



Did U Know?

The highest score in the 2007 Cricket World Cup was amassed by India when they piled up 413-5 in 50 overs against Bermuda.



Kapil Dev

(ICL chairman)

"Our cricket will go ahead as planned. No one can stop cricket from being played in India."

While reacting against comments by BCCI chief.



ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live from 8:30 pm

U-19s take lead

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 cricketers won their rain-interrupted third limited-overs match against hosts Malaysia by eight wickets at the STC cricket ground yesterday.

The visitors took a 2-1 lead in the four-match series after losing the second game by three wickets after a massive ten-wicket success in the first match. Bangladesh U-19s will play the last game tomorrow after a Twenty20 match scheduled for today against the Malaysian national team.

Rubel Hossain claimed four wickets and Shubhashis Roy captured three as Malaysia U-19s were reduced to 108-8 in 35.2 overs before rain stopped play.

Bangladesh achieved the revised target of 102 (35 overs) just in 15 overs with the loss of two wickets. Mohammad Mithun scored an unbeaten 41 and Rony Talukdar added 35.

Talat brands ICL 'Micky Mouse' cricket

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan team manager Talat Ali has laughed off attempts by the Indian Cricket League to rope in Pakistani cricketers, saying ICL was nothing more than 'Micky Mouse' cricket and lacked potential to tempt quality players.

"I use this word because even if it is held it is not official or serious cricket. It is a rebel series not involving countries and it would be more befitting if it was held in Disneyland instead of in a Test playing nation," Ali said.

ICL's efforts to rope in Pakistani players would not see the light of day, he claimed.

"I don't see this league tempting our players no matter what stage of their career they are in," he said.

Reacting to ICL's claims that it has been launched to scout talent, Ali said that was the responsibility of the respective cricket boards and not of private entrepreneurs.

"Even if someone wants to do something privately for the sport and young players they must have the blessings of the concerned cricket authorities and an example of this is the MRF Pace Academy in India or Intikhab Alam's academy in Mirpurk." But even as Ali came out with his strong statement against ICL, concerns are growing in Pakistan cricket over senior players Abdul Razzaq and Mohammad Yousuf failing to sign the new central contracts offered by PCB.

Razzaq and Yousuf are said to be among the seven Pakistan players who have been offered lucrative contracts by the ICL although Yousuf has denied getting any such offer.

Helal tenders resignation

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan yesterday confirmed that he has received the resignation letter of federation general secretary Anwarul Huq Helal.

It clearly looks to be the best kept secret as the news was broken to the press after daylong rumour that Helal would soon step down.

In fact, the veteran organiser had tendered his resignation on July 24.

Just after Sultan told reporters about the sensational news, Helal told The Daily Star that he had submitted his resignation letter to the BFF president last month.

"The reason is personal. I don't want to say any more," said Helal, who spent hours with journalists at his office last evening without nodding a single time when he was repeatedly asked about the rumour.

It is expected that Helal, elected in 2003, will serve the BFF till his application is accepted.

Sultan also said that his chief executive has sighted personal reasons behind the decision.

"I have got it and talked with him but he did not say anything beyond personal reasons," informed Sultan.

The BFF boss had a sitting with

the federation members available in the capital yesterday and called an emergency meeting tomorrow to discuss the issue.

"Whether Helal's resignation is accepted or not would be decided in our executive committee meeting on Wednesday," added Sultan.

It was the second incident of a chief executive of a sport federation resigning after Bangladeshi Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahbubul Anam's resignation last

time under the FIFA guidelines.

Sultan, who has repeatedly refused to admit his federation as 'a failure', reportedly showed no interest to continue as a member of the federation any further.

The BFF is already running on extra time after its executive committee, which expired last April, was given the responsibility by the FIFA and AFC to amend its constitution according to FIFA statutes before holding an election. The incumbent BFF executive committee was given a maximum time of one year to complete the job.

With the Caretaker Government firm to reform the sports federations, it would not be surprising if the BFF follows in the footsteps of its cricket counterpart.

ANWARUL HUQ HELAL

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