

Inter-college handball

Notre Dame, Dhaka Poly in final

Sports Reporter
Notre Dame College and Dhaka Polytechnic Institute moved into the final of the Power Inter-college handball tournament by winning their respective semi-finals at the Dhaka Stadium court yesterday.

In the day's first match, Notre Dame College outplayed BCIC College 24 goals to 8, while Dhaka Polytechnic Institute posted an easy 24-6 win over BDR School and College.

Yesterday's winners will face each other in the final at the National Indoor Stadium on September 4 at 4:30 pm.

The losers will meet in a third place play-off two hours before the final at the same venue.

Ten percent for PM's relief fund

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Cricket Board has decided to donate 10% of its gate money earning from the Wills International Cup to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

The 'knock-out' one-day tournament involving nine Test playing nations will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from October 24 to November 1. According to one assessment, the board expects to raise Taka three crore from sale of tickets.

Cricketers say 'cheese'

Sports Reporter
Square Toiletries Limited became the official soap and toothpaste suppliers of the World Cup bound Bangladesh cricket team, according to a three-year contract with the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

The contract worth Taka 15 lakh, was signed yesterday between Syed Ashraful Huq, the BCB general secretary and Anjan Chowdhury Pintoo, the managing director of Square Toiletries Limited.

As per the contract, Square will supply Meril Beauty Soap and White Plus Toothpaste to all members of the Bangladesh cricket team up to August 31, 2001.

BCB vice-president Ali Khair Chand, joint-secretaries - Mahmud Ul Haque Manu and Dewan Shaiful Arefin Tatal -- were also present at the simple signing ceremony.

Sub-committees for Wills cricket

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday finalised the remaining two sub-committees - Stadium Facilities and Tickets and Seating -- for the forthcoming Wills International Cup to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from October 24.

BCB vice-president Ali Khair Chand and board member Manjurul Islam have been appointed chairman and member-secretary of the Stadium Facilities Sub-committee while Brig KM Hassan, DG of BKSP, and Tanweer Mazhar Tanna, a BCB vice-president, have been nominated chairman and member-secretary for the Tickets and Seating Sub-committee.

Earlier on August 26, the board named nine other sub-committees.

Parreira in for Bafana job?

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 1 (Reuters/Internet): Former Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira and high profile English managers Ron Atkinson and Howard Wilkinson have been approached to coach the South African national team, officials confirmed on Tuesday.

South African Football Association chief executive officer Danny Jordaan said he has spoken to all three to gauge their interest in taking the job vacated by Frenchman Philippe Troussier after the World Cup final.

He said Wilkinson, the former Leeds United manager and now director of coaching for the English Football Association, had already expressed an interest.

Parreira coached Brazil to the 1994 World Cup title and was in charge of the Saudi Arabia team at this year's finals, getting the sack when they failed to reach the second round.

The trio are being approached after a dismal response to advertisements for the position. Only five responses were received by Monday's deadline.

Two were from former Irish manager Eoin Hand, who has previously played and coached at club level in South Africa, and the assistant coach of the South African team, Trott Moloto.

C'wealth Games from Sept 11

Bangladesh squad leaves tonight

A 33-member Bangladesh team, led by Makbul Hossain, MP, leaves the capital tonight for Kuala Lumpur to take part in the 16th Commonwealth Games, reports BSS.

The Games, to be staged for the first time on Asian soil since its introduction way back in 1930, will take place in the Malaysian capital from September 11 to 21 with about 6,000 athletes and officials from 64-member countries taking part in 15 disciplines.

The events are athletics, badminton, boxing, cricket, cycling, gymnastics, hockey (men and women), lawn bowls, netball, rugby, shooting, squash, swimming, bowling and weightlifting.

Bangladesh will take part in cricket and shooting. Earlier Bangladesh also made entries to five other disciplines -- athletics, boxing, hockey (men), swimming and weightlifting.

But following directives from the highest office to reduce the number of team members due to the on-going devastating flood in the country, these five disciplines were subsequently dropped at the last hour.

Bangladesh has a chance to get a medal in shooting. Officials of Bangladesh Shooting Federation were happy that the team was going a few days earlier to get some practice over there.

Bangladesh's participation in cricket, which has been included for the first time in the Games' history, is a build-up

operation for the 1999 World Cup rather than any serious crack at a Games medal.

In all 11 shooters including four women will take part. They are -- Lovely Chowdhury Akhi, Nasir Uddin, Mohammad Afzal, Fauzia Karim, Nazrul Islam, Saiful Islam, Atiqur Rahman, Quazi Shahana Parveen, Firoz Hossain, Sabrina Sultana and Qamrul Islam.

The team will be accompanied by Fazul Karim as manager, Anwar Ali and Azizul Huq as coaches and Giasuddin Chowdhury as armourer.

The shooting competition will start at Langkawi International Shooting Range on September 13.

Bangladesh earned its first-ever gold in shooting in the 14th Commonwealth Games at Auckland, New Zealand, in 1990. Atiqur Rahman and Abdur Sattar Nini were the winners of the medal.

The Games were introduced in 1930 as the "British Empire Games" hosted at Hamilton, Canada with participation of 11 countries. The name of the Games was changed in 1966 to the British Commonwealth Games and finally to the Commonwealth Games in 1978.

Canada organised the Games the highest four times in four cities -- Hamilton (1930), Vancouver (1954), Edmonton (1978) and Victoria (1994).

Australia and New Zealand have hosted the Games three each, Scotland twice while England, Wales and Jamaica once each.

Hossain as coach and Ashrafuzzaman as team doctor.

Sixteen countries, split into four groups, will take part in the cricket competition. Bangladesh have been placed in Group "C" with South Africa, Barbados and Northern Ireland.

Bangladesh will play their first match against Barbados on September 10, the second match against South Africa on September 12 and the third match against Northern Ireland the following day.

Bangladesh will also play in an exhibition match against hosts Malaysia on September 5 in Kuala Lumpur.

Out of the nine Test playing nations, England is the only country not taking part in the competition. The West Indies is sending three separate islands to the Games.

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BCB detonates local cricket

Sports Reporter
BCB is making pretensions of taking active interest in local cricket by giving a 40-day notice for players' transfer. Announcements so much in advance may prove a futile exercise, particularly in view of local clubs meeting on September 20 under the banner of the Cricket Committee Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM).

The CCDM announced yesterday that the inter-club cricketers' transfer for the season 1998-99 will take place at the Dhaka Stadium from October 10 to 13 everyday from 3 pm to 6 pm.

The four-day transfer will involve players of twelve Premier Division clubs and ten First Division.

Meanwhile, the first meeting of the re-formed CCDM will be held at the Dhaka Stadium on September 20. This was disclosed by CCDM secretary Mahmud Ul Haque Manu last night.

SL prove a Test point

LONDON, Sept 1 (Reuters/Internet): Sri Lanka looked forward to the prospect of more Tests against England after Muttiah Muralitharan rose above controversy over his action to inspire their historic triumph at the Oval on Sunday.

Sri Lanka surged to their first Test victory in this country when they outplayed England to win by 10 wickets on the final day of the one-off game in which off-spinner Muralitharan had the fifth best match haul in Test history of 16 for 220.

It was only the fourth Test played by Sri Lanka in this country since they became a Test-playing nation 17 years ago but their growing reputation, underlined over the last five days, has been rewarded by a better deal with England.

Three Tests are planned for England's 2000-2001 tour of Sri Lanka and the likelihood is that the Sri Lankans will have more than one Test here in 2002. The two teams have so far met six times, all in one-off tests.

Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, India and Zimbabwe have already played at least one three-Test series against Sri Lanka, and West Indies have met the island side in a two-Test encounter.

Sri Lanka have become a greater force in Test matches through formidable batting and a varied spin attack, with Muralitharan the jewel in their slow bowling crown.

Highest honour for French heroes

PARIS, Sept 1: President Jacques Chirac today presented France's top award, the Legion of Honour, to the 22 members of the champion World Cup team while urging the country to uphold a winner's spirit, reports AFP.

Handing the red ribboned medal to the 22 players, Chirac said he hoped "the spirit of the World Cup remains in the hearts of the French."

At the ceremony at the Elysee Presidential palace, Chirac also handed out awards to former coach Aime Jacquet, to the head of the French World Cup organising committee (CFO) Michel Platini and to six other French soccer figures.

The players, national heroes since their July 12 victory over Brazil, won rounds of applause from a crowd of youngsters massed in the street as they trooped into the palace for the presentation.



French President Jacques Chirac (R) decorating World Cup hero Zinedine Zidane with the Legion of Honour during a ceremony at the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. AP/UNB photo

Lloyd gets into hot water

LONDON, Sept 1 (Reuters/Internet): Sri Lanka cricket coach David Lloyd could face the sack for remarks about Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan and a subsequent argument with television commentator Geoffrey Boycott, an England Cricket Board official said on Tuesday.

ECB spokesman Richard Peel said Lloyd would be called before board representatives this week to explain his comments about Muralitharan's bowling action.

"Presumably he could be sacked if we felt that was the appropriate action," Peel said.

"We're aware that David's been severely reprimanded before," he added, referring to comments Lloyd made after England played Zimbabwe last year.

That has to be taken into account. There have been occasions when he's been indiscreet."

Lloyd had hinted during England's Test match defeat by Sri Lanka that Muralitharan's action might be illegal. The Sri Lankan spinner effectively won the match with his 16 wickets, nine of them in England's second innings.

He has been no-balled for throwing in the past but was cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's governing body.

Former England captain and now a popular TV commentator Boycott said the England coach "should keep his mouth shut."

A statement by the ECB's chief executive Tim Lamb released on Tuesday said: "David

Lloyd's remarks were his own and not in line with the position of the ECB, which is happy to abide by ICC's ruling on Muralitharan's action.

"David has been advised that what he said was inappropriate and insensitive, and senior representatives of the Board will see him at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss his comments."

"We are taking this, and his public argument with a television presenter, very seriously."

"We need to establish from David what happened in both incidents," said Peel, the ECB's director of corporate affairs. "He's a very passionate man but when remarks like this are made, they're not appropriate."

Lloyd has a contract until after the World Cup next year. He is due to coach England at an international tournament in Bangladesh next month and then in the Ashes series in Australia immediately afterwards.

Sri Lanka have not made an official complaint about his remarks, though they protested publicly at the time.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga said, comments by England coach about Muralitharan's bowling action provided them the needed boost for the historic win. Ranatunga said: "It gave us a little boost, rather than having a negative effect. It helped Muralitharan to get more wickets."

"Murali knows he does not have a problem with his action," said Ranatunga. "We are not concerned about what other people are saying."

"He has shown he is one of the best bowlers in the world. In fact, I would put him at number one."

"The comments do not affect me because I know my bowling is all right," Muralitharan said. "I don't listen to commentaries or read the papers much so it does not affect me at all. I just heard it talked about in the dressing room."

Beaten England captain Alec Stewart described Muralitharan as a "special bowler" and would not be drawn on Lloyd's comments.

"His action has been filmed and passed by the ICC. He is a bowler of great quality," Stewart said. "He spins it more than anyone I have seen. He has variations, spins it away from you and is a match-winner."

Stewart said losing the one-off Test to Sri Lanka had "taken a little gloss off our summer."

Tour of India

BISHOP, Sept 1: Trinidadian fast bowler Ian Bishop, a stalwart of 43 Tests and 161 wickets, was named captain of a 15-member West Indies A team to tour India in November and December, the West Indies Cricket Board announced Monday, reports AP.

The 30-year-old Bishop, who lost form and his place during England's tour of the Caribbean earlier this year, is among five players on the team with Test experience.

Opening batsman Sherwin Campbell, another player discarded during the England series, is joined by his Barbadian colleagues, left-handed batsman Floyd Reifer and wicket-keeper Courtney Browne.

Leg-spinner Rawl Lewis, whose one Test cap was on the senior tour of Pakistan last winter, completes the quintet. Right-handed batsmen

Richard Smith, Keith Semple and 20-year-old wicketkeeper Wayne Phillip earn their first overseas assignments at this level.

The WICB said that negotiations were still taking place regarding a visit to Bangladesh prior to the India series.

SQUAD

IAN BISHOP (captain), Richard Smith (Trinidad & Tobago); Sherwin Campbell, Floyd Reifer, Adrian Griffith, Courtney Browne, Pedro Collins (Barbados); Wavel Hinds (Jamaica); Ramnareesh Sarwan, Neil McFarrell, Keith Semple, Reon King (Guyana); Wayne Phillip, Rawl Lewis (Windward Islands); Carl Tuckett (Leeward Islands).

SCHEDULE
Nov 15 : arrival
Nov 18-20 : vs BCCI Premier XI at BCCI, Mumbai.
Nov 23-25 : vs BCCI Youth Team at Pune.
Nov 28-Dec 1 : 1st Test at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.
Dec 4-7 : 2nd Test at Madras.
Dec 9 : One-day practice match at Bangalore.
Dec 11 : 1st One-day international at Bangalore.
Dec 13 : 2nd One-day international at Hyderabad.
Dec 15 : 3rd One-day international at Ahmedabad.
Dec 16 : Return.

Hick left out of Ashes party

LONDON, Sept 1 (Reuters/Internet): Graeme Hick, the only batsman still playing first-class cricket to have scored 100 centuries, has been left out of England's party to tour Australia later this year.

Lancashire's John Crawley was preferred to him in the squad of 17 named on Tuesday.

The Test match against Sri Lanka which finished on Monday in defeat for England was widely seen as a head-to-head between the two men for the final batting place.

Both scored centuries but Crawley, who is five years younger, was given the nod.

"It was one of the most difficult decisions I've been involved in," chairman of selectors David Graveney said.

"It was a matter of deciding which player was going to be more effective in Australia."

The other difficult choice, of the two spin bowlers, was resolved by bringing back Peter Such of Essex four years after he last played Test cricket.

That reflects the difficulties faced by England spinners this season. Robert Croft, the other off-spinner chosen, and Ian Salisbury, who has been left out, took only one wicket between them in the six Tests against South Africa and Sri Lanka at a cost of 403 runs.

Such's 31 wickets in a struggling Essex side this year have cost an average of 42.9 runs.

"I've always regarded him as a very, very good off-spin bowler," Graveney said.

"When conditions are right, he bowls people out." The pace attack is much as expected, with Dean Headley of Kent and Surrey's 20-year-old Alex Tudor added to the quartet of Darren Gough, Angus Fraser, Dominic Cork and Alan Mullally.

Captain Alec Stewart will be first-choice wicket-keeper, with Lancashire's Warren Hegg, who has yet to play in a Test match, named as his deputy behind the stumps.

None of the party will go to Bangladesh for the International Cricket Council knock-out cup, which clashes with the opening first-class game of England's tour, against Western Australia on October 31.

The tour begins with a one-day game against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in Perth two days earlier.

There are five Tests, the first beginning in Brisbane on November 20 and the fifth starting on January 2.

Holloioake to skipper in Dhaka

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KUNG FU? Real Madrid's Spanish international Fernando Hierro (R) comes under a dangerous flying challenge from Villareal's Roberto during their Premier league fixture at Madrid on August 31. Real won 4-1. AP/UNB photo