

BCB goes slow on Streak

SPORTS REPORTER

While Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha is set to receive a new contract from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), the future of Tigers pace bowling coach Heath Streak remains uncertain.

Hathurusingha, whose two-year contract will expire next month, is expected to arrive in Dhaka this week to finalise his contract renewal. However, Streak, whose contract ends on May 31, seems to be nowhere in the picture. It is not even certain if the Zimbabwean will even meet the BCB before his contract ends.

A source from the BCB has said that the board has preferred to take a slow approach with regards to the Zimbabwean. In a way it goes on to show that the BCB is not treating the renewal procedure of Streak in the same way that it is dealing with Hathurusingha's.

According to BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, Streak had sent a proposal to the board with certain terms and conditions for the new contract, which the board is still reviewing.

However, according to Streak's agent Tom Harwood, the Zimbabwean is yet to receive a reply from the board. The delay has compelled Streak to apply for a position of a fast bowling coach at the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI's) National Cricket Academy at Bengaluru.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday Chowdhury said: "We have heard that he [Streak] is exploring his options and so is the BCB. We have received his terms and conditions and we are still discussing it. We will reach a decision once there is a mutual understanding."

Earlier on Monday, chairman of BCB cricket operations committee Akram Khan had said that the board would continue with Streak if the Zimbabwean wanted to stay. However, he also said that they have been thinking about hiring alternative bowling coaches.

Pakistanis drive MSC, Usha

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistani recruit Aleem Belal struck six goals including a hattrick to power Usha KC to a massive 9-0 win over Bangladesh SC in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Usha earned eight penalty corners, out of which Belal converted six to give the Old Dhaka outfit their fourth win in as many matches. Apart from Belal's feat, national striker Pushkar Khisa Mimo struck a brace while Krishna Kumar scored one goal as Usha maintained their lead in the 12-team table with 12 points, two more than second-placed Dhaka Wanderers Club.

In the day's other match, Mohammedan SC came from one goal down to hand Ajax SC a 6-1 defeat to stay in third position alongside Abahani with nine points from three outings.

The Pakistani players played a key role in this match too as Mohammedan SC, who conceded the lead in the ninth minute through a strike from Syed Ibrar Ahmed, scored five inside the first half before adding another in the second half.

Pakistani Tasvar Abbas struck three goals while his compatriot Umer Bhutto and Mohammad Imran scored two goals and one goal respectively.

Henriques recalled

AFP, Sydney

All-rounder Moises Henriques earned a surprise recall Tuesday to Australia's Test squad for Sri Lanka after James Pattinson was ruled out injured while pace spearhead Mitchell Starc returns after a six-month injury absence.

Australia are embarking on their first Test tour of Sri Lanka in five years, as part of a two-month series that also involves five one-day internationals and two Twenty20s.

Abahani opener Tamim Iqbal unleashes one of his trademark drives through cover during his half-century against Gazi Group Cricketers in BKSP yesterday. His knock helped him become the first Bangladesh player to score 6000 runs in List A cricket.

PHOTO: STAR

Tamim crosses the 6k mark on rain-hit day

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal became the first Bangladeshi to reach the 6,000 List A run landmark while Prime Dholeswar Sporting Club claimed the top spot of the table in a rain-affected Dhaka Premier League round yesterday.

All three matches were affected courtesy of the afternoon rains. The game between Prime Dholeswar and Kalabagan Cricket Academy in Fatullah was the only match that could be completed, while the other two matches have been shifted to the reserve day today.

ABAHANI: 276 for 6 (Bhatia 90 not out, Tamim 55, Mosaddek 47; Mahedi 2-32, Shamsur 1-36)

MOHAMMEDAN: 224 all out in 49.2 overs (Nazmul



The highlight of yesterday was Tamim's half-century. He has now scored a total of 6,017 runs in 188 games.

His 55 off 66 balls in Savar laid the foundation for ninth-placed Abahani to post a strong 276 for six against newcomers Gazi Group Cricketers. Middle-order batsmen Rajat Bhatia and Mosaddek Hossain cashed in on Tamim's knock and shared a 100-run stand for the fifth wicket.

While Bhatia remained unbeaten for an 88-ball 90, Mosaddek hit a 46-ball 47. Incessant rainfall stopped the game after the first innings. The second innings is

scheduled to take place today.

The league's highest run-scorer, Imtiaz Hossain, continued his rich form in Fatullah and scored a sublime 94-ball 86 to lead Prime Dholeswar to a 49-run win over bottom-placed Kalabagan. The win has taken them to the top of the table, even if temporarily, with 12 points.

Batting first, Dholeswar rode on half-centuries from their top three – Imtiaz, Rakibul Hasan and Robiul Islam – to post 287. Kalabagan CA needed to score 148 in 21 overs as per the Duckworth-Lewis method calculations to win the game but managed just 98 runs.

As a result of the rain the game between Mashfiqur Rahim's Mohammedan and Sabbir Rahman's Prime Bank Cricket Club at Mirpur could not be completed and it led to Mashfiqur's sides slip to second spot in the tables.

They can however, reclaim the top spot if they win the game today. However, it seems unlikely since the traditional giants at the moment seem to be on the back foot. Mohammedan were bowled out for just 224 in 49.2 overs. Before rain stopped play, Prime Bank were cruising at 41 for 1 in just 6.2 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME DOLESHWAR: 287 for 6 (Imtiaz 86, Rakibul

66, Robiul 50; Mehedi 2-47)

KALABAGAN CA: 98 for 4 in 21 overs (Irfan 38; Nasir

2-45)

Result: Prime Dholeswar won by 49 runs via Duckworth-Lewis method.



Imtiaz Hossain (L) and Rakibul Hasan scored half-centuries at the top to lead Prime Dholeswar to a comfortable win over Kalabagan Cricket Academy in Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Light fading on Tigers' India tour?

SPORTS REPORTER

Will Bangladesh's wait to tour India for a bilateral series indeed finally come to an end this year?

The question has risen in the cricket fraternity as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to get any confirmation from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The long-pending tour is supposed to take place in August this year with a one-off Test match but in reality, the BCB is yet to confirm the date as they were not able to communicate with their Indian counterparts regarding the tour.

BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon and its chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury returned home after a short visit

to India on Monday and according to sources they could not make any progress regarding the tour. Anurag Thakur was elected as the BCCI president and BCB sources confirmed that two board high-ups did not get the chance to meet with the new BCCI chief.

Earlier, there were reports suggesting that the series would most probably be moved to September and there may be some limited-overs matches added, as India will be playing a four-match Test series against the West Indies in July-August. Now however, the big question is whether the BCCI will indeed host Bangladesh this year for the first time in a bilateral series?

Since being elevated to the elite club in 2000, Bangladesh have visited all the Test playing nations for bilateral series except India, the country which played against Bangladesh in their inaugural Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in 2000.

Kabaddi fed defends ban

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's national kabaddi team captain Shahnaz Parvin Maleka and her teammate Shila Akter have recently been suspended for three years from taking part in any competition organised by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) due to alleged indecent behaviour in front of BKF president during the final of the Women's Kabaddi League on May 11.

Bangladesh Ansar suffered a 12-13 defeat to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) in that final where the players of Bangladesh Ansar blamed the referees for blowing the final whistle one minute before the stipulated time. Later the technical officials, the referees and the timekeeper convinced the Ansar manager showing that one minute was consumed by timeout. Despite that Maleka and Shila of Bangladesh Ansar allegedly hurled abuses in front of the BKF president and IGM AKM Shahidul Haque, who was 'not happy with such indecent behaviour'.

"Even though there was no agenda regarding the players at the executive meeting held on May 17, the BKF president himself raised the issue and recommended that those two players be banned for life. However, we requested him to reduce it and the meeting decided to suspend them for three years, barring them from taking part in any tournament organised by the federation," said BKF's general secretary Nazrul Islam yesterday.

Asked whether they followed any rules and regulations before taking such a decision and whether the alleged players were given any opportunity to defend their positions, Nazrul said: "There is no punishment regarding players' indecent behavior in the rules and regulations, but we had the report of the referees' committee. The executive committee can take any such decision considering gravity of the offence."

Nazrul also said the decision was taken to set an example before other players.

Gayle jokes himself out of BBL

IANS, Melbourne

Big Bash League (BBL) franchise Melbourne Renegades' chief executive Stuart Coventry has confirmed they will not re-sign swashbuckling West Indian opener Chris Gayle for next summer's tournament.

Gayle also faces possible censure from his English county club Somerset when he arrives in the UK following his latest controversial remarks to a female journalist in that country. He has since said the comments were made in jest to have a bit of fun.

At one point in the interview, Gayle told the journalist he has "a very, very big bat, the biggest in the woohooorl," adding: "You think you could lift it? You'd need two hands."

The Jamaican earlier courted controversy during his infamous "don't blush baby" interview with Australian reporter Mel McLaughlin during last season's BBL.

"We'll unveil our international signings soon and Chris isn't part of those plans," Coventry was quoted as saying by News Corp on Tuesday.

BFF in a quandary over Sylhet BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

Since the signing of an agreement between Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and National Sports Council (NSC) in December, 2011 over possession of Sylhet BKSP, the game's governing body has so far been able to run the Sylhet BKSP as its football academy for only nine months.

The five-year contract will come to an end in December this year and the BFF wants to renew the contract for another 15 years, but it has been learnt that the BKF authority wants to share it with BFF.

Regarding this issue as well as the venues of upcoming Bangladesh Premier League and proposed Bangladesh Super League, the BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and his colleagues held a meeting with the sports and youth secretary Kazi Akter Uddin Ahmed at the ministry yesterday where the BFF boss saw little hope of getting the Sylhet BKSP.

"We had talks regarding the Sylhet BKSP, but there is ambiguity. Our plan will not work if Sylhet BKSP is not given for 15 years. I can't understand what they really want to do. We still need two to four meetings to clarify it. I am actually not hopeful about the Sylhet BKSP. It is not possible to run other disciplines of

BKSP and a football academy simultaneously," Salahuddin told reporters at his office later in the day.

"What I realised through the discussion is that BKF wants to start other disciplines in Sylhet along with football, but the BFF wants it for a long term. I think it is a big issue," said NSC secretary Ashok Kumar, who was also present at the meeting.

The BFF had spent a lot of time to start the academy partially despite getting a handsome fund from the FIFA Goal Project and had stopped it within nine months citing that the activities were stopped as per prescription of the FIFA development officer.

Meanwhile, the BFF president also sought cooperation of the sports ministry for allotment of some stadiums to run professional football league as well as the proposed Bangladesh Super League.

"We are hopeful with the outcome of the meeting as the sports secretary agreed to renovate the stadiums immediately as per our requirements. They feel it is time to work with football. They also promised to allot the district stadiums to the district football associations for a certain time to run district football," Salahuddin said, adding that the BFF is even ready to share profit with the sports ministry for using stadiums in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Barisal, Khulna and Gopalganj.

AB takes RCB to IPL final

PTI, Bengaluru

AB de Villiers played a breathtaking knock to singlehandedly lead Royal Challengers Bangalore fight back and takes them into the Indian Premier League final with a thrilling four-wicket win over Gujarat Lions on Tuesday.

Chasing 159, RCB looked down and out at 29 for five before De Villiers smashed 79 off 47 balls to script a sensational comeback and take the team home in 18.2 overs. The Lions were outdone by one man's class as the efforts of Dhawal Kulkarni and Dwayne Smith went in vain.

With the spectacular win, RCB are into their third IPL final and one step away from their maiden title. Lions on other hand will have another chance to make the summit clash in the Qualifier 2 in Delhi on Friday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

GUJARAT: 158 all out in 20 overs (Karthik 26, Smith 73, Dwivedi 19, Kulkarni 10; Abdulla 2-38, Watson 4-29, Jordan 2-26)

BANGALORE: 159 for 6 in 18.2 overs (Gayle 9, De Villiers 79 not out, Binny 21, Abdulla 33 not out; Kulkarni 4-14, Jadeja 2-21)

Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 4 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: AB de Villiers.