

Borde not going to camp

PTI, Bangalore

Chandu Borde, the newly appointed manager of the Indian cricket team bound for Ireland and England, will not join the four-day camp that starts here this afternoon at the National Cricket Academy.

"No, he (Borde) will not be at the camp. It will be overseen by bowling coach Venkatesh Prasad and fielding coach Robin Singh," informed Cricket Board's Chief Administrative Officer Prof Ranakar Shetty from Mumbai.

Team trainer Gregory King and physio John Glosster are expected to be present at the camp.

Prior to the full-fledged camp for the team, the BCCI conducted a bowlers' camp at Mysore from June 4-8 and a batsmen's camp at the NCA from June 9 which concluded on Tuesday.

Rajib, Nasir stay atop

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Abdullah Al Rakib and Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar hit the casualty list in the premier group of Destiny International Rating chess tournament yesterday to crash out of the lead after the fourth round.

IM Enamul Hossain Rajib and FIDE Master Nasir Ahmed, however, stayed atop with three points after winning their respective matches at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room.

Rajib beat Sagar while Nasir defeated Arman Monir while Ziau shared points with Rakib in the Swiss League competition.

In the primary group, five players -- Jamal Ahmed, Taherul Islam, Aminul Islam Palash, Shamima Akhter Liza and Hafizul Islam Chapal -- shared lead with maximum four points.

Senior Div TT from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra will not play on the opening day of the AB Bank Senior Division Table Tennis League, which kicks off at the Woodfender Gymnasium today.

Nine teams will take part in the competition with four matches scheduled for the inaugural day: Biman v Mohammedpur Boys, Brothers v Engineers Club, Armanitola v Mariners and Ajax v Wari.

SLC acquires Dambulla

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) following the intervention of Gamini Lokuge, The Sports Minister, has finally acquired the controversial Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium.

Last December, SLC was to have signed a 30-year lease agreement with the authorities of the Dambulla temple, to which the land belonged. But for some reasons, the agreement failed to materialise with the temple authorities disputing the annual payment.

However on June 12, Lokuge along with SLC officials went to Dambulla to meet the high priest of the temple, Venerable Inamalwwe Sri Sumangala Thero and an agreement was finally decided. K Mathivanan, SLC's secretary, said the two parties giving SLC full access to the stadium from June 13 signed an initial draft.

"The final legal documents will be signed within a couple of weeks after the commission for Buddha Sasana has decided on the valuation of the land and arrived at a figure which SLC will have to pay the temple authorities," said Mathivanan. "This figure will be reviewed every five years and SLC will have to pay the lease on current land values."

The board was reluctant to pump in any money to uplift or make any improvements to the stadium because there was no proper agreement binding the two parties in the past.

Robinho misses

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The CBF have taken the same position on Daniel Alves' arrival in Brazil.

However, because Sevilla have not tried to resist the CBF's attempts, there is supposedly an agreement that the wing-back could return for the Copa del Rey final on June 23rd.

Dunga has left Lucio, Kaka, Edmilson and Ronaldinho out of his Copa America squad, with Julio Cesar missing out due to injury, and is not in the mood to let his preparations be compromised.



The kids are thrilled at the prospect of having a net session with Ricky Ponting at an event organised in Bangalore on Wednesday.

'Time to move on'

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket chief said Wednesday it was time for the national team to move on after Jamaican police revealed that coach Bob Woolmer was not murdered after all, but died of natural causes.

Nasim Ashraf, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), said he was glad to see the end of a "traumatic" three months that began when Woolmer's body was found in his hotel during the World Cup in the Caribbean.

"The chapter of Woolmer's death is closed and we feel it's time to move on," Ashraf told AFP in his first comments since the announcement by Jamaican police late Tuesday.

Former England Test batsman Woolmer, 58, died on March 18, the day after 1992 world champions Pakistan were ousted from the 2007 tournament by rank outsiders Ireland.

Days later police announced they were treating the case as murder, saying an autopsy report showed Woolmer had been strangled. Speculation swirled about links to a "match-fixing mafia".

Pakistan's World Cup squad went through extensive interrogations, players were fingerprinted and DNA-tested, with then-captain Inzamamul Haq and bowling coach Mushtaq Ahmed questioned twice.

The Test match last year at the Oval against England was declared forfeit by the umpires after the Pakistan players stayed in their dressing room following the tea interval in protest at a five-run penalty for alleged ball tampering.

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Musharraf -- appeared to rule out taking any legal action.

"I have given you Pakistan's stance and I don't want to comment on what individuals say," Ashraf said when asked if the PCB would take the Jamaican police to court.

The cricket board chairman said the case was made more difficult by "hurful" speculation in the media, which threw allegations about gambling, poisoned champagne and even Al-Qaeda into the mix.

"There was a lot of unhealthy speculation about the cause of death over the last few months, none of which eased the pressure," said Ashraf.

He said Pakistan also had to learn from the debacle.

"Pakistan cricket should draw lessons from it, that it should never leave players in the lurch when they are in a difficult situation," he told AFP.

"And discipline the team so that they appear as a coherent unit and not a bunch of undisciplined people."

"We fully co-operated with the authorities so that the truth comes out in the case, (we) sent our diplomats and investigators to help them and we are now glad that the true findings have come out."

The PCB head said that Pakistan would name the training facilities at its national cricket academy after Woolmer to honour his memory.

"Woolmer was literally a family member to us and we will always remember his services to Pakistan cricket," said Ashraf.

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a fresh start. The PCB is also nearing the end of an international hunt for a new coach.

Former Pakistan captain and coach Intikhab Alam said Pakistan should seek an apology from the Jamaican police but added that it was "too late" for any legal action.

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