

ICC announces Ashes officials

AFP, London

Pakistan's Aleem Dar and Billy Doctrove of the West Indies will be the on-field umpires for the first Ashes Test between England and Australia, starting at Cardiff on July 8, it was announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday.

Officiating for the series will rotate through a group of cricket's top umpires with Doctrove being joined by South Africa's Rudi Koertzen for the second Test at Lord's.

Koertzen and Dar will stand in the third Test at Edgbaston, starting on July 30.

Meanwhile New Zealand's Billy Bowden and Pakistan's Asad Rauf will be the men in the middle for the fourth and fifth Tests at Headingley and the Oval.

Former New Zealand batsman Jeff Crowe will be the match referee for the first three Tests with Sri Lanka's Ranjan Madugalle overseeing the final two matches of the series.

Third umpires for the Tests, who are set to be drawn from the ranks of English officials, will be announced in due course.

ICC protocols on neutrality mean the likes of Australia's Simon Taufel, who for the past five years has been voted the global governing body's Umpire of the Year, are currently barred from being a standing umpire in Ashes Tests.

NSW target Sangakkara for T20s

AFP, Sydney

New South Wales have Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara in their sights to play in Australia's domestic Twenty20 competition early next year, officials said on Monday.

Cricket NSW is yet to finalise its playing roster for the Champions League Twenty20 tournament in India in October and the domestic T20 competition in the new year.

Two NSW players, opening batsman David Warner and paceman Nathan Bracken, have the option of playing for NSW or Delhi Daredevils and Bangalore Royal Challengers respectively in the Champions League tournament.

Cricket NSW chief executive David Gilbert said if Warner opted for Delhi, the Blues could look to re-sign New Zealander Brendon McCullum for the domestic T20 competition after he played for NSW in last year's final.

However, complicating matters is the addition of McCullum's Otago team to the Champions League field, which could make him unavailable.

U-19 team

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Club ground in Sussex.

The first and second Twenty20 matches between the youth teams will be held on July 28 and 29 at London Road in Seaford.

Bangladesh team will return home on July 30.

**SQUAD**

Mahmudul Hasan (captain), Amit Majumder (vice-captain), Saikat Ali, Asif Ahmed, Sabbir Rahman, Imamul Hossain, Mominul Hoque Sourav, Abul Hasan, Abu Jayed Chowdhury, Alauddin Babu, Sohag Reza, Shaker Ahmed, Enamul Haque Bijoy (wk), Quazi Nurul Hasan (wk) and Noor Hossain.

Teletalk cricket

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batsman Mohammad Masum scoring a swift 55 off 20 balls.

Habib Mia and Rubel of Monpara Star Club picked up a wicket apiece.

Mohammad Masum of Masterpara Cricket Club was adjudged man of the match for his 55.



Did U Know?

Boris Becker accomplished three feats in 1985 - he became the youngest men's Wimbledon singles champion (17 years, 227 days old), the first German champion, and the first unseeded champion.



American defending champion Venus Williams plays a forehand against Serbia's Ana Ivanovic during their Wimbledon round of 16 match at the All England Club in London yesterday.

Fletcher finds it right

Vaughan quitting today?



AFP, London

Duncan Fletcher believes Michael Vaughan will be doing the right thing if, as widely anticipated, the former England captain announces his retirement from all senior cricket on Tuesday.

Ex-England coach Fletcher gave Vaughan his Test debut in 1999, after singling him out as a "classy batsman" despite a modest county record, and then made the Yorkshire right-hander captain of the national side in 2003.

Together the two men masterminded England's 2005 Ashes triumph and Fletcher told Monday's edition of the Guardian that the world of cricket was losing a "gutsy fighter".

Fletcher said: "Vaughan was a classy batsman, but he became a marvellous captain and a good friend. English cricket can be very proud of him."

"The public saw one side only: a batsman who could cover-drive and pull like a dream, and a tactically astute leader who brought the best out of his players."

"What they didn't see was the gutsy fighter who could score 177 with a busted knee, as he did in Adelaide in 2002-03, or the burning desire which once made him furious with me when I told him he couldn't play in a one-dayer at Bristol against the Aussies because of a serious finger injury."

Fletcher added: "It's sad that he's going

to announce his retirement, but reluctantly I have to say he's made the right decision.

"Cricket, and not just English cricket, will miss him."

Vaughan's future has been the subject of speculation ever since he was left out of England's Ashes training squad last week.

British newspaper reports on Sunday said his retirement was imminent and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) subsequently announced the 34-year-old Vaughan would hold a press conference at Edgbaston on Tuesday.

England's Ashes triumph four years ago was the high point of Vaughan's time in charge of England, with a persistent knee injury leaving him on the sidelines for months at a time.

Unsurprisingly, his form as a batsman - which had seen touch the realms of greatness during the 2002-03 tour of Australia when he made three hundreds - also began to decline.

He resigned the England captaincy in tears in August last year after the home series against South Africa was lost and has not played for England since.

Vaughan, England's most successful Test captain in terms of overall wins, with 26 victories, 11 defeats and 14 draws in his five-year spell in charge, vowed to force his way back into the team through sheer weight of runs.

But never the most prolific of run-getters in county cricket, he has managed just 147 runs in seven County Championship innings this season for Yorkshire.

Meanwhile any hopes Vaughan had of regaining a place in England's side have been blunted by the emergence of Ravi Bopara, who this year has scored hundreds in three successive Tests against the West Indies, at No 3.

However, Marcus Trescothick, who opened the batting for England four years ago, said former first-wicket partner Vaughan could still have played a key role in this season's Ashes series, which starts in Cardiff on July 8.

"His experience within this year's Ashes side would have been really important," Trescothick told Sky Sports.

Vaughan replaced Nasser Hussain as England captain in 2003 during the home series with South Africa and Trescothick, still playing county cricket for Somerset after personal problems cut short his international career, said he was far and away the best candidate.

"When Nasser Hussain finished the team needed to move forward and Michael was the right guy at the time," Trescothick explained.

"People see what he does on the field but they don't see the off-the-field Michael. He was brilliant at keeping you going to the next game, the next innings, or the next day. That's what he was great at."

Vaughan scored 5,719 Test runs in 82 matches at an average of 41.44 with 18 hundreds and a best of 197 against India at Trent Bridge in 2002.

Morton draws level

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Singh made 23, and left-hander Yuvraj Singh, a century-maker in the opening ODI two days earlier, got 35, and was the only other batsman to reach double figures.

When Yuvraj square drove Ravi Rampaul for the last of his five fours, he became the fifth Indian batsman to score 7,000 runs in ODIs.

But India were undermined by Rampaul. He snared a career-best four wickets for 37 runs from 10 overs.

India's demolition was completed by Dwayne Bravo with three for 26 from nine overs, and Jerome Taylor with three for 35 from 9.2 overs.

Denesh Ramdin also became the latest wicketkeeper to snare five catches in an ODI innings.

India were in trouble from the outset in defending their total, when Gayle and Morton put on 101 for the first wicket inside the first 16 overs.

Rohit Sharma made the breakthrough, when he had Gayle caught at long-off, and gave India a boost, when Ramnaresh Sarwan was

stumped for 15 to leave West Indies 132 for two.

But India failed to make further headway, and an unbroken stand of 60 between Morton and Chanderpaul carried West Indies over the threshold.

The West Indies achieved the victory, when Harbhajan Singh was clattered over long-on for Morton's second six.

Earlier, India were on the back-foot from early on, when Dinesh Karthik was caught behind for four off Taylor in the first over.

Gautam Gambhir was also caught behind for a duck off Rampaul, who also had Rohit Sharma caught at second slip for the same score in the space of three balls in the second over.

India were seven for three, when Dhoni joined Yuvraj, and they breathed life into the innings with a stand of 47 for the fourth wicket.

But Yuvraj became the first of five wickets which fell for 28 in the space of 56 balls, and by the halfway stage, India had lost the majority of its batting.

Dhoni reached his 50 from 87 balls, when he worked Dave

Bernard Jr into square leg for two, and with R.P. Singh frustrated West Indies until the 48th over when Bravo struck.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between West Indies and India at Sabina Park on Sunday:

**INDIA**

Karthik c Ramdin b Taylor	4
Gambhir c Ramdin b Rampaul	0
Sharma c Morton b Rampaul	0
Yuvraj c Ramdin b Taylor	35
Dhoni b Taylor	95
Pathan c Gayle b Bravo	0
Jadeja c Ramdin b Rampaul	7
Harbhajan c Ramdin b Bravo	1
Kumar c Gayle b Rampaul	7
RP Singh c Bann b Bravo	23
Nehra not out	0
Extras: (lb-4, w-12)	16
Total: (All out in 48.2 overs)	188

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-6, 3-7, 4-54, 5-57, 6-70, 7-81, 8-82, 9-183.

**Bowler**

	O	M	R	W
Taylor	9.2	0	35	3
Rampaul	10	1	37	4
Bravo	9	0	26	3
Benn	10	1	37	0
Bernard	7	0	36	0
Gayle	3	0	13	0

**WEST INDIES**

Gayle c Gambhir b Sharma	64
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Morton not out 85

Sarwan st Dhoni b Sharma 15

Chanderpaul not out 18

Extras: (lb-5, w-4, nb-1) 10

Total: (For 2 wickets in 34.1 overs) 192

Did not bat: Bravo, Ramdin, Taylor, Bernard, Bann, Rampaul.

Fall of wickets: 1-101, 2-132.

**Bowler**

	O	M	R	W
Kumar	7	1	37	0
Nehra	4	0	36	0
RP Singh	3	0	15	0
Pathan	2	0	15	0
Harbhajan	8.1	0	45	0
Sharma	8	0	27	2
Jadeja	2	0	12	0

**Result: West Indies won by eight wickets.**

**Man-of-the-match: Ravi Rampaul.**

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Feathery podrida

37 Battle verbally

4 Weevil invader

8 Diplomatic

12 Puncturing tool

13 Reed instrument

14 Petrified matter

15 Giving permission

17 Entice

18 Online address

19 Exhibition setting

21 Sweeney Todd, e.g.

24 Deposit

25 With 21-Down, "Arabian Nights" hero

26 Scoot

28 Rub the wrong way

32 Exclamation point

34 Conger or moray

**DOWN**

22 Winged remark?

23 Actress McClanahan

27 Trawler prop

29 Making a claim

30 Gender darme

31 Bridge position

33 Fabric inserts

35 Author Buscaglia

38 Pack away

40 Burning

43 Alumni

45 Cohort of Whoopi and Sherri

46 Hawk-eye's sitcom

47 Dermatology subject

48 Ottoman potentate

49 Hodgepodge

53 Hasty escape

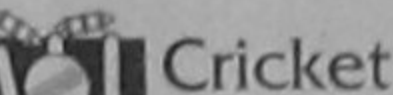
54 Ultra-modern

55 Tie up the phone

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

TAB	WEED	PUMA
ARE	AMMO	IRON
LEA	RUSTICITY	
CAROL	LEON	
BOPS	NIMBI	
TOXICITY	CARD	
ERR	KARAT	GAL
LEAP	FELICITY	
LOYAL	WEEP	
LEE	DAZED	
DUPLICITY	JIVE	
ETUI	HONE	NEW
BEND	OUTS	CRAW

'India went all wrong'



AFP, Kingston

Mahendra Singh Dhoni admitted that his side literally took their eyes off the ball in the second one-day international against West Indies on Sunday at Sabina Park.

India allowed West Indies to draw level in their four-match ODI series with an eight-wicket victory, after Dhoni almost single-handedly led an Indian revival with 95 to help them set their rivals a respectable target of 189.

Dhoni struck six fours and two sixes from 130 balls, but the target was never going to be treacherous for West Indies, and the Indian captain felt his side took things for granted.

"We could have done a bit better," Dhoni said. "We could have given the respect to the balls that really needed or demanded that respect, and by the time we realised, we had already lost three wickets."

He added: "I think it was a good pitch, but the batsmen just went with their strokes and before we knew it we had three down. Once you are in that situation, you are just playing catch-up."

"R.P. (Singh) and I had a partnership, otherwise it would have been quite embarrassing."

India had only themselves to blame for their defeat, after they plunged to 82 for eight in the 22nd over after choosing to bat.

But Dhoni staged a rearguard action in the form of a 101-run, ninth-wicket stand with

Singh before they both fell in the space of six balls as India were dismissed for 188 in 48.2 overs.

"I don't think there was that much in it for the bowlers, they bowled really well, they were swinging the ball well, and when it stopped swinging, they were able to get reverse swing," the India captain said.

"I think we made a mistake in our approach to batting rather than the decision of whether to bat or field."

He continued: "Later on, the pitch became better for batting. When you are batting first, initially you expect the pitch to do a bit, and after that you can capitalise if you get a good start."

At the same time, West Indies captain Chris Gayle praised Ravi Rampaul and Jerome Taylor for setting his side up for the victory.

"It's nice to square the series," he said.

"There were some good performances from the guys. Rampaul and Taylor set the game for us and from now we will look to go from strength to strength."

"There was moisture in the pitch early, and Taylor and Ravi utilised it well, and the catching was also good, so we just need to keep working on our game."

The series is now tied 1-1, after India won the high-scoring, opening match last Friday by 20 runs at the same venue.

The series concludes with a pair of ODIs - this coming Friday and Sunday - at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in St. Lucia.

Lee struggling: Dizzy



AFP, Sydney

Mastering English conditions and not fitness issues pose a challenge to Australian paceman Brett Lee ahead of the Ashes series with England, former Test fast bowler Jason Gillespie said Monday.

Lee's new-ball potency is under scrutiny after he did not get a wicket in his opening spell in either innings of Australia's tour warm-up match against Sussex at Hove over the weekend.

Lee played the last of his 76 Tests back in December before undergoing foot and ankle surgery and is working his way back to full fitness.

Despite a month in England for the World Twenty20, Lee has failed to make an impact as he battles for a new-ball bowling spot in the Australian team for the Ashes opener in Cardiff, starting on July 8.

Gillespie, who was dropped at the age of 30 after just three wickets at an average of 100 in the first three Ashes Tests of the 2005 series in England, said Lee had yet to prove himself in English conditions.

He said Lee has struggled on his two previ-

ous Ashes tours, claiming 29 wickets in 10 Tests at an average of more than 45 while conceding well above four runs an over.

"There's no fitness issues with Brett," Gillespie told The Australian.

"Brett's got to learn to master English conditions. That's going to be his biggest challenge, not so much his fitness."

"It's going to be the slower wickets so his pace doesn't have the same impact."

"He's not bowling as fast anymore. We know that."

Lee is one of three Australian pacemen to taken 300 wickets (310) behind Glenn McGrath (563) and Dennis Lillee (355) but he is 32, an age when few Australian fast bowlers have continued to make an impact, the newspaper said.

Australian bowlers sent down 38 no-balls for the Sussex match, with Lee (3-53 and 1-51) the worst offender as he overstepped 14 times including taking a wicket off a no-ball.

The pressure increased on Lee after the match when Australian coach Tim Nielsen endorsed pace bowling rival Peter Siddle for the first Ashes Test.

Lee is competing for a spot with Ben Hilfenhaus, Stuart Clark and Siddle in a pace attack where only Mitchell Johnson seems assured of a place.

Federer in last

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become the first woman to win a hattrick of Wimbledon singles' titles since Steffi Graf claimed three in a row from 1991 to 1993.

The third seed cruised through the first set 6-1 in half an hour, after which Serbia's Ivanovic had her left thigh strapped up.

The 2008 French Open champion won the first game of the second set, but the pain was too much and she had no choice but to pull out, leaving Court One in a stream of tears.

Younger sister Serena, the second seed, beat Hantuchova 6-3, 6-1 in 56 minutes on Court 2.

The two-time champion easily brushed aside the unseeded Slovak, who has been suffering with a cold and now tackles Belarusian Victoria Azarenka.

Fourth seed Dementieva, a semifinalist last year, beat fellow Russian blonde Vesnina 6-1, 6-3 in 70 minutes.

Vesnina fended off a set point and took the sixth game but the Russian number two wrapped up the first set inside 29 minutes.

Vesnina, the world 37, put up a better fight of it in the second set, holding Dementieva at 2-2 before losing serve.

Dementieva, making her 11th Wimbledon appearance, now takes on either France's Virginie Razzano or Italy's Francesca Schiavone for a place in the semi-finals.

Azarenka, the eighth seed, had a tougher time of it to beat 10th-seeded Russian Nadia Petrova.

Azarenka won the first set 7-6 (7/5) on a tie-break, after which Petrova called a medical time-out and was treated with ice on her legs.

The Russian won the second set 6-2 but lost the final set 6-3.

Algerian club

FROM PAGE 17

two favourite outfits Abahani Limited and Mohammedan Sporting in the meet.

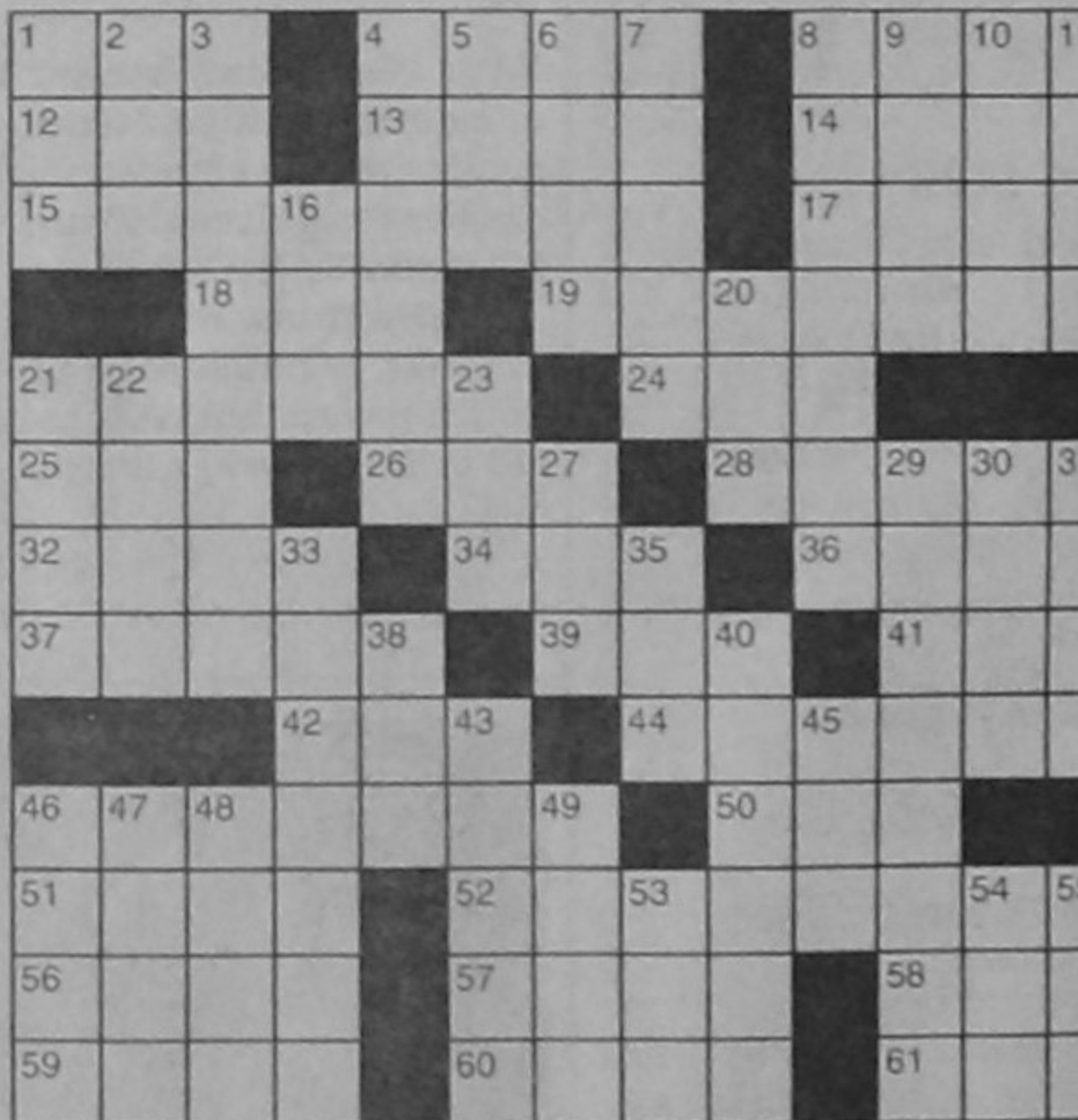
The federation already communicated with their different counterparts in Asia to confirm the participation of quality clubs.

So far BFF has communicated with India, Qatar, UAE, Thailand, Iran, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Myanmar but the federation is likely to announce the club names soon.

An important meeting regarding the tournament will take place by the first week of July to take some major decisions.

It was learnt that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave her consent to be chief patron for the tournament.

The BFF general secretary also said that they were trying to bring a French first or second division club's youth team (Under-20 or 21) through a Bangladeshi expatriate, who has close ties with the French Football Federation.



**CRYPTOQUIP**

V L H F K Y F K L B K R J M O P B R F

T J H V G H F P H P B M V K F H K J F T F K

H D F T F H C F O V M H B

Y K F Y V K F D J P G V C K F Y B K H

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF A COUPLE OF UNION PICKETERS LOOK ALIKE, YOU MIGHT SAY THEY BEAR A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: T equals V