

SPORT

Dwyer quits

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's strength and conditioning coach David Dwyer has resigned from his position after spending a year with the national team. The Australian, who had gone back home after the ICC World Twenty20, sent an e-mail to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) last week stating his decision.

BCB Director Akram Khan confirmed Dwyer's departure. "Yes we received his e-mail last week. He is leaving because he got a better opportunity elsewhere. I don't think there is much to worry about, we will get a good trainer to replace him soon," said Akram.

Dwyer's resignation comes as a huge blow for the BCB, who had signed him up until the 2015 World Cup. The Australian made his decision public through his facebook status yesterday which read: "Right to Dhaka, let's do this. On my way for my last week in The Desh and then HOME!!!"

Dwyer himself was not available for comment as he was on his way to Bangladesh last night.

His resignation comes just days after his colleague, Richard McCinnes, who was heading the BCB's Academy, decided against continuing in his position.

Dwyer was on board with the national team for every series from the Sri Lanka tour last year and was an integral member of the team.

He was brought to Bangladesh at a time when a majority of the national players were going through a series of injuries. With that in mind, Dwyer designed a new training management system for the national players last year in a bid to monitor their fitness levels.

This was not the Australian's first stint in the sub-continent. He had worked with the Pakistan cricket team from 2007 to 2010. He also spent two months with the Afghanistan Cricket Board as a consultant.

He also has a background in rugby and spent 2012 with the 'Mt Pritchard Rugby League Club'. In 2011 he worked as an Assistant Coach for the Fiji Rugby Union for eight months.

Siddikur fails to make CIMB cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh golfer Siddikur Rahman failed to make the cut for the first time in the season when he finished the second day of the CIMB Niaga Indonesian Masters at joint 94th position with five-over-par (149), four strokes behind the cut mark which was set at one-over-par.

Stating the day at four-over-par on 109th position, Siddikur managed a one-over-par in the second round, with four birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey.

A total of 70 players made the weekend cut, with Lin Wen Tang of Chinese Taipei leading the leaderboard on 10-under-par (134), followed by Cameron Smith of Australia a stroke behind.

Sharapova powers thru' to semis

AFP, Stuttgart

Defending champion Maria Sharapova marched into the semi-finals of Stuttgart's WTA tournament with a 6-4, 6-3 win over top-seed Agnieszka Radwanska in Friday's quarter-finals.

"That was a big win for me," admitted Sharapova after picking up her 11th straight win in Stuttgart where she is bidding for a hat-trick of titles having won the 2012 and 2013 tournaments.

Sharapova claimed her ninth win in 11 matches against world number three Radwanska of Poland, but the statuesque Russian did not have things her own way, despite needing only one hour, 39 minutes to claim victory.

After a total of seven breaks at the start of the match, as the momentum swung back and forth, Sharapova finally won her first service game to take control of the first set.

She will now face either Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro or Italy's Sara Errani in Saturday's semi-final.

Having won all four Grand Slams, Sharapova is bidding to claim a personal landmark this week in Stuttgart by winning a tournament three times in succession.

Victory bought an extra bonus for the Russian as failure to beat Radwanska would have seen Sharapova fall out of the top ten for the first time in three years.



Maria Sharapova of Russia plays a forehand during her victory over top-seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the quarterfinal of the WTA Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Stuttgart, Germany yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

The next star of the midfield?

ANISUR RAHMAN



It is too early to make a judgement on teenage booter Hemanta Vincent Biswas but it is all but sure that the boy from Dinajpur is going to be the man to fill the long-endured absence of a creative midfielder in Bangladesh

since the departure of arguably the last best playmaker, Arman Mia.

Since the fag end of Arman's career in the domestic circuit, players such as Arman Aziz, Abdullah Parvez, Mezbabul Haque Manik, Shahedul Alam, Emon Babu and Alamgir Kabir Rana gave evidence that they were ready to take Arman's place but eventually they could not flourish, thus leaving a midfield vacuum.

The emergence of Hemanta this season has provided a lot of hope to the country's football fraternity.

The captain of U-19 national team, Hemanta is the lone Bangladeshi footballer to have trialled in Europe. Less than a year after starting in the premier league he



HEMANTA VINCENT BISWAS

was given the honour of donning the number 10 jersey in his national debut, at the age of 18, against India in Goa on March 5 this year. The faith was repaid as he affected a beautiful dummy which gave Mithun Chowdhury a goal and also played a key role in making the play that brought about the second goal in the 2-2 draw.

Since his national debut the midfielder seems to

have gone from strength to strength, garnering confidence and improving himself quickly in the domestic circuit for Mohammedan. In only his first season, Hemanta has gone past his teammates Manik and Emon Babu in securing a place in the starting eleven for the Black and Whites.

"I never thought that I would be able to execute my duty in my first international match but I did and since then, I grew in confidence. The club coach also kept faith in me and I repaid it in the Independence Cup," said Hemanta.

Local coaches are also full of hope, considering Hemanta to be the next football star in Bangladesh.

"No doubt, he is at the top among promising footballers. He has every quality that a midfielder needs. He has skill, power, quickness, shooting, abilities to win the ball from opponents and take quick decision. I think he will be a real asset if he can maintain this quality," said coach Shafiquel Islam Manik.

"Hemanta just needs maturity," said Manik. "I think one day he will go beyond Arman Mia if he can

Didar Boli retains title

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

Didar Boli retained the title of historic Jabbarer Boli Khela beating debutante Habibur Rahman at the Laldighi Moidan of Chittagong yesterday.

Didar, a ten-time winner of the 105-year-old wrestling competition, took only 15 seconds to beat Habibur from Narayanganj to lift the title for the second year running.

"I was confident about winning and I am feeling proud", said Didar after defeating his challenger. Earlier, Didar beat Ka Hla Pru Marma of Bandarban while Habibur defeated Khorsheed Alam of Kutubdia in the semifinals to secure their final berth.

"I am happy. I did not expect to reach the final. In the coming years, I will fight to win the title," said Habibur. Thousands of people watched the fights where a total of 103 bolis (wrestler) from different parts of the country fought duels. The event was organised, as always, by the Abdul Jabbarer Boli Khela and Boishakhi Mela Udjapan Parishad. Director of Channel I Shykh Seraj inaugurated the programme as the chief guest where Chittagong Jela Krira Sangstha General Secretary AJM Nasir and Additional Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Banaj Kumar Majumder were present as special guests.

Zia loses again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman conceded his third successive defeat in the Asian Continental Chess Championships in Sharjah when he lost against Indian Grandmaster Krishnan Sasikiran in the eighth round yesterday.

Three consecutive defeats meant Zia stayed at four points from eight rounds.

In the women's section, WFM Nazrana Khan Eva beat Nojud of Saudi Arabia to earn 3.5 points from eight matches.

Atapattu SL's interim coach

AFP, Colombo



Sri Lanka Cricket on Friday named former captain Marvan Atapattu as interim head coach, making him the island nation's seventh coach in the last four years.

Atapattu, 43, was appointed for the tour of England and Scotland starting next month and the subsequent home series against South Africa in July, the board said in a statement.

Former Test spinner Ruwan Kalpage will join Atapattu as assistant coach for the same period, the statement added.

Atapattu replaces Englishman Paul

Farbrace, who quit earlier this week after just four months on the job to take over as England's deputy coach under Peter Moores.

Atapattu, a right-hand batsman, played 90 Tests, 268 one-dayers and two Twenty20 internationals in a career that spanned 17 years before he retired in 2007.

He scored 5,502 Test runs at an average of 39.02 with 16 centuries. His 8,529 one-day runs included 11 hundreds.

Atapattu will be the latest addition in a succession of coaches for Sri Lanka since 2010, following Trevor Bayliss, Stuart Law, Rumesh Ratnayake, Geoff Marsh, Graham Ford and Farbrace.

Wins for Chennai, Hyderabad

STAR SPORT DESK



Powerful unbeaten half-centuries from Sunrisers Hyderabad's Aaron Finch and Chennai Super Kings' Brendon McCullum drove their teams to victory in their respective IPL matches against Delhi Daredevils and Mumbai Indians in Sharjah yesterday. Finch's

53-ball 88 gave Hyderabad a four-run win while later in the day McCullum spearheaded Chennai's chase of 141 to beat Mumbai by seven wickets and with one over to spare.

After winning the toss, Mumbai put up a below-par total of 141 for seven, restricted by a fine bowling performance from Mohit Sharma, who picked up four for 14 in his four overs. Mumbai's innings was built around the 84-run third-wicket partnership between Rohit Sharma and Corey Anderson. In reply, McCullum took charge with a 53-ball 71 that featured eight fours and two sixes.

In the day's first game Finch and David Warner punished Delhi in an unbeaten 128-run stand in only 13.2 overs. Delhi lost their way after the departures in quick succession of Quinton de Kock and Murali Vijaya, who put on a 99-run openingstand.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SH: 184 for one (Finch 88 not out, Warner 58 not out; Nadeem 1-24). DD: 180 for four (Vijay 50, de Kock 48; Steyn 2-33). Result: Sunrisers Hyderabad won by 4 runs. MI: 141 for seven (Rohit 50, Anderson 39; Mohit 4-14). CSK: 142 for three (McCullum 71; Harbhajan 2-27). Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 7 wickets.

Nishikori in Catalan semis

AFP, Madrid

Japan's Kei Nishikori continued his impressive return to action after a three week absence due to a groin injury as he beat 12th seed Marin Cilic 6-1, 6-3 to reach the Barcelona Open semi-finals on Friday.

Nishikori, seeded fourth, was ruthless in the opening set as he broke the big Croat's serve three times.

The second set was more of a contest, but the world number 17 still had too much as he sealed victory in just over an hour to register his best ever run in Barcelona.

Next up for Nishikori will be a meeting with Latvian Ernests Gulbis after he secured a third semi-final appearance of the season with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Russia's Teimuraz Gabashvili. Top seed Rafael Nadal was set to face fellow spaniard Nicolas Almagro later on Friday.