

Alamgir new MSC chief

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club reconstituted their cricket committee for the 2007 season with Engineer Golam Mohammad Alamgir has been named chairman and Habibullah Don as the secretary.

Mahbubul Anam, Khondokar Jamiluddin, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Lutfur Rahman Badal and Mohammad Younus are the five vice-chairman in the 20-member committee.

The members are Enayet Hossain Siraj, ASM Faruque, ASM Raqibul Hasan, Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed, Hanif Bhuiyan, Azhar Hossain Shantoo, Tasmin Delwar, Mohammad Nurul Islam, Ashish Roy, Fakhrul Alam, Mohammad Monir Hossain, Wasim Khan and Tariqul Islam Titoo.

Rule bent

FROM PAGE 17

Mahmud was not doing that bad as manager but BCB general secretary Mahbubul Anam said that there was a reason behind the latest decision while advocating for Asif's appointment.

"Mahmud is working as an operation manager of our Academy and we only considered him as a makeshift arrangement for manager. We thought that there is lot of things to do with the Academy right at the moment that's why we have decided to appoint a new one," said Mahmud.

"Asif applied for the job and we just appointed him on a trial-and-error basis. I think he has the capability of doing the job as he has the managerial experience in an international agency. Most importantly he played cricket and have had the experience as an organiser," said the bearded organiser defending the decision. But when asked whether the board allowed other candidates to apply, his response was negative.

"You know we are looking for a permanent manager for this post and we will definitely consider him for long term if he does well in Zimbabwe," said Mahmud.

BCB general secretary however did not address that Asif has already developed a very good rapport with coach Whatmore.

Mahmud understandably didn't want to make any comment on the issue because he was a loyal servant of the board.

He served as team operations manager during ICC Champions Trophy and two home series against Zimbabwe and Scotland.

Meanwhile, the meeting also discussed India's visit in Bangladesh after the World Cup. India is likely to arrive in Dhaka on May 7 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Besides, the confusion over the naming of the board was also put to rest following a gazette notification on December 27 which amended the name of Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Civil war

FROM PAGE 20

It is unclear how Abramovich will react to Shevchenko's deliberate relegation. Any attempt to force his coach to field the striker could push an already strained situation into meltdown.

The former European footballer of the year has scored only five goals in 29 appearances since joining from Milan last summer. He missed Wednesday's Carling Cup tie at Wycombe with what was described as a slight hamstring injury, forcing Lampard to be called up at the last minute. Mourinho's camp suspect the injury was contrived because the Ukrainian feared more negative publicity should he fail to score against a fourth-tier side.

Last night Chelsea issued a formal denial of reports that Mourinho had told a friend he was definitely leaving the club by the end of the season. Tellingly, the manager did not deny the story was correct.

"I love Chelsea for just 2½ years but I love Chelsea," said Mourinho. "I want to win always the next game and the next game is against Wigan. We have to be together to win the stories, we have to forget what the press is saying. It's easy for me. I'm self-motivated, always at the top. If results are not what we want, that is even a bigger motivation to fight."

Sarwan not fit

FROM PAGE 17

Bravo, Patrick Browne, Shivarne Chanderpal, Corey Collymore, Narsingh Deonarine, Travis Dowlin, Fidel Edwards, Reyd Emrit, Chris Gayle, Ryan Hinds, Wavel Hinds, Sylvester Joseph, Rawl Lewis, Dave Mohammed, Runako Morton, Darren Powell, Keiron Pollard, Denesh Ramdin, Darren Sammy, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Lendl Simmons, Dwayne Smith, Devon Smith, Jerome Taylor, Gavin Tonge.

INDIA TOUR SQUAD

Brian Lara (captain), Ian Bradshaw, Dwayne Bravo, Shivarne Chanderpal, Reyd Emrit, Chris Gayle, Runako Morton, Darren Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Darren Sammy, Marlon Samuels, Lendl Simmons, Devon Smith and Jerome Taylor.



PHOTO: AFP

American tennis star Andy Roddick (R) shares a joke with the crowd after defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland in the final of the Kooyong Classic in Melbourne on Saturday.

Roddick breaks Federer jinx

Tennis

AFP, Melbourne

Andy Roddick notched only his second career victory over arch-nemesis Roger Federer by winning the Kooyong Classic 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 on Saturday.

The victory in one hour, 20 minutes at the eight-man special event snapped an eight-match losing streak against the Swiss world number one going back to 2003.

Handing Federer his first defeat in 31 matches was the perfect tonic for Roddick, rejuvenated by coach Jimmy Connors, ahead of the season's first Grand Slam, where he will play German Bjorn Phau in the first round.

"Andy played very well, he had me worried early on. I could have

big stage," Roddick said. "But that said, it is nice, my game's going pretty well. I feel good going into the Open."

"My returns are working well and that will get me some looks at some breaks."

Roddick struggled throughout against a swirling wind, but held together in the third set, firing a pair of aces to claim victory after defeating Federer for a 5-3 lead.

Federer, holder of a dozen titles in 2006, had not lost since his shock defeat to Andy Murray at Cincinnati.

Federer still holds a dominating 13-2 record over Roddick and said he had no worries ahead of the season's first Grand Slam, where he will play German Bjorn Phau in the first round.

"But I'm happy with the way it all came out. Andy got the crucial break for the win. But the match was still good."

"Andy played very well, he had me worried early on. I could have

been out of it very quickly, he had such a good start," he said.

"But I'm ready for the Australian Open. That's exactly how I want to feel after this event. I couldn't win it, but we had some entertainment matches this week."

Roddick won the first set on a double break, then could only watch as Federer clawed back to take the second. The third turned on a few shots, with Roddick's late break the key to success.

"They were hard conditions," said Federer. When the wind is blowing it's going to be hard to return Andy's serve.

"But I'm happy with the way it all came out. Andy got the crucial break for the win. But the match was still good."

What went wrong in 5-0

FROM PAGE 17

West Indian side that won a closely fought 2-1 Test series in 1992-93 that last scored a Test series success in Australia. Since then, touring sides have occasionally managed a draw, or have otherwise lost. Indians' 1-1 all draw in 2003-2004 is perhaps the most gallant effort seen on Australian soil in a long time.

In this context, England's defeat in 2006 becomes a little more understandable. England were also up against the number one Test playing nation who were at full strength and had once again found their form. Ricky Ponting's Australian side has had an impressive 2006 and including the Ashes whitewash has now won 12 consecutive Test matches to reconfirm their number one status. The Australian cricket team who arguably took the mantle of world number one after Mark Taylor's side defeated the West Indies in the Caribbean in 1995 and has scarcely looked like giving it back since.

Both at home and abroad, both in Test and ODI cricket, Australian cricket has been at the top of international standings almost unchallenged. In many respects, this was what made England's success in 2005 so stunning. This is an Australian side that has accomplished nearly everything there is to accomplish in international cricket over the past decade, and although no self-respecting Australian would ever call England's Ashes victory a fluke, or anything short of outstanding, there were many both in Australia and abroad felt that despite the loss, Australia remained the number one side in the world. It was always going to be a difficult task for England to come to Australia and defend the Ashes in Australia given the history of the past 10 years, and the task was simply too grand for them.

There are many who would stop there, happy with the explanation that 'Australia have been the best team for a long time, and although they slipped up briefly, they have restored themselves to the top of the heap once again'. There are, no doubt, those in Australia who feel this way, as can be seen by the fanfare and euphoria that has followed the Sydney Test. Yet this attitude does a disservice to the England side on two counts. Firstly, it says that they never had a chance out here and were doomed from the outset, which is both unfair and untrue. Secondly, such an attitude is to belittle their achievements in 2005, and to discard them as a fluke. If an Ashes victory had been achieved in 2005, then what had changed that made Ashes 2006 such a complete failure?

Firstly, this touring English side was missing a few of their key contributors from 2005. The most notable was the absence of their inspirational and talented captain Michael Vaughan. One can imagine how the loss of Ricky Ponting, clearly the most talented and experienced of the current Australian Batsmen, would have affected the performance of the Australian side.

Vaughn had been the brains trust behind the 2005 victory and has long been the rock of the English top-order, something that was clearly absent for England this series. No more was this present in England's second innings collapse in Adelaide, where England showed a complete absence of grit, resolve and leadership. Vaughan's experience in tough situations the like of which the English found themselves right throughout this series would have perhaps guarded against the repeated English collapses of this series. His captaincy was also sorely missed. Although the talent and credential of Andrew Flintoff cannot be doubted, his captaincy was marked by a lack of experience and some poor decisions at key periods. It must also be stated that the pressure of the captaincy was detrimental to his own personal performances, and his batting and bowling were a long off what they had been in 2005. England also missed the contributions of the talented opening batsmen Michael Trescotich and the promising seamer Simon Jones. The England batting line-up which really only has their performances in Adelaide to boast off, could have used a seasoned and solid opening batsman. It was at Adelaide also, where after having the Australians 3-65, their bowling lacked the depth to deliver the crucial blow. It is true that Adelaide was a batsmen's wicket, and yet the ease with which the Australian middle-order scored hundreds and clawed their way back is illustrative of the fragility and weakness of the English attack. In England in 2005, Jones had contributed as the key first change bowler and had contributed to an English attack that was relentless and menacing. In this series England's bowling was undisciplined, erratic and with only a few exceptions failed to put any sustained pressure on the Australian batsmen. Each of England's bowlers displayed promise for periods, but were generally a long way off from the menacing form they had displayed in 2005. In Melbourne also, after having Australia at 5-84, England let the situation drift out of their control such that Andrew Symonds and Matthew Hayden came together to pile on 279 for the sixth wicket.

He is an interesting player, one that every team would fear to face," he told the press. Robben has often found himself sidelined this season as Chelsea have struggled to incorporate Andriy Shevchenko and Michael Ballack into their team. The former PSV Eindhoven player has two years left on his current contract, and has also been linked with a move to Real Madrid.

He is a good player, very good dribbler and quick," Magath said. The Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has also admitted his admiration for the Dutch international.

"He is an interesting player, one that every team would fear to face," he told the press.

Robben has often found himself sidelined this season as Chelsea have struggled to incorporate Andriy Shevchenko and Michael Ballack into their team.

The former PSV Eindhoven player has two years left on his current contract, and has also been linked with a move to Real Madrid.

Lee sings into Indian hearts

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australian cricketer Brett Lee is enjoying success in the Indian charts after recording a soulful duet with Bollywood legend Asha Bhosle.

Lee wrote lyrics, sang and performed in the video for the part-Hindi song: You're the One For Me.

The fast bowler went into the studio between games in the Champions Trophy tournament in India in November.

Lee, who has a band in Australia, has reportedly turned down roles in Bollywood films.

The song's video, which features Lee playing guitar and singing to an Indian girl in an office, has become a hit on YouTube.

Lee was reported as saying recording with Bhosle was an "amazing" experience, calling the Indian star the "Aretha Franklin of India".

Samir Tandon, who composed the music, said: "We had a great time recording the music."

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he is on the field. He is extremely polite."

The song has climbed to number three on the music charts of popular FM station Radio City, which broadcasts in several Indian cities.

"As a musician, he is nothing like the aggressive fast bowler that he