

**BFF Secy peeved**

Sports Reporter

Shaikh Akmal Hossain, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) last Thursday served a show cause notice upon the national selection committee for alleged "gross violation of rules," it was learnt yesterday.

The selection committee, an appointed body of the BFF entrusted with the task of picking players and officials for the national team at domestic or international meets, reportedly leaked the list of preliminarily picked players for the forthcoming 1994 World Cup qualifying rounds to a handful of "chosen" journalists last week. This act of indiscretion was deemed to have been in gross violation of the BFF rules and code of conduct, according to the BFF secretary.

The act, reportedly by a particular member of the committee — a former player who is associated with the Bangladesh Olympic Association and the National Sports Council as well — has tarnished the image of the national soccer federation and given rise to petty politicking.

Although the BFF secretary's move was hailed by some quarters, observers seriously doubt the outcome since this sort of thing has happened several times but those guilty always escaped censure.

The selectors had picked 25 players for the national squad, the list of which was distributed by the BFF secretary himself to some papers yesterday.

The squad retained all the twenty players included in the BFF team which had beaten Al-Rayyan Club of Qatar 2-1 in an exhibition match in Doha earlier last month.

The five new players included are Md Mohsin, Kaiser Hamid, Md Alamgir, Barun Bikash Dewan and Tutul.

Kazi Salahuddin, the star striker of yesteryears, is likely to retain his post as coach.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the BFF executive committee will be held on February 13 to discuss Bangladesh's participation in the World Cup qualifying round.

Bangladesh, placed in Group F of the Asian Zone, are scheduled to play their first and second leg matches in Japan and the United Arab Emirates next April and May respectively.

The meeting is also likely to select the national delegations and approve the budget for a two month long coaching programme.

The meeting will also consider the DMFA's request to make the Dhaka Stadium available for the forthcoming Premier and First Division football leagues.

**Shahbaz to lead Pak hockey squad against Holland**

ISLAMABAD, Feb 6: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has selected an 18-member team, to be led by Shahbaz Ahmed, for the coming three-Test series against the Netherlands, officials said Saturday, reports AFP.

The Tests will be played in Pakistan — February 9 in Lahore, February 12 in Rawalpindi and February 15 in Karachi.

Team members include: Shaheed Ali Khan and Mansoor Ahmed (goalkeepers), Rana Mujahid, Khalid Bashir and Ikhtlaq Ahmed (backs), Farhat Hussain, Mohammad Khalid, Khwaja Mohammad Junaid, Anjum Saeed and Khawar Javed (halfbacks), Tahir Zaman, Shahbaz Ahmed, Asif Bajwa, Mohammad Shahbaz Jr., Wasim Feroze, Qamar Ibrahim, Mussadaq Hussain and Tariq Sheikh (forwards).

**Ansars clinch Rabbani Sports v'ball crown**

Bangladesh Ansar clinched the Rabbani Sports women's volleyball title beating Dinajpur District Sports Association 15-2, 15-10, 15-0 at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control M Majid-ul-Haq was present as chief guest and later distributed the prizes.

Four teams took part in the four-day meet that concluded today.

**Handball result**

Sports Reporter

Nawabpur Sporting Club finished third in the Suncrest Second Division handball league when they edged Christian Youth Club 25-21 in the third and fourth place decider at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

The Nawabpur boys trailed in the first half 11-12. Old ideals became champions beating Pragati Boys Club in the final. All four semifinals earned promotion to next year's First Division league.

**Nat'l championship in March**

Sports Reporter

The preliminary round of the 1993 national cricket championship is likely to be held from March 7 to 15 at six venues across the country simultaneously.

Forty-seven district sports associations and services and university teams will participate in the over-limit knock-out meet.

The zonal venues are Dhaka, Sylhet, Tangail, Khulna, Patna and Thakurgaon.

The six zonal champions and last year's champions and runners-up will play in the final round to be held in Dhaka soon after the completion of the qualifiers subject to the availability of grounds, Reza-e-Karim, treasurer of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board told some reporters yesterday after the meeting of the tournament committee.

The meeting also decided to hold the qualifying round of the 1993 national youth cricket championship from February 25 to March 5 at five venues across the country.

The venues are Comilla, Tangail, Jessore, Thakurgaon and Pabna. Thirty-seven teams will participate in the qualifiers with the zonal champions moving into the finals where

they will be joined by last year's champions and runners-up.

The final round will be played in Dhaka. Bangladesh Tobacco Company Ltd will sponsor this year's national championship while the BCCB is yet to find a sponsor for the youth tournament.

Meanwhile, the proposed tour of Airport Gymkhana of Pakistan may be postponed for a while because of the tight domestic programmes and existing political unrest in the country, according to a BCCB official who preferred not to be named.

Airport Gymkhana, a club side, were scheduled to arrive in the city on February 10 to play a number of exhibition matches in and outside the capital.

When contacted the BCCB secretary Hujumul Hujumul confirmed authenticity of the information but maintained that the issue would be finalised today.

The top Navana Premier Division cricket teams, who were to play the Pakistani team, have reportedly asked the BCCB to defer the programme until the completion of the first phase of the ongoing league.

The proposed tour may adversely affect the local league

which is already three months old," an official of a top Navana league team told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We want to see the completion of the league and then we will consider playing against a foreign team," he said.

"However, if the BCCB wants to go along with the programme, we will definitely abide by the decision," the well-known official confirmed.

Meanwhile, the title-deciding Milnars First Division league match between Wari Club and Dhanmondi Club, which was scheduled for yesterday but fell through because of a half-day 'hartal' call, is likely to be held either on February 12 or 13 at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Both Wari and Dhanmondi Club have collected 20 points from 12 matches each.

However, the prestigious Navana Premier Division league resumes today with Abahani Krira Chakra playing Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium and Gulehan Youth Club meeting Kalaangan Krira Chakra at the Dhanmondi Stadium.

Abahani now jointly lead the table with arch-rivals and defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club with 12 points from seven outings each.

**Rest of India 295 for four**

VISAKHAPATNAM, India, Feb 6: A Rest of India XI were 295 for four in reply to England's first innings 253 for six declared at the close of the second day of their three-day match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

**Imran's view**

ISLAMABAD, Feb 6: The staging of the 1995 cricket World Cup in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka will greatly promote the game in the region, cricket celebrity Imran Khan said in an interview published here Saturday, reports AFP.

Imran, represented Pakistan at the February 2 International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting in London which decided on the event's location.

"On the one hand the World Cup will improve the state of grounds and stadiums and on the other hand it will inspire the promising players of the three countries to learn from great cricketers," he said.

The former national cricket captain, who is advisor to the Pakistan cricket board, said all three countries played an effective part in winning the right to stage the World Cup.

"It is a success for all three and I feel all of them should capitalize on the opportunity and develop better infrastructure necessary for holding major competitions," Imran said.

He said Pakistan and India who co-hosted the fourth World Cup and both the experience and expertise for organizing the cup successfully and now Sri Lanka could also learn from their significant part as third hosts.

He said Sri Lanka could also be important in minimizing the "tension which exists in India-Pakistan (cricket) clashes."

**NSW go atop**

SYDNEY, Feb 6: New South Wales shot to the top of the Sheffield Shield cricket table with an emphatic seven-wicket victory over title holders Western Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground today, reports Reuter.

Off spinner Greg Matthews took a career best 8-52 to dismiss Western Australia for 168 in their second innings and set the blues a target of 184 from a minimum 56 overs.

Matthews was not out 28 as Michael Bevan (44 not out) hit the winning runs. New South Wales clubbed their way to victory in even time for the loss of the top three batsmen.

New South Wales now have 20 points, followed by Queensland on 18 and Western Australia on 15 with three games remaining.

Matthews had two for 18 when Western Australia resumed at 68 for two, an overall lead of 63 after taking first innings points. He picked up four more as the visitors lost six wickets in the morning session.

Matthews took three for one in 13 balls just before lunch and helped clear up the tail within 20 minutes of the break to beat his previous best figures of 7-50 against Tasmania at the same ground three years ago.

New South Wales opens Michael Slater and Steve Small smashed 71 runs off 14 overs before Slater went for 38, edging part-time leg-spinner Tim Zoehrer to stand-in keeper Mike Veletta.

Small was lbw to spinner James Stewart for 41 immediately after tea and Trevor Bayliss threw away his wicket for 29. But Matthews and Bevan saw New South Wales home.

**Roquibul's day**

Sports Reporter

Former national cricket captain Roquibul Hassan powered Al-Baraka Bank Ltd to an easy 94-run win over Acme Laboratories in a friendly match at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday with a brilliant allround act.

The diminutive former national opening bat, who is still active leading Victoria

Sporting Club in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league, hit a superb 111 as Al-Baraka Bank, batting first, amassed an imposing 210 for seven wickets in 30 overs. Salahuddin made 24 and Habib contributed 22.

Set to score seven runs an over to win, the Acme innings crumbled in the face of Roquibul's occasional but effective off-spinners. Roquibul returned figures of five for 25 as Acme Laboratories folded on 116 in 30 overs.

**Cowdrey's conduct condemned**

NEW DELHI, Feb 6: India Saturday accused International Cricket Council (ICC) chief Colin Cowdrey of having tried to sabotage the subcontinent's successful bid to host the sixth World Cup in 1995, reports AFP.

Inderjit Singh Bindra, a member of the joint bid team from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, said Cowdrey went out of his way to support England's bid at the stormy 13-hour ICC meeting in London on February 2.

"He (Cowdrey) was seeming to argue the case in England's favour. It was as if he was batting, bowling and fielding for England along with discharging the duties of an umpire," Bindra said.

Bindra said Cowdrey, a former England captain, gave in only when the ICC's 19 associate members, led by Joe Buzzaglio of Gibraltar, threatened to slap a no-confidence motion against him.

"Cowdrey and the ICC's solicitors kept arguing about procedural wranglings even though the England representatives kept quiet. The conduct was unbefitting of the ICC chairman," Bindra said.

He also said there was "nothing magnanimous and noble" in England's last minute offer to withdraw their bid as was being made out by Alan Smith of the Test and Country Cricket Board (TCCB).

"England had no option but to withdraw when they found out that the subcontinent's bid was 27-10 ahead if a vote had

been taken. Even this was done conditionally," Bindra said.

England withdrew only when we agreed to let them stage the Cup in 1998 and appointed Australia's David Richards as ICC's first paid chief executive."

Bindra said India would host 17 of the 37 matches, including both semifinals. Pakistan will hold 16 matches and Sri Lanka four.

He added that a meeting of Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan officials would be held in Lahore in March to discuss the organisation of the tournament and finalise a Joint Organising Committee.

"We hope to raise more than the five million pounds budget needed for the tournament through television rights and sponsorships. It will be a profitable venture," he said.



COLIN COWDREY

Bindra said he would never have come out "in the open" about what transpired at the meeting if Smith had not "contravened tradition," by disclosing "wrong" details to the press in a bid to garner support for England.

"We will make it the best and biggest World Cup, even better than when India and Pakistan jointly hosted the 1987 edition," Bindra said.

Meanwhile, the northern Pakistani city of Lahore will

host the final of the sixth World Cup.

"We gave Pakistan the choice of holding both the semifinals or the final and they have opted for the latter," Bindra said.

The premier limited-overs competition will be contested by an unprecedented 12 teams as three associate members — to be decided at the ICC Trophy tournament in Kenya next year — join the nine Test-playing nations for the first time.

The first four tournaments in 1975, 1979, 1983 and 1987 had eight teams while South Africa were added as the ninth competitor for last year's competition in Australia and New Zealand after the 21-year-old apartheid-induced ban was lifted.

The 12 teams will be divided into two groups for the preliminary league matches with the top four in each group qualifying to play in the quarter-finals.

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**Dalmiya defends ICC decision**

CALCUTTA, Feb 6: Jagmohan Dalmiya, the convener of the joint bid committee, said here today

that "We earned the right to host the 1995 World Cup on strength of our support and better offer and there was no question of anybody favouring us," reports PTI.

Dalmiya, who just returned from London after successfully bidding for the World Cup on behalf of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, described the conduct of the South, the convener of the Test and Country Cricket Board (TCCB) and Dr Doug Insole, Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC), as "unfortunate."

However he appealed to all to "Apply restraint in the interest of the glorious game of cricket, and its managing body."

Smith and Dr Insole had described the ICC meeting held on February 2 as "fractious and unpleasant" in which after nearly 13 hours of deliberations, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in a joint bid, finally won the right to host the 1995 World Cup getting the better of England, the other bidder.

When asked how could Smith and Dr Insole could disclose the proceedings of the ICC meeting, Dalmiya said, "It was not expected of senior officials of the TCCB especially

in this regard saying it would only add to "acrimony and bitterness."

Dalmiya, who along with Madhav Rao Scindia, the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and I S Bindra, a senior member of the board attended the historic meeting, said, "We bagged the World Cup because almost three-fourths of the ICC members supported us."

Dalmiya was all praise for the role played by Scindia and Bindra as the "leadership of the former and solid arguments of the later produced a brilliant teamwork along with our co-bidders." Former Pakistan all rounder Imran Khan was leading the Pakistani delegation at the meeting.

He said that the 1995 World Cup would be hosted by the sub-continent with the theme and philosophy of spreading the highest level of cricket amongst more countries, for the first time the history of the competition.

**Rajshahi cricket**

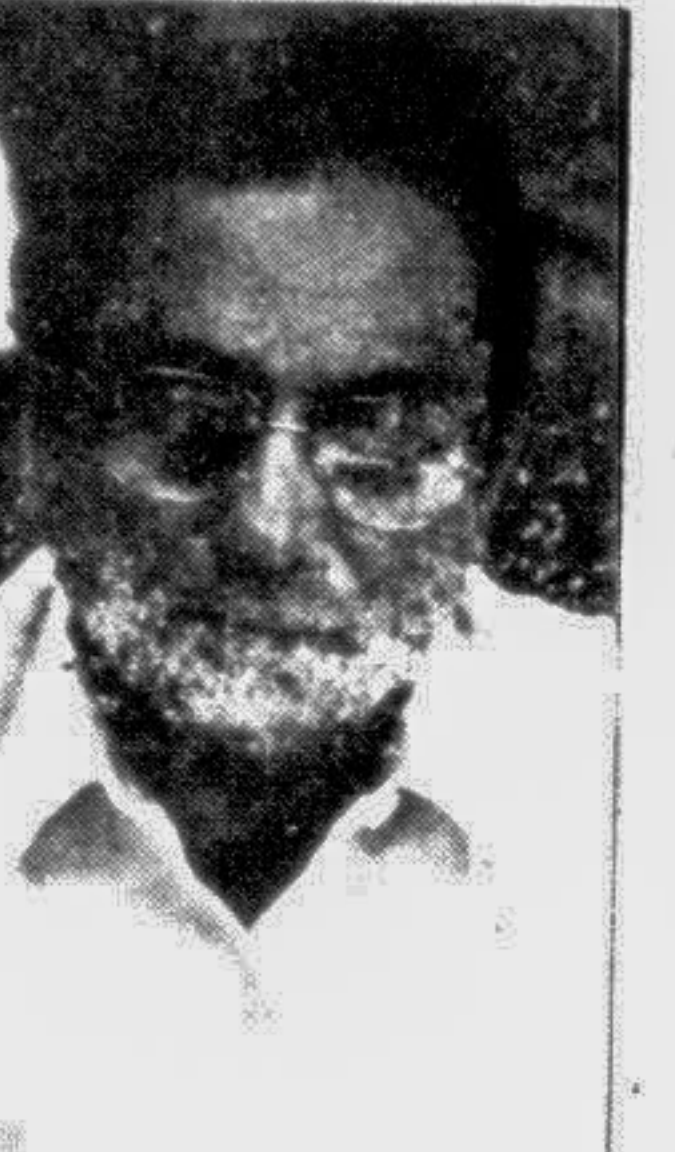
Diganta Proshari Club beat Agomoni Club by 25 runs in the Bhorer Kagoj First Division cricket league of Rajshahi at the Rajshahi Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Batting first, Diganta Proshari Club scored 178 runs for nine wickets in the stipulated 35 overs with Montu and Dolon making 44 and 43 respectively.

Samit of Agomoni claimed three wickets for 24 runs. In reply, Agomoni scored 153 runs before being all out in 34.4 overs.

Rana, the topscorer for Agomoni with an unbeaten 43 while Sulov contributed 37. Rokon, Montu and Koyel shared two wickets each for Diganta Proshari.

when Sir Colin Cowdrey, the ICC chairman, requested the members to keep the proceed-



DALMIYA

ings confidential." Dalmiya, however refused to make any further statements

**Manikganj cricket**

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Feb 6: Probathi Sangha made a good start in the Manikganj cricket league when they trounced Nizam Shamsul Smriti Sangha by eight wickets in the league opener here at the local stadium today.

Batting first Nizam Smriti Sangha were shot out for 107 in 28.5 overs.

Iqbal claimed three wickets for Probathi Sangha. Probathi Sangha made 111 in 18 overs with eight wickets to spare, Tapa topscoring for them with 50.

Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj Mortuza Hossain inaugurated the meet as chief guest.

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**Soccer results**

Sports Reporter

Noor Sporting Club moved into the semifinals of the All Sports Cup football tournament beating Shahjahanpur Juba Sangsad 3-1 at the Azimpur ground yesterday.

Masib, Jewel and Bahar scored for the winners while Israil pulled one back for the losers.

**Pakistan tepid towards 3rd eye**

JOHANNESBURG

Feb 6: World one-day cricket champions Pakistan said they disliked the introduction of a third umpire in the game when they arrived for their first-ever visit to South Africa on Friday, reports Reuter.

Captain Wasim Akram told a news conference: "I don't feel comfortable with a third umpire sitting outside and taking decisions."

Pakistan face South Africa and West Indies in a triangular series which starts next Tuesday in Durban and continues through the month.

The "electronic eye" monitored by the third umpire, will be in operation for the coming series. It was used in Test matches for the first

time during India's recent tour of South Africa and hailed a success by both sides.

Akram said it was uncomfortable for batsmen to have to wait for the red or green light to flash to convey a decision taken by the third umpire using television replay facilities.

Decisions should be made on the field, he said. It is used in close decisions on stumpings and run-outs when requested by the two pitch umpires.

Pakistan manager Khalid Mahmood said: "Either one leaves all line-decisions entirely to the third umpire or does not refer it to him at all."

Pakistan experienced the system of the third umpire in New Zealand recently. "We noticed that the television camera does not always accurately give a decision," Mahmood

said. He was also dissatisfied that only South African umpires would officiate in the series.

Emotions runs high, even if there is a neutral umpire, but then only his judgement and not his integrity is questioned, Mahmood said.

Mahmood will raise Pakistani objections with the United Cricket Board of South Africa when playing conditions for the series are discussed this weekend.

Earlier on Friday, West Indies captain Richie Richardson welcomed the electronic eye facility.

"It is a good thing. The umpire's work is a hard one and it is easy to make mistakes. It is important that there are no confrontations between players and umpires," Richardson said.

**Slater unhappy with Australian umpiring**

PERTH, Feb 6:

Umpiring standards in Australian cricket are at their lowest level for many years, former Test player Keith Slater said here today, reports AFP.

"Standards are at the lowest ebb I can remember," said Slater, 57, now a commentator with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"I know the West Indies were bitterly disappointed with the umpiring during the recent Test series in which they defeated Australia 2-1," he said.

"This was a goodwill tour after what happened in the West Indies during the series with Australia in 1991, but the tourists were more than unhappy with the umpiring this summer," he said.

The 1991 tour was soured by ugly on-field incidents. West Indies captain Richie Richardson diplomatically declined to criticise Australian umpires when asked, at the end of the recent series, about the standard of umpiring. However, he hinted that his

team were unhappy with some decisions when he said: "I leave you guys in the media to make your own conclusions."

Slater said he knew that some of the West Indies players considered privately that the leg before wicket rule might as well be dropped if it was to be overlooked by umpires as it had been in the Tests.

The West Indies "were also critical of obvious caught behinds and catches at first slip" which were not given by the umpires, Slater said.

The quality of umpiring is just not there at the moment, he said.

Slater said he believed one of the main problems confronting umpires world-wide was the front-foot no balling rule.

"This made it difficult for the men in white to study the position of a bowler's front foot at the time of delivery and also focus on what happened when the ball reached the batsman."

Slater played in one Test, against England in Australia during the 1958-59 series. He has established a reputation as an outspoken observer.

**Sports photo exhibition**

Sports Reporter

The first Gold Leaf sports photo competition and exhibition based on the 7th President Gold Cup football under the aegis of the newly-formed Bangladesh Sports Photo-Journalists' Association will be held on February 8 and 9 at the National Press Club auditorium, says a press release.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will attend both the opening and closing ceremonies as chief guest.

Managing Director of the sponsors, Bangladesh Tobacco Co, Malcolm Fry will be present as a special guest.

**China wouldn't mind only if ...**

TOKYO, Feb 6: China is ready to share Olympic events with Taiwan if it is selected as the host of the 2000 Olympics, a high-ranking Chinese sports official was quoted by Kyodo news service as saying here Saturday, reports AFP.

The remarks were made by He Zhening, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee and vice-president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).