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Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2001 E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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Did U Know?

Subcontinent was never known for its clockwise precision. Sir Richard Hadlee, the great New Zealand all-rounder, learnt things the hard way during his stint as a commentator during the 1996 cricket World Cup, which was co-hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. One night in Faisalabad, he asked the hotel staff to give him a wake up call at 6.15 am so that he could take the 7.30 am bus to the ground. At 7.25 am, Hadlee, dressed in immaculate fashion, was having his breakfast when a porter entered with a message for the great man. The chalkboard he carried read: "Mr. Hadlee contact reception urgently-there's a call for you." Hadlee rushed to the reception to take the call only to hear the operator say in a sweet voice, "Good Morning sir, this is your wake up call."



What to WATCH

- ESPN**
S Australia vs Victoria
Sheffield Shield Cricket
9:00 am
- UEFA Champions' League**
6:30 am
- Western Union World Football**
8:30 am
- UEFA Champions' League**
1 hour weekly highlights
2:00 pm
- English Premiership**
4:30 pm
- Serie A**
12:00 am (Tuesday)
- Star Sports**
S Australia vs Victoria
Sheffield Shield Cricket
2:00 pm
- Harsha Online**
Cricket Talk Show
11:00 pm
- Primera Liga**
8:30 am
- Asian Football Show**
1:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Sachin Tendulkar
(Master Indian batsman)
"I have always believed that whatever has happened has to be left behind."

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 145
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
March 2, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Bangladesh beat Mongolia in the 2002 World Cup qualifier.
2-0 3-2 3-0
- Who clinched the Paris Indoor Open title?
Huber Hings Mauresmo
- Sri Lanka won the one-day series against New Zealand.
3-2 5-0 4-1
- How many Tests will Bangladesh play in five years?
34 35 36
- Who lifted the national under-19 cricket crown?
Chittagong Rajshahi BKSP

Name:

Class: Roll No:

School Address:

Phone: (if any)

Forum sees huge success Tanvir left in the cold

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The forum of district councillors clinched a major success yesterday as its all but one prescribed candidate cleared the election hurdle of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

But despite some controversies, cricket set a standard for other sports federations as far as election was concerned. While other sports federations settled for selections, BCB threw up polls that generated huge excitement as well as a race among the established organisers to become a member of its 29-man Board of Directors.

One hundred and twelve out of 120 councillors exercised their franchise yesterday. Ahsan Kadir, a contestant from Bangladesh Biman, is the only Forum nominated candidate who lost in the race after notching 48 votes.

Tanvir Haider, who had an association with cricket for more than three decades, bowed out of the race, registering only 18 votes. His was the third lowest vote among the 27 contestants, who fought for the 18 posts up for grabs for the 40 councillors from the Dhaka-based clubs.

The former national cricketer was down in dumps and so was his next generation player Mainul Haq, who left the National Sports

Council in total disgust knowing well about his failure.

The two apart, another former national cricketer Rafiqul Alam



Tanvir Mazhar Islam casts his vote yesterday.

embraced loss, collecting 29 votes.

Earlier, 13 candidates including 12 from district quota made it to the Board of Directors uncontested, thanks to the shrewd game play of Jafar Imam, the secretary-general of the Bangladesh Olympic Association. The veteran organiser from Rajshahi was instrumental in getting district organisers under one umbrella. His Bangladesh District and Division

Sports Organisation Forum eventually determined the fate of renowned organisers like Tanvir Haider.

But the National Sports Council wore a festive look yesterday centring the elections, which experienced an unprecedented hate campaign, propaganda and even a show-off of arms in the process.

Two life size billboards, bearing the names of Forum prescribed 15 candidates, were erected at the entrance of the NSC. Although Forum chairman Jafar disowned the billboards, none dared to remove those.

The Forum lobbied to vote for the following fifteen: Mahmud Ul Haq, Lalal Younis, Alam Chowdhury, Mahabubul Anam, Alzalur Rahman Sinha, Mobasser Hossain, Ahsan Kadir, Aziz Al Kaiser, Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad, GS Hassan Tamim, Ali Khabir Chand, Enayet Kabir, Enayet Hossain Siraj, Syed Ashraf Ul Haq and Golam Dastagir.

Outgoing BCB general secretary and former national cricketer Syed Ashraf Ul Haq grabbed 83 votes to end up with third place behind Mahmud Ul Haq and Gazi Golam Dastagir. Mahmud, who served as joint secretary of the outgoing committee, topped the list with 90 votes while businessman Dastagir bagged 88 votes.

Interestingly, the two leading vote-getters -- Enayet Hossain Siraj and Ahmed Sajjadul Alam -- in the first-ever election in 1997

SEE PAGE 15

Polls puzzle BCB boss

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury observed that yesterday's election was not conducted in the true spirit.

"The candidates have elected unopposed. This is not a healthy sign and it belies the essence of the election," Saber told reporters at the National Sports Council. He however was pleased that partial elections were held among the Dhaka-based candidates after district councillors won their seats without a fight.

Saber, who came to the NSC after the Board polls concluded, also felt that certain loopholes had been exposed through the electoral procedure.

"I personally believe that an alternative system should be in place before the next elections," he opined.

"Whether we like it or not the result has to be accepted since it was done under the constitution that we passed at the AGM last year."

Zia's woes mount



SPORTS REPORTER

International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman's norm aspirations went down the drains in the 5th United Insurance Grand Masters (GM) Chess Tournament when top seed GM Jaan Ehlvest of Estonia handed him his fourth straight defeat in the 7th round at the NSC conference room last evening.

Playing with white pieces against the Sicilian Taimanov defence of Zia, Ehlvest won in 39 moves.

But while Zia saw his hopes evaporate, compatriot IM Reefat bin-Sattar picked up his form. Reefat, who beat Ehlvest in the previous round, maintained his winning run defeating IM Sandipan Chanda of India. Reefat, in his 7th round clash, played with black pieces against the Queen's pawn opening of Sandipan and checkmated his counterpart after 40 moves.

Reefat, with yesterday's win, moved to the crowded second position in the 14-man competition having raised his tally to four points, one and a half drift of leader Alexander Volzhin.

Volzhin, the Russia GM, shared points with Indian IM GB Prakash. The other five matches of the seventh round also ended in draws.

Niaz Murshed, the lone Grand Master of the country, drew with GM Nigel Davies of England, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib drew with GM Alexei Barsov of Uzbekistan, FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib held IM Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan while GM Normunds Miezis of Latvia drew with another Latvian GM Ilgors Raussis.

Points table: 5.5 points-- Volzhin, 4 points-- Reefat, Barsov, Miezis, Davies, 3.5 points-- Ehlvest, Rakib, Rajib, Prakash, Tahir, 3 points-- Niaz, Raussis, 2 points-- Zia, Sandipan.

"The 8th Round will start at the same venue today at 2:30 pm."

Nasser's plight persists

REUTERS, Galle

England captain Nasser Hussain was left cursing his ill fortune again on Sunday after another batting failure in the first Test against Sri Lanka.

Hussain has been plagued by a string of questionable umpiring decisions in recent months which have coincided with a severe dip in his batting form.

On Sunday he scored one before being given out leg before after taking a big stride down the wicket to off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

He left the pitch shaking his head and talking furiously to himself.

Former England all-rounder Ian Botham, speaking on Sky Television, said: "That was a remarkable decision yet again. It's so sad for him. In Pakistan he had three shocking decisions."

"I didn't think he was out in the first innings and today it was impossible to give him out -- it was a total guess."



Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harunur Rashid MP makes a point during a press conference in connection with Bangladesh's poor performance in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers in Saudi Arabia that ended last week. National coach George Kottan (L) and BFF joint secretary Sirajul Islam were present.

'Our actual strength was exposed in the last three matches' - Kottan

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

National football coach George Kottan thinks the result of his team in the recently concluded World Cup 2002 qualifiers held in Saudi Arabia, specially in the second leg, was nothing but the true reflection of the existing standard of football in Bangladesh.

The Austrian coach, who took over the national team two months ago, was reflecting on the squad's showing at a media conference organised by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid MP, BFF assistant general secretary and the team leader of Bangladesh team Sirajul Islam Bachchu, manager and BFF assistant general secretary Badal Roy, assistant coach Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu were also present in the press conference where they came under a barrage of questions from the local media understandably frustrated by the squad's poor showing.

Kottan said that the performance of Bangladesh in the first three matches were good but luck played a vital part in his team's favour.

"But our actual strength was exposed in the last three

matches," Kottan said adding that the boys had the stamina of playing only 30 minutes.

"I don't want to blame the players because it's not their fault. It is the flaw in the system where you play football for only three months a year. That in no way will ever help them raise their physical standard," said Kottan.

Kottan was also critical on the present 'No Bangabandhu National Stadium, no football' policy of the federation saying no country in the world would ever depend on a single ground to promote the game.

"In this system, football will never improve here. The country needs regular football activities."

"You will be surprised to know that some players have already pleaded with me to organize special training to improve their physical standards after returning home," added Kottan who went on a ten-day leave to Hungary last night.

"I will arrange some programmes for them from March 10 after I get back," Kottan revealed.

Apart from the team's performance, officials, specially Sirajul Islam Bachchu, came under fire from the reporters for his tendency to hide information and misbehaving with one of the four Bangladesh journalists who went to Saudi Arabia to cover the event.

Bachchu had heated exchanges

with a reporter at the Danimam Airport when the team was returning home. It was reported in newspapers that Bachchu received US dollars 5000 from the Saudi Football Federation as pocket money for the team but never distributed it saying it was given for BFF's youth development programme.

"I have not misbehaved with anybody. I was just sentimental after seeing some image damaging reports in the newspapers," said Bachchu.

Regarding pocket money, Bachchu denied the allegations saying that no team was given any cash. He also submitted some papers of the Saudi Football Federation in his support.

"None of the teams received pocket money. The amount we got from the Saudis was for our youth development programmes," said Bachchu.

Harunur Rashid supported Bachchu saying the arrangement of giving 5000 US dollars to Bangladesh by Saudi Arabia was made during the Asia Cup in Lebanon last year.

Harun, however, could not give any satisfactory answer when asked on the BNS issue.

"We will continue with this policy and carry out all other activities other than playing football if we don't get the BNS," Harun reiterated.

Married to golf

With his broad shoulders and muscular physique Vijay Kumar has all the makings of may be a heavyweight boxer or wrestler but actually he is a soft-spoken Indian whose only passion is playing golf day in and day out. According to him golf means hitting hard and straight. This is his second visit to Bangladesh. Kumar, who has been playing professionally for the past 17 years, lifted the Bhariyari Open in Chittagong last year. So far he has won 45 tournaments mostly on home soil. In 1999, he represented India in the prestigious Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews, Scotland. Moments after winning the Inaugural Dutch-Bangla Bank Bangladesh Open at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Saturday, the 33-year-old from Lucknow spoke to Lenin Gani of the Daily Star Sport. Following are the excerpts:

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How do you feel after winning here?

Vijay Kumar (VK): Although I'm very happy to win the tournament, I still wasn't happy with either my hitting or the way my swing went on the last day.

DSS: For the first couple of days you were pretty consistent but what happened on the final day?

VK: I really can't say why performance dropped. On the last day my swing was off and I had difficulty with my stance. That's why I saw most of the times the ball going towards the left instead of staying in the middle.

DSS: Give your impression of

the course. Compare it to the ones in India. Which hole was the hardest?

VK: I found the course to be very good, especially the back nine. However, it shouldn't be compared to Delhi Golf Club because the soil they use there is better. Today, I had trouble on the 6th hole. I had a double bogey.

DSS: Does being on the tour for long periods affect you?

VK: Obviously the answer is yes. When I'm on the tour I always miss my wife Kanchan, my mother and other members of the family.

DSS: What makes a good professional in golf?



Minister for Science, Technology and Mineral Resources Nooruddin Khan hands over the winner's cheque to Vijay Kumar of India who won the Inaugural Dutch-Bangla Bank Bangladesh Open at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Saturday.

VK: I think, besides constantly playing golf one requires proper financial assistance if he or she is going to compete on the tour regularly. Strange though it may sound I myself have no sponsor unlike most players but that didn't stop me from winning many tournaments.

DSS: Do golfers get along with each other?

VK: It's just like other sports on the field we try not to give our opponent an inch though at the end of the day we become friends once again.

DSS: Do you follow other sports?

VK: Why not? I enjoy watching cricket and tennis matches. My favourite team is South Africa and in tennis it has to be Andre Agassi.

DSS: With which shot will you remember this tournament by?

VK: It has to be one on hole 13. I never expected to get the ball out of such a tricky position.

DSS: What is your favourite shot?

VK: I love to drive.

DSS: What's your favourite course?

VK: If you're talking about in India then my favourite one has to be Mumbai.

DSS: Do you think you'll be returning to Dhaka in the near future?

VK: I hope so because the organisers made me feel very comfortable during my stay.

DSS: Thank you for sharing some time.

VK: It was my pleasure.

England still in danger

Cricket

AFP, Galle

England were fighting with their backs to the wall to save the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka after being forced to follow-on here on Sunday.

Dismissed for 253 in their first innings, England trailing by 217 runs, lost the wickets of first innings century-maker Marcus Trescothick and skipper Nasser Hussain to be 118 for two wickets at the close of the fourth day.

England still require a further 99 runs with eight wickets in hand to avoid an innings defeat, going into the fifth and final day on Monday.

Sri Lanka scored 470 for five wickets in their first innings.

Trescothick who made 122 in the first innings once again batted resolutely to make an impressive half-century -- 57 in 197 minutes before being ruled out caught behind the wicket on the sweep off Sanath Jayasuriya.

Trescothick gave England a fighting chance by sharing an opening partnership of 101 with Michael Atherton. The stand was the first opening century partnership for England against Sri Lanka. The previous highest was 83 by the same pair in the first innings.

Hussain's bad luck with the umpires continued from Pakistan when he was ruled out lbw to Muttiah Muralitharan for one, four runs later.

Atherton stuck it out till the end of the day with Graham Thorpe (2 not out) to remain unbeaten on 44 made in a stay of 248 minutes during which period he hit only one four.

England's chances of saving the Test on a pitch becoming increasingly difficult for batting, rested heavily on him.

England resuming at a promising 202 for four in the first in-

nings crashed to 253 all out before lunch on the fourth morning.

Sri Lanka Skipper Jayasuriya in a sensational spell of left-arm spin bowling took three wickets for eight runs to force England to follow-on.

England folded up dramatically for 253, losing their remaining six wickets for the addition of just 51 runs.

After fast bowler Chaminda Vaas had made the initial breakthrough by taking the wickets of Trescothick (122) and Graeme Hick (5), Jayasuriya ran through the rest of the batting in a seven-over spell that brought him three wickets for eight runs.

He began the day by having nightwatchman Robert Croft caught at silly point by Mahela Jayawardene for nine, and then went on to take the wickets of Craig White (25), and Andy Caddick (0) in one over.

Off-spinner Muralitharan finished the England innings off when Tillekeratne Dilshan latched onto a brilliant one-handed diving

catch at slip to dismiss Ashley Giles for four.

Hick was unfortunate to be given out caught behind by umpire Peter Manuel when his bat hit the ground.

White was unlucky when he attempted to drive a full toss from Jayasuriya and the ball rebounded off silly point fielder Russel Arnold's leg to wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara.

With the pitch starting to crumble and providing vicious turn, England have a tough task ahead of them trying to save the Test.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and England on Sunday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 470-5 declared (M Atapattu 201 not out, K Sangakkara 58, A de Silva 106, M Jayawardene 61)

ENGLAND: First innings (over-night 202-4)

SEE PAGE 15



Sri Lanka wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara (L) and bowler Chaminda Vaas (R) rushing towards each other to celebrate the dismissal of England's Graeme Hick on the fourth day of the first Test in Galle yesterday.