

BCB constitution

FROM PAGE 13 They submitted that the authorities had purportedly replaced the constitution under which they were elected in 2001.

WI drop Lara

FROM PAGE 13 to the players last August asking to see their contracts with Cable and Wireless, minus the financial details, to ensure that their obligations would not cause any breach of the sponsorship with Digicel.

The mobile telecommunications operator sent Richard Nowell as its sponsorship manager with the team on January's tour of Australia and his scathing observations were leaked to the media.

Nowell criticised the players for not co-operating with the team's paymaster and for being poor ambassadors.

A web of alliances to different sponsors, the West Indies Cricket Board and the West Indies Players Association had split the team into factions, he said, adding that some players were more motivated by enjoyment off the pitch than hard work on it.

The series against South Africa starts on March 31, with Pakistan due to arrive in May.

Mahmud puts Dhaka atop

FROM PAGE 13 Hossain, the first cricketer to score 300 runs this season. Wicketkeeper Shaheen hammered 68 off 112 balls with the help of 13 boundaries.

Nasiruddin struck 21 boundaries during his six-hour vigil. Nabil Samad captured three wickets for 80 runs in 32 overs.

CHITTAGONG-KHULNA CHITTAGONG: First innings (overnight 327-5) Tamim c Salahuddin b Zia 18 Masumuddin b Dollar 24 Nazimuddin c Sadat b Jamal 74 Salahuddin c Asadullah b Dollar 4 Ehsanul c Salahuddin b Dollar 132 Faisal run out 66 Ilias c Salahuddin b Manjurul 8 Rabbi c Asadullah b Salahuddin 59 Moballek b Sadat 46 Arafat run out 0 Alamgir not out 0

Table with 5 columns: Bowlers, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Manjurul, Zia, Dollar, Jamal, Salahuddin, Shaful, Sadat with their respective figures.

KHULNA: First innings Sadat c Gazi Salahuddin b Habib 19 Shaful c Masum b Alamgir 0 Sajjadul lbw b Habib 1 Monirul batting 27 Salahuddin lbw b Alamgir 0

Table with 5 columns: Bowlers, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Alamgir, Habib, Faisal, Ehsanul, Yasin with their respective figures.

RAJSHAHI-DHAKA RAJSHAH: First innings 140 DHAKA: First innings (overnight 107-5) Rashedul c Shamimul b Alamgir 9 Anwar c H'zaman b Sumon 11

Table with 5 columns: Bowlers, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Alamgir, Forhad, Sumon, Saifullah, Anisur with their respective figures.

RAJSHAH: Second innings Zahirul c Anwar b Mahmud 0 Shamimul b Ashrafal 5 Forhad c Anwar b Arafat 11 Naem b Mahmud 22 Rafiqul lbw b Mahmud 2 Anisur lbw b Dipojjal 9 H'zzaman b Dipojjal 67 Nuruzzaman c Rashedul b Mahmud 21 Alamgir not out 22 Saifullah b Dipojjal 0

Table with 5 columns: Bowlers, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Mahmud, Ashrafal, Niaz, Arafat, Dipojjal, Mehrab Jr with their respective figures.

DHAKA: Second innings Rashedul batting 6 Anwar batting 10 Extras: (b-1, nb-1) 2 Total: (No loss in 9 overs) 18

Table with 5 columns: Bowlers, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Mahmud, Ashrafal, Niaz, Sumon, Saifullah with their respective figures.

BARISAL-SYLHET SYLHET: First innings 202 BARISAL: First innings (overnight 0-1) Nasiruddin batting 133 Tariqul b Nabil 0 Imran c Shishir b Hasibul 49 Hannan c Tushar b Nabil 11 Shahin b Nabil 68 Nahidul lbw b Sadiqur 5 Bashir batting 5 Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-1, w-1) 11 Total: (For 5 wks in 94 overs) 282

Table with 5 columns: Bowlers, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Hasibul, Nabil, Rezaul, Tushar, Sadiqur, Ezaj with their respective figures.

RAJSHAH: Second innings Zahirul c Anwar b Mahmud 0 Shamimul b Ashrafal 5 Forhad c Anwar b Arafat 11 Naem b Mahmud 22 Rafiqul lbw b Mahmud 2 Anisur lbw b Dipojjal 9 H'zzaman b Dipojjal 67 Nuruzzaman c Rashedul b Mahmud 21 Alamgir not out 22 Saifullah b Dipojjal 0

Henry not happy

AFP, London

Thierry Henry has told world soccer governing body FIFA to step in and increase the severity of Spain coach Luis Aragones's punishment for racism.

Aragones was fined 2,060 pounds (3,929 dollars, 2,995 euros) by the Spanish FA after he'd tried to inspire striker Jose Antonio Reyes by telling him he was better than "that black *** Henry".

The crude comparison to Reyes's Arsenal team-mate during an October training session ahead of a World Cup game against Belgium was recorded by a television crew.

Arsenal's Spanish goalkeeper Manuel Almunia has insisted Aragones is not a racist but France forward Henry, has been incensed by what he sees as the small size of the fine.

He told Friday's edition of British daily tabloid The Sun: "It's up to FIFA to step in - they are the only ones who can do something. They say they run the game, so now it's up to them to lead by example."

"They should look at this fine and make it a proper one. They must also tell the Spanish FA to get real." Aragones, 66, appeared before the Spanish FA in February and while they found he was in the wrong, they have not deemed his outburst serious enough to warrant a suspension or sacking.

"To fine Aragones 2,000 pounds is absolutely ridiculous," Henry said. "You really have to look at the Spanish authorities and they must take a long look at themselves."

"They obviously don't care about racism. There have been other times when they have fined clubs a few hundred quid for racism."

"It is laughable. They fined him for the sake of it, not because they felt he said something wrong."

Serena suffers painful exit

AFP, Dubai

Serena Williams' unbeaten record in 2005 came to a bizarre and unhappy end when an arm injury caused her to serve at snail's pace for three-quarters of an hour before retiring in the semifinals of the Dubai Open.

The Australian Open champion thus conceded defeat to Jelena Jankovic, the unseeded Serbian by 6-0, 4-3 retired, and there were only a few moments, when Serena took two games in a row to lead 2-1 in the second set, when she looked capable of surviving.

The rest of the time a stunned crowd witnessed the world's hardest hitter attempt to contain and rally from the baseline, produce a cataract of errors and even attempt a few at drop shots in an effort to win points more quickly.

Williams was evidently in discomfort from the start and was soon fighting hard to control her frustration.

Several times she missed the court by yards, once she missed a smash by ten feet, and eventually, in the eighth game, she hammered her racket twice fiercely on the ground and shattered it.

"I don't remember smashing a racket," she said surreally. "I don't know who did that. That wasn't me who did that," she added, though it was just as true that it wasn't the real Serena Williams playing either.

The former winner of all four Grand Slam titles apparently came into the tournament with a shoulder problem, which worsened as the week went on, and gradually affected the rest of the arm.

India-Pakistan

FROM PAGE 13

TWI will produce the coverage, screened domestically on state-run Doordarshan.

SET also televised last year's series against Australia after a similar break in the court proceedings over rights.

The first of three Tests begins in Mohali on Tuesday.

Records roll

FROM PAGE 13

Stuart Matsikenyeri reaching double figures when he scored 12. Makhaya Ntini and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher also joined in the act by reaching milestones.

Ntini became only the third South African to capture 200 Test wickets, after Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, when he dismissed Dion Ebrahim for three.

Boucher claimed his 300th Test dismissal when he caught Brendan Taylor off the bowling of Ntini for two. He followed Australia's Rodney Marsh and Ian Healy into the record books.

With Zimbabwe left shell-shocked after their dismal batting display, South Africa added to their misery by scoring runs with ease.

South African openers Graeme Smith and AB de Villiers guided the hosts past Zimbabwe's total in 11.2 overs.

At the close, South Africa broke a 109-year-old record when they moved into a 286-run lead after the first day. The lead broke the previous mark of 233 set by England against Australia in 1896.

The hosts put on 217 for the first wicket off 221 balls before Smith holed out to mid-wicket off leg-spinner Cremer for 121. He scored his runs off 107 balls with 17 fours and two sixes.

Former captain Heath Streak, playing a Test for the first time in a year after patching up his differences with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU), made only nine in his international comeback.

Zim humbled in two days

FROM PAGE 13

example set by Ebrahim and Masakadza. Brendan Taylor went down the wicket to Boyle and hit him for four over mid-off only to be caught at mid-off when he tried to repeat the shot off the next ball, while Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu fell to a good diving catch by substitute fielder Waylan September at mid-wicket.

Zimbabwe's fate was effectively sealed when two wickets fell immediately before tea.

Elton Chigumbura went down the wicket to the last ball of an over from Boje but was beaten in the flight and bowled. Ebrahim's fine innings was ended off the next ball, delivered by Chir Langeveldt.

Ebrahim padded up to a ball which cut back at pace and he was given out leg before wicket by West Indian umpire Billy Doctrove, although replays showed the ball would have gone well over the top of the stumps.

It was an unfortunate end for Ebrahim, 25, who made his tenth Test half-century without going on to a hundred. Ebrahim batted for 203 minutes, faced 153 balls and hit 10 fours.

Bignaut slammed six sixes, all off Boje, as he raced to 61 off 58 balls before being last man out when he was stumped by Boucher off Boje.

South Africa's declaration gave them the opportunity to become the 18th team to win a Test match in two days, a feat more frequent in the early days of Test cricket when South Africa were themselves victims on seven occasions.

Final scorecard on the second day of the first Test between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Newlands on Saturday: ZIMBABWE: Firstinnings 54 SOUTH AFRICA: Firstinnings (overnight 340-3) Smith c Masakadza b Cremer 121 De Villiers c Bignaut b Cremer 98 Rudolph not out 49 Kallis c Bignaut b Cremer 54 Gibbs not out 8 Extras: (lb-1, nb-8, w-1) 10 Total: (For 3 wks in 50 overs, decl) 340

Fall of wickets: 1-217, 2-234, 3-328 Did not bat: Prince, Boucher, Pollock, Boje, Ntini, Langeveldt

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Cremer, Bignaut, Pollock, Mpofo with their respective figures.

Result: South Africa won by an innings and 21 runs.

Chigumbura 8 0 53 0 Cremer 9 0 86 3 Matsikenyeri 1 0 6 0 Taylor 1 0 7 0

ZIMBABWE: Secondinnings Matsikenyeri c Rudolph b Ntini 3 Rogers c Boucher b Ntini 28 Ebrahim lbw b Langeveldt 72 Masakadza c Gibbs b Boje 46 Taylor c Langeveldt b Boje 9 Tabu c sub (September) b Langeveldt 9 Chigumbura b Boje 0 Streak c Gibbs b Kallis 12 Bignaut st Boucher b Boje 61 Cremer run out (Pollock) 2 Mpofo not out 0 Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-2, w-2) 13 Total: (All out in 75.2 overs) 265

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Pollock, Ntini, Langeveldt, Kallis, Boje, Rudolph with their respective figures.

Result: South Africa won by an innings and 21 runs.

Chigumbura 8 0 53 0 Cremer 9 0 86 3 Matsikenyeri 1 0 6 0 Taylor 1 0 7 0

Beckham going nowhere

Football

AFP, Madrid

England captain David Beckham has ruled out a return to the English Premiership by saying he wants to end his career at Real Madrid.

"Real Madrid is one of the best teams of the world and I want to offer them my football at the best level as long as I can. I want to retire here," the 29-year-old told the Real website.

Beckham joined the nine-times European champions from Manchester United for 35 million euros in 2003 and his current deal runs to 2007.

He made a promising start but he lost form as the club hit a poor patch which saw them finish last season empty-handed.

But he insists that under new Brazilian coach Wanderley Luxemburgo, brought in at the beginning of the year, the club are

confident they can catch league leaders Barcelona.

"I'm playing much better, I'm fighting and working hard. That's something I have always tried, to work hard in every game and be honest on the pitch," he said.

He said Luxemburgo has rekindled optimism at the club. "Now we have a manager who has come here knowing what he wants and how to get it. Players respect him."

"What we need is to be worked hard and to have confidence. "It doesn't matter who you are, but if someone comes in and gives you confidence, then it sets you up."

"He has helped me because I realise if I don't work hard I will not be in the team." And he admits he might not be at his best in central midfield where he was played before Luxemburgo arrived.

"He's moved me slightly to the right and the whole formation of the team is better than it has been for a while."

"I have always said that I like playing in the midfield but maybe it's not my best position."

And, after being under the spotlight for alleged affairs, he said he was a lot happier in Madrid where his wife Victoria gave birth to their third boy last month.

"My wife and my family are happy. We want to bring up our children in Spain. Brooklyn is very happy in his school, he has lots of friends. And he learns something new in Spanish everyday, he's very happy," he said.

And he has put some order into his promotional activities. "At the beginning of last year I had eleven sponsors, now I only have four."

But he insists his commercial work never hurt his football. "My game isn't affected by my sponsors or my commercial activities. They never had and they never will."

Fergie begs to differ

Football

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has warned Chelsea the title race is far from finished.

The Londoners are six points ahead of United with 10 weeks of the season left and ahead of their trip to struggling Norwich on Saturday, Chelsea striker Didier Drogba said: "We have won the title. This season we are the best."

But United, before Chelsea kick-off on Saturday, can close the gap to three points if they win away at Crystal Palace, still battling for Premiership survival.

And Ferguson said Friday that while last weekend's League Cup final win over Liverpool was clearly good for Chelsea's confidence, Jose Mourinho's side still had work to do before bringing what would be a first top-flight title in 50 years to Stamford Bridge.

"Some Chelsea players have been talking about how they have won the league. That's a bit premature," said Ferguson.

"Chelsea may look upon these games as easy but we have been there and I can tell them, no matter who they are playing, they are not. "It's a bit bullish with 10 games to go because football can be a cruel game. I don't know whether it is all confidence or bravado, or if they are just trying to convince themselves - but I do know it could backfire on them."

"They are talking about an easy three points at Norwich, which it may be, but I would never say that when you are playing against teams who are fighting against relegation and trying to survive."

"The one thing you do expect when you are playing these teams is that they are going to fight. "We are approaching our game against Crystal Palace believing it will be tough. No game is easy at this time of year."

"Look at Crystal Palace. They are four points in front of Southampton, which is only a little cushion but gives them something worth fighting for. "People may say it won't make

much difference if we pull the gap back to three points but the key thing is that it could and it wouldn't do our confidence any harm either."

Meanwhile Ferguson believes Old Trafford rising stars Wayne Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo have it in them to become the best players in the world.

England striker Rooney, 19, and Portugal winger Ronaldo, 20, have both made major contributions to United's run of 14 wins in 16 games.

Ferguson said he believed his dynamic duo could join Ronaldinho, the man he missed out on, as the best footballers around.

"We are very fortunate to have these two young players. They are both in fantastic form at the moment and along with Ronaldinho, I think they will become the best players in the world in a couple of years' time."

Rooney has scored 15 goals, including two in last weekend's win over Portsmouth, but Ferguson has been equally impressed by Ronaldo, adding the tricky wide player didn't get the protection he deserved.

Chelsea want \$15m from Mutu

AFP, London

Chelsea are seeking 8 million pounds (15.4 million dollars) in compensation from former striker Adrian Mutu, the London Evening Standard reported here Friday.

The 26-year-old Romania forward, now at Italian giants Juventus, was sacked by the English Premiership leaders in October after testing positive for cocaine.

That led to a seven-month ban but Chelsea say Mutu had repudiated his contract through persistent misconduct.

The London club have now filed a claim which will be heard by the FA Premier League (FAPL) appeal committee at the end of March.

Chelsea are seeking compensation from Mutu based on his transfer value and sporting sanctions against the player under article 42 of FIFA's Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.

The FAPL will determine whether Chelsea have a case and hand the matter on to world soccer's governing body FIFA to determine the level of compensation and any possible sanctions.

Chelsea paid Italy's Parma 15.8 million pounds for Mutu in 2003 and hope to recoup at least half of that sum, while the FIFA Resolution Chamber could also extend his seven-month ban.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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PHOTO: STAR Action from yesterday's Federation Cup football tournament clash between Bangladesh Army and Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur

Aussies keep it clean

FROM PAGE 13

New Zealand never looked capable of challenging Australia's total, especially with allrounder Chris Cairns unable to bowl or bat after straining his hamstring in the fourth over of the match.

Australian speedster Brett Lee made it even tougher when he twice broke the magical 100-mile an hour barrier in the first over to Cumming, sending down two deliveries clocked at 160 kilometres an hour and 161kmh.

He ended with two for 34 off 10 overs. Fleming, who won the toss and stuck to New Zealand's historic game plan of chasing a target, fended off several Lee thunderbolts early on before reaching 35 when he was nicked out by Michael Kasprovicz.

Craig McMillan offered the most resistance with 63 off 69 balls, including seven fours and a six, before being caught on the long on boundary off Andrew Symonds.

The first Test starts in Christchurch on Thursday.

SCORECARD Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between New Zealand and Australia on Saturday: AUSTRALIA Gilchrist c Cumming b Canning 91 Katich c McCullum b Hamilton 5 Ponting not out 141 Martyn c Fleming b Mills 40 Symonds run out (Vettori b McMillan) 17 Clarke c Cumming b McMillan 43

Hussey not out 0 Extras: (lb-7, w-2, nb-1) 10 Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs) 347 Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-129, 3-204, 4-241, 5-335 Did not bat: Hogg, Lee, Kasprovicz, McGrath

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Mills, Hamilton, Canning, Vettori, McMillan, Cumming with their respective figures.

NEW ZEALAND Cumming lbw b Lee 13 Fleming c Gilchrist b Kasprovicz 35 Marshall run out (Clarke) 28 Marshall b Kasprovicz 0 McMillan c Hogg b Symonds 63 McCullum c McGrath b Symonds 36 Canning b Kasprovicz 16 Vettori not out 16 Mills c Kasprovicz b McGrath 10 Hamilton not out 1 Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-3, nb-2) 7 Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs) 225

Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-60, 3-60, 4-103, 5-167, 6-196, 7-199, 8-223 Did not bat: Cairns

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Lee, McGrath, Kasprovicz, Hogg, Clarke, Symonds with their respective figures.

Result: Australia won by 122 runs to win the 5-ODI series 5-0. Man-of-the-match: Ricky Ponting.