

Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 29, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

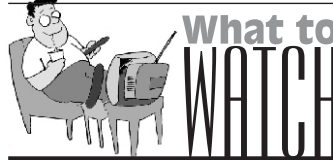


Did U Know?

First Russian chess federation formed in 1914. It had 865 members.



John Dyson
(Sri Lankan cricket coach)
"They've really struggled against us... we didn't even use our spinners in the last match. They'll have huge problems against the Australian attack."
On Zimbabwe's new team.



ESPN

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
Fifth ODI
Live at 1:20 pm
Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION 211

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

1. Who is Bangladesh's fastest woman? Iva Chumki Sabrina
2. Who is Zimbabwe's cricket captain? Taibu Streak Olunga
3. Name the man-of-the-series in the India-Pakistan Test series: Sehwag Dravid Kumble
4. How many runs did Brian Lara score in the first innings of the final Test against England? 400 388 380
5. Who won the Singer 30th national chess title? Zia Reefat Rakib

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

U-21 Asia Cup hockey Bangladesh finish sixth

SPORTS REPORTER

A last-minute goal shattered Bangladesh's hopes of finishing fifth in the Fifth U-21 Asia Cup Junior hockey championship in Karachi yesterday.

Bangladesh lost the qualification match for the fifth place to Japan 1-0, according to the Bangladesh Hockey Federation.

They ended with two victories -- the first against Sri Lanka (3-0) in the group stage and then Singapore (3-0) in the first qualification match -- in the 10-nation meet.

Earlier, Bangladesh shared points with China in a 2-2 draw in their opening match and lost 3-0 to Malaysia and 10-1 to India, all in the group stage.

Partex rattle ARAF

BEXIMCO win at last

SPORTS REPORTER



Unfancied Partex Group shot into a surprise lead in Group-B when they upset high-flying ARAF Apparels in their GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

Partex, who have only three cricketers with Premier League experience, eased to a six-wicket win with seven balls to spare. The defeat was ARAF's first in the competition after two wins.

Partex, who have now pocketed six points, courtesy of three wins in four games, brightened their chances of a super-league berth. ARAF and CityCell are two points adrift of the leaders.

In the day's other match, BEXIMCO finally tasted success after three abortive attempts when Sajjad Ahmed's magnificent 93 steered them to a four-wicket victory

against Aktel at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Both teams however are at the bottom of the table with two points.

PARTEX V ARAF

Ashraf Islam set the tone for Partex's upset win as they chased 218. The young batsman from Rajshahi scored a matured 51 not out.

Partex still needed 123 runs in 25 overs when Ashraf came in to bat at number four. The right-hander, who plays in the First Division league for the same side, hit two sixes and one four in his 55-ball effort and shared 55 for the unbroken fifth wicket with Rajshahi mate Rezwanul Islam Dola. Big-hitter Dola smashed 35 off 32 balls with the help of three hits to the fence.

Earlier, Test opener Javed Omar (34 off 62 balls) had put on 79 runs for the opening stand, which was dominated by Pappa Sharma who cracked six fours and one six in his 66-ball 47.

National stumper Khaled Mashud's ARAF had batted after

winning the toss but were restricted to 217 for eight with Mohammad Salim's 63 off 85 balls being the top score.

BEXIMCO V AKTEL

Aktel were brought down to earth just days after stunning CityCell when they failed to defend 221.

Masudur Rahman Mukul, a seasoned performer in domestic cricket, was the pick of the BEXIMCO attack with his off-spinners, taking 3-32 from 9.5 overs, while Bangladesh Under 19 left-arm spinner Nadif Chowdhury also chipped in with three wickets for 48 including a first ball dismissal of Aktel skipper Mohammad Rafique.

Opener Uttam Sarkar made a quickfire 57 off 63 balls with ten sweetly timed boundaries while wicketkeeper Anwar Hossain (49 off 66 balls) and Nafez Ahmed (45

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No new BCB advisor now

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar yesterday said that there was no plan at the moment to include another member on the board's advisory committee.

There were rumours that the BCB hierarchy was thinking of including Khondokar Jamil Uddin on the advisory committee after his increasing involvement in the board's domestic activities.

"No, we are not thinking anything like that right at the moment and it has never been discussed at any level," Asghar told The Daily Star Sport yesterday over telephone.

Khondokar Jamil is chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) and also heads the organising committee of the newly introduced Corporate Cricket League (CCL).

Asghar is now running the board with an 11-member advisory committee.

Futsal coming to town

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is going to introduce Futsal on its domestic calendar from next June.

Futsal, an indoor football competition involving five or six players a-side, is increasingly becoming popular all over the world since the FIFA, the game's world governing body, introduced it a few years ago.

The BFF has named its vice-president Golam Dastagir Chowdhury as chairman and Khairul Alam Masud as secretary to work out the details of the mini version of the sport.

"We will invite ten Dhaka Premier League and as many First Division clubs after the first round of the National Football Championship is over in the second week of May and hopefully start the competition from next June," said Masud to reporters at the BFF office yesterday.

The tournament committee secretary said that they had identified the National Sports Council (NSC) woodenfloor gymnasium and the Mirpur Indoor Stadium as two possible venues.

"Our first choice is the indoor stadium in Mirpur since it can accommodate about five thousand spectators. On the other hand, the disadvantage of the NSC gymnasium is that it has no stands," said Masud.

Masud said Futsal is a skill-based game since it is played in a small space.

"I think Futsal will be handy for our booters to sharpen their skills."

Although Futsal is yet to make its debut in the country, Bangladesh has already featured in an international competition in Qatar early this year.



RAINBOW IN THE DARK! England cricketers leave the field after a quick check of the pitch at the Queen's Park ground at St. George's in Grenada on Tuesday.

Faruque manager on Windies tour

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday appointed chief selector Faruque Ahmed as the team's operations manager for the West Indies tour.

The Board inducted Faruque after MA Latif Khan had reportedly expressed his non-availability for the Tigers' maiden Caribbean tour due to a shoulder injury.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) regrets to advise that due to ill health Lt. Col. MA Latif Khan (retd.) has withdrawn as the team operations manager for the tour of West Indies. The BCB is pleased to announce that convenor of national selectors Faruque Ahmed will travel on the tour as the team operations managers," said a BCB press release last night.

A 15-member Bangladesh team will leave Dhaka on May 6 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals against West Indies.

"I'm suffering from pain in my right shoulder since the Zimbabwe tour. Over the last few weeks it has aggravated and my physician has advised me against any tour. I had also sent my X-ray report to Dr. David Young in Melbourne and he had suggested an immediate surgery. That's why I have informed the Board that I would not be available for the West Indies tour," said Latif to The Daily Star Sport last night.

Known as a strict disciplinarian, Latif was appointed as Bangladesh cricket team manager after the debacle in the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

Latif recently came under scrutiny after he sent Mohammad Rafique home just before the fifth and final one-day match against Zimbabwe in Harare last month on disciplinary ground.

Rain ruins 4th match as well

AFP, St. George's

Heavy rain has washed out the fourth one-day international between the West Indies and England at the Queen's Park ground here on Wednesday.

Umpires Darrell Hair of Australia and Eddie Nicholls of Guyana decided that due to the waterlogged outfield and persistent rain, no play was possible.

England lead the seven-match series 1-0 after clinching a two-wicket victory with three balls to spare in the opening match at Georgetown 10 days ago.

The previous two ODIs at Port-of-Spain both ended in no-results. Only 16 overs were possible in the second ODI last Saturday and not a ball was bowled in the third ODI the following day.

The ODI series concludes with matches in St. Lucia on Saturday and Sunday, as well as Barbados on May 5. England won the preceding four-Test series 3-0.



GP Corporate Cricket League
GrameenPhone vs Gazi Tank
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Biman vs BCB Dev Squad
Venue: BKSP
MM Ispahani vs BADC Kirra Sangha
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Azhar not included

BCCI's pension scheme for ex-Test players

Cricket

AGENCIES, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a pension scheme for retired Test players and umpires.

Critics have long complained that the board does not look after its retired players, and BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya lived up to his promise of finding a remedy to this.

According to the scheme, as reported by the Press Trust of India, 174 ex-players and officials will receive a monthly pension of 5,000 rupees each which has been announced as part of the BCCI's 75th anniversary celebrations.

The scheme kicks into effect from this month, and will last for the duration of the beneficiary's lifetime.

It applies to all beneficiaries equally, with no distinction between a player who has played just one Test and a fifty-Test veteran, or between a well-off former cricketer like Sunil Gavaskar and an older

player who has fallen upon hard times. However, players and umpires who have played or officiated in only one-day internationals, and not Tests, are not part of the scheme as yet.

A notable omission from the list is Mohammad Azharuddin, who has played 99 Tests, but has been blacklisted by the BCCI. Azharuddin had received a life-

ban from the board on allegations of match-fixing, and his benefit purse, running into a few crore rupees has also been withheld.

"As far as we're concerned, Azhar has been banned by the board. He will therefore not be extended any benefits," Karunakaran Nair, secretary of BCCI, said on Wednesday.

"For the moment, he has been ruled out because he is fighting a case against the board in the court. The board will take a decision once the case is over," BCCI treasurer Jyoti Bajpai said.

"This also applies for the other players banned by the board." Former Test batsman Ajay Jadeja, whose appeal against his five-year match-fixing ban was upheld by a court-appointed arbitrator last year, has been included in the scheme.

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MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN

PCB body quizzes 'em

'X-rays shows Shoaib's fractured rib'

Cricket

AGENCIES, undated

Fiery Pakistani pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar had his rib fractured while playing against India in the decisive third Test, his brother said Wednesday, amid a probe into suspected feigned injuries.

"My brother appeared before a PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) medical commission and his X-rays proved that his 11th rib was fractured," Shoaib's elder brother Shahid Akhtar told AFP.

The top Pakistani paceman hopes to get a fair deal from the probe investigating whether he feigned his injury during the match in Rawalpindi this month, he added.

"As an obedient servant of Pakistan cricket, Shoaib appeared before the commission and now X-

rays proved he was injured, he hopes to continue playing for Pakistan," said Shahid.

Shoaib himself refused to comment on the issue, pending the

investigation.

Shoaib, along with wicketkeeper Moin Khan and all-rounder Abdul Razzaq, appeared Wednesday before the four-man medical commission formed to investigate excessive injuries in the team during Pakistan's 2-1 Test series defeat.

Shoaib, Moin and Razzaq underwent a series of tests in Lahore on Wednesday.

The commission, comprising leading orthopaedic surgeons and a panel of PCB doctors, is expected to submit its report to its chairman Shaharyar Khan next week.

The four-man commission will also look into the injury to pace bowler Umar Gul.

The body was appointed after suspicions were expressed by some cricket officials when the 28-year-

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SHOAIB AKHTAR

India given WC money at last

CRICINFO, undated

Jagmohan Dalmiya, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, confirmed that the International Cricket Council (ICC) had released almost the entire amount it had withheld from India in the aftermath of last year's World Cup.

While declining to comment on the exact figure, Dalmiya said, "We received the money last week."

The ICC had withheld 6.5 million dollars from India after the Global Cricket Corporation, which is the marketing rights holder for ICC events, had claimed damages based on the fact that India's players had signed an altered contract which they alleged played into the hands of rival sponsors.

It's estimated that 6 million dollars has now been released.

Dalmiya said that the decision was a vindication of the BCCI view that the money had been 'wrongly' withheld.

The decision was taken after IDI, the commercial arm of the ICC, took note of the negotiations with



PHOTO: STAR

Partex batsman Tariq Ahmed Ruben cuts the ball as ARAF's national wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud (L) looks on during their CCL match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Thank you, says Diego

Football

AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona on Tuesday issued his first public statement since frightening fans 10 days ago with severe heart and lung problems, which landed him in intensive care.

"Mr. Maradona asked us to express his enormous gratitude for the constant support and affection from the people and salutes the Argentine team, wishing it success in (Wednesday's) match against Morocco," a message released by the Swiss-Argentine Hospital said.

Maradona, 43, has been eating solid food since Monday, the hospital said, adding that the star was making satisfactory recovery from



DIEGO MARADONA

pneumonia, following his April 18 emergency arrival to the hospital.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Dalmiya's denial

PTI, Kolkata

Indian cricket board president Jagmohan Dalmiya Tuesday ruled out any plan to meet any official from the Abu Dhabi Cricket Control Board (ADCCB) on the proposed exhibition India-Pakistan match in the desert city and maintained that the board was still "completely in the dark" about the game.

Asked about reports that a top official of the ADCCB had arrived in India to meet officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Dalmiya said, "I don't know who is coming to or going out of India."

"But I can categorically state that I don't have any appointment with anybody," he told this news agency here.

Dalmiya also rubbished claims that he had spoken to ADCCB chief BR Shetty over the matter.