

Dalmiya's dream may shatter

CRICINFO, undated

Jagmohan Dalmiya's attempt to seal a lifelong role for himself in the Indian cricket board, as a kingmaker, is in jeopardy.

Dalmiya was widely tipped to be voted the first-ever Patron-in-Chief of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) later this year, when his final term as president expired on September 29.

But the Bhopal High Court, moving on a petition filed by Jogesh Khattar, a member of the Bhopal Cricket Association, has instructed the BCCI not to do anything contrary to its rules when they next meet.

According to United News of India, a hearing of the case was scheduled for September 13. If there is some substance to it, and it is not mere political posturing, then Dalmiya could find himself without an official position on the board, as he is constitutionally barred from standing for president again.

Small teams

FROM PAGE 13 Bangladesh have struggled since attaining Test status and Ganguly believes the ICC could lend the so-called minnows a helping hand.

"It is for the ICC to look at, to try and accommodate them into a few tournaments. Teams like Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and a few others," said Ganguly after India had clinched a 98-run win over Kenya in the Champions Trophy on Saturday.

BANGLADESH-SA SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists players like Baisya, Nazmul, Rafique, Mushfiq and their statistics.

Result: South Africa won by nine wickets. Man-of-the-match: Charl Langeveldt.

Toss: Bangladesh. Umpires: Simon Taufel (Australia) and Jeremy Lloyds (England).

Star Whizz Kid Competition 21

Tick the correct answers, post The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 17, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

Quiz questions and answer grid for Star Whizz Kid Competition 21.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.



Men's finalist of the US Open Roger Federer of Switzerland makes a backhand return during his semifinal encounter against Briton Tim Henman in New York on Saturday.

Not just any Russian

REUTERS, New York



Athens Olympics two weeks ago, instead she has become the first Russian women's singles champion at the US Open.

Her 6-3, 7-5 win over countrywoman Elena Dementieva on Saturday catapulted the 19-year-old into the tennis elite, following in the tracks of fellow Russians Anastasia Myskina and Maria Sharapova, who won the French Open and Wimbledon titles earlier this year.

"This is unbelievable, I'm so excited, maybe I was shocked," said ninth seed Kuznetsova, whose mother Galina is a six-time world cycling champion and whose father Alexandr is an Olympic coach.

"I was so nervous in the morning,

when I went to practice I was a bit stiff. But, you know, it's weird, sometimes you are afraid of this feeling but something inside of me was telling me I would be fine," she told reporters.

Kuznetsova, who is also in Sunday's doubles final with Elena Likhovtseva, said a quick chat with 18-time Grand Slam singles winner and former doubles partner Martina Navratilova helped calm her nerves.

"I was like, 'Man, what am I gonna do?' I was talking to everybody. "I think Martina saw me and she thought I was maybe going green or blue and she said, 'Okay, look, remember, I did it when it was my first final, and I won my first final. So you can do it, too.'"

Kuznetsova, whose brother Nikolai won a cycling silver medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, came to Flushing Meadows as the fourth-ranked Russian and firmly in the shadows of Sharapova and Myskina, not to mention Dementieva.

But she leaves one million dollars richer and her name will no longer simply be regarded as "just another Russian."

"I want success. I want to do something, you know. I really want people to remember my name," said Kuznetsova, who travelled to Spain when she was 14 to further her tennis career.

"When I got to 30 in the world (rankings) I thought, 'I want more than this, I have to do better'. Then I got to 10, I always want to do better."

Kuznetsova blazed through to the semifinals without dropping a set before coming from behind to beat home favourite Lindsay Davenport and dismantling a devastated Dementieva with a devastating power game.

Staple doesn't lose heart



AFP, London

USA skipper Richard Staple looked ahead to the daunting task of tackling world champions Australia and insisted his team will not go down without a fight in their ICC Champions Trophy clash.

The Americans endured a humiliating introduction to top level cricket when they were crushed by 210 runs by New Zealand at The Oval on Friday.

From here, it will only get harder - a match-up with Ricky Ponting's World Cup winners in Southampton on Monday.

"If we have a reasonably good performance against the world champions I'm pretty sure it will do a lot of positives for cricket in the US," Staple told AFP.

"Against Australia obviously it will be a real challenge but it's something we have to do and give it our best. It will be a daunting match as they are the champions and they are playing great cricket right now.

"It's going to be tough but we'll do the best we can and come out on a positive note," added the Jamaican-born skipper.

USA qualified for the Champions Trophy by winning the ICC Six Nations Challenge in Dubai in February and March, edging out more experienced smallet cricket nations like the Netherlands and Scotland.

America also has a tradition of the game having hosted the first ever cricket international in 1844, when visitors Canada won in New York in the days before baseball became the dominant batting sport.

The fixture still continues but nowadays cricket in the USA is mostly limited to a smattering of clubs in California and Florida and is

popular among ex-patriot communities, particularly from the West Indies and south Asia.

Only two US-born players were in the America team which faced New Zealand in the Pool A opener.

The Black Caps hit a tournament record 347 for five before completing a 210-run victory over the rookies in the Group A clash.

But Staple's side showed their potential as New Zealand wobbled at 43 for two with just 12.4 overs gone.

"If I say we weren't nervous I'd be lying, but once we got the feel of it we were OK," said Staple.

"We met our expectations and I thought we did reasonably well under the circumstances."

Staple is determined his players learn from their opponents in order to transform the USA into a competitive cricketing nation.

"The most important thing is to stay positive and stay in the game. "Their batters started slowly and gradually built an innings. They are true professionals. That's one of the things we didn't do and can learn from."

"I don't think we're disappointed; we understood this was going to be a tough and daunting."

Too many

FROM PAGE 13 With him being absent it did not allow journalists to know the reason for batting first on a wicket that experienced rain for the last two days.

Rather he let a young Rajin Saleh, who never addressed such a big audience, to bear the brunt of a hostile press briefing.

"It was a management decision to bat if I won the toss. I think the wicket was dry but we played bad shots," said Rajin after Bangladesh was bowled out for 93, their lowest total against South Africa.

When asked why Mushfiq was picked ahead of Mahmud, the new Bangladesh captain again said it was also a decision of the management.

Div II chess

FROM PAGE 13

In other matches, Friends Power beat Alam Nur Club 3-1, Rajshahi Khelwar Samity beat Jupiter 2.5-1.5 Faith beat Ekata 3.5-0.5 and Double Mooring drew 2-2 with Keraniganj.

In all 19 teams from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Rajbari are taking part in the 8-round Swiss League. Two top teams will be promoted to the first division.

Eves' football

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training camps," the BFF president said.

The BFF had earlier ran three two-month long camps in Dhaka, the Ansar Academy and Khagrachhari with about 90 female footballers. The American School of Dhaka will also take part in the meet.

The BFF chief also informed that the Bangladesh girls team will participate in the AFC U-17 Championship in Malaysia next April and the national team will take part in the AFC Women's Championship.

The BFF is also expected to launch the women's league at the end of this year and the school football competition for girls in 2005.

Naimuddin

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person. But I will be back here if the club wants me again," said the coach who left for his native Kolkata yesterday.

Naimuddin, who won the SAFF Football Championship with India in 1997 at Kathmandu, also praised the development of football in Bangladesh.

"I think the players have learned a few things. The Bangladeshi footballers do not break under pressure now. They can absorb pressure and know how to play after conceding a goal. Their fighting spirit, which was absent in the past, has impressed me."

Brothers captain Alfaz Ahmed and the NFL's best player Arman Mia paid tribute to the master tactician in impromptu speeches at the gathering.

"Some people said that players like Arman and myself have become too old for this level. But his fitness training enabled us to remain in top physical condition throughout the season," said Alfaz.

"He brought out the best in us and I think if he stays, it will benefit the club in the future," said the veteran Bangladesh international.

Arman bracketed Naimuddin as one of the three coaches who have influenced his career.

"I have learned a lot from (Oldrich) Swab, (George) Kottan and Naimuddin. His (Naimuddin's) physical training regime has been great," said the mercurial playmaker.

Naimuddin's exemplary gesture of arranging the dinner was highly appreciated by everyone present and it also raised eyebrows regarding the mysterious silence of the champions in celebrating the NFL crown. But Brothers' manager Amer Khan said that they had cancelled their celebration plans due to the recent flood and political unrest in the country.

Dhaka city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who was one of the pioneers behind the creation of Brothers some three decades ago, was one of the guests at Naimuddin's dinner.

"This success was long overdue and as it has finally arrived, we should work together to maintain it. We have to build a stronger team and everyone related to the club should contribute towards achieving that goal," said Khoka.

Kenya result satisfying



AFP, Southampton

India captain Sourav Ganguly claimed his side could have finished off Kenya earlier in their 98-run win in the opening Pool C game of the ICC Champions Trophy here but he wanted to give his part-time bowlers some time in the middle.

Kenya chasing 291 were reeling at 74-6 but Ganguly appeared to take his foot off the gas as Maurice Ouma, with 49, and Brijal Patel, 40 not out, put together a stand of 92 for the seventh wicket on Saturday.

Kenya eventually played out their 50 overs but their 192-7 was 98 runs shy of India's 290-4.

"We could have finished it earlier but I wanted to give everyone a bowl in match situations. We needed to get these guys into form," said Ganguly with one eye on next Sunday's crucial clash with bitter rivals Pakistan at Edgbaston which will determine who makes the semifinals.

Yuvraj Singh and Virender Sehwag bowled 12 overs between them and Harbhajan Singh bagged 3-33 from his ten to advertise his wellbeing after a finger injury.

Ganguly, with 90, and VVS Laxman, with 79, were the mainstays of the Indian innings and the target was always going to be too much for a Kenyan side who have not played a one-day international for nearly 18 months.

Captain Steve Tikolo said: "It showed that we have not played much one-day cricket. We started off well and contained India but then they took the game away from us."

"If we had been playing continuously that might not have happened."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the ICC Champions Trophy Pool C match between India

and Kenya at the Rose Bowl in Southampton on Saturday: INDIA: 290 for 4 (Ganguly 90, Laxman 79, Kaif 49 not out; Odoyo 2-43)

KENYA



SOURAV GANGULY

Shah c Karthik b Harbhajan 33 Otienu run out 0 Tikolo lbw b Pathan 2 Modi c Ganguly b Pathan 5 Odoyo c Karthik b Harbhajan 15 Aga c Karthik b Harbhajan 0 Ouma c Karthik b Agarkar 49 Patel not out 40 M Suji not out 6 Extras: (b-10, lb-9, w-19, nb-4) 42 Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 192 Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-13, 3-21, 4-58, 5-62, 6-74, 7-166 Did not bat: T Suji, Ongondo

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Pathan, Nehra, Agarkar, Harbhajan, Ganguly, Yuvraj, Sehwag and their statistics.

Result: India won by 98 runs. Man-of-the-match: Sourav Ganguly.

STANDINGS

REUTERS, London

ICC Champions Trophy standings after Sunday's match between Bangladesh and South Africa:

Standings table with columns: Team, P, W, L, NR, Pts, NRR. Lists teams like NZealand, Australia, USA, SAfrica, WIndies, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Kenya, England, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe.

'Lanka clash massive'



AFP, Birmingham

England captain Michael Vaughan said Friday's crucial ICC Champions Trophy clash against Sri Lanka offered his side a chance to take a step towards ending a "fantastic summer" in style.

England got their Champions Trophy campaign off to a winning start with a record 152-run victory against Zimbabwe at Edgbaston on Saturday.

But with just three teams in a Pool and only the Pool winners qualifying for the semifinals, England cannot afford to lose the match against the co-holders at the Rose Bowl.

"There's a lot at stake in next Friday's game. It's one that you want to be playing. We are all looking forward to it," said Vaughan, who has now seen his team win seven successive Test matches in 2004 - England's best run in 75 years, said.

"The carrot is there to end this fantastic summer. We know if we win next Friday we're in the semifinal and that we're two wins away from a huge result."

His team faced a much-changed Zimbabwe team from the one that toured England last year following the sacking of Heath Streak as captain in April and the ensuing selection row that left the Africans without 15 senior white players.

Streak has been playing for Edgbaston-based county champions Warwickshire this season and Vaughan expressed sympathy for

the new-look Zimbabwe.

"It's very difficult, they are obviously in a tricky situation. It's not for me to comment on their selection matters but I personally think someone like Heath Streak should be playing in this competition."

England's total of 299 for seven on Saturday was built around Paul Collingwood's unbeaten 80 which rescued the team from the depths of 123 for four in a match held over from Friday because of rain.

Meanwhile wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu, at 21 international cricket's youngest captain, admitted his team arrived at Edgbaston on Saturday knowing they could not win.

Asked if the game was then beyond them, he replied: "Yes. We just took it as a bit of practice. We just wanted to spend some time at the crease and get close to 230-240."

And he admitted leading Zimbabwe, suspended from Test cricket following two heavy home defeats against Sri Lanka in May which in turn prompted an ongoing ICC investigation into Streak's allegations of positive discrimination, had been an arduous task.

"Since I took over the captaincy it has been hard, especially early on," said Taibu, "one of Zimbabwe's most successful black players."

"But I've learnt to accept the fact that things won't really go my way all the time," he added ahead of Tuesday's Pool D match against Sri Lanka at The Oval.

"I really have to be patient with these boys for them to have a chance of improving later on in life."



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

Federer-Hewitt finale

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get out there," said Hewitt, who trained with the Swede at the family home in Adelaide last Christmas.

"(Jaslyn) was going to be happy for someone and disappointed for someone no matter what. But in years to come we will probably have this situation a lot," Hewitt told reporters.

"Joachim's already made a few comments to me in the locker room, he said he's not buying me a Christmas present this year, he said that was it today."

Johansson, who ended the hopes of defending champion Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals, said he had not expected any favours from Hewitt, who committed only 14 unforced errors in the one hour 59 minute contest.

"I didn't play as well as I was hoping. I missed a few easy shots and got broken three times from the same end," added Johansson, the first Swede to reach the semifinals at Flushing Meadows since Jonas Bjorkman in 1997.

Federer was troubled initially by Henman, a player the Swiss trailed 6-2 in head-to-heads. But after clinching the first set he moved through the gears to race away from the 30-year-old Briton, who was aiming to reach his first Grand Slam final.

"Obviously I'm really pleased to be in my first US Open final," Australian Open and Wimbledon

champion Federer said.

"It's going to be tough against Lleyton, we always have good matches, but I think I've won my last 10 (finals) so I hope I can keep it up."

Federer can become the first man in history to win his first four Grand Slam finals if he beats Hewitt on Sunday, and Henman said he would not be betting against the Swiss.

"He's playing phenomenal tennis right now," said Henman, who was playing in his sixth Grand Slam semifinal.

"I think he's got every chance to go down as one of the best ever. If you take (Andy) Roddick's serve, (Andre) Agassi's returns, my volleys and Hewitt's speed and tenacity, then you've probably got a good chance against Federer."

Hewitt will not have that luxury on Sunday but, with a 7-5 lead in their previous battles, the gritty Australian believes he can end the top seed's charge.

"I lost to Roger at the Aussie Open and Wimbledon (this year) but I played extremely well. I'm going to have to play some great tennis to get on top of him."

"But I feel like I'm playing well and I give myself a good chance. It's going to be a huge match."

Australia focused

BBC ONLINE, undated

Darren Lehmann says the imminent tour to India will not distract Australia from the ICC Champions Trophy.

With a game against USA two days away, Australia practised at the Rose Bowl's second oval on Saturday morning while India took on Kenya 100 yards away.

Australia and India, who could meet in the tournament final, play an eagerly-awaited Test series in October.

"At the moment our focus is on the ICC Trophy and when this is finished we'll prepare for India," said Lehmann.

"Every tour is a big tour these days. We want to play well in this tournament and then go to India and play well again."

The veteran batsman re-iterated Australia's determination to win the mini World Cup for the first time, after slipping out two years ago.

"It's one of the trophies we'd like to win," he continued.

"We played the semifinals last time and played badly in that game so we're looking to play well here and hopefully win it.