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## BCB sets Tigers plan

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is considering a national camp at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra to train the Tigers under floodlights ahead of next month's tri-series.

The triangular tournament that involves India and Pakistan will be played under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and so the cricket operations committee felt the necessity of the camp in Bogra.

"We will finalise after talking with our coach (Jamie Siddons). We felt that the players should train under floodlights because all the matches would be day-night (in the tri-series). And in our consideration, Bogra is the best place for the training," informed Gazi Ashraf

Hossain, chairman of the cricket operations committee, yesterday.

"But before taking the final decision we must also talk with local power development officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of lights during practice," he added.

The full-fledged training for the Tigers will commence 2-3 days after completion of the Premier Cricket Super League on May 21. On the same day, Asia Cup teams must submit their final squads but BCB has decided to give only the preliminary squad. The tournament begins on the last week of June in Pakistan.

Ashraf said that Siddons would meet the coaches of Abahani, Mohammedan and Bangladesh Biman today to find a way to manage time for the national players.

"I think it is important to talk with the clubs' coaches as most of the current national players are

playing under them. I hope their meeting would be helpful for the players," he said.

The former national skipper also said that his committee will exchange views with the selectors and the coaches to set guideline for the national players.

"We will meet with the selectors on Tuesday (May 13) to discuss the payroll of the players as a number of the players' contracts will expire on May 31," said Ashraf.

The committee is considering some fresh faces under the payroll as there is hardly any chance to see the extension of contract for veteran players like Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar and Tushar Imran who were given 6-month contracts in the last payroll.

"We are thinking to bring some promising players under the payroll but everything will be decided

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Ajax salvage a draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Ajax Sporting Club came from behind to hold Bangladesh Sporting Club to a one-all draw in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh SC took early lead through a first minute field goal from Zahid Biswas but Imtiaz Ahmed netted the equalizer through a field goal on the 37th minute to level the margin.

To maintain their winning run, Usha Krira Chakra take on Sonali Bank in today's lone match at the same venue. Usha have 12 points from the last four games while the bankers have ten from the same number of outings.

NATIONAL CRICKET

## Khulna into zonal final

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna advanced to the zonal final of the 28th National Cricket Championship beating Jhenidah by 15 runs at the Jessore Stadium yesterday.

Opting to bat first, Khulna were bowled out for 175 runs in 49.2 overs with Riaz hitting 73 runs off 121 balls while Soumen Das contributed 24. Sajid claimed three wickets.

In reply, Jhenidah fell short of their target as they were bundled out for 160 in 48.3 overs with Al Amin and Shameem taking three wickets each.

Away in Comilla, Chandpur moved to the zonal semifinals after a seven-wicket win over Rangamati at the local stadium.

Rangamati batted first to be all out for only 73 in 21.1 overs with Jan-e-Alam capturing three wickets. In reply, Chandpur sailed to victory scoring the required 74 runs in 12 overs for the loss of three

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3

## A Bangladeshi at heart

AL MUSABBIR SADI & QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

In 1999, strapping British-born Bangladeshi Anwar Uddin had the world at his feet. He was captain of West Ham's FA Youth Cup winning squad leading a team with the likes of Joe Cole and Michael Carrick. He was regularly training alongside Rio Ferdinand and Frank Lampard, was privy to the quirks of Paulo Di Canio and was being nurtured by Harry Redknapp. His no-nonsense style of defending caused many to earmark him as a future England international.

But then it all went wrong. Triple groin operations left his career in tatters, his fitness in shambles and his dreams shattered. He did not even manage a Premiership debut, and repeated comeback attempts were stalled.

Fate finally did smile on him and the centre-half has rejuvenated his career at League 2 side Dagenham & Redbridge, in the process becoming the first person of Bangladeshi descent ever to captain a professional British team.

His lofty goals of representing England are now tragically a thing of the past, but that could well turn up to be trumps for Bangladesh, as Anwar now looks odds-on to be inducted into the national side.

But does the 26-year-old feel red and green?

"Very much so," agrees Anwar when the Daily Star Sport caught up with him at the Uttara Club.

"Living in England being a Bengali you're a minority. The English people will never accept you as English. If your colour is slightly different, you are not one of them. I am proud of being a Bengali, it's who I am," says Anwar shortly after displaying some nifty skills with a football.

He readily admits his Bangla sounds more like a two-year-old but is proud to be the only Bangladeshi professional in England -- and prouder still to be captaining his team.

