

CL T20 QUALIFIERS
Yorkshire through to main draw

INTERNET, Johannesburg
Gary Ballance and Adil Rashid's unbroken century partnership helped Yorkshire overhaul the target of 149 against Trinidad and Tobago with six wickets and seven balls to spare in the Champions League Twenty20 qualifying match at Centurion on Wednesday night. This win, Yorkshire's second in the qualifiers, has seen the England county side qualify for the main draw; but T&T and Sri Lanka's Uva Next have been knocked out.

Ballance and Rashid came together with Yorkshire in stride at 51 for 4 in the ninth over, and though the pair didn't take many risks initially in their innings, they were also helped by the fact that T&T's back-up bowlers failed to ask any questions of them. Samuel Badree and Ravi Rampaul conceded only 44 runs in eight overs between them and also took two wickets, but the rest of the bowling support cast was found wanting.

Rampaul took the first Yorkshire wicket to fall when he had Phil Jaques trapped plumb in front and then Badree got into the act when the clean bowled skipper Andrew Gale, who missed a straight one. Adam Lyth and Joe Root got starts but were dismissed in quick succession as Yorkshire found themselves in a bit of bother. But, Ballance and Rashid's stellar partnership in which the former was the more aggressive saw Yorkshire over the line easily in the end. Ballance remained unbeaten on 64 (37 balls, 4x2, 6x6), while Rashid played his part and was 33 not out from 27 deliveries. Earlier, Ryan Sidebottom took 3 for 13 as Yorkshire restricted the strong T&T batting line-up to 148 for 9, which the Caribbean team reached thanks to some lusty lower-order hitting after a horror start and consolidation by the middle-order.

Pybus position

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consent on terms and conditions from both parties, who one can start work? The matter is as simple as that. Everything has been done maintaining standard practice," explained Nizamuddin. It was reported that there has been a disagreement between the board and coach regarding the number of days allowed for leave.

"We have the papers in our hand where both parties agreed on the leave issue, so everything is clear," said Nizamuddin. The acting CEO however admitted that there have been some differences between the board and the coach regarding leave. It has also been learnt from a source close to the BCB that Pybus was very disheartened and upset by the way the issue has been handled by the cricket operations committee recently.

Siddikur's

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Bhullar enjoyed a bogeyless round, and a particularly impressive aspect of his brilliant round was his putting, which included an eagle from 35 feet on the second hole. The Indian led Prom Meesawat of Thailand and Australia's Scott Hend, who were tied in second spot, by two shots while Siddikur shared fourth position with Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee, Australia's Kieran Pratt and Niall Turner of Ireland.

Mahanama

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West Indies will arrive in the city on November 5 to play two Tests, five ODIs and one T20I. The first Test, last three ODIs and the lone T20I will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Anil new ICC cricket committee chief

CRICINFO, Colombo

Anil Kumble, the former India captain and leg-spinner, has been appointed chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee. He replaces Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies captain, who had headed it since 2008.

According to an ICC media release, Kumble's nomination was "unanimously" agreed by the ICC board at a meeting in Colombo earlier this week. Two members of the panel, former Australia captain Mark Taylor and ICC statistician Davin Kendix, have got a one-year extension while former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop has voluntarily stepped down. On his way out Bishop nominated the recently retired England captain Andrew Strauss as his replacement, which was accepted by the ICC board.

Praising Kumble's appointment, ICC president Allan Isaac said he was confident the former India captain would bring all his extensive experience as a player and as an administrator to the ICC cricket panel. "In Anil Kumble, we have a new chairman who has unquestioned experience not only as a player with India but also as an administrator with Karnataka State Cricket Association. I am sure that he will carry on Clive's good work and bring, like Andrew Strauss, contemporary thinking to the committee as

both understand clearly the issues facing the modern game," Issac said.

Under its ambit, the ICC cricket committee periodically recommends changes to the rules in the various formats of the game to make it more balanced and appealing. Earlier this year the committee had recommended that the number of bouncers permitted in an ODI over be increased to two, doing away with the bowling Powerplay and reducing the number of fielders permitted outside the 30-yard circle from five to four. All these changes were ratified by the ICC's chief executives committee in June.

For Kumble, this is another shot in the arm after the Board of Control for Cricket in India appointed him as the head of the technical committee after the board's AGM last month. Immediately after retiring from cricket, Kumble stepped into the administrator's shoes by effortlessly winning the elections in the Karnataka State Cricket Association, where he is the president now. Kumble would be the second Indian to head the committee after Sunil Gavaskar.

The ICC Cricket Committee: Anil Kumble, Allan Isaac, Dave Richardson, Geoff Allardice, Andrew Strauss, Mark Taylor, Kumar Sangakkara, Tim May, Gary Kirsten, Clare Connor, David White, Trent Johnston, Ravi Shastri, Steve Davis, Ranjan Madugalle, David Kendix.

Ponting ready for SA

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Ageing Australia batsman Ricky Ponting says he's put himself through a gruelling training regime to be ready to face South Africa, admitting they have the best fast-bowling attack around.

The 37-year-old, who was dumped from the one-day and Twenty20 international squads, has not played a Test since the West Indies last April and said he went months without picking up a bat.

"I gave my body and mind a bit of a rest because I bashed myself up pretty much during the summer last year," he told reporters Thursday, a day after smashing seven sixes in an unbeaten 85 for Tasmania against South Australia.

"So after the West Indies I had a couple of months off with nothing and then about 12 weeks where I just trained myself into the ground really, physically.

"I got myself in good physical shape. I'm a few kilos down again at the start of the sea-

son and feeling really good and feel like I'm moving really good."

He is preparing for the three Test series against South Africa, which gets underway in Brisbane on November 9 before three Tests with Sri Lanka, also at home.

The former skipper could break Steve Waugh's record as Australia's most-capped Test cricketer in the first match of a Sri Lanka series, with his eye on making the 2013 team to tour England.

"They're the number one team in the world and they are that for a reason," Ponting, who has played 165 Tests, said of South Africa.

"They have got probably the best fast bowling attack going around ... they bat really low as well ... they're an exceptionally well-balanced side.

"But saying that, we have had some great contests against them since I have been playing for Australia. They have never really dominated us and the series have been great contests.

"We know that if we do everything as well as we can in Australia this year, they will find it hard to beat us."

Local snippets

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Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), expected to take part in the meet.

"As far I know all top players have enrolled their names and are set to compete in the Federation Cup," said tournament committee chairman Moinuzzaman Pila at a press conference yesterday at the NSC Moinuzzaman room.

Some top players, including Mahbub Billa and Manash, recently alleged that some federation officials often asked them to quit from the game rather than sending the national teams abroad and hold regular events and training programmes.

"We don't want to go into any conflicts with the players but the truth is that the federation is not financially capable to send its national team abroad," BTTF development committee member Enayet Hossain Maruf said.

The Federation Cup will feature six events -- men's singles and team, women's singles and team, boy's singles and unseeded boy's singles. Some 180 players are expected to take part in the tournament.

Sponsor Baizid Steel Industries Ltd will provide Tk 3 lakh out of the estimated budget of Tk 4.1 lakh.

U-14 football

Bangladesh played out a goalless draw in the last match of the Japan-SAARC U-14 football festival being held at the Gotem Ba City of Japan yesterday.

Bangladesh had earlier beaten Bhutan 5-0 before going down 2-0 against Japan Football Academy-1 in their second match. They also played out a goalless draw against Afghanistan in their group opener.

The Bangladesh boys were supposed to meet the head coach of the Japan Football Association (JFA) academy yesterday and are scheduled to visit the JFA football museum and watch a Japan League match today.

All 41 participating teams are also scheduled to visit the Tsunami-affected area in Japan, said a BFF press release yesterday.

Championship league deferred

The Bangladesh Championship League (BCL), the second-tier professional football league, has been deferred by two and a half months in a bid to accommodate the Dhaka Metropolitan First Division Football League.

The BCL was scheduled to get underway from October 15 and the players' registration formalities completed on Wednesday (October 10), but the football governing body has extended the players' registration deadline to December 10, leaving the second-tier league to get underway from the first week of January next year.

"We have been forced to defer the championship league due to the shortage of playgrounds as we first have to complete the First Division League -- which was scheduled to start in September -- before the start of the championship league," said BFF professional football league committee vice-chairman Abdur Rahim yesterday. He hoped that the seven-team First Division League would be completed by December.

Meanwhile, the BFF also failed to start the Federation Shield and Federation Cup on time.

Div-II Hockey

Tejgaon Agragami Club and Raktim Sangha won their respective matches in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Tejgaon Agragami thrashed Udit Club 4-0 while Raktim Sangha defeated Dhaka Young Star 3-1.

Smooth

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as the Chittagonian striker put it past Masum when an angular grounder after being set up by substitute winger Towhidul Alam. Abahani doubled the margin in the 57th minute with Brazilian Santana sending the goalkeeper the wrong way from the spot after Wali Faisal was brought down by Rahmatganj defender Razib.

Back to the second match, Sheikh Jamal, playing their first match in the tournament, impressed with their crisp passing and planned attacks through two wings under the guidance of Nigerian coach Joseph Afusi. They took just 14 minutes to open the account after Mike Otojareji rattled the crosspiece in the very fourth minute. Midfielder Alamgir Kabir Rana hammered a powerful shot outside the danger area past Noakhali FA goalkeeper Shuvo after availing a nice cut-back from winger Shakil Ahmed.

Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba, who initially came here to play for Sheikh Jamal two seasons ago but found no place before being roped in this season, then struck twice in quick succession. The emphatic win was then wrapped up by Shakil who scored a fine side volley.

Vettori can't

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the Test squad, could perform at the top level if given the chance.

SQUADS

TEST: Ross Taylor (captain), Todd Astle, Trent Boult, Doug Bracewell, Daniel Flynn, James Franklin, Martin Guptill, Chris Martin, Brendon McCullum, Rob Nicol, Jeetan Patel, Tim Southee, Kruger van Wyk, Neil Wagner, Kane Williamson.

ODI: Ross Taylor (captain), Trent Boult, Andrew Ellis, James Franklin, Roneel Hira, Rob Nicol, Tom Latham, Brendon McCullum, Nathan McCullum, Kyle Mills, Adam Milne, Jacob Oram, Tim Southee, BJ Watling, Kane Williamson.



GSK Bangladesh signed up Bangladesh all-rounder Nasir Hossain (C) as their brand ambassador for Boost and Glaxose-D in a colourful event at a city hotel on Wednesday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Strauss takes up ICC post

AFP, London

Former England captain Andrew Strauss has returned to cricket following his shock retirement after accepting a role with the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday.

Strauss stunned the sport when he retired in August in the aftermath of the Kevin Pietersen row, which coincided with England losing their position as the world's top-ranked Test team.

Pietersen sent provocative text messages to South African players reported to have contained criticism of Strauss and the mentally drained skipper decided to walk away following his team's Test series defeat against the Proteas.

But it was felt even then that Strauss, who captained England in 50 Tests and led the team in two successful Ashes campaigns, would return to the game in a more political role.

The 35-year-old's appointment as one of two past players on the ICC's cricket committee was supported unanimously by the world game's governing body.

Strauss has replaced former West Indies pace bowler Ian Bishop, who did not seek an extension to his term.

Meanwhile, former India captain Anil Kumble, 41, was the unanimous choice to replace Clive Lloyd as chairman of the committee.

The ICC's 16-member cricket committee meets twice a year to consult on playing matters and offer recommendations to the ICC.

ICC president Alan Isaac said: "In Anil Kumble, we have a new chairman who has unquestioned experience not only as a player with India but also as an administrator with Karnataka State Cricket Association as well.

Federer survives a scare

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

Roger Federer survived a huge scare Thursday to reach the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals and guarantee a 300th career week as world number one as Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray showed ominous form.

The Swiss 17-time Grand Slam champion came into the match against compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka with an enviable 11-1 head-to-head record but struggled to impose himself and was forced to dig deep before winning 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-0.

In a gripping contest lasting nearly two hours, Wawrinka, who teamed up with his illustrious compatriot to win Olympics doubles gold in 2008, broke Federer in the seventh game to lead 4-3 and sealed the first set.

Out-of-sorts Federer, 31, continued to struggle in the second set as the pair swapped breaks of serve and was in desperate trouble when Wawrinka earned a break point for a 5-4 lead, which would have left him serving for the match.

But the Swiss great dodged that bullet and stayed strong in a nerve-jangling tie-break to level the match and immediately broke his 27-year-old countryman at the start of the third set as momentum shifted decisively in his favour.

A dejected Wawrinka failed to win another game as Federer wrapped up the third set 6-0.

Earlier, Serbian second seed Djokovic looking to wrestle the world number one

ranking from Federer barely broke sweat against Spain's Feliciano Lopez, wrapping up a straightforward 6-3, 6-3 victory in front of enthusiastic fans.

In-form Djokovic, fresh from his third China Open title in Beijing on Sunday, struck 12 aces and took advantage of some below-par serving by the left-handed Lopez, breaking him three times.

US Open champion Murray, 25, proved far too strong for Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov, serving consistently well and seizing on five out of six break points to win 6-2, 6-2 in just 57 minutes.

It was the first match of the tournament for the Scot, who had a walkover into the third round. The top eight seeds received a first round bye.

Fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, currently in line to secure the last singles berth in the elite eight-man field at the ATP World Tour Finals, beat Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus 6-2, 7-6 (7/2) in a contest containing eight breaks.

Czech fourth seed Tomas Berdych, sixth in the Race to London, set up a quarter-final meeting with Tsonga after fending off a barrage of 17 aces from American Sam Querrey to win 6-2, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4.

Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic upset eighth seed John Isner of the United States in three sets while 10th seed Marin Cilic of Croatia beat Spain's Fernando Verdasco, also in three sets.

As the season enters its final few weeks, Federer, Djokovic, Murray and the injured Rafael Nadal have already qualified for the ATP World Tour Finals. There are four places still up for grabs.

BPL 2 from Jan 17

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problems that marred the image of the first edition.

The second edition will see matches played in three venues across the country: the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka, the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong and the Sheikh Abu Nasser Stadium in Khulna. Fans in the northern regions may be disappointed as once again the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra has been overlooked as a venue to stage high-profile matches.

Like the inaugural tournament, local and foreign cricketers have been separated in terms of bidding prices. The bidding prices for each category are as follows:

Category	Base Price	Final Bidding Price
Golden	USD 75,000	USD 150,000
A (foreign)	USD 50,000	USD 75,000
A (local)	USD 30,000	USD 50,000
B (foreign)	USD 30,000	USD 50,000
B (local)	USD 20,000	USD 30,000
C (foreign)	USD 15,000	USD 30,000
C (local)	USD 10,000	USD 20,000

Passion made

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This is a proud moment for Bangladesh and its cricket-loving people. I could achieve this feat because of my undying passion for the noble game.

"For the last 25 years I have been involved in cricket and I not only came up with financial support but I have also been a passionate follower of the game. I hardly miss the opportunity to watch a game at the stadium. I believe that you will be rewarded by the game if you passionately work for it," said an excited Kamal.

Kamal also promised that he will do his best to contribute to Bangladesh cricket and for the betterment of cricket worldwide from his high-profile position.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Andy's pal of old
5 Comic Margaret
8 Rue the run
12 Cougar
13 Explanation
14 "Animal House"
15 Voters' choice
17 — accompli
18 Lair
19 Squid squirt
20 Striped animal
21 "CSI" evidence
22 Pen name?
23 Trip around the world?
26 With 6-Down, Peter Pan's foe
30 Bellow
31 Pooch
32 Really enjoying

33 Three-part European union
35 Friars Club event
36 Dove's comment
37 Junior
38 Ashen
41 Suitable group
42 Hot tub
45 Wrinkly fruit
46 Ouster
48 "Scat!"
49 Fond du —, WI
50 Leer at
51 Oscar winner
52 "— Doubtfire"

53 Melt
DOWN
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2 Stubborn one
3 Portent
4 Pouch
5 Wedgwood product
6 See 26-Across
7 Possess
8 Fondness
9 Grouch
10 Tresses
11 "At Last" singer James
16 Coloration
20 Type of code
21 Way
22 Satchel

23 Scepter topper
24 Fish eggs
25 Prohibit
26 Courteney of "Friends"
27 Literary collection
28 Part of TGIF
29 "To be or — ..."
31 Pair
34 Actress Myrna
35 Campus mil. program
37 Glasses, slangily
38 Shove
39 Old Turkish title
40 Unhurried
41 Open slightly
42 Unspoken "Alas!"
43 Silents star Negri
44 From the beginning
46 Shade provider
47 Youngster

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOLY AMERICAN STATE IN WHICH ONLY SUPREME ISLAMIC RULERS ARE ALLOWED TO RESIDE: CALIPH-ORNIA.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y