

Indian men off to a winning start

Srikanth, Sai Praneeth and Prannoy make the second round; Meghana-Poorvisha pair also advances



Well begun is...B. Sai Praneeth dispatched Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue in straight games in the opening round on Monday. ■FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

BADMINTON WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BASEL

Indian shuttlers had a good day in office at the World Championships with the men's singles trio of K. Srikanth, B. Sai Praneeth and H.S. Prannoy advancing to the second round on Monday.

Former World No. 1 Srikanth, who has not won a title at the BWF World Tour in the last 22 months, stave off a spirited challenge from Ireland's Nhat Nguyen 17-21, 21-16, 21-6 in a match that lasted 66 minutes.

Praneeth, ranked 19th, who has been conferred with the Arjuna Award, defeated 66th-ranked Jason Anthony Ho-Shue of Canada 21-17, 21-16 in 39 minutes.

In another men's singles

first round match, World No. 30 Prannoy, who is on a comeback trial after recovering from a stomach problem, fought back to beat 93rd-ranked Eetu Heino of Finland 17-21, 21-10, 21-11.

Lin looms next

The former World No. 8 will next face Chinese legend Lin Dan, seeded 11th, in the second round. Prannoy had defeated Lin at the 2018 Indonesia Open and 2015 French Open.

India also got a favourable result in women's doubles with J. Meghana and S. Poorvisha Ram getting past Guatemala's Diana Corleto Soto and Nikte Alejandra Sotomayor 21-10, 21-18.

P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, who received a bye in the opening round, will start their campaign on Wednesday.

Rahane gets some valuable runs

Vihari, too, comes good; warm-up game ends in a draw

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane got some much-needed runs under his belt ahead of the first Test as the visitors scored 188 for five in the second innings before their three-day warm-up game against West Indies-A ended in a draw here on Monday.

Rahane, who has not scored a hundred in more than two years, made a fighting 54 off 162 balls before a reverse sweep led to his dismissal. Rahane, the stand-in captain in this game, had opened the innings after failing in the first essay.

Rahane and Hanuma Vihari had resumed the innings at 84 for one and both managed to score half-centuries. Vihari made 64 off 125 balls, with nine fours and



Finding his touch: Rahane made the most of the opportunity to open the innings, scoring a half-century. ■FILE PHOTO

six. The hosts finished at 47 for three in the second essay.

On Sunday, Ishant Sharma bowled a fiery opening spell while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav promised to pose stiff competition for Ashwin as India dominated proceedings.

India bowled out the home team for 181 in 56.1 overs with Ishant (three for 21), Kuldeep (three for 35) and Umesh Yadav (three for 19) sharing the spoils.

The scores:

India 297 for five decl. and 188 for five decl. in 78 overs (Rahane 54, Vihari 64) drew with West Indies-A 181 in 56.1 overs and 47 for three.

Ball set rolling to pick support staff

Interviews being held for India batting and bowling coach

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

The national selection panel kicked off a four-day procedure to appoint support staff members of India's men's cricket team by interviewing 18 candidates on Monday, combined for the batting and bowling coach positions.

Four of the five national selectors – chairman M.S.K. Prasad, Sarandeep Singh, Gagan Khoda and Jatin Paranjape – assembled at the BCCI headquarters in the morning and continued to interact with aspiring candidates for the batting and bowling coach positions.

The Hindu understands that the selectors interacted with 13 candidates for the batting coach's position while five appeared for the bowling coach role.

Ten candidates appeared in person at the BCCI headquarters, which included Lalchand Rajput, Pravin Amre, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Shitanshu Kotak, Amol Muzumdar and Vikram Rathour (for batting coach) and Venkatesh Prasad, Subroto Banerjee, Amit Bhandari and Paras Mhambrey (bowling).

Sanjay Bangar, the incumbent batting coach whose retention is uncertain, is the only remaining candidate to be interviewed. The other eight candidates, including overseas

■ Sanjay Bangar, the incumbent batting coach whose retention is uncertain, is the only remaining candidate to be interviewed

coaches, were interviewed through a video link.

Despite the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) demanding it to be included in the support staff appointments, the BCCI decided to stick to the rulebook. As a result, only the national selectors were involved in conversing with the candidates.

Should the selectors feel, Prasad will informally seek the views of the CAC besides the head coach Ravi Shastri and captain Virat Kohli.

It is also understood that all the incumbent support staff members of the Indian team who are in the West Indies will be interviewed on Tuesday, a day after the end of the of the tour game, ahead of the opening Test.

Various posts

The selectors will continue to interview almost a hundred candidates for various posts till Thursday. The interviews will be conducted for batting coach, bowling coach, fielding coach, administrative manager, physiotherapist and strength and conditioning coach.

CoA to bring out white paper on conflict of interest rules

Players present views at an interactive session

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

A group of experienced India cricketers presented their views to the Committee of Administrators (CoA) on the application of Conflict of Interest (CoI) rules at the BCCI headquarters here on Monday.

While former captain Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar, Ajit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan, Parthiv Patel and Rohan Gavaskar attended the meeting in person, former captain Sourav Ganguly joined in via videoconferencing.

Dravid recuses

While Rahul Dravid – whose alleged CoI led to the meeting – recused himself, V.V.S. Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar, were also embroiled in the CoI conundrum, were reported to be indisposed.

With CoA chairman Vinod Rai being unable to attend the meeting, former India women's captain Diana Edulji and Lt. Col. (ret.) Ravindra Thodge interacted with the cricketers for almost two hours.

Referring to the meeting as a “vibrant discussion”, Edulji said the CoA would now prepare a white paper based on the discussion and forward it to amicus curiae P.S. Narasimha.

“A white paper will be prepared and we are trying our best to see what is best for cricket,” Edulji told reporters after the meeting.



A time to debate: (Clockwise from top left) Ajit Agarkar, Diana Edulji, Parthiv Patel, Venkatesh Prasad, Sanjay Manjrekar and Rohan Gavaskar arrive at the BCCI HQ in Mumbai on Monday. ■PTI

“We don't want to hamper anybody, but stay within the rules. And, as and when the Supreme Court decides, the amendments will be down the line for everybody.”

The Hindu understands that the cricketers sought relaxation in the CoI rules pertaining primarily to running coaching academies besides working for a State association on a coaching assignment or as commentator for matches in India.

“Suggestions were sought and we spoke about former

players, current players and what is happening now. And it was a long and good discussion.

“The players explained the whole thing and the decision-makers have heard us,” said Irfan, Jammu & Kashmir player-cum-coach and also a commentator.

Thorn in the flesh

It will be interesting to see if the CoI issue, which has emerged as a thorn in the flesh of Indian cricket, can be amicably resolved in the near future.

Saini asked to stay back in WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Impressed with his skillset, the Indian team management has decided to keep speedster Navdeep Saini as a net bowler for the two-Test series against the West Indies, aiming to groom him for future red-ball assignments.

“Navdeep Saini has been asked to stay back by the team management for the Test series. He will stay back primarily as a net bowler. They want to groom him for Test format keeping an eye on the future,” a senior BCCI official said on Monday.

Saini, in fact, bowled six overs during the West Indies-A first innings in the on-going practice match.

“He has performed well in red ball cricket for the past few years. He has the pace, and ability to hit the deck, move the ball both in the air and off the pitch.

“If he is groomed well, it will only increase our pool of fast bowlers for the top-tier cricket. That's how the team management is looking at him,” the official said.



Navdeep Saini. ■FILE PHOTO

Yuvraj calls Akhtar's 'bluff'



The true story: Yuvraj has revealed what Akhtar tells a batsman after felling him. ■FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh on Monday reminded Shoaib Akhtar how he would warn batsmen while checking on them after nasty bouncers following the ex-Pakistan pacer's criticism of Jofra Archer's conduct in the Ashes.

Akhtar, on Sunday, slammed Archer for not showing the basic courtesy of checking on Smith after the Australian was felled by his bouncer during the second Ashes Test in

London.

“Bouncers are a part & parcel of the game but whenever a bowler hits a batsman on the head and he falls, courtesy requires that the bowler must go & check on him. It was not nice of Archer to just walk away while Smith was in pain. I was always the first one to run to the batsman,” Akhtar tweeted.

In response, Yuvraj wrote, “Yes, you did! But your actual words were ‘hope you're alright, mate, because there are a few more coming.’”

BCCI promises all help to J&K



Irfan Pathan. ■FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Jammu and Kashmir cricket mentor Irfan Pathan on Monday said the BCCI has promised all help after the team was forced to pull out of the Vizzy Trophy due to the communication clamp-down there.

“Hopefully, this won't have an impact in the upcoming season. From what I have spoken to the BCCI, they are ready to help in any way. It is quite possible that things will be normal again and we may not need to move anywhere,” Pathan said. “We (the Jammu and Kashmir team) are not going for the Vizzy Trophy.

“We tried to send the boys to play the tournament as preparation is necessary, but could not make it,” said Pathan.

My heart skipped a beat: Archer

England unchanged for third Test as Anderson is still not fit

IANS
LONDON

England's Jofra Archer says he breathed a sigh of relief when former Australia skipper Steve Smith got up after being hit on the neck by a bouncer bowled by him on the fourth day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's.

Archer clarified that hurting the batsman was never the idea. “It is never the plan. You are trying to get a wicket first. To see him go down, everyone stopped and everyone's heart skipped a beat,” Archer said.

Archer lighted up Lord's on his Test debut with some hostile fast bowling. He took five wickets across two innings and peppered the Australian batsmen with short deliveries that clattered against their helmets and bodies.

One of those forced Smith to retire hurt on Day 4 after the ball hit the prolific former Australia captain on the left side of his neck and he collapsed immediately. Smith eventually managed to recover and walk off.

While Archer earned praise from many quarters for his impact on the match and possibly the series,



Heart in his mouth! Jofra Archer says no one likes to see a player being stretchered off the field. ■AP

there were some who chastised him for not showing enough concern for Smith when the latter was on the ground.

Meanwhile, England named an unchanged squad on Monday for this week's third Test against Australia at Headingley, with the injured James Anderson continuing his bid to return.

The squad: Joe Root (Capt.), Rory Burns, Jason Roy, Joe Denly, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, Jonny Bairstow, Chris Woakes, Jofra Archer, Stuart Broad, Jack Leach and Sam Curran.

Kandola shines for Steelers

The Haryana team gets the better of U Mumba

PKL

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

Haryana Steelers beat U Mumba 30-27 in the ongoing season of the ProKabaddi League (PKL) at the Nehru indoor stadium here on Monday.

Vikash Kandola shone for the second consecutive match for Steelers. He ended with nine points in all.

There were back-to-back unsuccessful do-or-die raids initially.

First, Steelers' Prashanth Kumar Rai was held, then U Mumba's Arjun Deshwal. Steelers trailed 2-4 then.

Super raid

They were followed by Kandola's super raid – he put out Rohit Balian, Surinder Singh and Harendra Kumar – in the sixth minute as Steelers went up 5-4. With that raid, Kandola went past 50 raid points this PKL season.

Later, U Mumba's Fazel Atrachali went past 400 PKL tackles.

From 8-8, Steelers got to 14-8 when Arjun stepped on to the lobby, trying to touch the defender in the far left

corner in a do-or-die raid.

Naveen faked touching a defender and eventually got away with a touch when Harendra got duped and rushed to tackle him. Steelers got to 15-8.

Steelers led 16-8 at the break.

Chand Singh, Ravi Kumar and Kandola pulled off a super tackle on U Mumba's M.S. Athul for Steelers to extend the lead to 25-17.

U Mumba inflicted an all out on Steelers, putting out the lone raider K. Selvamani, to get to 23-26.



Trapped: Haryana Steelers' Chand Singh, Vikash Kandola and Ravi Kumar pull off a super tackle on U Mumba's M.S. Athul. ■B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Manish and Shreyas to take turns at the helm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Manish Pandey will lead India-A in the first three one-day matches against South Africa-A, while Shreyas Iyer will take over for the fourth and fifth matches.

All matches – on August 29, 31, Sept. 2, 4 and 5 – will be played at the Sports Hub, Kariyavattom. The all-India senior selection committee met in Mumbai on Monday to pick the squad. Sanju Samson will be the wicketkeeper for the fourth and fifth one-dayers.

The squad (for first three matches):

Manish Pandey (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Ishan Kishan (wk), Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed and Nitish Rana.

Fourth and fifth matches:

Shreyas (Capt.), Gill, Prashant Chopra, Anmolpreet, Bhui, Sanju Samson (wk), Nitish Rana, Vijay Shankar, Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar, Rahul Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Tushar Deshpande and Ishan Porel.