

DMFA announces 1993 calendar

Premier League from Apr 1

Sports Reporter



The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), the body entrusted with the conduct of

the various city soccer leagues, has at long last managed to come up with a schedule for 1993.

After hectic deliberations at their Dhaka Stadium offices yesterday, the DMFA announced a set of dates for the various football programmes which they hope will be the actual calendar for the coming year.

Top on the DMFA's priority will obviously be the Premier League, a new format to be introduced next year with the top ten teams of the 20-team 1992 First Division league. That competition, designed to become the cynosure of all league championships with the ten best club teams and naturally the best players, is slated to have an April 1, 1993 start.

The lucky ten members of this elite grouping will be last year's Division One champions Abahani Krira Chakra, runner-up Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, Brothers Union, Arambagh KS, Rahmatganj MFS, Agrani Bank, Victoria Sporting Club, Wari Club, Muktijoddha Sangsad and PWD Sports Club.

Of the other ten teams of the last league, those finishing eleventh to eighteenth will play in the First Division league, scheduled to kick off simultaneously on April Fool's Day. These eight will be joined by two promotees from last year's Second Division —

beaten champions Bangladesh Boys Club and runner-up East End Club.

The bottom two teams of the 1992 First Division — Police AC and BJMC — will play in the Second Division league next year.

Both the new Premier League and the First Division leagues will be played on a return league basis, meaning teams will face each other at least twice with the programmes billed to conclude by July 15.

Sports Secretary Azizul Haq who is also the DMFA chief, was in the chair.

INTER-CLUB TRANSFERS

Talking to journalists after the meeting Shah Abul Kashem, a joint secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and a DMFA vice-president, said that the inter-club transfers of footballers will be held from February 1 to 10 next year.

The 1992 Senior Division league had begun on January 10 and concluded on June 7.

DMFA CUP

However, before the league the DMFA Cup football tournament will be held from March 1 to 30.

The Federation Cup tournament, the traditional curtain-raiser of local soccer, will be held after the league programmes.

The meeting also decided the dates of the inter-club transfer for the junior division leagues.

According to the schedule, the Second Division players

transfers will be held from June 25 to July 1 while the Third Division transfers are scheduled for June 15 to 21.

The leagues will be held immediately after the transfers.

The Pioneer on Fourth Division football league will begin from January 20.

The players' transfer will be held from December 28 to January 5.

The meeting, however, failed to resolve the issue regarding the venue for the two Senior Division leagues, according to sources.

Earlier last week, the Dhaka Metropolitan Club Samity decided that they would be involved in the players' transfer procedure only if the Dhaka Stadium is available for conduct of the league programmes.

DMFA president Azizul Haq informed the club representatives this issue will be decided at a later date.

The meeting also approved the by-laws for the forthcoming leagues.

The representatives of league champions Abahani Krira Chakra and runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club were conspicuous by their absence last night.

When asked whether the absence of the two local giants will affect the 1993 calendar, a senior DMFA official, speaking on condition of anonymity, replied in the negative.

"They usually don't take part in such meetings but do support the DMFA decisions on all occasions," said the official.

Pakistan, SL arrive today

Pakistan and Sri Lanka arrive today to participate in the first ever SAARC cricket tournament which begins in the city on Thursday, reports UNB.

India, another participant in the four-nation tournament, will reach here on Wednesday.

Hosts Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in the inaugural match, starting at 9.10 am at the Dhaka National Stadium, the venue of the nine-day meet.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Cricket Umpire Board selected a panel of five local umpires to conduct the matches along with three others — one each from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The local umpires are: Ataul Haq Malik, Mohammed Asgar, Monjur Milky, S B Chowdhury Sishir and Abdul Aziz Sikder.

The BCCB received the names of umpires M Ikram Rabbani of Pakistan and S K Bansal of India who will arrive with their respective teams. But Sri Lanka is yet to inform the name of an umpire who will accompany the team.

The Umpires Board also announced a nine-member scorer panel for the tournament. They are: S R Basak, Mosharraf Hossain, Dilip Kumar Saha, Jagannath Basak, Golam Mostafa, Shankar Basak, Mohammed Monju, Mijanur Rahman Mizan and Mohammed Mosabber.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadik Hossain yesterday visited the Dhaka National Stadium and expressed his satisfaction at the overall arrangements for the tournament.

Abahani fans protest Faruque's exclusion

Sports Reporter

The Abahani Krira Chakra Fan Club yesterday brought out a procession around the Dhaka Stadium premises demanding the inclusion of cricketer Faruque Ahmed in the Bangladesh team for the first SAARC cricket tournament to be held from December 3 to 11.

Faruque Ahmed and wicket-keeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu of the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) are the two notable players who failed to impress the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board selectors for the tournament which starts Thursday.

The omission of Faruque from the national team has already triggered a lot of controversy about the team selection.

Faruque, who captained Abahani last season, opened for the national team in the SEA cricket tourney in Singapore last June and was the highest scorer for the country.

He also performed well in the recently concluded 14th Damal Summer cricket tournament when Abahani retained the championship.

When asked for his comments, BCCB secretary Aminul Huq Moni told The Daily Star last night that the board had faith in the selectors and would go by their decision.

Former national captain Roquibul Hasan said that the decision regarding the team was taken unanimously by the selectors.

The Abahani manager M A Awal Chowdhury Bhulu, while talking to The Daily Star yesterday, condemned the BCCB's decision.

"We will write a letter to the BCCB demanding a clarification on the issue," said Bhulu.

Biman take lead in chess

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman, for the first time yesterday, took the lead in the First Division chess league table with a convincing 3-1 victory over fancied Brothers Union at the National Sports Council chess room.

Biman now have 29 points out of a possible 36 while Brothers have 28.5 points from nine matches each.

In yesterday's crucial league encounter International Master Zillur Rahman Champak, national champion Reefat bin-Sattar of Biman won their matches against Ziaul Kader Tuhin and Amir Hossain of Brothers respectively while would be IM of the country Ziaur Rahman and FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman shared points with Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi and Sheikh Anwar Hossain of Brothers respectively.

This was Brothers' first defeat in the league.

Last year's runners-up Bangladesh Ansars followed Biman with 28 points from ten outings.

Title-aspirants Ansars beat Konica Cultural Organisation by 2.5 to 1.5 points.

Pony Electronics outplayed Tilak Chess Club 4-0 to take their collection to 23 points while Dhaka University, who have also 23 points, beat Genius Chess Club 3-1 yesterday.



Skipper Kepler Wessels ducks a delivery during South Africa's second innings of the second Test at Johannesburg on Sunday. Wessels made 11 before being run out. The Test ended in a draw yesterday. — AFP photo

Johannesburg Test drawn

Sports Reporter

Manjrekar, Amre pull shutters down



JOHANNESBURG, Nov 30: India survived a dramatic top-order slump against the fiery South African pacemen to force a draw in the second Test at the Wanderers here today, reports AFP.

Chasing a victory target of 318, the Indians were coasting along at 68 for no loss when Allan Donald and Craig Matthews swung the match around with four wickets in 30 balls to reduce the tourists to 73 for four.

Sanjay Manjrekar and Praveen Amre saved India the blushes with a defiant unbeaten 68 run stand for the fifth wicket which took their team to 141 for four at the close.

The in-form Manjrekar, with two first class centuries on tour under his belt, remained unbeaten on 32 with two fours after batting for three hours.

Amre, who scored a match saving century on debut in the drawn first Test in Durban, was 35 not out with three boundaries.

Resuming at Sunday's score of 15 for no loss, openers Ravi Shastri and Ajay Jadeja kept India in the hunt with a slow,

but determined start which realised 41 runs in the two-hour morning session.

Backed by some 12,000 home fans, Donald and Matthews returned after lunch to slice through the Indian top order with an aggressive display of high quality pace bowling and put South Africa right on top.

The 27-year-old Donald justified his tag of 'White Lightning' by blasting out Jadeja and Sachin Tendulkar, while debutant Matthews accounted for vice captain Shastri and skipper Mohammad Azharuddin.

The beleaguered Indian captain's solitary run on Monday gives him a poor aggregate of 128 runs in 12 of his last 14 Test innings since 1990.

His only notable contributions have been 106 against Australia in Adelaide earlier this year and 36 in the first Test of the current series in Durban.

There were still a minimum of 49 overs to be bowled after the fall of the fourth wicket, but Manjrekar and Amre kept their cool to steer India away from imminent trouble.

The pair saw off Donald and Matthews easily and then settled in to score freely against

the backup duo of Brian McMillan and Hansie Cronje.

Jadeja, who made 43 with four boundaries, was the first to go when Donald moved a ball away and South African captain Kepler Wessels took an easy catch to his left at first slip.

Azharuddin promoted himself in the batting order to step up the scoring, but lasted only till the next over as debutant Matthews forced him to edge straight to wicket keeper Dave Richardson.

The 19-year-old Tendulkar had made one when Donald wrapped him on the pads in the next over and umpire Barry Lambson ruled him leg-before.

Tendulkar, who had played forward to a well-pitched delivery, appeared surprised by the decision before trudging back to the pavilion.

Shastri's dour innings of 23 in three hours and 15 minutes ended three overs later when he played on to Matthews in attempting a cover drive.

India went to tea without further damage as Amre and Manjrekar defied the four pronged attack for the rest of the afternoon session.

The rival teams will now be engaged in a series of seven day night limited overs inter-

national from December 7 before playing the remaining two Tests in Port Elizabeth from December 26 and Cape Town from January 2.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the second Test between India and South Africa which ended in a draw at the Wanderers Stadium here on Monday.

SOUTH AFRICA: 1st innings: 292 (McMillan 98, Rhodes 91; Prabhakar 4-90).

INDIA: 1st innings: 227 (Tendulkar 111, McMillan 4-74, Donald 3-78).

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings: 252 (Kumble 6-53).

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 15 for 0):

Shastri b Matthews 23
Jadeja c Wessels b Donald 43
Azharuddin c Richardson b Matthews 1
Tendulkar lbw b Donald 1
Manjrekar not out 32
Amre not out 35
Extras: (b 2, lb 2, nb 2) 6
Total: (for four wickets) 141
Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-70, 3-71, 4-73

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Donald	20	6	43	2
McMillan	21	6	34	0
Matthews	20	10	23	2
Cronje	18	7	32	0
Kirsten	3	1	5	0

AZAPO threatens

Indian tour

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 30: A radical anti-apartheid group said on Sunday it would launch protests including pitch invasions against the Indian cricket tour of South Africa, reports Reuters.

The Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO), which advocates the black consciousness policies of the late Steve Biko, said at its annual congress all forms of sanctions against South Africa had to be maintained.

A resolution adopted at the congress in Port Elizabeth said members would try to invade pitches and picket visiting players, the South African Press Association reported.

AZAPO, far smaller than Nelson Mandela's black nationalist African National Congress, is influential among the black middle-class and black intellectuals.

AZAPO launched a highly-publicised but ineffective campaign earlier this year against a tour by American singer Paul Simon.

Ramsamy re-elected

NOCSA president

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 30: Veteran anti-apartheid sports administrator Sam Ramsamy was on Sunday re-elected unopposed as president of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa, reports Reuters.

Mileki George, president of the African National Congress-Aligned National Sports Congress, and yachting official Ross Robson were elected joint vice-presidents by representatives of South Africa's Olympic sports codes.

Ramsamy, who campaigned from exile for two decades for Pretoria's exclusion from world sport, said the best way to prepare for future Olympics was to develop sport among majority blacks.

He urged the white minority government to help fund black development by restoring tax rebates for sports sponsors abolished over the past year.

Crowe admits it's a tall task



MORATUWA, Sri Lanka, Nov 30: New Zealand skipper Martin Crowe said his team would have to work hard to save the first Test here after Sri Lanka ended the third day in a commanding position after hammering a weak bowling attack, reports AFP.

"Obviously, the Sri Lankans are in the box seat... we have a lot of work to do to get to a position to save it (the match)," Crowe told reporters here Sunday after Sri Lanka had made 299 for four in reply to New Zealand's 288.

He said that when play resumed Tuesday after today's rest day, the Kiwis would have to prevent Sri Lanka from piling up a huge first innings total and then bat out the remaining sessions to save the match.

"We just have to keep going... we realise we probably have to bat out the last four sessions to save the Test," said Crowe, acknowledging that the lack of a spinner made it difficult for an inexperienced all-seam attack.

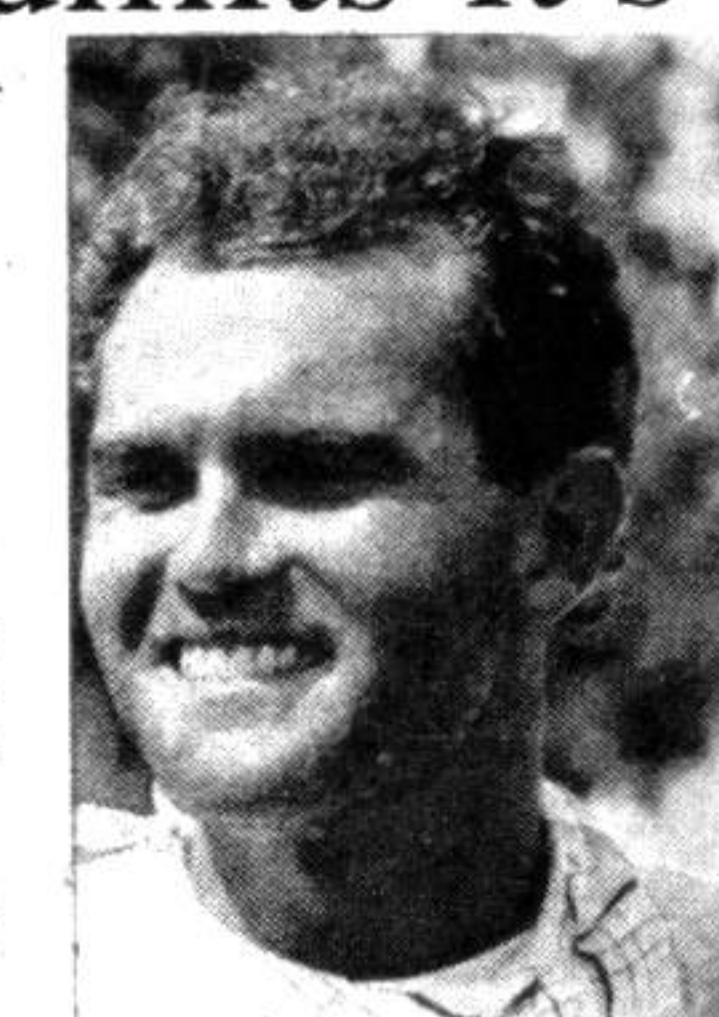
But he defended New Zealand's decision to go into the match without a specialist spinner because it was difficult to do so without knowing the players' form and "We went in with some ideas but they didn't work out."

For the first Test, New Zealand left out off-spinner Grant Bradburn who was here as replacement to top off-spinner Dipak Patel, one of five key players to return home after a bomb blast outside the squad's Colombo hotel.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka's right-arm off-cutter Jayananda Warnaweera brushed aside remarks by Crowe that he was "a chucker." Crowe fell to Warnaweera Friday when he tried to pull the bowler and was held at mid-wicket.

"I am not bothered about what he says. Anyone can say anything about my bowling and I will just ignore those comments," said Warnaweera, who was recalled for this match after playing in three previous Tests.

Crowe called Warnaweera



MARTIN CROWE

Waqar raring to go



PERTH, Nov 30: Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis, regarded as the fastest bowler in the world, said Monday that he hoped to underline his reputation during the team's tour of Australia and New Zealand, reports AP.



WAQAR YOUNIS

Waqar said he had fully recovered from back injuries that forced him to miss Pakistan's triumphant World Cup performance in March and wanted to show his talents on hard Australian wickets that should suit his fiery bowling.

"It is a big honour to be called the fastest of your kind in the world," Waqar said.

"I've been working further on my pace and I hope it will keep me at that level in the future."

"But there is more to bowling than just being fast and I've been developing extra swing in some of my deliveries."

Waqar will lead the Pakistan attack in the triangular World Series tournament against Australia and the West Indies starting Friday.

Pakistan then will tour New Zealand and play three Test matches.

Waqar said he was desperately disappointed a stress fracture in his lower back ruled him out of the World Cup.

"It was very disappointing, but I'm over that now and only looking ahead not back," he said.

Waqar resumed his international cricket career in Pakistan's tour of England midway through this year and it was evident the 21-year-old had lost none of his venom.

In the three-match 55-overs series against the World Cup runner-up, Waqar took nine wickets at an average of 18.55.

Pakistan play the West Australian state team in a day-night match Tuesday in their final warm-up before the World Series tournament.

7th President Gold Cup

Two teams send their lists

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday received the players and officials' lists of Krylia Sovetov club of Russia and Housing Bank Football team of South Korea for the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament to be held in the city from January 8 to 20.

Krylia Sovetov has sent a list of 29 members while the South Korea list includes 20 players and five officials.

Six foreign teams — three European sides and as many Asian teams — and two Bangladesh selections will participate in the tourney, estimated to cost Taka 1.27

MSC fans to meet

A meeting of the central committee of the Mohammedan Sporting fan club will be held at the club premises in Motijheel on December 4 at 5:30 pm, says a press release.

Three Russian league champions Krylia Sovetov was founded in 1943 and made their debut in the Super Division league in 1945.

Besides clinching league titles, Sovetov finished runners-up in the former USSR national soccer championship in 1953 and 1964.

Five footballers of this club — V Vorobiov, G Khuseinov, N Oslanin, B Kikh and B Kazakov — represented the now extinct Soviet Union on various occasions.

The Housing Bank Football Club, the FA Cup champions of South Korea, are reportedly a leading team of Asia.

Meanwhile, F C Tatra Presov of Czechoslovakia, who showed interest in participating the tournament, sent some details about their club.

Tatra Presov, who won the Slovak Cup in 1991-92, are in the sixth position in the current league. They finished as

Mohta makes it anyway



A disappointing 13 over par 85 on the final day of the four-day tenth Bangladesh Open amateur golf

championship yesterday did not prevent defending champion Rajeev Mohta of India from retaining the trophy he won at the

Kurmitola Golf Club course last year.

A net score of 310, 22 over par for the 72 hole competition which began last Friday, sufficed to keep the fancied Indian ahead of the hundred-strong field, his nearest challenger John Allgood of the host club finishing runner-up six strokes behind on 316.



Rajeev Mohta of India retained the men's crown of the 10th Bangladesh amateur golf championship, which concluded at the Kurmitola Golf course yesterday. — Star photo