

Ganguly on BCCI tech committee

PTI, Mumbai

Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly was included as a member of the Board of Control for Cricket in India's Technical Committee headed by Sunil Gavaskar at the BCCI's 80th AGM here on Thursday.

The panel also includes former Test umpire VK Ramaswamy and ex-India opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth who was retained as the head of the senior selection committee for the 2009-10 season.

While there was no change in the composition of the senior committee, Arun Sharma replaced Sanjeev Sharma, who has completed his term, in the juniors panel to be headed by ex-Test and Mumbai pacer Abey Kuruvilla.

Australia v India ODI shifted from Jaipur

CRICINFO, undated

The first match of the seven-match ODI series between Australia and India has been shifted from the Sawai Man Singh Stadium in Jaipur to the Reliance Stadium in Vadodra.

The move, announced during the Board of Control for Cricket in India AGM on Thursday, was prompted by the current power struggle within the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA).

A controversy had arisen over control of the RCA with a group backed by Lalit Modi claiming on Sunday to have removed the incumbent, Sanjay Dixit, through a no-confidence motion. Dixit, who defeated Modi in the election earlier this year, called the move unconstitutional and said he was still in charge.

Interestingly, the last ODI at the Reliance Stadium involved the same teams in October 2007. The series kicks off on October 25 and will run through till November 11.

Tigers resume

FROM PAGE 17
ailing midget while left-arm pacer Syed Raseel was rushed to Dhaka from Jessore on Wednesday and admitted to a city hospital with high fever.

"Raseel is now okay. His family was little bit worried with the symptoms of the fever and that's why they rushed to Dhaka but there was nothing wrong in the examination reports," informed assistant coach Khaled Mahmud.

FA told

FROM PAGE 20
there has been little progress on establishing a women's professional league in England.

The FA receives around 25 million pounds a year through the government-financed Sport England.

"Funding is one lever we've got," Sutcliffe said. "It would be a last resort. But there has to be, and there already is, a recognition that the status quo is not good enough."

Trio crash

FROM PAGE 20
midfielder Benjamin Siegfert slotted home on 67 minutes.

Hamburg's Croatia striker Mladen Petric pulled one back for Hamburg on 77 minutes and then Trochowski netted a penalty in injury time to force extra time.

Defender Guy Demel scored in the 100th minute, but Osnabrueck scored again before Petric missed his spot kick as the minnows claimed a 4-2 win on penalties.

Hertha Berlin, who are bottom of the Bundesliga table after last weekend's crushing 4-0 defeat at home to Freiburg, suffered further humiliation when they also lost on penalties at second-division Munich 1860.

Having found themselves 2-0 down, two goals in the last 15 minutes from Hertha took the game to extra time before the match was decided by a penalty shoot-out as the home side won 4-1 to book their place in the third round.

Defending German Cup champions Werder Bremen needed a late winner from Brazil defender Naldo in the 82nd minute to be sure of their place in the third round with a 2-1 win against second-division St Pauli.

And Stuttgart - who dropped ex-Germany goalkeeper Jens Lehmann for visiting Munich's Oktoberfest after his side lost to Cologne in the German league on Saturday - needed extra time to win 3-1 at minnows Luebeck.



Pakistan's Umar Akmal (L) raises his helmet as he celebrates his side's victory over West Indies in their ICC Champions Trophy match at Wanderers in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

Alam impressed

CRICINFO, Wanderers



Intikhab Alam, the Pakistan coach, praised the younger members of his side for pulling Pakistan out of a potentially sticky situation against West Indies and ensuring they got their Champions Trophy campaign off to a winning start. Man of the match Umar Akmal, with a little help from stand-in captain Shahid Afridi, eventually guided Pakistan home in their 134-run chase with an accomplished, unbeaten 41.

The 19-year-old Akmal had seen his team slide to 76 for 5 at one stage, his senior colleagues gone in a tentative top-order chase. Akmal took time to settle in but once he had, out came the strokeplay that has got his international career off to such a productive start: though only five ODIs old, he averages over 77 with a strike rate over 100. Even a Tino Best beamer that smashed into his finger (the injury is not serious according to Alam) couldn't stop him.

"We expect a great deal from this young man," Alam said. "He's done a great deal in a short amount of time. I have a lot of time for him and he has a great future ahead of him."

Pakistan had Mohammad Aamer to thank for ensuring they chased such a small total in the first place. The 17-year-old took three wickets, including one in the first over of the innings, to plant the seeds of West Indies' collapse. Umar Gul provided important support, picking up three wickets as well.

"Our fast bowlers were very good," Alam said. "I have a lot of time for both. Umar Gul is very committed and did wonders in England. And young Aamer is a very talented player. When we took him to England and we played

him straight away in the World Twenty20, you can imagine he bowled the last over against South Africa in the semifinal, you can imagine he must have great ability. He has a great future."

There will be concerns, however, about a rusty-looking top and middle order, especially as stronger bowling attacks lie in wait. The pitch was lively enough, though Pakistan's remaining games, as Alam pointed out, were in Centurion.

"The pitch was difficult also and bowling was good. It was the first match of the season at this ground and that grass will go eventually and there was uneven bounce. It was a good lesson for us."

"I was a little surprised when they elected to bat because we would've bowled. It did a lot. West Indies bowled a really good line, they had a bit of pace and we made it difficult for ourselves too. Now we play at Centurion where the surface will be different."

That will be Pakistan's next game on Saturday, against India and they are hoping to have captain Yunus Khan back for that. Yunus sustained a hairline fracture on a finger on his right hand in a warm-up game, forcing him to sit out the opening game. There is good news as Yunus did hold a bat for the first time since the injury. "He did practice this afternoon for an hour," Alam said. "He felt okay and I am sure he will play in the next match."

If not, Afridi will remain captain and that, Alam noted, is no bad thing. This was Afridi's first ODI as captain, adding to the T20 win under his leadership against Sri Lanka last month. "I was impressed with him today. He showed a responsibility and maturity in his play and that is why he was made captain for T20s. I thought it was a very good decision."

Gopalpur best rowers

UNB, Tangail

Sadaat Chairman and his group from Gopalpur secured the first place while Motiar Rahman of Ghatail finished second in the NCC Bank-Singna Rowing Competition 2009 held at Qumribeel of Singna village yesterday.

The competition was organised by Singna Samajkalyan Jubo Sangha in cooperation with NCC Bank Limited and Bangladesh Rowing Federation on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Some big and small country-made boats took part in the competition. A group of seven women rowers also participated in the event.

Kalihatip upazila chairman Hasan Imam Khan Sohel Hazari inaugurated the competition.

A huge number of people gathered at Qumribeel at Singna village to enjoy the rowing competition.

NCC Bank Senior Executive Vice President TM Faruque Chowdhury, General Secretary of Bangladesh Rowing Federation M Abdul Awal Majnu, Nouka Baich Committee Convenor Meer Kaiser Sadik, among others, spoke at the inaugural programme.

The guests distributed prizes among the winners.

Hussey feels

FROM PAGE 17
capable of progressing past the group stage.

"There are some tired bodies in our camp at the moment so we will have a rest today and start preparing tomorrow for our first match on Saturday," Ponting said.

"The Champions Trophy is going to be a very tight tournament because there are some very good teams taking part and Sri Lanka have already caused a surprise [by beating South Africa]. I regard Sri Lanka as one of the top ODI teams and once they put on more than 300 runs it was always going to be hard work for South Africa."

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

It is too harsh, too righteous, too ignorant of a devilishly tangled issue and too disrespectful of those who are here. They are plainly a weak side and are likely to be beaten in all three games. But they did not devalue their match against Pakistan. They almost made something of it, added whatever value can be added to a match in which a target of 134 has been set. Their top order was poor, but it's not as if Pakistan's batted like kings. And if the pitch remains the same then other sides will also struggle with the grass.

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

Eng in Mendis maze

AFP, Johannesburg



Andrew Strauss's England face a stiff spin test when they take on a confident Sri Lanka in their opening match of the Champions Trophy here on Friday.

Sri Lanka have two excellent spinners in Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis, capable of making life difficult for batsmen with their subtle variations.

Unorthodox spinner Mendis played a key role in his team's stunning 55-run victory over South Africa in a rain-hit match at Centurion on Tuesday, grabbing three wickets for 30 runs.

"We have not played Mendis and some of their seam bowlers before," said Strauss, whose team were beaten 6-1 in a recent home one-day series against defending champions Australia.

"Everyone will have his own game-plan against him (Mendis). You can look at a lot of footage of him, but it is only in the middle that you can be really sure of how he bowls and what his variations are."

"It requires us to think pretty quick on our feet. There are some fundamentals you have to keep in mind against someone like him, but it is a new challenge."

Off-spinner Muralidaran, the world's leading wicket-taker in both Tests and one-dayers, and paceman Lasith Malinga, with his slinging action, are the other bowlers who could keep pressure on England.

"They ask different questions of you. It's only by facing them you can be sure of your game-plan. We have played against Murali and Malinga, but Mendis is new."

"The way he (Mendis) bowls makes life difficult for batsmen, but to an extent the pace he bowls at provides opportunities for batsmen as well once you get used to his variations."

"Sri Lanka are a good side with a lot of confidence. It will be quite exciting to play against them."

Strauss conceded that England's one-day form had been a cause of concern for many years.

"The one-dayers have been an ongoing concern for a number of years. The players are really excited about moving forward as a group. It will take a bit of time to happen," said Strauss.

"In the meantime, I maintain we are capable of beating anyone but we haven't had the consistency over the years. A change in environment can make a big difference. We have to start looking forward."

"There is something quite exciting about world events. It's quite exciting to know if you play well in three games you're in the semi-final."

England are without match-winners Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff, who are recovering from injuries.

"Freddie and KP are two of our best one-day cricketers. But Freddie has been out quite a lot recently and we are used to that and we've got to move on," said Strauss.

"It's also a chance for other guys to step up and make a name for themselves."

South Africa and New Zealand are the other teams in Group B, with the top two sides advancing to the semi-finals.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), James Anderson, Ravi Bopara, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Joe Denly, Eoin Morgan, Graham Onions, Matt Prior, Adil Rashid, Owais Shah, Ryan Sidebottom, Graeme Swann, Luke Wright.

SRI LANKA (from): Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Chamara Kapugedara, Angelo Mathews, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis, Thilan Thushara, Nuwan Kulasekara, Dhammika Prasad, Lasith Malinga, Thilina Kandamby.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and Billy Bowden.

Don't belittle these WI

CRICINFO, Wanderers

It cannot be an easy time to be a West Indies cricketer of any kind. Those on strike are not doing what they are meant to be doing. Those in South Africa are not being credited for doing what they are doing.

Floyd Reifer's men came into the tournament having been beaten by Bangladesh. Their presence here was said by many to devalue the tournament itself. And when their batting collapsed on Wednesday, you could sense people were waiting to pounce.

It's a funny charge that, devaluation, given that of the many things the Champions Trophy has been accused of in the past, adding value to cricket has rarely been one of them. Minnows have played before and been greatly embarrassed too. And it's hardly as if the West Indians not of Reifer have gallivanted around the globe over the last many years adding value to the game.

It is too harsh, too righteous, too ignorant of a devilishly tangled issue and too disrespectful of those who are here. They are plainly a weak side and are likely to be beaten in all three games. But they did not devalue their match against Pakistan. They almost made something of it, added whatever value can be added to a match in which a target of 134 has been set. Their top order was poor, but it's not as if Pakistan's batted like kings. And if the pitch remains the same then other sides will also struggle with the grass.

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

They flashed and dashed around the field later with particular vim and gusto, a world away from the lethargy that so often engulfs Chris Gayle's sides. There were errors for sure, but the effort could not be questioned. Tino Best hared in wanting to break something, Darren Sammy and David Bernard didn't disgrace themselves and Gavin Tonge actually surpassed himself.

So fluid and rhythmic was Tonge that you believed him when he said after taking a career-best 4 for 25 that he could've bowled 20 overs straight. "I was feeling good today, good to bowl 20 overs straight because it was my type of pitch and I was feeling it good," Tonge

Ray foresees tough time for IPL sides

CRICINFO, undated

Royal Challengers Bangalore coach Ray Jennings believes the Indian Premier League (IPL) teams competing in the Champions League Twenty20 will have a tough time as the quality of their opposition will be different to what they faced in the Indian league.

The tournament gets underway on October 8 in Bangalore, and features three IPL teams - Deccan Chargers, Bangalore and Delhi Daredevils - and nine domestic sides from five other countries.

Jennings, who had overseen Bangalore's progress to the IPL final in South Africa, said the IPL teams would find it difficult to get into their groove as they comprised of international players who didn't play together often.

"The sides that you play in

Champions League are a lot better than IPL sides," Jennings said. "The team plays together right through the year so they have a culture in place."

"But with IPL sides, there are players from around the world and that will be a problem. Hopefully, we start well and get the momentum going, which is very important," he said.

Jennings, who will supervise a preparatory camp for the tournament in a couple of days, has tipped Cape Cobras and New South Wales (NSW) as favourites for the tournament.

The Cobras team, led by South Africa captain Graeme Smith, also includes Herschelle Gibbs and JP Duminy. NSW, under captain Simon Katich, are a formidable unit including nine players with international experience.

"They are two very strong sides and are favourites to win," Jennings said. "But you never know in a Twenty20 game."

Umar sees Pakistan

FROM PAGE 17

others to reach double-figures in a dismal performance after the West Indies elected to bat.

The West Indies were in danger of falling below the 100-mark when they were struggling at 47-7 before adding 86 for the last three wickets, thanks to Miller and Sammy.

The West Indies are without key players Chris Gayle, Ramnareesh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Dwayne Bravo following a contract row between the players and their cricket board.

Aamer struck with his sixth delivery when he held a return catch to dismiss Dale Richards. He kept pressure on the batsmen with a lively pace, taking two more wickets.

There was no respite from pace for the inexperienced West Indies as Aamer was brilliantly backed by Gul. Off-spinner Saeed Ajmal was the other notable wicket-taker with 2-16.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy match between

Champions League are a lot better than IPL sides," Jennings said. "The team plays together right through the year so they have a culture in place."

"But with IPL sides, there are players from around the world and that will be a problem. Hopefully, we start well and get the momentum going, which is very important," he said.

Jennings, who will supervise a preparatory camp for the tournament in a couple of days, has tipped Cape Cobras and New South Wales (NSW) as favourites for the tournament.

The Cobras team, led by South Africa captain Graeme Smith, also includes Herschelle Gibbs and JP Duminy. NSW, under captain Simon Katich, are a formidable unit including nine players with international experience.

"They are two very strong sides and are favourites to win," Jennings said. "But you never know in a Twenty20 game."

Champions League are a lot better than IPL sides," Jennings said. "The team plays together right through the year so they have a culture in place."

"But with IPL sides, there are players from around the world and that will be a problem. Hopefully, we start well and get the momentum going, which is very important," he said.

Jennings, who will supervise a preparatory camp for the tournament in a couple of days, has tipped Cape Cobras and New South Wales (NSW) as favourites for the tournament.

The Cobras team, led by South Africa captain Graeme Smith, also includes Herschelle Gibbs and JP Duminy. NSW, under captain Simon Katich, are a formidable unit including nine players with international experience.

"They are two very strong sides and are favourites to win," Jennings said. "But you never know in a Twenty20 game."

Champions League are a lot better than IPL sides," Jennings said. "The team plays together right through the year so they have a culture in place."

"But with IPL sides, there are players from around the world and that will be a problem. Hopefully, we start well and get the momentum going, which is very important," he said.

Jennings, who will supervise a preparatory camp for the tournament in a couple of days, has tipped Cape Cobras and New South Wales (NSW) as favourites for the tournament.

The Cobras team, led by South Africa captain Graeme Smith, also includes Herschelle Gibbs and JP Duminy. NSW, under captain Simon Katich, are a formidable unit including nine players with international experience.

"They are two very strong sides and are favourites to win," Jennings said. "But you never know in a Twenty20 game."

Champions League are a lot better than IPL sides," Jennings said. "The team plays together right through the year so they have a culture in place."

"But with IPL sides, there are players from around the world and that will be a problem. Hopefully, we start well and get the momentum going, which is very important," he said.

Proteas stay

FROM PAGE 17
Duminy did not last long, scoring just 11 off 13 balls before becoming the victim of a spectacular McCullum catch after trying a cut that took a bottom edge.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the Champions Trophy match between South Africa and New Zealand at SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday:

NEW ZEALAND
McCullum c Duminy b Botha 44
Ryder c Van der Merwe b Parnell 8
Guptill c Amla b Parnell 21
Taylor lbw b Parnell 72
Elliot b Van der Merwe 39
Broom lbw b Van der Merwe 13
Hopkins c Duminy b Parnell 13
Mills c De Villiers b Steyn 0
Vettori