

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 ContROLLER 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.

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, former India captain Sourav Ganguly said he is "tired" of the entire episode. Speaking to journalists today, Ganguly, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) 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 ContROLLER and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai to administer the BCCI. Besides Rai, the other three members of the committee are cricket historian Ramachandra Guha, former structure 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 matters on 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 seasoned campaigner Ashish Nehra and young pacer Jasprit Bumrah for their brilliant death bowling leg in the five-India's series-saving sutured-India 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.

High-flying East Bengal aiming to break Mumbai jinx

KOLKATA, JAN 31 -- Bolstered by the return of Anam 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 will be of paramount importance," the Englishman, eyeing for East Bengal's elusive I-League triumph, said today. "We can all do better. We can

Newly appointed BCCI official Diana 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 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 despite 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 the Delhi dazzler would look to translate that result into the shortest 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 impressive 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

case with the ICC. Replays showed that not only was the ball heading down the leg side but it also hit the edge on as it thudded into his thigh pad. However, while England may be railing with confidence, they may have displayed fighting abilities and also won the opening game, but the hosts will still have their 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 fielding, which stifled 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)

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 the squad for India's Test against Bangladesh. Wicket-keeper batsman Parthiv Patel, who led Gujarat to their first Test victory triumph by beating Mumbai in the final, was dropped in favour of established glove-wearer Ishant Sharma. **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, Umesh Yadav, Amit Mishra, Abhinav Mukund, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Kedar Nair and Hardik Pandya.



Patel's swap with Wriddhiman Saha. Murali Vijay, meanwhile, got injured during the final Test and wasn't able to retain his spot for the single 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 return 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 Anil Chaudhary was barred from convening the selection committee meeting by Chief of Committee of Administrators Vinod Rai,

Selection committee meeting delayed by 6 hrs as Amitabh Chaudhary barred

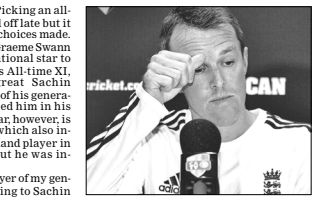
NEW DELHI, JAN 31 -- The BCCI selection committee meeting for the one-off Test against Bangladesh was delayed by six hours after joint secretary Amitabh Chaudhary was found ineligible to convene the meeting. The meeting was supposed to be held at 12 noon but started at 6:30 pm after intense drama as Chaudhary, who was present at the five star facility, was not allowed as per chief of Committee of Administrators Vinod Rai's instruction. The Supreme Court order clearly states that Committee of Administrators (COA) will be running with CEO working under them in all matters related to board. It certainly makes Chaudhary persona non grata as far as decision making of the international board matters are concerned. It was around 12 noon Chaudhary was told that he has to wait as he is not eligible to attend the meeting. It was Rahul Johri, the CEO who convened the meeting by telephoning with skipper Virat Kohli joining from Bangalore via Skype. Amitabh Chaudhary has called a senior selection committee meeting in Delhi today to select the squad against Bangladesh. Vinod Rai and Co

have immediately swung in and barred him from doing anything. The CEO is directly convening the meeting via video conference from Mumbai. A BCCI source, who was not present at the meeting here, told PTI today. All was not well was understood when BCCI mandated that one of the selectors Sarandeep Singh was not even around. Some of the waiting party members were told that meeting will start at 3 pm but then around 3:30 pm states that Committee of Administrators (COA) will be running with CEO working under them in all matters related to board. It certainly makes Chaudhary persona non grata as far as decision making of the international board matters are concerned. It was around 12 noon Chaudhary was told that he has to wait as he is not eligible to attend the meeting. It was Rahul Johri, the CEO who convened the meeting by telephoning with skipper Virat Kohli joining from Bangalore via Skype. Amitabh Chaudhary has called a senior selection committee meeting in Delhi today to select the squad against Bangladesh. Vinod Rai and Co

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 spinner 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 bowler in the world 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 current England seamer James Anderson, but he was included as the 12th man.



Tendulkar is the best player of my generation. I am not sure if anyone is better than Sachin than Lara but it's a tough one," 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-arm 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 T20 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."

"Finch captained the Melbourne Renegades in Australia's domestic Twenty20 Big Bash competition and believes selectors will be spoilt for depth in the absence of some of Australia's leading playmakers. "There are some extraordinary players around the country that will now get an opportunity and I think that's only a good thing for Australian cricket," he said. Smith and Warner have been left out of the Twenty20 squad as they prepare for the four-test tour of India which begins on February 23. Former opening batsman Justin Langer will step in as acting head coach for Darren Lehman for the Sri Lanka Twenty20 series which kicks off at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on February 17. (AFP)

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 forensic questioning and ferocious style attracted global interest as the so-called "blatant runner" 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 burglar when he fired the 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 a person, that's what you did, that's what you did, that's what you did, won't you take responsibility for that?" he said during the trial. National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Luvuyo Mfuku confirmed Nel's departure to AFP. "We can confirm that Gerrie Nel handed in his resignation (on) January 30," he said, adding that the resignation was not a resignation. "South African agency News 24 reported that Nel, who was dubbed 'the bulldog' during his 25-year career, will be join-

ing Afrikaaner 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' 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 the case but became renowned during the Pistorius trial due to his sharp eye for detail in prosecuting the prisoners approach. His interrogations prompted at least one complaint to confirm that prosecutor Gerrie Nel handed in his resignation (on) January 30," he said, adding that the resignation was not a resignation. "South African agency News 24 reported that Nel, who was dubbed 'the bulldog' during his 25-year career, will be join-