



Asian Games cricket gold medalist Shamsur Rahman receiving a check for Tk 2 lakh from BCB president AHM Mostafa Kamal at the BCB Games House in Mirpur yesterday.

# Johnson dropped

## Adelaide Test starts today

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

England skipper Andrew Strauss said Thursday Australia had made a "big call" dropping their strike bowler Mitchell Johnson for this week's second Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval. Johnson, Australia's leading active wicket-taker with 166 wickets in 39 Tests, was left out because captain Ricky Ponting said it was felt he was down on form and out of rhythm after going wicketless for 170 runs in the drawn first Gabba Test.

before the [third] Perth Test match to hopefully rediscover some of that rhythm. Ponting indicated that the final bowling spot was a match between seamer Ben Hilfenhaus and Harris as Australia seek a reaction to their spiritless finish to the Gabba Test. Hilfenhaus appears under pressure after taking the wicket of Strauss on the third ball of the Gabba Test but then going wicketless in his ensuing 50 overs.

Johnson's absence from the side had been widely anticipated given his out-of-form performance in Brisbane and his waywardness with his complicated left-arm slinging bowling action. It was the first question asked of Ponting at his pre-match press conference on Thursday. "Selectors felt Mitch was down on a bit of form and down on rhythm, that was probably highlighted in the last game," Ponting said. "The game of Test match cricket is hard enough as it is without having to try to find those things in the middle of a Test match. With a short turnaround as well he now has a bit of time

and go down by six wickets. "What [the 2006 Test] proved to us is that anything is possible in the game of cricket. Australia sniffed its chance of victory and took that chance," Strauss recalled. "We conspired in our own downfall really. You need to learn from those experiences and I think we have learned from it, but to expect the match to go in a similar way this time would be wrong. It was a long time ago and it was obviously a bit of a kick in the teeth at the time, but a lot of things have moved on since then. Australia have only lost one of their last 12 Adelaide Tests, while England have not won here since 1995.

There have been concerns over Harris's ability to play out five days on the unforgiving Adelaide wicket given the after-effects of mid-year knee cartilage surgery. "We've made a big decision to leave one guy out, but we wouldn't be taking a risk on a guy who we thought had an injury," Ponting said. England return to Adelaide where they suffered a stunning defeat in the corresponding Test on the last 2006-2007 tour after amassing 551 for six declared only to collapse for 129 in their second innings

TEAM AUSTRALIA (from): Simon Katich, Shane Watson, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Mike Hussey, Marcus North, Brad Haddin, Xavier Doherty, Doug Bollinger, Ryan Harris, Ben Hilfenhaus, Peter Siddell. ENGLAND (probable): Andrew Strauss (captain), Alistair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, Steven Finn, James Anderson.

# Kim best of 2010

AFP, St. Petersburg

Kim Clijsters, whose five titles in 2010 included her second US Open crown in a row, was named the WTA Player-of-the-Year in awards voting announced by the tour on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old Belgian, who also won the award in 2005, won at Brisbane, Miami, Cincinnati and the season-ending WTA Championships in Doha as well as taking her third title at Flushing Meadows. Just one year after making a comeback following a break to rest injuries and start a family, Clijsters was voted the top honor in a balloting of players as well as the Player Service award for supporting women's tennis off the court. "It's really nice to win the Player of the Year award just one year after making a comeback," Clijsters said. "While I didn't think it would come so quickly, I am thrilled. This year I met a lot of new girls and it was very nice that so many of them had positive reactions to my daughter Jada as well."

Justine Henin, who returned to the WTA last January, was voted WTA Comeback Player of the Year. She reached the Brisbane final, losing to compatriot Clijsters in her first tournament back, and was the Australian Open runner-up in her first major after a one-year break. Henin won titles on Stuttgart clay and on grass at 's-Hertogenbosch. Russian star Maria Sharapova won Humanitarian of the Year for her work as a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador. She visited Chernobyl and spent time with children affected by the disaster there.

Argentina's Gisela Dulko and Italy's Flavia Pennetta won doubles team of the year honors. The year-end world number one duo captured seven titles, including the WTA Championships, and enjoyed a 17-match win streak during the season.

# Zaheer

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Medium-pacer R Vinay Kumar will stay with the team for third ODI, but will be released to play for Karnataka by the time the fourth and fifth ODIs arrive. The only other change in the squad for the fourth and fifth games is Parthiv Patel taking over wicketkeeping duties from Wriddhiman Saha, who might also be leaving for South Africa.

3RD ODISQUAD Gautam Gambhir (captain), M Vijay, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Saurabh Tiwary, Yusuf Pathan, Wriddhiman Saha, R Ashwin, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Praveen Kumar, Munaf Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, R Vinay Kumar.

LAST 2 ODISQUAD Gautam Gambhir (captain), M Vijay, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Saurabh Tiwary, Yusuf Pathan, Parthiv Patel, R Ashwin, Ashish Nehra, Munaf Patel, Zaheer Khan, Praveen Kumar, Ravindra Jadeja, Rohit Sharma.

# WI slip suddenly

Cricket

AFP, Pallekele

Sri Lanka grabbed two wickets off successive overs to restore the balance in the third and final Test against the West Indies on Thursday.

The West Indies were strongly placed at 241-3 before slipping to 244-5 in their first innings at stumps on a rain-hit second day. Brendan Nash, who survived a run-out chance on 32, was unbeaten on 62 and Carlton Baugh had yet to open his account as only 41 overs were bowled in the day due to rain. The West Indies lost well-set Shivnarine Chanderpaul (54) and Dwayne Bravo for a duck in the afternoon session, with spinners Rangana Herath and Ajantha Mendis taking one wicket apiece.

"We probably did not bowl as well as we should have on the first day, so it's good to see guys come back today and bowl a lot better," said Sri Lankan coach Trevor Bayliss. "We now have to take the last five West Indies wickets and then bat big. That's our plan." The West Indies dominated the extended morning session as Nash and Chanderpaul applied themselves well after the early dismissal of overnight batsman Darren Bravo (68). The pair put on 99 for the fourth wicket before the Sri Lanka spinners struck in quick succession.

Chanderpaul fell soon after he completed his first half-century of the series, sweeping left-arm spinner Herath for a four in the opening over of the afternoon session. He was brilliantly held by former captain Mahela Jayawardene, who took a low catch to his left at first slip off Mendis. He hit three fours

in his patient 145-ball knock. "I haven't got runs in previous matches, so I am happy that I got some today," said Chanderpaul, who made 40 in two completed innings before this match. "There is still a lot of work to be done in this Test. There are three days left, so we will try to bat as long as we can and put as much runs on the board as we can."

Chanderpaul survived on 38 when he asked for a review of the decision after being given out leg-before while attempting to reverse-sweep Herath. He was then ruled not out after T-replays showed the ball hit the gloves. The West Indies suffered another blow in the afternoon when Herath had Dwayne Bravo stumped by Prasanna Jayawardene.

The series is tied 0-0 after rain-hit drawn Tests in Colombo and Galle. The West Indies added 95 to their overnight total of 134-2 for the loss of just one wicket in the morning, with Chanderpaul and Nash gathering runs comfortably against pace and spin.

Nash completed 1,000 Test runs during his second half-century of the series, having so far hit five fours in his 110-ball knock. Sri Lanka started the day with a double-pace attack and got a big wicket in the morning's fourth over when Dilhara Fernando trapped Darren Bravo leg-before.

Bravo could add only five to his overnight score of 63, including a fluent cover-drive for a four off Fernando. He cracked 10 fours in a 117-ball knock for the third half-century of his maiden Test series.

SCORES IN BRIEF WEST INDIES: First innings 244 for 5 (Smith 55, Bravo 68, Chanderpaul 54, Nash 62 not out; Lakmal 1-20, Mendis 2-51)

# INDIA'S SOUTH AFRICA TOUR Hosts think pace-wise

Cricket

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

Andrew Hudson, convenor of selectors for the Proteas, said that South Africa would concentrate on their strong points when they announce their Test squad for the upcoming series against India.

"We will most probably choose just one spinner and depend on South Africa's traditional strength, its pace attack," Hudson told the Afrikaans daily Beeld.

Hence, India can expect a pace attack when they start touring in South Africa from December 16.

There was still a view among the South Africans that despite India's strength being their batting, they remained vulnerable to bounce balls," said Beeld cricket writer Altus Momberg. "This will be tested [against India] this summer," Momberg said, adding that Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel were extremely dangerous under South African conditions.

The South African squad for the Test series against India will be announced at the

end of this week. Momberg speculated that the proposed tactic of the South Africans was probably why Indian coach Gary Kirsten and ten members of his team, including captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Sachin Tendulkar, would arrive in Cape Town next Wednesday itself to get used to the South African conditions ahead of the first game on December 16.

The rest of the team, still playing in a one-day series against New Zealand, will only arrive in Johannesburg on December 12.

India, during their tour of South Africa, however, will not face South Africa's first national cap of Pakistani origin, Imran Tahir.

The addition of Tahir, who has lived in South Africa for the past four years after marrying a local woman, was announced by Cricket South Africa (CSA) and then almost immediately withdrawn after it was discovered that he did not qualify because he was not yet a South African citizen.

Although Tahir's papers are expected to be ready by the end of the month, Hudson said he would not be considered for the series against India.

# Cup facts

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the tournament with the most wickets with 18 -- one 5-for, one 4-for -- equalling Roger Binny's Cup record set in 1983.

He also boasted the best bowling analysis of the tournament, destroying Pakistan with 5-44 in the semifinals at Lahore on November 4.

Kiran More (India) and Greg Dyer (Australia) had the most dismissals (11) among the wicketkeepers, but More sat top of the list having played two matches less.

In the final, Australia beat England by seven runs as the match went down to the wire. The turning point was England captain Mike Gatting's dismissal off a reverse sweep when he was looking good. The bowler was his opposite number and eventual Cup-winning captain Allan Border.

David Boon with a sparkling innings of 75 in the final was adjudged man-of-the-match.

# No Price

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very comfortable here," said Price.

Price is among the eight players in the Zimbabwe touring side that has played a Test match but despite his age, experience and guile, he hasn't stopped learning.

"It is a very exciting time for me. I'm learning a lot of things from Shakib [Al Hasan] and of course [Sohrawardi] Shuvo is the new guy. [Abdur] Razzak also bowled really well, he got the ball spinning on a number of occasions," he said.

# China keen

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have to decide," Huq said. "But it would be good if it is played in a non-traditional place."

Moving to a new venue, according to Huq, "enhances the profile of the place, creates cricket awareness. You create a new market in the new place." There were, he said, "no new things" to be created by playing the tournament in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka or Bangladesh.

# Tweet, but do that carefully: Strauss

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Captain Andrew Strauss on Thursday urged his England team to use the micro-blogging website Twitter responsibly after Kevin Pietersen branded Adelaide Oval groundsmen as "pathetic".

The star batsman was annoyed when practice pitches were uncovered during a sudden burst of rain in Adelaide on Wednesday, forcing the tourists to train indoors.

Pietersen later used Twitter to express his displeasure.

"What should a groundsman make sure he does 2 days out from a Test match???" Pietersen wrote. "Cover the nets when it rains maybe? PATHETIC!"

Strauss said Pietersen was frustrated because he wanted a long session in the nets to hone his batting ahead of Friday's second Ashes against Australia.

"I think Kevin was just frustrated because he wanted to have a long bat yesterday and he wasn't able to do that, so he vented a bit of frustration," he said.

Strauss was asked at his match-eve press conference whether he expected team guidelines on the use of Twitter to be adhered to after it was decided not to impose a total ban on the squad from posting messages on Twitter during the Ashes series.

"We've got a set of guidelines for our players and we fully expect them to adhere to those as much as possible," Strauss said. "I wouldn't prefer all of my players to be exactly like me though, it would be a very boring dressing room."

"Everyone's different and a lot of the guys really enjoy it and it is a good way of broadening the appeal of the game, there's no doubt about it. It allows players to be in contact with people who support the game so there's some real benefits to it, but it has to be use responsibly and by and large it has been."

"We need to make sure we only have any more instances of the likes of what we've seen previously."

Strauss said Pietersen had not crossed the line with his latest remarks on Twitter.

# Shakib sins, what did they?

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Shakib along with the selectors and what he said was that Shakib was "upset" after the defeat and that's the reason behind his outburst. "What he said was that he was upset," was Siraj's explanation. When asked about any disciplinary action, Siraj was not ready to say whether Shakib breached the code of conduct and only said: "Let the series finish first."

Coach Siddons also said his piece regarding the issue. "I think Shakib was a little bit misunderstood. I didn't think Shakib should talk to the media so soon after the match. He was angry with the team, angry with himself because he got out and let the team down as captain, put us under pressure. But it was unfair to put him under that situation. I think he was very angry, he was saying anything he could think of," explained Siddons.

"Shakib told the team that he said a lot of stuff, he made a mistake. Ash [Mohammad Ashraf] was very supportive and told him that when you're under pressure you say a lot of things. Ash has seen these situations when he was the captain. Mash [Mashrafe Bin Mortaza] was also supportive of him," added the Australian.

Siraj said Shakib was upset while Siddons informed that the captain regretted his actions to his teammates but the man himself gave a different impression while talking with the reporters although he had earlier smilingly said that there was an embargo on him for speaking to the press.

"Yes there was definitely some logic behind that reaction besides the emotional factor," said Shakib, again defending his stance. But refreshingly the young all-rounder admitted that it was wrong the way he reacted after the match in the post-match briefing. "I shouldn't have chosen this way," he admitted.

It however doesn't matter whether Shakib admitted his fault; rather the important issue is that the board failed to act in the right way. "It's unfortunate what happened but we should give more concentration on the series right now and that will be more professional."

"It is true that discipline is a very important issue for any professional organisation and we will definitely talk about it after the series," assured BCB's chief executive officer Manzur Ahmed.

So, everybody has to wait for December 13 for the post-mortem to begin.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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### CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I'VE GOT A DESIRE TO EAT ANOTHER BOWLFUL OF CURVED MACARONI, I GUESS I HAVE ELBOW ROOM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals H