

# 120 to get BCB contract

## Alamgir takes charge of U-19s



SPORTS REPORTER

One hundred and twenty cricketers will be brought under central contracts by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), it was announced at the end of an emergency meeting yesterday.

The proposal is to begin the one-year contracts from January 2013 with 15 players from each of the eight designated regions -- Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur, Dhaka and Dhaka Metropolis.

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal made the long-awaited announcement, which is being considered as the first major step towards decentralising the sport, after the meeting at the Mirpur headquarters last evening.

"We wanted to bring more cricketers under contracts so in view of this we have decided to bring 120 cricketers under our umbrella by giving them contracts, which will include the national team players," he told the reporters.

"The aim is for grassroots development so there will be 15 cricketers from each of the eight regions. It will be effective from January next year, and we will also cover their insurance premium," added Kamal.

He also informed that the board will have to spend an extra Tk3.5 crore per year as a result and the payment scale will depend on experience -- 1-4, 5-7 and 7-plus years -- while the selection will be

completely based on performance.

The radical move also means that the board will bring in more professionalism to the process and in its first administrative step, the board will appoint eight former cricketers, preferably someone who has played for Bangladesh, as cricket operations managers.

"They will be paid by the BCB but under one condition, they have to be former players from the region.

"For example, someone from Rajshahi will be the operations manager for that region, not that of Sylhet, so that he can coordinate with everyone in that region," said Kamal.

Though the BCB chief didn't confirm any connection between this decision and the proposed franchise-based four-day competition from next season, it is apparent that these 120 cricketers will form the core of the first-class cricketers in this competition.

The other agenda that was discussed in the meeting was the under-19 team's failure to qualify for the semifinals of the Asia Cup, where they were eliminated by Afghanistan and Sri Lanka in the group stage. Captain Asif Ahmed, coach Zafrul Ehsan, manager Najmul Abedin Fahim, junior selectors Ehsanul Haque and Sajjad Ahmed Shipon were asked to appear before the board directors and explain the debacle only two months before the Under-19 World Cup in Australia.

BCB director Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir has been given the task of taking care of the under-19 side till the World Cup as the development committee chairman Aminul Islam Moni is sick.

"We have to take corrective measures ahead of the World Cup in Australia. We want to implement as much as we can to improve their performance. We have tried to reshape a few things by asking our director Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir to work alongside the current chairman, who is not well," informed Kamal.

There was a strong rumor that the board had sacked some of those who were asked to explain the team's performance but it was denied quickly. However, Kamal said that there will be some changes in the team that will go to Australia.

"We will announce the team very soon and there will be some changes. We will arrange some practice matches in Khulna.

The biggest problem I realised after talking to them was injuries to some key players as well as Anamul Haque being in the national team. I think his addition will make the team stronger," said the board president.

Kamal also informed that the West Indies High Performance team will visit the country while the South Africa women's team will also tour Bangladesh to take part in practice matches ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in September.

## MSC arrest Police

SPORTS REPORTER

Star-studded Mohammedan SC kept their winning spree intact in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League when they thrashed Bangladesh Police AC 8-0 in their third match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Fresh from a 2-1 win over Usha Krira Chakra, Mohammedan took only one minute to open the floodgate as Pakistani recruit Tareq Aziz gave them the lead through a field goal before the lead was doubled in the sixth minute with Mamunur Rahman Chanyan converted a penalty corner.

Police put on some resistance and kept the scoreline to 2-0 at the break but the resistance broke in the second half as they conceded six more goals.

Chayan converted two more penalty corners while Sheikh Mohammad Nannu struck two goals for Mohammedan who also had Rasel Islam and Kamruzzaman Rana scored one goal apiece in the one-sided affair.

In the day's other match, Usha crashed Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club 11-1 with Pakistani Mohammad Atique scoring five goals. Atique's compatriot Mohammad Imran and local Moinul Islam Kaushik struck two goals each while Akter Ali and Rabbi Salehin scored one apiece for the three-time champions.

## Phelps beats Ryan again

AP, Omaha

Michael Phelps has regained his title as the world's best swimmer; for now. The Olympic legend defeated Ryan Lochte in their third duel in a U.S trials final on Saturday night, narrowly out touching him by .09 seconds in the 200 IM.

It was Phelps' second consecutive victory over Lochte at the trials. Lochte had drawn first blood on Monday night by winning the 400 IM and Phelps returned the favour two nights later with a close victory in the 200 free.

The most recent victory comes in an event that Lochte has dominated since Beijing. He broke Phelps' world record in the event at the world championships in 2009 and then lowered it last year in Shanghai with a blistering swim that was the first record set since rubberized suits were banned in 2010.

Phelps' used strong turns to stay ahead of Lochte and then held off a furious rally

## Sk Russel beat BJMC

SPORTS REPORTER



League their campaign on a winning note when they handed a 3-2 defeat to newcomers Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Striker Anwar Hossain struck a brace while winger Mohammad Yousuf scored the other for Sheikh Russel who finished fifth in the 11-team table with 32 points from 20 matches, just one point behind fourth-placed BJMC who finished with 33 points.

By becoming runners-up in the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup in their first appearance at top-level football after a 27-year gap, Team BJMC sent a clear message to other title aspirants that they were one of title contenders. And they started the league in similar vein handing a defeat to holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club but failed to keep the momentum and gradually went out of the title race and finally had to be content with a fourth finish.

BJMC could have toppled third-placed Mohammedan had they only held Sheikh Russel in their last match, but the Federation Cup runners-up side failed to do so as they lost both legs of the league against Sheikh Russel.

"We put on good performance in the league and it will be remembered by people for long. We could have even finished second or third in the table for the way we performed but we faced a lot of challenges," said BJMC coach Jakaria Babu.

BJMC manager and BFF vice president

Arif Khan Joy categorically blamed the referees for poor officiating in the league.

"We could have taken the title race down to the wire but for could some poor refereeing and as a BFF official I believe the standard of refereeing must improve," said Joy.

"Compared to the last season's result, finishing in fifth position is disappointing result but except the points-table I am happy with the performance the players put on throughout the league," said Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque adding that the foreign strikers were not in form throughout the league and that was one of reasons behind their poor results this season.

Back to the game, and BJMC started the sprightlier as Ghanaian striker Ismael Bangoura and Nigerian Ajagun Abdul Rasheed came close to scoring inside the first 15 minutes, but it was Sheikh Russel who took the lead in the 18th minute through Anwar Hossain while three minutes later Mohammad Yousuf tapped in an Alamu Bukola pass to make it 2-0.

BJMC hit back two minutes before the breather when Rasheed tapped in a cross from Bangoura but Anwar made it 3-1 in the 82nd minute before Bangoura found the back of the Sheikh Russel net with a freekick from the edge of the box six minutes from time.

Bangoura could not help his side from suffering a defeat in their last match but he surely left the stage with head held high as he finished top-scorer with 17 strikes, four ahead of joint second highest-scorers Lucky Paul of Abahani, Sunday Chizoba of Muktijoddha Sangsad and Siyo Zunapio of

## Pakistan pegged back by rain



AFP, Colombo

Azhar Ali smashed 157 and Mohammad Hafeez narrowly missed a double century but wet weather dampened Pakistan's hopes of forcing a result over hosts Sri Lanka in the second Test on Sunday.

Hafeez fell for 196 and Azhar equalled his highest score as the tourists moved from their overnight position of 334-1 to 488-4 on a rain-hit second day at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo.

Heavy showers on either side of lunch and just before tea allowed just 44 overs to be bowled in the day, in which Pakistan scored 154 runs.

The entire evening session was washed out, and with more rain forecast over the next three days, Pakistan face a tough task to level the three-match series after losing the first Test in Galle by 209 runs.

Azhar, who put on 287 for the second wicket with Hafeez, added 70 for the third with Younis Khan (32) and 51 for the fourth with

skipper Misbahul Haq (29 not out).

The overnight pair of Hafeez and Azhar toned down their aggressive approach on the second morning to frustrate an attack looking for quick wickets to stem the flow of runs.

The partnership between Hafeez and Azhar was the highest against Sri Lanka on their home soil for any wicket, surpassing the 258 by Australians Mike Hussey and Shaun Marsh at Pallekele last year.

Hafeez fell short of a coveted 200 when, after a patient knock that lasted seven hours, he was bowled attempting a wild heave off Rangana Herath to reach the landmark before lunch.

The all-rounder hit 20 boundaries and a six.

Azhar, who was on 92 overnight, took an hour to reach his hundred, which he achieved by smashing seamer Nuwan Pradeep to the point fence after being stranded on 99 for 20 agonising minutes.

It was the Lahore batsman's third century and the second in his last three Tests after making 157

against England in Dubai in February.

But Azhar gifted his wicket just before tea with a reckless reverse sweep off Suraj Randiv which lobbed easily to Nuwan Kulasekara at point.

Younis, given out leg-before to Herath, appeared unhappy at Australian umpire Simon Taufel's decision. Television replays proved inconclusive.

Herath ended the day with two for 143, while Randiv had one for 107.

Pakistan will look to declare early on Monday to give their bowlers time to dismiss Sri Lanka twice in three days on a wicket that remains a batsman's ally.

### SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 334-1)				
Hafeez b Herath	196			
Umar c P Jayawardene b Mathews	65			
Azhar c Kulasekara b Randiv	157			
Younis lbw b Herath	32			
Misbah not out	29			
Shafiq not out	1			
Extras: (lb-4, nb-3, w-1)	8			
Total: (For 4 wkts in 134.2 overs)	488			
Fall of wickets: 1-78, 2-365, 3-435, 4-486				
Bowler				
O	M	R	W	
Kulasekara	27	6	84	0
Mathews	15	1	55	
Pradeep	21.2	3	86	0
Randiv	25	0	107	1
Herath	45	5	143	2

## INDIA V PAKISTAN U-19 Asia Cup title shared

CRICINFO, Kuala Lumpur

For the second time in two matches, there was very little separating India and Pakistan's under-19 teams, as they tied the final of the Asia Cup in Kuala Lumpur in dramatic fashion on Sunday.

Pakistan opener Sami Aslam scored his second hundred of the series to carry his team to 282, before India captain Unmukt Chand did the same for his side. But both centuries went in vain, with neither team claiming the trophy.

Pakistan did well to achieve the tie. India were in relative control in the chase, needing 37 in the final six overs, with seven wickets in hand and Chand batting on 101. Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz then produced two effective overs, claiming two wickets and conceding just five, to bring Pakistan back into the game.

Chand was still around though and almost carried his bat, but his dismissal off the fourth ball of the final over -- caught on the cover boundary off seamer Ehsan Adil -- left India needing five off two deliveries. No. 8 Rush Kalaria pierced the off side for four, to bring the scores level. The final delivery, though, he could only chip gently to mid-off. Dot ball. Shared title.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN UNDER-19s: 282 for 9 (Aslam 134, Wahhed 48, Saad 23; Kalaria 5-37)

INDIA UNDER-19s: 282 for 8 (Chand 121, Aparajith 90, Nath 23; Nawaz 3-45, Adil 3-68)

Result: Match tied.

Man-of-the-match: Unmukt Chand.

Man-of-the-series: Sami Aslam.

## WI thump Black Caps

AFP, Lauderhill

West Indies crushed New Zealand by 56 runs in the first Twenty20 international on Saturday with Kieron Pollard and Chris Gayle hitting impressive half-centuries.

West Indies made 209 for two off their 20 overs with Gayle unbeaten on 85 and Pollard making 63 not out in a partnership of 108.

New Zealand were then bowled out for 153 in the 19th over with opener Rob Nicol top-scoring with 32.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 209 for 2 (Gayle 85 not out, Pollard 63 not out)

NEW ZEALAND: 153 (Nicol 32; Narine 3-34)

Result: West Indies won by 56 runs.



AFP, London

Ravi Bopara starred with both bat and ball as England coasted to a six-wicket win over Australia with 26 balls to spare in the second one-day international (ODI) at The Oval here on Sunday.

England saw all-rounder Bopara top-score with 82 in a total of 252 for four after taking one for 16 with five overs of his medium-pace as Australia were restricted to 251 for seven.

Man-of-the-match Bopara, run out by Brett Lee with England just two runs shy of victory, faced 85 balls with eight fours.

England's eighth successive ODI win gave them a 2-0 lead in this five-match series after Friday's 15-run victory at Lord's.

It also kept them on course for a 5-0 whitewash that would see them replace arch-rivals Australia at the top of the 50-over world rankings.

But victory was far from certain when, two balls after Australia captain Michael

Clarke bowled Ian Bell for 75, the left-arm spinner appealed for lbw against Eoin Morgan, still then on nought.

Umpire Richard Illingworth raised his finger but former Ireland international Morgan immediately called for a review.

Eventually, after several minutes' study, third umpire Aleem Dar told Illingworth to reverse his decision on the basis of a 'Hotspot' replay that indicated a faint edge.

England were still 171 for three and not 171 for four and left-hander Morgan, man-of-the-match at Lord's with an unbeaten 89, pressed on to 43 not out, having helped Bopara add 79 at better than a run-a-ball for the fourth wicket.

Opener Bell made Australia pay Sunday for dropping him on 38 and 70 with a typically stylish 113-ball innings featuring one six and six fours.

Bell advanced down the pitch to drive medium-pace Shane Watson straight back over his head for an elegant six.

But, four balls later, Warwickshire team-mate

Jonathan Trott tried to follow his lead and instead was clean bowled by the medium-pace.

Earlier fast bowler Steven Finn led England's pace attack in the absence of James Anderson, out with a groin injury, by taking the key wicket of dynamic opener David Warner for just 10 on his way to one for 36 in nine overs.

Australia, who won the toss, saw opener Watson top-score with 66 and middle-order batsman George Bailey make a career-best 65.

However, the tourists' innings was often becalmed, with a mere 24 runs coming in a 10-over spell from overs 21 to 30 inclusive.

The series continues with a day-night match at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 251-7 in 50 overs (Watson 66, Bailey 65

Hussey 29; Bresnan 2-50)

ENGLAND: 252-4 in 34.4 overs (Bell 75, Bopara 82, Morgan 43 not out; Watson 1-34)

Result: England won by six wickets

Man-of-the-match: Ravi Bopara

## Murray beats curfew

AFP, London



Andy Murray reached the Wimbledon fourth round on Saturday with a 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 win over Marcos Baghdatis in a match which finished just past the 11:00pm Centre Court curfew.

The fourth seed will face Croatia's Marin Cilic, who clinched victory over Sam Querrey in the second longest match in tournament history, on Monday for a place in the quarterfinals.

On another day of high drama at the All England Club, three-time finalist Andy Roddick was knocked out, a defeat which sparked more questions over his future in the sport.

David Ferrer came back from a set down to clinch a 2-6, 7-6 (10/8), 6-4, 6-3 triumph over Roddick and goes on to face 2009 US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro.

But it was Roddick's farewell gesture to Centre Court which was the talking point.

Croatian 16th seed Cilic reached the last 16 for the second time in spectacular style with a 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 6-7 (3/7), 17-15 win over unseeded American Sam Querrey.

At five hours and 31

minutes, it was the second longest match in Wimbledon history.

At least the United States had the consolation of seeing two men into the last 16 -- Mardy Fish and Brian Baker.

Tenth seed Fish, a quarterfinalist last year and playing his first tournament since undergoing a heart operation, beat Belgian wildcard David Goffin 6-3, 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (8/6).

Fish will face French fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a semifinalist in 2011, who defeated Slovakia's Lukas Lacko 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Qualifier Baker's fairytale return hit a new high when he enjoyed a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory over France's Benoît Paire.

Baker lost six years of his career to an assortment of injuries that left him needing five different operations on a hernia, left and right hips and his right elbow.

Czech world 100 Lukas Rosol, who had caused one of the greatest upsets in the history of the sport when he beat world number two Rafael Nadal in five sets in the second round under the Centre Court roof on Thursday, was knocked out.

On a windswept Court 12, normal service was resumed as German 27th seed Philipp Kohlschreiber eased to a 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) win.

Kohlschreiber will tackle

Baker for a place in the quarterfinals.

Del Potro defeated Kei Nishikori, the first Japanese man since 1995 to reach the third round, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 and will face Ferrer.

### Spain rewrite

FROM PAGE 16

the Udinese man made an immediate impact, heading just over from Abate's centre and then obliging Casillas to save after ghosting in behind Spain's defence.

At the other end, Buffon thwarted Fabregas after the Barcelona man weaved his way past Balzaretti and Leonardo Bonucci, who was lucky not to concede a penalty when he appeared to block Sergio Ramos' header with his arm.

Italy's hopes of a comeback evaporated in the 62nd minute, as Motta was carried off on a stretcher with an apparent hamstring injury just five minutes after replacing Riccardo Montolivo, leaving Prandelli's side with 10 men.

The game dipped in intensity until the arrival of Torres, who rolled home Spain's third from Xavi's pass in the 84th minute before teeing up Chelsea team-mate Mata for an 88th-minute tap-in.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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