

Ray of hope for Rana

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is expected to withdraw the suspension on Mahbub Ehsan Rana when the executive committee meets on October 23.

"Our president (Air Vice-Marshel Fakhru Azam) now sympathises for Rana. We hope his life-ban will be lifted in the next executive meeting," said Shamsul Bari, general secretary of BHF.

The BHF had imposed the ban on the Abahani midfielder following his unruly act in the Club Cup tournament final against archrivals Mohammedan on June 26 in 2003 in presence of State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman and the BHF president himself.

Seeing this, Azam took a hard-line against the talented national midfielder. however, he finally changed his mind after Rana accepted the mistake and apologised.

Bari also informed that the federation would allow him two days to take part in the players' transfer for the upcoming Premier Division League once the ban had been withdrawn.

PCB agrees to central contracts

REUTERS, Lahore

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has agreed the terms and conditions of an annual central contract with its senior Test players, chairman Shaharyar Khan said on Saturday.

"We have reached a common ground on the number of players to be given central contracts and on the financial incentives involved in it," Shaharyar told this news agency.

Under the new arrangements players will receive an annual salary plus match fees and winning bonuses.

At present Pakistan Test cricketers are paid while on tour and on a match-by-match basis for home Tests.



Did U Know?

During World War II, the US Navy hired Reuben Fine, a world champion chess player, to calculate the probability of where enemy submarines might surface!



DD Sports
India vs Australia
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 10:00 am
ESPN
Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am
Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Espanyol
Repeat at 3:30 pm
Real Madrid vs Real Betis
Repeat at 6:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Newcastle United vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 9:00 pm
STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Valencia vs Sevilla
Live at 12:55 am (Monday)



Richie Benaud

(Australian cricket legend)

"It's a great performance by Warney to become the leading wicket-taker but I believe Murali will challenge again."

Nafees gets Test nod

Selectors announce 14-member squad

SPORTS REPORTER



Nafees Iqbal was called up for the opening Test against New Zealand when the national selectors announced squad yesterday.

The 20-year old right-hander, who has already made his one-day debut against England last October, was the only new face in the 14-member squad for the first Test starting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

The nephew of the former national captain Akram Khan was excited at his maiden call up in a Test side.

"It is the dream of any cricketer to

play in a Test match. So, I want to repay the selectors for their faith in me if I'm picked for the final eleven," said the batsman after the three-day match against the tourists ended as a draw.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed while announcing the squad



NAFEES IQBAL

explained that selectors had not made any major changes from the one that toured West Indies.

"We don't believe in chopping and changing the squad. Even though Nafees failed to score in the first innings of the tour match here at

the BKSP, still we believe he has the potential to produce a big innings," Faruque said.

"Our performances in Zimbabwe and West Indies was satisfactory and that's why we are trying to find a good combination from among those players who went on the two tours."

However, the inclusion of Alamgir Kabir was the real surprise as the 24-year old right-arm pacer's three previous Test appearances have been less than impressive. But Faruque defended his selection. "We had no choice but to include him with both pacers Mashrafe and Talha still nursing injuries. Right now Alamgir is performing well as he did with three wickets in the three-day," Faruque told reporters.

Two familiar names -- Opener Hannan Sarker and all-rounder Alok Kapli -- received the thumbs-up from the three-member selection panel.

Following two consecutive first-ball ducks in West Indies, Hannan has been overlooked for the Asia Cup and the ICC Champions Trophy. But the right-hander's gritty 44 showed that he has been working hard.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Kumble at it again

AFP, Madras



AUSTRALIA v INDIA 2004-05

The tourists, trailing the hosts by 141 runs after the first innings, were 150 for four in their second knock at stumps on the third day, a slender lead of nine runs with six wickets in hand.

Australia, leading 1-0 in the four-match series, return on Sunday aiming to set India a sizeable target on a wearing wicket at the Chepauk.

Kumble, who claimed seven wickets in the first innings, removed openers Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer after they had put on 53 for the first wicket.

The leg-spinner ended the day with the vital wicket of captain Adam Gilchrist just before stumps to record his sixth 10-wicket haul in a Test match.

Left-handed Gilchrist, who made 49 after promoting himself to number three, was bowled round his legs.

At stumps, Damien Martyn was on 19 while nightwatchman Jason Gillespie had yet to score.

Earlier, India were all out for 376 in their first innings soon after lunch with Mohammad Kaif scoring a career-best 64 before being afflicted by dehydration and cramps. Parthiv Patel contributed 54.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne, who became Test cricket's leading bowler on Friday, finished with 6-125 to take his career tally to 537 wickets.

It was the leg-spinner's 28th five-wicket haul in 114 Tests and made amends for a wicketless display by premier fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who went for 0-74 from 25 overs.

After Hayden and Langer compiled a half-century stand by tea,



PHOTO: AFP

India batsman Mohammad Kaif jumps to negotiate a delivery on way to scoring a potentially match-saving 64 on the third day of the second Test against Australia in Madras yesterday.

Chess Olympiad Mixed day for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh men's team made a good start in the 36th Chess Olympiad when they won their first round game against San Marino 4-0 at Calvia in Spain on Friday.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib, International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed won their respective boards against Egio, Danilo Volpinari, Nicola Ranzi and Enrico Grassi.

The Bangladesh women's team however lost against Serbia Montenegro 0-3. International Women's Master Rani Hamid, Syeda Shabana Parveen and Zakia Sultana lost their matches.

In the other matches, defending champions Russia beat Andorra 3.5-0.5, China beat Paraguay 3-1 and India beat Uruguay 2.5-1.5.

A total of 124 teams from 121 countries are participating in the men section and 87 teams from 86 countries in the women section.

Jennings acting SA coach



REUTERS, Durban

Former wicketkeeper Ray Jennings was appointed South Africa's caretaker coach until May 2005 on Friday.

Jennings, 50, succeeds Eric Simons, who resigned earlier on Friday in the wake of South Africa's recent poor run of results.

Jennings takes over four weeks before the South African squad leave to play two Tests in India.

"The job will be exciting, but daunting to start off with," Jennings, who played most of his 159 first-class matches in the 1970s and 80s while South Africa was isolated from international cricket because of apartheid, told Reuters.

"The tour to India will be really scary, but that's also where the excitement lies -- to see if I can get the job done. It's one hell of a chal-

lenge first up."

Jennings has never been to India and said he would rely on the experience of the squad to help him out.

"I have enough experience around me, I trust that experience and I will be leaning on it," Jennings said.

The United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa said Jennings had been appointed until May 2005. He will be in charge for the tour to India, the home series against England from December to February, a visit by Zimbabwe in February and March, and the tour to the West Indies from March to May next year.

Jennings' tenure as national coach could end at that point. "The process of finding a full-time replacement (for Simons) will begin in the near future," the UCB said in a statement.

The UCB's media manager, Gerald de Kock, told reporters the UCB would advertise locally and

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

New Zealand's Matthew Sinclair is off balance after being hit by a toe-crushing yorker from Shahadat Hossain on the third and final day of their practice match against BCB XI at BKSP yesterday.

Buchanan expects middle-order defiance

REUTERS/AFP, Madras

Coach John Buchanan said he was hoping his middle-order could dig in to give Australia a chance of saving the second Test after India took command on the third day on Saturday.

The tourists were struggling on 150 for four in their second innings as India pushed for a series-leveling win after taking a 141-run first innings lead.

"We have still got six wickets, importantly we've still got three quality batsmen," Buchanan said.

Damien Martyn was 19 not out, with Darren Lehmann and Michael Clarke, the specialist batsmen to come.

"Our objective is to get at least one decent partnership and a contribution from the rest."

Buchanan blamed Australia's plight on their poor catching on Day Two, when six chances were floored.

"We committed a number of errors yesterday. If we could have made at least 50 per cent less we could have restricted India."

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly, however, warned teammates against taking victory for granted.

"We may have the upper hand, but the match is not over by any means," said Ganguly.

"There are still six wickets to be taken first and we must do that for as

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Speed criticises rebels' lawyer

BBC ONLINE, undated

A senior International Cricket Council (ICC) official has accused a lawyer of trying to "undermine" an inquiry into alleged racism in Zimbabwe.

Chris Venturas sent a letter to the ICC complaining about the way an aborted hearing was conducted in Harare last month.

But chief executive Malcolm Speed said it was a "schoolboy attempt to manipulate public opinion."

The ICC will study a report on the case at a meeting this weekend.

It was produced by South African judge Steven Majiedt and India's solicitor general Goolam Vahanvati after studying written submissions.

Their attempt to hear evidence from witnesses came to nothing after they were unable to resolve an argument about procedures.

Venturas, who represents a group of white former Test players, had argued the presence of ZCU administrators Ozias Bvute and Max Ebrahim, and Mashonaland Cricket Association chairman Tavengwa Mkuhlani would intimidate witnesses.

He subsequently sent a letter to Speed about the matter, which was also leaked to The Guardian newspaper.

In his response, Speed said: "I am dismayed that much of your concern now seems to be about allegations, witnesses or evidence that you have failed to disclose."

"Clearly, this material should have been in your written submission to allow both the panel and the Zimbabwe Cricket Union to understand the nature of the allegations and what evidence there was to support them."

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Black Caps bat it out

3-dayer ends in a draw



SPORTS REPORTER

The three-day tour match at the BKSP ground in Savar ended in a predictable draw yesterday but not before dashing New Zealand batsman Nathan Astle cracked a superb century.

Skipper Stephen Fleming preferred to give the Kiwis batting practice against the BCB XI ahead of Tuesday's first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Batting at number three, Astle put behind his first-innings' failure to slam 113 off just 157 balls. Before 'retiring' the right-hander hammered 17 fours and one six off the bowling of paceman Anwar Hossain before the tourists eventually declared their second innings at 351-4.

Opener Matthew Sinclair also returned to form hitting 71 and was involved in 174-run stand for the second wicket after the New Zealanders lost Mark Richardson trapped lbw off Shahadat Hossain's first ball of the final day's play.

Sinclair's knock, however, had to be cut short after being hit by a Shahadat toe-crusher. It featured seven fours and a six.

The other notable scorers for the Black Caps were all-rounder Jacob Oram's 47 and James Franklin with a 67-ball 62. First-innings centurion Fleming did not bat.

Earlier, the home side added just eight runs to their overnight score of 200-7.

Fleming's decision to opt for more batting than enforce a result, meant BCB XI had to survive an hour in the middle.

And despite losing Hannan Sarker caught behind off Franklin for 6, Test call-up Nafees Iqbal (14) and Mohammad Ashraful (4) ensured there no further hiccups.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day practice match between Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI and New Zealand at BKSP yesterday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 344 for 6 in 81 overs dec (Fleming 129, Marshall 51, McCullum 52; Alamgir 3-72, Shahadat 2-59).

BCB XI: First innings (overnight 200 for 7)

Hannan c McCullum b Wiseman	44
Nafees c Sinclair b Oram	0
Aftab c McCullum b Butler	14
Alok c & b Vettori	17
Ashraful st McCullum b Vettori	44
Shamsur c McCullum b Butler	37
Dhiman c Astle b Wiseman	1
Nadif c McCullum b Oram	13
Talha c and b Franklin	9
Munir c Sinclair b Franklin	0
Alamgir not out	0
Extras: (b-8, nb-18, w-3)	29
Total: (All out in 87.1 overs)	208
Fall of wks: 1-24, 2-76, 3-78, 4-110, 5-167, 6-171, 7-191, 8-205, 9-208, 10-208.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Butler	13	1	23	2
Franklin	12.1	2	37	2
Oram	11	7	16	2
Vettori	24	3	57	2
Wiseman	21	4	56	2
Styris	4	3	5	0
Astle	1	0	1	0
Sinclair	1	1	0	0

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings Richardson lbw b Shahadat 0

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Lanka put up good total



REUTERS/AFP, Lahore

Sri Lanka posted 287 for seven in the final of the three-nation tournament on Saturday -- six short of the total Pakistan knocked off in the final group game against them on Thursday.

Half centuries from skipper Marvan Atapattu (66) and Kumar Sangakkara (68) and a compact knock from Mahela Jayawardene allowed the Asian Champions to take advantage of a flat track after being asked to bat first.

Jayawardene (49 from 54 balls) and Tillakaratne Dilshan (39 from 37 balls) spurred on the innings with a flurry of boundaries and quick

running between the wickets in a fifth wicket stand of 63 off 62 balls.

After Dilshan was bowled by Shahid Afridi in the 46th over and Upul Chandana lost his off stump to Muhammad Sami, Jayawardene teamed up with Chaminda Vaas (18) as 85 runs came in the final 10 overs.

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, who made the team after passing a fitness test before the match, suffered the most in this period and was taken out of the attack after conceding 15 in the first over of his third spell.

Used in short spells, Akhtar who suffered a hamstring strain in the last match, conceded three boundaries in the 43rd over.

Earlier, Atapattu, enjoying a rich vein of form in the tournament, and Sangakkara produced a second

successive century partnership (106 off 118 balls) to propel the innings after their team struggled to 35 for two in 10 overs.

Saman Jayantha was needlessly run out in the first over for a duck without a run on the board and veteran Sanath Jayasuriya (21) got a bad decision when he was declared caught at short cover off a leading inside edge off Navedul Hasan.

Television replays suggested there was no contact between bat and ball.

Atapattu and Sangakkara played some handsome strokes to once again take the initiative from the bowlers as they had done on Thursday.

Atapattu notched up his 50th half century in his innings lasting for 94

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Nazmul Hossain lies on his hospital bed yesterday. The young Bangladesh paceman was admitted to Shamaria Hospital in the city on Friday with persistent high temperature. It is suspected that he has contracted dengue fever.