

BFF plans polls in 70 days

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is looking forward to hold its election within next 70 days. The roadmap to stage the long due polls was approved by the executive committee in its yesterday's meeting.

"We have approved the roadmap to hold the election within 70 days," informed BFF acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu after the meeting.

"To do that, we have made changes into the draft constitution of district and divisional football associations (DFA) according to FIFA suggestions.

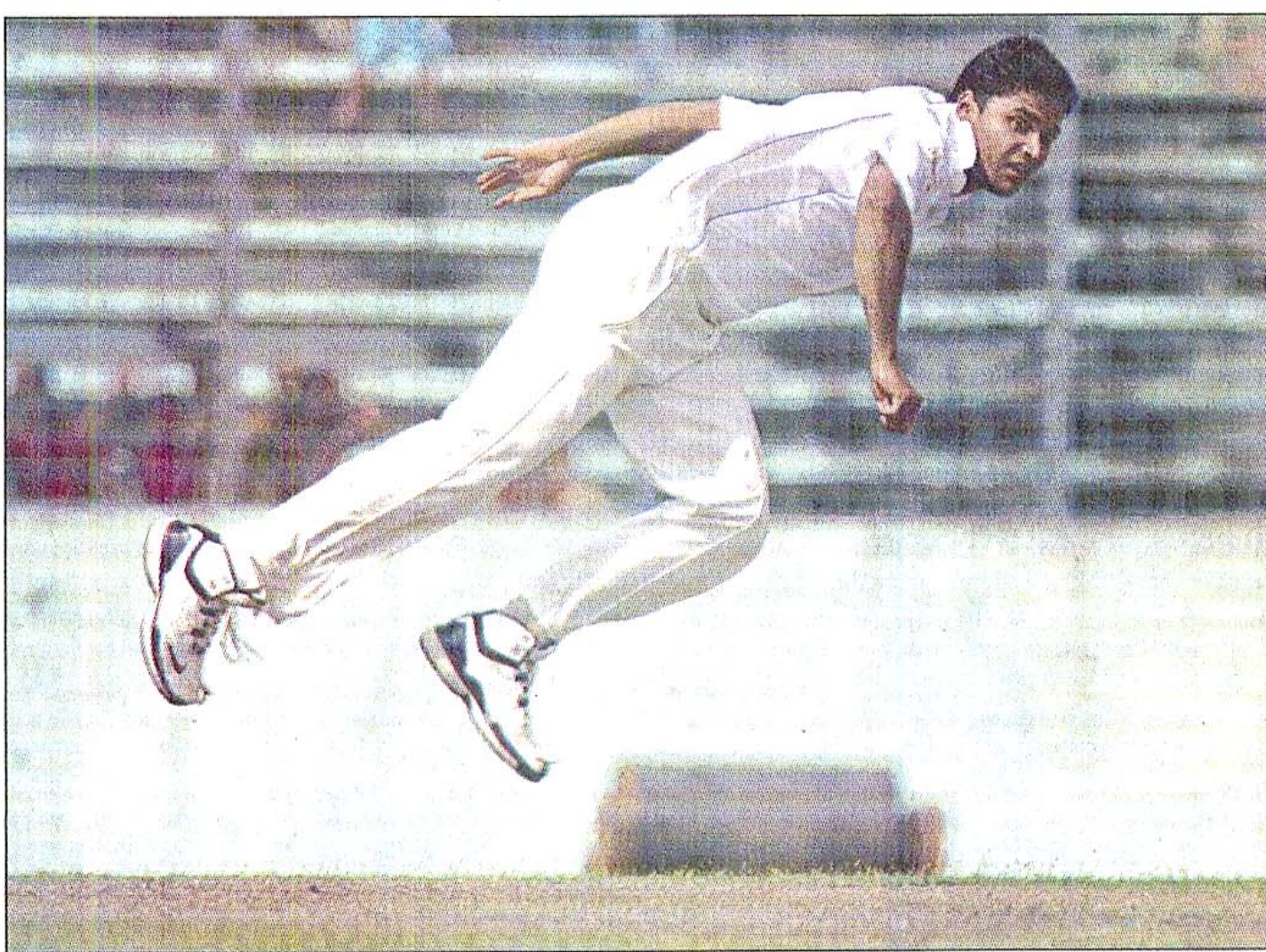
"FIFA had observations about nine points and we have stuck to them," said Malu adding that there would be no votes for the posts of secretary and joint-secretary in DFA or the BFF polls.

These two would be paid posts from now on while the other major issue was that no government officials would be able to be parts of the DFA or BFF.

When asked why the councilors were not involved, Malu replied: "It's not a matter for the council, the EC can do it on its own."

"Now we will send the draft constitution to FIFA within 24 hours and when we get approval, we will ask the district sports associations to take necessary steps to form the DFAs through election. We will also seek the help of the

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Khulna's national paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is yet to land after sending down a delivery during the second day's play of the National Cricket League match against Dhaka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Tariq, Mashrafe shine

SPORTS REPORTER

Fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's four-wicket haul destroyed Dhaka, Chittagong fought back through Tariq Aziz while Rajshahi consolidated at the end of the second day of the 9th National Cricket League first round matches yesterday.

Khulna, who were 58 for two at stumps on the opening day, took a handsome 187-run lead after Dhaka were shot out for 174 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Aziz helped Chittagong restrict Barisal to 274 and then moved to 34 without any loss at Bogra. In Rajshahi, it was slow going as the hosts crawled to 229-8 at less than 2.5 runs an over.

DHAKA-KHULNA

Mashrafe promptly dismissed overnight batsmen Anwar Hossain and Mohammad Sharif in the first three overs. And when he had Al Shahriar caught by Nazmus Sadat, Dhaka were in deep trouble at 34-5.

Khulna left-arm spinners joined the action when Nadif Chowdhury was out to a beauty from Abdur Razzak and captain Mohammad

Ashraf fell to Shakib Al Hasan's in-dipper.

Had it not been for a swashbuckling half-century and some sensible batting from Mahmudul Islam, Dhaka would have easily slipped into a large follow-on.

Rafique struck five fours and three sixes in his 69-ball knock. With Riyad, he added 66 for the eighth wicket before further tail-end resistance from Mosharraf Hossain.

Khulna opens Nazmus Sadat and Imrul Kayes failed again but big guns Habibul Bashar and Tushar Imran prevented further damages to finish strongly.

Dhaka, who did not receive a single bonus point on the day, only have to Khulna's seven.

BARISAL-CHITTAGONG

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Chittagong fought hard but could not keep the lead under control.

Paceman Tariq Aziz picked up the first five-wicket haul of the season when he helped reduce the hosts to 174 for eight. But as was Chittagong's bane last year, they could not dismantle the tail and number ten Sajidul Islam cashed in, scoring an 80-ball 64.

Sajid shared a 54-run ninth wicket stand with Talha Jubair to

stretch the lead to 98 runs.

Earlier, Shahriar Nafees played a captain's knock of 79 before falling to Sabbir Khan. The left-hander struck nine boundaries and a six in 134 balls.

Tariq had three leg-before decisions in his favour against Rokibul Hasan, Nasiruddin Faruque and Raisul Islam to take 5-80.

Openers Tamim Iqbal and Gazi Salahuddin remained unbeaten as they weathered 16 overs successfully.

Barisal picked up two bonus points on the day, taking their tally to six for the match while Chittagong collected four bowling bonus points.

RAJSHAH-SYLHET

It was slow stuff at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium with the home side ruining a good start.

Jahurul Islam struck 67 while fellow opener Zunaid Siddique chipped in with 34 but the middle-order failed to capitalise. Khaled Mashud remained unbeaten on exactly 50 with Delwar Hossain on 16.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque gave away 58 runs for two wickets in his 30 overs. Tapash Baisya also took a couple while Rezaul Haque and Alok Kapali took one each.

Rajshahi took their bonus tally

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U-16 booters concede 9 to UAE

SPORTS REPORTER

The bubble burst for Bangladesh youth football team who crashed 9-1 to hosts United Arab Emirates in the second round of the AFC Under-16 Championship qualifiers in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The UAE led the first half of the Group D match 2-0 at the Military Physical Education Centre ground with a goal each from Abdullah and Selim.

But Salman notched a hat-trick inside 14 minutes after restart while Ahmed added three goals in the last two minutes following Abdullah's second goal in the 85th to add more woes to Bangladesh, who had won their opening match against Palestine 9-1.

Sohel, who scored four goals for Bangladesh in the Palestine match, reduced the arrears on the hour after UAE were comfortably leading 5-0 on way to their first win in the six-team competition. UAE drew 2-2 with Uzbekistan in the first round.

Bangladesh will play Turkmenistan tomorrow.

Dar admits Tendulkar blunder

CRICINFO, undated

More than a month after wrongly adjudging Sachin Tendulkar out caught behind in the final one-day international against England at Lord's, umpire Aleem Dar has apologised, saying that it occurred due to a sudden lapse in concentration.

Tendulkar, batting on 30, was beaten while trying to drive a full-length delivery from Andrew Flintoff outside the off stump. However, replays showed that the bat had clipped the pad instead and Tendulkar stood long enough to register his bewilderment before slowly heading off. His wicket was a big blow for India as they were bowled out for a modest 188, losing by seven wickets and the series 4-3.

"Immediately after I gave Tendulkar caught by wicketkeeper Matt Prior off Andrew Flintoff I realised from his reaction that I had given a wrong decision," Dar told IANS. "On that ball, Flintoff was very close to bowling a no-ball and as I was looking at his foot, my concentration was disturbed."

Though he regretted the decision, Dar said he didn't consider recalling Tendulkar as it was something he had never done before in his international career.

"Since I had never called any batsman after giving a decision I did not call him back," he said. "So, if I were to call Tendulkar I would also call the last man if given wrongly out. I knew that match was the decider. And I was upset after giving that decision. It was a tough match."

Dar said he had apologised to Tendulkar after the match. "After the game when players shake hands with the umpires, Tendulkar also shook my hands on the field. As he did that I said to him 'hard luck'."

4 to miss Tajik trip

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will send an 18-member team including two officials to Tajikistan for their second leg match of the 2010 World Cup pre-qualifiers in Dushanbe.

The match will be held on October 28 in the Tajik capital.

Four players from the side that held Tajikistan 1-1 in the first leg on October 8 in Dhaka have been dropped for the away trip including Nazrul Islam, the veteran defender and recent past captain who did not join camp after the Eid vacation over a reported row with coach Syed Nayeemuddin.

BFF and the coach pursued Nazrul was to return to the camp but the centre-back, who led

Bangladesh in the Nehru Cup in India last August, stuck to his decision of not playing the match.

He, however, has wished to play for the national in future if considered.

The other players to miss the trip are Arup Baidya, Zahed Parvez and Nasirul Islam, who were not used during the home match.

The absence of Nazrul will definitely scar the defensive solidity that Nayeemuddin built around three senior players.

Although captain and rightback Hassan Al Mamun will be available, an out-of-form Rajani must recover quickly to lead the central defence where he would get one among Arif, Shuvra and Mahmudul Hassan - neither of whom look to be the appropriate replacement of Nazrul - as his partner.

Arif is the youngest and the coach's favourite, debutant Shuvra has never being treated as a

frontline defender while Hassan is long past his best.

Bangladesh, who were knocked out by the Tajiks from the 2006 World Cup pre-qualifiers after losing 2-0 in both legs, must win or draw at least 2-2 this month to make it to the Asian qualifiers.

The Indian coach and co-ordinator Amirul Islam Babu are the two officials accompanying the team in a long and strenuous journey that begins on October 24.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Bipal Bhattacharya, Mazharul Islam Himel; defenders: Hassan Al Mamun, Rajani Kanta Barman, Amit Khan Shuvra, Ariful Islam, Mahmudul Hassan, Waly Faisal, Arman Aziz, Abul Hossain, Jumratul Islam Mithu, Zahid Hossain, Enamul Haque Sharif, Mohammed Robin, Zahid Hassan Emily and Saifur Rahman Moni.

India end on a high

Cricket

STAR SPORTS MONITOR

India celebrated their first Twenty20 international appearance in style nearly a month after their title triumph in this slam-bang competition in South Africa with a seven-wicket thrashing of Australia at a packed Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai last night.

The win came as a good consolation for the home team after they had lost the preceding 7-match one-day international series to the Australians 4-2 last week.

Chasing Australia's 166-5, the home side romped home with 11 balls to spare and seven wickets standing with left-handed opener Gautam Gambhir hitting a swash-buckling 63 off 52 balls that contained half a dozen fours and a six.

Yuvraj Singh provided the late flurry in the one-off day-night match, hitting a typically aggressive 31 off 25 balls after Gambhir and Robin Uthappa (35 off 26 balls) had laid the foundation with an 82-run stand for the second wicket.

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who led the young brigade to clinch the first-ever World Twenty20 Championship in South Africa last month by beating arch-rivals Pakistan in the final, fittingly ended the chase, smashing the first ball of Brett Lee in the 19th over for a massive six over mid-wicket.

Earlier, Australia captain Ricky Ponting hit a blistering half-century as they piled up a competitive total against the world champions.

AFP adds, the 32-year-old captain smashed 76 off just 53 balls with the help of 13 fours to guide his side to an imposing total in the 20-over game which is the first for the teams after the World Championship in South Africa last month.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh was the most economical among the Indian bowlers, giving away 17 runs in his four overs with one wicket.

Australia were off to a blazing start after electing to bat despite losing aggressive openers Adam Gilchrist (12) and Matthew Hayden

(17) early on.

Gilchrist's middle stump was uprooted by a searing Rudra Pratap Singh delivery in the very first over after he had hit the bowler for three fours while Hayden dragged one on to his stumps off Harbhajan.

Ponting, playing his 10th Twenty20 international, steadied the innings with a 50-run partnership with Andrew Symonds (20) for the third wicket before a mix-up cost the hard-hitting allrounder his

wicket.

Brad Hodge's miseries on a dismal tour continued unabated as he was bowled by Irfan Pathan for two after completely missing a pull against the left-arm seamer.

Ponting though looked in terrific touch as he smashed Pathan for four fours and raced to his 50 off just 33 balls.

But it was Pathan who plotted Ponting's downfall when he

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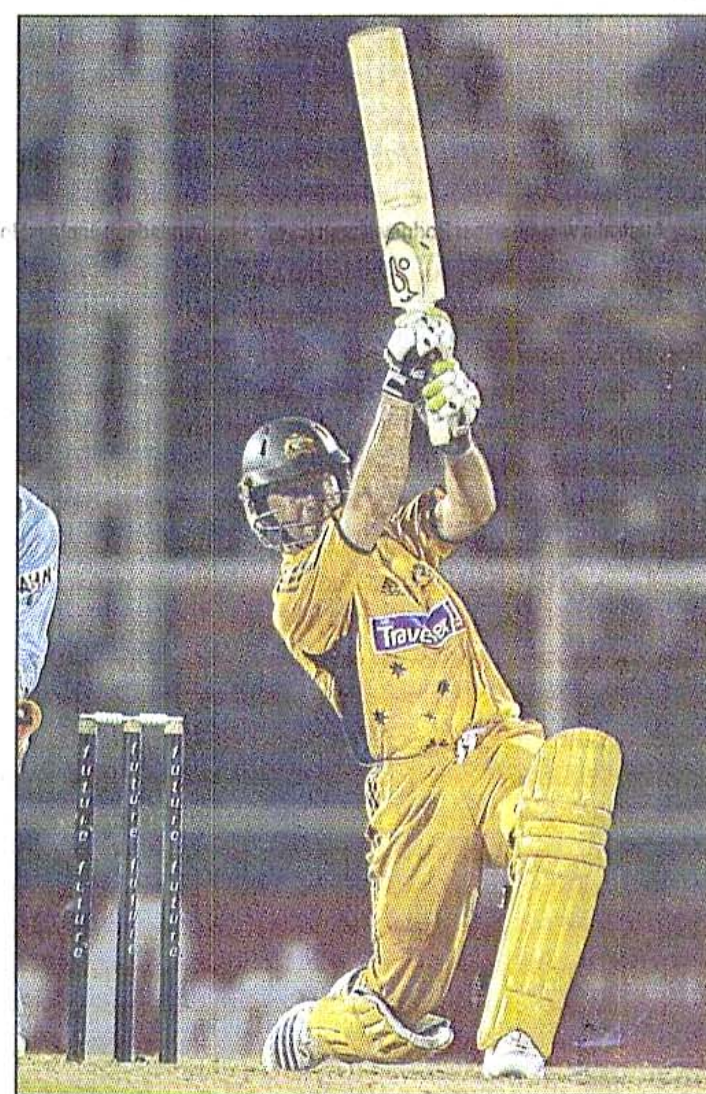


PHOTO: AFP

Australia captain Ricky Ponting follows through on an off-drive on way to hitting 76 against India in the one-off Twenty20 international at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.



Did U Know?

Gymnastics was first included as an official sport in the third international Special Olympics in 1972, when 11 athletes competed in tumbling and free exercise routines.



Raymond Domenech

(France football coach)

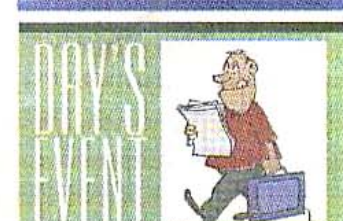
"The record doesn't mean much to me but that places him in the history of French football, he's someone who beat Platini's record, it's not happened just like that, it's due to his consistency. He deserves his status as a star of world football." While congratulating Thierry Henry on becoming France's highest goal-scorer.



What to WATCH

ESPN
English Premier League
West Ham v Sunderland
Live from 8:55pm

STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Live from 12:55am (Monday)



DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
(First Round, Day Three)
Dhaka v Khulna
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka

Barisal v Chittagong
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra

Rajshahi v Sylhet
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Mohammad Yousuf hit a brilliant century to lead Pakistan to a 25-run victory over South Africa in a day-night international here Saturday and level the series 1-1.

Yousuf's 143-ball 117 ensured Pakistan posted a fighting 265-9 in their 50 overs before the home team overcame poor fielding to restrict the South Africans to 240 in 49.3 overs.

South Africa won the first match by 45 runs on Thursday with the next in the five-match series to be played at Faisalabad on Tuesday.

Graeme Smith topscored for the tourists with a 96-ball 65 before Shaun Pollock (37) and Albie Morkel (31) gave Pakistan a scare during their 47-ball 55-run partnership for the seventh wicket.

Morkel, who hit three boundaries and a six, was run out in the 42nd over, while Umar Gul finished any hopes of an upset when he ended Pollock's 46-ball 37-run knock with four overs remaining.

Pakistani fielders dropped as many as five catches but their bowlers produced a spirited display and never gave up.

Smith was the main beneficiary of Pakistan's poor fielding and was let off on 19, 31 and 44. He hit five boundaries before edging left-arm spinner Abdul Rehman to wicket-keeper Kamran Akmal in the 35th over.

Smith and AB de Villiers (35) had steadied the tourists' innings by adding 76 for the third wicket after Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis - both failed to score - fell in

quicksuccession.

Gul trapped Gibbs off his third ball while Sohail Tanveer had Kallis caught at gully to leave South Africa at 4-2.

De Villiers (35) supported Smith before paceman Rao Iftikhar struck

twice, removing De Villiers and Justin Kemp (eight) to finish with a career-best 3-43.

Leg-spinner Shahid Afridi, who dropped Smith off his own bowling, dismissed Mark Boucher for 14

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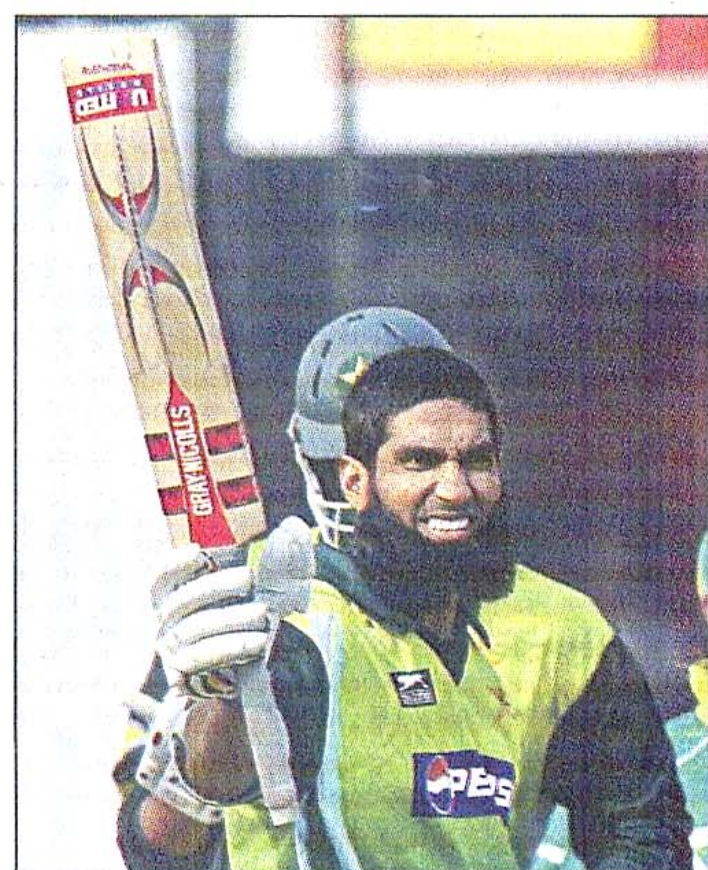


PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan batsman Mohammad Yousuf salutes the crowd on reaching his century in the second one-day international against South Africa at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

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