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Visa mismanagement

Sloppy work by BCB

Sports Reporter



Unprofessional handling of visa matters and travel expenses has left the Bangladesh national cricket team's scheduled tour of South Africa in disorder.

Thankfully, the visa hassle

Bangladesh are expected to

reach South Africa on October

8 to play a four-day match and

three limited-overs matches

against South Africa 'A' following

their ICC Knockout Tournament

commitments in neighbouring Kenya.

However, according to reports, the national squad, which left for Kenya on September 24, did not collect their visas and for some inexplicable reason, weren't provided with the money that would bear their costs for the South African trip.

Fingers are being pointed at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) who left it very late to apply for the visas. The BCB

made the request to the South African High Commission in New Delhi on September 21, only three days before the team flew to Nairobi.

Understandably, the South African HC failed to grant the visas as they couldn't get clear-

ance from their Home Ministry in such a short time.

It's common procedure to apply at least a week in advance, but why the BCB waited until the last minute is difficult to comprehend.

The amount should have been carried by the team after proper endorsement. The team is already in Kenya now," said BCB general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq while talking to The Daily Star over telephone last night.

He was optimistic that the problem would be solved before the tour got underway.

Earlier, Ashraful told AFP that "In all probability the trip will be canceled as we now have multiple problems after not getting visas for the team from New Delhi. We have logistic problems, including fund which the team was not carrying ... I doubt the trip will go ahead."

Interestingly this is not the first time that a Bangladesh team has faced visas trouble.

In 1998 the New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi refused to sanction visas.

Following intervention of the New Zealand government the issue was overcome.

The newest Test team, led by all-rounder Naimur Rahman, arrived here on Monday and are staying at the Hotel White Sands in Mombasa.

They will play another warm-up game against Sri Lanka on October 1 before heading for the Kenyan capital the same day.

Bangladesh's first match in the 10-nation carnival is against England at the Nairobi Gymkhana ground on October 5.

The team is expected to play a four-day match and three limited-overs matches against South Africa 'A' following their ICC Knockout Tournament starting in Nairobi from October 8.

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1 Who scored the first hattrick in this year's Fed Cup football?
Ritu Ranjan Tanvir

2 Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?
Wasim Waqar Moin

3 Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?
Anmol Akram Naqur

4 Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
Armantrata Buman Mariners

5 Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?
Kahn Sammer Reuter

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

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SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram

(Former Pakistan cricket captain)

I am fit and will hopefully do my best in the coming season. We have a good team and will do well."

About the forthcoming ICC Knock-out tournament in Kenya.

SA stars set for Nairobi return

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 27 (Internet report): With Allan Donald and Mark Boucher resuming practice in their respective provinces South Africa's ICC trophy hopes were given a major boost.

Donald missed South Africa's tours to Australia and Singapore earlier this year as his contract with Warwickshire did not allow him the time required to play in the respective ODI series.

Boucher, the Protea vice-captain, missed the Singapore series after badly lacerating a finger with a knife after South Africa's 1-1 draw against Australia in Melbourne's indoor Colonial Stadium.

It has also been learned that South Africa will play a warm-up one-day match against New Zealand as part of their preparation for the defence of the ICC tournament in Nairobi. No date has been set.

Nandrolone, the cheats' choice

SYDNEY, Sept 27: The powerful anabolic steroid nandrolone is now favoured by cheating athletes because it is available in pill form that makes it harder to detect, a senior IOC official said Wednesday, reports AFP.

International Olympic Committee Vice President Jacques Rogge also ridiculed a claim by America's world champion shot putter C. J. Hunter that he had tested positive to nandrolone because of a contaminated nutrition supplement.

An emotional Hunter, flanked by his wife sprint superstar Marion Jones, denied Tuesday knowingly taking nandrolone, despite testing positive four times to the banned drug on one occasion up to 1,000 times above the permitted level.

But Rogge, a doctor and vice chairman of the IOC medical commission, said it was impossible to reach such a concentration of nandrolone by taking supplements.

"In my opinion there is no doubt about it," he told ABC radio. "This is not something you can have by accidentally taking the drug."

He said tests showing such a high level could only indicate an injection or intake of nandrolone pills.

Rogge said more athletes were using nandrolone because it was now available in pill form which makes it harder to detect than previously when it was available only in injectable form.

Knight out of Kenya tour



LONDON, Sept 26 (AFP): Nick Knight has been ruled out of England's squad for the ICC Knockout trophy tournament in Kenya next week and the one-day series in Pakistan next month.

The Warwickshire batsman failed a fitness test on the knee injury on Monday, not fully recovered from surgery on a torn cartilage and his place will be taken by Worcestershire's Vikram Solanki.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney said: "It is a big blow losing both Nick and Alan Mullally. They are both consistent one-day performers and have been an integral part of our one-day set-up for the last few years. But their absence gives opportunities for other people."

Solanki, 24, was a member of England's limited overs set-up this summer and will fly out to Nairobi with the rest of the one-day squad on Thursday.

Graveney added: "Nick is an important member of our one-day squad and this is deeply disappointing news for all concerned."

"Although Nick's injury is not a long-term one, we felt it would be too much of a risk to retain him in the squad for Kenya and Pakistan in case of further injuries to other players."

"Vikram Solanki made a good impression with the one-

If they want to appeal

KARACHI, Sept 27: Six Pakistani Test players who were fined by the judicial commission that investigated charges of corruption against them have been asked by their country's cricket chiefs if they intend to appeal, reports Reuters.

A Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman said the players, including Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Saeed Anwar, have been set a Saturday deadline to confirm if they are to appeal against the penalties recommended by Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum in May.

If the players don't appeal to the board against the penalties, fines would be deducted from their salaries before the team leaves for Kenya for the International Cricket Council (ICC) knockout tournament, the spokesman said.

Pakistan's squad leave on Saturday for the limited-overs event in Nairobi which starts next Tuesday.

Justice Qayyum had recommended life bans for former captain Salim Malik and paceman Ata-ur-Rehman which was implemented by the board earlier this year.

Former captain Akram told the news agency from Lahore that he was contemplating filing an appeal.

I am in consultation with my legal advisers and if they recommend that I should file an appeal, I would not hesitate," he said.

The six Test men were among eight players against whom a local court on Monday dismissed a private complaint seeking their ban from playing and instead fined the petitioner 10,000 rupees for trying to earn a bribe.

The Sindh High Court judge rejected the petition, filed by lawyer Abdul Kabir Mandukhel, saying the players could not be penalised any more after being fined by the Lahore High Court.

The petitioner had urged that the eight cricketers – none of whom appeared before the court – should not be allowed to continue playing after being censored by the judicial commission of Justice Qayyum.

Mandukhel said he would now approach the country's Supreme Court to take up the issue.

Argentina had qualified for their first Olympics in 12 years by defeating the United States in the final of the Pan-American Games in Canada last year.

"This is a dream for us," Argentine coach Sergio Vigli said.

They finished with nine, winning all three second round matches against the Netherlands, China and New Zealand.

New Zealand, who needed a win to qualify for the final, ended on four points.

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Argentina coach Sergio Vigli said.

The girls are waiting for the

Australians, I can promise you

it will not be as one-sided as

everyone thinks."

Australia had beaten Argentina 3-1 in the preliminary league, but coach Ric Charlesworth was not taking another victory for granted.

"They will go out there fighting, we don't want to be caught napping," he said.

Argentina's men's team, which failed to make the semi-finals, cheered the Kiwi demolition from the stands.

Rognoni, who returned to the Games after being suspended for throwing the ball at an umpire during the Pan-American Games, began the goal rush in the ninth minute.

Neto and Karina Masotta increased the margin, before Tina Bell-Kake pulled one back for New Zealand just before half-time.

Argentina dominated the second session, scoring four goals in a nine-minute burst as the Kiwis wilted under the assault.

The Dutch, meanwhile, rose from the brink to stake their claim for the bronze after their victory over Spain.

The Dutch were a draw away from elimination after losing their first two matches to Australia and Argentina.

But the winners of the Champions Trophy in May struck timely form, aided by goals in each half by star striker Susan van der Wiel.

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