

All eyes on Yuvraj

Indo-Aussie 2nd ODI today

Cricket

PTI, Visakhapatnam

India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Tuesday said it would be a change of role for Yuvraj Singh in the one-day series against Australia.

Fighting with form and fitness, Yuvraj after being ignored for the Test series against Australia, has made a comeback for the ODIs in what appears to be a make or break series for the elegant Punjab batsman.

After the opener in Kochi being a wash-out, all eyes are on the second one-dayer in Vizag on Wednesday and Dhoni said they were expecting Yuvraj to play a vital role.

"Our batting has always revolved around him. He is a type of player who can change gears at any point of time and can take complete control of the game. At the same time, he has played over 250 ODIs which means he has got a lot of experience," Dhoni said on the pre-match media interaction.

Being the senior most cricketer of the side at a time when big guns like Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag are rested, Yuvraj will have a change in role.

"For somebody like Yuvraj Singh it will be a different approach of sorts. He will be one of the senior most cricketers along with Ashish Nehra.

It's a change of role for quite a few players.

"His bowling is very important for us. If we decide for four bowlers and use part-timers as the fifth bowler, he is considered a bowling option. He has done quite well with the ball, he gets two-three wickets. We are expecting him to score runs," Dhoni said.

"If you do well in bowling it reflects in your batting and if you do well in batting it reflects in your bowling. He has got both the dimensions of the game," said the captain, praising Yuvraj.

Back-to-back losses in the recently-concluded two-Test series have dented the world champion Australia's pride and they would be looking to get back at the hosts.

Known for their fighting spirit, Australia have won every one-day series in India since 1998 and the pressure will clearly be on Michael Clarke who had a barren Test series that added fuel to criticism against him.

TEAMS

INDIA (probable): Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Praveen Kumar, Ashish Nehra, Munaf Patel.

AUSTRALIA (probable): David Warner, Tim Paine, Michael Clarke (captain), Shaun Marsh or Callum Ferguson, Michael Hussey, Cameron White, Steve Smith, James Hopes, Nathan Hauritz, Clint McKay, Doug Bollinger or Mitchell Starc.

Hussey rejects Test rankings

PTI, Melbourne

Australian batsman Mike Hussey has rejected the ICC's Test rankings, which place his team at fifth, saying that the Aussies are "definitely better than that and the system is not a true reflection of their form."

Australia dropped to an all-time low of fifth after being blanked 0-2 in the just-concluded Test series against India but Hussey said the side does not deserve to be number five.

"I don't think we're the fifth-best team in the world. I don't think that's a true reflection of our team, we're definitely better than that," Hussey said.

"With the new Test championship coming in, that will probably give a better indication of where teams are at, and a better understanding of where teams are ranked.

"I don't think about being fifth-best team in the world, I don't necessarily agree with that," he was quoted as saying by 'The Sydney Morning Herald'.

The proposed Test Championships, if contested now, would not feature Australia because the side is not inside the top-four bracket.

"We need to get up to make sure we're fourth to get into that. We've got a couple of years to continue the curve of getting better every time. I think our team is getting better all the time," Hussey said.

"I have a strong belief in the personnel we've got, and the plans and processes we've put in place, that if we stick to what we know and don't get affected too much by the outside influences, I firmly believe we've got a great chance to play some excellent Test cricket in the next year," he added.

The 35-year-old also dismissed talk of any possible retirement plans after next year's World Cup in the sub-continent.

"I don't feel the talk. I've always made a conscious decision to not take much notice of what goes on outside the team. I don't read a hell of a lot of press, I don't watch the TV that much," he said.

"I must admit last summer I found it a lot harder to get away from that because there seemed like a lot of speculation. But certainly watching guys like Sachin Tendulkar play so well at 37, Steve Waugh played very well later in his career, Matthew Hayden played brilliantly, Justin Langer -- there's so much evidence of players playing very well, well past 35," he added.

Hussey said as long as he has the faith of captain Ricky Ponting, he is not bothered about what is written about him in the press.

"I'm going to keep believing in myself, and I feel like I've still got the faith of Ricky, the coaching staff and the selectors. As long as I keep believing that, I still feel like I've got a lot to offer."

'Rooney wants

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The Guardian said any move by Rooney to Eastlands would represent the "most rancorous and staggering transfer of modern times."

The newspaper reported City would do everything they could to land the player, noting that City's administrator Brian Marwood has a long-standing association with Rooney's agent, Paul Stretford.

"We hadn't discussed signing Rooney until the last week because we never thought he would be available, just like we have never discussed signing Lionel Messi from Barcelona," a senior Manchester City figure told the paper.

A move to Manchester City would likely see Rooney become the highest paid player in English football, more than doubling his current salary of 90,000 pounds per week to as much as 250,000 pounds per week.

CJKS school

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approved for the tournament that will end on October 31, they said.

Shahadat Hossain, convenor of CJKS school football organising sub-committee, read out a written statement at the conference where Hafizur Rahaman, general secretary of CJKS, SM Shahidul Islam, Shahabuddin Mohammad were also present.



(L-R) Bangladesh Cricket Board director Gazi Ashraf Hossain, Grameenphone's head of market communications Syed Tahmeed Azizul Huq, BCB director Enayet Hossain Siraj and BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus pose for photographs during the launching ceremony of 'Jersey Competition' at a city hotel yesterday. The competition is aimed at finding the most attractive jersey for the Tigers for next year's World Cup.

PCB takes ICC's road

Revised code of conduct for players

Cricket

AGENCIES, Karachi/dubai

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has introduced a revised code of conduct for its players in line with recommendations made by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for stricter implementation of anti-corruption laws.

Pakistan's squad must sign the new code before leaving for a Twenty20, one-day and Test series against South Africa in the United Arab Emirates later this month, manager Intikhab Alam told Reuters on Monday.

"The new code has been prepared keeping in mind recommendations made by the ICC. There is a lot more stress on creating awareness among players about anti-corruption laws and regulations," Alam said, adding that the new guidelines also encompassed domestic cricket in Pakistan.

"We don't want a repeat of what happened in England. I myself have given a detailed briefing to the players about the code of conduct," he said.

Three Pakistan players -- Test captain Salman Butt and pace duo Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif -- have been suspended by the ICC while an investigation takes place into newspaper allega-

tions that they had deliberately arranged for no-balls to be delivered during the fourth Test against England at Lord's in August.

The trio, who have all denied wrongdoing, will attend an appeal hearing in Doha on October 30 and 31.

Alam said that he had been given increased authority by the PCB to deal with indiscipline and misconduct.

"The board has made it clear in the new code that the manager will waste no time in stamping out indiscipline in the team," he added.

Pakistan will play two T20 matches, five one-dayers and two Tests against South Africa from October 26 as a 'home' series hosted by the United Arab Emirates.

Cricinfo adds: the PCB was compelled to act quickly after the prospect of expelling its chairman Ijaz Butt as an ICC director was raised at the ICC board meeting in Dubai last week, underlining just how thin the ice is that the Pakistan board is currently skating on.

Well-placed observers vary on the degree of the threat but some believe Butt was compelled to accept a series of wide-ranging measures to reform Pakistan cricket without protest because the alternative would have been to face expulsion.

The focus of the two-day board meeting was on anti-corruption and, in partic-

ular, concerns over the health of the game in Pakistan. Specifically three broad areas were up for discussion, including an update on the spot-fixing investigations, how the game tackles corruption globally and how Pakistan is to be helped.

At its conclusion, the ICC set an ultimatum to the PCB to implement a series of effective anti-corruption measures in its domestic set-up within 30 days [from October 13].

The remit of the ICC's task force on Pakistan has also been broadened to look at ways of improving the structure of governance in Pakistan, "to carry out any reforms," according to the ICC, "which may be deemed necessary to restore confidence in the administration of the game."

It is understood that the actions of the Pakistan board through the year brought matters to a head.

The revoking of punishments handed out after the Australia tour inquiry, in which the PCB found players guilty of deliberately underperforming, worried member boards.

The handling of the spot-fixing crisis -- in particular its refusal to suspend players -- and a spate of statements made in the aftermath by Butt and others have exacerbated matters.

The feeling in the cricket world before this meeting, one source said, was that "Pakistan cricket was in denial."



Star India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh throws the ball during a practice session at the Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday. India take on Australia in the second ODI today.

Awaiting new Murali

Cricket

CRICINFO

Muttiah Muralidaran's teammates expect no lessening of the off-spinner's powers as he begins life as an international limited-overs specialist. Murali, 38, retired from Tests in July with a record 800 wickets and after taking a break has been increasing his load ahead of engagements in Australia over the next three weeks.

He is part of the squad that has just landed in the country, a place in which he has often been treated poorly on both sides of the fence. Captain Kumar Sangakkara smiles when he talks about Murali's impact on the team and he will bolster the squad after missing the home tri-series victory in August.

But Sangakkara turns serious when discussing criticism of Murali. "It's always been unjustifiable if Murali has not been received well in any country," Sangakkara said. "Just for the bowler he is, the character he is, he is a wonderful human being. However the fans react to him, or whether they accept him, it doesn't matter in the long run because the whole cricketing world love him for who he is. And he's very secure in that."

Murali was called for throwing at the MCG in 1995-96 and boycotted the 2004 tour here following comments from John Howard, Australia's prime minister, over his action. While he was adored during the tsunami fund-

raising match in Melbourne in 2005, he was part of a Sri Lankan group that had eggs thrown at it in Hobart two years ago.

"We just want him to enjoy himself and play for as long as he wants to play and be part of our team," Sangakkara said. "It's a joy to see him play. For us to have him in our side is a huge boost of confidence."

Murali has come to Australia via South Africa, where he was part of Chennai's Champions League T20 victory, taking three wickets in the final. In 22 ODIs down under Murali has 31 victims at 32.70, with the home batsmen usually content to see out his overs.

The coach Trevor Bayliss expects Murali to benefit from his Test-free workload and not suffer during the transition. "At this stage of his career having a rest every now and then will be good for him," Bayliss said. "He's just had a little bit of time off and he's come back from the Champions League full of beans, and is bowling really well in the nets."

The Sri Lankans open their tour with a one-day game against Queensland at the Gabba on Friday and have some more fine-tuning before a Twenty20 in Perth on October 31 and three ODIs the following week. While it is hard to know what long-term benefits the visitors can achieve from such a short series, Sangakkara's aims are clear.

"Hopefully we get a victory in the series, that'll be great for us going forward," he said. "We know how tough it is in Australia. We've been here before and we're yet to win, this is a great challenge to the guys."

Pran school football

SPORTS REPORTER

The two quarterfinals of the Pran Mango Juicepack School Champions Trophy were held yesterday. In the first match, Sunbeams beat Hurdco International 3-1, while Aga Khan blanked Green Herald 3-0 in the second quarter.

The tournament, comprising 16 teams from govt. and non-govt. schools across Dhaka,

started on Oct. 9 and will end on the 23rd.

Yousuf out of SA series

PTI, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain and senior batsman Muhammad Yousuf has suffered a hamstring strain just five days before the national team leaves for Abu Dhabi to play against South Africa.

Pakistan coach Waqar Younis said that Yousuf had strained his hamstring and had been advised three days rest from the training camp currently underway in Lahore.

MSC, Muktis draw

FROM PAGE 17

those attacks. Titumir also brilliantly tipped a powerful drive from Motiur Munna over the bar for a corner.

Right before the end of the match, Bukola missed the easiest chance of the game as he failed to tap the ball from a scramble inside the eight-yard box.

It was a one-man show in the day's first match where Brazilian playmaker Everton impressed everyone with his dribbling skill and ensured all three points with his double-strike.

It was Feni Soccer Club though who stroke first though in the 17th minute. It came from a counter attack when Bulbul, availing a clearance, ran down the right flank to enter into the box and sent the ball over an advancing goalkeeper Mitul Hasan to silence his former club.

Going down, Everton turned the table for Brothers with his brilliant dribbling skill and built up a nice partnership with Nigerian forward Enock Bentil. The All Orange outfit stepped up the attack and came close to an equaliser five minutes later, but Bentil's header on a Faisal

Mahmud cross went just wide. They did not have to wait much longer for the equaliser as Everton danced past three defenders to drive a low left-footer past Feni goalkeeper Piaruzzaman to level the scores on the 38th minute. Everton gave his side the lead three minutes after restart, playing a nice little one-two with Bentil.

Winger Faisal sealed the fate of the game and ensured three comfortable points for the All Orange with a fierce right-footer in the 71st minute.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: Titumir Chowdhury, Arafat Rony, Hasan Al Mamun, Shahed Azam, Enamul Haq Sharif, Kabir Hossain, Zahidul Islam (Rony Islam), Shafulul Islam Bipul (Ripon Khan) (Shariful Islam), Anwar Hossain, Emeka Christian and Emeka Lucky Uti.

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Biplob Bhattacharjee, Nasir Chowdhury (Mithun Chowdhury), Rajani Kanta Barmon, Motiur Munna, Mofazzal Hossain Saikat (Zahir), Firoz Mahmud Titu, Alamu Bukola, James (Zahed Parvez Chowdhury), Dami Emanuel, Alamgir Kabir Rana and Maruf Ahmed.

Referee: Tayeb Hasan

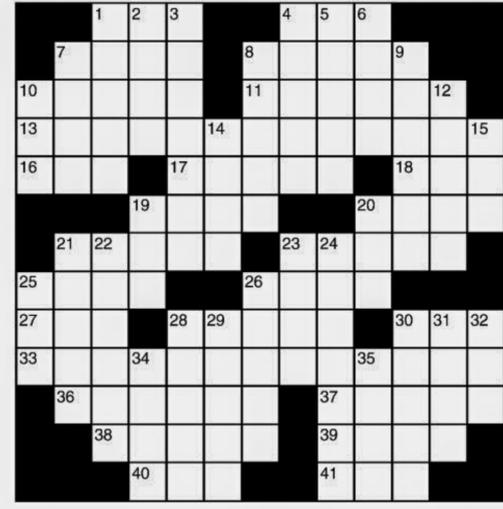
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 25 Eat in style 4 Mailing ctr. 7 "Green Man-sions" character 8 First, second, third and reverse 10 "Carmen" composer 11 Be there 13 Enrollment for all 16 Pale 17 The non-professionals 18 Place-kicker's pride 19 De-pressed 20 Farm fraction 21 Two fingers raised, e.g. 23 Closet intruders

DOWN 1 Shrivel 2 "So be it" 3 Mail-order book 4 "Under-stand?" 5 Sucker 6 Raw materials 7 Philbin's co-host 8 Street urchin 9 Tattle-tale 10 Arrow launcher 12 Morri-son's band, with "the" 14 Sunrise measures 15 Born cube 19 Gaming 20 Noshed 21 String instrument 22 Hairnets 23 Isin-glass 24 Late, as a payment 25 "What's up, —?" 26 The Devil bought his soul 28 Jurors, theoretically 29 Horse play? 30 Shore birds 31 Weapon-ry 32 "My home, sweet home" 34 Perches 35 Expression

Solution time: 21 mins.

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| D | A | S | H | O | H | S | T | R | E | Y | | |



CRYPTOQUIP

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QUTQ DTO RB ZUTPTZQBPGSBH
T C T XTCQBI-TQGW I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TREES BEARING HEART-SHAPED LEAVES CULTIVATED IN ENGLAND'S CAPITAL COULD BE LONDON'S LENDENS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals E