

BFF polls in April

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has allowed Bangladesh Football Federation to hold elections next April.

After a meeting of the AFC executive committee meeting on December 11, it was decided that the local football body would have to hold elections by April 30, 2003.

Earlier, the Kuala Lumpur-based AFC instructed BFF to conduct polls immediately after Eid.

However SA Sultan's BFF asked the AFC to extend the date as the National Sports Council (NSC) Act, which bars any federation to have an elected president, would be amended in the next session of the

Jatiya Sangsad in March.

The elections will reduce membership of BFF's executive committee from 31 to 21. Besides, BFF would also ask its affiliated members to send the names candidates 15 days before the election.

Although the outgoing councilors sought to complete their four-year tenure and even passed a resolution at the BFF's EGM on September 4, 2002, the AFC turned down their request.

"So, now there is no bar for me now to become a councilor and contest for the presidential post," said BFF president SA Sultan.

He hinted that he would become councilor from his club Arambagh Kira Sangha.

Talking to a group of local journalists yesterday, Sultan said the district sports associations and the

clubs who were affiliated the members of BFF should have the authority to change their representatives before any election.

He also revealed that BFF would request national coach George Kottan to carry on after his contract with AFC ends at the end of the month.

"We have the SAFF Championship next month. He has been working with the national team for the last couple of years so we don't want him to leave at the last minute," he said.

"If required BFF would pay his salary from their own fund."

The eight-nation regional tournament for the senior teams will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from January 10 to 20.

The Austrian is now supervising the residential camp at BKSP.

Teams go to Chittagong

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh and West Indies cricket teams leave for Chittagong today to play the second and final Test match. The five-day contest starts at the MA Aziz Stadium on December 16.

Khaled Mashud's men will fly to the port city in the morning while Ridley Jacobs and company will leave in the afternoon.

The visitors won the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium by an innings and 310 runs inside three days last week.

The Caribbeans also clinched the three-match one-day series 2-0. The first one-day match was abandoned due to rain in Chittagong on November 29.

Both teams practised at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Marlon at ease

When he first came into international cricket, you could tell by one look at his batting that Marlon Samuels was different. Facing the likes of Glenn McGrath, Brett Lee and Shane Warne on debut under the most hostile of circumstances in the 2000/01 series, the then 19-year-old Samuels stood tall while his other West Indian mates fell like nine-pins. The elegant ease with which he neutralised the pace and spin of the world champions and the abundance of time he had to play each shot even impressed one of Samuels' childhood heroes Steve Waugh, the captain of the all-conquering Australians. So much so that Waugh presented a piece of his 'good-luck charm', a torn red handkerchief, to Samuels wishing him all the best.

Waugh must have been proud when Samuels showed the world that 'gift' after breaking the hearts of the whole of India with a breathtaking 75-ball 108 to lead West Indies to a 4-3 one day series win at Vijayawada last month. Before that, Samuels had announced his intentions with his maiden Test hundred at Kolkata in the third Test.

The 21-year-old Jamaican right-hander, who has made his second entry into the West Indies side following an injury and form related absence, Samuels exudes class in everything he does on the field. Off it, he has his very own way of impressing as DAILY STAR SPORT'S RABEED IMAM found out during an interview with the 'cool man' on the eve of the first Test against Bangladesh.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): What kind of a person is Marlon Samuels?

Marlon Samuels (MS): A very cool person. I am always relaxed and easy going.

DSS: But you are a very attacking batsman. How come you are so aggressive on the field?

MS: I'm a naturally attacking batsman and you need the aggression to dominate in cricket. I like to play strokes and score quickly because that's the West Indian way of playing. But basically, I try to adapt according to the demands of the situation.

DSS: How did you become a cricketer?

MS: I was born in Los Angeles and later moved to Jamaica at a very young age. Fortunately there was a cricket club beside my home and I started from there. Also my brother Robert was an inspiration as he played Test cricket when I was 12 or 13 years old.

DSS: Who are your favourite batsmen?

MS: Steve Waugh, Sachin Tendulkar, Lawrence Rowe.....

DSS: Lawrence Rowe? You couldn't possibly have seen him bat?

MS: No, he retired before I was born. But I have a tape of his batting.

