

SPORT

WORLD'S OLDEST PLAYER EXTENDS

Former Japan international Kazuyoshi Miura agreed to extend his contract for another season at Yokohama FC, with his new deal taking the striker beyond his 48th birthday. Already acknowledged as the oldest active professional player, Miura this week signed a new contract having already



After hitting an invaluable 88 in the first innings, Mitchell Johnson (L) wreaked havoc with the ball, taking India's four crucial top-order wickets in second innings. And he was at the crease when the winning runs were scored at Gabba yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BOA FORMS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Questionable choice

SPORTS REPORTER

After years of allegations of indiscipline of athletes during national and international sports events, the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has formed a two-member disciplinary committee on Thursday to monitor such allegations and to take appropriate measures against the perpetrators.

The BOA nominated its vice president, also president of Bangladesh Cycling Federation, Mizanur Rahman Manu as the chairman and its executive committee member and general secretary of Bangladesh Athletics Federation, Ibrahim Chengis, as the member secretary of the committee. The committee will prepare a list of cases of indiscipline from the recent past from 24 sports federations and will recommend their findings to the executive committee. It was learnt that based on the findings of the committee, the BOA will hand out punishments to players and officials found guilty of gross indiscipline.

"The disciplinary committee will look into all the allegations in recent times, both in international and national meets," Manu told reporters yesterday. "Actually the BOA formed the committee to make sure that no such indiscipline occurs in future."

The formation of the committee comes

hot on the heels of incidents during the Incheon Asian Games in October this year where a karate player named Shamin Osman escaped from the Bangladesh contingent. Apart from that, a Bangladeshi fencer failed to take part in his event due to not maintaining the dress code prescribed by the games authority.

"We have noticed that most officials consider international meets as pleasure trips. We want to stop this culture in the future. Without following rules and regulations, many federations send their athletes to international meets, which brings disgrace to the whole contingent," added Manu.

However, the appointment of the two members itself has raised questions due to allegations against their own federations. There are allegations that a cyclist named Azizur Islam and a cycling coach named Zahid Chowdhury went missing from South Korea during a workshop held from September 1 to October 19 last year. The issue is being investigated by the NSC.

"There is no room for anyone to get away with this kind of an offence," said Manu. "The National Sports Council is also aware of the matter and an inquiry on the issue is going on. If the cycling federation is found guilty, then we are ready to accept any punishment," said Manu.

Shakib seeks NOC for Big Bash

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan is likely flying to Australia in the first week of January to play in the Twenty20 Big Bash League.

The all-rounder visited Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters in Mirpur yesterday to have a discussion regarding his no objection certificate (NOC), but was not ready to disclose his chosen team's name to the media.

Shakib previously played in the league for Adelaide Strikers, however according to sources, he may play for Melbourne Renegades this season, but the Bangladesh all-rounder is yet to put pen to paper.

BCB chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed that if everything goes according to plan then Shakib will join the national team in Australia. The Bangladesh team is scheduled to go down under on January 24 next year, well before the start of the ICC World Cup in February.

The Tigers will go to Australia early to accustom themselves with the conditions, as well as to play two more practice matches beside official preparation games against Pakistan and Ireland.

Non-veg diet angers India

INTERNET, Brisbane

Barely two weeks after mutually sharing the grief of Phillip Hughes' death, India team's relations with Cricket Australia are turning sour as pacer Ishant Sharma left the Gabba at lunch on the third day, after finding that there was no vegetarian preparation in the menu.

Apparently they have been unhappy with the food provided to the visitors ever since they landed here. The team was very unhappy about the food provided at Glenelg Oval for the two practice matches and the same was notified to the concerned authorities. However they did not make their grievance public as it was the time that the nation was in mourning after Hughes' tragedy.

The team was happy with the arrangements made for the first Test in Adelaide where South Australia Cricket Association arranged for an Indian chef to prepare food for the Indian team during the match.

Johnson makes it 2-0

AFP, Brisbane



Mitchell Johnson inspired Australia to a four-wicket win over India to take a 2-0 series-lead with a day to spare in the second Gabba Test on Saturday.

The ICC Cricketer of the Year condemned India to defeat with a hostile spell of three for 10 in the space of 11 balls, ripping the heart out of the tourists' top order in the morning session.

Johnson snared four wickets for 61 off 17.3 overs as Australia dismissed India for 224 and were left needing 128 runs for victory.

The hosts made getting the job done difficult despite veteran opener Chris Rogers' second half-century of the match.

At the close, Australia were 130 for six with Mitchell Marsh hitting the winning runs and finishing six not out with Johnson on two.

The victory continued Australia's formidable record at "fortress" Gabba where they have not lost a Test since 1988.

Johnson followed up his game-changing knock of 88 off 93 balls in Australia's first innings with a dynamic spell of fast bowling to power his team to victory.

Steve Smith, captaining Australia for the first time since replacing the injured Michael Clarke, was named player-of-the-match with his 133 in the first innings.

"Mitch certainly did it today for us with that little spell. He cracked the game open for us. All the bowlers produced the goods in this game," Smith said.

India went into the fourth day at 71 for one but they never recovered from

Johnson's whirlwind bowling spell and they were bundled out in 64.3 overs.

Only Shikhar Dhawan (81) and Cheteshwar Pujara (43) offered any resistance in a meek Indian batting performance.

Nothing went right for the tourists on the fourth morning with Dhawan retiring hurt on his overnight score of 26 after being struck on the wrist in the practice nets before the start of play.

Johnson then shredded the top order, removing Virat Kohli (1), Ajinkya Rahane (10) and Rohit Sharma (0) in the space of 11 balls.

The Australians lost David Warner (6), Shane Watson (0), Rogers (55), Shaun Marsh (17), Steve Smith (28) and Brad Haddin (1) on the way to victory with Warner getting a painful blow on the left thumb in Yadav's first over.

Team officials said that Warner had not suffered a fracture, raising his chances of being fit for the third Test in the four-match series, starting in Melbourne on Boxing Day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 408 (Vijay 144, Rahane 81; Hazlewood 5-68)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 505 (Rogers 55, Warner 29, Watson 25, Smith 133, Marsh 32, Johnson 88, Starc 52, Lyon 23, Hazlewood 32 not out; Sharma 3-117, Aaron 2-145, Yadav 3-101, Ashwin 2-128)

INDIA: Second innings 224 (Dhawan 81, Pujara 43, Yadav 30, Vijay 27; Johnson 4-61, Starc 2-27, Lyon 2-33, Hazlewood 2-74)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 130 (Rogers 55, Smith 28; I Sharma 3-38, Yadav 2-46) Result: Australia won by 4 wickets. Player-of-the-match: Steve Smith.

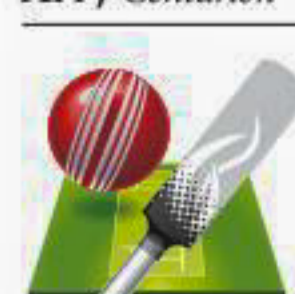


Tiny tots compete in a race during an inter-school sports competition organised by Cardiff International School at the Physical College ground in Mohammadpur yesterday.

PHOTO: CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Steyn blows WI away

AFP, Centurion



South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn ripped through the West Indian batting to send the tourists crashing to a humiliating defeat by an innings and 220 runs on the fourth day of the first Test at SuperSport Park on Saturday.

Steyn took six for 34 in Centurion as the West Indies crashed to 131 all out after being 76 for two overnight.

Even allowing for an ankle injury to Kumar Roach, which has ruled the West Indian fast bowler out of the rest of the series, the first of three Tests was a mismatch.

West India captain Denesh Ramdin admitted that his side were only in the game for about an hour on the first day, when they reduced South Africa to 57 for three.

But they only took two more wickets as

South Africa piled up 552 for five declared before their batting crumbled twice in less than a day and a half.

The West Indian batting was dismal. Leon Johnson's 39 in the second innings was their highest score of the match, leaving Ramdin rueing poor discipline.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 552 for 5 declared (Petersen 27, Elgar 28, Amla 208, De Villiers 152, Van Zyl 101 not out; Roach 2-52, Benn 2-148)

WEST INDIES: First innings 201 (Brathwaite 34, Smith 35, Johnson 31, Samuels 33; Philander 4-29, Morkel 3-55)

WEST INDIES: Second innings 131 (Johnson 39, Brathwaite 20, Samuels 17, Blackwood 15; Steyn 6-34, Morkel 2-43) Result: South Africa won by an innings and 220 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Hashim Amla.

Rajin century guides Partex

SPORTS REPORTER

A century from veteran top-order batsman Rajin Saleh led Partex Sporting Club to an 88-run win over Old DOHS SC at Fatullah in the Relegation League of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

Rajin shared a 132-run stand with opener Jony Talukder for the second wicket and helped his side post 269. Rajin remained unbeaten on 107. He hit ten fours and two sixes in his 128-ball knock. Talukder provided ample support with a 109-ball 93.

In reply, Old DOHS slumped to their 13th consecutive defeat as they were bundled out for 181 in 47.2 overs. Nuruzzaman Masum and Shafiu Alam took three wickets each for Partex and were the key destroyers with the ball.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PARTEX SC: 269 for 5 (Rajin 107 not out, Jony 93; Saleh 3-42)

OLD DOHS: 181 all out in 47.2 overs (Raihan 44; Masum 3-30, Shafiu 3-30) Result: Partex SC won by 88 runs.

ENGLAND'S WC 15

Morgan to captain

AFP, London

Eoin Morgan has replaced the out-of-form Alastair Cook as England's World Cup captain, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Saturday.

Cook has scored just one fifty in his last 22 one-day innings for England and has paid the price for failing to stop the rot during his country's recent 5-2 series defeat in Sri Lanka.

Morgan will lead the side for the tri-series in Australia after Christmas and then the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in February and March, with Cook playing no part but staying on as Test captain.

An ECB statement read: "ECB today [Saturday] announced that Eoin Morgan has replaced Alastair Cook as England one-day captain with immediate effect."

SQUAD

Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Gary Ballance, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler, Steven Finn, Alex Hales, Chris Jordan, Eoin Morgan (captain), Joe Root, James Taylor,

Maruf to stand in Busan friendly?

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite serving a six-month suspension of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club coach Maruful Haque may guide his side in their December 27 friendly against Busan I'Park.

The veteran coach, who guided the Dhanmondi giants to King's Cup success in Bhutan earlier this month, is serving a six-month ban on all domestic football activities, which will end on February 23.

However, an official of the BFF on condition of anonymity said that they are hopeful about working a way out to get the veteran in the dug-out for the friendly against the four-time K League champions.

"There is a positive sentiment from the BFF to see Maruful guide his side in the December 27 friendly and we are working towards it," said the BFF official.

Whether or not he is able to stand in the dug-out, Maruful wants his side to play attacking football in the one-off friendly.

"I have watched video footage of Busan I'Park and they are a very good side and as we all know K League is a high-standard league," the veteran coach told The Daily Star yesterday, after 11 members of the national team joined the rest of the Sheikh Jamal squad for their ongoing training camp.

"I would like to prepare my team to play an attacking game against the Korean club. We had a few fitness issues during the King's Cup, especially with the foreign players. But now they are in much better shape," added the 45-year-old coach.

Sheikh Jamal DC were chosen by Bangladesh Football Federation for the friendly against Busan I'Park after the Korea Football Association (KFA) asked the BFF to stage a match here against either Bangladesh national team or the top club of Bangladesh.

The Korean club will arrive here two days ahead of the match and the president of KFA, Chung Mong Gyu, will be present at the match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

NSC to start stadium renovation

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council is finally set to start renovation work of the Bangabandhu National Stadium and the Sylhet District Stadium, which will jointly host the Bangabandhu Gold Cup International Football Tournament, from January 16 to 27.

Engineers of the NSC will inspect the Sylhet venue today, which requires repair work on floodlights, VIP stands, security gates and press facilities, informed NSC secretary Shibnath Roy.

While most of the renovation work will be in the Sylhet venue, the floodlights at BNS will also be improved.

Meanwhile, the president of the Sylhet District Football Association, Mohiuddin Ahmed Selim, yesterday informed that they have postponed the cricket matches of the district cricket league so that groundsmen can get ample time to prepare the pitch for the international football tournament.

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