



BFF ready to axe coach

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will wait for the result of Bangladesh's 2010 World Cup pre-qualifier on October 28 against Tajikistan before deciding the fate of Indian coach Syed Nayemuddin.

The national team, which drew 1-1 with Tajikistan in the home match on October 8, left Dhaka yesterday afternoon for Bangkok enroute to Dushanbe.

After staying overnight in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent, they are expected to take bus ride today before boarding a flight for neighbouring Tajikistan.

Following press reports that the match could be the last for Nayemuddin as Bangladesh national coach, BFF's acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu yesterday admitted that the federation is considering to bid the former Indian international and two-time SAFF Football winning coach goodbye.

"We recruited Nayemuddin with a view to prepare the national team for the SAFF Championship, which was due to be held in December. After its deferral to June

next year, we have a long time in hand. Considering the high cost of running the camp, we cannot afford to have a foreign coach for about eight months.

"We also have to consider that the players will have to be released for the domestic season with the National Championship and the second professional league on the cards," said Malu.

He informed that the cost of running the camp is Tk 12 lakh per month, inclusive of the coach's salary -- Tk one lakh.

The BFF has been sweating over the expenses -- reportedly Tk 70 lakh -- of the home and away pre-qualifying matches for the World Cup in South Africa and it seems that they would dissolve camp as soon as the team return.

If Bangladesh reach the qualifiers by upsetting favourites Tajikistan, the federation, however, will have to think differently.

"If we have to play the second stage of the qualifiers, we have no other option to run the camp," said Malu, who did not sound that convincing about keeping Nayem.

"That's why we have been waiting for the result," he told adding that the BFF has already discussed the Nayemuddin issue following

his row with senior players.

"He has also humiliated our staff and it is certainly damaging to the BFF's image. If things go beyond control, we can't keep him. We have requested the coach to 'leave' the acting secretary said.

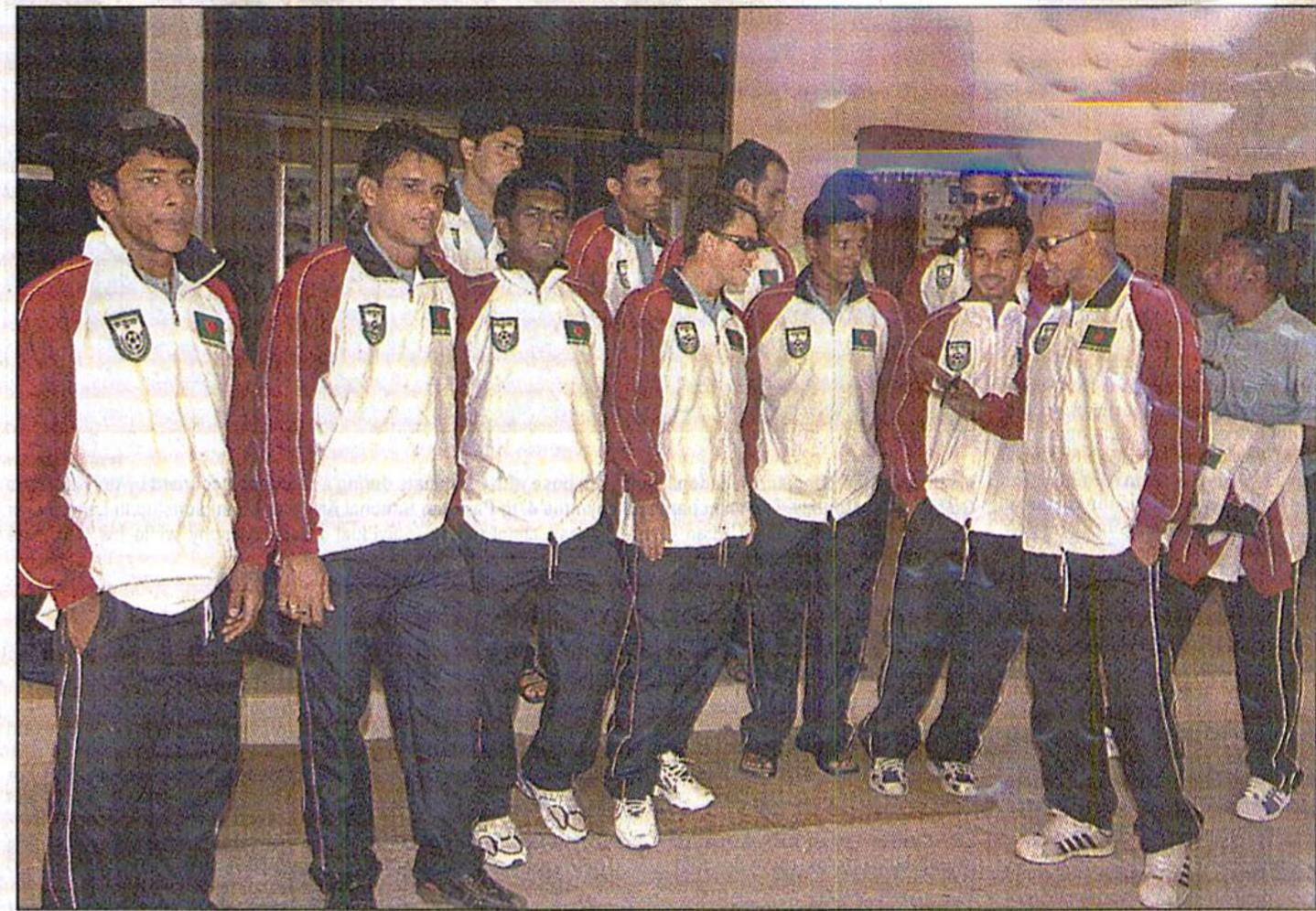
He, however, did not mention whether the 60-year-old Indian would be chopped immediately after the team's return.

"His contract expires in December but it can be terminated at any time. Still, we want it to happen smoothly if it comes to that."

It is nothing new for Bangladesh, unlike any other nation, to remain without a coach for the national team for long periods.

Previously, SAF Games winning coach Samir Shakir and SAFF Championship triumphant George Kottan of Austria were shown the doors immediately after success. Argentine coach Diego Cruciani was also let go, after 13 months in charge, before Nayemuddin came as a saviour.

If the Indian -- the least expensive of foreigners to have coached Bangladesh -- leaves now, it is understandable that the federation will go for a face saving recruit shortly before the SAFF Championship, killing any hopes of success in the regional event by starting it all over again.



Bangladesh national footballers gather at the BFF Bhaban yesterday ahead of their trip to Tajikistan to play the 2010 World Cup pre-qualifier.

PHOTO: STAR

Vettori's tough task

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

APF, Bloemfontein

Daniel Vettori faces a tough challenge as New Zealand's new cricket captain on their tour of South Africa that starts with a four-day match against a South African Invitation XI in Bloemfontein from Thursday.

Vettori was appointed captain of the Black Caps after former skipper Stephen Fleming stepped down as one-day captain following the World Cup in the West Indies earlier this year.

Fleming said he wanted to continue to lead the Test side but the selectors opted for a complete change, putting Vettori, 28, in charge for all matches.

The tall left-arm spinner had his first taste of leadership when he skippered the Black Caps to the semi-finals of the recent World Twenty20 in South Africa but taking on the host country in two Tests and three one-day internationals is likely to be an altogether more

challenging task.

New Zealand were beaten 2-0 in a three-Test series in South Africa two seasons ago after losing a one-day series 4-0.

One of the key players for Vettori in the Test matches will be his predecessor, Fleming, who has been picked as a specialist batsman. On the 2005-06 tour Fleming made 262 in the drawn second Test

and Vettori has high hopes for his pace attack, spearheaded by Shane Bond, Mark Gillespie and Chris Martin, on pitches in Johannesburg and Centurion that usually favour fast bowlers.

On the previous tour Fleming

identified South Africa's fast bowlers, Makhaya Ntini and Dale Steyn, as the difference between the two teams. Bond had to withdraw from the series because of injury, while Gillespie had not yet broken through.

Unusually for modern tours, New Zealand have a lengthy build-up to the Test matches. They arrived in South Africa last Friday and have had almost a week to prepare for Thursday's match against a capable Invitation team, led by recent Test batsman Boeta Dippenaar.

They have another four-day game, against South Africa A, before the first Test starts in Johannesburg on November 8.

DANIEL VETTORI

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Lanka aiming higher

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka have landed in Australia in a buoyant mood and are confident of posting their first Test win in the country during the two-match series. Despite losing a one-day match to England already this month, Mahela Jayawardene, the captain, believes the squad is good enough to compete with the new hosts.

"We're confident we can play

good cricket and if we play good cricket we will be in with a very good chance of winning some matches," he said shortly after the team flew into Adelaide. "If I can finish 1-0, I will take that. If I can finish 2-0, I will take that, too. But the most important thing for us is how we compete. To beat Australia you need to be with them for four days. You can't compete for one-and-a-half sessions and expect to win."

Sri Lanka have arrived during a debate in Australia about crowd behaviour and Jayawardene hoped racism would not overshadow the Test series, which begins in Brisbane on November 8. However, Trevor Bayliss, who coached New South Wales before accepting the Sri Lanka job, expected at least some racists during the tour.

"There are idiots in any crowd," he said. "I don't know whether you're going to stop that 100%, but the majority of the crowd realise it's the wrong thing to do. I think there will be one or two idiots, put it that way." Sri Lanka had crowd problems in Adelaide the last time they toured and Muttiah Muralitharan is expected to be targeted by the home crowds as he looks for the nine wickets to overhaul Shane Warne's record of 708.

Murali has not played here for ten years in a Test match and he's geared up," Jayawardene said. "He sees Australia as one of the places

he has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

Sri Lanka certainly need the preparation after surprisingly losing at home to England. They recovered to win the last match of a close series, which finished 3-2, and gain some momentum heading to Australia," Jayawardene said. "All four fast bowlers bowled well."

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the world, he's looking forward to the challenge."

Muralitharan will play in the tour-opener on Saturday, which is a

hastily-arranged three-day warm-up against a Chairman's XI at Adelaide. It is one of two practice

matches before the first Test and Sri Lankan officials requested the extra game having learned from previous tourists who had come unstuck in Australia through insufficient practice.

"But the disappointing factor was how we batted throughout that series. We learned a lot, we needed to brush up. But the guys have been working very hard. It was a very

challenge."

He has to challenge himself. For him to prove himself that he's taken so many wickets around the