

Sarwan denies ICL story

CRICINFO, undated

Ramnaresh Sarwan, the West Indies captain, has distanced himself from rumours linking him to the Indian Cricket League (ICL).

Sarwan told The Nation that he knew "nothing of the tournament" and had not been contacted by the organisers of the Twenty20 event to be played next month. He said he was not aware if any teammates were contacted. Other players also stayed clear of the matter.

Last week reports suggested that as many as five members of the current Windies team were linked to the event and that they would be paid between US\$350,000 and US\$500,000 to participate.

"I'm not one of them. I don't know who they are and I don't know if they are any players at all, but I'm definitely not one of them," Sarwan said on Monday as the West Indies side prepared to set out for South Africa. "I have not been contacted by the ICL."

"I have not thought about it at all. I have been concentrating on West Indies cricket and trying to get back on course. I have not put any thought into anything else."

Bosman blow for Proteas

BBC ONLINE, undated

South Africa batsman Loots Bosman has been ruled out of the ICC World Twenty20 because of a back injury.

The 30-year-old was injured in the one-day series against Zimbabwe when he crashed into an advertising hoarding.

"It is with deep regret we had to take this course but the medical report left us with no alternative," Cricket South Africa president Norman Amdse said.

"Loots has had a stand-alone record in this form of the game in South African cricket and he was desperate to play."

Bosman was attempting to make a catch on the boundary when he crashed into the advertising boards and had to be carried off the field.

Earlier this year the big-hitting opener combined with Graeme Smith to set a new record of 132 for the highest partnership in international Twenty20 cricket.

A replacement for Bosman will be named once it has been approved by the ICC technical committee.

Amdse added: "We have to look at the bigger picture, particularly as it affects his long-term career."

"Neurological injuries can take on career-threatening proportions and, had Loots got hurt again in the tournament, he could have been put out of action for far longer than the six weeks' rest recommended by our team of medical specialists."

BCCI looking

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"Hopefully the process (of coach selection) will get over before the start of the seven-match ODI series against (World Cup Champions) Australia," Shah added.

The BCCI had issued a media statement on August 27 detailing the requirements for the new India coach, a post that has been lying vacant since the departure of Greg Chappell in the aftermath of the World Cup fiasco.

The board's endeavour to appoint a successor to the former Aussie captain ended in a disaster when South African Ford came to Chennai to meet the members of the BCCI's coach appointment committee in June.

Ford, coach of English county Kent, seemingly accepted the offer, but then did an about turn once he returned to England that left BCCI, which had already announced him as its new coach, totally embarrassed.

The board had to fall back on India's former Test captain Chandu Borde to be the cricket manager as a stop-gap arrangement on the ongoing tour of England.

Flintoff only

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has been a real boost for the squad and has been involved in deciding how we should play in one-day cricket, which has been really helpful for Paul Collingwood, the team and myself.

"He has been sat on his back side for a long time and he desperately wants to play."

"The people I have spoken to so far are still pretty optimistic and he may be okay on Wednesday, then he can get on and play the sort of cricket he loves to do."

"All we can do is go through the right processes and keep our fingers crossed that the ankle will settle down. It isn't too major, he can get himself away and it becomes a manageable problem."

Decisions are pending on whether Flintoff and Bopara can travel to South Africa on Sunday for the World Twenty20, leaving England perhaps in a position where they have to gamble on players who are not 100 per cent fit.

Moore said: "You can't take anybody that is too injured because the tournament is so short."

"It starts on the 12th and finishes on the 25th and there is a quick turnaround in games."



Australia vice-captain and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist poses with the ICC World Twenty20 Championship trophy during a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

'Ponting will join us'

AFP, Johannesburg



Australia skipper Ricky Ponting

should be available for the upcoming Twenty20 World Championship despite failing to travel with the rest of the squad, his stand-in Adam Gilchrist said on Monday.

"We are waiting to see with Ricky. Hopefully he will join us soon," Gilchrist told reporters in Johannesburg, a week before the start of the inaugural championships.

"We will be in touch with him... I am pretty sure he will be here at some stage."

The temporary absence of Ponting, attributed to family reasons, has added to build-up complications for the ODI World Cup holders who are strong favourites to add the Twenty20 trophy to their list of honours.

Fast bowler Stuart Clark also did not travel with the team over a family health problem while injury-prone all-rounder Shane Watson continues to be plagued by fitness doubts.

"Stuey looks like joining us in the next day or so," said Ponting. "With Watto, we will see. Hopefully he can join us pretty soon."

Despite the troubled build-up, wicketkeeper Gilchrist said Australia still had a squad that could adapt to any circumstances and he pinpointed the explosive hitting of Andrew Symonds as a key weapon in their arsenal.

"He is going to play a huge part. He will be a standout star in this tournament. He can bat, bowl and field. He is a trump (card) for us."

Australia begin the match against struggling Zimbabwe in Cape Town on September 12 before taking on England at the same venue two days later.

Gilchrist played down suggestions that the Australians were the favourites in a version of the game that is still in its infancy.

"It's hard to tell who's favourite in this format. Everyone's on a pretty even playing field," he said.

It will be the first international cricket for the Australians since they lifted the ODI World Cup in April in the Caribbean but Gilchrist denied that the team was in danger of being undercooked.

"I do not see rustiness or not playing for a while as any drama," he added.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has served a legal notice on opening batsman Imran Farhat, who last month joined the unofficial Indian Cricket League (ICL).

The PCB wants Farhat, 27, to explain how he joined the rebel Twenty20 league while still a contracted player.

It also wants him to substantiate claims of bias and unjust treatment he made against PCB officials.

"I maintain I have not been treated justly and I asked them to release me from the central contract," he said.

The 27-year-old left-hander, who has scored 1,655 runs in 27 Tests and 974 runs in 33 one-day internationals, was overlooked for the World Cup and World Twenty20.

"I have done nothing wrong by joining the ICL. I didn't think I was being treated fairly and would not get a chance to play for Pakistan. Being a professional cricketer I need to earn my livelihood," Farhat added.

"I haven't been tested much this tournament, so far," said Roddick, who immediately went to the practice court to hit for nearly an hour.

Almost from the get-go, Roddick knew Berych was ailing.

"I heard him say something to the umpire early on in the first," Roddick said. "Then, of course, I'm trying to

eat drop on his whole conversation he's having with the trainer."

Said Berych: "It wasn't any like, straight one problem or one pain or something. Just like, generally didn't feel well."

On the women's side, former champ Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 6-3 and moved on to play Agnes Szavay. The 18-year-old player from Hungary defeated Julia Vakulenko 6-4, 7-6 (1).

Also, No. 18 Shahar Peer beat No. 30 Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 6-1, and No. 6 Anna Chakvetadze stopped Tamira Paszek 6-1, 7-5.

Roger Federer's shoes are seen as he serves to Feliciano Lopez of Spain during their match at the US Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Sept. 3, 2007.

On Tuesday night, top-seeded Justine Henin plays No. 8 Serena Williams in the most attractive match of the day.

Also in action are No. 2 Rafael Nadal and No. 3 Novak Djokovic.

Concerned that the two women's quarterfinals set for Wednesday

could be overshadowed by the men's quarterfinals, tournament officials changed the schedule.

The match between six-time major champion Venus Williams and No. 3 Jelena Jankovic was shifted from Tuesday to Wednesday night, with both players' approval.

Blake, one of the most popular players in the tournament, only wished he was still going on.

"I was a little indecisive at the end there," he said. "Did come down to one or two points there. It's frustrating I didn't win this time."

The crowd was crazed throughout the final set, then fell into virtual silence at the end.

Haas hit a 113 mph ace that Blake challenged, and the players looked at each other as the crowd became quiet with a mix of anticipation and apprehension.

The replay on the scoreboard confirmed the ball was indeed good, and it was over.

"I'm not going to celebrate like crazy right in front of him," Haas said.

Bopara out, Flintoff doubtful

AFP, London

Ravi Bopara was Tuesday ruled out of England's two remaining one day internationals against India and this month's Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa with a broken thumb.

Right-hander Bopara, 22, dislocated and fractured the thumb on his bowling hand in England's defeat in the fifth one dayer at Headingley on Saturday.

England lead the series 3-2 with two matches left to play. The loss of Essex's Bopara is a particularly severe blow because of uncertainty over the availability of his fellow all-rounder Andrew Flintoff.

Lancashire star Flintoff missed the Headingley clash with a recurrence of the ankle problems that have forced him to have three operations in three years, and is doubtful for the sixth match in the series against India, at The Oval on Wednesday.

David Graveney, the chairman of England selectors, said Flintoff would be seeing his surgeon later on Tuesday and admitted he may have to miss the trip to South Africa.

"He's not ruled out of tomorrow - but at the same time, he is not definite to go to the Twenty20, because we have to wait for that medical opinion tomorrow," Graveney said.

The selectors' chief also revealed that Bopara could be doubtful for England's one-day series in Sri Lanka next month.

"Four to six weeks is the medical prediction - which falls around about the one-day tournament," Graveney said.

England had already called Sussex all-rounder Luke Wright into their NatWest squad as cover, following Bopara's injury.

Wright was already in the 15-man Twenty20 squad - meaning England will have to find another replacement for Bopara in South Africa.

Fast bowler Chris Tremlett is unfit for Wednesday's match because of a foot problem - and he too could end up dropping out of the Twenty20 party, which is due to leave for South Africa on Sunday ahead of the September 12-25 tournament.

Farhat served with notice

BBC ONLINE, undated

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"I have done nothing wrong by joining the ICL. I didn't think I was being treated fairly and would not get a chance to play for Pakistan. Being a professional cricketer I need to earn my livelihood," Farhat added.

'Australia A to stay'

PTI, Karachi

The Australia A cricket team would continue with their tour as per the schedule despite the twin blast that rocked the city of Rawalpindi on Tuesday, Board officials said.

Shafiqat Naghmi, chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said the Australians had not expressed any concerns and were given a detailed briefing on the security situation.

"These incidents are sad and shocking. They don't help our cause at all. The last time they were here in 2005 also a blast took place in Lahore but they stayed on. Even when their inspection team was here last month a blast took place in Islamabad," Naghmi said.

BCB's condolence

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) condoled the death of AFM Rabul Hassan (Kochi), a renowned sports organiser and former cricketer, who passed away recently.

In a condolence message, the BCB president and members of the ad-hoc committee conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members of the deceased.

Late Rabul Hassan is the elder brother of eminent sports journalist late Rouful Hassan and former Bangladesh cricket captain Roquibul Hassan.

Wright called as cover

CRICINFO, undated



LUKE WRIGHT

England's Twenty20 World Championship squad, has been called into the one-day squad to cover for Andrew Flintoff, Ravi Bopara and Chris Tremlett.

England are still hopeful that Flintoff will be available for the sixth one-day international against India, at The Oval, on Wednesday after he was ruled out of the fifth match at Headingley with a sore left ankle.

Bopara took a blow on his right thumb when he tried to take a return catch off Gautam Gambhir during India's innings. He immediately left the field, one ball into his second over, and went to hospital for x-rays where a dislocation and minor fracture were confirmed. He batted after taking a painkilling injection, but bowling and fielding will be the problem.

Meanwhile Tremlett, who missed the Headingley match with an injury to his right foot, had an injection on Monday and won't be available at The Oval. He will be reassessed ahead of the final ODI, at Lord's, on

Wednesday. However, Ryan Sidebottom has been cleared to rejoin the squad after recovering from the side strain he picked up during the final Test at The Oval. He was denied match practice on Sunday when Nottinghamshire's Pro40 match



LUKE WRIGHT

against Lancashire, at Old Trafford, was washed out.

Flintoff is expected to rejoin the England squad for training at The Oval on Tuesday. "I feel for him," said coach Peter Moores. "He has been great since he has been back.

He has had a real buzz about him, a real energy and people have seen that when he has been on the field."

"You could see he had his passion back which is what he is like when he plays his best cricket. He has been a real boost for the squad and has been involved in deciding how we should play in one-day cricket, which has been really helpful for Paul Collingwood, the team and myself."

"The people I have spoken to so far are still pretty optimistic and he may be okay on Wednesday, then he can get on and play the sort of cricket he loves to do. All we can do is go through the right processes and keep our fingers crossed that the ankle will settle down. It isn't too major and he can get himself away, then it becomes a manageable problem."

Both Flintoff and Bopara are now in doubt for the Twenty20 squad which will fly out to South Africa the day after the final ODI against India on September 9. England's first game is against Zimbabwe, at Cape Town, on September 13.

India put half-dozen

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Zahid again came alive when the diving keeper took Dilip's powerful hit on the glove during a penalty corner but survived a close call soon as the stubborn backline failed to stop a darting left-flank run by Roshan Minz, whose pass was fluffed by an unmarked Tushar.

Tushar and Minz both wasted chances before Zahid pulled off a twin save, denying efforts by Sardana and Rajpan as India failed to hit the target for their third penalty corner.

India finally went ahead just before the half-hour mark when Raghunath swiped in a right-side cross to beat Zahid.

The spirit of the Bangladesh defence evaporated as the floodgate opened two minutes after the break with Tushar darting into the box before slamming home. A minute later, Shivender picked up a pass from Prabhjot to make it 3-0.

Bangladesh were reduced to ten men temporarily when Russell Mahmud Jimmy was shown a yellow card for arguing with the umpire who had awarded a penalty corner. The controversial decision almost put India further ahead but for Zahid deflecting Dilip's direct hit with his helmet.

Prabhjot then pushed in a Shivender pass from an inch of out and followed it up with his second with a reverse hit before Raghunath, who saw his previous effort parried by Zahid, sealing the victory from India's last penalty corner.

Bangladesh, who beat Thailand 13-0 and Sri Lanka 3-2, also lost 6-0 to China.

Marvellous

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UGANDA				
Mukasa c Reza b Rasel		6		
Kyobe run out		5		
Sematimba st Rahim b Rasel		4		
Olwenyi c Reza b Ashrafal		46		
Patel c Nadif b Ashrafal		21		
Kamyuka c Ashrafal b Mortaza		15		
Ondeko not out		19		
Kibukamusoke b Mortaza		0		
Isaneez b Razzak		0		
Arinaitew b Razzak		0		
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-4)		8		
Total: (For 9 wks in 20 overs)		124		
Did not bat: Waiswa				
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-12, 3-31, 4-79, 5-96, 6-110, 7-111, 8-124, 9-124.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rasel	4	0	19	2
Razzak	4	1	19	2
Mortaza	4	0	29	2
Reza	4	0	26	0
Ashrafal	4	0	27	2

Result: Bangladesh won by 21 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Toss: Bangladesh

Chappell

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thing to a team that lacks a genuine all-rounder.

"Mashrafe will anchor their bowling. He is a lively wicket-taking fast bowler and a capable late-innings hitter," said Chappell.

But the outspoken Aussie remained cautious when it came to grading Bangladesh's chances in the competition, giving them five out of ten but he remained less optimistic about West Indies and South Africa. He gave them a six.

Domenech ban

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it won't make any difference. The staff will manage the situation well," predicted the Arsenal midfielder.

He added: "All the players are a bit sad the coach won't be there but we'll just have to focus on the job in hand. I'm there to do what I have to do, not to join in the off the pitch chit-chat."

FIFA to inspect

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"We will not hesitate to exclude any facility, and I mean any facility that does not meet the required standards. There is no compromise in this position and they will be no sacred cows."

Federer-Roddick quarter

FROM PAGE 17

James Blake had a chance to join in, but missed on three match points and lost to No. 10 Tommy Haas 4-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, 7-6 (4).

Earlier in the tournament, Blake ended his 0-for-9 slump in five-set tries. His routing section, the rowdy J-tract," he said.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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