

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BCB praises cricket team

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) congratulated the Bangladesh Special Olympics cricket team for winning the gold medal at the 2007 Special Olympics in Shanghai, China.

The board president and its members in a message sent their heartiest felicitations to the captain, players and the team management of the triumphant side which beat India in the final.

The BCB also hailed the glorious performance of the Bangladeshi athletes in the event.

Rezaul cleared

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and were instructed to rectify their bowling action in accordance with ICC guidelines, were videotaped by BCB High Performance Computer Analyst Mohammad Salauddin at the Mirpur Indoor Centre on 20 September 2007. The video footages were then presented to the group.

Saifullah Khan, Imran Parvez, Kamruzzaman, Waskorni Ahmed, Sharifulah and Kamaluddin are considered bowlers with illegal actions.

They were allowed to bowl last season but were also recorded.

Discarded national players Faisal Hossain and Jamalluddin Babu, Resal Khan, Farhad Hossain, Ashraful Khan and Yasin Arafa were judged as 'under further observation' in Grade 1.

BCB further added that all Grade 1 bowlers will be allowed to bowl this season. However, this decision is flexible and a bowler can be banned for life if his bowling action is reported suspect again.

Gen Moeen

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SM Shahidullah, managing director of construction firm Shahidullah Associates, was also present during the visit and the NSC boss asked him whether his organisation was competent to do the job.

Despite Shahidullah's answer being affirmative, the NSC chief vowed to bring the responsible under judgment.

Sources said that BUET's Bureau of Technology and Research Centre (BTRC) and NSC's then director of planning and development Nurul Haque - Pradhan could be questioned regarding the matter.

Shamimuzzaman Basunia, representative of BTRC -- consultants of the venue renovation -- has also visited the site.

13-match ban

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Afzal, the mercurial all-rounder, for provoking him into lashing out with a bat.

"The incident happened after Afzal used nasty words about my family which I couldn't tolerate and Asif came in between the matter," Akhtar said as he arrived at the hearing.

But he later said that he wanted to learn from the error of his ways.

"I have suffered a lot and there were lessons to be learnt from that mistake. I now want to move my career ahead -- I will be extra cautious and careful in future," Akhtar said.

"Not playing cricket was like not breathing and I was in a state of trauma but this will end here."

Richards pledges

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Richards described the reports linking him to Arsenal as "ridiculous."

He said: "This was in a magazine. I spoke to once, a long time ago it's very old stuff. I've said when I was younger that I'd like to play for Arsenal one day and that was it. Now they're making a big thing about it."

Richards also rubbish suggestions that he has insisted on a buy-out clause in his new deal that would allow him to move to a Champions League club.

"It's certainly not the case that I want to move anywhere. I'm looking for a new house in Manchester, so why I want to move anywhere now?"

"I'm enjoying my football week in, week out and I'm playing for England, so what more could I want at the moment?"

Match-fixers

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The latest judgement also increased some of the fines, with the largest penalty imposed on the former owner of FC Snyot, Ivo Valenta, rising to 350,000 koruna.

The club's sporting manager Jaroslav Haskik was arrested at the beginning of May, 2004, after police overheard conversations about match-fixing.

The content of the conversations sparked an enormous corruption scandal in which around 30 football officials and referees were implicated, including the vice president of the Czech football federation (CMFS), Milan Brabec, who was at the same time the head of the referees' committee.

The latest sentences can still be appealed.

