

SPORTS TALK



Curtly Ambrose
(West Indies fast bowler)
"I am not enjoying my cricket as much as I used to. I am very certain that the time for me to take my exit is now."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-135

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
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Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 1, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who scored the first hat-trick in this year's Fed Cup football?
Rita Kanchan Tanver
- Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?
Wasim Waqar Mohd
- Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?
Aminal Akram Naimur
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
Armananda Biman Marinos
- Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?
Kahn Sommer Reuter

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

England in good shape

LONDON, Aug 31: England were 169 for one at tea on the first day of the fifth and final Test against the West Indies at The Oval on Thursday, reports AFP.

Michael Atherton was 71 not out and Marcus Trescothick was dismissed three balls short of the interval for 78, his highest Test score.

Trescothick had batted beautifully but lost concentration against leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo, an attempted cut stroke edged to Sherwin Campbell at first slip.

He had faced 192 balls and struck 12 fours.

England started the second session on 66 off 29 overs, Atherton 30 not out and Trescothick also 30 not out.

Somerset left-hander Trescothick, aged 24, was quickly into his stride straight-driving Nagamootoo for four in his second over after the interval and next ball cutting him to the boundary.

Correction

ESPN, not Star Sports is showing this match.

Courtney Walsh also suffered off-driven for four by Trescothick.

The 43rd over saw Trescothick up the tempo still further. After England had reached 100, Trescothick went to his fifty with a flourishing cover-drive for four against Walsh, stroked boldly off the front-foot.

He had faced 131 balls including nine fours. Walsh, bowling around the wicket, then saw his next delivery treated in exactly the same fashion, 12 runs in all coming off the over.

At the other end Atherton was less fluent, but offered solid support nonetheless. He broke out of his shell to pull Nixon McLean for four to reach his fifty off 151 balls including seven fours.

Then, after avoiding a bouncer, he cover-drove McLean for an elegant boundary.

A sweep from Atherton off Jimmy Adams took the partnership past 155 breaking the England first wicket record against the West Indies at The Oval set by Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe in 1928.

Saber on a tricky wicket

Councillors reach Cox's Bazar

Al-Amin



Saber Hossain Chowdhury's bid to inject professionalism into the Bangladesh Cricket Board will face a tough challenge from its councillors when the Annual General Meeting starts at Cox's Bazar on September 2.

Although the 17-board president has tried his best to make all the 126 councillors happy, arranging the AGM in the holiday resort, presenting nice gifts and above all creating a picnic atmosphere for them, but his plan to have a small and efficient Board remains a distant likelihood. Given the pulse of current representative members in the Board Executive Committee, it is for sure Saber will face formidable opposition in making his mission successful.

Saber had tried to reconstitute the Board in April, but his quest for a professional Board came under severe criticism from the members. In his another attempt last month, he however got the appointment of a General Manager (GM) approved by the members.

But Saber faces a tougher challenge at the moment, as he will have to win the vote of confidence at the council meeting to turn the Board into a truly elected institution. The BCB boss gave a sensational twist in his campaign for reconstitution saying that there should be a chairman in place of a president in the Board. Although that too was acceptable to many, but he invited criticism even from other sports federations when he claimed that the chairman should be elected instead of being nominated by the government.

Besides, Saber is also facing the daunting task of convincing both club and district organisers. Although most of the councillors, who reached Cox's Bazar yesterday to attend the march talked about AGM, apparently looked happy with the way things are going, a division was quite evident between the

Dhaka Club representatives and the members from districts.

While the Dhaka clubs are keen to increase their representation in the Board, the district organisers are adamant to maintain their dominance over the clubs. Presently, there are 70 district councillors against Dhaka clubs' 36. Dhaka clubs are now demanding their council quota be increased to 72.

The draft constitution, which was handed over to the councillors by the Board, might also kick up a row between the two sections. The proposed formation allows a maximum 22 members in the Board of Directors, in which 10 would come from Dhaka clubs, ten from six divisions and one from yet to be launched Bangladesh Cricket Development Foundation (BCDF). Besides, the GM would be the other representative in the Executive Committee.

The present BCB, which was elected in the first-ever polls of sports federation in 1998, has 32 members. At the start of the reconstitution campaign, Saber

however said to the press that he prefers to have 10-12 members Board.

The interesting aspect of the draft constitution is however the block voting system. It means that the Dhaka club councillors would elect their own representatives in the Board without having gone through the earlier procedure of seeking votes from the district councillors.

Ahead of the animated debate on September 2, the councillors, who all wants to be a part of the country's most popular game in future, will relax on the sandy beach, playing cricket and later enjoy a musical show today.

The all-important AGM begins the following day, when Board general secretary Syed Ashraf Hui will present his report in the morning session. BCB treasurer Afzalur Rahman Sinha will submit the audit report in the following session. Finally, the councillors will deliberate on the proposed reconstitution before voting on the issue.

Usha, Mariner draw

Sports Reporter



Usha Krira Chakra and Mariner Youngs Club shared honours as their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match ended in a 2-2 draw at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

In a game of fluctuating fortunes, Pakistani recruit Mohammad Saqlain and ace forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal scored once each for Usha while midfielder Yousuf Ali Biswas struck twice for Mariner.

It was the last match for both teams in the first leg. After dropping their first point against five wins and two defeats, title contenders Usha finished in third position with 16 points from eight matches. They are followed by Mariner with 14 points.

Unbeaten Mohammedan with 21 points from seven matches, face second place Abahani on 17 points in the final fixture of the preliminary stage at 4 pm.

Mariner came from behind to led the first half 2-1 against their superior opponents, strengthened by the arrival of former Pakistan international

Asif Bajwa.

Usha -- who suffered successive defeats at the hands of the big two after enjoying a dream five-match winning streak -- got off to a flying start when defender Saqlain converted a short corner in the fifth minute.

However Mariner replied through a pair of Yousuf goals in the 12th and 27th minute. On both occasions Pakistani Ghulam Ghaus provided telling passes to the lanky midfielder.

Usha went all out in the second session and finally grabbed the equaliser in the 53rd minute. Kamal slamming a brilliant field goal, after being fed by Saqlain.

Poor umpiring though denied Mariner a chance to secure all the points. Forward Mohammad Razzak was brought down by Usha defender Mamun in the 65th minute, both Indian officials refused to award penalty-stroke. And make matters worse for Mariner midfielder Ghaus was also cautioned.

TODAY'S MATCH
Premier Division
Mohammedan SC v Abahani
KC (4 pm)



Abahani hockey players stretching during a practice session at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. They take on holders Mohammedan in a Green Delta Premier Division fixture today. —Star photo

Athers to bow out after Ashes



LONDON, Aug 31: England's Michael Atherton has ended speculation about his future by announcing he intends to retire from playing after one final Ashes series against Australia next summer.

The 32-year-old opener, who was playing his 102nd Test for England against West Indies at The Oval, has long been nicknamed to be the seventh Ashes series he has been involved in - with out success so far.

He has been selected for this winter's Test tours of Pakistan and Sri Lanka and faces a further seven Tests next summer with two against Australia and five against Australia, which will be the seventh Ashes series he has been involved in - with out success so far.

But that is when he intends to end his playing days with both England and Lancashire, and although he has no fixed plans for the future he is expected to become a full-time media pundit.

year, that's for sure.

"Whether it be for Lancashire or England, the next year would be the maximum period."

Atherton also believes he should have stood by his original decision to resign as captain of England at the end of the 1997 Ashes tour when he was persuaded to change his mind by then coach David Lloyd and his father Alan.

He went on to captain England on the 1998 tour to West Indies, leading his country

for a record 52 Tests, before eventually standing down at the end of the final Test in Antigua.

"I did one tour too many," he said.

"I knew instinctively that I should have packed it in when we beat Australia at The Oval in 1997."

"People say never take a rash decision - that's rubbish. The more you think about it, the more you get talked round to a thing you don't want to do."

He also re-opened the debate into county cricket, which he famously claimed was not a good grounding for international cricket at the beginning of this season, claiming: "I would halve the number of Championship games - that's all you need."

Atherton believes the English domestic season, with the number of games that are played, breed a conservative approach, adding: "When it's your livelihood you're possibly looking at the safety-first option."

Cricket played at its best always involves risk. The Aussies keep things more sacred like the green baggy cap. It's a very natural and instinctive game, but the emphasis is on defence and technique."

MICHAEL ATHERTON

Green Delta Hockey Abahani-MS lock horns today

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on arch-rivals Abahani in a crucial Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium at 4 pm this afternoon.

Mohammedan, the popular Motijheel-based club who have two high-class Pakistani players - Shahbaz Ahmed and Tahir Zaman - in their side, are leading the nine-team table with maximum 21 points having won all their seven matches so far.

On the other hand, Abahani have won five and drawn two games. They are in the second position with 17 points also from seven matches.

Triple delight for Rumi

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman's Rumi earned a treble in the Prime Bank Women's Open table tennis championship winning the singles, doubles and team titles at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

In the singles final, she beat teammate Ratna 21-8, 19-21, 25-23. Rumi then paired with Ratna to win the doubles title defeating Soma and Tania 21-19, 21-17 in the final match.

Rumi completed her impressive run when she won the team title for Biman with Ratna. In the final, they beat Narail 21-14, 21-19.

In the girls' singles, Nimia of Chuadanga lifted the crown defeating Jasmin of Sharp Knitting by 2-0 sets.

Solid start for Rajib

Sports Reporter

Enamul Hossain Rajib got off to a flying start in the Asian Junior U-2000 Chess Championship with an easy win over Himanshu Kumar of India in the opening round in Mumbai yesterday.

Twenty-nine boys from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Kuwait, Australia, Iran and Turkey are taking part in the meet.

In the girls' section, Feroza Haque Chowdhury of Bangladesh lost her opening round board to Chinese Ye Ting. Sixteen girls from Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, China, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are participating in this section.

National youth v'ball begins today

Sports Reporter

The Shanko National Youth Volleyball Championship, organised by Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF), begins today at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium, reports UNB. The inauguration of the meet will, however, take place on Saturday at 5 pm. Post, Telecommunications and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim will inaugurate the five-day meet.

Managing director of the tournament sponsor Shanko International, Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain, MP, will be present on the occasion.

BVF president Major General Mohammad Azizur Rahman briefed newsmen about the championship at a press conference at the NSC yesterday.

Sixteen teams, split into four groups, will compete in the 18th version of the national youth meet, initially to be held on league basis.

Group champions will play in the semifinals on September 4 while the final match is billed for September 5.

The participating teams are: Group A: Comilla, Noagoon, Gaibandha and Nilphamari.

Group B: Rangpur, Kushtia, Dinajpur and Gazipur.

Group C: Rajshahi, Rajbari, Narail and Tangail.

Group D: Dhaka, Noakhali, Pabna and Jhenedah.

Women's b'ball

Sunbeam School earned a massive 53-11 points victory over Green Herald School in the inaugural match of the Rabban Sports Women's Basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners dominated the first half 30-5. Kashfi caged 25 and Tahsin 14 for the Sunbeam while Rohani scored 4 for Green Herald.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader inaugurated the first ever women meet.



DMFLC chairman Abdur Rahim (C) speaking at a press conference yesterday organised in connection with the National Bank Football League which begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. Deputy Managing Director of National Bank Solaiman Khan Majlish (2nd from L), DMFLC secretary Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir (2nd from R) and Bangladesh Football Federation assistant general secretary Badal Roy (R) were also present. —Star photo

Senior Div League rolls into action

MSC open against D'mondi

Sports Reporter



Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club take on promotees Dhammondi Club in the opening match of the new-look NBL Senior Division Football League at 5:30 pm today.

Top ten teams -- Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Arambagh Krira Sangha, Badda Jagarani Sangsad, Farashganj Sporting Club, Brothers Union, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Association, Victoria Sporting Club and Dhanmondi Club -- will be featured in the Premier Division.

The first Division consists of Youngmans Club Fakirpool, Mirpur, Chalanika, BRTC, Prantik KC, Shantinagar Club.

Agrani Bank, Wari Club, Muslim Institute, PWD and Sadharan Bima.

In an effort to stamp out 'fixed matches', the Dhaka Mahanagar Football League Committee (DMFLC) has introduced a J-League-style tie-breaker system.

A leading financial institution, National Bank Limited on Wednesday signed a three-year sponsorship deal worth 45 lakh taka. In fact from 1987-89 the bank had earlier been associated with the league.

Under the new format if a game ends in a draw after 90 minutes, then both sides will go into a shoot-out. The winning team earns two points instead of three awarded for an outright victory while the losers collect a point.

In another change, top four finishers of the first phase will take part in a single round 'Super-four' league. Later three clubs fight it out in the second round for the championship. Taka one lakh awaits the champions and the runners-up receive Taka 75,000.

The remaining six teams will be involved in a battle for survival. Of them three face relegation at the end of the season.

DMFLC chairman and Bangladesh Football Federation member Abdur Rahim revealed the details at a crowded press conference held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Badal Roy, the assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), three deputy managing directors of NBL -- Solaiman Khan, Mustaq Ahmed and Anwar Imam -- DMFLC secretary Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir and BFF member Fazlur Rahman Babul were also present.

Matches will be played each day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium respectively. Spectators will have to spend Taka 20 for a Western Gallery ticket and Taka 10 for an Eastern gallery seat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. No tickets will be required to enter the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium.

BFF president and Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif is expected to inaugurate the opening match as the chief guest.

FIRST WEEK'S FIXTURE

Date	Match	Venue	Time
Sept 1	Mohammedan v Dhanmondi	BNS	5:30 pm
Sept 2	Muktiyoddha v Rahmatganj	BNS	4 pm
	Abahani v Victoria	BNS	6 pm
	Mirpur Chalanika v PWD	SBNS	4 pm
	YMC Fakirpool v S Bima	SBNS	6 pm
Sept 3	BRTC v Muslim Institute	BNS	4 pm
	Arambagh v Brothers Union	BNS	6 pm
	Prantik v Wari	SBNS	4 pm
Sept 4	Shantinagar v Agrani Bank	BNS	4 pm
	Badda Jagarani v Farashganj	BNS	6 pm
Sept 5	YMC Fakirpool v PWD	BNS	4 pm
	Mohammedan v Victoria	BNS	6 pm
Sept 6	Mirpur Chalanika v Muslim Institute	BNS	4 pm
	Abahani v Rahmatganj	BNS	6 pm
	BRTC v Wari	SBNS	4 pm
Sept 7	Arambagh v Farashganj	BNS	4 pm
	Muktiyoddha v Brothers Union	BNS	6 pm
	Prantik v Agrani Bank	SBNS	4 pm

BNS: Bangabandhu National Stadium
SBNS: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

READERS' ZONE

Wakeup call for BCB

Do you have any observation regarding sports and its management in Bangladesh? Do you feel certain issues need to be addressed before time runs out? Then, hurry up and send us your burning questions, critical views and thoughtful suggestions not in excess of 400 words. You may be the next contributor of our just introduced READERS' ZONE.

—Sports Editor

Bangladesh Cricket Board is holding a quarter-crore taka Annual General Meeting at the sea resort of Cox's Bazar on September 2. All the 126 councillors have been invited to the extravaganza along with their spouses and they have been promised pricey gifts, free hospitality and plenty of merry-making.

When first-ever elections were held for BCB about two and a half years back, there were rosy expectations about a bright democratic future. Everybody thought that after ages of ad-hocism, an elected Board would profess the principles of accountability and transparency. But their hopes have been dashed. As per draft constitutional provision based on which elections were held, an AGM was supposed to be called within one year of the election to firm up the constitution. In Bangladesh, no one cares for the constitution or rules once they dupe the electorate. The present BCB bosses are no exceptions.

After winning the elections on the combined strength of big money, cronyism and political manipulations, they gave a fig about constitutional requirements. They have convened the AGM only when they have felt the necessity of restructuring the BCB. And they want no opposition. That's why they want to keep the council members happy. This, in short, is the background for the big-spend- ing AGM.

The above might be construed as a parochial, narrow-minded evaluation of a BCB committee which has met unparalleled successes. Attainment of Test status, annexation of ICC Trophy and win against Pakistan in '99

World Cup are great achievements indeed. And no one wants to take away any credit from them. But heady successes do go into head. None proved it better than the BCB boss Saber Hossain Chowdhury. After ICC accorded much-cherished Test status to Bangladesh, he announced that the success was achieved not due to organisers' efforts and cricket diplomacy. This was a blatant effort to corner all the glory and to demean our cricketers. By this statement he also downplayed the importance of the memorable win against Pakistan in the WC, which should have the clinching argument in favour of Test status.

If that was not a factor at all in our quest for full membership of ICC, what else should be? One wonders whether the allegations of Dr Ali Baquer backed up by Majid Khan about Bangladesh-Pakistan match being fixed was taken seriously by ICC decision-makers. Does the BCB president know some murky truth that we don't? Otherwise, he couldn't have rubbish or overlooked the players' contributions to claim all the glory for himself.

If the achievements of the present Board are huge, so are its scandals. This is the Board, which vetoed selection of a team and inserted players of its choice and sacked the selection committee chief. This is the Board, whose member entrusted with the responsibility of handling tickets for an international tournament, allegedly sold tickets to the black market. This is the Board, where members are free to transact profitable business deals with BCB itself. This is the Board,

where foreign financial deals are never discussed in the Executive Committee meetings.

For example, the Board has concluded at least three TV rights deal in the past without concurrence of the EC. It is not clear whether any bidding process was initiated in all these deals. The amounts involved have never been published. The whole procedure is non-transparent, to say the least. The proposed tie-up with Zee TV is also a shady deal, details being unknown.

BCB bosses are feeling a bit crowded by the 31-member committee. So they want a more compact set up comprising 22 directors. This is the gist of the restructuring proposal to be considered in the AGM. This will surely be carried through by the contented councillors. But whether this amendment in the still non-ratified constitution will be enough to make BCB compatible for the Test status is doubtful. To do justice to the newly acquired status, BCB will have to do a lot of hard work. This will be beyond the capabilities of part-timers and henchmen. Professionals with vision and sense of purpose must be put in place. The days of self-seeking, short-sighted, petty officials are over.

But most of all, BCB leaders must change their mode of operation. The practice of appointing personal favourites as important officials should be a thing of the past. They must also do away with their secretive ways in financial matters. In these days of cricket scandals following Dalmiya may not be the best way.

—Fazul Akbar, 336/A, Elephant Road, Dhaka