



**ALL ROADS LEAD TO T20:** (L to R) India cricketers Yuvraj Singh (L) and Rohit Sharma; Australia players Ben Hilfenhaus (L) and David Hussey; New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Brendon McCullum arrive with their respective teams at a Colombo hotel yesterday. West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo and Zimbabwe captain Brendon Taylor arrived with their teams the day before for the World T20 starting in Sri Lanka on September 18. PHOTOS: AFP

**Gayle thinks the world of Bolt**

ANI, Sydney

West Indies star Chris Gayle has backed sprint legend Usain Bolt's cricketing skills, saying that the Jamaican athlete wouldn't look out of place if he was signed by Melbourne Stars to play in this season's Big Bash League in Australia.

Gayle said he's in constant touch with his fellow Jamaican and sprint star, and warned that he would be a 'danger' to others rather than himself if he rediscovered the form of his junior cricket days.

"I don't see anything wrong with it. Usain Bolt played the game before track and field. He wouldn't embarrass himself. I'm sure he wouldn't put himself in that position," the Sydney Morning Herald quoted Gayle, as saying.

Stars captain Shane Warne and president Eddie McGuire have generated massive publicity for the MCG-based team by talking up the chances of Bolt linking up with the squad during his Australian visit, either for promotional opportunities or to actually play on-field role.

"In a charity game he played against me, he almost knocked my head off with a good, competitive bouncer. So it's nothing to take lightly. Once he gives himself that actual chance to train and get back in the groove again then he'll actually put on a show," Gayle said.

"He can handle himself," he added. Gayle said he was really proud to see Bolt defend his 100-metre and 200-metre titles at the London Olympics.

"It does a lot for the country, for the whole Caribbean. We communicate on a daily basis," he said.

**DU inter-dept football held**

SPORTS REPORTER

Soil, Water and Environment department of Dhaka University emerged champions in the south zone of the Inter-department Football Competition held at the Central Play Ground yesterday. The winning team defeated Applied Physics, Electronics and Communication Engineering department 1-0 in the final match, courtesy of Imran Hossain Khan's goal.

Chaillao Marma of the winning team was adjudged man of the tournament. Pro-V of the university (Administration) Professor Shahid Aktar Hussain distributed prizes among winners after the final.

**Siddikur's**

FROM PAGE 16 doing well in this event when he talked to the Asiantour website the day before yesterday.

The 500,000 dollar Asian Tour event will feature a host of Asian stars including even Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand, the winner of most number of titles on tour, along with former world number one Marcus Both of Australia, India's rising star Anirban Lahiri among others.

**Siam sub-jr**

FROM PAGE 16 Trustee of Azimuddin Bhuiyan Trust distributed prizes among the winners to present as chief guest at the old NSC Building yesterday.

**'Batters bowling well'**

CRICINFO, Colombo



Mahendra Singh Dhoni feels India's batsmen have contributed well as part-time bowlers in the absence of a genuine all-rounder in the squad. Dhoni also said conditions in Sri Lanka had changed over the years and there wasn't much help for spinners during India's limited-overs tour to the country in July and August.

"We are a team who rely strongly on batting. But some of the top batsmen play the role of part-timers," Dhoni said after arriving in Colombo for the World Twenty20. "In T20 cricket, part-timers are very important. Our part-timers have been doing well."

"We also don't have a genuine all-rounder so we have to rely on part-time bowlers who are specialist batsmen. Yuvraj [Singh] is one and we have Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina. They will chip in an over each and that makes it a lot easier for us." Dhoni was pleased to comment on his side but refused to comment on his

selection soon after recovering from a rare cancer. "It's a selection matter. But I am happy that he is in the team as he is a champion player and a match-winner. He also brings a balance in the team as in T20 cricket you don't include a fifth bowler."

India will be based in Colombo during the World Twenty20. Dhoni said playing at one venue would help but also felt that conditions could still change as the tournament progressed. "We won't be travelling much. We can put in a bit more effort in the net session and skill-oriented session."

"I feel the conditions in Sri Lanka have changed a lot in the past years. When we came here in 2005, the wickets were different and when we came here last time [in July 2012], the wickets were different. The spinners did not get much help from the pitches in the five ODIs and one T20 we played here in our last tour."

"If a ground is hosting many matches, then it will slow down and the spinners will get help. So we have to see the conditions and plan accordingly."

**The Powers of GMs**

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Bangladesh were in winning position against eventual champions Armenia and against Turkmenistan but could not finish the job off against these higher-ranked sides.

Prior to their departure for Turkey two weeks ago, Niaz had revealed modest expectations about the team's chances as they were not in action for the last five months, but now believes the result could have been even better.

"The result could have been better than what we have produced had we got the opportunity to have some preparatory tournaments," rued Niaz.

Having admitted lack of tournament practice, the youngest Grand Master in the side Enamul Hossain Rajib added that they felt the absence of a permanent coach as they had to consult among themselves about selecting the board before each round.

Rajib and Abdullah Al Rakib were the top performers of the squad, securing 6.5 match points each from 10 games, even though both of them were out of action for nearly two and a half years following a rift with the ad-hoc committee of the chess federation.

"I never lacked motivation in playing chess even if I did not play much in the last couple of years. Besides, playing for the nation is always a big motivation," said Rajib.

"As I was not in action for a long period, I had to concentrate very hard and it paid dividends. Besides, we, the five Grand Masters, were united and our determination had an impact on the board," said Rakib who did not play a single tournament in the last two and a half years.

Niaz thinks it is time to capitalise on this success by spreading the game among the youngsters. He said that they should include young players in the squad if they were to be successful in the longer run.

"I saw some Olympiad teams comprised teenagers who would definitely become stronger opponents one day and we also should make room for our youngsters," observed Niaz.

Rajib too stressed the importance of short and long term plans from the federation and suggested holding of different age-level tournaments alongside GM, IM and Rating tournaments.

**Sorry salaries**

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Players often hope to earn extra during tournaments, but a 'tournament fee' or 'match fee' is not a certainty. The ongoing series between South Africa and Bangladesh for instance, according to BCB officials, does not include a match fee.

"Players are assessed based on their performance and then they are either given contracts, promoted or demoted," said Abdullah Al Fuaed Redwan, chairman of the women's wing of the BCB. "We are planning to bring four more players under contracts in the next fiscal year," he added.

Officials from the BCB have often stated that the women's team, like their male compatriots, will gradually mould into a more competitive unit. However, if the national cricketers fail to earn their most basic livelihood through their profession, one wonders if that prediction will ever come true.

"It would have been good if we got paid more. We would be a lot more enthusiastic. As of now we all want to improve our performance so that we can get paid more in the future," said Salma Khatun.

This is perhaps the ideal moment for the BCB to reverse their concept. Instead of asking its players to improve their performance in hopes of a better salary structure, the BCB should encourage women to get into the sport by increasing the wages. This will not only make the players more eager to perform but will also create a bigger pipeline of cricketers, which in turn will increase competition for places in the national team and therefore improve performance.

It won't be entirely wrong to state that women's cricket in Bangladesh today is at a crossroads. One only hopes that the BCB realises this and takes the right path.

**Ferrero quits next month**

AFP, Madrid

Former world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero will retire from professional tennis in October after a 14-year career in which he won 16 tour titles, he said Wednesday.

Ferrero, 32, said he would retire after the Valencia Open 500 tournament in his home city in eastern Spain from October 20 to 28, organisers said in a statement.

"The Valencia Open 500 will be my last tournament, on the best stage possible," it quoted Ferrero as saying at the launch of the Valencia event.

Ferrero, nicknamed "The Mosquito", won the French Open in 2003 and reached the final of the US Open the same year. He won 15 other major tour titles and reached the finals of a further 17.

He has not played for two months due to injury.

"This season, injuries have prevented me from playing continually and it has been a complicated year because I noticed on the court that I did not have the same ambition after 14 years at the top level," he said.

**Tigers reach**

FROM PAGE 16

Rabeed Imam, BCB's media manager, informed the Daily Star Sport over phone from Colombo.

Pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal didn't play the last match against Trinidad, which the Tigers lost by four wickets, as they were rested due to minor injuries but Rabeed said that both are okay now.

"They are both okay and there is nothing to be worried about," he added. Mushfiqur Rahim's men had a swimming session yesterday and are expected to undergo a full practice session in the afternoon today.

The Tigers will play two warm-up matches -- against Zimbabwe on September 17 and Ireland on September 15 in Colombo before heading for Kandy.

Bangladesh has been placed in Group D along with New Zealand and Pakistan in the ICC World Twenty20. The Tigers will take on New Zealand on September 21 before meeting Pakistan on September 25. Both matches will be played at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.

**Afridi for people's support**

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has said the national team has the ability to do well in the upcoming ICC World Twenty20, and called on his countrymen to support them and pray for their success in the championship to be held later this month in Sri Lanka.

"We have the ability to do well in the World Cup and people must keep faith in the players and pray for our success," the Daily Times quoted Afridi, as saying.

Afridi's appeal came after Australia swamped Pakistan in the third and final T20 international in Dubai on Monday, raising questions over whether the team was prepared for the World Cup.

Pakistan suffered their heaviest defeat in a T20 match to dampen spirits after a nail-biting win in the second match last Friday.

"It is disappointing that we couldn't complete a clean sweep of the T20 series but we need to now focus on the World Cup," he said.

The all-rounder, who missed the T20 series due to left thumb injury that he sustained during the one-day series against Australia, said he was working hard on his batting and taking guidance from coach Dav Whatmore.

**Tindall dead**

CRICINFO, Melbourne

Ron Tindall, the former English cricketer-footballer of the 50s and 60s, has died in Western Australia at the age of 76. He won household fame as a footballer with Chelsea, scoring 69 goals in 174 appearances and forming a potent striking partnership with Jimmy Greaves. He was a very good cricketer as well, playing for Surrey as an off-spinning all-rounder, scoring 5,446 runs at 24.86 and taking 150 wickets at 32.38.

**WI aware of the task**

AFP, Colombo



It is not often in recent years that the West Indies have been billed as favourites to win a major cricket title, but skipper Darren Sammy is cautious of the tag ahead of the World Twenty20.

"The favourite tag line does not guarantee us a place in the final," Sammy said ahead of the fourth edition of the tournament, which starts in Sri Lanka next Tuesday.

"You have to go out there and play good cricket. We may have the best side on paper, but we have to pull all the resources together and win."

The West Indies have struggled to match their overwhelming success of the 1970s and 1980s when their fast bowlers and aggressive batsmen dominated world cricket.

With young men in the Caribbean turning to American sports like basketball and baseball, it's been hard to find replacements for the likes of Andy Roberts, Malcolm Marshall, Michael Holding, Clive Lloyd and Vivian Richards.

But Sammy's men go into the World

Twenty20 as the team to beat, looking for their first major title since 2004 when they won the Champions Trophy in England.

The presence of explosive batsmen suited to the slam-bang T20 format like Chris Gayle and Kieron Pollard, combined with the guile of prolific spinner Sunil Narine, delighted the skipper.

"We have the best spinner right now in T20 cricket in our side and he's been doing really well for us," Sammy told reporters in Colombo on Tuesday night.

"The pitches in Sri Lanka will help him and I see him playing a very big role."

"Chris brings a lot of experience in batting, and we have Pollard, Darren Bravo and others who have done so well in the IPL [Indian Premier League]."

"Everyone is aware that this is a wonderful opportunity for us to put a huge smile on our fans' faces. Everyone is keen to do well."

The West Indies are drawn with Australia and Ireland in group B of the preliminary league, with two teams advancing to the Super Eights round.

They play their first game against Australia

**'Leave when on a high'**



IANS, New Delhi

Legendary Pakistan captain Imran Khan has advised India's batting great Sachin Tendulkar not to be at the mercy of the selectors and asked him to quit international cricket on a high.

Calls for 39-year-old Tendulkar's retirement from international cricket got stronger after the batting maestro was bowled thrice in a row during the recently concluded Test series against New Zealand.

Imran said if he was in Tendulkar's position he would have left cricket on a high.

"Sachin is such a great player but I can only say if I were in his position, I would want to leave on a high and my greatest worry was that I should never be at the mercy of the selectors," Imran was quoted as saying by NDTV.

Asked if Tendulkar could ever be at the mercy of the selectors, Imran said: "No, but why put yourself in such a position. I mean Sachin, what a brilliant record he has. Would he not want to?"

Imran said what worries him is whether Tendulkar can perform to the best of his potential.

"Again I put myself in that position, my greatest worry was that I would not be able to perform best to my abilities. So people will not remember me for when I was at the peak

but when I was leaving my career," he said.

"I think Sachin is such a great player and people are emotionally attached. I can understand the Indian public, who has been watching him for 23 years. They can't imagine life without Sachin. But from Sachin's point of view, knowing that the kind of pride that he takes in his cricket. There must be a time when he should decide that this is the right time to leave," Imran added.

Imran said he retired after leading Pakistan to triumph in the 1992 World Cup because he wanted to go out in his peak.

"The reason I retired was because I did not want to be at the mercy of the selectors. I wanted to go out at my peak. The only reason I kept playing was for the cancer hospital. The board of governance told me that if you get out of cricket you won't be able to collect money. That's the only reason for which I kept playing. Having seen those heights, I just did not want to be at the mercy of selectors or people saying it's the time you should leave," he said.

Imran said he has immense respect for Sunil Gavaskar because he left cricket when he was on peak.

"That's why I respect Sunil Gavaskar. He left, he could have gone on. Sunil had one of the best defensive techniques I have seen in a batsman. Given that technique, he could have gone on but he left at the peak," he said.

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cleopatra's snake
  - 4 Easter entree
  - 7 Robust
  - 11 Masticate
  - 13 Venusian vessel?
  - 14 By word of mouth
  - 15 Actress Spelling
  - 16 Gun, slangily
  - 17 Kittens' comments
  - 18 "The — of Music"
  - 20 Anger
  - 22 Weep loudly
  - 24 History-making events
  - 28 Lost
  - 32 "Non-sense!"
  - 33 "Do — others ..."
  - 34 Sticky stuff
  - 36 Greek vowel
  - 37 Angry look
  - 39 Satchmo's instrument
  - 41 Hearty laugh
  - 43 Kreskin's claim, for short
  - 44 Yoked team
  - 46 English composition
  - 50 Lather
  - 53 Charged particle
  - 55 — podrida
  - 56 Actress Hathaway
  - 57 Genetic letters
  - 58 Void partner
  - 59 Bruin
  - 60 Pooch
  - 61 "Catcher in the —"
- DOWN**
- 1 New Testament book
  - 2 "Scat!"
  - 3 Lima's land
  - 4 Embrace
  - 5 Somewhere out there
  - 6 Decorator's concern
  - 7 Mr. Burns' employee
  - 8 Exist
  - 9 Legislation
  - 10 Golfer Ernie
  - 12 Painter known for maritime scenes
  - 19 "— good deed"
  - 21 Pouter's protrusion
  - 23 Ginormous
  - 25 Buy stuff
  - 26 London gallery
  - 27 Hit flies
  - 28 Dogsled command
  - 29 3-Down tribe
  - 30 Pack away
  - 31 Speck
  - 35 Raw rock
  - 38 Remiss
  - 40 Work with
  - 42 Bizarre
  - 45 Forbidden action
  - 47 Speak unclearly
  - 48 Partner
  - 49 Harvard rival
  - 50 "Great!"
  - 51 Individual collection
  - 54 Run-down horse

Solution time: 24 mins.



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**CRYPTOQUIP**

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QYZ KSAGQN ASAYU  
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**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** EACH TIME YOU'RE GOING TO THE MARKET TO PURCHASE A CHICKEN, I GUESS YOU'LL PAY A POULTRY SUM.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T