



England coach Andy Flower (R) talks with the match officials after rain delayed the start of the first one-day international against South Africa at the Wanderers yesterday.

Chapal gets EC post in AAF

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Archery Federation president Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal has been elected an executive member of the Asian Archery Federation yesterday.

Chapal, also secretary general of South Asian Archery Federation, got the second highest vote in the election held in Bali, Indonesia, said a press release.

The BAF president is accompanying the Bangladesh Archery squad that are taking part in the 16th Asian Archery Championship.

Silver Cup cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Central Eidga Cricket Club became the champions defeating Rice Mills Eleven by nine wickets in Palashbari Silver cup cricket tournament final at Palashbari Government college ground yesterday.

Rice Mills Eleven batted first and scored 36 runs all out in the ten over match. In reply Central Eidga Cricket Club scored 37 runs losing one wicket.

Palashbari Upazila vice-chairman Alamgir Mandol gave away the trophies among the champion and runner-up teams in a simple ceremony.

India force

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The second Test starts in Kanpur on Tuesday, followed by the third at the Brabourne stadium in Mumbai from December 2.

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard of the first Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Friday:

INDIA: First innings 426 (Dravid 177, Yuvraj 68, Dhoni 110; Weledgoda 4-87, Muralidaran 3-97)

SRI LANKA: First innings 760-7 dec (Dilshan 112, M Jayawardene 275, P Jayawardene 154 not out; Zaheer 2-109, Sharma 2-135)

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 190-2)

Gambhir/Prasad/Berhath 114

Schwag/Mathew/Berhath 51

David/lbw/b Weledgoda 38

Mishra/Dilshan/b Mathews 24

Tendulkar not out 100

Laxman not out 51

Extras: (6-12, lb-9, nb-11, w-2) 34

Total: (For 4 wkt in 129 overs) 412

Did not bat: Yuvraj, Dhoni, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Sharma. Fall of wickets: 1-81, 2-169, 3-209, 4-275.

Bowler O M R W

Weledgoda 21 1 76 1

Prasad 13 0 56 0

Berhath 40 6 97 2

Muralidaran 38 6 124 0

Mathews 15 6 29 1

Dilshan 1 0 2 0

Paranavitana 1 0 7 0

Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardene.



A referee at a friendly match in Brazil drew a revolver and shot dead a player who disputed a penalty decision. The referee escaped in horseback.

ICL serves notice on ICC, boards

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The first legal shot has been fired in the long-running battle between the unauthorised Indian Cricket League and the men who run cricket, with Essel Sports Private Ltd (ESPL), the ICL's owners, serving notice on the ICC and the English and Indian cricket boards over what it claims was an unlawful ban on players associated with the unofficial league.

The notice, served by London-based legal firm Ingram Winter Green, claims that the barring of ICL players from international cricket, particularly the county circuit, violated England's restraint of trade laws. It also claims that the BCCI "engaged in a range of activities clearly calculated to deter and prevent prospective players (and others) from involving themselves with ICL, and intended to obstruct the activities of the ICL".

The ECB has been named as the first respondent in the notice while the BCCI and ICC have been named as second and third respondents respectively. While ESPL has been named as the first claimant, unidentified "professional cricketers" have been named as the second claimant.

Further legal proceedings, if any, are expected to take place in the UK.

The notice, dated November 16, also demands an injunction against each defendant for implementing the boycott and unspecified damages to make up for the loss that ESPL has suffered due to the ban after an inquiry. It has asked the ECB, ICC and BCCI to respond within December 7.

"We want just justice, that's all," an ICL

spokesperson told Cricinfo. "There are a lot of issues involved including the restraint of trade and threatening of players who were part of the ICL."

Referring to the unnamed professional cricketers, the notice claims: "The names of those individuals have been withheld to prevent retaliatory measures ahead of possible pending litigation".

The ICL was formed in 2007, a year before the official IPL Twenty20 tournament came into being, but was denied recognition -- despite repeated requests and discussions -- by the BCCI, other national cricket bodies and the ICC. The league went ahead for two years but finally decided to suspend operations early this year after all its players -- around 150 Indian and foreign cricketers -- preferred to take up a worldwide amnesty offered by the various official national boards.

"From the inception, the ICL has received a hostile reaction from the BCCI," the notice claims. "Early approaches in correspondence in which the ICL aimed to achieve co-operation (with the BCCI) were rebuffed by BCCI. BCCI has since engaged in a range of activities clearly calculated to deter and prevent prospective players (and others) from involving themselves with ICL, and intended to obstruct the activities of the ICL".

The boycott of the ICL has had a serious effect on the players. The boycott of the ICL prevents the players carrying on their trade as professional cricketers in the UK if they also enter into contracts to play in the ICL. In the premises, the ECB is committing an unlawful restraint of trade by implementing the boycott of the ICL in the UK."

Interacting with media persons at Lahore Airport, the PCB chairman said he never gave any statement regarding Akhtar's future.

The PCB is miffed with Akhtar's fat removing surgery, which he had just after returning from London following knee surgery.

While neither Akhtar nor his family members are saying anything regarding the operation, a PCB official said being on the board's central contract, the fast bowler should have informed it about the surgery.

He is a centrally contracted player and he is supposed to consult our medical panel and inform us before undergoing any medical treatment, but he didn't do this before opting for the liposuction," the official said.

It will take Akhtar, 34, another three to four months to regain full fitness and play competitive cricket.

However, Butt has denied giving any such statement.

No coming back for Akhtar?

Cricket

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt has said there is slim possibility of controversial fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar returning to international cricket.

"Shoaib is already 34, and with a history of fitness problems, is unlikely to make a comeback," a website reported Butt as saying in response to a query whether the recent liposuction surgery would enhance the right-arm pacer's chances of a comeback for the forthcoming Australia tour.

"Pakistan have a number of young fast bowlers to choose from and that makes Shoaib's chances of a comeback very remote," the website quoted Butt, as saying.

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However, Butt has denied giving any such statement.

MSC see off Kalabagan

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Opener Elias Sunny was the top scorer for Biman with 30 while skipper Sanwar Hossain scored 25 runs. Chasing this small target, Surjo Torun looked on course and needed just 22 runs off the last four overs when their skipper Habibul Bashar fell for 31. Wicket keeper Dhaman Ghosh batted crisply but found no support at the other end as Biman pacer Shafiq Islam ripped through the lowerorder.

Dhaman was left stranded on 23 at one end and saw a massive collapse at the other end that took Surjo Torun from a healthy position of 145 for 4 to 156 all out in the span of four overs.

Shafiq finished with 4 for 28 from 9 overs.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

Mohammedan vs Kalabagan

Kalabagan: 225 for 7 in 50 overs (Nazmus Sadat 31, Zubair Ahmed 24, Ariful Haque 76 not out; Nabil Samad 3-41)

Mohammedan: 227 for 5 in 46.3 overs (Shamsur Rahman 31, Mohammad Ashraful 32, Aftab Ahmed 64, Mahmodullah 64 not out; Fariduddin 3-41)

Result: Mohammedan beat Kalabagan by 5 wickets.

Biman vs Surjo Torun

Biman: 116 all out in 48.5 overs (Elias Sunny 30, Sanwar Hossain 25; Tapash Kumar 2-29, Zakarier Islam 2-31)

Surjo Torun: 156 all out in 49.4 overs (Rajin Saleh 35, Habibul Bashar 31, Dhaman Ghosh 5 not out; Shafiq Islam 4-28)

Result: Biman won by 6 wickets.

NEPAL

Daniel Vettori (captain), Shane Bond, Grant Elliott, Daniel Flynn, Peter Fulton, Martin Guphill, Chris Martin, Brendon McCullum, Tim McIntosh, Iain O'Brien, Jeetan Patel, Ross Taylor, Daryl Tuffey.

Result: Abahani won by six wickets.

NEW ZEALAND

Daniel Vettori (captain), Shane Bond, Grant Elliott, Daniel Flynn, Peter Fulton, Martin Guphill, Chris Martin, Brendon McCullum, Tim McIntosh, Iain O'Brien, Jeetan Patel, Ross Taylor, Daryl Tuffey.

Result: Abahani won by six wickets.

SCORING IN BRIEF

ABAHANI - GAZIANKA

Venues: SBNCS

GAZI: 240-8 in 50 overs (Nazimuddin 19, Mithun 13, Nafees 28, Misbahul Haq 43, Kapali 66, Nayeem 18, Reza 16 not out, Razzak 19, extras 17; Rafique 3-33, Shakib 2-38)

ABAHANI: 241 for 4 in 46 overs (Kayes 55, Rony 90, Nadif 40, Shakib 32 not out, extras 8; Nayeem 3-42)

Result: Abahani won by six wickets.

Replay fairest solution: Henry

AFP, London

France captain Thierry Henry said on Friday that "the fairest solution" to the row surrounding his handball in the World Cup playoff against Ireland would be to replay the match.

"Of course the fairest solution would be to replay the game but it is not in my control," Henry said, in a statement sent to Sky Sports News in Britain and other media.

"Naturally I feel embarrassed at the way that we won and feel extremely sorry for the Irish who definitely deserve to be in South Africa," said the Barcelona and former Arsenal striker.

He released the statement after football's world governing body FIFA officially turned down a request for a replay lodged by the Irish football authorities.

Video replays showed Henry used his hand to stop the ball going out of play in extra-time of Wednesday's playoff in Paris, before he passed to William Gallas to head the goal which gave France a 2-1 win over the two legs.

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Freddie has been told his recovery is going so well he can set his sights on the 2011 one-day bonanza and the 2015 tournament, by which time he will be 37, reported The Sun.

"It is a weight off my shoulders. I'm hoping this is going to give me the chance to play in the next World Cup in 2011 and the one after is a possibility, too," he was quoted as saying.

Flintoff recently had said that he is recovering well from his knee surgery, but conceded that he could miss England's tour to Bangladesh early next year.

Flintoff, 31, said: "My recovery is still on track. But I must admit that saying I would be fit to play in Bangladesh may have been a touch optimistic on my part."

England's tour of Bangladesh begins on February 28 with three one-day internationals, before a two-Test series starts on March 12.

Flintoff had turned down an incremental contract offer from England in order to pursue other short-term opportunities but pledged to remain available for their one-day matches.

If he fails to recover in time for the Bangladesh ODIs, his next target is likely to be the 2011 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, which will run from March 12 to April 25.

His next opportunity to resume his international career would be at the ICC World Twenty20 -- which starts almost immediately after the IPL final -- before England's summer ODIs against Scotland, Australia and Pakistan.

Last year, Flintoff signed a record 1.55 million dollar contract to play for the Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, although his 2009 stint was cut short by injury.

He had surgery in August after helping England regain the Ashes with victory over Australia and was pleased with the findings of his 12-week check-up by Williams.

"I know I'm not in the clear yet and there is still a lot of hard work to be done, but so far, so good and it is very good news because if he'd said he was disappointed with my progress I'd have been devastated," said Flintoff.

BOA reinstates

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event to raise the men's events to 12 while women's events stands at seven.

The game governing body also revised the distance of women's road race mass start event in cycling as it has been reduced to 50 kilometre from 170 kilometre, said a press release.

Bond returns

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