

## BFF inspired by Nokia return

SPORTS REPORTER

Nokia renewed its ties with Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) once again when the world's leading mobile phone manufacturers announced it will sponsor the national football team for this month's 3rd Grand Royal Challenge Cup in Myanmar.

Nokia had sponsored the national team for the AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers and the SAFF Championship last year and when a chance of revival of the relationship looked remote, it came out with a Tk 12-lakh contract, which was signed yesterday at the BFF Bhawan.

"Football is very dear to my heart and we are pleased to be associated with BFF again," said Nokia's managing director Prem Chand at a press briefing.

"We have an obligation and responsibility to develop football in the country and we'll continue our sponsorship in future."

Prem Chand said Nokia was looking for a long-term relationship with the BFF disregarding the team's performance in Myanmar, where Bangladesh are pitted against Indonesia and the hosts in their group.

"We are one of the best brands in the world and I feel we have

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## Soccer WC on their mind

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Johannesburg

The first impression someone got upon immediate arrival here is nothing but the fact that South Africa are going to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup. In every nook and corner it is evident that they are preparing for the mega event and all the people who are ardent followers of sports love to talk with pride about the greatest show on the earth.

"Look there are construction works going on everywhere only because of the World Cup. It's a really big event coming for us," said Fikile, a taxi driver. One slogan which is written on a street wall, could be a great example how people of this country are looking forward to the event: "You can make noise for the 2010 FIFA World Cup right now".

But there were however no short of excitement also with the Twenty20 International cricket match between Bangladesh and South Africa at the Liberty Life Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg. Especially the Bangladeshi community in South

Africa was so eager with the series that they were crying: "Ash don't make us sad," said a banner carried by some Tigers supporters.

"You know there are a number of Bangladeshis who came today (Wednesday) to support the team from different parts of the country. We are hopeful because Bangladesh won a Twenty20 match here against West Indies and they recently played good cricket against New Zealand," said Rony.

"We hope our players come up with fire in the breezy day and it's also a challenge for them because their rivals are doing well in ICL," the witty Rony added with a laugh.

Another fan Ashraf was a little bit frustrated that he could not watch Bangladesh's first one-day match against New Zealand which Mohammad Ashraful's men won by seven wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"Oh, we could not watch the match on the television," he said.

Bangladesh captain Ashraful also noticed that there is huge interest with the World Cup football but said that they want to make an impression in their second trip to the country during the monthlong tour.

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Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim stretches ahead of the day-night Twenty20 international match against South Africa yesterday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

## Sports for All begins in Rangpur

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

The two days of 'Sports for All' were exceptional for the youth of Rangpur who had never thought that they would enjoy rural sports that have disappeared with the advancement of life and time so much, or it would be as pleasant as any other urban sport.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) created this opportunity as part of its programme to involve people of all sorts in sports throughout the country and revive heritage of rural ancient sports, which began in Rangpur.

During the two-day Sports for All, competitions like goose catching, fish catching, bullock cart riding, lathi khela, gollachutt and horse race were held at Mithapukur, Badarganj and Kounia upazila on Tuesday.

Climbing oily polls, catching hen, bag race (bosta dour), kanamachhi and bouchhi were held yesterday at the Rangpur Zila School ground.

Earlier, a huge colourful rally with students of different schools and colleges of Rangpur was brought out in the town.

Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur Abdul Ahad, BOA chief executive

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## Manik eyes progress

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

National football coach Shafiqul Islam Manik looks to improve on a "satisfactory" performance in the Merdeka Cup when he takes the team to Myanmar for a six-nation invitational tournament.

Bangladesh, who finished runners-up under Argentine coach Diego Cruciani in the 2nd Grand Royal Challenge Cup in Myanmar in 2005, will play hosts Myanmar in the opener of the 3rd edition of the tournament on November 11 in Yangon and face Indonesia two days later in their group.

Manik, whose side lost by identical margin of 1-0 to Mozambique and Myanmar before holding eventual Merdeka Cup winners Vietnam to a 2-2 draw last month, has dropped five players from the squad to make way for Alfaz Ahmed, Zahed Parvez and Atiqur Rahman Mishu.

The 18-member team, which leave Dhaka on November 9, will get little time together -- probably

just a day's training on the field. "I will focus on team planning mostly as I have very little time. However, the players are match fit, which is an advantage for us," said Manik after announcing his squad yesterday.

"I am trying to give the players the idea about positions and may be we will practise one day before we depart."

Defending the changes he has made, the former national fullback said injury caused the exit of ace defender Hassan Al Mamun and midfielder Pranotosh Das, who was due to make his national debut in

Malaysia in the Merdeka Cup.

"Hassan has not recovered. Pranotosh has played in the B. League after our return but he needs more time. Mishu comes as a backup of our only leftback Waly. If anything happens to Waly, we have no other option but Matiu Munna to fill in the gap. But he (Munna) is an important player in the midfield, so I want him there," said Manik.

