

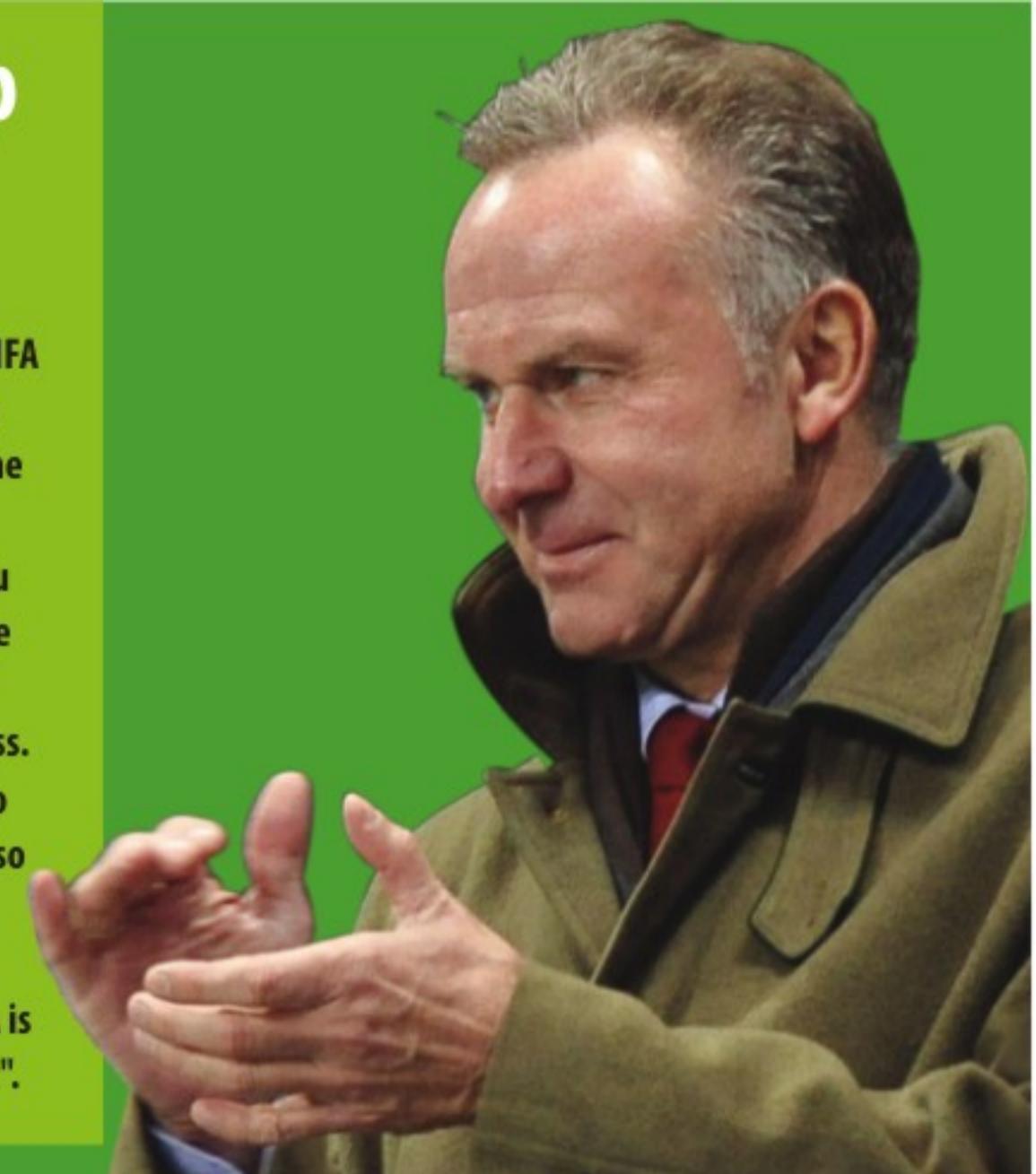
Kalle calls Sepp a slippery eel

Bayern Munich boss Karl-Heinz Rummenigge on Tuesday attacked FIFA president Sepp Blatter by describing him as being like a slippery 'eel' at the head of a 'dictatorship'.

"I believe Sepp is like an eel, who you can never really grasp," Rummenigge said on German football show LIGA total! when asked about the FIFA boss.

"It will be difficult to convince him to make room. For others or perhaps also for a new start."

Rummenigge also said he believes world football's governing body FIFA is "neither transparent nor democratic".



Is Ashraful dropped?

BCB yet to name 2nd Test squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraful is going to face the music again for his poor batting in the first Test against Pakistan in Chittagong. The national selectors have decided on the 14-member squad without Ashraful for the second and final Test to be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from December 17.

"We submitted the team to the board today because we have only two days in hand for practice before the second Test match," said chief selector Akram Khan. But Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) didn't release the list yesterday despite the fact that training will start from this morning, just 48 hours before the Test.

The chief selector is apparently disturbed by the fact that the team was not announced although the practice is scheduled in the morning.

It is however feared that there will be last minute changes from the high-ups. BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal was in Singapore and is scheduled to return home today along with his Pakistan counterpart Zaka Ashraf.

It is also all but confirmed that pacer Rubel Hossain will miss the second Test due to a shoulder injury while Shahadat Hossain

is likely to keep his place despite his poor effort in the first Test in the port city which Bangladesh lost by an innings and 184 runs. Shafiqul Islam will come in place of Rubel, but the real debate has centred on Ashraful's fate during yesterday's selection meeting.

The selectors, coach Stuart Law and captain Mushfiqur Rahim earlier met the BCB's cricket operations committee to discuss the team's performance in the ongoing series where they stressed on bringing confidence back in the players. Bangladesh's batting was pathetic in the first Test and Ashraful made the selectors look foolish again by scoring just one run in the first innings and a three-ball duck in the second.

The recall of Ashraful for the Test series surprised many as the right-hander was dropped for the Twenty20 and one-day series against Pakistan for being out of form and he was supposed to be out of the team for at least a year.

Now it would be really funny if the axe fell on the same man.

PROBABLE SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Mahmudullah (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Shakib Al Hasan, Naeem Islam, Nasir Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Elias Sunny, Shahadat Hossain, Sohrabadi Shuvo, Robiul Islam, Nazimuddin.

Kapali, Nafis to lead V-Day cricket sides

SPORTS REPORTER

The Victory Day exhibition cricket match between Shaheed Jewel XI and Shaheed Mushtaque XI will be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

The game is scheduled to start at 9:30am.

All-rounder Alok Kapali will lead the Shaheed Jewel XI while Nafis Iqbal has been named captain for Shaheed Mushtaque XI.

The traditional Victory Day cricket match was first organized in 1972 in memory of Liberation War martyrs Shaheed Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel and Shaheed Mushtaque Ahmed.

The selected players are asked to contact their respective team managers today at the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) building at 10am.

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Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim leaves the hotel in Chittagong as the team left the port city for Dhaka yesterday ahead of the second Test against Pakistan due to start in Mirpur on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

M-o-m to be picked by experts

REUTERS, Hobart

Cricket Australia (CA) will revert to a panel of experts to decide man-of-the-match awards after Doug Bracewell failed to win a public vote despite bowling New Zealand to victory in the second Test in Hobart on Monday.

Bracewell's six wickets for 40 runs in Australia's second innings were decisive in the Black Caps winning their first Test across the Tasman Sea since 1985, as they drew the series 1-1.

The 21-year-old lost out to the Australia opener David Warner, who made an unbeaten 123, in a vote conducted among subscribers of a mobile telephone company which is a major sponsor of Australian cricket.

"We were always running a bit of a trial for these two Tests with those man-of-the-match awards, but we will definitely revert back to an expert's choice for that decision about man-of-the-match," CA chief executive, James Sutherland, told Melbourne's Radio 3AW on Wednesday.



The Dhaka Metropolis-Sylhet second phase match of the National Cricket League ended in a stalemate at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The result kept Khulna, who crushed Rajshahi in just two days in the other game, at the top of the table with Dhaka Metro a close second.

During the fourth and final day's play, Dhaka Metro extended their second innings by 104 runs, ending on 480-7 in 132.2 overs.

Mehrab Hossain Jr struck his first hundred this season as he stayed unbeaten on 104 runs from 227 balls with the help of seven boundaries and a six.

He added 179 for the fifth wicket with Marshall Ayub, who made 83.

Sylhet chased 347 runs but they predictably played it safe, ending on 201-4 from 50 overs with Imtiaz Hossain and Shaker Ahmed scoring 65 and 61 respectively.

The next round begins on December 18 when Khulna take on Sylhet in Chittagong while at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium, Dhaka Metro face Rajshahi.

SCORE IN BRIEF

DHAKA METRO: First innings 129 and second innings 480-7 dec. in 132.2 overs (Shamsur 93, Asif 82, Mehrab 104 not out, Marshall 83; Jayed 2-70, Enamul 3-174).

SYLHET: First innings 263 and second innings 201-4 in 50 overs (Imtiaz 65, Shaker 61; Shariful 2-30).

Result: Match drawn.

BOI's letter to BFF, BCB

SPORTS REPORTER

The Board of Investment has recently sent a letter to both Bangladesh Football Federation and Bangladesh Cricket Board to bring the foreign nationals participating in the country's sports under taxation.

More than hundred African footballers come to Bangladesh each year in search of footballing fortune here, many of whom are rejected in the trial by the clubs. However, many of them don't go back to their homeland after their visa expires and overstay and take part in various tournaments without work permit.

The BOI, in a bid to end this, sent a letter to both BFF and BCB recently. BFF's acting general secretary Abu Nayem Sohag greeted the move, "We have received a letter from the BOI in this regard. This is a good initiative and if it comes into effect, we will have less influx of sub-standard foreign footballers here." The clubs have already been informed about the letter, also informed Sohag.

Mentionable here that last year the special branch of police collected information from BFF about unregistered players in an effort to stop the influx of illegal emigrants. That move though did not materialize in the end.

IPL yet to pay Sunny

AFP, New Delhi

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar says he is "shaken and baffled" by his national cricket board's refusal to pay his 1-million-dollar fees per season for the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Gavaskar says the cash-rich Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) owes him the money for serving on the governing council of the glitzy Twenty20 league for the first three seasons from 2008 to 2010.

He said the money was promised to him by the then IPL chief Lalit Modi, who was subsequently sacked by

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Brothers' smart picks
Badal group in Victoria

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman's benevolent gesture towards Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and the uncertainty surrounding Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal might have attracted most attention, but it was Brothers Union who walked away with a good collection of cricketers on the first day of the Premier League's inter-club players' transfers yesterday.

In an otherwise quiet day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, the contingent from the promoted side livened up proceedings. Apart from the Gopibagh outfit, Biman as well as Cricket Coaching School (CCS) signed players on the opening day.

Abdur Razzak and Rubel Hossain are Brothers' national pool players who have moved from Surjo Tarun and Prime Dholeswar respectively but it is their batting unit that looks most promising.

Nazimuddin, Mahbubul Karim Mithu, Aftab Ahmed, Dhiman Ghosh, Nafis Iqbal and Tushar Imran make up their batting order while also including left-arm seamer Ashraful Haque, off-spinner Raihan Uddin Arif and left-arm spinner Taposh Ghosh; Umar Akmal and Sohail Tanvir are most likely to be their foreign players.

Victoria Sporting Club is set to be the destination of Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal after Lutfar Rahman Badal, the Mohammedian Sporting Club cricket head, moved the national pair and several others to the neighbouring club.

"I am a Mohammedian man but since I have a commitment towards these players, I had to

get them to a new club," said Lutfar, named the chairman of Victoria's governing body.

"These players have an image in the country and that couldn't be compromised," he added.

Apart from Shakib and Tamim, Shoaib Malik will also put pen to paper for Victoria while Mosharraf Hossain Rubel, Al-Amin Hossain, Saikat Ali and a few others will follow suit.

Meanwhile, Biman came in late and had eight players put pen to paper including left-handed batsman Junaid Siddiqui, all-rounder Rezaul Karim, Ehsanul Haque, the veteran Javed Omar, Asif Hasan and off-spinner Fariduddin Masud. Pakistan batsmen Imran Farhat and Younis Khan are also set to be roped in by Biman while Fawwad Alam could be the first foreigner to be signed by Biman this season.

Mashrafe, who played for Biman four seasons ago, has joined the national airliner from defending champions Abahani. He thanked Biman for signing him up, especially given his injury situation.

"I am grateful to Biman because they gave me the chance, since the national team's physio will tell me which matches to play. I couldn't have done this in bigger clubs like Abahani or Mohammedian but Biman will let me play quite freely," said the former national captain.

"The challenge in front of me is to return to the national team. From a personal point of view, I have earned enough money. This time I will play [in the Premier League] to return to the national team.

"I asked the people at Biman if they could give me a chance. Thankfully, they agreed

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Bhajji gets back his valuables

CRICINFO, Haryana

Harbhajan Singh, the India off-spinner, has recovered a part of his valuables which were stolen from his car on the Punjab-Delhi highway. Haryana Police on Tuesday found his bag, lying in an abandoned area, containing his passport and other documents, including credit cards. However, 9,500 rupees in cash was still missing.

Harbhajan registered the theft at the local police station, after his parked car was broken into outside a coffee shop.

"It took us only three minutes to go to Cafe Coffee Day and bring coffee back to our car. But when we reached, we were shocked to find that our car glass had been cut and our important belongings were not to be found," Harbhajan told The Indian Express.

He was recently ruled out of Punjab's Ranji Trophy campaign after a long-standing shin injury in his left leg resurfaced. Harbhajan, who was leading Punjab, was using the Ranji matches to try and make a comeback to the Indian team. He had returned home

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