

Cullinan called up

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 14: Experienced batsman Darryl Cullinan was recalled to the South African one-day team Saturday following their defeat by India in the International Cricket Council Knockout Trophy semifinal in Nairobi, Kenya, on Friday, reports AFP.

Selection convenor Rushdi Magiet acknowledged there was a problem with the South African top order and said he hoped Cullinan, 33, would bring about an improvement in a six-match home series against New Zealand which starts in Potchefstroom Friday.

The squad for the first three matches was announced on Saturday, with the second game in Benoni on October 22 and the third at Centurion on October 25.

Cullinan replaces Neil McKenzie in the only change from the 14-man squad that went to Kenya.

Uncapped off-spinner Shafiq Abrahams, 32, keeps his place and Magiet said he was likely to play in at least one of the first three matches.

"We are looking ahead to the 2003 World Cup and I am in favour of a rotation system to ensure we have a pool of players who have had exposure to international cricket," he said.

SQUAD

Shaun Pollock (captain), Mark Boucher (vice-captain), Shafiq Abrahams, Nicky Boje, Darryl Cullinan, Boeta Dippenaar, Allan Donald, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Gary Kirsten, Lance Klusener, Makaya Ntini, Jonty Rhodes, Roger Tshemaneus.

Manager, Goolam Rajah; Coach, Graham Ford.

Queensland in control

PERTH, Australia, Oct 14: Queensland's pace bowlers followed up stylish centuries by opener Jimmy Maher and skipper Stuart Law to leave the champion State side in a strong position at the end of the second day of the Sheffield Shield clash against Western Australia here Saturday, reports AFP.

Former Test speedsters Andy Bichel (1-40) and Adam Dale (1-18), supported by relative newcomer Ashley Noffke (2-34) combined against the powerful Western Australian line-up.

They kept them to 119-5 after Queensland made 442 in their first innings after being sent in at the WACA Ground.

Only Test opening aspirant Michael Hussey (37 not out), Test wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist (34 not out) and Test middle-order batsman Damien Martyn (29) made any headway against the spirited Queensland speed battery as Western Australia limped to stumps, needing another 174 runs to avoid the possibility of following on.

Early in the day, Maher boosted his overnight 132 to 175, while Law moved from an unbeaten 86 to 128.

The third-wicket stand between the pair yielded 275 runs.

Maher, who had been dropped at 39, occupied the crease for seven-and-a-half hours, slumping 26 boundaries.

Former Test fast bowler Matt Nicholson snapped up four wickets near the end of the innings to finish with 4-119.

BRIEF SCORES

Summary from Australian Shield cricket Saturday.

At Perth: Queensland 442 (Jimmy Maher 175, Stuart Law 128, Matthew Hayden 47; Matt Nicholson 4-119, Simon Katich 3-46, Jo Angel 2-83) v Western Australia 119-5 (Michael Hussey 37 not out, Adam Gilchrist 31 not out, Damien Martyn 29), on the second day of match at WACA Ground.

Chucking rules to be amended

NAIROBI, Oct 14 (Internet report): The International Cricket Council meets on Monday and Tuesday to talk about several important issues, including the way it handles the issue of chucking.

The current situation is that a bowler with a suspect action is analysed by a comprehensive panel. If the verdict is that the action is illegal, the player's national controlling body is required to deal with the situation.

To take a case in point, Brett Lee's action was deemed faulty, and the Australia Cricket Board was required to take appropriate steps.

Dennis Lillee's assistance was called in, and the verdict from the ACCB's side was that his action was legal. Lee did not miss a game.

David Richards, the ICC's chief executive, was clearly not happy with current procedures when he said in Nairobi: "We made a mess of it earlier this year. We need a more honest approach to it all. The new process will not leave it in the hands of the home board. It will come back to the panel as the actual arbiter."

The panel referred to is a group of experts, one from each Test-playing country, which evaluates actions of suspect bowlers, generally using video conference techniques.

Had this approach been taken in the past, the events surrounding Shoaib Akhtar and Brett Lee's bowling actions would have been handled very differently.

ICC's \$4m clean-up plan



LONDON, Oct 14 (Internet report): The International Cricket Council (ICC) is planning to spend 4 million dollars (2.7 million pounds) during the next three years to clean up the sport following widespread match-fixing allegations.

Their announcement came just 24 hours after the United Cricket Board of South Africa banned their former captain Hansie Cronje for life after he admitted receiving money from bookmakers.

The ICC president Malcolm Gray, speaking in Nairobi, said the figure showed just how seriously they consider the matter.

The former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Paul Condon, who was put in charge of the ICC's 'anti-corruption unit' earlier this year, will meet executive board members at their two-day meeting in Nairobi, which starts on Monday.

"Cricket has taken a real

knock because of the corruption issue and we have to win back the trust and support of the sporting public," said Gray.

"We are making progress even if it slow progress. It is not going to be easy. Up until a few weeks ago I was getting despondent that we weren't getting anywhere, but things have been happening all around the world in the last few weeks and I am feeling a lot more optimistic."

He also disclosed that Kenyan officials are keen to start the process towards Test status.

"Even it takes 4 or 5 years, let's start the process and see what happens."

Despite the corruption issues, the biggest blight to face cricket for years, Gray remains optimistic about the game's future.

"We must not forget that cricket is not just about elitist sportspersons flying around the world for the sake of TV. It's about Saturday afternoon, the smell of grass and friendship after the match. That's what is important about cricket and it will continue," he added.

On other matters, he described the ICC's Knockout Trophy as a great success, although he conceded that the crowds may not have been as big as they had been expecting.

The two-week event, which reaches its climax on Sunday, has featured all 10 Test playing

countries along with the hosts, Kenya.

"We came here with a two-fold purpose," Gray explained. "Firstly, to give the game a boost in this part of the world and secondly to raise funds for our development programme."

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Indian duo in final

TOKYO, Oct 14: India's Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi secured a final berth for the first time this season by reaching the men's doubles final at the Japan Open tennis tournament on Saturday, reports AFP.

Paes and Bhupathi, the 1999 French Open and Wimbledon champions who have been struggling this season, volleyed back everything they received from the Chilean-Brazilian pair Nicolas Massu and Andre Sa for a 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 victory.

"I'm happy about that (reaching the final). I hope this is not the last one," said Paes. If they win on Sunday it will be India's first title at the Japan Open since Ramesh Krishnan won the men's singles in 1986.

JULIE, CORINA TAKE WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Meanwhile, top-seeded French-American pair Julie Halar-Ducugis and Corina Morariu clinched the Japan Open women's doubles title today.

The pair breezed past the Slovenian duo of Tina Kranz and Katarina Srebotnik 6-1, 6-2 to pocket the winners' check of \$8,000 dollars.

It was a ninth doubles title for Halar-Ducugis this season, following her victory on the same court at the Princess Cup a week ago and 14th overall, while it was a fourth of the season and 11th for Morariu.

Halar-Ducugis, making her first appearance in the Japan Open this week, was to play the women's singles final against defending champion Amy Fraizer of the United States Sunday.

Cricketers' wages are much lower than their football and tennis counterparts.

A young uncapped player receives around 12,000 pounds a year, while England captain Nasser Hussain gets paid about 120,000 pounds a year.

ECB chairman Lord MacLaurin confirmed a letter had been received.

In a statement he said: "I firmly reject the criticism of the ECB."

"I wrote to the PCA on the 9th of October suggesting that we meet at the earliest opportunity to discuss their concerns."

Lord MacLaurin added it was well known that the ECB's finances were under "considerable strain" and confirmed a 3 million pounds shortfall in international cricket sales.

Players are angry that money from television deals does not seem to be coming their way.

When the ECB negotiated the current Test television package with Channel 4 and Sky, worth more than 100 million pounds, it was supposed to herald a new era of financial security for cricket.

But instead the ECB will soon announce losses of around 3 million pounds this

summer, mainly due to the number of Test matches that finished within two or three days.

This means that the 18 first class counties could each receive 50,000 pounds less from central hand-outs, which in turn means possible pay freezes and cuts for players.

According to the paper, one high profile player said: "The

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