

BSWA honours Roquibul, Hannan

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) yesterday accorded reception to former national cricket captain and sports-writer Roquibul Hassan and veteran journalist Hannan Khan of ATN Bangla.

BSWA accorded the reception to mark the World Sports Journalists Day 2007, which was observed in the country yesterday with enthusiasm.

Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury was the chief guest at the reception held at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room. Golam Quddus Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Beverages, was present as special guest.

BSWA president Sarwar Hossain presided over the function while general secretary Aminul Haque Mallick gave the welcome address.

ACA blasts T20 WC

PTI, Melbourne

Australian Cricketers' Association Chief Paul Marsh has criticised the International Cricket Council for premature staging of the Twenty20 World Cup this year, saying the initial focus should be its development at domestic level.

"The administrators need to work out, is Twenty20 serious cricket or is it purely entertainment. The way that it started off, it was very much entertainment," Marsh said.

"All of a sudden, you introduce a world championship (to be played in South Africa in September) like they've done and it legitimises this form of the game," he was quoted as saying by 'The Sydney Telegraph'.

Many countries, including India and Sri Lanka, don't have a domestic twenty20 tournament yet.

"We couldn't understand how the ICC were putting together a world championship when it had not even formalised what its position was on Twenty20 cricket. Domestically is where the initial focus should be."

Tigers reach

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giving away 138 runs and hardly has any chance to redeem himself as the Kandy wicket is always preferable for the seam bowlers.

"Murali can turn the ball on glass, so the condition doesn't matter to him. But bowlers of our calibre should get some assistance from the wicket which was also not the case in the first two Tests and I think it will be the same here," said Rafique, who expressed his desire to not be considered for the one-day series due to a family commitment.

"I think if our batsmen are able to manage at least 300 runs, then it could have been a different story for the bowlers. Actually the Sri Lankan batsmen played us freely after our poor scores in both the first innings. Another reason is that we played too many one-day games in the last year. We have to work hard to get our basics right in Test cricket," he said while explaining the reasons behind the failure in the series.

"You know Sri Lanka knew everything about our strengths because we played too many Test matches against them," he added.

Rafique also explained his frustration as a batsman coming in later.

"I had to face the new ball in the last two matches but the reality is that I have hardly practiced against the new ball which I think was the main reason behind my batting failure. But what I can assure you is that I have always tried my best," he said.

Venus aiming

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anyone reach balls on a tennis court and she even hit them back harder.

"I can't see a player who can beat her on grass when she plays like this. She's just too good you know."

"When you receive the ball at 120mph you get a shock in the wrist and I'm not used to it."

Despite the disappointment at losing out in her first Grand Slam title, Bartoli said she would leave London with no regrets.

"It is not because of my nerves that I lost this match," she said. "I really played the best that I could play. Considering all the fatigue and that this was my first final, I think I did a pretty good job overall."

Liverpool

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News of the World.

Atletico meanwhile, confirmed their interest in the player early in the week, and also talked a bid.

"We have made an offer to FC Porto to sign Ricardo Quaresma. At the moment, we are waiting for an answer [from Porto]." Atletico chairman Enrique Cerezo said.

"If they [Porto] don't find it interesting, we will look for other solutions."

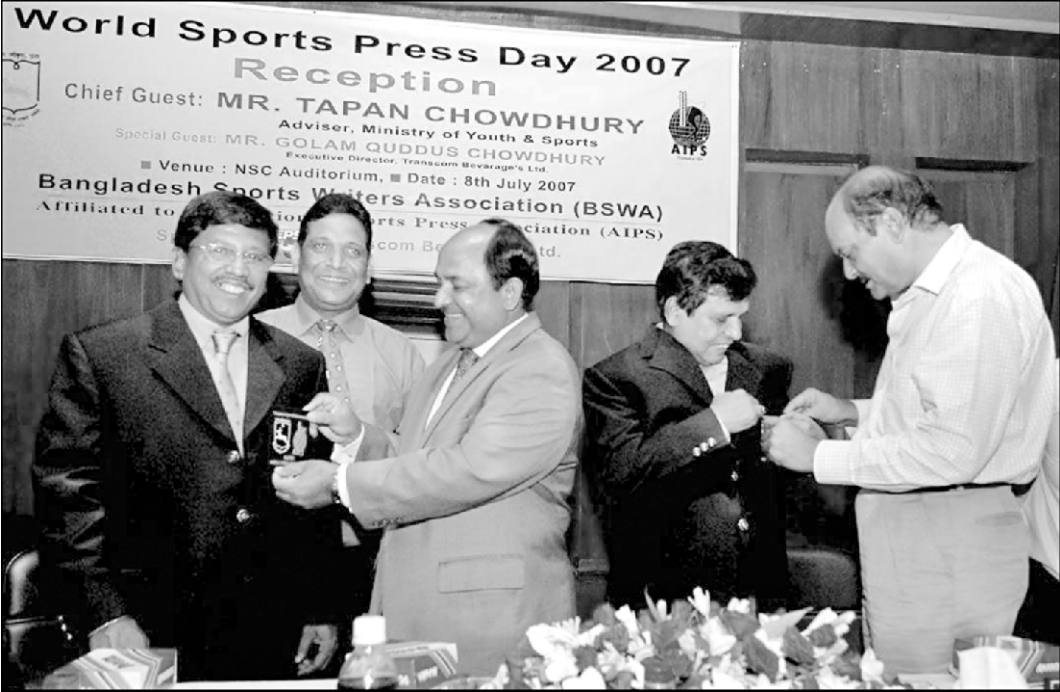


PHOTO: STAR

Roquibul Hassan (L) and Hannan Khan (2nd from right) receive mementos from Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury and Golam Quddus Chowdhury respectively at BSWA's reception to mark the World Sports Journalists Day at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Breaking the mould



CRICINFO, undated

Twenty20 cricket would give a lot of people, some of whom would otherwise have never made it, a chance to play international cricket, Kumar Sangakkara said in a recent interview. His words appeared to be borne out when India announced a squad of 30 probables for September's Twenty20 World Championship. With Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly excusing themselves - and they should be commended for doing so - the job of the selectors became that much easier.

This will be the first time in years that India are going into a tournament of any kind without the big three, and it remains to be seen if this is an indication of the selectors' long-term thinking, or whether it's just an exception for Twenty20 cricket. The selectors picked a squad heavy on youth, and understandably light on experience.

But the inexperience won't matter a jot, for none of India's cricketers has played much Twenty20 cricket. Dinesh Mongia, with 32 games under his belt, is far and away the most experienced, but he has been overlooked. Murali Kartik, who has played a bit of Twenty20 himself, for Lancashire and Middlesex - only yesterday he picked up 5 for 13, the third-best returns in the short history of this form of the game - also missed out.

It's hard to judge this squad of 30 because so little is known about what they can do at Twenty20 cricket. But it is a major opportunity

for some of these young cricketers to get a taste of the big league. It's still some way yet - the selectors have made a good start in picking the 30, but they could easily regress when it comes to pruning down the squad to 15 and leave out many of the really young ones, settling for safety instead.

There are many familiar faces - Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, and Virender Sehwag - but interestingly there are fresh ones too. Yusuf Pathan has made a bit of a name for himself as an offie who can tonk the ball a long distance, and more than mere potential has some performances to back his claims up, and joins his brother Irfan in the squad. Karan Goel the twenty-year-old left-hand bat and offie who scored 26 and took 4 for 13 as Punjab lost to Tamil Nadu in the final of the domestic Twenty20 championship, finds a spot.

Abhishek Jhunjhunwala, although quite a correct batsman, makes it, along with Manoj Tiwary, both from Bengal, and his electric fielding would be a big plus. Chetweshwar Pujara, another young batsman of promise, though hardly a man you'd pick for Twenty20, is in the squad too, as is Niraj Patel, the industrious left-hand batsman from Gujarat who has scored regularly and played a key role in finishing off limited overs games. Praveen Kumar, the allrounder gets in for his utility with bat and ball, as does Orissa's Niranjan Behera, while Anirudh Srikkanth, a dasher to the core, is one of those who could play a big part if he gets going.

One person the selectors should have found place for, at

least in the long-list of 30, is V Devendra, the Twenty20 specialist from Tamil Nadu. His played a crucial part in Tamil Nadu's success in the domestic competition with his fearless hitting at the top of the order and steady medium-pace.

What's critical is to see how the selectors go about their business when they halve this squad on August 7. If they go with those who have built reputations in one-day cricket, and send the out-and-out youngsters back to domestic cricket, they would have missed a trick. In order to help the selectors pick the final 15 the Board of Control for Cricket in India will probably have to schedule its interzonal Twenty20 competition between now and then, and that promises to be a hastily arranged affair.

While most of the attention has centred on the Twenty20 probables, what with a World Championship around the corner, it should not escape notice that the selectors also picked an A team to tour Kenya. In that squad are some seriously contentious choices, with Arjun Yadav getting a look in despite achieving little in domestic cricket. An opening batsman like M Vijay, who had an excellent debut season, scoring 628 runs at 40-plus will wonder why he misses out, in a squad that has only one regular opener, in Robin Uthappa. This at a time when India have a fairly new opening combination in Tests and are on the look out for openers.

Once again, it seems a confused selection, with a wicketkeeper opening, but given what they've done with the national team in the recent past, you'd at least have to say the selectors are consistent.

Australia could play Stanford series

CRICINFO, undated

Cricket Australia has confirmed that it would consider a proposal by Allen Stanford to participate in the \$23 million Twenty20 tournament in the West Indies next year. The tournament though is yet to be approved by the ICC, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) or ESPN, which has a broadcast agreement with the ICC.

According to the ICC's Future Tours Programme, Australia need to complete a Test and ODI series in the Caribbean by June 30, 2008. "Were the West Indies Cricket Board to reach an accommodation on a Twenty20 tournament with the ICC and they were in a position to supply us with more specific detail on any Twenty20 tournament, then we'd be happy to consider it," CricketAustralia spokesman Phil Pope was quoted in The Age. "And that would be on the understanding that we need to move on to our next commitment on the Future Tours programme out of the Caribbean by June 30."

The Australian newspaper reported that Stanford had approached Australia last year for a weeklong Twenty20 knockout also involving India, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Honda employed a one-stop strategy for each one of their drivers and saw Rubens Barrichello and Britain's Jenson Button complete the top ten. Both drivers benefited from the retirement of the Toyotas, Ralf Schumacher's best race of the year being ruined by suspension failure and Jarno Trulli pulling in complaining that his car was "undriveable."

Toro Rosso also suffered a double failure with Scott Speed making contact with Alex Wurz' Williams at Club and breaking his front-left suspension unit and Vitantonio Liuzzi's electronics failing with four laps to go.

DRU cricket begins

SPORTS REPORTER

The Pepsi-DRU six-a-side cricket tournament got underway at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Ex-president of Bangladesh Olympic Association Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the media cricket meet.

On the opening day, Janakantha beat Deshbangla by five wickets, Karatoo defeated BD News by 15 runs, Samakal beat Bhoror Dak by five wickets, Manavzamin crashed to Bangladesh by five wickets, Naya Diganta beat Independent by 37 runs, Khabarpatra beat Amader Shomoy by four wickets and New Edge thrashed Jai Jai Din by five wickets. Channel I received walk-over against BBC.

Pietersen loses No 1 spot

CRICINFO, undated

Kevin Pietersen has lost his No.1 ranking in one-day internationals after a lean series against West Indies. He made 42 runs at 14 in the three matches and has been replaced on the top spot by Ricky Ponting, even though Australia haven't play since the World Cup.

Pietersen slips to second place, with Mike Hussey in third, but a strong series for him against India in August came left him back to the head of the list. Mahendra Singh Dhoni continues his progress up the rankings and is now fifth overall. He has moved past the injured West Indies captain Ramnaresh Sarwan, who was unable to take any part in the series against England.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul's golden tour has lifted him four places to 13th after a Man-of-the-Series performance of 202 runs, including an unbeaten 116 at Edgbaston.

Polytan will take

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of the turf, which was laid in November last year.

"It's not unusual. We've seen similar problems elsewhere," Opitz told reporters during his visit at the venue.

"We will replace the whole training track in mid-August. There are swellings in the middle of the main track and we need to repair this."

He pointed out that there was nothing wrong in the turf, which is a chemical component.

"I think while pasting the layer beneath it, there was tremendous heat and after laying the turf, it breathed inside. In addition, the monsoon rain here caused the swellings.

"When we repair it, we will make sure it does not happen again," he added.

India shine

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maiden first-class wicket for Sussex.

The former Pakistan off-spinner, whose British passport arrived earlier in the week, bowled Karthik to end a 177-ball innings featuring 10 fours.

Gambhir's patient display ended when he was caught and bowled by Sussex stand-in skipper Michael Yardy, who arrived late after being released from the England squad for the third one-day international against West Indies earlier in the day.

David was relieved on 11 when he struck Yardy hard to short mid-wicket where Chris Liddle dropped the catch.

India's captain went on to complete an 82-ball fifty with three fours.

The opening match of India's three-Test series against England is due to start at Lord's on July 19.

Samba back

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before Uruguay re-established control.

And it regained the lead at 65 minutes, when some superb interplay between Pablo Garcia and Alvaro Recoba ended with the former producing a precise finish that nestled into the bottom right corner of the net.

Venezuela tried to find a response but was unable to threaten its opponent's goal before Tabarez's side extinguished its hopes in the final four minutes.

"It is really a shame," Paetz said. "There is no doubt the best team won, but the result did not reflect what happened on the pitch. We felt the team had more to give and could go further in the tournament. What please me is that the group are very united and mentally prepared for qualifying for the 2010 World Cup."

A swift counterattack saw Rodriguez claim Uruguay's third goal. Forlan added insult to injury in stoppage time as the Atletico Madrid pounced on a loose ball to make it 4-1.

"If we are focused, we can be competitive," Uruguay defender Diego Lugano said. "We showed that we have a lot of determination and concentration."

Powell sinks England

West Indies win series 2-1



AFP, Nottingham

Daren Powell sparked a top-order collapse as West Indies beat England by 93 runs to win the third one-day international at Trent Bridge here Saturday and so come from behind to take the series 2-1.

England, set 290 to win, were bowled out for 196 with more than five overs remaining.

Fast bowler Powell, who took the first three wickets to fall as England collapsed to 33 for three, finished with four wickets for 40 runs in 10 overs.

His haul included the prize scalp of Kevin Pietersen for nought. Earlier, Runako Morton top-scored with 82 not out in West Indies' total of 289 for five.

Morton, dropped on four by wicketkeeper Matt Prior off Dimitri Mascarenhas, shared a fourth-wicket stand of 85 with captain Chris Gayle (82), dropped on four and 20 after he won the toss.

Morton, who faced 89 balls with one six and six fours, then put on 92 with Dwayne Bravo (42).

England captain Paul Collingwood, whose side remained seventh in the International Cricket Council (ICC) one-day rankings to West Indies' eighth, insisted he wasn't too downhearted with the defeat.

"We readily admit we've got a lot of work to do. But as long as we learn from this series, we'll move forward. West Indies have played some fantastic cricket and you have to give them a lot of credit.

In reply to West Indies imposing total, Prior made one before he was caught by opposing keeper Denesh Ramdin after fending at Powell.

The bowler then had Alastair Cook (18) square-cutting to backward point where Dwayne Smith held a fine low catch.

Powell's first ball to Pietersen was a steeping bouncer which flew over Ramdin's head. His next was fuller and Pietersen edged a drive to

second slip where Devon Smith held on at the second attempt.

Owais Shah counter-attacked with a 62-ball fifty.

But on 51 he top-edged a sweep off Dwayne Smith's slower ball to Ramdin, ending a stand of 72 with captain Paul Collingwood.

The game was up for England when Collingwood, on 44 inside-edged a sharp Dwayne Bravo ball onto his stumps.

Then 162 for six became 162 for seven when Mascarenhas was brilliantly caught, one-handed, at first slip by Gayle off fast bowler Fidel Edwards (three for 30).

There was an element of farce to the finish when Monty Panesar, immediately after changing his bat, was lbw to Ravi Rampaul.

For the second match in a row England were unable to prevent West Indies scoring more than 100 runs in the last 10 overs, the tourists taking 116 off an inexperienced pace attack this time.

Stuart Broad was the most expensive England bowler, his nine overs costing 71 runs.

Liam Plunkett (three for 59) and fellow quick James Anderson (two for 51) shared the wickets between them.

West Indies' total was made without a major contribution from man of the series Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who scored 116 not out in their 61-run win in Wednesday's second ODI at Edgbaston, having averaged over 148 in the Tests.

But here he was out for 33 when he slogged Plunkett and Pietersen, running back some 20 yards from mid-wicket, took a well-judged catch.

Even so, Chanderpaul ended this series with an average of 202.

Gayle completed an unusually patient 85-ball fifty before popping a return catch to Plunkett.

Bravo though maintained the momentum.

Morton went to fifty by pulling Broad for four before, in the same over, driving him for a superb straight six.

West Indies now travel to Dublin for a quadrangular one-day tournament also featuring Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands starting on Tuesday.

England next face India in three Tests followed by seven one-dayers. The first Test is due to start at Lord's on July 19.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the third one-day international between England and the West Indies at Trent Bridge on Saturday:

WEST INDIES: 289-5 in 50 overs (Gayle 82, Chanderpaul 33, Morton 82 not out, Bravo 42; Anderson 2-51, Plunkett 3-59)

ENGLAND

Cook	c DR Smith	b Powell	18
Prior	c Ramdin	b Powell	1
Bell	c DR Smith	b Edwards	27
Pietersen	c DS Smith	b Powell	0
Shah	c Ramdin	b DR Smith	51
Collingwood	b Bravo		44
Mascarenhas	c Gayle	b Edwards	5
Plunkett	c Samuels	b Edwards	2
Broad	c Gayle	b Powell	5
Panesar	lbw	b Rampaul	13
Anderson	not out		11
Extras	(b-4, lb-3, w-8, nb-4)		19
Total	(All out in 44.2 overs)		196
Fall of wickets	1-6, 2-29, 3-33, 4-72, 5-144, 6-162, 7-162, 8-168, 9-171		

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Powell	10	2	40	4
Rampaul	7.2	0	25	1
DR Smith	10	0	60	1
Edwards	10	1	30	3
Gayle	2	0	11	0
Bravo	5	0	23	1

Result: West Indies won by 93 runs and clinch the three-match Series 2-1
Man-of-the-match: Daren Powell
Man-of-the-series: Shivnarine Chanderpaul
Previous Results
July 01: 1st ODI, Lord's: England won by 79 runs
July 04: 2nd ODI, Edgbaston: West Indies won by 61 runs
Umpires: Brian Jerling and Mark Benson

'Back-up' Gayle delighted

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guys communicate well with each other. We have a lot of team meetings and we know what responsibility each guy has. All the guys deserve it."

Gayle, whose appointment as captain by the selectors was initially rejected by the West Indies cricket board, commended the effort of his teammates. "To be one-nil down and come from behind to win 2-1 it was tremendous and we have to give credit to everyone, everyone had an input in winning this series.

"I thought the players were outstanding, not just one individual. Man-of-the-series Shiv (Chanderpaul) was tremendous for us with the bat. Daren Powell, Ravi Rampaul and Fidel Edwards always gave us a good start and I have to give those guys credit. Everybody chipped in, everybody played a part and we were well backed up in the field as well so I recommend that these guys really deserve to take a rest."

The West Indian captain played an uncharacteristically slow innings on Saturday. "We lost a couple of wickets and I decided that I wasn't going to take any chance at all. I was just going to play according to the situation and eventually it worked for me in the end with a few chances. As a professional you should be able to adapt to situations and be able to adjust as well.

"In the end it paid off for us with [Runako] Morton and [Dwayne] Bravo playing a big part in the innings. It is important to keep wickets in hand. Once you have wickets in hand it can always be a slog in the end."

Gayle took a guarded stance when asked about the relaxation of the 11.30 curfews.

"We are driving to London right

now and we need to take a rest, we are going to Gatwick to get a flight tomorrow to Ireland and another tour starts again. We might have a bit of celebrations on the bus, the guys deserve to take a rest but we

have to not lose focus, we have three games more to go [in Ireland]."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Grandmaster and president of World Butthan Martial Art Federation Dr Yuree was recently declared World Grandmaster of the Year, considered the most prestigious honour for the Grandmasters of Martial Art in the world. He is the first Bangladeshi to have achieved this award.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Obtained lesson	55 Dandling locale	20 Westerns to a halt
1 Dance	37 Sugar suffix	56 Kane's Rosebud	24 Say it's OK
5 Born Free	38 Lamb's dam	DOWN	25 Mornings (Abb.)
9 Interlaken	39 Leave in a hurry	1 Unwanted e-mail	26 Newsman eminent
12 Heart of the matter	42 Possess	2 Prong	3 Sicilian spouter
13 Actor Neeson	44 Buzz	3 Aldrin's maiden name	4 Session with the camera
14 Pi follower	48 Wish	5 Go by	27 Author Umberto
15 Domini lead-in	49 Send	6 Grown-up	29 Smack
16 Sore	50 Desire	7 Vast dry expanse	30 Exist
17 Card-player's call	51 Lemieux millieu	8 Judging	31 D.C. address
18 Heart of the matter	52 Count counter-part	9 Jason's ship	35 Naval petty officer
19 Shell game	53 Ashen	10 Stylish	36 Kind
20 Punch	54 Repiles of surprise	11 Goose's noise	38 Enthusiastic vigor
21 CIA fore-runner			40 "That hurts!"
23 "Go, team!"			41 Sediment
25 Carol opener			43 Telegram
28 Island greetings			45 Evangelist
32 Virile			46 Look lecherously
33 Bay of Biscay			47 Requirement
34 School teacher			49 Comic-strip scream

Solution time: 27 mins.

DOWN	SHIRAZ	ALJAR
ABALDOWIE	LULU	
MULLINER	KNOB	
DECK	GAGES	
FREAK	VIAL	
LUMP	REINER	
USE	PIZZER	ADO
BERLINER	STEIN	
EGGS	MAINE	
CORNS	MIRO	
ALIT	ONEILL	NER
WIFT	WELL	AME
NOEL	LOTS	CEO

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