



PHOTO: COURTESY
AkTEL's head of marketing Asif Iqbal (C) poses with the winners of a cricket quiz contest and other officials during a prize giving ceremony yesterday.

Pak equipment yet to arrive!

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Pakistan's preparations for the last one-day game against South Africa on Wednesday have been upset by the loss of equipment en route from Cape Town.

Medical and video analysis material went missing after the fourth match at Newlands, which the tourists lost by 10 wickets to trail 2-1 in the series.

"Two cricket 'coffins' with computers, a TV monitor, DVD player and various other pieces of equipment have disappeared," coach Bob Woolmer told Reuters on Tuesday.

"The physiotherapist's ultrasound equipment, along with other medical supplies has also failed to arrive," Woolmer said.

"I hate to think 'typical Johannesburg airport' but unfortunately there is a bit of history. We're still hopeful that it will turn up somewhere but time is running out and we really do need the equipment to have any hope of being prepared," Woolmer said.

"We all saw the bags being checked in so they must have disappeared somewhere during the journey, or on arrival. It's close to \$10,000 worth of equipment."

Kenyans to receive cash

AFP, Nairobi

Kenya's cricketers will each receive a cash payment of 5,000 dollars for their efforts in winning the World Cricket League title here this month, officials said on Tuesday.

The payment is the highest since the players, who have been going without salaries for months, will earn since their participation in the last World Cup in South Africa.

The money is part of the 250,000 dollars (17.5 million shillings) granted to the winner and runner-up of the World Cricket League Division one tournament as their participation fee for the inaugural ICC Twenty20 World Championships in South Africa in September.

LOCAL SNIPS

FROM PAGE 17

overs before restricting their opponents to 88-9. BRAC's Mahbub was adjudged the man-of-the-match after grabbing 5-11.

BUET SPORTS

The annual sports of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will be held today at the BUET ground.

Vice-chancellor Dr AMM Shafullah will declare the meet open in the morning. All the eight BUET halls will compete in 22 events of the daylong meet.

ICC president

FROM PAGE 17
members and a simple majority overall.

Pawar and Morgan will be looking to replace Percy Sonn, the current ICC president, after the voting in June. But Sonn could carry on longer if the board decides to extend his tenure to three years.

Pawar has the backing of five boards - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

The members of the Nominations Committee include AC Muthiah, the chairman, (India and Sri Lanka) Bob Merriman (Australia and New Zealand), Muneen Afzal (Bangladesh and Pakistan), Stephen Camacho (West Indies and England), John Blair (South Africa and Zimbabwe) and Imran Khwaja (Associates and Affiliates).

Zim, minnows give squads

REUTERS/Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, undated

Zimbabwe omitted experienced batsman Hamilton Masakadza from their World Cup squad on Wednesday.

Eighteen-year-old Friday Kasteni, who made his debut in the recent home series against Bangladesh after Masakadza was dropped for the last match, won a place instead.

Masakadza, who has 39 one-day caps, did his chances of selection little good by averaging just 14 against Bangladesh.

"The selectors felt he had not done enough to warrant selection," Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) media manager Lovemore Banda told Reuters.

The squad for the tournament starting in the West Indies next month did not include former captain Tatenda Taibu, who quit Zimbabwe cricket in November 2005 after a contractual dispute.

Banda denied reports that ZC had made recent attempts to lure Taibu, who now plays in Namibia, back to the fold.

"Our door is open to former players, but the board is not doing that (luring Taibu)," Banda said.

Fast bowler Tawanda Muparwa made the squad despite missing the Bangladesh series while he recuperated from a lingering knee injury.

Canada announced their 15-man squad for the World Cup in the Caribbean on Wednesday calling up

13 of the players who played in the recent World Cricket League series in Kenya.

In what will be the Canadians' third appearance in the World Cup, they have chosen John Davison as captain with Ashish Bagai as his assistant.

Two New Zealand-based batsmen - Ian Billcliffe and Geoff Barnett - made the squad.

"We will have to work hard in the field in order not to give up twenty to thirty runs," coach Andy Pick said.

Meanwhile, underdogs Netherlands have gone for a tried and trusted line-up in announcing their 15-man squad for the World Cup.

The side will leave for the Caribbean on March 2 and will play two warm-up matches in Jamaica before heading on to St. Kitts where they will open their campaign against South Africa on March 16.

Besides, Ireland on Tuesday have confirmed their 15-man squad for the World Cup.

The 15 who played in the recent World League in Kenya have all been retained.

Ireland will be led by Australian-born Trent Johnston and also include Middlesex batsman Eoin Morgan and Northamptonshire wicketkeeper Niall O'Brien.

Ireland will be in Group D at the World Cup, which starts on March 11, with West Indies, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWEAN SQUAD

Prosper Utseya (captain), Gary Brent, Chamu Chibhabha, Elton Chigumbura,

Keith Dabengwa, Terry Duffin, Anthony Ireland, Friday Kasteni, Stuart Matsikenyi, Christopher Moofa, Tawanda Muparwa, Edward Rainsford, Vusumuzi Sibanda, Brendan Taylor, Sean Williams.

CANADIAN SQUAD

John Davison (captain), Qaiser Ali, Ashish Bagai, Geoff Barnett, Umar Bhatti, Ian Billcliffe, Desmond Chumney, George Codrington, Austin Codrington, Anderson Cummins, Sunil Dhaniram, Ashif Mull, Henry Osinde, Abdoor Samad, Kevin Szwarczynski, Bas Zuidenreit.

DUTCH SQUAD

Luuk van Troost (captain), Peter Borren, Daan van Bunge, Ryan ten Doeschate, Mark Jonkman, Muhammad Kashif, Alexei Kervezee, Tim de Leede, Aedel Raja, Darron Reekers, Edgar Schiferi, Jeroen Smits, Billy Stelling, Eric Szwarczynski, Bas Zuidenreit.

IRISH SQUAD

Trent Johnston (captain), Kyle McCallan, Andre Botha, Jeremy Bray, Kenneth Carroll, Peter Gillespie, Dave Langford-Smith, John Mooney, Paul Mooney, Eoin Morgan, Kevin O'Brien, Niall O'Brien, William Porterfield, Boyd Rankin, Andrew White.

Samuels can still play

REUTERS/Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

West Indian cricketer Marlon Samuels will be allowed to play in next month's World Cup despite an ongoing probe of his links with an alleged bookmaker, the sport's governing body said on Wednesday.

If he is selected by the West Indies, Samuels is free to play in the World Cup," International Cricket Council (ICC) spokesman Brian Murgatroyd told reporters in the central city of Nagpur.

"The ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit is investigating the case. No time frame has been set for the probe to end."

The 15-man squads for the

World Cup, which opens in the Caribbean on March 13, have to be submitted to the ICC by Wednesday.

Nagpur police said last week they had had conversations in which Samuels had passed on team information to a man suspected of being a bookie during last month's one-day series in India.

According to the police, Samuels had five conversations with the suspected bookmaker, identified in the calls as Mukesh Kochar from his hotel room in Nagpur ahead of the January 21 match.

The police added there was no evidence money had changed hands and it had only brought it to the notice of cricket authorities because it was a violation of the ICC's code of conduct, which bars players from dealing with bookmakers.

Cronje and two other former captains, Mohammad Azharuddin of India and Salim Malik of Pakistan, were banned for life.

"I am a cricket player and all my life I have been involved in cricket - matches, practices, etc. So I cannot just sit and not play. I will be playing for Rajshahi in the national league, hopefully from this round (against Chittagong)," said a man regarded as one of the best wicketkeepers in the world.

"(Sourav) Ganguly can be a great example for my situation. He has showed how to get back against all adversities."

Back in April, Australian superstar Michael Hussey asked Khaled Mashud when will they meet again, just as he was checking out of his team hotel in Dhaka. He quickly answered his own question: 'See you at the World Cup'. The irony is that Hussey will definitely miss him.

It is true that Mashud's batting has been on the wane for the last year or so but it was never even expected that he would not go to the World Cup to fight one last battle.

Flintoff not certain to be captain

AFP, London

Andrew Flintoff is not guaranteed to be England's captain at the World Cup in the event Michael Vaughan is injured.

Flintoff led England during their 5-0 Ashes thrashing in Australia.

The all-rounder was also in charge most of their ultimately successful subsequent triangular one-day series 'down under' where the team overcame a wretched start to win four straight matches, including a 2-0 victory in the best of three final against world champions Australia.

Vaughan, who missed the Ashes while recovering from a knee problem, only played in three of England's 10 one-dayers in Australia because of a hamstring injury. Nevertheless, the Yorkshire batsman was named Wednesday as captain of England's 15-man squad for next month's World Cup in the West Indies.

England chairman of selectors David Graveney said it was "my wish" that Michael Vaughan captained England after the injury-prone Yorkshire batsman was named Wednesday to lead his country in a 15-man squad for next month's World Cup in the West Indies.

Vaughan, who has never scored a one-day international hundred, was restricted to only three of the 10 matches during England's recent victorious limited-overs series in Australia after suffering hamstring trouble on his comeback from a year out with knee problems.

But Graveney told a press conference at The Oval: "Let's be honest -- we lost 5-0 in the Test series and five of our first six one-day internationals."

Andrew Flintoff deputised for Vaughan if he dropped out.

Wicketkeeper Paul Nixon, the lone specialist wicketkeeper, and Essex all-rounder Ravi Bopara, both of whom made their one-day debuts in Australia, were included in the squad.

Graveney said Bopara -- who he labelled a "big-match" player even though he has appeared in just one limited-overs international -- got the nod ahead of hard-hitting Lancashire opening batsman Mal Loxley, a replacement for Vaughan in Australia, because he brought a "better balance" to the squad.

England bounced back from a wretched start in the triangular series, which also featured New Zealand, to win four matches in a row, including three over world champions Australia.

"The selectors were delighted with the team's outstanding performance.

"He hasn't disappeared off the

England name WC squad

Vaughan made captain at Graveney's wish

mance in winning the Commonwealth Bank (Triangular) Series and we have retained the bulk of the squad who were in Australia for the World Cup," Graveney explained.

Along with Vaughan, star batsman Kevin Pietersen also missed the finals with a rib injury.

Graveney said Pietersen was fit but concerns remained over pace bowlers in James Anderson (back) and Jon Lewis (ankle).

He added that the quicks, as well as Vaughan, would have their fitness assessed before the squad left for the Caribbean.

England, and several other nations, are taking advantage of a more relaxed approach from the International Cricket Council (ICC) who, unlike previous World Cups, have told teams that injured players can be replaced providing the technical committee approve the request.

Wicketkeeper Paul Nixon, the lone specialist wicketkeeper, and Essex all-rounder Ravi Bopara, both of whom made their one-day debuts in Australia, were included in the squad.

Graveney said Bopara -- who he labelled a "big-match" player even though he has appeared in just one limited-overs international -- got the nod ahead of hard-hitting Lancashire opening batsman Mal Loxley, a replacement for Vaughan in Australia, because he brought a "better balance" to the squad.

There was no place for 20-year-old Leicestershire quick Stuart Broad, the son of former England opener Chris, who impressed when making his debut against Pakistan last year.

"The selectors were delighted with the team's outstanding performance.

"He hasn't disappeared off the

Aussies target Kiwis

REUTERS/Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Stung by losing their home tri-series final to England, the Australian cricketers flew into New Zealand Wednesday looking for a whipping boy.

"I think we're going to be pretty dangerous," stand-in captain Mike Hussey warned ahead of the three-match Chappell-Hadlee series which starts on Friday.

With Ponting and Gilchrist absent and Michael Clarke nursing a hip injury, only opener Matthew Hayden is a certainty out of Australia's first-choice top-four batsmen, but high-scoring Hussey is renowned for his versatility.

It is a prospect that doesn't phase the 22-year-old.

"I enjoyed batting at four, though at three you can get in early and you've got more time to get yourself in," he said.

"You have more of a licence to play a few more shots, you're one down rather than two."

Taylor is averaging 36.23 after 14 one-day internationals, scoring at a brisk 84 runs per 100 balls faced.

"I think I naturally score quite quickly and even if I take up a few balls to get in hopefully I can catch up with them later on."

The three-match series begins in Wellington on Friday. The other games are in Auckland on Sunday and Hamilton on Tuesday.

that decided who would play Australia in the tri-series finals.

The promising Ross Taylor moves up one place in the batting order to replace Fulton at number three in the batting order after making a good first impression on the Australians when scoring 84 in his maiden innings in Hobart.

It is a prospect that doesn't phase the 22-year-old.

"I enjoyed batting at four, though at three you can get in early and you've got more time to get yourself in," he said.

"You have more of a licence to play a few more shots, you're one down rather than two."

Taylor is averaging 36.23 after 14 one-day internationals, scoring at a brisk 84 runs per 100 balls faced.

"I think I naturally score quite quickly and even if I take up a few balls to get in hopefully I can catch up with them later on."

The three-match series begins in Wellington on Friday. The other games are in Auckland on Sunday and Hamilton on Tuesday.

Argentina

FROM PAGE 20

Juniors supporters club known as "La Doce" (The 12th man).

He stayed in a top five-star hotel and continued the exchange via email after returning to Mexico, the report added.

Rafael Di Zeo, leader of La Doce, was as saying: "As far as the world's hooligans are concerned