"I needed an agile player who quickly adjusts to conditions. Zahed fits in here perfectly. I could not accommodate Alfaz last time but Enamul has proved he needs more maturity and confidence at international level. I hope Alfaz's current form and experience would be handy."

Manik also wanted a holding or defensive midfielder in place of Pranotosh but Arif Khan Joy's unavailability has forced him to stick to Arman Aziz and Sharif.

Shuvra and Abul were both dropped for unimpressive performances.

"It was a difficult task because I can take only 18. I have managed to

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### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Aminul Haq, Biplab Bhattacharya.  
**Defenders:** Ariful Islam, Mohammed Sujjan (vice-captain), Rajani Kanta Barman, Nazrul Islam, Mofazzel Hossain Saikat, Waly Faisal, Atiqur Rahman Mishu.  
**Midfielders:** Arman Aziz, Enamul Haque Sharif, Matiu Munna (captain), Mamunul Islam, Zahid Hossain, Zahed Parvez.  
**Forwards:** Alfaz Ahmed, Zahid Hasan Emily and Hedayetullah Robin.



BFF president Kazi Salahuddin shakes hands with Nokia general manager Prem Chand (third from left) after a signing ceremony between the two organisations at the BFF Bhawan yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Match of many things

Fourth and final Test from today

Cricket

AFP, Nagpur

New captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Wednesday promised India would cope with the "crucial" loss of banned top batsman Gautam Gambhir as they chase a Test series win against Australia from Thursday.

India will hand Murali Vijay his Test debut in the absence of opener Gambhir, who has top-scored with 463 runs to help his team to a 1-0 series lead but lost his appeal against a one-match ban for elbowing Shane Watson.

Gambhir's loss is one of a number of distractions for Dhoni, who is playing his first match as full-time captain after Anil Kumble's

retirement. The match will be ex-skipper Sourav Ganguly's last before retiring and Venkatesai Laxman's 100th.

"Gambhir's absence will be crucial because he was the man in form and scored a lot of runs. A good start is what really matters and then you can capitalise on it to put a big score on the board," said Dhoni.

"Right now we are planning to go with newcomer Murali Vijay as he has been doing very well in domestic cricket. We have confidence in him and hopefully we get the start we need," he added.

"We don't want to put pressure on him and want him to play his normal game. We know the opposition always tries to put pressure on a debutant."

Dhoni pledged not to be sidetracked by the celebrations involv-

ing Laxman and Ganguly and said he would not feel extra pressure in his debut as full-time skipper. The wicketkeeper has deputised as captain in two previous Tests.

"I don't think these are distractions. It makes no difference whether I am a stand-in or regular captain," Dhoni said.

"We are focused on the things we need to do here. We have prepared well and executed our plans well in this series and that's the most important thing," he said.

"It's a big match but we don't want to put pressure on ourselves. We just need to stick to the basics. Whatever we have been doing till now we need to do the same here. We have to go out and play up to our potential."

Australia skipper Ricky Ponting

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## Shooting GS Nazim quits

SPORTS REPORTER

National Shooting Federation (NSF) general secretary Nazimuddin Chowdhury tendered his resignation yesterday on personal ground.

Nazim, who was the chief executive of the federation for last eight years, submitted his resignation letter to its president Maj Gen Ashab Uddin.

"The reason to step down is personal. I am a government official and could not give enough time to federation works recently," said Nazim.

A new election is due for next June and NSF joint-secretary Aleya Ferdousi will work as acting general secretary.

## Rabiul banned after clashing with Riyad

SPORTS REPORTER

Rabiul Islam was banned while Mahmudullah Riyad received a fine after a fracas during the Dhaka-Khulna National Cricket League game yesterday.

Both players were involved in a verbal exchange and later came into physical contact on the final day of the fourth round match.

Following a hearing with match referee Hemayet Ahmed Siddiqui, Khulna paceman Rabiul was suspended for one four-day match and also fined 75 per cent of his match fees.

Riyad was fined 75 per cent of his match fees.

They have been disciplined for breach of BCB code of conduct and ICC rules of conduct.

## Nehru Cup squad announced

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Hockey Federation Wednesday named a 20-member final squad for the 45th Jawaharlal Nehru Cup Hockey to be held in India from November 14 to 25.

Bangladesh hockey team, which is due to leave for India by road on Nov 12, will play their first match on Nov 18.

### SQUAD

Mahbubullah Shakil, Zahid Hossain, Asaduzzaman Chandra, Moshir Rahman, Ferdous Goldar, Tapash Barman, Imran Hasan, Shahidullah, Quamruzzaman, Ashiquezaman, Jamal Hossain, SM Nannu, Krishna Kumar, Zahid Bin Talib and Rimon Kumar Ghosh.

## PCB bans Yousuf

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan have banned Mohammad Yousuf from playing national and international cricket after he agreed to join the unrecognised Indian Cricket League, an official said Wednesday.

