

BCB Dev Squad in trouble

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Development Squad ran into deep trouble in their first four-day match in Sri Lanka when they lost two wickets without scoring in their first innings at close of first day's play on Thursday.

The local side were all out for 344 in 77 overs at the Colts Cricket Club ground in Colombo, according to a message received in Dhaka.

Paceman Nazmul Hossain grabbed three wickets while Sohrawardy Shuvo and Rezaul chipped in with two wickets each for the visiting Under-19 High Performance Squad.

England security 'guaranteed'

BBC ONLINE

The Pakistan Cricket Board says the security for the England touring party will be "air-tight".

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have demanded tough security arrangements for the squad and fans, ahead of their arrival on 26 October.

"The security will be air-tight," said PCB director of operations Abbas Zaidi, after meeting government officials on Wednesday.

"We do not foresee any problems with the security arrangements for the England and their followers."

Zaidi added: "The issue of visas for visitors from the United Kingdom for the series was also discussed in detail."

"The government officials have been co-operative in the past and they are again extending all co-operation."

Boxing coaches' course ends

SPORTS REPORTER

The two-week Olympic Solidarity Boxing Coaches' Course organised by Bangladesh Olympic Association under the auspices of Olympic Solidarity Movement concluded on Thursday at the National Sports Council.

A total of 30 coaches took part in the course conducted by New Zealand coach Chris Kenny.

Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation president Maj Gen Mohammed Jahangir Alam Chowdhury distributed the certificates on the concluding day.



YOU DID YOUR JOB BUT I COULDN'T! England ace Andrew Flintoff chats with spin maestro Muttiah Muralitharan during a training session in Melbourne on Thursday.

SA GAMES TRAINING

BFF yet to get kicking

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Although most of the federations are on the verge of starting preparation for the coming South Asian Games (formerly SAF Games) in Colombo, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will not go into action this year.

"We are concentrating on the SAFF Football Championship now. So, it would be unwise to think about the SA Games now," said BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal on Thursday.

Bangladesh will defend their SAFF football title in Pakistan this December and the preparation has already begun under Argentine coach Diego Cruciani.

"The SAFF tournament is our prime target. Moreover, we have at least eight players in the national camp who will

also be available for the SA Games," Helal added.

The national teams have been barred from taking part in all the football competitions in regional games and the Under-23 team will participate in the SA Games.

"We will involve Cruciani with the under-23 team as well. So he would get enough time if we start the under-23 camp in January 2006. We will sit with the BOA when we make a plan."

The SA Games will be held in April at the Sri Lankan capital.

The BFF has also yet to chalk out any plan for the SA Games or prepare a budget. That is the reason why the BFF will not be among the ten federations who will get fund for training from the National Sports Council (NSC).

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), which handles the fund given by the NSC, will disburse Tk 60 lakh this month to ten federations for training. It was finalised in the October 2 meeting between BOA and the federations.

The BFF was totally absent from the meeting as most of the top officials were abroad.

In the first phase, the amount would only help them run three-week camps. Four federations -- football, table tennis, badminton and judo -- are expected to receive training fund after the Eid-ul-Fitr.

The BOA, which requested for Tk 6.5 crore for preparation of disciplines, has only been promised Tk 4.5 crore by the NSC so far.

Meanwhile, BOA deputy secretary general Ishtiaque Ahmed said that they had expected the BFF to come forward.

"It is better to come out with a proper plan. They will get the fund as early as they come to us. Any delay would complicate the process," said Ishtiaque.

Tigercricket.com launched

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) launched its official website: www.tigercricket.com at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

The board has struck an unlimited deal with Digital Group, who will look after the website's management and development.

The contract will last as long as both parties are happy, speakers told at the launching ceremony.

BCB vice-president Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen launched the website. BCB joint-secretary and chairman of media committee Reazuddin Al Mamun, CEO Macky Dudhia, Digital group's MD Ehsanul Islam and executive director Azizul Kabir were also present.

In reply to a question, Dudhia informed that the website would also introduce a Bangla version shortly.

"The official website of the board will reflect the country's cricket culture, it will have an archive, information and forums like any other cricket website," Dudhia added.

The Digital Group will bear all the costs but it will share 50 per cent of the profit, if any, with the board.

Border doesn't like the idea

CRICINFO

Alan Border, the former Australian great, has questioned the decision to award official Test and ODI status to the Super Series matches and considers it a "slap in the face" of all former cricketers.

Border wrote in his column in The Indian Express: "I firmly believe that this status should be restricted to matches between national sides. Test cricket is an institution that has been built up over a period of 128 years, and it should not be tampered with. In my view, the elevation of the six-day game to 'Test match' status is like a slap in the face of all the former cricketers who have contributed to making Test cricket the ultimate form of the game since 1877. Granting 'first-class' status is fine, as was done in the case of the Bicentenary game in 1987. But anything more than that is simply not on."

He also raised doubts about the possible commitment levels of the World XI players in the Super Series matches.

Acknowledging that the players from different countries have "gelled very well" during practice, he nevertheless remained sceptical: "The Australians will be passionate as they will be representing their country. The talent of the World XI players cannot be doubted, but will they be able to feel as much for their team as they do for their respective countries on the field of play?"

Bracken set to swing into Worcester

AFP, London

Australian swing bowler Nathan Bracken has agreed to play for Worcestershire in the 2006 English county season.

The 28-year-old is set to become the second Australian to move to New Road after batsman Phil Jaques signed a two-year deal earlier in the week.

SECOND ODI TODAY

The heat is on



AFP, Melbourne

The world team must bat patiently and build partnerships if it is to keep the one-day Super Series alive, New Zealander Daniel Vettori said here Thursday.

Australia, smarting from the universal criticism of last month's Ashes failure in England, crushed the cream of world cricket to claim the opening match by 93 runs on Wednesday and can take the series with victory in Friday's second game.

The motivated Australians hit 255 for eight off their 50 overs and then ran through the world all-stars for 162 in 41.3 overs in a massive anti-climax.

"The biggest thing is that we wanted to bat in partnerships, we thought we may have tried to win the game too early

and with such a star-studded batting lineup the guys are used to taking responsibility on themselves to win games," said Vettori, one of the few world stars to impress.

"I think with so many great batsmen you can take your time a bit more and build partnerships and that's what wins most cricket games."

The left-arm spinner, who captured 4-33 off 10 overs, scored 15 and took a great diving catch for the world team, said the Super Series concept was in jeopardy if the world XI did not win the second match of the three-game series.

"If we lose like that again we're going to be hugely disappointed but we're confident we can turn it around and turn it around quickly," Vettori told reporters Thursday.

"We realise how important it is that we put up a much-improved showing in the next game."

"For the series to be a success, people want to see a 2-1 result which-

ever way it goes and a close-fought Test match (in Sydney next week) for it to have some meaning, and that's what we're certainly here for and we're going to try and turn that around as quickly as possible."

Vettori countered suggestions that the world team did not appear to have the same intensity as Ricky Ponting's team in the opening game and that they looked like they were a collection of players drawn from different continents and time zones.

"There was an immense desire in our team to win. We talked a lot about coming here and the only reason we were coming here was to win," he said.

"There's been a lot of us who have been on the receiving end of hidings from Australia in the past and this was our chance to put that right."

"We saw that Australia came out with a huge amount of intensity but by no means were we not wanting to win as much as they were."

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Sourav's school of cricket

CRICINFO

Sourav Ganguly's state-of-the-art cricket academy was inaugurated by Buddhadev Bhattacharya, the chief minister of West Bengal, on Wednesday evening in a high-profile launch in Salt Lake in Kolkata.

The website webindia123.com reported that Bhattacharya urged Ganguly to take time out to offer hands-on help to the youngsters in the nuances of the game.

"You are no doubt the captain of India, but you are a citizen of Kolkata. You have to take some responsibility out of your busy schedule. You are moving all over the world, running the team. I know your responsibility, but you have to give inputs, some thought, some concepts on how to work along

on this cricket school."

Ganguly responded favourably, saying: "Whenever I am free I will try to help these boys."

Christened 'The Videocon school of cricket', the academy has been established at a cost of one crore and has come up on a five-acre plot of land provided by the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority and will initially take in 700 students. It has different types of clay pitches, bowling machines to simulate fast bowling and 12 nets of international standards to provide enough practice space for 300 students simultaneously.

It is also equipped with an ultra-modern gym, library and classrooms for theoretical and video analysis. There are also experienced coaches and guides to provide psychological

counselling.

Bhattacharya, an ardent cricket fan, said: "When Videocon group chairman VN Dhoot came forward to set up a cricket school I was surprised and encouraged. We want cricket to become more popular. We want more players from the state to make it to the highest level. But one fine morning one cannot become a cricketer. For that a youngster needs good training and practice facilities. I know that because I wanted to become a cricketer but could not."

Expressindia.com, citing sources in the Indian board, claimed that when the national team visits Kolkata in late November for a one-dayer against South Africa they will practice at the new academy.

West Indies keep faith in Lawson

CRICINFO

Jermaine Lawson has been included in West Indies' 15-man squad for the forthcoming tour of Australia despite continuing concerns over both his action and fitness.

The squad contains almost all the big names who missed the recent Sri Lanka tour following a strike over contracts. Dwayne Bravo, Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Brian Lara, Ramnaresh Sarwan, and Devon Smith are all included in the side, while Shivnarine Chanderpaul will continue as captain.

But notable absentees include Pedro Collins, Sylvester Joseph, Daren Ganga, Omer Banks and wicketkeeper Carlton Baugh. Ganga, who led the A team in Sri Lanka, was critical of the role of certain officials in pressurising junior players to break the strike and

Latvian GM for Chess Olympiad

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) has roped in Latvian coach Edvins Kengis to prepare the national team for next year's Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy.

The 45-year-old Grand Master, who is expected to arrive in Dhaka on October 15, will train the country's top male players for three months.

With the Olympiad scheduled to take place in May 2006, it would have been wiser to recruit a foreign coach closer to the biennial chess carnival. However, the BCF failed in its attempt due to packed schedules of international coaches.

"A coach has to be contacted at least three months prior to the desired period you need him for. We tried two Russian

coaches including Alexander Volzhin, our previous coach, but they were busy," a BCF official informed The Daily Star Sport on Thursday.

He added that Kengis, whose rating is 2528, would not have been available just before the Olympiad.

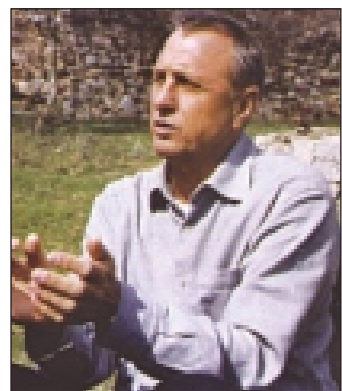
"That's why we had to choose this period even though it is early," the BCF official told.

All expenses of the foreign coach will be borne by the National Sports Council's Intense Coaching Programme for certain sports federations and the BCF has been running three programmes for Under-10, 16 and 20 players for five months.

"We have received Tk 10 lakh in two installments from the authority."



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) vice-president Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen clicks to herald the soft launch of the Board's official website Tigercricket.com at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on Thursday.



Johan Cruyff
(Legendary Dutch striker)

"Barca are not pressurising their opponents enough, they are playing at too slow a pace and aren't showing any magic."



Did U Know?

With his maiden hundred against Pakistan (130 off 120) Brian Lara joined an exclusive club of five batsmen, who have recorded hundreds against all the other nine Test nations. Gary Kirsten of South Africa was the first to accomplish the feat.

What to WATCH

SET Max
Super Series
Australia v World XI
Second ODI
Live at 10 am



DON'T RIP ME OFF JUST BECAUSE I'M A CRICKET STAR NOW! Bangladesh batsman Aftab Ahmed, enjoying a break from the game, seen here visiting a neighborhood departmental store in Chittagong on Thursday.

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