

Tapan warns politically affiliated organisers

SPORTS REPORTER

Sports adviser Tapan Chowdhury on Saturday urged all politically affiliated persons to step down from the posts of the different sports federations.

"Those who have gained the post of different federations due to political blessing should step down of their own accord to prevent embarrassment. They should understand that being elected is not the sole criteria to holding the post," he told at a seminar titled "Inactive Sports: Road to Success", organised by Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA), at the auditorium of NSC Tower.

It was also his first extensive meeting with the sports organisers and reporters since he took oath as an advisor of the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker government last month.

He made this comment when asked whether he will take necessary steps to reform different federations by removing politically affiliated people despite the fact that they are elected.

"Time has come for the real organisers to come forward to create a healthy atmosphere in the sports arena. We can make a new start under this current adminis-

tration. I need support from you people to revive the hopes," said the sports boss.

Chowdhury also vowed that he would leave no stone unturned to bring the corrupt people in the sports arena to the book as part of his government's policy.

"No doubt corruption has been

rampant in the sports arena. We will definitely touch those people who made corruption in this sector, no matter how deep their root is. I can assure you we will bring the culprits to the book," he assured.

The most discussed issue in the seminar was the role of the National Sports Council (NSC).

Most of the speakers observed that the NSC has not only created the main obstacle to the improvement of sports in the country but also turned into a depot of corruption.

Among the participants, former sports secretary M Asafuddin was the most vocal about the issue and he also requested the sports adviser to abolish the organisation straightaway to stop the corruption.

"Without any doubt you just close the organisation because you cannot see such kind of organisation in any other country in the world. I have had the experience as a former sports secretary to see how this organisation acted against the real interest of sports. I also request you to cancel the NSC act immediately," said the former bureaucrat.

"What we need to do is to provide as much power as possible to the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA). The BOA must however be an elected body voted for by the different federations and they will only coordinate with the federations themselves," he suggested.

Chowdhury however said that he was more interested in creating a law that can bar the sports minister to also be the chief of the NSC.

"Yes, there is a lot of criticism



Sports Adviser to the caretaker government Tapan Chowdhury (R) addresses the seminar titled, 'Inactive Sports: Road to success' at the conference room of NSC Tower yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Comeback cricketers Rajin Saleh (front), Taposh Baisya and Javed Omar (3rd R) stretch during a practice session of the Tigers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Did U Know?

India's opener Sunil Gavaskar batted through the full 60 overs in the opening match of the 1975 World Cup against England at Lord's to score just 36 runs.



Iker Casillas
(Real Madrid goalkeeper)
"If Barcelona are in crisis, then we have really fallen off the edge. Their crisis makes me laugh."



ESPN
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2nd ODI, Chappell-Hadlee Trophy
Live at 4:00 am
Primera Liga
Valencia v Barcelona
Live at 11:55 pm
STAR Sports
FA Cup
Preston North v Man City
Live at 7:05 pm
Fulham v Tottenham
Live at 9:55 pm
Primera Liga
Sevilla v Atletico Madrid
Live at 1:55 am (Monday)

Amjad going home

SPORTS REPORTER

England A paceman Amjad Khan has been ruled out of the England tour of Bangladesh after suffering a swollen knee in India.

Khan arrived in Dhaka with an inflamed knee after attending the MRF pace academy in Chennai and was sent back to England as a precaution ahead of the new season.

His withdrawal, along with Ravi Bopara's selection for the World

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Compton comes to Eng A party

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Nick Compton warmed up well with a magnificent unbeaten 152 as England A cruised on the first day of their practice match against BCB National Academy XI at BKSP yesterday.

Opting to bat first, the visitors amassed 327-4 in 91 overs when stumps were drawn.

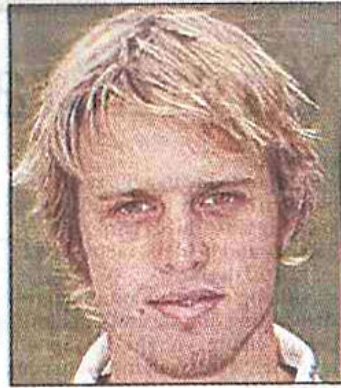
23-year-old Compton, the grandson of legendary English cricketer Dennis Compton, remained unbeaten on 152 while wicketkeeper-batsman Matt Prior accompanied him with 82 not out. Both batsmen shared an unbroken stand of 162 runs for the fifth wicket.

England A started brightly with Compton and Will Jefferson hitting the straps early on. The lanky Jefferson struck nine boundaries and a six in his assertive 58 but fell to left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain with the score on 85.

Paceman Dollar Mahmud got

rid of captain Michael Yardy for 16 during a bright period for the Academy side. Off-spinner

Mahmudullah Riyad got the wickets of left-hander Michael Carberry and all-rounder Alex Loudon



COMPTON...152 not out

during the period between lunch and tea.

Prior, coming in at number six, played an aggressive knock of 82 from 106 balls. He struck 19 fours while Compton, who reached his century off 169 deliveries, hit fourteen hits across the rope and two sixes.

For the National Academy side,

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Mashud drafted in BD A

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh discards Khaled Mashud, Mehrib Hossain and Mohammad Sharif were selected in the Bangladesh A team for the two four-day matches against touring England A team.

The side will be led by another omission from the national side for the World Cup as batsman Tushar Imran remains captain of the second string side which begins the first four-day on February 22.

This will be Mashud's first appearance for the second string side while chances are also being handed to opener Mehrib and all-rounder Sharif.

The players are requested to report to A Team Head Coach Shaun Williams at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on February 18 at 5pm.

SQUAD

Tushar Imran (captain), Khaled Mashud, Mehrib Hossain, Jahurul Islam, Nasiruddin Faruque, Marshall Ayub, Nadif Chowdhury, Enamul Haque, Dollar Mahmud, Mohammad Sharif, Ziaur Rahman, Mosharraf Hossain, Nazmul Hossain.

Yuvraj takes India home

Cricket

AFP, Visakhapatnam

Yuvraj Singh smashed a blistering 95 not out to guide India to a series-clinching seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the fourth and final one-day here on Saturday.

He received valuable support from Sourav Ganguly (58 not out) as India surpassed Sri Lanka's total of 259-7 with six overs to spare to win the series 2-1. The opening match was abandoned due to rain.

The win gave India a crucial psychological edge going into next month's World Cup in the Caribbean as they will meet Sri Lanka in Group B. Others in the group are Bangladesh and Bermuda, with the top two sides advancing to the next round.

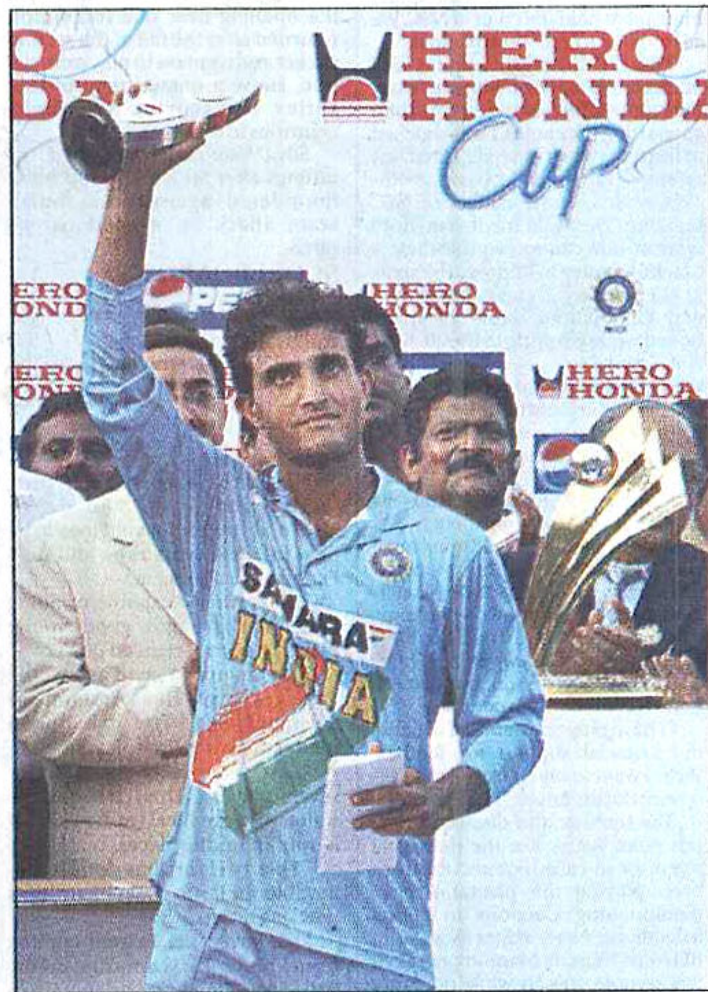
Yuvraj and Ganguly built on Robin Uthappa's quickfire 37-ball 52 to steer their team home with a record 145-run stand for the unfinished fourth wicket in a match reduced to 47-overs-a-side due to a damp outfield.

India's previous best for the fourth wicket against Sri Lanka was 128 between Rahul Dravid and Gautam Gambhir in 2005.

The Indian batsmen eventually overshadowed Sri Lankan Chamara Silva, who slammed an impressive 107 not out for his maiden hundred in one-dayers, although Silva clinched the man-of-the-match prize.

Uthappa and Virender Sehwag

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India batsman Sourav Ganguly holds aloft the man-of-the-series trophy after India clinched the series against Sri Lanka 2-1 at the ACA-VDCA Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bashar not looking back

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket captain Habib Bashar said that his boys are professional enough to come out from the controversy regarding the World Cup squad that was announced on Tuesday.

"It is not unlikely that his (Khaled Mashud) omission could effect the team slightly because he was a regular member of the team for a long time," said Bashar during a practice session at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

"But everything goes out the window once we start playing because we are matured to focus on the main duty of performing."

"I believe the controversy over Mashud would not affect the team ultimately. When a side is picked, it is the best side and the players are capable of doing better," he added.

Tigers started their short World Cup preparation at home after their arrival from Zimbabwe last week and they will also be practicing today before leaving here for the West Indies tomorrow morning.

Bangladesh, which has been pencilled in Group B along with India, Sri Lanka and Bermuda, will take part in a triangular tournament involving Antigua & Barbuda and Canada before playing two warm-up matches against New Zealand (March 6) and Scotland (March 8) at Bridgetown, Barbados.

"We generally carry out a long training camp before any tournament to become physically fit, but

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YOUR SAY ON TIGERS SELECTION

1. The exclusion of Khaled Mashud from the World Cup team has raised questions by captains like Gazi Ashraf Hossain, Akram Khan, Roquibul Hasan. Others have also expressed their opinions against the decision to discard Mashud. TV channels have started to question the decision, and more interestingly, an SMS voting conducted by Channel-I showed that more than 70% voted against the decision of excluding Mashud. It appears that majority cricket followers in Bangladesh want Mashud in the team. Gazi Ashraf even mentioned in a TV interview that some sort of 'underground-work' might have been done to keep Mashud out of the team. But in my opinion the very first point we should consider whether we are looking for a 'batsman-wicketkeeper' instead of a 'wicketkeeper-batsman'. A team like Bangladesh definitely needs an extra batsman who can contribute with some valuable runs. From that point of view, I don't see anything wrong to take Mushfiqur Rahim. I would rather say this is a brave decision taken by the selectors. Again 'emotion' is being a big problem in Bangladesh over the years. We all know how Nolo won against Rajiv or Salma over Muhi in Close Up 1 contest. I don't want to get into a debate if emotion is good or bad. But, I think it's really

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Rajshahi fail to win

SPORTS REPORTER



If it was not for the rain on the first day, two out of three matches were poised for results but all the sixth round matches of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League drew a blank across the country yesterday.

Rajshahi were closest to the win as they were in touching distance of bowling out Chittagong in their second innings while the game between Sylhet and Barisal was hanging in the balance when play ended at the Fatullah Stadium.

Dhaka's fixture against Khulna only went on for three innings as on a flat wicket at the Khulna Divisional Stadium, Dhaka scored 302 all out in their first innings.

RAJSHAHI - CHITTAGONG
Starting the day with a lead of 164 runs, Rajshahi consolidated their lead at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

Anisur Rahman and Mahub Alam struck 50s as the hosts gave Chittagong a target of 313 runs.

Pacemen Forhad Reza, Shumon Shaha and Mushfiqur Rahman shared eight wickets as Rajshahi got close to victory. Only a stubborn 28 not out from Faisal Islam saved Chittagong from a certain

loss as they slumped to 116-9.

SYLHET - BARISAL

Set 260 for a win after Sylhet were bowled out for 254 in their second innings, Barisal reached 215 for seven when play ended with Ali Arman and Mehdi Hasan at the crease.

Barisal left-arm spinner Tariqul Islam took six wickets in a bid to try and keep their second innings target to a minimum. But the Golam brothers, Mabud and Mowla, shared an 81-run stand to give Sylhet something to bowl at.

Rakibul struck 61 but other batsmen for Barisal failed to gather any momentum in the chase.

KHULNA - DHAKA

Shamsur Rahman struck 82 while wicketkeeper-batsman Anwar Hossain also hit a fine half-century as Dhaka piled 302 in their first innings. Left-armers Manzarul Rana and Fahim Muntasir took four wickets each for Khulna.

The hosts only mustered 51-1 in 12 overs when they batted for their second dig.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: 300 and 244-6 in 90 overs (Rabiul 50, Rafiqul 49, Forhad 1, Naeem 10, Anisur 50, Hasanuzzaman 3, Mahub 51, Mushfiqur 15* extras 15, Sabbir 3-69, Elias 2-47, Tareq 1-29).
CHITTAGONG: 231 and 116-9 in 44 overs (Salahuddin 9, Mahubul 3, Sunny 0, Nazimuddin 12, Ehsanul

18, Faisal 28*, Dhiman 26, Sabbir 6, Waskuruni 0, Tareq 2, Kamrul 0, extras 12, Shaha 3-40, Forhad 3-43, Mushfiqur 2-12).

Result: Match Drawn.
SYLHET: 170 and 254 all out in 83.3 overs (Rahman 2, Imtiaz 9, Rezaul 39, Alok 41, Saif 10, Mabud 63, Mawla 49, Enamul 24, Nazmul 2, Hasibul 2*, Nabil 0, extras 13, Salahuddin 2-35, Tariqul 6-78, Raisul 1-17).

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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazrul Islam Hall won the BUET annual athletic competition at the university ground on Friday.

They clinched the trophy with 70 points while MA Rashid Hall became runners-up with 56 points to their credit.

Akhtaruzzaman was adjudged best athlete, receiving his award from vice-chancellor Professor AMM Shafulah at a prize giving ceremony.

PETROBANGLA SPORTS MEET

Titas Gas emerged champions in the inter-company Central Sports Meet of Petrobangla held at the Armed Police Battalion ground in Uttara yesterday.

M Anisuzzaman and Mariam Akhter emerged as the men's and

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