

Cops call up Boje

AFP, New Delhi

South African left-arm spinner Nicky Boje has been called in for questioning by Indian police in connection with the Hansie Cronje match-fixing scandal, a senior crime branch officer said on Wednesday.

"We have issued a notice to Nicky Boje but no dates have been fixed on which he should appear before us," New Delhi police crime branch chief Madhu Tiwari said of the 2000 incident that rocked the sport.

"Further communications if any will be sent by us either through the South African high commission (embassy) in Delhi or through diplomatic channels," an official told AFP on condition he is not named.

Boje retired from international cricket last year and is currently playing in the rebel Indian Cricket League near the northern city of Chandigarh, which ends December 16.

New Delhi crime branch detectives questioned compatriot Herschelle Gibbs, who was also named in the scandal, when he flew to India for the Champions Trophy in India in October 2006.

Left-arm spinner Boje skipped two tours of India after failing to obtain an ironclad assurance that the police would not detain him.

Implicated in the same scandal was former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje who was served with a life ban before dying in a plane crash in 2002.

Delhi police say they recorded Cronje's telephone conversations with bookies in India in which the former skipper struck deals to throw one-day matches.

Boje and Gibbs were also found guilty of being a part of their skipper's conspiracy in a public enquiry held in South Africa. They were fined and banned for six months.

CHAMPS TROPHY HOCKEY

GB storm to victory over Pakistan

BBC ONLINE, undated

Great Britain scored three times in 10 minutes to record a 4-1 victory over Pakistan in the Champions Trophy in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

Stephen Dick, Rob Moore and Simon Mantell all scored in the first half before Pakistan's Mohammed Imran pulled a goal back after the break.

Play was suspended for an hour because of torrential rain but Richard Alexander sealed the win on 57 minutes.

"It was a bit feisty but we got on with it and put in a professional display," said manager Pete Nicholson.

"After a delay as long as an hour, there is always the risk of losing your concentration, but we dealt with the unexpected break well and scored our fourth just after we came back on.

NSC to increase

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would be increased in future. He also said that he has plans to help the clubs of Dhaka to solve their fund crisis.

Each of the 472 Upazila sports associations will get Tk 10,000 in addition of gear although the proposed budget has no fund for Upazilas.

After spending the lion's share of its huge staff and renovation and maintenance of the sports establishments, the NSC will use 37.4 percent of its budget for sports federations and associations.

The 31 national sports federations -- barring the Bangladesh Football Federation -- will get over Tk seven crore while about Tk four crore will be distributed among district sports associations.

However, the amounts might change after reviewing the training funds in line with the chairman's instruction.

The last budget meeting under the then NSC chairman and State Minister for Sports Fazlur Rahman had approved a total of Tk 86.99 crore, which was later increased by Tk 25.92 crore.

Abahani

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match to be played tomorrow at the same venue.

TEAMS
ABAHANI: Biplab, Pradeep (Waly), Nazrul, Dominic, Mintu, Abul, Pranotosh, Robin, Munna, Emily and Moni (Tipu and Zahed).

MOHAMMEDAN: Aminul, Ariful, Mishu (Manjabin), Biplab, Kamal, Ripon, Sharif, Arman Aziz, Mithu, Farhad (Rony) and Figo.

Referee: Abdul Hannan.

Terry's choice

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"I've had a meeting with Brian Barwick, but that will stay private between me and him. Not just about managers, it's about many things," Terry said.

"I'm sure he's going to meet a few of the other guys (England players) as well and it's great to be consulted on these matters," added Terry.

England's next match is a friendly with Switzerland at Wembley on Feb. 6 but they do not have a competitive fixture until the 2010 World Cup qualifiers start in September.



West Indies batsman Runako Morton (R) retrieves his ground to avoid being run out while Zimbabwe wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu looks at the ball during their third one-day international in Harare on Tuesday.

WI waltz to victory

AFP, Harare

Stand-in captain Dwayne Bravo hit 45 runs in 24 balls to see the West Indies home and dry by six wickets as the visitors took a 2-1 lead in the five-match one-day series against Zimbabwe here on Tuesday.

Bravo's knock, in his first international match as captain, helped West Indies to take their score to 142-4 in just 27.5 overs.

Fast bowler Jerome Taylor took three wickets for 18 runs from 9.5 overs as the West Indies dismissed the home team for 139 off 37.5 overs.

It had all looked so comfortable for the tourists when they bowled out the Zimbabweans for a measly 139 runs in 37.5 overs following a late morning start to the match.

There had been a 75 minutes delay following morning rain. And so Bravo had no hesitation when winning the toss in asking the home side to bat on a humid wicket that had been under covers.

But West Indies made heavy weather of their reply and at 82-4, still 58 runs short of target, some of their players and officials at Harare Sports Club were beginning to have anxieties.

Bravo, replacing the injured Chris Gayle as captain, came to the wicket relishing the challenge, however, and he finished off the home side with abandon.

Other individual successes for West Indies here were by Runako Morton, who added 38 to his previous scores of 55 and 79, and Darren

Powell with 3-32.

It was debut day for new opening batsman Brenton Parchment, but he made only a modest 15 runs.

The sides' next two matches will be staged at Zimbabwe's second city Bulawayo, 450km to the south-west, where water supply is being rationed to 18 hours a week, power cuts are long and frequent, but where runs should be plentiful on usually excellent though slowish wickets.

This could be helpful to the Zimbabweans, whose diminishing batting performances after stunning West Indies on the first day of the tour signify a trend that has haunted them since being deprived of top level cricket some three years ago.

Coach Robin Brown, who sat in dejected posture throughout the match Tuesday, has hard work ahead with spirits to lift and technique to impart, or re-impart, to his charges.

And West Indies, who were concerned at their indifferent form four days ago, are gaining in confidence as their tour of South Africa approaches, even though their opponents here have been notoriously fragile in the recent past.

The fourth match will be on Friday and the fifth and final match on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Zimbabwe and the West Indies at Harare Sports Club on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE
Sibanda c Ramdin b Powell 5
Taylor lbw b Rampaul 4

Chibhabha c Smith b Rampaul 6
Taibu b Lewis 32
Masakadza c Smith b Taylor 6
Matsikenyeri c Smith b Lewis 16
Chigumbura c Morton b Powell 2
Dabengwa not out 26
Utseya c Ramdin b Powell 4
Brent b Taylor 9
Price b Taylor 2

Extras: (lb-4, w-22, nb-1) 27
Total: (All out in 37.5 overs) 139
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-25, 3-36, 4-67, 5-83, 6-92, 7-96, 8-109, 9-129, 10-139.

Bowler O M R W
Rampaul 6 1 29 2
Powell 9 1 32 3
Taylor 9.5 1 18 3
Bravo 4 0 20 0
Lewis 9 0 36 2

WEST INDIES

Smith c Matsikenyeri b Chigumbura 1
Parchment c Taibu b Chigumbura 15

Morton c Brent b Utseya 38
Chanderpaul not out 27
Samuels b Taibu b Utseya 4
Bravo not out 45
Extras: (lb-6, w-4, nb-2) 12
Total: (For 4 wickets in 27.5 overs) 142
Did not bat: Lewis, Powell, Ramdin, Rampaul, Taylor.

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-35, 3-77, 4-82.

Bowler O M R W
Chigumbura 8 1 58 2
Brent 5.5 2 31 0
Utseya 6 0 27 2
Price 8 1 20 0

Result: West Indies won by 6 wickets and lead the 5-match series 2-1.

Man-of-the-match: Jerome Taylor.
Man-of-the-series: West Indies
Match referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

Lawson hails spirit

AFP, Kolkata

Pakistan coach Geoff Lawson on Tuesday praised his team for showing character in adversity to draw the second Test against India here.

"I think character is the right word," said Lawson, a former Australian fast bowler.

"For much time on day three in this Test, we were in all sorts of trouble. Again today there were a few nerves if you lose a few wickets in a hurry, but we showed character."

Middle-order batsmen Misbahul Haq (161 not out) and Kamran Akmal (119) helped their side avoid a follow-on on Monday, and stand-in captain Younis Khan made an unbeaten 107 to save the match on Tuesday.

Pakistan finished at 214-4 in their second innings chasing a stiff 345-run target off 81 overs. They were in

trouble in the afternoon session when they were reduced to 78-4 before Younis came to their rescue.

Lawson said his side were capable of squaring the three-Test series. Pakistan are trailing 1-0 following their six-wicket defeat in the opening match. The final Test begins in Bangalore on Sunday.

"We are feeling that in the last Test we can get something as Pakistan have done in the previous series. They won in Bangalore last time and levelled the series," he said.

"That's the belief in the dressing-room because we had the courage and character to save the match here. This is a big result for us. This does lift our morale tremendously."

Pakistan were in a similar situation on their last tour of India in 2005, drawing one match and losing one before squaring the series in Bangalore.

"We proved we were hard to bowl out and we are still in this series. We are feeling pretty good with where we are at right now as compared to

two-and-a-half days ago when we were in a lot of trouble," he said.

"When you escape from games like that you learn a lot and gain a lot. It is an achievement to get out with a draw. It's a great achievement."

Pakistan were in a sticky spot midway through the afternoon session before Younis and Mohammad Yousuf (44 not out) ensured a draw with their 136-run stand for the unfinished fifth wicket.

"We had two experienced players (Younis and Yousuf) batting and when you have people who have been in that situation before you always believe you can escape with a draw," said Lawson.

The Pakistani coach also said they had yet to decide whether to play skipper Shoaib Malik in the last Test.

"We will wait till the last moment before we decide. We have been told that it is a two-week injury, so that will be just about before the start of the Test," said Lawson.

England fall to Murali

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his right hand, sustained while batting in the first innings, as he attacked from the start with four superbly timed boundaries.

Pietersen hit Malinga to the straight field, drove Vaas through the covers and then welcomed Fernando with two consecutive fours.

Fernando, however, had the last laugh as Pietersen edged a ball that kept low on to his stumps and departed for 18.

Fernando, the third seamer in the home team after Vaas and Malinga, claimed his second wicket soon after when Paul Collingwood (16) failed to keep a cover drive down and was snapped up by Kumar Sangakkara.

England lost Bopara in the fourth over after resumption when he was trapped leg-before by Sanath Jayasuriya, who retired from Test

cricket after the match. Sangakkara was named man-of-the-match for his match-winning 152 in the second innings.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the first Test between England and Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 188 (Sangakkara 92, P Jayawardene 51; Hoggard 4-29, Panesar 3-46)
ENGLAND: First innings 281 (Bell 83, Collingwood 45, Muralidaran 6-55)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 442-8 decl (Sangakkara 152, Jayawardene 65, Panesar 3-132)
ENGLAND: Second innings (over-ninth-1)

Cook c Silva b Vaas 4
Vaughan c P Jayawardene b Vaas 5
Anderson b Vaas 11
Bell b Muralidaran 74

Pietersen b Fernando 18
Collingwood c Sangakkara b Fernando 16
Bopara lbw b Jayasuriya 34
Prior b Muralidaran 63
Sidebottom lbw b Muralidaran 1
Hoggard b Malinga 8
Panesar not out 2
Extras: (lb-5, lb-9, nb-11) 25
Total: (All out in 94 overs) 261
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-22, 3-27, 4-55, 5-90, 6-139, 7-248, 8-249, 9-253.

Bowler O M R W
Vaas 17 3 56 3
Malinga 15 3 39 1
Muralidaran 36 12 85 3
Jayasuriya 14 6 28 1
Fernando 12 1 39 2

Result: Sri Lanka won by 88 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.

Second Test in Colombo from Dec 9-13

Third Test in Galle from Dec 18-22.

C'WEALTH CHESS

All Bangladeshi players win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi Grand Masters Reefat Bin Sattar and Abdullah Al Rakib extended their collection to 3.5 points after the fourth round of the Commonwealth Chess Championship in New Delhi yesterday.

All Bangladeshi competitors won their respective fourth round matches with Rakib defeating Lalith Babu and Reefat beating P Karthekayan to maintain their unbeaten run.

GM Niaz Murshed defeated WGM Esha Karavade to reach three points while Khondokar Aminul Islam, also on three points, beat Sai Krishna.

IWM Rani Hamid, on two points, defeated Sahajsrasi.

Sultan thinks

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AGM if needed. But first I want to sit with the organisers and footballers to discuss about what to do," Sultan said while watching the Abahani-Mohammedan charity match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

He earlier had a meeting with National Sports Council (NSC) chairman and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed in the afternoon.

"I have asked the NSC chairman for a co-ordinator from the government to help us in the coming elections," informed Sultan.

In the decision to form the DFAs under FIFA directive, the BFF has always relied on its executive committee despite urge from the football fraternity to hold an AGM.

BCB announces

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Twenty20 match to raise funds for the Cyclone Sidr victims.

FIXTURE

December 16: One-day warm-up (Seddon Park, Hamilton).

December 18: One-day warm-up (Seddon Park, Hamilton).

December 21: One-day warm-up (Eden Park Outer Oval, Auckland).

December 23: Twenty20 match (Seddon Park, Hamilton).

December 26: 1st ODI (Eden Park, Auckland).

December 28: 2nd ODI (McLean Park, Napier).

December 31: 3rd ODI (Queenstown Events Centre, Queenstown).

January 4-8: 1st Test (University Oval, Dunedin).

January 12-16: 2nd Test (Basin Reserve, Wellington).

Tapan to get

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It has also determined that all construction works during the five years under the BNP-led government had anomalies.

The construction happy NSC not only ignored sports but also built establishments where there is no sport at all.

The task force, having also identifying certain persons and groups involved in the corruptions, has made over 50 recommendations and one member believes that if these recommendations are implemented properly, it would make the sports arena corruption free.

3 seniors

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number of matches a player so far has played.

A player who has above hundred matches (both Tests and one-day and with one Test being counted as two one-day internationals) are included in the A+ grade while A grad are for above 70 matches, B grade for 40-plus matches and C for 1 to 38 matches.

Meanwhile, BCB will also bring some players under their payroll after the conclusion of the ongoing National Cricket League.

Grade A+ players: Ashraf, Mashrafe, Bashir, Mashud, Javed and Rafique.

Grade A: Aftab, Nafees and Rajin.

Grade B: Tushar, Shahadat, Razaq, Rasel, Shakib and Mushfiq.

Grade C: Tamim, Forhad, Mehrab, Enamul and Nazmul.

looth sixer ball

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that it will go on public display for people to see and recognise the marvelous achievement of 100 sixes in Test cricket," Sutherland said today.

Gilchrist and CA have been publicly appealing for the ball to be returned since the wicketkeeper-batsman hit the historic shot out of Bellerive Oval on November 17.

But the man who found it has only now come forward to contact Cricket Australia.

"The latest I've heard this morning is that we're hopeful it will be on public display before the end of the summer," Sutherland said.

"I've just heard the news this morning that it looks like it's going to be handed back at some stage and I think that's good news for everyone."

He said it was yet to be decided where the ball would be displayed.

Pathan back for third Test

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Pacemen Irfan Pathan and Vikram Raj Vir Singh were included Wednesday in India's 14-member squad for the third and final Test against Pakistan starting in Bangalore on Saturday.

The duo will take the place of new-ball bowlers Zaheer Khan and Munaf Patel.

While left-arm paceman Pathan last played in a Test for India against West Indies in June 2006, Singh was part of India's playing eleven against Bangladesh in May this year.

India lead the series 1-0 after winning the opening Test here by six wickets and drawing the second in Kolkata.

The Indian selectors were also expected to announce the team for the tour of Australia, but they instead named 24 probabilities.

The Indian cricket board said the team for Australia will be named December 12.

"It was decided that the final team of 16 for the tour of Australia will be selected on December 12 at Bangalore after a final report regard-

ing fitness of players," cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah said in a statement.

Anil Kumble has however been retained as captain for the Australian series comprising four Tests and a triangular tournament with Sri Lanka as the third team.

THIRD TEST SQUAD

Anil Kumble (captain), Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Venkatsai Laxman, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Irfan Pathan, Wasim Jaffer, Ishant Sharma, Vikram Raj Vir Singh, Murali Kartik, Dinesh Karthik.

PROBABLES FOR AUSTRALIA

Anil Kumble (captain), Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Venkatsai Laxman, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Irfan Pathan, Wasim Jaffer, Ishant Sharma, Vikram Raj Vir Singh, Murali Kartik, Dinesh Karthik, Gautam Gambhir, Zaheer Khan, Rudra Pratap Singh, Munaf Patel, Ranadeb Bose, Pankaj Singh, Piyush Chawla, Ajit Agarkar, Parthiv Patel, Aakash Chopra.

Jaffer moves up 17 places

PTI, Dubai

India may have been forced to settle for a draw in the second Test against Pakistan but the trio of Wasim Jaffer, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly can take heart from the fact that the Kolkata run-feast has pushed them up in the ICC players rankings.

Thanks to his double century in the first innings and a half-century in the second, Jaffer jumped 17 places to 23rd, his career-best rating.

Ganguly, who notched up his maiden Test ton at his home ground and missed a half-century in the second innings, also moved up four places to 24th, while Tendulkar climbed a rung to be 17th in the list.

Pakistan's Younis Khan has plenty of cause for celebration today. Not only has he managed to keep the series against India alive by saving the second Test but also moved up one place to seventh in the table for Test batsmen.

Maiden centurion Misbahul Haq moved up 22 places to 44th with his 161 not out in the first innings while wicketkeeper-batsman Kamran Akmal progressed five places to 29th spot after a fine 119.

A captain or a leader?

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

If you want to know the difference between leadership and captaincy, look no further than Younis Khan. In Pakistan, traditionally the captaincy is such a coveted position that players are jostling for it and stories of behind-the-scenes machinations are plentiful. Younis is different in that he has given up the captaincy more than once. The first time, it was because he didn't quite see eye to eye with Sharyar Khan, the then chairman of the board, and did not want to be a powerless captain.

Later, soon after the World Cup, almost everyone agreed that Younis was the best option to lead the side after Inzamam-ul-Haq. But then, at a reception marking his wedding, in his hometown in Mardan, a group of fans, disappointed at Pakistan's loss in the World Cup, brought a donkey to the place where the reception was being held, and asked Younis to ride it. His confidence in fans, and their propensity for reacting sharply to losses, ensured that he dropped any notions of accepting the captaincy of the Pakistan team.

But on the final day of the second Test, Younis, albeit filling the captain's post in the absence of Shoaib Malik, showed tremendous leadership. About an hour after lunch, at 78 for 4, Pakistan were in serious trouble, with a chance of being skittled out and handing the game for India. This is the sort of situation in which most batsmen