

Safety group to visit Zimbabwe

BBC ONLINE, undated

A delegation from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will fly to Zimbabwe this weekend to check out safety and security ahead of the proposed tour.

John Carr, the ECB's director of cricket operations, and Richard Bevan of the Professional Cricketers' Association will arrive on Sunday.

An ECB spokesman told BBC Sport: "At this stage we fully expect the tour to go ahead in November."

But he added: "Safety and security of the players is most important."

The taskforce will canvass opinion from all sections of the community, including opponents of President Robert Mugabe's ruling party.

They will also inspect the facilities and hotels England will be using on their two-week tour, which involves five one-day internationals starting in Harare on 26 November.

England have reluctantly agreed to go ahead with the tour because if they withdraw without a legitimate reason, they could face tough penalties from the International Cricket Council.

Safety and security is, however, one of the grounds which could offer England a way out of the tour.

The ECB are also awaiting on the findings of a hearing into alleged racism within the Zimbabwe Cricket Union which led to 15 white players being sacked.

The ICC is set to reveal the decision at its executive board meeting this weekend and could expel Zimbabwe.



Did U Know?

Women were not allowed to take part in the original Olympic Games. They were able to enter the Paris Olympics of 1900, in tennis.

Star

WHIZZ KID

OMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post

The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 15, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final:
2 wkts 50 runs 33 runs

2- Who won the China Open tennis title?
Serena Sharapova Hingis

3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?
83 84 81

4. Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?
Sarwan Flintoff
Lara

Name

.....

Class. Roll No.

School Address

.....

Phone: (If any)



Australian cricket team members observe a minute's silence in memory of Keith Miller before the start of the second Test against India in Madras yesterday.

'Don't change a thing'



AFP, Sydney

Shane Warne's mentor has implored the master Australian leg-spinner not to change a thing as he continues his battle with India's batsmen.

Warne was on the brink of claiming Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan's world record of 532 Test wickets going into the second Madras Test against the Indians on Thursday.

Former Australian Test leg-spinner Terry Jenner, who advises Warne on his bowling technique, believes he may have erred in altering his style for Indian conditions.

Warne failed to strike in 13 overs on the last day of the first Test against India in Bangalore last weekend and was hammered for 55 runs by the Indian tail before Australia carved out a 217-run win to take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

Warne has been tinkering with his bowling technique for the India tour after struggling on previous trips to the sub-continent where the

spin-savvy Indian batsmen have dished out some severe punishment.

Jenner said he believed 35-year-old Warne was bowling quicker and flatter deliveries, possibly seeking to emulate the method of local spin-



TERRY JENNER

ners Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

"I think that is quite possible," Jenner told Sydney radio station 2KY on Thursday.

"If I had 500-plus wickets and I was Shane Warne, I would say 'I

hear what you are saying' but basically I would mix my pace up a bit more.

"But I would not take away the greatest leg-break that has ever been and that is basically what happened on the weekend."

Jenner said Warne's strongest attributes were his leg-break, flight and curve.

"And all those three things are missing," he said.

Warne admitted this week that he particularly struggled on the final day of the opening Test because he was trying too hard to get the last two wickets he needs to pass Muralitharan's record.

"He was not giving it his best chance because he is not bowling the way that he has been successful," said Jenner.

Jenner believed Warne conquered lingering demons about the sub-continent in his outstanding series in Sri Lanka earlier this year when he collected 26 wickets in three Tests.

He said Warne was hampered by injuries in previous visits to India in 1998 and 2001.

Australia have yet to win a series in India since 1969.

Intercon Cup Seamer Aga to skipper Kenya

AFP, Nairobi

Seamer Ragheb Aga has been named as a stand-in captain to lead a relatively young Kenyan squad in the semifinals of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Intercontinental Cup against Scotland in Sharjah next week.

Kenyan cricket Association (KCA) chief selector Harilal Shah said on Thursday they had opted to stick with the same team that played out a draw against Namibia and saved Kenya after the senior players boycotted the qualifier in Nairobi early this month.

He said the 20-year-old Aga, who took two wickets for 17 runs against Pakistan in the ICC Champions Trophy at Edgbaston, England, last month, will replace new national skipper Hitesh Modi, who is due to wed on November 19.

The team will also include three experienced players, Ravindu Shah, Lamech Onyango and Brijal Patel.

Others are Ameet Bhudia, Rajesh Bhudia, Kalpesh Patel, David Okumu, Tammy Mishra, Malhar Patel, Jadavji Bhimji, Timothy Muange, Abid Janmohammed.

Kenya will play Scotland in one of the semifinals in the United Arab Emirates on November 16-18, while Canada will take on the hosts United Arab Emirates in the semifinal.

The final will be held on November 21-23.

Ponting out

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Cricket Australia medical adviser Trefor James said a specialist's examination showed the bone in Ponting's broken thumb was knitting well.

"But while he is progressing well, his thumb is not yet strong enough to grip a bat," he said.

Ponting fractured his left thumb while fielding during Australia's six-wicket loss to England in the ICC Champions Trophy semifinal at Edgbaston.

Ponting's unavailability presents batting rivals Michael Clarke and Darren Lehmann with more time to state their cases for retention in the third Test team.

"There is going to be an unlucky batsman when I eventually come back, and we don't know which one it is yet," Ponting said here after meeting with specialists.

He said he was not certain if he would be padding up for the Bombay Test.

"All going to plan I should be right to play the fourth Test match, but I still don't have a departure date and we won't know until we have some further x-rays done," he said.

Ponting said Lehmann's reported comments Tuesday that he was prepared to step down for Clarke came out a little early.

"That was what was mystifying about what Darren said, there was no certainty that I was going to be back so he has made his statements about a week and a half too early," he said.

"As far as I am concerned Darren Lehmann has got a helluva lot of Test cricket to play yet," Ponting said.

"And all he was trying to say is that he would understand if selectors left him out for Michael Clarke."

ICC's focus on Zim



AFP, Lahore

World cricket's governing body will review the sport's international structure and look into a report on alleged racism involving Zimbabwe when it meets this week in the eastern Pakistan city of Lahore, a statement said Thursday.

The future structure of the programme of Tests and one-day internationals will be discussed amid suggestions that weaker teams like Bangladesh and Zimbabwe be relegated to a second tier because their matches with cricket's top nations are cruelly one sided.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) executive board meeting will also consider the report by India's Solicitor General Goolam Vahanvati and South African High Court Judge Steven Majiedt into allegations of racism in Zimbabwe cricket, an ICC statement said.

"The review of the structure of cricket and the inquiry into racism in Zimbabwean cricket are both on the agenda of the ICC executive board meeting that will take place in Lahore, Pakistan on 16-17 October," the ICC said.

Cricket in the African country is in turmoil following a strike by 15 white

players led by former captain Heath Streak who alleged racism in Zimbabwe cricket in April this year.

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) refuted the allegations, instantly sacked the rebel players and have subsequently been forced to field a weak and inexperienced side under young captain Tatenda Taibu.

Following Zimbabwe's humiliating defeat in two Tests against Sri Lanka and eight consecutive one-day losses, the ICC suspended Zimbabwe's Test status until the end of this year and launched an inquiry which was held on September 30 and October 1.

It will be the first opportunity for the ICC board to consider the future structure of the programme of Tests and one-day international following discussions by the chief executives of all countries at their meeting in September, said the ICC release.

There have been suggestions that weaker teams like Bangladesh and Zimbabwe be relegated to a second tier in which competition would be more tightly matched.

The ICC board will consider a range of alternatives identified by the chief executives committee and provide direction to ICC management as to which, if any, it wishes to be examined further, ICC said.

Other matters on the agenda include a recommended amend-

ment to the ICC Code of Conduct to include team selectors in the definition of team officials and further discussions on the future relocation of the ICC outside London, the statement said.

Pakistan's chief selector Wasim Bari severely criticised English umpire David Shepherd for his two poor decisions in the final of the tri-series against Australia at Amstelveen, Holland in August this year.

This prompted the ICC to consider forbidding the selectors from criticising the ICC officials through its code of conduct which was previously applicable to only players, team management and officials of the cricket boards.

Fleming masterclass

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the middle," said Fleming at the end of the day.

"It was an easy-paced wicket and I felt pretty comfortable straight-away, which was a good sign," he added.

Fleming appreciated the effort of the home team's pace quartet of Shahadat Hossain Rajib, Talha Jubair, Alamgir Kabir and Anwar Hossain Monir although he expressed surprise at the nature of the bowling attack.

"They tried very hard on a tough wicket to bowl on. We expected more spin to come at us so it was a surprise that the seamers did the majority of work, although it may not be the case in the Tests."

Paceman Alamgir Kabir, who bowled first change was rewarded for keeping a tidy line and length and returned figures of three for 59 off 17 overs. The most hostile customer of day was however tearaway Shahadat Hossain Rajib (two for 45) who bowled at an impressive speed. Coming in off a new curtailed run-up, the country's fastest bowler struggled initially and was no-balled ten times but gradually settled down. He removed Jacob Oram with a jaffer that bounced disconcertingly off a length and took the gloves of the left-hander into the safe hands of wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh.

The performance of the two successful quicks was no doubt noticed by the four selectors Faruque Ahmed, Athar ali Khan, Golam Nowsher and coach Dav hatmore who were present at the BKSP since morning. Chief selector Faruque Ahmed said they would announce the side for the first Test on the third day of the match in BKSP.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day practice match between

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI and New Zealand at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.			
New Zealand: First innings			
Richardson lbw b Shahadat	2		
Sinclar b Alamgir	16		
Fleming ret'd	129		
Styris run out (Ashrafu)	5		
Astle c Hannan b Alamgir	15		
Marshall b Alamgir	51		
Oram c Dhiman b Shahadat	19		
McCullum not out	18		
Vettori not out	5		
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-17, w-6) 25			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 66 overs) 285			
Fall of wicket: 1-14, 2-50, 3-58, 4-86, 5-205, 6-274			
Bowler	O	M	R W
Shahadat	8	0	45 2
Talha Jubair	10	2	39 0
Alamgir	17	2	59 3
Anwar Hossain	13	2	47 0
Nadif	13	0	63 0
Ashrafu	2	0	20 0
Alok Kapali	3	0	10 0

AFC boost

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He also informed that they have yet to receive any feedback from the government about any financial assistance for the future.

The BFF had asked for Tk 25 crore for the next five years, but Helal said that the Finance Ministry has yet to respond to the appeal.

Good news

FROM PAGE 13

McInnes also did not rule out the possibility of Razzak playing for Bangladesh in the later part of the series against touring New Zealand.

"I wouldn't say yes and I wouldn't say no. Let him play two or three CCL games and then I can give you a more definite answer."

Beckham will carry on



AFP, London

David Beckham's future as England captain is assured after the Football Association (FA) made it clear there would be no action taken against him over his admission that he had deliberately fouled an opponent to get a convenient yellow card.

Despite widespread and severe criticism of Beckham's conduct, notably from FIFA President Sepp Blatter, the FA said it regarded an apology issued by the Real Madrid midfielder as sufficient to draw a line under the issue.

That stance was backed by England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson after his side's 1-0 win over Azerbaijan on Wednesday.

"That's finished it here for ever," Eriksson said, adding that he had never doubted that Beckham would continue as England captain, despite the furore over his actions.

Beckham was suspended for Wednesday night's game as a result of the yellow card he received in Saturday's win over Wales.

He subsequently admitted he had deliberately fouled Ben Thatcher to get that yellow card because he knew that, minutes earlier, he had broken a rib and would be unable to travel to Azerbaijan anyway.

Eriksson, who had made it clear he believe Beckham's only mistake was to have been frank about his

conduct, said he had never doubted that Beckham should carry on as captain.

"No way -- I never doubted that," he said.

By serving the suspension, Beckham has his slate wiped clean for the rest of the World Cup qualifying campaign rather than having to play later matches knowing he was just one booking away from a ban.

FA chairman Geoff Thompson had earlier given Beckham a clear vote of confidence.

"The captain has possibly made an error of judgement but he has apologised for it," Thompson said.

"Of course I think it's a good thing that he's given that apology."

Blatter said he was dismayed by Beckham's conduct.

"Where are we going when football's ambassadors do not show fair play?" the FIFA supremo said.

"David Beckham is a role model for young children, an ambassador of football and an ambassador of fair play. I will speak with the leadership of the FA and I will ask them to investigate and give us a report.

"All players should show fair play and should not make sure they are booked, then publicly say, 'I did it deliberately.'"

"This is the captain of the English team and he should have acted in a better way, especially because all the attention is focused on him."

Beckham's apology contained a veiled references to revelations in a Sunday tabloid about his personal life. There has been speculation that

he had incurred the booking knowing a story alleging marital infidelity was going to appear and that he wanted to miss the trip to Azerbaijan because of the potential repercussions for his relationship with his wife, Victoria.

"I was asked a question and made a frank and honest admission to counter the negative speculation," Beckham said in a statement.

"I now know that was wrong and apologise to the FA, the England coach, my team-mates and all England fans.

"I have also apologised personally to my manager Sven-Goran Eriksson.

"I know that as captain you are in a privileged position and must always abide by FIFA's code of fair play, something which I have always done throughout my career."

Norwegian referee Terje Hauge, who was in charge of England's match, said he was surprised Beckham had deliberately fouled Thatcher in order to be suspended from Wednesday's qualifier in Azerbaijan.

"It is not correct to do that. He is the captain of the England team and he is a star. Many young players look up to him. It's not good for him to think and act like that," Hauge said.

"It surprises me if he has said that. In the match I didn't think he did that. I thought it was a reaction in the game."

Paradorn, Schuttler progress



AFP, Vienna

Paradorn Srichaphan's bid to regain a place in the world's top 20 took a step forward when he survived a potentially difficult first round against former French Open champion Albert Costa in the 682,750-euro ATP event here on Wednesday.

The fifth seeded Thai player overcame the fluent Spaniard 6-4, 6-4, chiselling out one break of serve in each set, and earning himself the opportunity for significant progress in a quarter in which the other seed, Juan Ignacio Chela

of Argentina has already been beaten.

"It's always difficult to play the first match," said Paradorn.

"It's a new tournament, with new balls, and a view which is different from last week. It's also kind of slower and the ball bounces low, but I think I dealt with it."

But it might have been very different. Paradorn found himself break point down at 30-40 as early as the third game, a problem from which he escaped with an adventurous but second delivery which landed plumb on the service line.

He also had to save a break point in the second game of the second set, when he was able to apply enough ground-stroking pressure to

force Costa into a forehand drive which found the net.

Had either of those two points fallen differently, Costa might have found the slightly slow indoor hard court suited to his rhythmic groundstrokes and become a more dangerous force.

But although Paradorn never summoned the form which helped him to take a set from world number one Roger Federer in the semifinal of the Thailand Open in Bangkok three weeks ago, he played the bigger points well enough.

He produced such a solid backhand block return of serve at love-15 in the seventh game and combined it with such a fierce forehand cross court drive to reach love-30 that Costa was forced into over-pressing to try to rescue his service game.

As he did so he lost his temper, creating an opening with a short angle only to miss it with an over-hit with a forehand down the line, and uttering some profanities which got him a warning from the umpire.

Next point Costa drove an ambitious forehand into the net from wide on the backhand side to lose his service game, stalked disgustedly back to his place, and let go of his racket as though it were a paper bag descending into a waste bin.

Paradorn looked more confident after that. He had to save a break back point when serving for the first set, but he had Costa in trouble at 1-1 and 3-3 in the second before breaking again at 4-4 when the umpire over-ruled a line judge to call a Costa forehand out.

The Thai then closed out the match without fuss, gaining his 42nd win of the year and increasing his chances of finishing with 50 wins for the second consecutive season.

He next plays Robbie Ginepri, the promising 22-year-old top 30 American. Despite being in the middle of a marathon eight-week spell of competition, Paradorn believes he can win again.

"If I do well, that will help Asian players to think they can do it," he said.

"I saw a lot of good juniors when I was in China recently, especially among the girls. Hopefully there will be another good men's and women's player from Asia soon."



PHOTO: AFP
Russian Elena Dementieva returns the ball to Mamic Sanda of Croatia during their Kremlin Cup encounter in Moscow yesterday. Dementieva won 6-3, 6-3.

Kumble the killer

FROM PAGE 13

Langer fell two balls later for 71, edging a low catch to Rahul Dravid in the slips.

Langer's wicket was Harbhajan's 48th wicket in seven Tests against the Australians and followed his 11-wicket haul in the Bangalore Test.

Simon Katich and Damien Martyn added 53 for the third wicket before Kumble began the destruction in the last over before tea by having Martyn caught at short-leg for 26.

Kumble returned after the break to have Darren Lehmann snapped up behind the wickets by Parthiv Patel for a duck.

Michael Clarke, who made 151 on debut in Bangalore, managed only five when he was trapped leg-before by a trademark Kumble flipper.

Gilchrist, another first Test centurion, ballooned a catch to short-leg where Yuvraj ran back and dived to hold a sharp chance.

The Australian captain made only three.

Warne then tapped back a return catch to Kumble, while Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprovicz were caught close to the wicket to make Australia 228-9.

Last man Glenn McGrath was run out, leaving Katich unbeaten on 36.

The tourists took the field wearing black arm-bands in memory of legendary Australian all-rounder Keith Miller who died in Sydney on Monday aged 84.

Both teams observed a minute's silence before the match to mourn one of cricket's most flamboyant all-rounders.

India left out opener Akash Chopra from the side that lost at Bangalore and brought in middle-order batsman Mohammad Kaif for his first Test since 2001.

Australia retained the same side which leads 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second cricket Test between India and Australia at the Chapeauk in Madras on Thursday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings					
Langer c Dravid b Harbhajan	71				
Hayden c Laxman b Harbhajan	58				
Katich not out	36				
Martyn c Yuvraj b Kumble	26				
Lehmann c Patel b Kumble	0				
Clarke lbw b Kumble	5				
Gilchrist c Yuvraj b Kumble	3				
Warne c b Kumble	4				

Gillespie c Kaif b Kumble 5

Kasprovicz c Laxman b Kumble 4

McGrath run out 2

Extras: (b-7, lb-4, nb-4, w-1, pen-5) 21

Total: (All out in 71.3 overs) 235

Fall of wickets: 1-136, 2-136, 3-189, 4-191, 5-204, 6-210, 7-216, 8-224, 9-228

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	12	3	29	0
Zaheer	11	2	44	0
Harbhajan	29	2	90	2
Kumble	17.3	4	48	7
Sehwag	2	1	8	0

INDIA: First innings

Yuvraj c Gilchrist b Warne 8

Sehwag not out 20

Pathan not out 0