

Collingwood made England interim coach

REUTERS

England assistant coach Paul Collingwood has been named interim head coach for next month's three-test tour of the West Indies, the country's cricket board (ECB) said on Monday.

Collingwood takes over after Chris Silverwood stepped down last week following the team's 4-0 series defeat in the Ashes against Australia.

Collingwood took charge of the team's T20 tour of the West Indies last month which England lost 3-2.

"Having a challenging test series against the West Indies straight off the back of the Ashes disappointment gives us a chance from now to reset and rebuild," Collingwood said in a statement.

"I have spoken to (test captain) Joe Root and Ben Stokes, and both are excited and passionate to take the team forward in this new cycle."



Shakib Al Hasan plays one on the leg side during his 37-ball 50 against Comilla Victorians during their BPL fixture at the Sylhet Divisional Cricket Stadium yesterday. The all-rounder later took two wickets as Fortune Barishal beat Comilla by 32 runs to go top of the table. (Bottom) Soumya Sarkar (82*) and Mushfiquur Rahim (62*) had an unbroken 136-run stand as Khulna Tigers beat Sylhet Sunrisers by 15 runs in the second match of the day.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Women's IPL to start soon'

REUTERS, New Delhi

A full-fledged women's Indian Premier League (IPL) could begin as early as next year, with the Indian cricket board (BCCI) saying it is working on delivering the tournament "soon".

A three-team Women's T20 Challenge is staged alongside the men's IPL, but many believe women deserve their own expanded tournament with more teams and players.

The Women's T20 Challenge will continue this year, but BCCI secretary Jay Shah said things would change soon.

"I want to assure you that BCCI is not only sincere but is taking all necessary steps to start a full-fledged women's league similar to the IPL soon," Shah told Reuters in an email. "The huge interest among fans and players towards the women's T20 Challenge is an encouraging sign and we are all committed to making it happen."

No shortage of incidents as Sylhet phase begins

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet

There was no shortage of controversies as the Sylhet phase of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) began yesterday at the Sylhet Divisional Cricket Stadium.

Shakib with another crucial performance

A Sumon Khan delivery in the first ball of the fifth over to Liton Das went down the leg-side for four runs and a wide but the umpire had called a dead-ball before release as DRS was unavailable due to technical reasons. Fortune Barishal skipper Shakib Al Hasan, coming out of the players' area, talked animatedly to the fourth umpire asking for the reason as his side missed out on five runs. Next over, Shakib himself came onto the crease after Nazmul Hossain's dismissal and again talked to the umpires, not exactly happy with the dead-ball incident. However, he did come up with another important innings, departing after a 37-ball 50 following Munim Shahriar's 25-ball 45, to propel Barishal to 155 for 5. Two wickets in his first two overs, accounting for Liton and Imrul Kayes saw him finish with two for 20 as Barishal went top of the table after a 32-run win.

Taskin ruled out of BPL

Sylhet Sunrisers informed yesterday that pacer Taskin Ahmed has been ruled out of

the rest of the BPL owing to back injury. A day before, Taskin was seen partaking in some running exercises at Sylhet training at the Academy Ground but did not bowl or field. Taskin returned to Dhaka yesterday and will look to recover before the upcoming Afghanistan series, slated to begin from February 23.

'Save me' BCB

batting consultant Jamie Siddons arrived at the stadium along with selector Habibul Bashar to look at proceedings while his role is yet to be confirmed. With media personnel hounding the former Bangladesh coach, attempting to get a bite out of him, Siddons joked with a known face among the journalists saying 'save me'.



me'.

Sylhet's captaincy troubles

Following on Chattogram Challengers' footsteps, Sylhet Sunrisers surprised with a captaincy change of their own, this time right before the toss of the evening match against Khulna Tigers with Ravi Bopara coming as captain at the toss.

The team sheet had named Mosaddek Hossain as captain but had Bopara's signature on it. Sylhet's team manager Kazi Al Mashuk Bari was contacted by The Daily Star and he informed that they had made a mistake in the team sheet which was signed by him along with Bopara. Mosaddek, apparently had asked to be relieved of captaincy a few days ago. "Mosaddek talked to the coach after arriving at the field today and following discussion we talked to Bijoy and Mithun again, but they rejected the request to take over. Then we approached Bopara and he will be the captain from now," the manager told The Daily Star.

New captain Bopara would then get embroiled in controversy as he was caught on camera tampering with the ball with his fingernails. The on-field umpires immediately noticed and changed the ball while penalising Sylhet with five runs for the offence. There was no official confirmation of the incident from the BCB till filing of this report.

Mane 'living a dream'

AFP, YAOUNDE

After years of underachievement, Sadio Mane's Senegal finally lived up to their billing as Africa's outstanding team with victory in the Cup of Nations, even if they did it the hard way in the final against Egypt.

Mane could have been the fall guy in his showdown with Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah after his seventh-minute penalty was saved at the Olembe Stadium in Yaounde.

However, after a turgid final finished 0-0 in extra time, he redeemed himself by converting the decisive spot-kick in the shoot-out which the Lions of Teranga won 4-2 before Egypt captain Salah had the chance to take his team's last shot.

"You know what made the difference when I missed the first penalty? All my teammates came up to me and said 'Who cares, we are a team, we win together and we lose together'," Mane said.

"It's the best day of my life, I think it's the most important trophy of my life," Mane said. "I'm living a dream. I can't believe it. The wait was long but finally we did it. We are all happy and proud to win this trophy."

"The Senegalese people have suffered a lot but I dedicate this trophy to Aliou Cisse. You can't begin to understand what he has brought to Senegalese football. He deserves everything," said Mane.



Scoring debuts for Juventus duo

AFP, TURIN

Dusan Vlahovic suggested that Juventus were aiming for the Serie A title after he and Denis Zakaria made instant impressions with debut goals in their new team's 2-0 win over Verona.

The 22-year-old showed why Juve shelled out an initial 70 million euros (\$80.2 million) for his services with 12 minutes gone at the Allianz Stadium, racing onto Paulo Dybala's chipped through ball before sending a delicate lofted finish over Verona goalkeeper Lorenzo Montipò.

"Juventus always point towards the top objectives, if they're in a competition the aim is to win it," Vlahovic told DAZN.

"I'm here to contribute, give my all match by match and then we'll see where we are at the end of the season."

Zakaria, who arrived on transfer deadline day for 4.5 million euros from Borussia Mönchengladbach, doubled Juve's lead on the hour to move them into Serie A's Champions League places.



Vranjes powers Kings to normality

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bashundhara Kings returned to winning ways in the Bangladesh Premier League but they had to fight hard to secure a 1-0 win over Uttar Baridhara Club at the Birshreshtha Shaheed FI. Lt. Matiur Rahman Stadium in Munshiganj yesterday.

A 27th-minute strike from Bosnian striker Stojan Vranjes was good enough in the end for Kings, who began their hat-trick title aspirations with a shock 2-1 defeat against newcomers Swadhinata KS in the league opener.

Baridhara too, arrived in the game on the back of a 2-1 loss, however, they had the upper hand over Kings for the first 15 minutes, courtesy of some crisp passing before the defending champions grew in confidence to seize control for the remainder of the game.

Baridhara even came agonisingly close to taking the lead twice during that period but were denied by timely clearances from Bishwanath Ghosh and Iranian defender Khalid Shafiei.

After negating early pressure, Kings created two chances around the 20th minute when Tarik Raihan Kazi saw his drive, from a Bishwanath long throw-in, well blocked by Rashed Hossain while a goal-bound shot was cleared by Uttam Kumar from a goal-mouth melee.

Kings did not take long to counter from the right flank. Ibrahim channeled a lob in the centre for Towhidul Alam Sabuj and the striker's feeble header was successfully tapped in by Vranjes in the 27th minute.

After resumption, Baridhara could only muster one shot on target while Kings failed to widen the margin despite controlling the game till the last whistle.



Russian teenager Kamila Valieva made figure skating history Monday, becoming the first woman to land a quadruple jump in Olympic competition -- and not content with one, she nailed two. Her efforts helped the Russians win gold in the first figure skating medals awarded at the Beijing Games. The 15-year-old landed the quadruple jumps -- when a skater rotates four times in the air -- as she once again demolished the field in the women's free section.

PHOTO: AFP



Bublik wins maiden ATP title

AFP, Paris

Alexander Bublik stunned top seed and Olympic champion Alexander Zverev to win his maiden ATP title in Montpellier on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Russian-born Kazakh triumphed over the world number three from Germany, 6-4, 6-3.

Bublik's win will also assure him a new career-high ranking on Monday from his current 35. "I had four finals and the fifth final I have won against a great player like 'Sascha'," said Bublik.

"It's great. All my game together. I was serving well and returned well and kept my nerve. I was lucky in the moments and when I had my chances I used them."

Zverev had taken a late wildcard into the Montpellier event following a disappointing fourth-round exit at the Australian Open last month.