

## Board wakes up after Lanka debacle

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sought an open discussion with the members of the national team after a forgettable performance in Sri Lanka.

The first of its kind meeting involving the players and board officials will take place at the BCB's management office in Gulshan in this evening.

"We have talked to the selectors and team management separately. But we also want the opinion of the individual players so that we can assess what went wrong in Sri Lanka," BCB general secretary Mahbubul Anam told reporters yesterday.

Bangladesh lost both the one-day and Test series badly against the Lankans earlier this month prompting widespread criticism among cricket fans. The board has also considered the Sri Lanka debacle as a wakeup call for the country's cricket.

Bangladesh captain Habibul

Bashar welcomed the initiative and said that he was optimistic of a productive outcome from the discussions.

"It is nice that the board has decided to meet all the team members. I think it will help both sides to understand the problems behind the failure," said the 33-year-old.

Mahbub however considered the meeting as an opportunity to weigh options before preparing the new salary package for the national cricketers.

"A lot of issues will be discussed in the meeting but there will definitely be an effort from the board to give the message to the cricketers that it is 'perform or bust'.

"We have also made it very clear that it is mandatory for each player to appear in the National League to ensure a senior call up," said Mahbub, who head the committee for cricket operations.

But Mahbub ruled out claims from aggrieved cricket fans that the salary of the players should be cut following their poor show in Sri Lanka.

"There is no way of reducing the salary of the players. We are even planning to bring some positive changes to the payroll by which the players will be benefited."

Mahbub also indicated that under the new payroll there would be five grades and some senior players might be promoted to 'A' plus besides A, B, C and rookies.

It was learnt that the board is set to increase the basic salary of each grades by fifteen per cent.

With the one-year contract expiring last Friday, Mahbub said that he would finalise a fresh payroll for both cricketers and the selectors within two weeks.

"We will discuss the issue with the players today and I hope that everything will be ready for the approval soon," said Mahbub.

"I think the selectors have done a good job for the last two years and they deserve a fresh deal," he said.

Former national captain Faruque Ahmed has been leading the selection panel since July 2003.



Laboni Akhter Jui of Bangladesh Ansar powers her way to set a national record in the women's 200 metres individual medley at Keya Cosmetics 21st National Swimming Championships on Saturday.

## Laboni sets pool afire

SPORTS REPORTER

Laboni Akhter Jui hogged the spotlight on the opening day of the Keya Cosmetics 21st National Swimming Competition creating two national records at the Mirpur National Complex yesterday.

The Ansar swimmer took 2 minutes 48.99 seconds to set a new record in the women's 200 metres individual medley bettering the previous timing of 2 min 49.69 secs.

Star swimmer Dolly Akhter of BJMC clocked 2 mins 49.70 secs and Lovely Khatun of Ansar timed 2 mins 55.39 secs to finish second and third respectively.

In the women's 200m butterfly, Laboni grabbed first place with her second mark (2 min 58.98 secs). She smashed the old record 3 mins 04.36 seconds.

A total of six events were held on the opening day where another new national record was set in the women's event by Sabura Khatun in the women's 400 m freestyle. However, none of the records will count according to international standard as they measured manually.

Sabura of BJMC secured first place clocking 5 mins 16.72 seconds to break the previous record of 5 mins 25.57 seconds.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Bangladesh to play in CWC for the Deaf

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi will take part in the Cricket World Cup for the Deaf to be held in India from November 5.

A 20-member team is training under the supervision of coach Mizanur Rahman at the Mirpur indoor facilities.

Australia, England, India, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka are the other countries in the championship to be held at four venues.

Bangladesh will leave on October 25.

## Banglacad for Munir

SPORTS REPORTER

National paceman Anwar Hossain Munir finally got a team to play in the forthcoming Corporate Cricket League when he signed for newcomers Banglacad yesterday.

After his confirmation all 20 national pool players secured teams for the domestic curtain-raiser, which is scheduled to start on October 5.

## "I still feel pain," says Tendulkar

PTI, Mumbai

Sachin Tendulkar said Saturday he was still feeling a bit of pain in his elbow but had been given a green signal by his doctors to play in the Challenger Series after being out of action for four months.

"It still pains a little (the elbow), but my doctors have declared me fit to play. I enjoy playing in the Challenger Trophy. It gives a perfect platform for me to test my match fitness," he said after a net session at the MIG Club in suburban Bandra which is close to his residence.

Tendulkar had undergone a surgery for his tennis elbow problem in London at the end of May and has not played any competitive cricket since then though he has indulged in light practice sessions. Today he batted in the nets too.

The ace batsman was given the go-ahead to play Friday and was named in the India Seniors squad to be led by Sourav Ganguly by the national selectors in Delhi who chose the three teams to play in the Challenger series.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Indian women blank Pakistan Clinch ODI series

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

India routed Pakistan by eight wickets in the third one-day match here on Saturday, taking the first-ever women's cricket series between the arch-rivals 3-0, with one match still to be played.

India's under-21 team successfully chased a 158-run target for the loss of only two wickets after they bundled their opponents out for 157 in 38.5 overs.

The fourth and final match will be played here on Sunday.

Pakistan, who went down by 33 and 30 runs respectively in the first two matches earlier in the week, once again failed to put up a big total with only captain Shamsa Hashmi hitting 51 and Taskeen Qadir making 44.

## Cruciani upset with his stomach

SPORTS REPORTER

It is clear the government drive against adulterated food has im-proved the health of the masses. But new Bangladesh football coach Diego Andres Cruciani is not one of them.

The Argentine is still struggling to recover from his bad stomach as well as adjusting to the local weather condition.

The health of Cruciani, who arrived in the capital in last August, is now a major concern for the Bangladesh Football Federation officials.

"We are really worried about his health. He is constantly complaining having stomach upsets," said Syed Hasan Kanan, member secretary of the BFF team management committee.

The first Latin American coach of the country is now busy preparing the team for the four-nation tournament in Myanmar as build up for the Asia Cup pre-qualifiers against Pakistan in November.

The Myanmar meet also featuring India and China starts on October 25.

## Army-Dhaka hockey finale

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army and Dhaka reached the final of the ABS Group National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka eliminated last year's runners-up Faridpur 2-1 while defending champions Bangladesh Army were declared winners against Rajshahi in the second semifinal.

In the first semi, Zahid Bin Talib Shuvo scored both goals for Dhaka while Prashanto Kumar Sarkar netted for Faridpur.

Rajshahi refused to play after 22 minutes protesting a decision by the umpire. Subsequently, the official blew the whistle in favour of Army as per bylaws.

## HK SIXES Moin to lead Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Moin Khan will lead Pakistan in next month's Super Sixes tournament in Hong Kong, Pakistan Cricket Board announced Friday.

The 34-year-old wicketkeeper batsman, who played the last of his 69 Tests for Pakistan last year, will lead a squad of seven players which includes only two newcomers to international cricket.

Hong Kong Sixes Tournament 2005 is being played at Kowloon Cricket Club October 22-23 with teams from seven Test nations and hosts Hong Kong featuring.

The other members of the Pakistan team are -- Yasir Arafat, Naveed Latif, Mohammad Hafeez, Tahir Khan, Kamran Hussain and Riaz Afridi.

"It's a great honour for me because I have represented Pakistan in the Super Sixes before and have won the title," said Khan, who still harbours hope of an international comeback.

Khan praised cricket interest and facilities in Hong Kong.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

## Dravid's reality-check for England

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

England still have more to do to displace Australia as world cricket's top nation, Indian batsman Rahul Dravid said here Saturday.

Dravid, here to play for the World XI against Australia in three one-dayers and a Test match this month, said England had to prove themselves against other teams before they could claim to be number one.

Euphoria greeted England's 2-1 Ashes series win over Australia last month, raising hopes that they could go

on to dominate world cricket.

"To displace Australia you've got to really play well and play well consistently all over the world, which is what Australia have done and have rightly earned the spot to be number one," Dravid told reporters Saturday.

Dravid said England had the potential to dethrone Australia at the top of the ICC rankings if they continued with their Ashes form.

"They have the squad, they've got a really good squad at the moment and they've got some good young players," he said.

"It will be interesting to see how they go in the (northern) winter in the sub-continent. That will be a good test

for them.

"They've done well there -- last time they beat Pakistan," he said. "England have shown this summer that they have got the personnel."

Ashes hero Andrew Flintoff, also here to play for the world XI, said Australia remained the best cricket team in the world.

"Playing against the best side in the world has tested myself as well so I'm looking forward to having three more one-day internationals and another Test match against them -- and hopefully a repeat performance," Flintoff said.

He said the World squad had bonded well after only a day together.

"It's been good, a good atmosphere at training and it feels like we've been together slightly longer than what we have been," Flintoff said.

Flintoff was struck while batting in the nets Saturday against Pakistan's speedster Shoaib Akhtar.

"I got hit on the arm but it's fine. It happens. I've seen the physio and I've got a patch on the arm," Flintoff said.

Dravid said the Super Series would give the world team "an opportunity to reinforce what England have done in the summer."

"But having said that I think Australia will be very keen to come back.

"A lot of the boys in that team are not used to losing so we will be sure they'll come back very hard and really want to prove a point," he said.

Flintoff said he expected the world team to place a strong emphasis on tactics, an approach which contributed to Australia's Test series downfall.

"It's not just myself and Kevin (Pietersen) who have played against Australia," Flintoff said.

"Everyone else has as well and each one's got their own experiences of what they've done and how they've done against them.

"I'll be voicing what I think, probably along with the other lads."

Flintoff said England had carefully worked out a tactical programme to defeat Australia in the Ashes series.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka players rejoice after defeating Faridpur in the semifinals of the ABS Group National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium on Saturday.

## EAP CRICKET CUP Japan clinch maiden title

AFP, Sydney

Japan claimed their first ICC cricket title with a six-run victory over the Cook Islands in the final of the East Asia-Pacific (EAP) Cricket Cup tournament in Vanuatu, the ICC reported Saturday.

Japan, sent into bat, scored 161 off 48 overs with opening batsmen Tetsuro Chino topscoring with 51 off 120 balls and Cooks wicket-keeper Ioane Tangimetua claiming five catches.

The Cook Islands fell just short, dismissed for 155 with Tuakana Marukore topscoring with 55 and Chris Brown chipping in with 45.

Japanese paceman Patrick Giles-Jones finished with 3-31 off 10 overs. Japan and the Cook Islands, by finishing first and second, qualified for the EAP Cricket Trophy to be played in mid-2006 to claim a place out.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## CBI turns the tables on 'fixing' hero

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ishwar Singh Redhu, the Delhi inspector who investigated Hansie Cronje, the former South African captain, and broke the match-fixing scandal in 2000, was raided by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials and a case registered against him.

He has been charged with possessing Rs 40 lakh worth of disproportionate assets. Singh had brought to light the conversation between alleged bookie Sanjeev Chawla and Cronje and earned himself a recommendation for the Indian president's medal in 2001.

The Telegraph reported that the 7am raid on Saturday yielded assets worth Rs 75 lakh, apart from Rs 1.07 lakh in cash. It also threw up a list of his other posses-

sions: a Rs 7.2 lakh plot, a Rs 14 lakh flat, a bank balance of Rs 1.6 lakh and an investment of Rs 25 lakh in a petrol pump in Haryana.

Singh has been promptly transferred from the Tughlaq Road police station, where he was the station house officer, to the foreigners regional registration office.

The newspaper speculated that his previous stint with the crime branch's anti-extortion cell might have given him the opportunity to build his fortune.

In April 2000, asked to investigate complaints by Delhi businessmen of extortion, he was listening to telephone taps on two suspects when he stumbled onto Cronje's conversation with Sanjeev Chawla, the Indian bookmaker. Later, it led to a public confession by Cronje and his subsequent ban from the game.

**What to WATCH**

**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Man City vs Everton  
Live at 4:10 pm  
Arsenal vs Birmingham  
Live at 6:25 pm  
Liverpool vs Chelsea  
Live at 8:55 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Football Extra  
Live at 9:00 am  
English Premier Football League  
Wigan Athletic vs Bolton Wanderers  
Live at 5:55 pm

**TALK TURKEY**



## Brian Lara

(West Indies batting super star)

"It's sad that the West Indies is playing. I'm fully fit, (Ramnaresh) Sarwan is fully fit, Chris Gayle is fully fit and we (were) not out there playing, hopefully that can be sorted out."

Referring to the players' dispute with the WICC.



PHOTO: STAR

Former national captain Akram Khan (left) holds the prestigious Premier League trophy with other members of the victorious Old DOHS team during the presentation ceremony for the year 2004-05 at a local hotel on Saturday. Akram switched from Abahani last year to lead the promotees to glory.