



Kean Steele (L), Campbell Jamieson and James Withington (R), members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) security delegation enter the National Stadium during their assessment visit in Karachi yesterday.

Roddick skips French Open

AFP, Dusseldorf

American men's tennis number one Andy Roddick withdrew from next week's French Open as he is still nursing a shoulder injury, his brother John announced on Monday.

Roddick, ranked six in the world, suffered the injury in the Rome Masters semi-final just over nine days ago and his brother admitted that it would not be sufficiently healed for him to play at a tournament where he has rarely flourished, reaching the third round in 2001.

Edberg set to come out of retirement

AFP, London

Sweden's former men's world number one Stefan Edberg, who has not played competitive tennis since he retired 12 years ago, could be set to face old rival Pete Sampras after agreeing to play two events on the Tour of Champions.

The 42-year-old six-time Grand Slam winner will play in the Trophee Jean-Luc Lagardere in Paris in September and at London's Royal Albert Hall in London in December.

Sampras, who like Edberg has committed himself to playing two of the tour events this year, is delighted at the prospect of playing the Swede again after a hiatus of 13 years.

Death anniversary of Zafar Imam today

SPORTS REPORTER



The fourth death anniversary of eminent sports organiser and Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Zafar Imam will be observed today in Dhaka and Rajshahi.

The man from Rajshahi, who began his journey as a sports organiser as the joint-secretary of Rajshahi District Sports Association in 1958, died of heart attack in 2004 in Dhaka when he was the chief executive of BOA.

His well-wishers will lay wreaths at his Banani graveyard in the morning. A milad mahfil will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium mosque adjacent to the Paltan Maidan after the Asr prayers.

A milad mahfil will also be organised at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex.

The internationally acclaimed sports personality, popularly known as 'Zafar bhai' was also the adviser to the president of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) since 1994 and an elected member of its Statistical and Information and Sports committees.

Zafar Imam received the OCA Merit Award in 2001.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY ICC team inspects Karachi venues

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

An International Cricket Council (ICC) delegation has completed a security assessment of the volatile Pakistani city of Karachi for this year's Champions Trophy, an official said Monday.

The four-member ICC team, which includes two security experts, arrived on Sunday and inspected the National Stadium and two other practice grounds for the biennial Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan from September 11-28.

"We are here today to review security as per the normal protocol. Such tours are completely normal visits for all ICC events," the ICC's Campbell Jamieson told reporters after completing the visit.

The other members of the delegation are ICC member Bruce Ewan and two members of the ICC security consultant company from England -- James Withington and Kean Steele.

The delegation had to cancel an earlier assessment mid-way through when a state of emergency was declared in Pakistan in November last year.

Early this year Australia also put off their March-April tour of Pakistan over security fears.

But since general elections in February and the formation of a new government security has improved in Pakistan, allowing Australia to reschedule their tour in 2009 and 2010.

The ICC delegation will also tour Lahore and Rawalpindi before submitting its report to the game's governing body. Karachi will host five matches including one semi-final.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has promised high-profile security for the eight teams participating in the Champions Trophy.

Pakistan is also hosting the six-nation Asia Cup in June-July this year.

Foreign teams have raised safety concerns over touring the country amid political unrest and a surge in terrorism since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

South Africa, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh have played in Pakistan in the past eight months.

South Africa played a three-day match and a five-day Test in Karachi on their tour, which started in September last year.

But their last one-day match in the port city was shifted to Lahore after a blast targeting former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's homecoming parade.

Bhutto survived that blast but was later killed in a suicide attack in Rawalpindi on December 27.

Mumbai ride on Bravo

FROM PAGE 17

Mumbai's bowling was characterised by canny medium-pace and outstanding catching. In Shaun Pollock's absence, Bravo led the way with the ball too. Afridi's fine day didn't continue with the bat, though; he attempted to thump the first ball he faced over the covers for six but could only marvel at Thorne running back from point to snaffle a sharp catch.

Adam Gilchrist struggled against a probing Ashish Nehra, who varied both his length and pace wonderfully, while getting the ball to move away off the track. He ended wicketless but played a big part in piling on the pressure. Dilhara Fernando was to reap the rewards soon: he surprised Gilchrist with a short one that was sliced to third man before Rohit Sharma missed a well-disguised slower one that rattled him plumb in front. With two wickets in two balls, he had pretty much sealed the match.

Venugopal, who surprisingly picked up two wickets with his part-time offspin, continued his habit of coming up with a fighting

knock in a lost cause. Like he's done in the two previous games, he was like a boy on a burning deck, smashing three sixes and four fours against a mounting asking-rate. Ravi Teja partnered him in a 74-run stand but it would have required something miraculous for the duo to pull it off. Bravo dismissed both within three balls and rounded off a memorable game -- four days before facing Australia in the first Test in Kingston.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MUMBAI INDIANS: 178 for 7 in 20 overs (Jayasuriya 36, Tendulkar 23, Thorne 8, Nayar 38, Uthappa 7, Bravo 30, Shah 10, Takawale 5 not out, Raje 1 not out; Rao 2-25, RP Singh 3-35, Afridi 2-23)

DECCAN CHARGERS: 153 for 7 in 20 overs (Gilchrist 13, Sharma 6, Silva 17, Rao 57, Teja 37, Zoysa 10 not out, Das 2, RP Singh 3 not out; Bravo 3-24, Fernando 2-38, Nayar 1-18)

Result: Mumbai Indians won by 25 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Dwayne Bravo.

Umpires: BR Doctrove (West Indies) and DJ Harper (Australia)

Toss: Deccan Chargers.

Row over Shah Rukh

FROM PAGE 17

Regulations of the BCCI, an ICC spokesman told PTI from Dubai.

"Furthermore, the ICC board in its meeting held in Dubai on 17-18 March had decided that IPL will introduce a code of conduct, an anti-corruption code and an anti-doping code that complies with ICC regulations," he said.

The Bollywood megastar and Knight Riders owner Shah Rukh Sunday night expressed disappointment, claiming he had been barred by the ICC anti-corruption unit from going to the team dug out and dressing room in the remaining IPL matches.

"I like to hang around with the boys. I am very energetic. I am very disappointed that the ICC has stopped me," he said.

"I don't know the ICC rules. I'll tell only one thing. Nobody dare stop me from coming to Kolkata. I'll be here whenever my team plays a match at the Eden," Shah Rukh said.

Asked whether Shah Rukh needed an accreditation for the IPL matches, the ICC spokesman said, "Everybody needs an accreditation and these are in line with anti-corruption code. BCCI is following anti-corruption code. Now I don't know what modifications they have made to the code."

US on the long journey to WC

AFP, Dubai

The United States will take their first tentative steps on the long, gruelling road to the 2011 World Cup from Friday in the unlikely company of the likes of Germany, Nepal and Afghanistan.

America are one of 12 teams taking part in the ICC's World League Division Five in Jersey with the top two guaranteed promotion in the first step in the lengthy qualifying process for the World Cup to be staged in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Division Five matches will be played in Jersey from May 23-31 with the USA in Group A alongside Germany, Mozambique, Nepal, Norway and Vanuatu.

Pak players to be dope-tested

CRICINFO, undated

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced in-house doping tests for all its players before the Asia Cup, which begins from June 24.

The tests will be conducted shortly after the team returns from a short tri-series in Bangladesh in the beginning of June.

"The tests will be conducted on all the players selected for the Asia Cup camp before the tournament starts, so that we can get the results in time from the World Anti-Doping Agency laboratory (WADA) in Malaysia," Shafiqat Naghm, chief operating officer of the PCB, said.

The board has taken a strict doping policy after fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif tested positive for the banned substance Nandrolone before the Champions Trophy in India in 2006. Those tests were also conducted internally by the PCB. Both were banned by the PCB but were later acquitted following an appeal on essentially a technicality.

Delhi dump

FROM PAGE 17

David 9, Misbahul 47 not out, White 1, Akhil 3, Kumar 2, Zaheer 4 not out; McGrath 2-15, Maharoor 2-13, Dilshan 1-3)

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 158 for 5 in 18.2 overs (Gambhir 39, Sehwaag 47, De Villiers 21, Dilshan 4, Dhawan 16 not out, Karthik 6, Maharoor 13 not out; Steyn 1-26, Kumar 1-33, Kumble 2-18)

Result: Delhi Daredevils won by 5 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Shreevats Goswami.

Umpires: SJ Davis (Australia) and GA Pratapkrishnan

Toss: Delhi Daredevils.

Baishakhi gets

FROM PAGE 17

Open in August. Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) will accord a reception in honour of Baishakhi, said general secretary Mohammad Sanaul Haque at a press briefing at the federation conference room Monday afternoon.

Baishakhi's father Lutfar Rahman and mother Nazifa Bashir Poppy also spoke on the occasion.

Lutfar Rahman said, "Baishakhi is always a hardworking girl. After achieving such an award, we can hope that our country will produce more girls like Baishakhi in the future."

Mother Poppy expressed her feelings saying, "I was so happy when she was nominated for this category... it's a great privilege to get such award as a Bengali Muslim girl."

She also informed that Baishakhi played charity matches in America to raise funds for the cyclone Sidr victims in Bangladesh.

Besides, during her stay in America, Baishakhi won 24 tournament titles.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Cute has become sponsors of the national women's handball team that leaves Dhaka for India on Tuesday to take part in the third South Asian Handball Championship.

Along with runners-up Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan and holders India will compete in the meet to be held from May 23 in Lucknow.

Bangladesh will play their first match against Nepal on May 23.

Chairman of Mousumi Industries Ltd and senior vice-president of Bangladesh Handball Federation Kazi Mahtabuddin Ahmed handed over the sporting gear to national skipper Dalia Akhter at a simple ceremony at the Handball Federation office yesterday.

The 25-member Bangladesh women's handball team comprises of 14 players, five officials, two congress delegates, two referees and two observers.

DIVII CRICKET
Sirajul's priceless 33 took Prime Dhaleswar home by one wicket against Prantik Kriha Chakra in the Second Division Super League at the City Club ground yesterday.

Batting first, Prantik were bowled out for 152 in 42 overs with Raisul hitting 51. In reply, Dhaleswar reached their winning target in the 41st over, having lost nine wickets.

Dhanmondi Pragati also won a close game, beating Green Leaf by three wickets at the Dhaka University ground. Batting first, Green Leaf reached 194-7 in a rain-reduced 40 overs-a-side match. Pragati's Ali smashed 71 and Sunny hit 64 as the Farmgate outfit raced to 197-7 in only 25 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Kakrail (177 all out) thrashed Gopibagh Friends (105 all out) by 72 runs.

PIONEER FOOTBALL
Dhanmondi Football Academy earned a huge 6-0 victory over Mohanagar Kriha Chakra in a South Zone match of the Metropolitan Pioneer Football League at Mohammadpur Eidgah Maidan.

Rubel and Maruf struck twice each while one goal apiece came from Shafique and Nafees. The winners led the first half 3-0 and later added three more.

In today's East Zone matches Bangladesh Sporting Club face Ganderia Power Sun and Mansoor Sporting Club take on Tito Smriti Sangsai in the South Zone. Tangail Football Club are up against BKS and Dragon Kriha Chakra face Muktabon Football Club.

DIVII BADMINTON
The Second Division Badminton League begins today at the NSC Wooden Floor Gymnasium.

Board of Investment executive chairman and Bangladesh Badminton Federation president Kamaluddin Ahmed will formally inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

The federation are organising the event.

ROLLER SKATING
The Second Roller Skating Championship will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on May 30.

Some 150 participants representing 35 clubs and District Sports Associations will compete in 19 boys' and girls' events of the meet, organised by Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation.

Oram ensures

FROM PAGE 17

ball burst through his hands.

Vaughan's decision to bring Monty Panesar into the attack was soon rewarded when, with his sixth ball on Monday, the left-arm spinner had Ross Taylor lbw to effectively leave New Zealand 57 for three.

England, who were well placed at 148 for one after a first century opening stand between Strauss and Cook, had to settle for a modest first-innings lead of 42 after being bowled out for 319.

Vaughan top-scored with 106, his 18th Test century also equaling the Lord's Test record of six held by former England captain Graham Gooch.

Although the pitch offered little turn, left-arm spinner Vettori took five or more wickets in a Test innings for the 14th time in his career.

And when Vettori dismissed Vaughan to end the innings, he became only the second New Zealand cricketer after Sir Richard Hadlee to take 250 Test wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's in London on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 277 (McCullum 97; Sidebottom 4-55, Anderson 3-66)

ENGLAND: First innings 319 (Vaughan 106, Strauss 63, Cook 61; Vettori 5-69)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 40-0)

Howe 6, Cook 6, Broad 17, Redmond 6, Strauss 6, Anderson 17, Marshall lbw b Sidebottom 0

Taylor lbw b Panesar 20

McCullum b Anderson 24

Flynn not out 29

Oram b Sidebottom 101

Vettori not out 0

Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-1) 10

Total: (For 6 wickets in 86.2 overs) 269

Did not bat: Martin, Southee, Mills. Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-52, 3-99, 4-115, 4-120, 5-252, 6-269.

Bowler O M R W

Sidebottom 21.2 4 65 2

Anderson 19 5 64 2

Broad 17 4 54 1

Panesar 24 8 56 1

Pietersen 5 0 21 0

Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Daniel Vettori.

REMAINING FIXTURES

May 23-27: 2nd Test, Old Trafford.

May 05-09: 3rd Test, Trent Bridge.

Battle of the captains

Cricket

REUTERS, London

England captain Michael Vaughan fought a gripping personal duel with his opposite number Daniel Vettori on Sunday while steering his team to a 42-run first innings lead on the fourth day of the first Test at Lord's.

Vaughan scored 106, his 18th Test century, his sixth at Lord's and his first against the Kiwis, with some delightful shots around the wicket in his team's 319 all out.

Vettori, who had reduced England to 208 for six with three cheap wickets, finished with five for 69, including the wicket of Vaughan for 106.

It was his first five-wicket haul against England, his 14th overall, and took his Test tally to exactly 250.

At the close of the first full day's play in the match, New Zealand had reduced the deficit to two when they reached 40 for no wicket in their second innings.

Aaron Redmond, who made a duck on debut in the first innings, was dropped on 10 by wicketkeeper Tim Ambrose, a difficult chance diving to his left, off Stuart Broad.

Andrew Strauss (63) and Alastair Cook (61), resuming at 89 for no wicket after 153.2 overs had been lost to rain and bad light on the first three days, recorded their first century opening partnership for England.

Their departures were the signal for left-arm spinner Vettori to make his mark on the match, bowling for the first time after having two stitches to a split on his bowling finger removed

before the match.

Vettori accounted for the dangerous Kevin Pietersen, lbw for three, then removed Paul Collingwood (6) and Ambrose (0) from consecutive balls in his 10th over.

Broad narrowly avoided edging the hat-trick ball and survived some anxious moments to add 61 runs for the seventh wicket with Vaughan before he was bowled off his pads by Jacob Oram for 25.

Vaughan, who averaged only 22.53 against the Kiwis compared to a career figure of 42.47 before the match, drove sweetly through the on-side and greeted Vettori's return after tea with consecutive fours through mid-off and over mid-on.

He cut Vettori to the third-man boundary for four and late-cut another three off the spinner who up to that time had been treated with the utmost respect by the England batsmen.

Vaughan reached his century by flicking Vettori through mid-wicket for his 11th four to equal former England captain Graham Gooch's record for Test centuries at Lord's.

He was finally out with last man James Anderson at the crease, caught on the mid-wicket boundary by James Marshall trying to hit another boundary.

Vaughan gave only one chance on 64 when Redmond at second slip was unable to hold on to a difficult chance low to his right hand off pacesman Tim Southee.

"I was very disciplined with the first 30," Vaughan told a news conference. "From there on I felt there was a hundred for the making if I didn't make a mistake -- and I didn't make a

mistake."

He paid tribute to Vettori saying New Zealand had a "guy who varies his pace better than anybody in the world".

Vettori said he felt New Zealand had dominated the day until Vaughan and Broad had come together.

"I think we acknowledge that he (Vaughan) is a very good cricketer," he said.

Asked how he felt about getting on the honours' board for his five wickets, Vettori replied: "It's a nice feeling but I think I will enjoy it more when we bat through the first session."

Warne could

FROM PAGE 17

please help us out for this one-off tour? We need you, that is something I would weigh up," he said.

Warne said he still had the passion to play at the top level, but it was the lifestyle that made him quit after the 2006-07 Ashes whitewash. "I wanted to keep playing I don't think there would be an issue with me being the No.1 spinner and performing," he said. "I would still love to be playing international cricket, and miss it because I devoted 20 years to first-class cricket."

"It is a big part of my life. The reason I retired was to spend time with my kids. I was also sick of international touring here there and everywhere, other commitments, and team meetings. If you could just turn up and play Test cricket, that would be cool. I would definitely consider that. At this stage, it is a fairytale."

Butt rues less play

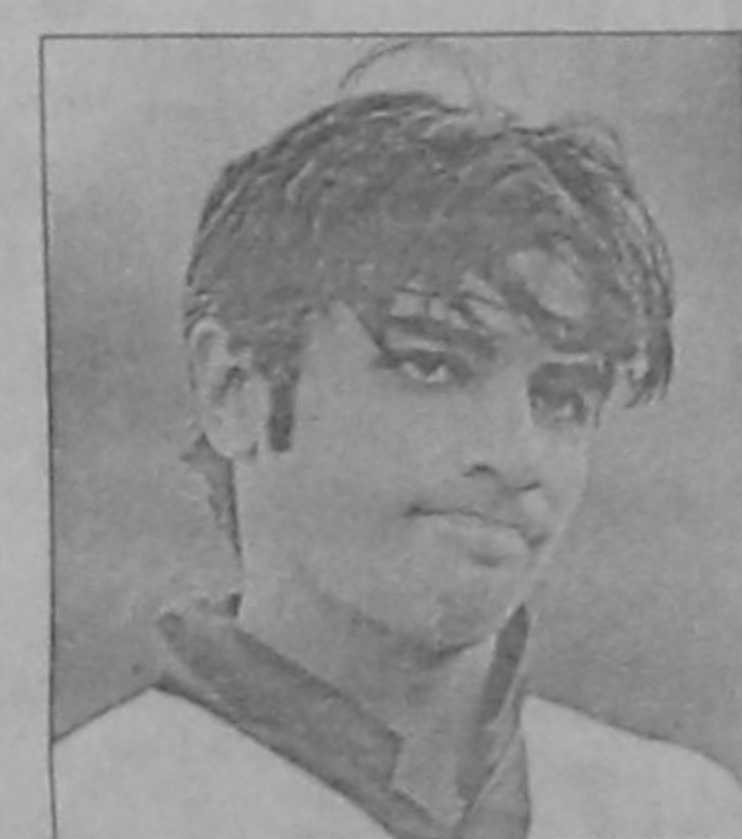
CRICINFO, undated

Despite scoring 73 off 54 balls in Kolkata Knight Riders' narrow three-run defeat in the Indian Premier League against Chennai Super Kings in the curtailed game at Eden Gardens on Sunday, Salman Butt was unhappy for more reasons than one.

Coming off a successful five-match one-day series at home against Bangladesh -- during which he scored 451 runs -- Butt expected to walk in to the Kolkata side on the basis of his good form, but expressed his disappointment in not getting enough opportunities.

Having missed Kolkata's first two games due to national commitments, Butt was benched for the next two and has featured in only five of Kolkata's nine games since his arrival. He has scored 145 runs with one half-century at an average of 29.

"I came here on the heels of some good scores in Pakistan, and when in form, everybody loves to play," Butt said after the match. "Sitting out just takes the form away."



SALMAN BUTT

When asked why Kolkata have tried out seven different opening combinations, Butt replied, "It's a good question to those who decide the batting order."

Reflecting on the defeat, Butt

said his side faltered in not posting a more challenging total.

Strong winds and rain forced an early finish to the match, but Chennai's position at that point -- 55 for no loss after eight overs -- meant that they were three runs ahead of the Duckworth-Lewis par score.

Kolkata will have to try and win their three remaining games to give themselves a chance of making the semifinals.

"Again our batting faltered. Probably we were 25 runs short on this wicket," Butt said. "We will have to try and win every game from now on. It gets difficult but we have to try and win every game."

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the Chennai captain, said his team would have chased, keeping in mind a possible rain interruption after it had rained in Kolkata the previous evening. He also praised the bowlers for setting up the victory. "Our bowlers did well," Dhoni said. "They gave us a perfect start and didn't give away too many runs. Even if we had won the toss, we would have chased."

Rain denies Aussies

Cricket

AFP