U-17 cricketers' camp Mar 28

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-17 cricket team's camp involving 24 players will start at the BKSP

from March 28. The camp will run till April

The selected players have been asked to report to HP Project Operation Logistic officer Shahidul Islam at the BKSP on Friday at 5:00pm.

The selected players are Zakaria Masud, Rakin Ahmed, Ashik-ul-Alam, Jayanto Das, Shanaj Ahmed, Soumya Sarkar, Iktedar Nazeef Ahmed, Imamul Hossain, Mehedi Hasan, Kazi Nurul Hassan, Sayem Alam Rezvi, Liton Kumar Das, Didar Hossain, AM Rupu, Sandip Roy Babu, Md Habibullah, Md Sento, Abu Jayed, Asif Hassan, Sumit Chowdhury, Arif Reja, Abid Hasan, Ariful Islam and Ahmedul Kabir Rudro.

ZIMBABWE TRI-SERIES SA have not confirmed as yet

CRICINFO, undated

South Africa's participation in a tri-series with Zimbabwe and India in Zimbabwe in July is not confirmed, according to Cricket South Africa.

"It's way too premature for India to confirm that this series is going ahead," CSA chief executive Gerald Majola said. "Zimbabwe have spoken to CSA about it but our board still needs to decide whether to reinstate bilateral relations with Zimbabwe."

The South African board suspended cricketing ties with Zimbabwe in June 2008 because of political trouble in the country.

Tony Irish, the chief executive of the South African Cricketers Association, also had not heard anything official. "We have not heard anything officially," Irish told Supersport website. "It's definitely not part of the international tour programme [FTP]."

Lovemore Banda, the ZC media manager, told Cricinfo: "When the chief executive of CSA responded to the invitation from our CEO, he made it clear that it was subject to confirmation by the board. We are waiting for that board deliberation of the matter, and are hopeful that South Africa will take part in our tournament."

Ashed how, if relations between the two countries were still suspended, a Zimbabwe A side was currently playing in South Africa, Banda said that it was "not really a resumption of bilateral relations because we sent the A side to play against Canada and Ireland in response to an invitation from the Africa Cricket Association, which has its headquarters in South Africa".

Zimbabwe are faced with a barren schedule after Sri Lanka cancelled their series this month and then New Zealand's tour, pencilled in for July, was postponed for a year by mutual agreement.

You mention that we have a side playing in South Africa at the moment. Well, our having the side playing in South Africa is not really a resumption of bilateral relations because we sent the Zimbabwe A side to play against Canada and Ireland in response to an invitation from the Africa Cricket Association which has its headquarters in South Africa.

India want

FROM PAGE 17

There were also some concerns about the pitch following an outbreak of fungal disease on the wicket block.

However, ground staff dismissed any worries and said it would be a traditional McLean Park pitch, offering assistance to the quick bowlers on the first day before flattening out into a good

batting surface. Another milestone within India's grasp rests with Dravid, who needs one more catch to become the most prolific fielder in Test cricket. He currently shares the record of 181 catches with Australia's Mark Waugh.

Khelaghar

FROM PAGE 17

fours and three sixes while Shihab made 51 to reach the

wining target in the 47th over. In other matches, Eskaton beat Jatrabari by six runs at the Jagannath Hall Ground and Baridhara Dazzlers defeated Indira Road by 13 runs at the Dhaka University Ground.



Jelena Jankovic of Serbia is seen during a photo call of the Sony Ericsson Open at the Crandon Park Tennis Centre in Florida on Wednesday.

Indians disappointed

AFP, New Delhi



Indian media and top players expressed disappointment on Wednesday after cricket's showpiece Indian Premier League (IPL) was moved to South Africa over security concerns in only its

second year. The decision, announced in Johannesburg, follows days of uncertainty over the glitzy event, which was hailed as the sport's future on its debut last year but was thrown into doubt by recent terror attacks in Mumbai and Lahore.

Organisers took the dramatic step of shifting the event abroad after Indian authorities could not guarantee security because of a clash with national elections, naming South Africa as the venue just three days later.

"To move the event outside India has been one of the hardest decisions that the Board of Control for Cricket in India has had to take," said IPL commissioner Lalit Modi. "But I'm equally confident that staging it in

South Africa will be a major success. We extend a huge gratitude to our friends at Cricket South Africa for agreeing to host the Indian Premier League in such a short time." The IPL and South Africa now face the mam-

moth task of organising the eight-team tournament, probably played over six venues, in just over three weeks with the start scheduled for April 18. The event is likely to be shortened from six

weeks to five and include double-headers, with all matches broadcast live in South Africa by the Johannesburg-based SuperSport channel. The move abroad has been controversial in India, with an NDTV news channel showing 59

percent of people opposed it and only 26 percent were in favour. Some 50 percent thought the relocation was

a disgrace to India, revealing a sense of anger that India was not a trustworthy host of topgrade cricket. "The decision to outsource the tournament,

even as schedules were being repeatedly revised, has come as a bitter disappointment --

Cricket

South Africa and Australia will

switch their attention from Test

cricket to the shortest form of

the game when they play the

first of two Twenty20 interna-

Stadium here on Friday.

tionals at the Wanderers

last chance to assess their

combinations before the World

Twenty20 in England in June.

For both teams it will be a

South Africa have named

15 players in their squad and

selection convenor Mike

Procter said every player

would all play in at least one

in Centurion on Sunday.

match. The second contest is

16, which also includes the

players for a five-match one-

day international series start-

AFP, Johannesburg

publicly shared by the great Sachin Tendulkar -to millions of fans," The Hindu newspaper said.

"It is astonishing that Lalit Modi & co. missed what every newspaper-reading schoolboy and schoolgirl was expected to know, namely that the 15th general election would be held in April-May 2009."

Tendulkar, who captains the IPL's Mumbai Indians and holds the all-time record for Test runs, said the players "would certainly miss playing in front of our supporters."

"It is obviously going to be different," he said. "In India it is about home games and away games. Right now, everything is going to be an away game."

Sri Lanka's star spin bowler Muttiah Muralidaran, who plays for Chennai Super Kings, agreed the move was unfortunate but inevitable.

"I guess it would not be the same this year," he said. "But at the same time, the game must go on, else cricket would die. This is the right decision.'

November's Mumbai attacks, which left 165 dead, raised security fears for the tournament and this month gunmen in Lahore, Pakistan ambushed the Sri Lankan team's convoy, killing eight Pakistanis.

The decision to move the IPL also caused fresh worries for next year's Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, although organisers insist they are not worried about security. The IPL has been seen as a fresh start for

cricket and a shift from its traditional power bases to South Asia, where lucrative TV rights provide the sport's main source of income. The new order is highlighted by the IPL's

glittering auction, where team owners including Bollywood stars and Indian tycoons bid large sums of money to sign up the world's top players. With the IPL heading for South Africa, the country is at the centre of the cricket world with

Australia touring until April 17 and a 12-nation qualifying tournament for the 2011 World Cup starting next Wednesday. The International Cricket Council eight-

nation Champions Trophy, the second biggest tournament after the World Cup, will also be held in South Africa during September and October.

2 winning record at the

Wanderers, including a two-

run win against Australia three

seasons ago. No Twenty20

internationals have been

SOUTH AFRICA: Johan Botha

(captain), Yusuf Abdulla,

Hashim Amla, Mark Boucher,

AB de Villiers, JP Duminy,

Herschelle Gibbs, Johann Louw,

Albie Morkel, Justin Ontong,

Wayne Parnell, Robin Peterson,

Dale Steyn, Roelof van der

AUSTRALIA: Ricky Ponting

(captain), Michael Clarke,

Nathan Bracken, Callum

Ferguson, Brett Geeves, Brad

Haddin, Nathan Hauritz,

James Hopes, David Hussey,

Michael Hussey, Mitchell

Johnson, Ben Laughlin,

Marcus North, Cameron

White, David Warner, Shane

Merwe, Vaughn van Jaarsveld.

played at Centurion.

SQUADS

Two players, Victoria fast tour but South Africa have a 6

Independence Day cricket tie today

SPORTS REPORTER

An exhibition match will be played between GP-BCB National Cricket Academy and Bangladesh Under-19 team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has arranged this match to mark the Independence Day. The 50-overs-a-side match will start at 9:00am.

SQUADS

GP-BCB NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY: Marshall Ayub (captain), Shamsur Rahman (vice-captain), Jahurul Islam, Forhad Hossain, Nasirudduin Faruque, Nadif Chowdhury, Sahagir Hossain Pavel, Robiul Islam, Mohamed Azim, Sajedul Islam, Arafat Salahuddin, Suhrawardi Shuvo, Arafat Sunny, Nabil Samad.

BANGLADESH UNDER-19: Mohammad Mithun (captain), Saikat Ali, Amit Majumder, Asif Ahmed Ratul, Nasir Hossain, Sabbir Ahmed | lation goal for the losers. Rumman, Noor Hossain Munna, Ariful Haque, Shaker Ahmed, Alauddin Babu, Dewan Sabbir, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Tasamul Haque Rubel, Taibur Rahman Parvez, Anamul Haque Bijoy.

KKR may've four or five captains!

CRICINFO, undated

The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have decided not to have a fixed captain for the Indian Premier League (IPL) this season. John Buchanan, the coach, told a press conference that the decision was "not a slight" to Sourav Ganguly but a plan for the future. He said there could be four or five captains through the tournament.

A grim-looking Ganguly, sitting beside Buchanan at the press conference, refused to elaborate on the decision and simply said the concept was new and needed to be assessed as it went on. Asked if he was upset by it, Ganguly did not answer directly and Buchanan interjected: "Of course he will be upset. He is the Prince of Kolkata." Ganguly laughed and put his hands up and said "I am notupset".

Ganguly said the plan was Buchanan's. "He is the coach of the team and he has got the right to make decisions. We'll see as it goes along. At the end of the day we all have to deliver."

Buchanan was at pains to explain that the multiplecaptains theory was not prompted by a lack of confidence in Ganguly's leadership skills. "In fact it could actually be of benefit to someone like him because it could free him up for his batting, when he just needs to his batting or for his fielding when he just needs to do his fielding or when he needs to just do his bowling without the burden of the twenty-over format on his shoulders. At the same stage we might be asking him to make some key decisions for us. It has nothing to do with Sourav Ganguly whatsoever. It has everything to do with how I perceive the 20-over game and what the demands are running that game should be."

He sought to dismiss any rumours of differences between the coach and current captain and said the media were assuming there was controversy. "One of the things that we did agree on yesterday: if there is indecision out there, if there is poor communication or confusion with Sourav's help, with [Chris] Gayle's help, with [Brad] Hodge's help, with [Brendon] McCullum's help and with the help of the other

players it will work fine. " Buchanan said the possibility of Ganguly not being an automatic choice in the XI was not an issue at the moment. "All we are doing right at this stage is that we have no concept of the schedule, what it looks like and where we are playing - all those sorts of things. Whether Sourav is in the side in three weeks or four weeks time at this stage is irrelevant."

Boxer boxed

FROM PAGE 17

the same village told The Daily Star that Hossen should get more support from the government for his contribution to the nation.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Fifty-two players earned full point by winning their first round games in the preliminary phase of the Mercantile Bank 35th National Chess Championship at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

In the round, Shakil beat Babu, Amin defeated Mithu, Siam overcame Taibur, Nasir outwitted Jaynal, Emon outdid Sagar, Younus outclassed Padda, Parag overwhelmed Faruki, Ali checkmated Imran and Debaraj got the better of Kashem.

The second round games start today from 3:30pm at the same venue.

DIVII HOCKEY

Shantinagar SC tasted the first victory in their third match of the Green Delta Metropolis 2nd Division Hockey League outplaying East End Green Club 8-0 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

After a barren first-half, Nazmul Hasan Raihan, Fakruddin Islam and Towfiqul Islam scored two goals each while Sanjoy Kumar and Monir Hossain netted one goal each for the

In the day's other match, Rayer Bazar AC beat Tejgaon Agragami 5-1 after leading the first-half 2-0 at the same venue.

Hasan Ali, Abdul Khaleque scored two goals each while Ashique Mahmud netted the other for the winners. Rahat Anwar scored the conso-

DIVIHCRICKET

wicket in the opening match of the Third Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi

Cricket Stadium yesterday. Dhaka Royal batted first and were shot out for 141 in 46.5 overs which was successfully chased by Udity in 41.3 overs losing nine of their batters.

In other matches, Kamrangichar SC beat Dilkusha SC by five wickets at the Gulshan Youth Club Ground, Tasin Hasin CA defeated Chandpur CA by 13 runs at the City Club Ground and Gulshan Youth Club beat Hillol JS by two wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Ground.

INDEPENDENCE DAY TT

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation has arranged Swadheenata Dibosh Table Tennis Tournament marking the Independence Day.

A total of 15 men's teams and six boys' teams will participate in the two-day meet that starts

The games will be played at the wooden floor gymnasium of the National Sports Council.

SWADHEENATA CUP HANDBALL

Tiger Jalil team became champions in the Swadheenata Cup Handball Tournament beating Abdul Kader team 28-26 in a closely fought match at the Dhaka Handball Court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Qutubuddin Ahmed was present dur-Udity Club beat Dhaka Royal Cricketers by one ing the occasion as the chief guest.

Australia easier to beat now: Shoaib

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

A fit-again Shoaib Akhtar said Wednesday that Pakistan can beat Australia in next month's limited-overs series, predicting the world champions are less of a threat than in the past. "Australia are now much easier to beat than

before and if we play our best we can beat them in the series," Akhtar told AFP. "We have a very good chance of beating

Pakistan plays Australia in five one-dayers and a Twenty20 match in Dubai and Abu Dhabi from April 22 to May 7.

Akhtar said Australia had lost some key players, which had weakened them. "They are still the world's top team, which

they proved by avenging their defeat against South Africa," he said of Australia's 2-1 series win over tSouth Africa this week. "But they still miss the likes of (Adam)

If even one of them came to the party, it spelt doom for the rival team. "Australia now doesn't have as many quality

Gilchrist, (Matthew) Hayden, (Glenn) McGrath

and (Shane) Warne who were top class players.

South Africa in the one-day series in Australia and judging by their strength in one-dayers I think we can beat them." Akhtar added that he always wanted to do

well against Australia. "I have great admiration for the Australian team, so it's natural that I want to do well

against them. I did that, especially in the 1999 World Cup and we beat them in a one-day series in 2002 but that's not enough." The 33-year-old paceman is again on the comeback trail after injuring his knee last

match Test series against Sri Lanka. He also missed the third and final one-day internationals against Sri Lanka in January after managing just one wicket in the first two

month, which forced him out of Pakistan's two-

matches. Since recovering, Akhtar has featured in two domestic matches and hopes that selectors include him in the squad.

"I have been working very hard and gearing up to play against Australia. I will play more domestic matches so that I can prove my fitness to the selectors and the rest is with them," he

"I am feeling better and have bowled 20 overs in the two matches. So I will be up to my full fitness and rhythm when we play players as in the past. They were beaten by Australia."

Vettori vows a fight

FROM PAGE 17

A change in the batting order, which would see him, Brendon McCullum or Jesse Ryder move up, is not being considered for now. An unconventional school of thought might suggest picking six batsmen, four bowlers, a wicketkeeper, and then deciding the batting order - no matter if a bowler or a wicketkeeper is better placed than a specialist batsman.

"The onus is on the top six to do the job," Vettori said. "If they do the job then Brendon and I can complement to that. We can mix and match sometimes, but the onus is always on top six to score the runs.

New Zealand have at No. 6, a left-arm swing bowler who has just converted to an allrounder. In Hamilton James Franklin got a rough decision while scoring 0 and 14 and went wicketless. But Vettori doesn't want to drop like a hot brick the man who was the specialist No. 6 a week ago. He has been selected as a No.

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tunity at it," Vettori said. "He his spell at 80 for 6. The differhas been highly successful for ence in what happened was Wellington. It would be unfair to just take that away from him an easy state for the New after just one performance."

found aggressive wicket-taker them, the public wants differat the other end. In the entresults. absence of such firepower in the bowling department a solid batting performance becomes all the more important. New Zealand just haven't built enough pressure on the Indian batsmen - neither with runs on the board nor with their bowling.

Vettori, the captain and now the allrounder, has too much on his plate. As a captain he has won New Zealand just one Test with the ball - against Bangladesh. The lack of quality bowlers around him shows. In Hamilton he came in to bowl at 99 for 1, as compared to

By Eugene Sheffer

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America's bird?

