

SPORT

DRS on for Zim series

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Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has finally decided to introduce Decision Review System (DRS) in the coming three-match Test series against Zimbabwe as a 'test case'.

According to the BCB, reason behind the decision was to make sure that they took all the advantages in a series, which is very vital for the home team as they are looking forward to gaining the much-needed ranking points to avoid staying at the bottom.

"We are introducing the DRS for the first time in a home series as we thought that it's the best opportunity for us to examine whether it is good or bad for us. It is a case test. Whether we will continue with it or not will depend on the success of this series," informed BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury yesterday.

"We have decided to take this advantage of technology as we think this is a very important series for us as we want to gain on the rankings. So, we are not thinking too much on the financial aspect, rather we are doing it for cricketing reasons," he added.

It was also learnt that head coach Chandika Hathurusingha influenced the board to take the decision, but DRS will not be in use in the five-match ODI series.

Title sponsors announced

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The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday declared Bashundhara Cement as the title sponsor of the Test and ODI series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

Hosts Bangladesh in the 45-day-long bilateral series will play three Tests and five ODIs against the visitors. A logo unveiling ceremony was held on this regard at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday where senior dignitaries of both the BCB and Bashundhara Group were present.

The first time the conglomerate came up to support cricket was during Bangladesh's home series against Pakistan in 2009. However the BDR tragedy in that year forced the series off.

Bashundhara Group advisor Major General (Ret) Mahbub Haider Khan, head of marketing of the group Jashim Uddin and GM of Bashundhara Cement Khondoker Kingshuk Hossain were present in the logo unveiling ceremony. Media committee chairman Jalal Younus and CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury represented BCB in the ceremony.

WI looking for a way out

AFP, Bridgetown

Battle lines are being drawn in West Indies cricket between the players and administrators following the team's shock withdrawal from the tour of India.

In the wake of the unprecedented decision to abandon the campaign at the end of the fourth one-day international in Dharamsala on Friday, West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) officials are due to meet in emergency session on Tuesday to consider the ramifications of their squad's failure to fulfil a contractual obligation with the most powerful and influential organisation in the international game.

Amid speculation that the Board of Control for Cricket in India is contemplating legal action to recoup losses estimated at 65 million dollars for the cancellation of the last ODI, a lone T20



BCB XI players are all smiles after bundling out Zimbabwe for just 241 on the first day of the three-day practice match at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'BFF working on amicable parting'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is moving towards ending the contract with national team's head coach Lodewijk de Kruif through an amicable solution, informed a high-official of the federation yesterday.

"Both the parties, BFF and de Kruif are preparing documents so that we can mutually end the contract through an amicable solution," said Tabith M Awal, vice-president and member of National Team's Committee of BFF after emerging from a meeting between de Kruif and the federation president Kazi Salahuddin at the BFF office yesterday afternoon.

De Kruif returned from Netherland in the early hours of Sunday and received a show-cause notice from the BFF a day after federation president had announced their decision not to continue with the Dutch coaches. The Dutch coach is expected to send his reply to the show-cause notice by tonight.

"The coach has been served a show cause notice and we will continue the legal procedure of ending the contract after taking the reply of the show-cause letter into consideration. The whole process may take around 30 days," Tabith apprised reporters after the meeting.

"However the coach has already been relieved off his duties and Saiful Bari Titu has been given the charge of the national team for the two FIFA Friendly matches against Sri Lanka later this month," added Tabith.

Tabith also informed that since both the parties decided to solve the issue between themselves, there was no need for either party to take the matter to the world football's governing body FIFA.

The assistant coach Rene Koster, who did not return from Netherlands, has also been served a show-cause notice on the same day as de Kruif. A BFF official informed that they would take a decision on him separately after receiving his reply.



Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced Bashundhara Cement as the title sponsors for Bangladesh's upcoming Test and ODI series against Zimbabwe.

Mamunul returns for nat'l duty

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Bangladesh captain Mamunul Islam returned from Kolkata yesterday to join the national camp ahead of Bangladesh's two international friendlies against Sri Lanka this month. The 26-year-old midfielder is hopeful that Bangladesh would win both the matches.

"We want to win both the matches and we don't want a repeat of the performance against Nepal where we won one and lost the other," said Mamunul, who will return to Kolkata on October 28.

Sri Lanka are scheduled to arrive in the capital this morning and will head off in the afternoon for Jessore, where the first match will take place on October 24.

Replies to a query, Mamunul said he was a bit surprised at the decision to terminate Lodewijk de Kruif, but felt the football's governing body must have taken the decision after some deliberation.

He also said being part of Atletico de Kolkata is a special experience. "I am trying to give my hundred percent in training and just waiting for an opportunity. I am hopeful that I can draw attention of my coach even if there is keen competition among the players," said Mamunul.

Emails leaked to the media between Dwayne Bravo, captain of the West Indies ODI squad, and Hinds reveal a claim by Bravo that the new arrangement significantly reduces international players' overall compensation packages. It is an accusation refuted by the WIPA president.

In communication with Cameron that has also been made public, Bravo claimed the players in India were "disheartened and extremely disappointed" by the refusal of the WICB to abide by their decision that Hinds and his executive can no longer represent them and that they would only have continued with the tour on the basis of the previous CBA/MoU.

"We were truly hoping that the WICB together with WIPA and/or the players would do everything in their power to seriously address the concerns of the players. Regrettably, this has not happened," Bravo wrote before the fourth ODI.

Sagar starts gold spree

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Mahfizur Rahman Sagar's bid to winning eight gold medals in the 27th National Swimming Championships got off to a fantastic start as the promising swimmer of Bangladesh Navy

produced a national record and grabbed two gold medals on the opening day at the Gopalganj Swimming Pool and Gymnasium Complex yesterday.

Sagar, who had set four national records in the 2013 Bangladesh Games in 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m freestyle and is the current holder of seven national records, rewrote his own record in 200m freestyle by clocking 1:59.13 minutes. The previous record was 2:00.56 minutes.

The 21-year-old swimmer also won the gold medal in the 50m backstroke along with Jewel Ahmed of Bangladesh Army. Participating in the event for the first time in the national meet, Sagar took only 29.00 seconds to finish the 50-metre distance.

"I am really happy to rewrite my own record even though I did not make a plan of creating any national record. But I have targeted eight gold medals and I have already bagged two today (Monday)," said Sagar.

Sagar's may face some competition in his pet event of 50m freestyle, an event he has been dominating since 2008, from his teammate Asif Reza who finished behind Sagar in 200m freestyle.

Sagar said he was shocked after swimming was excluded from the Asian Games contingent, but he shrugged off the frustration in style.

"Whether or not I get a further chance to compete in international level, I want to keep my performance in all domestic competitions as long as I'm active in pool," Sagar informed over the phone after the competition.

Sagar's teammate Sonia Akter Tumpa also produced a new record in the women's 200m butterfly to eclipse Romana Akter's record of 2:44.15 minutes. Tumpa took 2:41.49 minutes to set the new record.

Despite Sagar and Tumpa's records, Bangladesh Navy (4 gold) could not topple Bangladesh Army, who have won five gold medals. Romana Akter of Army broke her own record in 400m individual medley at a time of 5:49.92 minutes, beating her previous best of 5:55.20 minutes.

Target ending drought

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan hope to end a 20-year drought against Australia when they meet in the first of two Tests in Dubai from Wednesday but they are hobbled by the absence of spin king Saeed Ajmal.

Ajmal, who has been suspended due to an illegal bowling action, has single-handedly ruled the dry and slow tracks of Pakistan's neutral venues in the United Arab Emirates, especially at Dubai where he has 37 wickets in six Tests, three of which Pakistan won.

That includes 24 wickets in a 3-0 rout of England in 2012.

Pakistan have also lost frontline seamers Junaid Khan and Wahab Riaz -- both through knee injuries -- and have to rely on uncapped leg-spinner Yasir Shah and two-Test left-arm Zulfiqar Babar, both of whom are likely to play.

Captain Misbahul Haq, under pressure to score runs after managing nought and 15 in the preceding 3-0 one-day series defeat, admitted Ajmal's absence is significant.

"Ajmal has left a big hole," said Misbah, who skips a team whose last Test series win over Australia was back in 1994.

"But we have youngsters who should grab the chance and I am confident they can."

Jubair exudes confidence

SPORTS REPORTER

A sudden rise and even a quicker fall of Bangladeshi cricketers have been quite a common phenomenon. At the same time there have been players like Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim who held their positions for a long time now.

The newest star to appear on the horizon is Jubair Hossain and only time can say what future holds for him. Patience is the key for grooming a leg-spinner, so we have to see how much time the selectors give him and how the 19-year-old bowler grabs the opportunity and handle the pressure at the highest level of the game. It's however time for the newcomer to enjoy his quick promotion to the senior side and the bowler from Jamalpur apparently was not surprised by the call-up for the first Test against Zimbabwe to be held at Mirpur from October 25.

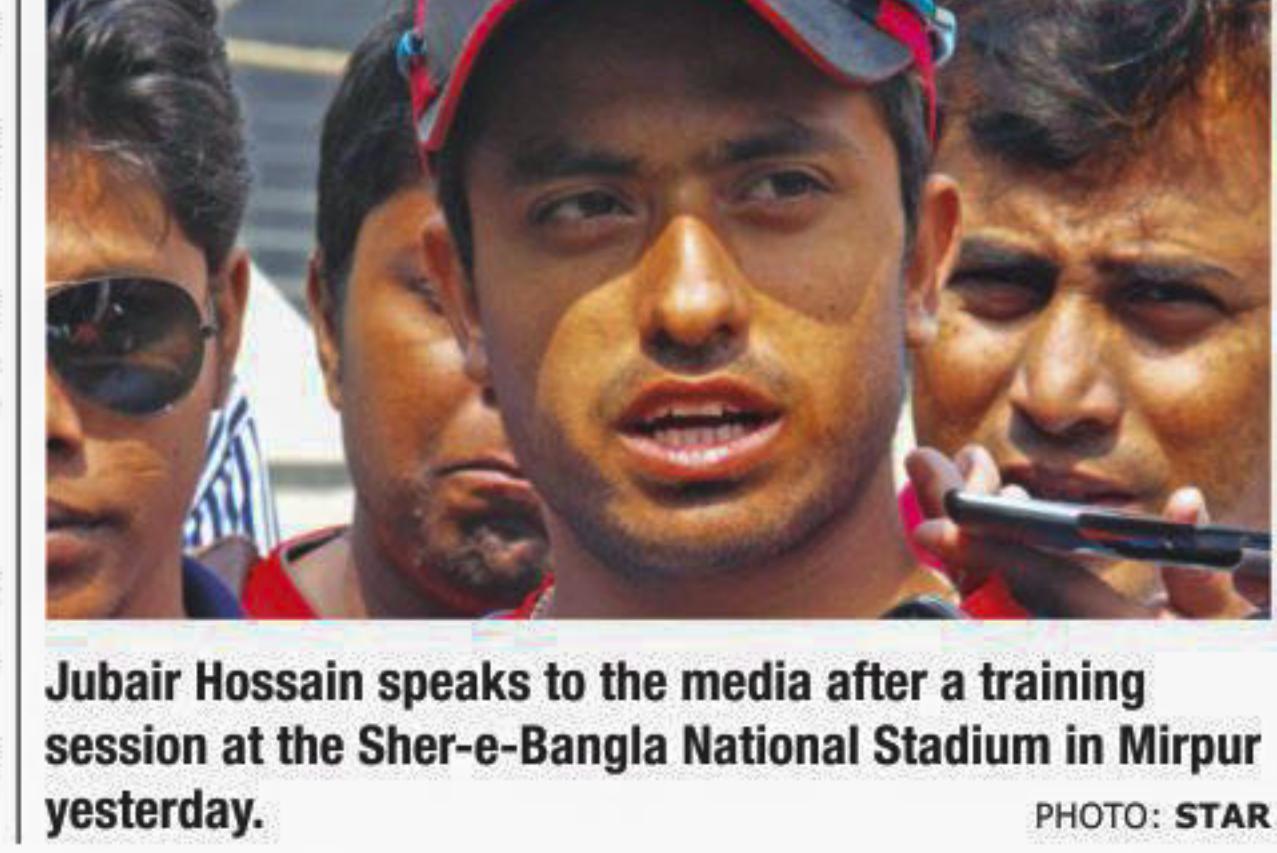
There was no shortage of confidence when Jubair was speaking to the media after a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday and he made it clear that he was ready to take the opportunity with both hands.

"It feels really good. I played for all age-level teams and I made decent performances. My main goal was to play for the national side and I was confident that I would be able one day. I could not play the Under-19 World Cup due to injury but still I finished as the top wicket-taker in the under-19 level. Now as I got the chance, I want to capitalise on it," said Jubair when asked how exciting it was to get the call so early.

He also told the story of how an opening batsman became a leg-spinner, a genre which is not so popular in the land of left-arm spinners. "I started as an opener but hardly had any success. Then my elder brother advised me to try leg-spin as there was a shortage of this type of bowlers in our country. You have to have some gifts from the Almighty; like you need a strong shoulder for leg-spin bowling and I got it," said Jubair, whose idol is none other than Australian great Shane Warne. Jubair also likes the bowling of Indian spinner Amit Mishra.

"My stock delivery is really good. I have variety in my bowling and I have the control on my bowling as well," was the response from a confident boy when asked about the strong point of his bowling.

Everybody is now encouraging the youngster but it's him who has to prove with his performance that he has come here to stay as the first specialist leg-spinner in the national side.



Jubair Hossain speaks to the media after a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR