

SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 28, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Mourinho 9th on the list

Jose Mourinho's reputation has finally stretched past the Atlantic and reached American pop culture when he was named among the top ten most influential man in the world, according to the AskMen.com.

The web portal said the decision of its users was based not just on Mourinho's coaching success but also for being 'impeccably dressed'. The Real Madrid coach was voted ninth, ahead of the NBA's Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, NHL's Sidney Crosby, footballer Landon Donovan, Formula One's Mark Webber and tennis superstar Rafael Nadal.

Talk show host Jon Stewart was rated at the top of the list.



Will COO be a CEO or a glorified clerk?

Saber Hossain Chowdhury has been silent for quite some time. The former BCB president, who put Bangladesh cricket on a strong footing on the world map, has always been an inspiration or a guide when he talked about cricket and its future during his tenure. The Daily Star Sport made a whole-hearted effort to break his silence at a stage when the cricket board needs a well-constructed opinion from the sidelines from a person who has gone through it at a very crucial juncture of our cricket. We put a set of questions in front of him to answer and he was kind enough to comply with our request.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How did you celebrate Bangladesh cricket team's 4-0 whitewash of New Zealand?

Saber Hossain Chowdhury (SHC): With a great deal of joy, pride, satisfaction and I must confess, a relief too! Now we must focus on making a habit of winning and sustain the momentum this historic series win has given us. The players and administrators must not get carried away and instead fathom the sobering reality that the expectation bar has now been raised much higher.

DSS: Are you happy with the way the Tigers are progressing?

SHC: Progress is a relative term and is also context



specific. Hence, a simple happy or unhappy is not the warranted response. Yes, there has been some progress no doubt but I have not seen much in terms of goal setting and a defining vision yet from the BCB that would establish an objective threshold against which we could measure our progress in quantitative and qualitative terms. I would have been happier and

more comfortable had such a set of performance and target indicators been in place.

For instance, over the next few years, where do we wish to see Bangladesh cricket in terms of ICC rankings, how many coaches of various categories will we have, how many groundsman, umpires will we have trained, developing professionalism at all levels, how many young cricketers do we wish to reach out to, how many indoor facilities will be created, to what extent will we have decentralised the administration and playing of the game, how do we regulate and monitor the standard of coaching schools and given that cricket has a strong commercial dimension as well nowadays, how do we mind the business of cricket? These are all fundamental and basic questions in evaluating progress.

DSS: You had a dream of decentralising cricket in Bangladesh in its true sense. Obviously the reality is far from your dream. Why is it so difficult?

SHC: The administration of the game requires the right skills and attributes -- leadership, strategic vision, initiative and the will to bring about change.

DSS: You have heard that the BCB is contemplating to amend its constitution and change the CEO into COO. The amendment is likely to go for a verdict in the November 30 EGM. Do you think the change will be good for our cricket?

SHC: I am not aware of the reason and motivation behind such an attempted change and BCB will be

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

BFF to have new technical director

SPORTS REPORTER

There has virtually been no activities of Bangladesh Football Federation's technical director in the past two years and yet the football's governing body is going to appoint another on that post from November 1 after the executive committee decided not to renew the contact with the incumbent Shahidur Rahman Shanoor.

The development committee of Bangladesh Football Federation will sit today to interview two short-listed candidates Saiful Bari Titu and BA Jobair Nipu, both of whom possess AFC-A-license certificates and are appointed coaches of the federation. The third candidate, who has no football background, has been excluded from the preliminary list.

"The technical director's plan was good, but we could not implement it due to financial constraints. The federation is run by the FIFA assistance while the tournaments are being operated by sponsorships. So, we have no extra money to spend for the development," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin.

It has been learnt that Shantoo was paid 3,000 dollars in the first year which was reduced to Tk one lakh for the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 7

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Ekstoon Sabuj Sangha crushed Motijheel T&T Club by a massive 155 runs in the First Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Ekstoon made 263-7 with Mostafiz scoring 56. Later, he took four wickets as the Motijheel outfit were bowled out for 108 runs.

At the City Club ground, Mosharraf's unbeaten 70 took Baridhara Dazzlers to a three-wicket win against Rupali Bank.

City Club, Brothers Union and Partex Sporting Club won their respective matches.

SPORTS POLL TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you think the rewards given to the Tigers are over the top?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on twitter
www.twitter.com/dssport

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

BCB decision unlikely



SPORTS REPORTER

The directors' meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will be held today but there is hardly any chance of taking decisions on the much talked about proposals of the constitutional amendment.

It was supposed to take the decision on the burning issue before placing it in the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to be held on November 30.

"More than half of the directors will not be present in the meeting due to their personal engagements, so I am not sure whether there would be any decision taken regarding the

amendment. There are also other agendas to be discussed in the meeting," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

There has been some ruckus with the proposals of some amendment made by the Dewan Shafiqul Arefin-led constitution committee, especially the change of the name of the post of chief executive officer (CEO) to chief operating officer (COO) has raised many eyebrows.

The changes in the name and some clauses will ultimately cut the power of the CEO, which many believe will hurt the professionalism in the board's activities.

It was learnt that the higher authorities have also given the cold shoulder about any changes in the constitution because it will also limit the power of the BCB president.



South Africa's Colin Ingram (L) and teammate David Miller celebrate after beating Pakistan in their first Twenty20 clash at the Abu Dhabi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. South Africa won the match by six wickets. PHOTO: AFP

SA win T20 opener



AFP, Abu Dhabi

Paceman Lonwabo Tsotsobe and off-spinner Johan Botha took three wickets apiece to help South Africa beat Pakistan by six wickets in the first of two Twenty20 matches here on Tuesday.

Tsotsobe, with a career-best 3-16, and skipper Botha (3-31) led a spirited South African bowling to restrict Pakistan to a paltry 119 at the Abu Dhabi Stadium in a match whose income will go to flood victims in Pakistan.

Over two million people were displaced in the worst-ever floods in Pakistan.

Jean-Paul Duminy hit an elegant 41 while Colin Ingram remained unbeaten with 46 as South Africa reached the target after losing three early wickets for 26.

The two left-handers shared a solid 66-run partnership for the fourth wicket after pace-man Shoaib Akhtar gave Pakistan some hope with the quick wickets of opener Loots Bosman and AB de Villiers in the third over.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Kochi faces IPL axe

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian Premier League (IPL) could shrink from 10 teams to seven next month after the new Kochi franchise was told on Wednesday to resolve ownership disputes or be thrown out.

"We have given Kochi 30 days to sort out their problems," said Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Shashank Manohar after a meeting of the lucrative Twenty20 league's governing council in Nagpur.

The Kochi franchise was bought by the little-known Rendezvous Sports World Limited for 333 million dollars at an auction in March to add two new teams to the existing field of eight.

The dispute arose after the various stakeholders in the franchise failed to agree on a 25 percent free equity share for Rendezvous Sports.

If the dispute is not settled, Kochi could join Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab on the sidelines.

Rajasthan and Punjab were thrown out earlier this month for similar ownership issues as the BCCI, which owns the tournament, continued to crack the whip to cleanse the event of corruption charges.

The BCCI is looking to make a fresh start after IPL founder Lalit Modi was sacked

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Beach cricket starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Second Wecca Beach Cricket starts today at the at the seaside city of Cox's Bazar with some 300 cricketers including former national stars Akram Khan, Khaled Mahmud, Khaled Mshud, Minhazul Abedin, and Naimur Rahman participating.

This tournament is being organised with the dual target of making beach cricket popular and showcasing the potential of Cox's Bazar as a tourist destination to the people of the world, said Dr. Mahabur Rahman, president of Wecca, at a press conference in the coastal city yesterday.

The 3-day meet will be inaugurated in the afternoon by information secretary Azad Abul Kalam.

The six-a-side format tournament will be participated by 13 teams. All the matches will be of five overs.

There will be concerts on the sidelines of the tournament with some of the most popular bands and singers to perform on the first two days of the tournament.

Siddikur's foray with the best



SPORTS REPORTER

Country's first professional golfer Siddikur Rahman will rub shoulders with the game's elite when he takes part in the PGA Tour-sanctioned CIMB Asia Pacific Classic in Kuala Lumpur from today.

Siddikur qualified for this tournament after earning a place in the Asian Tour Order of Merit. He is currently number nine in that list.

For the man from Madaripur, who has certainly created waves in the local sporting circles, it will be a major set up.

Englishman Luke Donald, ranked No. 8 in the world, is the highest among the players at the Mines Resort and Golf Club. The European Ryder Cup stalwart will be joined by a stellar cast that includes South Africans Ernie Els, a three-time major champion; two-time U.S. Open champ Retief Goosen and Tim Clark, who won The Players Championship in May.

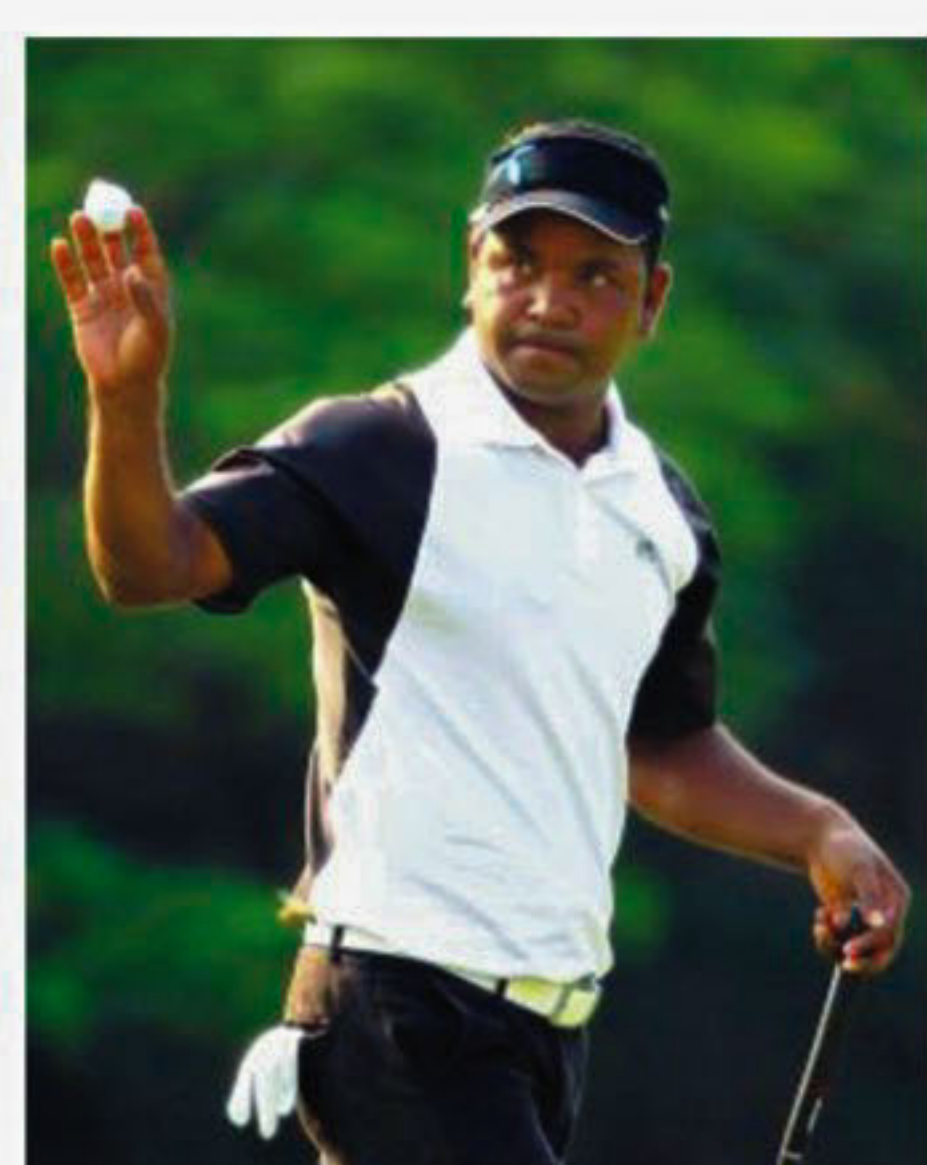
"Golf is a global game now. People want to see the US players playing in Malaysia, China or Japan. New events like this tend to increase fan support for the game and create awareness that there are great places around the world to play golf in," said Donald told the PGA Tour website.

Els, who came from behind to win the PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Bemuda last week, had never been to Malaysia prior to this week.

"As much as I've traveled in my 20 years as a professional golfer, this will be my first visit to this particular part of the world," Els said in his weekly blog.

"And this week's CIMB Asia Pacific Classic, a new tournament on the schedule, is the first PGA TOUR-sanctioned event in this region.

"It's going to be quite a week and I'm really looking forward to it. From what I've heard the architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. has done a pretty amazing job (with the course). I saw some photos online last week and it looks quite impressive, with many of the holes adjacent to



SIDDIKUR RAHMAN

a huge lake."

The Americans in the field are Rickie Fowler, Ryan Moore, Kevin Na, Ben Crane, Ricky Barnes, JB Holmes, Ryan Palmer, Heath Slocum, Tom Gillis, Kevin Streelman, DJ Trahan and Bill Haas, who has won two Tour events this year.

Three-time Asian Tour Order of Merit champion Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand; Korea's teen titan Noh Seung-yul, the current No. 1 on the Asian Tour; and fellow countryman K.J. Choi will be among the local favorites.

Siddikur became the first Bangladeshi ever to win an Asian Tour professional golf tournament on July 31 when he lifted the Brunei Open title in Bandar Seri Begawan. Then, on October 2, Siddikur finished second in the Mercuries Taiwan Masters.

The total prize money is six million dollars and the winner will get \$1 million.

It is the first PGA Tour-sanctioned event in Southeast Asia.

Shape of players worries Rubcic



SPORTS REPORTER

Footballers will get only four days for preparation before leaving for China on November 5 to take part in the Asian Games to be held in Guangzhou.

The 16th Asian Games is scheduled for November 12 to 27 but the event of football gets underway on November 7 and Bangladesh will take on Uzbekistan on the same day.

Bangladesh will then face United Arab Emirates on November 9 before playing the last group match against Hong Kong on November 11.

Bangladesh's Croat coach Robert Rubcic is apparently frustrated with the performance of the national players in the ongoing Federation Cup, which will end on October 30 with the final between Abahani and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

All through the tournament, Rubcic had been expressing his frustration to the journalists but now it's been learnt that he has been

shocked to see the players of Sheikh Jamal

Dhanmondi Club's playing at a walking pace.

Of the 20-member squad, as many as 14 are from Sheikh Jamal while the rest come from Muktijoddha Sangsad, Abahani and Mohammedan.

However, the 47-year old coach has been convinced by his coaching staff that the boys would come up with their best once they come under the umbrella of the national squad.

Rubcic has also said expressed dissatisfaction over the state of the players who looked tired because of Federation Cup's hectic schedule right after a grueling month-long residential camp at BKSP.

SQUAD

Aminul Haque, Mazharul Islam Himel, Mintu Sheikh, Rezaul Karim Reza, Ariful Islam, Mamun Mia, Nasirul Islam, Wali Faisal, Atiqur Rahman Meshu, Shahedul Alam, Imtiaz Sultan Jitu, Shakil Ahmed, Abdul Baten Komol, Mamunul Islam, Zahid Hossain, Zahed Parvez Chowdhury, Zahid Hasan Emily, Enamul Haq, Touhidul Alam Sabuz and Mithun Chowdhury.
Standby: Nehal, Sujjan, Sweet, Mezbabul Haque Manik and Monayem Khan Raju.

Tendulkar honoured

PTI, London

Awards and accolades continue to follow Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar who added the 'Lebara People's Choice' honour at the inaugural Asian Awards here to his trophy cabinet.

Presenting the award to the iconic batsman, Ratheesan Yoganathan, CEO Lebara, said, "Tendulkar is one of the greatest cricketers of all time. Sachin is a hero and a role model to many young Indians."

"His skill on the pitch is remarkable, but his influence goes beyond just cricket -- he has become an inspiration for future generations," he added.

Tendulkar said getting popular choice awards is the ultimate honour.

"To receive an accolade from your peers is one thing, but to receive acknowledgment from the public is the ultimate honour. Thank you to all those who voted for me," he said.



India's superstar cricketer Sachin Tendulkar poses for photographs after receiving People's Choice award for outstanding achievement in sport at the Grosvenor House Hotel in central London on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP