



Bangladesh coach Zubair Nipu (3rd from R) briefs his players during a preparation camp for the AFC Under-16 qualifiers at Motijheel Boys High School ground yesterday.

Federer fined for profanity

AFP, New York

Swiss superstar Roger Federer was slapped with a 1,500-dollar fine by the United States Tennis Association Thursday for a heat of the battle argument with a US Open official.

Federer used a profanity when talking with the chair umpire during the final in New York on Sunday which he eventually lost to Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro.

Federer's fine pales in comparison to Serena Williams who was docked 10,000 dollars for threatening to shove a ball down the throat of a female line judge in an expletive-laden tirade in her final singles match.

Williams was also fined 500 dollars for throwing her racket.

Tournament spokesman Chris Widmaier says there were a total of 31,500 dollars in fines levied at the 2009 US Open.

Vera Zvonareva and Daniel Koellerer were fined the same amount as Federer for swearing.

Canadian doubles player Daniel Nestor was fined 5,000 dollars for unsportsmanlike conduct directed at unruly fans of his opponent who were cheering double faults.

Big hitters

FROM PAGE 17 enough to dent England's prowess, came the news that Flintoff was also ruled out of the tournament.

Flintoff, who quit Test cricket after the recent Ashes series, is a proven match-winner with both bat and ball in all forms of the game.

England have often relied on his aggressive batting and sharp seam bowling to gain a big advantage. Their recent one-day series defeat against Australia only proves how badly they missed their match-winning duo.

While England, Champions Trophy runners-up at home in 2004, will be under strength without Pietersen and Flintoff, cricket will also be poorer without the three quality batsmen.

WADA stands

FROM PAGE 17 in the registered testing pool.

"It is helpful any sport keeps that to themselves, they should decide who should be on the registered testing pool and they should make their rules about what that might be," Fahey said. "Having said that, any athlete can be tested anywhere any time. I've to stress that again whether you are part of the registered testing pool or not, that's part of the WADA code."

He added that "the element of surprise" in the clause is essential for out-of-competition tests.

The ICC implemented the new WADA code from January 1 and that included a clause which mandated cricketers nominated to an international testing pool to reveal to an ICC-nominated officer before every quarter details of their location for an hour every day for the next three months to facilitate out-of-competition testing.

This whereabouts system was to start from August 1 but was stalled after the 11 Indian cricketers in the pool, including Sachin Tendulkar, refused to reveal the required information citing security and privacy concerns. The BCCI has backed the players in this issue and even sought the opinion of two top legal authorities in the country to firm up its stand. It is believed that the BCCI now has significant support from other ICC full members on this issue.

Renault future in balance

AFP, Paris



The Nelson Piquet junior 'crashgate' scandal could not have come at a worse time for a Formula One team such as Renault already under pressure to justify its operation against the backdrop of the global economic crisis.

The French manufacturer's implicit acceptance of what has been described as the worst case of cheating in the history of sport cannot fail to have some bearing on its continued presence in the sport.

The credit crunch has already forced Honda and BMW to pull the plug on their F1 operations -- and the negative publicity that has shadowed the murky goings on at last year's Singapore Grand Prix can hardly help Renault's image in a decimated market place.

Question marks over Renault's F1 involvement had already been raised before Piquet's whistleblowing call to the FIA which triggered this latest and most damaging of scandals to hit the sport.

Former team boss Flavio Briatore angrily brushed off suggestions that Renault's future could be in doubt back in January, just one month after Honda announced they were quitting.

"Everyone always talks about Renault, whereas the others have more problems than us," said the Italian, who resigned on Wednesday along with Renault's director of engineering Pat Symonds.

No one ever asked Honda if they were going to stay. And look what happened, they left," added Briatore.

"It's been five years now that we've been talking about reducing costs. Renault has never been one to waste money. Spectacular presentations, fireworks, that's not for us. I've never had a budget problem at Renault."

The amount of money it costs to run a modern day Formula One team -- Renault's annual budget is put at up to 300 million euros -- has

never been more pertinent in these cash-strapped times.

That's a hard figure to justify for a car giant that recorded an 80 percent loss in profits in 2008 on the previous year's sales and which has already suffered a 2.7 billion euro hit in the first quarter of 2009.

Renault's success in F1 is pivotal to its image and consequently its performance in a market place shrunk by the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

F1, with its 600 million spectators, remains the principal vehicle for Renault to advertise its marque -- Fernando Alonso's world drivers' titles in 2005 and 2006 giving it a huge boost around the world.

But for the past two years the team based in France at Viry-Châtillon on the outskirts of Paris and near Oxford in England has treaded water.

And with a difficult start to the 2008 season a win for Alonso in Singapore could well have been just what was needed to convince Renault to continue, according to paddock rumours.

Alonso's (legitimate) follow-up success in Japan would have only helped the argument to stick with F1.

The 2009 campaign has not been kind to Renault -- after 13 races Alonso is trailing in tenth place in the drivers' standings while the team are eighth of ten in the constructors' title race -- 126 points from leaders Brawn GP.

What's more Alonso is set to jump ship and move to Ferrari in 2010 when the Italian team will be backed by Santander, Alonso's long-term partner.

So the stakes could not be higher for Renault as they await the FIA's verdict on crashgate -- a huge fine like the 100 million euros meted out to McLaren Mercedes in 2007 or lengthy suspension could well spell the end for the proud French outfit.

Their one hope going into Monday's hearing at FIA headquarters in Paris is the decision by Briatore and Symonds to quit on Wednesday -- resignations which they hope will lead to clemency by the FIA stewards.

England feel the Paine

FROM PAGE 17 second ball of England's reply.

England captain Andrew Strauss appeared to have swayed out of the way of a Lee bouncer in near textbook fashion, the ball brushing his shoulder on the way through to Paine.

But Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf, after a prolonged appeal, gave Strauss out and England were caught for one.

"It was a bit of a horror show with the bat," Strauss said.

No-one is more frustrated than I am. We can sit down and talk about what went wrong today but ultimately it is about people getting up there, showing some character and delivering."

Joe Denly drove James Hopes's second ball for six but the medium-pacer had his revenge when, off his 11th delivery, the Kent opener skied him to Lee.

Ponting, long one of the world's best outfields, then produced two magnificent direct hit runs-outs to dismiss Matt Prior and Ravi Bopara.

That left England 60 for four and they never looked like clawing their way back from such a dire position.

England, after Strauss's run of five straight toss wins ended, saw Anderson dismiss Shane Watson and he then had

Ponting caught off a hook deep backward square-leg by Ryan Sidebottom.

But England's joy at removing Ponting for six, 120 fewer than a he managed in Australia's four-wicket victory on Tuesday, was short-lived as Paine unfurled a fine array of strokes.

The 24-year-old, only playing after first-choice keeper Brad Haddin was ruled out of the series with a broken finger that will also sideline him from the Champions Trophy, had made his maiden ODI fifty at Lord's on Saturday.

His single off Graeme Swann saw him to a hundred off 130 balls, including a superb straight six off Dimitri Mascarenhas and 13 fours.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the sixth one-day international between England and Australia at Trent Bridge on Thursday:

AUSTRALIA Watson b Anderson 4 Paine c Prior b Mascarenhas 111 Ponting c Sidebottom b Anderson 6 Hussey c Denly b Swann 65 Ferguson b Anderson 6 White c Denly b Anderson 35 Hopes c Denly b Sidebottom 38 Lee run out (Anderson) 0 Hauritz not out 1 Siddle not out 8 Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-14) 22

Bowler O M R W Anderson 10 0 55 4 Sidebottom 9 0 65 1 Mascarenhas 10 0 49 1 Bresnan 9 0 60 0 Swann 10 0 48 1 Bopara 2 0 11 0

ENGLAND Strauss c Paine b Lee 0 Denly c Lee b Hopes 25 Bopara run out (Ponting) 24 Prior run out (Ponting) 6 Shah c Watson b Hopes 23 Morgan c Hussey b Bracken 23 Mascarenhas b Hopes 11 Bresnan not out 31 Swann b Bracken 12 Sidebottom b Siddle 15 Anderson b Lee 1 Extras: (lb-3, w-8, nb-3) 14 Total: (All out in 41 overs) 185 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-45, 3-59, 4-60, 5-100, 6-114, 7-125, 8-158, 9-182.

Bowler O M R W Lee 8 0 48 2 Bracken 10 0 42 2 Siddle 8 1 22 1 Hopes 9 0 32 3 Hauritz 6 0 38 0

Result Australia won by 111 runs and lead seven-match series 6-0.

Man-of-the-match: Tim Paine.

Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-14) 22

Total: (For 8 wkt in 50 overs) 296

Did not bat: Bracken.

Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-40, 3-203, 4-206, 5-220, 6-273, 7-281, 8-288.

Bowler O M R W Anderson 10 0 55 4 Sidebottom 9 0 65 1 Mascarenhas 10 0 49 1 Bresnan 9 0 60 0 Swann 10 0 48 1 Bopara 2 0 11 0

ENGLAND Strauss c Paine b Lee 0 Denly c Lee b Hopes 25 Bopara run out (Ponting) 24 Prior run out (Ponting) 6 Shah c Watson b Hopes 23 Morgan c Hussey b Bracken 23 Mascarenhas b Hopes 11 Bresnan not out 31 Swann b Bracken 12 Sidebottom b Siddle 15 Anderson b Lee 1 Extras: (lb-3, w-8, nb-3) 14 Total: (All out in 41 overs) 185 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-45, 3-59, 4-60, 5-100, 6-114, 7-125, 8-158, 9-182.

Bowler O M R W Lee 8 0 48 2 Bracken 10 0 42 2 Siddle 8 1 22 1 Hopes 9 0 32 3 Hauritz 6 0 38 0

Result Australia won by 111 runs and lead seven-match series 6-0.

Man-of-the-match: Tim Paine.

Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-14) 22

SA fume over ICC awards

FROM PAGE 17 panel representative: Alan Hurst; ICC umpires elite panel representative: Billy Bowden and chairman of the ICC cricket committee: Clive Lloyd.

While the shortlist was announced on Tuesday, the category winners will be known only on awards night. The votes have already been collated by Ernst and Young, who acted as independent auditors.

South Africa are currently the No. 1 Test and ODI team on the ICC rankings and the long list, reflecting this, featured four South African players.

Graeme Smith, who led his team to their first Test series win ever in Australia, and AB de Villiers, who hit two match-

winning centuries against Australia -- one of them set up that historic away series win -- were nominated for Cricketer of the Year and Test Player of the Year; Dale Steyn, who was ICC's Test Player of the Year in 2008, also featured on the long list for the best Test player; and Wayne Parnell, the left-arm fast bowler, was nominated for the best Twenty20 International Performance of the year.

None of them made it to the final four in their categories.

Writing on the SuperSport website, Manthorp said the fault lay not with the ICC but with the system used for determining the award winners. The 25-member panel has to select the final nominees from a dozen or more names on the long list,

which, he said, was simply too time-consuming to be done thoroughly. There were "plenty of Proteas" on the long list, he said, but not having played for three months meant they were "out of sight and out of mind."

Strauss calls for character

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

England captain Andrew Strauss told his players to show "character" after a 111-run thrashing by Australia on Thursday left them on the brink of a record 7-0 series loss.

No side has ever lost a bilateral one-day international (ODI) campaign 7-0. But a sixth straight defeat by world champions Australia meant England faced the prospect of making unwanted history in Sunday's climax at the Riverside.

"Six-nil is bad enough to be honest," Strauss said after England were beaten for the second time in three days under the Trent Bridge floodlights.

"We've got one more opportunity (this series) to show our calibre as a side. We need to take that opportunity."

England, set 297 to win after Australia made 296 for eight featuring a maiden ODI century from wicketkeeper/batsman Tim Paine, were bowled out for 187 with a crushing nine overs to spare with only No 8 Tim Bresnan, 31 not out, making more than 30.

Once again England's top failed, although Strauss, the hosts' best batsman this series, did appear unlucky to be given out caught behind for a second-ball no-bat.

But the left-handed opener said his dismissal was no excuse for another batting "horror show" that shattered

England's already dented confidence ahead of next week's start of the Champions Trophy ODI tournament in South Africa.

"It was a bit of a horror show with the bat," Strauss said. "No one is more frustrated than I am."

Strauss, booed by angry spectators during the post-match presentation ceremony, added: "We were never in the hunt with the bat so I can understand the frustration of the crowd. I'm not going to sit here and make any excuses."

"What we have shown so far in this series hasn't been good enough, far from it. As a group of players and as individuals we need to stand up and show some character now. It's as simple as that."

He added: "It's been damaging for the one-day unit because confidence has become increasingly frail."

However, Strauss insisted England -- who just over a year ago were 5-0 down in a seven-match ODI series in India that was cut short by the Mumbai terror attacks -- could regroup in time for Sunday's match and the Champions Trophy.

Recalling how England won the one-day series on their last tour of Australia, after losing the Ashes 5-0, Strauss said: "It's not impossible to get back."

"I remember in Australia in 2006/07 we were in a similar state and Paul Collingwood got a couple of hundreds and things turned around."

"It's a very simple process. Sitting around in a team room having a chat

about it is not going to solve anything."

"What is going to solve it is a couple of guys standing up and showing the necessary character to go out and turn things around. It's as simple as that... but with each game that passes the pressure grows."

The 24-year-old Paine, in only his seventh ODI, built on the fifty he made at Lord's last Saturday in fine style during a 148-ball innings with 14 fours.

Paine, only given a chance against England because first-choice wicketkeeper Brad Haddin was ruled out with a finger injury that will also sideline him from Australia's defence of their Champions Trophy title, was delighted.

</div