SPORT

DBBL donates Tk 3 cr to BOA

SPORTS REPORTER

Dutch-Bangla Bank donated Tk three crore to Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) for constructing the six-storied Olympic building at the Bangabandhu National Stadium complex.

DBBL chairman AHM Rashidul Islam handed over the commitment letter to Chief of Army Staff and BOA president Gen Moeen U Ahmed at a simple ceremony held in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Gen Moeen appreciated the bank's continuous humanitarian and philanthropic activities and termed the donation a unique example in the financial sector.

The proposed building will have all modern equipments, acoustic multi-purpose auditorium, a conference room, a four-bedded sick bay with all emergency instruments and sufficient office space. DBBL managing director Md

Yeasin Ali, BOA general secretary Kutubuddin Ahmed and CEO Md Wali Ullah were also present on the occasion.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chairman of Dutch-Bangla Bank Abul Hasnat Mohammed Rashidul Islam hands over a commitment letter to BOA president and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed at the Army Headquarters in the capital yesterday.

Visa stops Akhtar

AFP, Karachi

11 1

Pakistan's fast bowling ace Shoaib Akhtar was heading home Thursday after a visa glitch stymied his plans to launch a comeback with English county side Surrey, the player told AFP.

Akhtar, who flew to London on Wednesday, said he was told by authorities at the airport that a working visa was needed for him to play in the English county side and his tourist visa was not sufficient.

The 33-year-old fast bowler was hired by Surrey until the end of the season. He was hoping that the stint would enable him to stage a comeback for the national team, having not played for Pakistan this year due to injury and a ban on discipline violation.

"I am disappointed, but there are rules to follow," Akhtar told AFP from London. "I will now complete the documents here and fly back to London possibly on Saturday. I am desperate to play for Surrey."

Surrey look set for relegation from Division One as they are bottom of the County Championship table 18 points adrift of Yorkshire with three matches to go.

They recruited Akhtar for their last three matches.

Akhtar said his arrival at Surrey was already delayed due to his mother's illness.

"I wanted to reach there for the last four or five matches. I flew on Wednesday but this unfortunate thing happened," said Akhtar.

Akhtar had a turbulent 2008 as he was handed a five-year ban by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) over a series of discipline violations in April. The ban was later reduced to 18 months with a fine.

A court later suspended the ban but upheld the fine, paving the way for him to resume cricket. PCB said it had no objection to Akhtar featuring for Surrey.

Manik recalls

FROM PAGE 17 It seems that the former national fullback, who is expected to get just one tournament to impress his employers, would try to find a safe combination of youth and experience.

The 46-year-old, who has chosen highest 11 players from the sky-blue part of the city, has eight from Mohammedan and seven from Brothers Union.

Although there are 11 defenders and as many midfielders in the preliminary squad, Manik's love for a five-pack backline could result in a defence heavy national side.

Tagged ultra-defensive, Manik's favourite 5-3-2 formation often robbed a formidable team like Muktijoddha off glory and also sawa mediocre Mohammedan finish a distant runners-up in last year's B. League.

Futsal sans

FROM PAGE 17 have come forward but we don't know why we are not getting any-

The Bangladesh Football Federation, meanwhile, scratched Muktijoddha from the tournament after they failed to turn up for their game against Brothers Union.

In the day's opening match at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium, B. League champions Abahani crushed Rahmatganj 7-2 with hattricks from Tipu and Mamun. Siraji added the other goal for the sky-blues in the Group A game while Hirok and Zakir reduced the arrears for Rahmatganj.

Komol struck twice while Bakhtiar and Faisal one each as Federation Cup winners Mohammedan won a thriller against Farashganj. Shahed netted all three goals in Federation Cup semifinalists Farashganj's 4-3

defeat. In the other match, Arambagh defeated Sheikh Russel -- who have not fielded any of their regular

players -- 5-2. Today's matches: Arambagh v Rahmatganj (10am), Abahani Sheikh Russel (11am), Brothers v Farashganj (2.30pm).

Tough-talking Arthur

Cricket

AFP, Cardiff

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur hinted that some of the senior members of his team may have played their last one-day internationals following the 4-0 one-day series defeat by England.

The home side completely dominated the one-day series after losing the Test series 2-1 in August.

claim a historic 5-0 series win by the weather at Cardiff on Wednesday, as rain allowed just three overs of play.

Experienced South African internationals Jacques Kallis, Herschelle Gibbs and Makhaya Ntini all endured a difficult limitedovers series.

Gibbs was the only batsman to

falling for just three to complete a disappointing series.

Arthur conceded that it might be time for a change of direction in one-day cricket.

He said: "I'm going to take a couple of weeks to go away and reflect and then come to those selection decisions.

"We've got five one-dayers at the end of October, early November against Kenya and Bangladesh which will give us a good base to They were denied the chance to start from with a young new side. "We'll look at the squad compo-

> sition closer to the time. "We were missing some key personnel and we are trying to identify a brand of cricket to play in one day cricket and then identify players to pick to play that kind of

South Africa's lacklustre contri-

lose his wicket on Wednesday, bution at the end of the summer took some of the gloss off their first Test series win in England since

> Arthur admitted he had put too much emphasis on winning the Tests although he denied the oneday series had deflated his squad. He said: "We compartmentalised the two series which were played by

slightly different sides. "We had goals and objectives set for our Test team which I think we conquered. The one-day series we always knew was going to be a bit of astruggle.

"We're disappointed about the one day series but very excited about what we achieved in the Tests. "The one thing I would criticise

myself about on this tour was putting too much emphasis on winning the Test series. When we won it we feltwe had achieved our goal."

'Hayden in ODI frame'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Darwin

Matthew Hayden will not be pressured out of one-day cricket before he is ready despite Australia's coach Tim Nielsen tipping Shaun Marsh and Shane Watson as the openers most likely to lead Australia's next World Cup defence. Marsh and Watson grabbed their opportunities when they came together in the West Indies in June and an ongoing heel injury for Hayden, 36, has allowed them to continue their success against Bangladesh.

The younger men have established a strong bond and it is a combination Nielsen is keen to foster. Hayden, the player of the 2007 World Cup, has previously said he knows his time is running out in ODIs but Nielsen said Hayden deserved the chance to depart on his terms.

"We'll sit down with him and the selectors will sit down with him and work out where he's moving over the next 12 months and how he'd like to go about that," Nielsen said. "We really do think it's important to respect senior players' ideas of how they'd like to go out, as long as they're still performing and contributing to the group."

Hayden was originally named in the squad to take on Bangladesh but when the Champions Trophy was postponed Cricket Australia's medical staff decided it was the

troublesome achilles tendon extra recovery time. Marsh has made two half-centuries in his two innings in Darwin and there is a chance he and Watson will still be opening at the World Cup in the subcontinent in two and a half years.

"They could be around until the next World Cup and Haydos has made no secret of the fact that he Australia A's three-day games and doesn't think he will be," Nielsen said. "I'm sure that Shaun and Shane will have buckets of opportunities to open the batting together for Australia in the future. We don't need to rush that process too much, there is a lot of time before the World Cup."

The Bangladesh games have given several fringe players like Marsh the chance to impress with Hayden, Ricky Ponting, Brett Lee and Andrew Symonds all missing. One man Australia have been eager to trial is Cameron White, who they hope can grow into the role of No. 1 limited-overs spinner.

White still sends down more loose balls than he would like but his seven-over spell on Wednesday was his longest in a one-day international. He has grabbed five wickets in the two Darwin games -his previous 18 ODIs brought only four victims -- and Nielsen hopes

White's confidence is building. "If you have a look back at Brad Hogg's career he probably started in a similar vein, bowling his lots of six and seven, fielding well and contributing with the bat, a little bit similar to what Whitey's doing at

perfect opportunity to give his the moment," Nielsen said. "I'm a huge believer in the fact the only way to learn to play international cricket is by playing it."

White will gain extra experience when he leads the Australia A oneday team in India later this month ahead of the senior squad's Test tour in October. Three other spinners are already in India for while Bryce McGain made the first bid for inclusion in the Test squad, Nielsen hopes the selectors do not judge McGain, Beau Casson and Jason Krejza on figures alone.

Michael Clarke is also expected to take on a greater bowling workload in Inda -- especially if Symonds does not tour -- where he picked up an astonishing 6 for 9 in just his fourth Test. Clarke has had back problems and does not bowl a lot at training but Nielsen said he would definitely be an important part of the attack.

"It's lucky and it's good that he's a natural bowler," he said. "He can pick up a ball and pretty well lob it most of the time where he wants to. So I'd expect that he and Andrew, if he's around the place, would do a lot of support of our full-time bowlers in that series."

Australia's squad for the India Tests will be named next week after the conclusion of the two Australia A matches. The group will be boosted by the return of Lee, who has declared himself ready to return after he pulled out of the Bangladesh series to deal with the break-up of his marriage.



Australia fast bowler Brett Lee joins his teammates for a spot of football on the Esplanade in Darwin on Thursday.

Media boycott BFF briefing

SPORTS REPORTER

Journalists yesterday boycotted Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) press conference arranged to announce the preliminary squad for next month's Merdeka Cup in Malaysia.

As it so often happens at a BFF media conference, there was a delay in the afternoon conference but no official was available there to explain the reason behind the hold-up.

After waiting over 15 minutes, the journalists decided to boycott and left the conference room.

Jamil vows to take hockey up

SPORTS REPORTER

New Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) general secretary Khondoker Jamil Uddin has promised to change the scenario of the game in the country.

The new executive committee sworn in yesterday and Jamil, one of the office bearers elected unop posed, said he wants to establish Bangladesh as the fifth best team in the continent.

"It is a challenge for me and I want to take our position up in Asia during our four-year tenure.

"We would be pleased if we can improve hockey even for a small quantity. I will take advice from the experienced organisers, who are in the committee," said Jamil giving priority to concentrate on school hockey apart from appointing physio and trainer for the national team before the Asia Cup.

"I have already contacted Australian Hockey Federation unof-

ficially for a physio and a trainer." Jamil added that he will make sure the federation and the players get corporate support.

"Sponsors for teams and tournaments and jobs for players will make a better future. So it would be my job to provide these," told the former cricket board official who also wants a solution to the controversial 'national pool system'.

Jamil and his mates got a free run as the opposing panel led by Abahani official Shahriar Alam, also featuring general secretary of the ad-hoc committee Sajed Adel boycotted the election.

OPEN SECRETS

FROM PAGE 17 was overwhelmed by the deft touch and variety of Murray, who prevailed in the tournament he most wants to win. "I've said before that if I ever won Wimbledon, it would be one of the great sporting occasions in Britain," said Murray, a born-and-raised Scot. "But it wouldn't be as important to me as the U.S. Open. It's my favorite tournament. I love the night matches, just the entirely different atmosphere, something that suits my character a bit more.

SAFINA DOMINANT

Despite the high stakes, there was little drama in the afternoon women's quarterfinal. Dinara Safina easily dispatched Flavia Pennetta 6-2, 6-3, continuing an impressive season that has seen her reach the final of the French Open and the Olympics, along with tournament wins this summer in Los Angeles and Montreal. Safina can become No. 1 in the world if she wins the U.S. Open and Jelena Jankovic loses her semifinal to Elena Dementieva.

Academy off

FROM PAGE 17 ahead of Sahagir Hossain while Abahani's aggressive opener Mahbubul Karim will also tour Sri

SQUAD

Nayeem Islam (captain), Marshall Ayub (vice-captain), Shamsur Rahman, Imrul Kayes, Farhad Hossain, Mahbubul Karim, Nasir Hossain, Suharwardi Shuvo, Arafat Sunny, Sajidul Islam, Delwar Hossain, Mahbubul Alam, Rubel Hossain, Ziaur Rahman and Ashiqul Islam (wicketkeeper).

It remains

FROM PAGE 17 Owais Shah, whom he lofted to No. 3, while Samit Patel -- who played with him at Nottinghamshire -- has offered runs, wickets and a calm head. All four of these players have at one time or another been described as contentious characters. Pietersen doesn't care about their past troubles, however, and appears to be getting the very best out of them.

It was Flintoff, however, who was the difference between the two teams. Averaging 187 with the bat and 12.90 with the ball, he slowed South Africa's innings down and accelerated England's. Perhaps more importantly, the added responsibility of his status as the senior statesman of the side hasn't dulled his naturally youthful instincts, unlike the burden of captaincy which surely did. Pietersen, on the other hand,

appears unsaddled by his new leadership role, though he did admit to being "knackered" prior to the match. If he's tired now, one can only imagine the exhaustion he might feel when things don't go quite so swimmingly. For now, though, a successful start to his tenure has hinted at an exciting time for England in one-day cricket, and all eyes now turn to Antigua.

The root of Roy's evil

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

The seeds of Andrew Symonds's discontent were sown long before the Northern Territory fishing expedition. To understand the turbulent mindset of the allrounder, venture back to January, to South Australia, to the furore that threatened to split the cricketing world.

To this day, Symonds has not forgiven Cricket Australia for what transpired in an Adelaide federal courtroom eight months ago. It was there that Symonds and three teammates were convinced by CA to downgrade a charge of racial abuse against Harbhajan Singh to one of mere verbal abuse -- a ploy the Australian players were advised would help ensure a lengthy suspension after the Monkeygate scandal, but one which eventually resulted in Harbhajan escaping sanction altogether.

Harbahjan's reprieve infuriated interested in kow-towing to the late night drinking session in influential Indian board than Cardiff, the limited-overs veteran protecting their own. Sources reported for a game in an inebriwithin the Australian team say Symonds has refused all of CA's him, and the lingering resentment has fuelled his deteriorating attitude to work.

Those close to the 33-year-old

there is grave concern over the mindset in which he will return. Some fear that a bullish, unrepentant Symonds could erode harmony during this period of team transition, where the everdwindling list of senior players are being relied upon to set the standard for a new generation of Australian cricketers. Others are worried that Symonds's relationship with Michael Clarke -- his

friend and Australia's captain elect -- could prove irreparable should the Queenslander place the blame for his embarrassing expulsion solely at Clarke's feet.

Ripples of discontent at Symonds's wavering commitment have surfaced on occasion this year, but it was not until Darwin that the issue came to a head. Australian players and officials were alarmed when Symonds arranged to have his fishing boat trucked from Queensland to Darwin before the three-match ingoutburst. one-day series against Bangladesh. Hardly the sign of a man focused.

It was against Bangladesh that Symonds, who felt abandoned by Symonds endured his most infaadministrators he felt were more mous fall from grace when, after a ated state. The public shaming that ensued prompted Symonds to subsequent attempts to appease reassess his attitude towards cricket and, after several months, he returned with a vengeance.

Symonds retained that focus and drive through his Test recall in do not believe he will retire, but 2006, and the torrid World Cup and

Indian one-day campaigns the following year. But since the Harbhajan hearing in Adelaide. teammates believe Symonds -emotional, stubborn and a bearer of grudges -- has lacked much of the competitive edge that propelled him from Test periphery to international superstar. The disproportionate pay cheques offered by the Indian Premier League have supposedly fuelled the fires of discontent further with CA, who are not in a position to match the 1.4 million dollar contract he

signed with the Deccan Chargers. Symonds has made no secret of his distaste for his ever-burgeoning celebrity status: another factor that has gnawed at his passion for the game. In a recent interview with the Herald, he spoke of a "traperazzi" scam during the 2007 World Cup, in which a man slapped him outside a nightclub while a hidden photographer waited to capture the ensu-

Sport is not necessarily just sport any more," he said. "People like to know what sportsmen are doing when they're not playing sport. People want to know what goes on behind the man, I suppose, which to me, I think, is probably slightly rude."

The majority of the Australian squad have sent Symonds messages of support since his forced return to Queensland, and those who have received replies have been heartened by his apparent determination to return to international cricket.

Smith bemoans Pollock miss

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Graeme Smith, the South African captain, blamed his inexperienced bowlers for the defeat in the ODI series against England, but was confident his team would regroup in time for the tour to Australia. Smith, who is back in South

Africa, was ruled out of the final three ODIs against England with a tennis elbow. Jacques Kallis stepped in but South Africa failed to turn around their fortunes, and are staring at the possibility of a 5-0 whitewash. Smith asked fans not to forget the 2-1 win in the Tests --South Africa's first in England since readmission -- but admitted the absence of Shaun Pollock had weakened the ODI side. "We obviously always want to perform well, he told News24.com. "Some people have pretty short-term memories and of course we'd like them to remember exactly what we did achieve in the Test series. Obviously what has happened

subsequently is disappointing. "But in terms of the team itself, if anything it's a realisation that we've lost some major elements of our ODI set-up," he said. "Replacing a guy like Shaun who provided so much control in our one-day [game] was never going to happen quickly. His all-round abilities meant so much: his tight bowling, lengthening our batting, finishing off games. Some of the young guys in the one-day set-up are struggling with form; it's created a bit of pressure on the team."

He pointed out the successes of his Test side in the past year -series victories at home against New Zealand and West Indies and away against Pakistan and Bangladesh, and a draw in India and said domestic performers could get a look in for the ODIs in Australia. "In terms of going into Australia, our Test side is strong in itself and had a huge amount of success this year," he said. "We don't really get tested in one-day

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cricket now until we reach Australia so it allows us a bit of time; guys at domestic level really have a chance to stake claims."

Smith said some of the players were a bit jaded after a long season, and that they relaxed after the Test triumph. "It probably all plays a part," he said. "We know we can't complain about IPL and things like that; it's difficult to turn down those opportunities. Time away, time on airplanes and in hotels ... it probably has played a part.

"I just feel we've lost some sting after the Test series. In that break before the ODIs it was like a hot-air balloon that popped. It's also opened our eyes to things we must work on and set right." South Africa hadn't appointed

a vice-captain for the ODIs in England, and Smith felt they needed to identify someone. "Jacques filled in at a difficult time for him," Smith said of his teammate taking up the leadership at a time when his batting was in a slump. "It's a high-pressure job, especially in a place like England with the media scrutiny and so on, so we couldn't expose a [youngsterl. It does bother me at the moment over who's going to be the next guy. We've got to identify [someone] we can grow and develop. Not having a vice-captain in the one-day side is not a good thing; we need to work on the issue. I can't give you an answer now, but the topic is on my mind a

Smith was hoping to recover in time to get a few domestic games ahead of the Australia tour in December, and believed the ICC must step in to ease out the cramped international calendar. "I've spent seven days at home since March. It takes its toll men tally and emotionally, and in terms of injuries," he was quoted in the Independent. "There have been so many changes in the game in the last 18 months. The ICC needs to plan carefully. It's a huge responsi-

By Eugene Sheffer

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Gary told to keep mum

INTERNET, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday warned coach Gary Kirsten for telling the media that Mahendra Singh Dhoni was ready for Test captaincy while the selectors were more than happy with Anil Kumble's leadership.

"Kirsten should not have given that interview (about the captaincy) to the media because it is not his job. We have the selectors to do that job of picking the captain," BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah told cricketnext.com on Thursday.

"His job is to coach the Indian team and not give interviews on the selection of the team or its captain. We have the right people (selectors) for that purpose and his comments have not gone down well with everyone concerned," Shah

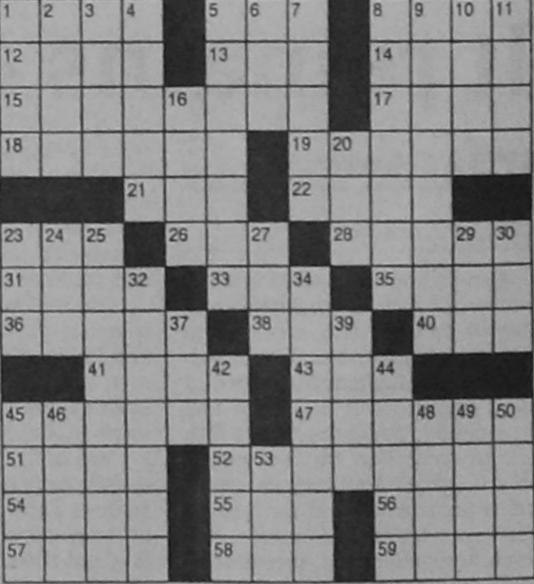
ICC creates women's

CRICINFO, undated

Women's cricket takes another step towards integrating with the game at large with the ICC introducing ODI Player rankings. The rankings will be launched in October, ahead of India's tour to

Australia. The news comes ahead of a busy year for women's cricket, with two World Cups -- 50-over and Twenty20 -- to be played in the first half of next year. The rankings, expected to raise the profile of the game and bring the spotlight on top players, have been put together by the same statistical experts who have put together the ODI Player

rankings for men. The ICC decided to consider one-dayers only since a majority of women's matches are played in that format. Since 1934, 131 women's Tests have been played by 10 teams, with only Australia, England, India and New Zealand featuring in more than three each. The same logic applies to Twenty20s, of which only 19 have been played since 2004.



CRYPTOQUIP

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UX EVOOYCE OVZBVW ZGG OLV OYHV, UCV HYELO BZS

SUA ZQV ZO OJYO'B VCW Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DURING RUSH HOUR. MIGHT A BUNCH OF GAS STATION ATTENDANTS

BE IN PUMPER-TO-PUMPER TRAFFIC? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals L