"When my father emigrated during the 50s a lot of the people there worked the poor quality jobs and there was a negative stigma attached to it. It really got to me while I was growing up and one of my biggest drives was to be successful as a Bangladeshi and give my country a positive image."

Asked whether he would now accept a call for Bangladesh, something he rejected eight years ago, Anwar feels that he will now reconsider.

"In 2000 I was concentrating on playing for England. I was at the West Ham squad from the age of 18 it seemed a natural progression but eight years on, I am fighting to get my way back to fitness. It is very, very hard to get into the England team, especially at 26. I think that's never going to happen. I played for England C team and youth teams but my national career with England seems to be over and Bangladesh might be the only other option I have. If I am approached by Bangladesh I will definitely consider it."

Anwar agrees it would make his father proud if he ever represented Bangladesh and he too is eager to give whatever possible to the squad, be it tactically, mentally or physically.

"To be honest the academy of Canary Wharf is doing fantastic. They have got good, enthusiastic coaches here. Still the knowledge I could bring would be helpful as I have the experience of the Premiership. I have played with great players and worked with great managers and the things I have learned are from the best. I have sat with Arsene Wenger and asked him the things he does and why he does it, in terms of tactics.



ANWAR UDDIN

"At the academy here, I can give the boys a foundation for the future, telling little things I know I can tell them things, little tactical things, the awareness things."

"I will always be here for my country. If anyone needs anything, tips, knowledge, I am ready to help," says Anwar.

He has seen little of real Bangladeshi football but having played against them back in 2000, Anwar remembers that the standard with regards to what he was used to then was quite 'amateurish'.

But, he hastily adds, 'given Bangladesh's problems, poor economy and hostile weather, you can feel proud of it. There is still talent. The heat here is difficult and the great intensity that the English game has, it's impossible to do here. Still, after these years, watching the academy kids and some seniors, I see some improvement, albeit slow.'

In the long run, the soft-spoken Anwar plans to build an academy in Bangladesh and he says that the feedback from his visit has motivated him a lot.

"I've got positive response from government, media, federation and the people are passionate. If I can do something like that it would be beneficiary because what I'd bring from England is a financial package as well as knowledge. That's what we need."

When asked why the 2.3 million strong South Asian contingent in England had translated into just five professional footballers, Anwar says that a lot of it had to do with the pre-mentality of the emigrants.

"It was always either be a doctor or an engineer but that is slowly dying away. Usually people who get to England from this part don't live in English area. Bangladeshis in England don't integrate with the British. Slowly now more are moving out and embracing the English society. I was one of the first to do that and more came, but the influx remains slow and steady. May be in few years there would be 15 South Asians playing."

He cites the example of spin bowler Monty Panesar and boxer Amir Khan, both of whom are huge in their respective fields.

"A few years ago people told me that I was the only (South Asian) one in sports. But now that we have a chance we can show what we are doing. Amir Khan is massive in boxing industry now. Everyone also knows Michael Chopra and I also

enjoy a good reputation."

When asked who he most admires as a footballer, his answer of 'Zinedine Zidane' is instantaneous.

"Football is a science and you have to learn it, it takes time. If I was a teacher, I would give a video of Zidane to the kids and say watch it, that's where you want to get. I know he doesn't play anymore but he just made football look beautiful and easy. The elegance he plays with is impossible."

But it's the other end of the pitch we have to relocate to, to find the player he most resembles.

'Jamie Carragher,' says a smiling Anwar, and it's hard to envision him as tough tackling and no-nonsense.

"Players don't like playing against me. I'm always reading that this person or that person finds me a handful and I enjoy that. I want to give them a hard game."

He admits that supporting Tottenham has been the most frustrating aspect of his life but adds that he enjoys a soft spot for West Ham, due to the seven years

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Jamal Hasan of Bangladesh Sporting Club (second from left) takes an attempt at Ajax SC goal during their Premier Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.



## Did U Know?

Jan Zelenzy of Czech Republic is the only javelin thrower in Olympic history to win three gold medals and four total medals.



## What to WATCH

- SET Max**  
Indian Premier League  
Deccan Chargers v Kolkata Knight Riders  
Live from 3:30pm  
Rajasthan Royals v Delhi Daredevils  
Live from 7:30pm
- ESPN**  
Asian Shah Hockey  
Canada v India  
Live from 2:00pm  
Malaysia v New Zealand  
Live from 7:55pm  
English Premier League  
Wigan v Man United  
Live from 7:55pm
- STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Chelsea v Bolton Wanderers  
Live from 7:55pm



**Sachin Tendulkar**  
(Star Indian batsman)  
"The Indian Premier League (IPL) has taken the game to virtually every house in the world."

## Must-win situation for Deccan

PTI, Hyderabad

Low on morale and languishing at the bottom of table, Deccan Chargers will have to reverse their losing streak when they take on Kolkata Knight Riders in a must-win match here on Sunday to remain in the reckoning.

The badly-bruised Hyderabad team which has won only two of the eight matches it has played so far are sharing the bottom spot with Bangalore Royal Challengers on four points and would have to post a few victories to remain in contention for a semi-final berth.

Moreover, the VVS Laxman-led side will have to overcome the jinx of losing at home having failed to post a single win from three matches so far at the Rajiv Gandhi international stadium with its two wins coming away from home -- in Mumbai and Chennai.

The bad news for the team was that Laxman, who is recovering from a hand injury, is still doubtful for the crucial match and responsibility of steering the team would once again fall on stand-in-captain Adam Gilchrist.

Gilchrist, who has rediscovered his form after initial failures, would have to repeat his fine form with

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Nat'l team need senior players

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Having failed to hold on to a 1-0 lead against Kyrgyzstan in Friday's AFC Challenge Cup qualifier in Bishkek, Bangladesh national team proved lack of solidity in defence.

The 2-1 defeat to the Central Asians not only shattered Bangladesh's slim chances to qualify for the finals but also exposed the weaknesses in absence of quality defenders.

It seemed that fresh faces in Ariful, Arup and Saikat, who was sent off in the first match against Afghanistan which Bangladesh drew goalless and missed out against the hosts, could not cope with pressure of international scene.

As a result, Bangladesh gave away two goals inside four minutes in the fog end of the match. Also, a headed goal by a rival back three minutes before time confirmed lack of taller defenders in the side.

With the SAFF Championship beginning in three weeks, the concerned people are feeling that Bangladesh must take their best

team for a tournament considered the 'World Cup' of South Asia.

Ignoring players like Nazrul, the best centre-back of the last season who had announced who won't play under Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin, and midfielder Abul Hossain was a mistake. The national team should also have sorted out some special recovery programme for central defender Sujon, who has showed signs of improvement, and let him train with the side.

The coach always knows the best, but too many young players in a team can only bring success in the long run. There are youth tournaments for them but the SAFF is only for the mature and the tested. There is very short time and the realisation must come fast as the camp for SAFF is expected to begin soon after Abu Yusuf and his boys' return from Kyrgyzstan tomorrow.

"We want to start the camp as soon as we can. But we want to talk with the coach first," said Badal Roy, chairman of National Team Management Committee (NTMC).

"My personal view is that we need to add some more players to this team to strengthen our squad.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## 'Vaughan till Ashes'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

It has been over a year since Duncan Fletcher left as England coach, and although he has slipped quietly into the shadows, his views on English cricket remain as forthright as ever.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Guardian, Fletcher looks ahead to next year's Ashes series -- and back to the last two against Australia which he coached England through -- and insists that Michael Vaughan is the only plausible England captain who can help them regain the Ashes, for all the detractors' concerns over his wavering form with the bat.

"I can't see anyone else doing the job," he told the newspaper. "He is a very, very good captain. What sums him up is quite simple for me. Look at his performances against Australia (Vaughan averages nearly 48, with four hundreds). I don't see how people can question him. He loves playing

them, even though it's the toughest job in international cricket. But it's what he wants. He wants to take those guys on."

"Of all the injuries we suffered in 2006-07 Vaughan was the biggest loss. If you go to Australia you have to have a very experienced captain. We needed him there. If you go out with an inexperienced captain it's very difficult. The Australians respected him first of all as a captain and also as a batsman. He would have held that batting side together."

For all his crystal ball gazing, the painful 5-0 hammering England received in the last Ashes still tugs remorselessly at Fletcher. Injuries, he said, weren't necessarily the sole reason for Australia's utter dominance, but the absence of so many key players for England certainly affected their ability to challenge them on an even keel.

"I've never seen anyone write this," he said. "All I would like someone to do one day is sit down and say: if we'd been at full strength, and they were missing McGrath, Warne, Ponting and

Hayden -- that would be the equivalent of what happened to us -- what would the result be? I'm not saying we had better players than them but our losses were huge."

"Look at Simon Jones. If he had developed further, who knows where he would have got to? I don't think we've seen the best of him. We knew what we were missing with Vaughan, Trescothick and Giles -- they couldn't have got much better. But Simon Jones could have actually got better with the experience that he'd gained."

Looking ahead, Fletcher -- who often plucked relative under-achievers out of county cricket and put them onto the world stage, most notably Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick -- spoke highly of Stuart Broad, England's coltish fast bowler and potential No.8.

"He's a very exciting character for England cricket. They can play around this guy because he's so strong mentally. England have got potential there but they've got to make sure they keep 11 fit players on the field. That's really been the problem."

## Anwar gets green signal

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday gave green signal to British footballer of Bangladeshi descent Anwar Uddin to play for the national team.

Anwar, 26, called on BFF president, Kazi Salahuddin at his office yesterday afternoon and received an offer from the football chief to play for Bangladesh.

BFF member Fazlur Rahman Babul, who had invited English League II defender Anwar for the trip to Bangladesh to visit the youth academy under the auspices of Canary Wharf, UK, said that Salahuddin has given him the responsibility to take care of the whole matter.

"Anwar wishes to play too and Salahuddin has welcomed him. Anwar will seek permission of his club Dagenham and Redbridge and the English FA while we will apply to the FIFA for his registration as a Bangladeshi player."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Young cagers win in Kolkata

BSS, Dhaka

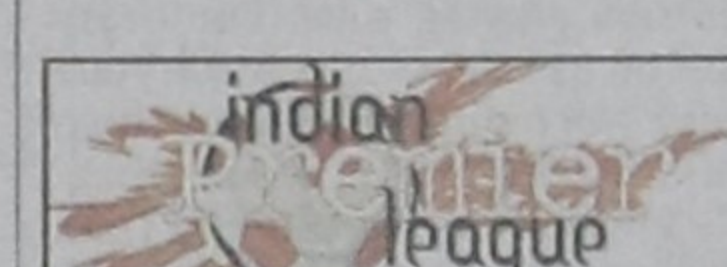
Bangladesh national youth basketball team defeated Chhatra Sangha 58-43 in the opener of the five-match tour of West Bengal yesterday at Kolkata City Ground.

Chef-de-mission Mohammad Shahidullah Azim told BSS by phone from Kolkata that the Bangladeshi youths impressed the Kolkata crowd with a good brand of basketball despite the extreme heat and they reached Kolkata only 12 hours before the match.

Local MLA Subodh Ghosh witnessed the match as the chief guest. The 16-member Bangladeshi youth team left Dhaka Friday for Kolkata to play five preparatory matches for the SA Games that is scheduled for the early part of next year in Bangladesh.

The team will play in and around Kolkata during the eight-day tour.

## Rajasthan go on top



CRICINFO, undated

Rajasthan Royals strolled to the top of the table of Indian Premier League with an eight-wicket win over Deccan Chargers, who offered little resistance in a match that was effectively decided in the first innings. Deccan posted a below-par 140 and looked listless as Rajasthan's efficient batting chased the target with four overs to spare at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium on Friday.

After their batsmen collapsed in spectacular fashion following Adam Gilchrist's dismissal, Deccan's fielders, perhaps hindered by the dust storm blowing across the stadium, failed to save

runs and apply any pressure on Rajasthan. Deccan have now lost six matches out of eight and, with six games to play, their chances of making the semifinals look dim.

It all looked very different at the start. Gilchrist, the stand-in captain, said his batsmen had the challenge of putting up a total that his bowlers could defend. He led the way, starting off the evening with a cover drive off the first ball and following it with a cut to backward point as Sohail Tanvir went for eight runs in the opening over. Shane Watson was flicked for a massive six to square leg when he sent down a half-volley and Munaf Patel was glanced for a four to fine leg.

Herschelle Gibbs joined the fun by lifting Watson for four over cover soon after he was dropped by Graeme Smith when attempting the same shot. Gibbs struggled to pick Shane Warne and was nearly

stumped off Warne's first delivery - his foot was in the air and Mahesh Rawat removed the balls just as he brought it down to the ground. Gilchrist had no trouble negotiating Warne, but fans eager to watch a contest between the legspinner and the man who kept wickets for him, were to be disappointed for Gilchrist only faced four balls from Warne; he took singles from each.

Only after he reached his fifty did Gilchrist, dropped on 52 by Siddharth Trivedi, start throwing his bat at nearly every delivery. He was dismissed when, in reaching for a wide one off Trivedi, he edged the ball to the keeper.

At the end of ten overs, Deccan were at 74 for 1. When Gilchrist was dismissed, four overs later, they were 97 for 3. In the next three overs they lost three wickets for five runs -- Shahid Afridi, who charged down

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Rajasthan opens Graeme Smith (L) and Yousuf Pathan cross each other during their 109-run stand against Deccan at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Friday.