

Prasad added to Test squad

CRICINFO, undated

The Sri Lankan selectors have added Dammika Prasad, a right-arm fast-medium bowler to the squad for the second Test against India starting at Galle on Thursday.

Selection committee sources said they need a quick bowler who can beat the bat quite often and it was with this in mind they had added the 25-year-old Prasad to the squad. Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Kulasekara, the new-ball bowlers for the first Test, are among the slowest Sri Lanka have had in recent times.

The two averaged between 120 and 125kph in Colombo and bowled only 30 overs in all in a Test dominated by the spinners. Vaas went wicketless for 50 runs and there were times his pace dipped to as low as 110kph.

Prasad impressed with his bowling in the three-day tour match with 4 for 58 against the Indians. He played three ODIs for Sri Lanka in 2006 and has taken 129 wickets in 41 first-class matches.

However sources said if Vaas was left out of the ELEVEN, he would be replaced by left-arm fast bowler Thilan Thushara, who played in West Indies in April this year, and not Prasad.

"We brought Prasad into the squad to get a closer look at him and keep him in the frame," the source said.

The first Test which Sri Lanka won so convincingly by an innings and 239 runs in four days was dominated by spinners Muttiah Muralidaran and debutant Ajantha Mendis who between them took 19 wickets.

SQUAD

Michael Vandort, Malinda Warnapura, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Thilan Samaraweera, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Prasanna Jayawardene, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis, Nuwan Kulasekera, Chamara Silva, Thilan Thushara, Chamara Kapugedera, Dammika Prasad.

Arjuna blasts India's style

CRICINFO, undated

After India's massive innings and 239-run defeat in the first Test in Colombo, Arjuna Ranatunga, the former Sri Lankan captain, has criticised India's batsmen for playing in the Twenty20 mode and said they lacked focus.

"The way the Indians have played this Test is an eye-opener not just for us but for all cricket-playing countries," he told the Indian Express. "They dealt with this like a Twenty20 game. I think they were not prepared for Test cricket." He was speaking after India were bowled out twice in about four sessions of play, with the Sri Lankan spinners Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis sharing 19 wickets.

Ranatunga wanted India to focus more on Tests than on Twenty20s. "If the Indians keep getting their priorities wrong, they will go down ranking-wise. Ultimately, it is the rank that is very important," he said. "And it is this performance that will determine the future of the game in your country. Focusing on the Twenty20 game is a short-term thing. If the game is not protected, we are in for a major disaster."

"The Indian batsmen aren't too focussed. That is something that can creep into our cricket. That is something I don't want to happen," he said. Ranatunga has repeatedly stressed that while Twenty20 generates much-needed money, playing Test cricket and representing your country should remain the priority.

India have four days to recover from the loss -- their third heaviest -- before the second Test starts in Galle.

Haan calls smog

FROM PAGE 17 But Dr Haan said their team doctor had told him the players would adapt.

"The doctor told us if you spend five days there it will no longer be a problem because you get used to it."

"The doctor also said even if you don't have asthma there in Holland you can have it here. But that's no problem and we can handle it."

The Netherlands play Cameroon on Wednesday in the ING Cup, followed by Ivory Coast on Saturday. The fourth team competing here are the United States.

Chinese

FROM PAGE 17 Nike suits broke several national records at the Olympic trials in April.

Xu Yanwei, who will compete in the 100m butterfly at the Olympics, said she did not feel much difference wearing Speedo, Xinhua said.

Speedo said the suit, developed in association with US space agency NASA, is made with a high-technology fabric that keeps swimmers in a corset-like grip and helps maintain the best body position in the water for longer.

The Olympic swimming events begin August 9.

Nadal Toronto master

Tennis

AFP, Toronto

Rafael Nadal took another huge step closer to dethroning Roger Federer as world number one with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Nicolas Kiefer in the Toronto Masters final on Sunday.

With his 29th consecutive victory - his last loss came in Rome in May in the second round to Juan Carlos Ferrero - the Spanish world number two has climbed to within 300 points of Federer, who crashed out of his opening match.

The Spanish phenomenon has now claimed 30 career titles, making him third-youngest in the game after Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors to achieve the mark.

"I'll think about the record when my career is over," said the 22-year-old. "Right now, my most important goal was to win Toronto."

Nadal's victory marked his second trophy in Canada after taking the title in Montreal three years ago. He has now won his last five events, including Queen's and Wimbledon on grass.

The ranking race will tighten next week in Cincinnati, where Federer has been training since his mid-week upset loss here to Frenchman Gilles Simon, whom Kiefer put out in the semi-finals.

Federer has held the top spot for more than four years but could be dethroned in Cincinnati if he were to lose his opening match and Nadal was to lift the trophy, according to ATP calculations.

Germany's Kiefer is still searching for his first career title since winning in Hong Kong in 2000. He has now gone 140 tournaments since that success, losing in 10 finals.

Nadal stands 4-0 over the 31-year-old after playing him three previous times in 2008.

"Rafa is certainly the greatest competitor," said Kiefer.

"This was another great win for him. He's surely the next number one. I lost this match but I can say I

made it to the final."

Nadal came out strong in the opening set, finally achieving a break in the fifth game for a 3-2 lead. He completed the set in 40 minutes by calmly putting Kiefer under more pressure.

The German sent a forehand wide and committed an ill-timed double-fault on setpoint.

The scenario remained the same in the second set as Nadal moved relentlessly ahead.

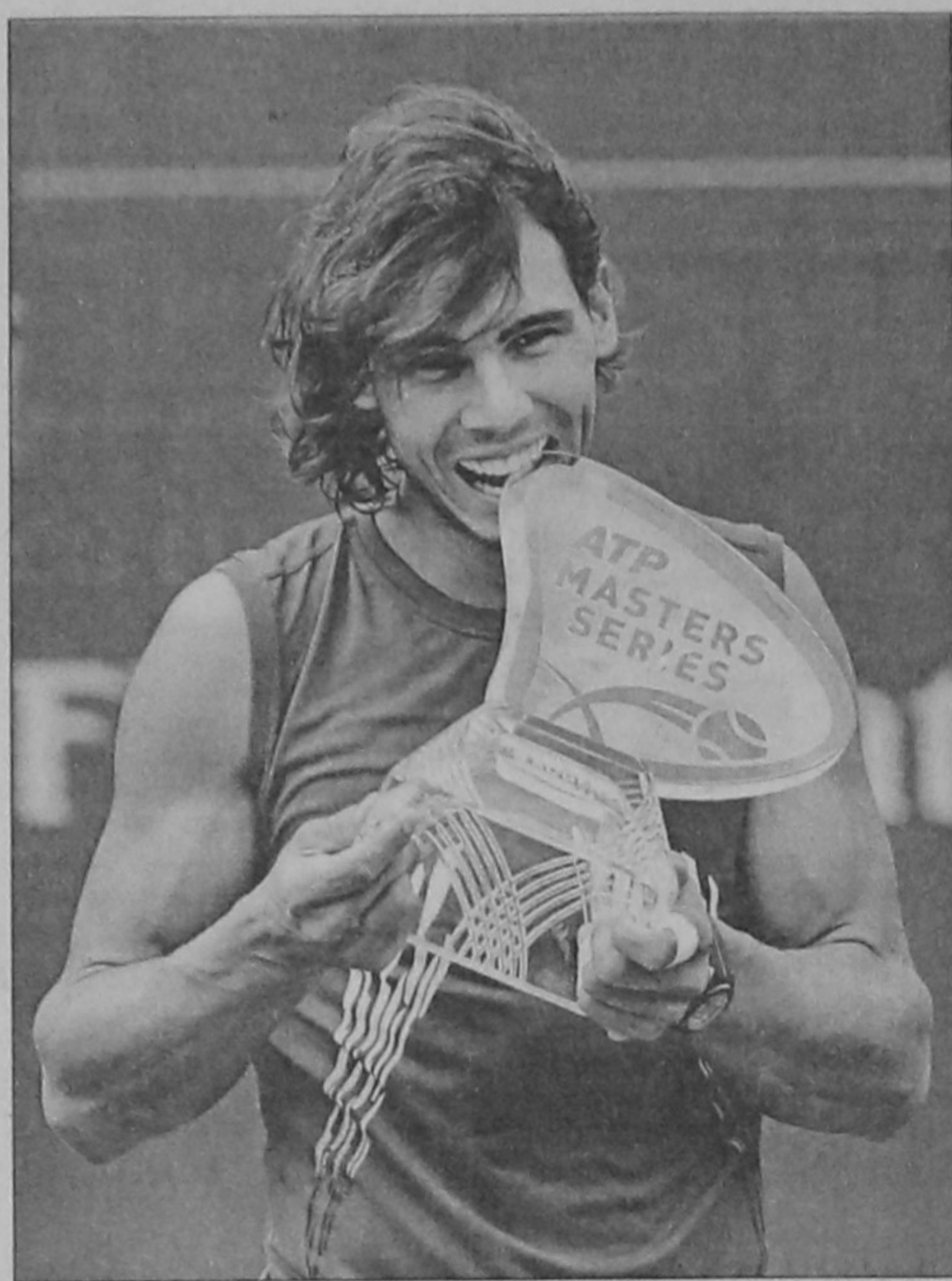
But his progress was temporarily slowed as Kiefer made a stand in the fifth game, taking it to six

deuces before finally folding as Nadal held to lead 3-2.

His spirit broken, Kiefer dropped serve for 2-4 and could only watch as Nadal produced a love game before serving out the win with a concluding fourth break.

Nadal's victory, his 12th Masters triumph, was his 30th from 38 finals and came in the wake of his fourth Roland Garros and first Wimbledon title this year.

Nadal has now won seven titles this season and has racked up 61 match wins against just seven losses.



Spaniard Rafael Nadal bites the winner's trophy after beating Nicolas Kiefer of Germany in the Rogers Cup final in Toronto on Sunday.

Coach backs Nel

Cricket

AFP, Worcester

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur has no doubts Andre Nel can fill the gap left by the injured Dale Steyn when the third Test against England starts at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

Fast bowler Steyn is out of the match after breaking his thumb on the first day of the tour game against Bangladesh A which ended in a draw at New Road here Sunday.

Steyn took seven wickets in the Proteas' 10-wicket second Test win at Headingley which put them 1-0 up in the four-match series with two to play after the drawn opener at Lord's.

His loss is a blow to South Africa as they seek a first series win in England since their re-admission to international cricket.

But in fellow quick Nel, someone who often attracts as much publicity for his verbal spats with opposing batsmen as he does his bowling, Arthur is confident the Proteas have an ideal stand-in.

"Anytime Andre plays for South

Africa he's fired up. I can't wait to see him bowl hard. I think he's going to do really well," Arthur told the BBC.

"We've backed Andre a huge amount over the last couple of months and I've got a feeling he is going to come through this one



ANDRE NEL

fantastically.

"It just shows that when you plan there has to be a queue and some succession in place.

"We have the ability now to lose one guy and be able to bring back a

guy who is a hardened Test-match campaigner. So we are fortunate to do that, but that's how we structured our team."

Nel, who has taken 119 wickets in his 34 Tests, had a comfortable warm-up for his return to centre stage with four wickets and the 31-year-old also weighed in with a maiden first-class fifty against Bangladesh A.

South Africa, who didn't enforce the follow-on, saw AB de Villiers -- whose 174 at Headingley helped provided the platform for victory -- and squad batsman Robin Peterson both make hundreds against Bangladesh in a second innings total of 328 for four declared.

All-rounder Jacques Kallis, 55 not out overnight, did not resume his innings Sunday after sustaining an injury to the fourth finger of his right hand while attempting to take a catch.

However, he did field during Bangladesh's second innings and Arthur said Kallis was "100 percent fine" to face England.

Bangladesh, bowled out for 121 first time around, were 97 for two at the conclusion of this three-day match.

Lee leaves it on CA

Cricket

PTI, New Delhi

Unsure about travelling to Pakistan for next month's Champions Trophy, Australian pace spearhead Brett Lee on Monday said his participation in the event hinges on his cricket board's assessment of the security situation in the troubled country.

"I will wait for an official word from Cricket Australia, only then can I say what my perspective is. I still don't know and it's only after CA and the other security agencies tell me, I can decide on the matter," Lee, who was here to launch the new collection of Timex watches, told reporters.

"I would trust people on the ground and what they have to say. People have been commenting on the matter and they are entitled to their opinions but I don't have any right now."

"I am not an expert on security issues so I would rather wait for the experts to tell me what the situation is," he said when asked about the reluctance of some of his teammates and other players on travelling to Pakistan.

The 31-year-old pacer, however, has no issues travelling to India despite the recent serial blasts in cities like Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

"Personally I don't have any problem travelling to India but on travelling to Pakistan for Champions Trophy, it is Cricket Australia that will decide," he said.

Meanwhile, even as the furore over safety in Pakistan during Champions Trophy was yet to calm down, Australia have raised new security concerns about their four-Test tour of Indian subcontinent in October after back-to-back serial bomb blasts rocked Bangalore and Ahmedabad last week.



BRETT LEE

"We have a principle which supports a consistent process of having a pre-tour inspection and assessment before every tour," Young was quoted as saying by The Australian.

However, Tim May, chief executive of the Federation of International Cricketers Associations (FICA) said it was unfair to compare the Jaipur bombing to the situation in Pakistan.

"Pakistan has had 66 suicide bombings within its country over the past 12 months with over 3000 people killed and 17 of those attacks have been in the venues of the Champions Trophy," May said.

"There was no security assessment that there was the likelihood of any further bombs going off in Jaipur."

Vaughan's lucky

FROM PAGE 17 will again mean no place for Paul Collingwood.

A more likely option seems to be a recall for Collingwood and a four-man attack, which would probably mean that fast bowler Steve Harmison, named in an England squad for the first time since being dropped in New Zealand in March, would not make the starting line-up.

Another likely casualty is Stuart Broad, whose performances as a bowler have not matched his achievements as a lower-order batsman in the first two Tests.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Rifles romped into the final of the Design Zone Second Office Handball League with an all-win record after they beat Prisons Directorate 39-16 at the outer stadium handball ground yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 18-5.

Selim scored eleven and Rabiul contributed eight for the winners while Habib netted four and Monir one for the losers.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Police came from behind to beat CUTE 30-28. With the outcome, Police brightened their chance to reach the final.

Priti contributed 12 and Didar scored seven goals for the Police while Saidul scored eleven and Asad five goals for CUTE.

Bangladesh Police play their last match against bottom side Prisons Directorate today.

WOMEN'S KABADDI

Bangladesh Ansar, Narail, Rajshahi and Faridpur moved into the last four of the Spectra Group National Women's Kabaddi Championship by winning their respective matches at the kabaddi stadium.

Ansar meet Faridpur while Rajshahi take on Narail today at the same venue to book seats for the final which is scheduled for July 30.

On way to the semifinals, Ansar crushed Gaibandha 55-7 while Rajshahi outplayed Jamalpur 46-16.

Narail moved into the semifinal with a 30-13 victory over Jhenidah and Faridpur defeated Jamalpur 33-18 to book their seat.

In the day's other match, Gaibandha beat Jhenidah 37-9.

PIONEER FOOTBALL

Jatrabari Jhatika Sangsad rode on Mamun's hat-trick to drub Dhaka Eleven 6-0 goals in the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League at the Bishreshtha Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 3-0.

Mamun scored four goals while Shimul Sarker and Pavel netted one goal each.

In the day's other match, Swadhinata Krira Sangha blanked Lalbag Tarun Sangha 5-0 at the same venue.

Sohag and Sohail scored two goals each while Alam netted the other.

JUNIOR KARATE

UNB adds: Bangladesh will take part in the 9th Junior Karate championships to be held in Kota Kina Balu in Malaysia from August 24.

Bangladesh Karate Federation will hold a trial to form a national side ahead of the eight-day meet, organised by Malaysia Karate Federation.

Interested karatekas who want to take part in the competition at their own expense and also won medals in National Karate Competition, have been advised to send their entries with a recent passport size photograph at the Karate Federation office by July 30.

Shoaib wants more power

PTI, Karachi

Expressing dissatisfaction over the way Pakistan Cricket Board's selection panel work, skipper Shoaib Malik said he wants to have a say in the final selection of the team.

"The composition of the final eleven is discussed with selectors, myself and the coach try to convince the selectors but the final decision rests with them and it is also mentioned in the players' central contract," Malik said.

According to sources, Malik had asked for more powers in selection matters leading to a heated discussion with the selectors and some Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and governing body officials at the recent meeting held to review the performance of the team in the Asia Cup.

Malik was apparently upset over the exclusion of the wicketkeeper batsman Kamran Akmal from the Asia Cup squad.

"Six teams in the world have wicketkeepers opening their batting in one-dayers. Kamran has scored more centuries than any other keeper in Pakistan's history and I believe his elevation as opener gave us depth in batting or bowling."

"Nasir Jamshed and Salman Butt are doing great job now and team combination is excellent but the decision taken to use Kamran as an opener was combined and we try to follow a plan and get inputs from senior players," he said.

Malik, however, avoided commenting on senior batsman Mohammad Yousuf's decision not to make himself available for the Champions Trophy because of his religious commitments.

"As far as Yousuf is concerned this matter goes to the Pakistan board and they will look into it. They will decide what to do. My job is to organise good cricket and training for the players," Malik said.

Champs League in India

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India-backed (BCCI) Champions League Twenty20 tournament will be played this year in India but may not feature a team from England, Lalit Modi, the Indian Premier League (IPL) commissioner, has told Cricinfo.

Modi's statement comes on a day the English press reported that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), which has been at loggerheads with the BCCI over issues regarding an international Twenty20 tournament, was finalising a 'rival' Champions League, to be held in Abu Dhabi.

The one organised by the Indian board, Modi said, will be held from September 29 to October 8 at three venues -- Jaipur, New Delhi and Mohali. The tournament, details of which will be finalised in Mumbai on Wednesday at a meeting to be attended by officials from the BCCI, Cricket South Africa (CSA) and Cricket Australia (CA), has received "four separate offers of 750 million dollars each" for the commercial and TV rights for a 10-year period, Modi said.

The ECB will not be represented at the meeting and, Modi said, the tournament is also unlikely to include England, which "has been unreasonable" in continuing to object to various rules and regulations, including the ban on players from the unauthorised Indian Cricket League (ICL), the shareholding pattern and profit-sharing

formula.

"We are going ahead with the tournament whether England joins up or not," Modi said. "South Africa and Australia are fully on board with the various rules and regulations but the ECB is being unreasonable and continues to have objections to issues like the shareholding pattern and the governing structure. But we can't wait any longer and we are going ahead. It's now up to the ECB to decide whether it wants to join us or not."

A report in the Sunday Telegraph said the ECB was involved in talks with the royal family of Abu Dhabi over a Champions League to be held there with £750m available over ten years. Asked about the possibility of the ECB organising a Champions League of their own, Modi said "they are welcome to do so" but added that no Indian team would participate in that tournament. "There is no question of any Indian team, including those from the IPL, participating in any other Champions League, whether it's organised by the ECB or anybody else. Anyway, we must not forget that it's the television revenue that decides the fate of such tournaments and it's very obvious where that is headed right now."

The BCCI's Champions League originally planned to include the top 20 Twenty20 domestic teams from India, Australia, South Africa and England. With the ECB's participation in doubt, Modi said a team from Pakistan has been confirmed while the last slot may be filled by a team from New Zealand

or even Sri Lanka.

"I can confirm that Pakistan will send a team because even if the ECB joins us, only one team from England can participate, which is Middlesex," Modi said. "As for New Zealand, Sri Lanka, or even West Indies, they will all be taking part from next year, anyway, when we expand to 12 teams. One of them will send the eighth team this year, if the ECB stays away and refuses to send even Middlesex."

Kent, the other finalist in England's domestic Twenty20 tournament, has players affiliated to the ICL and will not be invited, Modi confirmed. "Kent will not be invited but we will be happy to welcome Middlesex. But for that to happen, the ECB has to take a final call," Modi said.

The dates for the tournament clash with a tour game for Australia ahead of their first Test against India on October 9 but Modi said the issue will be sorted out on Wednesday. Matthew Hayden and Michael Hussey, who are part of the IPL's Chennai Super Kings, which has qualified for the Champions League, are also expected to be part of the Australian team for that practice match in Hyderabad from October 2-5.

Modi added that the Champions League's governing structure, profit-sharing formula and shareholding pattern, to which the ECB had objected, will be revealed after Wednesday's meeting in Mumbai but confirmed that the BCCI owns 50 per cent of the tournament.

Paul pleased

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Paul Collingwood is relieved to be named in England's squad of 13 for the Edgbaston Test, but he wants to return to the eleven after being dropped to make way for Andrew Flintoff. A run of poor scores and Flintoff's return to full fitness hurried Collingwood's exit in Headingley, one he reckons as the worst moment of his career.

"I worried about what this meant for me when I was left out of Headingley and it was without doubt the biggest disappointment of my career," Collingwood told the Independent. "The only thing that comes close to it was when I was left out of the second Test in Pakistan (in 2005) and I worried

whether I would ever make it as a Test player. Thankfully, then I got back in when Strauss (Andrew Strauss) went home for the birth of his child and now I've got the chance to get back straight away now."

Collingwood's Test sack came less than a month after he was banned for four limited-overs matches. He was penalised after England failed to bowl their overs in the required time, but he drew more flak for the controversial run-out of Grant Elliott. Collingwood chose to not withdraw an appeal after Elliott failed to make his crease after colliding with Ryan Sidebottom.

"It's nice to be involved immediately again but my priority now is to make the final ELEVEN," he said. "After all that's happened this year I just want to get things back on

track now. It's been a very difficult season for me but hopefully it will be a season of two halves and the better half starts now."

"I just want this to be the spark, the catalyst, whatever you want to choose, to get me going again. It's been the worst year of my career but once you have got over the hurt you look at it and realise that hope is just around the corner."

"I think you could see from my face when I was told I was out what it meant to me but to be honest I'm glad I was so hurt because it proved to me that I still have the passion and want to play for England as much as ever. I've been in the team for 30-odd Tests and it was hard to get my head round that I wasn't in the team any more."

Collingwood returned to county duties with Durham since his England omission, and scored a quickfire 78, including six sixes, in their Pro40 win over Middlesex. However, he failed to take his side past eventual champions Middlesex in the Twenty20 Cup semifinal on Saturday. His Durham teammate, Steve Harmison, also earned a recall to the England squad, and both might be competing for a place depending on the combination England choose to adopt: either six batsman or five bowlers.

"I don't know if I'm competing with Steve Harmison for a place but I'm as delighted for him that he's back as I am for myself," he said. "The key thing for Harmy is that he's as hungry as ever to play for England, the ambition is really there after all he's been through."

"He could have settled for a quieter life with Durham, but he really wants to play for England, like me, and every time I have been back to Durham people have said to me 'you wouldn't believe how fast Harmy is bowling'," Collingwood said. "I think he's benefited from a break but I hope my break is restricted to one game and I'm back in the team for Wednesday."



PHOTO: STAR

A Police striker (R) prepares to shoot against Team Cute during the Office Handball League match at the handball stadium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Small barrel	59 Church seating	11 Coffee shop vessels
1 Howl at the moon	40 Altar	DOWN	16 Darker than beige
4 Wheat bundle	41 Stellat	1 Acknowledge	20 Individuals
9 Winter-time ailment	42 Impish one	2 "We — not amused"	21 Smell
12 Raw rock	43 Clerk	3 "Certainly"	22 Vatican VIP
13 Greeting	44 Kent's newspaper	4 Detective	23 Wisconsin slangily city
14 Rowboat	45 Moose's cousin	5 Chopper's landing site	27 Stir-fry pan
15 Wisconsin city	46 Ring around the collar?	6 Right angle	29 Poet
17 Sister	47 Wisconsin city	7 Pseudonym	30 And others (Lat.)
18 "What Kind of Fool —?"	48 Listener	8 "Old Folks at Home"	32 Ollie's garner composer
19 Disagree-	49 55 Prophets	9 Wisconsin city	34 Brains
21 Become	50 Past	10 Praise highly	37 Black
24 Transmitt	51 Got a glimpse of	11 Praise highly	39 Over-shoe
25 — good deed	52 Got a glimpse of	12 Praise highly	42 Lucy's ph
26 Got a glimpse of	53 Praise highly	13 Praise highly	44 Firmament
28 Don't just toss away	54 Praise highly	14 Praise highly	45 Entirely
31 Piece of work	55 Praise highly	15 Praise highly	46 Bound
33 Grumpy companion	56 Praise highly	16 Praise highly	50 Moray, e.g.
35 Bed-frame part	57 Praise highly	17 Praise highly	51 Space
36 Right-hand page	58 Praise highly	18 Praise highly	52 Time of your life?
	59 Praise highly	19 Praise highly	53 Present

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