

Barnak hold Farashganj

SPORTS REPORTER

A late goal by Prasenjit helped Barnak Samaj hold Farashganj Sporting Club to a 1-1 draw with in yesterday's Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Sagar opened the scoring after 47 minutes but Farashganj's lead was cancelled when Prasenjit struck home with five minutes remaining on the clock.

Police AC will face Victoria while Dhaka Wanderers play Shishu Khoshore Sangha in today's matches.

Shahin new GS of BSF

SPORTS REPORTER

The Solaiman-Shahin panel swept all the posts in the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) executive committee in its yesterday's election.

The forum- and services-backed panel won all the vice-president posts with renowned swimmer Arun Nandi, the lone candidate outside the panel, losing.

Mahbubur Rahman Shahin was elected general secretary unopposed while there was no votes for the treasurer and member posts.

Out of the two joint-secretary candidates, Shahjahan Miji and Kazimul Islam Panna lost the battle.

Bangladesh Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam will head the 25-member body as there is no option for polls in the president post.

Out of 77 councillors, 66 cast their votes.

The elected: Vice-presidents- Mohammed Solaiman, Hakiul Islam, Mojibor Rahman, Emranur Reza Chowdhury; general secretary- Mahbubur Rahman Shahin, treasurer- SM Alam; joint-secretaries- Jashimuddin Khasru, Golam Mostafa; members- Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mahmuda Sharif, Mahfuza Rahman Tania, Badiuzzaman Budhu, Rezaul Hossain Badshah, Khokon Sarajul Islam, Jotydranath Biswash, Nazimuddin Julius, Nargis Ara Annie, Morsalin Ahmed, Tapan Chanda, Emdatul Haque, Amirul Islam, Alamgir Hossain Mia, Laila Nur Begum and Aminul Islam Liton.

Changes likely

FROM PAGE 17 worry about including another defender although the coach loves a defence-heavy team.

It was learned that the National Team Management Committee (NTMC) is looking forward to strengthen the midfield with inclusion of Abahani duo Zahed Parvez and Arif Khan Joy.

Joy, the former captain who withdrew from the preliminary squad for Merdeka due to injury, may yet again refuse to join due to his plan to contest in the coming national elections.

Although changes are likely at the back and middle, NTMC chairman Badal Roy yesterday ruled out any chance of including a new striker.

Bangladesh took only Emily, Enamul and Robin to Malaysia and the decision to take only three forwards has been criticised. Many have suggested that Alfaz, although retired, could add depth to the attack with his experience and current form. The former national captain is currently leading the B. League scorers' list with six goals including a hat-trick.

"We had some reasons to exclude Alfaz for Merdeka Cup and they still remain," Badal told without explaining.

However, there is rumour that B. League leaders Sheikh Russel are not interested to release their ace striker.

The NTMC is likely to finalise the team in its today's meeting.

Time to stand

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captaincy from Adam Gilchrist his first appointment was in the West Indies. Clarke has scored 277 runs at 39.57 in four Tests, including 110 on his return to the side in the Caribbean following the death of his fiancée's father. The figures are slightly down on his career average of 45.50 in 37 games.

"Personally I don't feel it (the vice-captaincy) has had too much of an impact on my individual performances," he said. "My stats since being vice-captain probably aren't the greatest, but I feel as comfortable as ever."

Clarke has talked to Ponting, Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh and Shane Warne about how to marry the leadership duties with maintaining high batting standards.

BCB polls on

FROM PAGE 17 will cast their votes for 12 directors and 47 other councillors will take part in a ballot for one director. NSC will nominate the other director.

BCB councillors on October 7 approved the new constitution in the board's extraordinary general meeting (EGM) and as per new the charter there will be 25 directors instead of 31 members in the earlier constitution.

Of the twenty-five, the president would be either nominated or elected, according to the NSC Act.



ONE OF MANY: Middlesex's Ed Joyce spills an easy chance at deep midwicket during their Stanford 20/20 match against England at the Stanford Cricket Stadium in Antigua on Sunday night.

Lights bother KP

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Kevin Pietersen says he is concerned about the lighting in Antigua ahead of England's 20-million-dollar showdown against the Stanford Superstars on Saturday.

England narrowly beat Middlesex in their opening match of the Stanford Super Series on Sunday, but the game was littered with dropped catches.

Poor visibility was a worry for the England captain, with the players practising in the field after the game.

"I am as concerned about the lights as I am about the wicket," said Pietersen.

England could only muster 121-4 from their allocated 20 overs on a slow wicket and the lights provided a further worry for Pietersen who is keen to avoid a situation where a player is responsible for a key dropped catch against the Superstars.

"It's the same for both teams and that is why I had the boys out in the dinner break and after the game."

"We spent 20 minutes doing that at the end, there aren't going to be many opportunities to catch, so we will do it again in the break and at the end of the game against Trinidad (on Tuesday) because it is a huge factor."

"There could be someone under a 20-million-dollar catch on Saturday."

Pietersen also admitted he may have to re-think his line-up for

Saturday's multi-million pound encounter after the performances of Middlesex spinners Shaun Udal and Murali Kartik, who stifled England.

It was widely expected that England would stick with the team that claimed a 4-0 one-day series victory over South Africa in the summer but, after having to bowl four overs himself, Pietersen admitted he could draft in a spinner -- opening the door for Graeme Swann.

"It's definitely something to consider," he said.

"I am not good enough to bowl as the second spinner so it is an option we will think long and hard about."

"It was not probably something I was thinking too much about at the start of the tournament but having watched the last two fixtures it would be stupid of me not to have a look at it."

Dibaba ties the knot

AFP, Addis Ababa

Ethiopia's double Olympic gold medalist Tirunesh Dibaba married her long-time fiance and fellow athlete Sileshi Sihine in a colourful wedding ceremony witnessed by thousands of people here on Sunday.

The elaborate ceremony, which has been dubbed "The wedding of the Millennium", first took place inside an Ethiopian Orthodox church, where a traditional mass was held before the smiling couple were driven into the city centre with their invited guests.

They were paraded on top of a plush limousine ahead of a large convoy towards the city's landmark "Meskel Square", where a chanting and enthusiastic crowd of people greeted them along the way.

Another thousand people are expected to attend a banquet dinner at Addis Ababa's priciest hotel -- the Sheraton -- later on Sunday evening.

The 23-year-old Tirunesh, who is popularly known as "the Baby-Faced Assassin", won both 5,000m and 10,000m gold medals at the Beijing Olympics last August, while Sileshi finished second behind compatriot Kenenisa Bekele in the 10,000m race.

Younis helps SA to draw

AFP, Adelaide

Pakistan Test batsman Younis Khan scored an unbeaten 71 to help South Australia bat out the final day and salvage a Sheffield Shield draw with New South Wales at Adelaide Oval on Monday.

Younis, who was out for a first-ball duck on his Shield debut in the first innings, stonewalled the NSW bowling attack for 137 balls and 218 minutes to steer SA to 300 for five at the close.

South Australia, dismissed for 313 in their first innings, conceded a 263-run first innings lead as NSW batted for 162.4 overs for their 576.

But the home side safely negotiated the final day to limit NSW to just two innings points.

Younis has joined South Australia for the domestic season after completing international commitments with the Pakistan team in Canada.

He has scored 4,816 runs in 58 Tests at an average of 49.14, with 15 centuries, and has played in 175 one-day internationals for Pakistan since 2000.

BOA signs deal

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and KOC held official talks at the headquarters of the KOC.

Moeen congratulated the KOC for Korea's spectacular performance at the Beijing Olympics. He also congratulated Korea for being selected as the host for the 2014 Asian Games.

Moeen requested the KOC to dispatch coaches for football, shooting and swimming in Bangladesh.

He also mentioned that Korean assistance will be valuable in modernising Bangladesh's sports arena including establishment of digital scoreboards for swimming.

The KOC boss assured that his organisation will support the development of sports in Bangladesh through concrete programmes in the near future.

He also said that the KOC would be willing to support the development of taekwondo -- the Korean version of martial art -- in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Ambassador to South Korea Shahidul Islam was present at the signing ceremony.

Later on the day Moeen visited the DMZ (Demilitarised Zone), a 248-km long strip of 4-km width along the 38th parallel, dividing South Korea from North Korea.

of 90 overs are delivered each day. "It's only the colour of the ball," the former Australia captain Steve Waugh said. "If that attracts more people to the game and they can see the ball better than that's what we're after. If spectators can get better value it's got to be better for the game. Test cricket has got to move with the times."

Over-rates remain a regular issue in Tests and the committee said there had been no significant improvement since it requested in May that the minimum level should be 15 an hour. "All players should be fined equally -- not just the captain -- with immediate effect," said Tony Lewis, the MCC world cricket committee chairman.

Currently, the captain is hit with double the punishment of his players and he could be suspended for a match if the team is six overs behind the required rate at the end of the day. Something the sport's lawmakers, the London-based MCC would take note of, as it can alter the rules of the game and use its influence to urge the ICC to change its position on other issues.

time the concept of a cricket coach was well established everywhere, Pakistan have tried seven of most kinds and colours. None have been outstanding successes, some have been outright failures. Many conclusions can be drawn from that about Pakistan cricket. One not often drawn is that maybe, just maybe, Pakistan can do without a modern-day coach. Maybe the concept just doesn't click with Pakistan players.

Certainly, senior PCB officials have kept this conclusion in mind while making the choice. Just because it hasn't been attempted lately doesn't mean it is a flawed idea. It might work, it might not, though it shouldn't be forgotten in all the fuss about coaching that having a decent captain and team might help too.

Shouhardo Cup

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the meet open as chief guest while Tangail District and Session Judge Chowdhury Muniruddin Mahfuz will also attend the opening ceremony. The final is slated for November 8.

Nahid Cotton Mills, Haji Abul Hossain Institute of Technology, Shristy Coaching Centre and Shahin Coaching Centre are sponsoring the tournament.

Hackett calls it a day

Swimming

AFP, Sydney

Champion Australian swimmer Grant Hackett said he will announce his retirement from the sport at Swimming Australia's swimmer of the year awards here later Monday.

Hackett, 28, had already declared this year's Beijing Games would be his last Olympics after his heartbreaking loss of a third consecutive 1500 metres freestyle crown by less than a second.

Hackett, who has held the world record for seven years, went down to Tunisia's Oussama Mellouli by just 0.69sec.

The Australian great had dominated the 1500m for more than a decade, winning four world titles and two Olympic titles in Sydney and Athens.

He was Australia's most decorated swimmer with 18 medals and won a total of seven Olympic medals over three Games -- three gold, three silver and one bronze.

His world record of 14:34.56 has

been described as phenomenal by his rivals and he has consistently raised the bar in distance swimming since inheriting the role of Olympic and world champion from Kieren Perkins.

Hackett has recently taken up a



GRANT HACKETT

job reading the weekend sports news on the Nine Network in Melbourne and is looking to a career in banking.

"I want to set the record straight and address my fellow peers and swimmers and everyone else who has contributed to my career and

tell them what sort of path I will be following from now," Hackett said on television Monday.

Hackett said competing at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, where he pipped Perkins in the 1500m, and being part of the successful Australian team, had been his career highlights.

He said the grind of distance swimming had physically caught up with him and left him with persistent shoulder problems, particularly since undergoing major surgery at the end of 2005.

Hackett first rose to sporting fame in Australia at the 1998 World Championships in Perth as a 17-year-old where he was touched out in the 400m final by a 15-year-old Ian Thorpe.

They developed an enduring rivalry and strong friendship that led Australia's swim team to the nation's best run of success since the golden days of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Hackett finished with three Olympic gold medals, one as a 4x200m heat swimmer in 2000, but ended his career just below Thorpe and Dawn Fraser in the roll call of Australia's greatest swimmers.

'Mishra unlikely'

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mostly happens to the replacement when the captain is back to full fitness. Kirsten was very clear about that, and also ruled out playing three spinners. "That's one good option you have [dropping a batsman to accommodate all the spinners]," Kirsten said. "But I certainly want to be going into a Test match with six batsmen."

And dropping one of the fast bowlers is not a question at all, given the form Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma have been in.

Apart from that aspect of team composition, Kirsten spoke of the confidence India's win in Mohali gave them. "It was a great Test-match win, certainly a benchmark Test, in terms of dominating play," Kirsten said. "It's a new day, a new game, but we will certainly use that Test as a benchmark for what we want to achieve."

While the player behaviour has come under the scanner once again in an India-Australia series, Kirsten said it was natural when two such competitive sides played.

"[These are] two very competitive, emotional and aggressive teams. I think there will always be occasions in pressure situation when either team might overstep the mark a little bit."

"Zaheer, in the match referee meeting [when he was fined 80% of his match fee for having given Matthew Hayden a send-off], admitted that he had overstepped the mark, but these things happen."

These are two teams playing a high level of cricket, that creates great excitement for Test cricket in the world. We must encourage that competitiveness; we understand that individuals mustn't overstep the mark."

Rice named Australia's best

AFP, Sydney

Triple Olympic gold medalist Stephanie Rice was named Australia's Swimmer-of-the-Year at a function here on Monday.

Rice, 20, was Australia's outstanding swimmer at the Beijing Olympics last August, winning the 200-400m medley double and the 4x200m freestyle relay, all in world record time.

She became the sixth female winner of the Australian award and joined Hayley Lewis, Susie O'Neill, Jodie Henry, Leisel Jones and Libby Trickett in being recognised as the country's premier swimmer.

Rice edged out 2006 winner Jones and 2007 winner Trickett to take the award.

"It's been quite an amazing year for me and to win those two individual gold medals and then share that incredible moment with the girls in the relay was beyond my wildest dreams," Rice said.

WOMEN'S SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2 matches today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Metropolitan Women's School football will resume today after no matches could be played on Sunday and yesterday due to inclement weather.

The Bangladesh Football Federation has revised the fixture of the 12-team meet, which will conclude on November 1.

In today's matches at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex, Aga Khan will meet Mastermind and Green Herald face BIT.

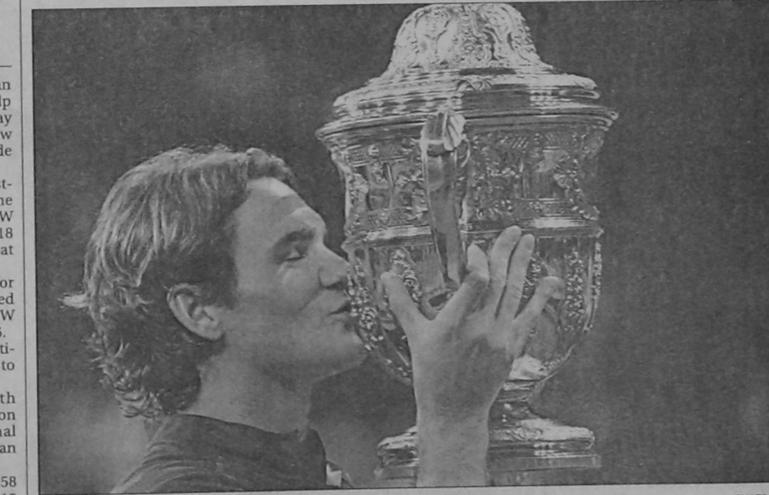
Federer's hat-trick

AFP, Basel

Roger Federer completed a trophy hat-trick at his home event, the Swiss Indoors, on Sunday as he defeated longtime rival David Nalbandian 6-3, 6-4.

Federer, who came alive after a slow start this season as he lifted a fifth straight US Open crown, has now won two of the last three ATP events he has played and a fourth trophy in all in 2008.

Federer goes into the season-ending Masters Cup in Shanghai from November 9 charged with enthusiasm with his 57th career title secured and a 63-13 record so far this season.



Swiss superstar Roger Federer kisses the winner's trophy after beating Argentina's David Nalbandian at the Swiss Indoors final in Basel on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Jason's ship 36 Tears 37 The 24 in 6 Hurried 12 Actress Jessica 13 -- out a living 14 There-fore 15 Chris Martin's band 17 Bellow 18 With it 19 Sniffer contents 21 19th Amend-ment benefi-ciary 24 Young horse 25 Last notice 26 Defend yourself, possum-style 30 Sinbad's 31 Jurors, e.g. 32 Pair 33 Jerry Garcia fan

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-37 and some filled-in letters.

Solution time: 21 mins. ASK FALLS ERA BLO UPFLOW VAN CROQUETTES AGG... 30 Sinbad's UNLI DONA OCEAN... 31 Jurors, e.g. STANLEY... 32 Pair GITA LINDORBALE... 33 Jerry Garcia fan ART ASSET DAB... 21 Informa-tion 1 Regis and Kelly's network 2 Carnival city 3 Solidly 4 Trie 5 Shril bark abbr. 7 QWERTY, 27 Needle case 28 Punctur-ing tools 29 Lummo's 31 Dr. McGraw 34 Flacid 35 Wild and crazy 37 Marry 38 Constella-tion component 39 Sit for a snapshot 40 Verbal 41 Infant 44 Mound stat 45 Eggs 46 Fleur-de- 47 Banned bug spray

CRYPTOQUIP KV QGS ODZU UG RIUIHJKZI FGO VDXU D EADZU OKAA XEHGSU. K NSIXX QGS GSNFU UG SXI D XIIRGJIUIH. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WISH THOSE ANGELS WOULD STOP DISCUSSING THAT TOPIC ALREADY. THEY'RE REALLY HARPING ON IT! Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals T