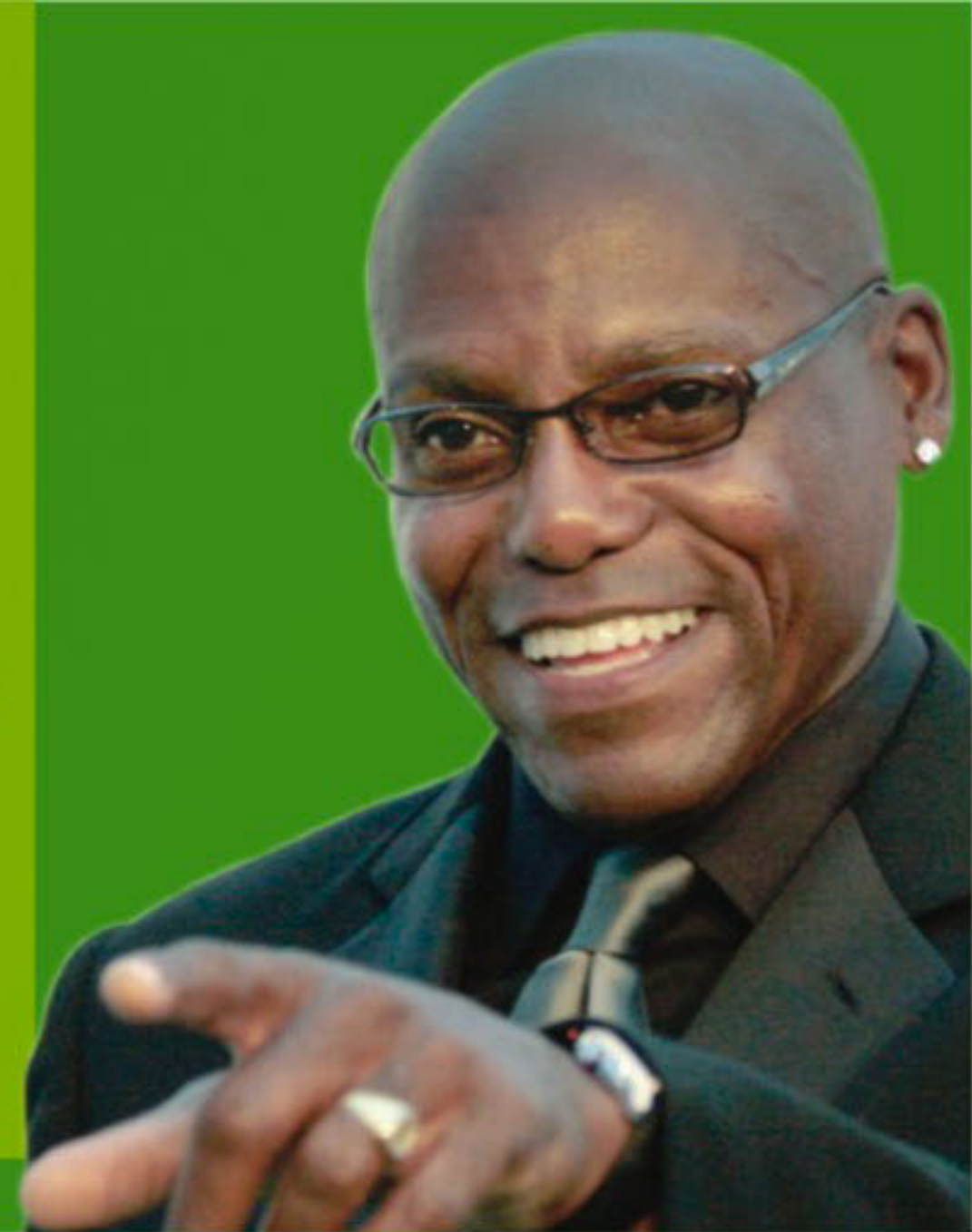


Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 13, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Lewis to run political race

Olympic track hero Carl Lewis announced Monday he's limbering up for a new kind of race -- a state senator's seat in New Jersey. Lewis, winner of nine Olympic gold medals, said he wanted to give back to his native southern New Jersey district by challenging for the local senate position as a Democrat. "South Jersey is where I grew up and learned what matters -- that hard work, family values and commitment to others can make a difference," Lewis said in a statement. "I'm proud of where I came from, proud to



Pride at stake in last game

SPORTS REPORTER



The third match between Bangladesh and Australia today will mark the end of the season for both teams and how the match ends will determine which of the teams will head off to their breaks with smiles rather than frowns on their faces.

For Bangladesh, this season promised much but the frustration remains that there were probably more lows than highs. If the 4-0 defeat of New Zealand was the highest peak the Tigers reached during the season, the scores of 58 and 78 all out in the World Cup were certainly equal, if not deeper, troughs. A season that started promisingly with Tamim Iqbal's exploits in England has wended down with Australia's Shane Watson smashing records off the Bangladesh bowling to the tune of 186 runs off 96 balls with 15 sixes.

The Tigers should be desperate to end their season on a more positive note today.

The batting, as it has been throughout the just-concluded World Cup, has been a source of serious concern. However, what is more disheartening was the way in which Watson destroyed the Bangladesh bowling during the second ODI, an aspect of their

play that has often won them matches when the batsmen got their act together.

As supreme as Watson's effort was, fifteen sixes on the leg side tell the story of a bowling attack that did not quite adapt to the demands made by a marauding batsman. Often considered the team's major strength, the spinners will have to improve vastly upon their last effort if Bangladesh are to have any chance of upstaging an increasingly confident Australian outfit.

After the one-sided nature of the last two matches, changes to the line-up are likely. Rokibul Hasan who has appeared out of touch ever since that World Cup innings of 38 against Ireland may make way for Alok Kapali, who might add some muscle down the order as well as some variety to the bowling with his leg-spinners.

The injury-ravaged Mashrafe Bin Mortaza may also come back to the side after missing the second ODI.

Wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim has been the only positive for the Tigers, who is second only to Watson in the run stakes and is yet to be dismissed in the series.

Such has been the gulf in performance and quality between the two sides over the first two matches that imagining a

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LECTURE FROM THE BOSS: Bangladesh batsmen Shahriar Nafees (L) and Alok Kapali (C) have a discussion with BCB president AHM Mostafa Kamal (R) during practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Sachin's own WC trophy

PTI, Bangalore

A city-based jewellery firm presented a gold-plated silver World Cup trophy replica to batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar here Tuesday.

The replica is made of 4.5 kgs of silver with 60 gm of gold plating.

Mumbai Indians skipper Tendulkar is here to play in the Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Lankan IPL-ers asked to get home

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's sports authorities on Tuesday ordered its cricketers playing in the ongoing Indian Premier League to return home for training ahead of next month's tour of England.

Sports Minister Mahinda-dananda Althugamage said he wanted team members to prioritise the national side over the IPL, which is financially lucrative for players.

"In future, national cricket players can participate in foreign tournaments only in a manner that will not affect practices of the Sri Lankan national team," the ministry said in a statement.

It said those who are selected for the three-Test series in England will have to return home for practices despite their commitments in the ongoing IPL Twenty20 tournament.

Former skipper Kumar Sangakkara and his deputy Mahela Jayawardene are among 11 Sri Lankan national players in the IPL and at least five of them are tipped to be included in the squad for England.

The statement did not say how the players will be penalised if they did not attend practices as required under a new sports ministry decree, but official sources said they were likely to be dropped if they did not comply.

Sri Lanka cricket has seen a spate of resignations following the side's defeat in the World Cup final against India earlier this month.

Mendis plans afresh

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's new cricket chief selector Duleep Mendis on Monday said he has to inject new blood into the national team after the recent World Cup defeat to India.

"Rebuilding is going to be the key in the coming months. Some things may not work, some tactics may pay off," Mendis, 58, told a packed news conference in Colombo.

Mendis and four past cricketers like Brendon Kuruppu, Don Arunasiri, Ranjith Madurasinghe and Chaminda Mendis, were appointed as selectors on Monday following the resignation of the previous team of selectors.

Veteran batsman Aravinda de Silva, who previously chaired the selection committee, quit last week after the team lost the World Cup final to India by six wickets.

De Silva was preceded by the resignation of skipper Kumar Sangakkara and vice-

captain Mahela Jayawardene.

Mendis, a former captain, selector and administrator, said selectors were on the look out for a new crop of players from junior squads as a number of current players were ageing.

He did not name the players heading towards the twilight of their international careers, but both Sangakkara, Jayawardene and batsman Thilakaratne Dilshan and Thilan Samaraweera are in their 30s.

"Right now, the A-team is the most important feeder mechanism for the main team. Our job in the months ahead, is to scout for talent to replace some of the older players as we face several tours in the coming months."

Sri Lanka's tours England in May for a series of Test, one-day series and a Twenty20 game. It will be followed by tours of Australia, Pakistan and South Africa. Sri Lanka also host the World Twenty20 Championships in 2012.

"Our cricket calendar is full in the coming months, but our task is also to build a pool to face the 2015 World Cup to be played in

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Siddons, Tigers part company

SPORTS REPORTER

As expected, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided that they will not extend the tenure of head coach Jamie Siddons.

The decision was taken in yesterday's board meeting at Mirpur where the board members have decided to bring changes to the national team management and support staff.

"It has been agreed that national team head coach Jamie Siddons' contract, which expires on 30 June 2011, will not be extended," informed BCB's media committee chairman after the meeting.

"We are really appreciative of Jamie's contribution over the last four years and the success he has had with the national team. However, we feel the time is right to ring in the changes in the team management and support staff. We are going to invite applications for the head coach's position very soon," he added.

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NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE Rajshahi nearing big victory

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi are seven wickets away from victory over Barisal in their second phase National Cricket League game after completely dominating proceedings yesterday.

Having declared their second innings on 261, they set Barisal a target of 402 runs and already have picked up three wickets for 64 runs at stumps at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Away in Chittagong, Sylhet have taken a substantial first innings lead and have extended it to 277 after Dhaka were shot out for 170 in the first innings.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Jahurul Islam struck 77 off 106 balls with three boundaries and a six as Rajshahi gave Barisal little chance to get back in the game. He shared an 82-run fourth wicket stand with Farhad Hossain, who made a slow 59 off 152 balls hitting two boundaries.

Earlier, Shahjada Hossain struck ten boundaries in his 100-ball 62.

For Barisal, Sohag Gazi and Tariqul Islam remained the best bowlers on show as they took three wickets each.

Out to bat on almost two days, Barisal lost both openers and Iftekhar Nayeem as they slipped to 64 for three after 19 overs.

SYLHET-DHAKA

Newcomer Nasum Ahmed ran through the Dhaka middle-order, the left-arm spinner picking up five wickets as the big guns were bowled out for just 170 in 69.1 overs.

Apart from the youngster, Nabil Samad and Yasin Arafat also took two each.

Sylhet, in their second innings, again went for the slow approach. They were 127-5 in 59 overs with little giving away in their effort to win the game.

For Dhaka, Mosharraf Hossain Rubel and Mahbubul Alam Robin took two wickets each.

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KKR wait for Lee, Shakib

PTI, Kolkata

Australian speed merchant Brett Lee will return to bolster Kolkata Knight Riders' attack ahead of their Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Rajasthan Royals on Friday.

KKR team director Joy Bhattacharya today said that Lee along with wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, pacer James Pattinson and Bangladeshi left-arm spinner Shakib-al-Hasan will be joining the team in Jaipur on the eve of their match.

The four players are currently busy doing national duties in the ongoing series between Australia and Bangladesh in Mirpur.

The series will conclude with the third ODI on April 13.

With their arrival, the team will boast of a full strength side ahead of their round three match.

The Kolkata outfit, who registered their maiden win of the season beating Deccan Chargers by nine runs Monday night, had a light practice in the afternoon Tuesday.

HOW MANY RUNS LEFT? Great Aussie batsman Ricky Ponting looks at his bat as he walks away from the nets during practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The former captain has looked in ominous form, and will hope to cash in today.

PHOTO: STAR



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