

Rowing, kho kho asked to go ad-hoc

SPORTS REPORTER The National Sports Council dissolved two more national federations to form ad-hoc committee yesterday.

Bangladesh Football Federation's member Fazlur Rahman Babul has been made the general secretary of Kho Kho Federation, which was being run by acting general secretary Mohiuddin Bahar following the resignation of elected general secretary Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal last year.

The four-year tenure of Kho Kho Federation expired on January 15.

But Abdul Awal Maznu has been retained as the general secretary of the Bangladesh Rowing Federation, whose tenure expired on December 5 last year.

A notification of the NSC asked the ad-hoc committees to hold the elections of both the federations immediately.

Raina to lead India in Zim series

CRICINFO Suresh Raina will lead a second-string India squad for the ODI tri-series in Zimbabwe and the Twenty20s which follow, with Virat Kohli as his deputy.

Among the first-choice players who are either rested or injured are regular captain MS Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Harbhajan Singh, Yuvraj Singh and Praveen Kumar.

The selection committee's decision to leave out experienced players provides an opportunity for youngsters to get a taste of international cricket.

Those getting a look-in include seamers Pankaj Singh and Ashok Dinda, and M a d h y a P r a d e s h wicketkeeper Naman Ojha.

Dinda did reasonably well in the IPL, picking nine wickets in seven games, at an economy rate of 6.56, and Pankaj grabbed the limited opportunities he got with Royal Challengers Bangalore.

This is the first call-up for Naman Ojha, whose 377 runs in the IPL was one of the silver linings of Rajasthan Royals' disappointing campaign.

SCORES IN BRIEF WEST INDIES: 169 for 6 in 20 overs (Gayle 98, Chanderpaul 23, Sammy 19, Pollard 17; Nehra 3-35)

INDIA: 155 for 9 in 20 overs (Raina 32, Dhoni 29, Yusuf 17, Gambhir 15, Harbhajan 14, Yuvraj 12; Roach 2-38) Result: West Indies won by 14 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.

This was the fourth time

APP, Bridgetown New Zealand's one-run win over Pakistan in the World Twenty20 Super Eights here on Saturday was just the fourth time in 168 matches at this level that a Twenty20 international has been won by such a slim margin.

Smallest winning margins (by runs) in Twenty20 internationals (margin, winner, opposition, target not achieved by losers, venue, date): 1 run: Australia v New Zealand (151), Sydney, Feb 15 2009

1 run: South Africa v New Zealand (129), Lord's, Jun 09 2009



PHOTO: STAR

Brothers Union custodian Sabuj Das (grounded) makes a desperate attempt to stop Abahani striker Enamul Haq (C) from scoring during their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Abahani won the match 5-1 with league's leading marksman Enamul hitting one to raise his tally to 18.

Chelsea champions in style

FROM PAGE 17 through a final qualifier to fully benefit from their elevation to a place among Europe's elite.

Andrey Arshavin, Robin van Persie and Carlos Vela were on target for Arsenal, who also benefited from an own goal by Chris Baird against opponents who clearly had one eye on Wednesday's Europa League final against Atletico Madrid.

The atmosphere at Old Trafford was distinctly subdued as news from west London filtered through but United still performed effectively, with goals from Darren Fletcher, Ryan Giggs and Park Ji-Sung and an own goal by Danny Higginbotham delivering a convincing win.

A memorable season for Spurs ended with a weary wimper, Harry Redknapp's side conceding a two-goal lead to lose 4-2 at relegated Burnley.

Gareth Bale and Luka Modric had put them in the driving seat but Wade Elliot, Jack Cook, Martin Paterson and Steven Thompson turned the match around in unlikely fashion.

A deeply frustrating season for Liverpool ended with a goalless draw at Hull that ensured Rafael Benitez's side could not finish no better than seventh in the table.

Above them, in fifth place, are Manchester City, who were held to a 1-1 draw at West Ham, and Aston Villa, who held on to sixth place despite a late Richard Dunne own goal

resulting in a 1-0 defeat at home to Blackburn.

Those results mean Liverpool will have to come through a final qualifier as well as the play-off round to get into the group stages of next season's Europa League.

Everton finished their campaign with a 1-0 win over FA Cup finalists Portsmouth that was secured by Dinyar Bilyaletdinov's 90th-minute strike.

Birmingham went down to a 2-1 defeat at Bolton but Alex McLeish's side -- tipped as favourites for relegation at the start of the season -- still ended the campaign in a creditable ninth place, while Wolves edged their meeting with Sunderland 2-1.

Gayle blows Too easy for tourists

FROM PAGE 17 Unlike West Indies' effort the Indian fielding, usually a barometer of their performance, was shoddy, spilling two chances, one of which proved extremely expensive -- Dhoni and Pathan colliding into each other as they went for a skier near square leg when Gayle was on 47, after which he blasted 51 off 26 deliveries.

But the South Africans were behind the eight ball early in the day as the hosts were well placed at 190-4 in 40 overs.

Nazimuddin made another good score, making 61 early in the piece. The right-hander hit seven boundaries and a six in his 64-ball knock that ended when he was caught by van Zyl off Elgar in the 22nd over.

Shamsur (21), Rokibul Hasan (37), Marshall Ayub (24), Faisal Hossain (27) and Dhiman Ghosh (27) all got starts but none carried it all the way

and when Faisal was the fifth batsman out in the 42nd over, Bangladesh A did little in the slog overs.

The big-hitting Milton hit a couple of sixes in his 16-ball 19 but the right-hander fell in the crunch 46th over.

For the visitors, Lonwabo Tsotsobe and Elgar took two wickets each while there was a wicket each for Bailey, Thandi Tshabalala, van Zyl and Paul Harris.

South Africa A take on West Indies A today and the hosts take on the men from the Caribbean tomorrow at the same venue.

SCORES IN BRIEF BANGLADESH A: 244 all out in 49.2 overs (Nazimuddin 61, Rokibul 37, Dhiman 27, Faisal 27; Tsotsobe 2-49, Elgar 2-39)

SOUTH AFRICA A: 246-4 in 49 overs (van Zyl 109\*, Elgar 57\*, Sajib 1-41) Man-of-the-match: Stiaan van Zyl.

Hosts' flying start PDB clinch

FROM PAGE 17 broke the monopoly of Bangladesh Rifles in the sport and they made sure they were one-up from their second place finish last season.

PDB's Monir won the best player's trophy from sponsors National Bank Limited.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan was the chief guest on the occasion while National Bank managing director Abdur Rahman Sarkar was also present as a special guest.

ROLL OF HONOUR SEASON CHAMPIONS 2005-06 Bangladesh Rifles 2006-07 Bangladesh Rifles 2007-08 Bangladesh Rifles 2008-09 Bangladesh Police 2009-10 Power Development Board

Premier FROM PAGE 17 for modernising the Khulna Stadium and for the construction of new galleries.

But government is yet to allocate the fund, said KDSA general secretary Kazi Shamim Ahsan.

Meanwhile, the General Secretary of Khulna Divisional Sports Association Syed Zahid Hossain thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for allocating Taka 52 crore for the modernisation of Sheikh Abu Naser Divisional Stadium.

Final day

FROM PAGE 20 manless.

However, four minutes before half-time whistle Yeste jinked his way past four stagnant Real defenders before dispatching the ball past Iker Casillas.

Brazilian Kaka was introduced after the interval and Real found their shooting boots with Higuain, Ramos and Benzema scoring three times in a matter of minutes to down Bilbao, Mallorca 0

Webber rules

FROM PAGE 20 on the opening lap and then struggled to make any impact.

After taking an extra pit-stop for tyres, he was embroiled in the battle among the tail-enders among whom Italian veteran Jarno Trulli of Lotus finished as the best of the new teams.

Div I cricket

FROM PAGE 17 Stadium here yesterday.

Batting first, Victoria Club were all out for 152 runs in 38.3 overs. Tarek made 46 while Murad added 31. Arun picked up five wickets while Shakil took two.

In reply, Dashara Nabajaganar Sangsard reached the winning target in just 22.1 overs. Shakil scoring 40 runs.

Apu took three wickets for Victoria.

Murali out of World T20

AFP, Bridgetown

Muttiah Muralidaran's participation at the World Twenty20 finally came to an end on Saturday when it was announced Sri Lanka would be summoning a replacement for their spin star.

Thilan Thushara will replace Murali, who has been struggling with a groin problem, after the International Cricket Council (ICC) gave Sri Lanka permission to summon the left-arm pace bowler.

Tournament rules state that once replaced, a player cannot return so Saturday's announcement means the World Twenty is over for Murali.

He suffered the injury during Sri Lanka's tournament-opening loss to New Zealand in Guyana and missed the subsequent victory over Zimbabwe, where his place was taken by fellow off-break bowler Suraj Randiv.

But Murali played in Sri Lanka's 57-run Super Eights win over the West Indies at the Kensington Oval here on Saturday.

Afterwards, Sri Lanka coach Trevor Bayliss said Murali "didn't look great".

The 29-year-old Thushara has represented Sri Lanka in nine Tests, 36 one-day internationals and five Twenty20 Internationals.

His last Twenty20 international was against Pakistan in August 2009.

Sri Lanka's next Super Eights match is against Australia on Sunday and last year's losing World Twenty20 finalists finish their second round campaign against India in St Lucia on Tuesday.

Muralidaran is the most successful bowler in history with a record 792 Test and 512 one-day international wickets.

Abahani

FROM PAGE 17 After resumption, Abahani switched to a 5-3-2 formation with defender Rajani Kanta replacing striker Awudu and they played it easy in a bid to avert any injuries before the President's Cup that is just two days away.

In this circumstance, Brothers launched a few attacks but they did not split Abahani's five-man backline rather they conceded a fourth in the 80th minute.

Left-back Mishu ran down the left wing to advance into the box before cutting it back to Abul, who just took replaced of Sheriff, headed home to ensure the rout.

TEAMS ABAHANI: Biplob Bhattacharjee, M Sujjan, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraji, Zahed Parvez Chowdhury, Pranotosh Kumar Das (Shahedul Islam), Motiur Munna, Enamul Haque, Samad Yousuf, Awudu Ibrahim (Rajani Kanta Barman) and Sheriff Deen Mohammad (Abul Hossain).

BROTHERS UNION: Sabuj Kumar Das, Tofazzal Hossain Apu, Yousuf Ali Khan (M Adil), Khalilur Rahman Faisal (Ripon Khan), Lutfur Rahman Nayan, Enock Bentil, Nahidul Islam, Steven Kwesi Yehboah, Murad Ahmed (Henry Quaye), Tanmoy Hossain Taru and Sawkat Russel. Referee: Tayeb Hasan.

KP hopes to come back for semifinals

AFP, Bridgetown

Kevin Pietersen is heading back home for the birth of his first child confident he will be returning to the Caribbean to help England reach the World Twenty20 final.

Pietersen said what he hopes will be a temporary farewell to the squad in style with a superb innings of 53 as England beat his native South Africa by a crushing 39 runs in the Super Eights here on Saturday.

That win maintained England's perfect record in the second round after, thanks mainly to another man-of-the-match winning innings of 73 not out from Pietersen, they previously beat champions Pakistan by six wickets.

Victory over New Zealand in St Lucia on Monday will guarantee England a semifinal place and even defeat by the Black Caps may not spell the end of their hopes, with net run-rate in line to come to their rescue if required.

Pietersen's commanding innings against South Africa came in just 33 balls and featured a six and eight fours in a total of 168 for seven.

It all added to the joy the 29-year-old is set to experience off the field, with Pietersen saying: "It's my first child, so it's a hell of an exciting time for me."

"I'll be dashing across the Atlantic and, I hope, dashing back."

"I'm flying back to London in the next 24 hours and hoping everything goes well and according to plan, that there's no complications."

"If we get through to the semifinals, I'll come in the day before the semifinals."

Pietersen put on 94 in under 12 overs with Craig Kieswetter before spinners Michael Yardy and Graeme Swann took five top-order wickets between them.

"Today was as close to perfect, apart from a couple of wide balls," Pietersen said of Saturday's victory at the Kensington Oval.

"The boys were brilliant. Colly [captain Paul Collingwood] and I have just been talking about the perfect game, and to beat South Africa so convincingly really was amazing."

"It's just so great to be part of a dressing room that plays such great cricket," he added.

Meanwhile, Collingwood said: "There are a lot of England fans in here, and I wanted to put a good performance -- and we've done that."

"South Africa are a very good side, and we knew we would have to perform at our best. I think we have almost done that."

"In the line-up we have got there is a lot of potential."

"The boys are making good decisions and they are backing themselves."

Pietersen appears to be getting back to his world-class best after more than a year of struggles, including an Achilles injury that ruled him out of most of England's 2009 Ashes triumph against Australia.

"It's just nice to be in the nick again, nice to be back in the side," he said. "It's great to be part of a team that is successful. I've had a really rough last 12 to 14 months, so it's nice to be back again."

Pietersen powers Eng

AFP, Bridgetown

Kevin Pietersen laid the platform for a commanding 39-run victory over his native South Africa as England took a giant stride towards the World Twenty20 semifinals here on Saturday.

Pietersen's high-class 53 was at the heart of England's 168 for seven against the land of his birth at the Kensington Oval.

The star batsman, named man-of-the-match for the second time in as many fixtures after his unbeaten 73 in a six-wicket Super Eights win over

defending champions Pakistan on Thursday, then revealed he was leaving the Caribbean to be with wife Jessica, who is expecting the couple's first child.

However, Pietersen said he hoped to return from London to the West Indies should England qualify for the semifinals.

"I'm flying back to London in the next 24 hours and hoping everything goes well and according to plan, there's no complications," Pietersen told Sky Sports.

"If we get through to the semifinals, I'll come in the day before the semifinals," the former Test captain added.

Pietersen, whose innings helped put England in sight of a

last four spot, has struggled with both form and fitness at international level for over a year, with a right Achilles injury ruling him out of the majority of the 2009 Ashes series win over Australia.

"I've had a really rough last 12-14 months so it's nice to be back again," Pietersen said.

England Twenty20 captain Paul Collingwood was delighted by a dominant display that delighted the massed ranks of England fans in the crowd.

"There are a lot of England fans in here and I wanted us to put on a good performance and we've done that," he said.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith said his side had been well beaten.

"Credit to England, they were far better than us today, especially in the first 10 overs."

"In general it was a very disappointing day for us and we have to make sure we bounce back."

South Africa suffered a dramatic top-order collapse against England spinners Graeme Swann (three wickets for 24 runs) and Michael Yardy (two for 26).

The Proteas lost four wickets for 19 runs as 34 for one was transformed into 53 for five.

Left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom (three for 23) ended the match with an over to spare by bowling Morne Morkel as South Africa were dismissed for 129.

Victory left England with two wins from two second round matches.

SCORES IN BRIEF ENGLAND: 168 for 7 in 20 overs (Pietersen 53, Kieswetter 41, Collingwood 14, Morgan 21; Botha 2-15, M Morkel 2-40, Langeveldt 2-34) SOUTH AFRICA: 129 all out in 19 overs (Smith 19, Duminy 39; Sidebottom 3-23, Swann 3-24) Result: England won by 39 runs. Man-of-the-match: Kevin Pietersen.



PHOTO: AFP

England's Kevin Pietersen turns the ball towards fine-leg during the World Twenty20 Super Eights match against South Africa at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Part 1 Satan's minions of a three-piece suit 5 Afternoon get-together 8 Burn somewhat 12 Paint layer 13 Lummo 14 Sitarist's music style 15 And so forth 17 Named Sue 18 Superstar 19 Wreak havoc on 21 Big fair 24 D.C. title 25 Become a member 28 Reed instrument 30 Moray, for example 33 Samovar 34 La Scala show 35 Kanga's kid 36 Sleuth

Crossword grid with numbers 1-49 indicating starting positions for words.

DOWN 20 On a cruise 22 Benedict times XVI, e.g. 23 Unpleasantly plump 25 Stick out 26 Raw rock 27 Secretly 29 Doggie bag fill 31 Quite some time 32 Journal 34 Micro-wave 38 Dam builder 40 Fragrant wood 42 Witness 43 Glaswegian gal 44 Help hoods 45 Reveille's opposite 47 Give a makeover to 48 Stumble 49 Loathe 52 Mainlander's memento 53 Rowing need

Solution time: 21 mins. BARB END INFO IDEA LEI REAP BOXSEATS OOZE SON TINNED ASHEN HARI RIOT MUSICBOX ALA SORTS ARE BOXSCORE WREN MANY ARENA LAMARR AGA USER IDIOTBOX TEAM SOD HONE ZANY EWE SPEED

CRYPTOQUIP

KY EBS MUDHZ TDUE WDHTKRE A W D Q G B P D M W K Q F K G C R D H G K Q F K A B S R Z G H E M W H M G H G M B P C B Y H C C U B T H R

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEW EDUCATIONAL SHOW ABOUT THE BODY STRUCTURES OF SOME FLATTENED FISHES: "RAY'S ANATOMY." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y