

Star-less transfers from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union will put on a show when they parade their 'galaxy ten' before the start of the four-day inter-club players' transfer today.

The famous Gopibagh club created a sensation well before the four-day bourse got underway by managing to woo the best players from the big three clubs.

Aiming to reestablish Brothers' image as a force in the domestic football, they went out and bought the country's top booters Rajani Kanta Barman, Arman Miah, Alfaz Ahmed, Mohammad Sujon, Nazrul Islam, Biplab Bhattacharya, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Titoo, Monwar Hossain, Iqbal Hossain and Parvez Babu.

The tension and excitement regarding the player transfers was all but over following the Brothers coup. Three giants of local football Abahani, Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriira Chakra and holders

Mohammedan Sporting Club also secured their forts and all of them will only visit the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DAMFA) office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) today just to complete the formalities.

Brothers plan to make the occasion a memorable one. They have arranged horse-driven carriages in traditional Old Dhaka style to take the star players from Gopibagh to the DAMFA office. Brothers' officials are expecting some three to four thousand fans who will join the rally from 4pm. A motorcycle and car procession has also been arranged.

After Brothers, Abahani have dominated the pre-transfers market. They have assembled big names like Masud Rana, Arif Khan Joy, Mahmudul Hasan, Nizam Majumdar and veteran forward Rakib, who all are expected to put pen to paper on the very first day.

Muktiyoddha Sangsad were confident regarding country's number one custodian Aminul Haq signing for them following a bitter duel with Abahani. Aminul is reportedly unwilling to play for any club in

Dhaka after the mental ordeal he and his family suffered because of the tug of war between Abahani and Muktiyoddha over him.

"We don't want to create another undesired situation with Aminul. That's why we will take the final decision tomorrow morning on whether to take him to the transfers or complete the formalities on commission. But we are sure he is going to stay with us," said Muktiyoddha chairman Kabir Ahmed Khan.

Muktiyoddha's only top signing this season has been prolific striker Rukunuzzaman Kanchan.

The biggest losers are defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club who will have to watch as they missed out getting star players.

In an effort to avoid any unexpected incidents, the league committee has asked for the deployment of extra police.

"We don't any sort of trouble in the next four days," league committee secretary Muzammel Haq Mukta said.

World Eleven calling Bashar

SPORTS REPORTER from Karachi

Bangladesh middle-order batsman Habibul Bashar has been invited to play for a World Eleven team in an exhibition charity cricket match against Pakistan to be held on October 3, at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.



Habibul Bashar

Famous Pakistani singer Shehzad Roy is organising the match to raise funds for his 'Jindegi Trust', an organisation for underprivileged children.

Although it was not known who else would be playing, a source confirmed that Bashar had been approached and was awaiting permission from Bangladesh Cricket Board before agreeing to take part.

It was learnt that former Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya and England's veteran fast bowler Darren Gough might feature in the game.

Joy for Biman shuttlers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman won both the men's and women's singles titles of the Sadat Smriti Summer Open Badminton Championship at the Wooden-floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Parash was crowned the men's title beating his club-mate Enayet 5-15, 15-11, 15-8 in the all-Biman final.

Noori clinched the women's title thrashing her teammate Kanika 11-8, 11-1 in the one-sided final.

School's b'ball

BSS, Dhaka

The inter-school basketball tournament begins today at the Dhanmondi Wooden-floor Basketball Gymnasium. Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk is expected to inaugurate the meet as the chief guest.

The Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF) is organising the competition with a view to generating interest in the game among school students.

Transcom Beverages Limited and South Breeze are jointly sponsoring the 15-day tournament.

Twelve teams divided into three groups are taking part in the boys' competition.

Group A : Green Herald, Bangladesh Navy School, Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT) and Sunbeams.

Group B : St. Gregory's High School, Scholastica, South Breeze and Sunny Dale.

Group C: St Joseph's High School, Maple Leaf International, Fariduddin Siddiqui School and European Standard School.

The top two teams from each group will qualify for the super six stage.

In super six, qualifiers will again be split into two groups with the top two teams playing in the final.

In the girls' group, six teams will play in a single group with the top two schools meeting in the final.

South Breeze, Maple International, Scholastica, Sunbeams, Sunny Dale and BIT are the teams.

Inter-district v'ball from Sept 22

BSS, Dhaka

The qualifying round of the men's competition of the Pepsi inter-district volleyball championship will be held from September 22-October 3 at nine different venues across the country.

Nine zonal champions along with defending champions Khulna District Sports Association (DSA) will play in the final round, scheduled to be held in the third week of October.

The teams are: Dhaka, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Brahmanbari, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Pabna, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Khulna, Bagerhat, Shakhria, Jessore, Jhenidah, Narail, Kusthia, Magura, Barisal, Patuakhali and Barguna.

The nine zonal groups being Paharpur, Kamaphuli, Mainamati, Sundarban, Sher-e-Bangla, Sagardari, Sonargaon, Madhupur and Banalata.

Whatmore likes the fight

Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

For once Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore had a broad smile his face after seeing the way his young learners had given Pakistan a real scare in the fourth one-day match at Rawalpindi on Thursday.

And he could hardly wait to talk to journalists after arriving in the city yesterday afternoon.

"Well, it was a big disappointment to lose. But there was a good game of cricket. The boys fought really very hard and they came down to the last over. So, you can't say it was a bad game," he said adding that it was Yousuf Youhana who made the difference.

"He's a very good player and he remained calm under pressure."

Youhana with an unbeaten 94 guided the home team to their fourth successive win in the five-match series. Pakistan, set to score 223 for a victory, reached the target losing five wickets and with one ball to spare.

When asked why his top-order approached the game so cautiously, Whatmore thought that it was good bowling by the Pakistanis that slowed them down in the early stages.

"They bowled straight. Shoib Malik did not give anything to hit. So, I think the batsmen did a good job in that situation. Also they managed to bat out entire 50 overs and that's what I wanted from them,

"I felt that the batting display was very good. They had wickets in hand and they proved that they could accelerate in the last ten overs," he said.

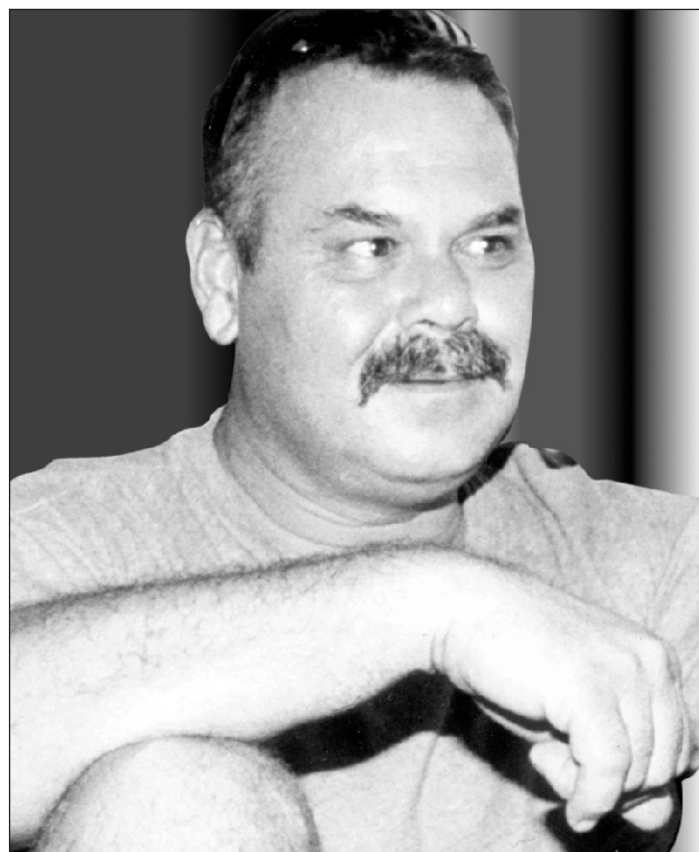
Captain Khaled Mahmud, however, said that it would have been better if they had scored some more runs.

"I was thinking of getting a total around 250 after winning my first

toss in the ODI series. Then again it was not a bad total. I'm still very happy that everybody tried their best.

About the go-slow tactic, Mahmud said they did not have any

1999 World Cup scoring 223. So, I thought it was a good omen in Thursday's game also. Again I wish to give full credit to my teammates and hope they display the same level of cricket in the last match on



DAV WHATMORE

two early especially after losing two early wickets.

"If we had lost a few more wickets in the first 15 overs, it would have brought more pressure on us. In each of the first three games we couldn't last the full 50 overs. So, it was necessary to play like that.

"We won against Pakistan in the

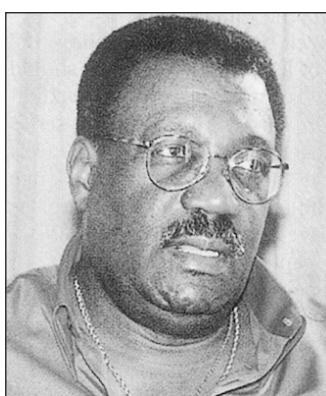
Sunday," said the hopeful Mahmud.

Whatmore wanted to his players to relax in the Karachi Sheraton Hotel's swimming pool after the flight from Rawalpindi, but had to abandon the idea, as the pool would remain closed until next week because of a Spanish food festival.



Did U Know?

There are 10 ways in which a batsman can get out in cricket: 1. Caught, 2. Bowled, 3. Leg Before Wicket, 4. Run Out, 5. Stumped, 6. Handling the ball, 7. Obstructing the field, 8. Hit the ball twice, 9. Hit Wicket and 10. Timed out



Clive Lloyd

(Former West Indies cricket captain) "Dav (Whatmore) is a top class coach. You can only work with what you have and the captain is only as good as his players. I am sure he will inspire the Bangladesh players and give them the impetus that's needed."



What to WATCH

ESPN
Goals
Repeat at 2 pm
Premiership Preview Show
Live at 5 pm
English Premier League
Chelsea v Wolves
Live at 5.25 pm
Premiership Preview Show
Live at 7.30 pm
English Premier League
Liverpool v Leicester City
Live at 7.55 pm
English Premier League
Tottenham v Southampton
Same day delayed at 10.30 pm
STAR Sports
UEFA Champions League Extra
Taped at 8.30 am
NBA Inside Stuff
Repeat at 5.30 pm

Straightforward Athar

Former Bangladesh opener Athar Ali Khan was renowned for his elegant and straight batted stroke play. Although his international playing career is over, Athar continues to be as graceful and straight in his new venture, which is commenting for different sports channels on TV.

He has worked with ESPN-STAR Sports as an expert commentator in the past but his recent exploits with the microphone during the ongoing Bangladesh-Pakistan series has projected him in a new light and has led Athar to be adored by millions of his countrymen.

With Pakistani commentators on the TEN Sports team missing no opportunity to undermine Bangladesh's valiant showing, unjustly on most occasions, against the highly-rated home side, Athar decided to fight a lone battle off the field and successfully upheld the country's pride and dignity without appearing biased or prejudiced.

Athar, who is also a member of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's selection committee spoke of his bitter-sweet experience of the Pakistan tour during an interview with **HASAN MASOOD** of *The Daily Star Sport* at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Following are the excerpts of that interview:



ATHAR ALI KHAN

continue this in the future also.
DSS: Can commentators be

neutral?

AAK: They have to be. That's what a commentator's job is. There are two commentators in the box at the same time. The production unit makes this arrangement because they want two different views. You need to make sure that those views are neutral and not biased. That's very important.

DSS: Do you find it difficult to accept when your views are totally contradicted by fellow commentators?

AAK: Well, it has happened on this tour on more than one occasion. The best thing I could do or have

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The toe that will never heal

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's champion batsman Sachin Tendulkar on Friday vowed to overcome the pain barrier after revealing he suffered from a toe "broken to pieces" that will never heal.

The 30-year-old said that 14 years of international cricket had taken a toll on his body, but recent injuries to his back, hands and feet will not deter him from playing the game he loves most.

"My toe injury is not going to heal, the bone there is broken into pieces," Tendulkar, the most prolific batsman in contemporary cricket, told the 'India Today' magazine.

The Indian star suffered a back injury during the Test series against Pakistan in 1999, broke the sesamoid bone in his right toe in

2001 that forced him to skip a tour of Sri Lanka, and had a finger injury last season.

Tendulkar revealed his record 673 runs at the World Cup in southern Africa in March this year were scored with a painful finger in his left hand which forced him to undergo surgery in the United States in May.

"I couldn't straighten my hand," he said.

"While batting, I couldn't flex my fingers comfortably, couldn't pick up a cup of tea easily.

"Injections had not worked earlier. The only option was to live with whatever pain was there and to be on pain killers. It was a matter of only six weeks, so I wore a big plaster.

Tendulkar's performance enabled India win eight matches in a row at the World Cup to qualify for the final where they were beaten by Ricky Ponting's Australia.

The man with 31 Test centuries and a record 34 one-day hundreds

said he was not easily satisfied and hated to lose.

"The only people I have to lose to are my son and daughter. When they box me, I have to fall down. Otherwise I don't like losing against anyone in any sport.

"I've been happy on various occasions, but never completely happy. I think it is a good sign. The moment I start sitting back, saying 'well done', that's probably the end of things."

Tendulkar conceded he had mellowed as a batsman over the years, but the hunger to score runs had not diminished.

"Earlier someone else took the responsibility and I just went after the bowling. Today, being the senior most means a different role. It is the youngsters who go after the bowling and play their shots.

"It is hard to imagine my life away from cricket. From the age of 10, for

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The Bangladesh Olympic Association organised a programme titled 'Sport and Environment' near the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nat'l kho kho

SPORTS REPORTER

Brahmanbaria, Natore, Dhaka and Munshiganj moved into the semifinals of the Pepsi second National Women's Kho Kho Championship at the outer stadium yesterday.

The semifinals will take place at 9 am and final at 4 pm today at the same venue.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will distribute the prizes as the chief guest.

16 teams at 2007 WC

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, Bombay

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday decided to increase the number of competing teams from 14 to 16 at the next World Cup in the West Indies in 2007.

"There'll be 16 teams at the next World Cup," ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said after a two-day management committee meeting here of the sport's governing body.

He said the number had been increased to give more opportunities to non-Test-playing nations. The two teams that will join are yet to be decided.

The ICC said it didn't believe participation by two more teams would rob the elite tournament of its competitive edge.

The 14-team World Cup in South Africa this year with four non-Test-playing sides was criticised for producing one-sided contests.

"This will not dilute the competitive edge as is being feared. In the last World Cup, teams like Kenya, Canada and Namibia put up good displays," said ICC president Ehsan Mani.

Non-Test-playing nation Kenya sprang a big surprise by qualifying for the semifinals.

The ICC also said the next World Cup would not last more than 40 days. The last event lasted 43.

The world body in another deci-

sion decided to shorten its review process for suspect bowling action.

Currently, any player reported for "chucking" is put through two stages of corrective steps. The first involves working with his national board and, if the problem persists, with a bowling review group of the ICC.

But Speed said the ICC planned to do away with the first stage to simplify the process following a suggestion by India's Sunil Gavaskar, who heads its playing committee.

"We can then take action as soon as possible and also the players can go back to play early," he said. A final

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International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed (L) addresses a press conference at the Cricket Club of India in Bombay yesterday while ICC president Ehsan Mani looks on.

An English Murali please

Cricket

AFP, London

Former England skipper Nasser Hussain said on Friday that the national team's prospects in the world game would be vastly improved if they could find a magician like Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan.

Hussain, who stepped down as captain in July, said that England's lack of quality spin bowlers was a real area for concern and that more should be done to produce "our own Muralitharan."

"There aren't many wrist spinners playing in county cricket, let's address that problem because that's the sort of

bowling that is taking wickets now," Hussain told BBC Five Live.

"We need a real magician with the ball to make us a much better side. And I would also like to see more genuine quick bowlers.

"Where is our next 400-Test-wicket-taking bowler going to come from?"

Hussain's comments came after suggestions that the number of county championship games should be reduced in order to preserve the effectiveness of the national team.

"Angus Fraser, Darren Gough and Andy Caddick could all have gone on to take 400 wickets for England," he said.

"But they bowled so much in the nets and for their counties that they wasted balls they could

have been bowling for England." Hussain also revealed he quit the England captaincy in July after realising he had given the role everything he could.

His resignation came after the first Test against South Africa and gave replacement skipper Michael Vaughan little time to prepare.

But Hussain said he could not have hung on until after the second Test at Lord's.

"I had nothing left in me at all. The tank was completely empty after all I went through in the last few months of my captaincy," Hussain said.

"I cherished the job too much to carry on just for the sake of doing it. It was someone else's turn."