

BCB picks 27 for A team

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced two teams to pick a final Bangladesh A team which will tour England next July.

Out-of-favour national all-rounder Alok Kapali has been named captain for the Red team while Tushar Imran, who has been selected for the Tigers' triangular one-day tournament after the Tests in England, will lead the Green team in the first limited-overs and three-day match. All-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman will then replace Imran for the second round games.

The four-member selection panel led by Faruque Ahmed named 27 for the selection.

The selected players are Golam Rahman, Nasiruddin Faruque, Alok Kapali, Farhad Reza, Manzarul Islam, Hasanuzzaman, Shamsur Rahman, Imran Ahmed, Hasanuzzaman Rosel, Dhiman Ghosh, Alamgir Kabir, Gazi Alamgir, Mosharrif Hossain, Shahin Hossain (wicketkeeper), Dollar Mahmud, Naem Islam, Tushar Imran, Sakib

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Windies 162/5

STAR SPORT MONITOR

West Indies reached 162 for 5 in 39 overs after they were sent in by South Africa in the fourth one-day international in Port of Spain yesterday.

Captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul was batting on 47 while Dwayne Smith (1) just joined him after Dwayne Bravo's dismissal for a breezy 28.

Earlier, Ramnaresh Sarwan (48) and Brian Lara, with a patient 22 off 45, had added 45 runs for the third-wicket after both openers Chris Gayle (3) and Xavier Marshall (3) were sent back with 16 runs on the board.

South Africa paceman Makhaya Ntini did most of the damage with 3 for 24 in his first 7-over spell.



World number one Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after winning the match point against Russia's Nikolay Davydenko in the semi-final of the ATP Hamburg Masters tennis tournament on Saturday.

Silver screen calling Shoab

BBC ONLINE, undated

A leading Bollywood producer has offered Pakistan's top cricket star Shoab Akhtar a lead role in his next film, *Gangster*.

The producer, Mahesh Bhatt, who has worked with Pakistani actors before, is meeting Akhtar in Karachi next week to persuade him to accept the role.

According to him, Akhtar is amused and surprised by the offer, but is willing to read the script.

Former Pakistani cricketer Mohsin Khan acted in a Bhatt film in 1987.

Bhatt is confident Shoab Akhtar, arguably the world's fastest bowler, will accept the offer.

"Once he hears the story he cannot refuse it," he says.

The proposed film is about an underworld mafia boss who is betrayed by the girl he loves. Bhatt and his director, Anurag Bose, believe the flamboyant cricketer has a lot of raw emotion, animal magnetism and "the vulnerability of a child" - qualities which they believe are needed to essay the gangster's role.

Shoab Akhtar, who has been recently left out of the Pakistani national team on a tour of West Indies, has appeared in a commercial currently being shown on Indian television.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Federer as usual

Tennis

AFP, Hamburg

Top seed Roger Federer shrugged off a sleepy start to reach the final of the Hamburg Masters with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Russian Nikolay Davydenko on Saturday.

The defending champion lost the first two games and saved break points to avoid going 3-0 down at the Rothenbaum before rousing himself to outplay the world number 20 with a beguiling mix of fierce groundstrokes and deft drop shots.

In the final Federer will play Richard Gasquet, the French teenager who upset him in the Monte Carlo Masters quarterfinals last month. Gasquet thrashed Belgian Christophe Rochus 6-1, 6-1 to reach his second ATP Tour final.

World number one Federer also made a poor start in his quarter-final win over Guillermo Coria on Friday and he admitted it was habit he needed to break with the French Open, the sole grand slam he has yet to win, only nine days away.

"Such a start is always a handicap, it's not good," he told reporters. "I almost gave him two breaks and that's dangerous. My serve and my forehand let me down and I need to think about why that was the case."

The Swiss, who has now won 40 of his 42 matches this year, added: "I

was able to turn it around, but I didn't feel right in the beginning. I can't explain. He took advantage of that, then I started to use my all-round game to destabilise him."

The Russian double-faulted to lose serve early in the second set and Federer took full advantage, confirming victory with a crunching forehand winner after 71 minutes on centre court.

The 23-year-old has yet to drop a set in Hamburg, a tournament he won in 2002 and 2004. He is attempting to win his sixth ATP Tour title of the season on Sunday.

Like Rochus, Gasquet had to qualify for the event but that was where the similarity ended.

The 18-year-old, who lost to Spaniard Rafael Nadal in the Monte Carlo semi-finals after his win over Federer, clubbed his lightweight Belgian opponent into submission in a 56-minute exhibition of power tennis.

Federer had three match points before losing to the teenager 6-7, 6-2, 7-6 in Monte Carlo and said he was looking forward to their rematch.

"It's nice to have a second chance to get him," Federer said. "He's a very all-round player, similar to me. He can hit winners on both sides."

"But it will be a best-of-five match which will be better for me. I'm more used to that than him."

Second 3-dayer from today

Bashar expects another good showing

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Fresh from a satisfying performance in the tour opener against British Universities, Bangladesh think-tank has decided to give rest to four frontline players for their second three-day game against English county Sussex.

The Tigers, who dominated the drawn match at Fenner's last week, will be without centurion Javed Omar, wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud, country's leading wicket-taker Mohammad Rafique and experienced paceman Tapash Baisya for this match starting at Hove today.

With Javed, rested after his impressive 167 in the first innings against British Universities, young left-hander Shahriar Nafees is likely to open the innings with Nafees Iqbal. Aftab Ahmed, who missed the

first game due to fever, will be back at number three position.

The game will also give 17-year-old stumper Mushfiqur Rahim his maiden taste of the big league after he was picked in the squad from nowhere.

Rafique may be missing in action, but Sussex, who stunned Warwickshire on Friday, will face plenty of left-arm spin from Enamul Haque. Young right-arm paceman Talha Jubair will be the other inclusion in the side in place of Tapash.

"We have decided to rest some key players to pave the way for others to get accustomed to the English conditions," Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar told The Daily Star Sport over telephone yesterday.

But Bashar, whose side reached Brighton from London on Friday, said that the weather was not at all inspiring in the beautiful seaside city.

"We are feeling the first bite of

cold here. We could not train outdoors because of rain but managed to practice indoors for two hours in the morning," said Bashar.

But the Bangladesh captain insisted that his team was ready to make another big impression against a tougher side after a good first game.

"Our team is in good shape after the first match and we are determined to make another impression on the tour," he said.

Bangladesh play their final three-day match against Northamptonshire (May 20-22) before the first Test starts at Lord's on the 26th.

"It would have been better if we could practice outdoors. But the good news is that the forecast has been for a sunny day tomorrow," he informed.

Bashar said that he was excited to bat against former Pakistani leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who bowled Sussex to victory on Friday

with a match haul of eight wickets.

But Sussex have already put a damper of that prospect. It was learnt from an agency report that Sussex have decided to rest the champion spinner and are likely to field their second string side.

However, Matt Prior, who is looking to force himself into the minds of the England selectors, will lead the English county.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH: Habibul Bashar (captain), Nafees Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Mohammed Ashraf, Aftab Ahmed, Rajin Saleh, Mushfiqur Rahim, Enamul Haque, Mashrafe Bin Mortuza, Talha Jubair and Shahadat Hossain Rajib.

SUSSEX (from): R Montgomerie, T Ambrose (Wkt), M Yardy, M Prior (captain), C Hopkinson, S Heather, J Van der Wath, L Wright, M Davis, C Nash, J Lewry, N Turk.

Afro-Asian cricket body formed

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Asian Cricket Council and African Cricket Association have joined hands to form Afro-Asian Cricket Cooperation (AACC) on Friday with Syed Ashraf Huq of Bangladesh as its convener to promote the game in the two continents.

Huq, who is also ACC chief executive, said ACC chief Jagmohan Dalmyia has been elected AACC chairman and Africal Cricket Association President Peter Chingoka is its vice chairman.

The first programme of the AACC would be to hold at least one one-day international series between Asia Eleven and Africa Eleven every

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

The conspiracy theory

Cricket

AFP, Nairobi

The Kenyan cricket match-fixing scandal, which led to a five-year suspension of former captain Maurice Odumbe and further investigations on other players, may have jeopardized Sandeep Patil's candidacy as the next India coach, reports said.

The 48-year-old former Indian Test batsman was coach of the Kenya cricket team twice, first taking over in 1996 to 1997 and later return after the 1999 World Cup in England.

He left in controversial circumstances after the final of the 1997 ICC Trophy tournament in Malaysia but it was in his second time in charge that he scored much suc-

cess with Kenya, leading the East Africa to their first-ever semi-finals of the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.



SANDEEP PATIL

It was also during the same period that the allegations of match-fixing tainted the sport and Odumbe was subject of an inquiry investigation by the International Cricket Council (ICC) Anti-Corruption and Safety Unit.

The 2003 probe inquiry which found the player guilty of taking bribes from an Indian bookmaker also implicated other players who were later questioned by two investigators from the London-based unit.

Early this year, Kenyan cricket officials said the investigators were also keen to interview Patil in connection to a four-nation tournament held in Nairobi in 1999.

Indian media said the choice of Patil as one of the four candidates to replace John Wright as team coach "may not be welcomed by the ICC's Corruption Unit."

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



Did U Know?

Basketball became an official Olympic event at the Summer Games in Berlin, Germany in 1936.



TALK TURKEY



Steve Waugh (Australia cricket legend)

"I do not think action against Sourav is harsh, but the teammates also let him down by not making him alert on the slow over rate."

On Sourav Ganguly's six-ODI ban.

Smith banned for four ODIs

Cricket

REUTERS, London

South Africa captain Graeme Smith has been banned for four one-day internationals for his team's slow over-rate during Wednesday's one-run win in the third match against West Indies in Barbados.

Match referee Jeff Crowe found Smith in breach of Clause C1 for conduct contrary to the spirit of the game and he was penalised following a hearing in Trinidad, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said in a statement on Friday. The ICC said that because it was the player's second breach of this provision inside a year, the penalty was automatically upgraded from level two to level three.

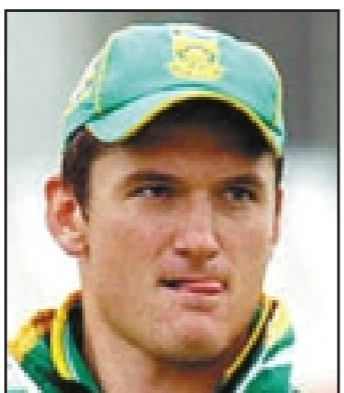
"Graeme has been warned at a similar hearing last September when in breach and has been advised on numerous occasions that his over-rates are too slow, including being fined after the second ODI of this series," Crowe said.

Smith, as skipper, was also fined 30 percent of his match fee for the slow over-rates in Barbados. His team mates were fined 15 percent of their fees.

The 24-year-old Smith has 24 hours to appeal against the ICC's decision. Subject to appeal, the ban

will apply with immediate effect. Smith's previous breach was also against West Indies, in the ICC Champions Trophy in England last September.

South Africa have an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Smith may be missing from action, but his side will be going all out to complete an unprecedented



GRAEME SMITH

clean sweep of a one-day international series against West Indies in the Caribbean when the last two matches of their best-of-five series are played on Saturday and Sunday.

"We have won the series, but it is a bit disappointing that we had to receive an over rate fine," Smith told reporters on the eve of the Queen's

Park Oval double header. "We will have to accept it. That's the rule. I do not know if I completely agree with a four-match ban, and so I will just have to live with it."

"I do not think I will appeal it though. That may be dangerous. I think it may be better for me to serve out the ban and get it over and done with, so I will take it on the chin and leave it to the International Cricket Council to review their rules and take it from there."

Former captain Shaun Pollock has been handed the responsibility of leading the side in the two matches, and Smith believes the intensity will still be there for the South Africans to play West Indies hard.

"We want to win all the games, but what may hamper us is one or two injuries that we have picked up," he said.

"It offers some of the other guys an opportunity to come into the side and perform well, and this often bodes well. Someone who has not had opportunity to play yet may come and perform well, so everyone is motivated to play in Trinidad."

He added: "We can't take West Indies granted. In ODI cricket, it takes one good performance from an individual to win a game, so we cannot take them for granted."

"We are looking to improve on our performance in Barbados

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

West Indies vs South Africa
Fifth ODI
Live at 7:30 pm

ESPN

Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Sevilla
Same Day Delay at 3:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Southampton
Live at 7:55 pm

Primera Liga

Espanyol vs Valencia
Same Day Delay at 1:30 am
(Monday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Fulham vs Norwich City
Live at 7:55 pm
Brazilian Football