

Hockey team off to Delhi

Sports Reporter

A 20-member Bangladesh hockey team left for the Indian capital of New Delhi yesterday to take part in the Surjit Singh Memorial hockey tournament.

Bangladesh, a regular visitor to the domestic meet in India, will feature in the second round. The first round has already got underway at Jalandhar in Punjab on November 3.

Besides, the national team will also take part in the prestigious Nehru Cup, scheduled to begin in Delhi from November 15.

Mohammed Sadeq, the veteran centre-forward, will lead the national team, which included 16 players and four officials. Besides, it was learnt that two observers — Sajed Adel and Nurul Amit — are also accompanying the team. But surprisingly, the authorities have failed to even provide assistant coach of the team Jamil Haider a Government Order (GO) who after being ignored by the selectors expressed his desire to accompany the team at his own expense. The former national player had represented the national team in three Asia Cup appearances.

SQUAD

Mohammed Sadeq (captain), Khurshid Alam (vice-captain), Shamim Ahmed, Mohammed Javed, Rabiuuddin Ahmed, Mamun-ur Rashid, Isa Miah, Ishaq Ahmed, Mabubul Harun, Rafiqunnabi, Musa Miah, Ashquzzaman, Mahabubul Ehsan, Rafiqul Islam Kamal, Gaisudin Rubel, Ramiz Ahmed, Monwar Hossain (team leader), Zahidur Rahman Sultan (manager), Ehtesham Sultan (coach) and Fazul Bari (doctor).

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has also announced the list of a quartet of stand-by players. They are — Rashed Khan, Shahidul Islam Khokon, Tutul Kumar Nag and Shamsuzzaman.

Inzamam, Shiv retreat

TORONTO, Nov 4: A Pakistani cricket star and a heckling fan, both arrested after a fight during a match in Toronto's Sahara Cup series, have dropped assault charges against each other, reports AP.

"We were prepared to prosecute both sets of charges but defense counsels for each party came to me and indicated that their clients were willing to have the charge against the other side withdrawn," Prosecutor Fred Braley said Monday.

Cricket player Inzamamul Haq was cleared of two counts of assault and one count of assault with a weapon; fan Shiv Kumar Thind was cleared of assault with a weapon.

During the international cricket match between Pakistan and India on Sept. 14, Inzamam allegedly ran into the stands and punched and kicked Thind.

Witnesses said Thind, 29, was heckling Inzamam, 27, and calling him a potato through a megaphone.

A video of the game shows Inzamam being led back on to the cricket field after wrestling with a fan, Braley said. Thind is seen chasing after him and throwing the megaphone at him.

"This would have been over relatively simply if it hadn't been for the retaliation," Braley said.

Both men suffered minor injuries and Inzamam was suspended for two games.

3 more enter Chase field

STAMFORD, Connecticut, Nov 4: The field for the Chase Championships grew by three Monday when Mary Pierce, Irina Spirlea and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario qualified for the season-ending tournament, reports AP.

The top 16 singles players and top eight doubles teams will compete for more than \$2 million dollars in prize money at New York's Madison Square Garden the week of Nov. 17.

Already in the elite field are Martina Hingis, Monica Seles, Lindsay Davenport, Amanda Coetzer, Iva Majoli and Jana Novotna.

Spirlea reached the semifinals of the US Open in September, losing to Venus Williams in a match best remembered for an on-court bump between the two players.

Pierce won the Italian Open and reached the final of the Australian Open, while Sanchez-Vicario shared the singles crown at Eastbourne — the final was rained out — thus keeping intact her streak of 10 straight years with at least one singles title.

Feyenoord back on track

ROTTERDAM, Nov 4: Feyenoord ended a run of four successive defeats with a 2-1 victory over RKC Waalwijk in the Dutch First Division on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Feyenoord, who sacked coach Arie Haan on Tuesday and are still without a replacement, needed the victory to lift morale before Wednesday's Champions League match against Manchester United but the performance left much to be desired.

Feyenoord's Argentine duo Patricio Graff and Julio Cruz had them 2-0 up with Carlos van Wanrooy claiming a late consolation for the visitors.

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think I'm in pretty good condition," he said.

New Zealand are due to choose their team on Wednesday or Thursday but poor form of the team has clouded the issue — although the options are limited.

Coach Steve Rixon admitted his credibility had probably been harmed by his team's efforts on tour.

"I'm sure it has, but I don't care," Rixon said Wednesday. "I

know I can achieve things with this team but I need them to dig deeper."

Captain Stephen Fleming said the team had been overawed by the thought of playing a team whose record suggests it is the best in the world.

"There is a lack of confidence associated with making the step up to play the world champions," Fleming said.

"The guys have felt the intensity — some of them to the point where it's putting them off their game."

Australia named a no-surprises line-up Monday.

There are still some places in doubt for New Zealand, with Nathan Astle, Matt Horne and Craig McMillan vying for the Nov. 3 and No. 6 batting spots.

Spinner Daniel Vettori, seamer Simon Doull and paceman Shayne O'Connor and Geoff Allott are likely to make up the bowling attack.

The rest of the team picks itself with Blair Pocock and Blair Young opening. Fleming and Matt Cairns at No. 4, Chris Cairns at No. 5 and wicketkeeper Adam Parore.

Fleming said he was confident the Kiwis could overcome their woes in time for the Test.

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