

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 Sohrawardi 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 for eight declared.

But on Sunday he was out for one when he feathered a steeping Sharma delivery to India captain and wicket-keeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Five balls later Ian Bell fell in similar fashion for naught.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 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)

INDIA: Second innings 80-1 (Dravid 34 n.o., Laxman 32 n.o.; Broad 1-12)

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



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 dispossessing 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.

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.



McLaren Mercedes's British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates on the podium after winning the German Formula One Grand Prix at the Nurburgring racetrack yesterday.

'Aussie rebuilding must begin in SL'



AFP, Sydney

Captain Michael Clarke said Sunday Australia must begin their rebuilding to world number one status on next month's tour to Sri Lanka.

Clarke, who replaced Ricky Ponting as Test skipper in March, leads Australia in five one-dayers and three Tests in Sri Lanka, while two Twenty20 internationals will also be played.

Australia are going through a painful transition period since being the leading Test and one-day nation and have lost their last two Test series against England and India and six of their last eight Tests.

Clarke said he was excited by the challenge of leading Australia into a new cricketing age.

"I've really enjoyed the last couple of months, to be able to help, with the support of Cricket Australia and our coach Tim Nielsen, to try and set up some strategies and plans for our

future," Clarke told television on Sunday.

"I've always said we've got a lot of talent in the Australian squad and we continually see that in domestic cricket in Australia.

"I certainly don't see any reason why we can't improve and I think we need to start in Sri Lanka.

"We know we need to do a lot of work. Every day we get out of bed our goal is to try and get better and we've started that.

"We've had a couple of camps up in Brisbane at the Centre of Excellence that have been fantastic, we know it's just the start, but we're looking forward to what lies ahead."

After the Sri Lanka tour, the Australians travel to South Africa and face visits by New Zealand and India in the Southern Hemisphere summer.

The Australian T20 squad will leave for Sri Lanka on July 30 while ODI-only players depart on August 5 and Test-only players leave on August 16.

Change of guard

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skipper Shakib Al Hasan are in command of places.

But while the openers have become better and bolder and the Tigers now have a world-class all-rounder in their midst, the pace attack at the time had the forceful Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Shafiqul Islam hasn't quite cut his teeth in Test cricket and would be provided with two supporting acts in Harare. The spinners too were collectively better in the 2005 Test; Rafique and Enamul Haque as opposed to the lone Shakib in this game.

Though Bangladesh and Zimbabwe have played ODIs at least once a year during the last six years, the Tigers are likely to face a deceptively stronger challenge.

Zimbabwe have hosted a tri-series with Australia A and South Africa A and have already played three longer-version games against the former. Though they lost all three, some of their batsmen are in form with newly-appointed skipper Brendan Taylor hammering two half-centuries in the just-concluded second four-dayer.

With Ray Price taking wickets at will, Bangladesh must be prepared for a hard scrap when they fly off to Harare on July 27. The visitors too will be desperate to win a series they are expected to win; a loss for the Tigers would be catastrophic.

Asia Cup '12 rescheduled

CRICINFO, Dubai

The 2012 Asia Cup has been rescheduled to avoid conflicting with the ODI tri-series in Australia that also includes Sri Lanka and India, the Asian Cricket Council has said. The tournament was originally supposed to be played from March 1 to March 11, but with the tri-series ending on March 8, the tournament will now be played from March 12 to March 22. The venue, Dhaka, remains unchanged.



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.

Lord's ton to elude Sachin

AFP, London

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 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.

Former Australia captain Waugh recently claimed that the number of illegal contacts reported had risen dramatically over the last two years.

The 46-year-old said only five reports had been made by players in 2009, while 56 were logged in 2010.

But Lorgat believes the increase does not reflect greater corruption. Instead he insists Waugh's figures cannot be proved and even if they are correct, it would only show that players are now more aware of their responsibility to report those illegal approaches.

Lorgat told Radio Five Live's Sportsweek programme: "I'm not sure where Steve Waugh gets that figure from because we do not publish any such information.

"In fact there's one individual in the anti-corruption and security unit that maintains such records and he does not even know the figure himself, simply because he had not compiled it. So I'm not sure where Steve Waugh gets that figure from.

Defeat expected

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Titu 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 Maruful 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 seeded 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
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5 Suitable
8 Academic
12 Stench
13 Bakery purchase
14 Jason's ship
15 New Zealand bird
16 Norm
18 Living-stone's rescuer
20 Just sat there
21 Petrol
22 Individual
23 Westminster, for one
26 Of tin
30 Round Table address
31 Enthusiast
32 Alias abbr.
33 Suffragist Elizabeth Cady —
36 Just defeated, with "out"
38 Eg. and Syr., once

DOWN
1 Stir-fry vessels
2 Mine entrance
3 Corn Belt state
4 Surrey decoration
5 Church sections
6 Compassion
7 Afternoon beverage
8 Enrage
9 Exam format
10 Shrek, for one
11 Lincoln in-law
17 1492 carrier
19 Deposit
22 Mel of Coopers-town
23 Donkey
24 Morsel
25 Support system?
26 Baltimore newspaper
27 Gripe repeatedly
28 Eisenhower
29 Scoundrel
31 Neither partner
34 Subtlety
35 Trig. function
36 Greek vowel
37 Generator
39 Kettle output
40 "The Thin Man" dog
41 Slanted type (Abbr.)
42 Driver
43 Resorts
44 Two-way
45 Desire
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48 Japanese sash

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CRYPTOQUIP

WNB LNXB KNAULINTE JARUIQR
QN RQDL KUDHQKL, EU
SUBL RXBU QKUL KDSU DHH
NW QKUJB EUU SJQDTJAR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AMERICAN STATE IN WHICH EVERYBODY REALLY LOVES TO WATCH WIMBLEDON MATCHES: TENNIS-SEE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T