

## Batch 05 NSU champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Batch 05 were crowned Intra NSU Batch Champions 2007 after triumphing 3-1 in the final against Team MBA at the WAPDA Ground on Friday.

Striker Mushfiq scored two goals while Ravi Khan added the other for the winners.

Nafiz Momen replied for the runner-ups.

Ravi also bagged a personal accolade winning top goalscorer after scoring 5 goals.

The match kicked-off at a frenetic pace with Batch 05 grabbing the lead inside the first minute.

Mushfiq took full advantage of a defensive lapse down MBA's left to sneak inside and hammer a shot past the goalkeeper from a tight angle.

MBA regrouped, but were always on the back foot against their fitter and more agile opponents.

However they pulled the game back against the run of play courtesy a stunning goal from Nafiz Momen.

The midfielder got the ball 30 yards from goal and with no presentable passing opportunity proceeded to hammer a shot into the back of the net.

The game looked to be petering out at the end of the first half but Batch 05 regained the lead at a crucial moment.

Mushfiq again showing superb composure to round the 'keeper and score a fine effort.

Early in the second half, Batch 05 put the game out of reach scoring a third goal.

Striker Ravi got ahead of the goalkeeper to prod the ball home from close range after a cross from the right.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.

That was the cue for a number of changes but despite repeating probing from MBA, Batch 05 stood firm to claim their first championship.



Players of the Batch 05 team celebrate their victory in the Intra NSU Championships at the WAPDA Ground yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY

## India hope for series victory

Cricket

PTI, Bangalore

Despite Sachin Tendulkar being a doubtful starter and a depleted pace attack, India will try hard to pull off a series win against Pakistan, which just managed to come out of a leadership crisis ahead of the crucial third and final cricket Test beginning here on Saturday.

That Tendulkar has hurt his knee and vice-captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is reported to have suffered an injury on the webbing of his left hand during the Kolkata Test could make things difficult for the hosts who are already missing services of their best pacers Zaheer Khan, RP Singh and Sreesanth.

Both the sides are struggling to field their best players on the field with Pakistan skipper Shoaib Malik, who sprained his ankle

while playing football in Delhi after the first Test, ruled for the final match.

A draw would be suffice for the hosts to seal the series but Pakistan, to be led by Younis Khan, are in a do-or-die situation as they must win this match to draw the series.

Adding to the pressure is their internal crisis, which roared its head late last night when Younis refused to don the skipper's role protesting over Board's non-supportive stance on the selection matters.

Mohammad Yousuf was also reluctant to lead the side and it was only after PCB Chairman Nasim Ashraf's persuasion that Younis agreed to the captain's tie.

The match will be played on a virgin track, which has been laid using black soil.

"It is a 'typical' Test wicket where there will be a lot of movement early on," said chief curator Narayan Raju.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

## Kirsten arrives in Bangalore

CRICINFO, undated

Gary Kirsten, the former South African batsman who was recently roped in as India's coach, landed in Bangalore on Friday and is expected to have his first meeting with the players.

Kirsten, who will join as a permanent coach in March, reached Bangalore on Friday evening. Brijesh Patel, secretary of the Karnataka State Cricket Association, said Kirsten was expected to meet the Indian players on the eve of the third Test that begins on Saturday.

"Kirsten will join as India's new coach on March 1, but he will be briefly involved with the Test team as a consultant during the tour to Australia," said Niranjan Shah, the Indian board secretary. "Kirsten will probably join the team after the second Test against Australia."

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

India are currently leading 1-0 in the three-match series against Pakistan. They will then embark on the tour of Australia, which comprises four Test matches and a limited-overs tri-series also involving Sri Lanka.

## Tharanga to open for Lanka

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka have not called up an extra batsman following the retirement of Sanath Jayasuriya for the second Test against England starting on Sunday.

"We have not added any additional players and Upul (Tharanga) will now open the batting with Michael Vandort," captain Mahela Jayawardene told Reuters on Friday.

There had been speculation that Jehan Mubarak's place in the middle-order was under threat after he contributed only nine runs to Sri Lanka's victory in the first Test.

"The middle order is a bit of concern but we have to be fair to the youngsters we have identified and give them a decent run," Jayawardene added.

Sri Lanka are unlikely to make changes to their bowling attack. "The bowling combination will depend on the pitch but knowing the SSC it will probably be three seamers and Murali," Jayawardene said.

Sri Lanka lead the three-match series 1-0 after beating England by 88 runs in Kandy.

"We have got to take forward the confidence we got with the win in Kandy," said Jayawardene.

"It was a confidence booster for us for the rest of the series and we should not lower our guard and allow England to come back."

SQUAD

Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Kumar Sangakkara, Michael Vandort, Upul Tharanga, Chamara Silva, Jehan Mubarak, Prasanna Jayawardene, Chaminda Vaas, Lasith Malinga, Dilhara Fernando, Malinga Bandara, Sujeewa de Silva, Muttiah Muralidaran.

Vengsarkar to meet Pawar next week

PTI, Mumbai

India's chief cricket selector Dilip Vengsarkar would be able to watch the third and deciding Test match between India and Pakistan at Bangalore on all five days following the rescheduling of his meeting with board president Sharad Pawar to next week.

"Vengsarkar is expected to meet Pawar next week, and it's likely to be on the 14th (December)," sources close to Vengsarkar said today, a development which has paved the way for the former India skipper to watch the entire proceedings of the Test at Bangalore starting Saturday.

Vengsarkar attended the last selection committee meeting on Wednesday in Bangalore which picked the team for the final Test and the 24 probabilities for the tour of Australia after making up his mind to do so very late on the eve of the sitting.

He had come back from Kolkata in the middle of the second Test after his demands for the scrapping of the seven-point guidelines issued to the selectors that included a ban on them from writing columns and talking to the media, were not accepted by the Board.

Vengsarkar, who had to stop his regular newspaper columns following the Board's diktat, also dashed off a letter to the BCCI stating his position not to attend the meeting unless his demands were met, but the Board did not budge from its stand.

Hectic parleys over phone with Pawar on the eve of the selection meeting, after the board chief's softening of the stand on the issue, enabled Vengsarkar to make up his mind to proceed to Bangalore and chair the meeting.

Boje ready to cooperate

CRICINFO, undated

Nicky Boje, the former South African left-arm spinner, has said he is prepared to help the Delhi police with the investigation into the match-fixing scandal of 2000.

"I will be more than happy to cooperate with them in whatever way I can as I have nothing to hide," Boje, currently playing for Hyderabad Heroes in the ICL in Panchkula, told PTI.

On Wednesday, the Delhi police sent a notice to Boje to make himself available for the probe. Boje reiterated that he was not found guilty by the King Commission in South Africa, which looked into the matter. "The fact is that Herschelle Gibbs was found guilty and fined for it," he said. "The Commission never found me guilty and that's why I was not banned."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

Boje said he didn't deliberately avoided touring India in order to escape the police investigation. He said it was the South African board's decision not to send him for following tours. "During the next tour for the ICC Champions Trophy, I was not selected. I never avoided any Indian tour intentionally."

## SL bank on lucky venue

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Buoyant Sri Lanka are looking to clinch the Test series against England when they return to their favourite hunting ground for the second Test starting here on Sunday.

Most teams have suffered heart-break at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in central Colombo where Sri Lanka have won 10 of their last 12 Tests since losing to Nasser Hussain's Englishmen in 2001.

The last time England played here in 2003 under current captain Michael Vaughan, Sri Lanka coasted to victory by an innings and 215 runs with Muttiah Muralidaran grabbing seven wickets in the match.

The off-spinner, who claimed nine scalps in the first Test in Kandy last week on way to becoming Test cricket's leading bowler, is again predicted to be England's nemesis.

Muralidaran has 143 wickets in 21 Tests at the SSC, where the even-paced pitch is good for batting on the first three days before spin

comes into play on the wearing surface towards the end.

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene, delighted by his team's 88-run win in the first Test despite a spirited England challenge, was confident the series can be sealed here before the final Test in Galle.

"This has been a good venue for us but we still need to make sure we press the advantage and don't let England come back at us," said Jayawardene.

"England have got some quality players, but I think we showed a lot of character at Kandy by coming back strongly after being down 42-5 in the first hour of the match."

England have much to fear from Jayawardene and the prolific Kumar Sangakkara, whose match-winning 152 in Sri Lanka's second innings in Kandy took the match away from the tourists.

It was at the SSC in July last year that the Sri Lanka captain and his deputy compiled Test cricket's highest partnership of 624 runs against hapless South Africa with Jayawardene making 374 and Sangakkara 287.

Sri Lanka went on to win that match by an innings and 153 runs and England can once again expect a ruthless display by the hosts who say they are tougher and wiser after the recent tour of Australia.

Sri Lanka lost both Tests against the world champions, but Jayawardene said the tour had taught them a few lessons.

"As a young team we learnt how we need to improve our character and not give up a game after the first couple of days, but to keep fighting for everything and create more opportunities," the captain said.

"These kind of things we showed in the first Test. The way forward for us is to continue to do that."

Sri Lanka will take the field without veteran batsman Sanath Jayasuriya, who retired from Test cricket after the Kandy match.