

## BCB ELECTIONS

# 64 nominations filed

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The nation on Wednesday was terror-struck after synchronised bomb blasts across the country but it somehow failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the aspiring candidates for the August 27 elections of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

The day was fixed for submission of nomination papers for 28 posts of the most lucrative federation and as many as 64 nomination papers were submitted. The luckiest among them was Afzalur Rahman Sinha, who is the lone candidate for the post of treasurer. Sinha, a leading businessman, has been holding the most sensitive post for a long time.

But there were as many as four candidates for the post of general secretary. Mahabubul Anam is certainly the popular choice among them. But the councilor from Mohammedan Sporting Club, who has apparently got the blessings from the District Sports Forum, is set to face the challenge from another pro-establishment candidate and BNP lawmaker Shah Nurul Kabir

Shaheen.

Mahmudul Haq Manu, a former joint-secretary of the BCB, is the other significant contestant for the most demanding post. But Manu's involvement in the election was more of token representations from the deposed board of directors rather than any serious concern.

Kazi Tabarukul Islam Arif is the other aspirant for the post. The Nabin Sangha councilor might have little credentials in the cricket fraternity, but he tried his best to make his presence felt. He appeared at the National Sports Council (NSC) to submit his nomination paper accompanied by a colourful band party.

An enthusiastic Arif has also submitted a separate nomination paper to contest for the post of two joint-secretaries.

Like Arif, Shaheen has also submitted two nomination papers. The GMCC councilor however wanted a vice-president post as an alternative option.

"I've got the green signal from high-ups to contest for the general secretary post and I'm confident about my success. There is no chance of withdrawing," said Shaheen. But he did not disclose the identity of his 'high-up' nor did he

explain the reason for submission of another nomination paper for the post of vice-president.

Mahbub however believes that there is still time to see some withdrawal on August 20.

"We have another two more days and I think it is not all over yet to reach a consensus," said the bearded former cricketer and an influential cog of the just defunct advisory council of Board president Ali Asghar.

While Shaheen actions are deceiving there was however no doubt about the dissatisfaction of another advisor Aziz Al Kaiser Titoo.

Titoo, who was offered the post of a member in the 31-man executive committee, has decided to contest for the vice-president post.

"There is no scope for me to accept a member's post after being associated in the development of cricket for last few years. I'm determined to contest for the vice-presidents post and I'm confident that the councilors will justify my decision," said Titoo.

Khodokar Jamil Uddin, Shafiqur Rahman Munna, Gazi Golam Dashtagir Chowdhury, Golam Rasul

## Not the birthday Bashar wished

**SPORTS REPORTER**

There were no smiles on Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar's face who turned 33 yesterday.

The day began like any other for him and his teammates at the Mirpur indoor facilities. But the happy Bashar was soon horrified to learn of a series of bomb blasts all over the country.

"While we were on way to the Army Stadium to complete our second session of training, my wife rang to know whether I was alright," said Bashar.

The country's premier batsman condemned the attacks saying it would bring shame to the image of Bangladesh abroad.

"I'm absolutely shocked and dismayed. The incident will certainly damage our image in the eyes of the world. Now everybody will try to brand Bangladesh as a fundamentalist state, which I find hard to accept.

"We have to face a barrage of questions about Bangladesh wherever we tour. There is no language that can express the outrage I am feeling after such a barbaric attack," said Bangladesh skipper.

Though his thoughts were elsewhere, Bashar wished that he was able to serve the Tigers for another three years.

## Sachin unsure of Zim Tests

**AFP, Mumbai**

Indian batting star Sachin Tendulkar Wednesday said he was recovering from an elbow injury and did not know if he would be fit for next month's Test series against Zimbabwe.

"I can't say for sure whether I will be able to play against Zimbabwe but am recovering well and hope to take the field soon," said the former India captain.

India will start a month-long tour of Zimbabwe next week during which they will play a tri-series also featuring New Zealand, to be followed by two Tests against Zimbabwe from September 13.

Tendulkar has not been picked for the one-dayers because of the injury but has been named in a 15-member Test squad subject to fitness.

"I have started practising a little and the next step is to increase the load," said Tendulkar. "A long-term plan is more important so I will not be worried if it takes a couple of weeks more."

Tendulkar underwent surgery in London in May after being troubled by 'tennis elbow' over the past year, forcing him to miss several one-dayers and two home Tests against Australia.

Tendulkar is the fourth-highest scorer in Test cricket with 10,134 runs in 123 matches and has the highest aggregate in one-dayers with 13,642 runs in 348 matches, including a record 38 centuries.

He is also on the verge of smashing compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's record of Test centuries with both players having 34 tons against their names.

## Rise in pay for Younis, Afridi

**REUTERS, Karachi**

Pakistani vice-captain Younis Khan and all-rounder Shahid Afridi have been given pay raises by the country's cricket board, putting them in a group of six contracted players receiving the highest salaries.

The one-year contracts offered last month by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to a total of 20 players award the elite group a monthly salary of 200,000 rupees (3,352 dollars) on top of match and tour fees.

"Younis and Afridi have performed outstandingly since last winter and deserved this promotion," PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan told this news agency on Wednesday.

The two join captain Inzamamul Haq, Yousef Youhana, Shoaib Akhtar and Abdul Razaq as the highest paid performers.

Younis has appeared in 37 Test matches and 118 one-day internationals, scoring three centuries in his last four Tests.

The flamboyant Afridi, who has played in 208 one-dayers and 19 Tests, scored the second fastest hundred in one-day history against India in April.

Pakistan started awarding central contracts to its players last November in a bid to maintain a close watch on their fitness levels and discourage them from playing abroad in the off-season.

Shaharyar added that other consistent performers had also been given pay rises and new contracts, which are divided into three categories.

The second tier group receive a monthly salary of 125,000 rupees and those in the third get 75,000.



Mohammedan's Alfaz Ahmed (No 9) scoring his side's first goal against Farashganj Sporting Club during their Premier Bank Premier Football League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

## Alfaz gets MSC back on track

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Ace striker Alfaz Ahmed scored one goal and set up the other as title contenders Mohammedan Sporting Club squeezed out a 2-1 victory over Farashganj Sporting Club when the Premier Division Football League resumed after a four-day stoppage on Wednesday.

Before the start of the match, there were nervous whispers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium that the game could be abandoned due to the unease following the series of bomb attacks across the country in the morning. But the fixture passed off without any incidents.

Mohammedan returned to the winning ways after two consecutive draws against Arambagh Krira

Sangha and Sheikh Russel. They are now level on 35 points (15 matches) with table-toppers Brothers Union but have played a game more than the defending champions. Farashganj on the other hand, remained in sixth position with 17 points from 15 outings.

Alfaz gave the Black and Whites the lead in the 22nd minute while Asad doubled the score in the 73rd minute before Amrul pulled back one for the old city club in the 79th minute.

Brothers, against whom four top clubs have brought match-fixing allegations, will take on third-placed Abahani today in what could be a mouth-watering clash especially because Abahani have been very vocal in the stance against Brothers.

In yesterday's evenly contested match, Farashganj had two early chances to go ahead but their

Nigerian midfielder Adafa first sent the ball wide from close in the fourth minute and then minutes later saw his right-footer from top of the box brilliantly punched over by Mohammedan custodian Biplob.

Alfaz however made no mistakes when a chance fell to him. Sensing an opening, he backed himself in dodging past two Farashganj defenders and then cleverly placed the ball in the net past the onrushing goalie Zia.

After the break, both teams created some opportunities before Asad gave Mohammedan a two-goal cushion with a left-footed volley off an Alfaz center from the middle of the box.

Farashganj reduced the margin when Amrul produced a right-footed volley on a rebounder that came his way after goalkeeper

## Kent take the upper hand

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The touring Bangladesh A's last three-day match in England was heading Kent's way despite the visitors taking a first innings lead in what has been a low-scoring affair at St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury.

Bangladesh A paceman Syed Rasel had taken the last two Kent wickets on the second morning yesterday to finish with career-best figures of seven for 50 as Kent were slittled out for 153 giving the A side a first innings lead of 32 runs. But the batsmen spoiled all the good work from the left-armed as they were all out for 155 in the second innings. Only skipper Shahriar Nafees showed any character with 58(85 balls).

Antigua-born quick bowler Robert Joseph was the main wreck for Kent as he claimed five for 19.

Chasing 188, Kent were cruising on 96 for two 45 minutes before scheduled close.

On Day One, Bangladesh A bowlers had staged a superb comeback reducing Kent to 40 for six before a late order rally boosted them to 123 for 8 by the close.

## BRIEF SCORES

**BANGLADESH A:** First innings 185 (Imran 86, Nafees 30, Nazim 27, Siggers 5-48, Dennington 3-23)  
**KENT:** First innings 153 (Siggers 44, Dixey 24, Farley 23, Raseel 7-50, Shahadat 2-46)  
**BANGLADESH A:** Second innings Nafees 58, extras 24, Joseph 5-19, Siggers 2-24  
**KENT:** Second innings 96 for 2 in 19.1 overs (Dexter 53 not out, Carberry 28 not out, Shahadat 2-29)

## 'Gillespie must be dropped'

**AFP, London**

Former Australia and England captains Allan Border and Mike Gatting both believe out-of-form Aussie paceman Jason Gillespie should be dropped for the next Ashes Test.

Border said: "He (Gillespie) has lost his way, and I think he needs to be replaced in the team before the fourth Test at Trent Bridge."

Gatting pinpointed Gillespie as the most pressing of Australia's worries as they seek to re-establish the supremacy they were thought to have before the start of a series which stands at 1-1 with two Tests to play.

"The Aussies have got some real problems," said the last man to lead England to Ashes success, 18 years ago.

"Their top-order batsmen are simply not making enough runs. Matthew Hayden's form is a real worry, as is Jason Gillespie -- who I think should now be dropped and replaced with Shaun Tait."

Hayden, long regarded as one of the most dangerous openers in Test cricket and former holder of the world-record highest individual score in his sport's history, has made only 147 runs in six innings against England this summer.

Gillespie has fared even worse, his three 2005 Ashes wickets costing a barely believable 100 runs each.

But whether he or Hayden survives, Border believes that although Australia had to hang on desperately at Old Trafford for the draw which kept them level in the series, they remain capable of surprising England in the final two Tests at



ELECTION FEVER: An aspiring candidate of the upcoming BCB polls took this band with him while submitting his nomination form on Wednesday.



## Did U Know?

In 1966, 'Willie', a British lion footballer, became the first official mascot in the history of the football World Cup competition.



## Ronaldo

(Real Madrid superstar)  
"I'd like to win both the league title and the Champions League this season, but above all the league because that's what I think the fans who come to see us every Sunday would like. Having said that I've never won the Champions League and I'm not going to give up football without winning it."



Premier Division Football  
Brothers Union v Abahani (5pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Asia put brakes on Africa XI

**Cricket**

**AFP, Centurion**

South African left-hander Ashwell Prince hit a stubborn half-century to prevent a rout of the Africa XI against an Asia XI as the inaugural Afro-Asia Cup series got off to a low-key start at Centurion Park Wednesday.

Despite Prince's unbeaten 78, the Africa XI were bowled out for 198 in 44.3 overs after being sent in by Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq, the Asia XI captain, in cool, overcast conditions.

The Africans made a bright start to the world's first official inter-continental one-day international when AB de Villiers and Boeta Dippenaar put on 39 for the first wicket.

But the dismissal of de Villiers in

the seventh over started a collapse in which five wickets fell for 18 runs in the space of 34 balls.

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar started the collapse when he trapped de Villiers leg before for 24 but it was Indian left-armed Zaheer Khan who did the major damage, taking the next three wickets. Zaheer finished with three for 37.

Prince and Mark Boucher put on 84 for the sixth wicket before Boucher missed a sweep against Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan and was leg before for 42.

Prince went on to bat through the innings, facing 113 balls and hitting five fours. He gave one chance in a composed innings when wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara could not hold an inside edge off Muralitharan when he was on 35.

The Africans, who started the

## England loving cricket again

**AFP, Manchester**

England failed to win the third Ashes Test at Old Trafford by the narrowest of margins, a result that left the five-match series tantalisingly poised at 1-1.

But they have already won a notable victory. The England XI have made their country fall in love with cricket again.

Of course, in its birthplace, the game had its faithful suitors but they were often made to feel decidedly old-fashioned in a nation where football dominates the sporting culture.

Not anymore. Cricket is 'cool', indeed it might just even be 'sexy'.

However, after England's 239-run first Test defeat at Lord's there were many who warned it had been a great mistake in scheduling the series to coincide with the start of

the football season.

Yet those who turned up at Old Trafford on Monday's final day found themselves taking part in a scene that belonged to the era of black and white newsreels.

"It's incredible, we've turned 10,000 away from the ground and the police tell us they stopped about the same coming to us from Manchester," Jim Cumbes, the Lancashire chief executive said.

"I've never seen anything like it in 23 years of cricket administration," he added as replica shirt sales rocketed.

"I couldn't believe how many people were outside the ground," added England captain Michael Vaughan.

## NZ win series in style

**Cricket**

**AFP, Bulawayo**

New Zealand beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 46 runs to win the second Test on the third day at Queens Sports Club on here on Wednesday.

The Kiwis' victory lifted them to a 2-0 series win after defeating Zimbabwe by an innings and 294 runs in Harare last week.

Zimbabwe scored 231 in their first innings and 207 in the second, an insufficient total after New Zealand's first innings 484.

Despite the one-sided nature of the match the Zimbabweans went down with some honour, their entertaining defiance matching the visitors' efficiency.

New Zealand pace bowler Shane Bond's match figures were 10 for 99. He has made a remarkable comeback from two years injury and was named man-of-the-match and also man-of-the-series.

Nathan Astle scored 128, includ-

ing 26 boundaries and Lou Vincent weighed in with 92. Tatenda Taibu scored 76 in the first Zimbabwe innings.

Blessing Mahwire scored his maiden Test half-century in 37 balls. He hit Chris Martin for 21 runs in one over including two sixes and two fours.

Brendan Taylor also recorded his third half-century and with Taibu caused a defiant spell before the tea break.

The day started with New Zealand adding 30 runs to their overnight 454 for seven score. This left Zimbabwe with 254 to make the Kiwis bat again, having made 231 in their first knock.

Zimbabwe lost Dion Ebrahim for one and Stuart Carlisle for 10. The home team were then in trouble on 21-2. There was a small recovery before Zimbabwe lost Hamilton Mazakadza for 28 after hitting Vettori for two successive sixes and Craig Wishart was run out for nought without being able to face a ball.

Taylor, Tatenda and Mahwire

offered sometimes spectacular defiance near the end but the result was inevitable, though with a narrower margin than many thought likely.

New Zealand and Zimbabwe must now await the arrival of India next Tuesday before beginning a triangular series starting the following day, with the first two matches in Bulawayo.

**SCOREBOARD**

Final scoreboard on the third day of the second and final Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Wednesday:

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings 231 (Taibu 76 not out, Mahwire 42, Taylor 37, Wishart 30; Bond 6-56, Vettori 2-56)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings (overnight 454-7)  
J Marshall c Carlisle b Streak 10  
Vincent b Streak 92  
H Marshall run out (Taibu/Mahwire) 13

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## 'Ponting graduates'

**Cricket**

**AFP, Sydney**

Ricky Ponting's 156-run innings that led Australia's "great escape" in the third Ashes Test against England marked the Tasmanian batsman's true graduation as Test captain, according to Steve Waugh, cricket's most successful-ever leader.

"Ricky Ponting led from the front in the final day of the Test as all influential leaders should," Waugh wrote in a column for Wednesday's Daily Telegraph about Monday's dramatic draw at Old Trafford.

"In doing so he gave his teammates a lesson in concentration and application that should jolt the team into action -- because if they don't improve, then our hold on the Ashes is perilous," said Waugh.

"In time Ricky will look back and see this as his graduation as a Test captain."

Waugh, Ponting's predecessor and mentor, was legendary for his cool under pressure -- a quality that helped make him the most successful captain in Test cricket history, with 41 victories from 57 Tests.

Waugh said Ponting, in his first Ashes series as captain, showed the same composure when he



STEVE WAUGH

walked out to bat Monday with Australia needing more than 400 runs or a draw to avoid going down 2-1 in the five-Test series in which his team's form had so far been scratchy at best.

"But as a leader you have to be able to compartmentalise to survive -- and he did that with a single-mindedness and purpose that will now be a benchmark for him to measure himself by in the future," said Waugh.

Ponting defied a blistering England pace attack for seven hours, facing 275 balls on his way to a remarkable 156 and man-of-the-match honours.

Waugh was joined in his praise of Ponting by a host of Australian commentators, who previously had been questioning his performance as both batsman and team leader.

"Seldom has a captain defied the times as magnificently as did Ricky Ponting in his country's hour of

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5