

'Task force report will get rid of corruption'

SPORTS REPORTER

Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury said that the government will try its best to implement the recommendations of the task force report to make the sports arena corruption free.

While talking to reporters at the Youth and Sports Ministry conference room yesterday, the sports adviser informed that he received three volumes of the task force report yesterday.

Headed by Brigadier Najib Hassan, the task force prepared a 724-page report on corruptions in the National Sports Council.

"We will make this report public and also, take measures against the responsible persons according to the existing law of the country," Tapan said.

"Our top priority was to cut corruption in sports when we formed this task force. Now I believe that this (report) will also help us get rid of systemised corruption in the NSC," he added.

Mohammedan

FROM PAGE 21
goal also in the inaugural match, will also be available at the Mohammedan bench after serving a touchline ban.

It would be a challenge for Manik who looks forward to record a win in normal time after failing to beat B. League champions Abahani so far this season.

B. League runners-up Mohammedan had lost one and drew the other game in the professional league before managing to beat the sky-blues in the tiebreaker on last Monday.

Everyone, however, hopes that return of the key figures would be for the better and the most popular clubs of the country will show patience instead of repeating typical on and off the field antics and disappoint their devotees.

It's for Tushar's

FROM PAGE 21
practice has drawn most attention as the net bowlers, attired in New Zealand's black, bowled from 18 yards. There was a certain sense of excitement, from some when wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim wore one on his helmet. There were some mischievous hooks and pulls but it was heartening to see that the batsmen were adjusting well, especially skipper Mohammad Ashraful.

Siddons is making sure that no stone is unturned as far as preparation goes. A bowling machine set 15-20 yards away from a hard, marble-top surface with an upturned table (doubling as a slanted bat) near where a batsman would stand to face an 80mph delivery. An attendant lets a ball through the machine that pitches on that surface and hits the face of the table, resulting in slip catches. Siddons surely is well aware of Bangladesh's poor catching.

Tushar seems to have understood that, apart from fielding well, the team also needs a batsman of his experience to take up seaming challenge that waits in New Zealand.

"I know that a big responsibility will be on me and Ashraful to take care of the innings and I think that I am to belong here, I must score runs," said Tushar, not breathless anymore.

Dhaka struggling

FROM PAGE 21
Mehrab Hossain contributed 36 while Shamsur Rahman was unbeaten on 29.

BRIEF SCORES

CHITTAGONG: First Innings 359 all out in 101 overs (Salahuddin 94, Nafis 40, Mahbubul 61, Nazimuddin 12, Ehsanul 78, Faisal 19, Dhiman 5, Younis 5, Kamrul 3, Yasin 15*, Sajid 0; Ziaur 2-68, Robiul 3-102, Murad 3-85, Fariduddin 1-51, Nahidul 1-17).

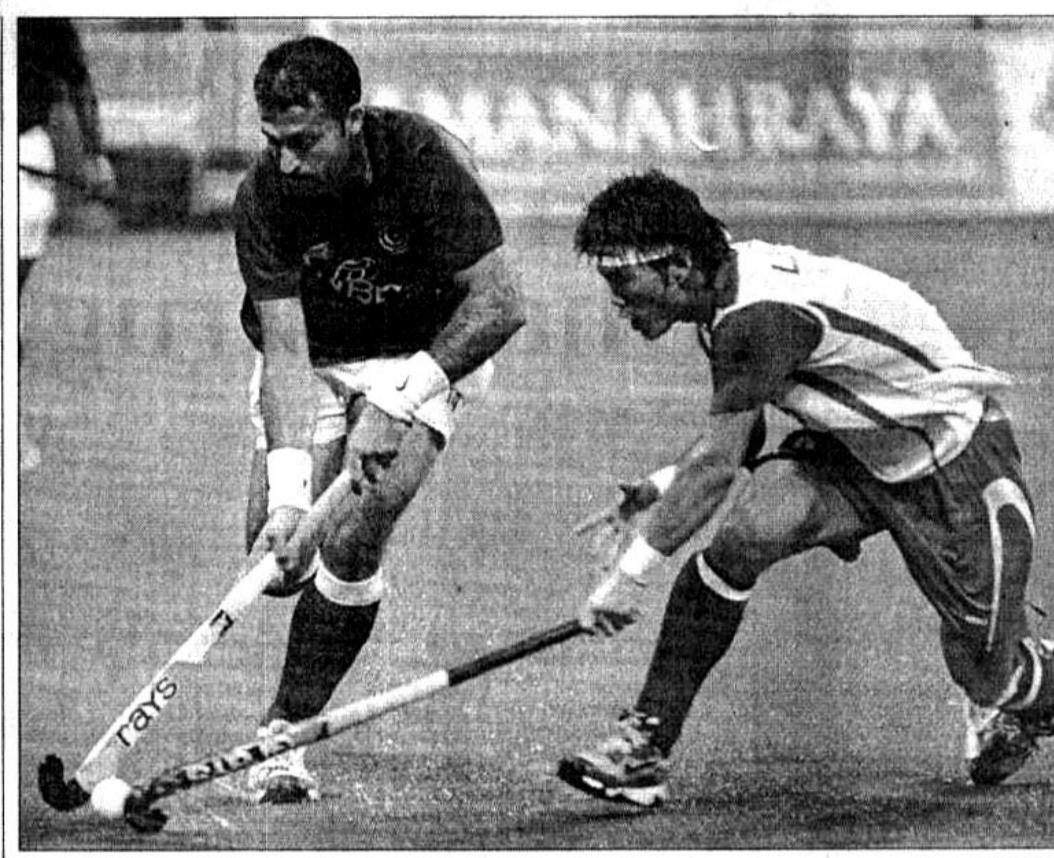
KHULNA: First Innings 216-6 in 77 overs (Sadat 91, Imrul 15, Mostafiz 10, Bashar 35, Nahidul 33*, Sanjay 0, Salim 7, Ziaur 11*; Kamrul 1-15, Younis 1-34, Yasin 3-38).

BARISAL: First Innings 182 and second innings 48-2 in 17 overs (Hannan 23, Nafees 11 ret'd hurt, Imran 6, Rokibul 2, Tarique 2*; Shahjada 1-22, Sajid 1-2).

RAJSHAHI: First Innings 204 all out in 77 overs (Jahurul 31, Rafiqul 1, Farhad 9, Anisur 3, Masud 18, Naeem 68, Mushfiqur 7, Mahbub 27, Sajid 0, Kabir 0*; Talha 1-63, Sajid 3-40, Arifat 2-37, Tarique 2-16, Raisul 2-8).

SYLHET: First Innings 312 all out in 116 overs (Rahman 43, Imdia 25, Sadiqur 4, Rajin 36, Kapil 1, Mabud 75*, Ejaz 54, Rezaul 20, Enamul 38, Nabil 4, Rashid 0; Mahbubul 2-74, Sharif 4-60, Rafique 2-110).

DHAKA: First Innings 148-5 in 66 overs (Uttam 0, Anwar 31, Riyad 8, Mehrab 36, Shahriar 2, Shamsur 27*, Nadir 29*, Rashid 1-18, Golam 1-2, Nabil 3-36).



Pakistan's Ghazanfar Ali (L) and South Korea's Lee Nam-Yong (R) fight for the ball during the Champions Hockey Tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. The match ended in a 3-3 draw.

Inter-district eves' soccer from today

UNB, Dhaka

The 2nd Inter-district Women's football competition, organised by Bangladesh Women Sports Association, will begin tomorrow at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geeteara Safiya Chowdhury will formally inaugurate the eight-day meet as chief guest at 3 pm.

Bangladesh Football Federation president Dr. Sultana and acting secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association Kutubuddin Ahmed will be present as special guest.

Asif could be out for two months

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Asif is expected to be out of action for two more months after surgeons in Australia recommended that he needs to have corrective surgery for his nagging elbow problem.

The Australian Cricket Board (PCB) sent Asif last week to Sydney to consult a sports medicine specialist after the pacer failed to recover from an elbow strain to make the Indian tour last month.

"We have got a detailed report from the surgeon in Sydney and he has recommended surgery for which he has been given a go-ahead," a PCB official told PTI Thrusday.

Asif will have the corrective surgery on Monday after which the board reckons he could be out of cricket for two months as part of his rehabilitation process.

The Aussies were pleased with the result, saying there was still a glimmer of hope for a place in the final.

"The result was fair, both teams had wanted to win but coming out with a draw, so it's not sure what it means at the moment," assistant coach Colin Batch said.

"Now we have to wait and see what happens to other results. It all depends on the last match now."

Dutch surrender crown

Hockey

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

European champions the Netherlands surrendered any remaining chance of retaining the Champions Trophy after drawing 3-3 with world number ones Australia here Thursday.

The Netherlands only managed nine points after six matches and now have no chance of getting into the final after a thrilling draw.

"That's it," Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans conceded of his team's chances.

"But actually we were not thinking of making the final even before this match," he confessed.

"I'm quite pleased with the overall performance but it is always a regret that we are not able to get

into the final but that is the way it is -- sometimes you win, and sometimes you lose."

Both teams started the match at a ferocious pace but it was the Dutch who took the lead in the 10th minute after an excellent interchange in midfield between Jeroen Hertzberger and Rob Reckers, leaving the 21-year-old Hertzberger free to score his first senior international goal.

The Aussies got back into the game in the 26th minute when Russell Ford scored from close range.

However, the Netherlands again went ahead when veteran Taek Taekema converted a penalty corner.

But yet again the Aussies equalised, this time when Eddie Ockenden scored from close range in the 33rd minute to make it 2-2 at the final.

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Rahul form worries India

Cricket

REUTERS, Bangalore

Less than three weeks before India's high-profile Test series in Australia, concerns persist over the form of batting mainstay Rahul Dravid.

Since quitting the captaincy in September, the 34-year-old has struggled to recapture the kind of form that established him as one of the world's top batsmen.

His double hundred helped India win the second Test at Adelaide and he also had two scores in the 90s among his three half centuries in a remarkable series that ended in a 1-1 draw.

However, Dravid has failed to deliver in his starts in the first two

Tests against Pakistan.

He was unfortunate to be given out for 50 in the second Test in Kolkata, where the two sides stacked up nearly 1,500 runs combined, but the manner of his dismissals in the first Test was so untypically Dravid, renowned for his technical excellence.

Just 378 shy of joining the exclusive 10,000-run club in Test cricket, Dravid fell in the first innings playing across the line to debutant pacer Sohail Tanvir and was bowled by a quick ball from Shoaib Akhtar that sped through the gap between bat and pad.

"(But) he is a classy player, and is just one innings away from regaining form," former captain Ajit Wadekar told Reuters on Thursday. "Hopefully that will be soon."

Khan bats for Yousuf as Test captain, Raja differs

Cricket

PTI, Chandigarh

Former wicketkeeper Moin Khan feels Pakistan can continue with Shoaib Malik as the one-day captain but if they are to do better in the longer version of the game, veteran batsman Mohammad Yousuf should be made skipper of the Test squad.

"I think Yousuf is the key batsman for Pakistan and commands great respect among the team members. If he is made captain, the team would

put up better performance," Moin, who is coach of Hyderabad Heroes, an ICL Twenty20 team, told PTI here on Thursday.

He said Malik could continue as the ODI captain, adding "but if they want good results, in the Test they should not delay appointing Yousuf as captain." "After the ongoing series against India gets over, I think the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will have to seriously decide about the captaincy issue," felt Moin.

Meanwhile PTI reports from Karachi add, his penchant for bizarre dismissals notwithstanding, Misbahul Haq has excelled in both forms of the game and is an ideal candidate to take over as Pakistan's Test captain, believes former captain Rameez Raja.

With the PCB deciding to review the performance of skipper Malik in January, Rameez said Misbah's form and his educational qualifications made him the ideal choice to replace the incumbent as the Test captain.

"Misbah has resolved a lot of problems in the Pakistan batting and at a time when questions are being asked about Malik's ability to lead the team in Test matches and Yousuf has also refused the captaincy, Misbah seems to be the ideal person for the job," Rameez said.

Boje cannot leave India now: police

was still under investigation in India.

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

Boje retired from international cricket last year but is currently playing in the rebel Indian Cricket League until December 16 outside the northern city of Chandigarh.

"We will ensure that he makes himself available to us so that we can continue from where we left off in October last year," said a senior officer from New Delhi crime branch, which exposed the biggest betting scandal to hit cricket.

Boje earlier skipped two tours of India after failing to obtain iron-clad assurances that he would not be detained by police.

Bhagat said the seven-year-old

case, which led to a life ban for South African skipper Hansie Cronje, was still under investigation in India.

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