

Nafees is the best

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh vice-captain Shahriar Nafees became the Cricketer of the Year in the Bangladesh Cricket Awards at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

The southpaw, who was in fine fettle with the willow, also took the Best Batsman of the Year award.

Last year, Mohammad Ashraful was adjudged the Best Cricketer. It was also a delightful double for veteran left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique who picked up both the Best Bowler and the Best All-rounder awards.

Sakib Al Hasan picked up the Emerging Cricketer of the Year award. Rookie opener Mehrab Hossain, who was picked for the ICC Champions Trophy squad, was given the honour of the Young Tiger.

The board, which introduced the award night last year, also showed its respect to late Daulatuzzaman, a Bangladesh international and coach, by giving him the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Former cricketer-turned-umpire Nadir Shah claimed the Best Umpire of the Year award.

There were also awards for journalists. Azad Mazumder of the New Age lifted the prize for the Journalist of the Year (print media) while Khairul Amin Tuhin of NTV picked up the prize for Journalist of the Year (electronic media).

The Daily Janakantha's Mir Farid won the Best Photojournalist's award.

BCB selects teams for practice ties

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday named the two teams that will play two practice matches as part of the national team's preparation for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in India.

The two practice matches will be held at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) on September 23 and 25.

Tigers captain Habibul Bashar will lead Team A, the virtual final squad for the mini World Cup of cricket, sans his top pace bowlers Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Syed Rassel. Both the quicks have been rested due to injury.

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Did U Know?

Sachin Tendulkar scored 141 not out from 148 balls in the DLF Cup against the West Indies at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on September 12. It was his fortieth ODI century, third against the West Indies.



Michael Johnson

(Olympic track legend) "I don't believe Jones will ever be able to repair her image or get back to the type of performances that made her one of the highest profile women athletes in the world." On Marion Jones.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

Sunfest Open Day 4 Live at 5:30 pm



Dhaka players are over the moon after clinching the first Inter-district Women's Tootball Tournament at the Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Ground inspection committee named

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced the 11-member committee which will be responsible for inspecting the Bangabandhu National Stadium and set tentative dates for transfer and start of the Professional Football League.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal has named convenor and the members are Sirajul Islam Bachchu, Manzoor Hossain Malu, Golam Rasul Molla (all BFF), Mostaqur Rahman (Mohammedan), Satyajit Das Rupu (Abahani), Mizanuddin Ahmed (Brothers Union), Nurul Alam Chowdhury (Sheikh Russel KC), Rumman Wali Bin Sabir (Football Players' Welfare Association), Ibrahim Nesar (Referees' Association) and Nurul Haque Pradhan (NSC director planning or his representative).

The committee has been asked to submit its recommendation to the federation by September 27.

Can footballers go to Asian Games?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) finally got the assurance for fund to send the national team to this year's Asian Games in Doha but the football's ruling body of the country was yet to get the nod from the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA).

BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal told The Daily Star yesterday that State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman has given him the verbal assurance to arrange fund for the team to make the Qatar trip in December.

"I talked with the minister today and convinced him that we should take part in the Games because we don't get the chance to play top teams in Asia like Korea or Bahrain often. I also told him that the BFF will take care of the preparation but it needs about Tk 12 lakh for air tickets," Helal told.

The minister agreed to give the fund and also talked with BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed. The problem is that Kutub did not want to send the football team's entry unless he gets the permission of the BOA chief.

"Kutub told me that he would send the entries of the contingent tomorrow morning and if he does not get the green signal from BOA president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed before the deadline, he cannot help us," Helal said quoting Kutub.

According to Helal, the BOA chief could not be contacted by the BOA secretary general till filing of this report.

The BOA had axed the football team from the contingent for their poor show in the recently concluded 10th South Asian Games in

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Dhaka champs in women's soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka became champions in the inaugural Inter-district Women's Football Tournament with a comfortable 2-0 win over Rajshahi in the final at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Tournament top scorer Sainu Marma put Dhaka ahead after 16 minutes while Nubai sealed the victory in the 58th minute.

Dhaka's Pinky was adjudged player of the final match while Chameli was adjudged the player of the tournament.

Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed, former national footballers Zakaria Pintoo, Badal Roy and Dewan Shafiqul Arfin Tutul and Barkatullah Bulu, Advisor to the Women and Children Affairs Ministry gave away prizes.

Proteas smash Zimbabweans

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Mark Boucher smashed the Zimbabwe bowling attack to bits with an unbeaten 147 runs as South Africa posted the third highest score in a one-day international in the third and final match of the series against their neighbours at Sedgars Park in Potchefstroom yesterday.

The South African wicketkeeper-batsman came in at number four and took centre stage as he struck eight boundaries and as many as 10 sixes in an innings that spanned only 68 balls.

Openers Loots Bossman and Alviro Petersen struck 88 and 80 respectively while skipper Jaques Kallis also scored a half-century.

SOUTH AFRICA				
Bosman st Taylor b Kamungozi	88			
Petersen c & b Utseya	80			
Kallis c Chigumbura b Utseya	50			
Boucher not out	148			
Kemp st Taylor b Kamungozi	10			
Van der Wat b Rainsford	5			
Duminy not out	24			
Extras: (w-9, nb-4)	13			
Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs)	418			
Did not bat: Hall, Telemachus, Langeveldt, Nel.				
Fall of wickets: 1-160, 2-199, 3-290, 4-317, 5-351.				
Bowler				
Rainsford	10	0	58	1
Mupariwa	9	0	82	0
Chibhabha	6	0	63	0
Utseya	9	0	77	2
Chigumbura	2	0	28	0
Kamungozi	10	0	70	2
Masakadza	4	0	40	0

Kabaddi finals tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Both the boys' and girls' finals of the 14th NZ Textile Mills School kabaddi tournament will be held at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court tomorrow.

Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles School and College will appear in both finals, the boys taking on Dolairpar High School and the girls meeting Siddheshwari Girls High School.

Harbhajan inspires India

Cricket

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

An inspiring all-round show from Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh handed India an unexpected victory after a dismal batting collapse from West Indies in their DLF Cup one-day international at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur.

India were skittled for 162 in 39.3 overs by the West Indies but the Caribbean islanders failed to punch home the advantage, losing by 16 runs.

Singh took three wickets for 35 during a vital seventh wicket partnership of 78 with Sachin Tendulkar who batted masterfully on a dodgy wicket to score 65 runs.

It was India's first limited-overs win since May and they must now beat Australia on Friday to make the final. The West Indies have already qualified.

"Anything can happen in cricket and we never gave up," said Indian captain Rahul Dravid.

"The boys were disappointed with their batting but I think our bowlers have been bowling very well, getting it in the right place. I'm very happy for them."

While the West Indian bowling attack has proved effective at this tournament their batting has left much to be desired.

They fiddled with the lineup Wednesday to give the under-performers a chance to shine, meaning opener Chris Gayle came in at six and captain Brian Lara at eight.

Lara admitted it didn't work, and it was a worry.

"It shows a few guys are out of form and lack confidence," he said.

"It's a cause for concern but I am very happy with our bowlers."

Ajit Agarkar led the attack for India with Munaf Patel in place of Irfan Pathan who was dropped after poor performances in earlier games here.

Runako Morton, a controversial character who was arrested in January 2004 over a stabbing incident, opened with Shivnarine Chanderpaul and they started well enough, motoring to 44-0 before their nerves got the better of them.

Chanderpaul was the first to go, spooning a Patel delivery to Virender Sehwag at square leg for 21.

Patel pounced again to remove vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan for 2, with an edge to wicketkeeper MS Dhoni.

India were starting to believe in themselves when Morton was dismissed for 27 in the next over, with Dhoni taking a juggling catch off Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

Agarkar, who had been hounding the batsmen with his pace and accuracy, finally got a wicket when he had Marlon Samuels lbw for five, leaving the West Indies tottering on 63 for 4.

Gayle and Wavell Hinds, both experienced batsmen, needed to settle things down but it didn't work that way and Gayle went for one.

It brought Dwyane Smith to the crease and he was clearly under orders, smashing three boundaries in his first four balls before he was out lbw to Agarkar on his fifth.

Lara only came out at 97-7 and was unbeaten 40 gave them a glimmer of hope before he ran out of partners.

Harbhajan Singh was the pick of the Indian bowlers with 3-35. Patel, Agarkar and Sreesanth all took two each.

Earlier, scintillating fast bowling reduced India to 162 all out with only Tendulkar (65) offering resistance.

India struggled from the outset after winning the toss and electing to bat against a side buoyed by the return from injury of top fast bowler Corey Collymore.

He opened the attack with Smith and India were in trouble immediately.

Dravid fell to the third ball of the day without scoring, nicking a Smith

delivery to a jubilant Carlton Baugh behind the stumps.

The tall, aggressive Smith was red-hot and knocked down another big gun in Sehwag in his next over, uprooting his off stump, then tempting Suresh Raina into a thick edge to Gayle at slip.

Smith also got Yuvraj Singh (0), bowling 10 straight overs to end with 4-31.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the DLF Cup one-day international between India and the West Indies at Kinrara Oval on Wednesday.

INDIA				
Dravid c Baugh b Smith	0			
Tendulkar run out (Samuels)	65			
Sehwag b Smith	1			
Raina c Gayle b Smith	11			
Yuvraj c Baugh b Smith	0			
Dhoni b Collymore	18			
Agarkar b Bravo	4			
Harbhajan c Baugh b Gayle	37			
Rudra Pratap b Gayle	2			
Sreesanth run out (Baugh)	0			
Patel not out	2			
Extras: (lb-3, w-16, nb-3)	22			
Total: (All out in 39.3 overs)	162			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-6, 3-38, 4-38, 5-69, 6-78, 7-156, 8-157, 9-160, 10-162.				
Bowler				
Smith	10	2	31	4
Collymore	8	1	41	1
Gayle	5.3	0	13	2
Samuels	4	0	17	0
Bravo	6	0	16	1
Hinds	6	0	41	0

WEST INDIES				
Chanderpaul c Shewag b Patel	21			
Morton c Dhoni b Sreesanth	27			
Sarwan c Dhoni c Patel	2			
Hinds c & b Harbhajan	8			
Samuels lbw b Agarkar	5			
Bravo st Dhoni b Harbhajan	10			
Gayle lbw b Rudra Pratap	1			

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Vaughan stays with England

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Michael Vaughan has been awarded a new England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) contract despite missing the whole of 2006 through injury.

The man who led England to Ashes victory last summer is named Wednesday among the expanded list of 13 players awarded contracts for the next year.

Fast bowler Simon Jones and left-arm spinner Ashley Giles both retain their contracts, despite -- like Vaughan -- having suffered injuries this year.

Giles is recovering from a hip and groin problem, while Vaughan and Jones have both had knee operations.

Giles has been named in the England squad hoping to keep the Ashes in Australia this winter; Vaughan is hoping to be fit in time for the VB Series of one-day internationals, starting in January -- and Jones will not be back until next season.

Monty Panesar and Alastair Cook have been rewarded for what chairman of selectors David Graveney described as their "excellent progress".

Graveney said: "This is the largest number of England 12-month Central Contracts awarded thus far and reflects the excellent progress made by younger players such as Alastair Cook and Monty Panesar."

The only man dropped from last year's list of 12 is wicketkeeper Geraint Jones.

The latter recently lost his Test

place to Chris Read, although there is no place yet for him either among England's contracted players who therefore do not have a specialist wicketkeeper among them.

Graveney added: "The selectors can, of course, award Summer Contracts to individual players from next April if we feel that performances on overseas tours merit this and I am sure that both Chris Read and Geraint Jones will be competing hard to demonstrate their value to the team this winter."

CONTRACTED PLAYERS

Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Alastair Cook, Ashley Giles, Andrew Flintoff, Stephen Harrison, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones, Kevin Pietersen, Monty Panesar, Andrew Strauss, Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan.



India spinner Harbhajan Singh (R) appeals successfully after West Indian batsman Dwayne Bravo is out stumped during their DLF tri-series match at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP