

PHOTO: STAR

Renovation works are in full swing at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium to get the venue ready for the upcoming South Asian Games that will be held in January and February next year. This photo was taken yesterday.

7 players traded on 2nd day

SPORTS REPORTER

As many as seven players were signed up on the second day of the inter-club hockey players' transfers for the Premier League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Ajax Sporting Club roped in Rahat Sarwar, Imtiaz Ahmed Rubel, Imran Hossain Shuvo and Nurunnabi while Shadharan Bima secured the services of Enamul Kabir, Anisuzzaman and Tahir Rahman Tapu.

Anvir Adel, secretary of the league committee, informed that giants Abahani and Mohammedan agreed to take part in the transfers as the national players, currently touring Germany, would be given permission to play in the league after discussions with national coach Gerhard Peter Rach.

As many as 18 players are supposed to return home in November and are scheduled to resume the national camp ahead of the 2010 SA Games.

Most of clubs including Abahani and Mohammedan already refused to take part in the bourse citing lack of quality players.

Sonali Bank, last year's Club Cup runners-up, completed their registration formalities on the first day by buying eight players and retaining the services of their captain Ashikuzzaman.

Eng U-19

FROM PAGE 17
The Zahur Ahmed Cricket Stadium.

The first one-dayer will also be held at the same venue on the 23rd. The next four limited-overs matches will be held in Fatullah on October 26, 27, 29 and 31 respectively.

The visitors will wrap up the month-long tour with two more one-day games at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on the 2nd and 4th of November.

BD A lose

FROM PAGE 17
twenty overs with opener Imrul Kayes hitting the top score of 51 off 46 deliveries. Shamsur Rahman scored 21 while Faisal Hossain remained unbeaten on 13.

T Singh was the wrecker-in-chief for MCA as he took four Bangladesh wickets conceding only 18 runs.

In reply, MCA raced to 57 runs losing just one wicket in 6.2 overs when rain stopped play. Rohan Bhonslae was batting on 26 off just 16 balls. Left-arm spinner Suhrawardy Shuvo picked up the only wicket in the innings.

As no further play was possible due to the downpour, MCA were adjudged winners on the D/L method. Bangladesh A have drawn their first 4-day match of the tour with the same team, and also drew the 3-day warm up match with MCA under-22 team.



Did U Know?

The first reigning monarch to watch an FA Cup Final was George V in 1914.

Dhoni, Mills top ODI players

Cricket

ANI, Wellington

New Zealand fast bowler Kyle Mills has claimed the number-one position in the world one-day international bowlers' rankings following his performances in the Champions Trophy cricket tournament which ended in South Africa yesterday.

According to a New Zealand Press Association report, Mills, who started the elite eight-team tournament in No 2 spot behind Nuwan Kulasekara by seven points, now leads his Sri Lanka counterpart by 10 points.

They are the only two bowlers in the 700-point mark.

Mills has been in the top 10 since December, 2007, and finished as the third leading wicket-taker in the tournament with nine wickets to play a leading role in New Zealand's march to the final where they lost to Australia by six wickets.

The Black Caps now have three bowlers in the top five of the ODI ratings.

Skipper captain Daniel Vettori slipped one place down to third in the latest rankings after hamstring injury forced him to miss the final. A player loses one percent of his points for every

match missed.

Fast bowler Shane Bond is now fifth after re-entering the list at eighth -- he was ranked 14th when he dropped off the ODI rankings earlier this year following his two-season involvement with the rebel Twenty20 Indian Cricket League.

The biggest mover in the bowling table is Australia's Brett Lee who has returned to the top 20 after finishing with six wickets in the tournament. Lee, 32, jumped five places to 16th spot.

In the ODI batsmen's rankings, India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni continues to lead the field with his vice-captain Yuvraj Singh a distant second.

The only major change in the top 20 is Australia captain Ricky Ponting who won the player of the tournament award.

The Tasmanian has climbed one place to eighth while South Africa's AB de Villiers moved up to fourth after Michael Hussey dropped one place to fifth.

New Zealanders Grant Elliott jumped 16 places to 51st position.

New Zealand made the most of Champions Trophy, moving into fourth in the latest team rankings.

The Black Caps entered the tournament in seventh position on 105 ratings points but improved to 110 after making the final.

Now falls Sharapova

Tennis

AFP, Beijing

Russia's Maria Sharapova became the latest upset victim at the China Open on Wednesday, while compatriots Nikolay Davydenko and Svetlana Kuznetsova sailed into the quarterfinals in Beijing.

Sharapova, a three-time Grand Slam winner, made 21 unforced errors and surrendered her serve four times in the 6-2, 6-4 loss to China's Peng Shuai on centre court at the Olympic tennis venue.

The 22-year-old Russian, ranked 15th in the world, looked sluggish, with her ferocious ground strokes too often landing in the net or beyond the baseline, while the 53rd-ranked Peng remained solid, making just three unforced errors.

Sharapova saved two match points in the final game, but handed Peng the victory on her third attempt by netting a forehand.

Sharapova is not the only star to make an early exit from the 6.6-million-dollar mixed ATP/WTA event.

Dinara Safina and Venus Williams -- along with defending champions Jelena Jankovic and Andy Roddick -- have also been ousted from the tournament.

Fourth seed Davydenko, who won his third ATP title of the year in Malaysia last weekend,

trounced Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber, allowing the world number 22 only one game in a 6-1, 6-0 romp.

The 28-year-old Russian, the world number eight, is fighting to secure a place in the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London in November, which will feature the top eight men's singles players.

Roddick, Fernando Verdasco, Fernando Gonzalez and Robin Soderling are also vying for the final three spots in the London draw. Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, Juan Martin del Potro and Novak Djokovic have qualified.

Besides Roddick, the other London hopefuls are all still in contention in Beijing.

In the quarterfinals, Davydenko will face Croatian eighth seed Marin Cilic, who rallied to defeat France's Julien Benneteau in three sets, 6-2, 2-6, 6-0.

On the women's side of the draw, two other Russians had better luck than Sharapova.

Kuznetsova, the sixth seed, lost her focus mid-match but stormed back in the third set to beat Ukraine's Alona Bondarenko, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.

The two-time Grand Slam winner took control of the first set with a service break to go up 4-2 and closed it out easily, using her big forehand to get herself out of trouble on key points.

But the 24-year-old faltered in the second, having trouble with her serve and losing her range from the baseline before surrendering the set to the 25-year-old Ukrainian.

FICA rejects FTP draft

FROM PAGE 17
Haroon Lorgat, the ICC CEO, has openly pushed for a world championship model to give meaning and context to every Test match. But the continuation of a bilateral series-based FTP is largely being driven by the powerful Indian board, whose players are not members of FICA (the Indian players' association is effectively defunct, anyway).

India and England have already rejected a Test championship model, which would have seen them dropping their substantial TV revenues in a common pool. Indian officials, for instance, say that they hope to earn more (around US\$14-15 million dollars) from each ODI against Australia in the seven-match series starting later this month than what they would get from the ICC pool for the entire 2011 World Cup.

Yet, there are moves within the ICC to adopt a simpler Test championship model to be held once in four years involving the top-four teams and based on bilateral series within the FTP but with a separate final and relegation match. But this concept has

not been discussed at the highest level because the FTP is yet to be fully finalized; apparently, discussions are currently revolving around the schedule (venues, government sanctions and the like) of bilateral series between India and Pakistan, and England and Zimbabwe.

FICA, meanwhile, has a clear proposal on holding a Test championship, which includes the concept of collective bundling of rights and graded revenues (boards like the BCCI may get more because of the revenue they pull in). "The preference is for a Test championship over a short time-frame with preference for a one-year, two-division format involving a round-robin plus semifinals plus final series," May said. "The divisions will be determined on a rotational basis, such that Test-playing countries would play each other at least once in every four-year cycle."

A strict adherence to the championship format with no other games, FICA believes, will also address the issue of the increasing volume of cricket being played. "The ICC

should bundle the collective rights of the above series and distribution of revenues to members would be on a weighted basis," May said.

Against the backdrop of the debate over the future of ODIs, FICA has proposed a one-day championship as well. "One-day cricket desperately needs context -- FICA believes an annual ODI Championship is vital," May said. "Also, a one-day series should precede not follow the corresponding Test series -- it will then act as a better build-up or promotion for the Test series."

FICA has also asked the ICC to allot windows for IPL and Champions League T20. "It will be increasingly necessary to ensure that no scheduling conflicts occur with such leagues," May said. "Otherwise we expect a large number of players will retire prematurely from international cricket." The ICC's post-2012 schedule draft includes a window for the much-shorter Champions League Twenty20, which is being organised by India, Australia and South Africa, but not for the nearly two-month-long IPL, which involves about 80 foreign players.

SA Games to be decentralised

SPORTS REPORTER

The venues of the five disciplines for the 2010 South Asian (SA) Games have been taken outside the capital to be held in five divisional headquarters.

The SA Games is scheduled to be held in Bangladesh from next January 29 to February 9 with a record 23 disciplines set to take place in the 11th meet of the regional extravaganza.

Now, wrestling will take place in Barisal, cycling in Khulna, squash in Rajshahi and ushu in Sylhet while a couple of matches cricket and football matches will be held in Chittagong.

"In light of the Prime Minister's instruction, the venues of the SA Games were taken to the divisional headquarters as she thinks this initiative would increase the enthusiasm amongst the youth generation and would take them into the sports," said Bangladesh Olympic Association vice president and training committee convenor Mizanur Rahman Manu.

Apart from those five disciplines, hockey, judo, archery, table tennis, badminton, athletics, swimming, shooting, volleyball, karate, handball, weightlifting, taekwondo, golf, basketball, boxing and kabaddi are others disciplines to be held in different venues in Dhaka.

Women's Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national women's football team will play two friendly matches against the India national women's team at the end of this month as a part of their preparation for the 2010 South Asian (SA) Games in Bangladesh.

The matches will be held in Cuttack in Orissa after the BFF women's committee approached Robert Colaco, the general secretary of the All Indian Football Federation, during the SAFF Congress in Dhaka.

Colaco has asked the BFF to let them know the dates they want to play as the All Indian Football Federation would provide all local hospitality during their stay.

Nat'l cricketers

FROM PAGE 17
Rokibul Hasan at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, for an easy 22-run victory.

Rokibul Hasan struck run-a-ball 38 followed by Mehrab, who also played run-a-ball 29.

Mehrab Hossain and Shahadat Hossain remained unbeaten on nine and 13 respectively.

Farhad Hossain bagged three wickets for 14 while Kamrul, M Yousun and Raihan Anas took one wicket each.

Enamul carried his first match form into the second match as he snared four wickets to restrict Kalabagan to 95 for nine and the national team easily chased down the total in 14.3 overs to win by eight wickets, riding on a blazing fifty from opener Mehrab Hossain.

Mehrab struck seven boundaries off 39 balls in his 51-run knock while Mahmudullah Riyad and Naem Islam chipped in with 15 and 18 respectively.

Shoaib hopes of reviving career

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar is meeting with Andrew Flintoff's surgeon on Tuesday afternoon in London, hoping a minor operation on his left knee the following day will allow him to reignite his career.

Shoaib is to see doctor Andrew Williams at the Wellington Hospital in London even though he has been told that the Pakistan Cricket Board will not pick up the cheque for the treatment. Williams performed extensive surgery on Flintoff in August to try and extend his career.

Shoaib, 34, has been dogged by injury and disciplinary issues and last played a Test match almost two years ago in Bangalore, while his most recent one-day international was against Australia in May. He is hopeful, though, that surgery will allow him an opportunity to make the Australia tour in December and prove that he is far from retirement.

"I am just so excited and optimistic that a world-leading knee surgeon like Andy Williams is going to take care of my knee," Shoaib told Cricinfo. "I hear that he is like an artist with knees and that his expertise is second to none. It is a great comfort that Andy is taking on my treatment."

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"I have spoken to him on the phone already after he took an initial look at my scans and he

assured me that I still have a lot of bowling left in me, at least as far as my knees are concerned. That was very nice to hear and I can't wait to have the operation and get into my rehab."

Shoaib is already looking beyond the surgery and rehab and believes the bigger picture is an encouraging one as far as his career is concerned. Despite the negatives associated with his maverick character, his 90mph pace and strike rate still offers Pakistan a potential world-class performer if he can regain full fitness.

Shoaib made his international debut 12 years ago but has only played 46 Tests (taking 178 wickets at an average of 25.69) and 144 ODIs (with 223 victims at 23.86). His statistics are impressive, but he realises his lack of match action and recent disciplinary issues threaten his legacy and career.

"It's obvious that I haven't played enough for my country because of the injuries and other issues but nobody should ever doubt my commitment to my country," Shoaib said. "It is playing for Pakistan that has always kept me going through the low and difficult times and it's no different now. It is frustrating to have had the run of injuries I have had but I am confident once my knee has been fixed I can get back to my best."

"Although I may not have played as much as I should have, the good part is that I am still very fresh and have a great deal more to offer Pakistan. The thought of playing cricket in Australia again for my country is very exciting and will be my motivation after my surgery."

"There are some good young fast bowlers coming through our system and I want to be part of the team with them and help educate them about international cricket and fast bowling. I think the future can still be very exciting for me."

"I am looking to play at least as far as the 2011 World Cup and hopefully even further."

'Losing Vettori was a huge blow'

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

If the loss of Daniel Vettori was one of the major factors that set New Zealand back in the final, the other was the performance of stand-in skipper Brendon McCullum. A quick duck and a crucial dropped catch meant McCullum could well be blaming himself for the way things went.

"Losing Dan was a huge blow," McCullum said. "He has been instrumental in the way he has performed both with bat and ball, and also his captaincy. He is a huge player that we all look to for not only performance but also inspiration. To lose him was disappointing."

"The dropped catch was obviously crucial. The score was roughly 40 at that time. If I had grabbed it, it would have been three for 40. Had we got another couple of quick wickets at 5 for 100, we certainly would have been right on top

at that stage. Any time you drop a catch is crucial, and that certainly was a well. No one tries to drop catches. But unfortunately, one went down today and I was responsible for it."

That Kiwis even got as far as the final, particularly after injuries ruled out Jesse Ryder, Jacob Oram and Daryl Tuffey early in the competition, was a major achievement. "It's certainly a step forward for us," said McCullum. "We have had a tough time in the last couple of years -- not just losing players here through injury but also retirements and obviously the ICL as well. But what that did was give other guys opportunities. Now as a squad of 20-25 players, we have guys capable of performing on the international stage, a number of match-winners within the group."

"Whilst we are disappointed with what happened today, we are certainly proud of what we have achieved. We are proud of the desire and the passion that the team has shown through some tough times. If we can continue to capture that in tournaments and series that we play, this team will certainly move forward."

Piquet has itchy feet

INTERNET, undated



Brazilian Nelson Piquet Jr is eyeing a move to

NASCAR's pickup truck racing series after his stint in Formula One was tainted by a race-fixing controversy with Renault.

Piquet said on his personal website that he and compatriot Vitor Meira would test a NASCAR Camping World truck series Toyota Tundra for Red Horse Racing at Rockingham Speedway in North Carolina next Monday.

Red Horse said 24-year-old Piquet planned to "evaluate a future career among the NASCAR ranks".

The team's owner, Tom DeLoach, said making the

switch would not be easy but believed Piquet and Meira could pull it off.

"It's not an easy thing to do, to go from an open-wheel background to racing stock cars, but they are both immensely talented and have the ability to be successful in any series they chose to race in," he added.

Piquet triggered one of Formula One's biggest scandals after being dropped by Renault in July when he told the governing body that he had been told to crash deliberately at last year's Singapore Grand Prix.

The Brazilian said he had done so to help his Spanish team-mate Fernando Alonso, who was cleared of any involvement in the conspiracy, to win the race.

Renault team boss Flavio Briatore was banned for life for his role in the affair while Renault were handed a suspended permanent ban. Piquet was given immunity in return for testifying.

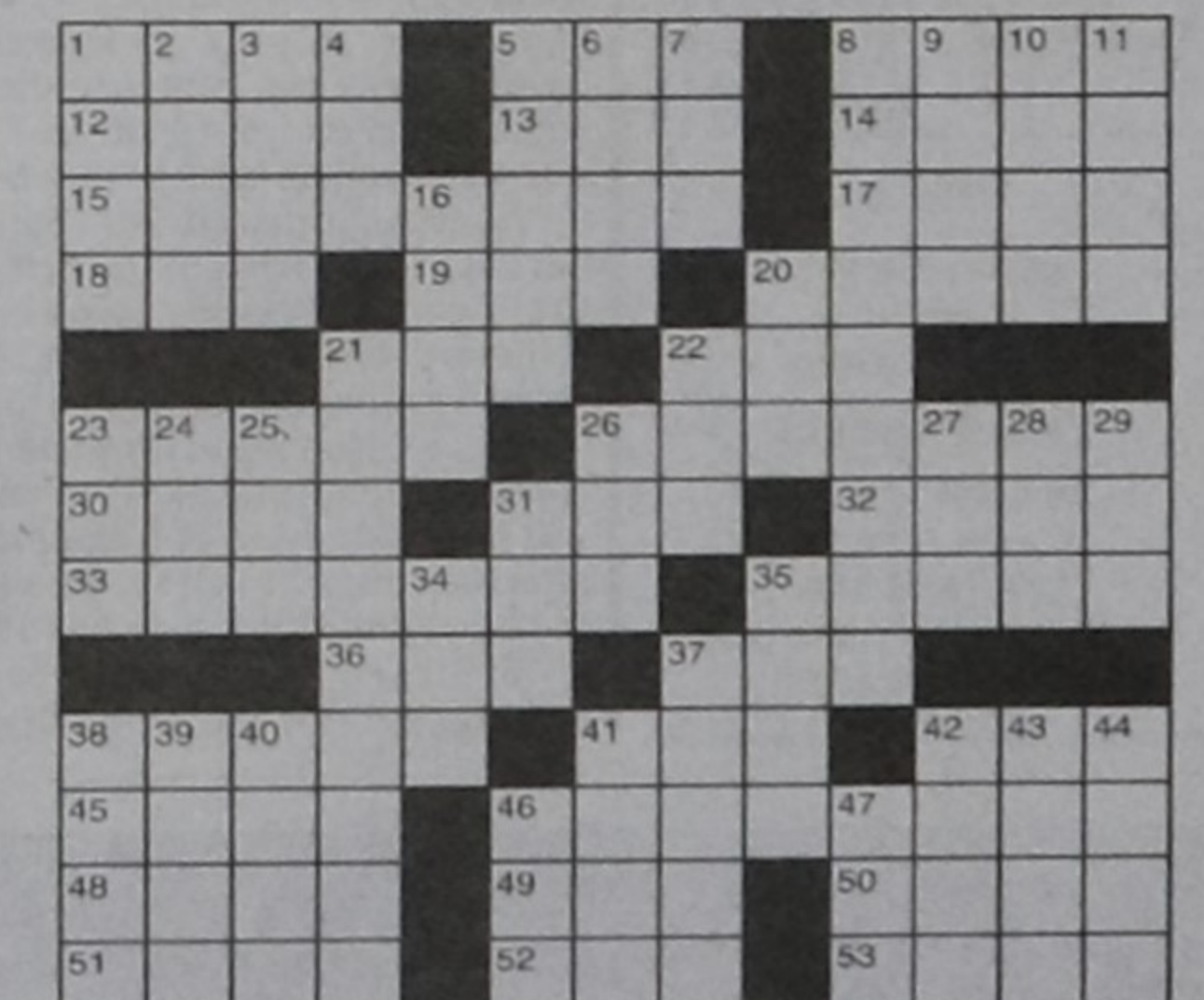
PCB stands

FROM PAGE 17
the Champions Trophy has come under scanner with National Assembly's Standing Committee on Sports Chairman Jamshed Ahmed Dasti's allegations that the matches against Australia and New Zealand were 'fixed'.

The parliamentary committee on sports has summoned both Alam and Khan to explain the team's poor performance.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Apply your John Hancock	1 Undo a dele
5 Pharm. watchdog	2 Ahmadi-nejad's land
8 Cold War-era map abbr.	3 Sudden rush of wind
12 Verifiable	4 Trawler item
13 Actor Voight	5 Feature of Norway's coast
14 Content-dere precursor	6 Entrance
15 "Gran Torino" star	7 Moreover
17 Prepares Easter eggs	8 "American Idol" champ
18 Potent stick	9 High-protein bean
19 Mess up	10 Coaster
20 Abacus components	Solution time: 21 mins.
21 Father	DEN EBB CHAP
22 Peace-nik's worry	OPEC SEA OATH
23 Access a chat room	CIAO PAS USED
26 Allergy inducer	SCRUB KILN
30 First victim	NIP LATVIA
31 Behar of "The View"	PRETZEL BEING
32 It takes the cake	ETIRE GAB RISE
	AFIRE MISFITS
	KEEPER TOE
	AKIN WIZEN
	JOHN MAG TOGA
	OBOL SPA SNAP
	GINEE EEL EDS



CRYPTOQUIP

L Z W I S V T M V I D T B W N V V
B T M Z F I H G N Q W D T X N D G I
F I G I P X F N G I J B G H D W M N G V I
F Q W S V T L F G D N G I J P V V H ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT ROAMING
VAGABOND CARRIES AROUND FIVE WOODWINDS.
SOME OF WHICH MUST BE THE HOBO'S OBOES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals O