



Did U Know?

Since Brazilian superstar Ronaldo joined them in 2002, Real Madrid have won 63.47 percent of their games with the striker in the lineup. Without him, the figure drops to 41.18 percent.



Ricky Ponting
(Australia cricket captain)
"It's no compensation for losing the Ashes but we've started afresh in this series, and it's extremely satisfying to beat the best players in the world."

What to WATCH

ESPN
UEFA Champions League
Chelsea vs Betis
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)
STAR Sports
UEFA Champions League
Anderlecht vs Liverpool
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT

GP Corporate Cricket League
Araf Apparels vs M M Ispahani
Venue: KDVS
Bangla Cat vs Security Air Express
Venue: CDVS
Gazi Tank vs Epyllion
Venue: BDS

3 share lead in Prime Bank chess

Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon, Debaraj Chatterjee and Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar were leading the Prime Bank 8th International Rating Chess Tournament table jointly after the end of fourth round at the BCF hall-room on Tuesday.

All three have collected maximum four points after Emon beat Sohail Sagar defeated Fide Master Shakil and Debaraj winning over Masud.

Five players -- Parag, Sumon, Lavlu, Nure Alam and Liza -- were following the leaders with 3.5 points each.

Babu, who else!

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Amirul Islam Babu is famously infamous for creating nuisance on and off the field. The arrogant Mohammedan official hit the headlines for another wrong reason at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Bhaban on Tuesday.

This time the Mohammedan football secretary went as close to hitting a member of the national team's management committee Sayeed Hassan Kanan during an important executive committee meeting of the BFF.

Babu became furious after most of the executive committee members opposed his inclusion as manager for two overseas assignments of the national team -- the four-nation meet in Myanmar and the SAFF Football Championship in Pakistan.

Although the National Team Management (NTMC) Committee had chosen Kanan as manager for both trips, the meeting took an ugly twist after BFF vice-president Abdur Rahim

proposed the name of controversial Babu, who was twice declared persona-non-grata by the BFF for abusing match officials as Mohammedan manager.

It was learnt that Babu was not only involved in a heated exchange with the former national goalkeeper during the meeting but also threatened to physically assault Kanan. His unbecoming behaviour stunned everybody and the NTMC headed by Kazi Salahuddin threatened to boycott the meeting. The NTMC opposed the inclusion of a non-technical person as manager since it was an aberration of the Bangladesh Vision that suggested someone as manager who played the game or served as coach at the highest level.

But Babu, apart from his strong loyalty to the popular Motijheel outfit, has not played the game at any level.

"I know Babu for a long time and he was a close associate in my Mohammedan days. But I never expected such treatment from him. What's the use of serving the nation if people have no respect for their colleagues?" asked a depressed Kanan after the meeting last night.

BFF president SA Sultan, who chaired the meeting, admitted the incident. But he tried to justify the episode by saying that it was very much part of a democratic practice.

"These things happen in democratic systems. It is natural that people will oppose decisions. But we will have to go on," said Sultan, who is also a BNP lawmaker.

Sultan will now give his ruling over the appointment of manager and team leader for both tours.

"You will get the names tomorrow."

Sultan has also been given sole responsibility to name the Under-17 and Under-20 national team officials.

It looks certain that ex-national winger Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnun will be the national team leader as no one opposed his selection. BFF vice-president Monir Ahmed was the choice of NTMC but Monir himself proposed Chunnun's name.

Meanwhile, the BFF retained the same tournament committee for the JFA Cup U-16 football tournament to be held in December. The Japan Football Association, who gave 20,000 dollars last year as sponsorship

money, will increase the amount by 5,000 dollars this time, informed Helal.

The BFF general secretary announced that the BFF will introduce the Youth Football Championship in their calendar abolishing the Suhrawardy Youth Championship for simply financial reasons.

"We cannot get sponsors if the tournaments are named after national leaders. We are also thinking in the same wavelength about the Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship," Helal said.

As had been predicted, the BFF submitted a Tk 4-crore-plus budget for next year's Prime Minister's Gold Cup International Football Tournament for discussion. Planning Division chairman Akhtar Hossain Khan has been named chairman of the PM Gold Cup tournament committee and Sirajul Islam Bachchu the secretary.

The meeting also approved the appointments of Air Commodore ATM Golam Kibria and Fakhruul Islam Majumder as its executive director and finance manager.

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PHOTO: STAR
RAINY DAY: (L-R) Sanwar Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahman and Mohammad Ashraf spend time gossiping after the Corporate Cricket League fixture between Bangladesh Biman and Beximco at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium was called off on Tuesday.

Tendulkar confident

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar opens the second innings of his remarkable cricket career next week still hungry for success but wary of his batting prowess after a tennis elbow injury.

The 32-year-old, who has scored a world record 23,776 international runs with 72 centuries, said he will be starting from scratch when he takes the field in the one-day series against Sri Lanka from October 25.

"I am happy to be back and confident, but I am not taking anything for granted," Tendulkar told AFP as he prepared for his first international game since the April 17 one-dayer against Pakistan in New Delhi.

"During a normal off-season, one knows how to go about it, when to begin training, when to get to the nets and polish the rough edges.

"But after the elbow surgery in

May, I did not know how long it would take me to pick up a bat, let alone practice in the nets.

"I was wholly dependent on the advice of the doctors. I was itching to get out there and play but could not.

"Cricket has been my life for as long as I can remember so it was not easy to sit out. When I finally got back

to the field this month it felt as if I was picking up a bat for the first time."

Playing non-stop cricket since making his Test debut in 1989 aged 16 has taken its toll on Tendulkar's body.

Over the last few years, he has suffered from a broken finger, stiff back, swollen toe and more recently a painful elbow.

The injuries have not dimmed Tendulkar's appetite for runs, but they have changed his approach to the game.

"I have realised there are certain things I cannot do anymore," he said. "Also, over the years I have evolved as a player.

"Earlier, I used to go out and try and smash every ball. My role is different now; play shots, rotate the strike, try and bat as long as possible.

"You have to adjust to the team's requirements. Earlier, I used to play a lot of shots in the air and people used to say why I was doing that.

"Now they say why I do not loft

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SACHIN TENDULKAR

MacGill expects to face Windies

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Stuart MacGill's performance in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Super Series Test has left Australia's selectors with a dilemma.

He took nine wickets in a 210-run win over a World XI in Sydney but on most other grounds Australia usually opt for one spinner -- Shane Warne.

They start a three-Test series against West Indies in Brisbane next month and skipper Ricky Ponting said: "There will be some tough decisions

ahead.

"Conditions up in Brisbane are good for swing and seam bowling."

MacGill has now taken 169 wickets in 34 Tests, but both figures would have been far higher but for the presence of fellow leg-spinner Warne, who is rated one of the greatest bowlers in the history of the game.

He believes they could prove an effective combination in most conditions -- and should have bowled together in the recent Ashes series in England, when Australia lost 2-1.

"It's certainly easier to be a regular member of the Australian team or a regular member of any team, for that

matter," MacGill commented.

"You know what other guys are taking about regarding opposition players, how we are trying to bowl to someone and you assess the general mood of things quicker."

"Having said that I am very comfortable about any role I am going to play.

"I am certainly not going to turn down any opportunity or make ultimatums about selection."

Australia's preferred option is to play three front-line seam bowlers but Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprovic were out of sorts in England, and Shaun Tait has recently undergone shoulder surgery.

It may mean, therefore, that MacGill and Warne will be used against West Indies, with all-rounder Shane Watson providing the seam bowling back-up to Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee.

"There is no reason it can't work, including both.

"Stuart is going to turn the ball on any wicket, just about, and Warne is bowling as well as he ever has," Ponting added.

BCB AGM to be discussed today

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will meet today to discuss preparation of its annual general meeting (AGM) to be held on October 21.

The committee's second meeting after September 12, will discuss the proposed amendments to the 2003 Constitution, which include renaming the board Cricket Bangladesh, reducing the number of the standing committees and adding a clause for the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Ahead of the AGM questions have already been raised about the purpose of such a meeting.

"It's a farce as we have been told to submit questions by October 16 but interestingly, we have only received the notice yesterday. They just want to approve the amendments to legalise their actions," said Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, an Abahani councillor.

Besides, the new payroll of the national players and renew of the Faruque-led selection panel are expected to figure on the agenda.

HP Squad win again

SPORTS REPORTER

Saqib Al Hasan slammed an unbeaten half-century as the visiting Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) High Performance Squad defeated their Sri Lanka counterpart by five wickets in a limited-overs match at the Colts Cricket Club ground yesterday.

It was their second consecutive victory following the two-wicket win against the Sri Lanka Development Squad on Saturday.

Saqib was unbeaten with an 86-ball 50 while Farhad Reza remained not out on 26 as the visitors posted 134 for five in 35.4 overs in reply to home team's 132 all out in 40.5 overs.

Farhad hit three sixes in his 23-ball innings while Saib's innings featured an over boundary.

Earlier, the two batsmen were also successful with the ball as Farhad claimed two wickets for 21 runs in nine overs and Saqib captured two for 20 runs in six overs.

The HP Squad will play two more limited-overs games on October 20 and 22 in Colombo.

Quake cricket match likely

CRICINFO, undated

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) looks set to take control of organising an international match to raise money for victims of the Asian earthquake.

Although the plans are in the embryo stage, Shaharyar Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), said: "During a recent conversation with Jagmohan Dalmiya (ACC president), an ACC-sponsored relief match was considered. We agreed to examine possible dates for an international match in the next few days."

The International Cricket Council had considered organising a relief match for the Super Series in Sydney, but players from South Africa and New Zealand were unavailable and there wasn't enough time to organise sponsorship and TV rights.

The PCB and the England and Wales Cricket Board recently agreed to dedicate the entire gate receipts of the first ODI between the two countries at Lahore on December 10 to the relief fund.

Rain the spoiler

SPORTS REPORTER

Rain played havoc with the Grameen-Phone Corporate Cricket League as all the third round matches were eventually abandoned yesterday.

Two matches got underway but not a ball was bowled in the crunch fixture between title-contenders Beximco and Biman at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

After a delayed start at the BKSP, Acme and Orion took to the field in a 39-over-a-side contest. Put into bat newcomers Orion scored 183 for six and in reply Habibul Bashar's Acme had reached 65-3 in 12 overs before no further play was possible.

The outcome was a setback for star-studded Acme, who they have already lost

one of their previous two Group B encounters, they now have three points from as many outings.

Beximco and Biman jointly lead the group securing five points from three matches. Orion bagged their first point.

The other Group B match between Jamuna Bank and Metro Real Estate at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium was also called off after completion of one innings.

Two overs were reduced when the game finally began and Metro Real scored 177 for eight.

Jamuna Bank increased their tally to three points from as many matches while Metro secured their first point from the same number of outings.

According to the weatherman rain is forecast for today's three matches at Khulna, Chittagong and Bogra respectively.

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Lanka arrive in India Oct 20

PTI, Mumbai

Sri Lankan cricket team will arrive in here on October 20 via Chennai to play seven one-day internationals against India.

The team, scheduled to arrive at 9:55 pm, would have a practice session the next day before playing a warm-up game against the Mumbai Cricket Association President's XI at the Wankhede Stadium on October 22, the Board of Control for Cricket in India said in a media release on Tuesday.

After playing the warm-up game the squad is set to depart for Nagpur on October 23 evening for the first ODI against the Rahul Dravid-led Indian team which is scheduled to be played at the Orange City on October 25.

The other six ODIs are to be held

Buchanan reveals why

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Australian cricket coach John Buchanan admitted on Tuesday that he "lost touch" with his players during the disastrous Ashes series which England won for the first time in 18 years.

Buchanan said he made a mistake in reducing his contact with the team, giving them and assistant coach Jamie Siddons more responsibility.

"I'd lost touch with the players," Buchanan told the Kolkata-based Telegraph newspaper when asked to spell out the reasons for the world champions' 2-1 defeat against their arch-rivals.

"It happened because I'd pushed

myself into a different role, which was to give the players responsibility for their game.



JOHN BUCHANAN

"Also, giving the assistant coach (Jamie Siddons) more responsibility. In doing so, I'd removed myself from contact with the players.

"I learnt I had to re-establish relationships. That I had to change my role a bit.

"I finished the Ashes physically and emotionally drained. Looking back, I ought not to have retreated into myself the way I did.

"Yet, I can't be certain that the result would have been different had I myself acted differently."

Buchanan, whose contract was extended till 2007 by Cricket Australia despite the Ashes embarrassment, said the defeat may be a blessing in disguise for the team.

"We went to England with a lot

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Dear Readers

As The Daily Star approaches its 15th anniversary, the Star Sport team would like to know your feedback on how to make the pages more attractive. So, for the next two weeks send us your suggestions, comments and even criticisms within 200-250 words to sports@thedailystar.net. We intend to publish them and wish your valuable views will enrich your favourite pages. The last date for submission of your comments is October 31.

-- Sports Editor