



Winners of the seventh BKSP International Junior Tennis Championships are seen with chief guest Talukdar Mohammad Touhid Murad, MP, during the prize giving ceremony at the BKSP yesterday.

Younis's complaint

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's cricketers got a raw deal from the Indian Premier League (IPL) and were paid less than what they deserved, complained Younis Khan after watching English players fetch record bids in the IPL second season auction despite their limited availability.

Pakistan players will not be a part of the new IPL season after the government barred them from travelling to India on 'security grounds'.

The Pakistan skipper said after watching Englishmen Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff fetch a record-breaking 1.55 million dollars each in Friday's auction, he wondered whether his country's cricketers were paid less last season.

Flintoff and Pietersen would be able to play just three weeks of the six-week tournament that is scheduled in April.

"Unlike other countries particularly Pakistan where players rushed to get into the IPL, the English cricket board and their players avoided the first season. As a result, their demand has increased for the second season," he said.

"In contrast Pakistani players have got themselves a raw deal from the IPL. Look at Sohail Tanvir he was brought for just around 100,000 dollars and he was the best bowler in the first season. Yet he has to manage with the same amount for the rest of his contract with Rajasthan Royals.

"In comparison to Pakistani players even local Indians fetched bigger prices. Which was surprising. Someone like Misbahul Haq, who was the best Twenty20 batsman last season, hardly got a reasonable price," Younis pointed out.

A Broad optimism

BBC ONLINE, Kingston

Stuart Broad insists England still have the advantage in the first Test as the West Indies have to bat last on a difficult surface in Jamaica.

Broad took 3-61, including the key wickets of centurion Chris Gayle and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, as the hosts finished Day Three 34 ahead on 352-7.

"Our job is to knock the last three over, we're very capable of that, and then bat the whole day," said Broad.

"They have to bat last and I hope we can finish them off early."

The uncharacteristically slow Sabina Park pitch made run-scoring a laboured affair, with only 192 runs scored during the day.

With a surface conducive to spin, Broad, along with fellow seamer Andrew Flintoff, stuck at their task impressively.

The 22-year-old, who dismissed captain Gayle and Xavier Marshall in the same over before lunch, said he used his full repertoire of variations on a hot Kingston day.

"It's a very flat wicket, there's no point in bending your back too much because you're not going to get much out of it," Broad told BBC Sport.

"It's about using your skills with slower balls and trying to deceive the batsmen and get the ball moving with different angles of your wrist."

Ponting returns early

Crucial third ODI against NZ today

Cricket

AGENCIES, Sydney

Australia captain Ricky Ponting has cut short his break from the game to lead his team in Sunday's crucial third one-day international against New Zealand.

Ponting was due to sit out two matches but returns after one after his side went 2-0 down in the five-match series.

However, he will have to cope without Shaun Tait in Sydney after the pace bowler sustained a hamstring injury.

Tait could miss the rest of the series, so Ryan Harris has been called into the squad as his replacement.

It is Ponting's return which could prove more significant for Australia as they look to end a miserable run of five successive one-day defeats.

"Ricky has made a strong appeal to be allowed to play, given that this is a decider game," said chief selector Andrew Hilditch.

"Given the circumstances, we have made an on-balance decision to support his request and will continue to monitor his workload closely."

"It should be noted that the selectors were pleased with Michael Clarke's leadership and batting form in Melbourne, where he was man-

of-the-match, but this decision will bolster our batting."

"We also understand Ricky's desire to lead from the front."

Vice-captain Clarke has been passed fit despite suffering a toe injury during his innings of 98 in Friday's game, which New Zealand won by two wickets.

But the Kiwis are keen to keep their momentum going and skipper Daniel Vettori remains in confident mood.

"I don't think anyone expected us to be 2-0 up. That's new territory for us. There's not many New Zealand teams who have come over here and beaten Australia two games in a row," he said.

"We've been bowling and fielding well, that's set up the two victories so far, and if we can do that in Sydney, I think we've got a really good chance of wrapping up the series."

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (possible): Michael Clarke, Brad Haddin, Ricky Ponting (captain), David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Cameron White, Callum Ferguson, James Hopes, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken, Ben Hilfenhaus.

NEW ZEALAND (possible): Brendon McCullum, Martin Gupitill, Peter Fulton, Ross Taylor, Grant Elliott, Neil Broom, Kyle Mills, Daniel Vettori (captain), Tim Southee, Jeetan Patel, Iain O'Brien.

Shah's goal Ashes place

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

England batsman Owais Shah was auctioned off for 275,000 dollars at the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Thursday, but admitted he was still sold on building a Test career with England.

The 30-year-old, who will play for the Delhi Daredevils in this year's IPL along with England teammate Paul Collingwood, was considered unlucky to have been overlooked for the ongoing first Test against the West Indies at Sabina Park here.

But despite his new riches, he insists that he is desperate to add to his two Tests, targeting a place in the Ashes later this year.

"We all want to play Test cricket because there is pride and honour playing for your country against another nation. There's no feeling to beat it," said the Middlesex man who has played 52 one-dayers and 10 Twenty20 games for England.

"The captain told me that it was a tough decision (to leave him out of the first Test), but that I was close and I have to keep knocking on the door."

"I'm only 30. I want to play for England in the near future and with the Ashes around the corner, I want to play Test cricket. I'm allowed a four-week period for the IPL, then I have to be back in England by the 7th or 8th May."

"Hopefully, I'll make the one-day squad."

Shah added that he was not concerned to see compatriot Ravi Bopara auctioned off for 450,000 dollars to play for the Kings XI Punjab.

"Ravi's goal is to play Test cricket and if you can pick up some money along the way, then why not," he said.

"His value is a lot more than mine because

he is an all-rounder. He's a good one-day player. He's played for England so good luck to him."

England stars Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen fetched the highest bids at the IPL auction with both men going for 1.55 million US dollars to play for the Chennai Super Kings and Bangalore Royal Challengers respectively.

The chief executive of the Professional Cricketers' Association Sean Morris rejected any suggestion that the England side may be harmed by other players being jealous of Pietersen and Flintoff.

"I can't see there being any jealousy," Morris told the BBC. "I think dressing rooms deal with the issue of money really well, probably better than most other workplaces. Ultimately what matters is what happens on the pitch."

Meanwhile, Bopara is looking forward to his time in the IPL as his family roots are Punjabi.

"It's very special to be signed by them. Playing for the region where my family are from means that little bit more," the 23-year-old Essex player told www.cricketheroes.co.uk.

Bopara will be joined in the squad by Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene, India's extravagant stroke-maker Yuvraj Singh and Australian pace bowler Brett Lee, but admitted he hasn't seen too much of team co-owner, Bollywood actress Preity Zinta.

"A lot of Indian films are watched at my parents' home so I've seen her in a few movies," said Bopara.

"I used to watch her a lot more than I do now because Indian films can last about three hours and it's been difficult to find time as cricket has taken over my life."

"It's weird to watch someone you know from TV bidding for you to play cricket for her."

The 2009 IPL season will be held from April 10 to May 29.

Ashraful stays skipper

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"I'm really happy that the board kept their faith in me. But I have to perform as a batsman first and I believe that I will get the result of my hard work very soon," hoped Ashraful.

Ashraful so far captained Bangladesh in 13 Tests and 38 one-day internationals and under his leadership the Tigers lost 12 Tests and won eight one-day matches including wins against New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

He has a batting average of 22.58 in Tests as captain, a little down from his previous average of 24.35, but he improved his average in one-day to 25.60 from 21.94 during this period.

The board didn't take any decision about the players' new payroll as the last one expired in November 1 last

year, but Yunus confirmed that it would be finalised by this month.

"Review of players' contracts and salary is under process and the board expects to come to a decision within a month."

The board has instructed the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) to include left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak in the national Players' Pool for this Dhaka League season.

"It was a mistake not to include him in the pool," said Yunus.

The board has decided to set up a Welfare Trust with an initial deposit of Tk. 36 lakhs and the trust's beneficiaries would include current and former players, scorers and umpires, organisers and BCB staff members.

The meeting also decided

to form a five-member local organising committee for the coming 2011 World Cup while April 18 has been set as a tentative date for the next AGM.

Ticket sales proceeds from the benefit match (first match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in the recently concluded tri-nation series) for late Manzarul Islam Rana has amounted to Tk 700,000 plus which will be handed over to Rana's family.

Brothers

FROM PAGE 17

However two minutes later Shakil Ahmed brought relief to the Brothers tent by scoring the match-decider.

Arambagh will take on Chittagong Abahani in the next match at the same venue tomorrow.

AWR BKSP TENNIS

Hong, Chuhan lift crowns

SPORTS REPORTER

Chuhan Wang of China came from behind to lift the boys singles title of the AWR 7th BKSP International Junior Tennis Championships at the BKSP Tennis Complex in Savar yesterday.

After losing the first set 3-6, Chuhan won the next two 6-1, 6-2 against Great Britain's David Thomson.

The girls singles crown went to Korea's Seung-Yeon Hong who outclassed Nova Patil from India 6-2, 6-4. Hong also won the doubles title in style. The Hong-Hyojung Yea pair annihilated Pei-Chi Lee and Fang-Chi Taso of Taipei 6-2, 6-0.

David however won the boys doubles title with compatriot Mathew Thomson against the Taipei pair of Ting Yu Chung and Chieh-Fu Wang 7-5, 6-5.

Local MP Talukdar Mohammad Touhid Murad Jong distributed prizes among winners after the finals at the country's lone sports institution.

Chowdhury Fazle Imam, chairman AWR Developments (BD) Ltd, and director general of BKSP Brigadier General Shawkat Hossain were also present during the closing ceremony.

48 boys and 38 girls from 13 countries across the world contested in the meet.

Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Young Pegasus defeated Table Tennis Sangstha by eight wickets while Sunrise Club beat Rose Smrity Sangsad by seven wickets in the Gaibandha Second Division Cricket League yesterday.

Table Tennis Sangstha were shot out for an astonishing 44 runs, which was successfully chased down by Pegaus in five overs and for the loss of two wickets.

Sunrise, set to score 112 for a win in the second match of the day, raced to 115 for three wickets in the 18th over.

Div III soccer

UNB, Dhaka

Anirban Sangha thrashed Santinagar Club 4-1 in the Citycell 3rd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shishir struck twice while Belal Hosain and Ronny netted one goal each for the winners. Rijan Kabir scored the lone goal for Santinagar.

In another match at the same venue, Lalbagh SC edged past Rampura KC by a solitary goal, scored by Motaleb.

Women chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The qualifying phase of the 30th National Women Chess Championship will start at the federation hall-room today.

It is an open event for all female players and there is no entry fee for the participation. Players can enrol their names before the start of play at the venue. The event will be held in Swiss-league system and the top eight players will qualify for the final round.

Reigning champion IWM Rani Hamid, runner-up WFM Samima Akter Liza, rated WFM Syeda Shabana Nipa and WFM Tanima Parveen will participate directly in the final phase.

Unbelievable they feel!

PTI, London

England stars Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff were drowned with an "unbelievable" feeling at becoming joint highest paid players in the second edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) and said they could not wait to feature in the lucrative Twenty20 extravaganza.

Now in the Caribbean for their Test series against the West Indies, the duo, who were bought for a whopping 1.55 million dollars each, were taken by surprise by the huge "amount of money."

Even though they will only play for three weeks in the Twenty20 tournament, giving 60,000 dollars of their salary to their counties, they will still trouser around 7,38,748 dollars for the jaunt.

India eye top spot

Final ODI match against Lanka today

Cricket

AGENCIES, Colombo

Having achieved their best-ever one-day ranking by displacing world champions Australia as the number two team, a confident India would be eyeing a series whitewash when they take on Sri Lanka in the fifth and final one-day here today. It has already turned out to be a dream series for Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who made it to the record books by becoming the first Indian captain to win nine ODIs on the trot and the flamboyant wicketkeeper-batsman would like to keep the winning momentum going in the last game.

The other thing which will be on Dhoni's mind when he takes the field is that every win from here on will bring his side one step closer to the world number one position, which is being currently occupied by South Africa (with 125 points) with a lead of just three points.

And coach Gary Kirsten had no hesitation in admitting that his main aim this year is to take India to the top position.

"Getting to number one is the obvious goal this year, but you just can't think you have won the series 4-0 and be complacent in the next game."

"It doesn't happen with us. When you go onto the field you go to win and not just to compete. Great teams are those that carry the momentum forward into every game," Kirsten said.

The Indians have been phenomenal in all departments of the game in the series as compared to the hosts who were rather disappointing.

It's been a demoralising series for Sri Lanka, but they need to pick themselves up for today's game to avoid their first-ever whitewash in a five-match contest. Captain Mahela Jayawardene hasn't been able to do much to arrest the slide. He tinkered with the bowling combination in the previous two games but Sri Lanka still leaked in excess of 300 in both matches. His hands have been tied as far as the batting line-up is concerned -- the four senior

batsmen and the promising Thilina Kandamby being undroppable, leaving little room for personnel changes.

Winning the toss could be one way he can help -- the spinners have had plenty of assistance when they bowl second at the Premadasa but Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis haven't had the chance to bowl under lights.

Sanath Jayasuriya has enjoyed some success against India at the Premadasa Stadium, and the fact that he has only scored 44 from three innings after his century in the first game suggests he is due for some runs. If he survives the early overs, the Indian bowlers could be in for a tough time. With the series out of control and pride on the line, don't be put it beyond the 39-year-old to provide some fireworks on Sunday.

Gautam Gambhir shrugged off an indifferent series with a career-best 150 in the last game. Gambhir's strategy of walking down the track before the delivery may have a bit of risk in it, but it clearly speaks of his self-assurance and purpose of throwing the bowler off key. Virender Sehwag's early departure forced Gambhir to steady himself and set a platform, and together with Dhoni he flourished. Dhoni always speaks of getting good starts, so it would fall on Gambhir to bat responsibly.

India are probably going to rest Yuvraj Singh and Praveen Kumar and bring in Sachin Tendulkar and Lakshmi Prasad Balaji. Tendulkar received three dubious decisions before being rested for the fourth ODI, and he will be itching to get in an innings of substance before India head off on a gruelling tour of New Zealand.

TEAMS

INDIA (likely): Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Suresh Raina, Rohit Sharma, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Lakshmi Prasad Balaji, Ishant Sharma.

SRI LANKA (probable): Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Tillakaratne Dilshan, Thilina Kandamby, Angelo Mathews, Farveez Maharoof, Nuwan Kulasekara, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis.

Gayle, Sarwan take Windies

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by umpire Tony Hill.

Broad tore in for his next delivery, and produced a similar delivery which trapped Marshall flump on the front foot and Hill this time upheld the appeal.

It was a total contrast to what had transpired earlier, when Gayle and Sarwan looked in command.

England's bowlers, particularly Flintoff, fresh from his record-equaling price at the IPL auction and whose seven overs included three maidens and yielded just 12 runs, placed them under severe pressure.

But they inched to the hundred-run threshold.

England captain Andrew Strauss belatedly introduced Panesar in the last half-hour before the interval, and Gayle, who benefited from a referral to the video umpire on 85 when he was given out caught behind off Flintoff, exploded.

Panesar saw Gayle loft him for consecutive sixes over long-on, and then swept him to deep fine leg for three to reach his ninth Test hundred

from 182 balls.

Sarwan went on to sweep Panesar to the deep fine leg boundary for his 10th four to reach his 12th Test hundred.

After lunch, England claimed the prized scalps of Sarwan and Chanderpaul to enhance their position.

Flintoff dismissed Sarwan, and Broad collected Chanderpaul, as West Indies reached 271 for five at tea.

Flintoff made the breakthrough for England 40 minutes after lunch, when Sarwan was bowled, chopping a shortish delivery into his stumps.

The former West Indies captain batted for over six hours, faced 291 balls, and struck 160 boundaries.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the third day of the first Test between West Indies and England at Sabina Park on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings 318 (Pietersen 97; Bann 4-77)

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 160 for one)

Gayle b Broad 104

Smith lbw b Flintoff 6

Sarwan b Flintoff 107

Marshall lbw b Broad 0

Chanderpaul lbw b Broad 20

Nash not out 47

Ramdin c Collingwood b Panesar 35

Taylor lbw b Harmison 8

Benn not out 10

Extras: (b-5, lb-9, nb-1) 15

Total: (For 7 wks in 144 overs) 352

To bat: Powell, Edwards.

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-220, 3-

220, 4-235, 5-254, 6-320, 7-

341.

Bowler O M R W

Sidebottom 24 5 35 0

Flintoff 27 9 57 2

Harmison 20 4 49 1

Broad 24 7 61 3

Panesar 45 13 121 1

Pietersen 4 1 15 0

SL's winning

FROM PAGE 17

Javeria and Almas equally shared six wickets to shake the Sri Lanka middle-order, but the Lankans still reached the target losing seven wickets in 30.4 overs.

Dedunu de Silva scored 19 runs off 32 balls with three fours while one-down Hiruka made 23 off 32 balls that featured three boundaries.

Skipper Sashikala (10), Suvini de Alwis (17) and Eshani Kaushalya (16 not out) were the other notable scorers for the Islanders.

Sri Lanka will play their second match against hosts Bangladesh tomorrow at the same venue.

BRIEF SCORES

PAKISTAN: 103 in 41.5 overs (Sana 15, Javeria 11, Arman 25, Almas 19, extras 12; Seneviratne 3-26, Chamari Polgampola 1-2, Sripali Weerakkody 1-5, Fernando 1-10, Sriwardene 1-17 and Alwis 1-24)

SRI LANKA: 105-7 in 30.4 overs (De Silva 19, Fernando 23, Sriwardene 10, Alwis 17, Kaushalya not out 16 not out, extras 8; Almas 3-17, Javeria 3-22, Asmavia 1-15)

Result: Sri Lanka won by three wickets.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Blackjack component	2 Kazakhstani river	24 Donkey 25 Party
1 Bourbon-based beverage	38 "See ya"	3 South American capital	bowling 26 Obsolete
6 Concludes	40 Garbage barge	4 Zeta	28 Sputnik started it
12 Gold-based compound	42 Weep loudly	4 Partner	30 List-ending abbr.
13 Cruise ships	46 Aware of		