

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.

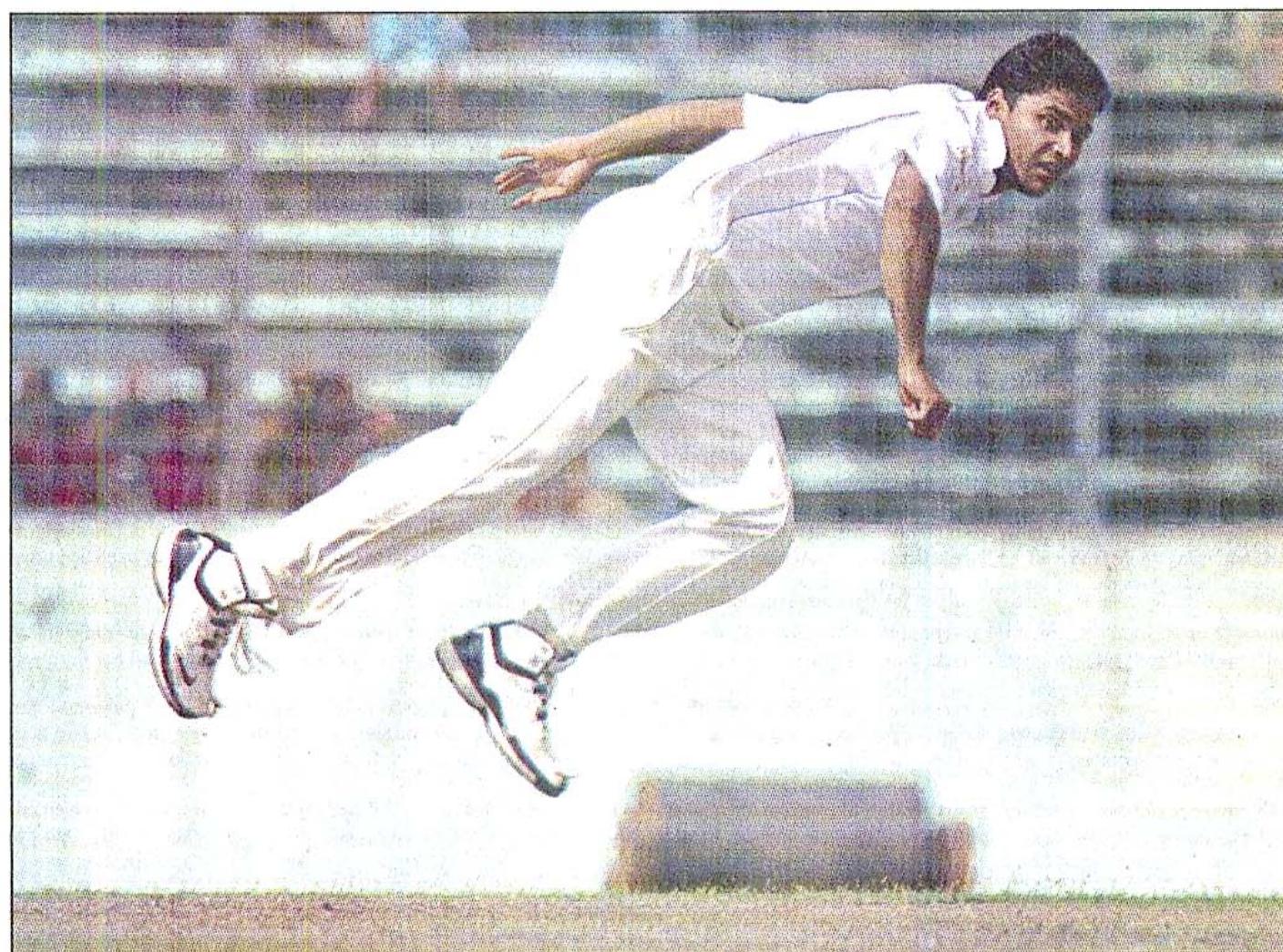
"FIFA had observations about nine points and we have stuck to them," said Malu adding that there would be no votes for the posts of secretary and joint-secretary in DFA or the BFF polls.

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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



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.

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 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 Nayemuddin.

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

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: Biplab Bhattachariya, Mazharul Islam Himmel; 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 Hasan, 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 of 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 swashbuckling 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.

Australia's 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

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, 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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Tariq, Mashrafe shine

SPORTS REPORTER



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.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

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

Had it not been for a swashbuckling half-century and some sensible batting from Mahmudullah Riyad, 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 openers 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

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 hattrick 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 2-2 with Uzbekistan in the first round.

Bangladesh will play Turkmenistan tomorrow.

RAJSHAHI-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 Zunaed 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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Yousuf propels Pakistan

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 to 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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

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

and then bowled him for 15.

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

10 wickets.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.

De Villiers and Gibbs (50) added 76 for the fifth wicket.