



TAKE IT: Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq throws (L) the ball to Mohammad Sami (R) as coach Bob Woolmer looks on during practice at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

Mahendra new BCCI president

BBC ONLINE, undated

India's powerful Board of Control for Cricket has selected a new president - Ranbir Singh Mahendra.

He won the election by one vote - with outgoing president Jagmohan Dalmiya casting the decisive vote in his favour.

The vote was delayed for several hours over a row about who should conduct it.

A retired judge, Justice S Mohan, had arrived to conduct the poll in Calcutta but Dalmiya refused to let him run the proceedings.

The leadership of the board is one of the most powerful posts in the game.

Cricket attracts three quarters of all sports advertising in India and millions watch the national team's games on TV.

There was confusion earlier on Wednesday as retired Supreme Court Justice Mohan arrived at a Calcutta hotel for the board's annual general meeting.

He was to oversee the election in keeping with an order from a judge in the Madras High Court.

However, Dalmiya objected and secured a delay to proceedings.

The Madras High Court subsequently ruled in favour of Dalmiya, saying the judge should not be involved.

Dalmiya and his supporters gave their backing to Mahendra, the current board vice-president from the northern state of Haryana.

Mahendra told journalists in Calcutta he wanted cricket to be free of politicians.

He said he was confident of his victory and claimed he would get at least 17 of the 31 votes in the election.

Div I kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Sinha Sangsad outplayed Surjajamal Smriti Sangsad 65-35 with five goals in the First Division Kabadi League at the outer stadium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half by 33-19.

Bangladesh Bank Club will take on Maniknagar Kabaddi Club at 3:30pm and Dhaka Wanderers Club will face Abedin SC at 4:30pm at the same venue.

BHF aims

FROM PAGE 13

Junior Championship in Karachi earlier this year. Bangladesh, who finished second from bottom, were thrashed 10-0 by India in a group match.

However, the Indian team, which is scheduled to reach Dhaka today, will be travelling without five players of that squad who are currently touring Pakistan with the national team.

The home team, featuring seven stick-wielders with experience of playing for the national side including captain Zahidul Islam Rajan, have been training for 23 days at BKSP in Savar under Qamar.

Although the Pakistani coach was happy with the time he got, he showed his discontent over the federation's failure to provide the team the opportunity to train on the turf at the Maulana Bhashani.

Qamar's boys got the only chance to play a practice match against the seniors and lost 2-1. Qamar also mentioned that India would be the team to beat and by the time the two teams faced each other, his boys would be well tuned up.

He also complained about the unevenness of the Maulana Bhashani Stadium turf but BHF officials at a press conference yesterday informed that they had done the repair works.

It was also announced that Sadharan Bima Corporation and Jibon Bima Corporation would sponsor the tournament jointly. The two insurance houses will provide Tk 10 lakh.

BHF president and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam, general secretary Shamsul Bari, DG of BKSP Mohammad Ali Mondol and other BHF officials were present at the press conference.

Don't rule

FROM PAGE 13

on Wednesday endorsed Ganguly's views on the importance of having Tendulkar in the side.

Asked if Australia would have picked Tendulkar if he was available at short notice, Buchanan replied: "Most definitely."

"If he says he is ready to play, he would be the first pick in the team."

Australia's champion leg-spinner Shane Warne said last week he expected Tendulkar to play in Bangalore.

"Even if he can't throw or hold a bat and ball, I am certain he will be there," Warne said.

Tendulkar's absence, even for one Test, will be a blow to India who are aiming to win their third consecutive home series against Australia after 2-1 successes in 1998 and 2001.

In seven home Tests against Australia, Tendulkar has scored 760 runs at an average of 63. Overall he is the fifth highest scorer in Test cricket with 9,470 runs in 114 matches at 57.39.

Tendulkar, who made his Test debut in 1989, has missed only one Test series in his 15-year career when a leg injury forced him to sit out the Sri Lanka tour in 2001.

The remaining Tests against Australia, who have not won a series in India since 1969, will be played in Madras (October 14-18), Nagpur (October 26-31) and Mumbai (November 3-7).

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals G

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England's Zim decision

Cricket

REUTERS, London

England's cricketers will not attend any state functions during their tour of Zimbabwe in November, England Cricket Board (ECB) chairman David Morgan said on Tuesday.

In a statement on the ECB's website Morgan said neither the board nor captain Michael Vaughan condoned the situation in the African state.

"I would like to re-emphasise that the team will not be involved in state functions during this tour," Morgan said.

Britain has campaigned for Commonwealth sanctions against Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe because of his redistribution of white-owned farms to landless blacks and his 2002 re-election in a poll which international observers said was gravely flawed.

Vaughan was named on Tuesday to lead a 14-man squad for the five one-day internationals in Zimbabwe, although he said he would have welcomed a break after a long international season.

Steve Harmison, the world's top-ranked bowler, asked the selectors to omit him from the tour for political reasons. Batsman Andrew Strauss expressed reservations but was named in the squad.

Raul brings back life

FROM PAGE 13

Having taken the lead, Roma then dedicated themselves to getting men behind the ball and trying to play on the break, using Mancini as a wing back and pulling Christian Panucci across almost as a third centre half.

As a result Madrid dominated possession, but it was Roma who doubled their lead as Cassano hit a left footed shot from just outside the area that was good enough to beat Casillas and go in off the post.

The Bernabeu crowd reacted with a chorus of boos and whistles and Madrid reacted by continuing to probe at the Roma defence.

Madrid pulled a goal back on 38 minutes, but Raul had a stroke of luck as his toe poke from the edge of the box deflected off Traianos Dellas and looped over the helpless Ivan Pelizzoli.

Pelizzoli then did well to save a David Beckham shot from the edge of the area while at the other end Panucci wasted a great chance to restore Roma's lead heading over

the composition of the selection board.

The ICC will hold a three-day hearing, starting on Wednesday, in Harare into allegations that the team was being selected on racial grounds.

In his forthcoming autobiography, Hussain is highly critical of both the ICC and the ECB over their roles at the World Cup.

In March the International Cricket Council said any country refusing to fulfil their tour obligations for anything other than security reasons or governmental direction would face a minimum \$2 million fine and possible suspension.

The position was further complicated in June when Zimbabwe agreed to postpone their remaining Tests this year after a dispute in which their cricket board sacked 15 of the country's leading white players.

The conflict started on April 2 when Heath Streak was dismissed as national captain after questioning the composition of the selection panel.

"They insisted on saying we had made our decision purely on safety grounds but it wasn't like that," he said. "Safety was a consideration but the decision was made overwhelmingly for moral reasons."

They paid for that on 71 minutes when Raul was first to a low Figo cross to tip the ball past Pelizzoli and give Madrid the lead.

Fullback Carlos wrapped up a memorable win with a trademark thunderbolt from 20 metres out 11 minutes from time.

The game was a triumph for Raul who had been under pressure because of his poor early-season form. But the Spanish international said that victory was more important to him than his own personal performance.

The first phase of the league will conclude today with the match between Reerigraha Juba Samity and Tiger Sporting Club.

from close range following Cassano's mazy run.

Luis Figo levelled from the penalty spot seven minutes into the second half after Panucci was adjudged to have pushed Raul - a decision by Russian referee Valentin Ivanov that was furiously contested by Roma players.

The home side now had their tails up and had Roma pinned deep into their own half although the Italians were making it easy for them by packing their penalty area but allowing Madrid space down the flanks and in front of the box.

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SPORTS REPORTER

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The match ended 2-2.

The match held only for academic interest as both the teams have failed to move into the second round.

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Real are in third place in Group B three points adrift of leaders Dynamo Kiev who beat the Leverkusen 4-2 at home on Tuesday.

The Spaniards now face back-to-back fixtures against the Ukraine side in their next two games.

Bandarban soccer

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CRYPTOQUIP

L N J G C D M R R Z T S

M C R V L Y M V F G T S T Y Z

X T C A G D , O R V R P A Z D R P O T D

L F T J G T M C T L Y S F P N X ?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: FLASHLIGHTS OFTEN SEEM TO BE NOT MUCH MORE THAN CASES FOR HOLDING DEAD BATTERIES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals G

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