



The Sydney Sixers' squad celebrates with the Champions League T20 trophy after beating the Highveld Lions in the final at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Kiwis keen to set record straight

AFP, Pallekele
New Zealand will be determined to erase bitter memories of the Pallekele ground when they clash with Sri Lanka in a one-off Twenty20 international on Tuesday.

The Black Caps' campaign in the recent World T20 ended at the same venue when they lost all their three Super Eights matches, including two in the tie-break 'super over'. Ross Taylor's team tied their games against eventual winners the West Indies and runners-up Sri Lanka before suffering defeats in the one-over eliminator.

New Zealand, who will also play five one-day internationals and two Tests on their month-long tour, return to the Pallekele stadium without key players Daniel Vettori and Martin Guptill.

Experienced left-arm spinner Vettori is missing the tour due to an injury while opener Guptill has been rested for the limited-overs contests and will figure only in the Tests.

BFF U-23

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Pole FC and Calcutta Port Trust from India are also taking part along with nine local clubs.

Bangladesh will face the winners of the first round match between McDowells RCT and Yeti Himalayan Sherpa Club in their opening match in the knockout competition.

Coach Titu dismissed the idea of having to involve new players because of the sudden decision of participating in the tournament.

"I already have 20 Under-23 players in the [37 member] national team camp, so I will not have to call any extra player for this competition," said Titu.

Titu already has experience of lifting the Pokhara Cup title as the coach of Bangladesh Premier League side Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club. He admitted that he would be careful about his players since the quality of the fields in the tournament would not be of a high standard.

Meanwhile the BFF president Kazi Salahuddin said that he will keep the top Bangladeshi teams busy with regular international engagements to make them more experienced at that level.

Sydney CL T20 champs

AFP, Johannesburg

Michael Lumb struck an unbeaten 82 as Sydney Sixers overwhelmed Highveld Lions by 10 wickets with 45 balls to spare Sunday in the Champions League Twenty20 final at the Wanderers.

South Africa-born Lumb and Brad Haddin (38 not out) were deceptively cautious for a few overs before giving an exhibition of 20-over batting at its best to reach 124-0 in 12.3 overs after the Lions made a paltry 121 off 20 overs.

Lumb enjoyed a moment of luck -- dropped by Gulam Bodi at the boundary when on 17 -- but made the most of it to slam eight fours and five sixes and win the golden bat award for highest scorer in the tournament.

The over after Lumb was dropped, skipper Haddin has his lucky escape at the boundary with the fielding culprit this time being Dwaine Pretorius, and from then on it was a question of how quickly Sixers would wrap up the victory.

Fittingly, it was a four from Lumb that brought the rout to an end, leaving the Sydney franchise 2.5 million dollars richer while Lions skipper Alviro Petersen collected a 1.3-million-dollar cheque.

Lions slumped to 9-4 as Sixers surprisingly started with spinners rather than pace men and had middle-order Jean Symes (51) to thank for reaching 121

before a sell-out 25,000 crowd.

Haddin, whose 43-Test career is likely to come to a halt on Monday with Matthew Wade expected to be named wicketkeeper for a November home series against South Africa, said using spinners up front was a gamble that paid off.

"Twenty20 cricket is all about going with your gut feel and it worked this time," he said in tribute to New Zealander Nathan McCullum (3-24) and Steve O'Keefe (1-11).

"I captain a great group of guys who proved today that they are a pretty good cricket team. Everyone contributed to this success and our preparations for the final were spot on."

Petersen could not pinpoint what went wrong with a team that did so well when defending a low total in Durban last Thursday to win a semifinal against Delhi Daredevils by 22 runs.

"I cannot put my finger on it -- perhaps nerves played a part -- but let us give credit to Sixers because they outplayed us in all departments. This tournament was a great experience for us."

SCORES IN BRIEF

HIGHVELD LIONS: 121 (Symes 51, Pretorius 21, Tsolekile 20, Tanvir 11; N McCullum 3-24, Hazlewood 3-22)
SYDNEY SIXERS: 124-0 (Lumb 82 not out, Haddin 38 not out)
Result: Sixers won by 10 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Michael Lumb.
Player-of-the-series: Mitchell Starc.

Sourav set to quit cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's record-breaking former cricket captain Sourav Ganguly is finally calling time on his career after deciding not to play in next year's IPL competition.

The 40-year-old Ganguly, who quit international cricket four years ago, has been playing in the Twenty20 Indian Premier League tournament since its inception -- most recently captaining the Pune Warriors, based in western India.

But he told Monday's Times of India newspaper that his body could no longer take the strain even though he was contracted to play in the IPL next spring.

"I had a wonderful time playing in the IPL for five seasons. It gave me a chance to keep playing top-class cricket even after quitting international cricket. But I can't go on forever, and I have requested the franchise owners not to consider me for IPL 6," he told the paper.

The left-handed Ganguly is the most successful captain in the history of the Indian national side, overseeing 21 wins in 49 Tests.

He scored 7,212 runs in 113 Tests and 11,363 runs in 311 one-day internationals in a career spanning more than a decade.

Kevin back to business

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Controversial batsman Kevin Pietersen gets an early chance to re-establish himself for England after he was picked for the opening match of the Indian tour in Mumbai starting Tuesday.

Team coach Andy Flower said Pietersen will bat at number four in the three-day match against India A at the Brabourne Stadium, the first of three warm-up matches before the Test series.

"Kevin will play tomorrow and bat at four," Flower told reporters a few hours after the tourists arrived in Mumbai for the four-match Test series that starts in Ahmedabad on November 15.

It will be Pietersen's first outing for England since being dropped in August for sending text messages to touring South Africa players that contained criticism of then-skipper Andrew Strauss.

The 32-year-old, who also missed the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka, was added as the 17th member of the touring squad after lengthy conciliatory meetings with England team bosses and players.

While the rest of the squad arrived from their training camp in Dubai on Monday, Pietersen flew in separately from South Africa where he turned out for Indian Premier League side Delhi Daredevils in the T20 Champions League.

England, who last won a Test series in India under David Gower in 1985 and lost their number one status to South Africa in August, will be boosted by Pietersen's return.

Pietersen, the squad's premier bats-

man with 7,076 runs in 88 Tests at an average of 49.48, smashed a brilliant 144 in England's last Test on Indian soil in 2008 and knows the conditions well as an IPL player.

His return for England received enthusiastic support from new Test captain Alastair Cook, while Flower described the South African-born batsman as an "amazing cricketer".

"I spoke to KP this morning and he is desperate to get going and we are desperate to have him back," said Cook, who took over as captain when Strauss retired after the South African series.

"He is here to score runs and pass on the experience of Indian conditions to the younger players in the side."

The series gives India an opportunity to make amends for the humiliating 4-0 whitewash in England last year.

England's opponents in the tour opener will be captained by Suresh Raina. The team includes his main rival for the number six spot in the Test side, Yuvraj Singh.

Yuvraj, who has not played Test cricket since last November, was treated for a rare germ-cell cancer between his lungs in the United States earlier this year.

The 30-year-old played in the World Twenty20 and staked his claim for a Test recall by smashing a double-century on his return to first-class cricket earlier this month.

Raina said his India 'A' team was determined to give the tourists a hard time in the three-day game.

"I was there in England and I feel the pain of losing that series 4-0," said Raina. "I want to give some of that pain back."

Tendulkar to tune up for England

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Record-breaking India batsman Sachin Tendulkar will make a rare appearance in domestic four-day cricket next week to gain match practice ahead of the home Test series against England.

The 39-year-old, the world's leading scorer in both Test and one-day cricket, was named Friday in a 13-man Mumbai squad for a four-day Ranji Trophy match against Railways starting in Mumbai on November 2.

Tendulkar, whose last Ranji appearance was in 2009, struggled in a home Test series against New Zealand in August-September when he scored just 63 runs in three innings.

Legendary Indian opener Sunil Gavaskar even suggested during the second Test against New Zealand in Bangalore that Tendulkar's reflexes were on the slide after the batsman was bowled in all three innings.

Tendulkar has made a record 51 Test centuries but has now gone 25 innings without a hundred in the five-day game since making 146 against South Africa in Cape Town in January 2011.

He has scored a world record Test (15,553) and one-day (18,426) runs and has also compiled an unprecedented 100 international centuries.

The selectors also named India's left-arm paceman Zaheer Khan in the Mumbai side.

England open their tour with a three-day practice match against India 'A' in Mumbai on October 30. It will be followed by two more warm-up games before the four-Test series starts in Ahmedabad on November 15.

The tourists, who also play two Twenty20 internationals on the first leg of their tour, will go home for Christmas and return for a five-match one-day series starting on January 11.

Roach looks

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off. I've gotten a lot of wickets, a few man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series awards," he said.

"The ICC has me at No. 10 in the Test rankings and I am very confident in my game right now. My aim now is to try to become the No.1 bowler in the world in the not-too-distant future."

West Indies face Bangladesh in two Tests from November 13-17 at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Dhaka, and from November 21-25 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in the south-western city of Khulna.

The Tests will be followed by five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international.

Vettel shines

FROM PAGE 16
"A big thanks to my team, we're all pushing very hard."

"This is another good step [to the title] for us but there is still a long way to go."

Alonso commented "It's not easy at the moment to fight with Red Bull but we will never give up..."

Uncharted waters

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teams a run for their money." It would still be premature to comment on the coach's statement, but the fact that the women's team went on to top their group by defeating Sri Lanka on Sunday shows a new wave of confidence instilled among the players.

There is however, a lot to work on. Bangladesh's batting has been their weak-point in the tournament. They struggled to chase a total of 64 against the hosts and made a sorry 62 against Sri Lanka. Sharmin Akhtar with 48 runs in two games is currently their highest scorer. The team will definitely want to make amends before the vital clash against Pakistan.

The bowling, on the other hand, has been steady. Captain Salma Khatun took six wickets in the three games with a match-winning 4 for 8 against Sri Lanka in the last game. Pace bowlers Jahanara Alam and Panna Ghosh with eight wickets between them have had good bowling spells in all the games.

Whether or not the Tigresses reach the final of the Asia Cup, none can deny that the women's cricket team have made important strides ever since they received their ODI status last year. Statistics in fact show that their progress has been smoother than that of the men's side. A victory against Pakistan today, for instance, will take the Bangladesh women to their first finals of a major international tournament, a task that the men's cricket team accomplished only this year, their twelfth as a top side.

Rajib shares lead

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Rahman, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and FM Debaraj Chatterjee secured 3.5 points each after the fifth round games.

In the other fifth round games, Rakib drew with IM Rathnakaran of India, Shakil drew with Deepak Katiyar of India, Niaz lost against GM Kravtsov, Zia beat Saumil Padhya of India, Taibur beat Vikramaditya Sahu of India, Parag drew with IM Ashwin Jayaram of India, Debaraj beat Iskandar Bin Abdullah of Singapore, Nasir beat Erigaisi Arjun of India, Liza beat Savant Riya, Sagar lost against Vinoy Kumar Matta and Tahsin lost against Anand Naki of India.

A total of 163 players from 11 countries, including 17 Grand Masters and 18 International Masters, are participating in the event which began on October 26.

Pakistan wait

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International Cricket Council meeting earlier this month.

Pakistani media last week reported Bangladesh might tour in December for a short limited-over series.

But Sarwar said a final decision on the tour would only be taken by the Bangladeshi board. "We are wholeheartedly endeavouring to revive international cricket in Pakistan", he said.

Bangladesh were due to tour Pakistan in April for a short-limited over series but the Dhaka high court blocked the tour on security grounds.

Siddikur 46th

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with a two-over-par 73, got worse in the second round with a three-over-par putting him in joint 46th position. The next two rounds saw slight improvement, but the other players in the field had improved too, ensuring that the 27-year-old closed out the 6.1 million dollar event in 46th position. He shot a 2-under-par 69 in the third and a three-under-par 68 in the fourth, and finished with a cumulative score of even-par 284.

Siddikur's next assignment is the WGC-HSBC Open, which is scheduled to get underway in China from November 1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Relative of reggae	4 Crazy	8 Reed instrument	12 Snapshot	13 Jacob's twin	14 Thwart	15 Brewery product	16 Cascade	18 Wander	20 Witness	21 Corn eaters'	24 Unforeseen problems	28 Napoleon's downfall	32 Plummet	33 Historic period	34 "Small-village" family	36 — Khan	37 Rose-anne of comedy	39 1998 Sandler movie, with "The"																
41 Censorial sound	43 Classic theater name	44 Shell game item	46 Furlough	50 Nixon-era scandal	55 Fleur-de—	56 Met melody	57 Ocho —, Jamaica	58 Treasure seeker's aid	59 Fender bender result	60 Heidi's range	61 Crafty																								
DOWN	1 Resorts	2 Bag-piper's attire	3 Big name in PCs	4 The Big Apple	5 Mex. neighbor	6 Skin art, for short	7 Seeks restitution	8 Insult	9 Feathery neck-piece	10 Lubricate	11 Right angle	12 In medias —	19 Expert	22 Huffed and puffed	23 Echolocation method	25 Bedouin	26 Energetic	27 Fix, in a sense	28 "Dragnet" star	29 Uzbekistan sea	30 Container weight	31 Director Prelinger	35 Neuter	38 Say again	40 "Catcher in the —"	42 Apiece	45 Taj Mahal city	47 Charitable donations	48 Test tube	49 Catch sight of	50 Bankroll	51 Exist	52 Can material	53 Have a bug	54 Upper surface

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE TOPIC OF THIS DOCUMENT INVOLVES BENEFICIARIES, I'D PRESUME IT'S HEIR-RELEVANT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals H