

SPORT

'Not just the coach, but the captain too'

SPORTS REPORTER



Chief selector Faruque Ahmed has overwhelmingly endorsed the idea of providing national coach Chandika Hathurusingha a selector's role. The former national skipper also said that he would love to see the captain perform that role as he believes that the involvement of coach and captain in the selection process will produce greater efficacy.

logical debate always help you to get the best," he continued. "And that is the reason I also want the captain to be a part of the selection panel because ultimately the captain leads the team in the middle after all those off-field plans," he added.

Faruque also identified two issues that he feels need to be seriously consid-



FARUQUE AHMED

ered. "See, if Chandika gets the selector's role he needs to watch domestic matches to uncover new talent. One cannot depend only on a group of players; it will increase the team's value and the job for the other selectors will also be easier. On the other hand, it should also work the other way as it would be good if the selectors are also involved in

selecting the playing 11 because it's the selector who picks the team assessing everything, so their input in final team selection will only serve the team's purpose."

Faruque has a reason to be happy as a chief selector as during his two stints in the panel Bangladesh earned a lot of success; his first stint produced the Tigers' 2007 World Cup success in West Indies, while his second saw the 2015 World Cup success in Australia-New Zealand. "Right from the board president everybody played a part in the success. Little things made a big difference. The selectors' role is to pick the country's best players and the coaches' role is to get the best out of them; this is the way things work. And you can only claim to be a good professional if you do your duty," he said.

Khaled Mahmud pointed out two issues two days back when he talked about the necessity of a revamp for the selection panel. When Faruque's attention was drawn, he was not interested in making any comment on Mahmud's view that the selectors are not quite good at keeping up with the fast-track thinking of Chandika. "Regarding lack of coordination I must say selectors also must get the proper treatment. See, if you don't send them to foreign tours there will be some gap in thinking," he observed.



While Sunrisers Hyderabad leaked runs like a water tank leaks water in a war zone against Royal Challengers Bangalore at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium yesterday, pace sensation Mustafizur Rahman (R) seemed to be playing a different match on his IPL debut, giving away just 26 runs while taking two crucial wickets. PHOTO: AFP

Young British cricketer shot dead in T&T

ESPNCRINFO

A young British cricketer has died after reportedly being shot during an armed robbery in Trinidad. Adrian St John, 22, is understood to have died following an incident on Sunday night. Local media reports say that a 24-year-old male has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

St John, who played for Alwyn Cricket Club in south London and for his university squad at the University of Hertfordshire, was captain of the The Chris Gayle Academy in London, which opened in 2013 to "improve access to good quality education, training and employment for at risk young people in Jamaica and the UK."

Gayle tweeted: "Such sad news to hear. My condolences to his family & friends. Adrian St John was the captain of the academy. #Sigh."

Donovan Miller, programme manager for the Chris Gayle Foundation, said: "I'm really finding it hard to come to terms with it, how someone could do something like that to such a lovely person."

Rose deported after 5 weeks in NZ jail

AP, Wellington

Franklyn Rose, former West Indies Test cricketer was deported from New Zealand on Tuesday after being held in prison five weeks for overstaying a work visa.

The 44-year-old Rose, a fast bowler who played 19 Tests and 27 ODIs, had lived in New Zealand since 2011 when he was granted a work visa to coach at Auckland University Cricket Club.

Break from cricket 'was a bit boring'

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudullah Riyad might have been one of the better batsmen for Bangladesh during the World Twenty20 but he definitely would want to forget the way he ended the campaign.

He managed to sky a full-toss in Bangladesh's penultimate Super 10 match, against India, when the Tigers required just two runs and then in the last game against New Zealand, he was deceived by a googly from Ish Sodhi. Considering that he is generally a good player of spin, the latter was disappointing as well, even if not as painful as the former.

With an aim to bury those memories, Riyad returned to the field yesterday after a break of nearly two weeks.

