

## CSK, Royals not invited by BCCI

CRICINFO, Kolkata

Management representatives of the Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals franchises have not been invited for the first round of discussions with the BCCI's working group that is in charge of studying the Lodha panel order relating to the IPL 2013 corruption case.

The owners of the franchises -- India Cements and Jaipur IPL Pvt Ltd -- had been suspended for two years by the panel in its verdict announced last month.

With the participation of the teams in doubt, the BCCI formed a working group on July 20 to study the panel's order and present its findings in six weeks.

ESPNcricinfo understands that the group will have one-on-one discussions with the IPL's stakeholders, including broadcasters, sponsors and the remaining six franchises over the week.

## A well-deserved break

SPORTS REPORTER



"Holiday means holiday. I won't be on official duty for the next few weeks," had quipped Bangladesh Test captain Mushfiquir Rahim on Monday while leaving the media room in the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur after attending his last press conference of a very long season.

Mushfiquir isn't expected to face the cameras for at least a month; not before the build-up for the Australia series, due to take place in October, begins.

Coming from Mushfiquir, the joyous statement sounded a bit odd. He is after all known to be a workaholic; almost as though he feeds on the countless number of hours spent in numerous net sessions.

But when you look back at Bangladesh's hectic schedule in the last eight months or so, you would realise that Mushfiquir was only human.

The end of the South Africa series has given the players their longest break this year. They



After an amazing eight months, which saw the Tigers achieve innumerable feats, the national cricketers have finally received a well-earned breather.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

will be off till the end of this month after which they will undergo a fitness camp, which will be followed by their skills

camp for a two-Test series against Australia.

The three-week break that they are going to get will be their

longest since they began their preparations for the World Cup in Brisbane this year.

The Tigers played their last

## A fit Bayjedul

BISHWAJIT ROY



Many had their share of inputs behind the Tigers' recent dream run, especially in the limited-overs version of the game under the magnificent leadership of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

The brave-heart from Narail transformed all those inputs of the back-room staff not only to win four consecutive home series and a dream quarterfinal berth in the World Cup but also presented the world a new Bangladesh during a spectacular ten months journey.

And a fit Mashrafe for such a long time most probably was the biggest surprise for the nation. With both his knees operated on more than once and injury becoming synonymous with Mashrafe not many would have thought that the talented pace bowler, who made his international debut against Zimbabwe in Dhaka in 2001, would sustain such for such a long period of time.

Lot of stories have already been told about the heroes of this success but there are some unsung heroes as well. And one of them is our own national team physio Bayjedul Islam Khan, who along with the other members of the coaching staff played a big role behind the scene to make



Physiotherapist Bayjedul Islam has been the hero behind the scenes for the Tigers. Despite the hectic year, Bayjedul's management not only ensured that there were no crucial injuries in the team, but also kept the players on top of their fitness levels.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

sure that the fitness issue and the mental fatigue did not hinder the progress of the team.

The baby-faced Bayjedul, who took over the demanding job in November last year after the departure of South African Vibhav Singh, now looks as confident as the other members of the team after ensuring an eye-catching show in terms of the players fitness levels.

"Initially they (players) were doubtful about whether I would be able to handle the pressure as a local physio but they gradually got the confidence," said Bayjedul while talking to The Daily Star over phone last night.

"I have no doubt about my ability. The two-year study at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology gave me a lot of confidence and I was just waiting for a chance and thankfully BCB kept faith in me. "When I took over the charge, my biggest challenge was to keep Mashrafe fit. He was a player who could sustain hardly three matches. So, it was a big challenge to make sure he could play five matches in eleven days against Zimbabwe. My biggest advantage was that I was involved in his rehab programme after his last injury in 2011," continued Bayjedul, who has been associated with the BCB since 2006 after completing his study at Bangladesh Health Professions Institute.

"We made a special protective plan for him. For example, the night before the match I had a one and a half hour session with him so that he could feel comfortable on the match day. I can still remember how scared I really was before the fourth match against Zimbabwe but our plan really worked well. He also made things easier for me because he was very much careful and sincere about his fitness duty," he added.

Bayjedul thanked some senior players for making his job easy.

"When I started some senior players made sure that everybody treated me like they treat a foreign physio. Everybody followed the schedule I set for them. As a physio now I'm really happy to see that nobody wants to lose his place in the team on fitness grounds and everybody acts professionally."

"What our trainer and I always try is to make sure that the sessions are not boring for the players. We always try something different so that players can enjoy it and we are getting the results. I make specific plans in three categories for every player in line with my knowledge from the Norwegian institute and the players so far responded very well. To me the most important thing is the follow-up," said a happy Bayjedul, who had the experience of working with most of the national team players during their academy and age level stints.

## ECB hires Mahela

CRICINFO, London

Mahela Jayawardene is to join the England side as batting consultant. The prolific batsman will be part of the England coaching team travelling to the UAE for the Test and limited-overs series against Pakistan.

He is not a full time member of the ECB staff, but is likely to be contracted for a certain amount of days a year, much in the manner that Mushtaq Ahmed was in his period as spin consultant.

Jayawardene earned an outstanding record as a batsman across the formats and around the world in an 18-year international career. But it is his expertise in Asian conditions, in particular, and against spin bowling that interests England now. Over the next 18 months or so, England will not only play Pakistan in the UAE, but tour India and Bangladesh, as well as hosting Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The 2016 World T20 is also in India.

He formed a strong relationship with Trevor Bayliss and Paul Farbrace, the England coach and assistant coach, during their spells fulfilling similar duties with the Sri Lanka team and, as was revealed by ESPNcricinfo, has been in talks with the pair since July.

Jayawardene's appointment does not necessarily mean the end of Mark Ramprakash's role with the England team.

## End is nigh for Michael?

AFP, Sydney



Australia captain Michael Clarke's Test career could be over if he fails with the bat during the fourth Test at Trent Bridge, Australian media said Tuesday, saying he looks 'lost' and knows the end is near.

Scores of 10 and three during Australia's eight-wicket defeat by England in the third Test at Edgbaston left Clarke with a meagre series aggregate of 94 runs in six innings at an average of under 19.

With Australia 2-1 down in the five-Test series, he must step up or face the fact that he should retire, cricket writers said.

"Clarke's issues extend beyond his batting," said the Sydney Morning Herald's chief sports writer Andrew Webster.

"His choices as captain without hardened and experienced heads like Brad Haddin and Shane Watson next to him in the middle are being questioned like never before.

"But it's with the willow that he desperately needs to turn the beat around."

Webster added that Clarke's face explained his issues more than his meagre run total.

"Maybe I've known Clarke and covered his career too long. Maybe it's obvious," he said.

"But his expression with each cheap dismissal is undeniable: it is a blank expression of utter bewilderment. He isn't annoyed but lost."

Clarke, 34, himself admitted that Australia have been "playing with 10 players" and Peter Lalor, cricket writer for the Australian, wrote that failure in the fourth Test in Nottingham starting Thursday "spells an almost certain end to his career".

"It's on his mind and he knows in his heart that the end is near but like all greats he would like to go out on top," he said.

But he added that "Clarke is a champion and if he pulls out of this form slump, there is a possibility the team can win the series or retain the Ashes with a draw".

The Sydney Daily Telegraph noted that despite his form slump, selectors would be reluctant to axe Clarke or let him retire with a two-Test tour of Bangladesh following the Ashes series in October.

Clarke is a quality player of spin on what are expected to be dusty pitches in Dhaka and Chittagong, with the newspaper also pointing to a lack of quality players to replace him.

## AB back for Kiwi series

AFP, Johannesburg

AB de Villiers will return from paternity leave for South Africa's Twenty20 and one-day international matches against New Zealand later this month.

De Villiers missed the recent rain-hit Test series against Bangladesh in order to be with his wife when she gave birth to the couple's first child, a son.

Two other leading players, all-rounder JP Duminy and fast bowler Morne Morkel, will miss the three-match one-day series against New Zealand because of paternity leave but are part of the squad for two T20 matches.

All-rounder David Wiese is in line to win his first one-day cap. He has previously played in T20 Internationals.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Morne van Wyk has been recalled for both squads in the absence of Quinton de Kock, who has joined the South Africa A squad on a tour of India in a quest to regain batting form.

### SQUADS

**ODI:** AB de Villiers (captain), Kyle Abbott, Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, David Miller, Aaron Phangiso, Vernon Philander, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Dale Steyn, Morne van Wyk, David Wiese.

**T20I:** Du Plessis (captain), Abbott, Amla, Behardien, De Villiers, JP Duminy, Eddie Leie, Miller, Morne Morkel, Phangiso, Rabada, Rossouw, Van Wyk, Wiese

### FIXTURES

**Aug 14:** First T20I, Durban  
**Aug 16:** Second T20I, Centurion

**Aug 19:** First ODI, Centurion  
**Aug 23:** Second ODI, Potchefstroom

**Aug 26:** Third ODI, Durban

## 'Clarke is dangerous'

AFP, Nottingham

England paceman Stuart Broad is proud of the way his side have restricted Australia captain Michael Clarke in the Ashes series so far but warned they cannot let the star batsman off the hook.

Scores of 10 and three during Australia's eight-wicket defeat by England in the third Test at Edgbaston left Clarke with a meagre series aggregate of 94 runs in six innings at an average of under 19.

Back and hamstringing injuries have restricted Clarke to just eight Tests in the past year and, with Australia 2-1 down in the five-match Ashes series, there is a sense the 34-year-old is approaching a crunch point in his brilliant career.

"We obviously do a lot of research on him because he averages something like 52 in over 110 Tests which is remarkable, the career he's had," said Broad speaking Tuesday at his Trent Bridge home ground, where the fourth Test starts on Thursday.

"We've made it hard for Michael. We know how dangerous he is. He is such a key player for them and it's been going well so far."

Thursday's match will see England go into a Test without James Anderson for the first time since both he and Broad were controversially rested from the team that played the West Indies in a rain-affected draw at Edgbaston in 2012.

Anderson, who took an Ashes best six for 47 at Edgbaston last week, has been ruled out with a side strain.

As well as being England's all-time leading bowler in Tests with 413 wickets, the 33-year-old Anderson has a brilliant record at Trent Bridge with 53 wickets in eight Tests at an average of 19.24.

## Kiwis crush Zimbabwe

AFP, Harare



Openers Martin Guptill and Tom Latham both struck centuries as New Zealand crushed Zimbabwe by 10 wickets in the second one-day international on Tuesday to set up a series decider.

Chasing 236 to level the three-match series at Harare Sports Club, Guptill finished unbeaten on 116 while Latham was 110 not out as New Zealand achieved the target with almost eight overs to spare.

The pair set a new record for the highest successful chase in an ODI without losing a wicket, bettering the 231 that Sri Lanka managed in a 10-wicket win over England in the 2011 World Cup quarter-final, as they ensured that New Zealand bounced back from Sunday's shock seven-wicket defeat, in convincing fashion.

"It's great to have a performance like this in contrast to the one that we had in the last game. You can see a lot of

learning there," captain Kane Williamson said.

Zimbabwe were left to wonder whether they had made the right call at the toss, when Elton Chigumbura went against conventional wisdom and elected to bat first.

The decision backfired when the hosts crumbled in the face of some aggressive New Zealand bowling, losing their top five inside the first 18 overs.

While Grant Elliott used the swing on offer to dismiss Craig Ervine and Chigumbura, leg-spinner Ish Sodhi picked up his first wickets in ODI cricket on his way to figures of 3 for 38.

"I thought it was a good wicket to bat on, it's just that we didn't execute well," said Chigumbura.

Zimbabwe were grateful to Sikandar Raza Butt for hauling them to a vaguely respectable score, with his 100 not out rescuing the home side from 68 for five and then 146 for eight.

He rebuilt the innings with a 60-run stand for the sixth wicket with Sean Williams, and an 89-run stand for the

ninth wicket with Tinashe Panyangara, who made a career-best 33.

Raza enjoyed some fortune when he was dropped on 67, and reached his third ODI hundred off the penultimate delivery of the innings.

Zimbabwe needed early wickets if they were going to challenge, but the seamers lacked control up front and Guptill and Latham were allowed to settle.

The pair were never troubled as they set a new record for an ODI partnership in Zimbabwe, eclipsing the 228 put on by Pakistan's Imran Farhat and Mohammad Hafeez in 2011.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**ZIMBABWE:** 235 for 9 in 50 overs (Chibhabha 42, Williams 26, Raza 100 not out, Panyangara 33; Elliott 2-27, Sodhi 3-38)

**NEW ZEALAND:** 236 for no loss in 42.2 overs (Guptill 116 not out, Latham 110 not out)

**Result:** New Zealand won by 10 wickets and 3-match series level 1-1.

**Players-of-the-match:** Martin Guptill and Tom Latham.



New Zealand opener Martin Guptill (R) is congratulated on his century by teammate Tom Latham, who also scored a ton, at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP