

India name venues for Aussie tour

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket board Wednesday announced the venues for the seven-match one-day international series between India and Australia in October-November.

Guwahati, Delhi, Mumbai, Mohali, Hyderabad, Nagpur and Jaipur were named as the venues in a statement issued by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The itinerary for the series will be announced after the logistics are worked out, it said.

The Indian team is currently playing a series of four one-day internationals in the Caribbean.

India are scheduled to tour Sri Lanka in September for a triangular tournament, with New Zealand as the third team.

The biennial Champions Trophy, to be hosted by South Africa and involving the top eight teams, is also scheduled for September.

Ctg Divisional

FROM PAGE 17 bore the name for the last seven years.

However, restoration of its original name replacing the name of a war hero created a mixed reaction among the freedom fighters and other professionals in the port city.

"Zahur Ahmed had remarkable contribution to the War of Liberation in Chittagong and naming the stadium after him was logical," observed Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Abu Yusuf.

Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, a freedom fighter and researcher of Bangladesher Mukti Sangram O Muktiyuddha Gobeshona Kendra (Research centre for liberation movement and liberation war of Bangladesh), expressed his strong resentment over the renaming.

"The step may create a conflict among the freedom fighters or their living family members and put a dent on their relationship and unity," he observed.

"There is no scope to deny the great role of Zahur Ahmed in the Liberation War. But, some other installation or road could be named after Zahur," said Mahfuzur.

Chittagong Divisional Sports Association (CDSA) president and Chittagong Divisional Commissioner MNA Siddique presided over the ceremony where CDSA vice-president Ali Abbas, Chittagong District Sports Association's former vice-president AZM Nasir Uddin, CDSA general secretary Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir and Zahur Ahmed's son Sharfuddin Ahmed Chowdhury were also present.

Sultana

FROM PAGE 17 They will meet Palestine in the last group match on Friday at 10am local time.

A total of 19 teams are taking part in the three-a-side FIFA Basketball 3 on 3 competition. Earlier, on Tuesday, both the Bangladeshi athletes Mesbah Ahmed and Shirin Akhter were eliminated from the heats in their respective 100-metre sprint.

Zia, Hasan

FROM PAGE 17 maximum points while GM Reefat Bin Sattar and FM Taibur Rahman followed them with 2.5 points each.

In the round, Zia beat FM Mohammad Javed, Hasan beat GM Niaz Murshed, Reefat drew with Taibur, Rajib beat Aminul Islam Polash, FM Abu Sufian Shakil drew with Debaraj Chatterjee, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan beat Mohammad Ali and Jamal Ahmed beat Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin.

Vaughan

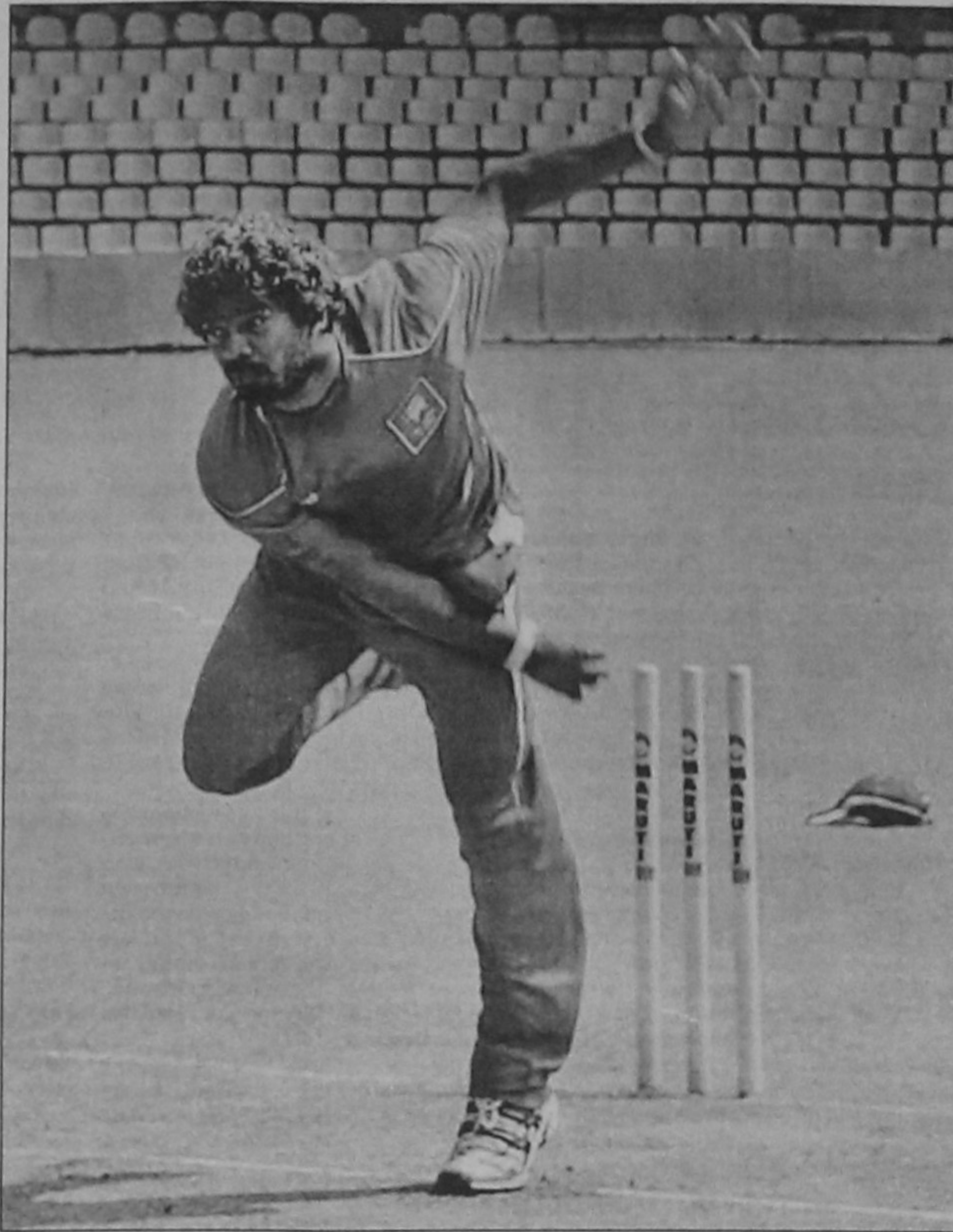
FROM PAGE 17 final Test of the 2005 series where a draw helped the hosts win their first Ashes campaign in 18 years.

"He's going to be a huge miss - his contribution to English cricket as a whole over the last decade has been phenomenal," Collingwood said of Vaughan.

"He's a great personal friend of mine and just a great bloke, a team man and always someone you could go up and talk to.

"He'd deal with you in a jovial, light-hearted way and the players went out relaxed and enjoyed themselves.

"He's a great man and will be sorely missed around the team."



Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga bowls during a training session at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Freddie folly upsets Atherton

Cricket

AFP, London

Michael Atherton said the fact England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff was in the news for missing the team bus during a squad weekend away was an unwanted "distraction" ahead of the Ashes.

Ex-England captain Flintoff, 31, joining up with the squad for the first time after several months out with a knee injury, missed the team bus for Saturday's visit to the World War One trenches at Ypres in Belgium.

"Andrew Flintoff is back and the talk, once again, is not of cricket but of discipline, timekeeping and alcohol," former England captain Atherton, now cricket correspondent of The Times, wrote of his fellow Lancastrian in Wednesday's edition of the British daily.

"It is a distraction that nobody needs right now, in the week before the Ashes (which starts in Cardiff on July 8)."

It was not the first time the 31-year-old Flintoff had courted controversy for his behaviour.

During the 2007 World Cup he was dropped from the England side and stripped of the vice-captaincy as punishment for an alcohol-fuelled night which ended with him capsizing a pedalo in the early hours of the morning in St Lucia.

Prior to that Flintoff, when captain of England, was sent away from training by then coach Duncan Fletcher after turning up to a practice session the worse for wear in Australia during a 2006/07 Ashes series his side lost 5-0.

Federer flays

FROM PAGE 17 four service games.

By comparison, 30-year-old Karlovic, the 22nd seed, suffered a dramatic powercut.

Having fired a huge 137 aces in four matches to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal, he managed just three in the first set.

Federer broke again to lead 6-5 in the second set courtesy of a stunning backhand return off a power-packed Karlovic first serve followed by a deft forehand which the Croatian could only push wide.

The Swiss, having conceded just four more points on his serve, took the set in the next game after only an hour on court when Karlovic went long with a return.

Service dominated the third set with Karlovic upping his ace count to 22 while Federer leaked just another four points off his own serve.

The world number two dominated the tie-break,

stretching to a 5/2 lead before romping into a seventh successive Wimbledon semi-final with another sweeping forehand.

Later Wednesday, Andy Murray takes on Spain's former French Open winner Juan Carlos Ferrero as he continues his bid to become Britain's first home men's champion since Fred Perry in 1936.

Tickets for the men's quarterfinals on Centre Court were changing hands for up to 1,750 pounds (2,874 US dollars) on the Internet as interest in Murray's bid reaches fever pitch.

Ferrero, a former world number one, is the first wildcard to make the quarterfinals here since Goran Ivanisevic in 2001, the year the Croatian went on to win the title.

Lleyton Hewitt, the 2002 champion, faces two-time runner-up Andy Roddick in the other quarterfinal with the winner facing either Murray or Ferrero for a place in Sunday's final.

America v Russia

FROM PAGE 17

"I think we are definitely the frontrunners in tennis as far as being some of the best players out there. But if there were just two players, it would just be a final. There's got to be 128. So that's the way it's got to be.

"I look forward to the challenge of whoever's across the net."

Serena, the reigning US Open and Australian Open champion, holds a 5-4 career record over Dementieva and insists she and her sister are reaping the rewards for talent and work.

"I definitely put most of it down to hard work and good training. I feel like I do have talent and I've been really blessed to have talent, but also I feel like I'm not sitting down on my couch never training," she said.

"I actually work pretty hard at what I do to turn that talent into more talent."

Top seed Safina reached her first Wimbledon semi-final with a 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-

1 win over unseeded German teenager Sabine Lisicki and insisted she is not daunted by facing Venus whom she beat on clay in Rome in May.

"I have nothing to lose. I played her in Rome and I beat her in Rome. I know her weapons. I have my weapons. So I just want to go out there, play my best," said the Russian.

Dementieva, meanwhile has a 4-5 career record against Serena. Their first match-up was here in the fourth round six years ago with Williams coasting to a straight sets win. But fourth seed Dementieva, who has lost just 20 games in five rounds this year, insists she will relish the challenge of facing Serena.

"She's a great champion, and it's going to be a good experience for me," said the 27-year-old who saw off Francesca Schiavone 6-2, 6-2 to make the last four.

"I just want to see how tough I can be out there against her."

Hussain hails Vaughan

AFP, London

Former England skipper Nasser Hussain praised Michael Vaughan as "one of the very best England captains" Wednesday, the day after he announced he was retiring from the sport.

"To win more than half your games in charge is a phenomenal achievement, and while I do not like comparing people of different eras it is hard to think of anyone who could have been better," Hussain wrote in the Daily Mail.

"He just ticked so many boxes, an excellent leader of men, a cool and calm captain who developed into an astute tactician."

Vaughan -- who took over as captain from Hussain in 2003 -- said Tuesday that he decided to quit after failing to win a place in England's 16-man Ashes training squad ahead of next week's first Test against Australia in Cardiff.

Hussain said the timing was just right for the man who led England to Ashes glory in 2005.

"You never want to see a class player and captain come to an end, especially as Michael has spent some time in the wilderness, but the timing of his retirement yesterday is perfect for himself and the England team," he wrote.

"There is no doubt that, if he scored a hundred for Yorkshire, we would have all been speculating on whether it would lead to an Ashes recall, and people like Ravi Bopara and Paul Collingwood do not need that."

He added: "Captaining England is the ultimate and Vaughan did it well if not better than anyone else who has ever done the job."

"He can walk away with an enormous amount of pride."

Gayle signs for Aussie T20

AFP, Sydney

West Indies captain Chris Gayle has signed up for Western Australia's Retravision Warriors for this year's domestic Twenty20 competition, officials said on Wednesday, hailing a major coup.

The left-hander, who is the world's only international Twenty20 centurion, will play the 'Big Bash' competition between the Windies' Test and one-day series here in November and December.

"With Chris we have secured one of the game's best Twenty20 players," said coach Tom Moody.

"Not only is he one of the most exciting batsmen in the game, he adds considerable experience as a Twenty20 player with international and Indian Premier League experience."

West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo earlier signed for the Victorian Bushrangers team for the Big Bash.

Vaughan expects a repeat

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Former England captain Michael Vaughan bowed out of cricket saying the current team could match the efforts of the side he led to Ashes glory in 2005.

Vaughan announced his retirement from professional cricket here on Tuesday with immediate effect after failing to win a place in England's Ashes squad ahead of next week's first Test against Australia in Cardiff.

England's 2-1 series at home four years ago saw them win a Test campaign against Australia for the first time in 18 years.

But in 2006/07 England, without Vaughan because of a knee injury which troubled him in the final years of his career, were thrashed 5-0 in Australia.

Nevertheless, Vaughan believes England are a different proposition in their own conditions.

"I always like us on our home shore, we always play some decent cricket," he said.

With seamers James Anderson, Stuart Broad and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff set to form the basis of their pace attack and a trio of spinners, led by off-break specialist Graeme Swann, all vying for a place, Vaughan reckons England will be able to bowl Australia out twice in a Test match.

"Yes they (Australia) bat deep, but I do think we've got 20 wickets in the tank and that's why I am very optimistic we can win a Test series this summer."

But Vaughan is not taking anything for granted against an Australia side led by his old rival Ricky Ponting, also 34, who came into this Ashes contest on the back of an impressive series win in South Africa.

And he was particularly glad not to be going up against Australia pace bowler Mitchell Johnson.

"I think the Aussies will be very competitive but I expect the England team to be very competitive as well. It will be a very tight series."

"I didn't fancy facing Mitchell Johnson. He looks a world-beater, a great bowler and is looking like a great all-rounder."

"Ricky Ponting has always been a great man

and one I've always looked up to.

"I think he's a wonderful player, a great batsman and a good leader. He'll be desperate to put what happened in 2005 right. I think it's going to be a great series, one which we all can look forward to."

Vaughan, England's most successful Test captain with 26 wins from 51 matches during his five years in charge, has not played for his country since resigning the captaincy in August during the home series loss to South Africa.

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

Meanwhile the emergence of Ravi 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.

"My runs tell you that I have not got the rhythm and form to be picked in an Ashes squad," Vaughan explained.

"The Ashes 16 have to be the best 16 players in the country and I am not one of those best 16 at this stage. I've had a great career."

One of the hallmarks of Vaughan's captaincy was his calmness under pressure, a trait evident during England's thrilling two-run win over Australia in the Edgbaston Test of 2005.

"I think I was a good actor," he said. "Under the utmost pressure, it's very important the captain doesn't feel that pressure or doesn't seem to outwardly feel the pressure."

"The team want to see a cool, calm, collected individual who's leading the team and that's one of the reasons I see in Andrew Strauss a great leader."

"So far he seems to be doing it in similar fashion."

Current England captain Strauss, paid tribute to Vaughan.

"His achievements can't be over-estimated. You see what happens on the field but behind the scenes the way he dealt with players on a one to one basis was exceptional and he cared, he really cared about each and every one of us and about English cricket."

"He is without doubt the best captain I have played under in any form of cricket."

Lee & Clark set for 1st Test 'bowl-off'

Cricket

AFP, Worcester

Pace bowlers Brett Lee and Stuart Clark are set to go head-to-head for a place in Australia's team for next week's first Ashes Test in Cardiff.

The New South Wales duo have both been selected for the team's final warm-up match, a four-day contest against the England Lions which started at New Road yesterday.

Peter Siddle has been rested after impressing against Sussex in the tour opener while left-arm quick Mitchell Johnson, the spearhead of Australia's attack and a sure selection for Cardiff if fit, returns after missing the match at Hove.

However, fellow seamer Ben Hilfenhaus, has been omitted while off-spinner Nathan Hauritz, who could only manage one wicket for 158 runs in the draw with Sussex, has been given another chance to press his case.

Ponting though was doing his best here Tuesday to insist that all Test places were still up for grabs.

"There are absolutely no certainties for the first Test right at the moment," Ponting said.

"We are still a week away from that first Test match and a lot can happen in that period of time in international cricket."

The Lions, England's A side, contains several pace bowlers with Test experience in Stephen Harmison, Sajid Mahmood, Graham Onions and Tim Bresnan. "It's good to have that calibre of opposition as our last game," Ponting said. "Their quicks have all played international cricket, so it will be good preparation for us."

Australia team to play the England Lions at Worcester (July 01-04):

Simon Katich, Phillip Hughes, Ricky Ponting (capt), Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, Marcus North, Brad Haddin (wkt), Mitchell Johnson, Brett Lee, Nathan Hauritz, Stuart Clark.

England's Taylor-made success

AFP, London

England's all-powerful women's cricket team eased to a 55 run win at Chelmsford on Tuesday to go 2-0 up over Australia in their five-match one-day international series.

England's heroine was Sarah Taylor - who scored 68 in the opening match - as she scored her third ODI century with a run-a-ball 120 out of England's total of 259-6 off their allotted 50 overs.

Despite the Australians getting off to a good opening partnership of 85 between Shelley Nitschke and Lisa Shalekar, they were unable to maintain their momentum and were eventually all out for 204.

Taylor, though, was the star of the show - she also produced a fine wicketkeeping performance - as she put on 95 with Claire Taylor (42) and 86 with Beth Morgan as England reached 193-2, before she was eventually run out for 120, nine short of her previous best ODI score.

Nitschke (47) and Shalekar (43) made good headway until Laura Marsh (3-33) bowled Nitschke and Nicky Shaw got rid of Shalekar.

The third ODI in the series takes place at Stratford-upon-Avon on Friday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		34 Indulge in pugilism	DOWN	24 Perfume-label word
1 Adversary	35 Church council	1 Apartment	2 Inauguration	25 Intention
4 Amor-phous mass	36 Blond shade	2 Recitation	3 Basin	26 E-mail alternative
8 Leading man	37 Baltimore news-paper	4 Halve	5 Slack	27 Enthusiast
12 Legisla-tion	38 Outing for co-workers	6 Ear-related	7 Hogwash	28 E.T.'s craft
13 Teeny bit	45 On	8 Beth	9 Prima	29 Voting
14 South American capital	46 Pigeon-hole	8 Beth	9 Prima	30 Republican
15 Foolhardiness	47 Prior to	8 Beth	9 Prima	31 Boswell's subject
16 Earth	48 "— never work"	9 Prima	10 "So be it"	32 Harmonization
17 Squared	49 Hydrox competitor	10 "So be it"	11 Billions and billions	34 Medal-giving org.
18 Sitcom that debuted in 1977	50 Trinity member	11 Billions and billions	19 Deserve	35 Wannabe spouse
21 Expert med. research group	51 Bump	19 Deserve	20 "Les —"	36 Tell target
22 Fed. research group	52 — do-well	20 "Les —"	23 "Good question"	37 Binge
23 Tin Man's want	53 Potent chemical	23 "Good question"		38 First born?
26 Shriner's chapeau				39 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
27 PETA concern				40 Aspic need
30 Primary				41 Bygone times
31 Johnny's successor				42 Fit in snugly
32 Secure				43 Press agent?
33 Silent				44 Minimal change

Solution time: 27 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEW HAVEN HAVE QUITE IMPECCABLE MANNERS. IT MUST BE CONNECTICUT ETIQUETTE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T