

Of fun and celebration

AFP, Bridgetown



From the country that gave you Riverdance, Ireland can now boast The Chicken and The Ferret.

His successful lift led to the chainsaw, a double windmill, a groin thrust and the Hewitt "c'mon" yell.

"The groin thrust was just wrong," said the 30-year-old.

"I wouldn't do that again. I think about Lleyton a bit. I don't like how he carries on but I respect that he lives here and he is a good husband. He doesn't live overseas and he pays his taxes. But Brett Lee is my favourite."

Back on the cricket pitch, England fast bowler Simon Jones was in hot water in the epic 2005 Ashes series after he was fined 1,000 pounds for the send-off he gave to Australian opener Matthew Hayden in the second Test.

Jones was sanctioned for pointing Hayden back to the pavilion.

"Things happen in the heat of the moment and sometimes you can't control what you're doing," said Jones.

"Someone else takes over and it's a great feeling but you may look back on it and think, 'what was I doing?'

"In future I'm going to have to learn maybe to calm myself down a bit."

Stuart MacGill, the Australian leg-spinner who has spent his career in the shadow of Shane Warne, had the opposite problem to Jones.

His actions at the crease were too tame, so he decided to take a leaf out of Andrew Flintoff's book.

MacGill now raises his finger but insists it's not a send-off gesture.

"I was bored seeing the same picture in the paper," he said.

"I've been trying to think of something else so I thought I'd try a Freddie and point to the sky."

The Irish team's World Cup campaign, which has accounted for Pakistan and Bangladesh, has also spawned a couple of new moves which would definitely look out of place at all self-respecting nightclubs.

Captain Trent Johnston celebrates the fall of a wicket with a bizarre jig which involves leaping from one foot to the other while flipping his arms.

"The chicken dance came out of when I am out on the dancefloor, the guys say I look like a chicken so that's just a celebratory dance I've given to the guys," said Johnston.

"And we also have Dave Langford-Smith who does the ferret as well. It's just a bit of fun. We are out here having fun and enjoying ourselves."

Langford-Smith, who, like Johnston is Australian, pioneered the ferret at his wedding reception.

He then performed it at a party in Jamaica to celebrate the win over Pakistan last month. It came out again in the victory against Bangladesh.

The ferret looks a bit like the chicken except the arms do the flapping behind the back not at the sides.

Thankfully, some cricketers have more style than others when it comes to celebrating the downfall of an opponent.

Brett Lee is not just one of the world's fastest bowlers.

When the blond Aussie bomber knocked over a victim, it was greeted with a vigorous leap that a high-jumper would have been proud of before he would fall to his knees and perform his famous chainsaw action.

It has been widely imitated even stretching to the Commonwealth



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa paceman Andre Nel (L) appeals successfully for an lbw decision against England captain Michael Vaughan (R) during the World Cup Super Eights match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados yesterday.

Lanka may do it again

AFP, St George's



TIGERCRICKET.COM, Bridgetown

"Obviously those two guys had been playing throughout the World Cup. Murali had a problem with his groin as well -- he played with a strapping in the last two or three games."

"Once we realised we had the semifinal spot I thought I needed to give those guys a break," Jayawardene said after Monday's match.

"They have had injury problems in the last six to 12 months, and we've been giving them breaks."

"That is something the team management has been doing, and it was a decision we had to take for the best interests of the team."

"Lasith still was not fit, and we couldn't risk another injury. We had to give them a proper rest."

"We never devalued the game. Up to now we have taken every game very seriously, and this game too. We have brought 15 guys to play this tournament, and they are all quality players."

"South Africa-born Birrell, who leaves the job after the World Cup, said of his rested bowlers: "If they want to have a go at Ireland -- maybe it won't be that tough a game -- they can easily come back into things."

"Five years ago we were ranked

"But if they feel they need another break we will give them one. We need them 100 percent going into the semifinals."

Ireland followed up their stunning

defeat of 1992 champions Pakistan in the opening group stage with a 74-run thrashing of Bangladesh -- themselves conquerors of India and South Africa -- in Barbados on Sunday.

"Ireland are a very strong side," Jayawardene said. "You can't take any of these teams lightly."

Bangladesh and Ireland have been upsetting a lot of the big names."

Australian-born Ireland captain Trent Johnston said he hoped his team had one more major performance left in them.

"We have a pretty big game against Sri Lanka. That will be the last game for (coach) Adrian Birrell, and it would be a fitting way for us to send him off by putting on another good display."

"The contract of the Sri Lankan-born Australian, who has iced the board

high-ups by expressing his desire for the Indian job during the World Cup, will expire by the end of this month but the board is likely to retain the burly man at least for next month's home series against India."

The board will also discuss about

captain and the vice-captain for the upcoming two-match Test and three-match one-day series against India.

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It was learnt that the high-ups are

thinking about separate captains for the

one-day and Test sides.

They will also decide the fate of

team physio Paul Close, who got an

extension during the World Cup.

BCB discusses major issues today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dav Whatmore issue will get the priority in today's executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to be held at a local hotel.

The board will set its course of action whether they will renew the contract with coach Whatmore, who is nearing the end of his second two-year contract with Bangladesh, or going for a new one with a new coach.

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Russel kept waiting

Match abandoned due to floodlight failure



SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel will have to wait for

another day to regain lead in the B.

League table after their yesterday's

match against Khulna Abahani was

abandoned ten minutes from time

due to lack of floodlight.

The home side were leading 3-0 with first half goals from Moroccan

midfielder Khoubache Mohamad

and striker Maksudul Islam Bulbul

and Mahmudul Hasan's second half

strike as the last 15 minutes of the

game was played in semi darkness

at the Bangabandhu National

Stadium, leading referee Abdul

Hannan to stop the game after

submitting requests from the Abahani

booters.

The referee, however, had

ignored earlier pleas of the visitors,

who conceded the third goal under

bad light due to lack of power supply

for technical fault at the

Bangabandhu Stadium sub-station.

After waiting regulation 40 minutes in vain, the match officials

called off the day.

A fresh match will be held today

at 4pm according to the bylaws although the league committee, who sat last night, could have had decided for a restart for the last ten minutes and relieve the two teams from playing twice in as many days in the scorching summer heat. Representatives of both teams were present at the meeting, presided over by league committee chairman Abdur Rahim.

The bylaws say: "If a match is abandoned before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of unfit pitch, bad weather or force majeure, a 90 (ninety) minute replay must in principle be played the following day; if not otherwise decided by the B. League Committee."

The world over, matches abandoned due to inclement weather or similar technical problems usually resume from where play had stopped.

Russel, who started their seventh match on 12 points, will overtake Abahani (14 points from six games) in the table if they can win the game. Khulna Abahani, who pulled off a stunning 4-2 victory against Brothers Union in their last visit to Dhaka, are on six points from five outings.

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Bangladesh players take to the sea as part of the recovery session on Monday, a day after the Tigers' stunning 74-run defeat against Ireland in their second last World Cup Super Eights match at Saint George's in Grenada.

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TODAY'S MATCH

Team	Time	Venue
Ireland v Sri Lanka	7:30 pm	Grenada

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