

SL tour Faruque named BD manager

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday named former national cricketer ASM Faruque manager of the Bangladesh team for the tour of Sri Lanka next month.

BCB director Mahmud Ul Haq will accompany Faruque as the tour manager. The selectors have already named a 15-member squad who are scheduled to fly to Colombo on July 10 and return on August 8.

During their month-long tour, Bangladesh are scheduled to play two Test matches and three one-day internationals. The islanders are currently touring England.

Meanwhile, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) has planned to play both Tests and the one-dayers in the Lankan capital.

The first Test starts on July 21 at the P Sara Stadium. The second Test begins at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) on July 28.

The first two ODIs, scheduled on August 4 and 5, are also going to be played at SSC ground while the final limited-overs match will be held at the Premadasa Stadium on August 7.

Ponting's admission

REUTERS, Brisbane
Australia need to find a way to survive dangerous spells from bowlers like Shoaib Akhtar if they are to successfully defend the World Cup next year, captain Ricky Ponting has said.

"He bowled well, he bowled quick and he got his deliveries in the right areas," Ponting told reporters after Shoaib had taken five for 25 to bowl Australia out for 165 chasing Pakistan's 256 for seven in Wednesday's third and deciding one-day international.

"When you're bowling 150 kilometres an hour (94 miles an hour) and swinging the ball you're always going to be hard to play. But we've got to find a way to combat that when the World Cup comes around.

"We have to identify when someone is bowling well and get through those tough times. We couldn't do that this time and he ripped the heart out of our innings.

"We're losing wickets in patches as well and we haven't got partnerships at the top of the order, and that's something we need when the World Cup comes around," said Ponting.

Shoaib, one of the world's fastest bowlers, struck four times as Australia slumped from 44 for one to 83 for six.



PHOTO: INTERNET
Captain Saurav Ganguly with his daughter Sent upon their arrival at London's Heathrow Airport with the rest of the Indian team on June 18.

Sachin vows to score

Cricket
AFP, London
Sachin Tendulkar insisted Thursday he would end his recent sequence of low scores when India faced England in their forthcoming four Test series, starting here next month.

After equalling Australia great Don Bradman's record of 29 Test hundreds against the West Indies, Tendulkar had a tough time making three ducks in his next four innings in the Caribbean.

"I think it is part and parcel of the game," Tendulkar told reporters here at Lord's. "It happened to me for the first time in 13 years of cricket. It happens to all the players.

"But it's important to work on that. In four innings I must have played 15 balls. I felt there was nothing wrong. It's just one of those things and I batted pretty well in Jamaica (in the last Test) and in the one-day matches.

"So it's all left behind," said Tendulkar of a Test series India lost 2-1.

But he admitted matching one of Bradman's marks was a memorable achievement.

"Equalling Sir Don's record (which he did with 117 in the Second

Test at Port-of-Spain) is a very special thing.

"It's the only time my name could be next to his. Otherwise no-one can match Sir Don."

Indeed, despite his run of ducks, Tendulkar still finished the West Indies series with 331 runs at an average of just over 41. "I don't think you can call that a lean spell."

And England will know that Tendulkar, 29, still presents a formidable opponent with career Test figures of 8,004 runs at an average of 57.58 including 29 hundreds.

He for one is relishing the challenge of helping India achieve their first series victory outside the sub-continent since they beat England 2-0 back in 1986 under Kapil Dev.

"I think last time we came here was in 1996 so we're looking forward to it," said Tendulkar who scored his first Test century in England, at Old Trafford, in 1990 and two years later became Yorkshire's first overseas player.

"England are a good side, they play well as a unit," said Tendulkar who faced them during India's 1-0 Test series victory and 3-3 drawn one-day campaign last winter.

great feeling.

"If you play good cricket and play in the right spirit people will support you. It would be nice to think that 20 years down the line people will remember this series."

But he admitted that the pressures of fame, especially in India were sometimes hard to accept. "It is a little difficult.

"One doesn't get enough privacy. But it (fame) has its benefits. I've got no regrets."

And Tendulkar was adamant that he had no thoughts about retirement, although a little break from the relentless international calendar would be welcome.

"The day I stop enjoying my cricket is day I start thinking about it (retirement).

"It is hard to stay fresh all the time. Somewhere down the line surely I would feel I have been playing for 20-24 months I need a break."

Tendulkar added: "I don't know when I'm going to retire so I can't set any goals. I'm just going to go on and on for as long as I keep enjoying it."

"I started playing cricket as a kid because I love it and I still love it."

India face England and Sri Lanka in a triangular one-day series starting on June 27 before playing the first of four Tests at Lord's on July 25.

