

6 members for B. League committee

SPORTS REPORTER

Two ex-general secretaries of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) were named in the B. League committee yesterday.

B. League chairman Abdus Salam Murshedi included past BFF chief executives Harunur Rashid and Anwarul Hoque Helal in his committee apart from BFF members Fazlur Rahman Babul, Golam Rabbani Helal and Mahbubur Rahman Shahin.

Abu Hassan Prince is the only man out of the BFF executive committee.

Salam, BFF's senior vice-president, informed that the last member of the 9-member committee would be taken from outside Dhaka and he could be an organiser or a footballer.

BFF vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed is the vice-chairman of the committee, which will also run the Federation Cup.

The league committee's first meeting is expected to be held tomorrow.

Biman, Ansars cruise

SPORTS REPORTER

Favourites Bangladesh Biman and Bangladesh Ansar won their respective group finals in the men's team event on the opening day of the AB Bank 29th National Table Tennis Championships yesterday.

Biman blanked Narail while Ansars also defeated Khulna 3-0 in groups A and B finals at the NSC Gymnasium.

In the other two group finals, Pabna defeated Gaibandha 3-1 and Feni got the better of Bagerhat in straight sets.

In the boys' team event, Dhaka, Khulna, Dinajpur and Biman won their respective matches while Gaibandha, Narail, Dhaka and Ansars were successful in the women's team event.

Earlier, Primary and Mass Education, Women and Children Affairs and Cultural Affairs adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury declared the meet open. Sajedur Siraj, vice-chairman of sponsors AB Bank, and Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation officials were present.

Harbhajan, Sreesanth back to work

CRICKINFO, undated

While the Indian ODI team play in the Asia Cup in Pakistan, some of the Test players will assemble for a seven-day camp under the supervision of Anil Kumble on June 24 in Bangalore. Harbhajan Singh and Sreesanth will get another chance to rebuild their relationship after the infamous slap incident during IPL as both will be involved in the camp.

The players will arrive at 9.30am for a check-up by the physios before taking the skin-folds test that measures the fat content. At 10.30am they will hit the M Chinnaswamy ground for batting and bowling sessions. Rahul Dravid will bat first against the pair of Zaheer Khan and P Vijay Kumar in the pacers net while Dinesh Karthik will practise against Kumble and Amit Mishra in the spin net. Mohammad Kaif, who was in the squad for the last Test played by India against South Africa, and Aakash Chopra will also feature in the camp.

Apart from the regular batting and bowling nets, there will be conditioning sessions, individual skill top-ups, gym and yoga sessions.

With the National Cricket Academy holding a camp for 35 players on the fringe of the Indian team, the Karnataka Cricket Association will handle the Test camp. The bowlers taking part in the NCA camp will also be asked to bowl at the Test camp nets.

BANGLADESH-UAE SCOREBOARD

FROM PAGE 17

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shah	10	0	49	3
Alhassmi	5	1	21	0
Javed	2	0	24	0
Tauqir	3	0	6	0
Silva	7	0	33	0
Saqib	3	0	13	0
Khurum	10	0	78	2
Arshad	10	0	74	0

Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS), Ian Gould (ENG)
TV umpire: Zameer Haider (PAK)
Match Referee: Mike Procter (RSA)



Indian tennis sensation Sania Mirza plays a forehand return against Colombian Catalina Castano in the first round of the Wimbledon Championships at the All England Club in London yesterday. Mirza won 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-4.

Venus, Sugiyama sail

AFP, London



Defending champion Venus Williams successfully launched her bid for a fifth Wimbledon title on Tuesday as a sun-kissed All England Club waited to greet fellow superstars Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova.

Williams recovered from an early break to see off Britain's Naomi Cavaday 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 and will meet another Briton Anne Keothavong for a place in the last 32.

Williams, 28, was a break down in the first set but she then simply outgained her opponent in the second set to join sister Serena in the second round.

Japan's Ai Sugiyama celebrated her record 57th consecutive appearance at a Grand Slam with a first round 6-4, 6-2 win over

Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer. Sugiyama, 32, who now plays Flavia Pennetta, the Italian 22nd seed, took sole possession of the longest Grand Slam appearance streak for a man or woman, pulling clear of the previous holder, South Africa's Wayne Ferreira.

Fittingly Sugiyama took the record here at Wimbledon, where she is now playing for the 16th year in a row.

"I never thought that I would beat the record when I started out so many years ago," Sugiyama told AFP.

"I'm not sure how long I can carry on but the secret is in the motivation."

Fellow Asian favourite Sania Mirza of India, the 32nd seed, playing only her fourth match since March, needed treatment on shoulder and back injuries but still was too good for Colombia's Catalina Castano 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-4.

The 21-year-old now plays Spanish qualifier Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez next knowing a win would give take her to the third round for the first time.

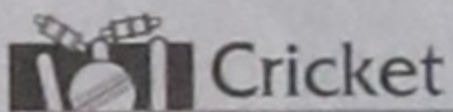
Later Tuesday, Nadal begins his campaign to become the first man since Bjorn Borg in 1980 to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back when he tackles German qualifier Andreas Beck, a Grand Slam debutant and fellow left-hander.

Nadal won his first career grasscourt title at Queen's last week and has been a runner-up to six-time Roger Federer for the last two years.

Andy Roddick, the 2004 and 2005 runner-up, faces Argentina's Eduardo Schwank while British hope Andy Murray meets French veteran Fabrice Santoro.

Women's second seed Jelena Jankovic opens her Wimbledon against Olga Savchuk of Ukraine while 2004 champion Maria Sharapova takes on France's Stephanie Foretz.

Feeling like a Kiwi



AFP, Bristol

South Africa's cricket team arrive in England later this week but New Zealand's Grant Elliott is adamant he is not in the wrong tour party after turning in two standout performances for his adopted country.

Kevin Pietersen may be the best known recent 'defector' from South African cricket, on the grounds of a racial quota policy was stunting his progress, but the England batsman is not alone in leaving the land of his birth to pursue a livelihood elsewhere.

For example, South Africa batsman Jacques Rudolph has put his Test career on hold to play in English county cricket, a financially enticing option for many of his compatriots given the pound's strength against the rand.

Others, such as the Johannesburg-born Elliott, who made his Test debut for New Zealand against England in March, have ventured further afield.

"When I played in the Test, it was quite emotional," Elliott said after his pivotal role in New Zealand's victory in the third one-day international against England here Saturday.

"It's something I always wanted to do as a child. I thought it was going to be with South Africa but since I moved to New Zealand, it's my country of choice and I love it," said Elliott at the end of an extraordinary week.

Last Monday, the 29-year-old all-rounder was called up from Surrey

club side Weybridge, in southeast England, as cover for the injured Jacob Oram.

Two days later the medium-pace marked his limited overs international debut with three for 23 in the controversial no-result second ODI at Edgbaston.

That outcome looked all the worse for New Zealand, already 1-0 down in the five-match series, as they collapsed to 75 for six in Bristol.

But Elliott, coming in at No 6, responded with a maiden ODI fifty and, together with Kyle Mills, guided the Black Caps to a still seemingly sub-standard 182 all out.

However, England collapsed and, in storybook style, Elliott took the last wicket to seal a 22-run victory.

"That was my first win for New Zealand and it was an amazing feeling," said Elliott, who finished with impressive figures of two for nine in 5.2 overs.

"I don't think anything can really top that."

He added: "A little bit of luck is involved, as you can see with my selection. Playing for Weybridge, there was the chance someone might get injured and suddenly I got called up."

"I feel very fortunate. I just love playing for New Zealand," said Elliott, who represented Transvaal (now Gauteng) and Griqualand West in South Africa and made his debut for Wellington in the 2005/06 New Zealand season.

While Pietersen has been heavily criticised for leaving South Africa, Elliott said it was far from clear a top-

class batsman was being lost to the national side.

"I played junior cricket against him and he used to bat at eight and bowl off-spin. He's changed a little bit since then. He hit a long ball then but he just hits it now more consistently."

"There are a lot of South Africans that have moved to other countries and I think it's a matter of adopting the culture if you love the country and you have a passion for playing for them."

Daniel Vettori was certainly grateful for Elliott's change of allegiance.

And having seen Elliott also make his Test debut when Oram was injured, the New Zealand captain said both all-rounders could now feature at The Oval on Wednesday and in Saturday's series finale at Lord's.

"A week ago Grant was playing club cricket and it just shows what a quality player he is, doing what he has done."

"At Bristol we saw how good a batter he is and in the game in Birmingham we saw how good a bowler he is. We knew he could do it."

Vettori, whose side are looking for a repeat of their 3-1 home one-day series win over England in February, said Oram, currently out with a hamstring problem, might return as a batsman only for the London matches.

"I think we will get him back definitely as a batsman," he insisted. "I am not 100 per cent sure we will get him as a bowler."

Deutsch divided within

FROM PAGE 17
of Turkish origin is a staggering 42.5 per cent, according to the Essen-based Centre for Studies on Turkey.

"Educational success in Germany depends on ethnic and social background," junior immigration minister Maria Boehmer conceded this month.

Friedrich Heckmann, sociology professor for the European Forum for Migration Studies at Bamberg University, links Turkish reluctance to support the national team to Germany's former, long time "Gastarbeiter" policy -- when migrants were allowed in to fill labour shortages but "would soon go home".

"The large majority of migrants are not ready to identify with their

national context, although they are at the local level," Heckmann told AFP. "Studies show that only around 10 per cent, even among second generation migrants, would identify with Germany."

The government is making a big show of tackling the issue, aiming to quell both social problems fuelled by the lack of equal opportunities in education and the labour market and to head off any extremist drift by disaffected young Muslims, the principle religion among Turks.

Conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel has personally taken charge of a nationwide integration plan. It involves language and integration classes as well as measures to improve the situation in schools

and the workplace and to promote political involvement.

The alienation -- even among some third and fourth generation Turks -- is not helped by the fact that very few of their kinsmen have played for Germany. The current team has several Polish-born players but none of Turkish origin.

Here, too, Germany is taking steps, with the national football federation becoming more proactive in urging young players from immigrant families to take German citizenship.

But some critics say the motivation here may be more to poach sporting talent rather than to promote integration. The last time Germany played Turkey, they lost.

Dhalpur, Matuail win big

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhalpur Krira Chakra recorded a comfortable 69-29 win over Maniknagar Kabaddi Club in yesterday's First Division Kabaddi League at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court. The winners led the first half 46-10.

In another one-sided match, Matuail Milon Smriti dumped the Diamond Sporting Club 56-26 after leading 38-14 at the break.

'83 heroes off to London

PTI, New Delhi

The Kapil Dev-led Indian cricket team, which won the 1983 World Cup, left for London on Tuesday to celebrate the silver jubilee of their historic triumph at Lord's.

The entire team, barring Ravi Shastri, left with their spouses by a brand new Boeing 777-300 (ER) for the British capital where Sunil Gavaskar has organised a dinner to celebrate 25 years of the victory today.

Before departure, Kapil and the rest of the team cut a cake to mark the occasion and the legendary all-rounder thanked Air India for making their departure "a momentous occasion even though 25 years have lapsed."

They were seen off at the IGI airport by Air India's Executive Director (Corp Com) Jitender Bhargava, and DS Kohli Executive Director (Northern Region).

Obituary

SPORTS REPORTER

Razia Rahman Chowdhury, mother of former national cricket coach and veteran journalist Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, died at the Lab Aid Hospital yesterday of old age ailments. She was 90.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president and its members, Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association, Bangladesh Sports Writers Association and Bangladesh Sports Journalists and Writers Community extended condolence and deepest sympathy for the bereaved family members at the death of Razia.

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Dhoni aims

FROM PAGE 17
telling by-product of the national side's success

"Before the event last year no one really knew how it was going to work," Dhoni said in a statement ahead of the tournament launch at The Oval.

"People said the players wouldn't be taking it very seriously and it's true that at the start even the players were unsure about it."

However, he added: "It was a great tournament and a sweet moment when we won. It is one of the things I will cherish for the rest of my life."

But the wicketkeeper said the rise in Twenty20 did not mean an end to Test cricket.

"Test cricket is very different and has its own place. I don't see that changing and I am not worried about the future of Test cricket."

"People still see it as the top of the sport and it is so different from Twenty20 that I think it is safe."

"If there is one format that could suffer it is the 50-over game because it is more like Twenty20."

Keepers provide suspense

AFP, Vienna



Vienna was the setting for Graham Greene's post Second World War classic The Third Man but at Euro 2008 it's not Harry Lime but Turkey's three keepers that are providing all the suspense.

Turkey's charmed journey at Euro 2008 has attracted its fair share of drama, much of it surrounding Fatih Terim's stoppers.

The shock semifinalists first had their number one stopper banned for two matches, then his replacement was plunged into a penalty shoot-out, whilst the number three is set to come on as an outfield player to fill a hole left by a wave of bans and injuries.

Turkey were told late Monday that their appeal over Volkan Demirel's two match ban for pushing over Czech striker Jan Koller

had been rejected, leaving Reuber Rustu to once again stand in for Wednesday's semifinal with Germany.

Demirel, a colossus at 1.91m and 92kg, was sent off in the dying minutes of Turkey's 3-2 comeback win over the Czech Republic in their last group game.

That opened the door for Rustu to make his Euro 2008 debut in the quarterfinal against Croatia, and, in a baptism of fire the pony-tailed keeper found himself coping with a spot-kick shoot-out.

The 35-year-old, dethroned at Fenerbahce by Demirel with Rustu switching clubs in 2007, will never forget his 117th cap.

He earned his nation's gratitude when stopping the penalty from Mladen Petric for Croatia's final penalty.

That made up for the Besiktas star's lapse when his glaring error handed Croatia what looked like being the winning goal in the last eighth clash.

The veteran of Turkey's 2002 World Cup semifinal team's life

was shaken up back in 1993 when he was the victim of a road accident in which he suffered serious injury and in which he lost a close acquaintance.

On the pitch his career has been far from smooth, with a below par season in 2003/04 with Barcelona before moving on to Fenerbahce.

Turkey's third choice keeper has made the headlines too.

With nine of his players either suspended or injured Terim has raised the unusual possibility of bringing on Tolga Zengin as an outfield player against Germany.

If that's the case the 24-year-old will have a third cap like he'd never expected.

"He could come on towards the end as a sub as last man (in defence) or a centre forward," Terim said.

"We can't allow ourselves the luxury of players choosing where they want to play."

Should Turkey see off Germany then Volkan is expected to resume his place for the final against Spain or Russia.

Fawad, Tanvir rescue Pakistan

AFP, Karachi



Left-handers Sohail Tanvir and Fawad Alam batted Pakistan out of trouble with fighting half-centuries as the home team made 288-9 against Hong Kong in the Asia Cup here on Tuesday.

Tanvir hit a 55-ball 59 while Alam notched 63 not out during their 100-run eighth-wicket stand to lift Pakistan from 161-7 after left-arm spinner Nadeem Ahmed grabbed four wickets in the Group B match played at the National Stadium.

Younus Khan (67) and captain Shoaib Malik (35) had put Pakistan in a strong position before Nadeem chipped in with four wickets off 21 balls in the space of 40 runs.

Nadeem, who finished with 4-51, was surprisingly kept away from the attack early on, allowing Alam and Tanvir to do their worst. Tanvir hit six boundaries before holing out in the 47th over.

Alam hit three boundaries

during his steady knock and created a new eighth-wicket record in the Asia Cup, beating 54 set by Indian batsman Ajay Jadeja and Ajit Agarkar at Dhaka eight years ago.

India, three-time winners of the Asia Cup, are the third team in the Group.

Titleholders Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates are placed in Group A, based in Lahore.

The top two teams from each Group will qualify for the Super League where each team plays three matches to decide the July 6 finalists.

Pakistan, who beat India to lift the tri-series cup in Bangladesh ten days ago, got off to a disastrous start here when opener Salman Butt edged Afzaal Haider to wicket-keeper Jamie Atkinson off the third delivery of the match.

Malik, who opened the innings, added 67 runs for the second wicket with Younus before he cut straight into the hands of cover off paceman Irfan Ahmed.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of Pakistan innings in

the Asia Cup Group B match against Hong Kong at the National Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday.

PAKISTAN
Butt c Atkinson b Haider 0
Malik c Butt b Irfan 35
Younus Khan st Atkinson b Nadeem 67
Yousuf c Haider b Nadeem 28
Misbahul Iqbal b Nadeem 2
Fawad not out 63
Afzid c and b Nadeem 4
Sarfaraz run out 7
Tanvir c sub (Roy) b Abbas 59
Gul c Nadeem b Irfan 8
Iftikhar not out 3
Extras: (lb-2, w-10) 12
Total: (For nine wkts in 50 overs) 288
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-67, 3-121, 4-135, 5-140, 6-150, 7-161, 8-261, 9-283.

Bowler O M R W
Haider 7 0 58 1
Irfan 10 0 59 2
Abbas 6 0 56 1
Nadeem 9 1 51 4
Amar 10 0 35 0
Muneer 8 1 34 0
Umpires: Tony Hill (NZL), Brian Jerling (RSA)
TV umpire: Amish Saheba (IND)
Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)



ONE OUT OF FOUR: Hong Kong's left-arm spinner Nadeem Ahmed is elated after trapping Pakistan batsman Misbahul Haq leg-before during their Asia Cup encounter at the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 October pencil	1 Praise in verse
2 Birthstone	2 Favorite indicator
3 "Wind in the river"	3 Foreman cousin
4 Willow's character	4 Fluid fighter
5 Treasure hunt	5 You, once for short
6 Ointment aid	6 Foal's fodder
7 Sandwich shop	7 Illustrations
8 Tortoise's rival	8 Sky blue gem
9 Pub request	9 Milwau-kee university
10 Emily Post's teachings	10 Brotherly baseball
11 Deteriorate	11 Homer's melody
12 Works with	12 Homer's interjection
13 Resentment	13 Sailors' org.
14 Washing vessel	14 Use a squid
15 Carte	15 "Zounds!"
16 Most straight-forward	16 OVAL UNTESTED
17 Astronaut	17 OVAL UNTESTED
18 Ice bucket accessory	18 OVAL UNTESTED
19 As well	19 OVAL UNTESTED
20 Big redwoods	20 OVAL UNTESTED

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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