

Benn on his way back

CRICINFO, Port of Spain

Suliaman Benn has moved closer to a return for West Indies after being named in their 30-man preliminary squad for the ICC World Twenty20. Benn has not played for West Indies since last year's World Cup, a tournament during which the team management was unimpressed by his off-field behaviour, and he lost his central contract later in 2011.

However, Benn played for West Indies A last month and has now found himself one of seven spinners in the 30-man group, along with Sunil Narine, Devendra Bishoo, Garey Mathurin, Nikita Miller, Samuel Badree and Shane Shillingford. There were no major surprises in the squad, with all 30 men having played for West Indies in one of the three formats of the game.

Shillingford, Tino Best and Kieran Powell were the only men named in the squad who are yet to make their Twenty20 international debuts. Adrian Barath, Anthony Martin, Derwin Christian and Miles Bascombe were all overlooked, despite having played Twenty20 cricket for West Indies within the past year.

The final 15-man squad will be named next month.

SQUAD

Samuel Badree, Christopher Barnwell, Carlton Baugh, Suliaman Benn, Tino Best, Devendra Bishoo, Nkrumah Bonner, Carlos Braithwaite, Darren Bravo, Dwayne Bravo, Johnson Charles, Fidel Edwards, Chris Gayle, Danza Hyatt, Garey Mathurin, Nikita Miller, Sunil Narine, Kieron Pollard, Kieran Powell, Densesh Ramdin, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Darren Sammy, Marlon Samuels, Krishram Santokke, Shane Shillingford, Lendl Simmons, Dwayne Smith, Devon Thomas.

Tigers' chance

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Irish skipper William Porterfield.

"We did not expect the ball to turn as much as it did in that second innings. In hindsight, we would have gone in with more spinners. We are going to be on either a similar wicket, or the same wicket, for the next game on Friday so it is something we need to put right," said Porterfield after the massive defeat in the first game.

Sunny exploited the conditions brilliantly during his five-wicket haul to become the first player in history to be named man-of-the-match on debut in two formats, as he was also the man-of-the-match in his first Test, against West Indies last October.

Sunny picked up a career best haul of 5 for 13 -- the third-best figures in T20 internationals -- and became the first Bangladesh bowler to take a five-wicket haul in T20 internationals and only the seventh bowler overall.

Athletes set

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secretary, his personal assistant, Bangladesh Olympic Association president and former Army chief general (ret'd) Abdul Mubeen and BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed.

Kutubuddin informed that the last six persons of the contingent have been invited by the Olympic Games authorities but he had a harder time convincing journalists about the necessity of the inclusion of two delegates in the contingent.

The government will have to bear Tk 1.30 crore for the 21-member contingent while around Tk 1.09 crore was spent for the athletes' preparation.

Abahani join

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Rahman (48th minute) and Taher Ali (53rd minute) respectively.

However, nothing more happened over the rest of the game and Abahani left the field with heads held high after securing the full three points.

In the day's other match, Shadharan Bima defeated the winless Bangladesh Police 4-0 with Enamul Kabir striking three goals and Harpet Baisal netting the other goal.



England opener Alastair Cook flicks the ball on the leg side during the first day of the first Test against South Africa at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Cook, Trott steady Eng

AFP, London

Alastair Cook and Jonathan Trott steered England into a strong position after the early loss of captain Andrew Strauss on the opening day of the first Test match against South Africa at The Oval on Thursday.

With Cook on 69 not out and Trott on 68, England had reached 158 for one at tea as they made a strong start to their bid to retain their place on top of the Test world rankings.

The pair came together without a run on the board after Strauss was leg before wicket to Morne Morkel off the fourth ball of the match.

But Cook and Trott were largely untroubled on an easy-paced pitch as they rebuilt the England innings with sensible batting, only playing the ball when it was necessary or when they could pick off loose deliveries.

South Africa's highly-rated pace attack was neutralised as a result and the tourists, who are seeking to overtake England as the number one ranked Test team, used spin bowlers for 12 of the 53 overs sent down before tea, including two by part-time off-spinner JP Duminy.

Strauss's dismissal justified South Africa's decision to give the new ball to Morkel instead of Dale Steyn. It was the seventh time in nine matches that Strauss had fallen to the tall fast bowler.

With Morkel bowling around the wicket to the left-hander, Strauss was trapped on the crease by a ball angled in to him.

Umpire Steve Davis turned down an appeal by the South Africans, who called for a review which showed the ball was hitting the inside of the leg stump.

Rain delayed the start by 15 minutes and the floodlights were turned on 25

minutes after the start as heavy cloud rolled in. But the weather cleared and the afternoon session was played in sunlight.

Cook reached his fifty off 98 balls with seven fours and a top-edged six against Dale Steyn, while Trott took 127 deliveries to reach the mark, hitting six fours.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings
Strauss lbw b Morkel 0
Cook not out 69
Trott not out 68
Extras: (b-2, lb-11, nb-8) 21
Total: (For 1 wklt in 53 overs) 158
To bat: Pietersen, Bell, Bopara, Prior, Bresnan, Broad, Swann, Anderson
Fall of wicket: 1-0

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Morkel	10	1	27	1
Philander	11	2	28	0
Steyn	13	3	39	0
Kallis	7	1	19	0
Tahir	10	0	29	0
Duminy	2	0	3	0

SOUTH AFRICA: Smith, Petersen, Amla, Kallis, De Villiers, Rudolph, Duminy, Philander, Steyn, Morkel, Tahir
Toss: England.

'Snub is not hurting'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Melbourne

James Pattinson has conceded that he has found it hard to balance all three forms of the game, and he said he was not disappointed at being left out of Australia's 30-man preliminary squad for the ICC World Twenty20. Despite being part of Australia's most recent T20 series in the West Indies, Pattinson was one of the surprise omissions from Australia's initial squad announced on Wednesday, from which a final 15-man group will be chosen.

Pattinson, 22, signed with the Melbourne Stars on Thursday for a one-year Big Bash League deal, but he said at international level he was happy for his focus to remain on the longer forms of the game. Asked whether he was disappointed not to be part of the 30-man group, Pattinson said: "Not really, I suppose where I am with my cricket now there's a big emphasis on me playing the longer formats of the game -- Test cricket

and one-day cricket.

"I think, being young, it's pretty hard to juggle all three forms of the game at my age. I'm just excited to be involved in the one-day and Test team and, look, if the chance comes when I'm a bit older, I'd love to take that. Probably another thing, my performances haven't been too great in Twenty20 cricket of late.

"As a 22-year-old I have found it quite hard to juggle all three forms at the one time, it's quite a lot of pressure on you. For me it's probably easier to go back to the two formats and concentrate on that while I'm young and inexperienced."

Pattinson remains part of Australia's one-day international plans and was named in the squad to take on Pakistan in the UAE in three ODIs starting next month. Pattinson and the off-spinner Nathan Lyon were two of the most surprising omissions from the World T20 expanded group, after both appeared to be in the selectors' plans for the short format earlier this year.

Bartoli scrapes thru'

Tennis

AFP, Carlsbad

Top seed Marion Bartoli survived a struggle lasting for more than three hours, with the Frenchwoman overcoming a massive 18 double-faults to advance at the WTA hardcourt event here on Wednesday.

Bartoli defeated American Vania King 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in an error-plagued marathon match to reach the quarterfinals after a bye in the first round.

"It's a very hard surface," Bartoli said. "Playing three hours is not really helping, but I think it was a great fight from both of us and we tried our best."

Bartoli, who will not play in the London Olympics due to a longstanding dispute

with the French federation, won a battle in which both women took lengthy injury breaks, with Bartoli going off court for treatment in the third set.

Bartoli said she felt her hip hurting since the first set.

"I really tried to keep the pain away and tried to not think about it," she said.

"Obviously it came to a point where I had really a lot of problems serving. I really needed some help from the trainer.

"It was a gradual pain. At the end of the first set I started to feel it but was able to go through it. And then in the second set we had some tough rallies, and the more she was moving side to side, the more I was feeling it."

Bartoli advanced despite losing serve eight times against the world 59th-

ranked King.

The French player lost serve in the opening game of the final set but fought to get it back as she broke for four-all before closing out the match at La Costa on a concluding break.

US Olympian Varvara Lepchenko upset South African eighth seed Chanelle Scheepers 6-4, 6-2 to reach her third quarterfinal of the season.

Rafa not going

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moment to be the flag bearer at the opening ceremony for the Games in London.

"You can imagine how difficult it has been to take this decision."

The tennis competition at the All England Club begins on July 28 with Serbia's Djokovic seeded one.

Record beckons for Ponting

AFP, Sydney

Ricky Ponting could break Steve Waugh's record as Australia's most-capped Test cricketer in front of his home fans at Hobart after the international summer schedule was announced on Thursday.

If the veteran batsman plays all three Tests against South Africa in November, he will be on track to create Australian cricket history in his home state of Tasmania in the first match of a three-Test series against Sri Lanka.

The former captain, who was dumped from the one-day international squad in February, has so far played 165 Tests, three shy of Waugh, his predecessor as skipper.

South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies will play Down Under in the coming Australian summer, with the Gabba in Brisbane hosting its first Test against the Proteas in 49 years in the opening game on November 9.

South Africa beat Australia 2-1 when they last toured in 2008-09, and drew 1-1 with Michael Clarke's team when they met in a dramatic two-match series last year in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Sri Lanka begin their first Test visit to Australia since 2007 in Hobart on December 18 before Melbourne hosts the Boxing Day Test and Sydney the New Year's Test to wrap up the series.

The Tests will be followed by a pair of five-match, head-to-head one-day international series -- the first against Sri Lanka from January 11 and the second against the West Indies from February 1.

India seek revival

One-day series against SL starts tomorrow

Cricket

AFP, Hambantota

India will look to start the new season on a winning note when they clash with in-form Sri Lanka in a one-day series starting in Hambantota on Saturday.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Indians have endured a horrid time over the last 12 months, trounced in both the Test and one-day series in England and Australia.

The World Cup champions also failed to reach the Asia Cup final in Bangladesh in March.

"It's the start of a new season for us. It's nice to start afresh on a positive note," Dhone's men, who enjoyed a rare six-week break after the Indian Premier League, have a busy season ahead, hosting New Zealand, England, Pakistan and Australia.

"I think it was a very good break and we wanted to make the most of it," said Dhoni. "The good thing is that the energy level is up." India will look for runs from their top order, which is without leading run-getter Sachin Tendulkar, who opted out of the tour to spend time with his family.

The return of explosive opener Virender Sehwag and pace spearhead Zaheer Khan, after they both missed the Asia Cup due to injuries, will bolster the batting and bowling.

Sri Lanka are determined to build on their

recent success which saw them win both the Test and one-day home series against Pakistan under Mahela Jayawardene.

"We have just finished a series against Pakistan successfully and it is important to continue with the good work," the Sri Lanka captain said.

"We have to work hard to reach the goals we want to attain. It's a good opportunity against India and we need to take the team forward."

Sri Lanka have recalled veteran left-arm spinner Rangana Herath, who was rested for the last three one-dayers against Pakistan, and also named uncapped fast bowler Isuru Udana in their squad.

Hambantota will also host the second one-dayer on July 24, while the last three matches will be played in Colombo (July 28 and 31) and Pallekele (August 4).

The one-day series will be followed by a one-off Twenty20 international in Pallekele on August 7.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virat Kohli (vice-captain), Gautam Gambhir, Suresh Raina, Virender Sehwag, Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Pragnan Ojha, Zaheer Khan, Umesh Yadav, Ashok Dinda, Irfan Pathan, Ajinkya Rahane, Manoj Tiwary, Rahul Sharma.

SRI LANKA (from): Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Angelo Mathews (vice-captain), Tillakaratne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara, Upul Tharanga, Dinesh Chandimal, Nuwan Kulasekara, Thisara Perera, Lahiru Thirimanne, Lasith Malinga, Chamara Kapugedara, Rangana Herath, Sachithra Senanayake, Jeevan Mendis, Isuru Udana.

Kallis, Smith on the list

Cricket

Cricket



Jacques Kallis has made a return to South Africa's T20 plans after being included in the list of 30-man preliminary squad for the World T20 in Sri Lanka this September.

Kallis last played as a regular member of the team in May 2010 during South Africa's tour of the West Indies. However, he took part in the only T20 game against India in March 2012 -- a match played in his honour.

Graeme Smith, who was dropped for the three-match T20 series against New Zealand in February, has also been included in the squad. Kallis has missed several of South Africa's T20 internationals, but he was a key player for his Indian Premier League franchise Kolkata Knight Riders, scoring 409 runs and taking 15 wickets this season. Overall, Kallis has played 17 T20 internationals for his 573 runs and five wickets.

Also included is left-arm slow bowler Roelof van der Merwe whose last series for South Africa was the one in West Indies two years ago. Van der Merwe has played 12 T20 internationals and has a haul of 14 wickets while his economy is 6.93.

Three wicketkeepers have been named in the squad, including captain AB de Villiers, the other two being Morne van Wyk and Dane Vilas. De Villiers will continue as the captain of the side after leading the team to a 2-1 series win in New Zealand.

SQUAD

AB de Villiers (captain), Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Johan Botha, Marchant de Lange, JP Duminy, Faf du Plessis, Reeza Hendricks, Imran Tahir, Colin Ingram, Jacques Kallis, Rory Kleinveldt, Richard Levi, Ryan McLaren, David Miller, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Chris Morris, Justin Ontong, Wayne Parnell, Alviro Petersen, Robin Peterson, Aaron Phangiso, Graeme Smith, Dale Steyn, Rusty Theron, Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Roelof van der Merwe, Morne van Wyk, Dane Vilas.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 PC variety peripheral
- 6 Shrimp recipe
- 12 Tranquil
- 13 Establish by decree
- 14 Anti-elderly bias
- 15 Dis-guised, in a way
- 16 New Mexico resort
- 17 Tournament format
- 19 DDE's WWII command
- 20 Rooney of "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo"
- 22 Frat party prop
- 24 Lamb's dam
- 27 Showbiz egotist
- 29 Frat-party garb
- 32 Place for doctors-to-be

DOWN

- 1 Humongous Anna
- 2 Black-and-white snack
- 3 Basic religious belief
- 4 Halves of 24-Down
- 5 Monument with 8 degree
- 7 Part of a really old telephone
- 8 Commercials
- 9 Indemnify
- 10 Painter
- 11 --European
- 12 Took a meeting

18 Ballet legend

21 Mil. staffer

23 Biblical verb ending

24 Type measures

25 Drench

26 Learned

28 It shares a key with 8

30 Stickum

31 Hearty brew

33 Altar affirmative

34 Vegas-based TV series

39 Gridiron stats

41 Eccentric

42 Asian nation

43 Sicilian spouter

45 Accomplishment

47 Fill till full

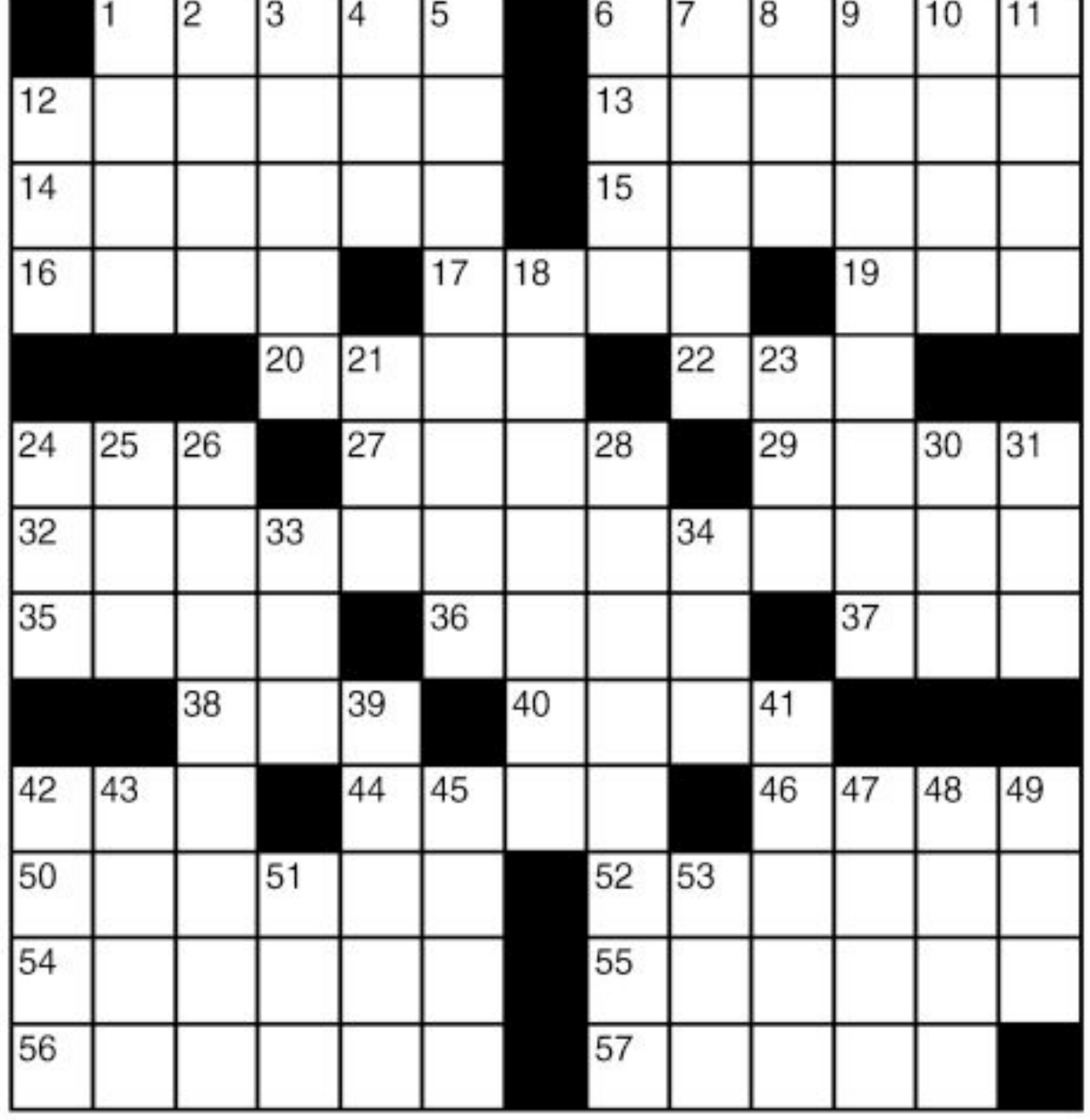
48 -- out (supplemented)

49 Witness

51 Square root of IX

53 Born

Solution time: 27 mins.



CRYPTIQUIP

UTC EZYTUZBY QJLXEDJ KCL
LBZVLJ EZBLJIX KDEECHCA
L ACECLU. Z KDQGGKC ZU
TLK VCU ZUK GUUCH-JGG.

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: SINCE I'M EMPLOYED AS A SECURITY GUARD, YOU MIGHT SAY I HAVE A SENTRY-LEVEL POSITION.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: U equals T