

SPORT

'Zim coming in Nov for ODIs, T20Is'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hasan Papon has confirmed that Zimbabwe team will come here in the first week of November to play a number of ODIs and T20s, ending before November 20. There were speculations that the tour would be split into two phases, with only Tests taking place in the first phase in November, but during talks between the BCB and its Zimbabwe counterparts at the sidelines of an ICC meeting last week, it was decided that only limited over games will be held in November.

- Zimbabwe to come here for ODIs and T20Is in Nov.
- SA to send women's team to Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh will host Asia Cup if India says no.
- Cricket Australia has promised to compensate.



NAZMUL HASAN PAPON

"Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) has confirmed that the Zimbabwe team will come and play in the slot that we have available before the Bangladesh Premier League. It's still not fixed as to how many matches will take place, but there will be a number of T20Is and ODIs," said Papon, who returned from Dubai on Thursday night, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Australia Tests, Papon said that Cricket Australia (CA) has apologised and also promised to compensate for it.

"Firstly they have apologised for having postponed the tour. After the death of the Italian aid worker, there were talks about IS links, which got them scared and hence they postponed the tour.

"However, they have said that they would compensate and try to arrange more matches than previously agreed. The problem, though, is that they are free only at the end of 2016 or the beginning of 2017," said Papon.

"In addition they have also said that whenever they tour nearby countries, like Sri Lanka and India, they will try to arrange ODIs and T20Is in Bangladesh just to prove that they are eager to come," added the BCB president.

Papon claimed he has also requested ICC to come up with a guideline to follow whenever a situation akin to the Australia's tour postponement comes up in future.

The BCB president further said that BCB has made a bid to host the Asia Cup, due to take place in February next year. "There will be a meeting on the 26th of this month. As of now, the first priority is India. If India decides against hosting it, the Asia Cup will be held in Bangladesh," said Papon.

Papon also informed that Cricket South Africa (CSA) has agreed to send its women's team for Bangladesh tour, which was deferred on security grounds earlier this month.

"CSA has asked us to send a new schedule, which we will send on Saturday," said Papon, adding that a security team of CSA will arrive in Bangladesh in November to assess the security situation here before a final decision on the schedule of the tour is released.

With regards to the postponement of the



After being released from hospital yesterday, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, pairing black shades with a black shirt, walked right back into the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

PHOTO: BCB

Mashrafe on road to recovery

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ODI and T20 skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was released from hospital yesterday. The cricketer, who was diagnosed with dengue last Friday, stayed in hospital for a week.

Upon his release, Mashrafe visited the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Sporting a black kurta, the visibly tired captain spent some time in the dressing room chatting with journalists and board directors before visiting the BCB's physician.

"He is better now and that's obviously why he has been released. But yes, he is still weak and needs time to recover completely. We haven't set any rehabilitation course for him yet. He first needs to eat and regain some of the energy that he has lost in the past week," said BCB physician Debashish Chowdhury.

The SBNCS yesterday hosted a match between Bangladesh Sports Journalist Association (BSJA) and the BCB. The latter included former national cricketers such as Faruque Ahmed, Akram Khan, Khaled Mahmud and Minhajul Abedin. BCB won the T20 game courtesy of half-centuries from Akram and Faruque.

Mashrafe's arrival during the match was a surprise to many and only increased the enthusiasm.

Still barren for pacers

SPORTS REPORTER



Left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman will return to action after a one match break when Khulna take on Dhaka at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah in the fourth round of the National Cricket League (NCL).

The 20-year-old bowling sensation was rested in the third round to make sure he would not face any problems arising from the workload. The pacer, who beguiled the world with his cutters, took eight wickets for Khulna in the first two rounds, despite poor pitches which offered next to nothing

for the pacers.

"I will play the fourth round match at Fatullah and then maybe take a break from the next round. So far there was nothing in the pitches for the pacers and we had to sweat for wickets," Mustafizur told the Daily Star over phone last night.

Dhaka's Mosharrar Hossain is now leading the highest wicket-taker list with 24 scalps and he is followed by Rajshahi's Sanjamul Islam (20), Khulna's Mehedi Hasan Miraz (18), Khulna's Abdur Razzak (13) and Rangpur's Sanjit Saha (11). All these bowlers are spinners, which depicts the real picture of the conditions.

"I had hoped before the league began

that it might be a different story this time, but so far it's the same old story. Spinners are still dominating the [wicket-takers] table. You can only feel sorry for the pacers in such conditions," said Khulna skipper Abdur Razzak, whose team is leading the points table in Tier-One with 33 points, with Dhaka Division trailing by 6.

However, there was good news as big scores were being made by the batsmen. Unfortunately, leading scorer Mosaddek Hossain (423 runs) -- who hit a double century for Barisal -- will not feature along with some others like Mohammad Mithun and Mahmudul Hasan as they will be on duty for the Bangladesh A team.

COOK-ING UP A MARATHON

- By crossing the 782-minute mark, Cook's innings lasted longer than the entire 4th Ashes Test at Trent Bridge in 2015.
- Cook equalled the record for most hundreds by an overseas batsman in Asia, tied on 8 with Jacques Kallis.
- Cook has scored 150 or more 4 times in Asia -- the most by any overseas batsman.
- Only Kevin Pietersen and Cook have made 1000-plus Test runs in a year 4 times in their career.
- Cook now has a ton in every country (9) he has toured.



Finishing his near-14 hour stay at the crease on 263, this was just one of five occasions when England batsman Alistair Cook raised his bat.

Cook falls after 263

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Alastair Cook played the third longest innings in Test cricket as he scored a monumental 263 to help his team into the lead over Pakistan in the first Test in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

The England skipper batted for 836 minutes to guide England to 569-8 at close on the fourth day to thwart Pakistan's pace-spin attack on a flat Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch.

But even on a docile pitch it needed a strong resolve from Cook as he came to the crease in the last hour of play on the second day under the pressure of a big total of 523-8 declared by Pakistan.

As well as the nominal hosts' bowling attack, Cook also combated hot conditions as the first of three matches in the series heads for an inevitable draw, barring an extraordinary batting collapse by Pakistan on Saturday.

He finally played a tired looking sweep off spinner Shoaib Malik and was caught at backward square-leg by Shan Masood, ending his 528-ball knock which had 18

boundaries.

Pakistan's Hanif Mohammad holds the record of the longest Test innings with 970 minutes during his 337 against the West Indies at Bridgetown in 1958, ahead of South African Gary Kirsten's 878-minute knock during his 275 against England at Durban in 1999.

Cook added 141 for the fourth wicket with Joe Root and another 91 for the sixth with Ben Stokes.

At close Adil Rashid was unbeaten on six and with him Stuart Broad has yet to score as England lead by 46 runs.

It was Cook's third double century that enlivened an otherwise dull day.

Cook flicked Riaz to backward square-leg for two to complete his double century off 395 deliveries, the second of the match behind Shoaib Malik's 245 for Pakistan.

Cook reached his 250 after tea, taking a single off Babar.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 523 for 8 decl
ENGLAND: First innings 569 for 8 (Cook 263, Moeen 35, Bell 63, Root 85, Stokes 57, Butler 23; Riaz 3-116, Malik 2-97)

Kader, Lokman fume at BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

The officials of Sheikh Jamal DC and Mohammedan SC yesterday blasted the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for scrapping the Independence Cup and the Super Cup from the current season.

The Professional Football League Committee (PFLC) had on Thursday announced that neither of these tournaments will be held this season due to the busy domestic and international schedule, which include the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup in October, national team's World Cup qualifying matches against Tajikistan and Australia in November and the SAFF Championship in December.

The last edition of the Independence Cup was held in April, 2014 while the Super Cup was last held in 2013.

"What use is a calendar if the federation cannot stick to it and if it cannot hold the four promised tournaments? The federation officials should have consulted with the clubs before taking such a decision. It is a conspiracy of the federation," alleged Sheikh Jamal DC president, Manjur Kader, in Mirpur yesterday.

"The clubs will not accept this decision and all the premier league clubs will sit next week to compel the federation in holding the Independence Cup and the Super Cup," said Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director-in-charge of Mohammedan, the defending champions of both the tournaments.

The PFLC backtracked from its decision of holding the Independence Cup this month after the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup was squeezed in. The original calendar, however, was disrupted when some of the clubs had denied participating in the Federation Cup in December last year, ahead of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup.

WI caught in Hearth web

AFP, Galle

A dazzling display of spin bowling by Rangana Herath left West Indies struggling to avoid an Friday in the first Test against Sri Lanka, still needing another 166 to force their hosts to bat again.

After taking six for 68 in the West Indies' first innings, Herath then claimed the wicket of opener Kraigg Brathwaite, who fell for 34 as play drew to a close, for the second time in the match.

Made to follow on after putting up 251 the first time round, West Indies face a mammoth task to save the match at the Galle International Stadium with two days still left to play.

The 37-year-old Herath dominated the third day's proceedings as he helped to bundle out the West Indies for 251 in their first innings, 33 runs short of the follow-on mark.

Herath's 23rd five-wicket haul came in his 64th Test and it was his second successive five-wicket haul at Galle.

He is now just 15 short of becoming the third Sri Lankan to take 300 Test wickets.

None of the West Indies players looked comfortable against Herath throughout the day.

Herath's dismissal of Braithwaite was the second wicket to fall in the tourists' second innings, following that of Shai Hope.

Darren Bravo was unbeaten on 20 at stumps, batting alongside the nightwatchman Devendra Bishoo who has made six.

The tourists' score could have been even more dismal if it had not been for a late flourish from their lower order.

The last four wickets contributed 86 runs, with Jerome Taylor leading the way with an entertaining innings of 31 which included four boundaries and a six.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 484
WEST INDIES: First innings 251 all out (Brathwaite 19, Hope 23, Bravo 50, Ramdin 23, Roach 22, Taylor 31, Bishoo 23 not out; Prasad 2-38, Herath 6-68)
WEST INDIES: Second innings 67 for 2 (Brathwaite 34, Bravo 20 not out; Herath 1-17)



HERATH ... 6 for 68

CAB U-17s start well

SPORTS REPORTER

Number seven batsman Joshua Ozukum's half-century helped visiting Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Under-17s cross two-hundred runs against BCB Under-17s on the first day of the third three-dayer at Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Ozukum made 57 off 120 balls and added 43 runs with Kaushik Maity (20 not out) for the eighth wicket as the visitors posted 223 for eight in 104 overs before stumps were drawn for the day.

Ishaq Ali took three wickets for 49 runs while Sharif Islam, Sahadat Ridoy and Aminul Islam claimed one each for BCB Under-17s, who are now leading the series 1-0 after winning the second three-dayer.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CAB U-17: 223 for 8 in 104 overs (Chosh 31, Manna 40, Ozukum 57; Ishaq 3-49)

IN A NUTSHELL

Breakthrough for women's cricket

England's Sarah Taylor is to make history by becoming the first woman to play Australian first-grade cricket.

Taylor, 26, will make her debut for Northern Districts in the West End Premier Cricket Competition on Saturday against Port Adelaide Magpies.

The two-day event is the highest level of cricket played in South Australia outside first-class cricket.



"I had no idea I'd be the first woman but I'm sure I won't be the last," the wicketkeeper-batter said.

Former Australia Test cricketers Darren Lehmann and Ryan Harris have previously represented Northern Districts in the West End Premier Cricket Competition.

'I'll make Eden Gardens the best'

Sourav Ganguly on Thursday began his new innings as Cricket Association of Bengal president with a pledge to make Eden Gardens the best place within three months time.

"I've seen almost every cricket venue around the world. I know what exists there. I can guarantee you that within next three months Eden Gardens will have the same facilities as anywhere else in the world. We are going to do everything possible to make this ground the best place to play cricket," Ganguly told a news conference after he was unanimously elected president of the CAB.

"For me, it's about having the best whoever it maybe. You be here if you deliver. More than anybody, the association's image, respect and prestige is at stake. It's not above anyone, whether it's Ganguly, Avishek Dalmiya or X, Y, Z."

'I shouldn't have been captain'

Kevin Pietersen has said he should not have been made England captain in 2008 and only took the job because there was nobody else who could do it.

"I shouldn't have got the job but there was no-one else," Pietersen told the BBC.

"I'd do a much better job now. There were certain circumstances that I wish I had done better. But I'm honest enough to admit it was a bad time for me to captain."

Pietersen also said that Michael Vaughan was the best captain he worked under and recalled how the former Yorkshire batsman was able to instil confidence in him.

"When I went to South Africa, he [Vaughan] said to the guys, 'This is going to be a very hostile environment for KP and we're going to look after him like one of us,'" the batsman said.