

## Nat'l v'ball

Sports Reporter

Four teams — Patuakhali, Jhenidah, Khulna and Police — won their respective matches on the second day of the first phase in the national volleyball championship at the Kushtia Stadium yesterday.

The day was also marked with two walkovers as Comilla and Dinajpur failed to turn up, leaving Moulvibazar and Noakhali winners by default.

All the four matches were decided by straight sets with Patuakhali trouncing Kurigram 15-11, 15-9, 15-13 and Jhenidah thrashing Bogra 15-10, 15-8, 15-8.

Police earned a 15-3, 15-10, 15-6 win over Agricultural University while Khulna beat Netrakona 15-5, 15-10, 15-12.

## Office hockey league result

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army beat lowly Police AC by a solitary goal in the Sonali Bank office hockey league to register their second win at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Maqsood Haque scored the match-decider from a penalty stroke in the 57th minute.

In a rather one-sided affair on the rainhit day, Army got 13 short corners but failed to score due to poor marksmanship.

The day was then saved for the frustrated Army when they were awarded a penalty stroke 13 minutes before the final whistle.

With this win, Army upped their collection four points from three matches while Police is yet to open their account after completing same number of outings.

## Illingworth unworthy?

LONDON, Mar 29: Former Test all-rounder Ian Botham on Monday condemned the selection of Ray Illingworth as England's new cricket supremo and said the sports' administration needed "a total overhaul", reports Reuter.

Speaking in a radio interview, he said Illingworth, who begins his new duties next month, would struggle to command respect from leading players after criticising some of them during his job as a television commentator.

"Illingworth, for the last 10 years, has made his living out of sitting in a commentary box and, at times, slagging off players he's now going to pick.

"I think that's very, very difficult. If you criticise players for a profession as a media man, it's very hard to come back into the fold and start picking the side," said Botham.

Botham said the players were not to blame for the fact England have lost 11 of their last 13 Tests.

"In any other walk of life, if a company was sliding like the English team have slid, then surely it's the management at the top of the tree that would be looked at, instead of blaming the players. I think the whole game in England needs a total overhaul."

Botham said his choice instead of Illingworth would have been former England fast bowler Bob Willis.

"I don't see why you have to be 60 years old and 20 years out of the game before you get considered for the job," he said in reference to the 61-year-old Illingworth.

"Once you get to the middle or late 30s you are too old to play but it seems you're not old enough to select a side until you're at least 20 years out and 60."

"That is totally illogical to me. Surely you should have someone who has been out of the game only a few years and still has his finger on the pulse, knows what the modern game is about and, more importantly, knows the players."

## Donald rules himself out of one-day series

DURBAN, Mar 29: South African fast bowler Allan Donald will not play in the four one-day matches against Australia which follow the current Test series, reports Reuter.

Convenor of selectors Peter Pollock said on Monday Donald had asked not to be considered because of a troublesome hamstring.

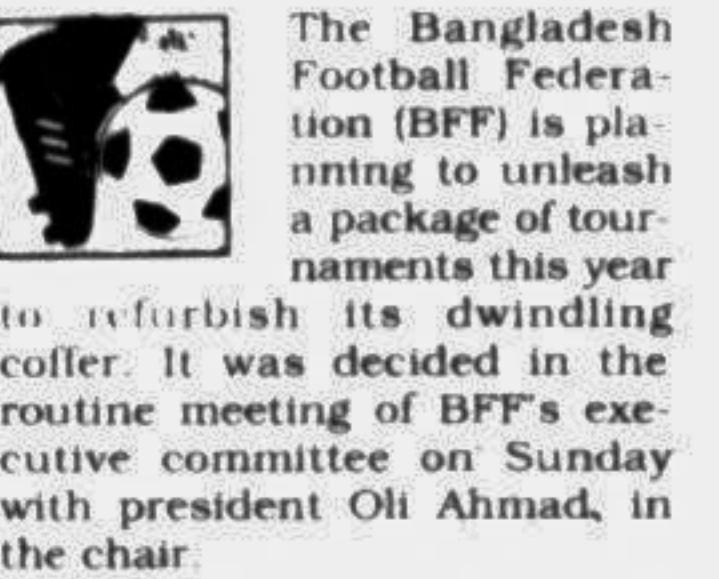
Donald said he was "absolutely exhausted" and looking forward to returning to Birmingham, England — his home during the English country season.

"I will spend a bit of time in the Warwickshire nets with coach Bob Woolmer to keep in shape. I'll also be playing golf and preparing myself physically and mentally for South Africa's tour to England in June."

Hard hitting all-rounder Adrian Kuiper takes Donald's place in the 13-man squad.

## BFF really means business

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is planning to unleash a package of tournaments this year to refurbish its dwindling coffers. It was decided in the routine meeting of BFF's executive committee on Sunday with president Oli Ahmad, in the chair.

The meeting also fixed the officials for the Under-19 and Under-16 teams. Nazrul Islam has been appointed the manager of the Under-19 team which will take part in the sixth Asian youth football championships, due to be held in Saudi Arabia from April 12. M A Aziz Babul will be the assistant manager of the 24-member Bangladesh team. Former national football and hockey player Abdus Sadek will be the chief coach while Swapan Kumar Das, also a former Bangladesh international, will be his deputy.

BFF's fund-raising project may begin with national club championship, a contest comprising clubs from all over the country. A committee, headed by veteran political figure Sufiuddin Ahmed, a BFF member, has already been formed to implement the decision. The players picked are Mohiul Hasan Shahjada.

The camp for the trial of the prospective players, under Ashraf Ali, will be called soon.

(captain), Risat Shamim Abir, Murad Ahmed Milan, Shahid Miah, Amiruzzaman Motin, Mizanur Rahman Dawn, Asaduzzaman Sagar, Iqbal Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Abdul Qayyum Santu, Ariful Kabir Farhad, Lutfar Rahman Nayan, Ripon Bhawal, Rezaul Karim, Anwar Hossain, Anwarul Islam, Sabbir Hossain, Prodip Kumar Podder, Asaduzzaman Asad and Mohammad Azim.

Bangladesh will play their first match against hosts Saudi Arabia on the inaugural day. The contingent is expected to leave Dhaka for Riyadh on April 8.

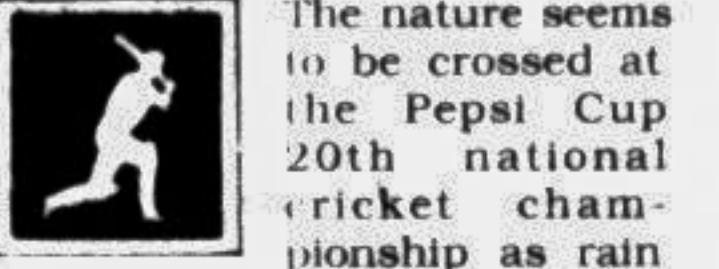
Kazi Mishu, general secretary of the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA), will be the manager of the Under-19 team, which will take part in the 29th Asian Under-19 championship, scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia in June.

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## Elemental curse continues

Sports Reporter



The nature seems to be crossed at the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship as rain

reigned for the second consecutive day at the Dhaka Stadium to force postponement of the first semifinal between last year's winners Chittagong and fancied Sylhet.

The match had a delayed start yesterday under overcast sky, dispelling speculation of yet another abandonment. The two Sylhet openers — Athar Ali Khan and former national captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain — found themselves in trouble right from the start with the new ball often keeping low and coming late to the bat.

Ashraf, widely known by his nickname Lipu, went first after he was caught by Akram Khan off medium paceman Morshedul Alam Chowdhury, having scored only nine with a couple of fours. Four runs later on 17, national skipper Faruque Ahmed fell to a catch by Ishraqi for no score to give Morshed his second wicket.

Salahuddin, the off-spinner, rocked the already rocking Sylhet innings when Sanwar

was clean bowled after scoring only two.

With only two of their recognised batsmen at crease, Sylhet would, however, fare far better if the authority decides to give the match a fresh start.

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