

RU inter-dept handball

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Department of Management and Department of Finance and Banking won their respective inter-department handball matches at the Rajshahi University playground on Tuesday.

Management recorded a 21-11 win over Law while Finance and Banking then registered a marginal 12-11 victory over Marketing.

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Shamoly Juba Sangha defeated Ekota Kira Chakra by 25 runs in the Dan Mia Smriti Cricket Cup at the local Eidgah ground here today.

Shamoly batting first, made 162 all out. In reply, Ekota KC were dismissed for 137.

In the other match, Chalanika Cricket Club beat Probhati Cricket Club by 35 runs.

Chalanika was all out or 140. Probhati replied with 105.

PCB boss not pleased

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Lieutenant General Tahir Zia Monday expressed disappointment over his team's defeat at Lord's and praised the professionalism of England players in the first Test.

"I am hurt and disappointed like any Pakistani over the defeat," Zia told reporters in Karachi.

Pakistan lost the first of the two Tests by an innings and nine runs on Sunday.

"Attitude and professionalism was the difference between the two teams," Zia said, adding that he was not very pleased with the body language of his players.

Zia was also unhappy over certain decisions of the umpires in the match.

"It is no excuse but even one wrong decision can make the difference in a match and there were a few," he said, without going into details.

He did not rule out changes in the team for the triangular series including world champions Australia, which will start at the conclusion of the two Test series.

"Yes, there will be some changes in the team for the tri-series," he said.

The final Test will start at Old Trafford from May 31, followed by a one-day series.

Zia backed England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Lord MacLaurin who demanded a life ban on players found guilty of match-fixing.

"If any player is found guilty he should be banned," he added.

Zia will meet the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit chief Sir Paul Condon during his visit to Pakistan next week.

"I will meet him on May 25 and let us wait what he has to say," Zia said.

Laloo promises

FROM PAGE 13

bar on the Indian team participating in any multi-nation tournament wherever it is played," said Muthiah.

Muthiah will meet his Pakistan counterparts — and those from the other participating nations — this week to discuss the schedule for the Asia Cup one-day tournament and the Test Championship.

"I don't see any problem in our cricketers touring Pakistan for these competitions," Muthiah said.

"Even the ban on playing Pakistan is for a bilateral series."

"The government is very, very firm not to have bilateral cricket matches against Pakistan in the prevailing circumstances," Sports Minister Uma Bharti said last month.

But she left the door open for India to play Pakistan as a part of a multi-nation event — as opposed to a head-to-head series.

Muthiah said the government's guidelines also permit Pakistan to come to India for the ICC Cup — which India is bidding to host next year.

"I think I will be able to play in the next game. It's not that serious."

With the team event golds already under their belt, China's gymnasts yet again underlined their regional supremacy to take both the men's and women's individual all-around titles at the regional mini-Olympics.

Yang Wei, silver medalist in Sydney, secured his second gold medal of the Games after his younger teammate Li Dezhi fumbled on the rings to land the silver, Japan's Hiroyuki Tomita finished third.

In the women's event, 18-year-old Dong Fangxiao put on a characteristically classy performance to outdo teammates Qi Linzi and Bai Chunye in the all-China affair.

"I didn't perform so bad on the balance beam and the floor but I could not do well on the other two apparatuses (the uneven bars and the vault)," the minuscule Dong said afterwards.

China added two more golds to their tally in the weightlifting arena after Xiong Meiyong out-muscled Taiwan's Kuo Ping-chun in the women's 63kg category and Li Hongli took the men's 77kg title. But South Korea's Kim Jong-Shik

Australia's one-day squad will fly to England on Saturday. Other Test players are due to leave in mid-June for a three-month Ashes tour which ends in late August.

Waugh told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

"We want to know what's going on and people want the game cleaned up," Waugh said. "So the sooner it comes out the better."

"It doesn't matter what time it comes out, whether it's the day before a Test match or the day before we leave for England."

Waugh told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

Lanka bid to save BCCSL

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka Tuesday offered financial assistance to its crisis-ridden cricket board, whose problems have escalated with the suspension of its bank accounts pending a legal challenge to an interim management team.

Sports ministry secretary P Ramanujam said they were prepared to fund the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) in the interest of cricket.

The BCCSL went into a spin Monday when the Colombo Commercial High Court ordered that the team, appointed by Sports Minister Lakshman Kiriella in March, should not operate its bank accounts.

It ordered the accounts be frozen until a further court decision after the case is taken up on June 1.

"Just because one person has gone to court we can't allow cricket to suffer," Ramanujam said, adding that they were hopeful of mounting a counter challenge to the latest court order and free up the bank accounts.

He said the ministry will "somehow find the money" necessary to maintain the BCCSL, following the court order freezing its bank accounts.

The interim panel recently announced that they were carrying out an audit to find out how much money was in the kitty when the previous committee was sacked in March.

The freezing of the accounts will have an immediate impact on the salary payments to BCCSL staff and its day-to-day functioning as well as on the upcoming tri-nation tournament involving India and New Zealand.

The latest challenge was launched by the former head of the BCCSL, Thilanga Sumathipala, who was sacked with all the board's office bearers by the minister, who alleged that they had violated the sports law of the country.

The minister charged that the sacked board did not submit its accounts a month ahead of its annual meet, as required, and presented the accounts only two weeks before the annual general meeting.

Later, the minister appointed an interim panel, against whom the former board filed the court action.

Sumathipala said the Colombo Commercial court ruling had vindicated his stand and he was pressing the authorities to restore democratic elections and have a new committee appointed to run the BCCSL.

"All I am saying is that the BCCSL must be run by its own members elected at an election and not by an interim panel appointed by one individual," Sumathipala said.

The minister had charged there were financial irregularities under Sumathipala's management which saw the construction of a new international cricket stadium in the north-central region of Dambulla.

Sumathipala has denied any wrong doing and his committee have filed several cases against their sacking as well as the interim panel that replaced them.

SL tri-series uncertain

AP, Colombo

Cricketers by the Indian and New Zealand teams faced uncertainty as a court barred the interim administration from operating the Sri Lankan cricket board's accounts.

Monday's court order was the latest in a series of legal battles engulfing the cricket board.

India are scheduled to play a three-Test series beginning August 13. It will be preceded by a triangular series involving India, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

honest" in his denials of match-fixing.

United Cricket Board of South Africa managing director Ali Bacher tells a news conference.

Cronje had accepted 10-15,000 dollars from a local South African and an Indian bookmaker based in London during a triangular series with Zimbabwe and England in January.

April 17: International Cricket Council president Jagmohan Dalmiya announces emergency meeting at Lord's on May 2-3.

April 28: Indian government orders country's highest police authority, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to conduct official investigation into match-fixing.

May 2: ICC clear Dalmiya of corruption allegations on first day of emergency meeting. Chief executive David Richards reads a statement saying Dalmiya had not been involved in negotiating television rights for the 1998 ICC knockout tournament in Dhaka.

May 3: Dalmiya announces life bans for anyone found guilty of match-fixing. ICC agree to set up an Anti-Corruption Unit and all players and officials are asked to sign a declaration saying whether or not they had been asked to take part in any corrupt activity.

The match-fixing saga

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Chronology of the international match-fixing scandal since a Pakistani judicial panel first convened in 1998:

1998, October: Judicial inquiry starts in Lahore under Judge Malik Qayyum into allegations that Pakistani Test players Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed and Wasim Akram helped fix matches.

Australia captain Mark Taylor, whose team is touring Pakistan, tells inquiry that teammates Shane Warne and Tim May were offered money to bowl badly on their last tour in 1994-95. Mark Waugh says Malik approached him before a one-day match on the same tour asking whether he could find four or five players willing to throw the match.

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Australia's home Tests

AFP, Melbourne

Australia play hosts to New Zealand and South Africa for a total of six Tests between November and January.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) announced on Tuesday that the first Test against New Zealand would start in Brisbane on November 8 followed by Tests in Hobart and Perth.

Australia's series against South Africa starts in Adelaide from December 14-18 followed by Tests in Melbourne and Sydney.

ACB announced the following 2001-02 summer itinerary:

New Zealand
Nov 1-4: Queensland v New Zealand in Brisbane

Nov 8-12: Australia v New Zealand 1st Test in Brisbane
Nov 14: Prime Minister's XI v New Zealand — Venue TBA

Nov 16-19: South Australia v New Zealand in Adelaide
Nov 22-26: Australia v New Zealand 2nd Test in Hobart

Nov 30-Dec 4: Australia v New Zealand 3rd Test in Perth
South Africa
Dec 5: Chairman's XI v South Africa in Perth

Dec 7-10: Western Australia v South Africa in Perth
Dec 14-18: Australia v South Africa 1st Test in Adelaide

Dec 20-23: New South Wales v South Africa in Sydney
Dec 26-30: Australia v South Africa 2nd Test in Melbourne

Jan 2-6: Australia v South Africa 3rd Test in Sydney
(Note: The Australian Cricket Board said the remainder of the Australian programme would be released at a later date.)

BCCI's mega sponsorship contract

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs earned a 49 per cent hike for the sponsorship of the national team under a new agreement signed with Trans World International (TWI) here on Tuesday.

TWI, the marketing and television arm of the International Management Group (IMG), won a three-year deal with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to sponsor both the team and a limited-overs domestic tournament, officials said.

TWI has guaranteed sponsorship of 108,000 dollars for each Test match and 87,000 dollars for each one-day international. The Indian team plays over the next three years, BCCI president AC Muthiah said.

It will also pay 218,000 dollars a year to the BCCI to conduct a limited-overs domestic tournament.

The new deal was necessitated when the Indian Tobacco Company (ITC) decided to terminate its agreement with the BCCI after the government banned sponsorship of sports by cigarette companies.

"The new deal is at least 49 per cent higher than the previous one," Muthiah said, adding it was the TWI's responsibility to find a corporate sponsor.

The ITC paid 55,000 dollars for each Test match and 45,000 dollars for a one-day international.

The new contract will come into force in July when the Indian team tours Sri Lanka for three Tests and a limited-overs triangular series also featuring New Zealand, Muthiah said.

That player is almost certainly leg-spinner Shane Warne, who has taken 58 wickets in his two previous Ashes tours.

In 87 Tests he has been Australia's highest wicket-taker with 376 at an average of 26.62. But his figures against England underline his supremacy.

In 18 matches against England he has snared 87 wickets at 24.28,

including one 10-wicket match haul and four five-wickets in an innings.

But Australian chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said Glenn McGrath, Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie gave the tourists probably their best pace attack for years.

Waugh admitted England's seam attack of Darren Gough and Andy Caddick plus batsman Graham Thorpe, coupled with a new toughness in difficult situations, made England a tough proposition.

England have not beaten Australia since Mike Gatting's side took home the Ashes from their 1986-87 tour. But they have won their last four Test series before last Sunday's crushing win over Pakistan.

Waugh said that result was not surprising as England were at home and playing very well while Pakistan were under-prepared and had a tendency to travel poorly.

"But having said that, England are a very good side at the moment. Gough and Caddick have got something special happening with the bowling and Thorpe with the batting," Waugh said.

"So they've got three players doing very well all the time and the others are moulding around it and they've got a good team unit, camaraderie, and they're a lot tougher than I think they have been in the past."

"So this will be a very good Ashes series and very competitive and we're going to have to play very well to win it."

Waugh said in comparison with past England sides he had faced, the current lineup had the ability to get out of tight situations.

"They've proved that in the last 12 months and they've won two series on the subcontinent, which means they have got to be a really tough team," the Australia captain said.

"They can't sort of just rely on their natural skill and ability which they've always had, they've always had a good team on paper, but I think this time they've got a good team spirit and the coach has done a good job and they seem to be very happy together and all pulling in the same direction."

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