



Did U Know?

Horacio Elizondo of Argentina is the first referee to be assigned to the opening game of the 2006 World Cup as well as to the final. He is the second referee after Mexico's Benito Archundia to officiate five games at a World Cup.



Bob Woolmer
(Pakistan cricket coach)

"He's a fine bowler and is going to be a great bowler. He's a really good find for England."

On Monty Panesar.

What to WATCH

BTV & STAR Sports
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
Third ODI
Live from 1:30 pm

BFF announces U-17 team

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) named 20-member Under-17 team for the four-nation AFF Under-17 Youth Football Championship to be held in Vietnam on August 12-16. The Bangladesh youth team will leave Dhaka on August 9.

Myanmar, Laos and host Vietnam are the other teams in the competition.

TEAM

Maksudur Rahman, Mohammad Nehal, Pintu Kumar Das, Russell Alam, Mostafizur Rahman, Mofizur Rahman, Robin Hasan, Sheikh Alamgir Kabir, Mejbabul Haq, Emon Mahmud, Tauhidul Islam, ABM Sabir Mahmud, Rashedul Islam, Shahriar Kabir, Samsuzzaman Sohel, Shahedul Alam, Rashed Hossain, Mohammad Rubel, Saddam Hossain, Biplob Hossain.

Buddhadeb vows to continue fight against Dalmyia

PTI, Kolkata

An angry West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Tuesday used unusually strong language to lash out at Jagmohan Dalmyia, calling his re-election as the state's cricket boss as a "victory of evil over good".

The chief minister, who had advised Dalmyia not to seek re-election as the president of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), vowed to continue his battle with the wily cricket administrator.

"So far I'm concerned I'll not compromise with this man. The battle will continue. I want him to leave this post. I want him to leave the organisation," Bhattacharjee told newsmen here.

Describing Dalmyia's rule over CAB as an "evil empire", the Chief Minister said "until it is removed, the fight will continue." "Yes, I want him to leave. So long he is there in the CAB the future of cricket in Bengal is doomed. Unless he leaves, it will further deteriorate," he said.

"He has many interests... Vested interests... All interests other than cricket," the Chief Minister said.

Justifying his public statement last month that Dalmyia should stay away from the CAB presidential contest, he said, "whatever I said, I said consciously. In normal

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Diego picks squad for SA Games

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) announced a 20-member Under-23 squad yesterday for the 10th SA Games to be held in Colombo on August 18-27.

Argentine coach Diego Cruciani short-listed the team from the 25-member preliminary set, which was announced on the last week of May, with a mixture of youth and experienced players.

There were as many as nine players in the team who have the experience of playing in the senior side while the rest are picked from the two age group sides.

"I am happy with the team. The fitness level of the players are satisfactory but there is only concern for the lack of match practice," said Cruciani, who has been working with the team for the last two months.

The team is expected to play two practice games in Bangkok on August 7 and 9, on their way to Colombo.

Bangladesh, which had failed to overcome the group hurdle in the

last meet in Pakistan in 2004, are pencilled in group B along with India, Nepal and Afghanistan while group A comprises of Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan and hosts Sri Lanka.

The former champions Bangladesh will launch their campaign against Nepal on August 14, with their second group match against Afghanistan billed for August 16 and India will be the last match in the group stages on August 19.

After the group matches, the two semifinals will be held on August 24 while the 3rd place-deciding match will be played on August 26.

The final of the event will be held on the night of August 26.

TEAM

Atiqul Islam Tariq, MN Shakil, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Titu, Faisal Mahmud, Mehedi Hasan Ujjal, Arman Aziz, Zahid Hasan Emily, Abul Kashem, Ariful Islam, Arafat Ali Ronny, Zahid Hossain, Mohammad Robin, Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraji, Zahed Parvez Chowdhury, Mehdi Hasan Tapu, Zahirul Islam, Wali Faisal, Shahriar Abdullah Rintu, Enamul Huq Sharif and Abdullah Al Parvez Sala.

Tushar waits in the wings

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors have decided about the replacement of injured Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar but will only send him if the team management ask for an additional player.

"We have selected Tushar Imran and told him to get ready but he will only fly if the team management asked for a replacement of Habib (Habibul Bashar)," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed yesterday.

But there is a slim chance for Tushar to join the team in Zimbabwe as he is likely to tour in Kenya where Bangladesh will play three one-day internationals against the ICC associate member.

Bashar has been ruled out of the remaining three games against Zimbabwe and the three ODIs in Kenya due to a hand injury which he received during the second match at the Harare Sports Club ground on Sunday.

ICC to decide on Zim's fate

CRICINFO, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) delegation of Percy Sonn, the president, and Malcolm Speed, the chief executive, told journalists in Harare that they will hand-over their findings to the ICC board which will announce a resolution on Zimbabwe's future in the near future.

Speed has been in Zimbabwe since last Thursday and he was joined by Sonn at the weekend.

"We have had some good meetings," Sonn told local journalists. "We will now go to our board to make appropriate recommendation."

Although Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) board chairman Peter Chingoka outlined areas discussed by his interim committee with the ICC delegation - such as "governance and handover to new dispensation" - both Sonn and Speed declined to give full detail of their meeting with the other stakeholders. Speed only said the issues were in "the public domain" over the last 12 months.

"It's apparent Zimbabwe is going through a difficult time," Speed explained. "We spent four hours with the stakeholders on Sunday afternoon. We went over the history of the last 12 months. I have to say that we now have a better understanding of some issues which we were not aware of, and I think they also now have a better understanding of our position regarding the issues, and ICC policies."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Ray of hope for Ganguly

Cricket

REUTERS, Mumbai

Sourav Ganguly's hopes of an international comeback have been raised after a national selector said the sacked former captain is likely to be included in the provisional squad list for this year's ICC Champions Trophy.

"Ganguly is good enough to make the 30 probable," said the selector, who declined to be identified, on Tuesday.

"If he does not, it will be a surprise. He is still among the top cricketers in the country."

Currently playing for Northamptonshire in England, India's most successful test skipper was sacked from the job and dropped from the one-day side last October, following a prolonged batting slump, fitness woes and a row with coach Greg Chappell.

The 34-year-old was subse-

quently dropped from the test side following a 1-0 series loss in Pakistan in January, with chief selector Kiran More saying his panel wanted to infuse young blood.

The selectors meet on August 9 to finalise the initial list for the Champions Trophy which runs from October 7 to November 5 in India.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



SOURAV GANGULY

SA in a state of shock

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

South Africa on Tuesday tried to unravel the mystery that has confounded the cricket world for years -- how to stop Muttiah Muralidaran from taking wickets.

The search drew a blank although Proteas coach Mickey Arthur insisted his batsmen had started to play the Sri Lankan spin wizard "better and better."

Arthur's comment came after Muralidaran completed a match haul of 10-172 on Monday to send South Africa crashing to an innings and 153-run defeat in the first Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

Arthur conceded that the 34-

year-old off-spinner was the "best bowler in the world" but remained confident his team will fight back when the second and final Test starts at the Sara Oval here on Friday.

"Murali is the best bowler in the world, there is no doubt about it," said Arthur. "Our guys have played him a lot, we have developed game plans against him and the guys know what he offers."

"We have started to play him better and better but in these conditions he is just phenomenal."

Muralidaran's 17th 10-wicket haul gave him 645 wickets in 107 Tests, second in the all-time list behind Australian Shane Warne's record tally of 685 in 140 matches.

The South Africans were amazed Muralidaran sent down 64

overs in energy-sapping conditions in the second innings, finishing with 6-131 after taking 4-41 in the first innings.

"It was the slowest wicket I have come across in a long time but the guy just went on and on," said Arthur. "He just loves to bowl and take wickets."

"I am convinced Australia and Sri Lanka are the toughest tours in world cricket at the moment. It's not easy for even a moment."

South Africa can take heart from the fact they held out for 157.2 overs in the second innings to score 434 after collapsing for a meagre 169 on the opening day.

Sri Lanka piled up 756-5 declared with captain Mahela Jayawardene making the fourth-

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PASSING THE BATON: Khaled Mashud (R), who has taken over the captaincy from the injured Bashar, discussing something with the Bangladesh skipper during practice on Tuesday at the Harare Sports Club.

Noakhali closer to final round

SPORTS REPORTER

Thakurgaon moved to the zonal finals of the Jubok Phone National Football Championships when they edged past Nilphamari by a single goal at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Jamilur Rahman tucked in the all-important goal of the semifinal just a minute before half-time to sink Nilphamari's hopes of having a chance to play in the final round from the Teesta zone.

At the Bandarban Stadium, a 10,000-strong crowd witnessed Noakhali knocking out the hosts 2-1.

Azizur Rahman opened the scoring for Noakhali in the 33rd minute, before national colour Alfaz Ahmed hammering in the second, just a few minutes after the lemon break.

Pilumoy Barua got the hosts back into the match but his 59th minute strike was all Bandarban could muster.

STANCHART SCHOOL CHESS Sandipan, Pallabi champions

SPORTS REPORTER

The foreign players proved their supremacy in the eighth Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament as Sandipan Chatterjee of Kolkata became champion in Class VI-X group and his compatriot Pallabi Roy sealing the girls' title at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Sandip secured maximum eight points to confirm the title with a game to spare while Satyajit Kundu, also from Kolkata, finished second in the group with seven points.

Pallabi of Kolkata became unbeaten champion in the girls' section collecting all seven points.

Shaati Majumder of Kolkata and Arifa Khatun Moni of Shaheed Anwara School secured 5.5 points each to be placed 2nd and 3rd.

Four players secured five points each.

They are Mohana Sengupta of Kolkata (4th), Jesmin Akter (5th), Champa Akhter (6th) and Nazma Akhter of Aparajeyo Bangladesh (7th).

Sayantan Das and Saayan Majumder of Kolkata maintained their joint lead in the class KG-V group collecting 7.5 points after the 8th round matches.

Abdullah Saif of Adarsha School, Ekramul Haque Siam of Sabuj Bidyapith, Maudud E Rabbi of Saint Joseph School and Saiful of Aparajeyo Bangladesh are in joint 2nd position securing six points.

In the boys' 8th round matches, Sandipan beat Shiblu, Satyajit beat Asim, Saayan beat Soumik, Sayantan beat Siam, Saif beat Asiq, Maudud beat Asif and Saiful beat Masum.

In the girl's group, Pallabi got walk over against Ridi, Moni drew with Shaati and Mohana beat Samiha.

Strauss, Cook targeted

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian paceman Glenn McGrath tempted fate Tuesday when he named England's stand-in captain Andrew Strauss and batsman Alastair Cook as his batting "bunnies" for the upcoming Ashes series.

McGrath's bold claim comes after he predicted a 5-0 whitewash to Australia in the last Ashes series, only for England to win 2-1 and claim the trophy for the first time in 18 years.

He also nominated the then England captain Michael Vaughan as his bunny ahead of the last Ashes series -- only for McGrath to miss most of the campaign through injury and Vaughan to play a major role in his side's success.

Undeterred, McGrath again backed his abilities as a fortune teller Tuesday when asked which batsman he would dominate this

time around. "There's the young fellow Cook who's done well so far, he's one of many," McGrath told commercial radio in Sydney.

"There's no use naming one,



GLENN MCGRATH

these days you name two or three. They've captained Strauss at the moment, you always name the

captain." McGrath, 36, Test cricket's most successful fast bowler with 542 wickets, said he was feeling sharp and fit after a six-month layoff to help his wife Jane overcome breast cancer.

"The body feels good, just running in to bowl, so that was very good to get onto the outdoor nets," he said.

"It will take a little while to build it up but I'm probably in front of where I thought I would be."

Meanwhile, former Australian wicketkeeper and England academy chief Rodney Marsh urged the tourists to bring spinner Monty Panesar, backing him to make an impact on the series.

The Northamptonshire left-arm took five for 72 last week as England completed a crushing innings and 120 run victory in the second Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford, including the prize scalps

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Kevin thinks the world of Monty

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England's Kevin Pietersen says spinner Monty Panesar has the potential to be one of Test cricket's best spinners.

Panesar took 8-93 in the second Test win over Pakistan last week to continue an impressive start to his career.

"I think Monty can be a fantastic bowler. I fancy my chances against most spinners and I honestly think that he is up there," Pietersen told FiveLive.

"Not putting any pressure on him but from what I've seen so far I think

Monty can be really, really good." Pietersen is acknowledged as a top batsman against spin after his Ashes duel with Shane Warne last year.

He and Panesar will be in the dressing room together again this week as England begin the third Test against Pakistan at Headingley on Friday.

Pietersen's views were endorsed by former Australia wicketkeeper and England selector Rodney Marsh, who backed Panesar to make a big impact in this winter's Ashes.

"Technically he's a very fine bowler," Marsh said.

"He's got as good an action as I reckon I've ever seen on a finger

spinner. There's not much that can go wrong with him -- they've got to bring him here."

Panesar, the first Sikh to play for England, has become a cult figure for England fans because of his distinct appearance and erratic fielding, although that is improving by the game.

Marsh, who is now back home working for the South Australia Cricket Association as its high-performance director, says Aussies are likely to take to him too.

"The crowds will love him here -- one way or the other," he said of the 24-year-old, who has taken 25 wickets in eight Tests since making his debut in Nagpur against India in March.



Jesmin Akhter (L) makes a move against Shilpi Bhyuiyan during the seventh round of the Stanchart School Chess Championship at the NSC Conference Room on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR