



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN DON'T WORRY COACH, THE WORLD CUP IS BEHIND US! Newly appointed Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud (R) makes a point to coach Sarwar Imran during the first practice session of the national cricket team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

India minus stalwarts? Cricket there provide the team with the neces-Both Tendulkar and Dravid have asked to the Board of Control for Cricket sary and adequate security control

SPORTS REPORTER

The fear of South Africa pulling out of their tour of Bangladesh due to security concerns related to the war in Iraq was put to rest when the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) officially confirmed their visit vesterday.

The Proteas will take part in a threenation one-day international tournament named the TVS Cup that also involves India and hosts Bangladesh. followed by two Tests against the Tigers during their first ever full tour of this country

The UCBSA's confirmation came after they received satisfactory assurances from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) over the team's security during the four-weeklongtour.

"The South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs has written to us that, in light of the on-going war in Iraq, the tour to Bangladesh may be favourably considered if the relevant authorities

measures," UCBSA chief executive Gerald Majola said in a statement.

"We have received an assurance from the Bangladesh Cricket Board and their government that all necessary security steps have been taken and that the team will face no security problems. "Barring any unforeseen circumstances or changes to this situation, the

tour is on." South Africa team, led by new captain Graeme Smith, will arrive in Dhaka on April 9 and play a practice match against the BCB development squad at BKSP on April 11.

India, who are scheduled to play the opening match of the tri-series against Bangladesh, are also expected to reach Dhaka either on April 8 or 9.

Our Delhi Correspondent Pallah two neutral umpires who will officiate in Bhattachariya reported yesterday that the tri-nation matches along with a local master batsman Sachin Tendulkar and vice-captain Rahul Dravid will not be in the list when the Indian selectors announce a 14-man squad for the trination series in Mumbai today.

BCB involves **Proteas confirm tour Faruque**, Athar

SPORTS REPORTER

in India (BCCI) to spare them the Dhaka

trip as they want to nurse their niggling

finger injuries suffered during the World

Cup in South Africa, Board secretary S K

The Indians might opt for a make-

shift team for the Dhaka tournament, as

some of the other senior players like

paceman Javagal Srinath, spinner Anil

Kumble and left-arm quick Ashish

Nehra also have reportedly sought rest

New Zealand's charismatic Billy

Bowden and Pakistani Alim Dar are the

tournament and the Test series.

Nair said vesterday.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yester day named former national captain Faruque Ahmed as their representative in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee (Playing).

Faruque has been nominated in place of former national captain Rouqibul Hassan who is now BCB's chief coordinator for next year's World Youth (under-19) Cup that will be held in Bangladesh.

Faruque's first assignment is to join a neeting of the committee that is scheduled in Dubai on April 7 and 8.

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar is the chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee (Playing). In another development, the BCB

after a gruelling international season. have nominated former Bangladesh Meanwhile, the International opener Athar Ali Khan as the tourna-Cricket Council (ICC) have appointed ment director for the Youth Asia Cup former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd that is scheduled in Singapore from July as match referee for both the one-day 14 to 28.

Rajib stays atop SPORTS REPORTER

umpire. The BCB is yet to name the International Master Enamul Bangladeshi umpire for the tri series. Hossain Rajib maintained his solo After the one-day tournament, lead in the Professor Abdur Razzak famous West Indian umpire Steve 29th National Chess Championship **SEE PAGE 9** SEE PAGE 9

King annoyed!

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian Cricket Academy coach Bennett King said on Tuesday he was surprised and annoved to hear that he had been appointed the new West Indies cricket coach.

King said he applied for the position last December "just to see what would happen", and had an interview in early March.

That was the last thing he heard until a phone call early on Tuesday from the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) informing him that he had been appointed and that the media had been informed.

Adelaide-based King said he was still considering whether to take up the position and had received no formal approach.

"They've nominated me as the preferred candidate and I haven't agreed to anything," King told Australian Associated Press on Tuesday

"I've seen no terms or conditions, I still haven't.

Asked if he would become the next "I was actually informed at eight West Indies coach, replacing Roger Harper, King replied: "I'll tell you when they get some terms on the table."

can't make any decisions really.'

The Australian team left for the West Indies late Monday, with the WICB announcing that Gus Logie would coach the team against Australia and Sri Lanka in the interim. King thought he was expected in the

Caribbean in July. "I believe the first week in July

they're looking at me being there, but in terms of making a decision, I can't do anything until they give me something."

When asked if the premature announcement of his appointment would effect his decision, King said: "We'll wait and see. I need a bit more time to think about it all.'

He added the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) had supported him throughout. "I need to speak with the ACB about

the people and the team also," Lara

Lara said the inclusion of his prede-

who is in form of that ability, you would

want to see him around the team," Lara

revealed he had to think things over

The world double record holder

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all this, they've been very supportive through this whole process," he said. SEE PAGE 9

remarked.

reckoned.

team once he is in form

form," Lara declared.

NZ fans out to help Olonga

A group of local cricket fans are campaigning to win rebel Zimbabwean cricketer Henry Olonga a place in the Central Districts cricket team.

Olonga, the first black cricketer to play for Zimbabwe, was suspended from his Harare cricket club and may face treason charges carrying a penalty of death after he and teammate Andy Flower made a political protest at the Cricket World Cup.

They wore black armbands during their opening match against Namibia to "mourn the death of democracy in our beloved Zimbabwe" Cricket fan Earl Stevens said

Fuesday he was leading a campaign to get Olonga here. "It really is a crying shame what's

happened in Zimbabwe. It's a country that should have everything and they've got nothing," Stevens said.

"Firstly, we need to see if we can get him over here. Secondly, we need to find out where he is to get information to him, and thirdly, we would need to organise a job for him and accommodation and financial support to get him here.'

Brian back at the helm

Cricket

INTERNET, Barbados Double world batting record holder Brian Lara has been returned to West Indies captaincy for the Cable & Wireless home series against Australia

and Sri Lanka. The 33-year-old Lara, who previously led the West Indies in 1998 and

1999, replaces Carl Hooper, and the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) announced other major appointments on Monday, including making Australian Bennett King the first ever foreign coach of the West Indies cricket team.

The WICB named Ramnaresh Sarwan as vice-captain to Lara, and Gus Logie as King's coaching assistant, while retaining Ricky Skerritt as team manager and formally appointing Roger

play a part," Lara told reporters at Kensington Oval after Trinidad and Tobago crashed to a nine-wicket loss to Barbados in their Carib Beer International Challenge semifinal.

After two years in the job, a dejected Lara had resigned as West Indies captain at the start of the 2000 season following humiliating losses

SEE PAGE 9

Brathwaite as the board's Chief Executive Officer. In the recent World Cup where the Hooper-led West Indies disappointingly exited at the first round stage. Lara was the most prolific scorer with 248 runs in the West Indies' failed attempt at the 2003 World Cup. The selection committee recom-





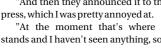




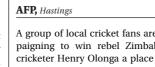
o'clock this morning of my appointment without really too much prior knowledge that that was the way they were going to go.

"And then they announced it to the press, which I was pretty annoyed at. "At the moment that's where it

stands and I haven't seen anything, so I







Matured, motivated

BENNETT KING

City going great |Ganguly still grieving

Cricket

INTERNET, Barbados

New West Indies captain Brian Lara is ready for the challenge of starting his second stint as skipper of the Caribbeans against Steve Waugh's mighty Australians.

"It is going to be a great challenge for us. There is no better opposition than Australia to start shaping our character against," Lara told reporters a few hours after he was named on Monday to replace Carl Hooper as West Indies captain.

"It's a great challenge for me again. The last time Australia were here four years ago, I led the team but this would be a different occasion," Lara declared.

"I've had two years of introspection, two years of looking and seeing where I've gone wrong, where I can play a part

in West Indies cricket. "In retrospect, I think it was a good decision at the time (to give up the captaincy) and now it's a big challenge. Lara said

The 33-year-old Lara, who previously led the West Indies in 18 Tests etween 1998 and 2000 after taking over the reins for a solitary Test against India in 1997.

"It is most importantly for us to continue shaping our character because we've got a team that is very young and we've got a team that is full of a lot of potential," Lara noted.

"We need to shape our characters, especially in the tough times, especially against the best team in the world. There is no better opposition to do that against," Lara maintained. Lara said he is sensing a different

feeling as he prepares for his second stint as captaincy.

"Now is a different occasion, now it's

Cricket a lot more receptive in my new role in leadership. I expect a lot of support from

SPORTS REPORTER

cessor Hooper would be an asset to the Farugue Ahmed continued to inspire City Club to a height that the mediocre "Carl has to be able to tell us what he Mirpur outfit could never reach before exactly wants to do. I think Carl would in the Premier League. be a welcome addition to West Indies

The motivated team of the former cricket at any time, especially if he is in national captain was cruising for a comfortable victory in their first Super "Presently, I know they are keeping League game against Uttara Sporting Jamaica at bay. He is been away for a couple of weeks because of injury but Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Carl has always been a favourite son in yesterday, the third day of four-day West Indies cricket. Of course, anyone encounter.

> With the rain staying off after the washed-out second day, Faruque's men bowled out Uttara for 93 in 36.4 overs.

Uttara, who could add four runs to their first day's total of 89-8, also suffered a second innings collapse after City Club posted a massive 329 for $5\,\mathrm{in}\,75$

Cricket

Sri Lanka's chairman of selectors Guy de

Alwis has resigned, complaining of

De Alwis, a former Test

wicketkeeper, is the third man to have

quit the post during the tenure of Sports

Minister Johnston Fernando, who must

Fernando last week refused to allow

the selectors to drop wicketkeeper

Kumar Sangakkara or allow spinner

Muttiah Muralitharan to rest a shoulder

"The minister of sports has inter-

injury during next week's Sharjah Cup.

fered in everything from the time I took

over and there's no way I can continue

approve all national teams.

continued government interference.

INTERNET, undated

Chief Lankan

They slumped to 83-5 at stumps on the third day, still needing 153 runs to avoid an innings defeat

Young paceman Tarek Aziz celebrated his call in the national team with a four-wicket burst for City Club after Moniruzzaman and Jamaluddin contributed heavily with the bat.

Monir continued his fine form with a 124-ball 91 that included nine fours and a couple of sixes.

Jamal scored an unbeaten 100 with the help of seven boundaries and a six before Faruque declared the innings. While City Club were sniffing victory,

defending champions Victoria faced a tough resistance from Brothers Union at the Fatullah Stadium Resuming on 93-3, the Gopibagh outfit scored 265-8 on completion of

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Cricket

AFP, Bombay

India's cricket captain Saurav Ganguly said on Tuesday he was still trying to recover from his team's defeat in the World Cup final against Australia.

"Losing the final has taken the glory

away from the team's good performance in the tournament," Ganguly said at a function here

"They (Australia) are the best, but it does not mean we should have lost to Australia, fired by a brilliant century from captain Ricky Ponting, amassed a

them. World Cup final record total of 359-2 to India lost only two matches in the crush India by 125 runs entire tournament in South Africa both of them to Australia in the preliminary league and the final on March 23. The cricket-mad country went into

had impressed the entire cricketing world by its performance in the tournament, which included a six-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan in the first round.

But Ganguly said the Indian team

mourning after the team's loss, with

Ganguly coming in for severe flak for his

decision to field first after winning the

"The way the team played, the whole country is proud. I am sure we can win the World Cup in 2007 in the West Indies," the Indian captain said.

"It's a young side with nine players having played the World Cup for the first time. With the experience, we are now better placed to win in 2007."

The Indian team will take part in the April 11-20 tri-series in Dhaka against South Africa and Bangladesh.

There is no international cricket scheduled for the team after that until the home Test series against New Zealand in October.

The Indian team for the Dhaka triseries will be selected on Wednesday amid reports that senior players like Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath will be rested.

Olympics qualifier **BFF names** primary 24

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has primarily selected 24 players and five officials for the qualifying round of next year's Olympic Games football competition.

The residential training camp begins at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratisthan in Savar today.

Bangladesh play Myanmar at home on April 12 and away on 19. The 28th Olympic Games will be held in Athens, the capital of Greece.

ministerial approval he has opposed it and you simply can't work like this. "I wanted to open the way for the

youngsters, but there are some people who are blocking that and don't want to see the youngsters coming in."

Aravinda de Silva, recently appointed as a selector by Fernando against the advice of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka, is now the leading candidate for the chairman ship.



Captain Sanath Jayasuriya will lead rejected b y

"Every single time I sent in a team for

Sri Lanka in Sharjah after his resignation was

World Cup in Bombay yesterday.

Counts on BD tour develop a new style of playing.

Cricket

INTERNET, Johannesburg

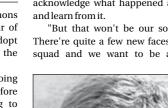
South Africa cricket coach Eric Simons is hoping that the upcoming tour of Bangladesh will allow the side to adopt a fresh playing style following the horrors of the World Cup.

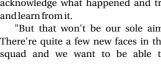
"I'm quite relieved that we are going on at least one of the tours before England," said Simons, referring to South Africa's decision not to take part in the Sharjah triangular series following the outbreak of war in Iraq.

"If this one had been called off I probably would have asked to arrange something against South Africa A or maybe a short tour with Kenya."

The Bangladesh tour will see Graeme Smith lead the side for the first time after Shaun Pollock was sacked following South Africa's first round exit from the World Cup.

The South Africans will fly out on Monday, giving the squad four days in





'But that won't be our sole aim.



"It's not that we want to adopt a

There're quite a few new faces in the squad and we want to be able to



Simons. "Of course we have to acknowledge what happened and try





certain game plan for every game. Rather we want to adopt a game plan

that will suit the playing XI and the situation." Simons feels that a tour against Bangladesh is an ideal opportunity to

deal with issues that stymied South Africa's quest to become the first host

nation to lift the World Cup. "We have to look at how we deal with the pressure," pointed out Simons, who was appointed coach following the hiding Australia meted out last summer. "When we came to the World Cup

and the pressure increased, we started playing different cricket. Some of the guys almost froze in certain situations.

After a lead up to the World Cup where South Africa swept aside all opposition, the side struggled to chase down targets that, although SEE PAGE 9

Bangladesh before the opening game. "There definitely will be a debriefing over the World Cup," added