

## Khorshed Prime Bank chess champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Khorshed Alam clinched the Prime Bank eighth International Rating Chess tournament crown when he drew with contender Syed Ejaz Hossain in the ninth and final round at the BCF hall room yesterday.

The previous round's co-leaders ended level on 7.5 points after the draw but the title went to Khorshed by virtue of higher tie-breaking points.

Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon and Fide Master Mehdi Hasan Parag finished third and fourth respectively after finishing on seven points.

They were followed by Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, FM Taibur Rahman, Saifuddin Lavlu, Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin, Mohammad Ali, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan and Jamal Ahmed, who claimed 5th-11th positions with 6.5 points.

In other final round ties, Emon shared points with Taibur, Parag beat Sohel, Lavlu drew with Mostafa, Shamim drew with Debaraj, Ali beat Rouf, Jamal beat Monir and Delu drew with Momin.

A total of 106 players participated in the 9-round Swiss League.

## Lara most dangerous

CRICINFO, undated

Brian Lara has been voted the most dangerous opposition batsman, ahead of Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid, by Australian cricketers. Andrew Flintoff, Australia's Ashes tormentor, was voted the most dangerous opposition bowler and Muttiah Muralitharan was rated second in that list according to a report in The Australian.

Lara polled 55 per cent of the votes, while Tendulkar only got 25 per cent, and Dravid 20 per cent. While Ricky Ponting was regarded as the best batsman in Australia by his fellow cricketers, Shane Warne beat Glenn McGrath to claim the best-bowler honours. Mike Hussey, the Western Australia batsman, was the best domestic batsman ahead of Brad Hodge.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

## What to WATCH

ESPN

Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Primera Liga  
Real Madrid vs Valencia  
Same Day Delay at 2:30 pm



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa paceman Andre Nel, who took 3-42, in his follow through on a delivery during the first ODI against New Zealand at Bloemfontein on Sunday.

## Proteas go 1-nil up

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Bloemfontein

A quite brilliant innings from Justin Kemp gave South Africa first blood in the five-match one-day series against New Zealand in Bloemfontein on Sunday.

The hosts struggled for the majority of the overs as they chased 250 to win. Kemp blasted 73 off 64 balls but lost his wicket with three runs needed and seven balls remaining -- leaving Nicky Boje to scramble the winning run.

Earlier Craig McMillan had top-scored with 66 in New Zealand's 249-8, while Andre Nel returned figures of 3-42.

Stephen Fleming stroked nine boundaries off 48 balls at the top of the order, but partners Nathan Astle, Lou Vincent and Hamish Marshall all failed.

The highlight of the early exchanges came with the last ball of the 15th over, bowled by Nel. Fleming was playing some fine shots at this point but a square drive on the

off-side that was a bit uppish was brilliantly caught by Herschelle Gibbs at backward point.

The fielder dived to his left to take the catch and posed for mock photographs taken by his teammates in what was a well-rehearsed celebration.

McMillan and Jacob Oram (35) then added 74 for the fifth wicket to produce some stability.

And it was left to Andre Adams (30 not out off 22 balls) to give the Kiwis a defensible score as he played some big shots over the closing overs.

But when Shane Bond conceded 10 runs in wides in his first over and Graeme Smith drove another ball for four, New Zealand already seemed up against it.

However, in his second over, with the score already having raced to 29, Bond hit back to trap a crease-bound Boeta Dippenaar lbw.

Finally, the brakes were applied and some priceless wickets followed, as Smith, Jacques Kallis and Ashwell Prince all played on to leave the score 85-4 after 21 overs.

New Zealand were back in the

game and they were on top when Gibbs, after a most circumspect innings of 25, gave Bond his second wicket when Marshall took a fine catch at point.

But Kemp played himself in calmly in a partnership worth 65 with Mark Boucher before setting up the nail-biting finish.

When the required run rate first reached eight an over he smashed Astle for 22 in a single over.

But it kept creeping up again. With 56 wanted off 39 balls and just four wickets in hand, South Africa got a boost when Jeetan Patel dropped Pollock inside the boundary and the ball escaped for four.

Finally 13 runs came off Bond's ninth over, the 48th of the innings, as Pollock found his range, and the hosts could breathe a little easier. But with just three runs wanted from the last 10 balls, both men were caught in the deep slogging the spin of Patel - and Boje had to keep his head.

He drove the first ball of the last over, bowled by Bond, for two

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

## Chunnu joins his ex-star colleagues

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

With just two days to go before their departure for Myanmar to play in the Grand Royal Challenge Cup four-nation invitational tournament, the national football team finds itself without a leader.

Having completed their preparation camp under Argentine coach Diego Andres Cruciani at the BKSP, the 24-member squad, which leaves Dhaka tomorrow for Myanmar, returned to the capital on Friday. But they were left without a team leader after Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) assistant general secretary Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnu refused to perform his role as team leader and manager.

In a letter to the federation, the former national winger said he was not in a position to go to the tournament, which is part of Bangladesh's preparation for their defence of the SAFF Football Championship in Pakistan in

December.

The recent crisis at the BFF grew even bigger with Chunnu's decision, which followed the resignation of the whole National Team Management Committee (NTMC) including its chairman Kazi Salahuddin, the former national captain and coach who also stepped down as BFF vice-president.

"The existing situation is beyond control," Chunnu told reporters referring to the chaos in BFF that has hogged the headlines for the last few days.

"Everything is really confusing. Also, it is hard to do both the duties for the national team. That is why I have requested the federation to relieve me," said Chunnu, who was first named manager of the national team for three tournaments this year but was given the additional duty of team leader in Myanmar after BFF vice-president Monir Ahmed refused to take charge on personal grounds.

General secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal, who was yet to receive Chunnu's

letter, admitted however that he was aware of the news.

"We have to discuss this but we also have to take a decision by tomorrow," Helal said over phone.

The lack of leadership and the governing body of football's running into doldrums is certain to have a demoralising effect on the top footballers of the country ahead of their first real international commitment in two years.

Footballers have already expressed their wish to see ex-players as team officials which helps them in all aspects.

Meanwhile, Monir Ahmed has accused BFF president SA Sultan and general secretary Helal for misquoting him.

"I have seen media reports where the president and general secretary have blamed that it was not BFF member Amirul Islam Babu but my comment that sparked the chaos in the BFF meeting (October 18)," he said in a written statement.

"It is unfortunate for them to distort my comments. And I strongly condemn the way the NTMC and its chairman, star footballer Salahuddin, were ignored bypassing the FIFA and AFC guidelines," the statement added.

## CONDEMNATION FROM SHAH ALAM, AAB

While sports lovers continued to condemn the president's decision to ignore the NTMC's recommendation about selecting officials, another attack came from inside.

This time, BFF treasurer Shah Alam Chowdhury not only raised questions about financial transparency but also put a question mark on its leadership.

"The present situation proves that the leadership is not perfect. We gave him the responsibility but the decision taken by the president did not reflect the discussions of the executive committee meeting. He has failed to take the right decision by choosing a controversial

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

## India not keen on neutral ump: PCB

PTI, Islamabad

The Pakistan Cricket Board has said India were not too keen on having neutral umpires during their tour scheduled next year in February-March.

PCB Chairman Shaharyar Khan said although BCCI had not replied officially about the proposal to have neutral umpires, a "verbal chat with them on the subject gave the impression they would not agree".

"We proposed for neutral umpires to avoid any controversy but the BCCI has its own views on the subject," he was quoted as saying in 'Dawn'.

The PCB proposal has, however, been accepted by the England and Wales Cricket Board for the forthcoming series starting on October 26, Shaharyar said.

On paceman Shoaib Akhtar, who is yet to report at the national training camp in Lahore, the Chairman said the bowler would have to prove his fitness and form in the practice match before finding a place in the team.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

## Rain irks cricketers

SPORTS REPORTER



National cricketers have expressed their frustration at the rain-affected GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League, which is set to resume on November 9 after the Eid break.

According to them the twice postponed season curtain-raiser might reduce the number of matches.

"It is very frustrating for us because most of the national players were really looking forward to playing some serious cricket. Now with only half of the group-phase matches just complete, it is difficult to see how other more important competitions like the National League and Premier League can begin

on time," explained a frustrated Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar.

The National League, the county's lone first-class event, is supposed to get underway on November 8.

The 33-year-old premier right-hander, who is playing for Acme Laboratories, feared that they would not get enough opportunities to feature in National League games as the Tigers would be involved in the January camp for the Asia Cup to be held in February in Pakistan.

"We are still practising but it was fantastic to do it indoors in between Corporate Cricket League fixtures. Though we can't control the weather but I think it is pointless to wait until after Eid to restart," he added.

However, the tournament committee expressed their helplessness to

get the league up and running before Eid.

"We had to take the decision as our groundsmen advised us that it would not be possible to repair the grounds within a week. Besides, all the participating teams have sought to restart it after the holidays," said Ali Hossain, secretary of the tournament committee.

He also informed that the remaining CCL matches would henceforth take place at three Dhaka venues the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Fatullah Cricket Stadium and the BKSP in Savar.

"We have to finish the league anyhow by November 16 because repeated postponements have already forced rescheduling other domestic competitions," he added.

## 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

## Ricky's tip for Shane

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Ricky Ponting has defiantly told would-be suitors to his Australian Test cricket captaincy that he's staying put and not going anywhere.

Ponting, who along with team coach John Buchanan received most of the fall-out from Australia's relinquishing of the Ashes to England last month, says he is running the show and intends to remain captain.

Ponting has denied champion leg-spinner Shane Warne virtually ran the team in England, and responded to calls for Warne to become Test captain following the loss of the Ashes.

"There was only one person in charge on the field and that was me," Ponting wrote in his soon-to-be-

released book, Ashes Diary 2005.

"If he does still have captaincy aspirations he had better join the queue, because I am not planning on going anywhere just yet."

Ponting predicts that Warne, who retired from international limited-overs cricket after failing a drugs test before the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, might be back for the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

"I would not rule out the idea of him coming back into the one-day side for the 2007 World Cup," he writes.

"The trouble is that I do not think he will make himself available unless he gets an assurance from the selectors that they will pick him.

"He will not want to go to the trouble and possible embarrassment

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

## Waugh to help small nations

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Former Australian captain Steve Waugh said Sunday he saw his future helping Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Kenya improve their cricket.

"Cricket will always be in my blood and some day I will get back involved pretty heavily," Waugh told reporters here at the launch of his autobiography, "Out of My Comfort Zone."

Waugh said he believed his close association with the current Australian team would make it impractical to pursue a coaching role.

"I spent so much time with those guys that I think I'd be biased if I was involved too closely," Waugh said.

"But down the track I'm really interested in developing some of the other countries like Kenya, and Bangladesh, or Zimbabwe.

"Because if you don't do that then

the game is going to struggle, so I think we need the resources in that area."

The Australian cricket great, who retired as Australian skipper in January last year after 168 Test matches and 10,927 runs, warned against neglecting the emerging nations.

"You've got to make sure that countries like Zimbabwe, who are really struggling, and who aren't Test standard at the moment, you've got to help those guys get back on track," Waugh said.

"Bangladesh have got to keep developing and I think some of the African countries have got a lot of talent, Kenya, and some of the east African countries.

"I think we've got to focus on some of those countries.

"The other countries seem to be doing well but if we just focus on the top couple I think people will get bored with that eventually."