

## BCB's EGM Sept 27?

SPORTS REPORTER

An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is likely to be held on September 27. The meeting will be convened to endorse the new constitution of the country's most affluent sports body.

A meeting of the board's executive committee chaired by president Maj. Gen. Sina Ibn Jamali was held yesterday to discuss the draft of the constitution under which the much-talked BCB election would be held, probably in October.

The size of the executive committee has been cut down in the proposed constitution, as it would be a 23-member team instead of the existing constitution's 31-member committee. The councillors will elect 21 directors, 12 of them will come from Dhaka clubs, eight from divisional and district sports associations and one from others like former players or services. National Sports Council (NSC) will nominate a 22nd director.

The members will then take part in a ballot for two vice-presidents.

It was learnt that the BCB boss sought opinions from the members and different quarters on the draft to reach a consensus before finalising it in the EGM and the executive meeting discussed different points.

The ad-hoc committee already asked the respective organisations to confirm their councillor's name and it was learnt that the BCB got the names. There was however few names changed in the list under which the last election was held in August 2005.

## Mehrab ton inspires Tigers to big win

Cricket

AGENCIES, undated

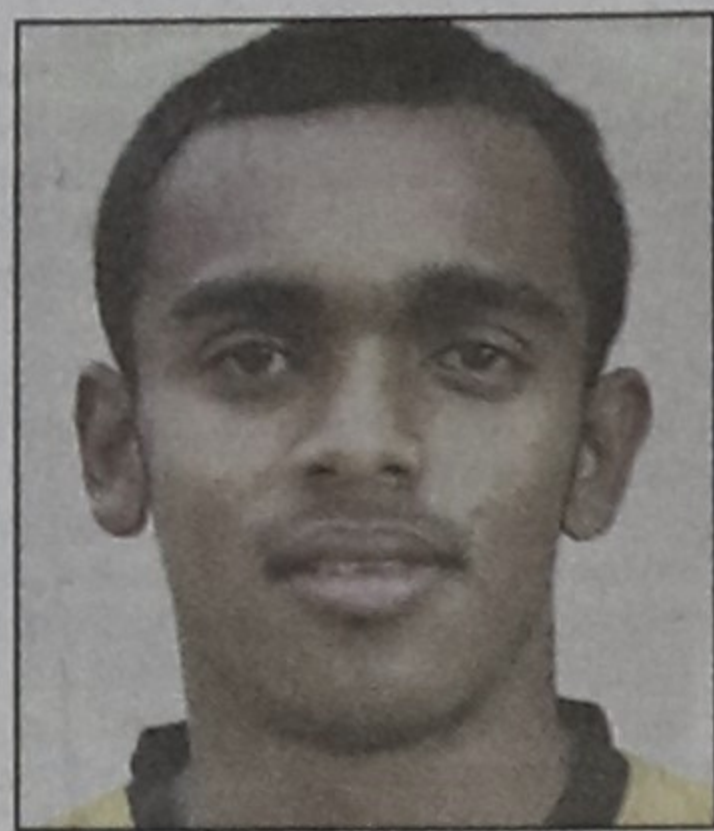
A Mehrab Hossain special enabled Bangladesh to thrash the Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI by 120 runs at the Gardens Oval yesterday. Coming in at number three the left-hander paced his innings beautifully and was unbeaten on 132 in Bangladesh's imposing 305 for four after the Tigers had opted to bat. Mehrab's left-arm orthodox spin then fetched him three wickets as the Chief Minister's XI innings, without any players from the Australian national side, folded for 185 in 36.2 overs.

This was Bangladesh's last warm-up match before the one-day international series against Australia and the win came just when needed. The Tigers had a lacklustre outing in the first four practice games against the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and had lost three of those matches.

"I hit the balls well out there today (Wednesday). Obviously you want to take confidence from practice games and we managed to do that and the win today was very important," said Mehrab who

carved his innings from 129 balls (16 fours and three 6s). He concentrated on the ground shots but was not afraid to use the slog-sweep to clear the fence much to the delight of the spectators present.

Bangladeshis living in Darwin



MEHRAB ... 132 not out

cheered Mehrab on and he had fans among the locals also who knew him from his stints with the NT Academy and club cricket here.

"This was almost a home match for me as most of the opposition players are my friends. Some of my local friends were also in the stands and it felt really good," said

Mehrab.

Mehrab also felt that the Tigers had every reason to feel upbeat about the ODI series.

"We will go out there and enjoy ourselves because we have got nothing to lose. If they (Australia) slip up then that will be a major setback for them so I guess if there is any pressure it is on them," said the left-hander who recently got married.

Captain Mohammad Ashraful, who played all the shots in his repertoire in a nonchalant 77-ball 80 said the team was ready for the ODIs.

"We needed good practice and we got that from the five matches we have finished here. All the batters have runs behind them and the bowling was pretty good.

"We have rotated the players and swapped batting positions in these games and rested those who have just recovered from injuries. We now have a full strength squad to choose from," said Ashraful.

Tamim Iqbal the opener played a solid 57 up front and the only downside in Bangladesh's batting was the failure of the other opening batsman Zunaed Siddique who was caught behind for one after chasing a delivery close to his body.

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FASTEST EVER? Abahani midfielder Abul Hossain (L) rushes to congratulate striker Zahid Hasan Emily who has just headed home the opening goal with the clock reading 50 seconds in their Citycell Federation Cup quarterfinal match against Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Vaas enters 400-wkt club

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas on Wednesday became the fourth bowler to complete 400 wickets in one-day internationals, achieving the feat during the fourth match against India here.

The left-arm seamer had Yuvraj Singh caught by Mahela Jayawardene at short mid-wicket to join retired Pakistani pace duo of Wasim Akram (502) and Waqar Younis (416), and compatriot Muttiah Muralitharan (479), are

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by skipper Mahela Jayawardene at short mid-wicket for no score.

Retired Pakistani pace duo Wasim Akram (502) and Waqar Younis (416), and Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan (479), are

others in the 400-club.

The 19-year-old Kohli had been batting confidently before inside-edging a Thushara delivery on to his stumps. He hit seven fours in his



PHOTO: AFP

India batsman Suresh Raina lines up a slog-sweep during his fine knock of 76 against Sri Lanka in the fourth one-day match at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Wednesday.

## Raina, Dhoni lift India

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Suresh Raina and Mahendra Singh Dhoni hit half-centuries as India posted a competitive 258 in the fourth one-day international against Sri Lanka here on Wednesday despite a late collapse.

Left-handed Raina (76) and skipper Dhoni (71) put on 143 for the fourth wicket to raise India's hopes of reaching a big total on a slow pitch in the day-night match.

The tourists were all set for the late onslaught when they made 215-3 in 40 overs, but the dismissals of well-set Raina and Dhoni in quick succession pegged them back.

India lost seven wickets for 34 runs in the last nine overs, with left-arm seamer Thilan Thushara finishing with 5-45 for his maiden five-wicket haul.

Teenager Virat Kohli (54) put India on the right track with a maiden half-century after his captain won a fourth consecutive toss of the series, adding 44 for the opening wicket with Gautam Gambhir (17).

Sri Lanka struck back with three wickets in the space of 37 runs to reduce India to 81-3 before running into Raina and Dhoni, who batted sensibly against pace and spin to complete their second successive half-centuries.

Gambhir was the first to go, cutting seamer Nuwan Kulasekara straight to Tillakaratne Dilshan, who timed his jump to perfection to hold a brilliant catch at backward point.

Sri Lanka's left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas then became the fourth bowler in one-day internationals to complete 400 wickets when he had Yuvraj Singh caught

## A Broad lesson

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Stuart Broad deflected the praise after bowling England to a ten-wicket win over South Africa in the second one-day international here at Trent Bridge.

The paceman produced his best ever figures of 5-23 from ten overs as the tourists were bowled out for 83 in 23 overs and England chased down their target with 35.5 overs to spare to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series heading into the third game at The Oval on Friday.

Matt Prior (45 not out) and Ian Bell (28 not out) knocked the runs off with the minimum of fuss as England recorded a ten-wicket win for only the third time in one-dayers.

Prior also equalled the world record for the number of dismissals in an innings claiming six catches as South Africa tumbled to their lowest ever one-day score against England and the second lowest in their history.

Prior joins Adam Gilchrist, Alec Stewart and Mark Boucher as the only wicketkeepers to take six catches in an innings in a one-day international.

Broad said: "Being part of a bowling unit it does not really matter who takes the wickets. We have also got the knowledge and experience of Andrew Flintoff and Steve Harmison and they are always passing it on."

"We are all bowling for each other and the fielding has been fantastic which only gives the bowlers confidence. Hopefully we can seal the series on Friday."

England captain Kevin Pietersen revealed that his side's attention to detail has helped him get off to a winning start since taking over from Michael Vaughan three weeks ago.

"We are doing everything well at the moment. We are turning up on time, turning up on form and hammering the training sessions. The recipe for success is hard work and the boys are doing the simple things better than the other team. But I am not going to go overboard -

"we have not won the series yet." South African captain Graeme Smith, an injury doubt for the Oval, was jeered by a Nottingham crowd angry at the early finish.

He said: "We can only apologise for a very poor performance. People were rightly angry that they did not get a proper game."

"It is difficult to put a finger on what went wrong -- we have a number of injuries but that is no excuse -- we were just not good enough on the field."

"We have got to pick ourselves up and make sure our next performance is a lot better."

The South African batsmen looked disinterested at the end of a long tour as Broad and Flintoff, who took 3-25, used their height and bounce to reduce the tourists to 53-7.

The highest scorer was Andre Nel, coming in at number nine, who slogged three boundaries, and only two of the top six made it to double figures.

Broad's figures comfortably eclipse his previous best of 4-51.

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## Abahani KO Russel

Citycell FEDERATION CUP '08

SPORTS REPORTER

Zahid Hasan Emily struck the fastest goal in the Citycell Federation Cup to inspire Abahani's 2-0 win over Sheikh Russel in the quarterfinal yesterday.

Emily scored his fourth goal in the tournament on 50 seconds -- the quickest goal of the ongoing competition as well as the decade -- while Arif Khan Joy sealed the victory ten minutes from time for the sky-blues who will take on Farashganj in the first semifinal tomorrow.

Heavy showers just an hour before the kick-off not only delayed the start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium but also made the pitch impossible for good football that was expected of the two local giants.

Abahani, playing in their second

choice golden strip, however, took control immediately after the start. Russel's Moroccan centre-back Bourdief Mohamed's weak clearance at the right side of their area could not travel much on the rain-soaked pitch and Ibrahim got hold of the ball. The Ghanaian forward, still under tight marking, chipped the ball inside the box for his striking partner Emily whose glancing header from eight yards gave Russel keeper Titu no chance.

Veteran striker Alfaz then forced a fine save by Abahani's stand-in captain Biplab from 20 yards in the sixth minute.

The match was halted for power failure for six minutes and Abahani looked happy with the early advantage and Pranotosh's header on a centre by Abul, which went just wide, was the only notable effort in the rest of the half by Amlesh Sen's men.

Abul played his part at either flanks and kept feeding the strikers regularly. Emily, who came close to score again in the 51st minute with a through by the midfielder, was dispossessed by the advancing

goalkeeper, who kept Russel in the game when he superbly palmed away a powerful low freekick by Abul which deflected off the wall.

It was then Russel's turn to rush at the rival goal with Moroccan striker Youness and midfielder Said doing the spade work with help of substitute Mobarak.

But the tight Abahani backline, magnificently marshalled by Sujon and his Ghanaian partner Yussif in absence of suspended skipper Nazrul, hardly allowed them any clear shooting opportunities.

Russel chose the aerial route but Biplab was brilliant throughout the game, intercepting almost every cross that flew in.

The national number two goalkeeper made a one-handed save on Said's overhead shot in the 73rd minute and five minutes later, kept out the Moroccan's left-footed effort out of his goal.

Abahani hit on the break with Ibrahim and Emily exchanging passes but the latter's shot went out off leftback Parvez Babu's

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## Ana struggles through

AFP, New York

US OPEN

Top seed Ana Ivanovic struggled but held on to win her

opening match, while a pair of wannabe number ones advanced in straight sets during day two of the US Open.

World No. 1 Ivanovic, who captured the French Open earlier this year for her first Grand Slam title, didn't make the opening statement she had planned on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old Serbian survived a scare by beating Vera Dushvina 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre.

"Obviously my lack of practice showed a little," Ivanovic said. "This match is going to help me because it was so challenging."

"I was missing a lot of match practice so I got a tough one today." Olympic silver medalist Dinara Safina and Serena Williams won their first round matches in straight sets on Tuesday.

Both have a chance at supplanting Ivanovic as the top ranked WTA player if they reach the finals in the 20.6 million dollar event.

On the men's side of the draw, Roger Federer began his quest for his fifth consecutive US Open title in stunning fashion with a dominating 6-3, 6-0, 6-3 win over Maximo Gonzalez.

"It was a good match to start off with," Federer said. "I thought I served well and really moved good for the first round. I went on a good roll."

Safina, who is trying to put a fitting exclamation point on a superb season, defeated Kristie Ahn 6-3, 6-4.

The 22-year-old Safina, has won three titles in 2008 but hasn't made

it past the quarterfinals in the US Open.

Two-time champion Serena Williams rolled to an easy win by beating Kateryna Bondarenko 6-1, 6-4.

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PHOTO: AFP

Serbian world number one Ana Ivanovic celebrates after beating Vera Dushvina of Russia in the first round of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday. Ivanovic won 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.



## Did U Know?

The most appearances at the Wimbledon Championships is 35 by Britain's Arthur William Charles "Wentworth" Gore from 1888 to 1927.



**TEN Sports**  
US Open Tennis  
Day Four  
Live from 9:00pm  
**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live from 8:30pm



Federation Cup 2008  
QUARTERFINALS  
Cig Mohammedan v BKSP  
Time: 6:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



**John Buchanan**  
(Former Australia cricket coach)  
"Cricket ought to initially clean its own backyard and then strive to secure a place in the Olympics. I consider it miserable that the decisions of the authorities are questioned. I'm totally against the referral system and Twenty20 cannot be a part of the Olympics as the referral system is against the spirit of the Games."