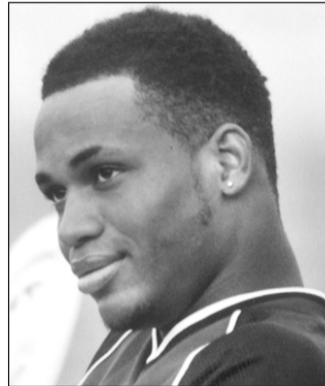
DSS: How serious are you about

your bowling?

MS: Cricket is no longer a one-dimensional game. Even if you're a specialist batsman, it's very important to know how to bowl. At the moment I'm extracting some good turn with my off-spinners and that's very pleasing. I take my bowling very seriously.

DSS: How does it feel to be a part of a new-look West Indies team?

MS: We have players like Gayle, Sarwan, Lawson, Collymore to name a few and the best thing is that all of us are very young. The prospect is really very exciting.



DSS: You have seen the Bangladesh side. Has anybody impressed you?

MS: Certainly. I think your number three (Mohammed Ashrafu) and the teenager Kapali (Alok) are quality players. They know how to take the attack to the opposition.

DSS: What do you do when you're not playing? Do you like to party?

MS: Well sometimes you need to do certain things to relax like going to parties. But when there's little to do, like on some tours, I prefer to stay in my room and maybe listen to music.

DSS: What kind of music?

MS: Reggae and Calypso. I also love soft music. I like to watch movies too, especially the 'Shakespeare in Love' kind of movies.

DSS: Who are your favourite actors and actresses?

MS: My favourite actor is Antonio Banderas and actresses are Jennifer Lopez and Halle Berry.

DSS: At the end of your career, where would you like to see yourself statistics-wise?

MS: My favourite scenario would be ten thousand runs in Test cricket and seven thousand in one-day internationals.



Did U Know?

The first Pakistan batsman to score a century in one-day internationals was Majid Khan. He scored 109 versus England at Trent Bridge on August 31 in 1974.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 27, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

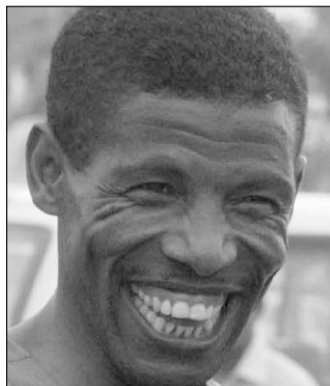
1. Bangladesh lost the third ODI against West Indies by:	86 runs	5 wkts	120 runs
2. Who won the 2002 Davis Cup?	Russia	France	Australia
3. Who was man-of-the-match in the first Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?	Lawson	Gayle	Sarwan
4. Who lifted the women's World Cup hockey title?	Argentina	Germany	Australia
5. Who was voted World Soccer magazine's player-of-the-year?			

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (if any)



Haile Gebrselassie (Olympic legend of Ethiopia) "I had a plan chalked out on how to break the world mark and I am very happy that I did it."

After breaking the 10km road race world record in Doha.



ESPN

Cricket Programming Super Selector Repeat at 9:00 am

English Premier Football League Man United vs West Ham United Live at 6:00 pm

&

Southampton vs Newcastle United Live at 8:55 pm

Primera Liga Villarreal vs Valencia Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DON'T SHOW UP IN CHITTAGONG! Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud (R) talks to West Indies fast bowler Vasbert Drakes during in between practice at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Both teams move to the port city of Chittagong today to play the second Test that starts on Monday.

Hasan slams first double

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Middle-order batsman Hasanuzzaman scored the first double century of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea fourth National Cricket League to ensure Khulna recorded a face-saving draw against powerful Chittagong at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

On the final day of the four-day match, the Bangladesh discard slammed exactly 200 as Khulna piled up a huge 415 in their second innings.

In reply, Chittagong, chasing an impossible target of 327 in less than a session, could manage only 104 for two in 28 overs.

Hasanuzzaman, in his eight-hour stay at the crease, hammered two sixes and 24 boundaries.

But his valiant effort failed to ensure any points as Chittagong ran away with two points by virtue of their 89-run first innings lead.

Both teams will play a limited-overs match at the same venue

today.

Away at the BKSP ground, defending champions Dhaka registered a three-wicket win over Barisal.

Dhaka, resuming on 85 for four and needing another 62 runs for

captain Khaled Mahmud chipped in with 27.

They now face each other in a one-day match at the same venue today.

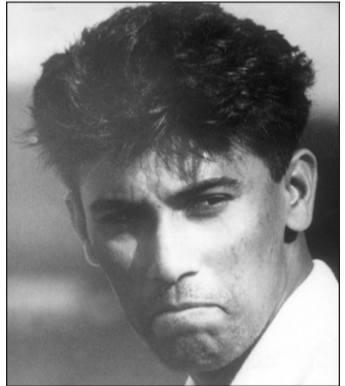
In the other match of the day, Sylhet avenged their four-day match defeat with a 20-run win over Rajshahi at the Fatullah Stadium.

In a low-scoring match, Sylhet, who lost the first-class game by ten wickets inside three days, scored 145 in 40.1 overs after electing to bat.

In reply, Rajshahi were shot out for 125 in 29.4 overs after former Bangladesh seamer Hasibul Hossain and Nasir Hossain shared seven wickets.

Hasibul, despite giving away 77 runs in his ten overs, bagged four wickets while Nasir who captured three for 12 runs from seven overs, was later adjudged as the man-of-the-match.

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HASANUZZAMAN ... 200

victory, took 23.1 overs to achieve the target.

One-down Jahangir Alam, who was batting on 33 at stumps of day three, top-scored with 66 while

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SCORES IN BRIEF

Barisal v Dhaka

Venue: BKSP

BARISAL: 196 and 274 in 91.4

o v e r s

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Div I Chess Biman blank Anu Memorial

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bangladesh Biman enjoyed a comfortable win over Anu Memorial Club in the First Division Chess League yesterday.

The star-studded national flag carrier team earned full eight points after two rounds.

In this round Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Abdullah Al Rakib, IM Enamul Hossain and Fide Master Rezaul Haque won their respective matches.

Second-placed Titus Club dropped half a point in defeating Sonali Bank.

GM Niaz Murshed, Arman Monir and Monir Hossain won their respective matches while Porag

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SA make 182

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts South Africa were shot out for 182 in 47.5 overs by Pakistan in the third one-day international at Buffalo Park in East London yesterday.

Earlier, the Proteas won the toss and decided to bat.

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar was picked to play in his first game of the five-match series. He missed the first match because of a one-match disciplinary suspension and withdrew from the second because of a sore knee.

Akhtar replaced Mohammad Sami in the only change from the side that levelled the series by winning the second international by 182 runs in Port Elizabeth Wednesday.

South Africa made two changes. Batsman Boeta Dippenaar replaced Neil McKenzie and all-rounder Andrew Hall was picked ahead of Nicky Boje.

The weather was partly cloudy with a chance of showers later.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA: Shaun Pollock, Graeme Smith, Herschelle Gibbs, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Jonty Rhodes, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Andrew Hall, Allan Donald, Makhaya Ntini.

PAKISTAN: Waqar Younis, Shahid Afridi, Salim Elahi, Yousuf Youhana, Inzamamul Haq, Younis Khan, Abdur Razaq, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar.

WHIZZ KID-185 winner

Mirza Md Sadman Samit (Nat'l Bank Public School & College, Dhaka)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on December 22.



PHOTO: STAR

I COULD BAT A BIT TOO! West Indies coach Roger Harper imparts some batting tips to Ramnaresh Sarwan during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mark foresees a spinning pitch

AFP, Wellington

Spinners will play a major role in the first Test between India and New Zealand on what has so far been a seamer-friendly track here, Kiwi opener Mark Richardson said Friday.

"I honestly think that the wicket will turn," Richardson said after hitting an unbeaten 83 to help New Zealand post 201-7 at stumps on the second day in reply to India's first-innings total of 161.

Fast bowlers have taken 15 of the 17 wickets to have fallen in the first two days on a fast and bouncy Basin Reserve pitch.

India's Harbhajan Singh was the only spinner to taste success, taking 2-22 off 13 overs.

"Harbhajan is going to get some turn towards the end," said Richardson, who compiled his 13th half-century in 21 Tests to prop up the New Zealand innings.

"It's good to play an off-spinner of his class. Daniel Vettori will be a factor when we bowl."

Richardson said although Singh would bowl last on the fading pitch, the New Zealand batsman were still confident of chasing a large total for victory.

"I think there is no reason why we can't chase a total of 300 in the

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India not far behind

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand opener Mark Richardson extended his impressive run with the bat as he slammed an unbeaten 83, but he failed to stop India from bouncing back into the opening Test here on Friday.

The left-hander, who scored 95 and 71 in his previous Test against the West Indies at St George's in July, struck 10 fours in his 13th half-century as the hosts reached 201-7 at stumps on a rain-curtailed second day.

New Zealand were only 40 runs ahead with three wickets in hand after bundling India out for 161 in the first innings on Thursday.

India were very much in the fray despite Richardson's brilliant effort as left-arm paceman Zaheer Khan and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh shared five wickets to prevent New Zealand from gaining a big advantage.

India had a chance to put more pressure on the hosts, but Venkatsai Laxman dropped Richardson at second slip off seamer Ajit Agarkar when the batsman was on 63 in a total 133.

Zaheer bagged 3-42 and Harbhajan 2-22 as New Zealand slipped from a healthy 181-3, losing their last four wickets for just 20 runs

on a day when more than three hours' play was lost due to early morning rain.

Richardson, 31, alone kept the Indian pace-spin attack at bay for a long spell and upstaged his more renowned team-mates with an innings of controlled aggression on a fast and bouncy Basin Reserve track.

He put on 66 for the second wicket with skipper Stephen Fleming (25) and 70 for the fourth with

Nathan Astle (41) before Zaheer and Harbhajan struck to restore balance.

Zaheer provided the crucial breakthrough when he surprised free-stroking Astle with bounce to have the batsman caught by Harbhajan at point.

Astle had been looking dangerous during his 98-minute stay at the crease, square-driving Agarkar for

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PHOTO: AFP

India's Zaheer Khan (C) is being congratulated by teammates after the pace-man claimed the wicket of Nathan Astle of New Zealand on the second day of the first Test in Wellington yesterday.

Bradman & Muralitharan

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Don Bradman and Muttiah Muralitharan have been named as the top Test players in history by cricket bible Wisden.

Its rankings of the 100 best batsmen and bowlers was published on Friday after an exhaustive analysis

of the controversy over the Sri Lankan's bowling action.

Bradman was followed by Sachin Tendulkar of India, Vivian Richards and fellow West Indian Gary Sobers - no mean bowler with 235 wickets as well.

Australia's Allan Border, with the most Test career runs with 11,174, was fifth.

Brian Lara of West Indies was the only other current player apart from Tendulkar at the top of the listings,

for consistency over long careers.

That attention to detail highlighted some fascinating issues. Tendulkar overtook Bradman's 29 Test centuries earlier this year but Wisden.com editor Steven Lynch pointed out: "Not one of his (31) centuries amassed enough points to break into the top 100 of the individual innings ratings."

Muralitharan, whose bent-arm action led to him being called for throwing in Australia in 1995-6 and 1998-9 and who still divides opinion among experts and opponents, headed New Zealand's fast bowler Richard Hadlee with England's Sydney Barnes, who bowled a unique brand of spin at pace in the early 1900s, in third.

Australia's Shane Warne came next while Courtney Walsh, the world record holder for Test wickets with 519, was 10th.

Lynch called Muralitharan "the lone wolf of Sri Lankan cricket", pointing out he had taken 45 percent of his team's wickets whenever taking the field. The next Sri Lankan bowler, Muralitharan's team mate Chaminda Vaas, was ranked 84th.

Muralitharan, indeed, with 437 Test wickets to date bowling a peculiar brand of wrist and finger spin, complained earlier this year while touring England: "There is so much pressure on me because I have to take all the wickets. I can't bowl a

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SIR DON BRADMAN



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

of every single Test match and is sure to provoke equally through debate among cricket fans.

While Bradman's batting supremacy was never in doubt -- no one has come close to his average of 99.94 -- Muralitharan's position is certain to attract comment follow-

ranked 10th, with Australia skipper Steve Waugh was at 16th and Rahul Dravid at 21st.

The list was compiled after every Test was analysed while taking such factors as the strength of opposition and the importance of each performance. Players were also rewarded