

Jewel Rana back at MSC helm

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national defender Jewel Rana has returned to his old tent as the head coach of Mohammedan following the departure of Portuguese coach Rui Capela Batista.

Jewel Rana had left his job after Mohammedan's Federation Cup campaign, claiming he had unpaid wages. But now the Mohammedan officials have brought him back with new promise.

"I had a discussion with the club officials and placed my requirements before them. If they meet my requirements, I will continue or else I will leave again," said Jewel Rana, who conducted his first training session at the club premises yesterday ahead of today's match against Brothers Union.

Both Brothers and Mohammedan have equal 26 points but the Black and Whites played a match less than the All Oranges and a win over Brothers Union will put Mohammedan in the third-position of the ten-team table.

"The results and performance depends on the willingness of the players. If they can put their concentration fully on every match, anything can happen," said Jewel Rana. In the day's second match, four-time champions Abahani will be up against holders Sheikh Russel KC, who suffered defeat against Team BJMC in their last match despite a brilliant performance in the recently concluded AFC President's Cup.

Abahani are in second position with 32 from 16 outings while Sheikh Russel are in sixth position with 16 points from 13 matches.

Simmons ton powers Mumbai

SPORTS REPORTER

Lendl Simmons stole the thunder with a scintillating 61-ball 100, singlehandedly powering Mumbai Indians to a morale-boosting seven-wicket win over table-toppers Kings XI Punjab in the IPL in Mohali yesterday.

Simmons smashed 14 fours and two sixes during his unbeaten knock as the visitors chased down the target of 157 with an over to spare and seven wickets in hand, to keep their hopes alive in the tournament. Simmons' was the first three-figure score in this edition of the T20 league. This was Mumbai Indians' fifth win in 11 matches while Kings XI Punjab had already assured themselves a place in the playoffs.

Simmons was on the ball right away, hitting medium pacer Sandeep Sharma for three fours in the innings' first over.

Earlier, Kings XI Punjab had recovered after a middle-order collapse to post a 157 for 8. Skipper George Bailey top-scored with 39 while Manan Vohra and Shaun Marsh contributed 36 and 30 respectively. Kings XI were strongly placed at 90 for two after the first 10 overs, but lost their way before Bailey anchored the innings with some calculative batting.

SCORES IN BRIEF
KING'S XI PUNJAB: 156 for 8 (Bailey 39, Vohra 36, Marsh 30; Bumrah 2-31, Gopal 2-32)
MUMBAI INDIANS: 159 for 3 in 19 overs (Simmons 100 not out, Sharma 18; Patel 1-27)
Result: Mumbai Indians won by 7 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Lendl Simmons.



COSMETIC CARNIVAL: Brazilian gospel singer and pastor Fernanda Brum sings during the shooting of her music video at a road decorated for the FIFA World Cup 2014 in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. While the party line may be that all is well and festive in the land of Samba, there has been rising discontent in Brazil surrounding the billions being spent on the tournament.

PHOTO: AFP

Brazil interrupted

AGENCIES, *Undated*



The world's biggest sporting event, showcasing the best-loved sport, taking place in the nation most associated with the beautiful game is a combination seemingly made in heaven. However, in the lead up to the 2014 FIFA World Cup now just 21 days away, host nation Brazil has become the site of much unrest -- which has its roots in the demand for better pay and working conditions ahead of the tournament and elections in October - that has been bubbling under the surface for some time now.

Protests broke out on Tuesday, involving groups as diverse as bus drivers, the general public and the police force. Further undermining the lead-up to the World Cup is yesterday's news that two out of the 12 venues will

not be able to provide fans cell phone and internet coverage.

TROPHY TOUR GOES SOUR
Demonstrators angry with the billions being spent on Brazil's hosting the World Cup burst into the hall where the tournament trophy, on tour around the host country, was on display.

Protestors hurled rocks and chunks of wood at the historic building in Belem, the Para state capital, where the trophy was on display. Organisers called off the viewing and whisked out the golden trophy.

BUS FUSS
Meanwhile, about 300 striking bus drivers and fare collectors marched to the mayor's office to demand a meeting with mayor Fernando Haddad. Other drivers stopped their buses in the middle of the street and asked their passengers to get off.

Sao Paulo, a city of 11 million people will host the opening match. Its 15,000

buses are a key part of its transit system.

Local transport officials said 230,000 passengers in the country's business hub had been affected by early afternoon, a figure likely to increase in the evening rush hour.

The striking drivers are rebelling against their union, which agreed to a 10-percent pay increase in negotiations with management.

COP OUT
Not to be left behind, the police announced a 24-hour strike for Wednesday in 14 states, including six that will host World Cup matches. In some states the strike could paralyse up to 70 per cent of the civilian police force.

Affected states include Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Bahia, Pernambuco and Amazonas, all of which are home to World Cup host stadiums.

Federal police will also hold protests Wednesday, though they have decided not to go on strike for now.

Extension with Dutch coaches likely

SPORTS REPORTER



After enjoying a seven-week vacation in the Netherlands, Dutch coaches Lodewijk De Kruif and Rene Koster are supposed to return to Bangladesh in the latter part of this month to renew their contract with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and prepare the U-23 team for the upcoming Asian Games.

Since the appointment of the high-profile Dutch coaches in July last year, De Kruif and Koster enjoyed 14 weeks of vacation, mainly due to fund crisis of the BFF, as they were supposed to enjoy only four week of vacation in 12 months. The wages of the last four months for the two coaches remain unpaid, it has been learnt.

As per the agreement, if both parties agree to continue the deal after one year,

then the deal would run up to June 2015. Even though there were whispers earlier this year that BFF might scrap the contract after the completion of the first year, now it seems that the game's governing body is willing to complete the two-year deal.

"We will work with them regarding the contract even though we have yet to take any decision whether to continue or scrap the deal. But there is a good possibility of renewal of the agreement," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

"They are coming back to watch the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League matches so that they can form a strong squad for the Asian Games," said Shohag. "We may start the Asian Games camp in the latter part of July or at the beginning of August, but a final decision on that will come from the National Teams Committee."

ICC to probe testimony leak

AFP, Wellington



The International Cricket Council (ICC) launched an urgent inquiry Wednesday into how Brendon McCullum's

testimony to a match-fixing investigation was leaked, while clearing the New Zealand captain of any involvement in corruption.

ICC chief executive David Richardson admitted leaks of highly confidential information undermined confidence in the organisation's anti-corruption drive, expressing "deep regret" that McCullum's testimony became public.

"We recognise that this is a deeply concerning development for the stakeholders in the fight against corruption in the sport of cricket, and we wish to emphasise that Brendon McCullum is not under investigation in this matter," he said.

"We are taking all steps available to us to urgently investigate how certain information in the form of statements has come to find its way into the media."

Richardson said he wanted to "correct any misperception that he (McCullum) is somehow under suspicion".

New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White reacted angrily to the leak this week, demanding answers from the ICC about how evidence to its crack investigative unit came to be splashed over newspapers worldwide.

In McCullum's evidence, reported by Britain's Daily Mail, he said a high-profile cricketer dubbed "Player X" approached him in 2008 and offered him up to £107,000 (US\$180,000) a match to underperform.

"(X) said that the 'Big Boys' in international cricket were doing it and he didn't want me to miss out," the Mail reported him saying, with the first approach in Kolkata before the inaugural Indian Premier League and the second in England the same year.

McCullum said he rejected the offer from a player he described as "a hero who became a friend".



BRENDON MCCULLUM

Former New Zealand batsman Lou Vincent, whose testimony to the ICC probe was also leaked, has reportedly admitted match-fixing for Player X, who he described as "a world-famous international".

Former New Zealand great Chris Cairns has acknowledged his name has been linked to Player X but denied any involvement with corruption or match-fixing.

Farashganj stun Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj SC came from behind to earn an exciting 3-2 goal victory over Wari Club in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League at Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Palash put Wari ahead in the 4th minute before Shakib doubled the lead in the 43rd minute. But, Babu, Biplob and Gafur scored one goal each in the second half to win the match for Farashganj SC.

Railway thrash Farashganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Railway Sporting Club defeated Farashganj SC by 7-1 goals in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Belal Hossain, Shahidul Islam, Taher Ali, Akib Javed, Russell Rana, Abeer Bin Saeed and Russell Hossain scored one goal each for the winners while Krishna Kumar netted the consolation goal for the losing side.

WEST GERMANY 1974

A clash of the cultures

The Netherlands' impact on the 1974 World Cup was as dramatic as it was sudden. The Dutch had not been to a World Cup since a first-round exit in 1938, yet with their daring style and balletic beauty they quickly became the country every neutral wanted to watch and every nation wanted to avoid. Especially as the hosts, West Germany, and the holders, Brazil, seemed to struggle from the outset.

Commandeered by football legend Johan Cruyff, the Dutch put in practice the concept of total football as it had never been seen before. All players were able to defend, attack and set up plays, trading positions quickly and fluidly. The mentor behind all of this was manager Rinus Michels, who had earlier put together the almost unbeatable Ajax team of the early 70s.

In the World Cup, the results soon began to show the system's efficiency. They beat Uruguay 2-0 and Argentina 4-0 in the first round and in the second, 2-0 victory over three-time winners Brazil. However, they would later find a barrier (actually, a wall) in their way called Beckenbauer.

The Brazilians, minus the legendary Pele for a first World Cup since 1954, stuttered to draws against Yugoslavia (who mauled Zaire 9-0) and Scotland, only creeping into the second group stage on goal difference ahead of the unfortunate Scots, while the West Germans suffered a humbling defeat on their own patch to their neighbours from the East.

Poland were proving that Netherlands were not the only



PHOTO: DAILY STAR ARCHIVE

West Germany's legendary keeper Sepp Maier hoists the World Cup trophy after their 2-1 victory over the Netherlands in the final.

impressive new kids on the block. Inspired by the goals of speedy forward Grzegorz Lato, the Poles upset the established order by dumping last edition's runners-up Italy. Lato went on to become the tournament's top scorer with seven goals.

The Dutch, meanwhile, were continuing on their merry way to the final and a comfortable changing-of-the-guard 2-0 win over the Brazilians secured their place in Munich, where they were destined to meet with a host nation that had improved as the competition progressed.

With a minute on the clock and before the Germans had even touched the ball, the Dutch were ahead. Cruyff, picking the ball up just inside the German half, burst past two defenders to get into the area before his run was halted by Uli Hoeness's clumsy tackle. As the crowd fell silent, English referee Jack

Taylor pointed to the spot and awarded the first penalty in World Cup final history, which Johan Neeskens duly converted.

The Germans, however, did not give up. In the 25th minute, Bern Holzenbein was brought down in the box by Wim Jansen and Paul Breitner converted the game's second penalty. Then, Gerd Muller had the honour of scoring the World Cup winning goal on the 43rd.

The final was a clash of footballing cultures. The Dutch had won, over the two weeks, millions of hearts with their cavalier football. But it was the German pragmatism which prevailed.

FACTS & FIGURES

Winners: West Germany
Runners-up: The Netherlands
Leading scorer: Grzegorz Lato (POL) --9
Teams: 16
Matches: 38

Perera punishes England

AFP, London

Thisara Perera starred with both bat and ball as Sri Lanka gained revenge for their World Twenty20 defeat by England with a nine-run win at The Oval on Tuesday.

Player-of-the-match Perera made a rapid 49 in World Twenty20 champions Sri Lanka's 183 for seven and then captured the important wicket of England captain Eoin Morgan under the floodlights in this day/night clash.

On their way to winning this year's World Twenty20 in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka suffered a six-wicket loss to England in the group stage in March.

That match saw Alex Hales become the first England batsman to score a Twenty20 international hundred.

But in this floodlit Twenty20 his 66, albeit off 41 balls with seven fours and two sixes, was not enough to take England to victory.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SRI LANKA: 183 for 7 in 20 overs (Vithanage 38, Thirimanne 40, T Perera 49; Root 1-16, Gurney 2-26)
ENGLAND: 174 for 7 in 20 overs (Hales 66, Buttler 26, Bopara 28 not out; Mathews 1-7, Malinga 3-28)
Result: Sri Lanka won by nine runs.
Player-of-the-match: Thisara Perera.