

## Lara tipped to coach T&T

CRICINFO, undated

Brian Lara, the former West Indies captain, has confirmed he is in talks with the Trinidad & Tobago board about a role for him in T&T's Champions League campaign. His role is likely to be a coaching one since he cannot join the side as a player -- under the rules, the squad must be the same as the one that participated in the domestic competition.

"I haven't been approached but we have had discussions on it," Lara was quoted as saying in the Trinidad & Tobago Express. "I think we really want to come to a mutual understanding of exactly what Trinidad and Tobago cricket wants to get out of Brian Lara. I think you are going to play in an international tournament for the first time, we're accustomed to playing regional tournaments but we have to know exactly what the pitches are going to be like."

T&T are the only West Indies team to compete in the tournament, which includes three sides from India, two each from Australia, England and South Africa and one each from Sri Lanka and New Zealand. They will be up against international stars like Brendon McCullum, Andrew Symonds, Adam Gilchrist, Dale Steyn, Virender Sehwag and Daniel Vettori.

"The opposition is on an international stage... so I see some merit in it but to know exactly what role I'll be playing, I'm not so sure. If they see I can be an asset, it is something I'll definitely look at."

Lara had signed up with the ICL for their first season but that is unlikely to affect his role with the T&T since players who have ended their association with the unofficial league are being rehabilitated by their country's boards.

## Sheikh Russel

**FROM PAGE 17** Abahani defender Sunny, Mohammedan defender Kamal, striker Mohammad Ronny, midfielder Maruf, Brothers Union winger Abdullah Parvez and Chittagong Mohammedan defender Khokon Das.

Club's president Nurul Islam Chowdhury informed that they were initially going to start the camp with 18 players. The remaining players will join them later.

Chowdhury said that four players from Serbia and Ghana would be playing for them in the upcoming Federation Cup and later one more player would join them during the professional football league scheduled to start on October 16.

Meanwhile, holders Abahani have already started their preparations on Wednesday and are also scheduled to head for BKSP on August 18 for a two-week camp.

## Drogba fires

**FROM PAGE 17** Hull goalkeeper Boaz Myhill. From that moment on, Hull were forced into survival mode with Chelsea dominating possession.

It helped Hull's cause that Chelsea were in wasteful mood, never more so than when Nicolas Anelka tamely shot straight at Myhill just seconds after the restart, a miss that was as glaring as Drogba's had been at the start.

Myhill repeatedly dealt with anything Chelsea threw at him in the second period, including an outstanding save to deny Drogba.

And, worryingly for Ancelotti, as time wore on, his side ran out of ideas far too quickly for a side with title ambitions until Drogba conjured a final piece of magic.

## Cesc not

**FROM PAGE 20** Wenger revealed Arsenal are no further forward in any potential transfer deals, which have included a look at bringing former captain Patrick Vieira back as well as Bordeaux's Morocco striker Marouane Chamakh and Fulham defender Brede Hangeland.

"I have all the players in place," he added. "If we need to add one or two more, the transfer period is open until August 31."

"Ideally you want not to move any more, but you always have to adjust. If there is a need there, we will do it."

"There are still a lot of players who want to come to Arsenal, because they like the way we play and develop them."

"They feel they get access to top level competition, so I do not think we have a financial handicap."

"The market now is a world market, so you can always find good players."



Dhaka Club president Sadat Hossain Salim (6th from L) is seen with the winners of the Dhaka Club 98th Foundation Day Golf Tournament at the Suhrawardy Uddyan in the city on Friday.

## Rahul likely to return

CRICINFO, undated

Expect Rahul Dravid, who last played an ODI in October 2007, to return. That is the likeliest solution for the recent woes against short-pitched bowling that the selection committee will arrive at, when it sits to select the team for the tri-series in Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy. This should work in the short term as immediate solidarity in the middle order, and also in the long term if Dravid can hang on for so long as the youngsters find their feet firmly.

Dravid's success in this year's IPL makes the decision easier for the selectors, who were prompted to bring him back to the one-day fold after Virender Sehwag's injury and the younger batsmen's troubles with short-pitched bowling, highlighted most starkly in the ICC World Twenty20.

It doesn't seem likely that Sehwag will meet the fitness deadline for the Sri Lanka tri-series, but the selectors should name him in the Champions Trophy squad. He is expected to be back in action by the first week of September, which makes it too tight to pick him for Sri Lanka, but gives him enough time before the Champions Trophy. How much ever the selectors might want to choose the same 15 for both events, Sehwag will be too big a temptation. A word of caution, though: replacement rules at ICC events are tough, and India might not want to push them too much. In Sehwag's absence in Sri Lanka, though, India need not find a replacement, because Sachin Tendulkar is expected back and should open the innings with Gautam Gambhir.

Also returning will be Suresh Raina, who has recovered from a hairline fracture on his thumb. Zaheer Khan, as previously reported,

has been ruled out of both events and Ishant Sharma, Praveen Kumar, Ashish Nehra and RP Singh should be given the fast-bowling duties. What should make the decision easier is that three of them did well during the IPL in South Africa, where the Champions Trophy will be played. That being the fast-bowling scenario, 12 players select themselves, leaving three places open for debate.

While it is believed that left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha is under pressure from Amit Mishra, he should retain his place owing to his success in this year's IPL. Moreover, Ojha has had an impressive run in ODIs, taking 12 wickets at 28.00 in nine games. Rohit Sharma's place is a little less certain owing to a lean run off late (15 runs in three innings in the West Indies and 43 runs in three innings against major opposition in the World Twenty20), but he should hold on to his place, unless the selectors have made their mind up to send a strong message to the talented batsman who has just four half-centuries and no century in 41 ODIs.

The last place will be a toss-up between Dinesh Karthik, who did himself no harm by doing well both in the IPL and in the West Indies, Ravindra Jadeja and Abhishek Nayar. There is also a possibility that Karthik might play as a pure batsman ahead of Rohit. In Irfan Pathan's absence, Yusuf Pathan remains the only allrounder in the team, so they might want to pick either Nayar or Jadeja. If Sehwag is picked for the Champions Trophy one of the extras might have to make way.

### PROBABLE SQUAD

Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, MS Dhoni (captain), Yusuf Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Ashish Nehra, RP Singh, Pragyan Ojha or Amit Mishra and two out of Dinesh Karthik, Abhishek Nayar, and Ravindra Jadeja.

## Pak blind team denied UK visa

CRICINFO, undated

AFP, Islamabad

The head of Pakistan's blind cricketers on Saturday demanded that the sport's World Cup be shifted from England after the team was denied visas to play two series there.

The Pakistani cricket team for the visually impaired, the reigning world champions, were due to tour England from August 9-18 to play three one-day matches and a Twenty20 game as part of preparations for the World Cup 2011 -- also scheduled in England.

However, the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) denied the team visas earlier this week because it was not convinced the players would return to Pakistan once the tour was over.

Pakistan's Blind Cricket Council Chairman Syed Sultan Shah said he has complained to the India-based World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC) about the visa refusal and demanded the World Cup be re-located.

"We are protesting this with the WBCC. We are demanding that the World Cup be shifted from England because Bangladesh, India, Nepal and

Sri Lanka will also face the same problem... why stage a mega event in a country who will not give us visas," Shah told AFP.

He said it was ridiculous that the UK visa authorities said they were concerned players would not return to Pakistan and that they did not have sufficient income.

"It is insulting, how can a blind man run away when he can't go anywhere without help?" he added.

Pakistan is one of the top nations in the ten-member WBCC, having finished runners-up in the inaugural World Cup in 1998 and winning the next two editions, 2002 in Chennai, India and 2006 in Islamabad.

Shah was the first Pakistani blind cricket team captain.

"Most of our players are well-off with government jobs and the Pakistan Cricket Board was sponsoring us for the tour so where does the question of income arise?" he said.

The UKBA maintained it was justified in refusing the team visas.

"We will make no apology for maintaining tough border controls created to prevent abuse of the immigration system," it was quoted as saying by the BBC.

## Trott in for Eng nod

**FROM PAGE 17** Paul Collingwood managed just 16 runs between them at Headingley but it is the struggling Bopara who appears in greatest danger of losing his place.

There have been calls for the likes of Kent's Rob Key and Surrey veteran Mark Ramprakash to be recalled at the Oval in a bid to bolster England's batting. But Saturday's decision to pull Trott out of the Lions match suggests he is in pole position if England decide to alter their batting order.

Trott's only two previous international appearances came at the Oval two years ago

when he appeared in back-to-back Twenty20 internationals against the West Indies.

Australia need only a draw at the Oval to retain the Ashes they won 5-0 on home soil in 2006/07 but England must win if they are to regain them and equal their 2-1 triumph of four years ago over their oldest opponents.

### PROBABLE SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Jonathan Trott, Matt Prior, Andrew Flintoff, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Steve Harmison, Monty Panesar, Graeme Onions, Ryan Sidebottom.

## Tigers look

**FROM PAGE 17** hopefully we will come back in the next game. We didn't start well with the bat. Only 80 runs were needed in the last 10 overs but we didn't have enough wickets."

Zimbabwe skipper Prosper Utseya was satisfied with the victory: "The guys managed to come to the party today. Form is temporary, class is permanent. I think our batting can still improve."

### TEAMS

**BANGLADESH:** Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraful, Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Rokibul Hassan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Nayeem Islam, Mahbubul Alam, Enamul Haque and Syed Rasel.

## Wright eyes

**FROM PAGE 17** he will be working with Ganguly, who was the national captain during his five-year stint as India coach, for at least a year. Ganguly will be playing his third season at Kolkata and at 37 it is unclear whether he will extend his contract. It has been reported that Wright's relationship with Ganguly turned a bit rocky towards the end of those five years but Wright has always insisted he respected and appreciated Ganguly. He said the two still kept in touch.

"We had our differences and had different opinions, Wright said. "These were strong opinions too. But at the end of the day, we trusted each other. He was good with the young boys and gave the side aggression. We shared a common goal. I was very impressed in the manner he staged a comeback and went out on his own terms. Ganguly showed he was a fighter."

## GAY SETS EARLY PACE

# Borchin takes first Gold

Athletics

AFP, Berlin

Olympic champion Usain Bolt and reigning world champion Tyson Gay both cantered through the heats of the men's 100m on the opening day of the World Athletics Championships here on Saturday.

The first gold of the championships went Russia's way when Olympic champion Valeriy Borchin won the men's 20 kilometres walk title, finishing ahead of China's Wang Hao and Mexican Eder Sanchez.

With the Olympic Stadium bathed in sunshine and temperatures at a balmy 23C (73F), Bolt timed 10.20sec to lead Jamaican compatriots Michael Frater and Asafa Powell into the quarterfinals.

But former world record holder Powell, who took bronze in the Osaka worlds in 2007, almost paid the price for easing up too early, eventually finishing third in 10.38sec.

The one shock result in the 12 heats came as the silver medalist from Osaka, Derrick Atkins of the Bahamas, failed to qualify after clocking a disappointing 10.44sec.

In the US camp, defending triple world sprint champion Gay cruised through in the fastest heat time of 10.16sec along with his trio of teammates Darvis Patton, Michael Rodgers and Monzavous Edwards.

But Gay complained after his heat that his ongoing groin injury had not quite healed.

"I feel okay but my groin felt a little sore," he said. "I just didn't want to waste too much energy getting through. I just wanted to play it safe."

Other pre-race favourites, Daniel Bailey of Antigua -- Bolt's training partner -- won his heat while Churandy Martina of the Dutch Antilles, fourth at the Beijing Olympics, qualified in third spot in his race.

Briton Dwain Chambers, the world indoor 60m silver

medallist who is competing after having served a two-year doping ban, recorded the second fastest time of the morning, coming home in 10.18sec.

"I'm happy with the time," said Chambers. "The aim is to get through the rounds as easily as possible without using too much energy."

"You don't want to go sub-10sec here that uses up too much energy and digs into

your reserves."

"I didn't want to have any doubt about being in the next round so I made sure I didn't ease up," he said, adding that he was confident he could challenge the likes of Bolt and Gay.

"I don't doubt it for a second or I wouldn't be here."

In the men's shot-put, all the main favourites qualified for the final.

Olympic champion Tomasz Majewski of Poland recorded the longest putt of 21.19 metres on his first effort, with Belarus duo Pavel Lyzhyn and Andrei Mikhnevich close behind.

The American trio of Olympic silver medalist Christian Cantwell, Adam Nelson and reigning world champion Reese Hoffa also all qualified although the latter failed to hit the minimum qualification standard of 20.30m.

Britain's Jessica Ennis sat in pole position on 2,267 points after the first two events of the heptathlon, recording field leads of 12.93sec in the 100m hurdles and 1.92m in the high jump. Olympic champion Nataliya Dobrynska was in sixth spot on 2,016.

The heptathletes will later compete in the shot put and 200m. The second day of competition on Sunday involves long jump, javelin and the 800m.

In the women's 400m, American Sanya Richards struck the first blow in her bitter rivalry with Olympic world champion Christine Ohuruogu, winning her heat in a conservative 51.06sec.



Russia's Valeriy Borchin strides his last few steps as he goes on to win the men's 20 km walk of the 2009 IAAF Athletics World Championships in Berlin yesterday.

## Rossi not available for F1

INTERNET, undated

Valentino Rossi insists he has not been offered injured Felipe Massa's Ferrari cockpit, and nor is he available.

"It is a true shame not to see Schumacher back with Ferrari," the Italian rider said in the Czech Republic, ahead of this weekend's round of the MotoGP series.

"In my opinion he could have been in the fight for victory by his second race."

## PCB-ICC

**FROM PAGE 17** "In the light of our latest discussions I remain confident we can achieve that goal, something that would allow all of us, the ICC and its members, to focus on our key objective -- the staging of a successful ICC cricket World Cup in the Asian subcontinent in 2011."

Pakistan was stripped of its rights to host the 2011 World Cup in the aftermath of the attacks on touring Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore in March. Following the decision, the World Cup secretariat was moved from Lahore to Mumbai. The ICC then ruled out the possibility of a neutral venue -- the PCB was keen to organise its share of matches at a neutral venue, most likely the United Arab Emirates.

## MotoGP

# Italians rule in Brno

INTERNET, undated

Pole position for Sunday's Czech Republic GP went to an Italian rider in each of the three classes.

Andrea Iannone showed the way in the early afternoon, setting the fastest lap of the 125cc qualifying session to take his second pole of the season.

The Ongetta ISPA Aprilia rider beat Nico Terol in the final part of the session by three tenths of a second. Third place on the grid went to the Ajo Interwetten Derbi rider Sandro Cortese, while series leader Julian Simon took the last spot on the front row.

His teammate Bradley Smith set the fifth fastest lap and will head the second row of the grid. He will be joined out by Stefan Bradl, Sergio Gadea and Pol Espargaro. The Spaniard, who had been fastest in free practice, was a bit unlucky in qualifying. A mechanical problem on his Derbi meant he could not take part to the second half of the session and thus had no chance to improve on his lap time.

Vazquez, Zarco, Olive and Corsi will make up the third row of the grid.

Current MotoGP World Champion and series leader Valentino Rossi set a new circuit record on his way to

take pole position. Teammate Jorge Lorenzo had been fastest in free practice and looked set to continue his domination but could not match the Italian's pace in the last ten minutes of the session.

He still looks really strong on race tyres and will be aiming for a third victory on Sunday afternoon. Both Fiat Yamaha riders will be joined on the front row by Repsol Honda's Dani Pedrosa. The Spaniard encountered some slower riders in his last attempt and failed to improve on his time.

Looking for a ride next year, Toni Elias took an excellent fourth spot on the grid, in front of Colin Edwards and Andrea Dovizioso. De Angelis, Hayden and Capirossi will line up on the third row.

Two riders crashed during the session: poleman Valentino Rossi and Ducati rider Mika Kallio.

Marco Simoncelli rounded up a good day for the Italian riders by taking pole position for the 250cc race. The World Champion stormed at the top of the timesheet with fifteen minutes to go but had to work hard until the dying moments of the session to fend off Hiroshi Aoyama's last assault.

Fastest in free practice, Hector Barbera set the third fastest time of the session ahead of Spaniard Alex

Debon. Mike di Meglio qualified fifth fastest and will be joined on the second row by Locatelli, Pasini and Bautista.

## Nightmare

**FROM PAGE 17** "It was a very up-and-down match, obviously," said the disappointed Swiss, who will travel with his family to Cincinnati for next week's ATP Masters event.

"I should have won the first set. He completely lost his game for an hour there, through the second, the third."

"It was unfortunate I couldn't serve it out."

"All in all I thought it was a decent match. I didn't think it was bad, but it wasn't great, either. It's one of those matches I can live with."

Murray overcame a battle with the elements to stay in contention for his best career ranking thanks to a 6-2, 6-4 quarterfinal win over Russia's Nikolay Davydenko.

Murray, who trained in steamy Miami for two weeks leading up to his summer hardcourt return in Canada, said he was able to get on top of the sweltering 30 degree Celsius heat.

Murray is poised to take the world number two ranking from Nadal.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>			
1	Recedes	51	Mid-March date
5	Mandible		
8	"Airplane!"	52	Exceptional autopilot
12	Goose egg	53	— Francisco
13	Yoko of music	54	Tide type
14	Cornfield invader	55	News-paper page
15	Authentic	56	Choose, with "for"
16	Football break	57	Smelly
18	Aft		
20	Got lathery		
21	Stereo alternative	<b>DOWN</b>	
23	Wild-beest	1	Poet Pound
24	Interim	2	Honey bunch?
28	Therefore	3	Neighbor's kid?
31	Donkey	4	Grave
32	Navy elite		
		5	Hospital gowns
		6	Literary collection
		7	Three Little Pigs' pursuer
		8	Gasoline rating number
		9	Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, collectively
		10	Heavy book
		11	Didn't pay yet
		12	Visibility hindrance
		13	Deteriorates
		22	Nebraska city
		24	West of Hollywood
		25	Kreskin's claim
		26	So to speak
		27	Silver-tongued
		29	Jewel
		30	Individual
		33	Has done laps in the pool
		36	Wheel-died
		38	Recording
		40	Table scrap
		42	Frizzy hairdo

Solution time: 24 mins.

ROACH	ERASES
BERTHA	VERNAL
UNCOIL	ENCASE
GOAL	FOND
LAMB	SAP
TOED	MIMI
ENTOMOLOGISTS	
WASP	NICE
ASS	SKREW
ELF	CAKE
LOAFER	TENURE
ARCANE	EMUEED
NETTED	DUETTO

## CRYPTOQUIP

GTIZYNT HWY RZUZATK BZLVUA  
MVL T IBVPKJTU VU WUT  
GVJDB, HWY XYZPVMH ZN  
DBT XYVUD-TNNTUDVZP RWR.

**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** IF PEOPLE CAN IRON CLOTHES IN WHATEVER MANNER THEY WANT, I'D SAY THAT'S FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals M