

SPORT



Bangladesh forward Sarwar Zaman Nipu (C) celebrates one of his two goals against Sri Lanka during their SAFF U-16 Championship encounter at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Dug-out ban for Aus game

FIFA also fines de Kruif \$7620

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national team coach Lodewijk de Kruif will not be able to stand in the dugout for the World Cup and Asia Cup Qualifiers fixture against Australia next month as a previously imposed one-match suspension has been extended by another

match by FIFA.

The 45-year-old coach was sent off during the match between Bangladesh and Kyrgyzstan on June 11 as he had allegedly hurled abusive words towards match officials and kept kicking water bottles despite being warned by the fourth official. The Dutchman watched the rest of the match and the subsequent match against Tajikistan on June 16 from the gallery.

Now after having considered the gravity of the offense, FIFA has extended the suspension by another match and slapped him with a fine of 7500 Swiss francs (7620 US dollars) along with another 1000 Swiss francs as procedural expense.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary, Abu Nayeem Shohag, has expressed his displeasure over the incident and claimed that the coach will have to bear the fine himself.

"The National Teams Committee is unhappy with de Kruif's attitude on the pitch and termed it unacceptable and unprofessional," said Shohag.

It is not the first time that de Kruif has been suspended; the Dutchman was expelled from the dug-out during the 2013 SAFF Championship match against India and was subsequently handed a ban for the match against Pakistan.

The 45-year-old coach is expected to return from Netherlands on August 17 to take charge of the side ahead of their friendly match away to Malaysia on August 29 and the September 3 fixture against Australia in Perth. Assistant coach Saiful Bari Titu, who will guide the national under-19 side in the SAFF U-19 Championship in Nepal from August 20-29, is expected to return on August 30 and fly immediately for Australia.



LODEWIJK DE KRUIF

Sania fined 200 rupees

PTI, Hyderabad

Tennis player Sania Mirza has been chattered by the Hyderabad Traffic Police for "improper" display of registration number on her car.

The challan was issued Monday night after the traffic cops found the SUV with improper display of number plate and photographed the vehicle which was parked at Road Number 10 in Jubilee Hills area, a police officer said yesterday.

"We have issued an e-challan with fine of 200 rupees to Sania Mirza, the owner of the SUV, for the violation," Jubilee Hills Traffic Police Station Inspector Srinivas Reddy said.

"There was a violation [of traffic rules] with regard to display of registration number in an irregular way. The registration number of the vehicle was displayed in a fancy manner. The display of the number plate this way is against the Motor Vehicles Act," the police officer told PTI.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bolt to lead Jamaican squad

REUTERS, Kingston

Six times Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt headlines Jamaica's squad for the World Athletics Championships in Beijing later this month.

The world record holder over 100 and 200 metres is joined in the 53-member squad by Asafa Powell and Warren Weir, both World Championships sprint relay gold medalists.

Bolt answered questions over his fitness with a 100m season's best of 9.87 seconds at the London Anniversary Games last month while Powell ran his fastest 100 in four years to win the sprint at the Paris Diamond League meeting in 9.81 seconds.

Rasheed Dwyer, who set a career best of 19.80 seconds over 200m at the Pan American Games, also makes the squad.

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, the reigning sprint double champion from Moscow two years ago, tops the list of female athletes and is joined by former world 100 and 200m champion Veronica Campbell-Brown.

The team will be accompanied by 19 officials including technical leader Maurice Wilson and head coach Michael Clarke.

Bangladesh 4-0 Sri Lanka

Hosts through to semis; meet India in group decider tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh made a sparkling start in the SAFF U-16 Championship with an emphatic 4-0 win against Sri Lanka at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

Sarwar Zaman Nipu struck a brace while Abedin Rakib and Mohammad Atiquzzaman netted one goal each to confirm Bangladesh's semifinal berth and sending the Lankans out of the competition.

Bangladesh will face India on Thursday in the last match of Group A, which will decide the

group champions and runners-up. A win will send the hosts through to the semifinals as group champions while a draw or a defeat for them will mean they will advance as group runners-up.

Yesterday's fixture was a do-or-die affair for the Lankans following their 0-5 drubbing at the hands of defending champions India. However, the hosts gave them no chance of bouncing back, with a stranglehold on the match from the go. The excellent build-up and possession-based football of Bangladesh allowed little room for the visitors, who managed only one shot on the target throughout the game.

Bangladesh started the game with an attack from the right flank and Nipu, who later scored twice, had a goal disallowed due to off-side in the very first minute. However, the youngster made no mistake giving his side the lead four minutes later on the rebound after his initial attempt was blocked by a defender.

Bangladesh kept creating chances but failed to increase the margin in the first half, thanks to Sad Uddin's effort denied by woodwork in the 20th minute and a brilliant fingertip save by Sri Lanka goalkeeper Mohammad Fazlan on a powerful shot from Khalil Bhuiyan on the half-hour mark.

The lead was doubled on the

hour mark by Rakib, whose powerful drive gave the Lanka keeper no chances before Nipu rattled the crossbar in the 63rd minute.

Sri Lanka's only chance to reduce the margin came soon after, but Sufaik drove narrowly wide of target before Atiquzzaman made it 3-0 with a neat header in the 77th minute.

Nipu wrapped up the victory with a clinical finish in the 87th minute after availing a defence-splitting pass from skipper Mohammad Shawon.

"We are happy to begin the championship with a convincing win. All the credit goes to the boys, who played well even though the finishing was not good in the first half," said Bangladesh coach Syed

Kohli to attack with 5 bowlers

Galle Test starts today

PTI, Galle



Virat Kohli's aggressive strategy to deploy five specialist bowlers will be tested when India go into the three-match Test series against Sri Lanka here on Wednesday, hoping to end a 22-year-old wait for a series triumph on Lankan soil.

While the baton had passed on to him from Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Sydney, this is Kohli's first full assignment in charge after the one-off Test in Bangladesh.

Kohli has already promised to provide an aggressive brand of leadership and go into Test matches with five bowlers in a bid to take 20 wickets.

His journey as Test skipper had begun in Adelaide where he stood-in for Dhoni on account of injury, and led India valiantly to a 48-run loss, despite two sterling hundreds in both innings.

In Sydney, he was defiant in the mannerism of his team selection, chopping and changing a side worn down by poor form, injury and fatigue. At Fatullah, he persisted with the five-bowler theory, and also brought back a Test stalwart -- Harbhajan Singh -- back to the side.

If pre-series warm-up and practice sessions are anything to go by, in summation, all of the above points will continue to feature in Kohli's strategy in this series as well.

With Murali Vijay ruled out of the first Test owing to a troublesome right hamstring since the Zimbabwe tour, Kohli will have his task cut out to bring in the young Lokesh Rahul into the playing eleven.

It is after the opening slots that things get interesting, primarily owing to form, but the team management is expected to follow a set template.

At present, among the batsmen, only Ajinkya Rahane is untouchable and he fits in easily at number five. Rohit Sharma, Kohli himself and Wriddhiman Saha were off colour in the practice match.

It is a tad too early to deem them out of touch, given that they had all experienced some time off. Yet, their run-scoring patterns, since the Australian tour, have been indifferent.

Kohli was immaculate in the Test series down under, with four hundreds in as many matches. Since then, his limited-overs form tailed off, despite starting the World Cup with a hundred against Pakistan.

He didn't reach double digits in four ODIs prior to that match, and in ten matches afterwards, his highest score is 46.

As an individual batsman, the skipper is a big-game player, and he will feed off the energetic experience of leading the side.



Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara takes in the Galle Cricket Stadium yesterday on the eve of the first Test against India. The match, starting today, will be his last at this venue.

PHOTO: AFP

'Dinosaur' ready to bid bye

AFP, Galle



Sri Lanka's batting great Kumar Sangakkara has no regrets about his impending retirement, telling reporters on Tuesday that he felt like a "dinosaur" in the dressing room.

Sangakkara, who turns 38 in October, will end his international career after playing in the first two Tests of the three-match series against India which opens in Galle on Wednesday.

The left-hander, who is Test cricket's leading run-getter among those still playing, said looking at the young teams in Sri Lanka and his English county Surrey made him realise it was time to go.

Sangakkara said 37-year-old Rangana Herath in the Sri Lankan team and Surrey teammate Gareth Batty, also 37, were the only ones

who matched him in age.

"The rest are mostly 26," he said. "I feel like a dinosaur in their company. It convinced me this was the right time to go."

Sangakkara, who is fifth in the all-time scorers list headed by India's Sachin Tendulkar, is head and shoulders above other current Test batsmen.

His 12,305 runs and 38 centuries far exceed second-placed Alastair Cook of England, who has 9,223 runs and 27 hundreds.

Sangakkara won't catch up with Tendulkar's tally of 15,921 Test runs and 51 hundreds, but his 11 scores of 200-plus are just one short of Australian legend Don Bradman's record of 12.

Defying age, Sangakkara has been at his best over the past year. He hammered 203 against New Zealand in January, after making 221 against Pakistan and 319 against Bangladesh last year.

He became the first batsman to hammer four consecutive one-day centuries in the World Cup in Australia in February-March where Sri Lanka entered into the quarterfinals.

Sangakkara, however, looked below-par in the recent home series against Pakistan in June, with scores of 50 and 18 in the first Test, and 34 and a first-ball duck in the second.

He begins the final leg of a remarkable career at one of his favourite venues in Galle, where he made his Test debut in 2000 and also scored the first of his 38 Test centuries -- against India in August, 2001.

Sangakkara justified his decision to play in only two Tests against India, just as he had done against Pakistan in June.

"The reason for the two and two split, even though it is not ideal, was the agreement I had with the previous selection committee when I was discussing my future," he said.

Smith's captaincy ambition

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Steve Smith has vowed to be a more aggressive captain if he is appointed to lead the side as expected following a disastrous Ashes campaign which prompted Michael Clarke's retirement.

The 26-year-old, in line to take over after Clarke's final Test at The Oval later this month, has promised to be less defensive than he was while captaining against India at home earlier this year.

"I think the two games that we drew I could probably be a bit more aggressive there and give ourselves more of a chance to bowl the opposition out," Smith told The Australian.

"But in regards to my captaincy I think it'll be pretty similar."

Smith skipped Australia in Tests against India during the last home season when Clarke was sidelined with a hamstring injury, and made centuries in all three Tests where he was skipper.

"Every game I've captained so far I've scored a hundred. I'd like that... to keep going, hopefully it does," he said.

"If I am named the captain I would like to lead from the front with my performances, for sure."

Smith said one of the lessons of this miserable Ashes tour, in which Australia were all out for only 60 runs in their first innings at Trent Bridge in the fourth Test, was patience.

"They make you earn your runs... all of their bowlers swing the ball both ways," Smith said in comments to Australian Associated Press.