

BFF's foreign recruits due in October!

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin hoped that the federation would be able to rope in a foreign coach and a technical director by October this year.

Salahuddin, who returned home from England on Sunday after a personal tour, said that he did some homework for the federation during the brief visit.

"I did some survey, especially about salaries of a technical director and a foreign coach. It seems that a reasonably good coach would cost us 10,000 dollars (US) per month. The technical director would also cost similarly or slightly lower," Salahuddin told yesterday.

"Now that I have a clear picture, I know how I have to plan," he told.

The BFF boss also had a conversation with Richard Bates, the technical director whose name was proposed by the Asian Football Confederation, on phone.

"He wants to talk face to face. I think we would meet next month to discuss about the deal and hope to appoint him by October," said the former Bangladesh captain, who could not meet English FA officials for cutting the tour short.

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Did U Know?

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games mascot, Fuwa (good-luck dolls), is fast becoming the most popular toy in the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and Macau.



TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v India
Fourth ODI (D/N)
Live from 3:00pm
US Open Tennis
Day Two
Live from 11:45pm
STAR Cricket
England v South Africa
Second ODI (D/N)
Live from 7:30pm
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm



Kenenisa Bekele

(Star Ethiopian athlete)

"It's fantastic. It's very special, my best accomplishment for sure. I am very excited. Olympic gold and record -- what more could I want? I had just enough energy to make the break. I did that for the people of Ethiopia."

After completing a stunning double on Saturday as he eased home in the men's 5000m to add to his 10,000m victory at the Beijing 2008 Games.



Federation Cup 2008
QUARTERFINALS
Muktijoddha v Mohammedan
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain returns a forehand against Yvonne Meusburger of Austria on the opening day of the US Open at the Flushing Meadows yesterday. Lourdes lost the match 6-1, 6-2.

SERIES AGAINST BANGLADESH

Hayden ruled out

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Veteran opener Matthew Hayden has been ruled out of Australia's one-day series against Bangladesh in Darwin due to injury.

The three-match series starts on Saturday and Hayden had been named in Australia's initial 14-man squad despite the fact he was still recovering from an achilles injury suffered during the Indian Twenty20 Premier League.

The series was to have provided preparation for the Champions Trophy, but with that tournament now delayed, the Australians decided against trying to hurry him back into action.

Team officials announced Hayden would not play at a team training camp on Monday, with the Australians scheduled to fly to Darwin on Tuesday.

Hayden's withdrawal means

Australia will be without three of their big guns for the series.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting is recovering from wrist surgery and Brett Lee will miss the series.

Despite the absences, stand-in captain Michael Clarke said the Australians were not taking Bangladesh lightly.

"They beat us in Cardiff (in England in 2005), and that sits in my memory," he said.

"We will certainly speak about that when we arrive in Darwin. We're going to have to play good cricket."

Clarke also said the Australians were rallying behind Lee.

"Our 100 per cent support is behind Brett and any time he's ready to come back we're willing to take him," Clarke said.

"The guys have been in contact with him and he knows everyone is supporting him. We're all looking to him getting back."



MATTHEW HAYDEN

series for personal reasons, the star paceman dealing with the collapse of his marriage.

Enamul fires Farashganj

Citycell
FEDERATION
CUP'08

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace by Enamul Haque fired Farashganj Sporting Club into the semifinals of the Citycell Federation Cup with a comfortable 2-0 victory against Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Farashganj maintained their impressive run in the first quarterfinal after three wins in as many group matches although the riversiders from old Dhaka survived an early wake up call.

Arambagh came close to open the scoring after five minutes but Surat nodded a corner by Monu onto the crosspiece.

Khokon Das then unleashed one of his trademark pile drivers from the top of the box in the 13th minute but a full-stretched Piru's acrobatic work at the Arambagh goal kept the scoreline at 0-0.

Inform Enamul, however, broke the deadlock in the 35th minute. The former Muktijoddha striker, who has scored in Farashganj's all

matches in the final round so far, chased a lob by Yusuf and beat onrushing keeper Piru with an overhead shot.

After scoring one goal each against Khulna Abahani, Wanderers and Muktijoddha, it was Enamul's fourth goal.



Khokon Das and substitute Faisal should have put Farashganj further ahead but both missed sitters to give Arambagh chances to come back.

However, Nigerian forward Jerry Odesco Weah's poor marksmanship cost Arambagh perhaps a

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Farashganj's two-goal hero Enamul controls the ball between Arambagh players Turjo (L) and Akram (R) during the first quarterfinal of the Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

AIS too good for Tigers

Cricket

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Darwin

Bangladesh suffered yet another loss against the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS) yesterday. In the last meeting between the two sides of their four-game warm-up series, the Tigers were comprehensively beaten as the AIS reached a moderate target of 230 with nine wickets to spare at the Gardens Oval.

Once again the openers failed to give a start after the tourists were sent in by AIS skipper Moises Henriques.

Tamim Iqbal and Mehrab Hossain scampers to 24 before

Mehrab (12) was caught at point. Tamim (9) nicked a half volley to first slip and skipper Mohammad Ashraful was adjudged lbw on four to leave Bangladesh on 38-3 in 9.5 overs.

Rokibul Hassan (14), usually a symbol of stability, was stumped two overs later when he stepped out rather unnecessarily and Shakib Al Hasan (12) departed a la Mehrab to compound the woes.

Alok Kapali chanced his arms and mixed elegance with sudden rush of blood early in his innings. He got away with a few before settling down and played an important knock. His cut shots were executed with precession and the timing was perfect.

When he flicked he targeted the open midwicket area except for once when a top edged pull just cleared the fielder at deep square leg.

Kapali reached a deserved half-century but on 62 was harshly given lbw to the bowling of Steve Smith as the umpire missed a big inside edge. Kapali and wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh (28) had shared 47 for the sixth wicket. The only other notable partnership was the fifth wicket stand of 41 between Kapali and Shakib.

The towering Grant Sullivan was the best of the AIS bowlers with four for 30, reward for perseverance and discipline. Western

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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army demolished Kushtia 135-37 in the Premier Bank 23rd National Basketball Championship in Rajshahi yesterday.

In the day's other matches, BKSP beat Jessore 54-29, Bangladesh Navy outplayed Bangladesh Police 112-70 and Khulna beat hosts Rajshahi 82-56 points.

The quarterfinals begin today.

PREMIER HANDBALL

Narinda Pragati Boys Club thrashed Menzis Krira Chakra 41-18 in the 14th CUTE Premier Division Handball League at the outer stadium handball ground. Man-of-the-match Saidur netted eleven goals for the winners, who led the first half 19-10.

Russell scored eight goals for Menzis.

In another match, Old Ideals Club beat Bhadratta Samaj Kalyan Sangha 39-23 after leading the first half 14-7. Sohail Rana shot 15 goals for Old Ideals to be adjudged man of the match.

NAT'L KABADDI

Khulna got off to a flying start in the 28th National Kabaddi Championship as they won both their opening matches at the Comilla Stadium.

They crushed Meherpur 61-15 in the first match and then outplayed Kishoreganj 50-7 while Dinajpur defeated Jhenidah 44-15 in the day's other match.

President of Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation and Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad inaugurated the weeklong meet.

The women's kabaddi players, who are preparing for the 3rd Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship, played an exhibition match to

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Second division football starts

SPORTS REPORTER

Friends Social Welfare Organisation pulled off a solitary goal victory over Dhamondi Club in the opening match of the Metropolis Second Division Football League yesterday.

Abu Hanif's fourth minute goal separated the two sides at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshed inaugurated the league as chief guest.

The two top teams (champions and runners-up) of the 17-team single league competition will be promoted to next season's First Division League.

Bangladesh Bocce champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh became champions in the Second Asia Pacific Bocce competition that completed on Sunday in Brunei Darussalam.

The 11-member Bangladesh Special Olympics team secured 15 gold, seven silver and one bronze while Malaysia Special Olympics team finished runners-up with 13 gold.

Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore and hosts Brunei Darussalam also took part in the six-day meet.

'Advantage' Federer

AP, New York



His Wimbledon reign and No. 1 ranking surrendered, Roger Federer has one trump card left in his competition with Rafael Nadal: four straight US Open titles.

He figures that counts for something heading into the start Monday of the year's final Grand Slam.

"I still believe it's an advantage if you know how to win a US Open, on the game's biggest stages. It's a tough tournament to win."

There were questions during media day Saturday about a "different" Federer and whether Nadal was a clear favorite even though the Spaniard has never been past the quarterfinals here.

That's what happens when you've beaten your rival in two Grand Slam finals this year and won an Olympic gold medal that both players flew halfway around the world to pursue just two weeks before the Open.

American James Blake squashed Federer's Olympic hopes in the

quarterfinals in Beijing, beating the Swiss star for the first time after winning just one set in eight previous matches.

"Well, I hope it wasn't too different," Blake said when asked which Federer he beat. "I think he definitely didn't have his best day against me, but playing him nine times I guess he's bound to have one off day out of all of them, because there are times when I felt like there was nothing I could do."

Nadal dismissed talk of a changing landscape and more pressure accompanying his rise to the top spot.

"The goal is still the same and the pressure is still the same," said Nadal, who opens Monday against qualifier Bjorn Phau of Germany in Arthur Ashe Stadium. "The goal is to continue to improve my tennis and to continue playing a very good tournament."

Federer didn't seem too disappointed to hand the No. 1 mantle to Nadal, at least for now. Federer spent 237 weeks at No. 1 basically 4 1/2 years before Nadal replaced him last week.

"Rafa will now feel what I had to feel for a very long time," Federer said. "So it will be interesting to see

how he handles it, but so far he's been great and he's played so well on all surfaces now. Maybe it's nice to go into a Grand Slam for a change not having No. 1 next to me, and it should be interesting."

Andy Roddick, among the players to hand Federer one of his 12 losses this year, thinks Nadal deserves to be called the clear favorite at the US Open simply because he's "playing the best tennis."

But he's not ready to give up on Federer, who is dangerously close to ending a five-year run with at least one Grand Slam singles title.

"I think it's tough to play perfect for five years in a row," Roddick said. "I think one big result and it's turned around for him. I know pretty much every player except for one that would take his bad year. So I think you have to use a little bit of perspective. He's created a monster for himself."

Venus and Serena Williams sidestepped questions about a disappointing draw that would have them meeting in the quarterfinals after they played the final at Wimbledon. That's what happens with random seedings like fourth (Serena) and seventh (Venus).

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Make or break for Lanka

Fourth ODI against India today

Cricket

AGENCIES, Colombo

Having put the pressure on the hosts with two consecutive wins, India are likely to retain the winning combination when they go into the fourth cricket one-dayer against Sri Lanka here today seeking to clinch the series by taking an unassailable 3-1 lead.

After being thrashed in the first match in Dambulla, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and his young bravehearts have tilted the scale in their favour with two close wins and need just one more triumph to record a rare overseas series win.

Although the Indians have been quite sloppy on the field with a number of dropped catches, the two victories will no doubt serve as a morale booster as they gear up for another floodlit contest at the R Premadasa Stadium.

The islanders, on the other hand, have no option but to win the game today to stay afloat in the five-match series.

The track at the Premadasa stadium did provide some assistance to the bowlers which means that the game could turn out to be another low-scoring affair.

The two rival captains -- Dhoni and Mahela Jayawardene -- did prove that batting was not all that difficult on this pitch with heroic knocks and it remains to be seen whether the other batsmen show the necessary application.

Dhoni had won the important toss in the last two games and may again opt to bat first, when the wicket is at its best, if luck favours him again.

But the will be certainly on Sri Lanka and Jayawardene will need more support from his teammates, especially the batsmen, in what is a

must-win game for them in an effort to round off a victorious summer. The scenario is similar to last year's home series against England, which they conceded 3-2 after winning the first game. Since

their 5-0 clean sweep against South Africa four years ago, their only bilateral series wins have come against Bangladesh.

Surprisingly, their batting has

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Indian pacer Praveen Kumar tosses a ball during a practice session ahead of the fourth one-day international against Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

The Bird's Nest Generation

AFP, Beijing



The Bird's Nest Generation.

The term -- inspired by the nickname of the iconic National Stadium -- covers those aged 10 to 29, about a third of China's 1.3 billion people, who grew up during the nation's preparations for the Olympics, China Youth Daily said.

"This term is all about self-confidence, the love of peace, patriotism, openness and friendliness," the newspaper wrote.

The label was an apparent attempt to put a more positive spin on a generation often seen as spoiled and sometimes referred to as "little emperors" because of the one-child policy that focuses families' entire hopes on them.

Other positive qualities that the newspaper attached to the term

included joyfulness, a sense of responsibility and spirit of participation.

"We were born at the right time to witness the success of the Olympics and enjoy the achievements of the opening up and reforms in our country," Wang Shanshan, 24, from the Olympic co-host city of Qingdao, was quoted as saying.

But Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, who worked with Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron to design the Bird's Nest, has distanced himself from the government and the Olympics.

He wrote in an opinion piece early this month that he boycotted the Olympics because his design was meant to embody freedom and fairness in contrast to the government's autocracy.

"We must bid farewell to autocracy. Whatever shape it takes, whatever justification it gives, authoritarian government always ends up trampling on equality, denying justice and stealing happiness and laughter from the people," he wrote in London's Guardian newspaper.

Sidebottom out of SA series

AFP, London

England left arm seamer Ryan Sidebottom will miss the rest of the ODI series against South Africa with groin and hip problems.

The Nottinghamshire bowler has been struggling with the injuries for some time and was rested for the last Test at The Oval to try to get him fit for the five-match one-day series.

But he was not deemed fit enough to feature in Friday's opening 20-run triumph over the tourists at Headingley and after being given another fitness test at Trent Bridge on Monday he was ruled out for the remainder of the series.

England had already called up Yorkshire all-rounder Tim Bresnan as cover for injuries to Sidebottom and Chris Tremlett, who is suffering with a heel problem, while captain Kevin Pietersen has persuaded Steve Harmison to come out of retirement to feature at Headingley.

Both players will now stay with England's squad for the remainder of the series, which continues with a day-night international at Trent Bridge on Tuesday.