

Boucher axed from ODIs

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Wicketkeeper Mark Boucher was one of three players dropped on Friday when South Africa named their squad for next month's one-day internationals against Sri Lanka.

Boucher, 35, who holds the world record for most test dismissals (540), batsman David Miller and leg-spinner Imran Tahir have paid the price for the limited-overs series defeat at home to Australia in October.

Dean Elgar, a left-handed batsman and part-time spinner, and all-rounder Rory Kleinveldt were called up as Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced a 14-man squad for the first two games of January's five-match series against Sri Lanka.

Kleinveldt, 28, is in line for his ODI debut after two Twenty20 internationals while Elgar, 24, impressed in South Africa's domestic limited-overs competition.

The team will be led by wicketkeeper-batsman AB de Villiers for the first time since he was appointed as ODI captain.

"Elgar fully deserves his opportunity," CSA selection convener Andrew Hudson said in a statement.

"He was the leading run-scorer in the (domestic) one-day cup and also had the best average. In addition he gives us very useful bowling options as a left-arm spinner."

"Kleinveldt played an important role with the ball in helping the Cobras to win the one-day cup and he also has a lot of potential as a lower-order power hitter."

The first game of the series takes place in Paarl on Jan. 11 with the final match scheduled for Jan. 22 in Johannesburg.

SQUAD

Hashim Amla, Johan Botha, AB de Villiers (captain), JP Duminy, Francois du Plessis, Dean Elgar, Jacques Kallis, Rory Kleinveldt, Morne Morkel, Wayne Parnell, Robin Peterson, Graeme Smith, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe.



Li Na of China plays a forehand return to Marion Bartoli of France in their women's singles match of the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. Li Na won 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Li Na wins dual battle

Tennis

REUTERS, Perth

French Open champion Li Na has blamed her perplexing slump on her sudden celebrity status -- and her irritation at being yelled at by her husband.

The Chinese beat Marion Bartoli 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 on the opening day of the Hopman Cup on Saturday to arrest a disastrous run of form since becoming the first Asian to win a grand slam in June.

France rebounded to record a 2-1 victory over China thanks to Richard Gasquet's 6-1, 6-3 defeat of out-gunned world No. 424 Wu Di and a commanding 6-1, 6-1 win in the mixed doubles.

Despite her team's defeat, Li insisted her head was out of the clouds for the first time since her ground-breaking French Open triumph.

"After the French Open my life changed," Li told reporters. "If I go somewhere to play a

tournament, more people know who I am."

Li added: "I'm only focusing on photo shoots. It's tough after winning a big title, maintaining the concentration -- so many photo shoots."

Distracted by off-court commitments triggered by new-found fame and suffocated by public attention in her homeland, Li won only seven of 16 matches for the rest of last season.

"I've had a good off-season in Munich," declared Li, who also reached the 2010 Australian Open final, losing out to Kim Clijsters in three sets. "I'm back."

Around 120 million TV viewers watched her beat Italian Francesca Schiavone in the French Open final and her tongue-in-cheek jibes about her husband and coach captured the hearts of tennis fans worldwide.

Agitated hubby Jiang Shan chewed his fingernails and shook his head as Li surrendered an error-strewn first set.

Victory finally secured, Li grinned and waved at Jiang before revealing they had been at each other's throats during practice.

India's No. 6 headache

Cricket

PTI, Sydney

Ever since Sourav Ganguly hung his boots in the winter of 2008, the number six slot has got Team India in cross-hairs and the problem continues with Virat Kohli failing miserably in the first Test against Australia.

Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina and now Virat Kohli have all

been suitors for this position and have had their moments at courtship yet failed to cement the slot and live happily thereafter.

Ganguly turned his back on international cricket against Australia at Nagpur in the winter of 2008 after a career of 113 Tests which yielded 7212 runs and 16 centuries and an average of 42.18. Through good and bad times, highs and lows, snide and derision,

Ganguly served Indian batting line-up for a dozen years.

In the 34 Tests since he retired, the team has struggled to hold the lower half together, especially on foreign pitches where skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni is unrecognizable from the sturdy presence he exudes on home turf.

In the 57 innings that Yuvraj managed out of his 37 Tests, as many as 39 of them were at number six. He did average 38.83 at the position and hit three centuries but all of them came in the sub-continent.

There isn't any innings of substance elsewhere. Indeed there are a mere two fifties abroad which don't do justice to his talent or the numerous opportunities which came his way.

Suresh Raina, still young, has 15 Tests and 26 innings which presently has hit the pause button. Nineteen of his innings have come at number six and he averages 35.72 from them, including a century.

But his summer in England this year, brutally exposed his frailty against short-pitched deliveries. In four Tests, he made 105 runs at 13.13 average.

It's now Virat Kohli who is struggling to bridge the gap between ODIs and Test matches. His assurance of one-dayers is copiously missing in Tests. In 10 innings of five Tests, the Delhi youngster has scratched together a total of 202 runs at 22.44 average.

Number six is a pivotal position for any good side. It's at this position that batsman usually negotiates the second new ball and is called upon to help tailenders eke out important runs.

Most great sides of the world had a brilliant number six batsman. The great Clive Lloyd occupied either number five or six position mostly in his career of 110 Tests and ensured the great West Indian side of 70s and 80s gave no opening whatsoever to the opposition.

Amol, Biplob

FROM PAGE 16

The women's singles final will be between Ishita Afroz and Sharmin Alam who beat Ayesha Sultana and Bhabna in their respective semifinals.

Akhtar Hossain and Mamun Bepari will meet in the boys' singles (u-16) final while Ishita Afroz and Moumita Zannat will face off in the girls' singles final. All the finals will be played at the same venue today.

Djokovic, Ferrer in final

AFP, Abu Dhabi

David Ferrer stunned fellow Spaniard Rafael Nadal in straight sets on Friday to set up a final showdown with world number one Novak Djokovic at the 250,000-dollar three-day exhibition tournament here.

Ferrer took advantage of a below-par Nadal, winning 6-3, 6-2, after Djokovic had earlier demolished Swiss Roger Federer 6-2, 6-1 at the Mubadala World Tennis Championship.

Two-time defending champion Nadal blamed a shoulder injury as the world number two trailed from the outset going 5-0 down in the first set.

"I was not in my best condition. I had a little trouble with my shoulder in the last month, but David was fantastic," said Nadal.

"Rafael has not been able to practice much because of his shoulder," said Ferrer.

"But I played very consistent and was happy with my match."

Earlier Djokovic showed no signs of the back and shoulder injuries which hampered his final months of last season as he took just 44 minutes to dispatch world number three Federer.

Victory Day taekwondo concludes

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Police emerged champions in the men's and women's senior groups respectively in the Popy Departmental Victory Day Taekwondo Competition which concluded at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday.

Bangladesh Army grabbed seven gold, four silver and five bronze medals to beat nearest rivals Bangladesh Police who claimed four silver and four bronze in the men's senior group. In the women's group, Police claimed pole position winning two gold while their nearest competitors KB School won one gold.

Feni cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Manchester United Club beat KMCC Club by 54 runs in their Beacon Group First Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday. Manchester United scored 154 runs and then got KMCC bowled out for 100 runs in the match.

SCG Sachin's favourite outside home

Cricket

PTI, Melbourne

Batting great Sachin Tendulkar has termed the SCG as his 'favourite ground' outside India and hoped to continue his love affair with the stadium in the second Test against Australia, starting January 3.

Tendulkar averages a staggering 221 with two centuries and a double century from just four Tests at the SCG, with the highest score of unbeaten 241.

"The SCG has obviously been my favourite ground away from India," Tendulkar said.

"It's a terrific ground, a special place. I love the atmosphere. It's wonderful. There are these certain grounds where you walk out there feeling you're going to do well and the SCG is one of those grounds where I feel comfortable," he was quoted as saying by The Daily Telegraph.

Of the 59 venues where Tendulkar has played Test cricket in his illustrious 22-year-old career, the batting ace has only averaged better at Dhaka and Mirpur in Bangladesh.

'Aussie pace could be the best'

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia's fast bowlers have the potential to be the best pace attack in the world, coach Mickey Arthur said Saturday as they prepare to take on India in the second Test.

Arthur said Peter Siddle and Ben Hilfenhaus along with recent recruit James Pattinson were impressive in the emphatic 122-run win over India in the first Test in Melbourne.

The trio shared 19 wickets between them to limit India's strong batting line-up to a two-innings total of 451.

Fellow paceman Ryan Harris, named to the squad for upcoming the Sydney match, combined with those left out of the 12-man group -- Patrick Cummins, Shane Watson and Mitchell Starc -- meant there was room for depth.

"I thought we had 15 players that can play international cricket, at any given time," Arthur said.

SCG has always had a special place in Tendulkar's career but it remains to be seen whether he can achieve the elusive 100th international century at his favourite overseas ground, which probably would be his last Test in Sydney.

And with a combination of Tendulkar's date with history, Australia's win in Melbourne and fine weather forecast for the second Test, the SCG Trust and Cricket New South Wales are also hoping to lift the ticket sales for the next match of the series.

Till date a modest 14,600 tickets have been sold for day one, 8,500 for day two, almost 7,000 for day three and 1,600 for day four.

And Cricket NSW chief executive Dave Gilbert had described the figures as disappointing.

"With Tendulkar chasing his 100th hundred and given his record at the SCG we hope that translates into a big walk-up," Gilbert said.

"The attendance in Melbourne was a record so the interest is certainly there this week. It's been a late start to the international season given Australia was in South Africa but we're confident sales will pick up."

"Hopefully by the end of the summer, we might have 22 guys that can do that because we need to build up our strength in depth, which we are doing now."

"But I do think this pace attack has the potential to become the best in the world."

Captain Michael Clarke has hinted that four pacemen could be used at the Sydney Cricket Ground, but Arthur said the bowling line-up would likely include a spinner.

"Obviously conditions will determine that but the SCG has normally got a history of favouring spin down the line," he said.

Arthur also expressed confidence in Australia's batting line-up, which features veterans Ricky Ponting and Mike Hussey, given Watson's continued absence due to injury.

"I think we just need to give them time, especially our younger players at one, two and three," Arthur said.

"David Warner is going to be a great player in all three forms of the game, same with Shaun Marsh. I think Ed Cowan gave us that stability that we were looking for, especially in the first innings."



The organisers and sponsors inaugurate the Citycell 25th National Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Comic DeLuise
4 Active one
8 Places
12 Wall climber
13 Between gigs
14 Press agent?
15 — Diego
16 Rolling stone's lack
17 Bloodline
18 Alumni events
21 Greek consonants
22 Central
23 Fact
26 Moray, e.g.
27 "See ya"
30 Colorless
31 Scott's employer
32 Equitable
33 Cowboy nickname
34 See
35 39-Down
35 Word on the street?

DOWN
1 Platter
2 Elliptical
3 Mimicking bird
4 Chinese food assortment
5 Smells
6 Differently
7 Job seekers' write-ups
8 Enraged
9 Sandwich treat
10 Create
11 Hostels
19 Ignore
20 Zilch

36 Bit of wordplay
37 In the manner of
38 "Communist Manifesto" topic
45 Shake in the grass?
46 Sacred bird of Egypt
47 Have a bug
48 First victim
49 Miss America accessory
50 Reggae-like music
51 Abound

52 Deuce topper
53 Corral

23 Banned insecticide
24 "All the Things You —"
25 Levy
26 Go back bird
27 Sheepish remark
28 Feminine side
29 Work unit
31 Be made up (of)
32 Banner
34 Drippings, maybe
35 Partially melted, as snow
36 Biblical song
37 Get up
38 Converse
39 Garage treatment, with
34-Across
40 Out of the storm
41 Ski-lift transport
42 React in horror
43 Facebook option
44 Vivacity

Solution time: 27 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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K R L X Y Y N K R Y Y R O P N X Y E .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ROCKY CELESTIAL BODIES MAKING COMPLETE ORBITS FAR MORE RAPIDLY THAN OTHERS: FASTER-ODS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals B

Office of the Madaripur Pourashava
Project Implemation Unit
District Towns Infrastructure Development Project (DTIDP)
District: Madaripur

Memo No: MP/2011-2012/679 Date: 21.12.2011

Invitation for Tender (IFT)
Tender Notice Number: 12/2011-2012

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned works as per terms and conditions stated below:

Package No.	Name of work	Tender security (Tk.)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Tk.)
DTIDP/MAD/RD&D R/2011-2012/35	Improvement of the Puranbazar main road (ch400.00m to ch 750.00m) Construction of one side RCC drain and another side Masonry Footpath at Puranbazar main road (ch400.00m to ch750.00m)	2,20,000.00	120	4,000.00

- Source of funds : District Towns Infrastructure Development Project (GOB).
- Procurement method : Open Tender Method (OTM).
- Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting : Date: 11-01-2012, Time: 11.30am and Place: Office of the undersigned.
- Last date, time and places of selling of tender documents : Date: 17-01-2012, Time: 5.00pm.
Places:
(a) Office of the Project Director, DTIDP, LGED, Dhaka.
(b) The Deputy Commissioner, District-Madaripur.
(c) The Superintendent of Police, District-Madaripur.
(d) The Executive Engineer, LGED/RHD/PWD, District-Madaripur.
(e) The Upazilla Engineer, LGED, Sadar Upazilla, Dist-Madaripur.
(f) Office of the undersigned.
- Last date, time and places of receiving of tender documents : Date: 18-01-2012, Time: 1:00pm.
Places: (a) The Deputy Commissioner, District-Madaripur.
(b) The Superintendent of Police, District-Madaripur.
(c) The Executive Engineer, LGED/RHD/PWD, District-Madaripur.
(d) The Upazilla Engineer, LGED, Sadar Upazilla, Dist-Madaripur.
(e) Office of the undersigned.
- Date, time and places of opening of tender documents : Date: 18-01-2012, Time: 3:00 pm.
Places: Office of the undersigned.

Tender shall be valid for a period of 90 days after tender opening date and must be accompanied by the tender security specified above. Interested tenderers may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in Cash/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders. This tender on itemwise rate quote basis. Due to govt. instruction (Published Gadget on 12 November, 2009), if the total quoted amount of the tender will be summarily more than ±5% of the estimated amount then the tender will be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Amount as payable tender security should be in the form of Demand Draft or Pay-Order of any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Mayor, Madaripur Pourashava, Madaripur.

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Executive Engineer
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GD-5462