



Australian players celebrate their one-run victory in the fourth one-day international against West Indies at the Warner Park in Basseterre, Saint Kitts on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

Captain & coach to stay put: PCB

CRICINFO, undated
Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Nasim Ashraf has said that both captain Shoaib Malik and coach Geoff Lawson will retain their jobs despite the team failing to reach the final of the Asia Cup.

"Let me make it clear once again that Shoaib Malik and Geoff Lawson were both appointed for two-year terms and they will at least continue till then," he said. Ashraf had criticised the team last month for a 140-run loss to India in the league phase of the Kipling Cup in Bangladesh.

However, on Friday, he said Pakistan were a young team that was improving. "It will take time to groom the players and we are doing our best in that," he said.

"Give me the same players who were part of the team in the 90s such as Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Saad Anwar, Aamir Sohail and others and see the result. We don't have the same talent that we had in the 80s and 90s and we have to accept that as a reality."

Ashraf said he was happy with players' attitude and their commitment. "I know personally the players are very committed. I can tell you that after we lost to Sri Lanka I went to the Pakistan dressing room and saw Shahid Afridi crying and wanting to be dropped from the team because he had not performed well. I saw Malik on a stretcher on drips and with cold packs on his body yet he went out and played in that match."

"I feel sorry when some people in such circumstances question the commitment of some players. I have told them to give 100 per cent and even if they lose that is alright but they must give 100 per cent effort."

Grand finale

FROM PAGE 17
Dhoni, whose team lost to Pakistan in the final of the tri-series in Dhaka last month.

Dhoni hoped his openers would once again set the pace.

"Our openers have given us good starts and if they continue to do so it would keep pressure off the middle order and set the foundation," said Dhoni.

TEAMS
SRI LANKA (from): Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Kumar Sangakkara, Sanath Jayasuriya, Mahela Udawatte, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chamara Silva, Chamara Kapugedera, Kaushal Weeraratne, Thilan Thushara, Chaminda Vaas, Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis, Jehan Mubarak, Nuwan Kulasekera.

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Yuvraj Singh, Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, Piyush Chawla, Pragnan Ojha, Manpreet Gony, Rudra Pratap Singh, Ishant Sharma, Praveen Kumar.
Umpires: Simon Taufel and Tony Hill.



Did U Know?

Women's judo was first introduced in the 1992 Olympics.

Still Australia win

FROM PAGE 17
Bravo joined Chanderpaul and added 59 for the fourth wicket before James Hopes bowled him for 31 in the 43rd over.

Australia then made two crucial strikes, when ODI newcomer Shawn Findlay was caught at mid-wicket for nine off Lee in the 48th over, and Nathan Bracken then bowled Chanderpaul in the penultimate over to leave West Indies 275 for six.

But Ramdin and Sammy failed to carry the home team to "the promised land" much to the consternation of near capacity, holiday crowd at Warner Park.

Earlier, Andrew Symonds hit the top score of 87 and David Hussey supported with 50, as Australia, sent in to bat, reached 282 for eight from their allocation of 50 overs on a hard, true pitch.

Dreadlocked Symonds and ODI newcomer Hussey put Australia back on a track, after the visitors wobbled to 129 for four in the 29th over.

When Symonds was caught at mid-off off Fidel Edwards in the 47th over, they had added 127 for the fifth wicket.

Australia lost Hopes caught at mid-wicket for a first-ball duck off Edwards' next ball, and as they chased quick runs late, Hussey was caught inside the deep mid-wicket boundary off Gayle in the 48th over before Luke Ronchi was caught inside the long-off boundary for 12 in the final over.

Australia had started steadily before Shane Watson was caught behind off Daren Powell for 20 in

the eighth over, and Shaun Marsh was also caught behind off the same bowler for 16 to leave the visitors on 56 for two in the 12th over.

Michael Clarke, leading Australia for the first time in an ODI, joined Mike Hussey, David's elder brother, and they stabilised the innings with a stand of 60 for third wicket before they both fell within in the space of five overs.

Hussey was caught on the deep mid-wicket boundary for 11 mistiming a pull at a short ball from Bravo in the 24th over, and Clarke was adjudged lbw for 36 to become left-arm spin bowler Nikita Miller's first wicket in ODIs.

West Indies made two changes to their line-up. They dropped Andre Fletcher and Suleiman Benn, and brought in Findlay and Miller for their ODI debuts.

Australia made just one change, bringing David Hussey in for his ODI debut for injured captain Ricky Ponting, whose stiff right wrist has precipitated his early departure from the Caribbean, so that Clarke led Australia to victory for the first time in an ODI.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between West Indies and Australia at the Warner Park in St Kitts on Friday:

AUSTRALIA

Marsh c Ramdin b Powell	16
Watson c Ramdin b Powell	20
Hussey c Bravo b Sammy	37
Clarke lbw b Miller	36
Symonds c Bravo b Edwards	87
Hussey c Roach b Gayle	50
Hopes c Sarwan b Edwards	0

WEST INDIES

Gayle c Hopes b Watson	92
Marshall lbw b Lee	0
Sarwan c Ronchi b Lee	63
Chanderpaul b Bracken	53
Bravo b Hopes	31
Findlay c Hussey b Lee	19
Ramdin not out	5
Sammy not out	3
Extras: (lb-6, w-17, nb-2)	25
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	281
Did not bat: Miller, Edwards	
Powell	
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-138, 3-188, 4-247, 5-271, 6-275.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	10	0	53	2
Powell	10	1	66	2
Bravo	10	0	57	1
Sammy	4	0	18	1
Miller	10	1	56	1
Gayle	6	1	25	1

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	10	0	64	3
Bracken	10	0	50	1
Johnson	10	0	40	0
Hopes	10	0	63	1
Hussey	2	0	20	0
Watson	7	0	33	1
Clarke	1	0	5	0

Result: Australia won by one run and lead five-match series 4-0.
Man-of-the-match: Andrew Symonds.
Toss: West Indies.
Umpires: Asad Rauf, Steve Bucknor.

Phelps betters own mark

FROM PAGE 17
Michael Phelps lowered his own 200m medley world record Friday at the US Olympic swimming trials as he lined up a fourth individual event at the Beijing Games.

Phelps clocked 1min 54.80sec, improving on the 1:54.98 that he set in winning the world title in Melbourne on March 29, 2007.

Ryan Lochte was second in 1:55.22, the third-fastest ever, and third-place finisher Eric Shanteau was more than three seconds adrift in 1:58.55.

Lochte's performance even more impressive considering it came after his runner-up finish to Aaron Peirsol in the 200m backstroke less than half an hour earlier.

In that race, Peirsol matched Lochte's world record and won by just two hundredths of a second.

Lochte was also runner-up to Phelps on Sunday, when the US superstar launched his Beijing qualifying bid with a world-record victory in the 400m individual medley. Lochte notched the second-fastest time in history as he challenged Phelps until the end.

"I think both of us hate to lose," Phelps said, when asked why Lochte seemed to bring out the best in him.

"Ryan had an article not too far back saying that when some people get in a race with myself and Aaron, they are racing to get second, and he is not."

"I think that fired me up a little bit."

"Getting in the water with him, the last three or four races it has

pretty much taken a world record to beat him."

Phelps' coach Bob Bowman said he was delighted to see the 23-year-old swimmer pushed to his limit.

"I like to see him race like he did tonight," Bowman said. "It is really what it is all about. I think that is the fun part for him... I like to see it. I like to see him challenged because that really brings out his best."

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NZ PM opposes Zimbabwe tour

CRICINFO, undated

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, who earlier in the week called for Zimbabwe to be expelled from the International Cricket Council (ICC), has said that she does not want a side from her country touring there next year.

New Zealand, who were the last but one side to undertake a Test tour of Zimbabwe in 2005, are due to return there in a year's time, but Clark made clear she was very against the idea, arguing Zimbabwe was not a fit country to be played against.

The government stepped in to ban Zimbabwe from touring later in 2005 by refusing to grant their players visas, and it may well be that they will follow the lead given by John Howard who, when prime minister of Australia, who prevented a team from his country visiting Zimbabwe.

When they previously toured, New Zealand Cricket declined to follow advice not to make the trip and the NZ government stopped short of stepping in to prevent them travelling. However, the marked deterioration inside Zimbabwe in recent months could lead to players refusing to tour and in so doing leaving the board with no choice but to scrap the trip.

Aussies fined

REUTERS, New Delhi

Australia have been fined for a slow over-rate during their one-run victory over West Indies in the fourth one-day international in Basseterre, St Kitts, on Friday.

An International Cricket Council statement on Saturday said Australia had been one over short in the designated time.

Michael Clarke, captaining Australia in a one-day match for the first time because of an injury to Ricky Ponting, was fined 10 per cent of his match fee.

The other team members were fined five per cent of their fees.

Australia lead 4-0 in the series with the fifth and final game scheduled for Basseterre on Sunday.

Kolkata mum at the moment

PTI, Kolkata

It's too early to speak about the new faces for the next season till the board finalises the 5-million-dollar cap for buying players, according to the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) team management.

"When we are in dark about the Indian Premier League (IPL) rules [whether the cap be raised or scrapped], we don't want to comment on who we have approached. With about 10 months to go for the second edition, it's too early to say," KKR CEO Joy Bhattacharya told PTI.

He declined to disclose whether Knight Riders' skipper Sourav Ganguly, who is in London for his treatment of his father's heart ailment, had approached England bigwigs Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen.

Not ruling out that Ganguly did speak to the duo, the KKR CEO, however, said it was normal process and all franchise owners spoke to different players.

"Until the DLF IPL makes the rules clear, it's difficult to answer. But it's true that all the franchise owners are approaching different players. That's quite normal. Hopefully by the end of July, the picture will be clear for a formal announcement," Bhattacharya told PTI.

But sources claim, Flintoff and Pietersen were waiting for the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) nod to take part in the cash-rich Twenty20 league so that they could be a part of the Kolkata team.

The ECB has come under fire in the past for not allowing its centrally-contracted players to participate in the inaugural edition.

Meek Tigers

FROM PAGE 17

The situation was perfect for dashing left-handed opener Tamim to produce something special but the Chittagonian had hardly been in his best though he scored 157 runs at the average of 31.40 in five matches.

And it was wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim who totally failed to transform his domestic form into the international cricket. He made only 105 runs in five matches.

Despite the Bangladeshi batsmen's failure it was not a tournament for the bowlers so one could easily spare the Tigers bowlers. But one can't accept indiscipline bowling in this kind of condition what most of the Bangladeshi bowlers did.

Five-star

FROM PAGE 17

The games then went with serve until, with Serena serving at 4-5, Venus ran down a drop shot and sent a backhand down the line to claim two match points.

Serena produced an ace to save the first one but a long rally on the second ended with her pushing a backhand inches wide to hand her sister the title.

Holding quits in protest

AFP, London

Cricket officials who hoped this week might end with one sort of resignation from the International Cricket Council (ICC) had to cope with another as Michael Holding quits cricket committee.

The West Indies great stepped down in protest at the ICC's decision, taken at its board meeting in Dubai, to change the result of the 2006 Oval Test from an England win over Pakistan to a draw.

Pakistan were originally ruled to have forfeited the match, something never before seen in a Test, following their refusal to take the field after tea on the fourth day having previously been penalised five runs for ball-tampering by umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove.

A subsequent hearing cleared Pakistan of ball-tampering and, on Thursday, the ICC took the extraordinary step of altering the match result.

Former fast bowler Holding, while accepting Pakistan were not guilty of ball-tampering, said their refusal to play should not go unpunished.

"When you take certain actions, you must be quite happy to suffer the consequences," he said while commenting for Sky Sports on Friday during Kent's semi-final win over Durham in English cricket's domestic 50-over event.

"That game should never, ever be a draw."

"I have just written my letter of resignation to the ICC cricket committee because I cannot agree with what they've done."

"A lot of things that are happening today I don't want to be involved with, so I've moved on."

Holding's announcement set the seal on a turbulent week for the ICC which saw England and South Africa pushing for the suspension of strife-torn Zimbabwe from world cricket.

But the Asian bloc -- led by the game's commercial powerhouse India -- opposed the move.

Instead a compromise was reached which saw Zimbabwe pull out of next year's World Twenty20 in England.

That move came after the British government had made it clear it would not issue visas to Zimbabwean cricketers, thereby effectively cancelling their scheduled tour of England in 2009.

Had Zimbabwe insisted on its right to participate, the lucrative tournament could have been moved elsewhere although that in turn could have led to a boycott by England and other leading nations.

Quite apart from the politically inspired violence which saw opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai pull out of the country's recent presidential election in order to spare his supporters further punishment from the regime of President Robert Mugabe, there is a

cricketing case that can be made for exiling Zimbabwe.

They voluntarily withdrew from Test cricket in September 2005 following a collapse in playing standards brought about by a race row over selection.

However, they remained an active one-day international side. But in their 32 ODI since August 2006 they have won only two, losing 28.

Meanwhile concerns have been raised regarding the finances of Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC).

Malcolm Speed effectively stepped down early from his post as ICC chief executive because of the board's failure to take action on the back of an audit by leading accountants KPMG, said to have noted "serious financial irregularities" in ZC's books.

Although there has been much talk within ICC circles of keeping politics out of cricket, former Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower, now an England assistant coach, is adamant that Peter Chingoka and Ozias Bvute, the chairman and managing director of ZC respectively, have close links with Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party.

But incoming ICC president David Morgan, formerly the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, told reporters in Dubai: "The full membership of Zimbabwe is currently not in doubt. There was not even a discussion on the issue of Zimbabwe's membership."

'Don't worry about Smith'

AFP, London

Ashwell Prince told South Africa cricket fans not to worry about the form of Graeme Smith after the Proteas captain's first, and possibly only, innings before next week's first Test against England saw him make just 35 against Middlesex here Friday.

This was the left-handed opener's first match since tearing his hamstring in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and it looked like he was consciously trying to settle in for a long stay as he took more than two hours over his runs.

Smith contributed just 29 to a second-wicket stand of 106 with Hashim Aklia after the early loss of Neil McKenzie before being caught behind shortly after lunch off pace bowler Alan Richardson.

Amla, by contrast, made 161 to follow his 172 against Somerset in the tour opener at Taunton while Prince was unbeaten on 104 as South Africa finished the first day of three at Uxbridge on 339 for four.

Smith's 77-ball stay featured just the four boundaries but fellow

left-hander Prince said his captain's time in the middle couldn't be quantified by statistics alone.

"He batted for more than two hours out there, and the ball did go around a little bit this morning," Prince said.

"He hasn't batted for a while. But those two hours -- and some more in the second innings, we hope -- I'm sure that will be enough time in terms of preparation for the Test."

"It's much better to get time in the middle than in the nets -- and I'm sure he'd like to have another go in the second innings."

And Prince said Smith's tempo was all the more understandable given the need to adjust from the frenetic pace of Twenty20.

"He conscientiously took his time," Prince admitted. "He probably could have been a bit more aggressive."

But I think he probably opted to play the way he did, because he hasn't had much time in the middle -- and the last time he was batting it was in Twenty20.

"He wanted time at the crease and to get used to playing cricket with a red ball, the IPL being the last time he batted."

No 3 Amla, whom South Africa

will hope is not one of those batsmen who makes big scores in tour matches only to come up short when it really matters in the Tests, made a scratchy start.

But he ultimately took advantage of the benign batting conditions, with 12 fours alone in his first fifty.

His century took Amla just 119 balls and saw him strike three sixes off one over from on-loan Yorkshire leg-spinner Mark Lawson.

After Jacques Kallis was caught behind for two, Prince came in and the left-hander looked in fine touch while making a 167-ball hundred in a stand of 190.

Amla, whose innings featured several wristy deflections, eventually fell to a tired drive off Daanien Erasmus which gave wicketkeeper Ben Scott his third catch of the innings.

In all he batted for just over five hours, facing 233 balls with three sixes and 22 fours.

England and South Africa play the first of a four-Test series at Lord's, starting on Thursday.

In the corresponding Test five years ago, Smith made 259 at the 'home of cricket' and fast bowler Makhaya Ntini took 10 for 220 as South Africa won by the large margin of an innings and 92 runs.



Participants of the first Bangladesh wuko shito-ryu karate seminar pose for photographs at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday. PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
44 Pastime for Prince
1 Profundity author
6 Performance 45 "I, Robot"
9 The girl
12 Ostentatious setup
13 "Wham!" own
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23 "Eureka!"
24 Passenger place
25 Dilbert's place
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29 Summer ermines
31 Reservation residence
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38 Tweak
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43 Bar rock

DOWN
3 Conditional stipulation
24 Sturgeon eggs
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