

Ishtiaq on ATF board

SPORTS REPORTER

Ishtiaq Ahmed Curren has recently been elected into the board of directors of Asian Tennis Federation, said a Bangladesh Tennis Federation press release yesterday. The election was held on June 11.

The panel comprising 12 directors and a president will remain in office for the period from 2011 to 2013.

Hurley-Nayar

FROM PAGE 16

It came after photographs were published of the actress and Warne apparently kissing and cuddling together in London.

The cricketer, 41, reportedly met Hurley at an English race meeting in July last year and the pair have since been spotted together on several occasions.

Hurley was photographed cheering on Warne at an Indian Premier League match in northwest India in April.

Warne's romances have sparked almost as much media attention as his performance in cricket matches and his energetic love life is widely thought to have cost him the Australian captaincy.

He brought the curtain down on his two-decade career at an Indian Premier League match last month, several years after he retired from international cricket.

Hurley and actor Hugh Grant were one of Britain's leading celebrity couples in the 1990s but separated in 2000.

Moga Mukti

FROM PAGE 16

One of those resulted in a penalty on the 82nd minute when Amadi Moses handled the ball inside Farashganj penalty box. The could-be deciding penalty, as said before, was ruefully wasted by the league's top scorer.

And there was time left yet for another foray of attacks, and the last action saw Mithun hit the woodwork with his header, thus burying a rueful match and with it their title hopes to rest.

In the other match of the day, Liberian striker Benjamin Cooper slammed a second-half hatrick while Guinean Bangoura Ismael scored the other as Arambagh recorded a 4-0 win over already-relegated Chittagong Abahani at the Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Aramabh remained in the 8th position with 21 points from 20 matches while Abahani are rooted at the bottom with only 5 points.

Cheapest

FROM PAGE 16

Helal informed that nearly Tk 20 crore will come through ticket sales alone, in addition to the revenue generated from practice sessions. Although football's governing body has yet to finalise the venue where the practice sessions will take place, Helal said that they have the Army Stadium, BNS, Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and Fatullah Stadium as options for the practice venue.

As if sensing the intense anticipation surrounding the event, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin reassured his countrymen saying, "I am reconfirming that Argentina and Nigeria are coming here on September 3 to play a FIFA international friendly match on September 6."

Salahuddin also reiterated that Argentina and Barcelona star Lionel Messi is sure to come here as he (Salahuddin) met the star's Japanese agent on Tuesday.

"Messi's agent has asked me whether any corporate houses in Bangladesh are interested in signing Messi as their brand ambassador for a year as Messi is available for agreement," said Salahuddin quoting the Japanese agent.



England fast bowler Jimmy Anderson is about to take a catch during practice at the Rose Bowl yesterday. Anderson missed the second Test against Sri Lanka due to injury, but is back for the third Test that begins here today.

Sri Lanka need to win

Rose Bowl Test starts today



AFP, Southampton

If Sri Lanka manage a series-equalling victory in the third and final Test against England at the Rose Bowl, it will be one of their most impressive wins of recent times.

And it would certainly go a long way in helping interim coach Stuart Law, the former Australia batsman, get the job on a permanent basis.

An attack missing retired greats Muttiah Muralidaran and Chaminda Vaas, both now playing for English counties, as well as Lasith Malinga, has taken just 21 wickets in two Tests.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka head into the series finale, which starts on Thursday, without captain and in-form opening batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan, who had his thumb broken by England quick Chris Tremlett while making a superb 193 in the drawn second Test at Lord's.

Sri Lanka then had to persuade Kumar Sangakkara, Dilshan's immediate predecessor as skipper, to take up the reins again for what will be the first Test ever staged at the Rose Bowl, the home of southern county Hampshire.

The uncapped Lahiru Thirimanne, who made a century in last week's

drawn warm-up match against Essex, is set to take Dilshan's place in the team.

There was a time, following its debut as a first-class ground in 2001, where teams would have fancied their chances of taking 20 wickets so bowler-friendly was the Rose Bowl.

But the pitch has become progressively better to bat on and, while a five-day match has never been staged there before, all the indications are it will not deteriorate greatly.

In short, it looks like being another tough match for the bowlers, including Ashes star James Anderson, set to return after a side injury to lead an England attack that faltered in his absence at Lord's.

"It's going to be hard for us to get 20 wickets here, especially if the wicket is going to be as flat as it looks," Anderson said.

"To be honest in Test cricket at the moment a lot of the pitches are flat and it's something we've had to learn to deal with."

Steven Finn looks like being the man to make way for Anderson although Stuart Broad, for all his attractive lower order batting, will be aware a Test bowling average of nearly 36 could do with coming down soon.

Much of England's recent success

has been built on the runs flowing from the bat of opener Alastair Cook, whose century at Lord's followed on from his hundred in the innings and 14-run first Test win in Cardiff.

A first innings score of fifty at the Rose Bowl would see him equal the England record of six in a row -- two in the match would give him a share of a world record held by a group including England coach Andy Flower.

Victory would see England go joint-second in the ICC Test rankings, alongside South Africa, with only India, their next opponents this English season, above them.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Eoin Morgan, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, Chris Tremlett, James Anderson, Steven Finn.

SRI LANKA (from): Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Tharanga Paranavitana, Lahiru Thirimanne, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Dinesh Chandimal, Prasanna Jayawardene, Thisara Perera, Suraj Randiv, Ajantha Mendis, Rangana Herath, Dilhara Fernando, Chanaka Welegedara, Suranga Lakmal, Farveez Maharoof, Kaushal Silva.

India aim to end on a high



PTI, Kingston

Jolted by the massive loss in the fourth ODI, India would aim to get the crucial psychological edge over the West Indies before the Test series when they take on the hosts in the fifth and final one-day on Thursday.

The pitch at Sabina Park is expected to have pace and bounce and it would do a world of good to Kohli and Raina if they are able to spend some profitable time in the middle.

Both have had at least one notable innings in the series but their runs and averages so far -- 105 for Kohli at 26.25 and 82 for Raina at 27.33 -- aren't very impressive.

The only contender for a berth in the middle order, Subramaniam Badrinath, is way too behind in the race having made a mere 40 runs at 13.33 from four games and looking distinctly uncomfortable against short-pitched deliveries of Andre Russell in the fourth game on Monday.

The biggest beneficiary has been leg-spinner Amit Mishra with nine wickets at 17 apiece from four games.

He could revise the trend of going into a Test abroad with just one spinner. The West Indian batsmen have found him more than a handful in one-dayers and he could be an even bigger force in Tests given that he would have an attacking field to support him.

Mishra is likely to be retained in the fifth one-day even though he went for a few in the fourth game on Monday.

The team management would like to have a closer look at him on a pitch which is more suited to a fast bowler.

India would almost certainly go with two spinners in the final game and that leaves just two places for medium pacers.

On the face of it, Munaf Patel is almost a certainty for the Tests and that leaves Praveen Kumar and Ishant Sharma to battle it out for the second slot.

Praveen is yet to play a Test for India so he would not be short of motivation.

bowling combination which needs to be sorted out ahead of the Test series.

India need two middle-order batsmen for the first Test. So, there is an added incentive for Virat Kohli and Suresh Raina, almost certainties, to familiarise themselves with the venue.

The pitch at Sabina Park is expected to have pace and bounce and it would do a world of good to Kohli and Raina if they are able to spend some profitable time in the middle.

Both have had at least one notable innings in the series but their runs and averages so far -- 105 for Kohli at 26.25 and 82 for Raina at 27.33 -- aren't very impressive.

The only contender for a berth in the middle order, Subramaniam Badrinath, is way too behind in the race having made a mere 40 runs at 13.33 from four games and looking distinctly uncomfortable against short-pitched deliveries of Andre Russell in the fourth game on Monday.

The biggest beneficiary has been leg-spinner Amit Mishra with nine wickets at 17 apiece from four games.

He could revise the trend of going into a Test abroad with just one spinner. The West Indian batsmen have found him more than a handful in one-dayers and he could be an even bigger force in Tests given that he would have an attacking field to support him.

Mishra is likely to be retained in the fifth one-day even though he went for a few in the fourth game on Monday.

The team management would like to have a closer look at him on a pitch which is more suited to a fast bowler.

India would almost certainly go with two spinners in the final game and that leaves just two places for medium pacers.

On the face of it, Munaf Patel is almost a certainty for the Tests and that leaves Praveen Kumar and Ishant Sharma to battle it out for the second slot.

Praveen is yet to play a Test for India so he would not be short of motivation.

The likes of Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shahriar Nafees are progeny of the HP programme that has now been closed for more than five years. The current Bangladesh Cricket Board had promised long ago that they would bring it back but nothing in that line has begun.

The HP could be incorporated into the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy which has been revamped by the addition of a new head coach (Ross Turner) and has so far brought up 24 young cricketers. For the HP, the BCB will need a quality coach and trainer as it would work to reduce the gap from the highest level.

After Faruque, Shubhashish and Dhiman have their weights reduced and fitness enhanced, they could well go back to square one if they don't find the correct activities. Of course, better infrastructure is a must, but since it would take years (and a change of mindset) to bring these major changes, the BCB should at least devise ways to keep the pipeline flowing. It will take more than just the stray fitness camp.

Praveen is yet to play a Test for India so he would not be short of motivation.

The likes of Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shahriar Nafees are progeny of the HP programme that has now been closed for more than five years. The current Bangladesh Cricket Board had promised long ago that they would bring it back but nothing in that line has begun.

The HP could be incorporated into the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy which has been revamped by the addition of a new head coach (Ross Turner) and has so far brought up 24 young cricketers. For the HP, the BCB will need a quality coach and trainer as it would work to reduce the gap from the highest level.

After Faruque, Shubhashish and Dhiman have their weights reduced and fitness enhanced, they could well go back to square one if they don't find the correct activities. Of course, better infrastructure is a must, but since it would take years (and a change of mindset) to bring these major changes, the BCB should at least devise ways to keep the pipeline flowing. It will take more than just the stray fitness camp.

Praveen is yet to play a Test for India so he would not be short of motivation.

The likes of Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shahriar Nafees are progeny of the HP programme that has now been closed for more than five years. The current Bangladesh Cricket Board had promised long ago that they would bring it back but nothing in that line has begun.

Afridi takes case back

AFP, Karachi

Sacked former captain Shahid Afridi on Wednesday withdrew his court case against the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after the two sides apparently reached a deal likely to allow him to play abroad.

Afridi pulled his petition demanding the courts reinstate his permission to play overseas one day after he met PCB chairman Ijaz Butt when both sides reportedly agreed to settle the matter out of court.

"We have withdrawn the petition and after this Afridi will appear before the disciplinary committee likely on Thursday," Afridi's lawyer Mehmood Mandviwala told reporters outside the court in Karachi.

"We didn't want to go to court but were forced. Now I hope Afridi will get the NOC (no-objection certificate) and will be able to play in England and Sri Lanka," he added.

The PCB revoked Afridi's permission to play abroad, preventing him from appearing in the ongoing Twenty20 league in England and threatening his participation in next month's inaugural Sri Lankan Premier League.

Mohammadpur, Wraith win

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammadpur Basketball Club and Wraith won their matches of the Citycell Basketball League beating their respective opponents at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

M o h a m m a d p u r thrashed Josephites 59-22 while Wraith defeated The Shawons 49-44 after trailing the first half 11-25.

R'ganj appear

FROM PAGE 16

was any foul play. All four of them were showed video footages of the match, but they denied any involvement.

Rahmatganj were supposed to appear before the committee on Tuesday, but sought more time due to the preparation for upcoming matches. But a further warning from the committee made them appear a day after the scheduled date.

Committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy declined to make any comment on the interrogation as the investigation is under process. He however said they may hold talks with the other club, Sheikh Jamal on Saturday next.

TESTS THROUGH TIME



The battered Bill Woodfull ducks one from Bill Voce in Adelaide.

Light-years ahead

Douglas Jardine maybe a pariah in Australia even to this day but his vision to employ a tactic that was lightyears ahead, and courage to go through with a plan grants him a place in the pantheon of cricket captains.

His plan was the Bodyline, a theory where the ball is delivered fast into the batsman's body with a ring of close-in fielders on the leg-side, was a method to combat the extraordinary batting skills of Don Bradman, who was threatening to push the mother country into further depression. At the time, the Australian was averaging around 112.29 in 19 Tests and more significantly, had destroyed England in the 1930 Ashes with 974 runs (still a record).

Jardine, a proud man whose batting style mirrored his strong character, was given the job of bringing back the Empire's lost glory. Given the massive task to stop Bradman, the Scotsman delved upon this plan aided by a marked loathing for Australians (after the 1928 series where he was abused for his Harlequin cap).

After consulting Percy Fender who called Bradman "yellow" (weak against short-pitched bowling), Jardine called up Harold Larwood and Bill Voce to Piccadilly Hotel a month before departure. Larwood, a broad-shouldered Nottinghamshire fast bowler, told the captain that Bradman "didn't break my heart in 1930, he just made me tired" and agreed to the plan.

England won the first Test despite Stan McCabe's 187 but mainly because Bradman didn't play. In the second Test, Bradman returned to a standing ovation but, expecting a short ball after Jardine had meticulously set his leg-side field, he played on to Bill Bowes for his only first-ball duck. He countered the leg theory in the second innings by swaying away and struck 103, helping Australia to a 111-run win.

The acrimony, after skipper Bill Woodfull was struck under the heart by a Larwood lifter, came into the fore in the third Test. Already there was tension in the England camp when Gubby Allen and the Nawab of Pataudi didn't agree with the tactics and the latter who refused to field in the ring of leg-side field, was dropped.

On the second day, Larwood slammed one into Woodfull's chest, Jardine further riling the Australians with a "well bowled Harold" within earshot of non-striker Bradman. Another one knocked the bat out of the skipper's hand and the crowd bayed for blood. Bradman fended another Larwood throat ball to short leg.

After play, England's self-appointed manager Sir Pelham Warner visited the Australian dressing-room to check on Woodfull, who famously replied, "Mr Warner, there are two teams out in the field, one is playing cricket, the other is not. That is all I have to say."

The next day, Bert Oldfield was hit on the head and as Jardine pricked the crowd further by taking a spot in the boundary, a riot brewing. Bradman struck 66 but England took a 2-1 lead through a huge 338-run win.

The Australian board complained to the MCC, who were unmoved and the series, already a blockbuster, continued. The next two Tests were anticlimactic although Bradman was hit on the shoulder (the only time in the series) by Larwood in the fifth Test, England had recaptured the Ashes.

Jardine left captaincy soon after while Larwood and Voce never played again for England. But Bodyline, despite being outlawed, was one of the most ingenious tactics ever used on a cricket field.

-- Mohammad Isam

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 42 Part of Q.E.D. 1 Leading man? 6 Presaged 11 Orb 12 A whole lot 14 Student's dissertation 15 Belief in God 16 Inlet 17 "Endymion" poet 19 Conk out 20 Part of T.A.E. 22 Personal question 23 Antitoxins 24 Beg 26 Constitution tweeker 28 Scepter 30 Vast expanse 31 Moe, Larry and Curly 35 Studies all night 39 Pork cut 40 Pie filling?

DOWN 10 Want 11 Bra part difficulties 13 Slander 18 "Caught ya!" 21 Composer as grain 3 Copland nowhere man" 4 Actor Estrada 5 Do further stitching 6 Pajama halves 7 Ahs' mates 8 HST's successor 9 Skipped a phoneme 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Solution time: 27 mins.

REPRO	TEL	OCT			
ETHOS	ICE	RHO			
SHIVA	PHIL	BIN			
	LEGATO	ATIDE			
ANT	ELO	UTTER			
TEEM	LEASE				
MORENO	GOSPEL				
ROWAN	THEY				
TEAMS	DEW	IRE			
ETNA	REWARD				
PHINEAS	THIEF				
EEL	ACT	CEASE			
ERE	TEE	HASTY			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11					12				13	
14					15					
16			17		18			19		
20		21		22			23			
24			25		26		27			
		28		29		30				
31	32	33			34		35	36	37	38
39				40		41		42		
43			44			45		46		
47		48				49		50		
51						52				
	53					54				

CRYPTOQUIP

XF EUAK AQMFC JMW DQMSW
UDA KUX AU OQFONQF AKF
OUANAUF, EDA RHF UDAIUZF
XNL ZNLK IUSJDLMS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A PENTAGONAL ABOUT TAKING CARE OF TINY, FURRY PET RODENTS MIGHT BE CALLED "GOOD MOUSEKEEPING."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals W