

Morgan axed for SL tour

AFP, London

England dropped Eoin Morgan from their Test squad for the tour of Sri Lanka following the former Ireland batsman's dismal series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Middlesex left-hander Morgan averaged just 13.66 against Pakistan as England were whitewashed 3-0 in their first series since climbing to the top of the world Test rankings. His omission has given a chance to spin bowling all-rounder Samit Patel, uncapped at Test level, who will compete alongside Ravi Bopara, a batsman and seam bowler, for a place in England's middle order. But England coach Andy Flower insisted Morgan could recover from this setback.

"He has been severely tested out there [UAE] by the Pakistan spinners as have all our batsmen.

"I still think he has a very exciting future in Test cricket, he's only 25 years old and he's a very talented player, a very confident player and a very dangerous player," the former Zimbabwe batsman added.

Seam bowler and hard-hitting batsman Tim Bresnan returned to the squad after missing the Pakistan series with an elbow injury and Graham Onions, brought in as a cover for the Yorkshireman, dropped out of the 16-man party, that will again be captained by Andrew Strauss.

And with pitches in Sri Lanka, as was the case in the UAE, expected to take turn, Kent off-spinner James Tredwell -- who played one Tests in 2010 -- was called up to give England four specialist slow bowlers with Graeme Swann and left-armer Monty Panesar, who impressed against Pakistan, retained.

While the main squad will depart for Sri Lanka on March 10, seven members of the squad will travel there ahead of their of colleagues to begin preparations for the Test series.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), James Anderson, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Tim Bresnan Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook, Steven Davies, Steven Finn, Monty Panesar, Samit Patel, Kevin Pietersen, Matt Prior, Graeme Swann, James Tredwell, Jonathan Trott.

FIXTURES

Mar 15-17: v Sri Lanka Board XI, Colombo
Mar 20-22: v Sri Lanka Cricket Development XI, Colombo
Mar 26-30: v Sri Lanka 1st Test, Galle
Apr 03-07: v Sri Lanka 2nd Test, Colombo

Kohli keeps

FROM PAGE 16 everything he hit was pretty solid today."

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA
Jayawardene c Sehwaag b Jadeja 22
Dilshan not out 160
Sangakkara b Kumar 105
Perera run out (Tendulkar) 3
Mathews c Ashwin b Khan 14
Chandimal not out 2
Extras: (lb-3, w-11) 14
Total: (For 4 wkts in 50 overs) 320
Did not bat: Thirimanne, Maharoof, Kulasekara, Malinga, Herath
Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-249, 3-279, 4-309

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	9	0	61	1
Kumar	9	0	64	1
Yadav	8	0	56	0
Jadeja	9	0	43	1
Ashwin	10	0	52	0
Sehwaag	3	0	24	0
Raina	2	0	17	0

INDIA
Sehwaag c Dilshan b Maharoof 30
Tendulkar lbw b Malinga 39
Gambhir run out (Chandimal) 63
Kohli not out 133
Raina not out 40
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, w-6) 16
Total: (For 3 wkts in 36.4 overs) 321
Did not bat: Dhoni, Jadeja, Ashwin, Kumar, Zaheer, Yadav
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-86, 3-201

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	7.4	0	96	1
Kulasekara	8	0	71	0
Maharoof	3	0	21	1
Perera	7	0	59	0
Mathews	7	0	44	0



PHOTO: STAR
Arambagh KC striker Eleta Kingsley runs off in celebration after scoring a goal, one of three by the Nigerian, against Sheikh Jamal in their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Kingsley hattrick dumps champs

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's bad-patch continued in the Grameenphone Premier League as minnows Arambagh KS stunned them 3-0 in their fourth encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian hitman Eleta Kingsley struck a sensational hattrick in the first-half to go top of the scoring charts alongside Sunday Chizoba of Muktijoddha Sangsad and Sheikh Russel's Alamu Bukola as Arambagh climbed to fourth with six points from five outings.

