

## Tangail reach final round

SPORTS REPORTER

Tangail edged past Gazipur 2-1 in a tiebreaker to reach the final round of the Jubok Phone National Football Championship at Tangail Stadium yesterday.

The Brahmaputra zone match was locked at 1-1 in the stipulated period with Golap scoring for Gazipur and Mustafiz for Tangail.

Rajshahi and Gaibandha also moved into the zonal final, eliminating Bogra and Rangpur respectively.

Rajshahi will meet Joypurhat in the zonal final on Wednesday, while Gaibandha will play the zonal final on Thursday against the winners of Nilphamari and Thakurgaon, who meet on Tuesday.

In the Karnaphuli zone, Rangamati DSA reached the zonal semifinal beating Feni at the Bandarban Stadium by a solitary goal scored by Ranavir Chakma in the 28th minute.

## Sandipan, Pallabi regain lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Sandipan Chatterjee of Kolkata retained the solo lead in the Class VI-X group of the eighth Standard Chartered School Chess competition on seven points after the 7th round matches at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Sayantan Das and Saayan Majumder, also from Kolkata, maintained their joint lead in the KG-Class V group securing 6.5 points.

Another from Kolkata, Pallabi Roy kept her solo lead in the girls' section collecting full six points after six rounds.

In the boys' section, Sandipan, Sayaji, Shiblu, Saayan and Sayantan won their respective matches.

While in the girls' sixth round, Pallabi, Moni and Shaati also were victorious yesterday.



## Did U Know?

Monty Panesar of England took 5/72 in the second innings of the second Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford. It was the second time that he has taken 5 wickets or more in a match.



### Rahul Dravid

(India cricket captain)

"His presence is important to all of us. It is good for us that he is around and looking forward to doing well in Sri Lanka."

On Sachin Tendulkar.

## Boucher picked as ODI captain

AFP, Colombo

South Africa's cricket selectors on Monday named wicket-keeper Mark Boucher as captain for the limited-overs tri-series against India and hosts Sri Lanka next month.

Boucher will lead a 14-man squad for the August 14-29 event, replacing Ashwell Prince who is captain for the ongoing Test series against Sri Lanka in place of the injured Graeme Smith.

Left-handed Prince, the first black cricketer to lead South Africa, remains part of the one-day squad, convenor of selectors Haroon Lorgat said.

South Africa will be without four one-day regulars: Smith, all-rounder Jacques Kallis, batsman Justin Kemp and seamer Charl Langeveldt.

### SQUAD

Mark Boucher (capt), Boeta Dippenaar, Loots Bosman, Herschelle Gibbs, AB de Villiers, Shaun Pollock, Johan van der Wath, Robin Petersen, Andrew Hall, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Ashwell Prince, Roger Telemachus, Thandi Tshabalala.



PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

Man-of-the-match for the second ODI, Mohammad Rafique, in conversation with Pommie Mbanga at the post-match presentation in Harare on Sunday.

# A worthy debutant



SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Forhad Reza might only have heard of his selection to the playing eleven on the morning of the second one-day international against Zimbabwe on Sunday at the Harare Sports Club ground, but no edginess could stop him from becoming the first Bangladeshi to score a 50 on debut in one-day cricket as the Tigers wrapped up a convincing 62-run win.

The 20-year-old, who replaced fellow all-rounder Alok Kapali, came in at number six with the Tigers reeling on 73 for 4. He scored exactly 50 off 57 balls, studded with a dozen fours and a six over mid-wicket.

But he played with ease on the same ground he had played for the Bangladesh A side a few weeks earlier. When the Zimbabweans replied, he came in at one change and bowled ten steady overs, conceding 43 runs.

"I was only told that I would be playing after breakfast today (Sunday) but I was mentally prepared to play any time," Reza told the official BCB website after the match.

The Rajshahi boy also acclaimed the contributions of captain Habibul Bashar and his hometown teammate Khaled Mashud.

"I did not feel any nerves because the skipper told me to play my natural game and then Mashud gave me confidence by saying, 'the

worst that could happen was that you could get out, so don't worry about a thing'."

"I know my parents, sister and brother-in-law are missing me and I miss them too. I just want to tell them that it was because of their prayers that I could play like I did," said a pleased Reza.

Bashar was furthermore impressed and quite satisfied by the debutant's relaxed approach and eventual contribution that was instrumental in salvaging the Bangladesh innings.

"He played his natural game and had he not played in that way we might not have reached 238. He did all that was asked of him, batting, bowling and fielding," said skipper Bashar who misses the rest of the Africa tour with a hand injury.

"We need someone like Reza in the side and I hope he continues to perform like he did today (Sunday)," acknowledged Bashar.

Wicket-keeper batsman Khaled Mashud virtually held the innings together along with Reza, Mohammad Rafique and the rest of the tail, to remain unbeaten on 48 off 77 balls.

Mashud also had four dismissals to cap off a remarkable day for the 'keeper. He was in question over his position on the side ahead of the tour and had mentioned that he relishes a challenge.

On Sunday, the challenge was similar to those he had faced over the period of his career and successfully held the innings together

as well as keeping a clean sheet behind the stumps.

The difference between the two back-to-back matches was the fielding as the run-outs suggested.

Bashar informed that there was a talk on stopping Elton Chigumbura and Stuart Matsikenyeri, the hosts' saviours on Saturday.

"We discussed the field positions, looked at where they like to play and changed our fielding plan accordingly," said Bashar.

"We recovered very well today. This would not have been possible three or four years ago.

"The way Mashud and Reza played was unbelievable. This shows that we have what it takes to pull ourselves out of pressure situations and I am sure you will see more of this in the future also. I must also add that we haven't played to our full potential yet," added Bashar.

Man-of-the-match Rafique, who took two for 24, admitted that he had to change his bowling-plan according to the conditions.

"I bowled a lot quicker in the first match but saw that their spinners bowled a little slow and the ball had turned. I tried to do the same and it worked," said the veteran left-amer.

The Tigers took a break on Monday and will resume practice today for the third match on the same ground on August 2.

## BOA chief endorses SA Games squad

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president Lt. Gen. Moeen U Ahmed on Monday approved the number of participants in fifteen disciplines of the Bangladesh contingent that will compete in the SA Games to be held in mid-August in Colombo.

The fifteen disciplines are — weightlifting, boxing, shooting, karate, wrestling, badminton, taekwondo, table tennis, cycling, judo, archery, volleyball, hockey, football and kabaddi.

The number of participants in two other disciplines — athletics and swimming — are likely to be sanctioned by the BOA president on Wednesday after the evaluation of the participants' timings.

Talking to UNB at his office, BOA chief operating officer Lt. Col. M Wali Ullah said BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed on Monday met with General Moeen to obtain his approval of the Sri Lanka-bound contingent.

As proposed by the BOA Coaching and Training Committee (CTC), the team remains at 204 as the names of four members — three from karate and one from archery — were withdrawn on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the BOA president appointed member Abhijit Sarker as the general team manager of the contingent.

Besides, Chef de Mission Maj. Gen. Akbar Akhter, BOA official Badruddin Ahmed and two team doctors will also accompany the party, informed the BOA chief operating officer.

## Malaysia, S'pore to host tri-series

AFP, New Delhi

World champions Australia will clash with India and the West Indies in a limited-overs tri-series in Singapore and Malaysia in September, the Indian board said on Monday.

The exact dates for the tri-series, a prelude to the Champions Trophy tournament in India in October-November, will be announced later.

Each team will play the other twice in the league with the top two advancing to the final, Indian cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah said in a statement.

Three of the seven matches will be played in Singapore and the remaining four in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, the statement said.

Singapore has previously hosted three tri-series, the first one in 1996 between India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Padang and two in 1999 and 2000 at the new Kallang ground.

Kuala Lumpur hosted one-day internationals when cricket was played at the Commonwealth Games in 2002.

The ground arrangements for the latest series will be organised by Cricket Australia (CA) while the Indian board will handle the marketing and sale of television rights, the statement added.

CA's chief executive James Sutherland said in Sydney he was grateful for the support of the Malaysian Cricket Association and the Singapore Cricket Association.

"It would be exciting to bring the game to newer cricketing frontiers and to showcase some of the best

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# An expected conclusion



SPORTS REPORTER

As expected, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) accepted the resignation letters of Kazi Salahuddin and Ashrafuddin Ahmed Churnu in its emergency meeting at the BFF Bhawan yesterday.

What this meant was that, in what was a pathetic episode that demeaned football in the country, the game's governing body rejected the service of someone like Salahuddin, the finest striker the country has ever produced, for a man (Amirul Islam Babu) who is far less than him in stature.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal, who briefed the reporters after a marathon meeting, admitted that it was a great loss for the country's football but said that there was no alternative for them.

"No doubt his (Salahuddin) departure is a great loss for us. In the first occasion we had tried our level best but this time we reached the point of no return. The most painful fact is that the situation escalated into such a silly matter," said a visibly dejected Helal.

When he was asked whether it was BFF's lack of wisdom to miss Salahuddin's service for a controversial person like Babu, Helal declined to make any comments and elaborated the 'simple matter' behind the loss.

"What can I say, the EC (Executive Committee) is the supreme authority to take any decision regarding anything," he said to defend his president's (SA Sultan) u-turn about the NTMC (National Team Management Committee)'s supremacy in selecting the team manager.

Helal informed that the meeting adopted a resolution condemning Salahuddin's remarks on the BFF president where the former national skipper had termed SA Sultan 'a complete liar'.

"Nobody opposed the resolution," he added. But BFF senior Vice-president Monir Ahmed and member Syeed Hasan Kanan later told that they protested the move.

"The next AGM which is scheduled to be held on September 9 would decide about the two vacant posts. The EC has given the NTMC job to the general secretary, deputy general secretary and assistant general secretary," Helal informed.

SA Sultan who has already

become a laughing stock in the football fraternity for his senseless remarks initially expressed his reluctance meet the reporters after the meeting. But when he finally appeared, he came up with another amusing observation about the manager's role in the team.

"The post of manager in the football team is not a technical job. It's a managerial job," remarked Sultan.

Asked whether he was still dreaming of injecting new blood into the game languishing in doldrums without Salahuddin, he said that he was personally hurt by the departure of Salahuddin.

"I'm personally hurt by the outcome. But I am still hopeful about the improvement of the game," he said.

It should be noted in this regard that under his tutelage, Bangladesh has been suspended by FIFA, his committee had to almost resort to begging for a sponsor for last year's Premier Football and he failed to fulfil his commitment to arrange an international tournament (Prime Minister Cup) at the BNS.

And to top it all off, his committee even lacked the ability to pay the salary of the national coach.

# Murali puts the final touch



AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran put on another master-class display to send South Africa crashing to an innings and 153-run defeat in the first Test here on Monday.

The prolific off-spinner grabbed 6-131 as the tourists, 587 runs behind on the first innings, were bowled out for 434 in their second knock after lunch on the fifth day at the Sinhalese sports club.

Muralidaran finished with match figures of 10-172, the 17th time he has taken 10 or more wickets in a match. He also has 54 hauls of five wickets or more in an innings.

Both are world records by a fair distance. In second place are Australian Shane Warne's 10 10-wicket feats and New Zealander Richard Hadlee's 36 five-wicket hauls.

Muralidaran, 34, now has 645 wickets in 107 Tests, second in the all-time list behind Warne's record tally of 685 in 140 matches.

South Africa, who began the final day on a promising 311-4, lost their last six wickets for the addition of 123 runs to concede the lead in the two-match series. The second and final Test starts at the Sara stadium here on Friday.

Wicket-keeper Mark Boucher was the lone batsman to resist the Sri Lankans on the last day with 85.

Muralidaran set South Africa back early when he dismissed captain Ashwell Prince in the second over of the day and removed Herschelle Gibbs at the stroke of the drinks break.

The wily spinner had Prince caught low at slip by Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene, ending a defiant fifth-wicket stand of 78 with Boucher.

Left-handed Prince added only one run to his overnight score of 60.

Gibbs, who was forced to bat at number seven after being off the



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka's spin-wizard Muttiah Muralidaran delivers the ball on the fifth day of the first Test against South Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo on Monday.

# Dalmiya retains presidency

## Labels Sourav 'a kid'



PTI, Kolkata

Having lost control of the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI), veteran sports administrator Jagmohan Dalmiya on Sunday night received a much-needed fillip when he retained the post of President of Cricket Association of Bengal with a narrow victory.

The former BCCI and ICC chief edged out his challenger, Kolkata Police Commissioner Prasun Mukherjee, 61-56, embarrassing West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee who had publicly backed the latter in the lead up to the elections.

Dalmiya's victory provides him a platform to take on the BCCI, which has suspended him from attending board meetings, filed an FIR and slapped two showcase notices on alleged irregularities in PILCOM

(Pakistan-India-Lanka Organising Committee for the 1996 World Cup). "I am happy that I have got a platform that I badly needed," Dalmiya told the media soon after the election results were announced.

The win also came as a boost to the former BCCI chief following his long-time protegee and former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly's damning e-mail in which he expressed support to the dissident lobby and accused the Dalmiya faction in the CAB of 'playing' with his career.

Dubbing Sourav Ganguly as a 'baccha' (kid), Dalmiya early on Monday said he was committed to help all players including the former Indian captain.

"He is a baccha (kid). It's not right to talk about bacchas," Dalmiya said responding to persistent questions from scribes on whether he would still back Ganguly who had sent an email, days before the CAB elections accusing the ruling faction of 'playing' with his career.

"I'll definitely help him," a beaming Dalmiya told reporters immediately after the results were announced by court appointed observer Santosh Kumar Phoujdar at the CAB headquarters at the Eden Gardens.

"Why only Sourav? As president and secretary of BCCI I stood by (Virender) Sehwag during the ball tampering controversy. I also supported Sachin (Tendulkar), Harbhajan (Singh) when the going got tough for them," he said.

"I have always looked after players. It is a religion for me. And, I cannot compromise on this."

Asked whether he would fight for Ganguly's return to the Indian team, Dalmiya said "Why not? I've always been optimistic about his

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PHOTO: STAR

Samah Hamid (L) of Scholastica makes a move against Tanzila Akhter of Motizheel Govt. School during the sixth round of StanChart school chess at the NSC conference room on Monday.