

New BCCI administrators meet for first time

MUMBAI, JAN 31 /- / A day after being appointed as the administrators of the BCCI by the Supreme Court, three of the panel members had their first meeting here today away from the BCCI's headquarters in South Mumbai. Vinod Rai, former Comptroller and Auditor General of India, former India women's captain Diana Edulji and banker Vikram Limaye were present at the meeting held at the IDFC Bank's premises in suburban BKC. However, the fourth administrator noted historian Ramachandra Guha was not present. Rai, who heads the committee, told waiting reporters it was a "familiarisation meeting" before going in. Yesterday the apex court had appointed the four members of the committee of administrators (COA) to run the affairs of the BCCI and implement court-approved recommendations of the Justice R M Lodha panel on reforms in the cash-rich cricket body. The court had ruled that BCCI's CEO, Rahul Johri, would report to this body of administrators. "We just had a familiarisation meeting just to get ourselves briefed with the functioning of BCCI, we have finished that. Soon we will decide on the course of action," Rai said after the meeting.

Newly appointed BCCI official Daina Edulji vows to put board in order

MAHARASHTRA, JAN 31 /- / The first woman to hold a top post at India's powerful and immensely wealthy cricket board vowed Tuesday to put the scandal-plagued body's house in order. Former India captain Diana Edulji was appointed Monday to a four-member team tasked by India's Supreme Court to oversee the running of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The first step we have to take is to get the house in order," Edulji, who played 20 Tests and 34 one-day international matches for India between 1976 and 1989, told AFP outside her home in Mumbai. "Let's hope we can bring justice and bring BCCI back to its glorious days," added the 61-year-old, saying it was time for Indian cricket to "look ahead" after years of turmoil. The Supreme Court's appointment of the panel, headed by former government auditor Vinod Rai, was the latest development in its BCCI shakeup. The board has been embroiled in a series of scandals, including accusations of corruption in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and a betting scandal involving



An IPL team linked to its former head N a r a y a n a s w a m i Srinivasan. Charges of corruption and nepotism dented the BCCI's image in recent times, leading many activists to urge India's top court to intervene to reform the privately-run organisation. The Supreme Court earlier this month sacked the BCCI's two most senior officials for failing to implement reforms aimed at improving governance and transparency. Edulji, who joins prominent historian Ramachandra Guha, Mumbai-based banker

Vikram Limaye as well as Rai, on the new administrative body, said it was unclear how long the four would be in place. "Until we get the house in order, BCCI elections are done and everything (with) the state associations. Until the orders of the Supreme Court are implemented then only we will know".

Their exact titles were expected to become clear when the group meets for the first time in Mumbai on Tuesday. Edulji added it was a "great honour" to be selected but that she was "a bit surprised" to be the only cricketer in the group, pledging to work hard to improve all aspects of the game. "The Parsi is one of India's most-decorated women cricketers. As a left-arm orthodox bowler she collected 63 wickets in Tests and 46 in ODIs during an illustrious career. Edulji said one of her focuses would be on growing the women's game, "I hope I can bring something that women's cricket can progress definitely popularise the game, play more cricket and have a lot more international exposure," she said. (AFP)

Captain Kohli eyes another triumph, Eng determined

BENGALURU, JAN 31 /- / Their supremacy restored after a rare blip, India will go for the kill even as an angry England alight at the Garden City with fire in their bellies, setting the stage for a tantalising series-deciding third and final Twenty20 International here tomorrow.

A 4-0 triumph in a five-match Test rubber was followed by a 2-1 win in Virat Kohli's maiden assignment as ODI skipper, and Delhi dazzler would look to translate that result into the shorter format also and concludes what has so far been a hugely successful winter on a high. Trailing, surprisingly, 0-1 heading into the second T20 game in Nagpur, India were helped by a terrific display of death bowling by young Jasprit Bumrah, and an umpiring howler. In staging a fightback in the three-match series, the defeat in the last game from an unpredictable winning position has left England skipper Eoin Morgan "extremely frustrated", and he would



desperately want his team to leave the Indian shore with something to cheer about. While Bumrah's was a performance worthy of winning any game, having conceded a measly five runs in overs 18 and 20 when batsmen normally go hammer and tongs, umpire Chettithody Shamsuddin's wrong decision against Joe Root at a crucial juncture stood out like a sore thumb, prompting the England management to take up the

nose ahead at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Kohli, unbeaten as captain series-wise at home in all formats of the game, will be too happy to add another silverware to his cabinet at a venue where India have fond memories - they knocked out Bangladesh from the World T20 by one run last year. That March win against Bangladesh, as well as the one last Sunday, will fresh in their minds, and they will take positives out of those victories. In both matches, one common factor has been Bumrah's successful final over. There remains, though, areas India would like to improve further. At Nagpur, it was the clever bowling by Chris Jordan, Ben Stokes and Tymal Mills, backed up by England's excellent batting, that frustrated India. Kohli and coach Anil Kumble would sit down and find an answer to the pace trio who have, time and again, outfoxed the batsmen with well-disguised slower deliveries and dried up boundaries. (PTI)

Tired of the entire BCCI fiasco: Sourav

KOLKATA, JAN 31 /- / Hours after the Supreme Court appointed a four-member panel of administrators to run the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) affairs and implement the Supreme Court-approved recommendations of the Justice R M Lodha committee, the former India captain Sourav Ganguly said he is "tired" of the entire episode. Speaking to journalists at the Bengal Cricket Association (BCA) president said, "We all are seeing what is happening. I am tired of this."

The Supreme Court on Monday appointed a four-member committee of administrators (COA), headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai, to oversee BCCI. Besides Rai, the other three members of the committee are cricket historian Ramachandra Guha, Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) Managing Director Vikram Limaye and former women's skipper Diana Edulji, who would interact with BCCI CEO Rahul Johri for supervision and functional recommendations to the board. Asked the reason for picking Edulji, Ganguly iterated that the SC judgement has to be respected. "This is the Supreme court appointed committee. We all have to honour it," Ganguly praised the former campaigner Ashish Nehra and young pacer Jasprit Bumrah for their brilliant death bowling which ensured India's series-saving five-run victory over England in the second Twenty20 International on Sunday. "It was a great bowling display by Nehra and Bumrah, especially in the death overs. I am hopeful India will win in Bengaluru as well." India play the third and last T20 match of the T20 series on Wednesday with the three-match series locked at 1-1.

BCCI announce squad for Bangladesh Test

Parthiv dropped, Wriddhiman back

NEW DELHI, JAN 31 /- / Led by chief selector MSK Prasad, BCCI selection committee today announced a 15-member squad to play against Bangladesh. Wicket-keeper batsman Parthiv Patel, who led Gujarat to their first-ever Ranji trophy triumph by beating Mumbai in the final, was dropped in favour of established flovener Wriddhiman Saha. India's complete squad: Virat Kohli (c), KL Rahul, Murali Vijay, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Jayant Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Magesh Yadav, Amit Mishra, Abhinav Mukund, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Kishan Nair and Hardik Pandya.



Patel's swap with Wriddhiman Saha. Murali Vijay, meanwhile, got injured during the final Test and wasn't even a part of the Tamil Nadu squad for their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal. After assuring the selection committee of his fitness in the inter-state T20 tournament, he has been able to retain his spot for the single Test series. Mukund has been a steady scorer with over 700 runs in Ranji Trophy for Tamil Nadu and will turn to the national team dressing room after

twin tours of West Indies and England in 2011. India's premier spin-duo, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, have made a comeback in the Indian setup after being given a break from the ongoing T20I series against England. Bangladesh have toured India four times - 1990, 1998, 2006 and 2016. However, they are yet to play a Test match in India. Bangladesh recently toured New Zealand for a two-Test series where they lost both matches by 7 and 9 wickets, respectively. The one-off Test will be played in Hyderabad. The squad announcement was scheduled to happen in afternoon but it got delayed after six hours. After MSK Prasad, Chaudhary was barred from convening the selection committee meeting by Chief of Committee of Administrators Vinod Rai.

Sachin only Indian in Graeme Swann's All-time XI

No place for Jacques Kallis

NEW DELHI, JAN 31 /- / Picking an all-star team has become a trend off late but it often draws criticism on the choices made. Former England seamer Graeme Swann made the latest exercise. International star to follow the trend. Picking his All-time XI, Swann labelled batting great Sachin Tendulkar as the best player of his generation and understandably included him in his team of All-time XI. Tendulkar, however, is the only Indian in the side, which also includes only one English seamer James Anderson, but he was included as the 12th man.



Tendulkar is the best player of my generation. I would prefer bowling to Sachin than Lara but it's a tough go," the 37-year-old said. All in all, four Australians (Don Bradman, Adam Gilchrist, Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne), three Englishmen (Jack Hobbs, Swann, James Anderson), three West Indians (Gordon Greenidge, Garfield Sobers, Brian Lara) and one each from India (Tendulkar) and Pakistan (Wasim Akram) were picked in the list. Explaining why he left out South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis and picked Sobers, Swann said: "I wanted to put Jacques Kallis in at six but I needed a left-arter for foot holes (for the spinners)." Swann, who has

Finch to captain Aussie T20 team against Sri Lanka

SYDNEY, JAN 31 /- / Opening batsman Aaron Finch will lead the Australian Twenty20 team in the upcoming series against Sri Lanka with captain Steve Smith and vice-captain David Warner resting ahead of the tour of India. Finch, who was stand-in captain in Monday's One-day International against New Zealand, will take the helm for three matches in February, Cricket Australia announced Tuesday. "It's very exciting to be back and leading the side in Steve's absence," said Finch, who has captained the national Twenty20 side on six previous occasions. "It's been a rollercoaster from being captain leading up to the ICC World Twenty20 (in 2016), being injured and then Steve taking over the reins for that tournament, but it's something that any time you get the chance to captain your country in any format, you're very chuffed about."

Pistorius prosecutor 'the bulldog' resigns

JOHANNESBURG, JAN 31 /- / South African prosecutor Gerrie Nel, who came to worldwide attention for securing the murder conviction of Olympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius, has resigned, the country's prosecuting authority said today. Nel's forceful questioning and ferocious style attracted global interest as the so-called "bulldog" trial was broadcast around the world after double amputee Pistorius shot dead his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. Pistorius claimed he mistook Steenkamp, a model and law graduate, for a burglar when he fired four times through the door of his bedroom toilet in the early hours of Valentine's Day in 2013, a claim that Nel hotly contested. "You killed her because that's what you did? You shot and killed her, won't you take responsibility for that?" Nel asked during the trial. National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Luvuyo Mfaku confirmed Nel's departure after Pistorius' conviction that prosecutor Gerrie Nel handed in his resignation (on) January 30," he said, adding that he would pursue "other interests". Nel's resignation was reported during his 25-year career, will be joining Afrikaner lobby group AfriForum to pursue prosecutions on their behalf. AfriForum refused to confirm or deny the reports but said that there would be an announcement "very soon". In July, Pistorius was given a six-year jail term after an appeals court upgraded his manslaughter conviction to murder. He had earlier been given a five-year sentence and was released on parole after one year. Nel led the state's criticism of Pistorius's six-year sentence, calling it "shockingly lenient and disturbingly inappropriate". Pistorius killed his 35-year-old partner at the peak of his fame, following his historic performance in London in 2012 when he became the first double-amputee to race at Olympic level. Nel was already well-known in South Africa before taking the case but became renowned during the trial. Nel's sharp eye for detail and his take-no-prisoners approach. His interrogations prompted controversy over the South African's Human Rights Commission - which later found Nel had no access to the judge in the Pistorius case. Thokozile Masipa, had to interrupt proceedings to say she was "crying" while he was scrutinising witnesses. (AFP)

High-flying East Bengal aiming to break Mumbai jinx

KOLKATA, JAN 31 /- / Bolstered by the return of Arnab Mondal, a rampaging East Bengal will look to break their Mumbai FC jinx and consolidate their position atop the table in a round six I-League football clash at Barasat tomorrow. East Bengal have not won against Mumbai FC in three years, something coach Trevor Morgan would like to change especially when they are currently in a superb form with four wins on the trot. "We are looking ahead, in the end it's about

getting three points which is the paramount importance, the Englishman, eyeing for East Bengal's elusive I-League triumph. "We can never be satisfied with what we are doing. Our strongest forward will find a goal and play as a team," Morgan added. To make things easier, the red-and-gold brigade will find captain Arnab Mondal as the centreface back after a knee surgery that kept him out since the first Indian Super League season's final with champions Atletico de Kolkata. "He will be part of the squad," Morgan informed the media after the centre-back trained with the team. East Bengal are ahead of arch-rivals Mohun Bagan on goal difference after their five-star win in Ludhiana where they toyed with the debutants Minerva Punjab FC. Morgan's striking trio of Robin Singh, Willis Plaza and Wedson Anselme fired in all cylinders with the last named striking a hat-trick in their big win. The Mumbai outfit are in the middle of

a terrible patch with three losses in the trio against Shillong Lajong, Aizawl FC and Bengaluru FC. Lack of an incisive forward and some sloppy finishing are compounding their woes as coach Santosh Kashyap will look for fresh ideas as they have managed just one goal in their last three outings. Mumbai's foreign signing Theobald has made his appearance but the Trinidad and Tobago player is yet to impress while their midfield and defence have been blighted. (PTI)

