

No Tests for Pakistan in Windies

CRICINFO, Port of Spain

Pakistan's tour of the West Indies this year will comprise five ODIs and two Twenty20 Internationals but no Tests, because of the difficulty in finding a window for a full tour. The dates for the tour have not yet been finalised.

"The Pakistan issue, it's fair to say that we haven't completely concluded negotiations or the final dates, but we're confident that will be done shortly," WICB chief executive Michael Muirhead said in Port-of-Spain. "It won't be a Test series anymore; we're going to be focussing on five ODIs and two T20s. We have just not finalised with Pakistan, them signing off on the schedule we have been provided."

The WICB president Dave Cameron said he was not happy about the absence of Tests but there was little that could be done. "I don't think we are satisfied," Cameron said. "But circumstances have dictated for this year that that's what we're able to put in, and hopefully we're going to be able to build on that next year."

Pakistan were originally scheduled to play two Tests, five ODIs and two Twenty20s in the Caribbean in June and July, but West Indies planned a tri-series involving India and Sri Lanka, which shortened the window. The WICB had asked the PCB if their tour could be rescheduled to August. That, however, interfered with Pakistan's plan to host India and to play out the Zimbabwe series that was postponed last year.

10-man BJMC

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when they drew 1-1 against archrivals Mohammedan in their previous match, but the Sky Blues got a lifeline when Sheikh Jamal lost to Feni Soccer. But yesterday's defeat has all but eliminate that chance as they will need a miraculous something to happen – that is a draw between Sheikh Russel and Sheikh Jamal and then those two losing their last matches – for Abahani to have any chance of retaining the title.

Abahani are now in second position with 29 points from 15 matches, three behind Sheikh Russel who have played 14. Sheikh Jamal have 28 points from 14 matches.

Abahani's Iranian coach Ardeshir Pournamet took all the responsibilities for the defeat but alleged that he could not control his players in the last six months and had also no answers from the team management.

"Today I fielded a second-string side as many of my players have been suffering from injuries which they mostly picked up from practising at sub-standard ground," said Pournamet. "The players had always started practice before I arrived. Even they went home straight after practice instead of resting at the club tent. I could not control them and I am responsible for the defeat."

Away at Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni, Mohammedan SC played out a 1-1 draw against hosts Feni Soccer Club to finish fourth, a place below their previous year's finish, with 25 points from 16 matches. Feni Soccer have leapfrogged Brothers Union into seventh position in the nine-team table with 12 points from 15 matches.



PHOTO: CRICINFO

Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Shane Watson drives through the off-side during their Indian Premier League match against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Jaipur yesterday.

Royals' home streak on

IANS, Jaipur

Shane Watson's brilliant all-round effort and a brisk half-century by Sanju Samson helped Rajasthan Royals beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by four wickets in their Indian Premier League (IPL) match here Monday.

Rajasthan Royals thus maintain their unbeaten run at home at the Sai Mansingh Stadium.

A combined batting effort from the Royal Challengers took them to 171 for six with Chris Gayle top scoring with 34 off 16 balls. Shane Watson was the pick of the bowlers, taking three for 22.

Rajasthan Royals found an unlikely hero in Samson as the pocket dynamo smashed 63 off 41 balls while Watson scored 41 off 30 balls as Rajasthan chased down the visitors' total in 19.5 overs.

Rajasthan are now tied on 12 points with Royal Challengers but have an inferior run-rate so they remain in third position.

Samson and Watson together strung a 68-run stand for the third wicket. One might have thought Watson, who has already scored a century and an unbeaten

98, to be the aggressor but it was diminutive man from Kerala who took the attack to the bowlers.

When Samson finally got out, Rajasthan still required 56 off 34 balls. Brad Hodge's cameo of 32 off 18 balls took the hosts to within touching distance of the target but a twist in the tale still remained.

Watson got out in the penultimate over with Rajasthan requiring 10 runs off 9 balls. Vinay Kumar dismissed Hodge in the second ball of the last over while Owais Shah (0) was run out the very next ball to create some last-minute excitement.

With Rajasthan requiring three off two balls, Stuart Binny (6 not out) hoicked Vinay Kumar for a four over mid-wicket to give his team a crucial victory.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 171 for 6 in 20 overs (Mukund 19, Gayle 34, Kohli 32, De Villiers 21, Henriques 22, Vinay 22 not out; Watson 3-22)

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 173 for 6 in 19.5 overs (Dravid 22, Samson 63, Watson 41, Hodge 32; Rampaul 2-28)

Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 4 wickets. **Player-of-the-match:** Sanju Samson.

Pakistan unearth 'King of Speed'



AFP, Karachi

Little-known bowler Ahmed Jamal has vowed to make a name for himself after winning a nationwide "King of Speed" competition launched by cricket chiefs to unearth a new Pakistani quick.

Pakistan boast a proud history of pacemen including the likes of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar and Jamal showed he has the pace to frighten batsmen with a fastest delivery of 143 kilometres (88 miles) an hour.

The 24-year-old, who hails from Abbottabad, made famous for being the city where Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden was killed by US forces in 2011, came out on top in the competition organised by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Jamal, who plays first-class cricket for Port Qasim, was delighted to scoop the one million rupees prize after the four-man final.

"I am thrilled and very happy," Jamal

said. "My feet were on the ground before I won this and will remain on the ground after winning the prize as I want to make a name for myself."

The PCB organised the hunt for fast bowlers after chief selector Iqbal Qasim raised concerns about poor quality in the pace department.

Jamal was picked from trials in Abbottabad earlier this month, one of a series in 10 cities to find a bowler with 145km speed. The other three finalists were Faisal Yasin, Abdul Hameed and Mohammad Imran.

The bowler acknowledged the infamy that bin Laden had brought on Abbottabad and Pakistan after he was shot dead in the garrison city on May 2, 2011. His wives later said they had been living there for five years.

"I was in Karachi, playing cricket and was unaware of what happened, but it became the biggest news in the world," he said.

Former Pakistan paceman Wasim Akram said Jamal, who is six feet four inches tall (1.93 metres), has the ability to thrive.

Relief, not joy at victory

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from a shin bone operation, had been kept out of the attack for long periods of the last day. "He had bowled with pain throughout the match, but he will do anything for the team. Today I did not want to bowl him, thinking that the other bowlers would do the job. But in the end, although the others bowled well, he was required in the end and he delivered with the winning wicket."

Robiul Islam was adjudged the man-of-the-series for his 15 wickets. Mushfiqur had special words of praise for him. "I think he has been so successful because of the hard work that he has put in. As a captain he is a special bowler because you know whenever you give him the ball he will give his hundred percent," said Mushfiqur.

Although the pace attack was a matter for concern it passed the Test series with flying colours as apart from Robiul, comeback man Sajidul Islam bowled well without a wicket, and debutant Ziaur Rahman took four wickets in the second innings, including the prized one of Brendan Taylor.

"If you think back, the pace attack was a concern not long ago, but I believed that if

the conditions assisted them they will be successful," said the skipper.

Ziaur Rahman cut a happy figure after helping his team win the match on his debut. "I feel very happy and lucky to win a Test on debut," he said. The all-rounder did not have a happy time with the ball in the first innings and with the bat in both knocks, but came into his own in the latter stages. "The wicket helped me and the captain told me to stick to my line, which is stump-to-stump, and I was successful."

Sajidul Islam, although wicketless, was happy to have taken part in the win. "I didn't take wickets, but it feels great to win a match on my comeback. I bowled well without much luck. Taking wickets is also a matter of luck."

The relief was writ large as after the game, all players engaged in a game of football away from public eyes, when the cameras had shut down. As they laughed amongst themselves, there was not the euphoria after the Asia Cup wins, for example, but a contentment that they had gotten the train back on track.

Spirited Kings XI fall just short

SPORT DESK

Captain Rohit Sharma's batting heroics made all the difference in the end as Mumbai Indians beat Kings XI Punjab by a narrow four runs in a nail-biting Pepsi IPL clash in Mumbai yesterday.

Sharma hit a whirlwind 79 to take Mumbai to a total of 174 that proved just enough.

Mumbai Indians were the relieved team at the end, having, only just, prevented Kings XI Punjab from pulling off a heist that should have left the hosts embarrassed.

Mumbai Indians had no business allowing the game to be decided in the final over, after having dismissed a threatening David Miller which left Kings XI to chase 26 off the final two overs with just one wicket in hand. Kings XI still needed 17 in the last bowled by Dhawal Kulkarni. Seven out of eight deliveries bowled in that over were full tosses, one of them was given a no-ball and one should have been - it was clearly above the waist - but wasn't, neither by Asad Rauf at square leg or AK Chaudhary at the bowling crease.

Praveen Kumar dispatched a juicy full toss on the pads for six off the penultimate ball to bring the equation down to five off the last ball, but spooned a catch to a relieved Sachin Tendulkar.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MUMBAI INDIANS: 174/3 in 20 overs (Smith 33, Sharma 79 not out; Kumar 1/24, Chawla 1/24)

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 170/10 in 20 overs (Miller 56, Hussey 34; Harbhajan 3/14, Ojha 2/22, Johnson 2/29)

Result: Mumbai Indians won by 4 runs **Player-of-the-match:** Rohit Sharma

Team Tigers

FROM PAGE 16

off Ziaur. The last pair frustrated the Tigers for 12 overs and 38 runs, but victory was never in doubt, and was sealed when Shakib, who was kept out of the attack for most of the day as a precaution for his just-recovered shin bone, trapped Jarvis in front.

More than

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weeks, but here, he was the one who looked like a rabbit caught under the headlights as his captain answered all his questions for him, barely waiting for Robiul to give his consent.

The diminutive wicket-keeper clearly showed who was in charge!

Junior Lions edge Junior Tigers



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-19s fell to a 62-run loss against Sri Lanka U-19s at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday to concede the five match one-day series 3-2. Batting first on a wicket that provided assistance to the bowlers, Sri Lanka U-19s were bowled out for 185 in 46.4 overs, raising hopes for a home victory. In reply, however, the Bangladesh innings folded for just 123 in 36 overs.

The Sri Lankans, who had earlier slumped to 23 for 3 in six overs, rode on a half-century from Roshan Anuruddha. His 51 off 78 balls was the mainstay of the innings. Bangladesh's Rifat Pradhan who finished on 3 for 29 was the pick of the bowlers.

Chasing the low total, the hosts struggled against the Sri Lankan bowling attack right from the start. At the half-way stage they slumped to 94 for 7. Mehedy Hasan top-scored with 37. Sri Lanka's Ramesh Mendis with figures of 3 for 24 was the pick of the bowlers.

The match bought to an end the junior Sri Lankan side's month-long tour of

Bangladesh. Apart from the five one day matches, the teams also played two youth Tests, both of which were drawn.

Despite the tame ending to the four-day matches, there were a number of impressive performances. Bangladesh's Mossadek Hossain, Mehedy Hasan and Sri Lanka's Minod Bhanuka got their first centuries. The bowling front was dominated by spinners from both the sides. Leg-spinner Jubair Hossain and off-break bowler AK Tyronne, both of who picked up their first five-wicket hauls in Tests were the pick of the bowlers from either side. Young Nazmul Hossain, who was drafted in from the U-17s side showed promise. His 109 in the second one day match was the only century of the series.

On the whole, it was a well contested series with the visitors perhaps edging it on performance. But the performances of the young Tigers will no doubt encourage the board, especially with the U-19s World Cup beckoning at the start of next year.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA U-19s: 185 all out in 46.4 overs. (Roshan 51; Rifat 3-29)

BANGLADESH U-19s: 123 all out in 36 overs. (Mehedy 37; Ramesh 3-24)

Result: SL U19 won by 62 runs.

Bhuvi living the dream



MAIL TODAY, Delhi

It has been five months since the cricket-loving people of India got introduced to a lanky swing bowler from Meerut called Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Since December, when he made his T20 and ODI debut against Pakistan, 'Bhuvi' as he is known to his teammates, has grown in leaps and bounds, but still likes to remain grounded.

"Being a cricketer, it has been really



BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

good for me. It is everyone's dream to do well for India, and playing Test cricket was the ultimate dream, which also got fulfilled. A lot has changed for me as a cricketer, going from domestic to international cricket, but I'm still living the dream," Bhuvneshwar told Mail Today.

The Pune Warriors bowler has benefited majorly from the guidance of their head coach Allan Donald over the last couple of seasons, but says coaching has a limited scope in the growth of a player.

"He shares his experience with me, and it helps a lot to talk to him in the nets. Now

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Snapshot
- America's uncle
- Go back
- Dawn
- Pirouette pivot
- "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- Foolish
- Current
- Use
- Mouth-wash
- Stirred
- Service charge
- Exist
- Nervous
- Screws up
- Point of view
- Horse-radish cousin
- Medal earners
- Mottled mount
- Break suddenly
- Went on all fours
- Kreskin's claim
- Have a go at

- In the pink
- Daughter of Muhammad
- Oppressive
- Danger of Dr. —
- [Uncorrected]
- Work with
- Skip a sound
- Superlative ending
- Roulette bet
- Rose

DOWN

- Tire pressure stat

- Barbarian
- Asian wild asses
- With 46-Down, cheese-topped sandwich
- Phantom's bailiwick
- "Hot"
- Top-rated
- "Family Guy" daughter
- "Cats" inspirer
- Money lenders
- One over par
- Deed holders
- Wheat or rye

- A handful
- Geological period
- Brewery product
- Demolitions
- specialist
- Specter
- Morsel
- Eastern-most
- Corn spike
- Agent
- Ribbed
- Opted for
- Indian royals
- Vote in
- They're calling Danny Boy
- Blend together
- See 4-Down
- "— American Cousin"
- Altar affirmative
- Started

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	O	D	A	F	D	A	P	L	O	P
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D	E	C	A	N	T	W	I	N	T	E
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Yesterday's answer 3-22

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52				53			54					
55				56			57					

CRYPTOQUIP

P O G R B X O H ' E O O R N O J R D Y N

Y W T Y B Q F R Q O R N G F B T G F ,

H H L R Q H J O H L B X N F R E O R

X N T Y J Q L Y T R D W H P O T .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN FELIX ON "THE

ODD COUPLE" HASN'T EATEN FOOD FOR A

WHILE, I EXPECT HE GETS UNGER PANGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I