

Ricky awaits tough time

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting is resigned to a rebuilding period that could last years after Australia lost their first home Test series for 16 seasons. South Africa will overtake Australia to become the No.1 Test team if they complete a clean sweep in Sydney, having taken an unassailable 2-0 lead with their nine-wicket triumph at the MCG Tuesday.

"We've had an amazing run as a team," Ponting said. "We have dominated world cricket for a long period of time. I'm still very positive and very sure that with some of these younger guys coming on that in a few years' time we can get back up there and be dominating world cricket once again."

"It's going to take a little while, there's no doubt about that. You can't expect young guys to come in and have sustained success. The younger guys are generally the ones that lack the consistency."

However, Ponting was full of praise for Peter Siddie who, in his third Test, picked up four wickets and bowled one fabulous spell on the second day, and Nathan Hauritz, who kept things tight and also collected four victims. The pair will be part of an inexperienced attack in Sydney, with Ben Hilfenhaus and Doug Bollinger jostling for debuts along with the uncapped all-rounder Andrew McDonald.

Ponting has repeatedly asked his senior men to stand up and he led the way in Melbourne with 101 and 99, but the other old heads including Matthew Hayden and Michael Hussey struggled again, as did Andrew Symonds and Brett Lee, who will miss the SCG match through injury. Their below-par efforts contributed to a series loss that Ponting said was frustrating but no worse than previous failures.

"It's disappointing when you lose any series," he said. "This one I think is probably no different. The only fact that's different is that we've probably

been in very strong winning positions in both of the Test matches and when we've needed to put the last couple of nails in the coffin we haven't been able to do that.

"In fact we've been a long way from being able to do that. What's happened in this series is generally what Australia have done to teams in the past, where a big moment has come up and we've grabbed it with both hands, turned a negative into very much a positive and then been able to go on and win games."

Australia have now been defeated in two of their past three Test series, failing against India and South Africa. They are the second and third-ranked teams and Ponting said Australia needed to improve their consistency to avoid slipping behind.

"The gap between our best cricket and our worst cricket has been too big," he said. "We have to make that smaller if we want to win the next Test and if we want to stay in the top group of Test-playing nations."

'SA's greatest year'

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When Hashim Amla clipped the ball through midwicket for two to bring up the MCG victory, it completed a remarkable couple of weeks for the South Africans. At the WACA, they had been destroyed by Mitchell Johnson's spell on the second afternoon and came back to record the second-highest fourth-innings chase in Test history.

In Melbourne, they were 7 for 198 at stumps on day two and trailed by nearly 200; their tail wagged so ferociously that they earned a 65-run first-innings lead. They were the sort of fightbacks teams could only dream of against Australia in past seasons.

"I think we've just been composed, I think we've just gone about playing our cricket," Smith said. "When we've come out on the big days and been behind the game we've really played the better cricket when we've had to. I don't think I could have dreamt of a partnership like we had at

the back end on day three."

But it was the kind of performance that has defined South Africa's 2008. Their stunning victory at Edgbaston was the highlight until this tour; it has now been comprehensively eclipsed.

After the Melbourne win, Smith, the leading Test scorer for the calendar year, was sitting next to Dale Steyn, the highest wicket-taker in 2008. The men are 27 and 25, and it was a reminder that this youthful South African outfit has moved on from previous failures and could itself be the team that inflicts pain on other sides in years to come.

"The word choker came up - we don't have that kind of history on us," Steyn said after winning the Man-of-the-Match award for his ten wickets and 76 with the bat. "If we can start winning like this, fresh in our careers, this is what we can continue and take forward. Maybe it starts off a new generation, I don't know. I'm just very proud to be part of a side

that's achieved something special."

It is an effort that has captured the imagination of fans at home in South Africa. The match finished at around 5 am South Africa time; offices around the country were likely to be filled with bleary-eyed workers on Tuesday.

"Just knowing back home and the hype around the series and what's been written about it," Smith said. "I think it's only about five in the morning back home and my phone is filled with messages already. I think there are a lot of people who are lacking sleep."

The players themselves might be short on rest over the next couple of days as well. They head to Sydney for their New Year's Eve celebrations before regrouping for the third Test, which starts on Saturday. For now, the order of the day is to live in the moment. "I don't think there's enough beer in all of Australia to satisfy us tonight," the spinner Paul Harris said.

New ICC

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chairperson of the tribunal is required to be legally qualified while the others on the tribunal will have legal, medical or technical expertise with specific experience in anti-doping matters.

The ICC has followed the WADA code since 2006, and has been testing since 2002 -- during that time, no player has been tested positive. "We must never become complacent when it comes to protecting our sport against drug cheats," Lorgat said. "We have recognised the threat and we have done something about it. This is a big step forward for everyone who wants to maintain clean and fair competition in cricket."

However, there have been a few high-profile cases of doping violations outside ICC jurisdiction. Shane Warne was handed a one-year ban by the Australian board after he tested positive for a diuretic in pre-competition testing prior to the World Cup in 2003 in South Africa.

Warne was sent home from South Africa after the result was known, so were Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif after they tested positive in tests conducted prior to the Champions Trophy in India in 2006. Both players were initially banned, but were let off on appeal. Asif also tested positive for nandrolone in a test taken at this year's Indian Premier League. He has appealed against the result, and the hearing is ongoing.

We are not

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can start our careers like this and take it forward, we can start a new generation of cricket and South African cricketers. I am very proud to be part of a side that has achieved something special," he added. Steyn feels the Proteas have a lethal attack with a great captain at the helm of affairs.

"I feel we have a great attack with a lot of maturity about it represented by Makhaya and Jacques, then you get the other three of us and we seem to be learning all the time. And we are also supported by a great captain," he said.

Kiwis target

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New Zealand have brought in a specialist batsman, debutant Neil Broom, to replace injured all-rounder Scott Styris for the series.

Other changes from the Twenty20 squad see the recall of Jamie How and Grant Elliot at the expense of James Franklin and Ewen Thompson.

The tourists have brought in Nikita Miller, the leading wicket-taker in the last West Indies domestic season, to replace Sulieman Benn, who performed with distinction in the Tests and Twenty20 matches.

TEAMS

WEST INDIES (from): Chris Gayle (captain), Xavier Marshall, Nikita Miller, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Sewnarine Chattergoon, Brendan Nash, Kieron Pollard, Denesh Ramdin, Carlton Baugh, Daren Powell, Jerome Taylor, Fidel Edwards, Lionel Baker, Shawn Findlay.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Jamie How, Brendon McCullum, Neil Broom, Jesse Ryder, Daniel Flynn, Ross Taylor, Jacob Oram, Tim Southee, Daniel Vettori (captain), Kyle Mills, Mark Gillespie, Jeetan Patel, Grant Elliott.

Smith steers

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rest of the world lived over the past decade.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 394

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 459

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 247

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 30 for no loss)

Smith lbw b Hauritz 75

McKenzie not out 59

Amla not out 30

Extras: (lb-9, w-2, nb-8) 19

Total: (For 1 wkt in 48 overs) 183

Did not bat: Kallis, De Villiers, Duminy, Steyn, Boucher, Ntini, Morkel, Harris.

Fall of wickets: 1-121.

Bowler O M R W

Lee 10 0 49 0

Siddle 14 5 34 0

Johnson 11 1 36 0

Hauritz 10 0 41 1

Clarke 3 0 14 0

Result: South Africa won by 9 wickets and lead 3-match series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Dale Steyn.

Empire in disarray

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Australian cricket's fortress hasn't just cracked -- that has been happening for the past 12 months -- it has now officially imploded. The foundations began to shake during last summer's home series against India, the roof caved in with the 2-0 loss in India and the whole structure has collapsed with Australia's first home series defeat in 16 years.

An empire that was until recently the envy of the world is in disarray. Australia are carrying injured players, out-of-form stars and new boys still learning their trade. The burden is too much for the few men still performing consistently -- Ricky Ponting can do only so much. The time has come for a conscious rebuilding phase.

As Ponting tried to single-handedly rescue Australia with 101 and 99, it must have become painfully obvious to him how far his side had fallen. Never would he have expected that South Africa could come back from a seemingly unwinnable position -- at stumps on day two their deficit was 196 with three wickets in hand -- to triumph so convincingly.

They have won their first series in Australia and have gone within a match of leap-

frogging Australia in the Test rankings. Soon Ponting will not be able to fall back on his oft-repeated response to questions over the side's decline -- "we are still No. 1" -- although he got the line out one more time after the Melbourne loss.

Replacing legends was never going to be easy but the staggering of retirements was expected to give Australia their best chance of maintaining their dominance. Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Justin Langer departed after the 2006-07 Ashes, Adam Gilchrist went the following season and Matthew Hayden was anticipated to move on after next year's Ashes in England.

It seemed like a good idea. Bring in some new guys to learn at the top level from the veterans who had mastered Test cricket before those wise heads moved into commentary boxes and fishing boats. For a while it was working: Phil Jacques was a capable replacement for Langer and Brett Lee took over from McGrath as the dangerous spearhead, while Mitchell Johnson learnt about Test cricket.

But the best-laid plans often go awry and what Australia did not count on was several of their established men falling back to earth with a thud. Hayden, once the enforcer of Australia's top order, is at risk of a premature

exit. Michael Hussey, who made a Bradman-like start at Test level, is having the leanest run of his career.

Lee is preparing for foot surgery that has spared immediate questions over his lack of wickets, and his colleague Stuart Clark has had an elbow operation that will keep him out for another couple of months. Nathan Hauritz has done little to prove he is a Test-quality spinner.

Andrew Symonds is heading for knee surgery for a problem that he has carried since Adelaide, and which was brushed aside by the selectors as a non-issue before this Test. His potential replacement, Shane Watson, has been suffering from a back injury since before the South Africa series began, and now faces six months out of the game with stress fractures.

The overall scene raises serious questions about Australia's four-man selection panel. Andrew Hilditch, Merv Hughes, David Boon and Jamie Cox have had an awful year. At a time when trust needed to be placed in young talent, they have done more damage than good.

The left-arm spinner Beau Casson was handed a Cricket Australia contract and a ticket to the Caribbean. He made his Test debut and showed some promise only to be overlooked for not one but three other slow bowlers for the next tour

of India. Casson is a young man who needs nurturing and the selectors set his progress back by handling him poorly -- he returned to New South Wales low on confidence and just showed in his results.

That Cameron White was picked as a specialist spinner in India was just as bad a call. Yet White played all four Tests and the off-spinner Jason Krejza was overlooked until the final match, when he took 12 wickets on debut. And where is Krejza now? Playing for Tasmania because he had one bad Test.

After the Melbourne loss Hilditch kept a straight face as he said: "It's not a time for chopping and changing the side. It's a time for supporting our young players as they come through." Hilditch is a solicitor but this statement was not backed by evidence. The past year has shown the selectors have a lack of faith not only in their players but also in their own decisions.

It is into this unstable setup that Australia's next generation of Test players will arrive. Doug Bollinger, Andrew McDonald and Ben Hilfenhaus are all dreaming of debuts next week. They must hope to be treated better than the men who have been given opportunities in 2008. The empire has fallen and the time for damage control has passed. It is now about rebuilding from the bottom up.

Vaughan wants England place

Cricket

AFP, London

Former England captain Michael Vaughan still believes he has an international future and is readying himself to take on Australia despite being left out of the squad for the tour of the West Indies.

Although on an England central contract, the Yorkshire batsman has not played for his country since resigning the captaincy during England's series defeat at home to South Africa in August.

Vaughan, writing in his Daily Telegraph column here Tuesday, said the selectors decision to leave him out in a squad announced on Monday had not been a shock.

"It was disappointing but not a huge surprise to learn I had not been picked for England's tour to the West Indies," wrote Vaughan, who captained England to Ashes

glory in 2005.

"England have been consistent with their selection over the past few years and Geoff Miller, the national selector, said a few months ago that I would need to score runs to get back into the side."

Vaughan, denied an opportunity to impress with the England Lions, the national 'A' side, when their tour of India was cut short by the Mumbai terror attacks, added: "I still feel I am mentally fresh and dangerous as a player but I understand the decision not to pick me."

"Now I just want to bide my time and enjoy a proper, settled pre-season with Yorkshire. Preparing for the summer and scoring runs at the start of the season is the best way for me to force my way back into the England side."

Vaughan explained that such was his desire to commit himself to Yorkshire's cause he'd turned down the chance of touring New Zealand with the Lions in order to build-up

to the next English season with his county in Abu Dhabi.

"I have to knuckle down with (Yorkshire) and start the season as well as I can," he wrote.

"If that happens then I will put guys under pressure and still have the chance to play for England again, something that I dearly would like to do during an Ashes summer."

Vaughan was touted as a possible replacement at No 3 for Ian Bell, who struggled during England's losing two-Test tour of India this month.

But both Bell and Owais Shah -- who in India wasn't given a chance to add to his two Test caps despite impressive recent one-day form, kept their places for the West Indies tour, which starts in January.

Vaughan could only manage scores of two, nought, 21, nought and 17 against South Africa.

But in 82 Tests the 34-year-old has scored 5,719 runs, including 18 hundreds at an average of just over 41.

ICL thinking sans Lahore Badshahs

CRICINFO, undated

The participation of the Lahore Badshahs in the next Indian Cricket League (ICL) season remains unclear, given the state of India-Pakistan relations, and league officials are contemplating a format without the team from Pakistan.

Kiran More, ICL executive board member, said the prevailing political situation does not guarantee the participation of Lahore Badshahs and the players had been made aware of the situation.

"It is not favourable at the moment and that is what we have discussed with the Pakistan players," More told Cricinfo.

The fight

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Did not bat: Prasad, Herath, Muralidaran.

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-18, 3-153, 4-291, 5-386, 6-388.

Bowler O M R W

Mashrafe 21 4 59 2

Mahbubul 17 1 62 1

Shakib 40 10 134 1

Shahadat 14 1 66 0

Mehrab 10 0 37 2

Rokibul 1 0 2 0

Ashraful 5 0 24 0

BANGLADESH: Second innings

Tamim c P Jayawardene b Prasad 47

Imrul run out 13

Zunaid c M Jayawardene b Muralidaran 37

Rokibul b Muralidaran 24

Ashraful not out 70

Mehrab c sub (Kapugedera) b Muralidaran 23

Shakib not out 34

Extras: (lb-2, nb-4) 6

Total: (For five wks in 78 overs) 254

To bat: Mushfiqur, Mashrafe, Shahadat, Mahbubul.

Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-72, 3-124, 4-144, 5-180.

Bowler O M R W

Vaas 16 5 39 0

Prasad 13 2 68 1

Muralidaran 28 7 85 3

Herath 21 4 80 0

Hayden still in Aussie plans

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Matthew Hayden will not use the Sydney Test as a farewell and he remains in Australia's plans for 2009, according to the chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch. Hayden has held onto his spot for the third Test at the SCG and he is in a 12-man squad with the Victoria all-rounder Andrew McDonald and the fast bowlers Ben Hilfenhaus and Doug Bollinger, who won selection because of injuries to Brett Lee, Andrew Symonds and Shane Watson.

Hayden, 37, has been under pressure to justify his position in the side following a lean few months but Hilditch said the selectors did not expect next week's game to be Hayden's last. "I very much doubt it," Hilditch said. "It's not the way he's practising, it's not the way he's playing and it's not the type of person he is."

"I don't like testimonial Tests for anybody. He's in the side because he's in our best Australian side. That's not an issue at all from our perspective."

Hayden has made 79 runs at 11.28 in Australia's four home Tests this year and he has not posted a century since last season. However, with tours of South Africa and England coming up in 2009, Australia's selectors remain keen for Hayden to be a fixture at the top of the order.

"He deserves the opportunities he's been given," Hilditch said. "He's having a

rough trot. Obviously he's had some issues with decisions which probably haven't gone his way and he's had some run-outs and it hasn't been an easy return from injury."

"But we are really confident he'll do the job for us in Sydney. It's important he's given that opportunity because moving forward we'd still like him very much to be part of our plans."

Hilditch said it was not a time for chopping and changing the side and the younger players needed support, although three alterations were forced for the Sydney

match. Watson will be unable to bowl for up to six months due to back stress fractures and Lee will have foot surgery after hurting himself during the nine-wicket defeat at the MCG. Symonds, who was also part of the series loss, will have an operation on his knee.

SQUAD

Matthew Hayden, Simon Katich, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, Andrew McDonald, Brad Haddin, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Hauritz, Ben Hilfenhaus, Peter Siddle, Doug Bollinger.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Police Headquarters Dhaka International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the manufacturers/suppliers/local agents in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for CID, Bangladesh Police.

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2.	Agency	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3.	Procuring entity name	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police.
4.	Procuring entity code	2211.
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6.	Invitation for	Tender Goods Single lot
7.	Invitation Ref No.	E&T/15(2008-2009).
8.	Date	28/12/2008.

KEY INFORMATION	
9.	Procurement method
International (ICT) open tendering method (OTM).	
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10.	Budget and source of funds
Development Budget, Aid Grant (JDCF) & GoB.	
11.	Development partner
Japan.	

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	
12.	Project code
5940.	
13.	Project name
Enhancing the capacity of Bangladesh Police.	
14.	Tender publication date
31/12/2008.	
15.	Tender last selling date
12/02/2009.	
16.	Tender closing date and time
15/02/2009, 12:00 noon.	
17.	Tender opening date and time
15/02/2009, 12:30pm.	
18.	Name & address of the office(s)
-Selling tender document (principal)	The Project Director, AIG (E&T), Room No. 220 (1 st floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
-Receiving tender document	The Project Director, AIG (E&T), Room No. 220 (1 st floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
-Opening tender document	Operation Conference Room (1 st floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.

19.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Operation Conference Room (1 st floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000	Date	Time
			11/01/2009	14:30pm

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
20.	Eligibility of tenderer		As described in tender document.		
21.	Brief description of goods or works		Shown at SI No. 23.		
22.	Tender document price		Tk. 1,000.00		
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security in Taka	Completion time
23.	01	Digital Forensic Laboratory to investigate cyber crime	CID	4,00,000.00	60 (sixty) days

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
24.	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Sibgat Ullah, ppm-seba		
25.	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.		
26.	Address of official inviting tender	AIG (E&T) and Project Director of "Enhancing the capacity of Bangladesh Police," Police Headquarters, Dhaka.		
27.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: +8802-9564779, Fax: +8802-7176129 E-mail: aige_t@police.gov.bd Website: www.police.gov.bd		

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Md Sibgat Ullah, ppm-seba
AIG (E&T), Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka