

Sultan speaks his mind

Football
SPORTS REPORTER

Newly-appointed Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan made it quite clear that some members of the BFF would have to leave.

"You all are respected persons in the field of football. But I may not be able to make all of you happy in the future," he told the 30-member executive committee during his first visit to the BFF office on Tuesday.

The purpose of Sultan's visit was only to make a speech but no discussions on a few serious issues like the preparations for the SAFF Championship.

The speech of Sultan adjourned the meeting saying he would talk about those issues afterwards.

When the BFF members reminded him of some emergency decisions that needed to be taken, Sultan pretended he was not aware

of the meeting's agenda.

But when general secretary Harunur Rashid said that it was he who fixed it, the BFF president turned a deaf ear saying he was not ready.

The unfriendly attitude of Sultan made those present believe that he was not ready to work with the present set-up.

"It seems he is going to dissolve the present committee," said a BFF official on condition of anonymity.

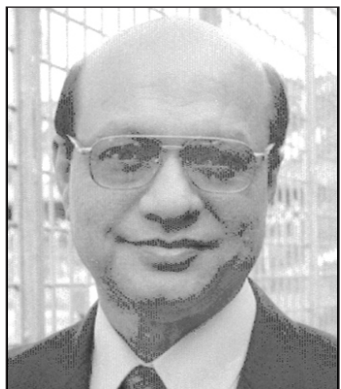
Insiders believe that the root of the problem lies in Harunur Rashid being general secretary.

Harun has been branded an Awami League mouthpiece.

Although Sultan was ready to open up about his dislikings, but his hour-long speech gave the impression of the kind of policy that the ruling party intends to follow.

He however assured the BFF executives that their financial problems would be resolved within a year.

Besides, he said that he would sit with his Bangladesh Cricket Board counterpart Ali Asghar to find a solution to the long-running tussle over possession of the Bangabandhu National Stadium.



SA SULTAN

"I only wanted to have just an introductory meeting and nothing else. I am not ready to discuss anything at the moment," he said.

U-15 cricketers off to Kolkata

SPORTS REPORTER

A 17-member Bangladesh under-15 cricket team left the capital last night on a 10-day tour to West Bengal.

During their stay in Kolkata, the under-15 team, led by Zishan Abedin, will play four one-dayers and a three-day match against the under-15 selection of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

The one-day matches will be held on November 6, 7, 9 and 11.

The first two and the last one-day matches will be held at the CCFC ground while the third limited-overs match will be played at the Chin Suri ground.

The tourists will have a rare experience of playing at the Eden Gardens, the biggest venue of the world, as the three-day match commences there from December 12.

SQUAD

Zishan Abedin (captain), Mushfiqur Rahim, Asiqul Islam, Nazmus Sadat, Sumon Kumar, Marshall Ayub, Mazharuddin, Ishrak Sonet, Mehdi Hasan, Shirhan Sharif, Sirajullah Khadem, Arif Reza, Rezaul Islam, Sohathi Shuvo and Abuzubayer.

Officials: Osman Khan (coach) and Ehteshamul Alam (manager).



Players and officials of the Kolkata-bound under-15 cricket team pose for a photograph with BCB president Ali Asghar (3rd from L, sitting) yesterday.

Deep ton, India ahead

Cricket
AFP, Mohali

India's makeshift opener Deep Dasgupta hit exactly 100 and Rahul Dravid made an unbeaten 78 to expose England's inexperienced attack in the first cricket Test here on Tuesday.

The pair put on 136 for the third wicket as India batted in fits and starts before closing the second day's play on 262-3 in reply to England's modest 238.

India, who lead by 24 runs with seven wickets in hand, are well-placed to build a huge first-innings score that may not require them to bat a second time in the match.

In an ominous warning to the tourists, master batsman Sachin Tendulkar looked solid on 31 not out after surpassing 1,000 runs against England in only his 10th Test against them.

Dasgupta, playing his third match, hit 15 boundaries in his maiden Test century before being bowled by Craig White soon after reaching the milestone.

The 23-year-old wicketkeeper, opening the batting here only because Sanjay Bangar had strained a leg muscle, stonewalled his way at the crease for five hours and 38 minutes.

Dasgupta, who plays for the same Bengal state as his captain Sourav Ganguly, was also used as a temporary opener on the recent tour of South Africa.

England paid dearly for a missed catch by Mark Butcher, who

dropped Dasgupta at first slip off Richard Dawson when the batsman was on 75.

Dravid, looking to strike form on familiar pitches after struggling against pace in South Africa, settled in to strike 11 hits to the fence.

With the wicket easing up, neither the seamers nor the slow bowlers were able to extract the same bite that fetched Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh five wickets on Monday.

White, however, kept the brakes on the Indians with 1-35 from 15 steady overs.

The Indians scored at a brisk pace in the post-tea session after putting the spectators to sleep in the first two sessions in which they managed just 126 runs.

The hosts, who made just 55 runs from 30 overs before lunch, added 36 more in the first hour after the break.

Television pictures showed bored spectators dozing in the mid afternoon sun as neither the batsmen or bowlers made an impression.

The runs dried up after Dravid was missed down the leg-side by wicket-keeper James Foster off Andrew Flintoff.

The foundation for a big Indian score was laid earlier by the unlikely combination of a makeshift opener and nightwatchman.

Dasgupta and Anil Kumble frustrated England by batting through most of the morning session as India went from their overnight 24-1 to 79-2 by lunch.

Kumble, who came in as night-watchman on Monday evening after

the fall of Shiv Das, occupied the crease for 112 minutes before falling against the run of play 15 minutes before lunch.

Kumble, who hit six boundaries, attempted to cut a seventh off Dawson and edged a catch to the wicketkeeper.

Dawson's jubilation at gaining his first Test wicket was understandable as five bowlers before him had toiled in vain to break the 43-run stand.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first cricket Test between England and India at the Mohali Stadium on Tuesday:

ENGLAND: First innings 238 (M Trescothick 66, N Hussain 85; H Singh 5-51)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 24-1)

Das b Butcher	2
Dasgupta b White	100
Kumble c Foster b Dawson	37
Dravid not out	78
Tendulkar not out	31
Extras: (lb-9, w-2, nb-3)	14
Total: (For 3 wkts in 101 overs) 262	

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-76, 3-212

To bat: V Laxman, S Ganguly, S Bangar, Harbhajan Singh, I Siddiqui, T Yohannan

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	19	7	48	0
Ormond	21	7	43	0
Butcher	7	1	19	1
Flintoff	19	4	49	0
White	15	4	35	1
Dawson	20	4	59	1

Umpires: Srinivas Venkatraghavan (India) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies).



PHOTO: STAR

Mercantile Bank First Division Chess League champion Bangladesh Biman's (L-R) Rani Hamid, Enamul Hossain Rajib, Ziaur Rahman and Reefat-bin-Sattar receive the trophy from State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman at the National Sports Council yesterday.

Nail-biting draw at Perth

Cricket
REUTERS, Perth

Adam Gilchrist smashed an unbeaten 83 off 109 balls to give Australia a fleeting glimpse of victory in the third and deciding Test against New Zealand on Tuesday.

But after two run-outs, Australia settled for a draw to retain the Trans-Tasman Trophy after being asked to score a record 440 to win.

At the close the Australians, who started the fifth day on 69 for two, were 381 for seven from 110 overs as the three-Test series finished tied 0-0.

Australia left-handed opener Justin Langer, with 320 runs at 80.00, won the man-of-the-series award and New Zealand left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori was named man-of-the-match after taking 8-229 from 79.4 overs.

His return of 6-87 in the first innings as Australia made 351 in reply to New Zealand's 534 for nine declared was a record for a visiting spinner at the WACA Ground in Perth, which is normally a fast bowler's paradise with its true bounce and pace.

The match ended in controversy as Zimbabwe umpire Ian Robinson gave two crucial not out decisions on the fifth day which could have cost New Zealand a first series victory over Australia for 16 years.

Australia number nine Jason Gillespie (one not out) survived a caught behind decision off Chris Cairns at 366 for seven after television replays appeared to show the ball glancing off the tailender's gloves.

Vettori, 22, appealed confidently

for a caught behind off Steve Waugh when the Australia captain was on 13 and Australia 203 for four, but Robinson also gave it not out.

Opener Matthew Hayden (57) and Mark Waugh (86), who shared a

stepping away to Craig McMillan.

Steve Waugh's match-saving, 226-minute act of defiance ended in freakish circumstances as he was run out off the deflection from Vettori's hand at the bowler's end



PHOTO: INTERNET

Australia captain Steve Waugh (L) and teammate Shane Warne admire the Trans-Tasman Trophy after the end of the third and final Test at the WACA Ground in Perth on Tuesday.

third-wicket stand of 78 in 102 minutes, gave Australia the foundation to chase the massive target as Steve (67 run out) and Gilchrist, who hit 32 in 10 balls at one stage, scored 95 in 73 minutes for the sixth wicket before the captain was out at 339.

Mark and Steve, with 47 centuries in 261 Tests between them, added 65 in 65 minutes for the fourth wicket before Mark played a loose shot

after Gilchrist smashed a short ball back down the pitch at 339 for six.

Damien Martyn (30) had been bowled by Vettori on the last ball before tea at 244 for five, putting the pressure back on Australia before Gilchrist started blasting his 12 fours and two sixes in an exciting finale to a series which began with two rain-affected draws and ended in another draw.

SEE PAGE 15

Captains discontent

Cricket
REUTERS, Perth

Australia captain Steve Waugh and his New Zealand counterpart Stephen Fleming both expressed disappointment that their respective teams could not force victory in the third Test on Tuesday.

Australia, set a record 440 to win, finished on 381 for seven with both sides having a chance to win the series deciding match. Adam Gilchrist struck 83 not out from 109 balls with 12 fours and a six while Waugh scored 67 run out.

"I'm disappointed we didn't win it, to tell you the truth," Waugh said. "We changed our minds a few times throughout the day. It was a tough situation because we were always on the brink, if we lost one more

wicket we were in trouble with the new ball coming."

Australia appeared to benefit from crucial umpiring decisions by Zimbabwe's Ian Robinson, who gave the home side the benefit of the doubt for two confident appeals for caught behind.

Fleming refused to comment on either decision.

"We went through the emotional roller coaster and came out the other side and now we just want to get on another day," he said. "We're very disappointed not to win the game but that's cricket."

"Adam Gilchrist is a very dangerous player. There was a part of me that wanted to push on and make him take the risk but the other part, the sensible part, said this is a dangerous time."

"I probably went defensive because I was concerned at how

good a player Adam Gilchrist was. "There was an opportunity to win the match but we also could have lost it."

Waugh said it was nice to know that Australia had narrowly retained their world number one ranking over South Africa, who start a three-Test series in Adelaide in 10 days' time.

"This Test match really felt like a big Test match," he said. "There was a lot hanging on this one. Our record was at stake and (the title of) the number one side in the world."

"If we lost today we would have lost that so there was plenty hanging on it today for us."

"We've just got to make sure we lift for South Africa. They're an excellent cricket side and if we don't play our best we'll get beat."

"The hunger wasn't quite as good as it should have been in this T e s t

SEE PAGE 15

Div 1 chess awards

UNB, Dhaka

Prize distribution ceremony of the Mercantile Bank Metropolis First Division Chess league was held yesterday at the conference room of National Sports Council.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman was the chief guest at the function and handed over trophies to the captain and managers of the league champions Bangladesh Biman, runners-up Titus Club and third placed Bangladesh Ansars.

The minister also distributed the prizes of the First Division and Second Division Chess Leagues from 1995 to 2000.

Chaired by Chess Federation vice-president Syed Aziz Ahmed, the function was also addressed by the managing director of the league sponsors Mercantile Bank, M Taheruddin, and Federation general secretary Syed Sujauddin Ahmed.

The new league champions Biman received cash award of Tk 20,000, Titus Club Tk 15,000 and Ansars Tk 10,000 respectively.

Founding general secretary of Bangladesh Chess Federation Prof Sharfuiddin Reza Hai received a special award for lifetime achievement.

Besides, Tk 6,000 each were distributed among those who finished 4th-16th in the First Division leagues.

Rajshahi sports

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Prottoy Club and YCSR won their matches in the Seventh Bir Shrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Cricket Tournament at the local Railway playground yesterday.

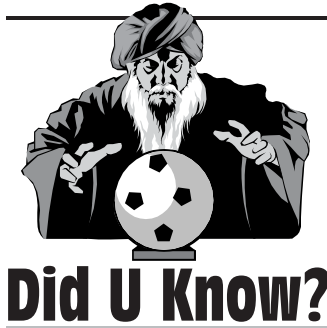
Prottoy defeated the Rajshahi Cricket Coaching School by 28 runs. Put in to bat, Prottoy scored 140 all out in 22.2 overs. In reply, RCCS made 112 for nine in 24 overs.

YCSR crushed Rana Smriti Sangha by seven wickets.

Rana SS batted first and were shot out for 70 in 22.1 overs. The winners reached the target in only 9.3 overs for the loss of three wickets.

DIV I SOCCER

Meanwhile, Abahani Krira Chakra scored an exciting 3-2 win over Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Rajshahi First Division Football Super League.



Did U Know?

Billie Jean King can lay claim to being the oldest woman to have received a singles seed at Wimbledon. She was seeded No 10 in 1983 at the age of 39yrs, 209 days.



What to Watch

- ESPN
- Bolton v Tottenham
- English Premiership
- Repeat at 10:00 am
- India's Greatest Moments
- India v New Zealand
- Sharjah Cricket Trophy-1998
- 12:00 pm
- UEFA Champions' League
- Arsenal v Juventus
- Repeat at 4:00 pm
- Sportscenter Hindi
- Sports News
- Live at 8:30 pm
- India's Greatest Moments
- India v Australia
- Sharjah Cricket Trophy-1998
- 12:00 am (Thursday)
- Liverpool v Roma
- UEFA Champions' League
- Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)
- Barcelona v Galatasaray
- UEFA Champions' League
- Delayed at 4:00 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

- Australia v New Zealand
- Day Five, Third Test
- Highlights at 6:30 am
- Sportsline Today
- Sports News
- 8:00 am and 12:30 pm
- Super Selector
- Cricket Programming
- 5:30 pm
- Sportsline Tonight
- Sports News
- Live at 8:00 pm
- World Cup Mix
- Football Magazine
- 8:30 pm
- Gillette World Sports Special
- International Sports News
- 9:00 pm
- Pakistan v Zimbabwe
- Sharjah Champions' Trophy
- Highlights at 11:00 pm



Talk Turkey

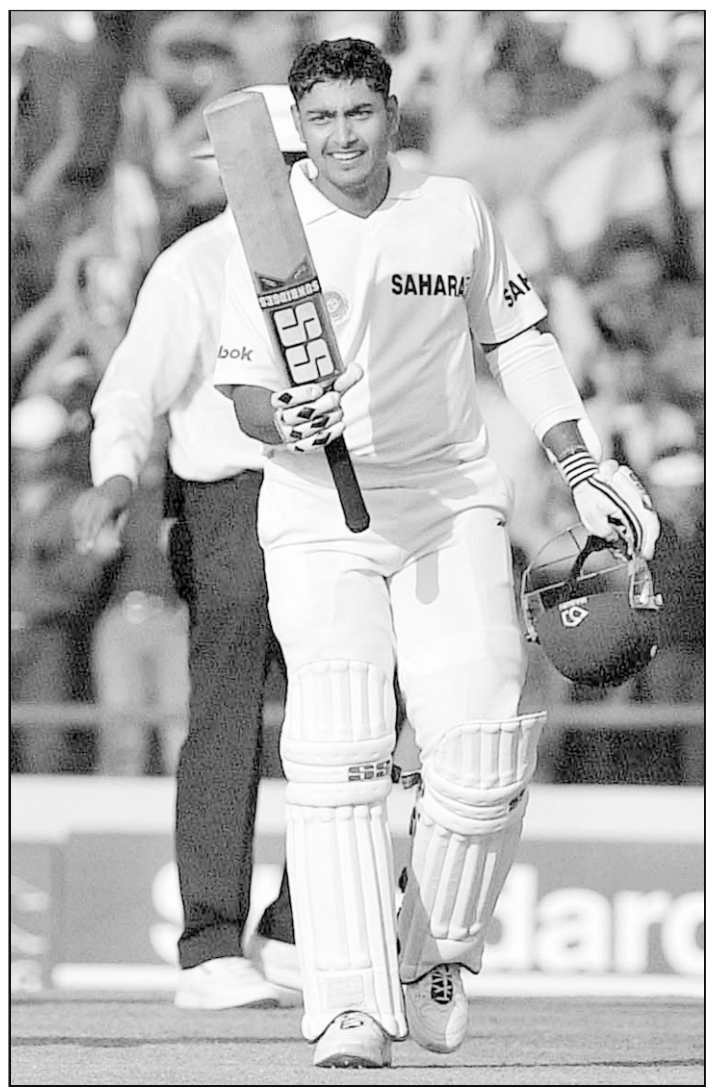


Marcus Trescothick (England's opening batsman) "We need to find a way to tackle Harbhajan Singh."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 162

Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 14, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards.

1. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe one-day internationals?	Al-Shahriar H Bqshar D Ebrahim
2. Who became Inter-Continental Cup champs?	Boca Juniors Real Madrid Bayern Munich
3. How many runs did Habib Bashir score in the first innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe?	117 109
4. Which number Test venue is the MA Aziz Stadium?	73rd 66th 82nd
Name	
Class. Roll No.	
School Address	
Phone: (If any)	



India's Deep Dasgupta acknowledges the crowd's applause after he scored his maiden century on the second day of the first Test against England at Mohali on Tuesday.

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Agrani Red blanked Sonarbangla 4-0 in the Randhuni Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

Biplob scored twice while Ripon and Jasim netted the other goals for the winners.