

SPORT



Anamul Haque (L) uses a makeshift blowhorn, Tamim Iqbal (R) plays the role of a manager, while the rest of the national players are busy cheering for their respective sides involved in a friendly football game at Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

No coaches in second party

Federations, BOA passing the buck

SPORTS REPORTER



The second part of the Bangladesh Olympic contingent featuring two swimmers, two sprinters and as many officials are scheduled to fly out today morning for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to take part in the upcoming Olympic Games without the coaches.

Instead of the coaches of respective events, two officials from swimming and athletics will accompany swimmers Mahfuzur Rahman and Sonia Akter Tumpa, and sprinters Mezbahuddin Ahmed and Shirin Akter. The swimmers and sprinters had however trained under different coaches.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) general secretary Rafizuddin and Bangladesh Athletic Federation (BAF) vice president Shah Alam will attend as team leaders. This raises an obvious question about the omission of the coaches in swimming and athletics even though shooter Abdullah Hel Baki and archer Shamoly Roy are accompanied by their respective coaches.

"The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) asked us to send an official's name and the federation sent my name as the official. They didn't ask any coach's name. It is better to ask the BOA why they didn't ask for the name of coach," BSF general secretary Rafizuddin told the reporters.

"I have huge coaching experience though I didn't continue coaching due to other reasons. The federation nominated me considering my coaching experience," was how BAF vice president Shah Alam defended his inclusion in the Olympic contingent.

However, the BOA disagreed with the explanation the federations provided.

"It is always better to send a coach with the athletes but we do what the federation wants. We don't have anything to do if the president and general secretary desire something on behalf of the federation. We are sending them as per the federation's wish," said BOA high official seeking anonymity yesterday.

Anamul not giving up

SPORTS REPORTER

When Anamul Haque first entered the international circuit, many reckoned that Bangladesh had finally found a decent opener who could pair up with.

He entered the scene in November 2012 during the series against the West Indies. It was a series which saw the rise of a number of youngsters for Bangladesh. Apart from Anamul, it also witnessed the arrival of the likes of Mominul Haque and Shohag Gazi.

His technique was not flawless, but he had the ability to stay at the wicket and given an opportunity

he could ramp it up towards the latter stages of his innings. His ability to stick it out in the middle impressed the selectors.

He had a much better start than many of his peers. With three hundreds, two of them against the West Indies and one against Pakistan, to his name in just the first 20 games, he had plenty of runs under his belt.

However, with time Anamul's approach lost support from the selectors and the team management. They criticised him for playing too many dot balls and not going for enough hits at the right time.

The lack of support from the team management combined with the rise of the young Soumya Sarkar and the ever-present Imrul Kayes led

to Anamul gradually fading away from the national team.

The 23-year-old last represented Bangladesh during the T20 series against Zimbabwe towards the end of 2015.

Anamul, however, has not given up. He did well in the recently completed Dhaka Premier League with a strike rate of above 70 and an average of 45. But he knows it is going to be hard for him to come back.

"I tried my best to play my natural game in the Dhaka Premier League. I know that I have a problem when it comes to rotating the strike and I tried to do that as much as possible. If I continue improving this way, maybe I can stake my claim at some point.

"There is a lot of competition in

the national team at the moment. There are plenty of players who have performed well and it will be tough for me. But I am not giving up," Anamul told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur following his training session yesterday.

"To play for the country was my childhood dream. I have always dreamt of donning the national jersey. Those who aspire to play for the country can never play selfish cricket.

"I am still the same and I still hope to wear the national jersey and play for my country again. I have some things lacking, but the good thing is that I know what I lack. I have been working hard to overcome those problems," he added.

Kiwis crush Zimbabwe

REUTERS, Bulawayo



Sean Williams scored a maiden Test century in vain as New Zealand clinched a comprehensive innings and 117-run victory over hosts Zimbabwe on day four of

the first Test on Sunday.

Williams, who was battling flu, scored the quickest Test ton by a Zimbabwean off 106 balls before becoming the ninth man out for 119 having smashed 21 fours.

Zimbabwe were dismissed shortly before tea in their second innings for 295, with seamer Trent Boult the pick of the visiting bowlers as he picked up 4-52 on a flat batting track.

"The fight was excellent. After the first innings, I thought we were soft," Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer said at the post-match presentation, before highlighting his teams troubles in the Test. "We probably have 10 guys sick in the change room."

Zimbabwe faced a mammoth task to make New

Zealand bat again having been skittled for 164 in their first innings and allowing the tourists to amass 576 for six declared in reply.

New Zealand would have had thoughts of a quick finish on the fourth morning as Zimbabwe resumed on 121 for five, especially when Craig Ervine was out in the second over soon after bringing up his maiden Test half-century.

But a magnificent 118-run seventh-wicket stand between Williams and Cremer took the hosts past lunch before the latter was trapped lbw by Ish Sodhi.

Regis Chakabva hung around for 41 balls before he was bowled by Tim Southee. A visibly wilting Williams then held out to deep mid-wicket off Mitchell Santner after scoring 119 off 148 balls.

The win was complete when Neil Wagner, who finished with match figures of 8-103, had Donald Tiripano caught behind.

"The first innings bowling effort after the toss was outstanding, and it put us ahead in the game," New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said.

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 164				
NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 576 for 6 decl				
ZIMBABWE: Second Innings				
Chibhabha c Taylor b Boult	7			
Masakadza c Taylor b Southee	4			
Charl b Boult	5			
Ervine c Watling b Boult	50			
Masvaure lbw b Boult	5			
Raza c Latham b Wagner	37			
Cremer lbw b Sodhi	33			
Williams c Williamson b Santner	119			
Chakabva b Southee	11			
Tiripano c Watling b Wagner	14			
Chinoywa not out	0			
Extras: (b-6, lb-9)	15			
Total: (All out in 79 overs)	295			
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-12, 3-17, 4-17, 5-86, 6-124, 7-242, 8-277, 9-285.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Southee	15	3	68	2
Boult	17	3	52	4
Wagner	17	1	62	2
Santner	17	6	32	1
Sodhi	12	1	66	1
Williamson	1	1	0	0
Result: New Zealand won by an innings and				

Maxwell out of ODI squad

AFP, Sydney

Selectors left out all-rounder Glenn Maxwell and included Moises Henriques and Shaun Marsh in their squad named Sunday for the one-day international series in Sri Lanka.

Bowling all-rounder Henriques and batsman Marsh were among two changes from the 16-man squad that toured the West Indies last month.

Marsh, who returns to the squad following the birth of his first child, joins his brother Mitchell in the 15-man national ODI squad.

Maxwell, batsman Travis Head and fast bowler Scott Boland, who all toured the West Indies, missed out on selection.

"We know Glenn can be a match-winner for Australia but his current form doesn't warrant selection," chief selector Rod Marsh said. "He is averaging less than 10 runs in Australia's last 10 one-day internationals, so the numbers speak for themselves.

"We've asked Glenn to go away and focus on consistent performances for his state side Victoria and Australia A to earn his way back into the Australian side."

Henriques makes his return to the side after last playing for Australia against England in Hobart in January last year.

"Moises comes off some great form in the Indian Premier League and we think he is well-suited to these conditions," Marsh said.

Australia will play five ODIs against Sri Lanka, beginning on August 21.

Rahul capitalises after Windies falter again

AFP, Kingston



Lokesh Rahul completed a patient hundred as India closed in on the West Indies' first innings total of 196, by reaching 185 for one at lunch on the second day of the second Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday.

Making the most of his recall to the team due to a thumb injury sustained by Murali Vijay ahead of the match, Raul reached his third Test century with a six over long-on, but was generally watchful throughout the morning in getting to 107 in partnership with Cheteshwar Pujara (37 not out).

Trailing in the four-match series following an innings defeat in the first Test in Antigua a week earlier, the West Indies were far more disciplined with the ball over the first two hours of play than on the first evening.

Only 59 runs were added from the overnight position, extending the second-wicket partnership between Rahul and Pujara to 98, but none off the bowlers were able to make the much-needed breakthrough.

Of further concern to the home side would have been the sight of debutant fast-medium bowler Miguel Cummins leaving the field in some physical discomfort just before the interval.

He beat the bat on more than one occasion during his spell and would have been expected to shoulder a lot of the bowling heading into the afternoon session, especially with the West Indies continuing to use their premier strike bowler, Shannon Gabriel, sparingly due to his very recent history of debilitating injuries.

Rahul's celebratory six off part-time off-spinner Roston Chase was a rare moment of all-out aggression by the Indian second-

wicket pair as they exercised admirable discipline in seeking to ensure that the advantage achieved on the first day of the match was consolidated at the start of day two.

In just his sixth Test match, Rahul's innings has already occupied over four-and-a-half hours during which he has faced 199 deliveries, stroking 12 fours to accompany the big hit that took him past the cherished landmark.

At the other end, Pujara was even more watchful, adding only 19 runs to his overnight score without ever looking in any real difficulty on a pitch that still offered its challenges to the batsmen.

Cummins was able to extract awkward bounce to him on one occasion but in his trademark phlegmatic manner he continued watchfully through the period of play.

Earlier, Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin tormented the West Indies yet again to claim a second consecutive five-wicket innings haul and dismiss the home side for 196.

Ashwin followed up his haul of seven for 83 in the final innings of the first Test a week earlier with five for 52 on a pitch offering turn and bounce from the very first session of play.

He became just the third Indian bowler to have five-wicket Test matches after fellow spinners Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and current coach Anil Kumble.

"Going into any match I assess the batsmen in the opposition to see if I have dismissed them before," said Ashwin after the day's play.

"I then work on getting them out based on their strengths and weaknesses. It's never as easy as it looks sometimes but it's gone really well for me in the last two innings."

Kaur scores BBL contract

ESPNCRINFO

Harmanpreet Kaur became the first India Women's cricketer to be signed by an overseas Twenty20 franchise after inking a deal with the WBBL champions Sydney Thunder for the 2016-17 season.

The confirmation on Saturday ends speculation that began with Anurag Thakur, the BCCI president, announcing in June that Harmanpreet had sealed the deal.

"We are delighted to secure a player of the calibre of Harmanpreet," Nick Cummins, the Sydney Thunder's general manager, said on Saturday. "She was on the top of our target list, and we are very pleased that the BCCI has released her to play in Australia."

"Sydney Thunder prides itself on being an innovator in Australian cricket, so it is a real fillip for the club to have signed the first Indian international to play Big Bash cricket in Australia."

Harmanpreet, India Women's vice-captain, is said to have received an offer from three teams - including the Sydney Sixers, the runners-up in the inaugural season -- before zeroing in on the Thunder.

"It's a great feeling" Harmanpreet was quoted as saying in a press release.

"The WBBL is a great platform for women's cricketers. Being the first player from my country to sign a contract for a BBL club is one of my best moments.



New Zealand pacer Trent Boult turned out to be Zimbabwe's chief tormentor as his four wickets in the second innings sped the home team to an innings defeat on the fourth day of the first Test in Bulawayo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mixed day for Shakib

STAR SPORTS DESK



Ace Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan bowled a tidy spell of one for 25 in four overs for the Jamaica Tallawahs in their Caribbean Premier League fixture against the St Lucia Zouks at Lauderhill on Saturday.

He was by far the best bowler for Jamaica and gave the least amount of runs. However, his effort went in vain as the Tallawahs went down by 63 runs to Darren Sammy's Zouks. Batting first the Zouks rode on half-

centuries from Andre Fletcher and Jonathan Charles to post a mammoth 206 for three in 20 overs. While Fletcher smacked an unbeaten 74 off 49 balls with four sixes and four fours, Charles hit 59 off 37 balls with seven fours and two sixes. Charles was caught off Shakib's bowling in the 10th over, but that did not stop the Zouks. Shane Watson came in and hit 43 off 20 balls to take them past 200.

Jamaica were restricted to 143 for eight in 20 overs after the exchange. Shakib fell for a duck, bowled by Delorn Johnson off the first ball he faced.