

O'Brien out for 6 weeks

CRICINFO, undated

Niall O'Brien, the Ireland wicketkeeper, has been ruled out for upto six weeks after aggravating an ankle injury he picked up during the World Twenty20 earlier this month. O'Brien, who missed a Twenty20 game for Northamptonshire on Tuesday, had a second MRI scan which revealed a grade 2 ligament tear in his right ankle.

"It's a blow to miss upcoming important games, particularly when I felt in such good form with the bat," O'Brien told Cricket Europe. "It could be anything for up to six weeks, but I'm a quick healer usually, and I'd be optimistic that I'd be back in four."

USA pull

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LA Galaxy's Landon Donovan sent the ball in from the right and defensive errors by Gerald Pique and Ramos allowed Dempsey to hustle the ball over the line for a famous victory.

Practice

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declared their second innings at 201 runs in 39 overs for the loss of three wickets.

All rounder Mahmudullah Riyad top scored with 58* off 64 balls with ten fours while skipper Shakib Al Hasan added 41 off 49 deliveries.

Zunaid Siddique (35*), one down Roqibul Hasan (29) and opener Tamim Iqbal (23) were the other notable scorers for BCB Green.

Mashrafe Mortaza, Enamul Haq and Rubel Hossain took one wicket each.

Chasing an improbable winning target of 277 runs, BCB Red in their second innings scored 133 runs for five wickets in 33 overs at stumps yesterday.

Skipper Mashrafe Mortaza hammered 40 off 22 balls with three fours and three sixes while opener Shamsur Rahman scored 33 off 50.

Shakib Al Hasan grabbed three wickets for 54 runs while Mahmudul Alam and Mahmudullah Riyad took one wicket each.



PHOTO: STAR

Players of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) pose with the trophy after beating Viharunisa Noon School and College by 163 runs in the Girls' School Cricket Tournament final at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

India seek redemption

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"If anyone wants to take a break from the game, they should let me know or the BCCI."

India have also had time to beef-up their personnel for the four-match series to mitigate against the injuries which have robbed them of star batting duo Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag, the latter of whom was sorely missed in the World Twenty20, plus Zaheer Khan and Suresh Raina.

However, the new recruits have encountered a few difficulties with getting visas to travel throughout Britain.

Now ranked as the third-best ODI side in the World, India will see this as a chance to leapfrog Australia, and take aim at chart-toppers South Africa, setting the stage for another invigorating series.

India hasn't played an ODI series since they prevailed in New Zealand in March, but they have lost only three of their last 18 matches, and have emerged as one of strongest ODI sides over the last year.

But they face a West Indies side with their own demons to exorcise, following a miserable Test and ODI series against England.

The home team, however, marginally redeemed themselves with a semi-final place in the World Twenty20 in which they beat England to reach the final four.

They enter the series however, as strangers in their own land, since India have been in the Jamaica capital getting down to business since last Friday, and the West Indies players - including a few fresh faces - only started arriving on Tuesday.

West Indies coach John Dyson will instruct

his side to play aggressive cricket to push the Indians to the limit.

"We will play aggressive cricket, we will play to win as always, and we will aim for consistency," said Dyson.

"We always look at the opposition and try and determine who the key players are for the opposition and think of ways that we may combat those key players."

"What we don't know, of course, is from the lower-profile players, how they are going to perform and perform consistently throughout a series. So that's something we have to monitor as the series progresses."

"(Winning) - it depends on the sort of pitches we're playing on, the conditions of the day, and the form of our own players, and the opposition players."

The short ODI series against India is part of a busy home programme for West Indies, who also host Bangladesh for two Tests, three ODIs and a T20 International in July and August.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES: Chris Gayle (capt), Denesh Ramdin, Lionel Baker, Darren Bravo, Dwayne Bravo, Suleman Benn, David Bernard Jr, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Narsingh Deonarine, Runako Morton, Ravi Rampaul, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Jerome Taylor

INDIA: Mahendra Singh Dhoni (capt), Yuvraj Singh, Gautam Gambhir, Rohit Sharma, Harbhajan Singh, Pragyan Ojha, Yusuf Pathan, Murali Vijay, Subramaniam Badrinath, Rudra Pratap Singh, Praveen Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Abhishek Nayar, Ashish Nehra, Ravindra Jadeja, Dinesh Karthik

Danone

FROM PAGE 17

Committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The duration of the match will be 30 minutes (15+15) while maximum 14 players will be eligible to play for a team.

The zonal round competition will be held on single league basis. Top eight teams -- seven venue champions and BFF development squad -- will play in the final round to be held July 4-6 in Dhaka.

The champion team of the final round will represent Bangladesh in the Grameen Danone Nations Cup Festival Final to be held October 9-11 at Sao Paulo in Brazil.

As on the previous occasion, legendary footballer Zinedine Zidane will inaugurate the Nations Cup Festival Final as chief guest.

Of the total budget of Tk 18.5 lakh for the Grameen Danone Nations Cup competition, BFF will get 12,000 euro (approx. Tk 11 lakh) from Grameen Danone, while co-sponsor Bashundhara Group will bear the remaining expenses.

Anwarul Haq Helal, member of the BFF Development Committee, disclosed the details at a press conference at the BFF conference room this (Thursday) afternoon.

BFF Development Committee member Satyajit Das Rupu, BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi, Grameen Danone Foods executive director Wahidun Nabi and event manager Marie Soubeiran also spoke at the press conference.

No time

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Pakistan and India only met for a warm-up game before the tournament and Afridi said he felt the Indians weren't keen to play them. "I was a bit disappointed," Afridi told Pakistan's Geo TV. "It didn't appear to me by the attitude of the Indian players that they wanted to play against us. On the face, they said they would like to see cricket between the two countries but I think in their hearts they thought otherwise. Their attitude and behaviour while playing against us showed this."

Bilateral sporting ties between the two countries were suspended after the Mumbai terror attacks in November last year. The Indian government told the BCCI to cancel India's scheduled tour to Pakistan in January, after which the Pakistan government denied permission to its cricketers to play in the IPL.

BKSP school cricket champs

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP crushed Viharunisa Girls School by a massive 163 runs to win the Girls' School Cricket Tournament at the Women's Complex Ground yesterday.

Batting first BKSP amassed a massive 195 for 4 from their stipulated 20 overs. Azra Raibana top scored with a 29 ball 54 while Farzan Hoque scored 43.

In reply, Viharunisa were bowled out for a measly 32 in 19.4 overs. Sanjida Islam was wrecker-in-chief snaring 4 wickets for 9 runs in 3.4 overs.

She was named man-of-the-match for her efforts.

Pepsi First Baller Captain bowls to Clive Lloyd

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdullah-Al-Fahad being the "Pepsi First Baller Captain" bowled to the Living Legend Clive Lloyd, as the ceremonial first ball before the start of the semi-final match of ICC World Twenty20 between Pakistan and South Africa on June 18.

It has been a lifetime opportunity for Fahad to be at a tournament of this magnitude, and at the same time, to get this big chance to bowl to a cricketing icon. Millions of cricket lovers around the world witnessed this phenomenal event along with his fellow countrymen of Bangladesh as Star Cricket has telecasted this live.

Pepsi selected Fahad as the captain of Pepsi First Ball from this attractive consumer promotion.

"I am extremely excited to have won such a fantastic promotion. I would like to thank Pepsi who has given me such an amazing opportunity to not only visit England but also watch an ICC World Twenty20 match LIVE. To ensure my participation, Transcom Beverages has sponsored this spectacular tour which has been an experience to watch my favourite cricketers live in action." Fahad shared his experience excitedly.

From Transcom Beverage Ltd, the Executive Director Mr Golan Kuddus Choudhury, General Manager Khurshid Irfan Choudhury, Market Development Manager Mr Arif Hossain and Ferdous Hasan Neville, Executive Director of AMCL were present in the press conference along with Fahad, the "Pepsi First Baller Captain".

Tigers finish

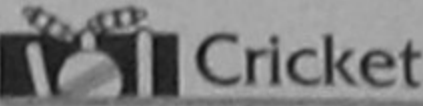
FROM PAGE 17

sharply but today it looked good. It was hard and the batsmen looked comfortable and couple of them got among the runs."

Mahmud will accompany the team to West Indies as the assistant coach when they fly out for the Caribbean on the night of June 29.

All the players have returned home and will report to the Bangladesh Cricket Board on the evening of the flight.

'Swing may help England'



AFP, London

Former Australia fast bowler Jeff Thomson believes swing bowling could help England in their quest to regain the Ashes.

Four years ago in England the ability of Andrew Flintoff and Simon Jones to move the ball late at sharp pace played a key role in Australia's 2-1 Ashes series loss.

Although the injury-plagued Jones is now out for the season and Flintoff has only recently returned from a knee problem, England's James Anderson is one of the world's leading swing bowlers.

And 58-year-old Thomson, a ferocious fast bowler who made his name during Australia's triumphant Ashes campaign of 1974-75, believes swing bowling could yet be the undoing of his compatriots once again.

"Our guys are not any good at the ball that moves," Thomson, said on Wednesday.

"Nobody really moves them back home. (Ben) Hilfenhaus does, but they don't get enough of it and nobody develops it," added

Thomson, whose distinctive slingshot action helped him take 200 wickets at an average of 28 in his 51 Tests.

"England's swing bowlers have always cashed in and they don't promote it back home - it's the most ridiculous thing ever," added Thomson, who formed a celebrated pace partnership with Dennis Lillee.

"Our batsmen against balls that move? Not very good."

Turning to Australia's attack, he added: "Hilfenhaus should be really handy over if he bowls properly. He moves the ball about a bit like (Andy) Bichel used to."

As for 32-year-old fast bowler Brett Lee's prospects of a successful return to the Test side following ankle surgery, Thomson said: "Brett's been out for ages. What is he, 33, 34? It's pretty hard to come back then."

"He is a fit guy, which makes a hell of a difference, but only time will tell. He's a bit of a gamble."

Off-break bowler Nathan Hauritz is the only specialist spinner in Australia's squad and Thomson said: "But I don't think the pace bowling's a problem. It's just spinners - we've got no spinners."

Sania hoping for take-off



AFP, London

Sania Mirza hopes that within a few years she won't be the only Indian tennis star battling at the highest level.

Mirza said there was finally plenty of talent beginning to come through the ranks as interest in the sport picks up.

And though the 22-year-old does not feel lonely on the tour, she is aware of the pressure on her shoulders as India's only top-100 player.

"I hope there's a lot more tennis players, especially women, come up from India," she said.

"We seem to have a lot of talent and with the right kind of backing I hope that we can have instead of just one player playing out there, about five or six."

"One of the reasons is people aren't very tennis aware in the country," she told AFP.

"Cricket is more like the sport that people like to play and the masses connect with, but it's getting better. I don't know when but hopefully in a few years it will get better and we will have more than one player on the tour."

"At least there's a lot of interest and that's a start. I remember when we used to play under-10s we were struggling to have eight people fill the draw and now they have draws of 32 and 64 for under 10s and 12s which I think is a big step."

Mirza's face is plastered on posters and billboards throughout India and she recognises that she is carrying the weight of national expectation.

"There's always pressure, especially in a country like India where there's so many people," she said.

"But I've learned to deal with it over the years

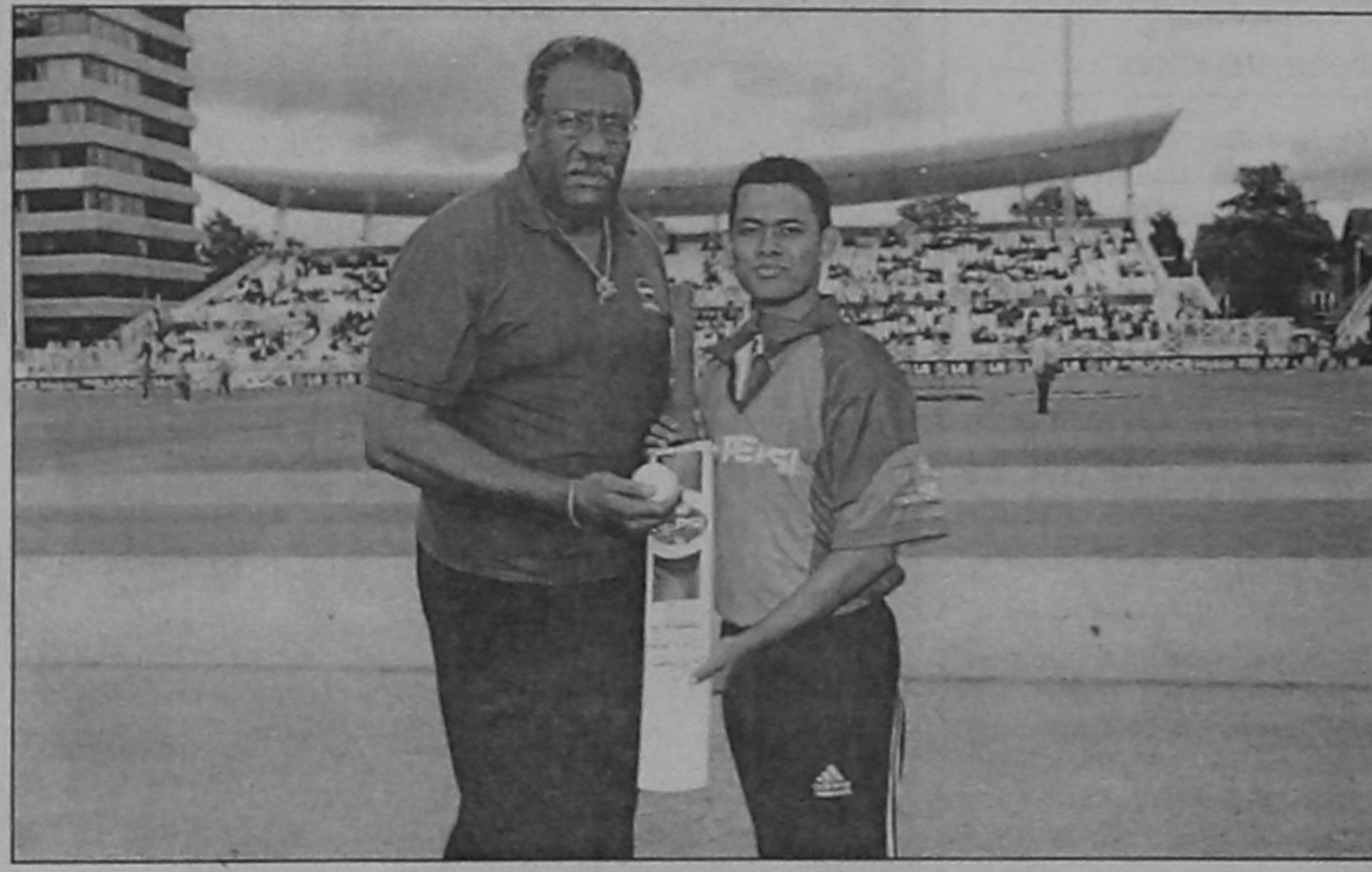


PHOTO: COURTESY

'Pepsi First Baller Captain' Abdullah-Al-Fahad (R) enjoys the experience of a lifetime with West Indies legend Clive Lloyd prior to the start of the first semi-final of the ICC World Twenty20 between Pakistan and South Africa at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on June 18.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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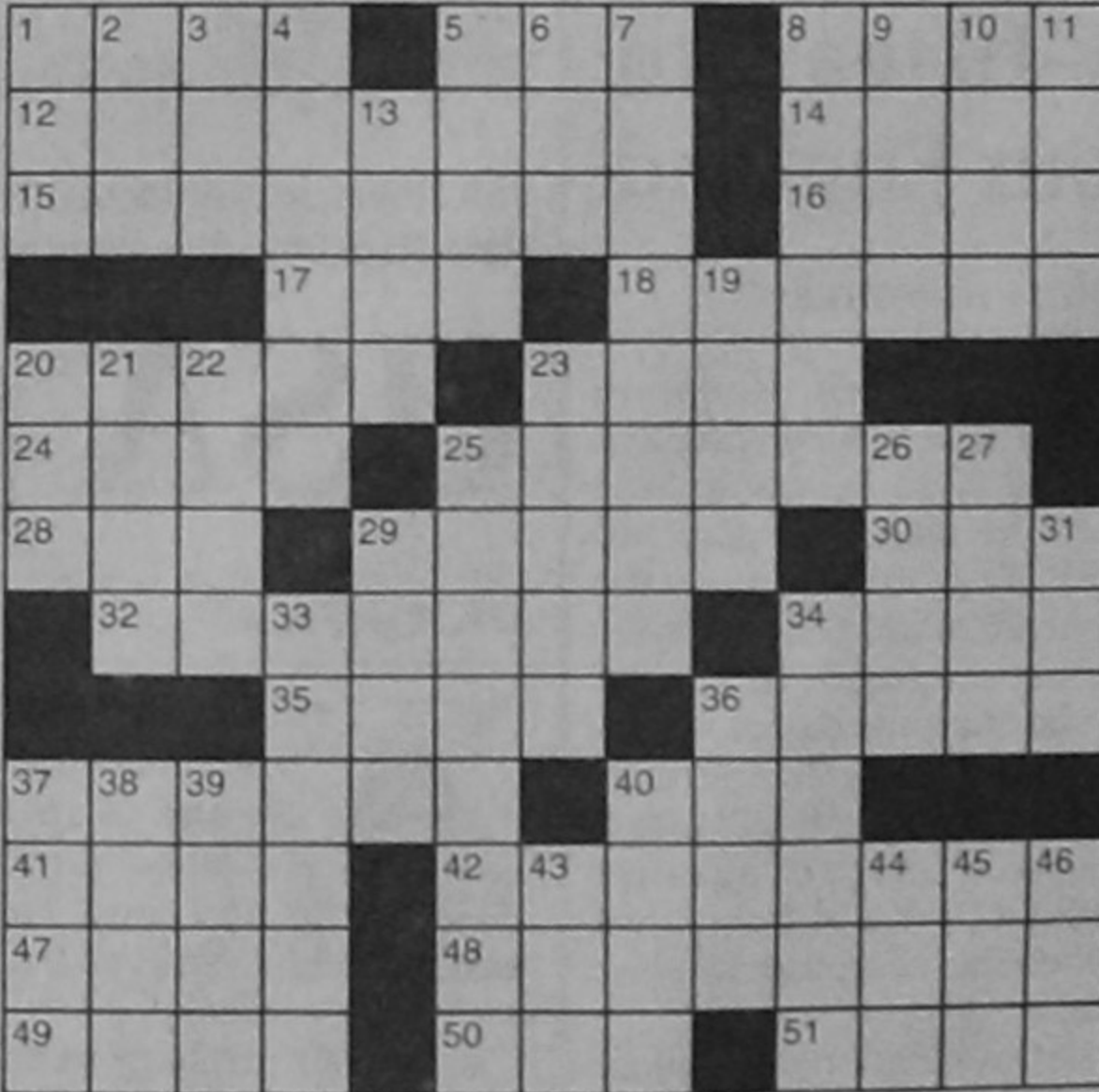
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CRYPTOQUIP

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: FOR THE COLLECTION

OF TAXES IN THE UNDERWORLD, DOES THERE

EXIST AN INFERNAL REVENUE SERVICE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals C

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

প্রশাসন শাখা

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