

BFF in search of GS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has finally decided to appoint a general secretary after the post laid vacant for about ten months.

The BFF executive committee is ten-month old and although there had been immediate talks of recruiting a general secretary, the federation later decided to adapt go-slow about appointments.

Elected or selected, previous general secretaries were truly chief executives of the federation with power of taking decisions. But according to new statutes, the general secretary has to be a paid official and play the role of a chief executive officer without any say in the EC.

"It has been long that we haven't gone for a general secretary although there had been talks with some candidates. But this time, we are going official," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin.

An advertisement is likely to be published in newspapers tomorrow and the candidate, according to Salahuddin, must have good knowledge of

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Did U Know?

Barbora Spotakova is a Czech javelin thrower who is the current world and Olympic champion as well as the world record holder.



Dominic Cork

(Former England paceman)
"I, as a cricketer, would hope that the International Cricket Council get together with Australia, England and South Africa and try and entice people to come back to Pakistan."



Neo Cricket

New Zealand v India
First Twenty20 Int'l
Live from 12:00pm

TEN Sports

Pakistan v Sri Lanka
First Test, Day Five
Live from 11:00am
UEFA Champions League
Real Madrid v Liverpool
Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

ZEE Sports

UEFA Champions League
Chelsea v Juventus
Live from 1:45am (Thursday)



Premier Div Cricket League

Biman v City Club
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur
Abahani v Old DOHS
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Mohammedan v Surjo Torun
Venue: BKSP



PHOTO: AFP

HAPPY TRIPLE: Pakistan captain Younis Khan raises the bat after reaching his triple century on the fourth day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday. He is unbeaten on 306.

Younis sets records roll

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Younis Khan smashed several records on his way to a pugnacious maiden triple hundred as the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka headed for a draw here Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Pakistan captain foiled all Sri Lanka's attempts to take his wicket, finishing with an unbeaten 306 as Pakistan closed the fourth day on 574-5, trailing the tourists' first-innings score of 644-7 declared by 70 runs.

On 299, Younis reverse-swept Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran towards third man to cross the 300-mark, becoming only the third Pakistani behind Hanif Mohammad and Inzamamul Haq to achieve the feat in Tests.

The unflappable way in which Younis batted suggests that, on a dull fifth and final day, he may get past Mohammad's highest Test score for Pakistan (337) and take on West Indian Brian Lara's highest score of 400.

Lara registered that against England at Antigua in 2004.

"Maybe I will go for Lara's record," said Younis. "I have a plan to bat for 40 overs on Wednesday and see if I could get there but my team plan comes first and for that I would want my bowlers to get some workout."

"I dedicate this triple hundred to my friends, my teammates and, above all, to my family who have gone through various problems in the last few years," said Younis, who lost his sister and two brothers, one in an accident.

The Pakistan captain has batted for 12 hours and 11 minutes, hitting 27 boundaries and four sixes off 545 balls.

And he still feels he can go on for another two hours.

"My back is sore, I have slightly pulled my hamstring, but I am sure I can still bat for 40-odd overs."

Younis's previous best of 267 came against India in the Bangalore Tests four years ago.

Younis was involved in two resolute stands of 130 for the fourth wicket with Misbahul Haq (42) and another 174 for the next with Faisal Iqbal (57) as Sri Lankan bowlers toiled on a flat National Stadium pitch.

When Younis reached 184, he completed 5,000 runs in his 59th Test, becoming the sixth Pakistani batsman to achieve the tally.

The list is headed by Javed Miandad (8,832 in 124 Tests) and followed by Inzamamul Haq (8,829 in 119), Mohammad Yousof (6,770 in 79), Salim Malik (5,768 in 103) and Zaheer Abbas (5,062 in 78).

Younis also matched Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene who scored 240 in Sri Lanka.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

National star-studded Usha KC came from behind to beat Bangladesh Navy 4-1 to reach the final of the Need For Speed Shaheed Smriti Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rubel Kabir put the Navy team ahead in the 13th minute by a field goal while Zahid bin Talib levelled the margin for Usha, who still have a match in hand, in the 34th minute.

Zahid scored two more field goals in the 40th and 56th minutes while Sheikh M Nannu scored the other goal in the 48th minute.

With the day's well-merited win, Usha took a solo lead in the league with all-win record securing full 12 points from four matches and will play main contenders Bangladesh Army on Thursday to decide the top finisher.

Earlier, Usha defeated BKSP 2-1, Dilkusha SC 2-0 and Bangladesh Air Force by 7-1 goals.

In the day's other match, Dilkusha tasted

their first victory in their 3rd match beating Bangladesh Air Force by a solitary goal at the same venue in the afternoon.

Substitute Mohammad Javed scored the match-winner for Dilkusha in the 56th minute.

GIRLS' HANDBALL

Viguarunnissa Noon School and College made a flying start in the KFC-Pizza Hut 5th Mini Girls Handball Tournament outplaying Summerfield School by 11-2 goals (first-half 6-0) on the second day of the meet at the Outer Stadium handball ground.

In the day's other matches, BIS beat South Point by 5-0 goals (first-half 3-0), Scholastica School defeated Play Pen 5-2 (first-half 3-1), South Breeze School beat Maghbaraz Ispahani Girls School 8-3 (first-half 4-0), BMAR Rifles School and College defeated Summerfield 13-3 (first-half 9-0) and South Breeze School beat Banani Bidya Niketan 6-5 (first-half 3-3).

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Protiva Talukder (R) is engaged in a cerebral warfare with IWM Rani Hamid in the third round of the 30th Parachute National Women's Chess Championship at the Federation hall room yesterday.

DIV I CRICKET Sajid powers Wanderers

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers rode on a blistering 116 by Sajid to defeat Kalabagan at the Dhaka University Ground in the Dhaka First Division Cricket League yesterday.

After Kalabagan were bowled out for 202 in the 48th over with Belal and Sayem both picking three wickets apiece, Wanderers raced to their target with seven overs and five wickets to spare. Sajid hit 11 boundaries and four sixes in his 119-ball innings and Rubel proved able support with a solid 63.

Wanderers have now won two matches in three encounters while Kalabagan have one win from same number of matches.

Bangladesh Boys defeated Prime Dolleshwar by 12 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium to notch their third win in four games. Batting first, the victors were bowled out for 216 in 49.2 overs and later confined Prime to 204-8 in 50 overs.

At the City Club Ground, Khelaghar beat Agrani Bank by 60 runs while at the Jahangirnagar University Ground, Orient Club handed defeat to Uttara by five wickets.

Krirapally for SA Games trainees

SPORTS REPORTER

The krirapally at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium will be allotted only for the South Asian Games trainees, said National Sports Council (NSC) chairman General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday.

General Moeen, also the Army Chief and Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president, told this at an executive committee meeting of BOA to boost preparation of the regional games, which will be held in Dhaka from January 29-February 9, 2010, sources said.

However, the decision by the NSC chief may put the Bangladesh Cricket Board Academy youngsters, who are due to reside at the krirapally from the first day of March. They have already deserted their rented house at Dhanmondi to take permanent residence at the Mirpur venue.

Meanwhile, finalising events of the 23 disciplines was on the agenda but it was decided that the BOA will discuss prospective events with the respective federations before taking decision. It was felt that increasing the number of events will not help Bangladesh win medals in those events.

Gen Moeen, who also visited the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium to see the accommodation problems of the hockey squad, has asked NSC officials to take necessary steps to solve the crisis.

It can be mentioned that the hockey players had abandoned camp earlier this month in demand of better food, accommodation and sufficient pocket money.

Liza shares lead with two

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's runner-up WFM Shamima Akter Liza shared lead with Sharmin Sultana Shirin and Masuda Begum after the third round of the 30th Parachute National Women's Chess Championship at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday.

All three players had maximum three points.

Liza, playing with black pieces in a Taimanov Variation of Sicilian Defence, beat Ahely Sarkar after 22 moves while Shirin took 42 moves to win against Jahanara Haque Runu's Queen's Pawn opening.

Masuda was also playing with black pieces, in Exchange Variation of Queen's Gambit Declined game, on way to beat Rokhsana Titli.

In other matches, holder IWM Rani Hamid beat Protiva Talukder, Nazrana Khan Eva beat WFM Zakia Sultana and Amena Khatun beat Farjana Hossain Anne.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3

BCB stalled?

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY

A lot was expected when the tried and tested organisers took over the office of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), the richest sports body in the country, after a fervent election in November last year.

Despite coming from different panels they have gelled well to make many believe that these gentlemen are capable of getting the work done even at the highest level and boost up the activities on a fiercely competitive field, where Bangladesh have won more criticism than hearts.

It might be too early to say; three months on, where do we stand? But this time it is good enough to get the impression whether team-work exists in the board to move forward with pragmatic plans. Unfortunately, there was hardly any evidence for what we can say this board is working together to speed up the activities to improve the standard of the game in the country.

Rather the whisper is all around that everything is stagnant. It seems that everybody is reluctant and in a mood to "let things happen".

The biggest challenge ahead for the game's governing body is to successfully hold the 2011 World Cup, which is undoubtedly, it's priority in the list but the high-ups have already admitted that they are lagging behind in their preparations.

In this particular case they might need government patronisation but how can one accept the fact, that the renewal of player's contract has yet to materialize though the last contract expired November last year, or the organisation has been running without the permanent CEO (chief executive officer) for last one year although there has been a plan of giving it a corporate shape.

Like it or hate it, in modern day cricket the success of anything depends on good govern-

nance and there is no doubt the board has a lot of good people working. But are we missing good professionals? Otherwise why has it failed to arrange a sponsor for the country's most coveted domestic competition, the Premier Division Cricket League? It was also hard to believe the way the board had arranged the Twenty20 tournament in a meaningless way when the latest version of the game is considered as a money-spinning competition.

One may disagree but the reality is that professionalism has taken a backseat ever since the departure of Zimbabwean CEO Macky Dudhia as the two-year tenure of Mahmudur Rahman saw a gradual decline of financial flow from domestic scene and it got worse with the absence of anyone at the important post.

After the 2005 election of the BCB the area that suffered most is development. And it only geared up for a short period of time when former cricketer Shakil Kasem tried to inject new blood into the activities of the most important department with his innovative ideas. Many may argue but Shakil was perhaps one of the few enlightened individuals in the post-Test era of Bangladesh cricket.

But the democratic practice saw the immature departure of a very energetic man who won many hearts during his short stint as a chairman of the development committee. He took his sad departure in his stride with a strong statement and it is fitting to recap his words: "I was a night-watchman who could have perhaps scored a double hundred." This is perhaps a grey spot of democracy that an effervescent Kasem who was fit to fulfill the demand of modern day cricket became unfit in the battle of ball.

These are some of so many other issues that could be raised but the main thing is that the present very knowledgeable people at the board has to put their heads together to look at these issues sooner than later as well as chalk out a long-term programme for which they will be remembered in the country's history of cricket.

1st Indo-Kiwi T20 today

Cricket

AFP, Christchurch

New Zealand have drawn on the inside knowledge of former India coach John Wright as they prepare to play the side they regard as the best in the world.

India's tour of New Zealand starts here Wednesday with the first of two Twenty20 matches to be followed by five one-day internationals and three Tests.

Wright, the former Kiwi opener who coached India from 2000-2005, has been heavily involved with preparations for the series, according to New Zealand's Andy Moles.

Despite Wright's tips, and India's reputation as poor travellers, Moles insists New Zealand are still the underdogs.

"They've put that to bed in the last couple of years and did really well in Australia last year,"

said the coach.

"The Indians, I believe, are probably the number one side in the world at the moment in all facets and we will need to make sure we are at our best in all components of our game."

India have not won a Test series in New Zealand in 41 years, but they arrive on the back of home series victories over Australia and England and a 4-1 one-day away win against Sri Lanka.

New Zealand, on the other hand, squandered a 2-0 one-day lead against Australia to draw the series 2-2 and then lost the Twenty20 by one run.

Moles is demanding more backbone from his team which has been strengthened by the return of the often injured all-rounder Jacob Oram, who will play as a specialist batsman.

With the big-hitting Brendon McCullum and Jesse Ryder as openers, Moles believes New Zealand can hurt any bowling attack, and are capable of out-fielding the Indians as well.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Citycell Women's National Football Championship match between Khulna and Rangamat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

No progress in ICL talks

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC), Indian Cricket League (ICL) and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) failed to reach a resolution after a three-hour meeting in Johannesburg on Monday on the unauthorised league's request for official recognition. No further discussions are scheduled and the ICL's application will be now be considered once again by the ICC executive board in April.

David Morgan, the ICC president, described the failure of the discussions as unfortunate but said that the meeting was held in a friendly manner. "I am grateful to all parties for coming together with the best of intentions and the discussions took place in a friendly and cordial manner but, unfortunately, we were not able to come to a successful conclusion in our discussions," said Morgan.

The ICC board had previously discussed the ICL issue and mandated the BCCI to resolve it

internally. However, talks between the BCCI and ICL failed last year, prompting the ICC to push for a resolution in the "best interests of the game".

While the ICC has made it clear that the matter has to be sorted out by the home board - the BCCI, in this case -- Indian officials have stuck to their hardline stance on the unofficial league and banned all ICL cricketers from all forms of official cricket.

The ICL has maintained that it would take the legal route if its application, under an ICC rule that allows 'authorised unofficial cricket', is rejected by the governing body. The ICL's hopes for a legal resolution received a boost recently with the Sindh High Court in Pakistan ruling that Pakistani cricketers associated with ICL be allowed to play domestic cricket in that country.

Over 150 cricketers from India, England, West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been signed up by ICL, which is now in its second year. However, the private league decided to cancel its World

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4