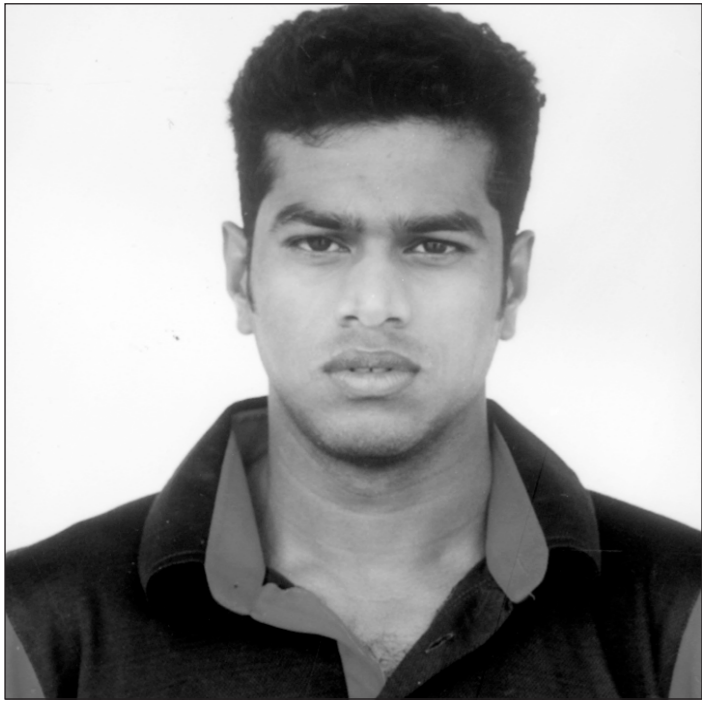


Kapali cut out for crisis



AL-AMIN

Looking back at the year 2002 that just went by, one can perhaps safely single out the ban on 'the health hazard' polythene bags as the best thing to have happened in the country. Albeit polythene eventually returned in poly-thick bags, but the always-divided nation was unanimous on this particular decision of the government.

Unfortunately, the government's role in the sports arena was mostly tainted with controversy that only brought shame for the country. The stubborn attitude of the government to send an elected body of the Bangladesh Football Federation in exile only drew FIFA ban in January.

Still, a few sportsmen unearthed their talents at the highest level with shooter Asif Hossain coming from nowhere to win the 10m Air Rifle gold in the Manchester Commonwealth Games. Asif's one-stroke brilliance was just another unexpected glory for the country, which is invariably known as also-rans in any international sporting

event.

Asif is no doubt the conventional choice for the sports person of the year. But The Daily Star Sport decided to go beyond the conventional choice. And it has enough reasons to do so.

For, young Alok Kapali forced us to pick him up as the best sports person of 2002 through his sheer consistency and unwavering commitment in the trying stage of his country at the top flight of highly demanding international cricket.

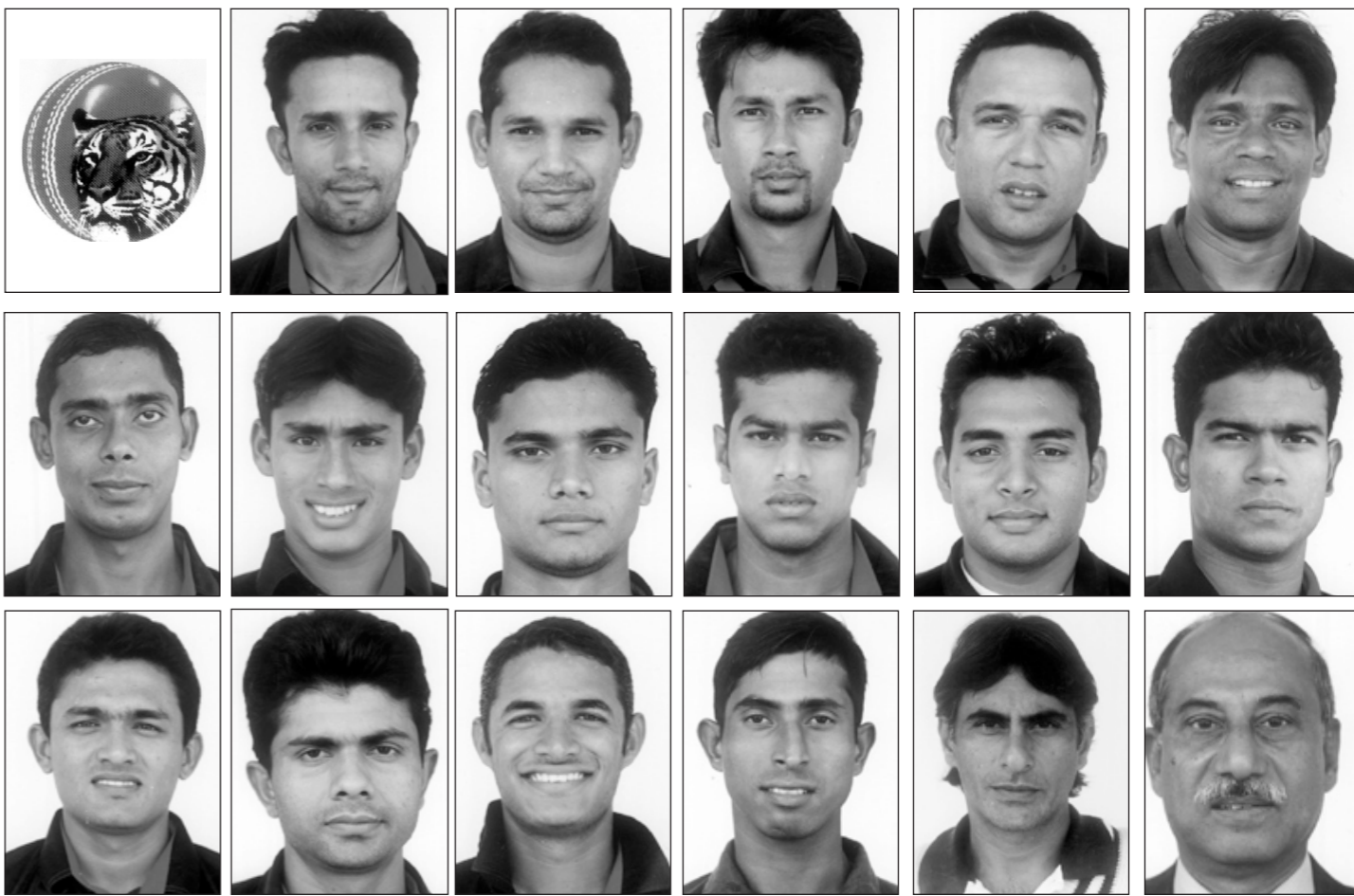
Kapali has also been the most improved cricketer in a year when Bangladesh cricket hit its lowest ebb.

The 18-year-old from Sylhet has already earned the tag of 'Mr. Consistent' in his short international career entailing five Tests and 11 one-dayers.

Kapali declared his emergence as an international prodigy in the home series against West Indies where he notched his highest

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THE WORLD CUP TIGERS

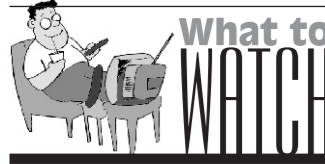


(Top, L-R) Khaled Mashud, Habibul Bashar, Al-Shahriar, Khaled Mahmud, Mohammad Rafique, (Middle, L-R) Monjurul Islam, Mohammad Ashraful, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, Alok Kapali, Tushar Imran, Hannan Sarkar, (Bottom, L-R) Ehsanul Haque, Sanwar Hossain, Talha Zubair, Taposh Baishya, coach Mohsin Kamal and manager Faruque Ahmed.



Did U Know?

Post the 1956 Games, about 40 per cent of Hungary's Olympic contingent chose to defect rather than return to their home country, invaded by the USSR.



What to Watch

- ESPN**
New Zealand vs India
Third ODI
Live at 7:00 am
ATP Tour World Series
Tata Open, Round of 16
Live at 5:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 9:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Newcastle United vs Liverpool
Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)
- STAR Sports**
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Liverpool
Taped Version at 12:30 pm
Football Asia
Repeat at 2:30 pm
Harsha Online
Crickit Talk Show
Repeat at 5:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



Talk Turkey



Ian Botham
(Former England cricket captain)
"I don't think there's any disgrace in admitting Australia play cricket on a different level at the moment and they are as dominant now as Clive Lloyd's West Indian side were 20 years ago. Those are facts of life."

Mongia added to India side in NZ

Left-handed batsman Dinesh Mongia will join the Indian cricket team for an ongoing one-day series in New Zealand after being named in a 15-member squad for next year's World Cup.
Mongia was on Monday pre
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Parting glance at 2002

It was a topsy-turvy sporting calendar as far as sports in Bangladesh was concerned. There were ecstatic celebrations, moments of hope but mostly, sighs of despair. Daily Star Sport's Hasan Masood tries to compile all the happenings of 2002 in a brief perspective:

JANUARY

January 1: Asian Football Confederation (AFC) gives an ultimatum to Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to reinstate an elected committee, which the Government dissolved on December 20, by January 5 or face a FIFA ban.

Bangladesh Cricket team return home after suffering a 0-2 Test series loss against New Zealand in New Zealand.

January 2: Pakistan cricket team, led by Waqar Younis, arrive in Dhaka to play two Test matches and a three-match one-day series against Bangladesh.

January 10: Football's governing body FIFA bans Bangladesh. The Zurich based governing body of world football imposed the sanction after the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) violated the FIFA and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) law that only recognises a democratically elected committee to run a member's football authority. FIFA also gave a condition that the ban would only be lifted once the elected committee, which the BFF dissolved on December 20, was reinstated.

January 11: Pakistan beat Bangladesh by an innings and 174 runs in three days in the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

January 18: Pakistan beat Bangladesh by an innings and 169 runs to clinch the Test series 2-0 at Chittagong.

January 22: Pakistan beat Bangladesh by 49 runs in the first one-day international at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

January 24: Pakistan beat Bangladesh by 74 runs in the second one-day international at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka.

January 25: Pakistan crushed Bangladesh by eight wickets in the third one-day international to win the ODI series 3-0.

FEBRUARY

February 4: The government reinstates the elected committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), a first step towards getting the FIFA ban on Bangladesh lifted.

February 7: AFC executive committee in Kuala Lumpur agrees to ask FIFA to lift the ban on Bangladesh.

February 11: FIFA lifted its ban on Bangladesh.

February 19: Mohammedan Sporting Club lifts the Janata Bank Club Cup hockey title with a 4-3 win over Usha Krira Chakra in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium.

MARCH

March 2: Dhaka emerge as new National Cricket League champions after defeating Khulna by 138 runs at the Jessore Stadium.

March 5: BCB announces Former Pakistan fast bowler Mohsin Kamal as the new national cricket coach in place Australian Trevor Chappell.

March 10: Grand Master Ziaur Rahman clinches the Professor Abdur Razzaq 28th National Chess Championship.

March 11: The 8-day long seventh Bangladesh games begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Around 3,500 athletes are taking part in 25 disciplines for 251 golds.

March 18: Seventh Bangladesh Games concludes. Ansars and VDP bagged highest 65 golds.

APRIL

April 9: Grand Master Drazen Sermek of Slovenia wins the White Plus GM Chess tournament at the NSC chess room.

April 22: BKSP lifts the Standard Chartered Bank National School Cricket Championship with a seven-run win over Comilla at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

April 29: Bangladesh qualify for the Asian under-20 Football Championship final round with a 2-2 draw against hosts Pakistan in the last Group 5 qualifying match in Karachi.

MAY

May 6: New national cricket coach Mohsin Kamal arrives in Dhaka from Pakistan.

May 17: Victoria Sporting Club emerge as the new Premier Division Cricket League champions with a 93-run win over Biman at the BKSP ground.

May 24: Mohammedan Sporting Club lift the Nitol Tata National Football League title with a 6-5 victory in penalty shootout against arch rivals Abahani Krira Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

JUNE

June 20: Former national cricketer ASM Faruque Ahmed appointed Bangladesh cricket team's manager up to World Cup 2003 in South Africa.

June 21: Abahani Krira Chakra win the Green Delta Premier Division hockey league title with a 3-2 win over Mariner Youngs Club at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium.

JULY

July 7: Veteran female table tennis player Jobera Rahman Linu enters into the Guinness Book of World Records for winning the national table tennis singles titles for 16 times.

July 23: Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by an innings and 196 runs in the First Test at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo.

July 28: Five Bangladesh athletes desert the 17th Commonwealth Games village in Manchester, England.

The second Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka starts at the SSC ground in Colombo.

July 31: Asif Hossain of Bangladesh clinches gold in the 10Metre air rifle shooting in the 17th Commonwealth games in Manchester, England.

Sri Lanka defeat Bangladesh by 288 runs in the second Test at the SSC and take the series 2-0.

AUGUST

August 4: Bangladesh lose to Sri Lanka by five wickets in the first ODI at the SSC ground in Colombo.

August 5: Sri Lanka win the second ODI by eight wickets at the SSC ground.

August 7: Sri Lanka lift the ODI series against Bangladesh 3-0 with a 58-run win in the third one-day international at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

August 11: The High Court suspends the activities of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) Board of Directors following a writ petition from one of the councilors Rafiqul Islam.

SEPTEMBER

September 4: An emergency general meeting of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) okays the new constitution prescribed by Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The new constitution will reduce the number of executive committee members to 21 from 31.

September 8: Bangladesh cricket team leaves the Sri Lanka to take part in the 12-nation ICC Champions Trophy that begins from September 12.

September 13: Bangladesh win their first ICC Champions Trophy warm up match against Holland by four wickets at the NCC ground in Colombo.

September 16: Bangladesh lose their second warm up match against England by 77 runs.

September 19: Australia trounce Bangladesh by nine wickets in their opening ICC Champions Trophy match at the SSC ground in Colombo.

Mohammedan Sporting Club win the Premier Division Football League title with a solitary goal win over arch rivals Abahani in the last

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Six cricketers getting salary

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday brought six national team players under its contract for the next one year. The contracts come into effect today.

This was revealed by BCB president Ali Asghar in a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The contracted cricketers are captain Khaled Mashud, Habibul Bashar, Al-Shahriar, Monjurul Islam, Sanwar Hossain and Alok Kapali.

According to Asghar, the Board is likely to include one or two more players on the list in a few days.

Out of the six players, the captain and his deputy Bashar have been offered with Grade A monthly salary of Tk 40,000 each per month while Monjurul and Al-Shahriar have been placed in Grade B with a salary worth Tk 30,000.

The remaining two are in Grade C and will receive Tk 20,000 each. Players who have played 61 or more one-day internationals have been considered for Grade A while players who played in 41-60 ODIs will get Grade B. On the other hand, who played in 21 to 40 ODIs will get Grade C while the rest will be put in Grade D.

BCB considered a Test match as two ODIs.

CityCell Youth Cricket Nilphamari, Rajshahi in final round

UNB, Dhaka

Rajshahi and Nilphamari emerged divisional champions in the CityCell Digital 22nd National Youth Cricket Championship beating their respective rivals at different venues across the country yesterday.

Rajshahi outplayed Rangpur by nine wickets at Dinajpur.

Rangpur were all out for 126 in 39.1 overs after deciding to bat first with Sujon making 25 and Bappi 23. Mamun took three wickets for 22.

In reply, Rajshahi reached the target of 127 runs for one wicket in 25.1 overs with Pappa making unbeaten 55.

At Rangpur, Nilphamari beat Dinajpur by three wickets. Dinajpur scored 127 runs in 40 overs after deciding to bat first with Mustafa and Sajju making 31 runs each. Sarfaraz captured three wickets for 26 and Hasu three for 21.

In reply, Nilphamari made 130 for 7 wickets in 38.3 overs with Sarfaraz making 42 and Imran 24 runs. Imran took two wickets for 11 runs.

At Mymensingh, Tangail defeated Dhaka by 27 runs as Dhaka were bowled out for 119 in reply to Tangail's 146.

At Comilla, Chandpur defeated Noakhali by 39 runs. Chandpur scored 141 all out while Noakhali managed 102.

Ctg, Khulna in the lead

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong forced Rajshahi to follow-on while Khulna took a substantial first innings lead against Barisal in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fourth National Cricket League yesterday.

On second day of the four-day matches, Chittagong left-arm spinner Ahsanullah grabbed five wickets as Rajshahi were bowled out for 154 in their first innings in reply to the port city side's 343.

Needing 189 runs to make Chittagong bat again, Rajshahi were reeling at 48 for three after 16 overs when stumps were drawn for the day at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Ahsanullah conceded only 29 runs for his scalps in 13 overs.

Ahsanullah was provided with able support by captain and off-spinner Sabbir Khan who took three wickets for 34 while Aftab grabbed the remaining two.

Opener Jahurul Islam scored highest 51 runs and was followed by Rafiqul who added 39.

While Ahsanullah was the wrecker-in-chief in the first innings, it was right-arm seamer Ashiqur Rahman who ripped through the second and took all the three wickets from his 5 expensive overs. He gave away 30 runs.

With seven wickets in hand, Rajshahi still require another 141 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Earlier, Chittagong played only 7 overs in the morning and added another 41 runs to their overnight score of 302 for six losing only one more wicket.

Middle-order Azam Iqbal, who started the day on 109, remained not out on 130.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Khulna, riding on fine half-centuries from Raju Parvez,

Sajjadul Hasan and captain Hasanuzzaman, scored 346 for five in 94 overs by stumps in reply to Barisal's first innings of 241.

Middle-order Raju made 84, opener Sajjad added 75 and Hasanuzzaman added 55 to help Khulna take a 105-run lead with two days to go.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards on the second day of the two Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fourth National Cricket League matches at different venues yesterday:

Chittagong v Rajshahi

Venue: Fatullah Stadium.
CHITTAGONG: First innings (over-
nights) 302-6 in 93 overs)

Nafees c Bidyut b Shafaq 7
Nazimuddin c Rafiqul b Aminul jr 8
Anisul c Sanchoy b Shafaq 9
Aftab c Shafiq b Murad 60
Azam not out 130

Faisal c Sanchoy b Aminul jr 28
Sabbir c Sanchoy b Nuruzzaman32
Ahsanullah run out 35
Extras: (b-16, lb-7, nb-7, w-3) 33
Total: (For 7 wks in 100 overs)343

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-20, 3-58, 4-111, 5-156, 6-237, 7-340

Bowler O M R W
Aminul jr 22 8 60 2
Shafaq 21 2 81 2
Nuruzzaman 18 6 55 1
Murad 7 1 29 1
Imran 20 2 62 0
Mushtaq 12 0 33 0

RAJSHAH: First innings
Jahurul c Mortuza b Aftab 51
Bablu c b Aftab 7
Rafiqul c Shafi b Ahsanullah 39
Nuruzzaman b Sabbir 4
Anisur b Ahsanullah 15
Bidyut c Nazimuddin b Sabbir 1
Murad not out 10
Mustaque c Faisal b Ahsanullah 0
Imran c Faisal b Ahsanullah 11
Aminul jr c Azam b Ahsanullah 7
Shafaq lbw b Sabbir 5
Extras: (lb-3, nb-1) 4
Total: (All out in 52.2 overs) 154

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Tribal football Easy win for Khagrachari

UNB, Dhaka

A fine hat-trick by Mang Ang Marma enabled Khagrachari to earn a comfortable 6-2 victory over Sherpur in the first-ever Tribal football tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Mang Ang netted four goals in the 2nd, 9th, 22nd, 24th minutes while Rimna Chai Marma and Shejimoni Marma netted the two remaining goals for the winners in the 48th and 14th minutes respectively.

Anthony Marma scored both the goals for the losers in the 58th and 75th minutes.

In the day's other matches, Netrokona blanked Borguna 4-0 at the same venue. Rifel, Prince, Probal and Timir scored one each for the winners.

Anwar back in Pak fold Akram set to play fifth World Cup

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's celebrated pacer Wasim Akram said on Tuesday he was "honoured" after being named in Pakistan's World Cup squad for the fifth time.

Wasim, 36, said he hoped to help Pakistan return to the form which won them the 1992 title earned them the runners-up spot at the last World Cup.

Seasoned opener Saeed Anwar was also named in the 15-man squad for the tournament in southern Africa, which starts in February.

"I am honoured and will do my best to lead Pakistan to Cup glory and make it a memorable swan song," Wasim told AFP.
Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva will

also be playing in his fifth World Cup. The record for the most

Wasim warned doubters not to write Pakistan off despite their



WASIM AKRAM

appearances belongs to former Pakistan star Javed Miandad, who played in the first seven tournaments after the event began in England in 1975.



SAEED ANWAR

recent slump in form.
"I have a feeling that Pakistan will achieve the best results and it's a balanced and experienced squad,"
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PHOTO: STAR
Chief cricket selector Aliul Islam makes a point while addressing a press conference to announce the final team for next year's World Cup at BCB office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.