

Sheikh Jamal's Serbian duo to arrive today

SERBIAN coaches Zoran Kraljedic and Berber Dabor are scheduled to arrive here today to join newcomers Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club for the upcoming football season.

"Both of them will come tomorrow (Thursday) for the entire season and the training camp will get underway on September 21 at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan," said Manzur Kader, the president of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, yesterday.

Both Kraljedic and Berber were the assistants of Bangladesh's former coach Zoran Djordjevic, who guided the Bangladesh U-23 side to clinch the football title of South Asian Games early this year.

"Kraljedic will be appointed as the chief coach while Berber will be Kraljedic's deputy," informed Manzur adding that the Serbian duo would cost them Tk 55 to 60 lakh for the season.

The star-studded Sheikh Jamal had earlier tried to rope in local coach Saiful Bari Titu, who had refused to take charge due to his involvement with the Bangladesh Football Federation and the club then changed their decision to try to rope in foreign coaches.

The season's curtain-raising tournament, Federation Cup, will be held in between October 7 to 31 before the season's second tournament, Super Cup, which will take place in December.

Riaz the 4th Pakistani

Fast bowler Wahab Riaz has become the latest Pakistan cricketer to be questioned by police as a result of the 'spot-fixing' row engulfing the team's tour of England.

A brief statement issued by Scotland Yard here on Tuesday said: "We can confirm that today, Tuesday, September 14, one further Pakistani cricketer was interviewed by appointment under caution."

Although the statement did not name Riaz, his interview with detectives was trailed last week by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt, who said: "We have arranged for his interview as we will continue to cooperate and we want to get to the bottom of the matter."

Pakistan's tour has been overshadowed by newspaper allegations of a betting scam that saw no-balls deliberately bowled in the fourth Test against England at Lord's last month.

The claims, published in the News of the World, led to the suspension of Pakistan Test captain Salman Butt and bowlers Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Chance

FROM PAGE 17 About Ashraf's exclusion, Siddons said: "Ashraf is still an important player for us but he is out of form, runs and confidence."

"Rokibul [Hasan] is back, our openers are solid and number three position is also solid as [Zunaid Siddiqui] Imroze is scoring runs. He [Ashraf] has to beat Naeem [Islam], [Mahmudullah] Riyad and Rokibul to come to the team. He can get his form back by scoring runs in the domestic competitions by January," observed Siddons.

Sussex

FROM PAGE 17 Worcestershire's James Cameron (49) and Vikram Solanki (52), with the latter hitting the only half-century of the innings thus far. The pair added 77 for the second wicket and Solanki went on to add 51 more with Moeen Ali (24) but once the bearded left-hander fell, so did Worcestershire's fortunes.

At the stroke of tea, discarded England left-arm spinner Monty Panesar snared Matt Mason to endanger the hosts' shot at promotion.

Fake Togo

FROM PAGE 17 Goals for Bahrain, and Ismael Abdullatif adding a third. Bahrain coach Josef Hackersberger said: "They were not fit enough to play 90 minutes; the match was very boring."

Basically it was not good for us because we wanted to get information about the strength of our team, especially playing with many of our professionals."



World's number one tennis player Rafael Nadal of Spain shows off his US Open trophy at Times Square in New York City on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Nadal charms NY crowd

REUTERS, New York



Rafael Nadal was still beaming about winning the US Open when he spent his final day in New York on Tuesday, posing for photographs and appearing on the morning talkshow circuit, before heading back to Spain.

The world number one was taken on a whirlwind tour of Manhattan on Tuesday, showing off his new trophy to screaming fans in Times Square and on Fifth Avenue and being whisked around the television studios, before preparing to fly back home.

The 24-year-old was all smiles as he waved to the crowds then spoke with media after celebrating his 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 win over Novak Djokovic in Monday night's rain-delayed final at Flushing Meadows.

"Yeah, it's unbelievable for me. It's more than I ever dreamed about, that I ever thought I can do," he told this news agency.

"It's just an amazing feeling and I'm very happy to have my first US Open in my hands now."

Nadal was dressed casually in denim jeans and a navy blue polo shirt and was looking remarkably fresh after managing just a few hours sleep from the night before because of all his media commitments after the final.

Veeru calls critics barking animals!

Cricket

INTERNET

Not amused with the praise and brickbats he gets in equal measure from them, Indian opener Virender Sehwag hit out at his critics, saying that he has never been bothered by their comments and would concentrate on playing his natural game.

"When an elephant walks a lot of animals bark, but the elephant keeps walking without giving much importance to the lesser animals. And that is exactly how I like to deal with my critics," Sehwag told reporters when asked about the praise and brickbats he got in the equal measure.

"It is the players who go out there and perform and not the critics. It is very easy to sit and criticise players. Anyone and everyone can do that," said Sehwag after launching a sporty collection of 12 Timex watches for the next year's cricket World Cup.

He said the critics make one God one day and the villain the next day.

"One day they [critics] will make you God and then the very next day they will simply pull you down. So, I just concentrate on playing my natural game and putting in maximum effort," said the swashbuckling opener.

Sehwag felt India will have home advantage in the 2011 World Cup.

"Playing in India would be a benefit for us in the World Cup as we have been playing in

these pitches since we were kids and that would certainly give us an edge. However, since other teams also tour India on a regular basis so they also have a fair idea about the tracks and ground conditions," the Delhi batsman said.

He, however, refused to give a direct reply to whether India would be able to break the jinx of no host country having won the World Cup.

"We will try our best to win the World Cup. All we can do is make more than 100 per cent effort and we will surely do that," he said.

He also will not answer when asked if the Indian team is prepared enough for the World Cup.

"You should ask this question to the selectors," he simply said.

"I don't think so," he replied when asked if a listless

Victoria's first win

FROM PAGE 17 But the tournament pattern of teams struggling against the new ball and then scoring freely later in the innings continued.

How and George Worker (29) put on 53 in 48 balls for the fourth wicket before Brendon Diaminti helped How add 66 off 29 balls for the fifth wicket, which included 28 runs off the 18th over, bowled by John Hastings.

Finch played a fine innings but made a lucky start. He was caught off a no-ball bowled by Bracewell before he had scored and was dropped on 43 when he hit a hard return

performance by Indian middle-order batsmen just like in the tri-series in Sri Lanka last month will put extra pressure on the openers.

Sehwag was the lone batsman who performed well in the tri-series in which India finished runners-up losing to Sri Lanka in the final and he said he would look to carry his form in the 2011 World Cup.

"I hope to carry my present good form into the next year World Cup and contribute to my team's success," he said.

Asked if he would be able to score 200 in one-dayers, as had been done by Sachin Tendulkar, if he gets full 50 overs to bat, he said, "There are many cricketers who can score 200 in 50 overs but we don't play for records. I always want to score as many runs as possible."

chance to left-arm slow bowler Worker. It was one of three catches put down by the Stags.

How said his side's fielding was a disappointment. "We had a few dropped catches and a few misfields and you can't afford to do that against a quality side like Victoria," he explained.

SCORES IN BRIEF CENTRAL STAGS: 165-5 in 20 overs (How 77 not out, Worker 29, Siddle 2-30). VICTORIA: 166-3 in 19.4 overs (Finch 93 not out). Result: Victoria won by seven wickets.

ICC rejects fixing in IPL

PTI, Dubai

The International Cricket Council refuted media reports that 29 players who participated in the Indian Premier League (IPL) were under the scanner of its Anti-Corruption and Security Unit for suspected match-fixing or spot-fixing.

"In particular, over the last 24-36 hours we have noted a number of specific unfounded media allegations about individual players being investigated by the ACSU -- a so-called list of 29 players," ICC CEO Haroon Lorgat said in a mail to individual member boards.

"This is to confirm that there is no such list and we believe it is simply a way that the media is trying to fish for information without any basis for doing so," he added. "If there were any specific players being investigated by ACSU we would have notified the relevant member board."

The London-based 'The Times' had reported that 29 players, two of them Australian, were named in a secret dossier, detailing match-fixing and spot-fixing in the IPL's second edition, prepared by the ACSU.

Lorgat advised individual boards to dismiss any queries with regards to the reported dossier. "Kindly dismiss such queries and if in doubt please refer any media enquiries to the Head of ICC Media and Communications, Colin Gibson," he said.

Test C'ship taking shape

Cricket

CRICINFO

The prospect of a Test Championship has come a step closer as part of an extensive restructuring of the international game after the ICC's chief executive committee (CEC) laid out a set of proposals for five-day and one-day cricket. Along with the Test Championship, which has been earmarked for some time, they recommended a reduced 50-over World Cup and an enlarged World Twenty20 event.

The proposed format for Test cricket will have the Future Tours Programme (FTP) consist of a Test league running over four years with the top four teams at the end of each period qualifying for a play-off event. The first play-off is scheduled for 2013, the same year England are due to host the Ashes, and Lord's is believed to be the favoured venue for the final.

In a wide-ranging proposal for the redrawing of one-day cricket, a new league -- mirroring the existing team rankings -- would be introduced, starting in April 2011 and running over four years to culminate in the crowning of the first ODI league champion in April 2014.

The league would run separately from World Cup which, as the ICC's flagship event, the CEC suggests reducing to 10 teams for the 2015 event. The 2011 World Cup, to be held in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, will include 14 countries and run from February 19 to April 2. The lengthy tournament is itself a smaller version than the 2007 event, which was widely criticised for including 16 sides and taking too long.

Given the success of smaller nations like Netherlands and Afghanistan in Twenty20 cricket the CEC recommends expanding the

World Twenty20 to include 16 teams from the 2012 tournament, due to be staged in Sri Lanka, with the women's event continuing to run alongside. There should also be a Twenty20 league table as soon as possible, the CEC added.

"Restructuring international cricket is a significant strategic challenge and one that must be dealt with," Haroon Lorgat, the ICC chief executive, said "I am grateful to the CEC and its working group for making such far-reaching proposals to tackle this important issue."

"Achieving balance and unanimous agreement is not easy but it is a very important piece of work that requires a strategic response. The holistic set of proposals, especially introducing more meaningful context, means we now have the potential to follow international cricket that is even more exciting."

"Protecting and promoting all three formats at international level is viable and I believe the CEC has shown itself to be forward thinking in tackling the challenges. I am now encouraged to engage with the ICC executive board to consider these proposals as soon as possible."

During a two-day meeting in Cape Town the CEC also discussed bad light, which is now at the sole discretion of the on-field umpires, and said players should only leave the field if conditions are dangerous and shouldn't go off if floodlights are used even when shadows appear from the artificial light.

"There is a clear instruction to match officials that the players should only go off the field when conditions are considered dangerous or unreasonable," Dave Richardson, ICC's general manager of cricket, said. "In addition, players should not go off the field when the ground floodlights are switched on and these were deemed before the series to be adequate."

Redbacks stun Mumbai

AFP, Durban



South Australian Redbacks took a pounding from the Mumbai Indians batsmen, but still clinched a five-wicket win against the highly-rated Indian Premier League team in the Champions League Twenty20 on Tuesday.

In a frantic match of sixes and missed chances, Mumbai hammered 180 for seven in their 20 overs despite a slow start on a lively Kingsmead pitch.

But Michael Klinger (50) and Daniel Harris (56) took advantage of some sloppy fielding as they put on 112 for South Australia's first wicket.

Mumbai appeared to have regained the initiative when three wickets fell in 12 balls but the unheralded Redbacks never stopped going for their shots and sixth wicket pair Cameron Borgas and Tom Cooper put on 24 off seven balls to get the Australian side home with three balls to spare.

The win put South Australia in pole position to reach the semifinals with two wins from two matches in Group B, while Mumbai faced probable elimination after losing both their matches.

Mumbai struggled to 59 for three at the halfway stage of their innings but some awe-

some hitting by Saurabh Tiwary, who hit 44 off 25 balls, and Kieron Pollard (36 off 21 balls) enabled them to score 121 off the last ten overs.

Tiwary hit three of his four sixes off successive deliveries from left-arm spinner Aaron O'Brien and Pollard pounded three sixes.

But Mumbai's fielding was abysmal. Harris was dropped twice and Klinger once as the Redbacks launched their reply, while the Indians leaked several runs with poor ground fielding.

Mumbai captain Sachin Tendulkar admitted his team's effort in the field was "very disappointing" after what he said was an excellent effort by the batsmen.

"We have to pick up our performance. It's important that we produce something special in our next two games."

South Australia captain Klinger, the leading run-scorer in the tournament, said: "We backed ourselves to chase those runs and it was a super effort by everyone. Our running between the wickets and our intensity was really good."

SCORES IN BRIEF MUMBAI INDIANS: 180-7 in 20 overs (Tendulkar 20, Rayudu 38, Tiwary 44, Pollard 36, Bravo 22; O'Brien 2-49) SOUTH AUSTRALIA: 182-5 in 19.3 overs (Klinger 50, Harris 56; Malinga 2-22, Murtaza 2-29) Result: South Australia won by 5 wickets.

Blistering Barcelona

FROM PAGE 17

stretched off with a suspected dislocation and fracture to his ankle.

Current Spanish league leaders Valencia top Group C after a convincing 4-0 win at Champions League new boys Bursaspor of Turkey.

Barcelona began their European campaign in similarly spectacular fashion, smashing five typically well-worked goals past Greek champions Panathinaikos in a 5-1 victory at Camp Nou.

The visitors had the temerity to take a 20th-minute lead

through former Lyon forward Sidney Govou, but Barca were 3-1 up at the interval thanks to a Lionel Messi brace that sandwiched a close-range David Villa strike.

Messi spurned the chance to claim a hat-trick when his tame second-half penalty was saved, but goals from Pedro Rodriguez and Dani Alves in the 78th and 93rd minutes added gloss to the scoreline.

An 87th-minute goal by Dame N'Doye earned FC Copenhagen a 1-0 win at home to Russia's Rubin Kazan

in the other group game.

Lyon, semifinalists last season, and two-time champions Benfica both got off to winning starts in Group B.

The French side prevailed 1-0 at home to Schalke, who had centre-back Benedikt Howedes sent off in the first half after Michel Bastos had put Lyon ahead.

Benfica beat Israeli competition debutants Hapoel Tel-Aviv 2-0 in Lisbon, with Brazil centre-back Luisao netting the 5,000th goal in Champions League history.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S