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6, and has had only one oppor- Harbhajan Singh who started not mutually exclusive. It's not Zealand team to be in, but what Franklin provides the is easy is identifying the areas balance with his steady they have gone wrong in medium-pace, but New almost all. They have shown Zealand essentially have three faith in the same personnel, the medium-pacers who can be same methodology, but want decent foils to a yet-to-be different execution. Along with

Enamul WC

FROM PAGE 17

Twelve teams, split into two groups, will take part in the qualifying competition.

Group A comprises Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Oman, Namibia and Uganda while Kenya, Netherlands, Bermuda, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan and Denmark pitted in the Group B.

International panel umpire Enamul is scheduled to leave for South Africa today.

Dido's surprises then it has to come back to one point. But at the moment we CROSSWORD have plenty of time in which to ACROSS 37 Portal work through this and I think approaching the end of his a centre-back but Abahani 38 Rim

FROM PAGE 17 "I want to conquer the world,"

ing on April 3.

he said with a smile. " Our target is to win this (Challenge Cup) group and prepare our players for the future too. "I know it is impossible to

raise all the players' fitness level in four weeks' time but every one of this squad has a worth during training. "Many players are confused about positioning and I will

teach them how and where to move. I want to have players who will understand very fast what I ask of them. It's a tricky way to prepare them technically and tactically in this short time but we have to do that." ers including newcomer

Mithun Chowdhury, an under-23 player who plays for represented all age-group national teams starting from Santos and Flamengo. under-14 level.

exclude Alfaz, who scored 17 goals in the B. League, Dido

SA-Aus 1st T20 int'l Friday

bowler Shane Harwood and

New South Wales opening

batsman David Warner, were

selected only for the Twenty20

players have also been selected

for the one-day internationals.

decided to rest fast bowlers

Peter Siddle and Ben Hilfen-

haus, who played in all three

during the season and it was

felt best to rest them ahead of a

demanding schedule which

includes the World T20 and an

Hilfenhaus provides opportu-

nities for Brett Geeves and Ben

The absence of Siddle and

Australia won both

during South Africa's recent Harwood.

Twenty20 internationals

Ashes tour of England.

more regular selection.

Tests during the recent series.

Only 10 of the South African

Australia, meanwhile,

Both players had injuries

games.

Australia have a squad of Laughlin to make claims for

or 35 members, we could have called him. But what we do about such a great player? Do we honour him or insult him?

The inclusion of Himel the third goalkeeper was questioned but the former Brazilian professional footballer said he was chosen with the SA Games in mind.

pick Aminul first because he is played for Brazilian giants

and need to increase their increase his speed to be considered for the national team Defending his decision to again and he did not see Nazrul a centre-back.

"If it had been a squad of 30 "I have an excellent central

We are focussing on future and it is time to think about that. chance to play and prove their who made only one start for Saikat or Mamun as Rajani's Mohammedan this season, as partner in the centre of a flat four-back system all Brazilians love. Otherwise, he would have

"We have two very good goalkeepers in Aminul and Biplab. Both are great but I will Dido picked up four strik- a natural talent who could play in any big league of the world. I am not exaggerating because I know how is it in big Chittagong Abahani and had leagues," said Dido who

In reply to a question, Dido "My forwards are capable informed that Abul needs to

"My assistant (Shafiqul Coleman will arrive in Dhaka said that the ace striker was Islam Manik) has told me he is on Friday to join the camp.

played him as a fullback where is he did not look impressive.

defender in Rajani but Sujan and Saikat are both slow. Here, I need players like Mamun and after one month, he could turn out as an asset for the country.' Dido must trust Sujan,

to use Ariful, the blue-eyed boy

of all previous coaches despite

committing numerous lethal mistakes in almost every game he played for national team and Brothers Union. Bangladesh Football Federation vice-president and chairman of National Team Management Committee Badal Roy informed that exnational fullback Imtiaz

named manager of the team. The training will start on Saturday but the BFF has yet to confirm where the camp would be held due to accommodation problems in BKSP. Argentine trainer Ariel

Sultan Johnny has been "This is a pity that a tal-

ented boxer like Abul Hossen has to run a tea stall to maintain his family. He should have been at least a boxing trainer," he added.

CRYPTOQUIP

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48 Links warning KTU SUVK WV PUK KR GRLU. 49 Helen Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAVE TO 01-

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals O