



PHOTOS: STAR
INVITED OR MISPLACED? Chief selector Akram Khan (right) is seen sitting with the district and divisional organisers in an exchange of views programme with the BCB president Nazmul Hasan Papon (inset) at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur yesterday.

BD women's SA camp from Sunday

SPORTS REPORTER

The conditioning and skill camp for the national women's cricket team's tour of South Africa next month will start on Sunday.

The selected cricketers have been asked to report at the Kirra Palli, Mirpur tomorrow.

The cricketers are Salma Khatun, Rumana Ahmed, Lata Mondol, Aysha Rahman, Jahanara Alam, Farzana Hoque Pinki, Khadizatul Kubra, Panna Ghosh, Nuzhat Tasnia, Sultana Yesmin Boishakhi, Ayesha Akter, Sharmin Akter Supta, Shahnaz Parvin, Lily Rani Biswas, Tithi Rani Sarkar, Ritu Moni, Tazia Akter, Shamima Sultana, Fahima Khatun, Shohaly Akter, Sanjida Islam Moyna, Sathira Jakir Jesy, Saira Sharmin, Sabikun Nahar, Rifat Ara Moyna, Jannatul Ferdousi, Suborna Islam, Monjila Khatun, Nigar Sultana, Nadia Afrin, Tomalika Sumona and Mahmuda Khan.

The team will fly for South Africa on September 9 to play three T20 Internationals and as many one-day internationals during their two-week trip.

U-23s' exit adds to tale of woes

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Under-23s exited the Asian Cricket Council Emerging Teams Cup after suffering an embarrassing 59-run defeat to United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the Padang in Singapore yesterday.

The win was definitely a big boost for the UAE team but Bangladesh Under-23s just added another tale of woe to Bangladesh's recent sordid performances in the international arena.

The Bangladesh Under-19s recently returned home after a poor showing in England while a strong Bangladesh A team has been losing matches one after another on the ongoing tour of England.

But cricket authorities are now not in a mood to focus on the forlorn picture as everybody seems engaged with the upcoming elections of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Even someone like chief selector and former national skipper Akram Khan, who has expressed his desire to contest the elections, seems consumed by the upcoming polls. He was one of those present in yesterday's meeting between BCB president Nazmul Hasan Papon and the organisers from the District and Divisional Sports Associations. That raises the question of exactly who is overseeing the cricket affairs as the elections draw nearer?

Back to yesterday's match, for Bangladesh Under-23s there was no alternative other than to win the match against the UAE if they were to make it to the semifinals after their defeat against Sri Lanka Under-23s in the second game, but their poor batting saw them tumble out of the tournament.

In chase of a 203-run winning target, Bangladesh started well through a 50-run partnership from Soumya Sarkar and Rony Talukder but could not put together any significant partnerships in the middle order and ultimately were bundled out for 143 in 41 overs.

Nasir Aziz was adjudged the man of the match for his bowling figures of 5-17 and it was Shaiman Anwar who slammed exactly hundred to give UAE a fighting total. They combined to seal a semifinal spot for their side. UAE will next square off against India Under-23 in the first semi-final today.

Bangladesh Under-23s will return home with one victory from three matches as they won their first match against hosts Singapore.

BD A thrashed once again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A crumbled their seventh loss on the trot on the tour of England, falling by 191 runs in the second one-day of the three-match series against England Lions at the County Ground in Taunton yesterday.

After England Lions made 367 for three courtesy of tons from Michael Carberry (146) and James Taylor (106 not out), Bangladesh A could make 176 before being bundled out in 44.4 overs. Jahurul Islam top-scored with 53 while Naemim Islam made 31.

Sharapova out of US Open

AFP, New York City

Russian world number three Maria Sharapova has pulled out of the US Open because of a right shoulder injury, tournament organisers announced Wednesday.

On the eve of the draw for the year's final Grand Slam event that begins Monday on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts, US Open tournament director David Brewer announced the withdrawal.

"Maria has informed us that she will be unable to compete at the US Open this year due to a right shoulder bursitis and has withdrawn from the tournament," he said.

Candidate Papon's show of strength

SPORTS REPORTER



The high-profile elections of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) are due to take place in September but there are a number of processes yet to be completed. The build-up for the election campaign however started and incumbent board president Nazmul Hasan Papon flaunted his prowess by calling a noticeable gathering at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The home of cricket was suddenly abuzz with the presence of sports organisers from the districts and divisions.

Officially it was an 'exchange view' programme between the BCB president and the representatives of the Divisional and District Sports Associations. After the marathon meeting however, the organisers made it clear that they answered the invitation of the BCB boss to condemn the recent 'propaganda' from some office bearers of the Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers Council, known as Forum, and to show full support for Papon ahead of the elections.

And it seemed the presence of 49 organisers, including 32 general secretaries, gave the BCB president the confidence to announce that he will contest in the elections of the cash-rich sports federation. He however said that a negative campaign from vested quarters compelled him to enter the fray. The election turned into a heady two-way battle as former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury also expressed his desire to contest the elections.

While the district and divisional organisers gave the impression that they joined the meeting for election purposes, Papon was more diplomatic when talking about the purpose of the gathering as questions can be asked about the ethics of an incumbent president arranging meetings at the BCB headquarters to further his election campaign.

"Actually I invited them to ensure that there will be no interference from the board, as some have alleged, while selecting the councillors. Instead, we will protest if anyone interferes," said Papon, blaming certain quarters for trying to sabotage the elections.

Everybody wanted to know when the

BCB will send a letter to the clubs, the DSAs and the other parties asking them to send the names of their councillors and AJM Nasir, general secretary of Chittagong District Sports Association and member of the BCB's ad-hoc committee, said: "Now we will meet and send the letters as soon as possible."

BCB was supposed to send the letters on August 12 after they had asked the National Sport Council (NSC) to begin the election process on August 6 but it is yet to do this and the seemingly inexplicable delay has raised many eyebrows.

On the other hand NSC was yet to form the election commission but its secretary Ahmed Murshed told the Daily Star over phone yesterday that: "We sent a proposal to the minister (state minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarkar) to form the commission and hope it will be formed after the return of the honourable minister from abroad."

The councillors, who will be nominated from their respective categories, will in turn elect the 27 directors of BCB's executive committee. These directors will then elect the president of the BCB.

De Kruif drafts in Raju

SPORTS REPORTER



With just nine days left for the start of the SAFF Championship in Nepal, Bangladesh's Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif has drafted midfielder Monaem Khan Raju to his squad and excluded defenders Yeamin Ahmed Munna, Kesto Kumar Bosh and recently-called striker Aminur Rahman Sajib.

Midfielder Raju, who last played for the national team in the 2010 SA Games, apparently impressed Kruif after playing three successive practice matches against the national team. Raju along with Alamgir Kabir Rana played vital roles in midfield in Sheikh Jamal DC's

2-1 win over the national team on Wednesday. Raju can serve a dual role as back-up to vital midfielder Mamunul Islam, who sustained a knee injury in Wednesday's practice match. The inclusion of Raju increased the number of midfielders to six. Raju has a bright chance to travel with the national team though Kruif has yet to declare his final squad, which now has 22 members.

Kruif had earlier also picked up defender Rezaul Karim Reza, who remains with the squad.

Meanwhile, the Dutch has started to rest his players before the SAFF Championship after cutting his twice daily sessions to one.

The 43-year-old was disappointed with the performance of his charges

against Sheikh Jamal DC. "It was a disappointing performance from the boys but a coach is always blamed for the failure of the team. I am well aware of that fact but I know what I am doing," Kruif told reporters after the morning session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Having analysed Wednesday's practice match, Kruif found three reasons behind the defeat. He said that the backline of the national team played a bit of higher from their usual position and could not foil the counter-attack of the opponents, whose Haitian strikers were top class. Besides, his players failed to keep the momentum after the first 30 minutes, he added.

Batting woes worry Shakib

CRICINFO, Port-of-spain



Shakib Al Hasan, the Bangladesh all-rounder, is disappointed with his batting form so far in the inaugural Caribbean Premier League but is glad to have contributed with the ball. Shakib's franchise Barbados Tridents will take on Jamaica Tallawahs in the second semifinal in Port-of-Spain on Friday.

"I am a bit down about that (batting) but my teammates support me because they always tell me these Caribbean pitches are not the easiest to adapt to," Shakib said. "I really want to come good with some runs though."

Shakib has averaged 3.66 with the bat in six innings but has taken 11 wickets at an economy-rate of 5.58, including figures of 6 for 6 against Trinidad & Tobago Red Steel in

Bridgetown, which was the second-best bowling performance in Twenty20s. He said the Caribbean pitches had kept him on his toes and his team's at-times unconventional and cavalier approach had also suited his attacking style of bowling.

Despite Barbados losing their last three matches, Shakib felt they were ready to try and recover the form achieved at the start of the CPL, when they won their first four games. "It's a new game. Whatever happened in the first round, is over and gone. It's all coming down to these semis so we're all back to square one. I know we have the talent and we're confident enough to win the trophy. I want it. That's my purpose here. Jamaica is the first hurdle but we're ready."

Shakib said he and Bangladesh teammate Tamim Iqbal, who played for St Lucia Zouks, had enjoyed themselves in the CPL.

Inauspicious start from Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national hockey team suffered a 0-5 defeat at the hands of their Pakistani counterparts in a practice match in Malaysia yesterday ahead of the AHE 9th Asia Cup, which begins from Saturday in Ipoh.

Under the supervision of Pakistani coach Naveed Alam, Bangladesh had a one-month preparation where the boys were trained not to concede too many goals against the strongest opponents like India and South Korea in the group-stage matches.

However, it is not still clear how much the boys learnt from the Pakistani coach as they conceded five goals against former Olympic champions Pakistan, in their first practice match. According to Naveed, there had been some mistakes in defence while the forwards wasted a few opportunities before Bangladesh showed their mettle in the second half where they conceded only two goals – one of them from a penalty corner.

Bangladesh could not grab a penalty corner throughout the 70-minute game against Pakistan, whose second-string side beat Bangladesh 3-0 in the hockey event of the SA Games in 2010 in Dhaka.

Striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy hoped that everything would be overcome in the next two-day practice before their first match against South Korea on Sunday.

Bangladesh are scheduled to play their second practice match against Chinese Taipei today.

Aus build on Smith ton

AFP, London



Steven Smith's maiden Test hundred ensured Australia maintained their grip on the Ashes finale at The Oval on Thursday.

Smith's 138 not out powered Australia to an imposing first innings total of 492 for nine declared on the second day as they sought a consolation win after England had already taken the series at 3-0 up.

When bad light ended play for the day, England were 32 without loss, a deficit of 460 runs.

England captain Alastair Cook was 17 not out and Joe Root 13 not out.

Australia resumed well-placed on their overnight 307 for four after rain delayed Thursday's start by three-and-a-half hours.

Smith was 66 not out and nightwatchman Peter Siddle 18 not out following Shane Watson's Test-best 176 on Wednesday.

Anderson bowled Siddle with a superb ball that clipped the top of off stump.

But when seam-bowling all-rounder Woakes dropped short, Smith pulled him for four to go to 89 -- the same score he made in the drawn third Test at Old

Trafford.

However, there was no falling short of three figures for Smith on Thursday. The 24-year-old, playing the 12th Test of a career that saw him initially regarded as a leg-spinner who batted, went to his hundred in style by on-driving occasional medium-pacer Jonathan Trott for six.

However, four balls later, Brad Haddin played on to Trott for 30.

An embarrassing post-tea session where Cook set excessively defensive fields even when the tailenders, rather than Smith, were on strike, saw England concede 95 runs in 11.5 overs.

James Faulkner holed out to give fellow debutant Woakes a maiden Test wicket before Graeme Swann, who didn't bowl until three hours into the day's play despite being arguably the world's leading off-spinner, struck with his second ball Friday to dismiss Mitchell Starc.

Ryan Harris hit 33 at better than a run-a-ball before he was caught and bowled by Anderson, who had to run some 20 yards to the vacant mid-off area.

Smith, whose previous Test best was the 92 he made against India in Mohali in March, batted for more than six-and-a-half hours and faced 241 balls with 16 fours and two sixes.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight: 307-4)				
Rogers c Trott b Swann				23
Warner c Prior b Anderson				6
Watson c Pietersen b Broad				176
Clarke b Anderson				7
Smith not out				138
Siddle b Anderson				23
Haddin b Trott				30
Faulkner c Trott b Woakes				23
Starc b Swann				13
Harris c and b Anderson				33
Lyon not out				0
Extras: (b-1, lb-12, w-2, nb-5)				20
Total: (For 9 wickets declared in 128.5 overs)				492
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-118, 3-144, 4-289, 5-320, 6-385, 7-423, 8-446, 9-491				
Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Anderson	29.5	4	95	4
Broad	31	4	128	1
Swann	33	4	95	2
Woakes	24	7	96	1
Kerrigan	8	0	53	0
Trott	3	0	12	1
ENGLAND: First innings				
Cook not out				17
Root not out				13
Extras: (b-1, lb-1)				2
Total: (For no loss in 17.3 overs)				32
To bat: Trott, Pietersen, Bell, Woakes, Prior, Broad, Swann, Anderson and Kerrigan				
Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Starc	5	1	10	0
Harris	4	3	2	0



Australia batsman Steven Smith plays a square drive during his unbeaten century on the second day of the fifth Ashes Test against England at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP