



Brazil are the only country to have played in every soccer World Cup.



Gazi Ashraf Hossain
(Former nat'l cricket captain)
"A captain should have the power to place his arguments on the selection table because without that he can't motivate his side on the field and make any plan for the next"

What to WATCH

TEN Sports
Sri Lanka Tri-Series
India vs West Indies
Second ODI
Live at 2:30 pm

DAY'S EVENT

Premier Football League
Mohammedan vs YMC Club (5:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Active chess title Rakib's

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib became champion in the Dr Quazi Motahar Hussain Active Chess Tournament. He earned six points to clinch the title on Friday. Aminul Islam Polash finished runner-up with five-and-a-half points while FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed was third. As eight players bagged five points each so a tiebreaker was used to determine their final places. The day-long seven-round tournament was organised to mark the 108th birth anniversary of founder of Bangladesh Chess Federation late Dr Quazi Motahar Hussain.

BCB violates its constitution?



SPORTS REPORTER

The build-up for elections in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) got off to a chaotic start on Saturday when the most demanding sports federation of the country announced a list of ten former national team players as councilors for polls under a new constitution.

The selected cricketers are -- Shamim Kabir, ASM Faruque, ASM Roquibul Hassan, Jahingir Shah Badsha, Dipu Rai Chodhury, Omer Khalid Rumi, Wahidul Gani, Azhar Hossain Shantoo, Jahingir Alam Talukdar Dulu and Shahidul Rahman.

The list is an outcome of a recent meeting between some former national cricketers and Board president Ali Asghar, who recently won a court verdict to hold elections in the BCB after a long battle with the deposed directors.

The inclusion of former national cricketers as councilors in the approved Constitution 2003 (which is yet to be made public by the National Sport Council) is an welcome revelation in an otherwise

regressive formula that every sports federation has been complying with over the years.

But the manner in which the cricketers have been selected as councilors clearly violated the new BCB constitution. Clause 9 (13) of the constitution reads 'that the former national cricketers would select ten persons among them' in the panel of 160 councilors.

At the moment there are about 120 cricketers who have donned the national cap but unfortunately they don't have a valid organisation. The only legitimate body now in existence is the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) which is a body comprising active and non-playing cricketers. CWAB however can nominate a councilor.

But the non-existence of such organisation for the select group of players prompted the Board president to take the responsibility of nominating the ex-national cricketers, which is clearly not a democratic norm and the chosen set has already raised a few eyebrows.

If someone studies the list he or she would be amazed to see that a particular generation of cricketers have been totally overlooked. There is hardly anybody to argue the contri-

butions that Akram Khan, Aminul Islam, Minhazul Abedin, Gazi Ashraf Hossain made to country's cricket. But they have been ignored despite the fact that they laid the foundations in Bangladesh's elevation to the Test family and are very much involved with cricket affairs still today.

Besides, the cricketers should have been allowed to choose their representatives in a democratic manner. The Board president said that he took up the matter to avoid complicating the electoral process.

But if it was true that the constitution was passed in 2003 then why it was not disclosed earlier? Had it been published earlier the cricketers could have easily sat together and launched an organisation?

Cynics believe that the selection of councilors is nothing but an attempt to entertain political motives sacrificing merit.

And even before the 160 councilors exercise their votes to elect 28 members in a 31-member executive committee including a general secretary, four vice-presidents, two joint-secretaries, a treasurer and 20 members democracy is going to be the first victim?

Bangladesh to play in Afro-Asia U-19 cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 team will take part in the Afro-Asian tournament to be held in Vishakhapatnam, India in November.

Hosts India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe are the other teams in the under-19 competition.

Bangladesh will play their first match on November 17 against Sri Lanka followed by games against India (Nov 19), Zimbabwe (Nov 20) and Pakistan (Nov 21).

The final takes place on November 25.

QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

Asif to light torch Sept 18

UNB, Dhaka

Manchester Commonwealth Games gold-winning shooter Asif Hossain Khan will light the torch prior to the ceremonial Queen's Baton Relay here on September 18 marking the Melbourne Commonwealth Games'2006.

Two other gold-winning Bangladesh shooters of the Auckland Commonwealth Games in 1990 -- Atiqur Rahman and Abdus Sattar Nini -- will be invited to officially receive the Queen's Baton from the Games organiser at a function at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The decision was taken Saturday in the first meeting of the Queen's Baton Relay Organising Committee at the BOA conference room. The BOA will arrange the Relay ahead of the 28th Commonwealth Games to be held in Melbourne on March 15-26 next year.

The Queen's Baton, which started its journey from Buckingham Palace in London on March 14 this year, will reach Dhaka on September 17, accompanied by a five-member team of Games officials.

School kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Kallyanpur Government Primary School registered a massive 64-15 victory over Mothertek Government Primary School to move into the quarterfinals of the Mini Kabaddi tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Ibrahimpur Govt Primary School beat Nidhu Smriti Govt Primary School 69-14 while Kutubkhali Dagukhan Govt Primary School recorded a hard fought 70-61 victory Prierbagh Govt Primary School.

Indian viewers miss action

PTI, New Delhi

Public broadcaster Prasar Bharti Saturday failed to wrest co-telecast rights from Ten Sports for the tri-nation cricket series in Sri Lanka, leaving its viewers with only match highlights.

Prasar Bharati, which tried its best to acquire co-telecast rights, failed in its bid with Ten Sports finally managing to keep the matches in its exclusive domain.

"We will be telecasting the highlights of all the matches for 90 minutes on the day of the match and repeating the same the next morning," Prasar Bharati CEO K S Sarma told PTI here after a marathon-meeting with top Ten Sports officials.



Sheikh Russel's Bulbul (R) evades the challenge of Abahani custodian Nizam on his way to scoring during their Premier Division football league encounter on Saturday.

Abahani owe it to Tipu

SPORTS REPORTER



Shahajuddin Tipu rolled back the years and earned Abahani a fortuitous 2-1 victory, their first after three matches, against Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra in the Premier Division football league on Saturday.

Russel, runners up last year, had stretched their big brothers throughout the match but were undone by two fatal moments of indiscretion from custodian Apel inside the last ten minutes.

Striker Bulbul had given Russel a deserving lead in the 20th minute but Tipu, whose wonder-strike had ousted India in the semifinal and written the script for Bangladesh's 1999 SAF Games triumph, grabbed an equaliser in the 80th minute and then struck the decider at the stroke of the final whistle.

The outcome helped Abahani keep their fleeting challenge alive.

They are in fourth place with 19 points from 11 matches, eight adrift of leaders Mohammedan. Russel remained in fifth place with 15 points from the same number of outings.

Abahani were without inspirational midfielder and captain Joy who was still serving a ban. But they were boosted by the return of three key players Ndem, Abdullah Parvez and Tipu in the match.

However, Russel were making all the running and kept up the pressure on their opponents from the very beginning.

Bulbul spoiled a sure chance in the eighth minute when he found himself unmarked but headed the ball wide. But he made no mistakes 12 minutes later.

The shaky Abahani defense allowed the marksman to race into the danger area and he went past Nizam before slotting the ball home with a left-footed placing shot.

The first half could have been more rewarding for Russel but their

Moroccan striker Majid spoiled two golden chances.

It was a same pattern in the second half also as Abahani were found clueless in front of the goal and also at the back. But Russel muffed chance after chance and Abahani's experience made the youthful side pay dearly.

They conceded the first goal following a misunderstanding between Apel and defenders Zahirul and Deen Mohammad. All three went for the ball after Ujjal had lobbed in the area although Apel could have avoided the confusion by staying on his line. Instead they hesitated and Tipu pounced on the loose ball and ran past the baffled trio before scoring.

The second goal was almost a replay of the first. Apel again advanced and then froze and created a dilemma in Deen Mohammad and Tipu, lurking nearby, wasn't going to show any mercy.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Target Giles



AGENCIES, undated

John Buchanan has revealed Australia's plan to hit spinner Ashley Giles out of the England attack -- and pile a greater workload on to the main two strike bowlers in Steve Harmison and Andrew Flintoff during the Ashes series.

The Australia coach believes that Harmison and Flintoff having to bowl more overs than is desirable could start to take its toll by the end of the five Tests in mid September.

Giles -- a major part of England's success during the past two years -- has been earmarked for a key role in containing the Australian batsmen and also in allowing the pace attack

to take a breather.

But the Warwickshire player sent down only 11 overs for 56 runs in the second innings of Australia's crushing 239 run victory at Lord's while Harmison and Flintoff bowled 27 overs apiece.

Buchanan told PA Sport: "We played Giles reasonably well in the first Test. He didn't bowl a lot of overs whereas in the end Harmison and Flintoff had to bowl 27 overs each in that second innings.

"Giles is a key strategy in their cog of containing but also resting their impact bowlers and therefore, if he is not allowed to do the containing work, it is unlikely he will stay at the crease which means they need to bring back their impact bowlers.

"That's how it happened in the second innings. The longer the innings we can play, then potentially

a higher percentage of overs will come from the quicker bowlers and less so from the likes of Giles, Vaughan or Bell.

"We didn't necessarily tax Giles too heavily but he was going for around five an over. We understand his role and if we can erode that role, that is going to be pretty important in the context of the whole series, not just now.

"Will it wear out Flintoff and Harmison? Certainly the more that Flintoff and Harmison have to bowl in an innings, the harder it is for them to back up during the course of an innings, then the course of the next innings and if it is back to back Tests.

"It doesn't take a lot to work out that the more we can get them bowling and keep them bowling, the better during the course of five Tests in quick succession."



PHOTO: AFP

Indian opener Virender Sehwag's off-stump is uprooted by Sri Lankan paceman Farveez Maharoof in the opening tri-series match in Colombo on Saturday.

BBC ONLINE, Dambulla



Sanath Jayasuriya shrugged off a shoulder dislocation on Saturday to lead Sri Lanka to a tense three-wicket victory over India in the first match of the Indian Oil Cup triangular one-day series.

Muttiah Muralitharan and debutant Dilhara Lokuhettige both bowled well to restrict India to 205-9.

But Jayasuriya, who popped his shoulder in the field and batted down at number six, had to hold the tail together after Sri Lanka slipped to 112-5.

His unbeaten 38 off 47 balls saw Sri Lanka home with 10 balls to spare.

And they had three wickets in hand as Farveez Maharoof hit an important 23 not out in an unbroken partnership of 37 for the eighth wicket.

India won the toss and opted to bat in the curtain-raiser of the tri-series, which also features a weakened West Indies.

But without Sourav Ganguly or Sachin Tendulkar available, India were not at full strength either and they struggled with only Rahul Dravid (54) the only batsman in the top six to play any sort of innings.

Muralitharan took 3-33 while opening bowler Lokuhettige had 2-31.

Sri Lanka were without bowlers Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa, but Lokuhettige picked up the mantle by bowling Mahendra Dhoni for two and dismissing Yuvraj Singh for 12.

Muralitharan's first wicket came when he removed one of two Indian debutants, Suresh Raina, lbw for a