Green Delta hockey BSC finish sixth

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Sporting Club beat Sonali Bank 2-1 in the last Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The match was locked 1-1 in the first half.

Veteran Zahid Biswas and Indian Anil struck one each for the winners while Mamun pulled one back for the bankers.

Bangladesh Sporting Club finished sixth in the ten-team league table having raised their tally to 22 points from 18 matches while Sonali Bank finished eighth with 15 points from 18 matches.

Indians to be contracted

REUTERS/AFP, Calcutta
India's players will forfeit half their match fee for a defeat but will earn 100 per cent bonuses for beating higher-ranked sides, according to a draft contract introduced by the cricket board.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced new performance-based contracts on Wednesday for its national team that will give the players bonuses for wins and slashed payments for losses.

President of BCCI, Jagmohan Dalmiya, told reporters that 20 players would initially be offered the contracts, which are based on retainerships.

Dalmiya said the payments for the contracted players would be divided into four scales and based on individual performances.

"We have studied contracts in Australia, England and South Africa. But we are open to discussions with the players," Dalmiya said.

He also said the eleven players who played each match would be paid more than the reserves in the national squad.

Players with "outstanding performances" would be paid 7.5 million rupees (155,000 dollars) annually, he said.

Over and above the match fees, the players will be paid a bonus for defeating a team -- the sum will be more if the rivals are ranked higher.

The match fee would be paid separately and the playing eleven would earn more than the others in the squad, BCCI treasurer Kishore Rungta said.

"The players suggested three categories. Money-wise we accepted their suggestions, but created the A1 category for those showing extraordinary performances," Dalmiya said.

"In case of a defeat, the match fee would be reduced by 50 per cent."

Sports meet

SPORTS REPORTER
A sports competition for schoolboys and girls, jointly organised by DOHS Cricket Coaching Centre and Dawn Grammar School, will be held in the capital from July 1 to 7.

The following events would be held in the competition: chess, table tennis, carom, quiz and cricket.

Interested schools can send as many entries as they like to the front desk of Dawn Grammar School at Gulshan by June 25.

Free-kick
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defence by using their explosive pace down the wings.

"We must use our speed down the wings to get behind the England defence. That will be crucial to the outcome of the match," said Carlos, who is continually being linked with a summer move to English giants Manchester United.

"We are up against the best defence in the tournament. They are disciplined and quick. They have conceded just one goal so we have to be at our best.

"By attacking down the wings and moving the ball quickly we can give them plenty of problems."

Roberto Carlos, who along with fellow wing-back Cafu will be looking to stretch England's rearguard, said national pride was at stake for the four-time World Cup winners.

"Every player needs to show that he is worthy of wearing the Brazil shirt," he said. "We must show what it means to represent our country and make our supporters proud."

Beckham's position on the right of midfield means he cannot avoid the Brazilian left wingback as he hurtles down the flank in Shizuoka.

"I know what sort of player he is - he's more of an attacking than a defending player," he said.

"But because he's got the pace he has, even if he gets into forward positions, he's able to get back.

Sense of vengeance

Cricket
AFP, Bridgetown
New Zealand's cricketers are set on revenge when they meet the West Indies in the first of two Test matches on Friday after losing a five-match limited-overs series in controversial circumstances.

The Barbados Daily Nations newspaper said Wednesday that umpires Asoka de Silva of Sri Lanka and West Indies' Billy Doctrove could be censured by the International Cricket Council (ICC) following the home team's last ball victory against New Zealand in St. Vincent on Sunday.

The victory gave West Indies a 3-1 series victory but Black Caps captain Stephen Fleming stormed after the match that the umpires had failed to keep account of how many overs each player had bowled, depriving him of a specialist one-day bowler for the crucial last over.

Batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul smashed 15 off the last over to win the match and the series for the West Indies.

"This has certainly given us plenty of motivation to do well in this Test series," said Fleming as he put his team through their paces at Bridgetown's Kensington Oval.

Match referee Wasim Raja said on Wednesday that he had filed a report on the match to the ICC in

London and that the ICC would decide if any measures should be taken against the umpires.

He would not comment on the Daily Nation report that De Silva and Doctrove could face ICC sanctions over their conduct in St. Vincent.

New Zealand need to win the Test series to maintain their newly acquired status as the third best Test playing nation, awarded after Sri Lanka lost their series in England.

New Zealand are considering several changes to their line-up for the Test team, with three players, Matt Horne, Mark Richardson and Lou Vincent competing for two opening spots.

All-rounder Chris Harris, on form since being recalled to the Test team against England earlier this year, is being considered for the number four spot after Fleming.

