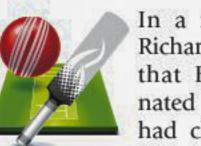
Repainting never works

BISHWAJIT ROY



In a recent interview Richard McInnes opined that Bangladesh stagnated because nothing had changed. The former BCB Academy head

coach, who had a long stint with Bangladesh cricket in two phases, in his long conversation with Wisden India did not say anything new while pointing out reasons behind Bangladesh's failure in international cricket.

Our cricket authorities always try to repaint a damaged wall instead of fixing the cracks when problems arise. And under the leadership of Nazmul Hassan Papon, the Bangladesh Cricket Board is doing this far too often, especially in the wake of the disastrous performances this year.

The result is that the problems remain the same, while the exterior gets a new outlook and, if things continue like this, we will be discussing the same problems forever.

As another international series approaches, at home against Zimbabwe, everybody is focused that any positives from the series will bring great relief to the team. The nation will then start pinning their hopes on the national team until another disastrous display against a top side creates a

U-16 QUALIFIERS

face UAE

SPORTS REPORTER

Jordan, an upbeat

AFC U-16 Women's

Stadium today.

today

Bangladesh

Fresh from a stunning 1-0

win over group favourites

Bangladesh are all set to take

on the United Arab Emirates

in their second match of the

Championship Qualifiers at

the Bangabandhu National

Before the start of the

Group B Qualifiers, the

hosts had set their sights

on a win over UAE, who

have been struck off the

FIFA rankings following

their inactiveness for the

last 18 months, who suf-

fered a 0-9 drubbing at the

The Bangladeshi girls are

target following their surpris-

ing win over Jordan, also on

Wednesday, and they had a

Kamalapur Stadium where

Choton asked his charges to

focus on the match against

UAE instead of dwelling on

coach Golam Rabbani

De Kruif

Sunday

SPORTS REPORTER

coming on

Bangladesh's Dutch football

coach Lodewijk de Kruif has

stance and is set to return to

Bangladesh on Sunday to

join the ongoing national

tional friendly matches

week of this month.

ter-stance from the

Bangladesh Football

Federation (BFF).

camp ahead of two interna-

against Sri Lanka in the last

De Kruif, who threat-

ened not to come back if

his unpaid wages were not

cleared, has finally agreed

to leave the Netherlands on

Saturday following a coun-

"We told de Kruif today

[Thursday] that his salary

would only be cleared once

he returned to Bangladesh

He is supposed to reach

Dhaka early Sunday," said

BFF general secretary Abu

Nayeem Shohag last night,

the air ticket to the coach.

Shohag however

informed that assistant

coach Rene Koster had

his dues were cleared.

adding that they already sent

and he agreed to come back.

back-pedalled from his

the past.

light training yesterday at the

now upbeat to reach their

hands of Iran in their first

match on Wednesday.

will allow them to take decisions; and they will, in all probability, take the popular decisions.

Enough was said against the players after the recent defeats and without doubt there have been a lot of problems for the top level players. But until or unless Bangladesh cricket authorities shift their focus from international cricket to the domestic circuit, nothing will change.

A recent trend is that many officials become part of the national or senior sides but nobody knows whether they add any value to the team. Three former national captains Akram Khan, Naimur Rahman and Habibul Bashar were tagged with the national team on their West Indies trip and we hoped the board would receive new ideas from their visit in order to solve the problems that plagued Bangladesh.

The expectation was that the BCB would get rid of the problems with the arrival of a number of former cricketers at the helm of the administration; they would give their utmost effort and knowledgeable input in order to increase the standard of domestic cricket, but one year has passed since their election and they have done nothing new.

Without any resistance, one season of the Premier League could be spoiled, though it is the bread and butter for the majority of cricketers. negative atmosphere in the BCB which Funnily enough, the authorities could

delay the start of this season's Premier League due to some top players' participation in a tournament marking 150 years of Kolkata's Eden Gardens.

There are people in the BCB who know that until we improve the standard of our domestic cricket, we will continue to stagnate.

Was there a single board meeting dedicated to the problems of domestic cricket? No. We could not make a permanent domestic calendar. There is no pre-season preparation. We have two first-class competitions which are not meaningful at all.

The BPL brings in a lot of off-field problems but nobody will argue that we need a BPL-standard T20 competition in our country. It seems the BCB will simply cut off its head to cure a headache instead of doing something meaningful.

When a board only focuses on their senior team and international cricket, one can only expect what is happening now. Our development programme has probably hit its nadir.

You can blame the players; you can question their commitment; you can make changes as you wish or you can hire the world's top coaching staff for your teams, but nothing will change until the BCB administrators fix their main problem, which is the domestic cricket. It may not be as glamorous as international cricket, but it is the proper foundation to build on.



Bangladesh ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan bowls on the first day of the threeday practice match among the national cricketers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday as part of their preparations for the upcoming home series against Zimbabwe. PHOTO: STAR

Kookaburra or SG Test?

SPORTS REPORTER

Ahead of the Test series against Zimbabwe, the home team's management was in a dilemma about which ball they would be using in the three-match series -- Kookaburra or SG Test.

They could not reach a decision until yesterday although the Zimbabwe team will arrive today.

There are two types of balls that are being used in cricket and the most famous one of course is Kookaburra, which Bangladesh used for a long time before new head coach Chandika Hathurusingha recommended the SG Test balls which are used in India.

BCB's cricket operations committee discussed the issue in its meeting yesterday, and according to insiders, Hathurusingha got confused at the last moment about which one to use.

Kookaburra ball was used on the first day of Bangladesh's three-day practice game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

'Oscar should pay for what he has done

A cousin of slain model Reeva Steenkamp made a

Battling tears and with her voice trembling, Kim Martin told a sentencing hearing that she was "very fearful" of the South African Paralympic and Olympic sprinter and did not believe his apology

"Pistorius needs to pay for what he has done, for taking Reeva's life, for what he's done to my uncle, to my

family," she said. "My family are not people who are seeking revenge, we just feel that to take someone's life, to shoot somebody behind a door, that is unarmed, that is harmless,

ment. "Everybody has suffered here, and I really think we need to send a message to

society that you can't do this and get away with it." Pistorius has been found

guilty of manslaughter for

soon as Friday, but with no mandatory minimum sentence, Judge Thokozile Masipa will have to decide whether he deserves to go to

has painted the "Blade Runner" as a "broken man", wracked by guilt about accidentally shooting his lover four times with hollow point bullets, believing her to be a burglar.

ZIMBABWE ARRIVE HERE THIS AFTERNOON

Craig, Tinashe back

CRICINFO, Harare



Zimbabwe have brought back Craig Ervine and Tinashe Panyangara for the upcoming Tests and ODIs in Bangladesh

and have named two uncapped players -- Brian Chari and Wellington Masakadza -- in the Test squad.

While Panyangara was expelled for indiscipline in August, Ervine, who last played a Test in March 2013, had made himself available earlier this month for the Bangladesh tour, 18 months after he had refused a winter contract in April 2013.

The southern Africans arrive here today afternoon to play three Tests starting October 25, followed by five will be replaced for the ODIs by three ODIs in November and December.

Chari, a top-order batsman, and Masakadza recently toured Bangladesh as part of the Zimbabwe A squad. Chari was the leading runscorer in the two unofficial Tests with 174 runs at an average of 43.50, and Masakadza, a left-arm spinner, impressed the selectors with 12 wickets, including figures of 6 for 63, at an average of 16.

Richmond Mutumbami had injured his arm during the tri-series against Australia and South Africa but has recovered to make both squads.

All-rounders Tafadzwa Kamungozi and Natsai M'shangwe, who have played ODIs but are yet to make their Test debuts, were named in both squads. Shingi Masakadza also made a comeback to the Test squad, having last played a Test in September 2013, against Pakistan.

Chari, Shingi and Wellington will return to Zimbabwe after the Tests and Masakadza, Natsai M'shangwe, players out of Neville Madziva, Timycen Maruma, Solomon Mire, Peter Moor, Tawanda Mupariwa and Brian Vitori.

Two prominent players who had

played the only Test against South Africa -- Sean Williams and Mark Vermeulen -- were missing from both squads.

SQUADS

TEST: Brendan Taylor (captain), Sikandar Raza, Regis Chakabva, Brian Chari, Tendai Chatara, Elton Chigumbura, Craig Ervine, Tafadzwa Kamungozi, Hamilton Masakadza, Shingi Masakadza, Wellington Masakadza, Natsai M'shangwe, Richmond Mutumbami, John Nyumbu, Tinashe Panyangara, Vusi Sibanda, Malcolm Waller.

ODI: Elton Chigumbura, Brendan Taylor, Sikandar Raza, Regis Chakabva, Tendai Chatara, Craig Ervine, Tafadzwa Kamungozi, Hamilton Richmond Mutumbami, John Nyumbu, Tinashe Panyangara, Vusi Sibanda, Malcolm Waller, three out of Neville Madziva, Timycen Maruma, Solomon Mire, Peter Moor, Tawanda Mupariwa and Brian Vitori.

'Pacy' fourth ODI today PTI, Dharamshala



Bolstered by their dramatic come-frombehind win in the last game, India will look to keep the winning momentum going when they meet West Indies in the fourth onedayer in Dharamshala on Friday on what is expected to be a pacy track.

The series is locked at 1-1 and the picturesque HPCA Stadium will provide the perfect setting as the two teams square off to seize the initiative before the final match of the series is played at Eden Gardens on October 20.

India's series-levelling victory at Delhi's Kotla was combination of West Indies' self destruction while cruising towards an easy win and also inability to play on a track where there is some turn on offer. Spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Amit Mishra

exploited the helpful conditions perfectly as West Indies lost eight wickets for 45 runs in their pursuit of a competitive total of 263.

However, India might find it difficult for their spinners to extract same kind of help from the track in Dharamshala as they have done from 22-yard strip in Delhi.

Notwithstanding the erratic display from the Caribbean batsmen, the battle in the backdrop of the Dhauladar mountain range should be exciting, considering the fast and bouncy nature of the pitch.

There is always a chance of rain in the hills. Therefore even a light spell of shower will further aid the pacemen besides making the conditions colder.

The teams chose to stay put in Delhi post the match on October 11 and arrived at a much-higher altitude here only on the eve of the match.

Facing a decent West Indies pace attack on a lively surface will be a test for the Indian batsmen. The home team had a tough time batting first here against England in January 2013, when it lost half its men for 79 runs before going on to lose the match. Anyway, it will be a challenge for the Indian bowlers to

contain the in-form Dwayne Smith and Marlon Samuels, who have been the stand-out performers with the willow, for the visitors. While Samuels hit an unbeaten 126 in the first game at

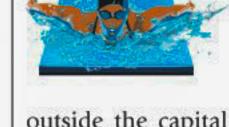
Kochi that the West Indies won convincingly, Smith was guilty of throwing his wicket away at the cusp of century (97) in the second game in the capital. Overall, it will be interesting to see how the unpredict-

able visitors bat on a tricky surface.

On the bowling front, West Indies skipper Dwayne Bravo would surely expect his fast bowlers to come to the party. He has the option of bringing in speedster Kemar Roach to support Ravi Rampaul and Jerome Taylor.

All-rounder Andre Russell will be expected to keep things tight in the middle overs.

Nat'l C'ships in Gopalganj this year



The National Swimming Championships this year are going to be held

with Gopalganj hosting the 27th edition of the meet at a newly-built complex in the southern district from Monday.

refused to come back until the first time to participate in the fourings will be recorded manually as no electronic device has been installed at this new venue.

across the country, we are taking these championships out of the capital for the first time and this year we are organising the competition at the newly-built pool in Gopalganj," said Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) general secretary Rofiz Uddin Ahmed at a press conference at the BOA Auditorium yesterday.

The swimming complex in Gopalganj was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in February

petitive tournament for the first time.

PHOTO: STAR

"We don't want to confine swimming within Dhaka. We will hold the next championships in another district," said Rofiz, adding that they were planning to hold the Bangabandhu Swimming Championships involving all SAARC nations in the capital within the next three-four months. The BSF had held national champi-

capital once in Bogra. Chief financial officer of sponsors RMM Group, who are providing TK 15 lakh, Hemangshu Sarker promised to stay with the sport in the next year too.

onships at junior level outside the

AFP, London



Chris Cairns appeared in a London court on Thursday charged with perjury relating to a libel action he brought in England in 2012.

Cairns won 146,000 dollars after he sued former Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi over a 2010 tweet accusing the allrounder of match-fixing during his time in the now defunct Indian Cricket League.

However, Cairns was charged with perjury and appeared before a judge at London's Southwark Crown Court on Thursday.

Cairns, who lives in Auckland, appeared

New Zealand cricket great

bail to appear for a plea and case manage-

Cairns appears in court

course of justice.

ment hearing at the same court on January 16 next year. Both men have previously indicated they will contest the allegations. The trial, which could last for up to a

alongside lawyer Andrew Fitch-Holland,

who faces one count of perverting the

Cairns in the action against Modi.

Fitch-Holland, 49, was lead adviser to

The pair spoke only to give their names.

Cairns and Fitch-Holland unconditional

Judge Alistair McCreath gave both

month, is expected to begin in early October next year, traditionally a time when there are few major fixtures in cricket's otherwise crowded calendar.

AFP, Pretoria

tearful plea Thursday for Oscar Pistorius to "pay for what he has done," as the prosecution sought to ensure the Paralympic athlete goes to jail.

for killing her cherished cousin was genuine.

aunt and the rest of my

needs sufficient punish-

shooting Steenkamp dead on Valentine's Day 2013. He could be sentenced as

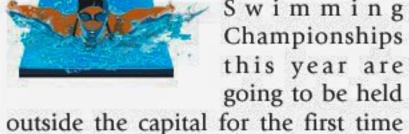
jail or stay free. Pistorius's defence team

day championships. But all the tim- this year and it is going to host a com-

Bangladesh women U-16 booters run with the ball during their training session at the Kamalapur Stadium yes-

terday. They will take on UAE in their second match of the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers at the

SPORTS REPORTER



With approximately 500 swimmers

Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

expected to compete in 38 events -- 19 each for men and women, the clubs have also been given opportunity for "As part of spreading swimming