

Women now under BCCI

CRICINFO, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has finally taken control of Indian women's cricket in the country following months of demands from the women's body to merge the governing bodies.

The move was only a matter of a time, however, as it was part of the directives resulting from last year's merger of the ICC with the IWCC. With the ICC now in charge of women's cricket, it has directed that all of the country associations must develop their women's wing.

The move is great news for the game, given that the BCCI is the richest board of all the countries, and it should mean that the players will play at better grounds, with improved transport and funding.

"It is a dream come true," Diana Eduljee, the former India women's captain told the New Kerala website. "When we started playing, we would always wonder why men cricketers are getting so much with such lovely grounds to play on. Women's cricket will see good days, as players will benefit a lot."

The BCCI has wasted no time in undertaking its new responsibilities. It had already started to help with funding the international set-up and now it has announced a shake-up of selection methods for the top flight, with the introduction of a 50-overs zonal competition on a league basis, which is similar to the Ranji Trophy.

Hopefully this tournament will attract larger crowds than the men's domestic competition does: only a hundred attended the final in April, despite entry being free.

Bad year for Sania

PTI, New Delhi

Sania Mirza has moved three places to end what has been a below-par year for her as 66th ranked on the WTA charts.

The Indian tennis icon, who had begun the year with a career-best rank of 31, could not add any feathers to her hat in the year gone by apart from a couple of surprises which included a victory against former world number one Martina Hingis.

Her slump was also evident from the fact that her rating points dropped to 382, way below her last year's count.

Sania is currently preparing for the Asian Hopman Cup mixed team championship to be held in her home town of Hyderabad from November 22.

In the doubles, the Indian finished with a career-best ranking of 24 with 1070 points.

Among other Indians in the WTA singles chart, US-based Shikha Uberoi finished 206th, followed by Aniketa Bhambri (42.50) at 418.

Inter, Palermo

FROM PAGE 20

"We play good, positive football, and we often win away. Twenty-seven points from 11 matches is a great start."

The only dampener for Palermo was an injury to Di Michele, who limped off shortly after setting up Amauri and could miss Italy's friendly against Turkey in Bergamo next Wednesday.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Tommaso Rocchi and Stefano Mauri each scored twice as Lazio thrashed Udinese 5-0.

Reggina finally cancelled out the 15-point penalty they received in the match-fixing scandal with a 1-0 win over Siena.

New twist

FROM PAGE 17

It continues: "Your pragmatic approach to problem-solving has enabled you to find commonsense solutions that arise. You display a first-class knowledge of laws and regulations."

Cricket Australia has demanded that the ICC explain the decision to sack Hair, but as yet there has been no public response.

India off

FROM PAGE 17

have done well," he said. "The tracks there will give us more options for playing strokes, unlike the wickets in the sub-continent. What is most important is to put the basics together."

The five one-dayers will be played in Johannesburg (November 19), Durban (November 22), Cape Town (November 26), Port Elizabeth (November 29) and Centurion (December 3).

The three Tests will be played in Johannesburg (December 15-19), Durban (December 26-20) and Cape Town (January 2-6).

India's Test squad will be named in the first week of December.

ONE-DAY SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Wasim Jaffer, Mohammad Kaif, Dinesh Karthik, Suresh Raina, Dinesh Mongia, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Munaf Patel, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan.



England batsman Kevin Pietersen sweeps one during his knock of 88 during the second day of their three-day tour match against New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday.

Kevin reaps the benefits

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Hours spent in the nets practising how to counter short-pitched Australian bowling paid off for Kevin Pietersen here Monday with an unbeaten 80 for England against New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Pietersen delivered the innings the tourists have been yearning with 10 boundaries and two sixes against a Test-strength NSW fast bowling attack to have England in high spirits at stumps on the second day of the three-day practice match.

At the close, England were 256 for four in reply to the NSW first innings declaration of 355 for nine.

Skipper Andrew Flintoff was at the crease with Pietersen unconquered on 48 off 81 balls with eight fours.

Pietersen, one of England's big batting hopes if they are to retain the Ashes against Australia in the Test series to get underway in Brisbane on November 23, said he has been spending hours in the nets.

Pietersen said England's batting performance Monday was a great tonic ahead of the first Test.

"It was a test today, we've probably got three innings, this one and two in Adelaide (against South Australia next week) before we play the Test in Brisbane so it was important for guys to get in and score a few runs," he

said.

"It's a case of acclimatising and getting used to the Australian wickets, different conditions and I think a really big positive from today is the bowling attack we faced.

Alastair Cook consolidated his grip on the No.3 Test batting position with an impressive 59.

Cook, who scored 214 batting for Essex against the Australians on last year's Ashes tour, played strongly off his pads and the back foot before he was lbw to McGrath. While Cook flourished, Ian Bell was out for a second-ball duck and missed a great chance to improve his Test chance, with England expected to play four bowlers along with all-rounder Flintoff against the Aussies in Brisbane.

Marcus Trescothick's troubled series lead-up took another turn for the worse when he played on a delivery from Lee and was bowled for eight.

That followed the Somerset left-hander's abject two in last Friday's one-day loss to the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra.

Opener Andrew Strauss had a life on 32 when he was put down by Clark at third slip off Bracken.

But Clark redeemed himself with a freakish caught and bowled to send Strauss on his way for 50. Clark stuck out his right hand on his follow-through and snatched the catch.

Clark struck again two balls later, dismissing Bell for a two-ball duck,

probing outside off-stump and caught behind.

NSW declared their first innings on the wicket fall of Bracken for eight.

Steve Harmison picked up the wickets of Moises Henriques (29) and Daniel Smith (45) to finish the innings with 3-95 off 20 overs, while new-ball partner Matthew Hoggard had Nathan Hauritz caught by a diving Ashley Giles at mid-wicket for five.

James Anderson, who has been given the nod by team coach Duncan Fletcher to play ahead of Sajid Mahmood in the first Test, had Bracken snapped up by Trescothick at first slip with the first ball of his 16th over to finish with 2-45.

Rain prevented all but 19 minutes of play in the morning session, cutting into more valuable Test preparation time for the tourists.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Scoreboard at the close of the second day of the three-day tour match between New South Wales and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday:

NEW SOUTH WALES: First innings 355 for 9 dec in 101.1 overs (Jaques 107, Cowan 26, Katich 68, Clarke 50, Smith 50; Giles 2-46, Harmison 3-95, Anderson 2-45)

ENGLAND: First innings 256 for 4 in 59 overs (Strauss 50, Cook 59,

Pietersen not out 80, Flintoff not out 48; Clark 2-34)

Hosts in sight of victory

FROM PAGE 17

but once again luck deserted them.

Taylor's fellow paceman Corey Collymore could have dismissed Yousof, had Lara held on to a low catch in the slips when the batsman was on 114.

Yousof also survived a close run-out call on 143, when Dave Mohammed failed to hit the stumps from the covers with the batsman well short of his crease.

He took full advantage of the lapses and reached 150 with a push to cover for two off left-arm spinner Mohammed. He then hit Mohammed for six over long-off.

Akmal provided him with solid support and hit Fidel Edwards for the eighth boundary of his innings, reaching his fourth Test 50. Gayle had Akmal caught at mid-on by Lara to finish with 13 boundaries during his 159-minute stay at the crease.

Last pair Danish Kaneria (23) and Umar Gul (16) further agonised the tourists by adding 39 runs before Mohammed wrapped up the innings by dismissing Kaneria caught behind.

Jerome Taylor finished with 4-115 and Mohammed took 3-98.

However West Indian coach

Bennett King said his team were not out of the running.

"The match has not finished as yet. I think if we put some runs on the board we can put pressure on Pakistan," said King.

King added that he was not surprised by Pakistan's strong bowling attack despite the loss of pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif due to doping bans.

"Pakistan's reserve bowlers didn't surprise me because they are used to bowling under these conditions," said King, an Australian who took over as West Indian coach two years ago.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the opening Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 206 (Lara 61; Gul 5-65, Nazir 3-42)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 265-4)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hafeez lbw b Taylor	57			
Farhat lbw b Taylor	9			
Younis c Sarwan b Edwards	11			
Yousof st Ramdin b Gayle	192			
Inzamam b Mohammed	0			
Malik c Mohammed b Taylor	69			
Razzaq c Ramdin b Taylor	5			

Akmal c Lara b Gayle	78
Nazir c Collymore b Mohammed	0
Gul not out	16
Kaneria c Ramdin b Mohammed	23
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, nb-8, w-6)	25
Total: (All out in 146 overs)	485
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-45, 3-133, 4-140, 5-279, 6-285, 7-433, 8-444, 9-446	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	26	3	109	1
Taylor	33	7	115	4
Collymore	25	6	63	0
Bravo	20	3	63	0
Mohammed	31	4	98	3
Gayle	10	3	24	2
Sarwan	1	0	2	0

WEST INDIES: Second innings
Gayle c Akmal b Gul 11
Ganga run out 5
Sarwan lbw b Gul 23
Lara not out 28
Edwards not out 5
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) 2
Total: (For three wks in 21 overs) 74
Fall of wicket: 1-16, 2-20, 3-56.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gul	9	1	39	2
Nazir	8	3	27	0
Razzaq	1	1	0	0
Kaneria	2	0	7	0
Malik	1	1	0	0

Pro League transfer

FROM PAGE 17

Mohammedan, under new coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, have eyes on young players, most of them from national under-23 side including Himel, Ariful, Robin and their old players Zahid Hossain and Faisal Mahmud.

Left in the cold, Brothers are relying on old guards Monwar, Topu, Rikto, Liton and others.

It is unlikely that amateurism would be turned into the professional system overnight and the BFF is looking forward to give it a shape within five years.

"Our structure is not very strong, so we are not in a position to launch a full professional system in the first year. But according to FIFA statutes, football can only be amateur or non-amateur. So we cannot call it semi-professional, as many countries have done in the past," told Helal.

"We have been trying to make it as much professional as we can but definitely, there would be gaps which we hope to fill in time," he added.

The first season of professionalism for the footballers would be rather short, from November 2006 to July

2007 but from then on, the season would be August to July.

The inaugural season will see players being registered as professionals rather than making transfers. From next year, the clubs will make contract with other clubs to buy players.

All clubs are bound to sign agreement with a player on form supplied by the federation and it should clearly state the details of the contract, which includes period, salary, bonus (optional for first season) and other terms.

However, most of the clubs in the market -- as a precautionary measure -- are making contracts for the first year only, mainly due to doubt about the league's future.

One can in no way represent another club anywhere in the country, meaning they would be restricted to just two domestic tournaments, the Pro League and the Federation Cup. Winners of these two meets will represent the country in AFC club tournaments. In case of one team winning both trophies, the Pro League runners-up would get the remaining cup.

A mid-season window will be opened for transfer and if a club want to release a player, they will have to make sure he gets the salary from the other club.

The main worry of the players is that whether all the clubs are going to honour the terms and conditions of joining the professional system or not.

BCB running

FROM PAGE 17
The salient features of the new contract, which is confidential, it never happened here in the past. We don't want to keep anybody in illusions about the deal," he said.

Mahbub, however, was not ready to blame the former board to make a clumsy deal.

"I think we had failed to keep our interests together in the last deal because of ignorance as we had made such kind of deal for the first time," added Mahbub, who was also a director of the previous executive committee.

Biman flying high

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman blanked Friends Chess Power 4-0 in the tenth round of the Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League at the federation hall-room yesterday to stay on course for regaining the title.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, GM Reefat Bin Sattar, IM Abdullah Al Rakib and FM Rezaul Haque all won their respective matches as Biman improved their tally to 32 points.

Chittagong Mohammedan followed the leaders with 29 points after beating Titus Club 2.5-1.5 while defending champions Leonine Chess Club kept the third slot securing 28.5 points. Leonine defeated Toyota Motors Chess Team 4-0.

In the day's other matches, Destiny 2000 beat Faith Chess Club 3.5-0.5, Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Sangstha beat Narayanganj City Chess Club 2.5-0.5, Mohakhali Prodeep Sangha outplayed Dhaka University Chess Team 3.5-0.5 while Muktiyodha Sangsad beat Farashganj SC 2.5-0.5.

Kenya rout Bermuda

AFP, Mombasa

Kenya wrapped-up an easy seven-wicket win over Bermuda on Sunday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series between the two World Cup finalists.

The African side had won the first match here on Saturday by 79 runs.

Thomas Odoyo grabbed four wickets as Bermuda, who will be making their World Cup debut in the Caribbean next year, were restricted to 184 in a match reduced to 42 overs per side.

Steve Tikolo and Tanmay Mishra then led Kenya to victory home with an unbeaten fourth-wicket stand of 103 after the home side had been 83-3 at one stage.

For Bermuda, recent import David Hemp, who plays in the English county championship with Glamorgan, made 41 while Janeiro Tucker top-scored with 52.

The third and final match of the series takes place on Tuesday.

BRIEF SCORES

BERMUDA: 184 for 8 (J Tucker 52, Hemp 41, Minors 29; Odoyo 4-25, Vairayi 2-24, Odhiambo 2-37)

KENYA: 186 for 3 (Kamande 64 not out, Tikolo 60 not out; Mukuddem 2-33)

Result: Kenya won by 7 wickets.

Zee buys 50% of Ten Sports

AFP, Mumbai

Indian media company Zee Telefilms said Monday that it bought a 50 per cent stake in Dubai-based Ten Sports for around 57 million dollars as it seeks more sports broadcast contracts.

"This is a great strategic move for the company that reinstates the company's seriousness and belief in the genre of sports broadcasting," the company said in a notice to the Mumbai stock exchange.

Ten Sports, headed by Abdulrahman Bukhatir, and Zee have earlier bid for the rights to broadcast cricket matches in India and elsewhere and are now in the race for the International Cricket Council's global telecast and marketing rights for an eight-year period starting in 2007.

Zee has aimed at the Indian diaspora and estimated the value of the network at 114 million dollars.

"The acquisition of a stake in Ten Sports not only gives us a strong foothold in the arena of sports broadcasting across Asia but also strengthens our operations in the Middle East," Zee chairman Subhash Chandra told the exchange.

England lose

FROM PAGE 20

attend the birth of his first child. The injuries mean Manchester City defender Micah Richards has a great chance of making his debut in Amsterdam in the slot normally occupied by Gary Neville.

At just 18 years old, he would become the youngest defender ever to represent his country.

Joe Cole, one of England's few successes as the World Cup, will expect to return to the starting line-up after missing last month's Euro 2008 qualifiers through injury and McClaren is expected to give Everton striker Andy Johnson the chance to impress in partnership with Wayne Rooney.

McClaren had indicated on Sunday that he intended starting fit-again Aaron Lennon on the right flank, which could have resulted in Steven Gerrard being switched to a more central role.

The England boss must now decide whether to carry on with Gerrard on the right or start with Shaun Wright-Phillips in the place earmarked for Lennon.

Another possibility would be to switch Joe Cole to the right and start Kieran Richardson on the left.

Manchester United's Richardson had been dropped to the under-21s but has recalled to the full squad following the spate of pull-outs. He has however hardly played for his club this season -- although that is also an issue as far as Wright-Phillips is concerned.

Federer credits mental strength

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

World number one Roger Federer credited a mental overhaul for his success after surviving an early scare at the Masters Cup.

Federer lost the first set against defending champion David Nalbandian but refused to hit the panic button, instead working on drawing the Argentine into the net.

The Swiss romped through the second two sets to win 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 in less than 90 minutes on Sunday.

"Probably still a couple of years ago I would think, 'Oh, I don't know what to do, I don't have the key'," he said afterwards.

"Maybe from the baseline I'm not good enough, my serve is not powerful enough and so forth.

"Through my mental and physical strength I was able to overcome these problems. Now I just hang in there and hope for the best.

"It's really been the best choice that I've ever taken in tennis."

The nine-time Grand Slam winner said he had made the mental switch on his own without any professional help.

"Don't know him, who's he?" he said when asked about Sigmund Freud.

"Nope, never needed him. I overcame it myself because I had enough family and friends telling me I should take it easy and whatever. Eventually I calmed down, started to play well and started to learn.

"Once I won Wimbledon in 2003 I got the belief that I can win on a more consistent basis."

Federer also said he had learned to beat different types of players

through experience. "I think at the beginning of your career all you're trying to get is a feel for how to play each and every one of them," he said.

"It's obvious that you like one style of play but to beat all the different styles, I think that's the hard part.

"It took me a long time, but eventually I got hold of myself and got ahead of my games. It turned out to be a great career."

The 25-year-old is set to end his third straight season as the top-ranked player and is closing on Jimmy Connors' record of 160 weeks at number one.

The 2003 and 2004 champion is bidding to become the first man to win three Masters Cup titles after being denied by Nalbandian in an epic final last year.

Sanya, Asafa IAAF's best

Athletics

AFP, Monaco

Jamaican world 100m record holder Asafa Powell and American 400m queen Sanya Richards were Sunday named athletes of the year by the Association of International Athletics Federations (IAAF) at the 2006 World Athletics Gala here.

And Chinese star Liu Xiang won the award for the performance of the year for his stunning world record breaking 12.88 sec in the 110m hurdles at Lausanne.

Ethiopian Meseret Defar took the women's best performance honours for breaking the 5,000m world record in New York City.

Powell and Richards were also given a cheque for 100,000 dollars each.

Their victories were hardly surprising as the pair both went unbeaten throughout the season and shared the Golden League jackpot with American 400m runner Jeremy Wariner.