

## Rajput named India manager

AFP, New Delhi

India's junior coach Lalchand Rajput was on Wednesday named manager of the Indian team for the inaugural Twenty20 World Championships in South Africa in September.

Rajput, 45, played two Tests as an opening batsman in 1985 and served Mumbai with distinction in first-class cricket before being given charge of the Indian under-19 team last year.

Rajput replaces Chandu Borde, the manager for the ongoing Test and one-day tour of England, as India continue stop-gap arrangements in the absence of a regular coach since Greg Chappell resigned in April.

Former captain-turned-commentator Ravi Shastri managed the team on the tour of Bangladesh in May but declined to continue, citing media commitments.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Wednesday it will advertise for the post of national coach within the next week.

"We want to get a coach as early as possible," BCCI spokesman Rajiv Shukla told reporters after a meeting of its top officials here.

Wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was on Tuesday appointed captain of a revamped Indian team for the Twenty20 world meet in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban from September 11-24.

Regular captain Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and Zaheer Khan opted out of the tournament to rest ahead of a busy season that features matches against Australia and Pakistan.

India are drawn with Pakistan and Scotland in group D of the preliminary league of the Twenty20 competition, with the top two advancing to the Super Eights round.

The tournament features the nine nations currently playing Test cricket along with Zimbabwe, Kenya and Scotland.

## Surprise awaits

FROM PAGE 17

already bestowed a plot to the swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batsman to construct a house.

Dravid's elevation as captain has sent fans in his hometown into raptures.

The news also brought ecstasy to Dravid's parents, who expressed confidence that their son would excel in his new role.

Jharkhand State Cricket Association president Amitabh Choudhury said, "I am of the firm belief that Dravid will come up trumps in his new role too."

## Swing to win

FROM PAGE 17

both sides to focus on the job in hand at his old home ground. "I think both camps would have been told to real themselves in a little bit."

"The other thing is if England get sucked in it will detract from their ability to play good cricket and the only way they can win at The Oval is by playing good, hard cricket."

"I'm all for playing the game hard but if it starts detracting from your own performance then that becomes a problem."

## Play ICL

FROM PAGE 17

Other big names reportedly in negotiations with the ICL are ageing veterans Inzamam-ul Haq of Pakistan, Sanath Jayasuriya of Sri Lanka and New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns.

Importantly, no Indian star currently touring England has been linked to the rebel series, prompting BCCI president Pawar to dismiss the ICL last week as a "veterans series no one will want to watch."

## Fergie's house

FROM PAGE 20

Carlos Queiroz took the remaining players to Belfast.

"I told her I had a match but she wasn't having any of that," Ferguson said. "She said it was a friendly and I had to help her."

"Actually, she's saved me from making a difficult choice. My father played for Glentoran but I also have close associations with Dunfermline, where I played the best football of my career before my transfer to Rangers."

## Gomez best

FROM PAGE 20

Nuremberg coach Hans Meyer was second with 221 votes after his club won the German Cup for the first time in 45 years by beating Stuttgart in 45 minutes.

The 2007-2008 Bundesliga season kicks off on Friday when Stuttgart play host to Schalke 04.

## Rooney can

FROM PAGE 20

"But going through it, you learn a lot, not just about yourself but the players around you."

"I firmly believe we go into the next year in a stronger position than we were a year ago."

"There is a great determination amongst the players and staff to make sure we create a successful England team that qualifies for Euro 2008. The fans deserve it."



PHOTO: BFF ONLINE  
Outgoing BFF general secretary Anwarul Huq Helal (R) receives a bouquet from his colleagues at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

## NSC accords reception to handball team

UNB, Dhaka

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday accorded reception to the Bangladesh Under-17 handball team who became runners up in the South Asian Handball Championship (U-17) in Islamabad last May.

Hosts Pakistan emerged champions in the four-team meet. Afghanistan and Nepal were the other two participating countries.

NSC secretary Aminul Islam Khan was the chief guest at the reception held at the NSC conference room and distributed certificates among the U-17 team members.

NSC and Bangladesh Handball Federation officials were also present.

## Akhtar fined for leaving early

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan superstar Shoaib Akhtar has been fined \$5,000 (around £2,500) for two breaches of discipline.

Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Shafqat Nagmi revealed that Shoaib, 31, had left a training camp in Karachi without informing the team management.

Nagmi said: "He was also asked to appear before the disciplinary committee but he didn't show up."

Shoaib, who left the camp complaining of a neck strain, has been named in the squad for next month's World Twenty20.

## Helal bids

FROM PAGE 17

Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnu resigned, the issue was discussed at the meeting before accepting Helal's resignation.

Different BFF members, however, informed that the two-minute long meeting was a formal farewell party for Helal.

"The BFF president himself took the decision. He told us that Helal's resignation has been accepted and there was no discussion," told joint-secretary Anwar Hossain Ujjal.

When asked whether Helal was asked to reconsider his decision, Sultan refused to make any comment.

## PCB shifts

FROM PAGE 17

India finally broke the deadlock by playing a one-day in the port city in 2004 and their another match in Peshawar in 2006.

## ITINERARY

Sep 25 - South Africa team arrive in Karachi

Sep 27 -- Three-day match in Karachi

Oct 1-5 - 1st Test in Karachi

Oct 8-12 - 2nd Test in Lahore

Oct 18 - 1st one-day international in Lahore

Oct 20 - 2nd one-day international in Lahore

Oct 23 - 3rd one-day international in Faisalabad

Oct 26 - 4th one-day international in Multan

Oct 29 - 5th one-day international in Karachi

## UEFA Cup

FROM PAGE 20

Slaven Koprivica (CRO) v Galatasaray (TUR)

Leiria (POR) v Maccabi Netanya (ISR)

Hajduk Split (CRO) v Sampdoria (ITA)

Besa (ALB) v Litex Lovech (BUL)

Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC (ISR) v Kayseri Erciyesspor (TUR)

Atletico Madrid (ESP) v Vojvodina (SRB)

NK Siroki Brijeg (BIH) v Hapoel Tel-Aviv (ISR)

AC Omonia (CYP) v CSKA Sofia (BUL)

FC Basel (SUI) v Mattersburg (AUT)

Ried (AUT) v FC Sion (SUI)

FC Mika (ARM) v FC Artmedia Petralka (SVK)

FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (UKR) v Belchatow (POL)

Budapest Honved FC (HUN) v Hamburg (GER)

Young Boys Berne (SUI) v RC Lens (FRA)

Tobol Kostanay (KAZ) v Grocln Grodzisk Wielkopolski (POL)

Austria Vienne (AUT) v FK Jablonec (CZE)

Zlate Moravce (SVK) v Zenit St Petersburg (RUS)

Rapid Vienna (AUT) v Dinamo Tbilissi (GEO)

Mylykosken Pallo-47 (FIN) v Blackburn Rovers (ENG)

Drogheda United FC (IRL) v Helsingborgs IF (SWE)

SK Liepaja Metallurgs (LAT) v AIK Solna (SWE)

HJK Helsinki (FIN) v Aalborg BK (DEN)

FK Ekrana (LTU) v Valerenga IF (NOR)

Dunfermline (SCO) v BK Hacken (SWE)

Brann (NOR) v FK Suduva (LTU)

FC Haka (FIN) v FC Midtjylland (DEN)

FC Dinamo Minsk (BLR) v Odense BK (DEN)

Kaerjeng 97 (LUX) v Standard de Liege (BEL)

Freidrikstad FK (NOR) v Hammarby (SWE)

1st leg: August 16

2nd leg: August 30

Levskusen, who entertain Energie Cottbus, and SV Hamburg, who start at Hanover, are the dark horses to launch a title challenge.

Levskusen, last season's

UEFA Cup quarter-finalists, lost

Ewerthon returns to the Bundesliga

on loan from Real Zaragoza.

Schalke were one of the big

disappointments of last season,

having squandered their lead at the

end of the season to allow Stuttgart

Torsten Frings went down with a

knee injury.

Bremen start their campaign at

VfL Bochum and are visibly still

looking to gel as a unit.

Of the other teams, Bayer

playmaker Rafael van der Vaart.

## Taming of the Sree

### Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Of the entire Indian squad that practised at The Oval on Tuesday just one, Sreesanth, had bad news waiting for him. Obliging a few autograph seekers in the boundary line, Sreesanth was jolted when a journalist informed him of his axing from the one-day side. Initially he thought it was a joke -- "Dropped for one-dayers" and picked for Twenty20" -- but as his expression gradually turned morose.

It isn't a shocking omission by any means. Sreesanth hasn't been able to replicate his Test success in the one-day arena, picking up only 38 wickets in 29 games. But the implications of his losing a spot, the only change in India's one-day squad, are magnified several times when seen through the prism of a forgettable Test at Trent Bridge.

In the space of one afternoon, he bowled a ferocious beamer to Kevin Pietersen and liberal front-foot no-ball to Paul Collingwood, and shoulder-charged Michael Vaughan; for the last infringement he was docked 50% of his match fee.

On Tuesday, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, his captain for the Twenty20 World Championship, offered his support to Pietersen, he was also asked to appear before the disciplinary committee but he didn't show up."

Shoaib, who left the camp complaining of a neck strain, has been named in the squad for next month's World Twenty20.

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