

INDIA ODIs

Known faces in initial squad

SPORTS REPORTER



The national selectors submitted a preliminary squad for next month's home series against India. However, the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) cricket operations committee has yet to finalise when the pre-series camp will get underway. India will arrive on June 13 to play three ODIs on June 15, 17 and 19 in Dhaka.

The Faruque Ahmed-led selection panel submitted the 25-member squad to the cricket operations committee four days back with an aim to see the camp start as early as possible; they felt the need for extensive fitness training ahead of the series.

Almost all the known faces got their places in the long list. A number of players in the squad are now touring with the A team in West Indies. Almost half of the players from the A team may return home

after playing only two four-day matches to join the national camp for the India series.

The board have to rely on the local coach and trainer for the camp as newly-appointed head coach Chandika Hathurusingha is likely to arrive here on June 10 while the newly appointed strength and conditioning coach Mario Villavarayan is scheduled to come to the city in the first week of June.

Imran Sarwar is most likely to take care of the boys before former Sri Lanka batsman Hathurusingha joins the camp. Many in the team think-tank believe that it would be better if Imran continues till the India series as it would be difficult for the new head coach to fully grasp the challenge at such short notice.

"We are yet to decide anything and hopefully will take the decision regarding the camp and announcement of the squad tomorrow (Friday)," responded Akram



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan striker Wahed Ahmed (L) jumps into the air in celebration after scoring one of his two goals against Brothers Union in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nat'l Cricket C'ship from May 25

SPORTS REPORTER

The 34th National Cricket Championship will begin from May 25 across the country.

64 districts divided into 14 groups will take part in the first round of the competition at 14 different venues.

The league-based first round of the 50-over competition will be played on matting wickets.

Lenin Gani's first death anniversary

SPORTS REPORTER



Today is the first death anniversary of Lenin Gani, a career journalist Lenin had the longest association with The Daily Star, where he worked as a senior sub-editor in the Sport Desk.

A true professional in every aspect, Lenin also worked as Sports Editor of New Age and other print media before losing the battle against pulmonary hypertension on this day in England last year at the age of 46.

To mark the sombre occasion the bereaved Gani family has organised a milad and doa mahfil at their Beanibazar village home after Juma prayers today.

Uthappa, Shakib drive Kolkata

Hyderabad keep hopes alive

AGENCIES, Kolkata



In-form batsman Robin Uthappa and Shakib Al Hasan played stellar hands to take Kolkata Knight Riders to a 30-run win over Kings XI Punjab in their IPL match at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

The win took Kolkata to third spot in the IPL table.

While Uthappa continued his purple patch with an unbeaten 83 off 51 balls, Shakib hit peak form and provided the impetus in the middle overs with a blistering 38-ball 60 to power Kolkata to 195 for four. During their 121-run fourth-wicket partnership, the ace Bangladesh all-rounder hit five fours and three sixes -- all of those maximums coming in the 13th over bowled by Yuzvendra Chahal. Also including a four off Shakib's bat, that over was the most expensive of the match, yielding 24.

Defending the massive total, off-spinner Sunil Narine joined the party and executed the role of wrecker-in-chief to perfection grabbing four for 20 to hand KKR a sixth successive win. Shakib also played his role with the ball, giving away only 27 runs in his four overs during the steep chase.

In the day's second match in Ranchi, David Warner pulverised a listless Chennai Super Kings attack into submission with some breathtaking strokeplay as Sunrisers Hyderabad won by six wickets to keep slim chances of qualifying for the play-offs alive.

Courtesy Warner's 45-ball-90 and an equally effective unbeaten 64 off 49 balls from Shikhar Dhawan, Sunrisers crossed the mark with two balls to spare taking their points tally to 12 with a match still left.

However, if Rajasthan Royals win their next match and take their points tally to 16, Sunrisers' last game will be rendered inconsequential.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KKR: 195 for 4 in 20 overs (Uthappa 83 not out, Shakib 60, Y Pathan 22; Starc 1-32, Nechim 1-33, Dinda 1-38)

RCB: 165 for 5 in 20 overs (Takawale 45, Kohli 38, Yuvraj 22, Rana 19 not out; Narine 4-20)

Result: Kolkata won by 30 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Robin Uthappa.

CSK: 185 for 3 in 20 overs (Dhoni 57 not out, D Hussey 50 not out, D Smith 47, du Plessis 19; K Sharma 2-19)

SRH: 189 for 4 in 19.4 overs (Warner 90, Dhawan 64 not out, Ojha 19; Raina 1-17, Hastings 1-29)

Result: Hyderabad won by 6 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: David Warner.

TOUR OF BANGLADESH

India to name squad end of this month

PTI, Mumbai

The Indian squad for the short visit to Bangladesh would be picked at the end of this month, according to BCCI secretary Sanjay Patel.

"The team for Bangladesh would be selected at the end of this month, most probably in Bangalore (venue of IPL final on June 1)," Patel told.

India have to play a short series of three ODIs in Dhaka between June 15 and 19, reaching Bangladesh on June 13 and leaving for home on June 20.

This short visit to the country's eastern neighbours precedes the long tour to England comprising five Tests and a five-match one-day series against the hosts.

In view of the tour to England, the Indian selectors might rest captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and key batsman Virat Kohli, news reports have indicated.

Patel had said earlier that some new players could be tried out in Bangladesh, while refusing to say about the possibility of resting Dhoni and Kohli.

Asked about selection of the squad to England, Patel said, "Not now (along with squad to Bangladesh). That will be done later."

The Indian squad would leave for England shortly after returning from Bangladesh with the tour commencing on June 26 with a three-day game scheduled in Leicester.

The team is set to play one more warm-up three-day game against Derbyshire (July 1-3) before the five-match Test series commencing July 9 at Trent Bridge.

WEST GERMANY 1974 Cruyff: An Orange Dream



PHOTO: DAILY STAR ARCHIVE

The Netherlands' iconic Number 14, Johan Cruyff, left many a defender and goalkeeper prostrate in the wake of his dazzling moves during the 1974 World

Marked tightly by the Swedish right-back Jan Olsson, Netherlands' forward Johan Cruyff collects a long pass, holds off his opponent and then produces an outrageous piece of skill to flick the ball between his own legs and totally bamboozle Olsson, who struggles to keep his balance. The cross comes to nothing, but a legend is born.

The Group Three game of the 1974 World Cup between Sweden and the Netherlands in Dortmund ended 0-0, but afterwards no one was talking about the result. In Cruyff, the world had a new sporting icon; and in his artist-laden Dutch team, a vision of what was never before thought possible on a football field.

Dutch football had come from the wilderness to dominate the European club scene with Ajax winning three straight European Cups from 1971 to 1973, after Feyenoord had won the competition in 1970. At its centrepiece was Cruyff, who, in cohort with coach Rinus Michels, led the national team to the brink of winning the World Cup in the only tournament he featured in.

Cruyff was at the peak age of 27 when he led the Dutch into West Germany in 1974. He was coming off his first season at Barcelona, having won the La Liga title there after three consecutive European Cups with Ajax.

The Dutch sailed to 1974's final, with Cruyff at the fulcrum. 'Total Football' pulled opponents in all directions. With two goals against Argentina and a thunderous volley that ended the hopes of

holders Brazil, Cruyff was reaching a crescendo as the Netherlands won the second group stage that preceded the showpiece.

In total Cruyff scored three goals in the 1974 tournament, provided three assists and created a total of 29 chances in open play. In the final, he was the dribble king with his tally of 55.

The script was written for Holland to win their first World Cup against the hosts and bitter foes West Germany in Munich. It couldn't have began better as Holland stroked the ball around, teasing their opponents, before Cruyff set off on a charging run forcing a penalty within the first minute. Neeskens converted and the resulting 88 minutes continue to be spoken about in Dutch households. West Germany crept back into the game clearly infuriated by Netherlands' attempt to humiliate them on home turf. By half-time they were in front and held on to secure the win against a team many considered to be superior.

The tournament ended in disarray for Cruyff and his Netherlands team that for so long seemed certain to get their hands on the trophy. But their impact on a generation of football supporters, mesmerised and hypnotised by an extravagantly talented group of free spirits wearing those brilliant orange shirts, will never be forgotten.

As Cruyff once said in a sentence that defined the Dutch team of 1974: "It's better to lose with your own vision than with someone else's."

MSC go third, Abahani held

SPORTS REPORTER



A brace from Wahed Ahmed powered Mohammedan SC to a fighting 2-1 win over a spirited Brothers Union while ten-man Sheikh Russel held title contenders Abahani to a goalless draw in the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League encounters at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Their eighth win put the Black and Whites in third position with 29 points from 16 matches, four points behind second-placed Abahani, who increased their points tally to 33 with their sixth draw in 17 matches.

Brothers had to be content with fourth position, remaining on 26 points from 17 matches while holders Sheikh Russel stay in seventh spot in the ten-team table with 17 points from 14 matches.

The day's first match between Abahani and Sheikh Russel was ill-tempered while the second one between Mohammedan and Brothers was a fast-paced, entertaining affair.

Inspired by newly-appointed coach Jewel Rana, Mohammedan exerted huge pressure on Brothers -- who were on a five-match unbeaten streak -- and took the deserved lead in the 15th minute with Wahed placing a Damien Chigozi free-kick past goalkeeper Sabuj Das Ragu inside the box.

Brothers hit back to level the margin seven minutes into the second half as Rubel Mia availed a fumble from Hemanta Vincent and danced past three defenders to beat Mohammedan goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury inside the box. With Brothers pressing for the lead, Mohammedan counter-attacked and restored the lead through Wahed, who dribbled past one defender and goalkeeper Titumir to score the decisive goal in the 71st minute.

In the first match, Abahani, who had previously been held to a goalless draw against Sheikh Jamal despite the latter playing with 10 men for the last 30 minutes, walked the same path after Sheikh Russel were reduced to 10 men in the 18th minute. Referee Tayeb Hasan gave Haitian Pascal Millien his marching orders for his unruly behaviour towards Abahani defender Mofazzal Hossain Saikat, who tugged at Pascal's ponytail.

Following the incident, Sheikh Russel players continued to protest the referee's decision, halting the match for eight minutes.

"He (Pascal) just shrugged off to take control of the ball when the opponent player tugged at his hair from the back but the referee sent him off," said Sheikh Russel's Montenegrin coach Dragan Djukanovic. "I have been disappointed with the refereeing from my first day here and I don't know what problem others have with Sheikh Russel."

Dragan however said that his charges have had injury problems that compelled him to choose alternative players and that his boys lost concentration after their AFC President's Cup campaign.

"Sheikh Russel played with 13 players, including three referees, despite being reduced to 10 men," alleged

Div I hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bachelors SC handed a 4-2 defeat to Police SC in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rubel, Reza, Taifur and Rista scored one goal apiece for Bachelors while Rana and Mahfuzur pulled back one goal each for Police.

In the day's second match, Barnak Samaj defeated Shantinagar SC 3-1 with Ranjan, Rabbi and Shohel scoring for Barnak while Alif hit one back for Shantinagar.

TESTIMONY LEAK

No regrets for McCullum

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand skipper Brendon McCullum on Thursday said he had no regrets about his leaked evidence to a corruption probe, as cricket chiefs moved to muzzle the media and stop any more "unhelpful" revelations.

McCullum said he stood by his testimony to the International Cricket Council (ICC), in which he reportedly told investigators that a high-profile cricketer dubbed "Player X" unsuccessfully attempted to recruit him in a match-fixing scam in 2008.

The batsman said he was shocked when his allegations appeared in a British newspaper this week, detailing a scandal that threatens to overshadow New Zealand's preparations to co-host next year's Cricket World Cup with Australia.

While ICC president Alan Isaac described the leak as "totally unacceptable", McCullum said he maintained confidence in the governing body and would continue to cooperate.

"There's still a long way to go I think," he told reporters in Christchurch.