

Sarwan not fit for India ODIs

REUTERS, St. John's

Injured West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan will miss this month's one-day series in India, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said.

However, the batsman was named in the 30-member provisional World Cup squad announced by the West Indies board, which included five uncapped players.

Sarwan was ruled out of last month's one-day series in Pakistan due to a hairline fracture of his right foot and the WICB said on its web site he was not medically fit.

Trinidad's Kieron Pollard and all-rounder Reyad Emrit, Gavin Tonge of Antigua, Barbados stumper Patrick Browne and experienced Guyanese batsman Travis Dowlin were the uncapped members shortlisted for the World Cup squad.

The 19-year-old Pollard came into reckoning after hitting 126 on his first class debut in a domestic tournament last week.

The World Cup starts in the Caribbean on March 13.

Emrit, 25, was also included in the 14-player squad for India with all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who skipped the Pakistan one-day series for personal reasons, also making a return.

The India matches will be played in Nagpur (January 21), Cuttack (January 24), Chennai (January 27) and Baroda (January 31).

PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Brian Lara, Omari Banks, Carlton Baugh, Ian Bradshaw, Dwayne

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Did U Know?

Germany and France committed the most fouls in the FIFA 2006 World Cup with 125 for each team while Italy were on the receiving end with 152 suffered.



Wasim Akram

(Pakistan cricket legend)
"I was surprised to see Sachin (Tendulkar) so low on passion and he was negative in his batting. In fact, India looked afraid in the last Test and Pakistan should avoid such an approach."



ESPN

South Africa v Pakistan

First Test, Day 4

Live at 2:30 pm

English Premier Football League

Tottenham Hotspur v Newcastle United

Live at 9:55 pm

STAR Sports

Commonwealth Bank Series

Australia v New Zealand

Second ODI

Live at 5:00 am

Primera Liga

Real Madrid v Zaragoza

Live at 1:55 am (Monday)



PHOTO: STAR

Old DOHS batsman Tamim Iqbal raises his bat in delight after reaching a whirlwind century against Partex in the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

Rule bent for Asif



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday named Ali Asif Khan as national team's operations manager replacing former national captain Khaled Mahmud for the Tigers' brief tour to Zimbabwe later this month.

The ambiguous decision that surprised many was taken in the board's executive committee meeting yesterday.

Asif, also the member secretary of cricket operations committee, will manage the national team during the 11-day tour to the southern African nation where the Tigers will feature in four limited-overs

matches.

A former cricketer Asif might be in for a bigger surprise provided that he crosses the Zimbabwe hurdle and wait in the wings for a 'dream' World Cup job.

Although Asif is no alien to the sports community like flight lieutenant (retd) Mohammed Harunoor Rashid Bhuiyan, whom the board unsuccessfully planned to appoint as manager for the ICC Champions Trophy in India last October, his appointment evoked a lot of questions to be answered.

Did the board exercise a democratic process while appointing a new manager? If we are not mistaken then there were a lot of aspirants like former national cricketers to take up this demanding job.

The board appointed Mahmud

just to save its blushes after Harun's appointment came under severe criticism. Did the concerned officials of the board take the pain of letting Mahmud know that his job as manager is no longer required? It is a courtesy call and if we are not mistaken than the board high-ups, who considered themselves as employer, treated the former national captain the same way they did with two previous managers MA Latif and Shafiqul Haque Hira.

The managerial post has been tainted with controversy ever since Latif was sacked as manager apparently for addressing some unlawful activities of all-powerful Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore during Bangladesh's tour of England in 2005.

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What went wrong in 5-0



CALUM STEWART

"What went wrong?" may well be the question that is asked of the English team by the cricket-loving public back home, as well as by the side itself, when the English team returns next month from their tour of Australia.

The 5-0 Ashes whitewash that has been exacted against the English by the Australian side stands not only as a humiliating result, but also a slightly bewildering one if you bear in mind that only 18 months ago the English had reclaimed the trophy in triumphant and magnificent style.

After the stunning successes of 2005, England have subsequently fallen from grace and been beaten in every single Test, in nearly every

single way.

In Brisbane, Australia led from the front and never looked back. In Adelaide, England squandered countless opportunities, and lost what most would have considered after two days' play as an un-losable Test. In Perth, after a competitive start, the English simply couldn't match it with Australia all the way through the five days, and were eventually beaten there too.

With their confidence shattered and the Ashes officially lost, the Melbourne and Sydney Test matches were trouncings, with an innings and 10-wicket defeats respectively. As the dust settles on

England's Ashes failure, and as the two sides turn to the one-day format with the immediate start of the triangular series and the World Cup looming closer, it is worth stopping to consider why it was that England slumped so badly to suffer the worst Ashes defeat since 1921.

Firstly, any Test team travelling to Australia has found the going tough. Australia's bouncing pitches, large grounds and competitive on and off field tactics have caused all sides difficulty of over the past decade. It was the great

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PHOTO: AFP FILE

Stuart Clark emerged as one of the biggest performers in this Ashes series, giving Australia crucial wickets.

Tamim breaks new ground

SPORTS REPORTER



Tamim Iqbal celebrated his inclusion into the World Cup preliminary

camp by hammering the highest individual one-day score by a Bangladeshi as defending champions Old DOHS crushed Partex by 150 runs in the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

His 188 also made him the second highest individual scorer in local limited-overs cricket after Kalabagan's Pakistani recruit Ziaur Rahman, who scored 202 -- the first double century in the Premier League against Dhanmondi back in March 15, 2001.

The young left-hander also broke the record for 6s as his 12 hits eclipsed Zunaed Siddiq's recent exploits in the Twenty20 tournament where Zunaed struck 11 sixes in an innings.

In other matches of the day, Sonargaon Cricketers kept their hundred per cent record intact with a 35-run victory over Kalabagan while promotees Young Pegasus won a tight encounter against minnows Indira Road by three wickets.

OLD DOHS v PARTEX

The boy who was usually recog-

nised as the nephew of Akram Khan or the brother of Nafis Iqbal, has become his own man after his masterpiece in Narayanganj.

Partex's bowling attack had experience on their side but what they had to endure will be etched in their memory for long.

Tamim took them apart from the word go with some clinical hitting and some sweetly timed shots. He may have a wagon wheel but on Saturday, it was evident that he can play every shot in the book, with power.

He dominate the opening stand with national cap Mehrab Hossain and followed it up with a 177-run third wicket stand with Ehsanul Haque. If that was effective, then the 101-run stand for the next wicket with fellow big-hitter Nadif Chowdhury in only 9.1 overs was brilliant. Tamim played the central role in all these partnerships, culminating in him hitting 12 sixes and 13 boundaries in his 160-ball storm, as DOHS piled on 350 for eight in 50 overs, also a record as the highest-ever team total in local one-day cricket.

He always had it in him and was no surprise to teammate and former national captain Khaled Mahmud.

"It was a brilliant, chanceless innings with some fantastic shots," said the all-rounder.

"To see him (Tamim) in such devastating form was great. Almost

all his sixes landed in the stands of the Fatullah.

"He could have easily hit a double century as he was out with more than two overs remaining," added Mahmud.

Tamim, who represented Bangladesh in all age-levels, was dismissed for 188 in the deep off left-arm seamer Rezaul Islam.

The rest of the match was academic as Partex mustered only 200 runs in 47.5 overs. Mehrab took four wickets while seamer Nazmul Hossain bagged two scalps. Partex's poor run continues after their much celebrated promotion to the Premier League as it was in this ground where they were bowled out for a mere 44 in their first match against Sonargaon on the opening day.

SONARGAON

v KALABAGAN

Alok Kapali displayed a brilliant all-round show for his new team Sonargaon against Kalabagan at the BKSP ground.

Sent into bat, Sonargaon were off to a flyer, thanks to Al Shahriar's 65 off 66 balls and then Kapali's 59, coming in at number three. He hit

TODAY'S MATCHES

Victoria v Abahani (BKSP)
Mohammedan v City Club (Mirpur)
Biman v Brothers Union (Fatullah)

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Prince, Gibbs put SA ahead



AFP, Centurion

Ashwell Prince made his sixth Test century as he and Herschelle Gibbs enabled South Africa to take a 104-run first innings lead on the third day of the first Test against Pakistan at Centurion Park Saturday.

South Africa were bowled out for 417 in reply to Pakistan's 313. Pakistan were 12 for no wicket in their second innings at tea.

South Africa lost their last six wickets for 61 runs after they had seemed on course to take a commanding lead.

Prince and Gibbs had taken their fifth wicket partnership to 213 when Prince was out for 138 in the last over before lunch, stumped off Danish Kaneria.

Four more wickets fell quickly after the interval before Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini added 26 for the last wicket to take the lead beyond 100.

Opening bowler Mohammad Asif finally dismissed Ntini, caught at second slip, to finish with five for 89, his third five-wicket haul in a seven-Test career.

Gibbs was part of the post-lunch collapse, leg before wicket to Rana Naved-ul-Hasan for 94, falling short of his first Test century in two years.

The left-handed Prince, who has made all his Test hundreds within the space of two years, batted fluently but survived a close lbw appeal by Mohammad Asif on 98 and an appeal for caught and bowled by Shahid Nazir when he had 126.

In the latter incident, Prince

mistimed a drive and Nazir picked up the ball low down in his follow through. Nazir threw the ball up in triumph but Prince stood his ground.

Umpire Steve Bucknor con-

sulted with square leg umpire Billy Doctrove and the appeal was referred to television umpire Karl Hurter.

The replays were inconclusive although it seemed Nazir might

have caught the ball on the half-volley and Prince was given not out.

Pakistan's bowlers were largely lacklustre before lunch on a hot,

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PHOTO: AFP

South African batsman Ashwell Prince (C) takes off for a single during his knock of 138 on the third day of the first Test against Pakistan in Centurion on Saturday.

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