



Did U Know?

After it was appearing that the match was going to penalties, David Platt scored the latest goal in World Cup history (not including golden goals). He scored after 119 minutes in England's, second round match against Belgium in Italia 1990.



DD Sports

First ODI
India v South Africa
Live at 9.30 am

TEN Sports

Pakistan v England
First Test, Day Five
Live at 10:20 am

STAR Sports

ATP Masters Series
Live at 5 pm

2006 FIFA World Cup
Play off 2nd leg

Bahrain v Trinidad
Live at 9:55 pm



Brad Hodge

(Australian cricketer)

"It has been extremely hard work and ... dedication, it has been a long, hard road and I honestly believe if there is anyone that deserves to play cricket for Australia, it is me."

While urging the Aussie selectors to pick him for the second Test against the West Indies.

U-19 team fly to India today

SPORTS REPORTER

A 14-member Bangladesh Under-19 team leaves for India today to take part in the Afro-Asian Under-19 Cricket Tournament which starts in Vishakhapatnam on November 19.

Test cap Mushfiqur Rahim, the young wicketkeeper-cum-batsman who has played one Test against England at Lord's last summer, will lead the Bangladesh side in the six-team meet.

Four Asian sides (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh) and the remaining two from Africa (South Africa and Zimbabwe) will vie for top honours in the newly introduced competition.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed, who has been named manager, was very optimistic about the side and said that their main concern was to prepare for the Under-19 World Cup in Sri Lanka in February next year.

"I believe that the boys will play good cricket in the competition. But our main concern is the next World Youth Cup, this tournament and the tri-nation series at home. All will help us to make a good team for the World Cup," said Faruque, who leaves on Friday to join the team.

"We have another target to find out some players for the A team or Under-23 side. Right at the moment we had to include national players as there is a huge vacuum in between national and under-19 side," the former national captain explained.

Bangladesh will play hosts India in one of three matches on the opening day and take on Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and South Africa on November 20, 22, 23 and 25 respectively. The final is on November 27.

SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Mehrob Hossain, Mehdi Hassan, Saquib Al Hassan, Nazmus Sadat, Sohrawardi Shuvo, Nabil Samad, Marshall Ayub, Humayun Kabir, Aslam Khan, Nazmul Hossain Milon, Kamrul Islam, Dollar Mahmud.



PHOTO: STAR

Epyllion opener Shamsur Rahman, who hit a stroky 62, follows through on a sweep during their Corporate Cricket League semifinal against Acme at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

It's Beximco v Epyllion

SPORTS REPORTER



Beximco and Epyllion set up the November 17 final clash in the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League when they won their respective semifinals in dramatic fashion at two different city venues yesterday.

Epyllion pulled off a thrilling one-wicket win against Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar-led Acme Laboratories at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while a star-studded Beximco defeated Gazi Tanks by four wickets thanks to a match-winning 59 by a vintage Akram Khan.

Both the semifinals produced low scores but excitement were aplenty although there were little or no fireworks from any star names. The four semifinalists, who were involved in frantic activities to make the best use of their one foreign player quota, also saw their overseas players contributing little in the crunch games.

Only Pakistani Yasir Arafat with a 40 played a part in Epyllion's one-wicket triumph over Acme.

The right-arm paceman cum lower order batsman made a memorable

Dhaka debut first by hitting a 35-ball 40 and then taking two wickets for 19 runs. He was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

On the other hand, former Bangladesh captain Akram Khan once again showed his big match temperament in the twilight of his career with a fine half-century that took Beximco a step away from glory.

EPYLLION-ACME

Acme virtually lost the plot even at

SCORES IN BRIEF	
ACME: 185 all out in 45.1 overs (Javed 58, Tareq Mehmood 31, Hannan 30, Sagir 17, extras 23; Tareq 3-33, Shahadat 2-39, Arafat 2-19, Navil 1-18, Sabbir 2-19).	
EPYLLION: 186-9 in 43.1 overs (Shamsur 62, Tuskar 21, Dhiman 13, Arafat 40, extras 29; Alamgir 4-25, Hasibul 2-46, Rafique 2-43).	
Result: Epyllion won by one wicket.	
GAZI TANK: 160 all out in 43.3 overs (Golam Rahman 26, Nazimuddin 22, Abul Bashar 14, Manzarul 20, Mahmud 43, extras 16; Nazmul 2-33, Mahbubul 2-36, Razzak 2-24, Tikolo 2-29).	
BEXIMCO: 163-6 in 44.2 overs (Rajin 44, Akram 59, Shahin 36 not out, extras 11; Mahmud 2-31, Monjurul 2-25).	
Result: Beximco won by four wickets.	

the halfway mark when they put up a modest 185 on the board despite a typically stubborn 58 off 115 balls from national opener Javed Omar and a clumsy 31 by Pakistani Tareq Mehmud.

But Bashar's Acme sniffed a spectacular turn-around when Epyllion lost all but one wicket with still needing five more runs for victory. The apparel giants however survived those nail-biting moments when their number eleven Shahadat Hossain pulled left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique just over the close-in field and sneaked the winning single in the 44th over.

But Epyllion's road to victory was fashioned by a young batsman. Opener Shamsur Rahman, a member of the under-19 team that toured England earlier this year, hit a fluent 62 off 74 balls that contained four boundaries and three sixes. Pakistani Arafat then took Epyllion close to victory before being the last batsman out in the 43rd over.

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore watched the game along with other selectors. But the Australian was critical about the quality of the foreign recruits.

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Abahani recruit five on Day 2

SPORTS REPORTER

The second day of the Premier Division Cricket League transfers yesterday was as dull as exciting it was the day before.

After a hectic first day when 95 cricketers switched teams, only 27 cricketers came to the market on Wednesday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The highlight of the evening was heavyweights Abahani signing five cricketers in an attempt to strengthen their struggling squad.

The significant recruits were national one-day discard Faisal Hossain Dickens (DOHS), a prolific left-handed batsman in the domestic scene and national pool paceman Anwar Hossain Monir (Mohammedan). The other collections are fast bowler Ashrafal Haque Shanto (Dhamondi), batsman Jahurul Islam (Indira Road) and wicketkeeper Golam Mortuza (Biman).

The 13-time champions from Dhanmondi, who won the title six times in the 90s but have not won it since 1999, made bids for national captain Habibul Bashar and ex-Tigers opener Shahriar Hossain but to no avail.

"Due to some unfortunate incidents, we have failed to secure the two. The team is not as strong as our fans expect it to be. We have an uphill task in the competition. We lack a solid batsman and have to rely on foreign cricketers," said an Abahani official.

Abahani, who finished joint fourth last season, will face an uphill task, especially in absence of any senior cricketer. Injured Naimur Rahman, who led the side last year, has left the side in a crisis of choosing a captain.

Neyamur Rashid should be an automatic choice to lead the side but it is expected that either middle-order batsman Hasanuzzaman Rosel or opener Imran Ahmed or even a foreign cricketer would be given the captain's job.

Abahani, however, managed to keep the core of their last year's side by retaining spinners Ali Arman, Ahsanullah Hassan, pacers Gazi Alamgir, Debabrata Pal and young batsman Ishiaq Siddiki.

They have only 13 cricketers so far in the tent and hope to include a foreign player soon. The club have so far contacted their old players

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BCB gets less money for NCL

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite cricket being a hot commodity these days, the BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) unfortunately will receive less sponsorship money for the seventh edition of the National Cricket League, which begins on November 19.

Ispahani has been sponsoring the country's lone first-class competition for the last three years but it was learnt that this time the board was trying to attract a new sponsor for the meet but ultimately they had futile discussions with some commercial banks.

Finally, it had negotiated with their old partners who will provide less money.

"Last year Ispahani had provided Tk 30 lakh to sponsor the league but the amount has been reduced to 25 lakh this year," said Ali Hossain, coordinator of the league, without elaborating.

An official on condition of anonymity quipped that the new marketing committee chairman Ahmed Iqbal Hasan, who replaced Aziz Al Kaiser Titoo, failed in his first assignment.

Dhaka Club Sports Carnival Nov 26

BSS, Dhaka

The second Dhaka sports carnival organised by the Dhaka Club will begin on November 26.

Dhaka Club president Geeti Ara Shafia Chowdhury yesterday briefed reporters on the carnival.

"Like the previous year, Gulshan Club, Kurmitola Golf Club and Uttara Club have also come forward this year to share the responsibility of organising the three-day sports extravaganza in association with the Dhaka Club," she said.

Dhaka Club will organise squash, bridge, snooker and double-wicket cricket competition while Gulshan Club hosts tennis. The golf competition will be take place at the Kurmitola Golf Club.

The swimming competition will be held at the Uttara Club.

Four clubs from India -- The Saturday Club Limited, Calcutta Club Limited, Calcutta Cricket and Football Club, Bhubaneswar Club Limited and eleven local clubs -- Balisera Valley Club, Cader

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Salahuddin returns to BFF



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) vice-president Kazi Salahuddin withdrew his resignation along with his National Team Management Committee (NTMC) associates yesterday.

Former national football captain Salahuddin resigned as BFF vice-president and chairman of the NTMC last month after BFF president SA Sultan ignored a recommendation of the NTMC about selection officials for different national teams.

"I have decided to continue as BFF vice-president and chairman of the NTMC at the request of the BFF president," Salahuddin told a press briefing after he handed over his withdrawal letter to Sultan at the BFF Bhaban.

Monir Ahmed, Salam Murshedi, Golam Rabbani Helal, Imtiaz Sultan Johnny and Sayeed Hasan Kanan also withdrew their resignations as mem-

bers of the NTMC.

Welcoming the decision, Sultan hoped that the reunited family would work together for the future of the game.

"We want to put behind the past and make a fresh start. What happened was the result of a difference of opinion and I offered a compromise formula while naming national team officials. But they have convinced us that the manager post should go only to a renowned ex-player. They stood on their decision and we have honoured it because we have realised that they were correct.

"The whole incident was a good lesson for us and we want to stay in the right way in the future," Sultan added.

Salahuddin, whose resignation sparked a wave of resentment toward the BFF, expressed his confidence about running the NTMC independently.

"I personally thank the president for his latest approach. Yes, we are convinced that the past would be forgotten and we could start afresh.

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More matches in Dhaka?

SPORTS REPORTER



Even the involvement of two ministers could not put an end to the stalemate about live telecast of National Football League (NFL) matches outside

Dhaka.

Bangladesh Football Federation officials had a meeting with Informational Minister M Shamsul Islam, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, secretaries of both ministries as well Mohammed Hanif, the DG of Bangladesh Television who stuck to his decision

not to telecast matches live from venues like Khulna, Rangpur, Chandpur and Cox's Bazar.

The DG of BTV cited 'technical reasons' for being unable to take their OB Van for live transmission and offered 'delayed telecast' of the matches from four outside venues.

The BFF will have a meeting today with the sponsors Nitel-Tata but it is expected that they will want at least 20 matches to be broadcast live according to the contract with BFF and reject the offer of delayed telecasts.

The BTV DG earlier told that he was not interested to take 'valuable equipment' outside the capital for

security reasons.

A source said that security still played a factor on the mind of the DG of the state-run television who could not be convinced by the ministers.

To avoid postponing of the premier football tournament of the country, the BFF is contemplating to hold at least 20 matches in Dhaka. The football governing body will have to reduce at least two venues and bring those matches to the capital to meet the demand of the sponsors. A decision will finalised in BFF's executive committee meeting today.

The 10-team final phase of the NFL is scheduled to start in Khulna on November 20.

India ready for S Africa

Five-match ODI series begins today



Cricket

AFP, Hyderabad

India and South Africa clash in a five-match limited-overs series from Wednesday, hoping to build on their recent success by playing positive and aggressive cricket.

Rahul Dravid's India are buoyant after a brilliant 6-1 win over Sri Lanka in the recent series which dethroned the islanders as the second-best one-day team in the world behind Australia.

Graeme Smith's South Africans, the new number two in the official rankings, are unbeaten in their last 19 one-dayers, including a 4-0 rout of powerful New Zealand at home earlier this month.

"It is going to be an awesome series against India," said South African coach Mickey Arthur ahead of the opening international at the newly-built Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here.

"India are playing well these days and so have we. We have never won a one-day series in India so this is a good time to set the record straight. We can expect some positive and attacking cricket from both teams."

India's Dravid said the victories over Sri Lanka had boosted his team but there was no room for complacency.

"This is a new series and we will start from scratch," he said. "We have beaten one second-best team and are now geared to take on another second-best team."

"Hopefully we will continue our giant-killing ways."

India, World Cup finalists in 2003, are ranked seventh, but a series win over South Africa will catapult them to the top four in the International Cricket Council one-day rankings.

India's coach Greg Chappell was confident the hosts can pull it off against the Proteas.

"I am reasonably buoyant and confident that we can cope with whatever they throw at us," the former Australian captain told the Cricinfo website.

"It's a challenge for them to adapt to different conditions. We still have the home advantage but South Africa are a tough team. They don't get beaten easily."

"But if we can shock them the same way we shocked Sri Lanka, there is no reason we can't push

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Ad



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan opener Salman Butt salutes the crowd on reaching his century against England on the fourth day of the first Test at Multan on Tuesday.