

BOA forms SA Games committee

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) on Sunday formed a 23-member working committee with BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed as the convenor ahead of the 11th South Asian Games to be held in Dhaka in December 2009.

The committee was formed at the BOA executive committee meeting with its president General Moeen U Ahmed in the chair.

After the meeting at the BOA conference room, BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed told the reporters that they would start training of the athletes as soon as they get the budget of Tk 16 crore for the Games.

The training will begin after Eid-ul-Azha and continue until the SA Games, he said.

The BOA secretary general said the meeting also decided to involve the federations concerned in future whenever any new sports infrastructure is planned.

The meeting also discussed the reports of the chef de mission on the

29th Olympic Games in Beijing, 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune and the 1st Asian Beach Games in Indonesia this year.

Meanwhile, the financial report for the fiscal year 2007-08 was approved unanimously.

New coming for Franklin

CRICINFO, undated

James Franklin, the New Zealand fast bowler, has said he hopes to make a comeback to the national team as a "50-50 allrounder" rather than a "bowling-dominant allrounder". Franklin made his first-class comeback last week for Wellington and scored 69 and took 4 for 56 in his team's innings victory over Canterbury.

"I'd like to come back into international cricket as a true allrounder, batting at seven or eight and contributing genuine runs as well as taking wickets," Franklin told the Sunday Star Times. "Things are going well at the moment, it's such a relief to be playing first-class cricket again," he said. "I hadn't played first-class for almost two years because I'd been on a steady diet of ODIs before I injured my knee."

Franklin last played a Test for New Zealand in December 2006 and he hasn't appeared in ODIs since the 2007 World Cup. He underwent surgery for a patella tendon injury in his right knee last November and eased back into competitive cricket by playing Twenty20 and one-day games for Australian Capital Territory and representing New Zealand in the Emerging Players tour of Queensland in October this year.

"At the moment the guys (New Zealand) are doing pretty well and I haven't played international cricket for 18 months, so I have to play well at domestic cricket," Franklin said. "Hopefully the selectors will take note of any good form I might have and you might see a left-arm bowler-batsman back in the team, which would be a good thing."

Javed's words may hurt PCB

PTI, Karachi

Javed Miandad's sympathetic stance for country's banned ICL players has surprised even the PCB, which thinks that his statement could prove detrimental for India's next year's tour to the strife-torn nation as it is bound to irk the BCCI.

Miandad, who has been appointed as director-general of the Board, has said that the PCB must consider lifting ban on ICL players.

"On one hand the PCB is doing everything to ensure that the Indian team tours Pakistan and Miandad in an official capacity comes out with a statement on an issue which is treated very sensitively by the Indian Board officials," one source said.

"So obviously Miandad's statement has not come at the right time for the PCB," the source added.

However, the source added that Miandad's assertion was that the Indians would not tour next year due of security reasons and it was time Pakistan stopped toeing their line on the ICL.



Dhaka Club president Sadat Hossain Selim (3rd from L) briefs journalists about the UCB-Dhaka Sports Carnival 2008 at the club premises yesterday.

ECB against IPL deals

CRICINFO, undated

The ECB have reiterated that international cricket takes precedent over any IPL deals the England players want to take up. Central contracts have yet to be signed as the board tries to iron out the details of England's schedule for next season with leading stars keen to take up deals in India.

However, time is tight for the likes of Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff to spend time in the IPL with England not finishing their tour of West Indies until April 3 and the home international season due to start in early May. The second IPL tournament begins on April 10 with England players hoping for a 10-day slot to make an appearance. There is the added difficulty that the early-season opponents are still not confirmed with Sri Lanka's proposed trip having collapsed because of 13 leading players having IPL deals.

"We will be playing Test matches in the early

part of May and clearly that will have an impact on the amount of time that players may or may not go to IPL," Hugh Morris, the managing director of England cricket, said. "My understanding is that the ICC, IPL and the ECB have made it very clear from the word go that international cricket takes precedence over domestic tournaments and I think that will be the case."

Morris also said coach Peter Moores was the person who "managed the player's programme" and would suggest which players would travel to India for the IPL. "Some players need to play a lot, some need to rest. It is trying to get the right balance between preparation, rest and playing," he said. "Peter and I have discussed this, as you can imagine. Peter makes a recommendation to me and that goes to the board."

The ECB and IPL had a meeting last week over the release of England players but failed to reach an understanding. Lalit Modi, the IPL chairman, said last month that he wanted England players to be available for a significant portion of the seven-week tournament.

Siddons seeks two years

FROM PAGE 17
micro level. You can say we just started our schooling," he added.

And he reiterated his demand that Bangladesh should improve its cricketing infrastructure to complete the schooling of the players before selecting them for the national team and that without that the future of Bangladesh cricket will be bleak.

"I'm talking more on infrastructure and the board needs to do these things. You can take an idea from here about what should be the facilities for an international standard. I thought we had indoors in every division but there are no bowling machines and other facilities," he suggested.

"I don't know whether the locals have access in the indoors but it's a very basic requirement for a player to be groomed and we need to prepare good wicket also.

Look at this ground and the indoor facilities, it's just a first-class or club ground but they have all the cricket facilities here. That's what I am talking about," said Siddons praising the facilities at the OUS Insurance oval.

The former assistant coach of the world's number one team however was satisfied with the facilities available for the national team but he was worried with the overall facilities in the country.

"I am not worried about the national team facilities as there are good coaches around them and they get everything they require. But we have to look at the future, not only at the national team. We should focus on the players coming in and what kind of facilities they get. What coaches are coaching there...it's very important. And everybody should understand this," he said.

Siddons also said that he has to work with some players who are not ready to play in the highest level of the game.

"If we don't change the infrastructure at home then nothing will be changed. Look, probably Nayeem (Islam) and Imrul (Kaye) are not ready but we have to play them because there are no back ups," warned the shaven-headed coach.

But Siddons was very much optimistic with the young side and said that he was not setting any target for any competition.

"I can give you guarantee about this team. I don't think too much about next World Cup (2011) because it's another competition. Cricket means improvement. I am very much hopeful with the team but once again we have to improve the infrastructure for the future," he hoped.

Gap worries giants

FROM PAGE 17
start on the same foot tomorrow.

"If we find the rhythm early, we will play good football because we have trained well for the past few days," said Maruf, who is likely to miss Hassan Al Mamun despite the fullback's joining training after an injury.

When asked about the Sky-Blues' weaknesses he would want to exploit, Maruf said it would not be wise to reveal his plans.

"I'd rather say that Abahani are a very tidy unit because the same set of players have played more than 50 matches together. This is a plus point no other team have in the league."

Mohammedan captain Jewel Rana, who appeared for the last few minutes of their game against Russel after returning to the field from a long injury lay-off, is not a sure starter but said he was pre-

pared to compete in the adrenalin-pumping mega clash.

"Whether I am in the eleven or not would be a team decision. But I think it would be as exciting as ever for a player or the fans," the ex-national defender said.

Like Maruf, veteran coach Amalesh also says he was bothered by the long gaps but it would be same for both teams.

"Half of my team was with the national team. It's been a little difficult to bring them in harmony. But I have this set together for more than two years and I hope they would cope with the match situation quickly," said the experienced coach and former national midfielder.

He also ruled out chances of including Joy and Ujjal, the two midfielders who have joined camp after personal activities.

"Ujjal will take some time

to get back in shape and Joy, who returned two days ago after his election campaign, is also not fully ready for tomorrow's match," added Amalesh.

Abahani captain Nazrul, who has been used as a makeshift rightback to make way for inform centre-backs Sujun and Ghanaian Samad Yussif, said that their advantage is to hold on to the same players that won the inaugural B. League for the Sky-Blues.

