



American Rachel Flatt performs her free skating routine on the second day of the Figure Skating Cup of Russia, the fifth leg of the ISU Grand Prix series, in Moscow yesterday. She took the second place in the competition.

Jeetan recalled for Adelaide

CRICINFO, undated

The offspinner Jeetan Patel will join New Zealand's squad for the second Test starting in Adelaide on Friday. Patel has been named to replace the fast bowler Kyle Mills, who missed out on a spot at the Gabba and will be released so he can play in the State Championship for Auckland this week.

SQUAD

Aaron Redmond, Jamie How, Jesse Ryder, Ross Taylor, Brendon McCullum (wk), Daniel Flynn, Peter Fulton, Grant Elliott, Gareth Hopkins (wk), Daniel Vettori (capt), Tim Southee, Mark Gillespie, Jeetan Patel, Iain O'Brien, Chris Martin.

LOCAL SNIPS

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wicket defeat to Thakurgaon at Dinajpur's Bara Maidan.

Chasing 216 runs, Nilphamari took only 44 overs to claim the victory and set up a meeting with Dinajpur in the final.

Batting first, Thakurgaon scored 215 in 49.2 overs with Lipu's 62 and 58 from Saiful. In reply, Nilphamari's Arman slammed 84 while Shuve hit an unbeaten 68 to confirm the victory.

DIVII FOOTBALL

Kawran Bazar Pragati Sangha and Uttar Baridhara Club registered identical 3-0 victories in the Second Division Football League yesterday.

Tara slammed home two goals before Sanjid added the third as Kawran Bazar defeated Little Friends Club.

The Baridhara side also had a two-goal hero, Dulal, who struck in the eighth and 49th minutes. Swapan scored the other goal against Euro Famous.

REAL ESTATE FOOTBALL

The first edition of the Supercricket Real Estate Champions Trophy will begin on November 22 at the Banani Chairmanbari ground.

All twelve members of the Real Estate Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) will take part in the 7-a-side football event which will be sponsored by Lafarge Surma Cement.

Organised by The Source, the tournament will have other attractions like fire-spinning to add spice to the event.

Asif fires

FROM PAGE 17
Imam also won bronze in the individual 10m Air Rifles. He scored 689.8 points.

In the women's 50-meter prone, shooter Sabrina Sultana won the event's individual bronze medal scoring 581 after also finishing third in the team event with Tripti Dutta and Sharmin Shilpa.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Shooting Federation president Maj Gen Mohammad Ashab Uddin and acting general secretary Ferdous Ara Khanam congratulated the shooters for their feat and hoped that they will earn more gold medals from the meet.

Defeat

FROM PAGE 17
Bangladeshi supporters have been showing their anger towards some particular players who didn't even respond to them.

"We watched the match sacrificing many things but it was frustrating the way they performed and some players' behaviour was also frustrating," said a supporter.

Skipper offers to resign?

Cricket

PTI, Bangalore

Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has reportedly offered to resign from the high-profile post following paceman Rudra Pratap Singh's exclusion from the ODI team but the BCCI vehemently denied the development.

According to television reports, Dhoni had a disagreement with the selectors during the meeting on Thursday to pick the team for the fourth and fifth matches of the ongoing series against England.

Dhoni was unhappy that the selectors decided to drop R P Singh and include Irfan Pathan in his place and offered to resign, the television reports claimed, quoting an unnamed source close to one of the selectors.

The BCCI, however, was quick to rubbish the reports. "I

can't respond to something that is being floated around by somebody", BCCI secretary N Srinivasan said.

The Indian players are currently here to play the fourth match and the team management could not be immediately reached for their comments. Dhoni's customary pre-match press conference is scheduled to be held later in the afternoon. The reports said BCCI President Shashank Manohar was forced to interfere and sort out the issue.

The newly formed selection committee, headed by former Indian captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth had met on Thursday for the team selection when the differences apparently cropped up.

Last year, Rahul Dravid too had relinquished captaincy. Lack of say in selection matters was widely touted as the reason behind Dravid's abrupt decision.

Tsotsobe only new cap

AFP, Bloemfontein

Left-arm pace bowler Lonwabo Tsotsobe was Saturday named in a 15-man South African squad for a three-Test series in Australia next month.

Tsotsobe, 24, is the only new cap in the touring party. A tall swing bowler, he has taken 16 wickets for the Eastern Cape Warriors franchise in first-class matches this season at an average of 18.12.

The rest of the squad was predictable, including the 11 players who completed an innings and 129-run win in the first Test against Bangladesh in Bloemfontein Saturday plus the two additional members of the squad for the Bangladesh series, batsman Jean-Paul Duminy and fast bowler Monde Zondeki.

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Qadir wants Akhtar for Tests

INTERNET, undated

Temperamental Pakistani fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, who is looking for a successful Test return, has received a shot in the arm in the form of new chief selector Abdul Qadir.

Given Shoaib's past track record -- his habit of flirting with controversy and a knack for picking up injuries -- Qadir still says Shoaib is a big asset for Pakistan cricket.

"Shoaib Akhtar is an asset. He is a wicket-taking bowler, who still has a lot to offer to Pakistan cricket," The News quoted Qadir, as saying.

Qadir is not the only Shoaib supporter in the new national cricket set-up.

Coach Intikhab Alam, who took over from former Australia Test pacer Geoff Lawson last month, also believes the 'Rawalpindi Express' is yet to run out of steam and can play international cricket for a couple of more years.

PCB chairman Ijaz Butt has expressed similar views about Shoaib who has only played 46 Tests in a career spanning over 11 years as he mostly sits out either due to injury or suspension.

On Thursday, former PCB chief Lt Gen (ret) Taugir Zia described Shoaib as a bowler whose international career was finished. He advised the Board to say goodbye to Shoaib by giving him one last farewell match.

However, Butt defended Shoaib by saying that he still has faith in the player.

The coaches

FROM PAGE 17

in the last four years and evidently has enjoyed his stints in this country.

"When I travelled to India in 1985-86 first, I didn't like the place because maybe I was just 18 at that stage. But I have come to this region several times now and I really like Bangladesh," said Zesers, who admittedly had such a bad right shoulder problem in the late 1980s that it took 18 months to diagnose. "Sadly I knew I couldn't continue any longer and I have a young family to take care of. The structure there wasn't professional as it is today," admitted Zesers, a master of line and length in the 1980s.

The Zesers story is mostly about coaching but he vividly remembers his playing days -- the 1987 World Cup in the sub-continent. "The crowd was very loud in Delhi and I was picked ahead of Simon O'Donnell as the wicket was grassy. We lost that game but I think I bowled quite well that day," recalled a cheerful Zesers.

Sadly that was the end of Zesers' career as the shoulder trouble set in. He would be the ideal man to discuss injury management, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza in particular.

"You know the player makes the final call. The physio or the specialist might have a say but ultimately the player knows and tells whether he wants to play or not," said Zesers, who is now serving as the selector of the South Australia Sheffield Shield side.

More scans for Ryan

Fourth India-England ODI today

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England have sent left-arm seamer Ryan Sidebottom for a new scan on his lower back as they seek to determine the extent of his injury problem.

Sidebottom, 30, was scanned when England arrived in Kanpur, complaining of discomfort before the third one-day international against India.

Those results were inconclusive so he will undergo more tests in Bangalore.

Another win for India in Sunday's fourth one-day in Bangalore would see them clinch the seven-game series.

Even without Sidebottom, England may choose to make changes after three successive defeats.

Paceman Steve Harmison is pushing for a recall after being left out in Kanpur, while fellow seamer James Anderson is under pressure after failing to take a wicket in the first three ODIs -- having conceded 125 runs in 20 overs.

Former ODI captain Paul Collingwood and wicketkeeper Matt Prior have also struggled for form on the tour.

Sidebottom has barely bowled since featuring in the third Test against South Africa at Edgbaston last August.

A series of side injuries kept him out of the game for the rest of the English summer.

He returned for the Stanford Super Series in Antigua but suffered Achilles problems after bowling just two overs, and is yet to feature in a match since England's arrival in India nearly three weeks ago.

"He's having a bit of an unlucky run," said his Nottinghamshire and England teammate Graeme Swann.

"He got injured during the summer and had along rehabilitation trying to get back.

"It's a bit like Michael Owen back home -- it's taken him so long to get back from a serious injury, and little niggles are keeping him out."

Sidebottom's ability to withstand the rigours of international cricket is now being questioned, having played 16 successive Tests until his recent injury problems.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm desperate to see Ryan playing again because he's one of my best mates," said Swann. "And I think English cricket needs that sort of haircut in the team."

"He's obviously down, but he's the sort of character that can easily be distracted with an episode of 'Max and Paddy' or something like that, so it's not hard to keep his spirits up."

"He's just desperate like everyone else in the squad to get into the team and perform for England."

If Sidebottom is not given a positive prognosis England may look to players from the Performance Programme squad, who are in Bangalore, for a possible replacement.

Players like Tim Bresnan, Sajid Mahmood and Liam Plunkett are waiting in the wings.

Tail wagged: Martin

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Two costly dropped catches on the third day basically ended New Zealand's chances of toppling Australia, but Chris Martin, the fast bowler, still held out hope of a "little miracle" despite his side losing six second-innings wickets. Opener Simon Katich was missed twice before Australia's lead reached 230 and they went on to set the visitors an unlikely 327 for victory.

"They were crucial," Martin said of the catches. "For many touring teams that come to Australia, how you field seems to define whether you win or lose. We did put a couple down, but for the majority of the game we have fielded well."

In the first innings the catching was very sharp as Australia were dismissed for 214, but the young side was unable to stay in touch and finished the third day at 6 for 143. Ross Taylor was strong off both feet during a sensible 67 not out while Daniel Vettori will start in the morning after Grant Elliott was bowled offering no shot to the final ball.

"We still think we have a chance," Martin said. "We've got Roscoe (Taylor) out there playing very well and we just have to keep the faith in our captain and hope the sort of the performance the Australian tail did Saturday, we can potentially put on ourselves. It is going to be a big ask, it is going to be a little bit of a miracle, but it's something we will be trying hard for."

Martin captured 3 for 69 to lead the New Zealand attack but they were unable to replicate their penetrative displays earlier in the game as the pitch flattened out. "I was happy actually," Martin said of his bowling. "Last night was one of the more memorable evenings I've had. We got our tired and worn bodies out there (on Saturday) and did our best, but to get that many runs with the tail was a bloody good effort."

After Australia were dismissed, Stuart Clark, who was dropped in Nagpur, returned to wicket-taking form with 3 for 23 off 12 overs. He finished with the crucial dismissal of Elliott after picking up a contentious lbw against Brendon McCullum and a sharp caught-and-bowled to dismiss Aaron Redmond.

Brett Lee had started the innings by breaking through with his third ball to remove Jamie How and capture his 300th Test victim. "It was great, a sweet feeling, to know you've achieved that milestone," he said. "You don't play for those reasons, but it's a nice pat on the back for the hard work." Aged 32, he has readjusted his sights on 400.

After being sick in India and struggling with his form, Lee was excited to be back on bouncy home surfaces and will continue his push to regain full fitness. "I want to touch the 150mph barrier, as I get strength back," he said. "I'm still fighting as hard as I can to get the strength back that I lost in India, but now I feel a billion times better."

He said his recent experiences, with his form struggling and family troubles, were different to overcoming an injury. "I've been up against a brick wall the last couple of months," he said. "Now I feel like I'm back to where I want to be bowling."

Dismal Zimbabwe

FROM PAGE 17

| | O | M | R | W |
|---|----|---|----|---|
| Sibanda c Sangakkara b Kulasekara | 4 | | | |
| Chibhabha c Kapugedera b Maharoof | 5 | | | |
| Taibub Mendis | 12 | | | |
| Matsikenyeri c Thushara b Maharoof | 10 | | | |
| Chigumbura lbw b Mendis | 3 | | | |
| Williams c Maharoof b Mendis | 10 | | | |
| Utseywa c Sangakkara b Thushara | 0 | | | |
| Price c Jayawardene b Thushara | 3 | | | |
| Muparwa c Jayawardene b Mendis | 1 | | | |
| Mpfu not out | 1 | | | |
| Extras: (lb-1, w-11) | 12 | | | |
| Total: (All out in 31 overs) | 67 | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-10, 3-22, 4-34, 5-45, 6-48, 7-49, 8-64, 9-66, 10-67. | 67 | | | |
| Bowler | 0 | M | R | W |
| Maharoof | 8 | 2 | 26 | 3 |
| Kulasekara | 7 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| Mendis | 6 | 1 | 15 | 4 |
| Utseywa | 7 | 0 | 17 | 2 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Muralidaran 3 2 1 0
SRILANKA
Tharanga not out 29
Udawatage c Masakadza b Muparwa 7
Sangakkara not out 28
Extras: (w-5, lb-2) 7
Total: (For 1 wkt in 17.4 overs) 71
Did not bat: Jayawardene, Kapugedera, Muparwa, Maharoof, Thushara, Mendis, Muralitharan,