

Sport

South Africa
soup up side

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 7: The South African cricket selectors made extensive changes to their one-day international squad Thursday ahead of a three-match series against World Cup champions Australia, reports AFP.

Six players who were part of the squad that lost a one-day series in India and were beaten by Pakistan in the final of a tournament in Sharjah were left out. Only one, fast bowler Henry Williams, was left out because of injury.

Dropped were batsman Dale Benkenstein, all-rounder the three matches against Australia in Durban Wednesday, Cape Town on April 14 and Johannesburg on April 16.

The matches were arranged as a challenge series after the two sides tied in a dramatic 1999 World Cup semifinal in Birmingham, England.

There will be three further matches in an indoor stadium in Melbourne, Australia, in August.

Recalled were batsman Jonty Rhodes, who was unavailable for the tour of India and Sharjah because his wife was having their first child, new ball bowler Roger Telemachus and all-rounder Andrew Hall.

Hall, who played in one international against West Indies in 1998/99, was a prolific scorer as an opening batsman for Gauteng province during the recent domestic season and could stand in for regular opener Gary Kirsten, who is having treatment for a torn disc in his lower spine which forced him to miss the Sharjah final last Friday.

ODI SQUAD

Hansie Cronje (captain), Shaun Pollock (vice-captain), Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Mornantau Hayward, Roger Telemachus, Makhaya Ntini and Andrew Hall.

Blatter won't
give up

SHANGHAI, Apr 7: FIFA president Sepp Blatter reiterated Thursday that he would fight what he called "the disruptive impact" of the 'Bosman' on the free movement of footballers, reports AFP.

"Rich and poor clubs are clearly categorised and the gap between them is widened by the Bosman ruling," Blatter told the Chinese state news agency Xinhua on a two-day visit to Shanghai, which ends Friday.

"This is not in conformance with soccer logic which should be based on the spirit of unification and democracy."

"The disruptive impact of the ruling must be stamped out. I hope our efforts will yield some results by the end of the year."

Ribbeck raps
Jeremies on
the fingers

BERLIN, Apr 7: German coach Erich Ribbeck has slapped a one match ban on Bayern Munich midfielder Jens Jeremies Thursday for saying that the national side was in a "pitiful" state, reports AFP.

Ribbeck told the SID sports agency that the 26-year-old Jeremies would not be named in the squad to face Switzerland in a friendly at Kaiserslautern on April 26.

But he said this did not mean that the outspoken Jeremies would not figure in the squad for the Euro 2000 finals in Belgium and the Netherlands in June.

Dalmiya sings

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spoke on the occasion.

In his welcome speech, Saber thanked ICC for giving Bangladesh the rare honour of holding the historic match. He said that it was an opportunity to raise the profile of Bangladesh.

"It has also given us the chance to develop new partnerships. We are very proud also that the UN have come in for the first time," Saber said.

Finally, Saber thanked the ICC and UN for partnering BCB for the great match.

They love

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Under-10: Runku Sutradhar alias Jhumer (First)
Sunandi Das alias Suchi (Second)
Maisha Naoshin alias Apan (Third)

Under-14: Suman Wahid (First)
Tapash Sarker (Second)
Mithun Karmaker (Third)

Cricket crackers

From page 13
rasedara and were seen moving in the city together.

The players also had the company of former Sri Lankan captain Duleep Mendis, who is the manager of the Asian XI.

THE MOOD IS
FESTIVE!

There is a definite lack of atmosphere in the way the world stars are arriving at their hotel from the Zia International Airport. For example, there is no security motorcade leading the players' vehicles to the Sheraton. While some players are coming in specially arranged buses, others are arriving by cars.

The cricketers were also moving freely clad in relaxed attire.



President of the International Cricket Council Jagmohan Dalmiya asks a kid about her painting during a competition held at the NSC gymnasium yesterday. — Star photo

3-dayer vs WI Invitation XI

Zimbabwe need a win



ST. GEORGE'S, Apr 7 (AFP/Reuters): Down and out, Zimbabwe will hope to rebound against a West Indies XI at Grenada's Queen's Park Stadium in a three-day, first-class cricket match, starting on Saturday here.

Though Zimbabwe played competitive cricket in their two warm-up matches at the start of their first Caribbean tour, they yet to complete a win on their tour of the Caribbean having drawn their opening first-class contests; lost the two tests against West Indies; and three limited-overs internationals two to West Indies, one to Pakistan, in the 2000 Trophy Series.

Zimbabwe might have preferred a couple of limited-overs matches to prepare them for their last match in the triangular 2000 Trophy Series against Pakistan at this ground next Saturday.

A win in their final match and two wins for West Indies over Pakistan could offer Zimbabwe an outside chance to make the best-of-three finals of the series in Bridgetown (April 19) and Port-of-Spain (April 22 and 23).

They will be without captain Andy Flower for the encounter however.

Zimbabwe's principal batsman is one of the many late changes to the Rest of the World squad for the limited-overs match in Dhaka on Saturday which forms part of the International Cricket Council's week of activities there.

Guyana batsman Keith Semple is the most experienced

player in the side though, with 43 first-class matches and seven limited-overs internationals behind him.

Much is expected of the teenaged quartet of Ryan Hinds, Marlon Samuels, Narsingh Deonarine and Camillus Alexander though.

They were all part of the Young West Indies side to this year's Youth World Cup in Sri Lanka and have shown the kind of promise which prompts great expectations for the future.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES INVITATION XI: Keith Semple (captain), Narsingh Deonarine, Colin Stuart, Marlon Samuels, Wayne Phillip, Ryan Hinds, Pedro Collins, Zaheer Ali, Darren Ganga, Marlon Black, Dinanath Ramnarine, Camillus Alexander, Kerrin Jeremy.

ZIMBABWE: (from): Heath Streak (captain), Alastair Campbell, Murray Goodwin, Dirk Viljoen, Henry Olonga, Neil Johnson, Grant Flower, Stuart Carlisle, Muleki Nikala, Brian Murphy, Andy Blignaut, Craig Wihart, Guy Whittall, Gary Brent, Tatenda Taibu.

The Africans however, will have to settle for a boost to their first-class averages instead.

They face a side in which batsman Darren Ganga, leg-spin bowler Dinanath Ramnarine and left-arm fast bowler Pedro Collins share 10 Tests between them for West Indies.

Guyana batsman Keith Semple is the most experienced

solid number four batsman against bowlers such as McGrath and Lee to give the South African innings solidity. It's almost more of a setback than a solid number four batsman than getting along without an opening batsman of quality.

"Gibbs can play the part of number four batsman with his eyes closed," he said.

Over and above the number four question mark, the South African team will also miss the services of Allan Donald, who can take wickets in the middle shift of the opponents' innings.

This is where wrist-bowler Paul Adams comes into the picture, seeing that he can make wickets tumble and has a high hitting rate, said Matthews.

Symcox feels Gibbs and Kirsten should open the innings because "you can't allow a new, unsung batsman in the international arena to open the innings under almost superhuman pressure against world-class bowlers such as McGrath and Damien Fleming".

Matthews said Kirsten's choice is of decisive importance to South Africa. If he does strongly consider Hall, Gauteng batsman par excellence, as his opening partner.

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