

Star SPORT

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Daniel Vettori, MS

The long-running joke on Daniel Vettori is that he can run everything, be it the cricket team, the selection committee, the cricket board or for that matter the country. Satirists can now add an MS (Master of Science) degree to the sketch. On Thursday night, Wintec gave him the honorary degree in Sport and Exercise Science. "I'm glad I haven't had to work too hard to get this," he said, as he joined Sir Edmund Hillary, Dame Te Atairangiako, Colin Meads and the Topp Twins in the honours board.

- INTERNET



Rahim injury not serious, says Henry

SPORTS REPORTER

Wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim was hurt during fielding practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

But National team physio Michael Henry said that the injury is nothing serious.

"He (Mushfiqur Rahim) aggravated his old right shoulder injury. There is nothing serious in his injury and hope he will be okay for the New Zealand series," said a confident sounding Henry.

He however said that everything will be clear after the scan.

"The scan will be done tomorrow (Saturday) and hopefully get the report on Sunday and after that everything will be clear," he added.

It will be another blow for the Tigers if Mushfiqur Rahim is unfit for next month's five-match one-day series against New Zealand as dashing opener Tamim Iqbal is already ruled out for the home series due to an operation on his left wrist.

New Zealand will arrive in Dhaka on September 28 to play five one-day internationals at Mirpur. The first match will be take place on October 5.

SPOT-FIXING

Evidence given to prosecutors

CRICINFO

Scotland Yard has said it has passed on to prosecutors an initial file of evidence on claims that Pakistan cricketers were involved in spot-fixing.

It said evidence that there was a conspiracy to defraud bookmakers will be considered by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

"The Metropolitan Police Service has today delivered an initial file of evidence relating to conspiracy to defraud bookmakers to the Crown Prosecution Service," a Scotland Yard spokesman said. "The file will now be subject to CPS consideration. This is an initial file and the Met investigation continues."

Four Pakistan players - Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Aamer and Wahab Riaz - have been questioned by the police, and the first three have been suspended by the ICC pending the investigation. Those three have returned to Pakistan following an agreement with

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SPORTS POLL

TODAY'S QUESTION

Can Shahriar Nafees cement a place in the national team?

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What to WATCH

ESPN

English Premiership Stoke City v West Ham

Live from 5:40pm

Tottenham v Wolves

Live from 7:55pm

Sunderland v Arsenal

Live from 10:25pm

STAR Cricket

Champions League T20

Warriors v Central Stags

Live from 5:20pm

Chennai Super Kings v

Victoria Bushrangers

Live from 9:20pm

TEN Sports

Serie A

AC Milan v Catania

Live from 12:40am (Sunday)



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim has his right hand wrapped up after injuring his shoulder during fielding practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. He's being escorted off the field by national team physio Michael Henry (L) who later confirmed that it is a minor injury.

WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD Star-less team departs today

SPORTS REPORTER

A Bangladesh team, sans its top players, leaves for Russia today to take part in the World Chess Olympiad with the hope of retaining the same spot that they finished in at the 2008 edition.

Bangladesh currently has five Grandmasters, but none are part of the traveling contingent which is made up of FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, FM Mohammad Javed and Debaraj Chatterjee. The latter was a late inclusion after GM Reefat Bin Sattar withdrew from the squad despite a third place finish in the National Chess Championship.

Also missing from the squad are, GM Niaz Morshed and GM Ziaur Rahman, who both took no part in the last national championship due to their commitments abroad. And GM Enamul Hossain Razib and GM Abdullah Al Rakib are also missing since they have been skipping all competitions since September 2009 in protest of an 'incompetent ad-hoc committee'.

GMs Zia, Razib and Rakib were the members of the 2008 Olympiad squad where Bangladesh finished 48th out of 150 countries. And this time general secretary of BCF ad-hoc committee Mokaddes Hossain hoped that despite not having top players the national team would be able to retain the same position they gained in the last edition of the Olympiad.

"It is true, we could have gained more confidence had the GMs be part of the national team, but I promise you that the promising players selected through the national chess championship will do better," said Mokaddes on the eve of their departure yesterday.

It had previously been common practice for

the BCF to appoint a foreign coach for the national team ahead of important international assignments. This time however, the ad-hoc committee failed to hire any foreign coach for the national team's preparation.

So far in the team event, the coach plays a key role in deciding his players' strategies, judging the opponents, selecting the boards for his charges and keeping his charges updated about the new moves in chess. The role of the chess coach is almost as important as that of a football coach.

Admitting the fact that they had failed to appoint a coach, Mokaddes said the previous committees roped in coaches through the FIDE, but they have been out of touch with the FIDE officials. He stated that they would manage a coach soon after arriving at the competition in Khanty-Mansiysk.

Mokaddes, however, believed the camp for the Olympiad would help the players a lot as they had shared their ideas during the camp though there was no appointed coach for them. Meanwhile, terming the Bangladesh Olympiad squad the 'weakest team,' GM Razib hit out at the failures of the ad-hoc committee.

"There is always a chance to achieve an individual norm in the Olympiad but it depends on the overall performance of the team. The failure of appointing a coach reflects poor organizing capacity of the ad-hoc committee, which lacks the proper concept of chess," said Razib.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh women chess team consisting of Rani Hamid, Shamima Akter Liza, Sharmin Sultana Shirin, Masuda Begum and Nazrana Khan Iva will also take part in the Olympiad.

TOURS OF BANGLADESH & INDIA Vettori seeks an edge

Cricket

CRICINFO

Daniel Vettori, the New Zealand captain, believes the tours of Bangladesh and India in October and November will give his team an advantage over other overseas sides during the World Cup in the subcontinent early next year.

"We are going to get the best possible warm-up and any game time in the subcontinent is going to make a huge difference to our chances in the World Cup," Vettori was quoted as saying in the ICC's audio show.

New Zealand have not made a World Cup final but have been semifinalists five times. Vettori, however, was optimistic about his team's chances in 2011. "There is some growing confidence within the team that we can win it but we know there is a lot of work to do between saying we can win it and actually doing it."

"For the New Zealand team, to win the World Cup would be the ultimate achievement. I know the preparations are going pretty well.

The fact we have been to Sri Lanka, we're going to Bangladesh soon and then we play some one-dayers in India gives us the best preparation leading into such an important tournament."

New Zealand play five ODIs against Bangladesh in Mirpur with the first one on October 5. They then play three Tests and five ODIs in India. The first Test begins on November 4 in Ahmedabad.

The last time the World Cup was held in the subcontinent in 1996, New Zealand reached the quarterfinal, which they lost to Australia. But Vettori said the balance of the current side will make them challenging opponents. "I think we have some world-class players from the top of our order with Brendon McCullum, Jesse Ryder and Ross Taylor. We have some real experience with Scott Styris, and hopefully Kyle Mills and myself can lead a bowling attack that has a little bit of experience and some real talent."

New Zealand play five of their six World Cup league games in India, and the other in Sri Lanka.

Rokibul named in Dhaka squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan was among 30 players called up by the Dhaka Divisional Sports Association for the National Cricket League four-day competition that begins on September 29.

Dhaka face Khulna in Rajshahi in their opening encounter and they are set to begin training on September 20.

Rokibul, who has played for Barisal ever since he made his debut in first-class cricket five years ago, hails from Jamalpur and as a result the divisional sports authorities have named

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Bukola, Dami sign for Muktis

SPORTS REPORTER

Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola Olalekan and defender Dami Emanuel arrived in Dhaka early on Friday to sign for rejuvenated Muktiyoddha Sangsad for the upcoming season.

The Nigerian duo last season played for Federation Cup champions Mohammedan Sporting Club but they received some bad press when they along with compatriot Emeka Christian skipped

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Abahani return with optimism

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Three-time Bangladesh League champions Abahani want to capitalise on their success in Assam's Bordoloi Trophy in the upcoming domestic season.

The club officials and players expressed determination to carry the success in India into the Federation Cup, Super Cup and the Bangladesh League after returning home yesterday having clinched the title earlier this week.

"Definitely this success will give us much confidence in the beginning of the season and help us on way to fulfilling our target of winning all the titles this season," said football manager Satyajit Das Rupu at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The officials and the fan club felicitated the players as they emerged from the aircraft.

"The victory is not only for Abahani, it is also for the nation," said Rupu adding the success was one of collective effort by the team.

It was a stage for Abahani to test their foreign and local recruits before signing them in the upcoming transfers and Rupu believes the new local collections and the foreign recruits have fulfilled his expectation showing their potential after some of the bigger players left the club.

It was the third triumph on foreign soil for the Sky Blues, who won all three tournaments in India. The Dhanmondi-based outfit first won the Nagjee Trophy in 1990 beating Mahendra United and grabbed the Charms Cup five years later defeating Kolkata Mohammedan.

"In 2007, we were eliminated from the semifinals and this time we were determined to do something and we proved it," said midfielder Mehdi Hasan Ujjal, who struck a brace in the final to help Abahani win by an emphatic 3-0 margin over Nepal's Three Star.

"I was a hired member of Abahani's Nagjee Trophy victory,

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Eng restrict Pakistan to 241

AFP, London

James Anderson produced figures of 3-26 from ten overs as Pakistan were bowled out for 241 in the first innings of the third one-day international at the Oval on Friday.

Anderson conceded just one boundary in his stint dismissing Mohammad Hafeez in his first over before adding the wickets of Mohammad Yousuf and Saeed Ajmal.

Tim Bresnan also took three wickets wrapping up the innings when he bowled Umar Gul in the last over.

Fawad Alam top-scored with 64 and Asad Shafiq made 40 but Pakistan, already 2-0 in the five-match series, could not accelerate significantly towards the end of their innings apart from a brief flurry from Abdul Razzaq (31).

Alam faced 86 balls as he set about rebuilding the innings after Pakistan lost two wickets in the first three overs and were 31-3 by the tenth.

The 24-year-old from Karachi put on 64 for the fourth wicket with Asad Shafiq, who made 40, but the innings struggled to gain momentum in the face of some disciplined English

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The victorious Abahani team show off the Bordoloi Trophy after they arrived at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from Assam yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR