



Did U Know?

Manuel Sanchis Martínez won the European Cup 1965-66 for Real Madrid and his son Manuel Sanchis Hontiyuelc skipped Real Madrid to victory in the UEFA Champions League in 1997-98 and 1999-2000.



What to WATCH

ESPN

English Premier League
West Ham v Bolton
Live from 6:25pm
Everton v Newcastle
Live from 8:55pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Man City v Liverpool
Live from 7:55pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid v Espanyol
Live from 1:00am (Monday)



TALK TURKEY



Ronaldinho

(AC Milan's Brazilian superstar) "I'm very happy, I was hoping to score a goal. This one is for the fans who've made me feel at home." After scoring his first goal in Italian football to give his team a vital 1-0 victory over city rivals Inter last week.

White flies in for McGain

AFP, Hyderabad

Australian selectors on Saturday picked untested Cameron White to replace injured fellow leg-spinner Bryce McGain in the squad for the upcoming series against India.

White, 25, who captains Victoria and is also a useful lower order batsman, has taken nine wickets in 21 one-day internationals, but has yet to make his Test debut.

His selection meant left-arm spinner Beau Casson was once again overlooked after making his debut on the West Indian tour earlier this year.

Australian chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch, who arrived here early Saturday, said White was familiar with Indian conditions after leading the Australian 'A' team here last month.

"We feel that Cameron's right-arm leg-spin and experience in Indian conditions is the correct option and will provide a good balance to our slow bowling attack," Hilditch said.

"Cameron's bowling has continued to improve over the past year at inter-state level and his powerful batting adds extra depth and versatility to the squad."

"He has performed well in Australian colours since his return to the one-day international squad earlier this year and he has now been rewarded with inclusion in the Test squad."

Australia had picked the untried duo of McGain, 36, and off-spinner Jason Krejza for the Indian tour to fill the void created by the retirements of Shane Warne and Stuart McGill.

McGain was, however, asked to return home after he failed to recover from a shoulder injury sustained during the 'A' tour of India.

White is expected to join the squad by Monday, in time for the first Test starting in Bangalore on Thursday.

The remaining three Tests will be played in Mohali, New Delhi and Nagpur.

More power to batsmen

CRICINFO, undated

The batting team will decide when to introduce either the second or the third Powerplay during their innings, starting with the one-day series between New Zealand and Bangladesh in October. The change from the earlier scenario, in which the fielding side decided when Powerplays would be taken, is part of the ICC's new playing conditions that started taking effect from October 1.

The ICC Chief Executives' Committee had met in June and unanimously approved certain changes. The amendment to the Powerplay rule also allows the captain three fielders outside the 30-yard circle during the second and third Powerplay. The previous rule allowed the captain to have two fielders in the outfield during the first Powerplay, and three in the others.

The committee also aimed to curb players from taking comfort breaks during a match by stating that substitute fielders will be only permitted in cases of injury, illness or other wholly acceptable reasons, which should be limited to extreme circumstances.

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Players of Bangladesh cricket team stretch before a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sourav upbeat despite fever

CRICINFO, undated

Sourav Ganguly, who is playing for India A against New Zealand A, is suffering from a fever and a sore throat. He did not field for a part of the first day of the Test in Chennai but is confident he will be able to bat.

"I came all the way for the match and I'm looking forward to it," Ganguly told DNA. "Suddenly I felt feverish. I've also got a sore throat but these things happen. I'm looking forward to a long session tomorrow. I'm confident."

"I want to spend as much time in the middle as I can. I did not sit in the dressing room when we fielded. I fielded in the first session and the last session too."

Ganguly hasn't played competitive cricket since August and his inclusion in the India A team is an attempt to give him match practice before the Test series against Australia. New Zealand A batted solidly on the first day, reaching 270 for 3 with opener Aaron Redmond making 105.

New Tigers raring to go

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers got back to business yesterday after Eid holidays to prepare for the coming home series against New Zealand.

The series kicks off with the first one-day international of the three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on October 9. It is all set to see some new Tigers who will be making their international debuts in the series following mass resignation of several national players, who left the city yesterday to play the unauthorised Indian Cricket League (ICL) under the banner of 'Dhaka Warriors'.

The Rafiqul Alam-led selection panel is likely to announce a 14-member team tomorrow for the one-day series in which Nayeem Islam is likely to feature.

Veteran players like Tushar Imran, Rajin Saleh and Nafis Iqbal were also in consideration given the fact that the team has a lack of experience, but there is a big question on the fitness of Nafis, who was

recalled to the senior side after more than two years gap.

But on top of everything, the question remains whether Mohammad Ashraful will be retained as captain for the series. There have been talks about a change in the captaincy following the debacle in Australia, but the issue was out of public eyes following the ICL episode. "Let's see what happens" was the answer of a board member when asked about the issue. But what was learnt that it was yet to be decided in the highest forum of the board.

But after the 'ICL cyclone', the most frustrating fact for the national selectors was the unavailability of middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan, who is unlikely to be fit again before the two-match Test series, which starts from October 17 at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium. Rokibul injured his right thumb while batting in the first ODI against Australia in Darwin last month.

On the other hand Syed Rasel will only be considered in the side if national physio Darryn Lifson declares the left-arm seamer, who has some problem with his elbow,

fully fit.

But the Bangladesh camp were however upbeat as left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak said yesterday during the practice session at Mirpur that they would 'definitely focus on winning a match or two in the series'.

It was turn for the experienced spinner to say something after the holidays: "At least we have to try our best to make our presence felt in the series as a team and I am hopeful that we will be able to do that because the team are charged up to show their best."

"In the last series (in Australia) our bowling was not bad but the batting let us down. I think we need a few big innings from players like (Mohammad) Ashraful in the series," said Razzak.

"Our main focus is to get back in rhythm as a team as we did it during the last World Cup. I am hopeful that it will happen in this series against New Zealand," he said.

Razzak also believed that it is a great advantage for them as they are going to play at home after all that has happened.

"We are going to play in our own

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Badal, Babloo survive crash

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation vice-president Badal Roy and member Hasanuzzaman Khan Babloo returned home from hospital after being injured in a car accident near Ashulia on the outskirts of Dhaka on October 2.

"It was a dangerous accident. I really don't know how, but somehow we survived," said Badal, chairman of the BFF's National Team Management Committee and a former national footballer.

While returning from the BKSP in Savar where the national team are currently in camp and celebrated Eid, the car that was carrying the two former national footballers collided with a bus at around 1.45pm.

All three men, including the driver, sustained injuries with Babloo ending up with a broken collarbone and Badal sustaining head injuries. The driver injured his chest.

The bus was later caught by locals and a case has been filed.

Badal and Babloo went to BKSP to meet with the national players on the occasion of Eid.

Ponting happy with security

AFP, Hyderabad

Australia captain Ricky Ponting said Tuesday his team was satisfied with security arrangements for the upcoming Test series in India following recent blasts in the country.

Fears were raised after 25 people were killed and more than 100 wounded as bombs went off recently across New Delhi, one of the venues for the four-Test series starting in Bangalore on October 9.

"We are keeping an eye on the situation," Ponting told reporters here.

"We are in constant touch with security people to know what they think of the situation. They are comfortable with the security provided to us and we are comfortable too."

"I must say we are happy with the arrangements."

Vice-captain Michael Clarke

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Mitchell finds no reverse

PTI, Hyderabad

Mitchell Johnson proved pick of the Australian bowlers but the left-arm quick is far from happy with the little reverse swing he managed in the warm-up match against Board President's XI.

In Australia's three-pronged pace battery, Brett Lee and Stuart Clarke pick themselves with Johnson vying with Doug Bollinger for the remaining slot. Johnson's ability to reverse swing the ball tilts the balance to some extent in his favour but the pacer said he expected the ball to do more.

"We did not get the reverse swing we were looking for," said a dejected Johnson, who scalped four Board President's XI wickets.

"We tried our best but the ball was pretty soft and we could not shine it. There was not much reverse swing out there," he said.

Overall, the track was flat and that made life difficult for the pacers, said the 26-year-old bowler.

"It was pretty flat for us. That's why I was trying to keep it as straight as possible. Key is to hit the good areas and be patient," he added.

They play too many shots: Oram

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

New Zealand cricket team arrived in the capital on Tuesday night to play three one-day internationals and two Tests against the Tigers.

The Black Caps were almost overlooked since their arrival because of the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays during which all newspapers remained closed. It was however not all quiet for Daniel Vettori's men yesterday when they came to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur for practice.

The visiting team management however was reluctant to let their players talk before today's official press conference. But they finally allowed all-rounder Jacob Oram to speak to the reporters after completing the practice session.

"We had the Champions Trophy postponed which means we didn't have any cricket after the England tour which finished in June," said the big-all-rounder.

"We came over here 3-4 days earlier than the original schedule only just to get used to the humidity and the pitches."

Considering the conditions, Oram believed that it would be a tough series for them despite the fact that they have a very good record against the Tigers in previous encounters.

"We are here to win. But it is going to be a lot tougher than it was back in New Zealand. The conditions are so different as I see. In Tests I think it's about which side has flexibility and depth in different conditions," he observed.

"Maybe the Bangladeshis did not do that when in New Zealand, so we have got a challenge here."

The wicket is probably drier, flatter, slower and probably going to assist the spinner more," Oram added.

And then the obvious question was about the players' going off to play the unauthorised Indian Cricket League (ICL) and its consequences. The New Zealand all-rounder however was diplomatic about the issue and bracketed it as 'just a part of the current landscape of international cricket'.

He was even not ready to use the word 'sympathy' for the players who were penalised for joining ICL, rather he explained the whole the matter from a professional's point of view.

"Sympathy is a wrong word, (although) I understand their decision. I suppose if they finish the international career then it's their decision, I have got no problem with it."

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New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori (L) makes a diving stop while Daniel Flynn (C) is about to take a superb low flying catch as Ross Taylor gets ready for his turn during a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur

PHOTO: STAR

Ganguly back for India

Cricket

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India's former captain Sourav Ganguly has been chosen in the team for the first two Tests against visiting Australia, giving him a chance to prolong his international career that had come under cloud.

Ganguly, the 36-year-old left-hander got a call-up again as a member of the 15-man squad chosen by the new national selection committee, headed by former opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth, which met in Mumbai on October 1.

The opener was given a chance despite not featuring in the domestic Irani Trophy competition recently, which is viewed as the traditional selection trial for Tests, sparking speculation about the future of his career.

Ganguly was under pressure to retain his place in the side after scoring just 96 in a three-Test series

in Sri Lanka recently. Besides, he has averaged 31.73 in twenty Tests against Australia with just one century, well below his overall average of 41.74.

However, unlike the previous selection committee headed by former middle-order batsman Dilip Vengsarkar, the new selection panel kept faith in senior players in the first two Tests.

The four-Test series against visiting Australia begins in Bangalore on October 9 and the remaining matches are to be played at Mohali, Delhi and Nagpur.

TEAM

Anil Kumble (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, VVS Laxman, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Munaf Patel, Rudra Pratap Singh, Subramaniam Bardhan and Amit Mishra.

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Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla is lifted by his BCCI President's XI teammates after capturing his fifth wicket, that of Australian Peter Siddle, on the third day of the practice match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP