

SPORT



India series Sanga's last

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's batting great Kumar Sangakkara on Saturday ended speculation about his future, saying he will retire during the home series against India in August.

"This is my time to call it a day," Sangakkara, 37, told reporters on the sidelines of the second Test against Pakistan.

The left-hander said he will play two of the three Tests against India that will take place in Sri Lanka in August. He also said he will skip the third and final Test of the ongoing series against Pakistan.

"I wanted to retire after the World Cup, but was requested by the selectors to stay on," he said. "I agreed to play four more Tests. I will honour that agreement."

"I don't want to extend my career for individual records. This is the time to go."

"I am going to miss playing for Sri Lanka a lot," he said. "I had the time of my life playing for Sri Lanka. I enjoyed playing every format but donning whites for Sri Lanka has been special."

"I can walk away happy that good days outweigh the disappointments."

Sangakkara dismissed the idea of becoming a coach after retirement with a laugh saying he would "make a bad coach".

"I don't know if I will have the patience for that," he added.



Members of the Bangladesh U-19 team enjoy their time at the home of cricket in Mirpur, prior to their departure for South Africa early today. The youths will play seven one-day matches against their South African counterparts during their 20-day trip.

PHOTO: BCB

U-19s off to South Africa

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh under-19 cricket team left here for Durban early today to play a seven-match one-day series against South Africa. The two teams have already played a series this year. Reigning world champions South Africa had come to Bangladesh in April to play seven one-dayers, a series which Bangladesh won 6-1.

With the U-19 World Cup due to take place in Bangladesh in January next year, the Bangladesh Cricket Board is making an attempt to host as many matches as possible for the junior national team.

Speaking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, Bangladesh U-19 captain, Mehidy Hassan Miraz said, "It will

be a very good tour for our World Cup preparations. Since the start of June we have been practising very hard for this tour. There will be plenty of challenges there with regards to the conditions and the weather over there."

"In order to adjust to those we have trained on bouncy wickets in

the BKSP and we have also batted against deliveries bouncing off granite boards in order to get used to the height of the bounce over there," he added.

Inspired by the senior Bangladeshi side's victory over India, Miraz hoped that his side could continue their good run against their South African counterparts.

The visitors will begin their tour with a warm-up game on July 2 at the Chatsworth Cricket Oval. They will play their first two one-day matches on July 5 and 6 at the Sahara Stadium Kingsmead. The teams will then face off at the Pietermaritzburg Oval for the next three ODIs on July 10, 12 and 14. The final two ODIs will take place on July 17 and 19 at the Chatsworth Cricket Oval and Sahara Stadium Kingsmead respectively. The team is scheduled to return home on July 21.

U-19 SQUAD

Joyrak Sheik Imon, Mohammad Saif Hassan, Pinak Ghosh, Zakir Hasan, Najmul Hossain Shanto (vice-captain), Mehidy Hassan Miraz (captain), Saifuddin, Shahanur Rahman, Mohammad Abdul Halim, Mehede Hasan, Rifat Pradhan, Sanjit Saha, Saleh Ahmed Shawon Gazi, Prosenjit Das, Mosabbek Hossain Sun.

Zia moves to second

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed slipped to third position after losing the fifth round game in the Commonwealth Chess Championship in New Delhi, India yesterday. The first GM of the sub-continent, who had led the table with four wins in four matches, lost against Deep Sengupta of India to share the third position along with 28 other players including IM Minhaz Uddin Ahmed. GM Ziaur Rahman, meanwhile, grabbed the second position with 4.5 points after beating Indian GM Saptarshi Roy Chowdhury in the fifth round.

'Need to adapt to new rules'

SPORTS REPORTER



Following the confirmation of rule changes in the ODIs by the International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday, members of Bangladesh team management emphasised on the need for the team to adjust to the changes as soon as possible.

The modified rules will be in effect when Bangladesh play South Africa next month. As per the new rules, there won't be a batting powerplay and neither will the captains have to place two catchers in the first ten overs. Also, captains can have the liberty of placing five fielders, one more than before, outside the 30-yard circle in the last ten overs. In addition, as per the changes, a 'free-hit' will now be enforced for all kinds of no-balls and not just when the bowler oversteps.

"Considering the fact that we just played a series with the old rules, we will need some time to adapt to the latest rules," Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The captain will need to be a bit more upfront from now on since the rules don't force him to make field changes. He will have to be a bit more imaginative from now on."

"It will definitely help the bowlers though. It will give them a bit more of a breathing space," he added.

Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza echoed Hathurusingha's sentiments and believed that his side would be able to get used to the rules by the time the South Africa series began.

"It's all about adjustment really. It's not as though it's one rule for us and another for them. It's the same for both sides, so we need to adjust as soon as possible," he said.

Bangladesh's bowling coach and former Zimbabwe bowler Heath Streak appreciated the changes made by the ICC and believed that it would make the bowlers a lot more happy.

"The bowlers will obviously enjoy it. The batsmen will have to adapt a little bit on those phases. The extra man out in the last ten overs will inhibit the boundary hitting. But I think for us it will be fine," said Streak.

"It's good that the ICC is giving the bowlers a bit of a chance. If you look at the England-New Zealand series, the matches were played on flat wickets and it was a really big challenge for the bowlers to contain the batsmen. The new rules will make it a bit more challenging for the batsmen," he added.

NEW RULES

No compulsory catchers in overs 1-10 (ODIs)

No batting Powerplay between overs 15-40 (ODIs)

Five fielders allowed outside the 30-yard circle in overs 41-50 (ODIs)

All "no balls", not just "foot faults", to result in a free hit (ODIs & T20Is)

Pakistan hit back

AFP, Colombo



Pakistan's batsmen bounced back after the first innings debacle to throw open the second Test against Sri Lanka at the P Sara Oval in Colombo on Thursday.

The tourists, who conceded a lead of 177 runs after being dismissed for 138 in the first innings, closed the third day's play at 171 for two in their second knock.

When bad light halted play an hour early, Pakistan trailed by just six runs with eight wickets in hand, promising a keen tussle between bat and ball over the next two days.

Sri Lanka, looking for a series-levelling win after losing the first Test in Galle, removed Mohammad Hafeez cheaply for eight before lunch, caught in the slips by Kumar Sangakkara off Angelo Mathews.

Opener Ahmed Shehzad hit 69 during a second-wicket stand of 120 with Azhar Ali, the pair batting through the post-lunch session to defy the Sri Lankan bowlers.

Shehzad was dismissed off the first ball after tea, top-edging a hook off Dhammika Prasad, but Younis Khan joined Azhar to

put on 42 for the unbroken third wicket.

Azhar was unbeaten on 64 and Younis, determined to make his 100th match special after falling for six in the first innings, closed the day on a watchful 23.

Sri Lanka, who began at their overnight score of 304-9 after a delayed start due to bad weather, were dismissed for 315 in their first innings in reply to Pakistan's 138.

Yasir had claimed seven wickets in Sri Lanka's second innings in Galle to fashion Pakistan's 10-wicket victory.

Sri Lanka were dealt a scare in the field when Chameera, the debutant seamer, went off the field in the morning session after sending down just nine deliveries. But he returned after lunch to bowl seven more overs and conceded 28 runs without any success.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 138

SRI LANKA: First innings 315 (Silva 80, Sangakkara 34, Mathews 77; Yasir 6-96, Hafeez 1-19)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 171 for 2 (Shehzad 69, Azhar 64 not out, Younis 23 not out; Prasad 1-46, Mathews 1-5)

Drone over Wimbledon preparations

AFP, London

Police have seized a drone which was flown over Wimbledon as some of the world's top players warmed up for the Grand Slam in south-west London.

Officers are investigating the incident after being alerted to a man flying a drone over the All England Club from a nearby golf course on Saturday morning.

Roger Federer, Andy Murray, Rafael Nadal, Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova were among the top stars on site on Saturday as they hone their games ahead of Monday's opening matches.

Inspector Roger Robinson of Merton police said: "It is an offence to fly a drone within 50 metres of a structure. Anyone intending to fly a drone should give prior consideration to the surrounding landscape and any structures or venues."

"While it is not our intention to prevent people from enjoying the use of drones, it is important that regulations are adhered to. Police will take positive action against anyone committing an offence."

Drones have become a security concern at major sporting events since October when a Euro 2016 qualifier between Serbia and Albania ended with the match abandoned after a drone carrying a political banner was flown into the stadium.

'It may be different for SA'

SPORTS REPORTER



The ploy of using four pacers against India worked well for Bangladesh. While the Indian team management claimed not to be surprised by the hosts' strategy, their batsmen found it difficult to manoeuvre their way against the likes of Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman.

While the strategy did work against India, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan however, reckoned that the Tigers might use a completely different strategy against South Africa next month.

In an interview with Wisden India, published on June 26, Shakib said, "We attacked against India with four seamers, but against South Africa, I think it might be the opposite. You never know, we might end up playing with four seamers as well, but we may change our plans."

"I still believe South Africa are the favourites because they have a better bowling attack. It will be an even contest, but we need to adjust our



SHAKIB AL HASAN

plans," he added.

Shakib of course, wasn't the only player who hinted at the possibility of enforcing a different strategy against the South Africans. At the end of the series, skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was asked as to why Jubair Hossain was included into the side as a late replacement for Taskin Ahmed and not included in the starting eleven of the third ODI.

To that Mashrafe replied, saying the leg-spinner was brought in to help him

get used to the atmosphere of the national team since he might get a chance to play against South Africa.

Whether the hosts are going to depend on their spinners a bit more as compared to the India series is a question that will only be answered once the entire team gets together. As of now, the players and the members of the team management are enjoying their break and will only be back on June 29 -- the first day of the camp.

In the past though, the visitors have depended more upon their spinners against South Africa. Bangladesh have never managed to bowl South Africa out at home. In the six matches that they played against them, 15 wickets were taken by spinners, whereas the pacers managed to take only six.

Regardless of the strategies, Shakib said that the team was looking forward to facing South Africa.

"The way we are playing, especially in ODIs at home, we can beat any side on our day. And I think we showed the world and ourselves how much of an improved side we are now in ODIs."

IN A NUTSHELL

Smith rejected England

Australia batsman Steven Smith revealed English county side Surrey once tried to push him into the country's national set-up by virtue of his mother's British heritage.

Though born in Sydney, Smith played club cricket in Kent. Throwing his lot in with England would have been a formality due to his blood-line, but Smith said he had no regrets about opting for Australia.

"I played a little bit of club cricket at Sevenoaks Vine [in Kent]. It was really enjoyable and I think it helped

my game in the long run as well," Smith told reporters.

"I ended up playing a little bit of cricket at Surrey and I think they may have been trying to get me along to the England camp but I think I made a wise decision to play back home."

India to complain against umpires?

Contentious decisions in the 3-match ODI series between India and Bangladesh left India angry and it has reportedly prompted the team to make a formal complaint to the BCCI.

According to a report in Mail Today, the team management is expected to lodge a complaint with the signatures from team director Ravi Shastri and skipper MS Dhoni, before the BCCI takes the matter to the ICC.

Three major incidents have irked the Indian team with the name of Mustafizur Rahman not being mentioned in the on-field collision report submitted by umpires against MS Dhoni in first ODI the first offence. Virat Kohli's catch off Tamim Iqbal, which the third umpire ruled out, is the second incident and Ambati Rayadu's dismissal in the third ODI was the spark that



Pakistan top-order batsman Azhar Ali flicks one off his pads during the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP