

Schumacher to make F1 return

AFP, Berlin

Michael Schumacher will make his first appearance at a Formula One race since his retirement last season at this weekend's Spanish Grand Prix, it was revealed on Thursday.

The seven-time world champion now works as an advisor to the Ferrari team and will be in his former team's pit in Barcelona for Sunday's race, but is said to be keen to avoid the limelight.

Schumacher's spokeswoman Sabine Kehm told German newspaper Bild: "He might sit on the pit wall, but Michael does not want to interfere with the racing. His only function will be advisory."

Ferrari's Brazilian driver Felipe Massa welcomed the news that his former teammate will be in attendance and is keen to show the living-legend what he has learned from their time together.

"I'm very happy he is back, and he will surely be able to give us an extra boost and enthusiasm," Massa said.

Vaughan awaits good news

BBC ONLINE, undated

England captain Michael Vaughan could yet play in the first Test against the West Indies despite a broken finger, says Yorkshire chief Martyn Moxon.

Vaughan suffered the injury fending off a rising ball from Hampshire's Stuart Clark while playing for Yorkshire.

The early diagnosis suggested he would be out for three to four weeks, ruling the 32-year-old out of the 17 May Test.

But Yorkshire director of cricket Moxon said: "He has definitely improved since it happened last week."

It had been feared the finger break would prove the latest in a long line of injury problems that have plagued Vaughan for over a year.

He missed the entire 5-0 Ashes whitewash against Australia, and only just returned to fitness in time to play in the World Cup.

Pakistan keen

FROM PAGE 21

He returned from the recent World Cup in the Caribbean with his reputation further enhanced after Bangladesh qualified for the second round for the first time and secured wins over India and South Africa.

Whatmore declined an offer by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to remain with the team, saying he was looking for "new challenges" and even publicly declared his intention to coach Pakistan's bitter rivals India.

He said earlier this week however that he had not been in talks with either India or Pakistan.

He said he had "not been formally approached by the Pakistan Cricket Board. Somebody spoke to me on their behalf during the World Cup asking for my contact details but I have not heard from them since."

The PCB has also shown interest in Leicestershire county coach Tim Boon and former Pakistan paceman Aaqib Javed.

Roma hit Inter

FROM PAGE 24

back to his keeper, Alexander Doni, but Crespo was alert to it and reached the ball first.

The Argentine international then rounded Doni before tucking home from a narrow angle.

Mancini got in on the goalscoring act on the half hour, gobbling up the loose ball after Toldo had failed to clear Panucci's right-wing cross.

Panucci's towering header made it 5-1 before Crespo responded with a close-range header to give Inter some hope.

That hope was practically extinguished in the 89th minute when Panucci lashed home the rebound after Toldo had parried Totti's free-kick.

In the haze

FROM PAGE 24

The end though was one of disappointment as the Tigers capitulated from a good position to ultimately go down by five wickets.

The crowd got a bit rowdy towards the end with bottles thrown expressing their disappointment, better avenues of which should be found in order to portray a more wholesome image to the international audience.

However, the support was unceasing and even when Syed Rasel stepped up to bowl what turned out to be the last over, the crowd roared him at his run-up.

The match may have been lost but the Tigers fans could go home with their heads held high, sporting identical flag-printed bandanas, even if not wholly satisfied.

"We will be back," said Maruf. It was a thought advocated by most.



Govt may intervene

Aussies could be stopped from touring Zim

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

The Australian government is investigating how it can stop the national cricket team from touring Zimbabwe in September, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Thursday.

Downer met with officials from Cricket Australia (CA) and the Australian Cricketers' Association and said later that the government was exploring existing legal avenues to have the tour abandoned.

"We don't want the tour to go ahead, and so we explained to them that we are going to explore legal options whereby we may be able to stop it. I'm not sure it's going to work, but we are exploring those options," Downer told reporters.

He said expert advice so far was inconclusive, but he ruled out new legislation to stop the tour as a protest against the regime of Robert Mugabe.

"But if there is some existing legal basis to stop it, that's an option for us," he said.

Downer said Cricket Australia is also conscious of world cricket's requirements that each country visit all other nations regularly as part of the ICC's Future Tours Programme.

"Cricket Australia is strongly committed to the global develop-

ment of cricket."

Sutherland said a joint Cricket Australia-Australia Cricketers' Association security delegation would travel to Zimbabwe to assess the safety issues closer to the date of September's tour.

ACA chief executive Paul Marsh said the players' union will continue to work with Cricket Australia, the Australian government and international cricket authorities to reach an acceptable outcome.

Former Zimbabwean cricketer Henry Olonga said an Australian tour would be a propaganda coup for Mugabe.

Olonga, who gained international recognition in 2003 when he wore a black armband during the World Cup, said Australia's cricket ministers have a chance to make a strong statement against the regime.

"The picture they're trying to paint to the rest of the world is that if the reigning world champions are willing to tour Zimbabwe, then there can't be too much amiss," Olonga told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

"I think that's probably one of the real dangers of the tour going ahead."

"Once in a while -- once or twice in your career, perhaps -- you have the opportunity to make a real difference in a way that is above just another bundle of Test wickets or another couple of hundreds."

THE DARK SIDE OF THE COIN: Cricket fans show VIP Complimentary tickets for the first ODI between Bangladesh and India that they had purchased from ticket touts outside the stadium before having to bribe the guards at the entrance to get in.

CA to honour indigenous team

AFP, Sydney

A Cricket South Africa spokesman told Cricinfo that Smith's role as captain "was more than just a job" and that his responsibilities off the field created an added burden. The role of team manager is aimed at alleviating some of those pressures.

Majola said South Africa would now start building for the future. "We will begin work immediately on planning for the next two seasons which includes the Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa in September and the series next year against England and Australia."

"We will also be continuing our efforts to build maturity in our emerging players, so that they fully understand both the rigours and the ethos of the international game."

"The 1868 Aboriginal tour of England was a critical event in Australia's sporting and cricket history," CA chief executive James Sutherland said in a statement.

"In recent years, the remarkable and courageous achievements of the 1868 team have become more widely acknowledged and celebrated, and we would like that history and recognition to be ongoing."

The team played 47 matches in England between May and October 1868, winning 14 games, losing 14 and drawing 19.

As part of the commemoration, CA's National Indigenous Development Squad will gather in Darwin next week for a week-long training camp that will include matches against the national sides from Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

"The 1868 Aboriginal tour of England was a critical event in Australia's sporting and cricket history," CA chief executive James Sutherland said in a statement.

"In recent years, the remarkable and courageous achievements of the 1868 team have become more widely acknowledged and celebrated, and we would like that history and recognition to be ongoing."

The team played 47 matches in England between May and October 1868, winning 14 games, losing 14 and drawing 19.

Woolmer murder

FROM PAGE 21

fluid and tissue samples taken from Woolmer's body.

The pathologist also examined a post-mortem report which was handed over to investigators by local pathologist Dr Ere Seshia.

When the Jamaican investigators are briefed they will then journey to Cape Town in South Africa to interview other persons of interest in that country.

The 58-year-old Woolmer was murdered in his hotel room here on March 18 after Pakistan's shock defeat at the hands of Ireland a day before, leading to their first round exit from the World Cup.

SL drop Atapattu

FROM PAGE 21

Malinga, unusual action and trouble batsmen often."

Prasanna Jayawardene, who keeps wicket in Tests for Sri Lanka, has been named wicketkeeper in the absence of Sangakkara.

Since Flintoff and his pedalo became separated in the Caribbean during the World Cup campaign it has been widely assumed that he will never captain his country again, and as a result Andrew Strauss is the strong favourite to get the job next week.

But according to Cork, the former England all-rounder, Flintoff should regain the job he held during last winter's Ashes series.

As Flintoff's first County Championship appearance of the season for Lancashire against Hampshire was washed out by rain here yesterday, Cork said: "I would make Fred captain. A lot's been said about Fred. Let's remember that he has been one of the best all-rounders in the world and still is. I believe he is very focused on getting back to where he knows he should be. He's been working very

hard in the nets."

"As an ex-England cricketer I would make him captain. And the reason I would do that is that I would say, 'Here's your responsibility' and 'Right, you've made a mistake, we're making you captain again'."

Cork played 37 Tests for England between 1995 and 2002 and has played alongside Flintoff since joining Lancashire from Derbyshire in 2004, although only occasionally because of Flintoff's international commitments.

"Let's not forget Andrew was captain in the last series England won, the one-dayers in Australia," Cork added. "It would show the world that we are backing this guy."

We very easily criticise somebody who has not had the greatest of times but what you have to do as a nation is back the people who are going to win us games. People make mistakes and we have to get on with it. You probably think it would be a gamble. For me, it's not."

Cork said Flintoff's most valuable asset was his ability to inspire team-mates. "He even inspires me and Stuey Law, and that's what you need - inspiration in tight situations. He analyses things very

BANGLADESH-INDIA FIRST ODI SCOREBOARD

FROM PAGE 21

Abdur Razzaq	9	1	35	0	3w
Mohammad Rafique	10	0	47	0	1w
Shakil Al Hasan	9	0	43	2	
Aftab Ahmed	2	0	13	0	

Result: India won by 5 wickets and take 1-0 lead in the 3-ODI series.

Man-of-the-match: Mahendra Dhoni.

Toss: Bangladesh.

Umpires: Ashoka de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Nadir Shah (Bangladesh).

Sarwan to start afresh

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated



RAMNARESH SARWAN

there was speculation about guys being indisciplined," he said. "Those rumours were unfortunate; when you are not playing well people tend to point fingers. I think the board realised there were perhaps one or two things that could be changed to improve the team's performance."

Despite the retirement of Brian Lara, Sarwan remains confident about his team's chances. "Of course we think we can win this series -- that's why we're here," he said. "I want to see us be positive and put in that effort which has probably been lacking in the past. If we can do that I'll be very happy."

He will lean heavily on the likes of Chris Gayle and Shivnarine Chanderpaul who have past experience in England. The squad also includes youngsters Ravi Rampaul, Darren Sammy and Runako Morton and Sarwan remains realistic about what is possible in a short space of time.

"West Indies cricket is in a bit of turmoil, and it is very important for this group of young guys to pull together as a team and move West Indies cricket forward," he said. "It's not going to happen overnight -- it's going to be a long process."

West Indies don't have much time to prepare with just one match, against Somerset starting on Saturday, before the first Test on Thursday.

"Discipline plays a major part in sport, and sometimes you have to clamp down on that. We never had a

team that was under pressure for so long, so we have to make sure we maintain our focus on the pitch."

"When we were playing at home, we had to take West Indies cricket forward."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."

"I think we're in a better position to do that now. We have to be more disciplined and focused on the pitch."