

Selection goes haywire

SPORTS REPORTER

Chief national selector Aliul Islam made another controersial decision by dropping

wicketkeeper batsman Khaled Mashud for yesterday's TVS Cup tri-series match against South Africa ment that you will play in place of

Mashud became the latest victim of the mindless chopping and changing policy of the Aliul-led three-member selection panel that has grown into an apparent 'autonomous body' capable of doing whatever it feels like since taking over before the World Cup.

"We wanted to give Mashud a rest because he has been playing virtually non-stop and also it is about time we gave somebody else a chance behind the wicket," Aliul told the Daily Star Sport vesterday.

His bold assertion reflected the fact been up to 'their desired expectation' in the competition so far. that 'experiment' is the only word in But the statement is contradictory Aliul's dictionary. And in most cases it

defies logic as far as Mashud's record is concerned. Besides, the manner in which Aliul went about his business can only be the country has never been dropped described as arrogant

According to sources, both the

"I'm the chief selector and I will call

The former Abahani captain even

the shots. May be sometimes my

choice will not be appreciated by

everybody," said Aliul to the Daily Star

claimed that Mashud's form as

wicketkeeper and batsman has not

Bangladesh captain and coach

opposed the idea but Aliul stuck to his

Mashud.

Sport.

since making his debut in the 1995 Asia He reportedly told rookie stumper Cup against India. He has missed just Mohammad Salim to check-in at the one match due to illness in the last 61 team hotel on Wednesday night with one-day matches. the instruction: "Tell the team manage-

During his eight-year international career, Mashud has scored 793 runs in 55 ODI innings'. He also led in 23 oneday internationals from November 2001 until the 2003 World Cup and scored 446 runs as skipper in 21 innings at an average of 26.23

The most capped one-day player of

The statistics only tell half the story of Mashud's contribution battingwise

Often he had found himself stuck with the tail and it was in such dire SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

Pollock atop Protea table

REUTERS, Dhaka

Fast bowler Shaun Pollock became South Africa's highest wicket-taker in one-day internationals on Thursday after he claimed his 273rd victim in a triangular series match against hosts Bangladesh.

Pollock trapped Habibul Bashar leg before for one to claim the record and go past fellow pace bowler Allan Donald.

The all-rounder, playing his 189th match, reduced Bangladesh to 19 for two in the ninth over chasing 262

Bashar, however, seemed unlucky as television replays suggested he had edged the ball on to his pads playing half forward.

Pollock also trapped Mohammad Ashraful (13), the batsman clearly beaten by the pace. Donald took 272 wickets from 164 games before announcing his retirement after hosts South Africa were eliminated in the first round of the World Cup, a result which cost Pollock his captaincy.

Lance Klusener (175 from 154 matches), Jacques Kallis (167-174), Hansie Cronje (114-118) and Makhaya Ntini (102 from 70 matches before Thursday's game) are the other South African bowlers to take more than 100 wickets.

Final rehearsal

SPORTS REPORTER



looking to carry forward his team's form before Sunday's clash.

Africans once, so we know what to expect. I think winning every game is important for the team." said the New

ment opener on April 11 because he had to attend his father's funeral. Wright did not wish to reveal the

went on to make 81.

squad for the match saying it would have to be finalised later in the evening. Ganguly, who decided to hand the captain's armband to Virender Sehwag

Bangladesh, will resume his usual role. But hard-hitting batsman Yuvraj Singh and left-arm paceman Zaheer Khan are unlikely to play. Spinner Amit Mishra and right-hand batsman Abhijit Kale, who made his debut in the four-wicket win over the home side, are

Oozing with confidence despite the absence of master-batsman Sachin Tendulkar, dependable Rahul Dravid, veteran paceman Javagal Srinath and leg-spinner Anil Kumble, the World runners-up

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8



The selection of Salim raises

There are three portraits adorning

The first portrait of Bangabandhu

the walls at the northern end of the big

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was placed

nor'wester that lashed the city. It took

HASAN MASOOD

Does a captain have a role in team selection?

not so. Mahmud, who was appointed to The portrait of Prime Minister Khaleda lead Bangladesh prior to the TVS Cup, Zia is back at the Bangabandhu has so far not been called upon to help National Stadium.

in the task of selecting the players. At the moment his sole responsibility is handling the team chosen for the day.

So it came as no surprise when Mahmud encountered young Mohammad Salim at the team's hotel after Wednesday's game against India. The Bangladesh skipper was completely unaware why reliable Khaled Mashud had to be replaced behind the stumps without his conCouncil to have it replaced. **REBEL ENAMUL**

First it was Naimur Rahman. Now Enamul Hoque has also turned his back on the national team.

four days for the National Sports

PHOTO: STAF

Naimur, the former Bangladesh captain and all-rounder, on Monday refused to play for Bangladesh during the two-match Test series.

The selectors have sought an extra spinner during the home series against South Africa.

But after Naimur, who bowls offbreaks, said he was not happy to play international cricket under the current selection procedure. They asked

by the previous government during the Wills International Cup in 1998 the balding Enamul to fill the void. while those of late president Ziaur But the wily slow left-armer for Rahman and the PM were hung there a unknown reasons is also reluctant to

next week.

help the selectors out. But on Sunday night, the picture of The first Test starts in Chittagong the Premier was destroyed during the

PHOTO: STAR FALL FROM GRACE? Bangladesh wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud (L), who lost his place in the side in a stunning selection decision, watches yesterday's match against South Africa with teammate Tareq Aziz Khan.

Graem

[eil M

Ford also pulls out of SL post

REUTERS, Durban

Hersch Former South African cricket coach Jacque Graham Ford has turned down the Boeta I opportunity to take charge of Sri Mark B

B'DESH-S AFRICA SCOREBOARD Scoreb Africaa SOUTI

board of the TVS Cup triangular tourn	ament d	ay-night	matchl	oetweer	1 So
and Bangladesh at the Bangabandhu H AFRICA	National R	Stadium M	n on Apri B	117: 4	
ne Smith b S Hossain	67	97	76	8	
nelle Gibbs b T Baishya	0	11	3	0	
es Rudolph c M Salim b S Hossain	81	155	113	8	(
Dippenaar c and b A Kapali	16	26	30	0	
Boucher c M Hossain b A Kapali	12	25	16	1	(
cKenzie not out	39	50	43	5	

India will take on South Africa in the last preliminary round match of

the TVS Cup triseries at the Bangabandhu National Stadium

today. It will be a dress rehearsal before the April 20 final.

Saurav Ganguly's men have won all their three earlier matches while the Proteas who began their campaign on a sluggish note, qualified with an 83-run win over hosts Bangladesh on April 14. Indian coach John Wright was

"We have already beaten the South

However, it is expected that

before Wednesday's game against

also doubtful

Сир

sent

another interesting point. Why was it done all of a sudden when chief selector Aliul Islam last month said the squad selected for the tri-series, would be mostly featured in the Test series?

Perhaps in case

of Khaled **PM'S PORTRAIT** Mahmud, it is **BACKAT BNS**

bowl.

year ago.

COSTLY LET OFF: Bangladesh paceman Tapas Baisya (C) looks in anxious anticipation as well as South African batsman Jacques Rudolph after an edge

from his bat travels towards second slip to Habibul Bashar (not in the picture) yesterday. Bashar dropped the catch and Rudolph, who was on nought then,

Ford, who was sacked by the South

African cricket board last June after the country's dismal performance against Australia, cited family reasons for his decision

"I feel very privileged to have been considered for the role as the coach for the Sri Lankan cricket team." Ford said in a statement on Thursday.

"However, this has come at a time in my life when I would like to spend an extended period of time with my family

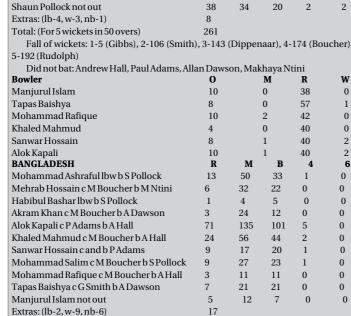
"I have spent much of the past few years travelling around the world as an international coach and have missed my kids growing up."

The 42-year-old owns and runs a cricket academy in Durban. His wife is a cancer survivor.

Another former South Africa coach, Bob Woolmer, and New Zealander John Bracewell have also pulled out of the running.

Sri Lanka will be coached by former captain Duleep Mendis in the series against New Zealand and Pakistan.

Day Whatmore vacated the post after Sri Lanka were knocked out of the World Cup in the semifinals



Fall of wickets: 1-16 (Mehrab), 2-19 (Bashar), 3-25 (Ashraful), 4-29 (Akram), 5-84 (Mahmud), 6-104 (Sanwar), 7-145 (Salim), 8-150 (Rafique), 9-157 (Kapali), 10-168 (Baishya)

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Zealander, who missed the tourna

Hashan at Test helm, Marvan for one-day

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Colombo

Experienced batsman Hashan Tillekaratne has been named as Sri Lanka's new Test captain with vicecaptain Marvan Atapattu taking charge of the one-day side, selectors said on Thursday

Hashan, 35, replaces all-rounder Sanath Jayasuriya, who resigned after Sri Lanka crashed out of the Sharjah Cup earlier this month, but Atapattu is likely to take over the Test captaincy as well in the long term.

Both appointments are limited to the current Test series against New Zealand and the one-day triangular series, which also involves Pakistan that follows the Tests.

Ashish on

the mend INTERNET, New Delhi

"We wanted to do it in such a way that we don't burden Marvan," selector Aravinda de Silva, who retired from playing and became a selector after the World Cup, told Reuters.

Indian fast bowler Ashish Nehra has

undergone surgery on his injured

He is now expected to rest for a

month, and hopes to be back in

action for the home series against

during a World Cup first round game

But the left-hander played

He finished the tournament with

15 wickets at a cost of only 16.93 runs

each, with a spell of 6-23 against

England, a personal highlight.

the final, only for them to lose to

New Zealand in October.

against Namibia.

Australia by 125 runs.

ankle in South Africa on Thursday.

"We wanted a gradual transfer we March was refused. want to see how he handles the onedavers.'

The moves are the latest in a major shake-up for Sri Lankan cricket



HASHAN TILLEKARATNE

Jayasuriya, 33, handed in a second letter of resignation last week after his first offer to quit after the World Cup in

The team is still without a coach after Dav Whatmore, who led Sri Lanka to their 1996 World Cup triumph, was

sacked despite helping them reach the semifinals at this year's tournament where they lost to eventual winners Australia.

But two of their short-list of three coaches New Zealander John Bracewell and South African Graham Ford have turned the job down leaving only Australian Steve Rixon in the frame.

Former Test cricketer Lalith Kaluperuma was appointed head of the national selectors earlier this month replacing Guy de Alwis who resigned in protest against the sports ministry's interference in the selection process.

Tillekeratne was not favoured to take over the job from Javasuriya. He was axed from both the Test and oneday sides after the 1999 World Cup, but fought his way back into the Test team two years later with some big scores in domestic cricket.

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Wants to be the Best last summer, was due to leave

Cricket

REUTERS, Port of Spain

Fast bowler Tino Best, who has been called up to the West Indies squad for the second test against Australia, said on Wednesday that he welcomed the chance to show the world his talent.

The 21-year-old Barbadian has been given an unexpected chance after Jermaine Lawson was forced to pull out of the side with a bout of chicken pox.

"I am looking forward to going out there and doing my best for the West Indies, it's a great honour," he said.

"It's a perfect opportunity for me to show the Caribbean -- and the world -my talent," he added.

Best was the leading wicket-taker this season in the 2003 Carib Beer Series, his 39 wickets coming at an average of 18.25.

Best, who toured Britain and Canada with the West Indies "A" team

Twenty-year-old wicket-keeper SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



Total: (All out in 49 overs)

PHOTO: STAR South African captain Graeme Smith (R) and Jacques Rudolph take a quick run against Bangladesh yesterday.

Curtains for Jordan

Basketball

AFP, Philadelphia

Michael Jordan finally found the strength to walk off the basketball court for good, leaving behind the sport he described as a lover and best friend after playing his final game.

Nehra damaged his left ankle The 40-year-old superstar concluded his fabled 15-year National Basketball Association career in defeat through the pain to help India reach here Wednesday when the Philadelphia 76ers beat his Washington Wizards 107-87.

> But the game was secondary to Jordan's third and final retirement from the game he loved like no player before him, a sport that rewarded his devotion

with six NBA titles, two Olympic gold able to dominate games singlemedals and a legendary global legacy. handedly, he has said he is "100 percent

"It has been a great relationship, like my best friend," Jordan said. "Sometimes you have to grow up and move away from your best friend but it's always going to be in my mind. Nothing is going to erase what I have attained by

having basketball as a friend. "I was true to the game and it was very true to me. I can walk away happy." Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles, winning NBA Finals Most Valuable Player honors each time. He was named the season MVP five times and won the NBA scoring title a record 10 times, including seven seasons in a

Jordan has retired twice before only to return, but at age 40 and no longer

sure" this was his farewell performance in the game he will forever love

"Love is a very delicate thing," Jordan said. "Once you love it, you never lose the love for the game. You never know when you can walk away from it. I tried a couple of times.

"But I have come to grips now that as much as I love the game, there are other components that need my love, need my attention, and I can easily walk away.'

Jordan's first "retirement" was in 1993. It ended in 1995 after an ill-fated fling with baseball. After three more titles, he departed again in 1999, only to return a year later as SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

MICHAEL JORDAN



TINO BEST

Barbados on Wednesday to take

Lawson's place in the 14-member