

SPORT

New team sponsor before Pak series

CRICINFO

The BCB has revealed it has ended its contract with Aamby Valley, an affiliate of Sahara India Parivar, 15 months before it was scheduled to end. The board is now looking for a new team sponsor for the home series against Pakistan this month.

The BCB had sold team sponsorship rights to Aamby Valley in June 2012, in a \$14 million four-year deal that was the biggest in Bangladesh cricket. The contract was supposed to end in June 2016 but a BCB advertisement in a national daily on March 30 marked the end of the alliance.

"We have decided not to continue our contract with Sahara," Nizamuddin told ESPNcricinfo. "That's why we have given an advertisement for a new team sponsor for the Pakistan series. We cannot speak about the deal [with Sahara] at this moment."



Mushfiqur Rahim took some time off his hectic training schedule yesterday to entertain a young guest, son of a member of the BCB North Zone's team management, present at the BCB's indoor stadium.

BCB to pay PCB

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon has said that the BCB has agreed to pay a certain amount of compensation to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for having cancelled their tour of Pakistan in 2012.

A case was filed against Bangladesh's tour of Pakistan in April 2012; because of which the tour, which would have witnessed the teams face-off in one ODI and a T20I, was cancelled.

Pakistan, who are scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh for a full tour this month, had earlier asked the BCB to share 50 percent of the revenue generated from the tour. Papon, however, told reporters that the BCB did not agree to that condition and instead decided to compensate for the tour of 2012.

"They wanted 50 percent of the match fee. We didn't agree to that. During each meeting, they keep telling me about the losses that they have had to suffer due to the series in 2012, when we decided to not send the national team.

"The ICC has a rating for compensation with regards to this issue. It states the amount of money a board has to provide if a tour is cancelled this way. So we have decided to pay them according to those ratings," said Papon, outside his Gulshan residence yesterday.

"I told them [PCB representatives] that I did not want to know what their previous board had said and that I cannot hear these references in every meeting. I want to resolve it. And then asked them how much money they wanted. I asked them to take the compensation and finish the issue," the president added.

The BCB president also indicated that the ICC had expressed their concerns with regards to the security issue of the umpires that will be coming to Bangladesh to host bilateral series.

"The PCB unofficially told us that the umpires in Pakistan are concerned since effigies of Aleem Dar were burnt here following the quarterfinal. The ICC expressed their concern as well, which is natural. However, I am hopeful that nothing bad will happen. I am sure that the scenario of cricket here will remain the same," explained Papon.



NAZMUL HASSAN

Papon also revealed that ICC chairman Narayanaswami Srinivasan had called him to tell him that the BCB needed to nominate a representative for the post of the ICC's president, following the resignation of AHM Mustafa Kamal.

As per the scheduled revealed by the BCB, Pakistan are expected to play their first ODI on April 17. They are expected to play all the three ODIs and the T20I in Dhaka and then travel to Khulna to play the First Test. The second and final Test is expected to take place in Dhaka.

IN A NUTSHELL

Narine appears for retest

ESPN

West Indies off-spinner Sunil Narine underwent a fresh testing process on his bowling action at the Sri Ramachandra University, an ICC-accredited centre, in Chennai. The reports from the test are likely to be submitted on Saturday, and by Monday, the BCCI's sub-committee dealing with suspect bowling actions will finalise its decision on whether Narine would be available to play for Kolkata Knight Riders this IPL.

It is understood that Narine appeared in front of the BCCI's sub-committee which deals with suspect



bowling actions, headed by Javagal Srinath. Srinath's panel observed Narine in real time and also put him through various tests with the entire process lasting for two hours but they did not study the results from the Loughborough centre.

Knight Riders had lodged a protest with BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya questioning the necessity of a separate test when Narine had got himself cleared before, but Dalmiya said that he was helpless and that it would only benefit the franchise if Narine traveled to Chennai.

T20 set for C'wealth Games?

NEW ZEALAND HERALD

The Commonwealth Games could feature Twenty20 cricket from as early as 2022 under a new plan to grow the movement.

A new seven year strategic plan has been drawn up aiming to broaden the event's popularity.

Changes would see 16 sports as part of a compulsory programme, while optional sports from a pool can also be added, including T20 cricket.

Cycling would also be reduced to an optional sport, while 3x3 basketball would be added to the list of possible sports host nations could choose to have.

The final approval for the new plan will be made at a general assembly in Auckland in September.

Wahab bears no grudge against Rahat

INTERNET

Pakistan's left-arm pacer Wahab Riaz has claimed that he has no grudge against fellow fast bowler Rahat Ali for his dropped catch of Shane Watson in their ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 quarter-final tie against Australia in the World Cup, which many believe could have changed the outcome of the fixture.

Watson was dropped at the deep fine-leg on four by Ali, and the Australian survived to score 64 not out and steer the eventual champions Australia to a six-wicket victory.

Riaz said that who knows what would have been the outcome of the game, adding that the result might have been different. But, he stated that it happens. He insisted that he has no grudge against Ali, adding that nobody drops a catch deliberately. He said that Ali is a very good bowler and a good fielder, claiming that he tried his best and that was only an unfortunate moment for them. Riaz said that it was probably Pakistan's fate to lose the match.

PAKISTAN TOUR OF BANGLADESH

Ajmal in, Akmal out

AFP, Lahore



Pakistan recalled star spinner Saeed Ajmal in all three formats as selectors announced the squads for the national side's Bangladesh tour Friday, but there was no place on the plane for underperforming batsman Umar Akmal.

Ajmal has undergone remedial work to fix his bowling action after it was ruled illegal in September and he was suspended, forcing him out of last month's World Cup.

The 37-year-old had been key to Pakistan's success in Tests, one-day internationals and Twenty20 matches before his action was reported as suspect during Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka in August last year.

Pakistan's new selection committee, headed by former batsman Haroon Rasheed, warned the squads that discipline would be closely watched.

"We have told the players that Pakistan comes first," said Rasheed.

"There will be no compromise on discipline and that's why we have dropped Umar from all formats and



SAEED AJMAL

Ahmed Shehzad from two."

Head coach Waqar Younis had complained about Shehzad and Umar's lack of discipline during Pakistan's World Cup campaign, which ended in a quarterfinal defeat to hosts and eventual champions Australia.

Umar managed just 164 runs in seven matches while Shehzad scored 222 in as many games.

Spinning all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez also returns to all three formats

after missing the World Cup with a calf injury.

He too has suffered problems with his action, which was ruled illegal in December, and faces a re-test on April 9 to try to get clearance to play.

The one-day squad will be captained by Azhar Ali, replacing the now retired Misbahul Haq.

Misbah continues to lead the Test side while Shahid Afridi, who also retired from one-day cricket after the World Cup, will captain the Twenty20 side.

Pakistan will play two Tests, three one-day internationals and a Twenty20 on the Bangladesh tour, with the first one-dayer starting on April 17.

Fit-again pacemen Junaid Khan returns to the Test and Twenty20 squads while Umar Gul manages a Twenty20 berth.

Also dropped from the World Cup squad were Younis Khan and opener Nasir Jamshed, who both had disappointing tournaments, and paceman Mohammad Irfan, who is injured.

Promising youngsters Sami Aslam, Babar Azam, Mukhtar Ahmed and Mohammad Rizwan are included in various squads for the first time.

SQUADS

TEST: Babar Azam, Mohammad Hafeez, Sami Aslam, Misbahul Haq (c), Asad Shafiq, Azhar Ali, Younis Khan, Haris Sohail, Saeed Ajmal, Yasir Shah, Zulfiqar Babar, Sarfraz Ahmed, Wahab Riaz, Junaid Khan, Sohail Khan and Rahat Ali.

ODI: Sami Aslam, Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Hafeez, Asad Shafiq, Fawad Alam, Azhar Ali (c), Mohammad Rizwan, Haris Sohail, Sohail Maqsood, Saeed Ajmal, Yasir Shah, Wahab Riaz, Rahat Ali, Ehsan Adil and Sohail Khan.

T20: Ahmed Shehzad, Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Hafeez, Mustar Ahmed, Sohaib Maqsood, Haris Sohail, Md Rizwan, Saeed Ajmal, Shahid Afridi (c), Sohail Tanvir, S Nasim, Wahab Riaz, Sohail Khan, Umar Gul and Junaid Khan.

SL selectors quit

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's cricket selectors, headed by former skipper Sanath Jayasuriya, quit Friday to allow new management to take over the island's cricket governing body, which has been mired in allegations of widespread corruption.

Jayasuriya, 45, has been accused of politicising the game after he became a member of parliament from president Mahinda Rajapakse's party following his retirement from the game in 2009.

The former batsman also copped criticism for making four changes to the team at last month's World Cup quarter-finals that Sri Lanka lost to South Africa by nine wickets.

Critics took issue with the inclusion of new opening batsman Kusal Perera and paceman Dushmantha Chameera for Sri Lanka's defeat in the lopsided match.

