



Mohammedan coach Hasanuzzaman Khan draws the attention of his players to something during a practice session at the BDR ground yesterday ahead of today's Federation Cup final against arch-foes Abahani.

—Star photo

## Battle royale

Mohammedan, Abahani face to face

Sports Reporter



Football fans of the country are all in a hope to enjoy a cracker of a contest when the two football giants -- Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammediand Sporting Club -- renew their rivalry in the final of the 16th Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The blood and thunder clash kicks off at 5 pm with Ekuhshey Television and Bangladeshi Betar airing the live coverage from the BNS.

It will however be the first meeting between the two crowd-pulling sides in the final since their last encounter in 1995, which Mohammedan won in

the tie-breaker. But since then Abahani had enjoyed a better record in the season's curtain raiser. In fact, the popular Dhamondi outfit today will be looking for a hat-trick of titles in the Federation Cup.

Dethroned their arch-rivals in the fourteenth edition in 1997, Abahani went on to retain the title last season, beating Muktijoddha in the final.

Mohammedan, who made a habit of lifting the Cup since its inception in 1980 by winning it five times in a row, however had not achieved much success of late.

They failed to reach the final on the previous two occasions

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Abahani coach Amalesh Sen (R) instructing his charges during a practice session at their club premises at Dhamondi yesterday.

—Star photo

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

### Competition-135

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 1, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who scored the first hattrick in this year's Fed Cup football?  
Ritu Kanchan Tamver

2 Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?  
Wasim Waqar Main

3 Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?  
Aminul Abram Naimur

4 Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?  
Armanita Biman Mariners

5 Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?  
Kahn Sammer Reuter

Name .....  
.....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....  
.....

Phone: (If any) .....  
.....

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## SPORTS TALK



### Richie Richardson

(Former West Indies cricket captain)

"I have told the selectors if they want me, I would come back."

### India can't play cricket with Pakistan'

BANGLORE, Aug 27: Minister of State for Sports and Youth Services Syed Shahnuaz Hussain yesterday ruled out India playing cricket matches against Pakistan for the time being, reports PTI.

"There is no question of the India cricket team playing a direct match against Pakistan for the time being," Hussain told reporters here.

"Pakistan was playing a different game resulting in blood-bath," he said, referring to the neighbouring country's role in aiding terrorism in India.

"We can't be playing two games at the same time," he said, when asked about the BCCI's request to the government for playing in Pakistan to reciprocate that country's gesture of playing two tests in India in 1999.

When pointed out that there was still time for the tour, he said the government would take a decision then.

To a question, Hussain said the Central Bureau of Investigation was likely to submit its report on the match-fixing scandal by September end.

## Cox's Bazar bonanza

BCB to spend Taka 24.6 lakh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is totally absorbed in holding its first ever Annual General Meeting (AGM) in grand style at the holiday resort of Cox's Bazar on September 2.

The long overdue meeting, drawing together more than hundred councillors, is expected to be held in a lavish manner. The BCB has already earmarked a budget of Taka 24 lakh for the three-day meeting.

Although critics have already termed it the most expensive meeting ever to be staged by any sports federation in the country, the general secretary of the BCB Syed Ashraful Huq has no hesitation to justify the expense.

"The budget may appear excessive, but considering the efforts we've put in for the last three years as well as our successful campaign to attain the Test status, I think it's quite logical," said Ashraful.

"Besides, it was everybody's wish to hold the AGM in a tranquil backdrop where people can engage in open discussion," he added.

Ashraful however admitted that it was a failure on the part of the Board for not holding the

meeting annually. "It will not be right if you call it an AGM. But we had reasons for not holding it as per schedule. Actually, we were more focused on organising big tournaments like the first knock-out World Cup, Independence Cup and above all the goal to gain the Test status."

Secretary of the AGM preparatory committee and BCB member Sheikh Nizamuddin meanwhile revealed the details of the much-talked-about gathering during yesterday's briefing, which was supposed to be chaired BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

But Saber did not turn up and his vice-president and chairman of the AGM has already been sent to all the councillors by mail while the general secretary's report will be distributed to them on August 30.

According to Nizamuddin, the councillors, who have been invited along with their wives, will enjoy an excursion on September 1. During the day-long fun and games, the councillors will indulge themselves in beach cricket followed by cultural programme and raffle draw.

**EXPENSES**  
Purpose ..... Amount  
Train fare ..... 5  
Accommodation ..... 3.6 lakh  
Food ..... 5 lakh  
Travel Allowances for councillors ..... 4.5 lakh  
Gift ..... 6.5 lakh  
Miscellaneous ..... 4 lakh  
Total: Tk 24.6 lakh

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