

Sheikh Russel begin camp today

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel KC will start their three-week conditioning camp at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan today ahead of the season's curtain-raising tournament, the Federation Cup which is scheduled to start on September 10.

Sheikh Russel, who are yet to complete their players' registration formalities with the football's governing body, have so far confirmed 21 players including the three who were in the national football camp that ended on Friday.

The trio are winger Mobarak Hossain, midfielder Emon Babu and goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel. Russel also retained the services of Aminul, Rokibul, Rajan and Jahirul.

The new powerhouse, who finished third in the second professional football league but failed to reach the last four in both Federation Cup and Super Cup, are determined to go all the way this time after roping in some players like

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Masudul eliminated

SPORTS REPORTER

Sprinter Masudul Karim was eliminated from the 100m heat in the 12th IAAF World Championships in Berlin yesterday.

Karim finished seventh out of eight competitors, timing 11.32 seconds at the heat No. 6.

The Bangladeshi sprinter, who's previous best was 11.09 seconds that he clocked in the 2006 South Asian Games in Colombo, was the second slowest among participants from south Asia finishing in front of Afghanistan's Massoud Azizi (11.79 seconds). Pakistan's Liqat Ali (10.55 seconds), Sri Lanka's Shehan Abeypitiya (10.46 seconds), India's Fernando Lumin (10.64) and Maldives' Haleem Hussain (11.00 seconds) -- all finished ahead of Karim.



Marcus Trescothick
(Former England opener)

"I couldn't get my England kit out of my bag! The other players were waiting for me on the pitch to do a team photo so I was in a right panic. I woke up in a cold sweat."

A recent nightmare convinced him that he didn't want to be anywhere near The Oval for the fifth Test.



Did U Know?

Former England batsman Graham Thorpe played for the country's under-18 schools side -- at football.



BTV & TEN Sports

Zimbabwe v Bangladesh

Fourth ODI

Live from 2:30pm

ESPN

English Premier League

Man United v Birmingham

Live from 7:25pm

Tottenham v Liverpool

Live from 9:55pm

FOURTH ODI TODAY Tigers look to bounce back

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh are determined to come back from Friday's shocking 69-run defeat as they meet recouping Zimbabwe in the fourth one-day international of the five-match series at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo today.

"We know that we did not execute our plan well and we let our standards drop. Everyone realises that we only have ourselves to blame for the defeat on Friday. We are really focused on putting up a much improved show tomorrow [Sunday]," said vice-captain Mushfiqur Rahim.

The wicketkeeper-batsman expressed his determination as he was speaking to TigerCricket.com after the Bangladesh side had completed an intense training session at the Queens Sports Club yesterday. Bangladesh's hopes of wrapping up the series with two matches in hand were dented on Friday when Zimbabwe came hard at them and beat them by 69 runs to stay alive in the series. The Tigers still lead the series 2-1 thanks to their victories in the first two matches.

"The wicket is absolutely flat and there is no margin for error. The game has to be won with high intensity cricket and if you lose concentration for a few overs while fielding then the match can quickly get away from you," added Rahim.

Bangladesh have made one change to the side for today's crucial encounter as Mehrab Hossain, who bowled ten overs to concede 56 runs without success and then made 25 off 40 balls chasing a mammoth target of 323, makes way for opening batsman Zunaed Siddiqui, who was surprisingly dropped in the third ODI.

The injury-hit Bangladesh side is still without the services of paceman Nazmul Hossain who is nursing a thigh strain. With young paceman Rubel Hossain already ruled out of the series due to a side strain, Bangladesh will again rely on their only fit pacers Syed Rasel and Mahbubul Alam for early breakthroughs in today's game. Mahbubul gave early breakthroughs in the third match but was most expensive giving away 84 runs in nine overs while Rasel conceded 59 runs in his nine-over spell. Rubel's replacement Dollar Mahmud is expected to arrive in Bulawayo on the morning of the game.

After two emphatic victories, the Tigers lost their way in the third match, but stand-in skipper Shakib Al Hasan promised to fight back in the fourth match while he speaking at the post-match briefing.

"We didn't bowl well," said Shakib. "It was a tough day for us;"

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



Chelsea striker Didier Drogba (R) celebrates scoring the equalising goal from a freekick against Hull City during their Premier League encounter at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Trott in for Eng nod

Cricket

AFP, London

England's selectors withdrew uncapped batsman Jonathan Trott from the England Lions match with Australia as they gave a major clue as to their thinking for next week's final Ashes Test.

Trott was originally named in the England second-string team to play Australia in a two-day match at Canterbury starting on Saturday.

But the selectors' decision to pull him out on the morning of the game indicated the South Africa-born Warwickshire batsman was in line for a Test debut next week, with England clearly keen the Australians do not find out too much about the 28-year-old ahead of the Ashes finale at the Oval.

England are due to name on Sunday their

squad for the fifth Test, which starts at the south London ground on Thursday.

The hosts are expected to make changes to their batting line-up after a double collapse in the fourth Test at Headingley saw Australia win by a crushing innings and 80 runs to level the Ashes at 1-1 with one to play.

Trott was included in England's squad at Headingley but was ultimately left out as the hosts, with all-rounder Andrew Flintoff declared unfit, opted for a fast bowler in Stephen Harmison rather than a batsman.

Trott reinforced his case for a Test call earlier this week with 121 for Warwickshire against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

That was his fourth first-class hundred of the season and took his overall tally to 1,046 runs at an average of 80.46.

England batsmen Ravi Bopara, Ian Bell and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

PCB-ICC meeting Aug 27

CRICINFO, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) president David Morgan will meet Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt in Dubai on August 27 to resolve the issue of Pakistan's hosting rights for the 2011 World Cup.

The two bodies decided to reach an out-of-court settlement for Pakistan's loss of 14 World Cup matches due to security concerns after the ICC agreed to pay 10.5 million dollars as hosting rights fee and a substantial compensation.

Butt and Morgan decided to meet in Dubai following a telephonic conversation on Friday. Morgan said the conversation had been "relaxed and friendly", in keeping with their previous meeting in Dubai.

"Although nothing has yet been agreed, there remains a strong will on both sides to conclude this matter as soon as possible without recourse to legal means, and with that in mind we will meet in Dubai on 27 August with a view to reaching a resolution that is acceptable to both parties," Morgan said.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Wright eyes KKR job

CRICINFO, undated

John Wright, a current New Zealand selector and former India coach, has confirmed he is in the running for the coach's position at the Kolkata Knight Riders. The IPL franchise recently sacked John Buchanan after two poor seasons.

"Yes, they have been talking to me," Wright told the Hindu while in Chennai with the New Zealand A side. "Let's see how it goes. One day I would love to come back to India."

Duncan Fletcher and Richard Pybus are also in the fray along with other candidates, are expected to meet the franchise management at owner Shah Rukh Khan's house in Mumbai next weekend.

Wright, a former New Zealand batsman, had a successful five-year stint as India's coach during which India won a historic series against Australia in 2001 at home, won in Pakistan in 2003, and also reached the final of the 2003 World Cup.

If Kolkata appoint Wright,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Drogba fires Chelsea English season kicks off boisterously

AFP, London



Didier Drogba's injury-time goal - his second of the match - ensured Carlo Ancelotti enjoyed a winning start to his new life in the Premier League as Chelsea narrowly beat Hull City 2-1 here on Saturday.

Chelsea manager Ancelotti was heading for an opening day disappointment with Hull hanging on for a point after Stephen Hunt's 28th minute goal had been cancelled out by Drogba's 37th minute equaliser.

But Drogba claimed all three points with a superb chip from the narrowest of angles to secure three points for the hosts at Stamford Bridge.

The frantic ending was at odds with the atmosphere that greeted Ancelotti at the start of the game.

An air of expectation at Stamford Bridge had been reinforced by last weekend's Community Shield victory over Manchester United at Wembley and, with one piece of silverware already under his belt, Ancelotti settled back in his new home dug-out in anticipation of a debut Premier League win.

Chelsea started the stronger, a slick opening move inside the first minute that involved an exchange of passes between Michael Essien and Jose Bosingwa on the right flank creating an opening that Essien exploited before delivering a precise cross towards Drogba.

Positioned in front of goal, just eight yards out, the striker should have claimed the honour of scoring the first goal of the new campaign but wasted the excellent opportunity by firing wide.

The ease with which Chelsea had unpicked Hull's defences suggested another chance

would arise sooner rather than later and sounded an ominous warning for the visitors, who have already been earmarked as favourites to go down.

Phil Brown's side endured a miserable finish last season and avoided relegation only on the back of an extraordinary set of results before Christmas that included victories at Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur.

But the way they responded following Drogba's early miss suggested they still have the capacity to shock.

After finally settling, the visitors' packed midfield and organised backline restricted Chelsea to a series of half chances while forcing Chelsea onto the backfoot with a series of sharp counter-attacks.

One such attack forced a corner that was only half cleared and it took an excellent reaction save by Petr Cech to keep out Hull midfielder George Boateng's low drive with his right boot.

Ancelotti's preference for a narrow diamond in midfield gave Hull space to exploit from the flanks with Hunt and Boateng linking particularly effectively down the City left.

And the chinks in Chelsea's defence were fully exposed when, after another swift break, Boateng's shot cannoned off John Obi Mikel's knee and into the path of Hunt, who finished comfortably from close range.

Hull were well worth their lead, but Chelsea - and Drogba especially - were finally spurred into action by the shock of falling behind.

And the Ivory Coast striker was given the chance to make amends for his earlier miss in the 28th minute when Seyi Olofinjana fouled Mikel outside his own penalty area and Drogba delivered a superb, dipping free-kick beyond

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Nightmare in Montreal

Tennis

AFP, Montreal

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal both exited the Montreal Masters on a historic day of ATP tennis Friday when the world's top eight reached

the quarterfinals at the same event for the first time.

The number one and two in the world were unable to carry the flag for the elite, with Federer letting a 5-1 lead in the final set escape as Jo-Wilfried Tsonga grappled to a 7-6, 1-6, 7-6 victory in the quarterfinals.

Second seed Nadal, the defending champion, was humbled by rising Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro 7-6, 6-1 as the Spaniard continued to test his form after two and a half months out to rest injured knees.

Del Potro will next square off against on-fire American Andy Roddick, a winner over fourth seed Novak Djokovic 6-4, 7-6.

Roddick has lost his last two finals in close calls, at Wimbledon against Federer and last weekend against Del Potro in Washington, a match decided on an electronic line call.

Tsonga fought back from 1-5 down in the final set to overcome Federer and end the world number one's 21-match winning streak.

"It happens in tennis," Federer said. "It's never over until it's over. It showed today."

The Swiss star's game collapsed under relentless assault from the Frenchman, with Tsonga twice breaking Federer as the 15-time Grand Slam champion served for victory.

Tsonga set up three match points on Federer's serve in the 12th game, which the Swiss saved.

His luck ran out in the tiebreaker as seventh seed Tsonga set-up a meeting with third-seeded Briton Andy Murray.

Federer's loss ended a run of impressive form which began with a title victory at the Madrid Masters in May over Nadal and progressed through to Grand Slam trophies at the French Open and Wimbledon.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



GIANT-KILLER: Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France celebrates winning a point against Roger Federer of Switzerland during their quarterfinal match of the Montreal Masters at Uniprix Stadium on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP



Chris Woakes (L) of England Lions celebrates dismissing Ricky Ponting, the Australians captain, on the first day of the tourists' two-day tour match at St. Lawrence Ground in Canterbury yesterday. Sent in to bat, Australians reached 247 for five in 53 overs.

PHOTO: CRICINFO