



Action from yesterday's DC Schools Kabaddi Championships final between eventual winners Shaheed Abdul Jabbar Ansar VDP School and Siddeshwari Girls' School at the Kabaddi court.

Kevin on shortlist

AFP, London

Kevin Pietersen was named Friday in England's 30-man provisional squad for September's ICC Champions Trophy in his native South Africa even though he is currently sidelined with an Achilles injury.

Star batsman Pietersen was ruled out Wednesday of the remainder of the Ashes series and, while there is no certainty about when he will return, England are hopeful of having him fit in time for the 50 overs per side event.

Also included in the provisional squad was Andrew Flintoff, the injury-prone all-rounder.

Flintoff, 31, led from the front with the ball by taking five wickets as England won the second Ashes Test by 115 runs at Lord's on Monday, where he overcame the effects of a recent knee problem.

The Lancashire star has said this will be his final Test series but has vowed to carry on playing one-day internationals for England.

However, even if he gets through the Ashes unscathed, doubts remain as to how much rest Flintoff will require ahead of the Champions Trophy.

England have never won a major one-day international tournament and selection chief Geoff Miller said: "The ICC Champions Trophy is an opportunity for the England one-day side to compete for a global trophy and we are confident we have the talent to make a strong claim."

"We have an exciting blend of youth and experience in this preliminary squad and we'll continue to watch the limited-overs form of all players involved over the coming month."

The squad will be reduced to 15 players by August 23, by when England may have a more precise idea of Pietersen's fitness.

Hampshire batsman Michael Lumb, a county colleague of Pietersen, is the only uncapped player in the squad. England begin their Champions Trophy campaign against Sri Lanka in Johannesburg on September 25.

PROVISIONAL SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), James Anderson, Gareth Batty, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Alastair Cook, Steve Davies, Joe Denly, Andrew Flintoff, James Foster, Stephen Harmison, Ed Joyce, Robert Key, Michael Lumb, Sajid Mahmood, Dimitri Mascarenhas, Eoin Morgan, Graham Napier, Graham Onions, Kevin Pietersen, Matthew Prior, Adil Rashid, Owas Shah, Ryan Sidebottom, Graeme Swann, Jonathan Trott, Luke Wright

Rebellion

Brazilian rather there were some problems with the facilities which we solved," said the former national footballer.

The residential camp started on July 13 with 31 probables after a three-week long strength and conditioning camp in Cox's Bazar.

Windyies

The WICB and the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA), which is negotiating on the cricketers' behalf, agreed to resolve their dispute by mediation on Tuesday, after meeting with Guyana president Bharat Jagdeo, who is also chairman of the 15-nation trading bloc Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

PCB not decided yet

AFP, Karachi



ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

Pakistan on Saturday said reports that it was withdrawing a legal notice against cricket's governing body over the relocation of its share of World Cup matches were "premature".

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt told AFP a decision is yet to be taken.

Pakistan served a legal notice to the International Cricket Council (ICC) after being stripped of its World Cup 2011 matches in April this year.

"It's mere speculation that we are withdrawing the legal notice," he said. "I am meeting ICC president David Morgan on Monday and Tuesday and only after that meeting we will decide about the next step."

Local media reported that the PCB was considering withdrawing the notice after their British lawyer Mark Gay said the legal grounds were weak.

The ICC last month endorsed April's decision of relocating the 14 matches Pakistan was due to host but maintained Pakistan will get the 10.5 million dollars as its share.

The ICC also ruled out relocating the matches to a fifth country -- a neutral venue such as the United Arab Emirates, where Pakistan played their recent international matches.

'Legalise ball-tampering'

CRICINFO, undated



Cricket

Allan Donald, the former South African fast bowler, has said bowlers must be allowed to "prepare" the ball -- ball-tampering, in other words -- to redress the balance between bat and ball and protect the "dying breed" from increasingly lifeless pitches.

Speaking to Cricinfo on Friday, Donald was asked if he would recommend legalising ball tampering. He said: "The ICC would shoot me for saying it but, with the wickets that we play on and the dying breed fast bowlers are becoming on these flatter wickets, I would say we do need some sort of defence mechanism, something to fall back on to say 'Right, we can do this. We can now prepare this ball to go'."

Donald, currently the Warwickshire coach, knows, though, that his plea is likely to fall on deaf ears. "That [legalising ball-tampering] quite simply would never happen," he said.

Ball tampering was a raging issue in the 1990s, a period that coincided with Donald's rise as leader of the South African bowling attack. He agreed that bowlers had altered the condition of the ball in various ways to get prodigious reverse swing. "There is no doubt guys tampered with the ball," he said of the fast bowlers of his time.

He recalled one incident in the mid-1990s when he saw a former fast bowler pick a little chunk of leather live on the television during a Test match against England. "The guy was just chipping away with his nails and I couldn't believe how he could get away with it," Donald said. "The commentator, a famous former player, said 'Steady on', but he [bowler] denied it later. Let's not kid ourselves, there is no question it still goes on."

To get reverse swing, one must rough one side of the ball while polishing the other. "One [popular] way to do it is to get the ball into the dirt," Donald said, a method easily practised on rough subcontinent surfaces where the ball, especially the white one, soon gets scuffed up. "Even the red ball, in places like India, we found, did not take too long to reverse."

England also used reverse swing to win back the Ashes at home in 2005. "Yes, I remember [Andrew] Flintoff and [Simon] Jones do it beautifully to swing it both ways especially

in Old Trafford by chucking the ball into the foothold." Donald isn't the first fast bowler to make this case; in the mid-1990s, Sir Richard Hadlee had also asked for ball-tampering to be legalised. "As long as the bowlers or fielders use whatever means they have on their persons, I don't see anything wrong with it. I'm talking about the use of a finger nail to scratch the ball, not bottle tops or those sorts of things," Hadlee wrote in a newspaper column at the time.

Donald agreed the best method, if the ICC relented, was to rip the ball without artificial help. "I wouldn't bite it," he said with a chuckle. "One way is if the ball gets scuffed on one side, and there is a tiny little chunk that is missing, you pick it up and just keep that side dry and keep working on it, while shining the other side very heavily without putting any moisture. The whole team needs to keep track of this and they need to shine one side. The bowler, because he is bowling, should keep his wet hands on this side while keeping the other side dry. That's all you need."

First ODI today

FROM PAGE 17

West Indies have recalled left-hander Devon Smith and fellow Grenadian Andre Fletcher, and included uncapped left-hander Kieran Powell to shore up their batting.

Leg-spinner Raul Lewis has also been recalled and uncapped fast-medium bowler Gavin Tonge has received his first call-up.

The rest of the side, which is again being led by left-handed batsman Floyd Reifer, comprises mostly the players that played in the Tests, as well as fast bowler Nelson Pascal, who was part of the Test squad, but did not play in either of the two matches.

The first two ODIs will be staged at Windsor Park which has been significantly upgraded at a cost of 17 million dollars, and allows Dominica to host its first international matches.

The ground, which was levelled out of a rubbish dump a couple decades ago, now accommodates state-of-the-art facilities featuring 10,000 seats and was a gift from China at the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations.

The Central Organising Committee of World Cup 2011 in its meeting earlier this month awarded eight of Pakistan's matches to India, four to Sri Lanka and two to Bangladesh -- a decision which Pakistan did not accept.

The ICC was forced to move Pakistan's matches following terrorists' attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore on March 3.

The attacks, which left seven players and their assistant coach injured besides killing eight people, ended any chance of hosting international cricket in the country where teams were already refusing to tour over security fears.

The PCB took legal action against the stripping of the matches and relocation of the World Cup secretariat from Lahore to Mumbai. A civil court in Lahore gave a stay order against relocation of the secretariat.

But the PCB put on hold the legal proceedings in an effort to solve the issue through talks between the four host countries and the ICC, but the talks failed in England last month.

The PCB's legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi said the PCB has the option of withdrawing the legal notice but a final decision will only be taken after the meeting between Butt and Morgan in Dubai.

"There is always the option of withdrawing the notice but a final step will only be determined after the meeting between the PCB chairman and ICC president," Rizvi told AFP.

Ganguly to captain Kolkata

PTI, Kolkata

Sourav Ganguly is almost certain to be reinstated as the captain while John Wright is likely to take over as the coach of Kolkata Knight Riders in the third edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2010, team sources said on Saturday.

Even as an official announcement is awaited, sources said that there could be a major reshuffle with former India coach Wright likely to replace John Buchanan as Knight Riders coach, while former Australian middle-order batsman Michael Bevan will be on the coaching panel.

Sources said Ganguly would be back at the helm in 2010 when his contract with the Kolkata team ends and the iconic Bengal cricketer had a one-on-one with principal owner Shah Rukh Khan when the duo met in London to receive doctorates by the University of Central Lancashire last week.

Rahim

FROM PAGE 17

The first ODI starts at Windsor Park today followed by the second at the same venue on Tuesday. The third and final ODI is at St. Kitts on July 31.

BRIEF SCORES BANGLADESH: 167-6 in 25 overs (Mushfiq 82 not out, Rokibul 34, Tonge 2-18) UWI VC's XI: 151-8 in 25 overs (Phillips 49, Clarke 29, Walton 21) Result: Bangladesh won by 16 runs.

Alonso takes pole

AFP, Budapest



Formula 1

Two-time world champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso claimed his 18th career pole position on Saturday when he emerged on top after an incident-filled and chaotic qualifying session for Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

The 27-year-old Renault driver grabbed his first pole this year in chaotic scenes as the circuit's electronic timing system crashed in the final minutes after a half-hour's delay following an accident involving Ferrari's Brazilian driver Felipe Massa.

Alonso had predicted he would be on pole for the first time since the Italian Grand Prix of 2007 before the session began, but he was left asking his rivals what had happened and what were their times when the session ended.

"Who is fastest, who is on pole?" said Alonso. "I don't know."

In the chaos, there was relief among the drivers to learn that Massa was unhurt after his 200 kph crash in the final minutes of Q2.

One item of information that was certain was that Spanish debutant, Jaime Alguersuari had kept his nose clean but qualified 20th earlier on when the timing screens and clocks were working reliably.

It was only when Alonso, German Sebastian Vettel and his Red Bull teammate Australian Mark Webber came out to wave to the fans that it appeared confirmed that they were fastest in that order.

Several minutes later came confirmation that defending champion Briton Lewis Hamilton was fourth fastest for McLaren Mercedes ahead of German Nico Rosberg of Williams and Finn Heikki Kovalainen in the second McLaren.

Another Finn Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari qualified seventh ahead of championship leader Briton Jenson Button in a Brawn GP car with Japanese Kazuki Nakajima ninth for Williams and Massa, who took no part in the top ten shootout, placed 10th.

Alguersuari was one of the first man on track when the session began and he soon clocked a decent lap time to claim a banker position. His Toro Rosso team had said shortly before the session that they were delighted with the efforts of the 19-year-old Spaniard this weekend.

Unfortunately, for the Iberian, it was not enough. He ended up with a problem on the track and parked at Turn 13 and ended up as one of the five men eliminated as he was 20th and slowest.

He joined Poland's Robert Kubica and his BMW Sauber team-mate German Nick Heidfeld and the two Force India's of Italian veteran Giancarlo Fisichella and German Adrian Sutil in failing to make the first cut from Q1 to Q2.

Alonso just squeezed through in his Renault with a late lap that lifted him from 17th to sixth.

At the front, it was Rosberg who set the pace ahead of Hamilton and Webber with Vettel fourth, Button down in 10th and Barrichello 12th, the two Brawns

sandwiching Raikkonen in 11th for Ferrari. Massa was ninth and the top 15 cars were separated by only eight-tenths of a second.