Gayle to miss Aussie Tests

AGENCIES, Antigua



West Indies batsman Chris Gayle in all likelihood, will miss the home Test series against Australia set to start in June. Gayle's chronic back injury is unlikely to help him withstand the rigors of competitive five-day cricket. The left handed opener, who has already announced his unavailability for the upcoming home Test series against England, is set for another stint with the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL).

Gayle, who is scheduled to fly to England following the IPL to play T20s with county side Somerset in a tournament whose schedule clashes with Australia's visit to the Caribbean, will likely skip the entirety of the Test series. After his stint in the UK, Gayle will play in the second season of the Caribbean Premier League beginning on June 20. The destructive left-hander who didn't feature in West Indies' Test series against South Africa late last year, had said that he has set his sights on playing the World T20 in India in 2016.

"I definitely want to play the T20 WC next year for West Indies there's no doubt about that," Gayle said after the World Cup. "But I've got a few concerns and injuries to try and solve. I'm out of the Test series (against England) but I haven't retired from any format as yet. As I go on I will keep informing WICB about my progress in the future with West Indies cricket."

WICB, on their part, said their squad for the series against Australia will be announced in due course. "The start of the Australia Test series is still two months away almost to the day. As soon as we have confirmation of a squad for the series, we will publicise in the usual manner," a WICB official told cricket.com.au.

'Not thinking about ICC presidency'

SPORTS REPORTER



Ever since Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon revealed that the ICC have asked the BCB to propose a name for the post of the ICC president, there have been talks about who that next candidate could be.

Since AHM Mustafa Kamal resigned three months prior to the end of his presidency period, the ICC requires a replacement. When asked to elaborate the entire scenario—including as to whether there was any chance of Papon himself going for the ICC post—the president touched on a number of issues.

"Firstly, the last time Mr Kamal's name was proposed from the government. But this time the BCB had elections. So it may be a different process. Still we would like to know the government's wish.

"Secondly, Mr Kamal has done a lot for Bangladesh's cricket. So we have to think twice about providing another name. This is not a very easy circumstance and the entire thing won't look good either. The bigger thing is that to me the BCB is more important than the ICC. So if a scenario comes up where I will have to leave the BCB; then that's another problem," explained Papon.

"From what I understand I will have to leave the BCB. I don't see any reason to leave this post for two and a half months and going there because there is nothing to contribute over there. Thirdly, I'll have to speak to Kamal bhai as well," added the BCB president.

When asked if the post of the ICC president was actually worth it, Papon said, "If you ask me, then it's definitely that [a ceremonial post]. When I had first gone to an ICC meeting, that particular president had some powers. But after the changes in the constitution, all he could do was give away awards and nothing else.

"So with regards to this post I don't see any reason to have a desire... actually I am not thinking about the ICC presidency at the moment. The first thing I have to ensure is that the Pakistan series and the Indian series take place. After that happens I believe there won't be any further problem," he remarked.

Impossible for WI to beat Oz: Lara

AGENCIES, Trinidad



West Indies batting legend Brian Lara has said his team would find it virtually "impossible" to win against Australia in their two-match Test series in June.

Australia on Tuesday named a powerful 16-man squad for the Tests in Dominica and Jamaica, which will lead into their Ashes defence in England in July and August.

The 50-over World Cup champions will face a West Indies side that has won just five Test series in the past five years — three against Bangladesh and one each against Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

"I think it's going to be tough for us, obviously we're playing the world champions, they're full of confidence, even though it's in another form of the game. In Test cricket, the West Indies tend to struggle a bit," Lara was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au on Thursday.

"I think the attrition level is not there. We seem to like the T20, we won that World

Cup a couple of World Cups ago. I just think in the Test matches, Australia are going to be virtually impossible to beat," said Lara who has scored 22,358 international runs in a career spanning 17 years.

The 45-year-old said he would not be thinking too much of the results, especially when a team is undergoing a rebuilding

phase but believes it is only about gaining experience playing against the best team in the world.

"I would expect a younger team, which lends itself to a bit of failure. But as long as you have your priorities set, if it's rebuilding the team, results really don't matter. It's about getting the youngsters in, getting them the experience against the best team in the world and moving on."

The Windies' training squad for the England series gave an insight into the future of cricket in the Caribbean with highly-rated quick bowlers Miguel Cummins (24) and Carlos Brathwaite (26) joining wicketkeeper-batsmen Shane Dowrick (23) and Shai Hope (21) as the four uncapped players in the squad.

