

# Star Sport

DHAKA MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK

## Hannan captain for Colombo

Sports Reporter



**Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)** yesterday announced a 14-man squad for the World Youth Cricket Championship, scheduled to begin in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo from January 10.

Hannan Sarker, the young opener who played for Abahani last season, will lead Bangladesh in the mega event, where the entire nine Test-playing nations along with seven ICC (International Cricket Council) associate member nations will participate.

Placed in Group B alongside India, New Zealand and Holland, Bangladesh will play their first match against their closest neighbours across the border on January 12. As the build-up of their campaign in the 16-team tourney, Bangladesh will play a couple of practice matches against differ-

ent local selections on January 7 and 8.

The Bangladesh youths, being coached by Dipu Rai Chowdhury, leave for the emerald islands on January 5.

But prior to their departure, they will gather at the BKSP camp.

Eddie Barlow, the director of coaching, will run a 12-day crash course there to give the final touch to their preparations for the big occasion.

BCB meanwhile had a dubious distinction of sending over-aged players in any age-limit competition. But this is for the first time the Board is sending a true under-19 team.

Thirty cricketers were initially called up for the BCB residential camp that started on December 8. Later the Board invited six more cricketers to join the selection trial ran by Eddie Barlow.

But it however could not completely come out of controversy when the Board has chosen Azmal Ahmed Tapan, a person with minimum cricketing credentials, to manage the team in a meet of this magnitude.

It is understandable that the Board prefers to avail its members overseas trips in turn but many feel that rotation should be made among the capable and eligible ones, at least for the country's sake. Especially after having the embarrassing experience with Kutubuddin Aksir in the qualifying round in Singapore last April.

The Board should have been more careful in picking person for such an important job. While being interviewed by electronic media Kutubuddin had made a big fool of himself by trying to provide erroneous information both about cricketers and country's cricket in his mumble-jumble English speech.

The Board meanwhile has decided to send Gavin Benzafield, the South African physio of the national team, at

their own expense.

Bangladesh, who performed credibly in the previous edition of the World Cup in South Africa, where they won the Plate title defeating mighty West Indies in the final, are likely to face a tough challenge in the first round.

They will play their second group league match against the Kiwis on January 14 before taking on Holland on January 16. Only the top-finisher of the four groups will advance to the final round to fight it out for the Cup. England are the defending champions of the meet.

### SQUAD

Hannan Sarker, Nahidul Haq, Ashraful, Mohammad Kalim, Kuntal Chandra, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Selim, Tariqul Hasan, Mossadek Hossain, Abu Naser, Mahfuz Kabir, Anwar Hossain, Arman Hossain, Bikash Ranjan Das.

Manager: Azmal Ahmed Tapan

Coach: Dipu Rai Chowdhury

Physio: Gavin Benzafield

### Asia Cup

**Saad named technical member**

Sports Reporter

Former national cricketer and one of the selectors of the present national team, Tanzeer Ahsan Saad, has been nominated as Bangladesh's representative in the technical committee for the forthcoming Asia Cup.

The tournament is scheduled to begin in Dhaka from May 26.

Saad was selected in place of BCB's general secretary Syed Ashraful Haque who pulled out citing poor health.

## BCB announces players' pool for 1999-2000

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced the list of 30 pool players for the season 1999-2000.

The elite thirty, starting with national skipper Aminul Islam, will be regarded as a guideline for the 12 Premier League outfits, who shall not be allowed to register more than four players from the pool in the coming cricket season.

The board relieved former national captain Minhazul Abedin and his predecessor Faruque Ahmed from the bracketed list, since both have announced their retirement from the national team after the World Cup.

Meanwhile, organisers of local cricket decided to strictly implement a rule from the next season.

According to the new rule, cricketers to don the national cap in the next season, will be bracketed in national pool even if a player announces retirement during that period.

**The 30 players of the national pool are:** Aminul Islam, Shahrir Hossain, Javed Omar Belim, Habibul Bashar, Al-Shahriar, Mushfiqur Rahman, Khaled Masood (wk), Enamul Hoque, Sabir Khan, Hasbul Hossain, Bikash Ranjan Das, Mehrab Hossain, Nasirul Islam, Sufiuddin Ahmed, Khaled Mahmud, Monjurul Islam, Akram Khan, Mossadek Hossain, Naimur Rahman, Ahmed Kamal, Neeyamur Rashid, Jahangir Alam (wk), Mahabubur Rahman, Aminul Islam Jr., Morshed Ali Khan, Hasanuzzaman, Fahim Muntasir, Harun-ur Rashid, Sajjad Ahmed Monsur and Mohammad Rafique.

The tournament is scheduled to begin in Dhaka from May 26.

Saad was selected in place of BCB's general secretary Syed Ashraful Haque who pulled out citing poor health.

**Nat'l cricket resumes today**

The seventh round of matches in the National Cricket League begin today at different venues across the country. reports UNB.

After the sixth round, Chittagong dominate the points table securing 18 points and will meet Khulna (six points) at the Jessor Stadium.

Sylhet followed the leaders with 14 points and will take on star-studded Dhaka (six points) at the Faridpur Stadium.

In another match, Rajshahi will face Barisal at the Barisal Stadium. Rajshahi secured four points and Barisal two from the six previous matches.

**MCC's tour dates**

Sports Reporter

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) will arrive in Dhaka on January 10 as part of their promotional tours to different non-Test playing nations.

The oldest cricket club in the world, which holds the distinction of being the first foreign team to visit Bangladesh since independence, will play a series of matches against different local selections during their 20-day tour in the new millennium.

The MCC, owners of the famous Lord's ground at St. John's Wood in London, will feature in a three-day, a four-day and four limited-over matches.

### ITINERARY

**Jan 10:** Arrival

**Jan 11:** Rest day

**Jan 12:** Practiced at BKSP

**Jan 13:** Travel to Rajshahi

**Jan 14-16:** Three-day match (Rajshahi)

**Jan 17:** Travel to Dhaka

**Jan 18-21:** Four-day match (Bangabandhu Stadium)

**Jan 22:** Travel to Sylhet

**Jan 23:** Limited-over match (Sylhet)

**Jan 24:** Travel to Chittagong

**Jan 25:** Limited-over match (Chittagong)

**Jan 26:** Travel to Dhaka

**Jan 27:** Rest day

**Jan 28:** Limited-over match (Day/Night) Bangabandhu Stadium

**Jan 29:** Limited-over match (Day/Night) Bangabandhu Stadium

**Jan 30:** Départ

**Shaheed Zia cricket**

From Our Correspondent

**RAJSHAHI:** Dec 19: Raisuddin Smriti Sangha beat Bandhan Krira Chakra by 93 runs in the Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Government College ground today.

Raisuddin Smriti batted first and collected 162 for six in the stipulated 25 overs after winning toss.

Amin (30) and Sumon (25) were the notable run-getters for the winners. For Bandhan, Robin claimed two wickets giving away 21 runs.

Later, Sohel and Sumon ran through the Bandhan line-up as they were bundled out for 69 in just 17.3 overs.

Sohel grabbed five wickets for 15 while Sumon took two for 13. Robin (18) and Babu (16) were the top Bandhan scorers.

In the day's other match, Mrigha Krira Chakra recorded a huge eight-wicket win over Mirer Chalk Sporting Club.

Electing to bat, Mirer Chalk

made 126 all out in 24.4 overs.

In reply, the winners reached 131 in the 19th overs for the loss of two wickets.



Maple Leaf International School's Ejaz Ahmed, who became champion in the Standard Chartered schools chess competition, makes a move against Soham Das of Calcutta Kedarnath Institute yesterday.

— Star photo

## Ejaz lifts schools chess crown

Syed Ejaz Hossain emerged unbeaten champion in the Standard Chartered schools chess competition securing seven and a half points after the ninth and last round match yesterday, reports UNB.

Ejaz of Maple Leaf International and Soham Das of Kedarnath Institute in Calcutta earned same points after they drew with their respective matches.

Later, the championship was decided by progressive scores through a tie-breaker with Ejaz scoring 42 and Soham 40.5.

In the last round, Ejaz drew with Nasrul Haq, Udas and Soham drew with Nazir Arefin.

In other matches, Mustafa beat Rajib, Farhad beat Robin, Puneet beat Zia, Shuvom beat Ujjal and Faruque beat Riad while Ratul drew with Ayan.

Later, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader distributed prizes as the chief guest at a simple ceremony at the NSC chess room.

In all, 100 students, including five Indians, took part in the Swiss League tournament.

## Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

**RAJSHAHI:** Dec 19: Primary Krira Training Centre defeated Babu Sangha by three wickets in the Bir Shrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gc 1 Cup cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Railways ground today.

In the other match, Simla Sporting Club beat Uttam Krira Chakra by five wickets.

## Rain rescues Windies



HAMILTON, New Zealand, Dec 19 (Reuters/AFP):

New Zealand's march to possible victory in the first

Test against the West Indies

today was ruined by rain, which

stopped play 16 minutes into

the afternoon session.

The West Indies were 66 for

four in their second innings for

an overall lead of 38, with the

final day tomorrow.

New Zealand had a sensational

start to the fourth morning

play when they captured

three West Indies wickets for

two runs at one stage.

At that stage the tourists

were two for nought and Chan-

derpaul's fall brought captain

Brian Lara in.

He looked intent on steady-

ing the ship with some attack-

ing strokes, but he fell in Dion

Nash's second over of the morn-

ing, again caught behind by

Parore from an injudicious

swish at a well-pitched-up ball.

That brought Ricardo Powell

to the wicket for his second Test

innings. His first was inauspi-

cious when he got caught in the

first innings here, but he imme-

diately went on the offensive

and took to Nash and blasted

him over extra cover for four.

Powell effectively hit Nash

out of the attack by launching a

barrage of audacious shots. His

first six scoring shots in Test

cricket were fours off Nash, and

a lofted shot through mid-

wicket brought the West Indies

into credit after they were 28

behind on the first innings.

The forecast for tomorrow is

variable, with morning light

showers clearing later in the

day.