Pace bowler Chris Martin has joined the squad to try and strengthen New Zealand's fragile pace attack. Shane Bond looked to have returned to his speedy best in the final one-dayer but strike bowler Daryl Tuffey has struggled throughout the tour, taking a total of one for 159 from 25 overs in four matches.

The West Indies batsmen are currently playing more consistently than for many years, with Guyanese pair Shivnarine Chanderpaul and skipper Carl Hooper at the top of their game. Chanderpaul averaged an astonishing 140.5 in the five-match Test series against India

which ended last month, scoring three centuries and three 50s.

The left-hander was elevated to open for the one-day team, where he scored a century and averaged 61, but Wavell Hinds and Chris Gayle are likely to open in the Tests.

Brian Lara, once the only reliable West Indies batsman, now finds himself being outscored but played two crucial innings in the one-day series and looks to be rediscovering his form gradually after breaking his left elbow during a tour of Sri Lanka in December.

The bowling attack is less sure. Uncapped pace bowler Darren Powell has been recalled from the West Indies A tour of England to provide back-up to the team's jaded-looking pace bowlers.

SQUADS
WEST INDIES (from): Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Carl Hooper (captain), Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Wavell Hinds, Ryan Hinds, Pedro Collins, Cameron Cuffy, Adam Sanford, Merv Dillon, Darren Powell.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Mark Richardson, Matt Horne, Lou Vincent, Stephen Fleming (captain), Chris Harris, Nathan Astle, Craig McMillan, Robbie Hart, Scott Styris, Daniel Vettori, Ian Butler, Daryl Tuffey, Shane Bond, Chris Martin.

Pakistan savour success

Cricket
REUTERS/AFP, Karachi
Former pacer Sarfraz Nawaz said Pakistan had proved its credentials as one of cricket's big three.

"With this win over Australia, Pakistan has proved that it is one of the three best teams in the world," said Nawaz.

But he warned Pakistan still had work to do ahead of the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

"Before next year's World Cup Pakistan must improve its fielding and strengthen its top order batting."

"(Captain Waqar) Younis and coach Mudassar Nazar had proved themselves correct as they had been saying that Pakistan is the only team that can beat Australia," Nawaz said.

Former captain and coach Javed Miandad also described the series win as a step in the right direction in preparing for the World Cup, which takes place in Africa next February and March.

"It is good to see that everyone is playing like a combination. Shoaib Akhtar has provided the firepower but still everyone has contributed. You can only beat a team like Australia with a combined effort," Miandad said.

The result puts Pakistan alongside Australia as joint favourites for the World Cup.

"It's a big win when you take into account Australia's crushing form in the last few years," former Pakistan captain Zaheer Abbas told AFP.

"All the Pakistan team needs is consistency and to carry on the good work to the World Cup 2003."

Pakistan had won only three of their last 15 limited-overs internationals against the Aussies leading up to the three-match away series.

They extended that losing run to 16 with a humiliating seven-wicket drubbing in the first match in Melbourne but fought back to take the series.

"The Pakistan team gelled well in the series after losing the first game and it was a great comeback and remarkable win over a formidable opponent," Abbas said.

"Just three months back Australia had humiliated South Africa and considering that, Pakistan has done a great job."

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia applauded the team.

"I congratulate the whole team on such a superb performance against Australia and the series win would go a long way in further improving the team's performance," Zia said.

God wasn't playing!

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we do the same as any European country does. We don't do no voodoo stuff."

Not everyone in South Korea and Japan, though, was so determined to separate religion and superstitions beliefs from what actually happens on the pitch.

The deputy head of the Saudi Arabian football federation, Prince Nawaf bin Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdul-Aziz, fervently hoped his players could promote Islam with success at the World Cup.

In the event, they lost 8-0 to Germany in their first game, failed to score a goal in three matches and went out in the first round.

The Latin American countries are particularly superstitious -- most goalkeepers from the main powers in the game such as Brazil and Argentina kiss the posts before matches and even referees cross themselves prior to kick-off.

Trapattoni, like Brazilian coach Luis Felipe Scolari a staunch Catholic, was convinced God was watching over his side and ensuring justice would be done.

He used as proof the late Alessandro del Piero equaliser against Mexico that ensured their progression to the last 16.

"Allow me to use a phrase I often use," he said afterwards. "Justice and God exist. I believe that. When a team creates five or six chances, I reckon that deserves merit, a sack

of praise."

Asked about his habit of uncorking a small bottle of "Holy Water" before each match and sprinkling it on the nearby grass, he was happy to confess all. "You know I'm a believer. God has answered my prayers. There is a big bottle."

The religious issue in the wake of Italy's shock exit after they were on the verge of victory against South Korea was not raised with Trapattoni. Instead all the talk was of biased, "bug-eyed" referees and FIFA conspiracies.

God, as Trapattoni conceded before the match, might have had more important things on his mind than soccer last Tuesday.



ESPN
England vs Sri Lanka
Third Test, Day One
Highlights
Taped Version at 11:00 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Western Union World Football
Taped Version at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
World Cup Today
Live at 8:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 173
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm June 21, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Bangladesh A beat USA by how many wickets in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge final.	5-wkts	7-wkts	3-wkts
2. Who clinched the Open FIDE Rating chess title?	Aminul	Rajib	Refaat
3. Who won the First Division cricket title?			
Name			
Class. Roll No.			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Shoaib won't be allowed

Cricket
REUTERS, Karachi
Pakistani cricket authorities have barred paceman Shoaib Akhtar from taking part in the "world's fastest bowler" competition in India later this year.

A spokesman for Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) did not give a reason but said Shoaib could not participate in such competitions without the board's permission and in no case before the World Cup next year.

"There is no question of Shoaib Akhtar joining the proposed competition before the World Cup," spokesman Khalid Butt told this news agency.

"Even after the World Cup his appearance will be subject to the approval by the Board."

PCB's refusal came amid a military stand-off between Pakistan and India over the disputed Kashmir region.

Both sides have mobilised about a million troops along their borders since a December attack on the Indian parliament which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based Islamic

Brett Lee -- currently the fastest bowlers in the game -- had agreed to take part. Eight other bowlers will also participate in the event, IMG in Bombay said in a release.

Shoaib, 26, was clocked at 161 km (100.6 miles) an hour in April, a fraction over the 100 miles per hour mark, during a one-day international against New Zealand at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

Lee had been clocked at 99.4 miles an hour against South Africa in Cape Town earlier in the year.

The International Cricket Council has, however, said such feats would remain unofficial.

"Shoaib is a valuable asset of Pakistan and he cannot be allowed to appear in any competition without the proper permission of the Board," Butt said.

Shoaib rocked Australia in Brisbane on Tuesday with five wickets for 25 in a rousing display of express bowling, leading Pakistan to an unexpected 2-1 one-day series win over the World Cup holders.

Shoaib Akhtar
militants fighting its rule in Kashmir.

The organisers of the fastest bowlers' competition, International Management Group (IMG), said on Wednesday Shoaib and Australia's

Seeking real Raul

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from a virtuoso display in Spain's 3-1 win over Slovenia in their opening group B game in this World Cup.

With Diego Tristán disappointing in the main striker's role Spain were struggling to make much of their possession before Raul changed the game with one moment of brilliance.

Luis Enrique's run into the box was checked by the centre-back and the ball rebounded out to Raul just inside the area.

Instead of lunging for the ball, Raul swung backwards, committing the covering defender in the process, and won himself the time he needed to stab the ball in.

Raul took his tally to three with two contrasting goals in Spain's third game against South Africa.

The first rewarded him for chasing a lost cause, as the South African goalkeeper failed to collect an overhit Gaizka Mendietea pass, allowing Raul in to tap Spain into an early lead.

space in the area as he pulled away from his marker at the final moment for a simple header.

"There are just no words to describe Raul," midfielder Joaquin said after the South Africa game. "He's always the same, giving it everything for the team in every game."

Raul was also Spain's outstanding player before injury forced him off against Ireland, even if he didn't make the scoresheet.

While he was on the field, Spain had a dangerous look about them every time they moved forward. Without him, the Irish goal was hardly threatened.

Raul is not always the most ruthless of finishers and sometimes the easier chances slip away.

It is in the split second presented by a mistake from the opposition or simple bad luck, when there is no time to weigh up the options, that Raul shows himself to be a different class, however.

Those half-chances will be all important in what is sure to be a frenetic game against the South

Koreans and if Raul is fully fit, Spain will feel have every reason to believe they can succeed where Portugal and Italy have failed

Scolari
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comment so far to us, unless he decides just before the game and tells the players then," he said.

"There's not a lot to change, we have played four games, we have four wins, the team is doing well, so the prof didn't even need to have a training match.

"I think that by now everyone knows their job. I think we all know what the prof wants for the game, we are very determined and I think we will play well and get the win."

Roberto Carlos added: "We have been playing so long together, in this World Cup we have trained enough to play with our eyes closed.

"We understand each other well and this is important for a game like this one. Our team knows extremely well what we have to do on the pitch."