"The experience is there and we are more organised than any other team," Nazrul told.

In the end, the coaches will have to rely on their firepower on the field and the battle would be between Mohammedan's strike pair Alamu Bukola of Nigeria and Hedaytullah Robin who shares eight goals evenly between them.

For Abahani, four-goal Emilly and Nigerian midfielder Emeka, with three goals, hold the key.



Winners of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity's annual sports meet are seen with the guests during prize giving ceremony at the organisation's auditorium yesterday.

Dhaka Sports Carnival from Nov 28

SPORTS REPORTER

The UCB Dhaka Sports Carnival will begin in Dhaka from November 28.

Co-hosted by Dhaka Club, Kurmitola Golf Club, Cadet College Club, Gulshan Club and Uttara Club, the three-day meet will see bridge, golf, cricket, tennis, snooker, squash and swimming competitions.

Seven Indian clubs -- International Club, Calcutta Club, Royal Calcutta Golf Club, Jaipur Club, CC & FC, Saturday Club and Bhubaneswar Club -- will join fourteen from Bangladesh and it is estimated that almost 400 participants will take part in the numerous events.

Army chief and NSC chairman Gen Moeen U Ahmed will be the chief guest on the closing ceremony on November 30.

Police, East End win easy

SPORTS REPORTER

Three goals inside 12 minutes in the first half helped Police AC blank Dhanmondi Club 3-0 in yesterday's Second Division Football league at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Ami Amin opened the scoring after 16 minutes while Shahin and Amirul added the rest in the 27 and 28 minutes to take Police's collection to 30 points after the 15th round. Dhanmondi remained on 14 points.

East End Club defeated Friends Social Welfare 2-0 in another 15th round game with Habib and Biplab scoring before the break. East End reached 28 points while Friends stuck to 18.

Kirsten reveals secret to success

PTI, London

India cricket coach Gary Kirsten says the secret of his successful stint with Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men so far lies in the way he has embraced the country and its workethics.

"When people talk about me being a foreign coach I don't feel like a foreign coach because I've integrated my thinking, my philosophies and my style of coaching, along with Paddy's (Upton), into how the Indians go about their business. We are a very happy unit," Kirsten said.

The former South Africa batsman, who replaced Greg Chappell as coach of the Indian team, said it was important to maintain a certain distance from the players.

"Because of the culture barrier, that happens naturally here. In cricket time we're together and outside we go and do our own thing. But I know how tough it is for them. They're a good side and they're good people, but they're almost a paradox in many respects.

Ten Sports bag Pakistan rights

CRICINFO, undated

Dubai-based Ten Sports (Taj Entertainment Network) has bagged the television rights for matches in Pakistan over the next five years, in a deal worth US\$140.5 million.

Ten Sports, along with ARY, held the rights during the previous period from 2004 to 2008. "It is an excellent deal for a period of five years and starts with the home series against India," Salim Altaf, the PCB's chief operating officer, said. "The process of bidding is based on optimum situation which is that all teams will tour Pakistan as per schedule and if teams do not come to Pakistan we have the option of playing at the neutral venue."

India's tour, though, is currently in doubt with security concerns. Pakistan have not played a Test in 2008, and besides the Asia Cup, the only home contests for them this year were five-match ODI series against Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Australia postponed their tour earlier this year, and the Champions Trophy has been delayed until 2009.

If India pull out of the tour for security reasons, it effectively means no established team will tour Pakistan for the foreseeable future. "We are very much optimistic the tour will go ahead as planned," Altaf said. However, he added the PCB was also considering organising the series in Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates should India refuse to tour.

Johnson sinks

FROM PAGE 17

The challenge for the fast bowlers will be greater on a flatter pitch at the Adelaide Oval, where the final match of the two-Test series begins on Friday. Australia will likely squeeze the offspinner Jason Krejza into the side while New Zealand have serious questions over their batting and could bolster the line-up by including Peter Fulton.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the first Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Sunday:
AUSTRALIA: First innings 214 (Hussey 35, Clarke 98; Southey 4-63)
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 156 (Ryder 30, Taylor 40, Flynn 39 no; Johnson 4-30)
AUSTRALIA: Second innings 268 (Katich 131 not out, Martin 3-68)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 143 for 6)				
Redmond c & b Clark	10			
Howc Posing b Lee	0			
Ryder lbw b Johnson	24			
Taylor c Haddin b Johnson	75			
McCullum lbw b Clark	3			
Flynn b Johnson	29			
Elliott b Clark	0			
Vettori c Symonds b Johnson	10			
Southey not out	12			
O'Brien c Clarke b Clark	3			
Martin b Johnson	1			
Extras: (lb-5, w-2, nb-3)	10			
Total: (All out in 54.3 overs)	177			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-30, 3-40, 4-49, 5-133, 6-143, 7-160, 8-161, 9-164, 10-177.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	9	0	53	1
Clark	17	5	43	4
Johnson	17.3	6	39	5
Watson	5	1	19	0
Symonds	4	0	12	0
Clarke	2	0	6	0
Result: Australia won by 149 runs.				
Man-of-the-match: Mitchell Johnson.				

SA give good

FROM PAGE 17
in the same venue on December 13, added glamour and glitz.

The only team not represented by a Miss World contestant was Iraq, but the reigning Miss World officiated for the Asian country.

South African coach Joel Santana said that he was very proud to represent the country. "We have the support of people in the country. They are committed to helping us in this challenge."

He dismissed any talk of his side being in an easy group. "We will be playing very strong teams. They do not simply come here to walk around, they come here to play, but I am optimistic that we can do well."

Italy assistant coach Narciso Pezzotti, who addressed the post draw press conference in place of Marcello Lippi, said that they held the Confederations Cup in high esteem.

"However, we are looking towards the 2010 World Cup and the Confederations Cup will be an ideal opportunity to use some of the younger players and give them exposure ahead of the World Cup."

Earlier, the 50-minute draw for the so-called Championship of Champions

was a chance for South Africa to tout its attractions to the more than 350,000 visitors expected at the World Cup.

Performances by football-dribbling pantsula (township hip hop) dancers gave a more contemporary feel to a programme of traditional choral singing and African dance.

He then promised football's controlling body FIFA that South Africa would not let them down.

As if to symbolize Africa's changing fortunes, a young girl, surrounded by singers and dancers, threw a fistful of gold dust into the audience.

Sidebottom

FROM PAGE 17

explained Moores. "We know Ryan's got great control, swings it both ways and as an experienced bowler he has got the skills that you need. We also know he operates at his best when he's above 82-83mph and I think he'll be able to do that without a problem."

It is likely England will delve into their Performance Programme squad to find a replacement, with contenders such as Saj Mahmood, Tim Bresnan and Liam Plunkett.

Butt off to India

CRICINFO, undated

Ijaz Butt, the PCB chairman, will visit India later this month in order to convince BCCI officials over India's tour of Pakistan next year. Recently, doubts have risen over going ahead with the tour, and the BCCI is awaiting a security assessment from the Indian government.

"The chairman (Ijaz Butt) will meet officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) later this month and convince them to tour Pakistan," PCB's chief operating officer Salim Altaf said on Saturday. "We are very much optimistic the tour will go ahead as planned."

Earlier this week, PCB officials had met with the Indian High Commission in Pakistan. Also, Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said his government would ensure proper security arrangements for the series, and assured his Indian counterparts of the same.

India's tour, from January 4 to February 19, includes three Tests, five ODIs and a Twenty20 international. Altaf said PCB would organise the series in Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates should India refuse to tour Pakistan. "We have these three alternate venues in mind to organise the series," he said.

'Harmison in favour of IPL'

CRICINFO, undated

Steve Harmison has said that England will be left behind if players aren't able to join the IPL and gain more Twenty20 experience.

A number of leading stars, including Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff, are eyeing up IPL deals, but are likely to only have a small window between the end of the West Indies tour and the start of the English home season.

England are hosting the Twenty20 World Championships in June and Harmison said that players from other countries have a huge advantage because of their time in the IPL.

"If our guys do not play in the IPL next spring, on June 5, England will begin the premier high-profile cricket tournament of the year, in our own country, having played just three Twenty20 international matches in the previous 12 months," Harmison told the Mail on Sunday. "What is more, because our domestic Twenty20 runs parallel to our one-day series in England, most of us have hardly played any of that, either."

Vettori backs

FROM PAGE 17
and I think they are very good players. I'll back them. We'll get them improving, we have to accelerate that improvement."

"Most guys maybe get 15 Tests to improve themselves and we're trying to get guys to do that in five to 10. I hope we can turn it around come Adelaide because Adelaide is renowned as a great batting deck. If we can get some guys to stand up there and get those hundreds on the board, then I think we give ourselves a chance with our bowling line-up."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS				DOWN			
1 Shock partner	36 Marble cake pattern	56 Swiss canton	9 Card game for one	1 Donkey	21 Cuts the grass	22 From the beginning	23 Lawyer in London
4 Perjurers	38 Tie up the phone	57 Apiece	10 Admitting cus-tomers	2 Personal question?	30 Weight member?	32 Verifiable	29 Bridge
9 "Mayday!"	40 U.K. fliers	58 Actress Winona	11 Male deer	3 Moray	6 Black-bird	34 Whim	37 Landlord
12 That woman	41 Pool hall supply	59 Quaint stopover	16 "Eewww!"	4 Expired, as a subscrip-tion	7 "— are red ..."	39 Hot-water heater	42 Un-emotional
13 Bother	43 Powerful	60 Donkey	20 Make tea	5 Loop	8 Logo	44 Also	45 Get ready, for short
14 Choose	45 Church VIP	2 Personal question?	21 Cuts the grass	6 Black-bird		46 Took the bus	50 Cover
15 Ego-centric's problem	47 Brazilian resort city	3 Moray	22 From the beginning	7 "— are red ..."		51 On the — vive	51 On the — vive
17 Meadow	48 Deteriorate	4 Expired, as a subscrip-tion	23 Lawyer in London	8 Logo		52 Samovar	53 Yang counter-part
18 Vegas-based TV series	49 "To be or not to be," e.g.	5 Loop	29 Bridge				
19 Receding	50 Tokyo's old name	6 Black-bird	30 Weight member?				
21 With face hidden	54 Yoko's	7 "— are red ..."	32 Verifiable				
24 Kind of music	55 Reserved or pre-served	8 Logo	34 Whim				
26 Alt. state			37 Landlord				
28 Dog walker's tether			39 Hot-water heater				
31 Ridge raised by a heavy blow			42 Un-emotional				
33 Sinbad's bird			44 Also				
35 Use a paper towel			45 Get ready, for short				

Solution time: 24 mins.

PRO	AMMO	MASH
LUP	DEEP	ASHY
USE	DOLT	TEED
MAD	COWD	ISEASE
ENS	MAY	
BAWLS	BUM	PIEW
EVIL	LAM	PETA
GAG	FIR	CLEAR
PIN	AAO	
MAKE	BEEF	JERKY
ABET	UPTO	ONE
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ALLY	SERE	PEG

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CRYPTOQUIP

C N W Q W I Y Q C A W Q Q
V B Q X W Q B M H Y Z E N I V P B E W
S I Q D J J W A B M H W P W A T D M W
A W I G G T H A W I C X Z A G Q D J
S B Q V D Y

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU DO EDITING FOR A POPULAR WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GETTING TO WORK ON TIME.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals S