

## New BCF body

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Chess Federation announced its newly elected executive committee on Sunday with former national champion FIDE Master Jamilur Rahman as general secretary.

Earlier, the government nominated Planning Secretary Akhter Hossain Khan as president.

All the office bearers and members of the committee have been elected unopposed recently.

Vice-presidents: Syed Aziz Ahmed, Habibur Rahman, Prof Jahangir Choudhury and Shah Masud Iman.

Joint secretaries: MA Rashid and AZM Ismail Babul.

## Title stays Orange

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"Actually it's very difficult to express my emotion right at the moment. It is the best achievement in my long 23-year coaching career. A long-cherished dream came true for me. I enjoyed success last season with Sheikh Russel but this is special," said the 64-year old Brothers coach Wajed Gazi.

"I just told my boys to remain cool on the pitch and I am happy that they were playing according my plan. I must give special thanks to Edward who played his part brilliantly."

Captain Sujan said that retaining the title gave Brothers great satisfaction in light of the recent accusations of match-fixing by some leading clubs in the crucial stage of the league.

"We finally proved that was not the case and they did it just to affect our morale. I must say we deserved the victory because the best team won the title," said the stopper Sujan, who put on a brilliant performance in the second half after Jewel Ranagot injured.

"Sujan's only regret was that the former national captain was absent from the celebrations as he was admitted to a local hospital after a clash of heads with Mohammadan defender Peter Odaf.

His Mohammadan counterpart Alfaiz Ahmed however blamed their game plan.

"You can't expect to win such a crunch match with a team down to ten-men because I didn't feel the presence of our foreign striker (Donald Roberts). Just ask our coach why he allowed him to play full time," said the ace marksmen.

But Mohammadan coach Kazi Jasimuddin Jasi pointed his finger to referee Mansoor Azad for their failure.

"I don't think it was a penalty and any poor decision can affect the outcome of a big match like this," commented the former national boomer.

Yellow cards: Masud Rana, Inani, Shuvro and Edward (Brothers), Faisal (Mohammadan).

**TEAMS**

**BROTHERS UNION:** Ali, Jewel Rana (Jahangir), Sujan, Shuvro, Masud Rana, Siraj, Inani, Pranotosh (Liton), Abul, Sujan, Emily (Khokon) and Edward

**MUHAMMEDAN:** Biplob, Nazrul, Hasan, Odaf, Ronny (Nakib), Matir Munna, Asad (Santu), Faisal, Manju (Zahid), Alfaiz and Donald

**Referee:** Mansoor Azad

## PRIMERA LIGA

## Eto'o on the double



Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o struck twice to give the champions their first win of the season 2-0 against Real Mallorca on Sunday.

Two goals in the space of five first-half minutes settled a Barca side who had looked edgy before going in front.

Mallorca self-destructed after the break and finished the game with nine men, following the dismissals of defender Sergio Ballesteros and midfielder Francisco Farinos.

Early pace-setters Athletic Bilbao were held to a 1-1 draw at Bernd Schuster's Getafe after visiting defender Javier Casas cancelled out Daniel Guiza's exquisite lob.

Promoted Celta Vigo are top with six points following Saturday's 3-2 win over Real Madrid in the Bernabeu, with Galician neighbours Deportivo Coruna second on goal difference after their 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid the same day.

Mallorca are third on four points with Getafe, Barcelona, and Valencia, who drew 2-2 with Real Zaragoza, and Sevilla, who drew 1-1 at Villarreal.

Barcelona struggled to find their rhythm in the first half and looked off the pace until Eto'o rose to head the home side in front after 27 minutes.

Last season's leading scorer spent Friday night in hospital under observation after clashing heads with a team mate in training but he showed few signs of any side-effects.

Dutch defender Giovanni van Bronckhorst floated in a cross from the left and Eto'o beat his man to head straight at Miguel Angel Moya.

But the Mallorca keeper misjudged the bounce and the ball

bobbled over him into the goal.

Barely five minutes later, Hector Cuper's side were two behind when a lurking Eto'o pounced to head home a loose ball after Moya could only partly stop Ludovic Giuly's fierce near-post shot.

Mallorca's chances of finding a way back into the game began to dissipate when Ballesteros was sent off for a second bookable

offence in the 71st minute.

Farinos followed him down the tunnel 10 minutes from time after collecting two yellow cards in quick succession.

Only the woodwork denied Dutchman Mark van Bommel his first goal for Barca in the closing minutes when he fired against the upright.



PHOTO: AFP  
THANK YOU, GOD! Barcelona's Samuel Eto'o raises his arms to the heavens after scoring during the Spanish League match against Mallorca on Sunday.

## India-Zim Test from today



Cricket

AFP, Bulawayo

All the evidence as well as recent history points to a heavy defeat for Zimbabwe when they face India in the first of two cricket Tests which starts at Queens Sports Club here on Tuesday.

The history concerns a succession of recent defeats against all comers, some of them of large proportions such as a two innings collapses in one day against New Zealand last month.

The evidence comes partly from five India batsmen who have scored centuries here in the last few days - Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Kaif and Yuvraj Singh.

And if Zaheer Khan does play (there is some doubt about his most recent performance of 2-122 against a Zimbabwe trials side), they have the choice of Anil Kumble or Harbhajan Singh. It seems unlikely that India will field two spinners.

Sourav Ganguly has had a forearm problem and there has also been some debate as to whether he will bat high up or drop to six. But he reported fit on Monday and expects to bat five.

One temptation to play might be

the 51 runs he needs to reach the 5,000 landmark in Tests. When he takes the field for his 48th Test as captain here he will overtake the previous longest serving one Sunil Gavaskar.

Coach Greg Chappell commented: "We have a lot of pressure to win this match and to win well. There are millions of people expecting it."

"We are all playing well at the moment, so there is a scramble for places. It is a problem we like to have."

He added there was a slight doubt about Laxmipathy Balaji, who is complaining about a sore arm, though it is not too troublesome and he will be contending for a place.

On the bowling front, after taking five wickets in Mutare and nonchalantly scoring 60, Anil Kumble will also be a major threat to the Zimbabweans.

But Zimbabwe coach Kevin Curran says he has played with Kumble many times at Northamptonshire in English County cricket. "And we have developed methods to play against him. There is a plan in place," Curran

said.

"We also have several batsmen who scored well in Mutare, particularly Dion Ibrahim with a back-to-form 169. Our batsmen know they also have plenty of time in Tests and will approach their play accordingly."

Kumble is likely to be preferred to Harbhajan Singh if only one spinner is to be fielded on a pitch that favours batsmen apart from perhaps the first hour or so.

**TEAMS**

**ZIMBABWE** (from): Tatenda Taibu (captain), Heath Streak, Dion Ibrahim, Andy Blignaut, Charles Coventry, Brendan Taylor, Keith Dabengwa, Blessing Mahire, Terry Duffin, Sean Williams, Prosper Utseywa, Waddington Mwanyenga.

**INDIA** (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Mohammad Kaif, VVS Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Dinesh Karthik, Anil Kumble, Laxmipathy Balaji, Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Ajit Agarkar, Dheeraj Jadhav, Zaheer Khan.

Swiss finally did the trick.

Chants of "An-dre, An-dre" rang out from the fans rammed inside the stands of Arthur Ashe Court and the old-timer stunned Federer with a break for 2-0 at the start of the second set.

Agassi levelled the match with some ease and the crowd began to get on top of the Swiss.

A cry of "miss it!" just as Federer hit a second serve over-stepped the mark and Federer was soon 4-2 down in the third set.

If the champion was rattled, though, it did not show.

Agassi had been enjoying most of the luck with net cords until that point but in the next game, facing a break point, one of his forehands sat up off the tape and Federer put away a simple backhand to break back.

It was the turning point. Agassi bravely saved four break points to hold for 6-5 but the yelps he was now emitting with each shot revealed his growing fatigue.

Even Federer does not know how he does it. "I amaze myself that I can back it up one tournament after another," he said.

Agassi said he did not intend to retire yet, despite the increasing demands of his family life and a chronic back problem that has prompted talk of him quitting this year.

He at least had the satisfaction of taking a set off Federer in a Grand Slam final, something that has only happened once before.

By the end, however, he was fishing about on court like a middle-aged Dad with a spade on the beach.

Agassi lost because, like all Federer's other rivals, he could not maintain his performance level at 100 per cent.

For the 90 minutes that he did match Federer, though, Flushing Meadows was bedlam.

The 6-3 score suggests Federer took the first set with some ease but an obdurate Agassi saved seven set points before a big first serve from the

list of all-time Grand Slam title winners after Roger Federer beat Andre Agassi in the US Open final here Sunday:

14 - Pete Sampras

12 - Roy Emerson

11 - Bjorn Borg, Rod Laver

10 - Bill Tilden

8 - Andre Agassi, Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, Fred Perry, Ken Rosewall

7 - Henri Cochet, Rene Lacoste, Bill Larned, John Newcombe, John McEnroe, William Renshaw, Richard Sears, Mats Wilander

6 - Boris Becker, Don Budge, Jack Crawford, Laurie Doherty, Stefan Edberg, Tony Wilding, Roger Federer

## The Grand Slam club

AFP, New York

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