

Course okay, coaches not

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hastily called up twenty-five local coaches for Level Two coaching course, a project under its expensive development programme with Cricket Australia.

After providing the Australian board with 427,500 US dollars as consultancy fee back in April, the board will begin the course, second project under the programme, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today.

Former Bangladesh captain and operations manager of National Academy Khaled Mahmud, Bangladesh assistant coach Sarwar Imran, under-19 coach Nazmul Abedin Fahim, senior coach of National Academy Dipu Rai Chowdhury and deputy manager of Game Education Ashfaqul Islam selected the coaches but the criteria for selecting the coaches remained quite perplexing.

Pre-requisite for all who are participating is the Level One course undertaken by the board several times but the remaining conditions for making it to Level Two

was varying, depending on the coach's background.

Five former national players, five first-class players and a league player are among the 25 as they have playing experience at domestic or international level. Coaching experience in that regard is irrelevant.

Former fast bowler Anisur Rahman is making great strides as an umpire, for example, and it is not important for him to have coaching experience.

Others like Sabir Khan, Neeyamur Rashid and Fahim Muntasir are actively plying their trade in domestic cricket.

But for the rest, experience is significant. The board, however, should have taken little time in naming such individuals.

A coach who took part in Level One, must be given a period of time to prove his credentials and potential as a coach but for BCB, it seemed as if they have named coaches at will.

Nazimuddin from Rangamati took part in the Level One programme that ended on May 23 this year and now he is one of the 25 called up for Level Two. The gap between the two courses is not even a month. Surprising to say the least.

Mahbub Alam Babar, a former player, has also been called back

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP

Clay-court king Rafael Nadal is at full-stretch as he plays a forehand against world number one Roger Federer during their French Open final at the Roland Garros on Sunday. Nadal outplayed Federer 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to complete a hattrick crown of the French Open.

Dhoni, Jayawardene flay Africa

Cricket

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Spinners Mohammed Rafique and Harbhajan Singh shared five wickets between them as Asia XI got a stranglehold on the third and final one-day international against Africa XI in Chennai yesterday.

The Africans, who are trailing the series 2-0, lost the momentum after a 117-run opening stand between AB de Villiers (70 off 63 balls) and Vusi Sibanda (45 off 63 balls) as they slumped to 159 for five in the first ball of the 32nd over.

RESULT
Asia XI (331-8 in 50 overs; Jayawardene 107, Dhoni 139) beat Africa XI (318-7 in 50 overs; Kemp 86, Rafique 4-65) by 13 runs.

However, Justin Kemp's 54-ball 50 and Shaun Pollock's 24 off 26 balls during an unbroken 65-run sixth wicket kept them alive as they reached 224 for five after 40 overs, still needing 108 runs from the final ten overs.

Bangladesh left-arm spinner Rafique, who was on a hattrick after dismissing de Villiers and one-down Boeta Dippenaar in successive deliveries of the 19th over, captured three wickets for 36 from seven overs while Indian offie Harbhajan sent back Steve Tikolo and Mark Boucher cheaply.

Earlier, Mahendra Dhoni and Mahela Jayawardene cracked centuries in a world-record stand as Asia amassed 331-8 after electing to bat at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

AFP adds: Dhoni and Jayawardene added 218 for the



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene (L) and India's Mahendra Dhoni stroll for a single during the third and final ODI between Asia and Africa XIs in Chennai yesterday. The two put on a world record sixth wicket partnership of 218 runs.

Mohammedan breach code of conduct!

SPORTS REPORTER

Having criticised the referee in the media for his role during their second leg match against Mukti Joddha, Mohammedan have violated the code of conduct of the B. League.

Mohammedan officials at a press conference on Saturday alleged that referee Tayeb Hassan ruled out a 'clean' goal by Mohammedan's Nigerian striker Emeka against Mukti Joddha for offside during Thursday's match and also 'wrongly' sent off the same player. The club officials also claimed that the referee denied Mohammedan from 'two penalties'.

Each participating team, however, had signed a code of conduct before registering for the inaugural professional league that they would abide by the tournament bylaws under any circumstances.

It is written in the Disciplinary Procedures section (law 8.7.3) of the bylaws that 'No club coach, player or official is entitled to publicly criticise the BFF, B. League, a referee or a referee's assistant in the media. This shall be deemed an offence and the offending person shall be dealt with by BFF.'

In the light of Mohammedan's breaching the code of conduct, the tournament committee of the B. League is expected to discuss the issue in its next meeting within a couple of days.

It can also be noted that Mohammedan had also violated the bylaws when the Dhaka giants, who are only permitted to wear black-white and green-white strips this season, changed club colours to all blacks.

No change of club colours is permitted during a season according to the bylaws (law 3.3.).

Rain keeps Tigers indoors

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Persistent rain forced the Sri Lankan-bound national cricketers train indoors at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The plan to hold nets in the center-wicket of the main ground had to be put off and the Tigers think-tank was worried whether it would be possible for the next three days with hardly anything encouraging in the weather forecast.

Bangladesh under the leadership of ace batsman Mohammad Ashraful are expected to fly to Colombo on June 16 to play three Tests and as many one-day interna-

tions in the island.

"Definitely it's frustrating not to practice in the central wicket because it is very important for simulation ahead of a tough series. I have a doubt whether it would be possible in the remaining days. But I think we have had very good training today as we have also prepared an alternative schedule for expected rain-interruption," said assistant coach Sarwar Imran.

Immediate past Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar, who joined the camp after a day's break, was, however, not frustrated at all by the disruption as they had very intense sessions at the gym in the morning and indoor nets apart from a lively video session in the afternoon under the eyes of interim coach Shaun Williams.

"It would have been better to get a knock in the middle but we really enjoyed the sessions today. I think this kind of homework is essential, especially the analyses of the Sri Lankan bowlers on the screen were very nice," said Bashar.

The only bad news came in the form of pacer Shahadat Hossain, who complained pain in the waist during batting.

"He (Shahadat) complained side strain during batting. I think there is nothing serious about it," informed Sarwar Imran.

On the other hand, dashing opener Tamim Iqbal has yet to take part in full training due to groin problem.

Ford India's new coach

Cricket

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA from Mumbai

Two months after Australian Greg Chappell quit as coach of the India cricket team following its disastrous show in the World Cup in the West Indies, South African Graham Ford was appointed to the post for a year, late on Saturday night.

Ford, 46, who had coached South Africa between 1999 and 2001, pipped former England spinner John Emburey to be the coach of India.

The decision to appoint Ford, at present the director of training in English country team Kent, came to a two-hour meeting of a special committee set up by the Indian cricket board which also interviewed 54-year-old Emburey here on Saturday night.

"The seven-member special committee headed by BCCI President Sharad Pawar has decided to appoint Ford as the

Indian team coach initially for one year", cricket board Treasurer N Srinivasan told reporters here.

The decision will have to be



GRAHAM FORD

approved by the working committee of the Indian cricket board at its meeting in Delhi on June 12, he said, adding it is at that meeting Ford would inform the board when he

would take up his new assignment. Ford, who was assistant to late South African Bob Woolmer as South African coach, had guided the Proteas as coach during one of the most turbulent times for that country's cricket when it was rocked by match-fixing allegations against some of its leading players. He quit as South Africa coach and joined Kent in 2004.

The Indian cricket board's special committee, which also had it in former India captains Sunil Gavaskar and Srinivasan Venkataraghavan, former all-rounder Ravi Shastri, who was the Manager during recent series in Bangladesh, had invited Ford and Emburey for the interview after the committee's meeting in Bangalore on June 4 rejected former Bangladesh and Sri Lankan coach Dav Whatmore.

Ford was said to have enjoyed the backing of some senior members of the Indian cricket team at present.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Junior hattrick stirs Brothers

LEAGUE

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union took sweet revenge of their home defeat to Khulna Abahani when the Dhaka giants stormed to a 5-0 win in the two sides' return-leg match in the B. League yesterday.

Brothers' trip to Khulna was made memorable by Elijah Junior's four goals that helped them erase bitter memories of a 4-2 defeat in March when they had hosted the Khulna outfit in the capital.

The match between Arambagh

and Farashganj in Dhaka, however, was cancelled due to heavy seasonal rain.

The tournament committee also decided to postpone the schedules – inclusive of today's mouth-watering Abahani-Mohammedan clash – in the capital for at least two days due to persistent inclement weather.

Meanwhile, Junior also joined fellow Nigerian striker Paul, the Mohammedan skipper, as joint top scorer with 12 goals.

The win, Brothers' fifth in 12 games, kept Syed Naseemuddin's side's slim title hopes alive as they climbed to fifth place with 19 points, just one behind Sheikh Russel and three points adrift of top-of-the-table Mohammedan, Mukti Joddha and Abahani.

The match between Arambagh

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

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