

Malinga getting central contract

CRICINFO, undated
Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has on Tuesday decided to reinstate fast bowler Lasith Malinga's central contract.

Malinga was earlier not handed the contract on the excuse that he had not represented his country for a sufficient period of time due to a knee injury which ruled him out for eight months. The decision was taken by the interim committee.

Duleep Mendis, SLC's chief executive, said Malinga would be given his contract from the period it was handed to the other contracted players and that he would receive the back payments as well. A media release from Austin Management stated Malinga hopes to regain full fitness and return to first-class cricket soon having recovered from the injury. "I am now pain-free and working really hard on my physical rehabilitation with the help of the Sri Lanka Cricket physiotherapists," Malinga said. "I am really looking forward to bowling again and want to regain my place in the Sri Lankan team as soon as possible."

Malinga sustained the injury during the CB Series in Australia in February.

Milestones

FROM PAGE 17
Meanwhile, Sachin Tendulkar touches another milestone during his innings of 68, equalling Australian Allan Border's world record of 90 innings of fifty and above (27 hundreds and 63 fifties). Tendulkar has so far scored 39 hundreds and 51 fifties. Steve Waugh (32 hundreds and 50 fifties) and Brian Lara (34 hundreds and 48 fifties) are on joint third with 82 innings of fifty and above.

Kiwi captain

FROM PAGE 17
We didn't quite get the results we were after in terms of a 3-0 one-day series win everything else went according to plan," he said. "In the first one-dayer Bangladesh played really well and we were a little bit underdone and played poorly. It's as simple as that. But we rectified the problems as the tour went on and showed that we can compete and do well in these conditions," Vettori added. The New Zealand captain said that he was always pushing his young players to get better. "I don't think you are ever satisfied. I am one of those who would constantly push players to get better. They are very, very good players and we are just trying to get the experience in them," he said when asked whether he was satisfied with the performance of some of the younger players.

Vettori praised the efforts of the Bangladesh young players but said that they still had a long way to go. "They have improved with time. They have a couple of good batsmen. Shakib (Al Hasan) had a very good series. I think probably a couple of their bowlers were a little bit off the mark but Shakib saved them. There are some good players but they still have a long way to go," he said.

Maradona

FROM PAGE 17
Maradona faced competition for the job from Carlos Bianchi, the former coach of Boca Juniors, whom he led to four national league titles, San Lorenzo coach Miguel Angel Russo and Sergio Batista who took the Under-23 squad to Olympic gold in Beijing in August.

FACTFILE

Factfile on Diego Maradona after he was named Argentina football coach on Tuesday.
Name: Diego Armando Maradona
Date of birth: October 30 1960
Place of birth: Buenos Aires
Clubs: Argentinos Juniors (1976-80), Boca Juniors (1981-82), Barcelona (ESP) (1982-84), Napoli (ITA) (1984-91), FC Sevilla (ESP) (1992-93), Newell's Old Boys (1993), Boca Juniors (1995-97), 1st Division debut: 20/10/1976, Argentinos Juniors v Talleres Cordoba (0-1)
Argentina national side:
Caps: 91
Goals: 34
1st cap: 27/02/1977, Argentina v Hungary (5-1)
Last cap: 25/06/1994, Argentina v Greece (4-0 - failed a dope test)
Career scoring record: 345 goals in 678 matches
Honours
World Cup: winner 1986, finalist 1990. Four tournaments (1982/86/90/94)
Argentine championship: Champions 1981
UEFA Cup: Winner 1989 with Napoli
Spanish Cup: Winner, 1983 with Barcelona
Serie A titles: 1987, 1990 with Napoli
Italian Cup: Winner 1987 with Napoli.
Awards
European player of the year: 1986
South American player of the year: 1979, 1980, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1992
World Cup Best Player: 1986
FIFA Award as best ever player: 2000 tied with Pelé of Brazil.



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: Tigers skipper Mohammad Ashraf (R) shakes hand with his New Zealand counterpart at the end of play on the second and final Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

A lost opportunity

FROM PAGE 17
good balls alone outside off stump. I think that's working well. We are not nicking anywhere near as often as we were six to 12 months ago but we are finding other ways to get out," he added. When asked whether there was belief in the Bangladesh dressing room that beating New Zealand was possible, Siddons said: "We did believe that we can beat New Zealand in our home turf. They are a little inexperienced in batting especially in our conditions. We thought we could bowl them out for a really competitive total and we proved that we can do that. But our batting is inconsistent still and we rely on one or two people to do all the work for us. We should bat better in our conditions."

He also expressed his disappointment over Zunaed Siddiqui's inexplicable charge down the wicket to get stumped against Daniel Vettori with less than two overs to go to close on the fourth day. "He still has not come up with a reasonable explanation. No coach in the world can stop a player from doing that. It was unacceptable and inexplicable," he said. Captain Mohammad Ashraf, who failed to reach double figures in the Test series after a bright start

in the ODI leg with an unbeaten half-century, also admitted that it could have been a much better series if the top order had some contribution. "Over all performance in the series as a team was not bad but it could have been much better if top the four batsmen including me could have scored some runs," he said. He also said that their confidence after the series was good which will help them in the coming series in South Africa.

SCOREBOARD
Complete scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Wednesday:
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 262-6 decl (Ryder 91, McCullum 66)
BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 13-3)
Tamin c Taylor b Vettori 24
Zunaed st McCullum b Vettori 4
Ashraf lbw b Vettori 0
Rajin lbw b Vettori 0
Mehrab lbw b Patel 7
Mushfiqur c McCullum b O'Brien 7
Shakib lbw b Vettori 49
Mashrafe c Flynn b O'Brien 48
Razzak not out 16
Shahadat c Vettori b O'Brien 4

Extras: (lb-2, nb-2, w-6) 10
Total: (For nine wkts decl in 58.1 overs) 169
Did not bat: Mahbubul Alam.
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-13, 3-13, 4-26, 5-44, 6-44, 7-122, 8-155, 9-169.
Bowler O M R W
O'Brien 13.1 3 31 3
Patel 15 6 45 1
Vettori 19 6 66 5
Redmond 2 0 3 0
NEW ZEALAND: Second innings
How c Razzak b Mashrafe 8
Razzak not out 30
Ryder not out 39
Extras: (b-1, nb-1) 2
Total: (For one wkt in 31 overs) 79
Did not bat: Taylor, McCullum, Flynn, Vettori, Mills, Patel, O'Brien, Elliott.
Fall of wickets: 1-8.
Bowler O M R W
Mashrafe 5 1 14 1
Mahbubul 3 1 12 0
Razzak 7 1 12 0
Shakib 2 0 2 0
Shahadat 6 6 20 0
Zunaed 2 0 2 0
Ashraf 1 0 4 0
Mehrab 4 0 11 0
Tamin 1 0 1 0
Result: Match drawn and New Zealand won two-Test series 1-0.
Man-of-the-match: Daniel Vettori.
Man-of-the-series: Daniel Vettori.

Long week for Pietersen

Cricket
BBC ONLINE, undated
England captain Kevin Pietersen has admitted he just wants to get through the week in Antigua ahead of Saturday's 20-million-dollar Stanford Superstars showdown. Four players missed Tuesday's one-run victory over Trinidad and Tobago with a stomach bug, and Pietersen said the financial incentive no longer mattered. "Yes, it's a lot of dosh but the longer this week goes on the more I want to get it over with," said Pietersen. "We have got four guys sick and another couple are not well tonight." The players who win Saturday's Twenty20 clash between England and the Superstars, led by West Indies batsman Chris Gayle and featuring Shivnarine Chanderpaul, will each collect 1 million dollars. Stuart Broad, Luke Wright, Ryan Sidebottom and James Anderson were all ruled out of Tuesday's game, leaving England with just 11 fit players. Asked if ill players would take to the field on Saturday to ensure a

chance of sharing the prize, Pietersen insisted his team valued their health over the money. "I am not going to take people on the park who are not fit to play for England," he said. "It is like any other game." Andrew Flintoff is on his last legs, so it is just a case of getting the boys right for Saturday now. "The lads are just not feeling special at the moment, but I am sure there will be not many missing the bus on Saturday." Pietersen expressed concerns with the Antigua pitch, suggesting the wicket could detract from Saturday's spectacle. "When spinners play such a big part in a one-day fixture, it's not a special wicket," he said. "I wish we could have come here and played on a wicket where we could have entertained a lot more." "If you've got 700 million people watching on Saturday, so I've been told, you want a wicket where spinners don't really play a part. It's very, very disappointing for us." The BBC's cricket correspondent in Antigua, Jonathan Agnew, says the Stanford Super Series is fast turning into a nightmare week for England -- and backer Sir Allen Stanford.

"Four of the England team have gone down with some sort of bug, and it almost makes you feel sorry for Sir Allen, who's not had much of a week," said Agnew, referring to the Texan billionaire's ill-advised pose with partners of the England players. "Many of us flagged (the competition) up in the summer as being really poorly thought through. "I don't blame the players at all, they've conducted themselves really well. But if the England and Wales Cricket Board administrators here aren't feeling some regret I'd be disappointed and rather surprised." "You don't sell your international team off to an American billionaire on an ego trip." Agnew added he feared for the impact the Super Series would have on English plans for a domestic international-flavoured Twenty20 league. "Worse is the damage this could do to the English Premier League which is being launched in 2010, and into which Sir Allen has already been invited to put a team," he said. "I wonder if many counties out there think it's a good thing to have the Stanford Superstars parading themselves in that, given what they see here."

Day One India's

FROM PAGE 17
sweep over midwicket to force the leg-spinner out of the attack. The star batsman reached his 51st half-century with a four off Stuart Clark, who conceded just 29 runs off his 21 overs but failed to take a wicket. The hosts lost in-form opener Virender Sehwag (one) and the usually dependable Rahul Dravid for 11 after Anil Kumble won the toss and elected to bat on an easy-paced track. Sehwag had faced just two balls when he was trapped leg before off Brett Lee (1-70) in the third over of the day. Dravid hit Johnson for a four to fine leg but then edged the bowler to Matthew Hayden, celebrating his 37th birthday, in the slips. The fourth and final Test will be played in Nagpur from November 6-10.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at close on the first day

of the third Test between India and Australia at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi on Wednesday:
INDIA: First innings
Gambhir not out 149
Sehwag lbw b Lee 1
Dravid c Hayden b Johnson 11
Tendulkar c Haddin b Johnson 68
Laxman not out 54
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-4) 13
Total: (For three wkts in 89 overs) 296
To bat: Ganguly, Dhoni, Kumble, Zaheer, Sharma, Mishra.
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-27, 3-157.
Bowler O M R W
Lee 19 1 70 1
Clark 21 8 29 0
Johnson 17 1 69 2
Watson 13 4 41 0
White 4 0 27 0
Clarke 9 0 34 0
Katich 6 1 17 0
Toss: India
Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL) and Aleem Dar (PAK)
Third umpire: Suresh Shastri (IND)
Match referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

Stomach bug bugs England

CRICINFO, undated
England's preparations for their 20-million-dollar match against Stanford Superstars on Saturday has been hit by a stomach bug infiltrating the camp. Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Luke Wright and Ryan Sidebottom all missed England's final warm-up against Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday night, and there were injury concerns for Owais Shah and Matt Prior. Shah tweaked his ankle while sliding in the outfield, while Prior took a blow on the elbow. Middlesex's Dawid Malan and Steve Finn were drafted into the England party, though neither is expected to play on Saturday. Despite the stomach bug affecting the squad, England scraped home with a thrilling one-run victory, as Trinidad's tail couldn't quite chase down 141.

Steyn may be back against Bangladesh

CRICINFO, undated
All-rounder Johann Louw has been added to South Africa's ODI squad ahead of the home series against Kenya and Bangladesh, which starts with the first ODI against Kenya on October 31 at Bloemfontein. "It was originally our intention only to add a 14th player to the squad as a replacement for Ryan McLaren after the Kenya matches," acting national selection convener Gerald Majola said. "But the fact of the matter is that neither Graeme Smith nor Dale Steyn is likely to play against Kenya which would leave us with only 11 players." McLaren had to opt out after Kent refused to release him from his Kolpak contract, Smith is suffering from a tennis elbow and Steyn had been hit by a mystery virus -- he has since recovered from the illness.

A release from Cricket South Africa said Steyn bowled in the nets at the De Beers Diamond Oval on Tuesday. However, Arthur felt he was operating only at 60 per cent and expected the fast bowler to return for the one-off Twenty20 international against Bangladesh on November 5.

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur said: "I have been most impressed by Johann's commitment, training ethos and skills level during the two days of our training camp to date and I am delighted to have him in the squad." Louw has played 115 List A games, both in South Africa as well for counties in England, and has picked up over 1000 runs and 150 wickets. He played for Northamptonshire in 2008, which followed a successful 2007-08 season at home with the Dolphins. Louw finished as his team's leading wicket-taker in the four-day, one-day and Pro20 (Twenty20) competitions, with 77 scalps at 16.68. In 12 one-dayers, he took 24 wickets at average of 14.62 and economy-rate of 63.92. Majola, CSA's chief executive, will continue in his selection role till the recently appointed Mike Procter takes charge from December 1 after fulfilling his duties as an ICC match referee.

DDCA honours Tendulkar

PTI, New Delhi
The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) yesterday felicitated Sachin Tendulkar for becoming the highest run-getter in Tests. In a simple function held before the start of the third Test between India and Australia at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium, DDCA president Arun Jaitley presented the star batsman a pair of shoes and congratulated him on crossing 12,000 runs in the longer version of the game. Indian opener and Delhi captain Virender Sehwag was also present at the function. The 35-year-old Tendulkar surpassed former West Indies captain Brian Lara's record of 11,953 runs during the second Test against Australia which India won by 320 runs in Mohali.

Glorious

FROM PAGE 17
I was getting 60s and 70s, a hundred was just around the corner," he pointed out, also recalling a forgettable debut on his home ground against Sri Lanka two years ago. From the look of it, that rush of blood looked around the corner. He was batting on 99 when he gave Shane Watson the charge. But audacity transforms into genius when it comes off.

"The only option I had was to go for it. There were fielders all around me, and it could have been risky trying to pinch a single," he said, adding the shot wasn't "premeditated" at all. Between two back-to-back Test innings, Gambhir has showed he has the hunger for the big score as well as the versatility to counter varied situations. "Mohali was different in the way that I was batting with a lot of freedom. We already were 200 runs ahead so I could play my shots. But here it was important to get set. Brett Lee and Stuart Clark were bowling very well in the morning session." His batting was bordering on perfection on Wednesday. He buckled down with Sachin Tendulkar when Australia were on top, scratched around when Sachin Tendulkar was in sublime touch, and then unleashed his own version of "shoot on sight" as India finished in control of the third Test. Like he did against the swinging old ball. "I bat out of my crease in Test cricket to meet the reverse swing early, and negate it as much as I can." However, he knows he has to carry on. "We have got a good start to the Test match, but it's important for us to continue with the good work and score enough runs to get them out twice." Batting on 149, Gambhir looks set for bigger things only if he doesn't repeat what he used to. The only difference is, he'll be forgiven this time.

Nafis hits ton, Sylhet refuse to play

SPORTS REPORTER
Sylhet refused to play as their rain-interrupted third-round match against Barisal in the Mirzapore Tea 10th National Cricket League was called off yesterday near close of play. The other matches ended in draws as nowhere the two opponents managed to complete their first innings. Each of the teams got three points according to bylaws but Barisal went close to bag four points at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, where things got messy due to lack of knowledge about rules. It was learned that the match was allowed to get beyond the regulation playing time although it is permitted only when there is possibility of a result. However, the match was finally called off after the Maghrib Azan when Sylhet complained about bad light, informed a tournament committee official.

Barisal, chasing Sylhet's 163 all out, were 160 for five after 43.2 overs. There were some altercations between players and umpires according to reports and the match referee later had a session with the captains. No comment was available from the match referee though. The tournament committee will decide the fate of the match after getting the match referee's report. Defending champions Khulna were 113-5 in reply to Chittagong's 302 at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium where local opener Nafis Iqbal hammered 122 not out. Resuming on 53, the out-of-favour Test cricketer carried his bat, hitting 14 boundaries in 306 deliveries. At the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, the home side were 117-6 in reply to Dhaka's 179 built around opener Javed Omar's 82 off 170 balls. All three four-day matches started on the third day after rain washed out more than half of the time.

Long gap worries

FROM PAGE 17
we can't afford dropping points although it is the early stage of the league. We'll go for winning and I believe our team have the capability to beat Mohammedan and maintain our good run," added the Oranges manager. Brothers have no injury worries but Mohammedan will miss Hassan Al Mamun, who is ruled out after picking up hamstring damage during Bangladesh's match against Myanmar in Kuala Lumpur. Mohammedan coach Maruf admitted that he was a little anxious about combination as seven of his players busy with the national team for most part of the month. "I would go for a slow start because I fear of initial problems in combination. But as the match will progress, I feel the players will pick up the tempo," said Maruf, who was chosen to attend a higher coaching programme in Sri Lanka this month but did not receive permission from the club. "I have tried to maintain the players' fitness over the past weeks and the overall condition is fine," said Maruf adding that he will stick to the same 4-4-2 line-up that had destroyed Muktiyoddha.