He had arrived at the National Cricket Academy in Mirpur early in the afternoon and sweated it out with a few routine drills. The Dhaka Premier League (DPL) is more than a week away and Riyad seems to be taking extremely serious preparatory measures.

And why shouldn't he? Of all the icon players, he was the first one to get picked. There was not much confusion as far as Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club were concerned.

They knew that they had to select Riyad as soon as they received the opportunity to make the first call during the players draft.

It was something that Riyad appreciated. "I actually didn't notice it at first but I realised it later. It feels good to be the first Icon player to get



MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD

called and I would like to thank Sheikh Jamal," Riyad told reporters in his usual calm and composed method.

At the back of his mind, the memory of the India defeat might still be needling him, but on the whole, the 30-year-old seemed quite stress-free. "In the last few months we were

really busy with cricket. But it's a lot more relaxing now because of the two-week gap we got after the World Cup. We have the DPL up ahead and there are a number of big series ahead as well and I have to prepare myself," he said.

"I was out of cricket for the last two weeks and honestly speaking it was a little boring. But right now it feels good after coming back to the field. I have started practising. Hopefully the league will start as soon as possible. We are all eagerly waiting to get some game-time again," added Riyad.

Sheikh Jamal may not have formed a team as strong as the likes of Abahani Limited or Prime Bank Cricket Club, but Riyad reckons it will be interesting to play for the 'young' outfit.

"It's a young team and it will be a big challenge for me and the club. But at the same time it's a good opportunity. I enjoy playing with youngsters. They like to take challenges," said Riyad.

Having transformed himself into an extremely consistent middle-order batsman, Riyad hopes he can continue his good run this year.

"My work ethic has been the key to my change. And I hope to work harder in the coming days and make myself fitter," he said.

Fabulous Fizz the gem in Sunrisers' rubble

STAR SPORT DESK



Much to the delight of the country's cricket fans, pacer Mustafizur Rahman made his Indian Premier League debut yesterday when the Sunrisers Hyderabad took on Royal Challengers Bangalore at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

And he did so in style. On a track that proved to be a batsman's paradise, Mustafizur finished with figures of two for 26 in four overs -- an economy rate of 6.50. Compare that to the other bowlers, and Bangalore's team run-rate of 11.3, and one can understand exactly how well the left-armer bowled yesterday.

Ashish Nehra, India's most economical bowler in the World Twenty20, went away for 9.69 runs per over, Bhuvaneshwar Kumar had an economy rate of 13.75, while Karn Sharma had an economy rate of 14.25.

What made Mustafizur's bowling effort a lot more special was the fact that he bowled two of his overs at the death, at a time when AB de Villiers, who smacked six sixes and seven fours during his 42-ball 82, was going great guns.

Upon his return, Mustafizur bowled one of his slower and outfoxed the South African legend. A flummoxed de Villiers just managed to sky one to mid-on. It's an aspect that has become a sort of a habit for the left-hander, getting wickets that matter the most.

The very next delivery Mustafizur removed Shane Watson and at that point of time, Hyderabad captain Warner would have been wondering why he hadn't

brought Mustafizur earlier into the game. Despite Mustafizur's brilliant finish -- he gave away 16 runs in the last two overs and scalped two wickets -- Bangalore finished on 227 for four.

He did well in the Powerplays as well. While Nehra gave away 20 off two and Bhuvaneshwar leaked 19 runs, Mustafizur gave away just 10 runs in his first two overs and managed to deceive both De Villiers and Virat Kohli a number of times with his slower deliveries and his change of pace.

After the exchange, Sunrisers were restricted to 182 for 6. David Warner smacked a 25-ball 58 and was the leading run-getter for the side. Hyderabad looked good as long as he was there at the crease. However, once he got out, the rest of the team fumbled.

By the looks of things Mustafizur seems very excited about the IPL. In an interview with a Bengali Daily, Anandabazar Patrika, earlier yesterday he said: "It may be my first IPL, but I have come here a number of times before and I know quite a few places in Bangalore already. I have mixed well with the team and it feels good."

He also referred to Kohli as 'Dada' and said that even he had troubles facing his 'cutters'.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGALORE: 227 for 4 in 20 overs (Kohli 75, De Villiers 82, Watson 19, Sarfraz 35 not out; Kumar 2-55, Mustafizur 2-26)
HYDERABAD: 182 for 6 in 20 overs (Warner 58, Henriques 19, Morgan 22 not out, Sharma 26 not out; Watson 2-30, Chahal 2-43)
Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 45 runs.
Player-of-the-match: AB de Villiers.

Rose deported after 5 weeks in NZ jail

Muktis edge Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad brightened their chances of advancing into the semifinals of the KFC Independence Cup with a 2-1 win over Mohammedan SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The All Reds are jointly in second position of Group A along with Chittagong Abahani on six points, but they have played three matches while the port city outfit have only played two. Sheikh Jamal DC are top of the group with nine points.

Muktijoddha Sangsad looked out of sorts in the face of early pressure from the Black and Whites, but the lack of clinical finishing deprived Mohammedan the lead in the first half. Following a few exchanges on the edge of the Muktijoddha Sangsad box, Biplu Ahmed floated the ball over the crosspiece in the 37th minute after Ismail Bangoura had failed to connect to a Yousuf cross from hand-shaking distance.

After resumption, Muktijoddha Sangsad grew in confidence and kept Mohammedan defenders busy. However, Mohammedan

created a nice opportunity to take the lead but Bangoura failed to beat goalkeeper Mamun Khan from a one-on-one situation in the 66th minute.

Muktijoddha Sangsad took the lead in the 73rd minute when Nigerian forward Ahmed Kolo Musa found the net with an angular shot which deflected off a Mohammedan defender. Referee Jasimuddin, how-

ever, deemed it to be an own goal by Mohammedan defender Pouemi Landry.

Musa doubled the lead nine minutes later with a curling free-kick from 25 yards and it prompted Mohammedan coach Jasimuddin Joshy to bring two changes which had an impact on the match.

Substitute Abdul Malek put a low ball for substitute Towhidul Alam

Sabuj, who failed to connect, with the goalkeeper to beat in stoppage time before Bangoura nodded in a Biswanath Ghosh corner home, but it was too late for Mohammedan.

In the second match of the day, Arambagh KS held Team BJMC to a goalless draw. The draw took Arambagh to two points from four matches while BJMC moved to four points from as many matches.



Muktijoddha Sangsad forward Ahmed Kolo Musa takes a theatrical fall while celebrating his goal in their 2-1 victory against Mohammedan SC in the KFC Independence Cup fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Narrow defeat for Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club suffered their fourth consecutive defeat in the AFC Cup, losing 2-1 against Selangor FA at the Selangor Municipal Council Stadium in Malaysia yesterday.

Patrick Ronaldinho Wleh struck the winning goal in the 88th minute after Sheikh Jamal's Gambian midfielder Landing Darboe had cancelled out a 17-minute strike by Ahmed Haswan Barki in the 36th minute.

The fourth successive defeat means the three-time Bangladesh Premier League champions stay bottom of Group E without any points while Selangor take their tally to seven from four outings, equal with Tampines Rovers who were yesterday beaten 2-1 by Ceres La Salle FC. Ceres FC are on the top with eight points.

Sheikh Jamal had almost secured the first point of their campaign by holding the 1-1 draw till the 88th minute before Patrick coolly placed a through-pass from Adam Noor home after racing past defender Krishna Kumar.

Sheikh Jamal had chances to cash in on a man advantage as the hosts were reduced to ten men after Hafiz Kamal was sent off for hitting Jamal Bhuiyan in an off-the-ball incident, but the Bangladesh champions, too, were down to ten men as defender Yeasin Khan got the marching orders for a tackle on Mohammad Nazmi in the 71st minute.

Sheikh Jamal will host Tampines Rovers on April 26.