



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (R) prepares to bowl as bowling coach Venkatesh Prasad looks on during a training session on the eve of the fourth one-day international against Australia in Chandigarh on Sunday.

Don't stop scoring!

PTI, Bhubaneswar

Orissa girls scored 50 goals in two matches of the 37th Junior Women's National Hockey Championship at Gwalior which has made the hockey association functionaries of the state worried.

The Orissa Women's Hockey Association's had promised cash prize of Rs 1,000 for each goal scored by the team in the championship.

The Orissa team thrashed Tripura by 42 goals in the Pool-E league match on Friday. They followed it up with a triumph over Maharashtra by eight goals on Saturday.

Worse, the Association had a zero balance in its bank account, its secretary Irtendu Das said.

"We have to find sponsors for the cash award, The Association President Frida Topno and I had promised the girls of the cash prize the girls boarded the train to Gwalior on October two," he said.

Das, however, added a rider. The cash prize would be given only if they lifted the trophy.

The Association would be happier if the girls earned Rs one lakh by scoring 100 goals in the tournament, he said.

Ponting digs

FROM PAGE 17 sive cricket is all about. What you say on the field doesn't count for anything. That doesn't win you games of cricket."

Ponting was apparently referring to the behaviour of Indian fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth during the series, which has been marred by heated verbal exchanges on the field and claims of trash talk off the field.

Sreesanth has had angry run-ins with Matthew Hayden and Andrew Symonds but has failed to dominate the Australians, who are leading the series 2-0. From three matches, he has picked eight wickets while giving away 180 runs.

Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has accused Ponting himself of using "harsh words", while Harbhajan Singh pointed fingers at the Aussies for being unsporting.

Indian batsman Robin Uthappa defended his team's conduct, saying: "Yes, we have been aggressive but we know where to draw the line and we respect the rules of the game too."

Zola turns

FROM PAGE 20 Florent Malouda did not celebrate laying on Jose Cole's first-half equaliser, and Didier Drogha swiftly muted his reaction to scoring Chelsea's late winner. Post-match, the African striker attributed the win to the team's quality and spirit, crediting Mourinho for creating that, while neglecting even to mention Grant by name.

"We did it last year with Jose," said Drogha. "You know, people will say we don't need him, but the quality we have is the same quality we have last year, two years ago, three years ago. The man we all respected is gone and now there is someone else coming, but the players are the same. So I don't know why the quality will go like this."

"Everybody knows what Jose did for me. Not only for me, for all the players he brought here and all the players who were there when he arrived. That was a difficult period for us but now the best thing to do is to keep playing like this. If we played bad like we did the last few games I don't think he would be happy in front of his TV."

Smith said his team was ready for Inzamam, after saying that his return in Lahore could prove a distraction for the home team.

The 37-year-old batsman needs just 20 runs to surpassing Javed Miandad's record of 8,832 runs to become Pakistan's all-time top run scorer in Test cricket.

Murali eyes a thousand

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Spin king Muthiah Muralidaran has delivered a veiled swipe at Shane Warne's world bowling record, claiming his dream of reaching 1000 Test wickets is more important.

Muralidaran will arrive in Australia later this month for the two-Test series, in Brisbane (November 8-12) and Hobart (November 16-20), needing nine wickets to reach 709 and pass Warne's all-time high mark.

But the Sri Lankan off-spinner said he had loftier ambitions than reclaiming a record he briefly held in 2004 before Warne took it over.

"I have had the record before," Muralidaran said.

"I did it last time. It's just another wicket. 1000 will be the big one if I can get that. I think I can achieve a little bit more than the world record."

"I hope to play until the next World Cup in 2011 and the challenge is that before I retire I am thinking of taking 1000 Test wickets."

"If I put my mind to it, I can do it."

Stung by the relentless vitriol directed his way by Australian crowds on past tours, the man with cricket's most controversial bowling action said he was ready for any public sledging.

"If they do, I don't listen to

them," he said.

"I just bowl, that's it. It's OK. I have learnt to deal with it. It's all in the past. That happens but that was a long time ago. Hopefully it's good times now."

Muralidaran, 35, has never played a Test in Brisbane or Hobart, and has managed only the three on Australian shores since debuting in 1992.

His Test record in Australia isn't impressive, claiming only eight wickets at 63.12 (career average 21.33).

While many cricketers consider a tour of Australia the ultimate test of mental and physical ability, Muralidaran doesn't see it that way.

"There is nothing to prove. What shall I prove?" he said.

"I have taken wickets almost everywhere. I have done everything in cricket."

"If I do well, that's good, but I have nothing to prove anymore in cricket. Just to try and win matches."

Ricky Ponting's team has made a pact to try to stop Muralidaran from eclipsing Warne's record on the retired leg-spinner's home soil. But Muralidaran said conditions may suit him, and points to Warne's strong record at the Gabba. In 11 Tests in Brisbane, Warne flourished on the traditionally bouncy deck, claiming 68 wickets at 20.30.

"It depends how well I will bowl," Muralidaran said.

"Everyone says there will be a little bit of bounce and a little bit of

spin in Brisbane, it will be a good challenge. Time will tell."

Muralidaran is recovering from a torn bicep to his bowling arm which kept him out of the Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa, but said he would be fit for the Australian tour. He said his toughest ask was dismissing Ponting, the game's No.1 ranked batsman.

Ponting has improved enormously against spin in recent years, and Muralidaran has privately admitted the Australian team reads his variations better than any other.

"The greatest challenge will be to get Ricky Ponting out, the best batsman in the world," Muralidaran said.

"He is hard for everyone."

Danish Martyn and Darren Lehmann were the two batsmen, who successfully attacked Muralidaran when the nations last met in a Test series, in Sri Lanka in 2004.

Muralidaran took 28 wickets in that campaign, but the host nation endured a 3-0 whitewash.

Now Martyn and Lehmann are no longer around, Muralidaran hopes to weave his spell on a new-look batting line-up.

"It depends on the day. If somebody plays well, they can pick me. But it depends on the day," he said.

Under new Australian coach Trevor Bayliss, the Sri Lankans begin their tour with a three-day match against a Cricket Australia Chairman's XI in South Australia from October 27.

Hamilton crashes out

FROM PAGE 20

down and he had no option but to climb out and trudge down the pit-lane.

Both Ferrari and McLaren took note and called Raikkonen and Alonso in for dries immediately, dry tyres were fitted and passed both Williams', both Renaults and both Toro Rossos to move up to fourth.

He, and the equally charging Giancarlo Fisichella, were both short-fuelled however and had to make final stops with 15 laps to go.

That handed fourth place to Vettel, and he duly erased the memories of his Japanese disaster last weekend to finish there, taking the

best result of his career and of Toro Rosso's Formula One history.

Button came home fifth for his and Honda's best result of the season while Liuzzi held off a determined charge from Nick Heidfeld's BMW Sauber to claim the best result of his career in sixth.

David Coulthard scored points for the second race in a row with eighth place for Red Bull, holding off Heikki Kovalainen's Renault over the final few laps, while Mark Webber completed the top ten in the second Red Bull.

The battle had also included Schumacher, who was among the race's fastest driver during the wet period but spun twice more during the race, once after contact with Liuzzi and again at the final corner when, unsighted by the crashed Spyker of Adrian Sutil, he spun and stalled in the incident that eliminated him from the race.

Britain's Anthony Davidson was the only other retiree, pulling his Super Aguri off on lap 13 with a technical problem.

British driver Button was nowhere in the early stages, but saw his machine re-invented once dry tyres were fitted and passed both Williams', both Renaults and both Toro Rossos to move up to fourth.

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The 37-year-old batsman needs just 20 runs to surpassing Javed Miandad's record of 8,832 runs to become Pakistan's all-time top run scorer in Test cricket.

"We are pretty comfortable. They are class players (Inzamam and Yousuf) but every team these days has world-class players and we are ready to face them," Smith said, noting the Proteas have few injury worries heading into the

Test.

TEAMS SOUTH AFRICA: Graeme Smith (captain), Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Hashim Amla, Ashwell Prince, AB de Villiers, Mark Boucher, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Dale Steyn, Paul Harris.

PAKISTAN: Salman Butt, Kamran Akmal, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Inzamamul Haq, Misbahul Haq, Shoaib Malik (captain), Abdur Rehman, Umar Gul, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Asif.

Atapattu slams selectors

AFP, Colombo

Former Sri Lanka captain Marvan Atapattu on Sunday hit out at the national selectors, saying he had no faith in them although he planned to play for at least two more years.

Chief selector Asantha de Mel said last week he had hoped to meet Atapattu to sort out any differences, but the former captain told AFP he was not keen to see the officials.

"I did not want to waste my time meeting de Mel. You saw what happened at the World Cup," said Atapattu, who did not figure in a single match despite being in the squad in the Caribbean.

De Mel said last week the selectors wanted Atapattu's experience for next month's Test series in Australia because of his ability to graft runs.

But the former skipper, in a separate interview with the Cricinfo website, said he did not have faith in the selectors.

"I notified Sri Lanka Cricket that, consequent to the despicable manner in which I was treated in the recent past...I neither have trust nor faith in the present national selection committee," he told the website.

"It is my considered view that having any discussions with these selectors will be an absolute waste of time and a fruitless exercise."

"I have no respect for them considering the distasteful manner in which they have treated me in the past eight months or so. This is the problem I have had with them since the issues arose from the 2007 World Cup."

"I have plans to play cricket during the next two years, either in Sri Lanka or abroad."

Atapattu said he had not been approached by the official Indian Premier League (IPL) or the breakaway Indian Cricket League (ICL), dismissing de Mel's comments that he may have been contracted by the ICL.

Skipper greets

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Malik dispelled the impression that he might not be happy with Inzamam's inclusion in the team in such a abrupt manner or it could disturb the team's focus on winning the Test.

"Inzamam and Yousuf coming back will boost our middle order batting and give us confidence to go for the win," he said.

Malik said Yousuf was Pakistan's answer to Jacques Kallis who was the main difference between the two teams in the first Test in Karachi which the visitors won by a thumping 160 runs.

Uthappa denies

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down," Uthappa quipped at the press conference ahead of the fourth ODI here.

"I think a lot has been made of it and he was naturally mellowed down in Hyderabad. In fact, we had to talk to him and key him up," he said.

Sreesanth had altercations with Andrew Symonds and Matthew Hayden in the second ODI at Kochi where he tried to run out Symonds when the ball was dead.

The Kerala speedster then caught the batsman off his own bowling, which was followed by yet another verbal duel.

Sreesanth, however, was not alone to vent his anger in the tie and match referee Chris Broad later called both the captains and told them to rein in their teammates.

Sreesanth, however, looked a complete different bowler who just went about his job in the third match.

Uthappa insisted that the hosts had not overdone things in the series. "Yes, we have been aggressive even though we mellowed down a bit in the third match. But I feel it's hyped up a lot by the media. We know where to draw the line and we respect the rules of the game too," he said.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting, however, has not been amused by India's aggression and felt the hosts misconstrued the notion. "It's not jumping up and down," Ponting wrote in his in an Australian newspaper.

Reacting to Ponting's comments, Uthappa quipped "they are experienced in it while we are just late starters. Give us some time and we'll definitely catch up with them."

TEAMS India (likely): Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Robin Uthappa, Yuvraj Singh, Rahul Dravid, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (capt & wk), Irfan Pathan, Murali Kartik, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

Australia (likely): Adam Gilchrist (wk), Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting (capt), Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Brad Hodge, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark.

Inzy eyes grand finale

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

An emotional Inzamamul Haq plans to end his Test career on a high this week, helping Pakistan to victory over South Africa in the second Test starting Monday.

The 37-year-old former skipper said he wanted to do 'something special' in Lahore where he will play his last Test for Pakistan before retiring.

"The last thing would be to play a good innings and help my team win so that it's a fitting farewell," he told reporters.

Pakistan have been bolstered by the return of Inzamam after losing the first Test in Karachi by 160 runs in the two-match series against the tourists.

"I made my one-day debut (against the West Indies in 1991) at Gaddafi Stadium so I have fond memories of the ground and it would be ideal if I retire after doing something special for the team," he said.

The batsman also made his

highest Test score of 329 at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium against New Zealand in 2002.

Inzamam needs another 20 runs to become Pakistan's all-time run-getter in Test cricket, surpassing Javed Miandad's record of 8,832 runs in 124 Tests.

Inzamam, who has played 119 Tests, resigned the captaincy and quit one-day cricket following Pakistan's humiliating first-round exit in the World Cup in the West Indies earlier this year.

The team were left shell-shocked after coach Bob Woolmer was found dead in his hotel room the day after the team were knocked out of the tournament.

Police focussed on the squad in the short term as they investigated his death but officials ultimately ruled that he died of natural causes.

The burly batsman from Multan practised with the team for the last time on Sunday -- something he said was an emotional experience.

"You remain attached to a team for years and now you realise that this is the last time I am practicing with them and the last Test I am playing, it certainly made me emo-

tional and sentimental," he said.

But he said Pakistan, under young captain Shoaib Malik, is progressing well.

"After the World Cup failure earlier this year, I thought Pakistan would struggle and find it difficult to progress, but I must give them credit for the manner in which they have since made strides at international level."

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka in a three-match one-day series in May before finishing runners-up to archrivals India in the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup held last month in South Africa.

"I realised this young team is playing well and it made a tough decision to quit easier for me. I am happy at the way the Pakistan Cricket Board dealt with the situation and the Pakistan team is on a good and solid footing."

Inzamam also said he was proud of his long career.

"It gives me immense pleasure that I am retiring on a satisfying note. You cannot achieve everything but it's a career on which I can look back with satisfaction and am proud of what I have achieved."

From a different era

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

An era will come to an end this week. Inzamamul Haq, the last Test cricketer of the pre-tracksuit era, has announced he will retire after the second Test between Pakistan and South Africa in Lahore.

Inzamam, 37, has occasionally been seen in a tracksuit but it could never disguise what he is: the son of a landlord, born in hot Multan in the south of Punjab, with a lordly gait and fondness for things of the table. He lost his rag once, and climbed into a crowd brandishing a bat after somebody called him 'aloo' or 'potato', probably because it was a subject so close to his heart.

For all the comic appearance of his Falstaffian exterior, he was a serious batsman. A rare few, at their peak, have an answer to every ball that is bowled at them: Allan Border was one, at least when England were bowling. Steve Waugh another, and Brian Lara. On England's last tour of Pakistan in 2005, Inzamam was the same, a barrier, and a mountain preventing travellers reaching the plains.

His handling of fast bowling made Inzamam a modern master. His secret was balance -- remarkable for one of bear-like build. He was light on his feet and had swift paws. Not many Asian batsmen have liked quick bowling around their ears but Inzamam played it as well as anyone, in addition to being a dominator of spin. In all, he has to be bracketed as Pakistan's finest batsman along with Hanif Mohammad and Javed Miandad, whose record Test aggregate for Pakistan he hopes to break this week: Inzamam is 20 runs short.

And having been a Pakistan cricketer for more than 15 years, Inzamam has inevitably seen no end of controversy. He burst upon the World Cup of 1992 which Pakistan won, thanks largely to the turbo-thrust which Inzamam gave to their innings in the semi-final against New Zealand and final against England. He became a master of batting not only in Test matches but in one-day internationals: of scoring at a run a ball, with minimal risk (and minimal movement), before he ever played a big shot.

He became a figure of fun for being run out so often in one-day internationals, but it was no laughing matter. He was run out 31 times before 2000. Thereafter he realised what was required, and was run out only nine more times in the rest of his limited-overs career for Pakistan.

Inzamam was the central figure in the Oval Test of last summer. Or rather Darrell Hair was the central figure while Pakistan's captain was a rather bemused bystander. Inzamam was cleared of the charge of ball-tampering, as the London tribunal heard in his absence last week, but he was banned for four internationals for bringing the game into disrepute when his team failed to resume the match as Hair and Billy Doctrove demanded.

Last March, in Jamaica, Inzamam left the field in tears after Pakistan's coach Bob Woolmer had died and Pakistan had been knocked out of the World Cup. He knew his captaincy was over, and, in effect, his career. Pakistan were beaten by Ireland because the amateurs were far more athletic and skilful at fielding than the professionals. He played a handful of games for Yorkshire last month but his heart was not in it. It may not be in the 20-over Indian Cricket League either, but Inzamam is contracted to play in the private promotion this winter if it gets off the ground. He would have to wear a tracksuit.

Swann plucks 4

FROM PAGE 17

with a consistent flow of wickets. Swann again proved ideal backup for the frontline quicks, becoming the first England spinner to take four wickets in an ODI since Michael Vaughan, against the same opponents, in 2002. Sri Lanka struggled to find any momentum, after winning what had appeared to be a vital toss, and were not helped by early stoppages as heavy showers scudded across the ground cutting the match to 48 overs per side.

The first break was the longest, 45 minutes, and allowed England's bowlers to regroup after a slightly wayward start. Sidebottom stuck to a consistent line and length, beating Uppul Tharanga who played down the wrong line and lost his off stump. James Anderson was unfortunate not to remove Kumar Sangakkara as an inside edge dribbled past leg stump, but Sidebottom soon added his second wicket when Jayasuriya top-edged a half-hearted pull. Swann still had to make a lot of ground from deep square-leg and produced a fine sliding catch.

Broad was introduced for the 13th over and made an immediate

impact, although it owed much to a poorly executed cut from Jayawardene that found Collingwood at backward point. The batsmen were clearly unsettled by the uncertainty over the on-off nature of the play, but England kept their focus.

Sangakkara has struggled for form of late and couldn't find any timing during the short passages of play and his dismissal caused a major talking point. He slashed at Broad, but neither the bowler nor Phil Mustard hinted at an appeal only to watch Sangakkara turn on his heels and head for the dressing room. A wide-eyed Broad began a surprised series of high-fives with his teammates, while Mustard again showed an unusually quiet side for a wicketkeeper after also not appealing for a thin edge during the second match.

However, this time another break for rain worked against England as they momentarily lost their sharpness allowing Dilshan and Chamara Silva to stabilise the innings. Sri Lanka were shaping to form a similar recovery to England in the second match, when they recovered from 61 for 4, but the introduction of Swann caused major problems. His fourth ball accounted for Silva, via a bottom edge onto the boot that was well

grabbed by Mustard.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sri Lankan innings in the third one-day international against England on Sunday:

SRI LANKA					
Tharanga b Sidebottom	15				
Jayasuriya c Swann b Sidebottom	11				
Sangakkara c Mustard b Broad	9				
Jayawardene c Collingwood b Broad	2				
Silva c Mustard b Swann	11				
Dilshan c Collingwood b Swann	70				
Mubarak c & b Swann	6				
Maharoor c & b Swann	7				
Vaas run out	4				
Fernando c Collingwood b Sidebottom	11				
Malinga not out	0				
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-6)	18				
Total: (All out in 41.1 overs)	164				
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-33, 3-37, 4-42, 5-85, 6-93, 7-106, 8-118, 9-164.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Anderson	8	0	35	0	
Sidebottom	8.1	1	19	3	
Broad	8	0	26	2	
Collingwood	7	0	38	0	
Swann	10	2	34	4	
Toss: Sri Lanka					
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA) and Asoka de Silva (SRI)					
TV umpire: Ganini Silva (SRI)					
Match referee: Jagavall Srinath (IND)					

Draw would suffice

FROM PAGE 17

Bangladesh will miss the exploits of speedy and wily winger Odil Iqbal who alone tormented the Bangladesh defence on April 10, 2006.

Also missing are Ibraquim Rabinov, Dzhomikhon Muhidinov, Yusuf Rabiiev and Shujat Nematov who all scored on that day. However, Khurshed Makhmudov, Tajikistan's Player of the Year in 2006, and Numondzhon Hakimov, both of whom had also found the net, are making their trip.

The Tajiks are well-tuned, their top club Regar-TadAZ, having played in the recently concluded AFC President's Cup in Pakistan beside the national team's two preparation matches against top-class opponents.

"We drew 1-1 at home with Kazakhstan and lost 2-3 to Azerbaijan away before coming here. I know the weather is not friendly here, but footballers should be able to cope with any condition," said coach Makhmudjon Khabibullov.

"We have come here to play good football and wish to go as far as the

final rounds of Asian qualifiers," he hoped.

Khabibullov did not single out any player as the key and said that he relies on teamwork. "We have seen Bangladesh's matches in the Nehru Cup and that's all we know about them."

Like the coach, captain Shukhrat Dzhabarov also said they were here to win.

"It's very hot and humid and it might be a problem," told the midfielder who has been playing for the national team for ten years. "I don't expect a big win like last year as I believe Bangladesh must have improved and taken better preparation. Anyway, we are well prepared."

Heartbreak

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individual player has any right to be guaranteed a place in the England side.