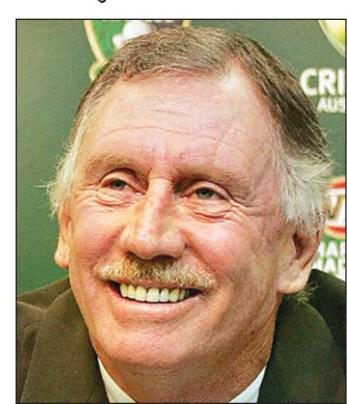




Did U Know?

Football made its debut as an Olympic sport at the London Games in 1908.



Ian Chappell
(Australian great)
"It won't surprise me if Bangladesh do make the final eight."
While making a prediction on the Twenty20 World Championships.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports
US Open Tennis
Day Eleven
Live from 9:00 pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live from 8:30 pm

Pakistan finish off with Kenya

AFP, Nairobi

Pakistan beat Kenya by eight wickets to end the hosts' miserable run in the four-nation Twenty20 international tournament at the Nairobi Gymkhana club here on Tuesday.

Only three Kenyan batsmen reached double figures after the Pakistan pace and spin attack flayed their batting line-up before they were bundled out for a humiliating 93 after winning the toss.

David Obuya hit Shoaib Akhtar for four in the second ball of the first over but the Pakistani paceman had the last laugh when he removed the opener and his partner Jimmy Kamande with only seven runs on the board.

The introduction of spin accelerated Kenya's steady decline with experienced Younis Khan playing a match-winning role by snapping up three wickets for 18 in a mean 3.4 over spell.

Abdur Rehman added two more wickets including the scalp of stand-in captain Thomas Odoyo for five and Tony Suiji for four to reduce the hosts to 35.

Pakistan skipper Shoaib Malik led from the front and despite losing Mohammed Hafeez pushed his team for reach the target at 93 for two with 36 balls remaining.

Pakistan finished their matches unbeaten which augurs well for their new coach Geoff Lawson ahead of this month's inaugural Twenty20 World Championships in South Africa.

"We have had excellent preparations for the world championships in very good conditions," said the former Australian pace bowler. "We are pleased with our results."

Lawson said he decided to introduce spinners in the match against Kenya just in case they will be needed to play the main role in the South African conditions that are likely to favour spin.

Dhaka off to a flyer

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champion Dhaka beat Comilla 58-29 in the final round match of the Fresh IGP Cup Youth Kabaddi Competition that began at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Kabaddi Federation President IGP Nur Mohammad inaugurated the meet.

The other match between Jessor and Dinajpur was postponed due to rain. The match will be held this morning.

No place for Alfaz

BFF names 33 for residential camp

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Alfaz Ahmed's return from retirement was short-lived as the veteran striker was dropped from the national team's preparatory camp for two tournaments this year and the World Cup pre-qualifiers.

The Bangladesh Federation (BFF) yesterday called 33 footballers to join camp for this October's World Cup home and away pre-qualifiers against Tajikistan, the Grand Royal Cup in Myanmar where the Under-23 team will participate in November and the SAFF Championship in December.

Alfaz, who had announced his retirement from international football after the Asia Cup qualifiers in 2006, joined the camp for the Nehru Cup – which concluded in India last month – when he was picked by new coach Syed Naseemuddin.

Alfaz, the fulcrum of the country's SAF Games (1999) and SAFF Championship (2003) winning teams, did not get a chance in the starting line-up of the first two games in the Nehru Cup in New Delhi but got back into the first eleven in the latter matches after the Bangladesh striking duo failed to deliver the goods.

Bangladesh scored just one goal in four matches and Indian coach Naseemuddin, whose vacation has yet to be ended, kept his first choice striking pair of Emily and Robin in addition of Moni and rookie Rony Islam.

The BFF finalised the team after yesterday's teleconference among its acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu, Hasanuzzaman Babloo who was coach of the Merdeka Cup side, assistant coach Golam Jilani and Naseemuddin, who is now in Kolkata to obtain visa to return to

Bangladesh. "We discussed for a long time and Naseemuddin took reports of the Merdeka Cup before finalising the list," said Malu yesterday.

The team will leave Dhaka tomorrow for Cox's Bazar to have a monthlong residential camp in the tourist resort.

"We are sending three coaches and a physio with the team, which will stay at the Diamond Rest House. It is very close to the Cox's Bazar Stadium where the team will train for one month," informed Malu.

The general secretary of Cox's



ALFAZ AHMED

Bazar DSA will coordinate the camp, to be run by Naseem, Babloo and Jilani.

Although the squad include 33 members, goalkeeper Aminul Haque, who missed an entire season due to injury, will join unofficially.

"No doubt he is the number one goalkeeper of the country but Naseem was reluctant as he did not see him play throughout the season. However, as the general secretary of the federation, I have used my power to take him to the camp," added Malu.

Forwards: Mohammed Robin, Zahid Hassan Emily, Rony Islam, Saifur Rahman Moni.

Aminul has recovered from injury

and has been training for long.

Although press reports suggested that Sujan, country's top defender, was on the verge of his return to the national team, it was learned that his recovery from injury was not good enough for him to play even humbly for half an hour.

Muktijoddha's holding midfielder Maruf and Badda Jagarani midfielder Nasir are the new inclusions while Mohammed Rony, Akram, GM Mamun, Mamun Khan and Liton were ignored after not playing in the Nehru Cup or the Merdeka Cup.

The other noted omission was former international Parvez Babu while impressive rightback Iblin Siraj once again failed to win the heart of the coaching panel despite Bangladesh showed incompetence at the right side of the backline in the Nehru Cup.

Bangladesh, who have lost by an identical margin of 6-0 to both China and India, have confirmed play-offs for the 5th-8th places with wins against Thailand (13-0) and Sri Lanka (3-2).

Bangladesh face Korea today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will be put to the test in their final Pool B match of the Asia Cup hockey today in Chennai when they meet a battling South Korea.

Two-time champions Korea are level with China on seven points with only India ensuring a place in the semifinals from the group.

With China facing a lowly Sri Lanka also today in the South Indian city, the semifinal aspirants will look for goals against their inferior opponents from South Asia in a bid to finish behind the hosts.

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BCB establish CCDM

SPORTS REPORTER

Five league coordinators were appointed for the different tiers of cricket in Dhaka, it was decided yesterday.

At a meeting of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM), it was also announced that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have constituted the Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu-led committee. The other members of this are Feroz Ahmad (co-chairman), Anwar Hossain (vice-chairman), a designated post for the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Mirpur Zone), Abid Hossain (member secretary) and Tariqul Islam Tito (member).

At the same meeting, the five coordinators for the upcoming 2007-08 season were named. They are: MA Kabir (Premier League), Md. Abu Selim Babla (First Division), Jobair Kabir Chowdhury Nipu (Second Division), Amin Khan (Third Division) and Humayun Kabir Ripon (Third Division Qualifying).

Mohidur Rahman Miraj will play the role of coordinator for the pending Third Division Qualifying for 2006-07 season.

Meanwhile, the CCDM has asked representatives from Brothers Union, City Club and Indira Road to attend a meeting at its Bangabandhu National Stadium office on Friday. The meeting is in connection with the relegation league of the previous season.

Ponting still uncertain

CRICINFO, undated

Australia are hopeful that Ricky Ponting will fly to South Africa by Sunday, ahead of Australia's opening ICC World Twenty20 match against Zimbabwe on Wednesday. However, even if he meets that timeframe – and that is no certainty – he will miss both Australia's warm-up games against South Africa and New Zealand on Sunday.

"This Twenty20 version suits my game because I hate leaving or defending a ball. Here I can play my shots from the start. I can't wait for the tournament to start."

Dhoni, 26, was excited at the prospect of leading India and dispelled doubts that the team's inexperience in the new format will prove costly.

"I am an eternal optimist," said the brilliant striker who has become a cult figure in India for his penchant for playing big shots.

"We have a 100 percent win record in the game and that's not a

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



PHOTO: INTERNET

India look to future

AFP, New Delhi

India go to the Twenty20 World Championships in South Africa hoping to mould a limited-overs team for the future as time ticks away for their ageing superstars.

India are bracing for the time when the brilliant trio of Sachin Tendulkar, 34, Sourav Ganguly, 35, and Rahul Dravid, 34, end their careers at almost the same time to leave a big void in the national team.

The selectors have prepared for the future by resting the three, as well as pace spearhead Zaheer Khan, for the Twenty20 event, having played just one international in the shortest version of the game, but the selectors will be pleased if fielding levels rise.

"We expect young players to be fit and athletic with a safe pair of hands," said chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar. "They should not be hidden on the field."

Seasoned seamer Ajit Agarkar, 29, who is one of India's better outfields, is the oldest player in the revamped squad while eight of the chosen 15 are 24 years or less.

But only six have played in the country's lone Twenty20 international in which India stunned South Africa by

six wickets in Johannesburg on December 1 last year.

Aggressive opener Virender Sehwag, who captained India in that game, and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh return to the international arena hoping a good showing in South Africa will help them regain their Test places.

"Personally, this Twenty20 event is very important for me," said Sehwag, 29, whose poor form cost him a place in the side for the England tour after being regarded as one of India's finest talents not very long ago.

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Shah, Wright power hosts

Cricket

AFP, London

Owais Shah hit his maiden one-day international century and enjoyed spirited support from debutant Luke Wright as England made 316-6 in the sixth one-day international at the Brit Oval here Wednesday.

England had looked in trouble at 137-5 when Kevin Pietersen became the second of three run outs in the innings, but were saved by a century partnership between Shah and Wright.

Dimitri Mascarenhas then smacked the final five balls of the innings for six, as England hit 114 from the final 10 overs.

The recovery helped deflect the attention from the controversial run out of Paul Collingwood, which had threatened to overshadow the day.

The England captain was short of his ground when dismissed to leave England 83-4, but the circumstances of his dismissal raised further questions as to the use of technology in the game.

Dinesh Karthik, on the field as a substitute after being left out for

England, picked up Kevin Pietersen's prod into the off side and threw to Mahendra Singh Dhoni who whopped off the balls.

India appealed, and umpire Peter Hartley, standing in his first ODI, initially seemed to give Collingwood not out. A replay on the big screen, though, showed him to be out by about six inches.

As India's players and fans cele-

LATEST

STAR SPORTS MONITOR

Sachin Tendulkar was foiled yet again in the 90's, falling six short of a well deserved ton as India were well placed at 186-2 at the end of 30 overs in reply to England's massive first innings total of 316.

Yuvraj Singh (10*) and Gautam Gambhir (19*) were the batsmen at the crease.

Stuart Broad and Monty Panesar were the England wicket-takers.

Hartley hastily called for a judgement from third umpire Ian Gould, who gave Collingwood out.

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PHOTO: AP

Spaniard David Ferrer exults after winning a point during his fourth round match against compatriot Rafael Nadal at the US Open in Flushing Meadows on Tuesday.

Ferrer floors Nadal

Henin sends Williams packing

AP, New York

Scrap that Venus vs. Serena matchup at the U.S. Open. Cancel that Rafa vs. Roger rematch, too.

The tournament took a sharp twist Tuesday night -- and early Wednesday -- when a pair of fan favorites at Flushing Meadows got chased.

First, it was Serena Williams. Top-seeded Justine Henin beat her for the third straight time in a Grand Slam quarterfinal, making it look easy at the end in a 7-6 (3), 6-1 victory.

"I got to go back and study and figure out how to beat her. That's it. Bottom line," Williams said.

Next up for Henin might be Serena's sister. Venus Williams plays No. 3 Jelena Jankovic in the quarters Wednesday night, and the winner gets Henin in the semis.

Henin will have a rooting interest: She's 1-1 against Venus, 7-0 against Jankovic.

"Every match is a final for me now," Henin said. "If I have to play Venus, it will be a good challenge for me to play both sisters in the same tournament."

A lot of tennis fans were looking forward to seeing Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer meet in a third straight

little bit bigger."

Monaco was serving in the third-set tiebreaker when a yellow ball he'd put away in case of a fault slipped out of his pocket. It was