

Malinga knocks out Tharanga

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan left-hand opener Upul Tharanga injured a foot and has been ruled out of the first two Tests against Bangladesh compounding problems to secure the top order, an official said Thursday.

"Tharanga was hit on his foot by a Lasith Malinga delivery this morning," Sri Lanka Cricket Secretary Kangadaran Mathivanan told AFP.

He said Tharanga would miss the first two Tests in the series of three Tests and three one-day matches against Bangladesh that gets under way next week.

Marvan Atapattu, Sri Lanka's most accomplished opening batsman has already pulled out citing personal commitments.

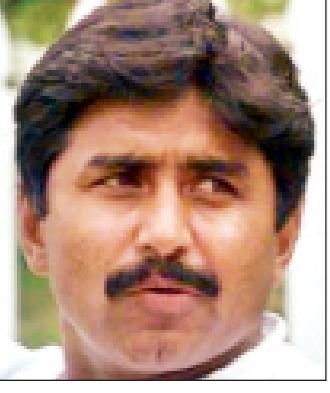
"We will be looking at Thilan Samaraweera, Michael Vandort and Jehan Mubarak to fill in Tharanga's role," Mathivanan said.

Last time when Sri Lanka toured Bangladesh, Tharanga struck a magnificent 165 in the second Test at Bogra. He also has two one-day international centuries against the Tigers.



Did U Know?

In playing poker, there is one chance in 500 of drawing a flush.



Javed Miandad

(Pakistan cricket great)
"If computer know-how is all that matters, then (Microsoft chairman) Bill Gates should have been the best cricket coach in the world."



ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm



B.League
Ctg Abahani v Muktijoddha
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium
Time: 4:00 pm
Farashganj v Sk Russel
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Time: 4:30 pm

Pietersen rules out captaincy

BBC ONLINE, undated

Kevin Pietersen has ruled himself out of the running to be England's one-day captain, saying the "time is not right" for him to accept the job.

He said: "It's something I've thought about long and hard but it's not the right time for me to do it."

"Now is the time for me to be doing team stuff -- playing and supporting."

England will name their new one-day captain on Friday, with all-rounder Paul Collingwood now clear favourite to take over from Michael Vaughan.

Pietersen is ranked the number

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Chief Adviser Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed (sitting at the centre) is seen with the proud winners of the National Sports Award-2006 during the presentation ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

CA for dynamic sports arena

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said that the caretaker government wants to make room for the competent and responsible persons in the country's sports arena to keep it healthy, fair and dynamic.

While addressing the function for distribution of the National Sports Award 2006 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium, he said his government is also determined to bring back right and democratic trend removing corruption and irregularities from the sports field.

He distributed the prestigious state awards to 10 sports personalities -- M Hasanuzzaman Bablu and Khondokar Wasim Iqbal (football), Mohammad Rafique (cricket), Begum Sharmin Akter (shooting), M Ehtesham Sultan (hockey), Fouzia Huda Jui (athletics), Begum Mahmuda Sharif (swimming), Azad Abul Kalam (bodybuilding and weightlifting), Nayana Chowdhury (judo) and Lt Col (retd) MA Hamid (organiser).

"We've seen in different times

that the sports arena and sports organisations were politically influ-

enced, which is not desirable. We're determined to raise the sports arena on a strong and permanent footing," the Chief Adviser said adding that his government wants to ensure participation of sports persons and sports loving people in the arena.

He expressed his firm belief that the sports authorities would adopt a well-coordinated action plan and implement it in addition to formulating realistic policy guidelines to reap desired results in the sector.

"We'll have to work with fresh spirit ignoring failures of the past -- lack of fair play in the sports arena, negligence, aimless leadership and weakness of the management. For this, decentralisation of sports management in all spheres and giving priority to the participation of former players are necessary," he said.

Each award carries a gold medal, Tk 20,000 cash and a citation.

Youth and Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury presided over the function. Youth and Sports secretary Dr Golam Mostafa Talukder was also present.

Advisers to the caretaker gov-

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McInnes wants Tigers job

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

ing to a number of people around the world."

McInnes receives regular messages from some of the players he worked with as coach of the Bangladesh Under-19 and A-squads and he forged close relationships with the wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, spinner Enamul Haque and batsman Shahriar Nafees. "We had a good time there last time and my family enjoyed it, which is also important," he said.

Australia's desire for a more comprehensive approach after the 2005 Ashes led to McInnes being promoted to John Buchanan's side and he became a valued assistant for his thorough analysis of the opposition's strengths and weaknesses. When the squad is on tour McInnes spends up to six hours a day trawling through video footage to formulate plans and organise individual and team highlights packages.

"I renewed my contract with Cricket Australia at the start of June for 12 months, but if Bangladesh came back with an offer I would have to consider the pros and cons of it,"

he said. "There's been nothing on paper and no formal offer, but it appears as though I am on their list of people to speak to. It would certainly be a great opportunity."

International head coaching vacancies were rare until the World Cup, but all four Asian teams have been searching for new mentors over the past two months.

Whatmore ended his second stint with Bangladesh and was due to be interviewed for the Pakistan job on Thursday while Trevor Bayliss, the former New South Wales coach, has accepted the Sri Lanka post.

Bangladesh are expected to wait until the Pakistan and India vacancies are filled before making a final decision and Shaun Williams, the Australian who was previously in charge of the A team, has been appointed as interim coach for the current tour of Sri Lanka. The first of three Tests begins in Colombo on Monday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh have

sounded out Dave Houghton as a

possibility to fill their national

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Inzy days over?

PTI, Karachi

The illustrious career of former captain Inzamamul Haq might have come to an end as far as the national selectors and cricket board is concerned, as he has not been recommended for the new central contracts.

Sources in the board confirmed to PTI on Thursday that the national selectors had submitted 33 names to the board from amongst which 20

would be considered for the central contracts and the others for a

retirement.

"Inzamam does not feature in this list which means even if he plays again in tests for Pakistan he will do so as a non-contracted player," one source.

"But the very fact he is not being considered for the central contracts which will be for a year are a clear indication as far as the selectors and board is concerned they think his international career is over," he added.

Another source said pacer Rana Naved and all-rounder Azhar Mahmood who went to the World Cup were also not picked in the shortlist of 33 players.

Inzamam, 37, had announced his retirement from one-day internationals and also stepped down from the captaincy after his team made a first round exit from the World Cup after a shock defeat to the unheralded Ireland team.

But the burly batsman has made his desire to continue playing Test matches clear.

However, a source close to the selectors said their decision to snub Inzamam was not based on any personal judgment.

"The fact is that the board asked the selectors to only consider those players who can play in both forms of the game which Inzamam can't do now, so he was not considered," the source said.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russell beat Brothers Union in straight sets in the AB Bank Senior Division Table Tennis League at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium yesterday.

Russell's Mahbub, Mostafa and Kachi all won in straight sets in their matches against Mehdi, Anup and Jaynal of Brothers.

With this win, defending champions Russell are level on points with title aspirants Bangladesh Biman. The two sides face off today to decide the table-toppers in the first phase of competition.

In the other matches, Dhaka Mariners Club and Wari Club recorded identical 3-0 wins against Engineers Club and Mohammadpur Boys respectively.

NAT'L VOLLEYBALL

Nine teams will take part in the final round of the 23rd Men's National Volleyball Championship which begins at the Mirpur indoor stadium today.

Dhaka, Kushtia, Khulna, Dinajpur, Army, Navy, Rifles, Police

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Rahim shines in rain

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Only 26 overs were possible as rain marred the second day's play of the three-day warm-up match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka A at the Colts Cricket Ground in Colombo yesterday.

After resuming the day on 183 for 5, Bangladesh progressed to 245 for eight after umpires called off the day's proceedings in the afternoon because of the heavy rain. Young batsman Mushfiqur Rahim was batting on 33 as tail-ender Shahadat Hossain accompanied him with 24.

Bangladesh, in their first tour match, progressed slowly as overnight batsmen Habibul Bashar, on 60, and Khaled Mashud, on 7, played out four maidens in a row early on.

Bashar was first to be dismissed when he was trapped in front of his stumps by seamer Akalanka Ganegama. The former captain added only three to his overnight score in which he struck five boundaries. But

his knock was a good outing for him ahead of the Test match at the R Premadasa on June 25.

Coming in at number eight, Rahim was off the mark quickly but he saw two wickets -- fall in quick succession to left-arm fast bowler Chanaka Welegedara.

Both batsmen were given lbw as the leg-before count for the match went up to four after Sharif was out first ball. Mashud, in a bid to occupy the crease, faced 81 balls to score only eight runs.

But that was all the success on the day for the Sri Lankan second-string side.

The pair of Mushfiqur and Shahadat took control of the situation as they played quite confidently to frustrate the local attack as they added 47 runs for the ninth wicket.

The hosts resorted to their spin attack within the first hour's play when first day's hero Rangana Herath was introduced by captain Thilan Samaraweera in the 17th over in the morning.

19-year-old Rahim took care of both the spin of Herath and legspinner Kaushal Lokurachchi and pace of Welegedara and Ganegama with ease as he struck five fours in his 63-ball stay at the crease.

Rahim, who played two Tests back in 2005 against England, is bidding to claim a spot in the first Test.

Shahadat, who chaperoned Mashrafe Bin Mortaza last month in Chittagong against India, again showed mettle with the willow as he supported Rahim to score 24 off only 37 balls. He hit two boundaries.

Left-arm spinner Herath bagged three wickets and Welegedara two.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the three-day warm-up match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka A at the Colts Cricket Club Ground in Colombo on Thursday:

BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 183-5)

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Brothers stay alive



SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union crushed Arambagh 3-0 yesterday to put pressure on their B.League title chasers with their second successive victory of the second leg.

Fresh from their 5-0 demolition of Khulna Abahani in the previous round's away match, Syed Naseemuddin's struggling side increased their collection to 22 points after 13 games, thanks to second half strikes by Monwar Hossain, Elijah Junior and Mehdi Hassan Tapu.

Brothers, who have played one match less than current leaders and fellow Dhaka giants Mohomedan

have a four-point deficit to cover and seriously return to one of the tightest title races ever in domestic leagues.

Arambagh are fourth from bottom with 16 points after 14 outings.

The Oranges, who beat Arambagh 3-1 in their first leg meeting, however, had a tough first half at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

In an even first 45 minutes, both the sides won a few free kicks but failed to really test the rival goalkeepers.

Arambagh, without top scorer Nicodemus, hardly looked convincing but the first real chance fell to Nurul Islam seven minutes after the break. Brothers goalie Mohammed Ali hesitated to go for a teasing cross by Sharif and gifted the ball to Nurul, who screwed his shot wide despite having an open net.

A similar mistake by Mitul under the Arambagh bar cost the side dearly in the 56th minute as Brothers midfielder Monwar opened

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PHOTO: STAR

Arambagh goalkeeper Mitul (2nd from L) fumbles the ball into the net from a cross by Brothers Union midfielder Monwar (not in picture) despite the valiant efforts of defender Monu during their B.League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim drives through the covers during the second day of the three-day practice match against Sri Lanka A at the Colts Cricket Club Ground in Colombo on Thursday.