



Did U Know?

Pele is the only player to win the FIFA World Cup three times, in 1958, 1962 and in 1970.



Malcolm Speed

(ICC chief executive)

"When we set this series up, the question we asked was, 'Can a team of champions beat a champion team?' And I think we saw the answer comprehensively both in Melbourne and in Sydney."

On the lopsided cricket Super Series where the World XI lost both the ODIs and the Test to Australia.



ESPN

Football Crazy
Live at 5:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Ac Milan vs Eintracht
Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

RATING CHESS

Emon, Sagar share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon and Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar jointly led the table with five points each in the Prime Bank Eighth Inter-national Rating Chess Tournament after the end of the fifth round at the federation hall room yesterday.

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BCB's new 'perform & earn more' payroll

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Wednesday announced a new pay structure for the national cricketers with a slogan 'perform and earn more'. The board also included more players on the list than it was last time in the performance oriented new financial package that saw fifty per cent rise of basic salary in each grade. But the board omitted the bonus points system in the total takeaway package and replaced it with what BCB general secretary Mahabubul Anam termed 'process oriented bonus'.

"We have introduced a process oriented bonus. This time the bonus has been directed to the game that means it would be subjected to performance on the field. There will be no result oriented bonus rather than we will give handsome incentive for on the field performance like partnership, fielding and catching," said Mahabub while explaining the pros and cons of the new payroll.

"There is little chance to see a rise in the average salary package. But

under the new pay structure a national cricketer can earn ten times more depending on how he performs on the field," said Mahabub adding that it would definitely inject more professional approach among the players.

The board approved the new payroll in its executive meeting yesterday at a local hotel and Mahabub said that they had included 18 players in five different categories. The previous contracts, which included 16 players in four categories, expired in September. The new payroll has already taken effect from October 1.

Former national captain Khaled Mahmud, who has already expressed his desire to quit international cricket after the next home match, has been awarded a six-month contract along with Nafees Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Enamul Haque, Nazmul Hossain and Tushar Imran, the newcomer on the elite list.

Captain Habibul Bashar, vice-captain Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar, Mohammad Rafique, Mohammad Ashraf, Rajin Saleh, Tapash Baisya, Manzarul Islam and Mashrafe Bin Mortuza have each been offered a one-year contract.

Two young pacemen Shahadat

Hossain and Syed Rasel along with left-handed opener Shahrir Nafees Ahmed have been included in the rookie category following their good showings in recent tours.

The board also awarded captain Bashar 10 per cent of his basic salary for his additional responsibility while his deputy Khaled Mashud will get five per cent extra.

"We have increased their basics because of their additional responsibilities," Mahabub told reporters.

He also informed that match fee of the players has been increased by 20 per cent. A player will now get about 500 dollars for a one-day international appearance while it will be 1,000 dollars for a Test match.

The board has also approved five categories in place of the previous four.

A player will fall in A Plus category if he plays above 101 matches (one Test will be considered as two one-day matches).

Category A will constitute players who played not less than 71 matches while those who played 31-plus matches will be pencilled in Category B. The Category C will include players who played 1-30 matches.

Tigers will be given cap numbers

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is going to give all the international players' cap numbers according to their order of appearance.

Former Bangladesh captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain will be given the number one one-day international cap while Naimur Rahman, who led the Tigers in the inaugural Test against India in November 2000, will be honoured with the first Test cap.

Besides, BCB in its executive committee meeting on Wednesday also decided that they would design a board to put all the international players' names on it.

TWO-DAY MATCH Rajshahi U-17 leave CAB struggling

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktar Ali grabbed three early wickets for the home side as CAB (Cricket Association of Bengal) U-17s struggled to 81 for four in their first innings at stumps on first day of their two-day match against Rajshahi Division U-17s on Wednesday.

Due to overnight rain, the match at the Jagannath Hall ground started after lunch and expectedly, Rajshahi elected to field first. New ball bowler Muktar took three for nine from his ten overs as the visitors crashed to 30-4 before Writam Porel (25 not out) and Abhishek Bhowmick (16 not out) steadied the innings with a 51-run unbroken partnership for the fifth wicket.

Mohammed Rajib took the remaining wicket for Rajshahi.

The first match between the two sides.

Legal notice served on BCB

SPORTS REPORTER

Councillors of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) showed their discontents after being denied their democratic rights to take part in the process of discussion in the board's annual general meeting, which will be held tomorrow.

Iqbal Yusuf Chowdhury, a councillor of Cricket Coaching School, also served a legal notice to the board on Wednesday alleging it of violating procedures stated in the constitution to hold the AGM.

The legal notice served by law firm S Ahmed and Associates claimed that its client received on October 17 a notice signed by BCB president Ali Asghar about the date of the AGM. The Article 11.1 of the BCB constitution (2003) clearly states that all members shall be notified about the AGM at least 30 days in advance.

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Sultan rewards Babu!

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite verbally abusing his fellow Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) colleagues and members of the National Team Management Committee (NTMC), Amirul Islam Babu was surprisingly named as manager of one of the national selections on Wednesday.

Babu, a controversial character, who has a dubious track record of misbehaving with match officials and had been punished in the past for unruly conduct, lashed out at some BFF members during Tuesday's executive committee meeting but still got the nod from president SA Sultan for becoming manager of the Under-20

team for the AFC Youth Championship qualifiers.

Sultan was asked to exert his presidential power to select the officials of different national squads by fellow executives of the Federation following the chaos in the meeting but by choosing Babu, the BFF boss, who is no stranger to controversies himself, only fuelled a fresh one.

Babu, who is Mohammedan Sporting Club's football secretary, was a contender for the Myanmar and Pakistan-bound national team's manager's post but after his ugly outburst in which he reportedly used filthy words to verbally attack some distinguished former national stars, many thought that he would be left out.

Another candidate for the coveted position Sayeed Hassan Kanan, one of the main targets of Babu's wrath, has

been named coordinator for all the three teams.

BFF vice-president Monir Ahmed and assistant general secretary Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chinnu has been named team leader and manager of the national team while Dastagir Chowdhury has been selected as the team leader of the U-20 side. Azfaruz-Zaman Sohrab has become the U-17 manager.

"We are a family. Sometimes you have to balance things to keep it going," was Sultan's explanation for selecting Babu.

"We can not always dwell in the past and you have to give people the opportunity to rectify. Babu and Kanan both apologised officially to the BFF for the incident. So I have decided to give them a

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PHOTO: STAR

Security Air Express' James, who made 51, here sweeps one during their Corporate Cricket League encounter against Bangla Cat at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Wednesday.

Security Air stymie Bangla Cat

SPORTS REPORTER

Only one match was completed in the rain-affected third round of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League on Wednesday with Security Air Express registering their maiden victory in the competition against fellow newcomers Bangla Cat.

MM Ispahani and Araf Apparels had to share points as rain prevented any play at Khulna. However, an exciting encounter between joint Group-A leaders Gazi Tank and Epyllion Group came agonisingly close to a result before being abandoned due to bad light at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

The match between the two unbeaten teams was curtailed to a 20-over-a-side contest. National opener Shahriar Nafees's 40-ball 51 and a blazing 34 off 28 balls by Tushar Imran steered Epyllion to 144-5.

The game headed for a tight finish after Gazi Tank despite losing eight wickets, came within 13 runs of a win with ten balls to spare. But poor visibility meant the match had to be called off at that point. Opener Gazi Salahuddin was the top scorer with 31 from 20 balls in Gazi Tanks' 132-8.

Away at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, local boy Habib Moballik James made a patient 51 not out to lead Security Air Express to a five-wicket win against Bangla Cat in the battle of rank-outsiders with nearly three overs remaining.

Skipper Nuruzzaman made 68 from 100 balls as Bangla Cat, after being put into bat, were all out for 181 in 48.5 overs.

Security's new ball pair Nayeem and Rabbani each chipped in with three wickets while James captured 2-33.

In reply, Security lost two early wickets but with opener Uttam Sarkar (41 off 68 balls), James guided the side out of trouble. The number four batter

hit four boundaries in his unbeaten 115-ball knock and shared 74 runs for the sixth wicket partnership with Salahuddin Ujjal (37 not out).

After three rounds, Epyllion and Gazi tanks stay atop Group A with five points while Beximco and Biman share the lead in Group B also with five points.

The fourth round will begin on October 22.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangla Cat v Security Air Express

Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

BANGLA CAT: 181 all out in 48.5 overs (Anisul 16, Rafiqul 13, Nuruzzaman 68, Farhad 27, Jubair 12, Aminul 11, extras 16, Nayeem 3-32, Rabbani 3-29, James 2-33)

SECURITY AIR EXPRESS: 185-5 in 47.1 overs (Uttam 41, James 51 n.o., Nayeem 10, Ujjal 37 n.o., extras 26, Anwar 2-48, Enamul 1-35, Nuruzzaman 1-22, Farhad 1-13)

Result: Security Air Express won by five wickets.

Ganguly's chance to prove himself

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Ousted India captain Sourav Ganguly has a chance to revive his faltering cricket career from Thursday after being cleared to play following an elbow injury.

Ganguly, 33, was passed fit by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) doctor and the national team's physiotherapist who examined the left-hander's elbow, an official said on Wednesday.

"Sourav has been given the go-ahead to play," BCCI official Ratnakar Shetty said.

Ganguly will lead East Zone against North Zone in the domestic Duleep Trophy first-class match starting in Rajkot on Thursday, hoping to regain batting form and force his way back into the national team.

Ganguly was axed as India captain last week and replaced by Rahul Dravid for a series of seven one-day internationals against Sri Lanka and five more against South Africa over the next five weeks.

The left-hander, one of only four batsmen in the world to score 10,000 one-day runs, was not picked in the Indian team for the first two matches against the Sri Lankans, at Nagpur next Tuesday and Mohali on October 28.

But a good performance in domestic cricket could not only see him return to the one-day squad but also stay in the

leadership race in case India falters under Dravid.

Ganguly has been dogged by poor form and fitness problems in recent months, contributing just 48 in three home Tests against Pakistan early this year.

He scored a century against Zimbabwe in the opening Test at Bulawayo last month, but his painstaking



SOURAV GANGULY

ing six-hour knock against the weakest attack in international cricket did not satisfy critics.

Ganguly and coach Greg Chappell were involved in a public spat in September with the coach saying in a leaked e-mail to Indian cricket chiefs that the captain was unfit to lead the team.

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Carlisle follows Streak

Cricket

REUTERS, Durban

Heath Streak has retired from international cricket to captain English county Warwickshire.

Former Zimbabwe captain Streak, 31, said his decision was prompted by financial and personal considerations.

"I've retired to perform my duties for Warwickshire, who have offered me a two-year contract and want to appoint me as captain," Streak told Reuters from his farm near Bulawayo on Tuesday.

"In terms of the financial aspects it's a significant improvement for me and this will also leave six months of the year open for me. It will be good to be able to spend time with my family."

Streak played 65 Test matches and captained Zimbabwe in 21 of them, a Zimbabwe record he shares with Alistair Campbell.

Zimbabwe achieved four of their eight Test wins under Streak, making him the country's most successful captain.

Streak, a fast bowler who grew into an all-rounder, carried the Zimbabwe attack for much of his career and is unquestionably among the greatest players his country has produced.

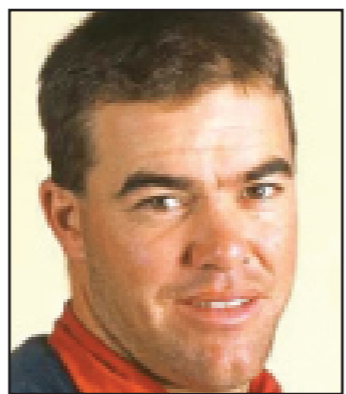
His tenure as captain ended in April 2004 when he questioned Zimbabwe's selection policies which he viewed as racially biased.

Streak's removal as captain led to a

walkout of 15 of Zimbabwe's most senior players, and began the country's spiral from beatable but feisty opponents to a weak team that has lost five of their last six Tests by an innings and gone down by 10 wickets in the other.

Streak and some of the other rebel players later returned to the Zimbabwe fold.

Asked if the uncertainties of play-



HEATH STREAK

ing for Zimbabwe influenced his decision to retire, Streak said, "The stability of county cricket and the enjoyment I get out of it is also important to me."

He conceded that it would be difficult to let go after 12 years, but added that he may still have a role to play in the game in his country.

"I haven't closed the door on future

involvement in Zimbabwe cricket in areas such as commentary and coaching."

Streak took 216 Test wickets, a Zimbabwe record, at an average of 28.14. He has played for Warwickshire for the past two seasons.

Meanwhile CricInfo adds on Wednesday, Stuart Carlisle has also joined the long list of those driven into retirement by Zimbabwe's infighting.

"I have now officially retired from the game," he told reporters in Harare. "I was fed up by what is happening and I just walked away. I'm tired of the politics. I'd rather be away from them."

"Phil Simmons is dead right. We can't be having people who do not know which side of the bat is up at the helm of cricket. As for the players, it's not their fault. You cannot expect them to perform when all this is happening around them. I feel sorry for the younger players, they have nothing else to do outside cricket. They'll rather stay put under the prevailing condition and still have their cars and fuel coupons."

"We have just lost to Kenya and there is a danger of losing our Test status if we keep on losing." His retirement follows that of Craig Wishart last month.

Carlisle, 33, played the last of his 33 Tests against New Zealand in August, exactly a decade after his ODI and Test debuts against Pakistan. He scored 1615 runs at 26.91, including two hundreds, and also played 111 ODIs, making 2740 runs.

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PHOTO: AFP

THE WORLD CHAMPIONS' BALL: A football inscribed with the past winners of the football World Cup is on display at the Football World Exhibition of the Frankfurt Book Fair on Wednesday.

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