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Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY MARCH 2, 2001 E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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Did U Know?

Crowd-pulling golfer Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters Tournament when he was just 21 years old with a record score of 270. He was the first person of colour to win the tournament since it was first played way back in 1934. It is now a matter to see whether the sensational Woods could emulate the feat of Jack Nicklaus in future. Nicklaus the great won the tournament six times - more than anyone else in history. Nicknamed the Golden Bear, Nicklaus is recognised as one of the best golfers ever and was inducted into the Golf Hall of Fame in 1974.

What to WATCH

ESPN
New Zealand vs Pakistan
Fifth one-day international
7:00 am (1hr highlights)
Documentary on Sir Don Bradman
4:00 pm
Boys & Sunny Masterclass
Cricket Talk Show
5:30 pm and 9:30 pm
English Premiership
1hr highlights
2:00 pm
AC Milan vs Juventus
Serie A
12:00 am (Saturday)
Star Sports
Documentary on Sir Don Bradman
8:30 pm

TALK TURKEY



Sanath Jayasuriya
(Sri Lanka cricket captain)
"The players are human beings and they are used to appealing."
Defending his team's excessive appealing.

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

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

Name:
Class: Roll No.:
School Address:
Phone: (if any)

BAF v'ball
ISPR, Tangail
The annual Inter-base Volleyball Championship of the Bangladesh Air Force concluded at the BAF Base Paharakancharpur here on Wednesday.
BAF Base Zahurul Haque became champions defeating BAF Base Bashar 25-19, 18-25, 25-19, 24-25, 15-13 in the keenly contested final.



(Standing from L-R) Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam, Naimur Rahman and Mohammad Rafique pose with their awards at a ceremony held at the NSC yesterday. Also seen are State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader (L), Dr S A Malek, Political Advisor to the Prime Minister and BCB President Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

BCB election scandal Probe body formed

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

The Sports Ministry Thursday named a three-member committee headed by Brig Gen Ahsan Habib, director general of BKSP, to probe into the reported allegations of bribery and other irregularities during the Bangladesh Cricket Board elections held on February 25.

The committee will be granted 15 working days to investigate reports of bribery that appeared in the print media over the last few days.

It was reported in all the leading dailies, quoting contesting councillors, that the Zafar Imam-led Forum of the district and divisional organisers, received over Taka ten lakh in the form of donation during the election for the post of 16 directors from the Dhaka-based clubs.

Ataur Rahman, a deputy secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Akhter Hamid Khan, director of the Sports Directorate, make up the committee which is expected to meet for the first time on Sunday.

Speaking from Savar-based BKSP, Brig Gen Habib said that he would try to contact the two other members by Saturday so that they sit together on Sunday.

"We will try to finish our investigation within the stipulated time period. But, first of all, I have to go through the terms and conditions of the election procedure before getting down to business," he said.

Meanwhile, people from different spheres, including some former national cricketers, while condemning the uncommon practice of the so-called Forum manipulation and appealed to the government to appoint a justice as the chairman of the probe.

"A Justice should be appointed to lead any corruption scandal or manipulation in an event like this. Besides, there were reports of political intervention. Would the DG, BKSP, be able to probe the matter freely and fairly," said one councillor, preferring anonymity.

"We see a lot of inquiries in these days. Can you mention one single example where true culprits were taken into task?" he asked.

But a director of the National Sports Council (NSC) rejected the idea of heading a probe body with a justice claiming that the allegation appeared on the media was purely speculative.

But while he was told about examples of justices being appointed in South Africa, India and Pakistan to head commissions to investigate irregularities in cricketing affairs, the NSC official, opting not to be named, said the reports of irregularities were not that grave compared to those of other countries.

"Match-fixing offences are as same as sedition and that is why their respective governments appointed justices to head those commissions," he said.

Bangladesh To play in Kenya tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh formally accepted Kenya's invitation to feature in a tri-nation tournament that will also include the West Indies.

The tournament will be held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi in August.

"We have officially accepted Kenya's invitation to play in a tri-nation tournament. The national team will tour Kenya in August", BCB president Saber Hossain revealed at an award giving ceremony at the NSC yesterday.

Saber said that he received the official invitation from the Kenya Cricket Association on February 27 but added that the details of the event were yet to be known.

BKSP batter Scholastic

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Nayeem scored an unbeaten century as Bangladesh's Kriya Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) romped to an emphatic 173-run victory over Scholastica in the Dhaka Zonal final of the Standard Chartered Grundays Bank 19th National Schools Cricket Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium Thursday.

Nayeem blasted 110 not out off 105 balls after BKSP, electing to bat, piled up a huge 270 for three in the stipulated 35 overs.

Nay's century came off 99 balls, and it included 13 fours.

Middle-order batsman Babat with a 30-ball 67 was the other notable scorer. His knock featured four sixes and seven boundaries.

In reply, Scholastica were shot out for 97 in 32.4 overs. Mr. Sundries contributed 34 to the total. BKSP bowlers Nazmul and Nadif took three wickets each respectively while Asif bagged two wickets.

Both BKSP and Scholastica have already qualified for the final round along with two losing semi-finalists New Model High and Green Herald.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BKSP: 270 for 3 in 35 overs (Nayeem 110 n.o., Rubaia 67, Tanvir 30, Dhiman 21 n.o.)
SCHOLASTICA: 97 all out in 32.4 overs (Extras 34, Mazmul 3/11, Nadif 3/15, Asif 2/17)
Result: BKSP won by 173 runs.

PM's Gold Cup Hockey BD face Japan in opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on Japan in the inaugural match of the Prime Minister's Gold Cup Hockey Tournament which begins at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium from March 10, according to Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) general secretary Shamsul Bari Thursday.

Bari told Daily Star Sport that the hosts were originally scheduled to play Singapore in the 10-nation meet opener. But after they pulled out on Wednesday it forced the organisers to amend the fixture.

As a result Group A will feature only four teams - Pakistan, Japan, Scotland and Ireland. The other group comprises India, China, Malaysia, Ireland and Egypt.

"However, the BHF will not disclose the new fixture until it is okayed by the International Hockey Federation (IHF)," said Bari.

He said the tournament is estimated to cost around one and a half crore Taka.

"Even though Dutch Bangla Bank offered to pay Taka two million to obtain the title sponsorship but the Commerce Minister, who is also the chairman of the PM Gold Cup Organising Committee, turned down the proposal saying there should no other name except the Prime Minister," Bari clarified.

Bangladesh Television will telecast all 24 matches live while

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GOODBYE GREAT MAN: John Bradman (R), son of Sir Donald Bradman and funeral director David Lloyd (L) escort a hearse carrying the body of Sir Donald Bradman past mourners on the way to a private family funeral service in Adelaide Thursday.

The Don laid to rest

Cricket
RUeters, Adelaide

Thousands of Australians have paid tribute to Donald Bradman, lining suburban streets as the cricket legend's casket was carried in procession to a private funeral service in his hometown Adelaide.

Bradman's only son John walked for a short way in front of the silver-grey hearse carrying his father's body, as wailing crowds of people - young and old - broke into warm applause to bid farewell to the world's most prolific batsman.

Some threw flowers and others saluted with cricket bats as the funeral cortege, escorted by police cars and motorcycles, drove slowly along the 15-kilometre route from a suburban funeral home to the picturesque Centennial Park cemetery.

Traffic banked up behind the procession and slowed further when people surged onto the streets to pay their last respects.

"Farewell to Gentleman Don, Rest in Peace," read one placard, held aloft by a young mother on the edge of a main road.

"I feel very emotional, very sad," said Des Aplin, 73, as the glass-sided hearse slipped behind the cemetery gates for the evening service, attended by one of Bradman's greatest fans, Australia's Prime Minister John Howard.

"He was a wonderful man," added Aplin's wife Helen, 67, admitting to feeling a personal loss at Bradman's death as the warm autumn sun set behind the cemetery.

"It was inevitable...but when it came, it just shocked us. He was unique, a part of our history."

The reclusive Bradman, who died on Sunday aged 92, turned down the offer of a state funeral, asking instead to be privately cremated.

Details about the service, attended by only about 100 people, including Governor-General Sir William Deane, and about Bradman's final resting place have been kept private.

A public memorial service, to be held on March 25 at St Peter's Cathedral, is to be broadcast live across Australia.

Bradman, who has long been regarded by sports-mad Australians as a national treasure, compiled 6,996 runs in 52 Tests during the 1930s and 1940s to finish with a tantalising average of 99.94.

"He was one of the best," said Loretta Keough, 62, who waited outside the funeral home for more than an hour to catch a last glimpse of the man known to generations as simply "The Don".

Aussies go 1-0 up

Post-lunch storm blows hosts away

Cricket
AFP, Bombay

Steve Waugh's magnificent Australians thrashed India by 10 wickets in the first Test here on Thursday to record their 16th consecutive victory.

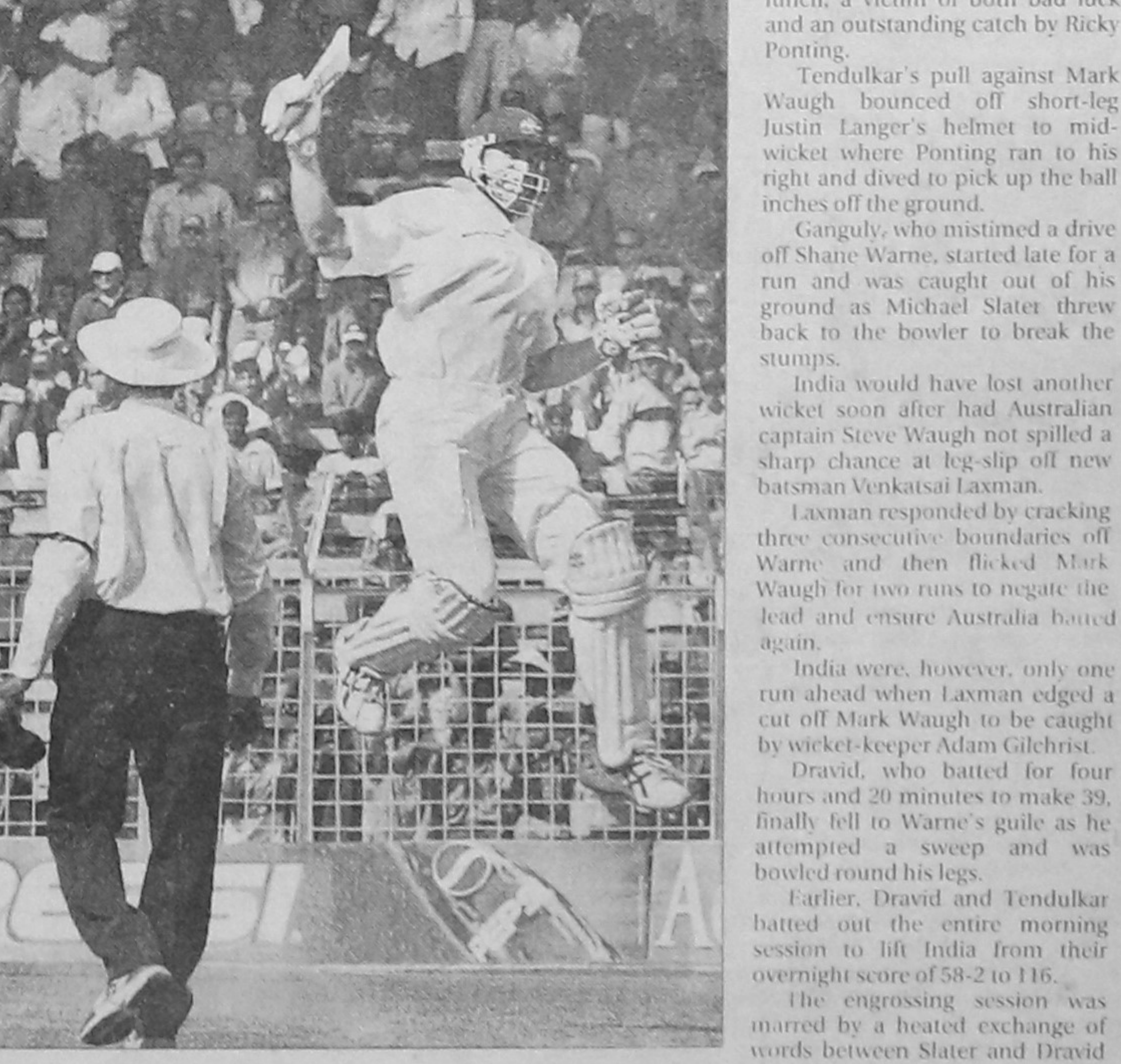
The emphatic win with two days to spare gave the tourists a 1-0 lead in the three-match series and brought Australia closer to winning their first series on Indian soil in 31 years.

India, trailing by 173 runs on the first innings, were bundled out for 219 in their second knock 25 minutes after tea on the third day.

Openers Matthew Hayden and Michael Slater knocked off the 47-run target in seven overs before a sell-out crowd of 40,000 at the Wankhede stadium, who jeered the home team for its abject surrender.

With pace spearhead Javagal Srinath having broken a finger on his bowling hand, the Indians face an uphill task when the second Test starts at the Eden Gardens in Calcutta on March 11.

India appeared to be putting up a fight when a 97-run stand for the third wicket between Rahul



Australian opener Mathew Hayden exults after hitting the winning run in the first Test against India yesterday.

First Test heroes rewarded

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Four national Test cricketers - skipper Naimur Rahman, Aminul Islam, Mohammed Rafique and Habibul Bashar, yesterday received cash awards for their brilliant showing in Bangladesh's inaugural Test match against India in November last year.

SA Malek, political advisor to the Prime Minister, handed over the prizes at a simple ceremony at the National Sports Council (NSC) in the evening.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, who is also the chairman of the NSC, and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

Aminul, who scored a magnificent 145 in the first innings of the Test, received a cheque of Taka five lakhs. Skipper Naimur, who took six wickets in the Indian innings, also became richer by the same amount.

It may be mentioned here that the efforts of both Aminul and Naimur were the second best individual feats achieved in a country's debut Test. Besides, Bangladesh's first innings total of 400 was also the second highest score by a country playing its inaugural Test.

Both Naimur and Aminul also received two beautifully carved gold plated crests from the Bangabandhu Parishad.

Left-arm arm spinner Mohammed Rafique, who took three wickets in the Indian first innings, received a cheque of Taka one lakh while Bashar got Taka 50,000 for his swashbuckling 71.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had declared cash awards of Taka three-lakh for a local player making a century and claiming five or more wickets during the historic Test. Besides, Quader had offered an additional Taka two-lakh from the Ministry of Youth and Sports for achieving the same feat.

The sports minister also declared cash prize of Taka 50,000 for a half-century maker and Taka one lakh for a player capturing three or more wickets.

READERS' ZONE

Views On BCB Election

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. Let your thought buzz at your corner, the Readers' Zone. - Sports Editor

I heard and read about dictator Ayub Khan's Basic Democracy. I have seen the way General HM Ershad was elected president of Bangladesh. I have also seen the referendum on presidential or parliamentary form of government during General Ziaur Rahman's tenure. But the February 25 election of BCB, in which I was a candidate, surpassed all of those.

On the strength of my credentials, both as being a former cricketer and an organiser, I became a councillor in my boyhood club 'Nabin Shanganu'. I grew up as a cricketer playing for this club. Having been persuaded by some of my friends (board members) to go for the Board of Directors, I launched my election campaign by meeting all of the Dhaka councillors in person. I thank them for giving me the time, listening to me and, on some occasions, treating me with a cup of tea.

I thought at that time that it was going to be a free and fair election. But the whole cricketing people of the country was shocked at the sudden declaration of thirteen directors (from the districts and divisions and the education and services quota), who won unopposed, thanks to the crooked game play of Jafar Imiah and his close associate Sheikh Nizam Uddin.

When this news was spread, I thought of withdrawing. But then I decided to go all the way with it since in my whole cricket career I had never given up till the last ball was batted. I decided to continue my canvassing alone but did not go or request the above director-makers of late. I met personally nearly 80 per cent of the councillors who supported me to do the election saying that people like you should be at the board. But alas! The above persons ultimately decided that who they would make the directors the night before the election.

Few very important things happened during that night.

1. They asked and accepted bribes in cash from the richer councillors of Dhaka. Some of them even reportedly gave about Tk. 10 lakh. One of the very active Dhaka club representatives was also involved in sharing the money.

2. Ministers made requests for

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DRU cricket

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) inter-house cricket tournament began at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University here yesterday.

Chairman of Luman Group Mohammad Lutif Rahman inaugurated the tournament. National Sports Council Director (Administration) Khondokar Anwar Islam Milu, Bangladesh Cricket Board Director Mahmudul-Haq-Manu were special guests at the opening function of the tournament.