



Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team members pose for photographs prior to leaving for England yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Teletalk cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

Chhoto Nala Adarsha Club posted a 10-run victory over Munigrame Ujjal Smrity Club in a rain-interrupted match of the first Teletalk cricket tournament at the Khagrachari Government High School ground yesterday.

Chhoto Nala Adarsha Club were all out for 143 runs in 28.2 overs. Mongshanui Marma top scored with 24 and Bijoy added 19 runs.

Dabit Chakma, Benjin Chakma and Ripon Chakma captured three wickets each while Rinku Chakma took the other wicket.

In reply, Ujjal Smrity Club made 119-7 in 27.3 overs before rain stopped play to settle the match in D/L method.

Man-of-the-match Benjin Chakma scored 30 runs.

Lanka name side for 1st Pak Test

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene will miss the first Test against Pakistan in Galle on Saturday after fracturing his finger, skipper Kumar Sangakkara said Monday.

Jayawardene, 29, who picked up the injury during a practice match, will need about two weeks to recover.

With Sangakkara himself able to keep wicket, the selectors are looking at playing either Angelo Mathews, Kaushal Silva or Chamara Kapugedera, with the latter most likely to get the nod as an extra batsman.

SQUAD

Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Muttiah Muralidaran, Malintha Warnapura, Tharanga Paranavithana, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Tilakaratne Dilshan, Angelo Mathews, Chamara Kapugedera, Ajantha Mendis, Thilina Thushara, Nuwan Kulasekera, Dhammika Prasad, Kaushal Silva and Suranga Lakmal.

Real plan

FROM PAGE 20 holding an ace up their sleeve: Cristiano Ronaldo. Given the Portuguese winger's media relevance, Kaka's presentation could almost be regarded as a dress rehearsal for the next major event at Real Madrid.

Ronaldo is set to be presented to club fans on July 6, also on prime-time television hours. Real Madrid are already anticipating attendance and TV-rating records for an event of this kind.

4-day Tests

FROM PAGE 17 Powerplays and free-hits added to spice it up. He also defended the presence of the Champions Trophy in an already crowded calendar, despite calls for it to be scrapped.

The Champions Trophy, in South Africa in September, now features only the top eight teams and is a shorter tournament compared to previous editions.

"It will be played over a shorter period and we are certain it will rejuvenate the 'Champions Trophy brand,'" he said. "The brand needed polishing, rejuvenating, it needed remodelling and this event will be a very, very exciting and successful event I'm sure. It will be the event that will give fifty overs cricket its profile back, give it a boost without a doubt."

Watto scares Australia

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Australia's top six will have few fears entering Wednesday's tour game in Worcester after Shane Watson was limited to walking around the ground during Monday's session at New Road. The all-rounder Watson is the squad's spare batsman and is recovering from a minor thigh injury that ruled him out of the opening warm-up in Hove last week and will sideline him again for the final fixture before the Ashes.

For Watson to be considered for the first Test in Cardiff next week he must also offer the side some overs to help its balance, but this is highly unlikely after he was restricted to laps of the oval with the physiotherapist Alex Kountouris. While his fitness is improving to the point where he could bat this week, the Australians should allow their first-choice run-makers more fine-tuning during the four-day affair with the England Lions.

"Shane hasn't trained this week but he is doing all the right things," the vice-captain Michael Clarke said. "Hopefully he will be available for selection come the first Test. But I don't know how long he is out of training. He has had a lot of treatment for five or six days and

things are certainly getting better for him."

Watson's injury is most timely for Marcus North, the No. 6 who entered the Test team in South Africa, where he played two matches. North scratched for 1 and 11 against Sussex and was the only touring batsman to miss out on a satisfying stay during the game, although he is becoming increasingly valuable as a spin option, especially with the offspinner Nathan Hauritz's struggles. Hauritz, the only specialist slow bowler in the squad, gave up 1 for 158 in 38 overs at Hove and will crave some success this week to remain in contention for Cardiff.

The Australians were joined at training on Monday by Mark Webber, the Formula 1 driver more suited to life in faster lanes than those offered in Worcester, a scenic stopover in the west of England. Webber had become famous in Australia for his consistency in not finishing races, but this year he has benefited from a series of high-tech rule changes and sits fourth in the drivers' standings.

He went to school with the wicketkeeper Brad Haddin in Queanbeyan, a country town near Canberra, now lives in Buckinghamshire and watches the results of the cricketers during his travels. Webber spoke to the players who, while impressed with his three second-place finishes in 2009, will want to do much better against England over the next two months.

Gloster's tips for India

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

John Gloster, the former India physio, has suggested that the Indian players skip the Indian Premier League (IPL) ahead of the major ICC tournaments and tours to avoid mental fatigue. Gloster said the players must be feeling the strain of playing away from home for lengthy periods, which puts additional pressure on their family life.

All the Indian players who participated in the five-week IPL in South Africa also played in the ICC World Twenty20 in England shortly afterwards. However, the defending champions couldn't get further than the Super Eights and their coach Gary Kirsten had said fatigue levels and minor injuries from the IPL led to their exit.

"Although the IPL has helped bring a revolution in world cricket, it's still wiser to avoid it if it's close to any important series because it involves too much of travelling and stress," Gloster told the Times of India. "The cricketers who played in the IPL in South Africa may be mentally tired and were not ready for the huge

pressure of the ICC World T20. A hectic schedule may rock the family lives of players. Perhaps no other country has as strong family bonds as the Indians."

The BCCI has said in the past that the players have the option of opting out of tours to rest and recuperate but Gloster felt the BCCI should play a more active role in monitoring injuries closely.

"I feel the BCCI should have a medical board because questions of fitness and injury sometimes create confusion, especially if it comes from the team management," Gloster said.

MS Dhoni, the captain, set an example when he skipped the Test leg of the tour of Sri Lanka after being on the road for several months without a break. His decision raised eyebrows but Gloster felt the public should understand the situation from the player's point of view.

"Dhoni is a class cricketer. But sometimes the burden of expectations weigh the players down," he said. "And when they fail to perform, they are criticised from all quarters."

While working with the Indian team, Gloster observed that the players often missed their families and that home sickness is a factor that cannot be ignored.

Freddie could be dropped

FROM PAGE 17 related incident.

Opening batsman Strauss, asked to describe Flintoff's relationship with alcohol, replied: "I don't know, that's something for him to answer. I think it's something he's been working hard on."

"I think he recognises when the times are to drink and when they are not to drink. It's important clearly, career-wise, he stays on the right side of that and I think the vast majority of the time he has done."

Concerning for England, Strauss revealed that Flintoff's was not the only lapse in time-keeping by a member of the

squad. "He missed the bus but punctuality has been a bit of an issue recently with a few players."

"We had a team dinner, alcohol wasn't banned, but there's no reason to suspect anything massively untoward happened."

Strauss, who refused to name names, added: "It's something we are trying to iron out and we've taken steps to make sure it doesn't happen again. Freddie accepts he's made a mistake."

The England captain also declined to reveal if Flintoff, who last played a Test in February before being sidelined by a knee injury, or

any other player had been fined, saying only: "The appropriate action has been taken."

"He (Flintoff) knows he mustn't do it again and I think the other players who have been letting things slip in that respect know it's not acceptable going forward."

Flintoff has only recently returned to the England squad and Strauss said: "We all know that if he is playing well in the side he's a massive asset to have but at the same time we don't want 'one rule for one and one rule for another', so it's important we have that consistency in how we treat people."

Vaughan says that's it

FROM PAGE 17

Asked what the key to his captaincy was, Vaughan replied: "I was a good actor. Captaining your country is a very special moment and the skill is making sure no-one knows what you're thinking."

Vaughan, who stressed he'd made no plans yet about his future, said he was encouraged by the way in which England under coach Andy Flower and captain Andrew Strauss were developing as a team.

"I like the job [coach] Andy Flower and Andrew are doing. Andrew is a great leader and so far he seems to be dealing with it in a similar fashion. I'm sure he'll do a similar job."

Vaughan said he'd been proud to play in an era of rapid change in cricket.

table. Now it's smoothies, ice baths and Twenty20 cricket -- and it's been a privilege to come through it."

Paying tribute, Strauss said: "I learned a great deal from watching him captain the side for five years at close hand and his ability to identify a new strategy for outwitting the opposition or bring the best out of his own players was a priceless asset."

Vaughan's record as captain during his five year spell in charge from 2003-2008 of 26 victories, 11 defeats and 14 draws, make him England's most successful skipper in terms of overall wins.

England's 2005 Ashes series win -- which included a nailbiting two-run win at Edgbaston -- was the crowning achievement of Vaughan's time as captain with his knee problem leaving him sidelined

for months at a time.

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

Desperate for one last series against Australia, Vaughan vowed to regain his place through sheer weight of runs but so far this season he has managed just 147 runs in seven County Championship innings for Yorkshire.

Meanwhile the emergence of Bopara, who this year has made hundreds in three successive Tests against the West Indies, at No 3, also dented Vaughan's hopes of a recall.

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.

PCB dissolves both selection committees

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Tuesday it had disbanded its senior and junior selection committees, with an interim body headed by former captain Wasim Bari now overseeing selection for both teams.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announcement came after the chairman of the senior selection committee Abdul Qadir resigned in June, citing interference in his work by the national coach, captain and others.

"The PCB chairman (Ijaz Butt) has disbanded the national senior and junior selection committees with immediate effect," said a PCB statement.

"The interim selection committee under Wasim Bari will continue to work till further orders."

Following Qadir's resignation, Bari was named as a one-man interim committee and was asked to work with national captain Younus Khan and coach Intikhab Alam to select the 15-man squad for a tour of Sri Lanka.

Pakistan's team is currently in Sri Lanka, where they will play three Tests, five one-day internationals and one Twenty20 international. The first Test starts in Galle on Saturday.

Two other members of the Qadir-led committee -- Salim Jaffer and Shoaib Mohammad -- did not resign but the latest decision terminates their services.

No other member of Bari's interim committee was announced.

Bari has served on the national selection committee on three occasions, but had to resign after Pakistan's team crashed out in the first round of the 2007 World Cup, held in the West Indies.

The junior selection committee was headed by former Test all-rounder Mohammad Ilyas.

The PCB has employed paid selectors since April 2007 -- a move which has now been rescinded and there are reports in the national media that the new selection committee will be honorary.

Windies keep same squad

CRICINFO, undated

The West Indies selectors named an unchanged 13-man squad for the two final games of the four-match series against India, to be played at the Beausejour Stadium in St Lucia.

West Indies and India split the first double-header at Sabina Park in Jamaica. While India clinched a high-scoring thriller first up by 20 runs, the hosts stormed to an eight-wicket victory to draw level.

The third ODI will be played on Friday while the fourth is scheduled for Sunday.

SQUAD

Chris Gayle (captain), Denesh Ramdin, Lionel Baker, Darren Bravo, Dwayne Bravo, Suleiman Benn, David Bernard, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Narsingh Deonarine, Runako Morton, Ravi Rampaul, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Jerome Taylor.

KP lauds the timing

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

As Michael Vaughan, a major pillar of England's 2005 Ashes success, calls time on his career, the current group of players hoping to replicate his feat of four years ago have been quick to laud his contribution.

"Michael Vaughan was huge to me," said Kevin Pietersen. "He is a great leader of men and you learn a lot from guys like him. A lot of the senior players still communicate with him on a friendly basis."

On the timing of his announcement, Pietersen was effusive in his praise. "It shows the great man he is," he said. "He always knew the right time to do anything. To let Strauss know that he can continue leading the team and let Ravi [Bopara] know he can continue at No. 3, the timing is brilliant."

Pietersen, who made his Test debut in the 2005 Ashes, and last year took over the captaincy (albeit briefly), still remembers the advice Vaughan handed out during a daunting ODI against South Africa at Johannesburg the previous winter.

"I remember one of the first things he said to me -- coming in at The Wanderers to play South Africa in that huge series when 60,000 people were looking as if they were going to kill me. He walked up to me in the middle of the wicket and said 'The ball is white; the ball is round, you know what you've done to get here, just watch it as hard as you can'."

"To be honest, that calmed me right down, from being a gibbering wreck walking on to that field to the player that I am now because that's all I do now. I just watch the ball. That's why when people say in series where the opposition is right at you I normally succeed because all I do is watch the cricket ball. I don't think about any rubbish. I just watch the cricket ball."

Andrew Flintoff was Vaughan's key man during the 2005 Ashes, producing consistent match-winning performances for his captain. "So far I've played my best years of cricket under him," he said. "He gave confidence to the

team, I can speak from experience on that one, and he is a mate as well."

Flintoff also followed Vaughan into the captaincy, beginning in India on the 2006 tour and ending with the Ashes whitewash the following winter, so he knows at first hand how tough the job is. "He has been England's best-ever captain statistically," he said. "He was unflappable. There could be mayhem going on around him but he always looked pretty poker-faced. He'll go down as a great of the English game."

Paul Collingwood, who succeeded Vaughan as England's one-day captain in 2007, said: "He was unique. I started off with Nasser (Hussain) who had a very different approach to what Vaughany had. They were both very good in their own ways. Nasser gave England exactly what they needed at the time, and that was discipline, whereas Vaughany came in and it was very much a relaxed atmosphere, a relaxed approach."

"There was a real calmness about him. Whenever you look at your captain in pressure situations and he has a smile on his face and is jovial about things, I really think it gives the rest of the players a calmness. He was just a really great bloke and a great team man, and that's what stands him out from other people I've played with."

It is fitting that Vaughan made his final press conference at Edgbaston -- the scene of two of his most vastly contrasting days as England captain. The ground brought one of his finest moments, when he outwardly kept his cool while churning inside as Australia were thwarted, two runs from victory, in 2005, and it also brought his lowest moment when he trudged off the field last year having been defeated by South Africa. It was his final Test as captain, and -- as it turned out -- his final Test.

Vaughan desperately wanted to be part of this summer's Ashes, but the body just wasn't willing. His final Test appearance against Australia will remain that Ashes-clinching match at The Oval four years ago. It's not a bad memory to have, but few would have imagined at the time that he would never have another crack at the Aussies.

John and Andy meet

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

John Buchanan has arrived in England and held discussions with national coach Andy Flower as part of a week-long fact-finding mission he hopes will result in a broader role within the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

Buchanan, who led Australia to a 5-0 series victory in the last Ashes series, met with Flower in Birmingham on Monday to share his thoughts on Ricky Ponting's current squad and England's recent visit to the battlefields of Flanders, a trip similar to Australia's tour of the Somme prior to the 2005 Ashes series.

The former Australia coach will travel across England over the next week, meeting with coaches from England's elite programmes, as well as county mentors Chris Adams (Surrey), Peter Moores (Lancashire) and Mick Newell (Nottinghamshire). He will also spend time with England Lions before their tour match against Australia at Worcester, before presenting a proposal to David Parsons, director of England's National Performance centre in Loughborough, regarding a future role within the England set-up.

As wide-ranging as Buchanan's brief in England is this week, most attention will focus on his dealings with the national team barely a week out from the first Test in Cardiff. The very notion of Buchanan passing on insights into Ricky Ponting's team has raised the ire of many in Australia, and prompted curt responses from the touring players.

"I provided [Flower] with some of my thoughts," Buchanan told Cricinfo. "I've been keeping a bit of a gaze on the Ashes build-up from afar, and passed on a few things I've picked up as an observer now removed from the team."

"We also talked about England's trip to Belgium, which was something I took a fair bit of interest in. It was good to catch up with him

briefly, and was just one of quite a few things I am looking to accomplish on this trip."

Buchanan has taken a keen interest in Australia's preparations for this summer's Ashes series, and believes selectors will lean towards fielding an all-pace attack in Cardiff. Nathan Hauritz's figures of 1 for 158 in last week's tour match against Sussex did not inspire confidence, leaving Buchanan to predict that part-timers Marcus North, Simon Katich and Michael Clarke will share Australia's spin-bowling duties for the majority of the Ashes series.

"I guess the salient point here is what strategy do the Australians want to take?" Buchanan said. "Do they want to utilise their fast men as the main thrust to their attack, and use [Marcus] North, [Simon] Katich and [Michael] Clarke for their spin, or do they want to take a less hostile approach and take a spinner that would allow them to adapt to more than one kind of strategy or surface?"

"I suspect they will be leaning towards the former. They will have to be confident in North, not only as a spinning option but also his batting. From what I have been reading, North struggled a bit with the bat in Hove, but he has a lot of experience in English conditions. If Watson returns from injury that could give the selectors a little more to think about, but unless [North] has a woeeful game against the Lions, I think he would be pretty close."

Buchanan is hopeful his week in England will pave the way for a more regular role with the ECB. "I will speak to David Parsons before I leave but I am not sure yet as to what specifically a role would entail," he said. "It could mean checking in every now and then with Andy Flower and the national team to exchange ideas, working with the high performance centre in Loughborough or spending time with touring teams."

"I think we all will have a better idea after this week, but I don't think [a full-time position] would be the best way to utilise my time or knowledge."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER PERFORMING SOME VITAL TESTS ON A RETRIEVER, THE VET BEGAN TO PREPARE HIS LAB REPORT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P