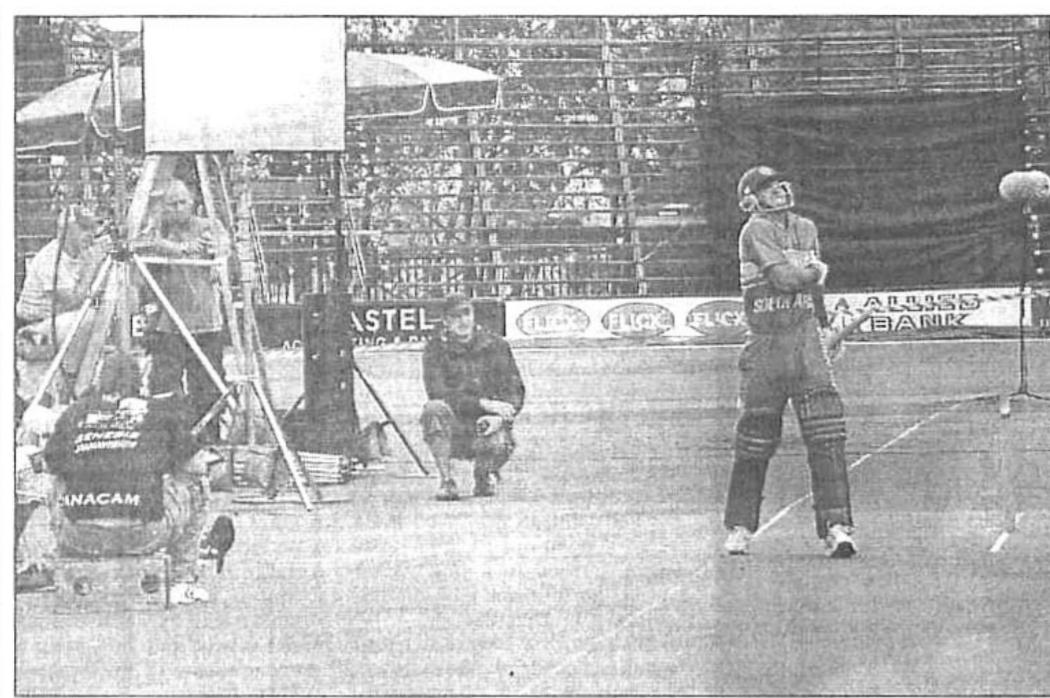


PHOTO: AFP

South African actor Frank Rautenbach performs a scene from the movie on the life of late Hansie Cronje at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Monday.

Cronje movie underway

Cricket

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but to tell the story "as it was".

"When Hansie was still alive I told him we should do something like this and he always said 'you can't do it until the story is finished', and when he died I knew he was right," he said.

Three years ago, he started doing research for the film, which included interviews with more than 40 people who were close to Hansie.

"It's an inner journey, it's not primarily a cricket story although there is some nice cricket in it, but the cricket merely forms the background to the story," said Frans Cronje of the movie which has a 55 million rand (Rs 8 million dollar, 5.7 million euro) budget.

His brother "represented the new South African hero, he could speak to black and white, old and young, rich and poor... and make everyone feel special."

Only the second South African captain in the post-apartheid era, Cronje's exposure in a match-fixing scandal left the cricket world aghast.

The King Commission, set up to probe the involvement of Cronje and other South African cricketers in match-fixing during a five-game one-day series in India, ended in him being banned from the game for life.

After Cronje died, former South Africa coach Bob Woolmer -- whose death during the World Cup this year sparked a new round of speculation about match-fixing mafia -- called Hansie "a real leader of men".

"They would have walked off Table Mountain for him. He was a man destined for greatness," Woolmer said.

But as South African batting great Barry Richards said, "he will obviously be remembered for all the wrong reasons."

While questions remain as to whether all the truth had emerged, with reports of secret bank accounts, numerous properties and funds secreted away, the older Cronje is adamant these accusations are mere speculation.

"If people want to speculate, they can speculate. As far as the movie goes we don't try and dig up anymore, we don't try and point fingers at anybody."

Rautenbach spent a year preparing for the role, being coached in cricket and spending time with the family.

"Every now and then he looks so much like Hansie. It's the mannerisms more than the look I suppose," says Frans, adding it was difficult filming some of the scenes.

Rautenbach said that some of the scenes were emotionally draining.

"The King Commission was really tough. Hansie was exceptionally tired, there was a lot of emotions and he goes to a backroom and weeps in his father's arms," he said.

Rautenbach has run the gamut of emotions Hansie experienced in admitting his guilt, and trying to "find a purpose again while at the same time deal with being ostracised."

"At the end of the day we are not making a movie to vindicate him because he did wrong. We are trying to tell a story of redemption. He had more than his fair share of punishment."

American actress Sarah Thompson, who has had roles in the television series 7th Heaven and Angel, plays the role of Cronje's wife Bertha.

The 10-week shoot has taken the cast across South Africa and they are scheduled to shoot scenes in London and Mumbai.

The movie is scheduled for release in September next year.

Johnson crushes India

Cricket

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He is only the second player to reach 400 one-day internationals after Sri Lankan batsman Sanath Jayasuriya.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth one-day international between India and Australia on at Vadodara on Thursday:

INDIA

Ganguly run out 0

Tendulkar c Gilchrist b Lee 47

Dravid b/w Lee 0

Yuvraj c Gilchrist b Johnson 1

Uthappa b/w Johnson 5

Dhoni c Gilchrist b Johnson 4

Padhan c Gilchrist b Johnson 26

Harbhajan c Bracken b Hogg 5

Kartik 0

Pathan 2 0 11 0

Zaheer c Gilchrist b Bracken 28

RP Singh not out 12

Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-1, w-9) 20

Total: (All out in 39.4 overs) 148

Fall of wicket: 1- 5, 2- 5, 3- 12, 4- 43, 5- 43, 6- 92, 7- 105, 8- 106, 9- 107

Bowler O M R W

Lee 9 0 42 2

U-16s eye

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Sohrab and captain Naimur Rahman Shahid were also present.

Nipu informed that the team are genuinely under-16 as all sorts of tests had been done to determine the players' age.

"We hope to beat at least Palestine and Turkmenistan," added Nipu, who has been in charge of the squad for 80 days.

Bangladesh will open their campaign against Palestine on October 17 while meet the hosts on October 20. Following the Turkmenistan game on October 22, they will face two more Central Asian opponents, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, on October 25 and 28 respectively.

SQUAD

Nurul Karim, Rafiqul Islam Rana, Shahidul Alam, Sajidur Rahman Sujan, Maman Hossain, Amjad Hossain, Rashed Khan Milon, Naimur Rahman Shahid (captain), Ariful Haque Saikat, Mohammed Saifuddin, Salauddin Ahmed Nadim, Saddam Hossain, Jamal Hossain, Mohammed Sohag, Habibur Rahman Sohag, Mohammed Sohel, Mamunur Rashid, Imran Hossain, Jewel Hossain and Shakil Alam.

Result: Australia won by 9 wickets and lead the 7-match series 3-1.

Man-of-the-match: Mitchell Johnson.

Toss: India.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and Amesh Saheba.

Xabi ban reduced

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the door for Denmark, who believe they can win all their remaining games and qualify.

Sevilla's Christian Poulsen is back in Denmark's squad after serving a three-game suspension for punching Sweden's Markus Rosenberg in that fiery June match.

Lithuania will be without right-back Delvaidas Semberas when they take on France in Paris next Wednesday as he has suffered.

"It's very simple. We have to win," he said.

The Danes seemed out of the running when UEFA awarded Sweden a 3-0 win in a June 2 qualifier in Copenhagen that was abandoned in the 89th minute after a fan attacked the referee.

But a series of slip-ups by Spain and Northern Ireland have opened

Kahn drew Lehmann's wrath last week by stating he doubts there will be another era of goalkeeping legends such as Sepp Maier, Toni Schumacher, Bodo Illgner or even himself, in the German team again.

"I don't like it when someone glorifies themselves," said 37-year-old Lehmann in reply.

The German is on the bench at Arsenal even though he has recovered from elbow and achilles tendon injuries with Spain's Manuel Almunia wearing Arsenal's number one shirt.

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Asif in doubt for SA ODIs

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan bowler Mohammad Asif is a doubt for next week's one-day matches against South Africa, an official said Thursday.

"Asif had pain in his elbow and the scans show he has inflammation in his elbow and the doctor has advised a week's rest," team manager Talat Alsa said.

"He should be okay but it will depend on his progress," he told reporters.

Pakistan play South Africa in five one-day internationals which follow the two-Test series that Pakistan trails 1-0.

The first two one-dayers are scheduled here on October 18 and 20.

The remaining matches will be held in Faisalabad on October 23, Multan three days later and Karachi on October 29.

And that is fair enough, as Johnson has endured plenty of occasions when it hasn't been his day. He was no more than a footnote in Australia's Ashes and World Cup triumphs; now he seems intent on writing his own chapter in Australian cricket's future. His 5 for 26 on what most experts tipped as a belter at Vadodara confirmed what good judges have been saying for years -- Johnson is a star on the rise.

The third umpire gave me out when it was a bounce catch," said Butt, who also criticised decision against Pakistan's ace batsman Mohammad Yousuf in the first innings of the second Test.

"I don't think Yousuf was out. When you lose your premier batsman like that, one decision can make a lot of difference to the team," said Butt of Yousuf's legal decision off paceman Dale Steyn on Tuesday.

Pakistan, chasing a mammoth 457 to level the two-Test series, were 108-1 on the fourth day -- needing another 349 runs to win or bat out 90 overs on Friday. South Africa won the first Test in Karachi by 160 runs.

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Afzal, 37, has been in the Indian team since