"Yousuf will remain banned from playing any type of cricket in

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## Dhaka, Rajshahi win

SPORTS REPORTER

Elias Sunny spun Dhaka to a massive 176-run victory against Khulna while Rajshahi also won in the fourth round of the National Cricket League yesterday.

Khulna were bowled out for 231 runs in the second innings, after Dhaka set them 308 to win.

Hosts Sylhet lost a good opportunity against Rajshahi with the hosts bowled out for 158, losing by 40 runs.

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, the Chittagong-Barisal match ended in a predictable draw.

### SYLHET v RAJSHAH

Rajshahi used Alamgir Kabir sparingly but he delivered the first blow, removing Saikat Ali for 33. Three balls later, seamer Shafiqul Islam took care of Ejaz Ahmed and Sylhet had two new batsmen at the crease as early as the second over in their chase.

Rajin Saleh was seventh man out, caught by Alamgir off left-arm Saqlain Sajib, who took three for 34. Shafiqul also took three while Mohammad Shahzad had two

### DHAKA v KHULNA

A 110-run stand between Tushar Imran and Ziaur Rahman held Dhaka back for more than a couple of hours.

Skipper Tushar cracked 70 off 166 balls with six boundaries and a six but it was Zia's innings that was more entertaining. He hit half a



NADIF CHOWDHURY

dozen sixers and four boundaries in his 118-ball knock of 65.

Elias took four wickets in the innings as Dhaka got to their second win of the competition.

Dhaka's Nadif Chowdhury was adjudged man-of-the-match.

### BARISAL v CHITTAGONG

Chittagong added 22 runs before Nafis Iqbal declared their first innings on 392-9.

It was all academic but Nasiruddin Faruque made the best of it.

The stylish left-hander smashed 100 off 220 runs in an innings that saw eight boundaries and a six.

Faisal Hossain, who struck 127 in Chittagong's first innings, bagged the man-of-the-match award.

### BRIEF SCORES

**DHAKA:** 251-9 dec. and 266-7 dec.  
**KHULNA:** 110 all out and second innings 231 all out in 83.2 overs (Sadat 50, Mustafizur 2, Aziz 20, Tushar 70, Sahagir 15, Anas 0, Farid 1, Dollar 5, Zia 65, Murad 0, Rabiul 0; Arafat 2-62, Milon 1-12, Elias 4-44, Riyad 3-68).  
**Result:** Dhaka won by 176 runs.

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### BCB POLLS

## No panel of consensus

SPORTS REPORTER

The election commission yesterday received 58 nomination papers for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) election scheduled for November 12, quashing rumours of a panel of consensus.

The actual number of candidates for the 23 directorial posts could not be ascertained though, as a few persons including former board officials Gazi Golam Dastagir and Khondokar Jamil Uddin reportedly submitted more than one nomination paper as safety measures against cancellation for mistakes.

Noted missing candidates, who had sought nomination, are former BCB joint-secretary Rafiqul Islam

and organiser Adnan Rahman Dipon.

A total of 24 nominations were submitted for Category 1 (10 directors from districts and divisions), 28 for Category 2 (12 directors from Dhaka clubs) and six for Category 3 (one director for players, education boards, women's wing etc.).

Former national cricket captains Roquibul Hassan, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu and Faruque Ahmed will fight with Jamil and Abdul Quyum Chowdhury in Category 3 while the competition would get intense in Category 2 where the group led by former general secretary Mahbubul Anam is pitted against Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby and his fellows.

Although Babu and Dipon decided not to compete, former general secretary Aminul Haque Moni, Aziz Al Kaiser Tito, Salman Isphani, Obaid Nizam, Miazur Rahman and Lutfar Rahman Badal will run for the Mahbubul Anam-led 'cricket development panel'.

"I was interested to have a united panel but unfortunately it did not materialise," Mahbub told reporters while submitting his nomination paper at the National Sports Council yesterday.

"The way the board of a Test nation is running at the moment is not proper. It needs a corporate structure and I believe the new constitution will take care of it. I

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Farmers take part in a paddy-cutting competition in a Bangladesh Olympics Association organised competition called 'Sports for All' at the Rangpur Zilla School ground yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## Did U Know?

Just-retired India Test captain Anil Kumble is only the second bowler in history after Englishman Jim Laker to have taken all ten wickets in an innings.



**Neo Cricket**  
India v Australia  
Fourth Test, Day One  
Live from 10:00am

**TEN Sports & ZEE Sports**  
ICL Twenty20  
Hyderabad v Mumbai  
Live from 8:00pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live from 8:30pm



**Michael Hussey**  
(Star Australia batsman)  
"In the first Test in Bangalore, I thought we were quite attacking. It did take us a while to score runs, but the pitch was probably the main cause of that. We actually tried to win that game as hard as any Test. Coming into the second and third Tests when the opposition posted big first-innings totals, it was very hard then to dictate the rest of the game. That's probably why we appeared to be a bit more defensive." While rejecting claims that Australia have shed much of their attacking flair in the ongoing series in India.