranjan Madugalle in London on Friday.

There are concerns that were Inzamam, who has hired London-based sports lawyer Mark Gay to help with his case, to be found guilty of ball-tampering in particular then Pakistan could call off their five-match one-day series against England, due to start next week.

And Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer, while satisfied with the integrity of the disciplinary procedure, feared the verdict would go against his captain.

"I am confident with the ICC," said the former England batsman. "In these situations it tests us all, there is no

handbook as to how to handle these situations.

"In the end, we know the ICC have to support their staff and umpires are part of their staff."

Initial estimates suggest the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) could lose as much as 10 million pounds if the one-day series is scrapped.

More immediately, Pakistan could yet boycott Thursday's warm-up match with Middlesex at Uxbridge, west London.

Shaharyar said the umpires' actions had ramifications far beyond The Oval's boundaries. "In these days of tension outside the cricket ground, what a wonderful sight it is to see cricket between a Muslim country (Pakistan) and England, where the majority are Christians, with both sides being cheered, both sides being really appreciated. This is the spirit of cricket."

"Cricket offers a bridge of peace, why destroy this bridge over a technicality?"

But, with effigies of Hair being burnt in Pakistan, Speed was keen to place the issue in a narrower context.

"It should be borne in mind that Friday's code of conduct hearing is not a political, racial or religious matter but a cricketing one," he said.

"We have no vested interests in the outcome of the hearing but what we expect is that it will be fair and will illustrate our processes are suitably robust to deal with these issues."

Hair broke his silence Tuesday in an interview with the Brisbane Courier-Mail, saying: "People who know me know I would not take action unless I really thought it was necessary."

Hair remains defiant



AFP, Melbourne

Veteran Australian umpire Darrell Hair stood by his decision to call Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq for ball-tampering in the fourth Test with England on Tuesday but accepted that if he was found to be in the wrong he would accept the decision.

The 53-year-old told Australian newspaper the Herald Sun he appreciated the support he had received from the sport's governing body the International Cricket Council (ICC) ever since he and fellow umpire Billy Doctrove decided to abandon the match when the Pakistanis refused to return to the pitch.

Inzamam, who faces an ICC hearing on Friday on two charges for ball tampering and bringing the game into disrepute, argues they did return but it was too late as Hair and Doctrove had taken off the balls meaning the game was over and victory was handed to England.

However Hair, who ranks fourth in the all-time list of umpiring Test matches, was unrepentant about his actions and insisted he would not be intimidated out of the sport which has seen him umpire Test matches for the

past 14 years.

"People who know me know I would not take action unless I really thought it was necessary," Hair told the newspaper.

"I stand by what I have done, but if anything comes out at the inquiry that proves me incorrect, I would accept that too."

"The International Cricket Council has given me outstanding support and it has really been appreciated."

While Pakistan have said they do not want him to umpire any matches they are involved in again, Hair, who lives in England with his second wife, said that he was willing to take on anyone that tried to force him out of the sport.

It has been claimed that Sri Lanka - who were similarly ruled by Hair in 1995 when he called star spinner Muttiah Muralidaran for throwing after which captain Arjuna Ranatunga took the team off the pitch, though they subsequently returned after a brief stand-off - and the other Test playing Asian nations would not countenance him umpiring their matches.

However Hair said he had no problem with the sub continent.

"If people want to try and force me out of the game it has to be done in some shape or form that I am unaware of because I am contracted to do a job and I know I am doing it quite well at the

moment so far as the ins and outs are concerned," he said.

"If other people have issues they want to use to force me out it will be an interesting battle."

"That is not something that is an issue for me. There is no problem with me and the sub continent."

"I have umpired quite a lot in the subcontinent over the last couple of years and when the ICC have asked me to do a job I try and do it to the best of my ability."

"I have always taken a lot of pride in my performance and while I am doing the best job I possibly can I am going to continue."

Hair admitted that the experience with the Sri Lankans had proved beneficial down the years.

"I suppose there is no substitute for tough, hard experience," he said.

"The hard knocks along the way sort out the tough from the weak. At this stage everything is still fine."

"The support I have had comes from a wide range of people and it's not surprising to me that everyone seems to understand me."

"I am just going to go home and relax."

Woolmer wants scrapping of Law 42.3

CRICINFO, undated

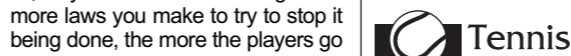
Bob Woolmer, the Pakistan coach, has called for the abolition of Law 42.3, which governs the condition of the ball and which was the centre of the controversy surrounding the forfeiture of The Oval Test.

"The whole irony and tragedy of this particular story is law 42.3," he told the Guardian newspaper. "But law 42.3 is a rubbish! It was brought in because of ball-tampering with razor blades and bottle tops and everything else in the past, but that's been shoved out of the game now. I'd scrub out the law completely."

Woolmer backed his players and insisted that they had done nothing illegal at The Oval, adding that he'd held these views earlier as well. "I'd allow bowlers to use anything that naturally appears on the cricket field," Woolmer continued.

"They could rub the ball on the ground, pick the seam, scratch it with their nails - anything that allows the ball to move off the seam to make it less of a batsman's game."

"It should be looked at seriously by the Marylebone Cricket Club's laws committee. Every single bowler I know from the time I played in 1968 to 1984 was guilty, at least under the current law, of some sort of ball-changing. If you haven't played the game, like a lot of the umpires haven't, they don't know these things. The more laws you make to try to stop it being done, the more the players go the other way. It's like prohibition: the more you ban alcohol, the more it goes underground. They really need to open it up in my opinion."



AFP, New Haven

BCB

FROM PAGE 17

made to overlook the incident.

"We talked with everybody about the very sensitive issue but what we thought that it can be overlooked. Dav was surprised on why the issue was raised after almost two weeks after he had blatantly refused to make such comment. Actually we found that there was a miscommunication between the coach and players," said the official preferring anonymity.

Meanwhile, Whatmore also appreciated the board initiative and he said that this kind of discussions will be helpful for him as well as the team in the future.

"It was a warm discussion and very fruitful. I think it is very good way to communicate with each other. This kind of initiative definitely help us to avoid the misunderstanding," said Whatmore after the meeting.

The Bangladesh coach left Dhaka yesterday for Colombo to enjoy the holidays with his family. He will return on August 31.

CL winners

FROM PAGE 20

winner by UEFA. The European governing body says the successful club could receive as much as 40 million euros in prize money, including television revenue but not gate receipts.

It is not just the clubs that benefit from Champions League glory. The study found that the winning team's home city also receives a large cash injection.

The city of Liverpool received an estimated 70 million euro boost last year through increased consumer spending, tourism, sponsorship and commerce after Rafael Benitez's side won the trophy in 2005.

The effect on Barcelona from their 2006 victory has yet to be calculated but the study found that FC Porto's Champions League victory in 2004 brought up to 12 million euros into its city.

Despite the low figure in Porto's case, the research reckoned smaller cities are likely to profit more from having winning clubs than larger places such as London or Milan.

Quaresma

FROM PAGE 20

win over Saudi Arabia on March 1.

Scolari also recalled Benfica defender Ricardo Rocha, German-side Werder Bremen's striker Hugo Almeida and Sporting Lisbon's midfielder Joao Moutinho.

Moutinho's teammate Carlos Martins, 24, meanwhile received his first international call-up.

"Is this a renewal of the squad? It's one of the objectives. We also have some difficulties with players who are not in the right physical condition," the Brazilian coach told a news conference.

"We're going to give these athletes an opportunity so that we can observe them during training sessions and at the matches so that we can have a bigger pool to draw upon in the future," he added.

Scolari no longer has veterans Luis Figo and Pauleta at his disposal as both players retired from international football in July after Portugal's semi-final loss to France at the World Cup in Germany.

He also left out four other players who were part of his World Cup squad which finished in fourth place: Valencia's injured Miguel Monteiro and Hugo Viana; Dynamo Moscow midfielder Maniche who is set to join Atletico Madrid and Braga keeper Paulo Santos.



PHOTO: AFP

Spanish Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo plays a forehand against American James Blake during their second round match at the Pilot Pen tennis tournament in New Haven on Tuesday.

Blake stunned by Spanish no-hoper



AFP, New Haven

Unheralded Spaniard Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo staged a remarkable comeback here on Tuesday to stun US defending champion and No. 1 seed James Blake and move into round three of the 675,000-dollar US Open tune-up event.

Often inconsistent at crunch times, Blake suffered jitters and squandered five match points en route to a 2-6, 7-6, 7-6 upset in two hours and twenty-two minutes after a bravura performance by his 26-year-old opponent.

"It slipped away," Blake said. "He started playing great tennis and I couldn't hit any first serves at important moments."

"It's inexcusable to have so many match points on my serve and not convert."

The 25-year-old New Yorker controlled the dual from the outset with a solid display of superior shot-making while Ramirez Hidalgo simply came out flat.

Far from overwhelmed by the enormity of playing in front of a partisan crowd, the Spaniard firmed up his game and turned in a better showing in the second and third sets while Blake slumped.

"Yesterday, it was my first win of the year on hardcourt," the 57th-ranked Ramirez Hidalgo said. "I'm very happy with my performance. I had nothing to lose. I had lots of fun."

Despite the morale-sapping defeat, Blake hopes the US Open which starts next Monday will rekindle his fire.

"Two, three weeks ago, I played one of the best matches of my life in the final at Indianapolis against Andy Roddick," he said.

"I definitely have not forgotten how to do it again. I'm pretty sure it's still there."

"There's no other tournament like the US Open to be fired up for."

"Also on Tuesday, Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand set up a third-round clash with second-seeded Russian Nikolay Davydenko."

The Thai star outlasted Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 while Davydenko dismantled Frenchman Arnaud Clement 6-2, 6-1.

Srichaphan was nursing a right wrist tendonitis he carefully treats with an ice pack after each match.

"I'm not 100 per cent, he said. "As long as it's not that bad, I can get through the season."

On the women's side, American Lindsay Davenport successfully launched her defence of the New Haven crown with an easy 6-3, 6-3 victory over Slovenian Katarina Srebotnik.

The 30-year-old veteran never allowed Srebotnik into the match, serving big, remaining rock-solid from the baseline, and moving in to finish off points at will.

"I'm happy I was able to get my first match under my belt, Davenport said. "It was a good two sets for me. It was good I didn't get injured. I felt much more comfortable returning. I had a good sense where her first serve was going."

Hopes high for Mahfuz

FROM PAGE 17

long jump, Nazmunnahar Beauty in women's 200m and national champion Masudul Karim in the men's 200m dash.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankans have set eyes on 15 gold medals, a feat they had achieved in 1991 when the Games was first held in Colombo but India will definitely look to retain their supremacy.

The hosts will miss Damayanthi Darsha, the 200 and 400 metres Asiad and Asian Championships record holder, who had to pull out due to injury in the eleventh hour but Susanthika's return after missing the Games in Pakistan will boost their chances. They are also eager to see how young sprinter Sujani Buddhika responds to challenge in the absence of Darsha.

Like Olympic bronze medalist Susanthika, who returns to the track after a year to warm up for coming big events, India's star athlete Anju will also make a comeback to the international circuit.

The Kerala long-jumper has overcome a heel injury, which prevented her from competing this season since her second-place finish (6.46m) at the Asian Grand Prix meeting in Pune last May.

PHOTO: AFP

prevented her from competing this season since her second-place finish (6.46m) at the Asian Grand Prix meeting in Pune last May.

Except for a few experienced athletes, India will basically field a second-string team. The other elite Indian athletes who will be seen in action here are local national record holder and 1999 SAF Games 100m champion Anil Kumar, Pinki Paramanik, Hari Sankar Roy, Anuradha Biswal and Gurmeet Kaur.

BANGLADESH IN TODAY'S GAMES
ATHLETICS (men's): Al Amin (long jump), Masudul Karim (200m); (women's) Nazmunnahar Beauty (200m).

SHOOTING: Toufiq Shahriar Chandan (men's 50m rifle prone), Mahendra Kumar Singha (men's 10m air pistol).

KABADDI (men's/women's): Bangladesh v India.

OTHERS: judo, karate, squash, wrestling.

On the final day of the league yesterday, Pakistan crushed Sri Lanka 8-1 while India, gold medalist when hockey was held at the games 11 years ago, handed Bangladesh a 4-0 defeat.

Bangladesh, who conceded two goals in each half, make a bid to retain their bronze medal when they face Sri Lanka in the play-off also tomorrow. Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka by a solitary goal in the league opener.

VOLLEYBALL
The men's volleyball team thrashed Afghanistan 3-0 in the opening match of Group A at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium. The Bangladesh spikers took just 70 minutes to complete victory, taking the sets 25-14, 25-23 and 25-13.

TABLE TENNIS
The paddlers, like the badminton and football teams, returned empty handed after Mahbub Billah and Mostafa Billah were knocked out in the men's doubles quarterfinals, losing in straight sets to the Indian pair. India bagged all seven table tennis gold medals.

Pakistan will meet Nepal while India face hosts Sri Lanka in today's two semifinals.

HOCKEY
India will clash archrivals Pakistan in the gold medal match tomorrow at the Nandimithra Ekanayaka hockey ground in Malee after finishing first and second respectively in the league table.

On the final day of the league yesterday, Pakistan crushed Sri Lanka 8-1 while India, gold medalist when hockey was held at the games 11 years ago, handed Bangladesh a 4-0 defeat.

Bangladesh, who conceded two goals in each half, make a bid to retain their bronze medal when they face Sri Lanka in the play-off also tomorrow. Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka by a solitary goal in the league opener.

VOLLEYBALL
The men's volleyball team thrashed Afghanistan 3-0 in the opening match of Group A at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium. The Bangladesh spikers took just 70 minutes to complete victory, taking the sets 25-14, 25-23 and 25-13.

TABLE TENNIS
The paddlers, like the badminton and football teams, returned empty handed after Mahbub Billah and Mostafa Billah were knocked out in the men's doubles quarterfinals, losing in straight sets to the Indian pair. India bagged all seven table tennis gold medals.

Inzy hearing postponed

FROM PAGE 17

Ranjan Madugalle to chair the hearing as he is dealing with a private and personal matter that requires his urgent attention.

"Pakistan and England, as the host country, have both expressed a preference for Ranjan to hear the case and on that basis we have agreed to the postponement."

"We have looked at potential alternatives but, as the ICC's chief referee and a person with immense credibility within the game, Ranjan is the most appropriate person to adjudicate in this matter," the Australian added.

"We are yet to decide upon a new date but the intense nature of the upcoming one-day international series between England and Pakistan is likely to make it extremely difficult to fit in a hearing

during that period.

"I should stress that the reason for the postponement is related solely to Ranjan's availability. We would ask that his privacy is respected at this time," Speed said.

Details of the new date and the venue for the hearing will be announced in due course.

As captain, Inzamam is deemed responsible for the actions of his team which remained in the dressing room after tea Sunday in protest at the action of Australian umpire Darrell Hair and West Indian colleague Billy Doctrove in changing the ball and awarding five penalty runs to England.