In Q2, it was equally tight and tense after Webber set the first quick time. The Australian stayed there and all the drama was behind him as Alonso again produced a quick lap to claim a top ten spot while Barrichello was eliminated, the first time this year a Brawn has failed to make it into Q3.

Out with the Brazilian, who was 13th fastest, went Swiss Sebastian Buemi of Toro Rosso, Italian Jarno Trulli and his Toyota team-mate German Timo Glock and Brazilian Nelson Piquet, on his 24th birthday, in the second Renault.

An accident claimed Massa in the closing minutes and he ended the session with the nose of his Ferrari buried into a wall of tyres at Turn Four. It was several minutes before the medical car arrived and Massa was lifted from his car.

From the tyre marks across the circuit and the run-off area, it appeared that he had suffered a brake failure. Organisers immediately delayed the start of Q3 as the medical staff carried Massa into the circuit medical centre.

After examination, it emerged that Massa was not seriously hurt. He had been struck on the chin by a piece of tubular debris from compatriot Rubens Barrichello's Brawn GP car and, momentarily concussed, lost control of the car.

Barrichello visited Massa in the circuit medical centre, before he was airlifted to hospital, and reported that he was talking.

Benitez hails

FROM PAGE 20

Asked if Gerrard would be mentally ready for the new campaign given the stress he has been under, Benitez said: "He's alright, he scored a goal against Tranmere on Friday night."

Gerrard said in a brief statement that he wanted to put the case behind him.

"I'm really looking forward to the season ahead and concentrating on football," he said.

Meanwhile, reserve team coach John McMahon hailed Gerrard's "world class" contribution in the Tranmere match, saying he was delighted with the impact he made in a 64-minute appearance.

"Steven is different class and he wanted to play," he told the Liverpool website.

"He was a real inspiration to the young players and they can learn from playing alongside a world class player like him."

"He is a model professional and his attitude in the dressing room before the game and at half-time was fantastic. Young lads look up to Steven and they can only learn from that."

Gerrard is likely to rejoin the team for their friendly against Espanyol on August 2.

Barca won't

FROM PAGE 20

The former Chelsea forward has been a bit-part player since moving to Spain and is keen to find regular first-team action.

"I have spoken with Eidor. We are looking for the best situation for him," Guardiola said. "He wants to play. We will see in the next weeks."

Guardiola rested Lionel Messi, Thierry Henry, Xavi and Andres Iniesta against Spurs, but he expects Argentina forward Messi to play 45 minutes in Sunday's second Wembley Cup match against African champions Al Ahly.

France forward Henry is likely to miss out again as a precaution, giving Guardiola the chance to once again play the gifted youngsters who shone against Spurs.

Bell set for recall

Cricket



Cricket

AFP, London

Ian Bell is set to return to England's Test team next week at his Edgbaston home ground after star batsman Kevin Pietersen was ruled out of the remainder of the Ashes series with an Achilles problem.

Bell, 27, may have been out for a duck against Hampshire on Friday, in a match where he only made seven in the first innings, but he has long been regarded as the 'next man in line' should England need to alter their batting line-up.

The Warwickshire batsman was included in the squads, but not picked for the final XI, in both of the first two Tests against Australia.

England are currently 1-0 up in the series, following a draw in Cardiff and their 115-run win at Lord's last week.

They are due to announce a 13-man squad on Sunday for the third Test of the five-match series and England national selector Geoff Miller paved the way for Bell's return by saying Friday the extra two places were likely to be taken by additional bowlers, rather than batsmen.

Bell played the last of his 46 Tests against the West Indies in Jamaica in February but was dropped after a run of low scores, with Ravi Bopara taking over in England's problem position of no. 3.

However, Bell has scored heavily in the County Championship with 640 runs in his seven innings this season prior to the double Hampshire disappointment.

But his record against Australia is mediocre, with his 502 runs in 10 Ashes Tests coming at a low average of 25.10.

This week England coach Andy Flower made it

clear Bell was in line to take over should Pietersen be ruled out and Miller backed that view Friday by saying of the need for extra batting cover.

"There are no (more) injury problems as such, so we probably won't need to do that."

"We had question marks to cover in the last squad but I don't foresee needing to do that here," the former England off-spinner added.

England will continue to monitor the fitness of all-rounder Andrew Flintoff. The fast bowler led England's attack at Lord's, taking five wickets in the second innings after announcing this would be his final Test series.

However, the injury-plagued all-rounder has been troubled recently by a knee problem.

Fellow quick Stephen Harmison, on standby at Lord's, is likely to be included again as left-arm spinner Monty Panesar, left out in the second Test, with Graeme Swann England's lone specialist slow bowler.

"We have all bases covered so that, whatever conditions we turn up to, we have players to complement them," Miller said.

"There is a lot of time and a lot of weather between now and then, and we will keep monitoring it."

Reflecting on the series so far, Miller said: "The response of the players has been very pleasing. The rearguard action at Cardiff was superb and to control the game at Lord's was special as well."

"But we realise there are three games to go still and it's a marathon not a sprint," he added.

PROBABLE SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Ravi Bopara, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Matthew Prior, Andrew Flintoff, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Graham Onions, Stephen Harmison, Monty Panesar.

BANGLADESH UNDER-19s

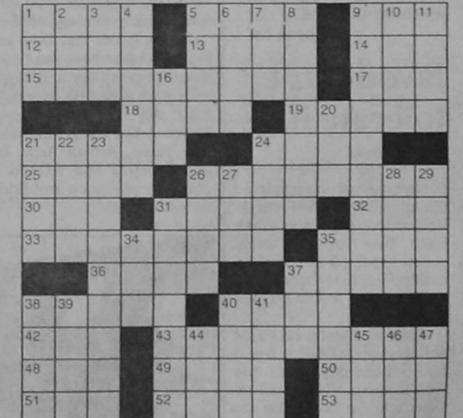
197-9 in 49 overs (Anamul 34, Hasan 70, Shabbir 20, Babu 24 not out, extras 13; Wood 1-42, Rafiq 1-37, Briggs 3-23, Wells 2-42)

BRIEF SCORES

ENGLAND UNDER-19s: 196-8 Result: Bangladesh Under-19s won by one wicket.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 33 Post-WW II birth rate increase 35 Nuisance 36 After all? woman 37 Country star 12 Lion's share 13 Turkish title 14 "SNL" alum 15 Janitor's gadget 17 Feminine side 18 Charged bits 19 Impressively high 21 "Saturday Night Fever" venue 24 Repeat 25 Some deer 26 Online talk site 30 \$ dispenser 31 Actress Jessica et al. 32 Path 52 Hibernia 53 Shriek bark 20 Rowing need 21 Colorless 1 Pump up the volume 23 Modicum 2 Dobb's off 24 Sir counter-part 3 Curvy character: late 4 Morals 5 Farm building rival 6 Hollywood clashers 7 Yet, in verse 8 Villages 9 Carrier of potato 10 One 11 Much more than one 12 Colorless 21 Teeny bit 23 Modicum 24 Sir counter-part 26 Coagulate 27 Showtime rival 28 Tobacco oven 29 Legend 31 Exculpate 32 Sweet potato 35 Bet the previous winnings 37 Chatter away 38 Competent 39 Story-teller 40 Despot 41 Robust 44 Grandson, maybe 45 Raw rock 46 Lubricant 47 Chart



CRYPTOQUIP J C S P H Z P Z A M X H Q H D E Y E W E P D S W Y D I H T S D A I S H X X S H R D , W A V R T U A V D H U Y C S U J S Q S M R S H D ' X R S H D ? Yesterday's Cryptogram: BECAUSE I MADE A PUN INVOLVING THE NAMES OF AVIAN FLIERS. MIGHT YOU CALL THAT A PLAY ON BIRDS? Today's Cryptogram Clue: U equals Y