



## Did U Know?

Sri Lanka's Hashan Tillekeratne did not concede a single bye during New Zealand's innings of 671 for four at Wellington in 1990-91.



## What to WATCH

### ESPN

Asia Cup Premier League  
Third Place Play-off  
Malaysia vs Birmingham  
Repeat at 3:30 pm  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Futbol Mundial  
Repeat at 12:30 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm



## TALK TURKEY



### Maria Sharapova

(Russian tennis star)  
"No one is going to push me around. I know what I want and how to achieve it. I want to be No. 1."

## 'We'll form a good team'

### Faruque made new chief selector



#### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) cast aside traditional values when it picked up a young set of minds to form the new selection committee.

The Board named former national captain Faruque Ahmed as chief selector when it announced a three-member national selection committee yesterday. Athar Ali Khan, a former national opener, and GM Nowsheer Prince are the other members of the new panel.

Among the three contemporary cricketers, who represented the country during the 90s, left-arm pacer Prince has served as a selector of the previous committee headed by Aliul Islam.

Aliul, who was at the centre of controversy during his nearly year-long reign, resigned immediately after announcing the Bangladesh squad for Australia on June 14.

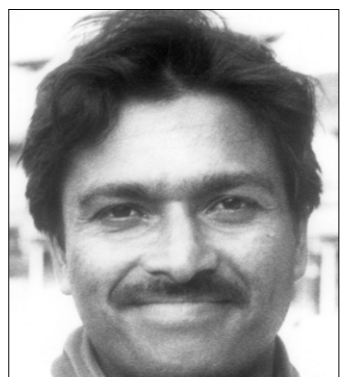
However, the formation of a new panel fulfilled the Board's commitment to follow the prescription of the much-talked-about probe report on Bangladesh's disastrous performance in the South Africa World Cup early this year.

The two-member probe committee led by Commodore Mojibur Rahman in its sensational findings recommended that it would ideal if selectors were chosen from ex-national players who have good knowledge of the goings of local cricket and a better understanding of the present cricketers.

Faruque, 37, and Athar are not only very prominent names among the present cricketers but also have

played in the Dhaka League last year.

While Faruque almost led an unheralded City Club to the glory before stumbling at the final hurdle Athar on the other hand was involved in the battle of survival for Bangladesh Biman.



FARUQUE AHMED

"It is not a hot seat as many described. I would rather call it a position that sometimes evokes controversies because you can not satisfy everybody," said Faruque while talking about his new assignment to The Daily Star Sport from Cox's Bazar on Sunday.

Faruque, who led Bangladesh during their unsuccessful 1994 ICC Trophy campaign in Kenya, has been regarded as one of the hardest hitters of the ball. But he remained an enigma in international cricket despite having all the virtues of a complete player.

But the right-hander is excited about his new job only two weeks after managing the Bangladesh A team to Sri Lanka.

"I think we can make it a very

good team because we have played cricket together for a long time. Athar is a very good thinker. Besides, we are still very much involved with local cricket and know the present cricketers," said arguably the youngest ever chief selection of the country.

"I don't think age should be a barrier for being a chief selector. We three have 20 years of playing experience behind us. Besides, if you look around you will find international cricketers who have just left the game, performing the responsibility of national selector," said Faruque.

Faruque and his men will get down to business on August 13 when they sit with coach Dav Whatmore to finalise the Bangladesh squad for the tour of Pakistan.

But he said that the towering presence of Whatmore, who has been calling all the shots since taking over the demanding job in June, would not be a hindrance rather offer a great deal of support.

"I think our job is clearly defined. Whatmore will be working with a set group of players and we are there to help him pick those individuals. We will give him feedback on the talent on offer based on our experience. I'm sure we will form a good team," observed Faruque.

Faruque said that one of his priorities would be to instill a professional approach.

"I would like to see at least one of us travelling to watch National League matches or any relevant competition being staged outside Dhaka. We will be scouting for all national selections not only the main Bangladesh squad."

## NFL Super 6 draw today

#### SPORTS REPORTER

The draw for the Nitol-Tata Third National Football League Super Six phase will be held at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today evening.

Six teams Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Moulvibazar Wanderers, Chittagong Mohammedan, Dhaka Mohammedan, Abahani Krira Chakra and Arambagh Krira Sangha have qualified for the last stage of the competition after the 10-team second round that concluded in Khulna on Friday.

Muktiyoddha and Moulvibazar Wanderers will lead the two groups in the Super Six as second round group champions while the remaining four teams will be split through lottery.

The BFF will also announce the fixture and the venue for the Super Six phase during the draw.

## College b'ball from Aug 13

#### BSS, Dhaka

The first Europa college basketball championship will begin on August 13 at the wooden-floor gymnasium at Dhanmondi.

Twelve teams including one team each from Khulna and Chandpur are going to take part in the 15-day meet, which is being organised by Bangladesh basketball Federation and sponsored by Europa Group.

The teams will split into two groups. Group A consists Master Mind, Chandpur Government College, Rajuk Uttara Model College, Aga Khan College, Dhanmondi Tutorial and Khulna College.

Group B comprises St. Joseph's College Scholastica, BAF Shaheen College, Bangladesh Navy College, Academia and Notre Dame College.



PHOTO: STAR

Abahani and Mariner Youngs players are in pursuit of the ball during their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter at the Maulana Bhasani National stadium yesterday.

## Ramij saves Abahani



#### SPORTS REPORTER

A first half short corner goal from Sheikh Ramij Ahmed helped defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra survive a scare from Mariner Young's Club defeating them by a solitary goal at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

In a tense Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter, the 25-year-old national winger made the difference in the big match blasting the board through a short-corner.

Although Abahani had the upper hand against Mariner in the first half and earned three short corners. It was from the second short corner that they succeeded in breaking down the stubborn Mariner defence.

But afterwards Abahani ran out of ideas. On the other hand, Mariner tried their best to expose Abahani's unimpressive midfield in the second session. They got three short-corners but could not convert them into goals.

It was an important victory for the

sky-blues that helped them maintain their all-win record playing seven matches so far.

However, the Club Cup semifinalists Mariner, tasted their fourth defeat in six matches that made earning a berth in the Super League almost unlikely as they have only six points from as many matches.

#### USHA-BANGLADESH SC

Earlier in the day, Usha Krira Chakra handed Bangladesh Sporting Club a 3-0 defeat to retain the fourth spot.

Forward Moududur Rahman Shuvo struck twice in the 21st and 44th minute while defender Irteza Kader Guddu added the other goal.

With that win, Usha raised their tally to 11 points from six matches, one point short of Sonali Bank who have 12 points from six matches. Bangladesh Sporting Club have earned nothing from their seven outings so far.

#### TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Railway v Sadharan Bima (2:15 pm)  
Ajax SC v Wari Club (4:15 pm)

## Warne in hot 'phone call' water again

#### AFP, Sydney

High-profile Australian cricketer Shane Warne is seeking legal advice after being accused of bombarding a South African woman with raucous telephone calls, his manager said on Sunday.

South Africa's Sunday Times newspaper reported that Helen Cohen Alon, a 45-year-old divorced mother from Johannesburg, claims she was offered R200,000 (28,000 USD) by an associate of the Australian Test cricketer to keep quiet about their relationship, phone calls and a series of text messages.

She claims in the newspaper report that the phone messages continued long after she met Warne

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

## No NFL at BNS? Cricket SAF Games bound!



#### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) looks set to get a negative response from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in regard to their request for allocation of the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) for holding the Nitol-Tata 3rd National Football League (NFL)'s Super Six phase.

The BNS is under BCB's control up to April 2004, but the BFF sought the ground for hosting ten matches of the NFL's final round at the multi-purpose venue in fear of losing out financially if the games are played elsewhere.

Although BCB president Ali Asghar said last week that he would give his final decision on Monday after talking to his ground management officials, the BCB boss yesterday however, clearly indicated that the Board wasn't in a position to spare the BNS.

"It's not possible. You have to understand that England are due to arrive in October for a Test tour. If we let footballers play on the ground, the spikes of their boots will seriously damage the outfield and we won't be able to mend it in a month," said Munna.

"We will sit with BFF officials on Tuesday. I will have my concerned officials with me in that meeting and they would explain why it was not possible for us to give them the ground," said Asghar.

"I can not give you anything in detail at the moment. Everything will be said on Tuesday," Asghar added.

Grounds committee chairman and BCB advisor Shafiqur Rahman Munna meanwhile, was adamant that the BFF's request could not be entertained.

Talking to the Daily Star Sport, Munna said that he had a talk with Asghar yesterday evening and has conveyed his unwillingness to spare the BNS.

"We are sure that cricket can increase the appeal of the Games to a great extent and besides Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh the four Test playing

#### AFP, Karachi

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Sunday suggested the inclusion of cricket in the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games as part of a move to end a deadlock between the two neighbours.

"ACC will officially request the South Asian Sports Federation (SASF) to include cricket in the SAF Games which we think can be stepping stone for the revival of cricket between India and Pakistan," ACC development manager Zakir Hussain Syed told AFP.

India snapped bilateral cricket ties with arch-rivals Pakistan over political tension in 2000 but recent efforts to normalise relations between the two neighbours have triggered hopes of ties being revived by next year.

"We are sure that cricket can increase the appeal of the Games to a great extent and besides Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh the four Test playing

nations Nepal can also chip in," Syed said.

Pakistan last week announced it will stage the biennial SAF Games in January 2004 after withdrawing its right to host the game April this year, after becoming frustrated by repeated postponements.

The Games, scheduled to be held in Islamabad in September 2001, were first cancelled following security fears in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the ensuing war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Later Pakistan was twice forced to cancel the Games, first in March 2002 and then in March this year, over Indian refusals to participate.

Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) last month said it received a great boost to rescheduled the Games in Pakistan when their Indian counterparts supported them to host the regional sporting festival.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy (C) is under pressure from two Arsenal players during the FA Community Shield match at the Millenium Stadium in Cardiff yesterday.

## Howard United's hero



#### SPORTINGLIFE, London

New boy Tim Howard was Manchester United's shootout hero as the Premiership champions beat Arsenal to take the Community Shield in Cardiff on Sunday.

The American goalkeeper saved from Giovanni van Bronckhorst and Robert Pires as United won 4-3 on penalties.

The drama came after the two Premiership heavyweights had fought out a tight 1-1 draw in searing conditions in the Millennium Stadium.

Mikael Silvestre put United ahead with a free header on 15 minutes and Thierry Henry levelled soon after with a wonderful free-kick.

And a game which had always been fiercely contested boiled over 16 minutes from time when Gunners substitute Francis Jeffers was sent off for kicking out at Phil Neville.

Despite the name of the game there was little sign of any community spirit out on the pitch as two players were booked inside the first 90 seconds.

First Neville got a yellow card for a late lunge on Patrick Vieira and then Ashley Cole received the same punishment for a foul on Nicky Butt.

The early stages were tight with both teams trying to establish a

foothold, but the game burst into life on 15 minutes as the champions went ahead.

United won a corner on their right, Ryan Giggs curled it in and when Roy Keane flicked on Silvestre was left unmarked eight yards out to net with a simple header.

That lead lasted just five minutes though as the Gunners roared back with a sensational trademark strike from Henry.

Butt was penalised for a foul on Vieira and Henry curled a delicious 30-yard free-kick over the wall and past Howard into the bottom corner of the United net.

The champions wasted a great chance to regain the lead on 33 minutes.

Giggs flicked a header against the post from Neville's cross and Ruud van Nistelrooy headed against the woodwork from the rebound.

Arsenal hit back though and in the dying minutes of the first half Freddie Ljungberg's deflected chip went over with Howard struggling.

After the interval the Gunners brought on Sylvain Wiltord and Pires for Henry and Ray Parlour, but it was United who had the first real chance of the second half.

Less than a minute in Giggs crossed into the six-yard box and van Nistelrooy somehow failed to make contact with the goal at his mercy.

## Darren singles out Mashrafe, Hannan



#### REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia batsman Darren Lehmann says he supports Bangladesh's entry into Test cricket but admits only two of their players are good enough to play at interstate level in Australia.

Australia thrashed the Asian nation 2-0 in last month's series, winning both Tests by an innings, before the world champions coasted to easy victories in the three one-day internationals.

"It was a good series. Obviously they are the minnows of Test cricket (without a victory since gaining Test status three years ago)," Lehmann told Australia television on Sunday.

"Look, the ICC (International Cricket Council) obviously have to play the minnows against the best teams occasionally."

"They have got to get the experience to play well and play against the best sides I suppose. It's a good grounding for them."

Asked for former Test batsman Dean Jones how many Bangladesh players were worthy of a place in a

state side in the Australia domestic four-day competition, Lehmann said: "I think probably the opening bowler (Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza),



DARREN LEHMANN

he's a very good bowler.

"The other player would be the opening batsman Hannan Sarker (who averaged 41.50 in the Test series)," the South Australia captain added.

Lehmann, 33, hit 110 and 177 in the two Tests to boost his average from 39.88 to 50.79 from 14 matches including three hundreds.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Boycott plays Fletcher



#### BBC ONLINE, London

Geoffrey Boycott has rounded on England's cricket coach Duncan Fletcher for not taking the blame when things go badly and failing to understand the importance of county cricket.

The tough-talking Yorkshireman also described the timing of Nasser Hussain's resignation as "stupid" while branding England's performances in the last two Tests "pathetic."

Boycott, 62, has been forced to watch most of England's recent matches on television, fighting throat cancer. But he is now in remission.

And in an interview on Five Live's Sportsweek programme, he refused to concede many things had gone well this summer.

"I don't take much notice of their wins against Zimbabwe frankly a club side could have beaten Zimbabwe," said the former opening batsman.

Apparently ignoring England's

triumphs in two one-day tournaments one of which included South Africa he added: "We've not been tested until South Africa came here."

"And we've not only been found wanting we've been pathetic."

Boycott insists there is no value in selecting younger players simply to build for the future when they are not as good as their more experienced peers.

"To hell with the future what about now? What the public could do with is a tonic now they could do with England whacking South Africa at Trent Bridge."

"So I wouldn't sack Alec [Stewart] and I wouldn't sack Hussain I think the selectors have got it right."

Fletcher needs to stand up and accept responsibility for the Test team's troubles, he added.

"Whenever there's any

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



GEOFFREY BOYCOTT