



Did U Know?

Francina "Fanny" Blankers-Koen of Netherlands was the first woman to win 4 gold medals in one Olympics. At the age of 30, she accomplished this feat at the 1948 Olympics in London, England.



Shabbir Ahmed

(Pakistan pacer)
"It's good news for me and now I will be more focussed on doing my best for my country. It was a frustrating period but I thank Allah, the Almighty, it's over."
After his bowling action is cleared by ICC.



ESPN

English Premier Football League
Blackburn Rovers vs Birmingham City
Live at 5:40 pm
Man United vs Tottenham Hotspur
Live at 7:55 pm
Portsmouth vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 10:10 pm
STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Fulham vs Liverpool
Same Day Delay at 10:00 pm



GP Corporate Cricket League
Jamuna Bank vs Acme
Venue: DCS
Bangla Cat vs M M Ispahani
Venue: FCS
Security Air vs Epyllion
Venue: BKSP

MacGill keeps fingers crossed

AFP, Sydney

Leg-spinner Stuart MacGill said Friday he has done enough to be considered to play in Australia's first cricket Test against the West Indies in Brisbane next month.

MacGill's nine wickets in Australia's thumping win over the World all-stars here earlier this week are pressuring selectors to keep him in a leg-spin tandem with Shane Warne for the Brisbane Test starting on November 3.

MacGill, after being spurned for the recent Ashes series in England, captured 4-39 and 5-43 on his favourite Sydney Cricket Ground track, outshining even leg-spin king Warne (3-23 and 3-48).

MacGill, 34, now has 169 wickets at 27.76 from 34 Tests, at a rate of just under five wickets a match.

"I deserve my place at the top of the heap of next-placed players, because I've done everything that I possibly can to make sure I'm consistently up there," MacGill said Friday.

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An 'all-too friendly' AGM



SPORTS REPORTER

It is usual to experience heated exchanges in annual general meeting (AGM) but it was not the case in Friday's AGM of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) that was branded 'exceptionally peaceful and constructive' by the high-ups.

The newly elected executive committee headed by Mahbubul Anam did not face any obstacle to pass their desired amendments except the idea to offer councilorship to the Corporate Cricket League teams.

The governing body of the most popular game in the country is going to end the dispute over its name as the AGM decided to name it 'Cricket Bangladesh' but the move will need approval from the Jatiya Sangsad.

"We first approved the constitution of 2003 under which we were elected last August because no AGM was held after amendments were made to the constitution. The amendments should be approved by 120 days after the election," said general secretary Mahbubul Anam, who believed that the AGM took exemplary steps about financial transparency.

Mahbub said that to approve a proposed budget for the next fiscal year was one of the most significant decisions taken in the meeting.

"For the first time the board has

placed a budget and we believe that it will bring transparency in the BCB's monetary activities. We expect to earn Tk 45 crore during this period," he informed.

The board has submitted a budget worth Tk 43.81 crore for the next financial year.

Mahbub added that they also

brought the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and CFO (Chief Financial Officer) under the constitution.

"There will be no conflict with the activities of CEO and general secretary because the terms and reference are specified. The CEO will look after the administrative affairs and he has accountability to the executive board.

And if there is anything wrong the EC will be responsible for that," said BCB president Ali Asghar, who informed that they have paid Tk two crore and 18 lakhs as VAT and tax in the last year.

Asghar also informed that the CEO must be a Bangladeshi.

A total of 110 councilors out of

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar addressing the board's annual general meeting at the Sonargaon hotel on Friday.

Emon alone atop

SPORTS REPORTER

Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon stormed to the top of the Prime Bank eighth International Rating Chess tournament when he defeated previous round's co-leader Mehdi Hasan Parag in the seventh round at the BCF hall room on Friday.

Emon raised his tally to 6.5 points.

Three players -- Syed Ejaz Hossain, Soheli Chowdhury and Khorshed Alam -- followed the leader with six points each.

In this round Ejaz beat Sagar, Soheli beat Robin, Khorshed beat Jamal, Fide Master Taibur beat Dinayet, Mostafa beat Mauda, Monir beat Afzal, Ali beat Mahbub, Nipa beat Farhad, Rasel beat Bari and Liza beat Salim.

Chappell might try new tricks

PTI, Bangalore

The Indian team may have some surprises up its sleeve for Sri Lanka in the coming one-day series, coach Greg Chappell indicated on Friday.

Talking about the three-day camp for the team that concluded today, Chappell said: "The objective was really to try a few things we are planning to use against Sri Lanka. We looked at a few different tactics and a few different bowling combinations".

During the camp ahead of the series in which India play seven one-dayers against Marvan Atapattu's side, the players did a closed-door video analysis of the Sri Lankan team.

Chappell said Kerala speedster Sreesanth, the lone new face in the 15-member squad named for the first two games against the Islanders beginning at Nagpur on Tuesday, would be given the new ball.

"More than likely that Sreesanth would open the attack in the games that he plays. But we are likely to try different combinations at different times. But at this stage, we would be using him as an opening bowler, yes," he said.

On the morale of the Indian squad, the coach said: "We are in pretty good shape, mentally and physically. The group is looking pretty good. We will only find out when we get there. But from the point of view of preparation, everyone is quite happy."

Chappell also sought to steer clear of any potential controversy by declining comments on the time

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Ganguly cracks classy ton



AFP, New Delhi

Ousted Indian captain Sourav Ganguly revived his faltering career with a sparkling century in domestic cricket on Friday.

The left-hander smashed 18 boundaries and a six in his 117 playing for East Zone against North Zone in the Duleep Trophy first-class match in the western city of Rajkot.

Ganguly showed no signs of a recent elbow injury as he batted for four hours before edging a catch off leg-spinner Amit Mishra to the wicket-keeper.

The hundred could see Ganguly force his way back into the Indian team after being left out for the first two games of the seven-match limited-overs series against Sri Lanka starting on Tuesday.

Ganguly, dogged by poor form, injury and a spat with coach Greg Chappell in recent months, was axed as India captain last week and replaced by Rahul Dravid for the Sri Lankan series and the subsequent five matches against South Africa in mid-

November.

He is only the fourth batsman in one-day cricket to complete 10,000 runs after compatriot Sachin Tendulkar, Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya and Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq.

Ganguly, India's most successful Test captain with 21 wins, could not only return to the one-day squad but also stay in the leadership race in case India falters under Dravid.



SOURAV GANGULY

Ganguly contributed just 48 in

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Waugh injures arm writing!

CRICINFO

Steve Waugh suffered bouts of a repetitive strain injury while finishing his autobiography that were so bad he could write only in 15-minute bursts. Waugh, whose book 'Out of My Comfort Zone' is about to be released, hand-wrote the 220,000-word publication over a year and his right arm suffered.

"I could write for about 15 minutes at a time before it started getting sore," Waugh said in The Courier-Mail.

"It was ridiculous."

Waugh has penned 15 books by hand so he could pass them on to his children.

"That way they could all have a couple each rather than doing it on computer where you've got only one disc," he said.

"It was a good idea at the start but at 11 months before edging a what an idiot,"

Waugh said he was proud of the book and was honest about himself.

"I hope people will be interested in what influenced me and how my thoughts changed over the years," he said.

INDIA TV DISPUTE Govt steps in

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian government said on Friday that satellite TV channels screening cricket matches involving India will have to share the feed with the state-run terrestrial broadcaster, brushing off objections from the ICC.

The decision to make it mandatory for satellite channels to share their pictures with Doordarshan, India's only terrestrial network, was made at a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The order, applicable to both local and international TV companies, also applies to national and international sports events held in India and abroad.

"The sports channels having TV broadcasting rights shall, with immediate effect, share their feed with state-run Doordarshan for national and international sporting events held in India or abroad," federal information minister Jaipal Reddy told reporters.

"In case of cricket events, these shall include all matches featuring India and the semi-finals and final of international competitions."

O'Connor to head Cricket Australia

AFP, Sydney

Creagh O'Connor was Friday announced as the new chairman of Cricket Australia (CA) replacing Bob Merriman, CA said.

Merriman completed his term in office having served in the position since 2001.

O'Connor was appointed to the CA Board in 1998 and was appointed CA's deputy chairman last year.

His professional career includes 30 years in the engineering and construction industry in Australia, the Middle East and United States.

Now comes the condemnation



SPORTS REPORTER

Different quarters have blamed the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) top brass for mishandling the situation, which led to vice-president Kazi Salahuddin's resignation from the federation.

Salahuddin also stepped down as chairman of the National Team Management Committee (NTMC), triggering more resignations from the NTMC on Thursday.

Ex national footballers and former Abahani and Brothers booters showed their surprise over BFF's role in rewarding Amirul Islam Babu even after the controversial BFF member had abused the country's most celebrated footballer Salahuddin.

"We have observed that the BFF president (SA Sultan) has failed to defend Salahuddin on this issue," read a statement from Smritimoy Abahani, an association of ex-Abahani players. The statement also criticised the president's role, terming it as 'confusing'.

"We are feeling sorry because this type of incidents will lead to chaos in the sports arena but we welcome Salahuddin's brave decision to resign," it added.

Former Brothers footballers Shahiduddin Selim, Mohammed Mohsin, Abu Noman Nannu, Wasim Iqbal, Abdus Salam, Babul Pal and Amer Khan also condemned the BFF's decision to appoint Babu as national Under-20 team manager.

"As players, we denounce Babu's attitude towards a legendary footballer like Salahuddin. Babu has done similar things in the past including assaulting referees in front of AFC officials. We are surprised that a certain quarter in the BFF is backing him. We demand his immediate expulsion from the federation and his removal as manager of the youth team," said the statement.

Reacting on the whole situation, country's finest marksman Sheikh Mohammed Aslam told The Daily Star last night that it was very unfortunate.

"It is totally unacceptable that a non-technical person like him (Babu) could get away after humiliating a footballer of Salahuddin's stature. I congratulate Salahuddin because he has not valued his chair over his dignity and has resigned," said Aslam.

"He has upheld the honour and image of footballers by not compromising. We need better people in the football federation and I hope that the president will try to bring a solution to this incident."

"The way Salahuddin and his

associates were handling the NTMC was appreciable. They were trying to do something for the development of the game and I think they could have given a direction. It is a big blow for the game," added the former national striker.

Salahuddin, who is now abroad, was unavailable for any further comments but BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal told that they were hopeful that the former national captain, coach and BFF vice-president would reconsider his decision.

"We have had lengthy discussions with him but he was determined to quit. Time is the best healer and I feel that he would rethink and stay with us. Sometimes, people get emotional but in such cases, one needs some time to think with a cool head also," said Helal.

Meanwhile, the BFF has announced that Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chinnu, who was selected national team manager for three tournaments this year, will also act as team leader for the Grand Royal Challenge Cup four-nation invitation tournament in Myanmar.

Monir Ahmed, who was named team leader, has officially declared himself unavailable for the trip for personal reasons.

'Tendulkar on way back'



AFP, Bangalore

India's coach Greg Chappell Friday said star batsman Sachin Tendulkar was set to make a sparkling return to international cricket.

"Sachin is well and truly on track to hit good form," Chappell said ahead of a seven-match one-day home series against Sri Lanka starting at Nagpur on October 25.

Tendulkar had been out of action with an injured elbow since India hosted Pakistan in April but played in a domestic one-day tournament earlier this month.

"Sachin has been batting well and his presence is good for other players," Chappell said at the end of a three-day camp here.

"We are happy that from the fitness point of view he was fine during the camp. I think that's a very positive thing," he said.

"We have been planning some different combinations and hope to put up a good show against Sri Lanka, who are a fine side," said the former Australian captain.

Sri Lanka are second in the one-day rankings while India are in seventh place. Sri Lanka also have a fine recent record against India, having beaten them three times at home during a one-day tournament in August.

See page 13 col Tendulkar is the world's leading scorer with 13,642 runs in 348 one-dayers and a record 38 centuries.



PHOTO: AFP

India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar plays a shot during a practice session at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore on Friday.

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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