

SPORT



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Shastri to be most paid coach?

AGENCIES, New Delhi
Current India team director Ravi Shastri is to be named the next coach of the Indian cricket team.

According to reports, Shastri could also become the highest paid cricket coach in the world with a deal estimated to be worth Rs 7 crore-a-year.

The 53-year-old was paid Rs 4 crore-a-year by the BCCI for his role as a TV commentator and had a Rs 6 crore-a-year contract as team director.

Duncan Fletcher, in comparison, was being paid Rs 4.5 crore by the BCCI.

The BCCI is likely to announce the name of the new coach at the end of the Bangladesh tour. In case Shastri becomes the new coach, he would first become the first Indian to hold the job after 2000.

Aussies suffer early blows

AFP, Kingston

Jerome Taylor struck two early blows but pace partner Kumar Roach's no-ball woes proved costly again as Australia recovered to 91 for two at lunch on the opening day of the second and final Test against the West Indies at Sabina Park on Thursday.

Put in to bat on a pitch offering considerable assistance to the fast bowlers, the visitors lost David Warner for a duck in the first over, caught by Shai Hope at third slip, and fellow-opener Shaun Marsh lbw for 11 shortly afterwards, both to Taylor, to stand at 16 for two after just 20 minutes' play.

Australia captain Michael Clarke was batting on 25 while his deputy Steve Smith was on 38.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 91 for 2 (Clarke 35 not out, Smith 38 not out; Taylor 2-0)
WEST INDIES: Brathwaite, Chandrika, Bravo, Dowrich, Hope, Blackwood, Ramdin, Holder, Taylor, Roach, Permaul

Toss: West Indies
Umpires: Richard Kettleborough and Ian Gould.



THURSDAY WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM WEDNESDAY: Cloud cover and heavy rain made sure no play on the second day of the one-off Test between hosts Bangladesh and India at Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Second day rained off

SPORTS REPORTER

The second day of the one-off Test between Bangladesh and India might have been officially called off right before tea at 1:45 pm yesterday. Those who were present at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah would tell you that the statement from the BCB's media manager, confirming the suspension of play, was merely a customary announcement.

The way the rains pounded in against the covers laid down on the ground, the decision, despite a good drainage system at the venue, was inevitable. At around half past ten yesterday morning, a dark cloud cover had formed over the stadium compelling a few journalists in the stadium to take quick glances at their wrist-watches. 'Is it still dawn?' their puzzled expressions seemed to ask.

Such a trend is likely to continue throughout the rest of the Test for the weather forecast isn't promising any better news.

If there were light showers yesterday morning, the forecast for the third and fourth days predicts heavy rains in

the morning. Thunderstorms are expected in the afternoons of these days followed by heavy rain.

At the moment it seems as though the match isn't likely to get a result, however, the weather is as unpredictable as the game in itself is and it's still uncertain as to what lies ahead for both teams.

For the players yesterday, it was a waiting game. They were initially told that they would leave their hotel two hours later at 10 am. That dead-

Bangladesh rarely get opportunities to play Test cricket and if those chances get rained out, then that's only going to add to the problem.

There were a few questions raised regarding the scheduling of the series. "Why would they schedule a series in the month of June?" blurted a frustrated journalist. However, the discussion died out even before a second opinion was thrown in, for these were redundant questions. The answers of which have a lot to do with India's packed schedule.

"The period of June-July isn't an appropriate time to host a tournament here. But there's nothing much we can do about it since this is the only time in the year when both teams are free. That's why India had come here in June last year as well," explained BCB director Jalal Yunus.

In terms of results, it will be a progress for Bangladesh. If this match ends in a draw, it will only be the second time in eight encounters that the Tigers have managed to draw a Test against India. However, gone are the days when the Tigers would want to split the points because of rain.

One would only hope that the ODI series, which begins on June 18, puts on a better show.



Rubel motivated to ace ODI test

NAIMUL KARIM



Bangladesh pacer Rubel Hossain yesterday admitted that he was disappointed for having been left out of the squad for the India Test. The pacer however claimed that the move had made him a lot more determined to put in a stellar performance in the ODI series, which begins on June 18.

Having struggled due to the dearth of fit pacers during the Pakistan Tests, Bangladesh's team management hoped to resolve the issue ahead of the India Test. And that was the reason why a special emphasis was placed on the likes of Shafiqul Islam and Rubel who had to follow their respective rehab schedules during the short break after the Pakistan series.

While Shafiqul was deemed to have recovered from a hand injury, his personal decision not to take part in the Bangladesh Cricket League's final round might have stalled his progress into the Test squad.

Rubel, on the other hand, as per coach Chandika Hathurusingha's words, was rested in a bid to keep him fresh for the ODIs. They also didn't want to take the risk of playing the pacer, who has just recovered from a side strain, on a flat Fatullah track.

"I am good at the moment. I have recovered. There's nothing to worry," Rubel told The Daily Star yesterday over phone from team hotel when questioned about the state of his fitness levels. "I won't say that I am

not fully fit, but for a Test match one needs to have an extra amount of preparation," he further explained.

The pacer, who has been punching in extra hours in the gym lately, hopes to turn his fortunes in the coming weeks.

"Bangladesh does not get to play too many Tests, so there's no doubt that I am not disappointed to miss out. But there's nothing I can do now.

"All I am looking forward to is the ODI series. I want to be completely ready and match-fit by the time the ODIs begin. I really want to put in a good performance against India," said Rubel.

Acing the ODIs of course is only the pacer's short-term target. South Africa are scheduled to arrive here barely two weeks after the India series to play two T20Is, two Tests and three ODIs; and Rubel aims to be fit for the entire tour.

"I wasn't selected for the Test match, but it's not as though I don't see a future for myself in this format of the game. I already have the South Africa Tests in my mind and I am going to do everything I can to be completely ready for that," said the pacer.

India and Bangladesh will face off in three ODIs scheduled to take place on June 18, 21 and 24 and if everything goes as per Rubel and the team management's plans, the pacer will make his first appearance of the tour then.

If the Tigers manage to win at least one match in that series, they will overtake the West Indies, who are currently ranked seventh in the ICC rankings.



Prior bids cricket bye

AFP, London

Former England wicketkeeper Matt Prior announced on Thursday that he has retired at the age of 33 due to injury.

Prior made the last of his 79 Test appearances against India at Lord's 11 months ago before undergoing surgery on his Achilles tendon.

He had hoped to return to action with Sussex in this season's County Championship, but having failed to recover full fitness, he has decided to walk away.

"Today is a very sad day for me, as I am forced to announce my retirement from the game I love," Prior said in a statement released by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

"I had been hoping and expecting to be fit for the start of the 2015 season.

Unfortunately, this has proved impossible, and I have now had to reach this decision."

Prior made his England debut against the West Indies at Lord's in May 2007 and marked the occasion with a maiden century.

"I feel honoured to have played for Sussex and England and shared so many

BATTING & FIELDING									
	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Ct	St
Tests	79	123	4099	131*	40.18	7	28	243	13
ODIs	68	62	1282	87	24.18	0	3	71	8
T20Is	10	8	127	32	21.16	0	0	6	3



great times with both teams," Prior added.

"I also feel privileged to have been involved in an era of success for English cricket."

"Although I haven't achieved all the goals I had set out to, I feel immensely proud of what I have done in my career. Sadly it is now time to move on."

IN A NUTSHELL



SRK buys CPL team

Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan's love for cricket has taken him to the Caribbean Islands. According to reports, Shah Rukh has purchased the Trinidad and Tobago franchise in the Caribbean Premier League.

His company, Red Chillies Entertainment -- along with KKR co-owners Juhi Chawla -- bought the T&T franchise.

The CPL will see Bollywood and Hollywood lock horns as Hollywood stars Mark Wahlberg and Gerard Butler also own franchises in the Caribbean.

AB Buttler's 'role model'

Jos Buttler said AB de Villiers was his "role model" after Buttler's '360 degree' approach to batting invited comparisons with the Proteas maestro.

"AB de Villiers is someone who has been a role model for me for a long time -- someone who has changed batting -- and everyone is trying to emulate him," said Buttler.

"I want to be that guy who can go out like I did and play those kind of innings and try to do that consistently," added Buttler.

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Gayle bumps into Becks

When Chris Gayle bumped into iconic footballer David Beckham in a chance meeting at a shopping mall of London, it made for a classic -- albeit impromptu -- photo-op.

"I've said before, it doesn't hurt to do a bit of shopping! @davidbeckham," Gayle tweeted.



Roushanara Ali



Tulip Siddik



Rupa Huq

Bangladesh is proud of you...

Tulip Siddik | Roushanara Ali | Rupa Huq

Best wishes...

M Shoeb Chowdhury

Director: FBCCI, BAPEX & Special Olympics of Bangladesh



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