IBAIS-IUBAT final today

SPORTS REPORTER
The final of the Mentors' Inter-private University football tournament between IBAIS and IUBAT will begin at 3pm at the Army Stadium today. IBAIS defeated Northern University 3-1 while IUBAT edged North South University 8-7 in a marathon tiebreaker in the two semifinals on Tuesday. Brig Gen (ret) MA Maleq, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser, will distribute trophies as chief guest.

Siddheshwari ride on 6-star Papiya

SPORTS REPORTER
Papiya slammed a double hat-trick to keep Siddheshwari Girls School alive for a place in the semifinals of the Dhaka Metropolitan Women's school football tournament with a massive 7-0 win over Azimpur girls at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday. Player-of-the-match Papiya scored six while Fatema added the third for the winners, who will take on Scholastica in their last Group B match today. Meanwhile, Vigarunnissa Noon School crushed Natun Kuri 11-0 to join Aga Khan International School in the semifinals. Pinky, the find of the tournament, slotted four goals but her teammate Habiba, who also netted four, stole the best player's award. Adiba, Mariam and Farzana added one goal apiece for Vigarunnissa, who emerged Group D champions with maximum six points. In another match, Nawshin's early strike helped Mastermind end with a consolation 1-0 victory against Summerfield. Today's matches: BIT v Rajshahi (1.45pm); Scholastica v Siddheshwari (2.50pm); AIS v Natun Kuri (3.55pm).

SHOUHARDO CUP Atiq, Momin slot hatricks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail
Atiq slammed a hat-trick to help Tangail Zila Kira Shangsha brush aside Govt MM Ali College Kagmari 5-0 in the second match of the Shouharo Cup football tournament here at the Tangail Stadium yesterday. Atiq, adjudged man of the match, scored in the 18, 49 and 69 minutes while Awal added two more for the winners in the 32 and 47 minutes. The day's other match also saw a hat-trick as Momin's three goals steered Govt Saadat College Karatia to thrash Tangail Police 4-0 at the same ground. Man-of-the-match Momin scored in the 4, 18 and 36 minutes while Hiron Joarder scored the rest in 14th minute. Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge will face Maulana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) while Tangail Municipality meet Govt Saadat College in today's matches.



Winners of the Navana Toyota Captain Cup golf tournament pose with the chief guest Area Commander Savar Area and GOC 9-Infantry Division Major General Mohammad Ashab Uddin at the Savar Golf Club recently.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Dorsal area
5 Humor
8 Hint
12 Reverberate
13 Com-mo-tion
14 Dumbo's "wings"
15 Okla-homa city
16 Play-ground game
17 Child's play
18 Cook-book entry
20 With tartness
22 Melody
23 "Ariadne" - Naxos
24 Coconut juice
27 Historical building
32 Pitching stat
33 Sch-named for an evangelist
34 Whopper
35 Fred Mertz, e.g.
38 Web journal

DOWN
1 Brewery
2 Zits
3 Stylish
4 Alaskan island
5 Napo-leon's downfall
6 McKin-ley's first lady
7 Frat-party garb
8 Atomic clock
9 Disem-lement
10 Caspian Sea feeder
11 Catch of fish
19 Circle ratio
21 Soun-drel
24 Terme or Tills
25 Savings-plan acronym
26 Cell-phone alterna-tive
28 Schedule abbr.
29 Full exposure
30 "Flying Down lo-"
31 St. Bernard's burden
36 Jenny Craig patron
37 Meadow
38 Belt fastener
41 Yours truly
42 Hunger throe
43 Medley
44 Present time?
46 Tense
47 Actress Jessica
48 Rod partner
51 Barcelona bear

Solution time: 25 mins.
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ALIE WRY WAGE
CAPEFEAR OPEN
KNAVE GIBBES
BOSS AXLE EBB
ABC PRION COO
SEB ALCON SKAT
OPPOSE HEADA
SEED GARAJEAM
LOBE GUR ZANE
ONTR SEE SABLE

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CRYPTOQUIP
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Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A BIRD'S CALL WARNS OTHERS OF IMMINENT DANGER, COULD THAT BE THOUGHT OF AS A FLIER ALARM?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals C