



Did U Know?

One of the most astonishing bowling analyses on record was returned by RG Nadkarni in a Test between India and England at Madras in 1964. It read 31.27.5-0 and, according to reports, English batsmen said he was 'unhittable'.



Talk Turkey



Nasser Hussain
(England cricket captain)
"I was surprised how easily we bowled them out because I have the utmost respect for their batting."
After winning the first Test against Pakistan.



ESPN
UEFA Champions League
Highlights
6:30 pm
Sportscenter Hindi
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
Football Focus
Live at 12:00 am
Bayern Munich vs Valencia
UEFA Champions League
Final
Live at 12:30 am
Star Sports
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
8:30 am & 1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Live at 8:00 pm
England vs Pakistan
Pepsi Series 2000
2nd ODI highlights
11:00 pm

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 150
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
June 1, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards

- What was the result of the one-day international series between South Africa and West Indies?
6-1 5-2 4-3
- Who became UEFA Cup champions?
Arsenal Liverpool Alaves
- Who clinched the Standard Chartered National School Cricket title?
New Model BKSJ (Manikganj) High
- Who lifted the Premier Division Cricket League title?
Abahani MSC Biman
- Who holds the top position in the current FIFA World rankings?
Brazil France Italy

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

Steve says, no problem

REUTERS, Sydney
Australian Test captain Steve Waugh said on Tuesday he would welcome the release of the International Cricket Council's report on match-fixing, whatever its contents.

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Mixed bag over BCB move

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The announcement of the two-tier selection committee on Monday evoked mixed feelings among cricket fans and organisers of the country.

Though many believe that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken a wise move by giving full autonomy to the new selectors, but some observers seem to be critical about the nomination procedure and the prospect.

The first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors named Mainul Huq as chairman of the three-member selection committee for the national team. Tanjib Ahsan Saad and Asaduzzaman Misha were the other members.

Besides, the Board, for the first time, announced a four-member selection committee for the age-group with Tanjib Ahsan leading pack that also included Rafiqul Alam, Anwarul Amin Azhar and Nazmul Abedin Fahim.

But it was apparent that the BCB high-ups did not take prior consent from some of the selectors, for whom the job should no longer be a part-time one.

Asaduzzaman, a former national opener, was surprised to learn that he was named a selector. A dentist by profession, Asaduzzaman in his first reaction on Monday night thanked the Daily Star Sport for breaking the news to him.

Nazmul Abedin Fahim, the chief cricket coach of BKSP, was not even aware till last afternoon that he was made a selector.

Tanjib Ahsan was seen busy to reach Fahim through his cell phone. Once he got hold of Fahim, Tanjib was surprised to learn that his BKSP friend knew nothing about the whole affair. He only asked Fahim to read Tuesday newspaper before disconnecting the line.

It was also same with Rafiqul Alam. "I was not consulted," said the former national all-rounder, who apparently earned a demotion as a selector. Rafique had earlier served as a national selector.

Besides, a few have opined that the Board did not consider the amount of involvement for the job before appointing someone as selector. "Asaduzzaman Misha is a professor of the Dhaka Dental College and he also runs a private clinic. How much time would be

able to spare for cricket?" questioned an observer.

Mainul Huq was also brought under scrutiny. The former national all-rounder stayed in the United States for a long time after quitting the game. One even went on to cast his doubt about an unbiased selection by the head of the panel. Preferring anonymity, the councillor claimed that Mainul's nomination was influenced by his business partner Syed Ashraf Huq.

But there is no denying to the fact that Mainul has rich credentials both as a player and an organiser. The most positive thing about him is that he seems to be very keen about the cricket. He fought and lost in the last two elections of the BCB, but had never compromised with the non-cricketing opportunists.

Mainul had already met with his two colleagues at the Board office yesterday and discussed the prospect of announcing Bangladesh A team within a week.

He also appreciated the idea of giving full authority to the selectors. From now onward, the chief selector will announce the team without the approval of the board. The Board will only pick the captain.

Div I cricket to end June 5

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) yesterday reluctantly decided to complete the First Division Cricket League by June 5 in response to a instruction from the Bangladesh Cricket Board on Monday.

According to new fixture list, the nine remaining matches of the Super League would resume on May 25 and conclude five days later. Later, ten Relegation League matches will be played from May 30 to June 5.

Six teams -- Uttara Sporting Club, Young Pegasus, Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangstha, Azad Sporting Club, Orient Sporting Club and Gopibagh Friends Association -- are involved in the Super League while six teams -- Wari Club, Bangladesh Boys Club, Dhaka Wanderers, Eskaton Sabuj Road, Lalmitia Club and Indira Road KC -- are fighting it out in the Relegation League.

Following are the First Division Super and Relegation League tables:

Teams	M	W	L	Points
Uttara SC	13	11	2	22
Young Pegasus	13	10	3	20
Khelaghar SKS	13	8	5	16
Azad SC	13	7	6	14
Orient SC	13	7	6	14
Gopibagh FA	13	5	8	10

Teams	M	W	L	Points
Wari Club	13	7	6	14
Bangladesh BC	13	6	7	12
Dhaka Wanderers	12	5	7	10
Eskaton SS	13	4	9	8
Lalmitia Club	13	4	9	8
Indira Road KC	12	3	9	6

Div II cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The championship play-off of the Acme Second Division Cricket League between Jatrabari Krira Chakra and New Eagles was postponed at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday because of a heavy morning shower.

The match will be held at the same venue today.

Meanwhile, three of the four Third Division Cricket League matches were also washed out at different city venues.

Sussex Cricket Club won the day's lone match against United Cricket Club by 60 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground. The match was reduced to a 20-over-a-side encounter.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sussex CC: 140 for 9 in 20 overs (Sohag 30, Russell 25 n.o., Zitu 24, Faruq 2/20)
United CC: 80 all out in 11 overs (Nayan 38, Shishir 2/3, Nishat 2/27, Numan 2/33)
Result: Sussex CC won by 60 runs.

CJKS-Ispahani Div I cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Muktijoddha Sangsad and Abahani Krira Chakra won their respective matches in the CJKS-Ispahani First Division Cricket League on Tuesday.

Muktijoddha thrashed Andorkilla Krira Chakra at the Chittagong Medical College ground.

At the MA Aziz Stadium, Abahani defeated Elite Paint by five wickets.

Rajshahi div sports

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi moved into the final of the football and kabaddi competition of the Rajshahi Divisional Age-Group Summer Games at the Rajshahi Physical Education College ground on Tuesday.

In Wednesday's final, they will meet Dinajpur in the kabaddi final and Bogra in the football final at the same venue.

Meanwhile, the swimming competition will be held at the Postal Academy pond on Wednesday.



Federation Cup Football Tournament

First Round
Brothers Union v Bangladesh Army (4 pm)
Muslim Institute v Prantik KC (6 pm)

(Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Acme Second Division Cricket League
Championship play-off
Jatrabari KC v New Eagles (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

SOS for an AGM

Cricket

SYED ASHFAQUEL HAQUE

The much-talked about inquiry into the February 25 election of the Bangladesh Cricket Board finally died an expected death. And Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury along with his debuting directors virtually played its last rites Monday, sweeping the sorry inquiry report under the carpet.

How funny our sports administrators can be! Seeing a smiling Saber at the meeting it would be hard for anyone to believe that he once refused even to sit with the controversially elected directors unless their names were cleared by the inquiry. But he made a complete U-turn from that 'uncompromising' stance by sharing the same table with them and taking some important decisions even before seeing the re-investigation report.

A dark chapter in the history of the Bangladesh cricket was included when a few leaders of the district organisers' forum allegedly manipulated the BCB polls to raise funds for their organisation. Money, muscles and political tentacles had eventually dictated the fate of the polls.

With much ado, a three-man probe committee was formed by the Ministry of Sports on March 1 to pacify the concerned cricket fraternity. But, in the end, the top two bosses of Bangladesh sports, Obaidul Quader-- the state minister for sports-- and Saber, only reminded cricket lovers and observers of the old saying that promises are meant to be broken. Time and again they vowed that the probe would not become an eyewash as usual and that no culprits would be spared.

Although Quader ordered the re-probe, he at the same time let the controversial characters off the hook by telling that he found no hard evidence to abolish the newly elected committee, who are supposed to guide our cricket for the next four years.

There was a fervent call from cricket enthusiasts to annul the committee for the good of the gentleman's game. And up to a point, it appeared that Saber and Quader were sincere about restoring the battered image of the BCB by cancelling the election results. But here lies the irony for they do not have any authority to abolish the body of new office-bearers. Under the laws of the new constitution of the Board, neither the minister nor the Board president can terminate no matter how controversial the committee is.

Quader only can convene an annual general meeting of the Board and leave the matter to the 120 councillors.

Saber himself asked for this trouble when he, in the name of nationalisation of the game, urged the councillors to change the constitution of the Board in a high-profile AGM in Cox's Bazar last year. He got a big thumbs-up from the councillors when they voted for increased representation of the district and divisional organisers in the Board.

But little did he know what shock was in store for him. Through constitutional loopholes, a number of blackmailers and petty politicians got their way into the Board of Directors without having any cricketing credentials. These questionable characters immediately showed their prowess by manipulating the polls and polluting the environment for good, decent cricket.

Now question is should we let these culprits strangle our cricket? If not, an AGM should be convened as soon as possible. We would hope that the councillors would then respond to the need of the game and mend the leaks in the constitution so that no one without substantial experience of playing or organising the game can represent the Board.



A Mirpur Chalanika defender takes a fall while trying to tackle Farashganj's Jalaluddin, who scored two goals, during their Federation Cup fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Jalal fires F'ganj

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Striker Jalaluddin scored twice as Farashganj Sporting Club earned a 3-0 against Mirpur Chalanika Sporting Club in their opening Group C encounter of the Nilot White Cement 17th Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Farashganj led the first half by a solitary goal.

The experienced striker struck in each half while Mithu added the other goal.

The old-town out playing with goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharya and striker Maksudul Amin Rana, looked far superior than their Mirpur opponents in every department.

And it was Rana who set up the first goal.

The lanky forward, after receiving a long pass from the centre, ran down the right flank and

sent a neat pass to the unguarded Jalal who side-footed the ball past Chalanika custodian Kabir.

Chalanika themselves had two chances to equalise late in the second half. However, were thwarted by some brilliant saves from Bangladesh number two custodian Biplob.

Chalanika were reduced to 10-men early in the second half when defender Tuhin was sent off after a reckless tackle on Farashganj captain Askar Babu.

Farashganj took advantage by adding two more goals. First, Jalal pounced on a defensive lapse, and chipped the ball over the advancing Chalanika custodian in the 60th minute.

Then Mithu sealed the game with three minutes left on the clock. His right footer was too hot to handle.

VICTORIA-6, WARI-2

A Sohag hatrick propelled Victoria Sporting Club to an emphatic 6-2 win over Wari Club.

He netted in the 7th, 51st and 70th minutes. Sohag joined Rahmatganj striker Moni who scored the first treble on Sunday against Bangladesh Navy.

Rahel added two more goals in the 36th and 58th minutes while Makhul wrapped up the one-sided affair in the 87th minute.

On the other hand, Shipon and Royal reduced the margin for Wari Club.

Victoria will now face Farashganj in the Group C final at the same venue on Friday.

BRTC-4, BIMA-3

Away at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, BRTC edged past Sadharan Bima 4-3 in the tie-breaker.

The match was locked 2-2 in the scheduled 90 minutes.

BRTC next play Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the Group A final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4 pm on Thursday.

'Test C' ship system stupid'

Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

The World Test Championship introduced this month is "stupid" because every Test should count according to Australia's captain Steve Waugh.

The Championship, based on a model pioneered by cricket publication Wisden, was introduced this month to impose a clear league table for the sport at the top level in a bid to win back fans.

It will award two points for a series win and one point for a series draw but one-Test series are ignored and a 3-2 series victory is given the same weight as a 5-0 whitewash.

"I wouldn't think it ('dead') Tests going unrewarded" would leave it open to match-fixing, but I think it's stupid," Waugh told reporters at Sydney airport on Tues-

day. "We pride ourselves in every Test match being special and what's the point of playing if they don't count for anything?"

"They still count for our personal pride and the team. I must admit I haven't looked at the

championship specifically and seen how it works, but I'm surprised those Test matches don't count, they should count."

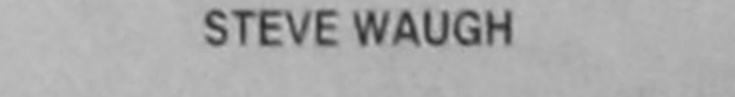
That's what it's all about, that's why you're the number one side, because you can perform I guess when other people don't expect you to."

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has drawn up a starting table based on recent results rather than beginning from scratch.

Australia recently won a world record 16 consecutive Tests and is ranked number one despite losing a series 2-1 in March in India.

The Championship, involving the 10 Test-playing nations, began with the England-Pakistan two-Test series which started last week.

Waugh said the packed cricket calendar might force countries to adopt four-Test series, rather than five.



STEVE WAUGH

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Refaat Hossain Rizvi Mithun (R), who won the Shamsul Alam Master Smriti Snooker Tournament beating Reza Pahlavi (L), poses after the final at the Narayanjan Club yesterday.