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Star Sport

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BCB EC meet's today A new captain? What about Saad?

Sports Reporter
A meeting of the executive committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will be held at the Dhaka Stadium this afternoon from 2 pm.
Although, according to the notice issued by the board's general secretary Syed Ashraf Haque, the meeting has as many as 14 items on the agenda, it will mainly focus on Bangladesh's dismal performance in the recent tour of Ireland, England and Scotland.
The board will also approve around 14 standing committees and as many sub-committees for the forthcoming Willis International Cup where nine Test-playing nations will be competing. The knock-out tournament will be played at the Dhaka Stadium from October 24 to November 2.
Besides, the meeting will also announce the captaincy of the Bangladesh team for the 16th Commonwealth Games and discuss the status of Tanjib Ahsan Saad, who earlier this month tendered his resignation as the board's Executive Secretary.

Tendulkar's rendezvous with Sir Don

MUMBAI, Aug 19: Sachin Tendulkar has been provided with the unique and rare honour of meeting Sir Donald Bradman in Adelaide later this month on the occasion of the legendary Australian batsman's 90th birthday celebrations on August 27.
Confirming news reports that he has been extended an invitation to attend the celebration by the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA), the Indian maestro told PTI. "Yes, the invitation has gone to WorldTel. Sir Don Bradman is going to give me some of his time. It's a great honour."
Television company WorldTel, owned by Indian-born and USA-based Mark Mascarenhas, handles the Indian star's business interests.
"Sir Don, who has gone on record to state that Tendulkar's style of batting reminded him most of his own, would not attend his birthday celebrations, including a grand dinner for 1,300 guests, as the Australian sports icon wants to be with his family on the occasion, according to the reports.
The only hitch for Tendulkar, who returned home last night from the Arabian gulf after playing a series of matches for Mohammad Azharuddin XI against Rashid Latif XI, is the fact that the date clashes with the August 21-September 4 training camp at Chennai.
"WorldTel are going to ask for permission from the Indian board", Tendulkar said when queried whether he has sought the green signal from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to go to Adelaide midway through the camp.

Sohail hopes a better stay with Miandad

ISLAMABAD, Aug 19: Pakistan's new cricket captain Sohail Khan is expected to work closely with coach and batting legend Javed Miandad, to produce the strongest possible team, reports AFP.
"I and Javed Miandad will try to accomplish a mission to build the Pakistan side into a strong team. Ours will be the ideal combination for making our side strong," 30-year-old Sohail told the news agency.
Sohail and 41-year-old Miandad have been appointed as captain and coach for Pakistan's team for the annual five-match Sahara Cup one-day tournament in Toronto against India starting September 12.
"Miandad is the greatest cricketer we have ever produced. He has always helped in crisis. I always found him the one whose main objective is to build a strong side," Sohail said.

Nat'l women's volleyball

BJMC, Bangladesh Ansars, Rajbari and Pabna advanced to the semifinals of the national women's volleyball championship eliminating their rivals in the quarterfinals at Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.
BJMC will take on Rajbari at 2:30 pm in the first semifinal while Ansars will face Pabna at 4 pm on Thursday.
In the quarterfinals, Pabna beat Rangpur 15-5, 15-8, 15-9, BJMC defeated Dinajpur 15-2, 15-3, 15-3, Ansars overpowered Khulna 15-5, 15-6, 15-4 while Rajbari got a walkout against Bhola.
In the men's competition, eight teams — Army, Navy, Air Force, Rifles, Titas Gas, Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi — moved into the last eight.



Goalmouth action during the Mohammedan-Ajax semifinal of Club Cup hockey tournament at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Hasan Rony dislocates collar bone in rough match MSC too mature for Ajax

Sports Reporter
The diminutive stick-wielder blasted the board from a left side Shipu free hit past the advancing Ajax custodian Nayan through his legs.
The margin could have been doubled in an identical fashion two minutes later had Nayan not denied Raju with a left foot goal line save.
In the remaining period of the first half, Mohammedans produced as many as four more worthy chances to increase the margin but failed because of poor marksmanship.

In a contested match which saw Mohammedan playing a tactical game using their experience against the young and spirited boys of BKSP, who dressed as Ajax, gave the black and whites a good run for their money.
Forward Zahid Hossain Raju and defender Ishiaque Ahmed Shipu struck one each for the winners who will now face star-studded Usha Krira Chakra in Friday's final, scheduled at the same venue at 4 pm.
The winners led the first half 1-0.
Mohammedan, who were beaten by their arch rivals Abahani 2-1 in last year's final, played positive hockey against the Elephant Road outfit.
Although Ajax, who ousted powerful Mariner Young's Club in their previous match, also began the proceedings in an attacking mood riding on sheer speed, it was the popular Motiheel outfit which dominated the match with their slow and steady, but effective, game plan. There was a goal in each half.
Discarded national forward Raju put Mohammedan in command with an eye-catching field goal in the tenth minute.

In the second half both the teams resorted to muscle-power rather than playing hockey. As a result, Mohammedan defender Hasan Rony had to leave the ground with a dislocated collar bone after a collision with Ajax forward Prince who was then suspended for five minutes with a yellow card by umpire Mir Monwar Ali. Besides, two Mohammedan players Zahid Biswas and Ramij were also shown the yellow card for dangerous play.
After all the non-hockey action, the Ajax players turned to negative play, sensing their opponents' futile existence. Mohammedan, who adopted defensive tactics in the second half for obvious reasons, began to open up. Their move bore fruit soon when Shipu sealed the fate of Ajax by converting a short corner in the 53rd minute, thanks to skipper Mitul for setting up the ball.
Down by two goals and till the final whistle, Ajax tried their best to reduce the margin. However, their late rally made no difference to the result because of the intact Mohammedan defence.
Teams:
Mohammedan SC: M Javed, Shahidullah Khokon, Hasan Rony, Shipu, Mitul, Rajib, Sharafat, Zahid Biswas, Raju, Siam-e-Noor, Ramij and Shyamol.
Ajax SC: Nayan, Shamsuddin, Sarwar, Imran, Muzahidul, Shahidullah, Towfique, Mahbub, Rubel, Arif, Shuvo, Faruque and Mohammad Ali.

Aspirin from BHF

Sports Reporter
Players will be injured in any contact sport. This is perhaps expected. And hockey is no exception. What, however, is absolutely unacceptable is a federation's inept preparation for the unavoidable.
In yesterday's Jiban Bima Club Cup semifinal between Mohammedan and Ajax, Mohammedan defender Hasan Rony dislocated his collar bone after colliding with Ajax forward Prince.
Can the Bangladesh Hockey Federation explain why sitting in a modern office and boasting of a very modern artificial ground, they cannot afford a simple stretcher to carry the seriously injured?
The BHF is giving us too many headaches recently. Do they have an aspirin?

The night Eric said goodbye

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 19 (Reuters/AP): The game may have been all about raising money for the Munich memorial fund but the night was all about Eric Cantona.
The French actor returned to his former life as a football player to finally say goodbye to the Old Trafford faithful he indulged for five years, and his reception was fit for a king.
He brought his footballing friends with him for a game that was played out before a 55,210 full-house determined to grab one last glimpse of a modern United great.
The greats of old, whose sad demise inspired this game, would no doubt have enjoyed the entertainment supplied pre-match by simply Red Star Mix Hucknall — who fittingly sang Every Time You Say Goodbye — and the benefits of a night which should raise millions for the fund.
Former United stars Bryan Robson and Mark Hughes lined up alongside Paul Gascoigne, French star Laurent Blanc and of course Cantona himself.
He was introduced as the man who has been away for too long, but he was soon making himself at home on the pitch with applause ringing out every time he touched the ball.

Applause that rang even louder when he swapped sides in the second period and turned out in a red 7 shirt — the collars of which were, of course, upturned.
The referee disallowed a Cantona goal early in the second half but the crowd got what it was waiting for in the 80th minute when Cantona dribbled past two defenders and the goalkeeper before scooping the ball into the net. His goal gave Manchester United an unbeatable 7-4 lead. They eventually won 8-4.
Cantona retired suddenly in May 1997, one week after winning the Premier League title — his fourth league title in five seasons with the club.
But he was lured back for the

testimonial at Old Trafford to mark the 40th anniversary of the Munich air crash, which killed eight Manchester United players in February 1958.
He had one last starring moment before departing as he told the crowd in an emotional moment: "It's a special night for me. It was a wonderful feeling.
"I thank you all for coming. I hope to see you soon. I lost my ambition for the game. I'm sorry. I gave everything for ten years.
"I had five wonderful seasons here. It was the best time of my career and I love you all very much."
He followed that with a lap of honour and finally walked out of Old Trafford as a player for the last time.

Fifty fans hurt in gallery collapse
CALCUTTA, Aug 19: At least 50 spectators were injured when a part of the gallery at the Mohammedan Sporting ground here collapsed during the Super Division football league match between Mohammedans and Peerless, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DG) Nazrul Islam said, reports PTI.
The injured were rescued by the police and admitted to hospital.
Immediately after the collapse irate supporters set fire to the gallery, fire brigade sources said. Ten fire tenders were rushed to the spot.
The game was suspended and the players were taken to safety. Police have cordoned off the entire area.



DOING WHAT HE DOES BEST: Eric Cantona (L) the French maverick, shows off a bit of old magic while former Manchester United teammate Ryan Giggs watches with admiration during a memorial match at Old Trafford on August 18. — AFP photo

Mohammedan-Usha final Asif may make the difference

Sports Reporter
Asif Ahmed, a Pakistan international hockey player, has arrived in the city to play the Jiban Bima Club Cup final for Usha Krira Chakra.
The Karachi based 26-year-old forward, who last played for his country in the Test series against India early this year and scored two goals in the Bangalore Test, also played a few league matches for Usha way back in 1995.
Having the experience of playing around 35 international matches, Asif, who plays for National Bank of Pakistan in domestic hockey in Pakistan, has scored 19 goals for his country.

Dhaka Club Foundation Day tennis

Sports Reporter
The week-long Dhaka Club Foundation Day tennis tournament concluded at the club's tennis court yesterday.
In the men's singles, Bakhtiar emerged champion with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Dr Rashiduddin.
Doctors Zahir and Rashiduddin won the doubles title defeating Deputy Inspector General of Police Nurul Alam and Maj (ret'd) Yaad Ali 4-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2.
A prize-giving ceremony will be held on August 22.

Emirates tourney final today

Sports Reporter
World champions Sri Lanka will take on hosts England in the Emirates triangular one-day tournament final at Lord's this afternoon.
The match will be telecast live by ESPN from 3:30 pm.
Very Important Toilets!
KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19: Red-carpet treatment for dignitaries at next month's Commonwealth Games will extend even to the toilets, reports AP.
Inside the "VVIP Royal Lounge" — where Very Important Persons will sit and watch the games — two state-of-the-art toilets have been installed in the restrooms for use by the likes of Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Malaysia's King Tuanku Ja'afar.
Operated by a push-button control panel with an accompanying manual, the toilets feature options including a heated seat, wave spray, bidet and drier.
"Everything about these toilets is high-tech," the royal lounge's senior designer, Edward Ng, said Wednesday. He added that he had tested the Japanese-built toilets and found them to "work well."
The wave spray in the toilet bowl oscillates water to the user's right, left and bottom sides. The bidet jets from a separate nozzle. And the cool-or-hot air drier eliminates the need for toilet paper, although purists will still have that option, said Ng.
In the run-up to the 10-day games, which open Sept 11, Malaysia has unveiled a slew of ultra-modern mega-projects, from 5-star hotels and new roads to a multibillion dollar airport outside the capital, Kuala Lumpur, and a sports stadium with seating capacity of 100,000.
Ng insisted, however, the national drive for things high-tech was not the motivating factor behind the VIP toilets, produced by the Japanese company, Toto and which cost the princely sum of 5,700 ringgit (1,360 dollar) each.



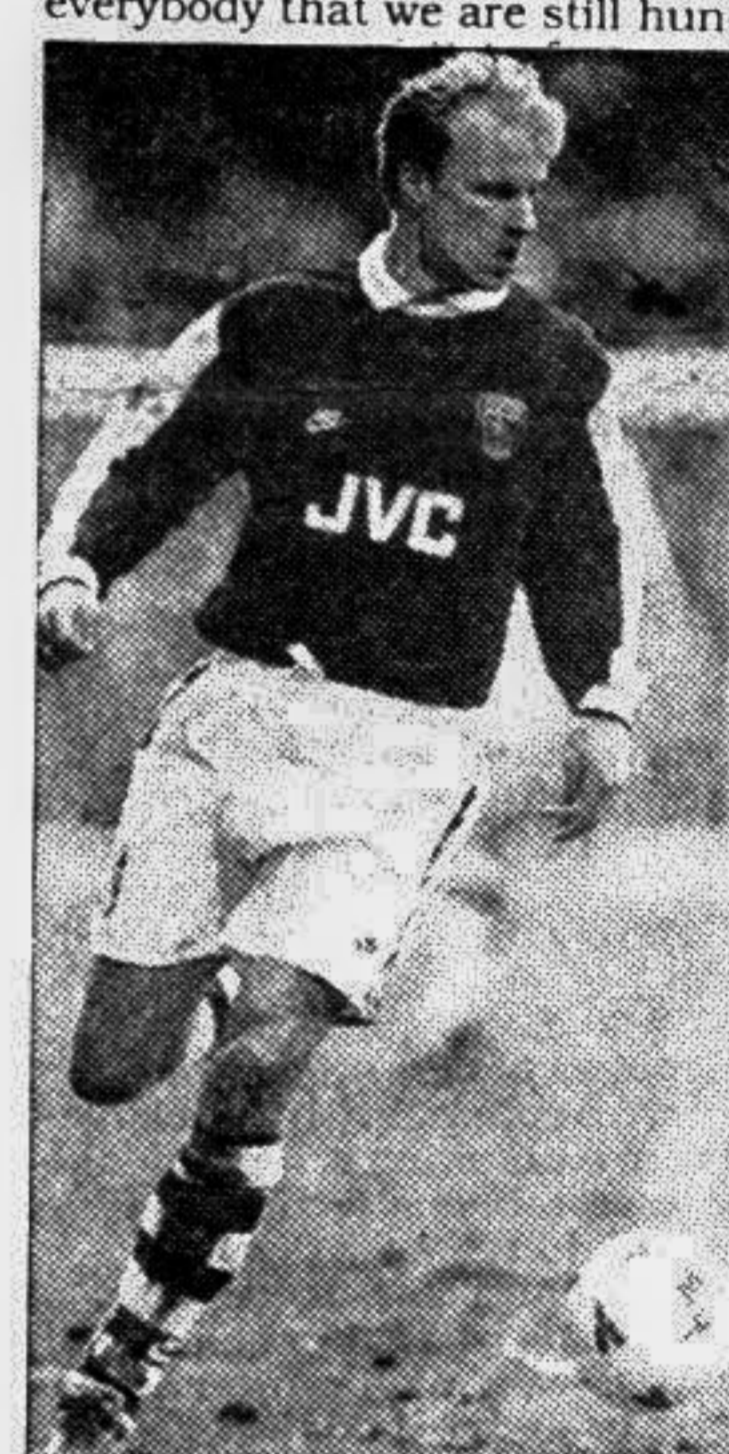
BHF STRETCHING THEIR BUDGET: In the absence of a stretcher, injured Mohammedan player Hasan Rony is being carried off the field by a few helping hands. Veteran Protap Shankar Hazra looks on with concern at his player who was hurt yesterday while playing against Ajax. — Star photo

Only Arsenal gold can ease Bergkamp's World Cup pain

LONDON, Aug 19 (Internet): Dennis Bergkamp is fuelled by an overwhelming desire to repeat last season's success with Arsenal. It is the only thing that will ease his bitter memory of the World Cup.
Holland's defeat by Brazil on penalties in the semi-final and eventual fourth place still hurts Bergkamp and he says: "I need success this season — in the Champions League, the Premier League or the FA Cup — and I need it to replace the disappointing emotions I experienced in France."
"Every time I sit back I realise just how hurtful it was to lose to Brazil, so every win with Arsenal, every step we take, eases the pain a little."
Bergkamp was not at his best in the Gunners' 2-1 victory over Nottingham Forest as they began the defence of their Premiership title on Monday.
He is still not fully fit, having returned late to pre-season training following his World Cup campaign, but said: "If I can get my fitness back in five or six tough games that is better than the boredom of pre-season training."
"I still feel two weeks away from my best. I didn't realise just how much the World Cup drains you."

more success. I am still very hungry.
When you are the champions and playing at home every team makes it difficult. I want three titles in a row with Ajax and every season was more difficult because of the pressure and expectancy on us. But if you can live with that, you will always be successful.
That is why we have to show everybody that we are still hungry.

Wenger said: "He won't reach his peak for perhaps another two or three years but I still expect him to get more goals than last season. He is good enough, and despite the medals he has won, still wants to prove himself."
Arsenal's next test of their status as champions comes with their first away match of the season at Liverpool on Saturday.
Liberia striker Christopher Wreh, who scored in the Charity Shield win over Manchester United, has returned from international duty and will be available for the visit to Anfield but Wenger is still short of an experienced front man and has abandoned any hope of signing Patrick Kluivert from Milan.
Defensively, at least, Wenger appears to have no worries — and there was more encouragement for him yesterday when Argentina defender Nelson Vivas took his first steps towards breaking up English football's most durable monument. The 28-year-old swapped the World Cup quarter-final maelstrom of Marseille and the defeat by Holland for the relative humdrum of Highbury, an outing against Colchester and a crowd of around 500 in his first game since France 98.
Vivas and French teenager David Grondina, a left back signed from St Etienne for £500,000, made their debuts in the Gunners' 4-0 win and came through unscathed to press claims for a place in the squad for the trip to Liverpool.
Vivas, a £2million arrival from Lugano who has to oust Lee Dixon from Wenger's side and force the manager to change his familiar and established back line, would say only: "I feel good but I don't really want to say anything until I've learned some more English — give me a couple of weeks." But his display impressed another of the Highbury old guard, Steve Bould, who said: "Nelson is settling in very well and showed enough to suggest that he is a class defender. There was no problem in adjusting to play alongside him."



DENNIS BERGKAMP

Even though Bergkamp fired blanks, Marc Overmars, Arsenal's other Holland World Cup star, again made a major contribution to a hard-fought victory. He scored 16 goals last season, more than any other winger in the Premiership. He has two this season, and manager Arsene Wenger believes he has the ability and confidence to challenge Bergkamp again as the club's leading marksman.
Overmars said: "We all know the championship is going to be harder to win this season. Players such as Dennis and I have been used to winning all our careers and if you have that strength and personality it makes you strong mentally."
"I'm not sure there is any secret about it. It's just being hungry enough to want more and

Bielsa new Argentine coach?

BARCELONA, Spain, Aug 19: Marcelo Bielsa said on Tuesday that he was "taking steps" to become Argentina coach, reports Reuters.
Bielsa said he had the authority to break his contract with the Spanish club, although he wanted to depart "in harmony, with an agreement and consensus."
Espanyol were believed to be in negotiations with the Argentine Football Association (AFA) over compensation for Bielsa's departure. He joined from Velez Sarsfield only two months ago.
Espanyol president Daniel Sanchez Libre has denied that Bielsa has a get-out clause in his contract.
But Bielsa's comments indicate that he believes he has the right to leave — although he reiterated that he has no desire to quit the club under a cloud.
"I would feel very uncomfortable if it wasn't on good terms," he said.
"But the AFA made offer knowing that I had the power to accept it."
AFA president Julio Grondona asked Bielsa to replace Daniel Passarella in a new coaching structure to be headed by national youth team coach Jose Pekerman. Passarella quit

after Argentina's World Cup exit.
Pekerman had been hot favourite and the popular choice to take over from the combative Passarella, but will now coordinate both Argentina's senior and youth teams. Pekerman has led youth teams to victory in two junior World Cups, but has never trained any senior selection.
Argentina's football community welcomed the choice of Bielsa, but some were baffled by the new coaching structure.
"I don't understand the reasons for this type of decision. When a team has two coaches it's the same as if it hasn't got any at all," World Cup-winning coach Cesar Menotti was quoted as saying by Daily Clarin.
Grondona said it was Pekerman who suggested the new structure and put forward the name of Bielsa.
"There was the problem that Bielsa has just signed a contract with Espanyol, but Pekerman told me we had to try," Grondona said.
Bielsa only played four matches in a short career as a professional at Argentine First Division side Newell's Old Boys. He has had more success as a coach, and led Newell's to the league championship in 1990-91 and 1992 and Velez Sarsfield last season.
Argentine media speculated

that by making Bielsa subordinate to Pekerman, the AFA hoped to lessen the chances of the personality clashes which marred Passarella's reign.
Passarella, tough captain of the 1978 Argentine national team, was hired to bring discipline to a side left in disarray by the antics of wayward genius Diego Maradona.
Bielsa's hard-man style brought him enemies. Soon after taking the job he banned players who were homosexual, had long hair or wore earrings.
Talented Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Redondo said he could not cut his hair and refused to play under Passarella when the coach relented and called him up anyway.
Redondo welcomed Bielsa's appointment and said he dreamed of playing again for Argentina.

Errata
In our yesterday's match report of the Jiban Bima Club Cup, Usha Krira Chakra were inadvertently mentioned as last year's runners up.
We regret this error. In fact, Mohammedan Sporting Club were runners up last year when they lost the final to Abahani Krira Chakra 1-2.