

BCB waits for green signal

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is awaiting confirmation from the impending head coach of the national cricket team.

BCB CEO Manzur Ahmed, who confirmed last week that they will confirm the deal within their target timeline of June 15, told the Daily Star Sport yesterday that the confirmation can come any time.

"We are waiting everyday for the confirmation because it is now a matter of time. We get it and it can come any time," said Manzur, without elaborating on anything when inquired about the timeline.

BCB has finalised the whole thing regarding appointment of the new coach for the Tigers but they were not ready to disclose the name until receiving confirmation from their desired man.

It is all but confirmed that Australian Stuart Law, who is now accompanying the Sri Lanka team in England as an interim head coach, is going to take the helm of the Tigers if everything goes smoothly but it may take few more days.

The third and final Test between England and Sri Lanka is from June 16 to 20.

Citycell b'ball league starts

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangers Club outplayed Old DOHS 77-40 in the opening match of the Citycell Basketball League 2011 at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday. Amanat Ali of Rangers scored highest 25 points while Alamgir Kabir of the same team scored 22. Ashik and Nobin of Old DOHS scored 11 and 10 points respectively. The winning side led the first half 33-17.

Earlier, state minister of Land advocate Mustafizur Rahman inaugurated the league as chief guest where chief executive officer of Citycell David Lee was present as the special guest.

PCB, Afridi peace deal?

CRICINFO

A compromise between the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and former captain Shahid Afridi is on the cards following a meeting between the board chairman Ijaz Butt and the player in Islamabad.

Speculation indicates that through this agreement, Afridi will be given the No Objection Certificates he craves to play for Hampshire and later in the Sri Lanka Premier League (SLPL). In return, he will withdraw the petition he filed in the Sindh High Court against the board's decision to form a disciplinary committee, cancel his central contract and revoke his NOC.

Butt confirmed to ESPNcricinfo that a meeting had taken place between him and Afridi, though he refused to go into details. Afridi had quit international cricket in protest and criticised board officials after he was removed as ODI captain in May. The board revoked his NOC in retaliation, making him unable to turn out for Hampshire in the Friends Life t20 tournament in England.

R'ganj seek

FROM PAGE 16 and officials, who are busy preparing for the matches," said Tipu Sultan, general secretary of Rahmatganj.

However, a BFF official said that the committee, which yesterday reviewed the footage of the match in question, has now asked them to appear before the committee by 5:00pm today, failing which they would take action in absentia.



SOARING HIGH: West Indies leg-spinner Anthony Martin is on cloud nine after dismissing India batsman Virat Kohli in the 4th ODI at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

Windies pull one back

Cricket

AFP, Antigua

West Indies, inspired by a career-best spell from leg-spinner Anthony Martin, completed a 103-run victory to secure a consolation victory in the fourth one-day international against world champions India on Monday.

Rohit Sharma led the way with 39, and was one of a handful of Indian batsmen that got starts without carrying on, as Martin captured four for 36 from 10 overs, and West Indies successfully defended a target of 250.

Martin, later named man-of-the-match, rounded off the victory, when he had Ishant Sharma stumped for a duck with his final delivery of the match at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground.

The victory was a consolation for West Indies, after India took an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match series with a victory two days ago at the same venue.

The final match of the series will be played on Thursday at Sabina Park in the Jamaica capital of Kingston.

"We didn't bat very well, but all credit must go to the West Indies because they

played really well in this game," said India captain Suresh Raina.

India's bowlers had done their best to maintain the status quo, but Kieron Pollard top scored with 70 and Lendl Simmons supported with 67, helping West Indies reach 249 for eight.

Praveen Kumar was the most successful Indian bowler with three for 37 from 10 overs, and leg-spinner Amit Mishra captured two for 56 from 10 overs.

The World champions however, were left to chase their highest target of the series, and started brightly.

But they kept losing wickets at inopportune times, allowing the West Indies bowlers to dictate terms.

Andre Russell ended with three for 16 from seven overs, and Sammy took two for 43, breathing a huge sigh of relief following the game.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 249 for 8 in 50 overs (Pollard 70, Simmons 67, Baugh 39; Praveen 3-37, Mishra 2-56)

INDIA: 146 all out in 39 overs (Sharma 39, Parthiv 26; Martin 4-36, Russell 3-16, Sammy 2-43)

Result: West India won by 103 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Anthony Martin.

Tri-series back down under

Cricket

INTERNET

Cricket Australia (CA) has reinstated the tri-series ODI concept and extended their regular Test dates to host India in a four-match series, which breaks with recent convention.

Australia unveiled a southern summer schedule on Tuesday that features two Tests against New Zealand in Brisbane and Hobart at the start of December followed by a four-Test series against India starting December 26 -- the traditional Boxing Day slot at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The subsequent Tests will be played in Sydney and Perth and the series concludes in Adelaide from January 24 to 28.

A two-match Twenty20 International series will follow, leading into the February 5 to March 8 blockbuster limited-overs tri-series involving former world champions Australia against World Cup holders India and 2011 World Cup runners-up Sri Lanka.

Australia abandoned the tri-series format in favour of bilateral series for three seasons amid diminishing popularity for the 50-over game and increasing interest in T20s, but have reinstated the three-way contest in what will be a hectic season for the hosts.

"ICC Cricket World Cup winners India are also the number one-ranked Test team in the world at the moment. Sri Lanka have also been in great form as we saw in the World Cup, while we know New Zealand are always a formidable opponent that thrive when playing Australia," Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said in a statement.

"With the commencement of the ICC World Test Championship we know that every Test win is vital and the Australian team will be keen to start the home season positively against New Zealand."

The Test series will clash with the Australian Open, the annual Grand Slam tennis fixture in Melbourne in late January, meaning the domestic broadcast audiences for both sports will be split.

Jovanovski new football coach

FROM PAGE 16

Macedonia and Turkey, saw him deliver three Macedonian league titles and one cup title apart from guiding clubs to group stages of the UEFA Champions League.

Jovanovski's latest employment was at Bulgarian side ZSC Sofia where he was terminated after two months following his side's 2-0 defeat to Rapid Vienna in Europa League in 2010.

Jovanovski's playing career began in 1970 as a member of Vardar's youth team before joining the famous Yugoslav club Red Star seven years later. After a brief return to Macedonia, he went to Turkey where he played for Samsunspor before calling time on his playing career with Ankargucu in 1988-89.

He was also picked for the national youth team of former Yugoslavia in 1973.

Jovanovski is going to be Bangladesh's 15th foreign coach and fourth in three years under the Kazi Salahuddin-led committee after unpleasant departures of Brazilian Edson Silva Dido, Serbian Zoran Djordjevic and the

latest, Rubcic.

Rubcic left here on June 2 without informing the authorities and has so far declined to attend to calls and e-mails from the football's governing body. Rubcic, who signed a one-year deal worth 50,000 dollars in September last year, still had three months of his contract left.

It was learnt that the Croat was not paid his wages for the last four months along with his food allowance and was also dissatisfied with lack of activities as coach. Badal Roy though claimed they were ready to clear all his dues and made every possible move to contact the coach, but in vain.

From Denmark to Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Jamal Bhuiyan is confident of securing a place in the final squad of Bangladesh's World Cup pre-qualifier squad as the Denmark-born Bangladeshi booter will start his training with local clubs from today.

"I have no idea about the standard of Bangladeshi footballers or the Bangladesh national team but I am confident that I will be able to secure a place in the final squad," said Jamal who yesterday visited Bangladesh Football Federation to be introduced to local coaches as well as members of the national team management committee.

The 27-member preliminary squad will be reduced to a 20-member squad on June 20

The 21-year old booter believes it is easier to represent Bangladesh than Denmark, whose booters play in top-level leagues like France, Spain and England.

The midfielder, who is now playing for HIK, a second division team of Denmark, said that was inspired to play for Bangladesh as it is the home of his parents.

Jamal was given a contract by the youth team of FC Copenhagen at the age of 15 in 2005 but his career with the club came to an end after being shot four times in a gang fight at his father's departmental store in 2007.

Then he struggled for one and half years to regain full fitness, but he failed to reclaim his place in FC Copenhagen and joined second division HIK in 2009.

Pakistan ready to host Bangladesh

Football

AFP, Karachi

Pakistani football said Tuesday it was confident next month's home World Cup qualifier against Bangladesh will go ahead, promising tight security for the match.

After the first leg of their Asian zone qualifier for the 2014 World Cup in Dhaka on June 29, the two sides were scheduled to meet in Lahore on July 3.

But arrangements ran into trouble after Bangladesh asked FIFA, the game's ruling body, to relocate the match due to security fears.

FIFA has apparently rejected the request in a move welcomed by Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) secretary Ahmed Yar Khan Lodhi.

"We hosted Palestine and Malaysia earlier this year and both the teams returned happy, so we have proper security arrangements in place and we are confident that the match will go ahead," Lodhi told AFP.

Pakistan has not hosted any major sporting event since militants attacked the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore in March 2009, killing eight people and wounding seven visiting players and their assistant coach.

"FIFA knows of our security arrangements made for the Palestine and Malaysian teams so they have no problems and we assure Bangladesh that they will be well looked after," said Lodhi.

Bangladesh Football Federation chief Kazi Salahuddin told AFP Tuesday that FIFA turned down its request to host both games against Pakistan.

"FIFA rejected our request. So our national team will go to Pakistan play the match on July 3," he said, adding that he had not been told where the game will be played.

Team coach Robert Rubcic did not want to travel to the troubled country, Salahuddin said, but the team's appeal to FIFA fell on deaf ears.

Bittersweet BKSP

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any of their fitness, though it is clear that someone like Mushfiqur is way ahead of everyone," said the left-handed all-rounder, a thought echoed by Tamim who believed that some of those not in the national team are even fitter. "Raj bhai [Abdur Razzak] really surprised me with his fitness test. He is working like an inspiration for us but guys like Nasir [Hossain] and [Noor Hossain] Munna are very fit," said Tamim.

They leave BKSP today and after a short break, the Cox's Bazar leg begins on June 26.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for ACROSS and DOWN words. Includes a solution time of 25 mins and a solution key at the bottom.

Feature titled 'TESTS THROUGH TIME' with a photo of a cricket match from Leeds, 1938. The main article is 'The Don of cricket' about Sir Don Bradman, discussing his career, batting average, and impact on the sport.

Cryptoquip puzzle section with a grid and a list of words to be placed in the grid. Includes the words 'CRYPTOQUIP' and 'H RYEUMKUIHC HJMWG GHAULS'.