

Bangladesh Games could be back soon

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is keen to hold the Bangladesh Games for the first time in 10 years after the newly elected committee led by Shahed Reza, currently Bangladesh's Ambassador to Kuwait, came to power last November.

The BOA recently submitted a revised budget for the 8th Bangladesh Games to the Ministry of Youth and Sports after reducing the size of the budget to Tk 5.13 crore from Tk 8.63 crore, which was submitted by the previous committee. The government did not approve that budget.

The last edition of the Bangladesh Games was held in 2002 and since then the BOA failed to stage the sports extravaganza due to non allocation of government fund but this time BOA got the green signal from the government.

"The BOA president and the secretary general have talked to the higher authority of the government, who responded positively and we are hopeful of holding the Bangladesh Games," acting secretary general Ashiqur Rahman Miku told reporters.

"We are preparing for holding the meet at the latter part of March. The final decision will be taken at BOA's executive committee meeting on January 22," said Miku.

Mushfiqur

FROM PAGE 16 member contracted players' list for this year, in which Mahmudullah was elevated to Grade A+ from A to share the top category along with Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur, Tamim Iqbal and Abdur Razzak.

All-rounder Nasir Hossain, who had a very impressive performance in the year gone by, was elevated to from Grade C to B, a grade that also has fast bowlers Rubel Hossain and Shaiful Islam. Jahurul Islam and Elias Sunny were kept in Grade C.

Shohag, Anamul, Mominul and Abul were brought into the rookie grade for their good showing in the last home series against West Indies.

The board has also approved a ten percent increase in salary for all contracted players for the year 2013.

The contracts of game development coaches and BCB panel umpires have been extended by three months while the contract of the BCB Women's Wing head coach Ossie Priyraj Weerasinghe was extended by six months.

Hooper keen

FROM PAGE 16 before quitting last May.

ESPNcricinfo understands that Mick Newell, Nottinghamshire's director of cricket, remains interested in an international coaching position if the terms are appropriate. He had earlier pulled out of the race after initially showing interest when Bangladesh was looking to replace Stuart Law last year.

Following Richard Pybus's resignation in October, Shane Jurgensen, the bowling coach, took over as the interim coach during the home series against West Indies, Bangladesh's last international assignment. Yunus said that if the BCB cannot find a suitable replacement ahead of the Sri Lanka tour, they will ask Jurgensen to continue.

AFC CHALLENGE CUP QUALIFIERS
BFF eager to get De Kruif in March



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation is eager to get Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif ahead of the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers in March and it is ready to pay the coach one month's salary as well as bonus, in case of success, for his three-week stay here.

The tournament, which involves hosts Nepal, Palestine, Northern Mariana Island and Bangladesh, will run from March 2 to 8.

"Yesterday (Sunday) I talked to De Kruif's agent who wanted to know about the financial package we were ready to offer for this short stint. I told him that the coach would get one month's salary in line with Memorandum of Understanding

he signed with the federation," Salahuddin told reporters at the BFF House yesterday.

"In addition, we will pay him a handsome bonus if he can take Bangladesh to the final phase of the AFC Challenge Cup. The agent will inform the coach about the offer by Friday," said Salahuddin.

On Saturday, the BFF signed a MoU with De Kruif and Rene Koster as Bangladesh national team's head coach and BFF Academy coach respectively and the contract will be effective from June.

The BFF boss also informed that they were thinking of hosting three International friendlies against Thailand, Malaysia and UAE U-23 sides in August instead of February, as part of preparation for the SAFF Championship which is scheduled for September.

Second ODI today
India need to improve bowling



PTI, Kochi

Still smarting from their narrow nine-run defeat in the opening ODI match, a struggling India will have to work on their bowling frailties and inconsistent batting as they take on England in the second one-day here on Tuesday with the pressure on the home team.

Nothing seems to be going right for Mahendra Singh Dhoni and his men as after their 1-2 series loss in the three-match ODI series against Pakistan, India again started on the wrong foot against England last Friday.

The Indians will have to give a serious thought to the team composition as another defeat may put immense pressure on the team and may make it very difficult to stage a comeback.

With the top order batsmen failing repeatedly, the team management may toy with the idea of bringing in Cheteswar Pujara though Dhoni is not keen to tamper with the composition of the team as yet.

In the first ODI, India's bowling frailties were exposed as they conceded 38 runs in the last two overs, which cost them the match and the bowlers really have to sort out their problems of bowling at the death overs if the hosts have to bounce back.

There is very little margin for error for bowlers on batting friendly conditions and unlike in the Pakistan series, conditions are

not going favour the bowlers this time during the five-match one-day series against England.

The English batsmen have come well prepared and any mistake by the Indian bowlers will be detrimental to the team's cause.

Following their historic 2-1 victory over India in the Test series, the England side has returned for the one day series after Christmas and have an edge going into the second ODI. England bowlers have shown tremendous resilience as even in difficult situations they never gave up.

The pace trio of Jade Dernbach, Tim Bresnan and Steven Finn too have contributed well, sharing five wickets among them in the first ODI.

Their batting also have been rock solid in the first game as the top-order fired in unison to post a mammoth 325 and now an inspired England will look to push for another victory on Tuesday.

SQUADS

INDIA (possible): Gautam Gambhir, Ajinkya Rahane, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, MS Dhoni (captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravi Ashwin, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ishant Sharma and Ashok Dinda or Shami Ahmed.

ENGLAND (possible): Alastair Cook (captain), Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Eoin Morgan, Craig Kieswetter, Joe Root, Samit Patel, Tim Bresnan, James Tredwell, Jade Dernbach and Steven Finn.

All's well with BPL?

FROM PAGE 16

been coming through the media, but we didn't get any official response from the PCB, so we are hopeful," he added.

The news came through the media that Pakistan will send their players only if BCB confirm the tour but Yunus said: "The fact is that all reactions came through the media, but we didn't get anything. There is no reason to think negatively about the Pakistan players' participation."

Yunus also informed that the board will shortly initiate the process to form a security assessment team to visit Pakistan.

"The board has decided to send a team for security assessment and will send a letter to the Home Ministry tomorrow regarding the formation of the security team. We informed PCB about the matter and are waiting for their response," he added.

Meanwhile, the governing council of the BPL had a marathon meeting with the franchises on Sunday night regarding the pending issues, namely the nonpayment issue of the first edition of the tournament, the 25 per cent advance payments of the second edition and the bank guarantee for the full players' payment.

"We asked them (franchises) to solve all these problems by January 16. A team will be scrapped if it fails to fulfil the commitments by the deadline and our board president is very much clear about his stance," said Sinha.

Another fiasco that is taking shape concerns the sale of tickets for the second edition of the domestic T20 tournament. While the tickets have been available for purchase online since Saturday, they are yet to be sold at bank outlets, which was supposed to happen from yesterday as earlier announced by the governing council.

Tamim returns fresh

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Describing one such problem that bothered the left-hander, he said, "In 2010, I used to have one short foot movement. But at the moment I have two-three foot movements. This was just one of the problems that I worked on. I'll work on it whenever I find a gap."

Apart from working on his batting technique, Tamim also relished the experience of playing in a 'more challenging' cricketing atmosphere. "Domestic cricket there [in New Zealand] is a lot more serious. For instance, the kind of planning, discussions and meetings that we had

before the matches, resembled the ones that I attended before an international match," said Tamim.

"Every game is recorded and that gave me an opportunity to have a look at my opponents. I actually didn't know any bowler there when I reached and that helped me a lot," he added.

Tamim's next assignment is the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20. Despite having a terrible experience in the inaugural edition, where he ended up playing just two matches, the opener remained optimistic. "My first wish will be to

play all the matches this year. It's a big event and it's not perfect, but it's something that Bangladesh cricket requires," said Tamim.

The player -- who was one of the many victims to have suffered from the 'players payment crisis' during the first edition, hoped that the second year would be different. "I know that Rajshahi may have had a few problems with Mushfiqur (Rahim) bhai, but I'll make sure that there will be no problems with me. I haven't yet spoken to the new owners about my payment, but I am confident that they'll follow the by-laws," he said.

METROPOLIS WOMEN'S TT
Abahani win title

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani emerged unbeaten champions in the Metropolis Women's Table Tennis League with a 3-1 sets win over Destiny in the title-deciding fifth round match at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Abahani won all five matches while Destiny became runners-up with four wins.

In the Premier Division League, Sheikh Russel retained their title, sixth in a row, while Palolic Group finished behind Sheikh Russel, said a press release yesterday.

Nur Mohammad, secretary for Youth and Sports Ministry, distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest where Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation's vice presidents Sheikh Mohammad Jahangir Alam, Kazi Moinuzzaman Pila and general secretary Syed Kamrul Huda were among others present.

Clarke back for Aussies

AFP, Sydney

Skipper Michael Clarke returned Monday to the one-day squad to lead Australia after a thrashing by Sri Lanka and an ear-bashing over selection policy from former stars.

Quick bowlers Mitchell Johnson and Mitchell Starc were also brought back in after being withdrawn as a precaution to protect niggling minor injuries.

Opener David Warner and keeper Matthew Wade completed the list of big guns coming back after a rest for the third and fourth one-dayers in Brisbane on Friday and Sydney on Sunday.

National selector John Inverarity also unveiled Moises Henriques as the latest newcomer to get his chance.

"Moises Henriques also comes into the squad as a genuine all-rounder whose bowling will be suited to conditions often found at the Gabba," Inverarity said.

SQUAD

Michael Clarke (captain), George Bailey, Xavier D'Herby, Moises Henriques, Phillip Hughes, David Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Glenn Maxwell, Clint McKay, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, David Warner.

Proteas' show of power



AFP, Port Elizabeth

South Africa's ruthless demolition of New Zealand showed why they are ranked the number one team in Test cricket, both captains agreed after the hosts completed an innings win in the second and final Test at St George's Park on Monday.

Fast bowlers Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel used the second new ball to devastating effect as South Africa won by an innings and 197 runs before lunch on the fourth day. It was their second successive Test win against the outclassed New Zealanders.

Player-of-the-match Steyn took three for 48 for match figures of eight for 65 while Morkel took two for 36 as New Zealand were

bowled out for 211 on Monday. They needed only a combined 34 deliveries to take the last five wickets.

Dean Brownlie and BJ Watling put on 98 for the fifth wicket before Brownlie was caught behind off Jacques Kallis for 53 in the tenth over of the day.

The new ball was taken three overs later and the rest of the batsmen folded quickly, with an early finish becoming inevitable when Watling was bowled by Steyn for 63.

The teams meet in three one-day internationals, starting in Paarl on Saturday, but then both face new Test challenges next month. South Africa are at home to Pakistan in three Tests while New Zealand will be hosting England.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 525-8

declared
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 121
NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 157-4)

Guptill b Kleinveldt	48
McCullum lbw b Peterson	11
Williamson b Peterson	11
Brownlie c De Villiers b Kallis	53
Flynn c De Villiers b Kleinveldt	0
Watling b Steyn	63
Munro c Petersen b Morkel	15
Bracewell c Peterson b Morkel	0
Wagner c De Villiers b Steyn	0
Boult c Peterson b Morkel	3
Patel not out	0
Extras: (lb-2, w-1)	3
Total: (All out in 86.4 overs)	211
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-64, 3-84, 4-84, 5-182, 6-203, 7-203, 8-204, 9-207	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	15.4	2	48	3
Morkel	16	6	36	2
Kleinveldt	15	8	44	2
Peterson	26	13	47	2
Kallis	9	3	18	1
Smith	1	0	10	0
Petersen	4	0	6	0

Result: South Africa won by an innings and 197 runs and clinched the two-Test

'Pakistan ready for SA'



AFP, Karachi

Twenty20 captain Mohammed Hafeez was confident Monday that Pakistan's lack of Test cricket will not be a problem when the team meet world number one South Africa next month.

Pakistan play three Tests in South Africa with the first match starting in Johannesburg from February 1 -- their first Test series in seven months.

Pakistan routed England, then the world's number one Test team, 3-0 last January before losing 1-0 against Sri Lanka in June.

"Again after a big gap we will play in South Africa but we have adjusted well in the past," Hafeez told reporters on the sidelines of a five-day domestic tournament final.

"It's tough but all the players have played

four-day game and are well prepared." Pakistan will also play two Twenty20 internationals and five one-day matches on the tour -- their first to the Republic since 2007.

Hafeez admitted South Africa pose a big challenge, but said the team was buoyed by its recent one-day win over arch rivals India.

"South Africa will be challenging because the conditions are different. We played there in 2007 and most of the players of that team are not there and South Africa are now the world's best team," said Hafeez.

Pakistan fly out to South Africa 10 days in advance and have a tour opener in East London, starting January 25.

"South Africa have a good combination of batting and bowling but we too are going there after winning our series in India which has lifted our morale," said Hafeez, of Pakistan's 2-1 one-day win over India.

Solid start

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and Czech two-time quarterfinalist Tomas Berdych accounted for American Michael Russell 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.

A left knee injury forced the 16th seed out of this month's Brisbane International and Kooyong Classic tournaments, but he showed little discomfort in surging home 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 against the 63rd-ranked Hanesku.

In the women's draw, Maria Sharapova and Li Na crushed hapless opponents to storm into the second round, making their intentions clear as they bid for further Grand Slam glory.

Fellow major winner Venus Williams also romped on a warm Melbourne Park day, but fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska was put through her paces by local qualifier Bojana Bobusic before finding her groove.

World number one and defending champion Victoria Azarenka, and tournament favourite Serena Williams, looking for a sixth Australian crown, play on Tuesday.

Reigning French Open champion Sharapova, who was hammered by Azarenka in last year's Melbourne final, was at her dominant best against fellow Russian Olga Puchkova on Rod Laver Arena, humiliating her in a rare double bagel.

Sharapova, the champion in 2008, powered through 6-0, 6-0 in just 55 minutes and will next play Misaki Doi of Japan.

Counting

FROM PAGE 16

Hom are the most recognised local batsmen in the side. Elias Sunny and Shaiful Islam are also expected to be in the starting eleven. Upcoming pacer Al Amin is also expected to feature in the games. Barisal's foreign slots however, will depend a lot on the availability of the Pakistani players.

The Burners will love to go into the game with Kamran Akmal and Umar Gul in the side. Apart from Hodge, Mahmood and the Pakistan players, Barisal also have Phil Mustard and Kabir Ali in their side. While Mustard can fit into the middle order, Ali will have to battle with the other pacers to make the eleven. On the other hand, spinners Sunil Narine and Saeed Ajmal haven't yet confirmed their availability.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | 38 Trench | DOWN | 12 Central |
| 1 Fundamental | 40 Night light? | 1 Nota follower | 18 Laundry |
| 6 Land | 42 Junior | 2 Initial up | 21 Mess |
| 12 Guru | 44 "Dukes of Hazzard" surname | 3 Rage for short | 23 A piece |
| 13 Stated openly | 46 Atmosphere | 4 Charged bit | 24 Chances, for |
| 14 Chant | 50 Alligator's kin | 5 Oil baskets | 25 Drench |
| 15 Take away | 52 Eminem, e.g. | 6 Poet Teasdale | 26 Forever |
| 16 Bambi, e.g. | 54 Bring into harmony | 7 Levels out of | 28 Wire |
| 17 Symbol of grace | 55 Vinegary city | 8 Male turkey | 30 Owned |
| 19 Cod piece? | 56 Lyricist's concerns | 9 Duplicious | 31 Mel |
| 20 Arizona city | 57 Physics particle | 10 Jeans maker | 34 Moo — gai pan |
| 22 Hot tub | | 11 Paradise | 39 Macbeth's title |
| 24 Be behind | | | 41 Scruffs |
| 27 Leftovers | | | 42 Cicatrix |
| 29 Reverb | | | 43 Solemn promise |
| 32 Russian czar, 1682-1725 | | | 45 Individuals |
| 35 Goblet part | | | 47 Doing |
| 36 Missile shelter | | | 48 Check |
| 37 Banned pesticide | | | 49 Joan of — |
| | | | 51 Silent |
| | | | 53 Expert |

Solution time: 27 mins.

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56						57				

CRYPTOQUIP

W T H Q S C Q S K , V N Q T U F
R Q Q Z U T B D S K A U H G Z S K Z C
B Z Q Q R G Z , F C B W W J R K U Q T J M
V U M N F Q S N S D D C F U K A N - J S C .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THOSE NEW HEALING DRUGS WERE FORMULATED ON A RANCH, I WOULD CALL THEM FARM-ACEUTICALS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals I