

Arthur snaps at Arendse

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Mickey Arthur, South Africa's coach, has filed a counter-charge against board president Norman Arendse after a heated exchange between the two and in response to disciplinary charges filed against him with regard to a selection dispute over the squad for the tour to Bangladesh.

"Yes, there is animosity between us," Arthur told Sportsport. "I told him he was power-crazy and egotistical but I never swore at him."

"I've taken him on about this team. The transformation policy that Arendse wants to be applied does not exist. He is out of bounds. I told him he is not a selector and should keep his nose out of team selections. I can say now that he regularly sends back teams," Arthur said, while not elaborating when such incidents took place.

"Unfortunately I felt I had no choice but to do likewise (file a counter-charge)," Arthur told Reuters. "The president accused me of all sorts of things apart

from failing, or even refusing to implement CSA's (Cricket South Africa's) transformation policies. That is simply untrue."

Arthur's comments come in the wake of his argument with Arendse in a second teleconference yesterday (Thursday) to sort out the team's selection. Arendse, in the first discussion on Tuesday, reportedly refused to approve the squad chosen by the six-man selection committee, of which Arthur is a member, as it contained less than seven coloured players.

"What's his problem? We have a good, established team and with the exception of one match we have fielded four black players in every Test this season," said Arthur. "I don't know where he gets the idea that there should be seven black players in the touring team."

Arendse alleged that Arthur had behaved in a "disrespectful" and "abusive" manner in the meeting, and had laid disciplinary charges against him and indicated that CSA policy about team selection was not followed.

"If a coach says, 'There's no transformation policy' (among selectors), if he says, 'Sorry, I'm

not prepared to implement CSA's policies', then his position is untenable."

Arthur, however, had a different take on it. "The president's implication would appear to be that I prefer to select white players over black players, which is deeply insulting and hurtful," he said. "(Coloured players like) Hashim Amla, Charl Langeveldt and JP Duminy have all established themselves in the national squad in my time as coach while Ashwell Prince became the country's first black captain."

Arthur also said he had received an "insulting" email from Arendse, over which he had obtained legal advice.

Meanwhile, Gerald Majola, the CSA chief executive, said the dispute between the two would be handled internally as per the board's human resources procedures. "CSA has formal HR procedures, and this matter will be dealt with in this forum and a statement will be issued at the appropriate time."

"It is regretted that these disputes have been aired in the public domain, particularly on the eve of an important touring season for the Proteas."

2 gold medals for Nawjoan

SPORTS REPORTER

Agrabad Nawjoan Club of Chittagong clinched gold medal in the men's bamboo bow team event of the 3rd National Archery Championships yesterday at the Paltan Maidan.

Najib Sporting Club of Faridpur and Nilphamari DSA won silver and bronze respectively.

Nilphamari bagged the women's team gold with Rangamati Archery Club and Najib Sporting Club settling for silver and bronze.

Ashique took gold in the men's singles Nawjoan while his teammate Moinul won silver and Zia of DOHS Archery Club bronze.

In the women's singles, Kamona of Rangamati Archery Club grabbed gold. Rumana of Nilphamari and Lovely of Najib Club took silver and bronze.

The championships will conclude today with the recurve bow event.

Shoaib could jump ship

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's controversial fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar could dump the BCCI-backed Indian Premier League to sign up for the rebel Indian Cricket League as his relations with the national board continue to deteriorate by the day.

Sources close to Akhtar say that the speedster has only signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the IPL which is backed by the Pakistan board as well.

And since he is unhappy with the treatment being meted out to him, he is now considering taking on the Board by signing up for the ICL.

Moin Khan, a representative of the ICL in Pakistan, said that he could not comment on Shoaib's intentions but confirmed the fast bowler was made an offer last year when the ICL had started procuring players for its tournament.

But he confirmed that at present the ICL was looking at signing up around nine more players from Pakistan and negotiations were continuing with them.

"There is a proposal to field one team of Pakistani players in the next league and we need more players to add to the six we already have with us," he said.

Inzamamul Haq, Imran Farhat, Taufiq Umar, Abdul Razzaq, Shabbir Ahmed and Azhar Mahmood, all Test players are already on the ICL payroll.



Bangladesh under-19 cricket captain Suharwardi Shuvo (R) speaks during a press conference at a local hotel yesterday.

'Man-to-man security'

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Personal bodyguards will shadow Australia's cricketers during next month's Pakistan tour as part of planned stringent security usually reserved for visiting heads of state, reports said Friday.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has proposed the measures following Australian concerns over security that has left a question mark over the future of the tour, in a nation which has suffered a string of bombings and other violence.

Bodyguards will be assigned to each Australian player, bomb-detection dogs used and roads closed to all traffic nearby as the visiting team travels to and from grounds, The Sydney Morning Herald said.

"If a player is travelling in a lift, there will be security with him. If he goes to eat somewhere, he will have protection. There will be man-to-man security," a senior PCB official told the newspaper.

"All roads will be closed to traffic every time the team travels to and from the ground. When they are entering their team bus, it will be checked by bomb-disposal units. There will be sniffer dogs, too."

However Cricket Australia still has concerns about the tour, and contacted PCB officials on Thursday about security at venues in Karachi, Lahore, Multan and

Faisalabad, the newspaper said. CA chairman Creagh O'Connor will also write to his Pakistani counterpart, Nasim Ashraf, to further outline his worries, the newspaper said.

The pair along with other cricket officials from the two nations met in Dubai this week over the tour, with an option of playing the series in Australia discussed.

O'Connor is believed to have told Ashraf that March-April would not be an ideal time to play in Australia due to wet weather and a clash with popular football codes.

The senior PCB official told the Herald that the level of security afforded the Australian players would be the equivalent of that of visiting heads of state, and there should be no fears for their safety.

"CA have got issues with the venues," the official said. "We will wait to see Creagh O'Connor's letter. They don't have an issue with the cricketing side of things, it comes to the safety and security of their players."

"Once your (pre-tour security assessors) are out here, we can sit down and discuss whatever needs to be discussed and any issues they have."

"What the indication is from them is there is too short a time, and they won't be able to come for a pre-tour visit."

Ashraf in Dubai, although the chairman wanted to swap the tours so Australia would visit the subcontinent nation at the end of next year.

Young said the Australian team had commitments to be in Australia at that time and could not travel.

"We are familiar with all four cities (in Pakistan), and they all have got the appropriate facilities for playing cricket," Young said.

"What we need to get a clear understanding of is what safety and security measures will be in place."

"We are still working through the process and we will not put our players and officials in any position where their safety is at risk."

The PCB official said there was no possibility of playing the series at a neutral venue.

Gambhir's top

FROM PAGE 17 including skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Gambhir has experience of playing in Australia as well as of facing some of the quicks who are now part of their national squad.

"I had played in Australia for India A before and have faced the likes of Mitchell Johnson and Shaun Tait. I did well then and to be honest, I have never felt this confident before," said the Delhi batsman.

Shuvo wants

FROM PAGE 17 Fahim echoed his thoughts that bowling and fielding were their main strengths while assistant coach Minhazul Abedin Nannu went a step ahead by saying that Bangladesh were top among equals on those two disciplines.

"If we score around 200-220 runs, our bowlers and fielders would be able to defend that total," said the former national captain.

Fahim said that his three-man pace attack of Shuvashish Roy, Rubel Hossain and Dollar Mahmud have proved venomous, while Shuvo and the other spinners would do well too.

But the main concern remains that of their batting capabilities but Nannu said that it is a problem for all teams in the under-19 standard.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Mithun Ali made an interesting point: "We have no stars and teamwork is our strength. The players' cause is the team."

During the press conference, team sponsors AB Bank Ltd., wished the youngsters utmost success in the tournament.

AB Bank president, managing director Kaiser A Chowdhury, deputy managing director Niaz Habib and BCB working committee vice-chairman Col (ret) MA Latif were also present on the occasion.

Local boy Ranjan in doubles semis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The pair of local boy Ranjan Ram and Taipei's Keng-Cheng Lin stormed into the semifinal in boys' doubles in the Grameenphone International Junior (U-16) Tennis Championships (Group-3) at the Zafar Imam Tennis Complex here yesterday.

The duo moved up beating Indonesia's Markati and Malaysia's Losantos 6-4, 6-3.

In boys' singles, Chinese Yi-Chen Li beat third seed New Zealand's Riki McLachlan 0-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1 to get into the semis. IFF top ranking player of the tournament Taipei's I-Ta Chen, sixth-seed New Zealand's Ben McLachlan and 12th-seed Canadian Kelsey Stevenson were the others to reach the last four.

In girls' singles, ninth-seed England's Lisa Whybourn upset top seed Poojashree Venkatesh 6-1, 6-2 to reach the semifinal to join Malaysian Jawairiah Noordin, Slovakia's Petra Jorova and Chinese Zi Yang.

Joypurhat loses twice on Day 1

UNB, Dhaka

Chapainawabganj crushed Joypurhat 36-2 in an opening day match of the Exim Bank 18th National men's handball championship at the Jamalpur Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 19-2. Joypurhat's bad day continued as they lost 21-6 to Natore while Gaibandha beat hosts Jamalpur 11-9 in the opening fixture, after trailing 2-5 in the first half.

Earlier, Jamalpur Police Super Aminul Islam inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

Manohar pledges the best

PTI, Mumbai

Cricket Board's president-elect Shashank Manohar is confident that all the Indian venues chosen for the 2011 World Cup would execute the requirements for hosting the mega event and preparations for achieving this aim would be constantly monitored by the BCCI.

In a short interview carried in the BCCI's newly launched quarterly newsletter, Manohar said, "all the venues are expected to fulfill the requirements pertaining to spectator facilities, media facilities and, of course, quality wickets and outfield." Pointing out that former BCCI Chief IS Bindra is heading the Infrastructure Committee, Manohar added, "The BCCI has centrally procured modern ground maintenance equipment and has advised the venues to go in for the sprinkler system."

"The Board will be monitoring the preparations constantly," he emphasised.

The mega event is to be hosted jointly by the four countries of the Indian sub-continent -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Looking forward towards his forthcoming stint as BCCI chief after taking over the reins from president Sharad Pawar, Manohar said that he would continue to carry on in the footsteps of the Union Agriculture minister "who has given the Board a new dimension".

Manohar said that the younger lot of cricketers who clinched the World Twenty20 Cup in South Africa under the captaincy of Mahendra Dhoni have shown that Indian cricket was "alive and kicking".

'Split captains okay'

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England Test captain Michael Vaughan insists he and one-day skipper Paul Collingwood can continue to work well together for the foreseeable future.

Collingwood has overseen a resurgence in England's form in one-dayers, while Vaughan has come under pressure after his side's series defeat in Sri Lanka.

That has led to suggestions Collingwood could succeed Vaughan, who told BBC Sport: "Ideally you'd have one captain."

"But, right now, we're enjoying sharing the responsibility and it works well."

Ironically, Vaughan took over the captaincy in similar circumstances, when his success in the one-day form saw Nasser Hussain hand him the reigns of the Test team in 2003.

But he added: "I'll be honest, I think I got the Test captaincy far too early. I was guessing for about the

first year and I didn't feel comfortable."

"Paul's probably at that stage now. He's enjoying the one-day captaincy but then he probably enjoys stepping back when I come in."

"I've always said the time will come when I have to move aside but at this time I'm very happy to continue as we are."

Collingwood's credentials as captain were enhanced with one-day series wins over India and Sri Lanka last year, while two Twenty20 victories in New Zealand this week have helped make his side favourites for the one-day series there.

Conversely, Vaughan's Test side lost to India and Sri Lanka and he said: "The fact is that the one-day side is a lot more settled than the Test team these days."

"If you look at the last four series, you can see a real sense of consistency in selection for the one-day unit, whereas at Test level we are struggling to find the right balance at the moment."

"However, when that comes you will see us reap the rewards, I'm sure."

And Vaughan will hope that Test starts with the Test tour of New Zealand, which follows the five-match one-day series.

Andrew Strauss has been restored to the squad after missing the tour of Sri Lanka and Vaughan, whose opening partnership with Alastair Cook was one of the few highlights of that tour, admits it could again prompt a reshuffle.

"There's a real chance that Strauss coming back will mean my moving down to number three," he said ahead of the first Test on March 4.

"If I open that's fine but I also love batting at three and I think that's a good position for a captain to be at."

"Strauss has come back because he has a huge amount of character, great experience and we like that -- he has always opened and I like batting at three, so I expect that's how it'll be."

"Still, there are so many talking points -- Strauss, Owais Shah, the wicket-keeper -- that only time will tell. These things always tend to pan out."



Participants eye their individual targets in the 14th club shooting competition at the Rajshahi Police Line ground yesterday.

Rohit accepts

FROM PAGE 17 The Mumbai batsman reminded that the young brigade had proven itself in the Twenty20 World Cup and said the players were trying their best to make their presence felt in the on-going series as well.

"We won the Twenty20 tournament without seniors and we would try to do well in this present series too," he said after the team had nets this morning.

Sharma, who made 29 and 0 in the first two games of the tri-series, said more opportunities should be given to youngsters to establish themselves in the team.

"I would say yes the youngsters should get more chances in order to establish themselves in the side. After all, we are playing against two very good one-day sides," he argued.

Force with

FROM PAGE 17 Meanwhile, the English side were denied a training opportunity Friday after a hijacking drama at Christchurch Airport delayed their arrival in the capital.

But their confidence levels are so high it was of little concern to captain Paul Collingwood.

"The boys are in a confident mood and our bowling is pleasing us more and more every day -- the way we're defending totals and the way we're hitting the pitch," he said.

Boycs' Tait remarks upset CA

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Cricket Australia has taken strong exception to Geoffrey Boycott's claim Shaun Tait showed a "lack of character" for going on an indefinite break from the game. Boycott said Tait, who withdrew due to physical and emotional exhaustion after the India Test series, should have shown more commitment and desire to work through the problems.

A Cricket Australia spokesman said Tait had outlined the seriousness of this situation when he stepped down last month. "It is disappointing that any former international cricketer would treat these issues so lightly," the spokesman said, "given the particular columnist's stated view in 2006, and considering that he detailed his own similar experiences and referred to how he coped with his own situation."

Boycott wrote a column after Marcus Trescothick returned to England before the 2006-07 Ashes with a stress-related problem and sympathised with the batsman. "I know what Trescothick is going through at the moment because for three years I opted out of playing for England (in the 1970s)," Boycott

Abahani make

FROM PAGE 17 the veteran guest defender played no more part in the game.

Shakil, another invited recruit, was graceful under pressure as he made a series of saves. Having denied low drives by Wali and Ujjal, the Mohammedan keeper parried a glancing header by Pranotosh to keep the side in the game. But substitute Arafat Rony failed to equalise in the 57th minute when he drove the ball straight to Biplab inside from the area.

Tipu should have scored on the hour but the veteran striker shot the ball onto Shakil after latching on a through by Wali.

Abahani had to remain satisfied with a slim win as man-of-the-match Ujjal, who was sent racing into the box by Nazrul's long overhead pass, saw his placing shot cleared by Ariful from the goalmouth after beating Shakil five minutes later.

Abahani's ultra defensive ploy afterwards and the decision to keep the tired forwards on the pitch gave Mohammedan the chance to go all out in the last 20 minutes but neither Farhad nor Figo managed to get the better of a solid Abahani defence.

Yellow cards: Robin, Tipu, Ujjal (Abahani) and Biplab, Sharif (Mohammedan)

Abahani KC thrashed Jhankar KC 5-0 in the hockey league here at the local stadium yesterday.

Shaheen and Shujon of Abahani netted two goals each while Arafat scored once.

Abahani off to a great start

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Abahani KC thrashed Jhankar KC 5-0 in the hockey league here at the local stadium yesterday.

Shaheen and Shujon of Abahani netted two goals each while Arafat scored once.

The losing team of yesterday's match Jhankar take on Sunrise SC in today's match.

Bracken cleans up SL

FROM PAGE 17 On a slow pitch that suited his clever changes of pace, Bracken was the destroyer, claiming five wickets in 8.3 overs for career-best figures.

He removed opener Upul Tharanga (10) in his first spell and returned to claim the wickets of Sangakkara, Kapugedera and Tillakaratne Dilshan (14) in quick succession as Sri Lanka slumped to 93 for seven.

Bracken later dismissed Muttiah Muralidaran to end the Sri Lankan innings and claim just his second five-wicket haul in one-day internationals.

Sri Lanka's woes were summed up by the dismissal of tailender Lasith Malinga, who was run out in bizarre fashion for two.

Malinga slid his bat into the apparent safety of the crease at the non-striker's end as Andrew Symonds' throw at the stumps came in, but then dropped his bat and had both feet in the air when the ball hit the stumps.

The decision went to the third umpire and he was duly given out.

Earlier, half-centuries by Michael Clarke and Adam Gilchrist had provided the foundation for the Australian total.

Clarke held the innings together with an unbeaten 77, including a towering six off Muralidaran, while Gilchrist was more cautious than

usual in making 61, with opener Matthew Hayden chipping in with a brisk 42 at the top of the order in his first game back from a hamstring strain.

Australia had looked set for an even bigger score when the openers put on 65 in quick time, but Chaminda Vaas stemmed the flow of runs with 2-34 from 10 overs.

Muralidaran was forced from the field late in the Australian innings after being hit in the face by the ball in the field.

It was the first of three matches in the series to produce a result, with the first two games both washed out, and the win propelled Australia to the top of the table, with India second and Sri Lanka third.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the triangular series one-day international match between Australia and Sri Lanka in Sydney on Friday:

AUSTRALIA		SRI LANKA	
Gilchrist lbw b Kapugedera	61	Tharanga c Gilchrist b Bracken	10
Hayden c Jayawardene b Amerasinghe	42	Jayasuniya b Lee	7
Ponting c Jayawardene b Vaas	7	Sangakkara lbw b Bracken	42
Clarke not out	77	Jayawardene c Gilchrist b Johnson	6
Symonds c Kapugedera b Vaas	12	Silva c Gilchrist b Hogg	7
Hussey c Dilshan b Amerasinghe	10	Dilshan c Lee b Bracken	14
Hopes c Dilshan b Malinga	34	Kapugedera c Hayden b Bracken	10
Lee not out	0	Vaas run out	18
Extras: (lb-2, w-6)	23	Malinga run out	2
Total: (For six wks in 50 overs)	253	Muralidaran c Symonds b Bracken	11
Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-88, 3-139, 4-		Amerasinghe not out	0
		Extras: (lb-3, w-4, nb-1)	8
		Total: (All out in 31.3 overs)	125
		Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-18, 3-57, 4-	
		74, 5-81, 6-84, 7-93, 8-105, 9-114.	

Result: Australia won by 128 runs. Man-of-the-match: Nathan Bracken.

Toss: Australia
Umpires: Tony Hill (NZL), Simon Taufel (AUS)
TV umpire: Peter Parker (AUS)
Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Pharaohs & Lions prevail

FROM PAGE 17 The midfielder came on in the second half and minutes later fired past keeper Richard Kingston to keep Cameroon on course for a record-equalling fifth title.

It left Ghana, unbeaten to this point, facing a reluctant trip to Kumasi for the inconsequential third place play-off rather than a tilt at capturing their first African crown in over two and a half decades.

Cameroon coach Otto Pfister, who led Ghana to the final 16 years ago, has forged a reputation as an irascible straight-talking 70-year-old but the German was all sweetness and light after upsetting the hosts.

"It's one of the highlights of my career, but this is the life of a coach, you win and you lose," he said.

"Getting through to the final isn't important for me, it's impor-

tant to the president of Cameroon and his people."

Nkong, a midfielder with Atlente in Mexico, suggested Cameroon's opening first round 4-2 defeat to Egypt spurred the Indomitable Lions to the final.

"We were criticized so much after the first match. Every match has been a final for us since then," said the player who spent eight years in the international wilderness before his recall.

Fellow midfielder Achille Emana emphasised Cameroon's greater mental strength.

"That was the main difference between the teams," he reflected.

Ghana manager Claude Le Roy described the loss as "a huge, huge disappointment".

"I've been sad sometimes in my career but nothing like today," the Frenchman said.

"We were set to play in the final and win it, now all we have to look