

Naeem, Rasel also in S'pore meet

SPORTS REPORTER

Naeem Islam and Syed Rasel have been added to the Bangladesh contingent in the IA T20 Super Challenge Cup in Singapore that begins on July 29.

They join all-rounders Alok Kapali and Sohrawardhi Shuvo who were earlier selected by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to take part in the tournament.

They will all play in the ICS Lions side in the four-team tournament with Australian paceman Shaun Tait being their icon player, replacing Lasith Malinga of Sri Lanka.

Malinga's compatriot Sanath Jayasuriya, Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar and former New Zealand speedster Shane Bond are the other icon players in the competition which has been organised by the Singapore Indian Association.

ICS Lions take on Sentosa Challengers in the opening game of the three-day competition.

Dhoni facing 1-Test ban

ANI, London

Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is facing a one-match Test ban unless his team manages to increase their bowling over-rate in the ongoing Lord's Test against England.

According to the Daily Express, India recorded an over-rate of 13 per hour instead of the required 15 during England's first innings.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct states that the captain of any team which is found guilty of bowling slow over-rates on three occasions in a 12-month period will face a one-match suspension.

Even if Dhoni do escape punishment on this occasion, the threat is likely to remain throughout the series.

Prior ton

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Broad's joy continued when he struck third ball to bowl Abhinav Mukund for 12, the left-hander playing on to him for the second time in the match.

India were again down to just three frontline bowlers as left-arm quick Zaheer Khan remained sidelined with a hamstring strain.

Fellow seamer Ishant Sharma still rocked England with three wickets for one run in 16 balls before lunch on his way to four for 59 in 22 overs.

Kevin Pietersen had made a superb 202 not out in England's first innings 474-8 dec (Pietersen 202 n.o, Prior 71, Trott 70; Kumar 5-106)

INDIA: First innings 286 (Dravid 103 n.o; Broad 4-37, Tremlett 3-80)

ENGLAND: Second innings 269-6 dec (Prior 103 n.o, Broad 74 n.o; Sharma 4-59)

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SCORES IN BRIEF

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Sheikh Kamal

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tourney, providing Tk 30 lakh out of an estimated budget of Tk 50 lakh.

AK Sarker informed that the grouping would be finalised after Monday's managers' meeting as the participating teams were expected to reach the city yesterday. He also said that Bangladesh's target in this tournament is to play in the final.

Evans brings Tour glory down under



Cycling

AFP, Paris

Cadel Evans sealed an historic first Tour de France victory for his native Australia after the 21st and final stage of the epic race on Sunday.

Britain's Mark Cavendish, of HTC-Highroad, took his third consecutive stage win on the Champs Elysees where Evans, who rides for BMC, maintained his lead of 1min 34sec over Andy Schleck of Luxembourg who rides for Leopard.

In third place was Frank Schleck, 31, who finished 2:30 behind.

Cavendish has now won five stages this year, taking his tally to 20. His third consecutive stage victory on the final stage of the race means he becomes the first Briton to secure the green jersey for the race's points competition.

Isle of Man rider Cavendish will therefore be the first Briton to step on to the podium since 1984 when Scotland's Robert Millar took the King of the Mountains jersey on his way to a fourth place finish.

Spaniard Samuel Sanchez, of the Euskaltel team, won this year's polka dot jersey while Frenchman Pierre Rolland, of Europcar, won the white jersey for the best placed rider aged

25 and under.

Evans had already been Australia's most successful rider on the world's premier cycling event thanks to two runner-up places in 2007 and 2008.

Two years after becoming Australia's first ever world road race champion, Evans made history in convincing fashion a day after disposing Schleck of the yellow jersey after the 20th and penultimate stage time trial.

Schleck held a 57sec lead on Evans following the final mountain stage to Alpe d'Huez, won by Rolland, on Friday and was confident of taking the yellow jersey all the way to Paris.

However the Luxemburger, known as a climbing specialist, fell victim to his comparatively inferior time trialling skills on the challenging 42.5 km course around Grenoble on Saturday.

Evans slashed his deficit to just 36sec by the 15 km mark of the individual race against the clock, and by the halfway point he had become virtual leader.

In the end the Australian beat Schleck by 2:30, dropping the Luxemburger to second by 1:34.

Schleck, who had won the white jersey from 2008-2010, has now come runner-up for the third consecutive year having finished second to Alberto Contador in 2009 and 2010.



PHOTO: AFP

Yellow jersey holder and eventual winner Cadel Evans of Australia rides with a glass of Champagne in the 21st and last stage of the Tour de France between Creteil and Paris Champs-Elysees on Sunday.

Lewis wins in Germany

AFP, Nurburgring



Lewis Hamilton secured his second win of the year and 16th of his career on Sunday when he confirmed McLaren's renaissance with a brilliant victory in the German Grand Prix.

The 26-year-old Englishman, who started from second on the grid, took the lead from the start and produced a well-judged race supported by excellent strategy to resist strong challenges from his rivals and finish triumphant.

The 2008 champion controlled the race for long periods, but had to fight at times to retain his advantage as he came home 3.9 seconds ahead of second placed Spaniard Fernando Alonso of Ferrari.

Japanese Kamui Kobayashi was ninth for Sauber, after starting 17th, and Russian Vitaly Petrov 10th for Renault.



Lord's ton to elude Sachin

AFP, London

The two-times champion, who had won the British Grand Prix two weeks ago, finished a strong second ahead of third-placed Australian Mark Webber, the pole-sitter, of Red Bull and his teammate and defending champion Sebastian Vettel, in fourth, after a brilliant final pit stop.

It was runaway leader Vettel's worst finish of a dominant season and signalled that, at last, the Red Bull team have a battle on their hands in the second half of the year.

Brazilian Felipe Massa came home fifth for Ferrari ahead of Germans Adrian Sutil of Force India, Nico Rosberg of Mercedes and his team-mate seven-times champion Michael Schumacher.

Japanese Kamui Kobayashi was ninth for Sauber, after starting 17th, and Russian Vitaly Petrov 10th for Renault.

India great Sachin Tendulkar is unlikely to score his 100th international hundred in the first Test against England here at Lord's after spending Sunday's first two sessions off the field with a virus.

The length of his absence means Tendulkar, out for 34 in India's first innings on Saturday, won't be able to bat any higher than No 7, the fall of the fifth wicket, during the tourists' second innings.

And that could scupper Tendulkar's hopes of both of scoring his 100th international hundred in this match -- his 51 in Tests and 48 in one-dayers are both records -- and his first Test century at Lord's where his top score in eight knocks to date is a modest 37.

Under the playing conditions for this series, Law 2.1.2, which deals with substituted players, states: "The player shall not be permitted to bat unless or until, in the aggregate, he has returned to the field and/or his side's innings has been in progress for at least that length of playing time for which he has been absent or, if earlier, when his side have lost five wickets."

Tendulkar returned for the start of Sunday's final session, having been off the field for more than four-and-a-quarter hours.

England were 174 for six in their second innings, a lead of 362 runs, with Matt Prior 55 not out and Stuart Broad 36 not out.

Tendulkar, 38, played some trademark classic shots before he was caught at second slip by Graeme Swann off seam bowler Broad on Saturday.

Given his age, the second innings of this match could represent Tendulkar's last chance to score a Test hundred at Lord's.

Waugh, Lorgat differ



AFP, London

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Haroon Lorgat has hit back at Steve Waugh's claim that 56 cricketers reported illegal approaches by bookmakers to the sport's governing body last year.

"Who's to say there were not as many in years gone by that were not reported?"

"The fact is players are far more conscious today. The vast majority certainly play the game in the right spirit and they have the integrity to play the game properly and they are coming forward and reporting such approaches so that's a good thing."

Waugh, a member of the MCC's world cricket committee, has controversially called for players to take lie-detector tests in a bid to root out corruption from cricket and wants to discuss his proposal with the ICC's anti-corruption and security unit (ACSU). He was spurred into action following last year's revelations by Britain's now defunct News of the World tabloid that former Pakistan captain Salman Butt, and bowlers Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif, were all involved in the deliberate bowling of no-balls during a Test against England at Lord's as part of a betting scam.

The Pakistan trio were suspended for a minimum of five years' each by the ICC, the sport's global governing body, and are now awaiting a criminal trial in England due to start in October.

Defeat expected

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Titus said: "Lebanon are definitely not better than teams like Uzbekistan, UAE and Qatar against whom we lost by a narrow margin. After conceding a 2-0 lead in the first, we should have defended to keep hopes alive as we will face them on home ground."

Coach Maruf Haq blamed lack of preparation of the national team for the debacle. Lebanon reportedly started their preparation in early June and played three practice matches before facing Bangladesh.

"We were confused whether we should give more time to the national side or organise the Super Cup. Five days of practice is not enough for a coach to transmit his philosophy to the players," said Maruf.

Maruf also referred to the fact that Lebanon overcame their lack of international exposure in recent times by playing three friendly matches while Bangladesh got only five days for preparation and no practice matches.

Fish-Isner rematch

AFP, Atlanta

Defending champion Mardy Fish and John Isner lined up a re-run of last year's final at the ATP Atlanta Championships with decisive semifinal victories on Saturday.

Top seed Fish won his eighth straight match at the venue as he schooled American teenager Ryan Harrison 6-2, 6-4 in a win over a promising youngster a decade his junior.

Isner, seeded third, will play his second final in as many tournaments after beating Luxembourg's Gilles Muller 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Pigpen 2 Mine entrance 23 Donkey

1 Raga-muffin 40 Actor Quinn 24 Morsel

5 Suitable 43 Comedy 25 Support system?

8 Academic style 26 Baltimore

12 Stench 47 Horse-drawn

13 Bakery purchase carriage

14 Jason's 49 Emanation

15 New Zealand 50 Body powder

16 Norm 51 Sheepish remark?

18 Living-stone's 52 Periodicals, for

20 Just sat there 53 Sheltered

21 Petrol 54 Doctrine

22 Individual 55 Bullring

23 Westminster, for one bravos

26 Of tin 34 Stir-fry

30 Round vessels

Table address

31 Enthusiast 35 Trig. function

32 Alias abbr. 36 Greek vowel

33 Suffragist 37 Generator

Elizabeth 38 39 Kettle output

Cady — 40 "The Thin Man" dog

36 Just defeated, with "out" 41 Slanted type (Abbr.)

42 Driver Earnhardt

43 Resorts

44 Two-way

45 Desire

46 Elapse

48 Japanese sash

Solution time: 21 mins.

31 Enthusiast T U T U F I E A C H Y

32 Alias O V E N O D E C H O U

33 Suffragist M E N S R O L L C A L L

34 Westminster B A D E E G G S I R R E E

35 Trig. function R O L L O V E R E S S E

36 Greek vowel E R A B E N E S M I L

37 Generator V E N T R O L L B A C K