



Shakib's foreign ban lifted

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday lifted the ban on Shakib Al Hasan regarding participation in overseas tournaments. BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon confirmed the board's decision while talking to reporters at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on his return from Singapore. Papon said that the board had taken the decision of lifting the ban as they were happy with the performance and behaviour of the talismanic all-rounder. The ban was supposed to run through December 31, 2015.

Papon however warned that the all-rounder could not imagine what kind of action would be taken against him if he violated the discipline again. "Not only Shakib, no one can imagine what kind of action will be taken against a player if he breaks discipline. It will be tougher than what we took against him [Shakib]," he commented after his attention was drawn to Wednesday's incident in the Dhaka Premier League, where the all-rounder was fined for dissent.

Legends of Rupganj captain Shakib was fined for misbehaving with the on-field umpire during their league game against Prime Bank Cricket Club at BKSP and later fined Tk 10,000. Shakib will now be eligible to play the Twenty20 Big Bash League in Australia, which commences on December 18.

Regarding Legends of Rupganj owner Lutfur Rahman Badal's recent comments, Papon said that he was yet to read the full text. But what he has learnt from others, he could not imagine someone hurling so bad language. He said that he would first read the whole text and then won't hesitate to take all necessary action against Badal.

WC PROBABLES

No surprise expected

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The three-member selection panel, led by Faruque Ahmed, submitted the 30-member preliminary squad to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday for the ICC World Cup to be held in Australia-New Zealand next year.

According to sources, there were no notable omissions in the long list except for off spinner Shohag Gazi, who has been suspended from international cricket for an illegal bowling action. There were also no surprise inclusions except for Liton Das, the opening batsman-cum-wicketkeeper, who has been scoring runs consistently in the domestic circuit.

The names of the probables will be made public after getting approval from BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon, who returned home from Singapore last night.

Bangladesh has been drafted in Pool A along with Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, England, Afghanistan and Scotland.

The deadline for submitting the final 15 to the ICC is January 7, five weeks before the commencement of the tournament.



Bangladesh U-21 hockey players celebrate one of the seven goals during their penultimate AHF Cup group league match against Oman at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Anamul secures big win for Kalabagan

SPORTS REPORTER



Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League 2014-15

National team opener Anamul Haque bolstered Kalabagan Cricket Academy to continue their climb of the Dhaka Premier League ladder as the right-hander's sparkling hundred helped his side outclass Partex Sporting Club by 197 runs at BKSP yesterday.

The Kalabagan side, with their sixth win, moved to third position on the table while Abahani jumped to second position with the same number of wins, after beating Victoria Sporting Club by eight wickets at Mirpur, by virtue of better run-rate.

After a couple of early hiccups, captain Anamul hit 113 and shared a 193-run third-wicket partnership with Mahmudul Hasan as they piled up 334 runs for five after being reduced to 22 for 2.

Anamul struck eleven fours and seven sixes in his 104-ball knock and Hasan contributed 70 off 87 balls with eight fours and a six. Their English recruit Phil Mustard added 59 off 42 balls that featured seven fours and two sixes.

Partex had no answer to the mammoth target and were eventually bundled out for just 137 runs.

Avishek Mitra hit his maiden List A hundred to guide Brothers Union to victory against Kalabagan Krira Chakra by four wickets at another venue of BKSP.

Mitra scored an unbeaten 101 off 137 balls, smashing eleven fours and a six, while Nazimuddin added 50 as



ANAMUL ... 113

Brothers overtook Kalabagan's 192 in 46.3 overs.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam along with pacer Mustafizur Rahman shattered Victoria's top order and then left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajib

took two wickets to wrap up Victoria's innings for 159 runs.

Abahani reached the target in 46.2 overs, riding on half-centuries from Abdul Majid and Liton Das.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KALABAGAN CA: 334 for 5 in 50 overs (Anamul 113, Hasan 70, Mustard 59 not out, Sabbir 33; Azim 3-55, Zain 2-54)

PARTEX: 137 all out in 35.5 overs (Robiul 35, Shafiul 41 not out; Sharif 2-37, Bishwant 3-16)

Result: Kalabagan Cricket Academy won by 197 runs.

KALABAGAN KC: 192 all out in 49 overs (Nasiruddin 41, Pettini 54, Masud 45 not out; Sadat 3-16, Asif 3-36)

BROTHERS: 195-6 in 46.3 overs (Avishek 101 not out, Nazimuddin 50; Shahadat 2-50, Rockybul 2-28)

Result: Brothers Union won by four wickets.

VICTORIA: 159 all out in 48.2 overs (Imrul 31, Shuvo 45; Mustafizur 2-33, Nazmul 4-14)

ABAHANI: 165 for 2 in 46.2 overs (Majid 50 not out, Liton 54, Rokibul 20, Nasir 30 not out)

Result: Abahani won by eight wickets.

India name probables

11 members of 2011 winners not on the list of 30

PTI, Mumbai



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015

Four veterans -- Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Zaheer Khan and Harbhajan Singh -- were omitted Thursday from India's 30-member World Cup probables list which includes young spinners Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav.

Another seasoned cricketer Gautam Gambhir has also been left out with the selectors reposing faith on the young guns to retain the title in Australia and New Zealand.

The decision to ignore the veteran players, who were a part of the 2011 World Cup winning team along with Sehwag, Yuvraj and Gambhir, has put a question mark on their future given that none of the five have featured in an ODI for the last one year.

Apart from the famed five, pacers Ashish Nehra and Munaf Patel, spinner Piyush Chawla and all-rounder Yusuf Pathan were also among the players axed from the list announced by Indian board's secretary Sanjay Patel after a meeting of the selection committee.

Apart from Axar and Kuldeep, Jammu and Kashmir all-rounder Parvez Rasool and batting duo of Manish Pandey and Kedar Jadhav benefitted from the overhaul, riding on their consistent performance in

the domestic circuit.

With the selectors opting to ignore seniors, there were no major surprises on offer in the list of probables.

The selectors included all-rounder Stuart Binny and in-form batsman Manoj Tiwary and young wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson in the list which would be further pruned to 15 on January 7, five weeks ahead of the World Cup starting February 14.

Eleven players from the 2011 World Cup-winning squad will not be seen in action when the team goes down under to defend the trophy. While most of them have been ignored for poor form, Sachin Tendulkar has retired and pacer Shanthakumaran Sreesanth has been banned for spot-fixing.

SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Robin Uthappa, Virat Kohli, Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav, Manoj Tiwary, Manish Pandey, Wriddhiman Saha, Sanju Samson, Ravichandran Ashwin, Parvez Rasool, Karn Sharma, Amit Mishra, Ravindra Jadeja, Ashar Patel, Ishant Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Varun Aaron, Dhawal Kulkarni, Stuart Binny, Mohit Sharma, Ashok Dinda, Kuldeep Yadav and Murali Vijay.

Bangladesh get tough draw

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Bangladesh have been placed with Syria, Uzbekistan and India in Group E of the 2016 AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers, to be held in Dhaka from March 27 to 31 next year.

A total of 43 nations, split into the ten groups, will be playing the round-robin first round at ten different venues, with the winners of each group and five best runners-up advancing into the 16-team finals in Qatar in January 2016.

With the presence of Syria, who never lost to Bangladesh in their three previous meetings at senior level, and Uzbekistan, who recently handed a 3-0 defeat to Bangladesh Olympic team in the Asian Games, it will be difficult for the home side to top the group. The only realistic chance for Bangladesh is to finish second in their group and hope for the best.

Bangladesh will play Syria, Uzbekistan and India on March 27, 29 and 31 respectively.

The AFC U-23 Championship 2016 will also serve as the Olympic Qualifiers in every alternative edition, with the top three teams from the 2016 edition representing Asia at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil.

Marsh added to Aussie squad

AFP, Sydney



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015

Selectors called batsman Shaun Marsh into Australia's Test squad Thursday as cover for recovering captain Michael Clarke ahead of next week's opening Test with India.

Marsh, 31, will join the 12-man squad in Adelaide, where the rescheduled four-Test series begins against India on Tuesday.

Clarke and his grief-stricken teammates attended Phillip Hughes's funeral on Wednesday and will assemble in Adelaide late Thursday and Friday for next week's series opener.

It is yet not clear if any of the Australian squad will withdraw from the Test, with emotions still raw following Hughes's freak death last week.

Hughes, who had played 26 Tests and was on the cusp of a recall, died from bleeding on the brain after being hit on the base of the skull by a rising ball at the Sydney Cricket Ground during a domestic match on November 25.

Cricket Australia has reassured those selected that they can withdraw from the Test if they are having problems emotionally.

"We hope the boys can find the inner strength to play the game in the way Phillip would have wanted in Adelaide next week and that they can honour what he had done," coach Darren Lehmann wrote in a column for The Australian on Thursday.

"It's going to be hard and if somebody is struggling Michael [Clarke] and I understand. There is no pressure on them.

"We will look after them and we will help them get back to the place where they can play."

Hughes and Marsh were the leading candidates to replace Clarke last month, when the 33-year-old skipper was set to be ruled out of the first Test while recovering from a third hamstring setback since August.

The two Test contenders had both been in action for their respective state sides on November 25.

Hosts romp into final

SPORTS REPORTER



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2015

Bangladesh U-21 hockey team raced into the Junior AHF Cup final with a match in hand when they notched an emphatic 7-0 win over Oman at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The hosts, who will play their fourth and last group game against Sri Lanka tomorrow, also confirmed their qualification for the 2015 Junior Asia Cup to be held in May in Malaysia with this win, their third in a row in the five-team tournament.

The home side came into the crucial match on the back of 17 goals in two effortless wins and the game against Oman was tipped to be a real test for them, especially after Bangladesh's disappointing 2-3 defeat against the Gulf nation in the Asian Games two months ago.

But the game turned out to be anti-climatic as the home boys simply toyed with Oman, like they did against Chinese Taipei and Thailand previously.

Bangladesh had to wait for 17 minutes to break the deadlock, but did not look back once they took lead through Mohammad Khorshed, who smartly converted the first penalty corner before adding two more from the spot. Moinul Islam Koushik and Milon struck one goal apiece in the first half to give Bangladesh a 5-0 lead and after resumption captain Sarwar Hossain and Fazle Rabbi Roki scored two field goals to complete a 7-0 rout. In the day's first match, Sri Lanka beat Thailand 3-2 to keep their hopes of a final berth alive.

"We had worked on Oman during our practice sessions and I think the boys played accordingly in the first half. We rested some key players in the second half thinking of the final match," said coach Mamunur Rashid at the post-match conference, adding that his charges have yet to play to their full potential.

Meet the Phil-blazer

SMH.COM

Sydney-sider Paul Taylor, who started a global social media phenomenon with his simple tribute to Phillip Hughes -- #putoutyourbats, was overcome with emotion at his home on Thursday as the outpouring of good will was quantified in numbers.

As of 10am on Thursday, the number that defines the emotional response was 197,031 mentions of his "putoutyourbats" Twitter hashtag across public digital media since he first tweeted it to @smh at 4.08pm on December 27.

"It exploded," says Taylor, who had refused international requests for interviews until after Hughes's funeral on Wednesday.

But hundreds of photos followed in response, across social networks, evidence that people were copying his simple tribute, their cricket bats photographed at their front doors.

Digital media expert Tiphereth Gloria, who conducted the analysis, says: "This was not manufactured. It was not a brand or a campaign. It was a heartfelt expression of grief and respect by one man, with a beautiful and simple visual message which struck an instant chord."

It is truly global. Of the total #putoutyourbats mentions, 34,228 --



or 17.4 per cent -- came from Australia. But more, almost 70,000 came from the United States, 26,799 from Britain, and more than 20,000 from India. Morocco, with 3035 mentions, accounted for only 1.6 per cent.

The figures for #putoutyourbats are for less than a week. Twitter accounts for 94 per cent of its mentions globally while the rest come from Facebook and Instagram.

Celebrities and brands joined in in huge numbers, Jason Yat-Sen Li put out his father-in-law's bat from 1946. West Indies great Viv Richards posted a picture of his bat. Google Australia added a tribute -- an image of a cricket bat -- on its home page. Even Manchester United laid a bat on the pitch of Old Trafford with the defining hashtag.