With the second consecutive defeat, Sheikh Jamal stuck glued at four points from five matches to stay sixth in the 11-team league.

Smarting from three consecutive defeats against Abahani, Sheikh Russel

and Muktijoddha Sangsad, Arambagh came into the game with the hope of securing a single point against the giants but they left the pitch with an unexpected full three points, thanks to their lethal attacking pair Ujumefun Joel and Kingsley of Nigeria coupled with some amateurish defending from Sheikh Jamal.

Kingsley struck all three goals from passes by Joel who made up for missing a one-on-one opportunity early on.

Kingsley headed home in the 15th minute from a rebound after a Joel header came his way after hitting the crossbar. And he doubled the margin on the half-hour mark as Joel set him up with a nice pass which allowed him to volley home. The Nigerian striker completed his hattrick in the 36th minute after availing a defensive fumble made by stand-in-captain and defender Atiqur Rahman Meshu, who

tried to backpass the ball to the goal-keeper but saw his feeble attempt intercepted by Kingsley who finished with aplomb.

In the second-half, Sheikh Jamal went all-out on the attack but could not split Arambagh's packed defense.

"After losing three consecutive matches, the boys desired to come out from the losing streak and their winning attitude gave us the full three points. The memory of beating Sheikh Jamal last season also inspired us to play better against them," said Arambagh KS coach Jahidul Islam Milon.

"What I understood after taking charge of Sheikh Jamal was that the players have no concentration on the game. Sheikh Jamal is not a team to suffer a 3-0 defeat against Arambagh," said Sheikh Jamal coach Abu Yusuf, who also gave up the hope of defending the title after losing 11 points in five matches.

Midnight farce denies

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match but we don't know what happened at midnight. Without any doubt they have flouted the by-laws," said Chittagong Kings team manager Nasir Ahmed.

Sameer Quader Chowdhury, CEO of Chittagong Kings, came down as hard as possible on the organisers. "It's become a stage for gambling. I want an answer from the organizers, whether they took the decision under pressure of the gamblers," said an angry Sameer threatening that they may not continue their involvement if things go like this.

"As an owner of the team I'm really in the dark with everything about the tournament. I have doubts about everything after the way the tournament is running. You know we were approached by the bookies from India to fix the match and we reported this to the BPL's anti-corruption unit immediately but they hardly take any action regarding these issues," said Sameer, who claimed that they helped the authorities to capture Pakistani Sajid Khan, who was put on two-day remand for questioning about his alleged involvement in match-fixing.

BPL governing council secretary Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir however blamed his chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain for creating the unpleasant situation for them.

"We accept that it was our mistake, whatever confusion arose. Lipu bhai (Gazi Ashraf Hossain) gave his personal opinion to the media. It cannot be the stance of the BPL technical or governing council. Whatever he said, I personally think it was a mistake for which so much confusion has been created. What he told us, he thought it might happen. He didn't discuss it with anyone and told the media," explained Alamgir in an official press conference where match referee Mike Proctor also turned up. But it hardly cleared the air.

Shehzad ignites Burners

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square-leg by Taijul Islam). In fact, Hodge also got a few lives in an un-Rajshahi like display out in the field.

However, there shouldn't have been any shortage of motivation for Rajshahi who overcame a first-over burst to make 184-6 in 20 overs.

Yasir Arafat, the Pakistani seamer, removed Shahzaib Hasan, Junaed Siddiqui and the red-hot Marlon Samuels in the very first over of the game. Shahzaib miscued a pull and was caught at mid-on, Junaed was bowled but Samuels got a stinker when the ball easily went down the leg-side. He threw his bat in disgust as he walked back.

Rajshahi skipper Mushfiquur Rahim and Sean Ervine led the revival with a 111-run fourth wicket stand. The national captain made 58 off 33 balls with the help of six fours and three sixes while Ervine made 82 off 61 balls (eight fours and three sixes).

Razzaq put the garnish in the innings, hammering 32 off 19 balls with the help of three fours and a couple of sixes.

Yasir Arafat took 3-30 while also inflicting the run-out of Mushfiquur at a crucial time.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: 184-6 in 20 overs (Ervine 82, Mushfiquur 58, Razzaq 32; Arafat 3-30)
BARISAL: 189-2 in 16 overs (Shehzad 113 not out, Hodge 33, Mustard 33; Sabbir 1-9)
Result: Barisal won by eight wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Ahmed Shehzad.

Dhaka set up

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Dwayne Smith) within 7.3 overs for 55 runs, but Shakib and Nasir Hossain held on for a fine fourth wicket stand of 87 runs.

The No. 1 one-day all-rounder in the world missed two boundaries when his rocket straight-drives hit Nasir and the stumps on two occasions. He reached his half-century off 22 balls before going for the kill with some swings to the leg, though he relied on ticks, sweeps and scoops off Elias Sunny. Saeed Ajmal and Afridi.

With thirty-one required from the final over, Shakib hammered 21 runs off Azhar Mahmood.

Sunny, in fact, shone with the ball with 3-30 and it was credible especially with two top quality spinners alongside him.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DHAKA: 191-4 in 20 overs (Mahmood 65, Ashraful 47 not out, Nazir 41; Azam 1-29, Hafeez 1-31).

KHULNA: 182-7 in 20 overs (Shakib 86, Nasir 35, Chanderpaul 25; Sunny 3-30).
Result: Dhaka won by nine runs.

Man-of-the-match: Azhar Mahmood.

Women

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Munir Hossain, who is also going with the team as technical officer, said that lack of budget forced them to cut short the preparation.

Former national player Rehana Parvin will accompany the squad as manager while Ashgor Ali is going as technical officer.

SQUAD

Shahnaz Parvin Maleka, Farzana Akter Baby, Kazi Shahin Ara, Sharmin Sultana Rima, Rupali Chakma, Fatema Akhter Poly, Kochi Rani Mandal, Ismat Ara Nishi, Fatema Akhter Shila and Shila Akhter.

Pattinson back for Australia

AFP, Sydney

Fit-again paceman James Pattinson was Tuesday included in Australia's 13-man squad for the remainder of the one-day tri-series against Sri Lanka and India.

Pattinson, 21, who took 21 wickets in his first four Tests and was man-of-the-match twice, developed a stress injury in his left foot early last month and was sidelined until recently.

Pattinson replaced Ryan Harris in the only change to the Australia squad.

Inverarity said skipper Michael Clarke, who missed Sunday's win over India, was making a good recovery from a back complaint and was likely to play in Friday's ODI against Sri Lanka in Melbourne. Australia have already qualified for the best-of-three match finals series, which begin in Brisbane on Sunday.

SQUAD

Michael Clarke (captain), Shane Watson (vice-captain), Dan Christian, Xavier Doherty, Peter Forrest, Ben Hilfenhaus, David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Brett Lee, Clint McKay, James Pattinson, Matthew Wade, David Warner.

England take T20s too



Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

England bowlers kept their nerves in the final overs to pull off a sensational five-run win over Pakistan in the third and final Twenty20 here on Monday to take the series 2-1.

Set 130 to win Pakistan were going along nicely at 107-4 with 23 needed off the last three overs and 17 off the remaining two but Stuart Broad and Jade Dernbach did not shrink from the challenge and pulled off the win in the final over.

Broad dismissed a well set Umar Akmal (22) off the third ball of the penultimate over and gave away just four runs, leaving Dernbach to defend 13 in the last, which he successfully did, removing Misbahul Haq (28) off the final delivery.

Dernbach finished with 2-24 and most importantly gave the World Twenty20 champions an unexpected win.

Pakistan won the first match by eight runs while England won the second by 38 runs -- both played in Dubai.

Pakistan had lost opener Mohammad Hafeez for a second nought of the series but Awaiz Zia (23) and Shafiq added 40 for the second wicket before Zia was trapped leg-before by Graeme Swann and Shafiq was run out.

Captain Misbah and Umar Akmal added 37 for the fourth wicket and when it looked as if that would help Pakistan cross the line England pulled back with remarkable determination.

With 13 needed off the final over Shahid Afridi took a couple before he was run out while taking a second off the next. The next three

balls produced singles and a wide and with six needed off the final ball, Misbah was bowled.

Broad was full of praise for the bowlers.

Despite being lost for words Misbah gave credit to England.

Earlier off-spinner Saeed Ajmal finished with 4-23 -- his third four wicket haul in the shortest form of the game -- to restrict England to a modest 129-6 after they won the toss and batted.

Ajmal, who destroyed England in the preceding three-Test series with 24 wickets to help Pakistan to a 3-0 rout, put the brakes on his rival's progress.

Opener Pietersen top scored with 62 not out, keeping one end intact during his 52-ball knock for his seventh T20 fifty. He hit six boundaries and a six off the last ball of the innings.

Ajmal provided Pakistan with the breakthrough after England raced to 29 by the fifth over, dismissing Craig Kieswetter (17) off a lofted shot at long-on where Shoaib Malik took the catch.

Kieswetter had hit a four and six off pacesman Umar Gul in the third over.

Pakistan had Ravi Bopara caught behind off paceman Aizaz Cheema for one and Eoin Morgan run out for nine before Ajmal accounted for Jonny Bairstow (three), Jos Butler (seven) and Samit Patel (16).

The match ended England's long tour of the United Arab Emirates where they lost the Tests but won the one-day series 4-0.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 129 for 6 (Pietersen 62 not out, Kieswetter 17, Patel 16; Ajmal 4-23)

PAKISTAN: 124 for 6 (Zia 23, Shafiq 34 run out. Misbah 28, Akmal 22; Dernbach 2-24)
Result: England won by five runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

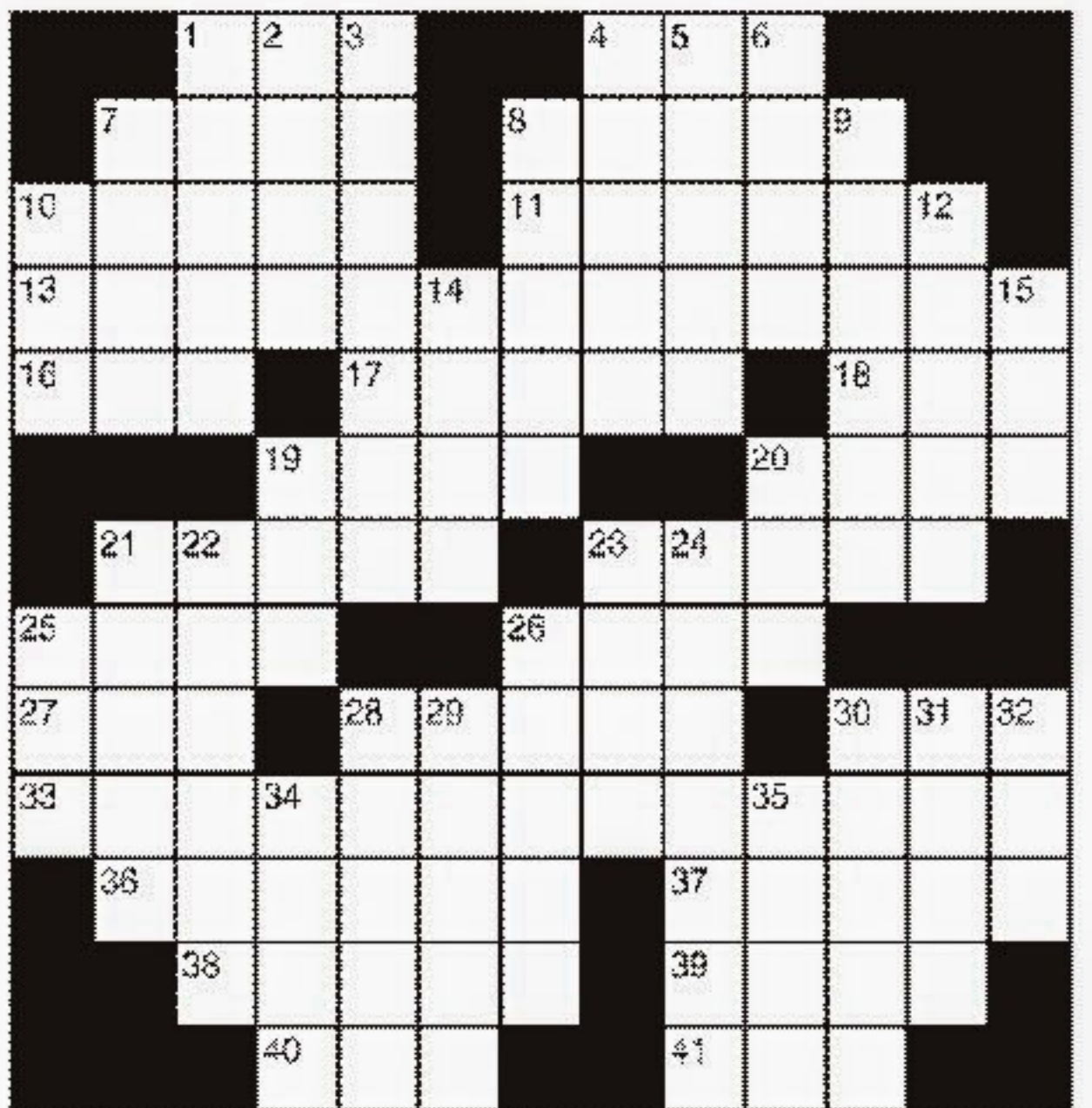
1 After-hours bank (Abbr.)
4 Bribe
7 Roundish hairstyle
8 Eye-related
10 Extraterrestrial
11 Lowest point
13 Does hard labor
16 Shelter
17 One with a burden
18 Wildebeest
19 Pod dwellers
20 Appear
21 Get more ammo
23 Tooth buyer?
25 Vegan's no-no
26 Wall Street wheel-dealers, for short

DOWN

27 Ahs' mates
28 Prickly plant
30 Carnival city
33 Pecks
36 Do as you're told
37 August forecast
38 Out of bed
39 Belligerent god
40 Encountered
41 Wife's address
1 Blazing
2 "Star --"
3 Nessie, e.g.
4 Wheel radius
5 Playful water critter
6 Pocket bread
7 Lotion additive
8 Last write-ups
9 Eccentric old gent
10 Piercing tool
12 1-Across offering
14 Clay-rich soil
15 Wrigley product
16 Blazing
2 "Star --"

Solution time: 21 mins.

ALPS	PSI	STRIPS
LIEU	RAM	CLIP
SELL	OFF	COLOR
OFFLINE	LUSTY	
ENG	OER	
FERNS	OFFSIDE	
OLE	BLT	SET
OFFROAD	RUMBA	
AMY	QAR	
HAITI	OFFBEAT	
OFFSTAGE	ANNE	
PASSO	IRV	NITS
IRON	DEE	EDIT



CRYPTOQUIP

C G C G P ' B J R I X M H X J H S U E B

E N C P F B K J X C F K B R J X S

C P Q O J M B C U P N . S E B C

Q C P H O O I M H T J B U T I B J P N J N .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: DUE TO SOME PRETTY WRETCHED CIRCUMSTANCES, THE POOR CHICKEN WAS REALLY DOWN ON HIS CLUCK.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals D