

Div III cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Cricket Academy recorded a massive 193-run victory over Altaf Cricket Foundation in a qualifying round match of the Metropolis 3rd Division Cricket League at the Jagannath Hall ground on Wednesday.

Batting first, Mohammedan CA was all out with a score of 275 runs in the stipulated 45 overs with Rakim Ahmed hammering 103 runs off 99 balls.

In reply, Altaf Cricket Foundation were routed in 27.2 overs for just 82 runs. Humayun of Altaf scored the highest for his team with 34 runs.

In the day's other matches, Cricket Coaching School Academy (216/10 in 41.3) beat Mollartek Cricketers (143/10 in 31.1) by 73 runs at the Dhaka University ground, Dhanmondi Club Cricket Kids (166/9 in 45) defeated Sonali Metro Cricket Academy (162/10 in 43.5) by four runs at the City Club ground while Lalkuthi Cricket Academy (102/6 in 15.2) beat Charles Cricket Academy (97/10 in 30.3) by four wickets at the Gulshan Youth Club ground.

Bonarpara cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur Railway Club narrowly defeated Gaibandha Jagoroni Krira Chakka by three wickets to become champions in the Bonarpara premier cricket league final match held at the Kazi Azher Ali High School ground yesterday.

Batting first, Gaibandha Jagoroni Krira Chakka folded for 55 runs in their stipulated ten overs. In reply, Rangpur Railway Club reached the target for the loss of seven wickets in ten overs.

Jony of Rangpur scored highest 19 run and was declared man-of-the-match, while Hira was declared man-of-the-series by scoring a total 77 runs and taking 11 wickets.

Golam Shaheed Ranju, Shaghata Upazila Chairman gave away the trophies amongst the champion and runners-up teams.

Kaneria warned

AFP, Colombo

Pakistan leg-spinner Danish Kaneria has been reprimanded for abusing Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews during the ongoing third and final Test, the International Cricket Council said on Wednesday.

Kaneria verbally abused Mathews after having him caught in the slips on Tuesday, the first of the bowler's five victims that helped Pakistan dismiss Sri Lanka for 233 at the Sinhalese sports club.

Match referee Alan Hurst of Australia reprimanded Kaneria and warned him about his future conduct following a hearing which was also attended by Pakistan manager Yawar Saeed, captain Younus Khan and the umpires.

Kaneria pleaded guilty to breaching clause 1.4 of the ICC's Code of Conduct which relates to "using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting".

Pietersen

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as it allowed me to take part in this Ashes series but unfortunately the injury has recently deteriorated," Pietersen said.

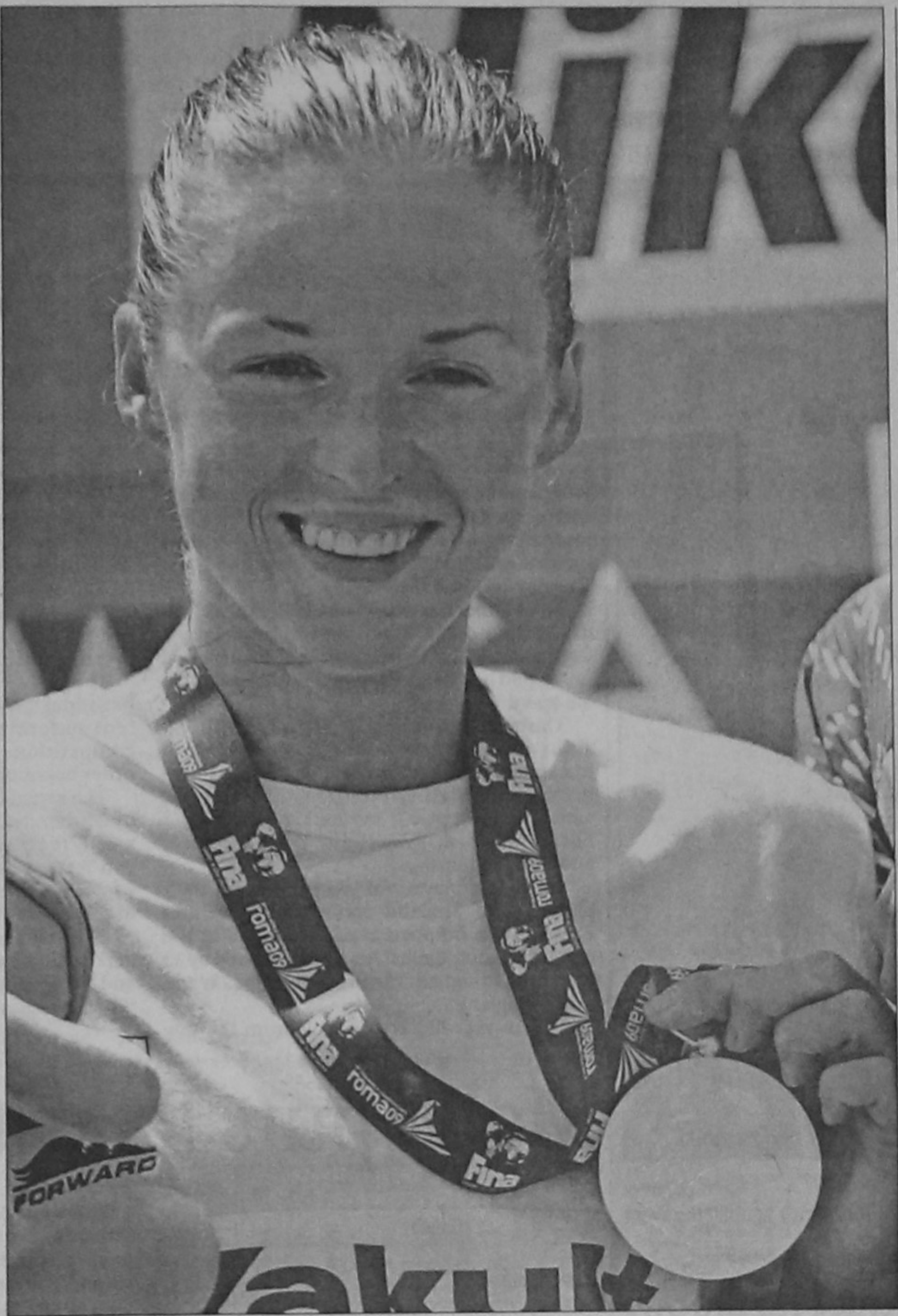
"To leave a winning dressing room at this time is heart-breaking but it wouldn't be fair to the team or myself to continue given the severity of the injury.

"I'll be supporting the team closely and wish them the best of luck as they look to build on the brilliant win at Lord's and reclaim the Ashes."

Pietersen's absence is a massive blow to England's hopes of holding onto their series lead. Andrew Strauss's side are already keeping their fingers crossed that all-rounder Andrew Flintoff can make it through the rest of the series.

Flintoff is struggling with a knee injury that has forced him to announce his retirement from Test cricket at the end of the Ashes.

Warwickshire batsman Ian Bell is likely to come into contention as one of the main contenders to replace Pietersen.



Britain's Keri-Anne Payne poses with her gold medal after winning the women's 10km open water competition at the FINA World Swimming Championships in Rome yesterday.

Lee runs against time

AFP, London

Australia fast bowler Brett Lee faces a race against time to be fit for next week's third Ashes Test against England.

A side injury has forced Lee to miss the first two Tests and the Australians have suffered in his absence, losing the second Test at Lord's to go 1-0 down in the series.

The 32-year-old needs to play in the tour match against Northamptonshire, starting on Friday, to prove his fitness for the Edgbaston Test and a decision on his involvement is expected in the next 48 hours.

Australia coach Tim Nielsen knows his side's attack at Lord's lacked a pace spearhead, with left-arm quick Mitchell Johnson struggling while taking a mere three wickets for 200 runs in the match.

But he fears rushing Lee back too soon would only increase the chances of another injury lay-off.

"We will see how we go. We are progressing him," Nielsen said. "The positive thing is that in a tour game we do have the flexibility on how much we can bowl him or how much we don't bowl him."

"He hasn't bowled yet, so we just have to sit with the medical staff over the next few days and chat: about how much we need to get into him and whether it is going to progress him to the stage where he could play in the third Test."

"My feeling is, if it is not going to mean he is available to play in the third Test match, we are going to have to be really careful about rushing him back."

Lee has not played for Australia in a Test since the Boxing Day defeat to South Africa.

Malik puts Pakistan

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short ball from left-arm seamer Thilan Thushara and spooned an easy catch to the bowler.

Left-handed Alam, who hit 168 on debut in the second Test, scored 16 in each innings here.

Younus Khan looked solid while making 19 when he was unfortunate to be given leg-before to Nuwan Kulasekera by umpire Ian Gould. Television replays showed an inside edge off the bat.

Younus walked back dejected as Pakistan slipped to 54-3, just 120 runs ahead.

Veteran Mohammad Younis was on 23 when he poked at a good length delivery from left-arm spinner Herath and edged a catch to wicketkeeper Sangakkara.

The Sri Lankan captain, who keeps wickets in limited-over internationals but is reluctant to do the job in Tests, was forced to don the gloves after Tillakaratne Dilshan was laid low with injuries.

Dilshan broke a finger in his right hand while keeping wickets on the first day, and then suffered a bloody cut over the left eyebrow while

batting on Tuesday. He is likely to miss the five one-day matches against Pakistan starting on July 30.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Wednesday: PAKISTAN: First innings 299 (Manzoor 93, Younis 90, Malik 45, Thushara 5-83, Kulasekera 3-47)

SRI LANKA: First innings 233 (Sangakkara 45, Jayawardene 79, Dilshan 44; Kaneria 5-62, Ajmal 3-70)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 16-1)

Manzoor b Herath	2			
Fawad c & b Thushara	16			
Younis lbw b Kulasekera	19			
Yousuf c Sangakkara b Herath	23			
Misbahul c Sangakkara b Mathews	65			
Malik not out	106			
Akmal not out	60			
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, w-1)	9			
Total: (For 5 wks in 95 overs)	300			
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-22, 3-54, 4-67, 5-186				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekera	15	5	33	1
Thushara	19	2	84	1
Herath	37	6	113	2
Vaas	14	6	29	0
Mathews	10	1	33	1

DC school kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

The DC School Kabaddi (Boys and Girls) Tournament, sponsored by Dhaka DSA, begins tomorrow at the Dhaka Kabaddi Stadium.

Sixteen teams -- eight each from boys and girls groups -- from Dhaka Metropolis and Dhaka district will take part in the meet.

Six matches -- three of boys and three of girls -- will be held on the opening day in the morning and afternoon sessions.

Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka M Zillur Rahman will inaugurate the meet at 5pm.

ECB team

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Fatullah Stadium on Thursday before going on to Chittagong on Friday to inspect Chittagong Divisional Stadium. The delegation will also meet ECB and government officials during the three-day visit before departing Saturday.

Bangladesh U-19 will play their English counterparts from October-November, while the England senior team will arrive in February next year to play two Tests and three one-day internationals against Bangladesh.

Payne grabs gold

AFP, Rome

Britain's Olympic silver medalist Keri-Anne Payne went one better here on Wednesday by winning the gold medal in the 10km open water event at the World Championships.

Payne led more or less from the start and came home in a time of 2hr 01min 37.1sec ahead of Russia's Ekatarina Seliverstova in second with Italy's Martina Grimaldi taking bronze.

A year ago in Beijing, Payne had come within a second and a half of snatching gold but was pipped by Russian eight-time world champion Larisa Ilchenko.

She had the advantage here of not having swam in Tuesday's 5km race, in which Ilchenko had her five-year winning streak in that event snapped by Australian outsider Melissa Gorman.

England still

FROM PAGE 17

South Africa born batsman Pietersen has looked a shadow of his usual self and in four innings during the two Tests so far has made 153 runs at a modest average of 38.25 with a best of 69.

Both Flintoff and Pietersen have taken a variety of pain-killing injections and Flower said: "Kev is seeing a specialist later this week and they'll assess his Achilles problem."

"We just get the expert advice and take it from there. Fred obviously had a tough, physical game but chatting to him yesterday (Monday) afternoon he was very bullish about being ready for the third Test."

"But obviously with his injury record we've got to be a little bit careful about the wear and tear on his body. But he can have a proper rest over the next week and he will also be re-assessed."

Australia captain Ricky Ponting had no doubt on Monday that Flintoff, the key man in England's 2005 Ashes series win, would feature at Edgbaston, saying: "There is no danger of Flintoff not playing the way he bowled at Lord's."

Former Zimbabwe wicket-keeper/batsman Flower was guarded when asked about the prospects of both Flintoff and Pietersen playing in the third Test.

"Well they are both seeing specialists so I'd rather not make a prediction and let the medical guys make a decision. That's why we employ the best men around, to give us that advice."

But he insisted he would have no qualms about dropping either man if they were not Test-match fit.

"I don't think those sorts of decisions take an incredible amount of strength," Flower said.

"If guys are fit enough to get through and contribute to winning Test matches then they will be selected. If they are not, it's not a tough decision. They are just simply not fit enough to do it, so you don't select them."

Flintoff bowled 10 overs straight Monday and afterwards England captain Andrew Strauss revealed the champion quick had told him he would not stop until the match was won.

Naved, Nazir return

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Fast bowler Navedul Hasan and opener Imran Nazir have been recalled to Pakistan's one-day international squad after two years. Naved and Nazir have become the third and fourth Pakistan players to make comebacks to the national team after cutting ties with the unofficial Indian Cricket League.

Nazir's inclusion has come at the expense of Salman Butt, whose poor form has been a serious concern for the Pakistan management. However Butt, along with the rest of the squad, has been named in Pakistan's 30-man probabilities for the Champions Trophy.

Handed a maiden international call-up for the upcoming ODI series against Sri Lanka which starts at the end of this month is Umar Akmal -- younger brother of wicketkeeper Kamran -- who scored heavily on Pakistan A's tour of Australia recently.

While some national boards have set a 'cooling period' before players associated with the ICL are considered for selection, the PCB accepted players into official cricket immediately. "I'm back playing for my country and it's a great feeling," Naved told PakPassion.net. "I got the call (on Tuesday) from the PCB and I was delighted to hear the good news."

Naved, 31, last played for Pakistan in the opening match of the 2007 World Cup against West Indies and was not only dropped for the subsequent matches but also omitted for the tours to Abu Dhabi and Scotland. Disenchanted with the set-up in Pakistan, he signed up with the unofficial ICL in February 2008. That virtually ended his career with Pakistan, but when the ICL accepted his resignation before the ICC World Twenty20 in June he found himself up for national selection.

"I'll be leaving for Lahore with my family and then leaving for Colombo on July 24 from Lahore," said Naved. "I will be as always giving my 100% effort and hope that I can justify my recall to the international team". Naved has played nine Tests and 62 ODIs for Pakistan.

Nazir, 27, recently returned to the official fold after ending his stint with the ICL, where he

represented the Lahore Badshahs. Earlier this month Wasim Bari, Pakistan's interim chairman of selectors, publicly voiced his view that Nazir should have been an automatic choice for the World Twenty20 in England after making himself available for national selection. Nazir had a very successful stint with the Badshahs in the ICL with his explosive batting setting up his team's title win last year. He last played an ODI against India in Jaipur in November 2007.

Umar, 19, scored 283 runs at 94.33 in the unofficial Tests against Australia A and 155 at 51.66 in the three one-dayers that followed. The opener Nasir Jamshed and medium-pacer Rao Iftikhar Anjum, who were not at the World Twenty20, have retained their ODI spots from the series against Australia in the UAE. The ODI series in Sri Lanka will begin on July 30.

Mohammad Asif has also been named in the Champions Trophy probabilities after completing his one-year ban, as have other fast bowlers Sohail Tanvir, Yasir Arafat and 20-year old Mohammad Talha, who played the aborted Test against Sri Lanka in Lahore. Wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed, who played the last of his eight ODIs in 2008, left-arm fast medium bowler Wahab Riaz and opener Mohammad Hafeez also got recalls. The selectors have also included 23-year-old uncapped left-hand Karachi batsman Shehryar Ghani, who was Pakistan A's top scorer in the ODIs.

SQUADS

ODI: Younus Khan (captain), Imran Nazir, Nasir Jamshed, Mohammad Younis, Misbahul Haq, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Shahid Afridi, Umar Gul, Saeed Ajmal, Mohammad Aamer, Navedul Hasan, Abdul Razzaq, Umar Akmal, Fawad Alam, Rao Iftikhar.

CT PROBABLES: Younus Khan (captain), Imran Nazir, Nasir Jamshed, Mohammad Younis, Misbahul Haq, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Shahid Afridi, Umar Gul, Saeed Ajmal, Mohammad Aamer, Navedul Hasan, Abdul Razzaq, Umar Akmal, Fawad Alam, Rao Iftikhar, Salman Butt, Khalid Latif, Azhar Ali, Umar Amin, Shehryar Ghani, Yasir Arafat, Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Talha, Sohail Tanvir, Wahab Riaz, Abdul Rehman, Mohammad Hafeez.

ECB's cause for concern

Cricket

AFP, London

English cricket chiefs asked Tuesday for "clarification" about their tour matches in Johannesburg which are threatened by a row between Wanderers-based Gauteng and Cricket South Africa.

This September and October sees South Africa hosting the ICC Champions Trophy one-day tournament.

Yet the Wanderers was shunned Tuesday for most of the event's top fixtures, even though the Johannesburg venue's 31,000 capacity makes the 'Bullring' the largest major cricket ground in South Africa.

The dispute between Gauteng, which last month accused CSA chief executive Gerald Majola of putting the national governing body at financial risk, has also spread to England's tour of South Africa starting in November.

The November 13 Twenty20 fixture against England has been moved to the Indian Ocean city of Durban while the central city of Bloemfontein takes over as hosts of the first one-day international a week later.

Meanwhile, St George's Park in the coastal city of Port Elizabeth has replaced the Wanderers as the venue for fourth and final Test against

England from January 14-18. England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive David Collier, has written to Majola, stressing the need to cater for the many thousands of England supporters who have already made travel arrangements for the series.

"The possible changes to the itinerary clearly present some logistical challenges for the team as well as the travelling England spectators," Collier said in an ECB statement issued Tuesday.

"We are expecting a large number of England supporters in South Africa and it is vital that we establish the exact position as quickly as possible."

"If there are changes to the itinerary we have asked Cricket South Africa to enter into urgent discussions with SA Tourism so that any additional costs can be mitigated and covered for travelling supporters."

The Indian Premier League (IPL), switched to South Africa last April because it clashed with general elections in India, where there were insufficient security personnel to cover both events, fought with various CSA affiliates such as Gauteng over stadium hospitality boxes.

Gauteng chiefs requested details of an agreement between the CSA and the IPL. Officials from the IPL

wanted exclusive use of the suites and while an uneasy truce was declared, Gauteng relented at the last minute and later threatened a court interdict to halt the final.

Legal steps were considered after an IPL demand for 1,000 extra parking places for the climax of the 59-fixture Twenty20 tournament was rejected only when the provincial government intervened.

CSA officials are furious that Gauteng documents describe some of those involved in the dispute as "lunatics" and "dishonest", and want an apology.

Now CSA's hard-line stance in respect of the England tour is set to cost Gauteng millions of dollars unless a compromise can be reached.

Changes on WI

FROM PAGE 17

The series concludes Friday next week at Warner Park in St. Kitts which also stages a Twenty20 International between the two sides two days later.

SQUAD

Floyd Reifer (captain), Darren Sammy (vice-captain), Dave Bernard Jr, Travis Dowlin, Andre Fletcher, Raul Lewis, Nikita Miller, Nelson Pascal, Kieran Powell, Dale Richards, Kemar Roach, Devon Smith, Devon Thomas, Gavin Tonge.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

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A I F G H O I R E V M D O M H L
H N Z H X L W I I G " V H D G W I H T . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I HEARD A COUPLE OF SURGEONS MIGHT GET FIRED IF THE HOSPITAL CAN'T MAINTAIN OPERATING COSTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals M