

Five-year ban
likely for
Cox City

SPORTS REPORTER

The Professional Football League Committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday recommended a five-year ban for Cox City Football Club. Cox City had pulled out of the ongoing Grameenphone Federation Cup and the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League citing that most of their players had been directly affected in the recent attacks on the Buddhist community in Ramu, Cox's Bazar.

"Our recommendation is to hand Cox City FC a five-year ban and the executive committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will take the final decision," said league committee chairman and BFF senior vice president Salam Murshey yesterday after the meeting at the BFF House.

"If they could inform us about their inability to take part in the league, we could have replaced them through another club but they did not do it. It is a message to other clubs so that they can think before taking such decision of pulling out," said Murshey.

Crowe has
lymphoma

CRICINFO, Auckland

Former New Zealand captain Martin Crowe had been diagnosed with lymphoma, a type of cancer. The diagnosis, New Zealand newspapers reported on Monday, was "very new" and Crowe's family was still coming to terms with it. No details have as yet been released of how serious or at what stage the cancer is.

"Understandably the family have a number of issues to confront over the next couple of weeks, the diagnosis is very new, the family is still in shock and obviously dealing with the understanding that life as they know it for the unforeseeable future is different," Louise Henderson, a close family friend and manager, was quoted as saying.

One of New Zealand's most celebrated batsmen, Crowe, 50, had played 77 Tests between 1982 and 1995, before he was forced to quit international cricket due to a bad knee. He had briefly attempted to return to competitive cricket last November, saying that he considered it a means of self-motivation and a tool to get fit, and also an opportunity to score the 392 runs he needs to tally 20,000 first-class runs. However, the attempt was aborted three balls into his first innings, as he pulled a thigh muscle while batting for Cornwall against Parnell in a club game.



Mohammad Sagor takes a break from his business to practise chess at his tea stall in Magura.

PHOTO: STAR

2nd boy is a tea boy!

Chess

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Poverty cannot be a barrier for Mohammad Sagor. With steely willpower aided by talent Sagor, a tea boy precisely, has risen to being the runner-up in the just-concluded 33rd National Junior Chess Championship (NJCC).

"From my early age, I always dreamt to be either a football or a cricket player, but the coaches did not allow me in the camps as I was unable to attend six days a week. In fact, I attended my tea stall for six days," Sagor said.

"Then I decided to dedicate myself in playing chess after being encouraged by some people who used to play the game near my tea stall."

Sagor runs a tea stall at the office building of Sonali Bank's Magura branch with the help of its manager as he allowed him a small space on the first floor. His customers are merely the office staff of the bank and neediness is a great obstacle to him, yet he secured the second position in the NJCC for the second year running. In 2010, he became the runner up in the Standard Chartered Bank School Chess.

Apart from achieving glorious results in the national chess competitions, he also won district level championships in

Magura for six times from 2006 to 2011.

"I have to earn all the expenses of my daily life including chess playing from this small tea stall," Sagor said.

However, poverty is setting in to get the better of talent for Sagor under hardship as at the end of long-tiring working hours, both his body and mind don't permit him any practice.

"Due to tiredness I am not practising in the evening these days. I always look for few minutes' off to play the game in between serving my customers," he said.

Son of late Musab Ali at Sahapara area of the district town, Sagor could not sit for his SSC exams in 2011 as his father did not leave behind any asset for his children including Sagor.

It's now very essential for Sagor to have a laptop for practising chess. He did have one, but was mugged in the bus when he was travelling to Magura from Dhaka after participating in the National "B" Chess Championship last month. "Buying another computer is beyond my reach," Sagor rues.

As his father died about 15 years back and his mentally-challenged mother died in 2010, he depends on his tiny shop for his living as his lone elder brother and his wife do not give him any support. His two sisters have been married off. He passes his nights in a tin-shed room built with his own earnings from his tea stall, he said.

Azhar destroys KKR

CRICINFO, Undated



A high impact all-round performance from Azhar Mahmood, his second of this Champions League Twenty20, gave qualifiers

Auckland Aces their third comprehensive victory in South Africa, and severely damaged Kolkata Knight Riders' prospects of progress in the tournament.

Mahmood's timely wickets and composed innings during the chase, which was supported by several top-order cameos, led Auckland to the target with 14 balls to spare, a considerable boost to their net run rate.

While this was Auckland's first match of the Champions League proper, it was Kolkata's second, and a second defeat left the IPL champions needing to win both their remaining games, while keeping an eye on run rate, in order to make the semifinals

from Group A.

After winning the toss on a cold and windy day in Cape Town, Kolkata looked like setting a formidable total on two occasions, and both times they were stymied by Mahmood. Gautam Gambhir had fallen early - caught by Martin Guptill diving low and to his left at point - but despite the new ball seaming and bouncing, Manvinder Bisla and Brendon McCullum had begun finding the boundary regularly. They got to 72 for 1 in the ninth over when left-arm spinner Ronnie Hira made the breakthrough by having Bisla caught at long-off, and then it was over to Mahmood.

BRIEF SCORES:

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 137 for 6 (McCullum 40, Bisla 38; Mahmood 3-16)

AUCKLAND ACES: 139 for 3 in 17.4 overs (Mahmood 51 not out, Vincent 30; Narine 2-24)

Result: Auckland won by 7 wickets

Man-of-the-Match: Azhar Mahmood

Felix alights from the heavens

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words on the Moon, he had said: "Sometimes you have (to go) up really high to (understand) how small you are."

After a perfect start, anxious viewers around the world looked on in agony as the Austrian started tumbling chaotically for what seemed like an eternity before finally achieving the correct position.

"The exit was perfect, then I started tumbling -- I thought I'd get it under control, but then it really started. I really picked up speed, it got very violent. I thought for a few seconds I'll fall unconscious."

"Thank goodness, I managed to stop -- it was very difficult. It was much more difficult than many of us expected."

Baumgartner said he wasn't even aware of breaking the sound barrier.

"I didn't feel the sonic boom, I think it happens behind you," he said.

The Austrian took more than two hours to get up to the jump altitude. Baumgartner had already broken one record before he even leapt: the previous highest altitude for a manned balloon flight was 113,740 feet, set in 1961.

He had been due to jump from 120,000 feet, but the balloon went higher than expected.

One of the first people to congratulate him was Austrian President Heinz Fischer, who hailed the "great success."

"Austria is proud of your accomplishment," he wrote on his Facebook page.

Former NASA Astronaut Leroy Chiao, speaking on CNN television, said he believed elements of the pressure suit used by Baumgartner would be "incorporated into future pressure suits that are used in spacecraft."

The Red Bull Stratos mission was the second attempt for the skydiver after an initial bid Tuesday was aborted at the last minute due to winds.

The biggest risk Baumgartner faced was spinning out of control, which could have exerted excessive g-force and made him lose consciousness.

Temperatures of 90 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (minus 68 Celsius) could also have had unpredictable consequences if his suit somehow failed.

The helmet problem as Baumgartner ascended added to the sense of alarm: the heater failed on his faceplate, meaning it became fogged up when he exhaled.

After considering the options, the nerveless Baumgartner and his entourage decided to go ahead with the jump.

Baumgartner's 100-strong backup team includes retired US Air Force colonel Joe Kittinger, who held set the previous highest freefall jump record from 102,800 feet in 1960.

Baumgartner holds several previous records, notably with spectacular BASE jumps from the Petronas Towers in

Kuala Lumpur and the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

After Sunday's leap, he recalled the emotions sweeping through his body when he stepped out of the capsule high above Earth.

"When you're standing there on top of the world you become so humble... The only thing is you want to come back alive," he told reporters in Roswell, where the launch mission was based.

Publicity surrounding the feat made history itself. The mission was recorded by more than two dozen cameras, including one installed on Baumgartner's helmet.

It was webcast live on the event website and on YouTube. More than 8 million computers and other digital devices were tuned in to the live stream on YouTube alone, making the jump the most-watched live event ever on the site.

Won't say no

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McInnes is considered by many as one of the chief architects of the present day national squad because of his successful stints with the Bangladesh under-19s and the High Performance Unit from 2003 to 2005. He returned to Bangladesh this year to head the BCB Cricket Academy.

Khulna gets Test nod

SPORTS REPORTER

The Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium (SANS) in Khulna is going to host their first Test match, in November, as they received a positive signal from the International Cricket Council (ICC). "We got the approval on a conditional basis yesterday. We have been asked to accommodate both the teams in one hotel," said Shafiqur Rahman Munna, Chairman of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's Grounds and Facilities Committee.

The ICC gave the decision on the basis of a report submitted by Match Referee, Roshan Mahanama who recently inspected the venue. SANS has become the seventh Test venue in the country. BCB plans to hold the second Test of the two-match series between West Indies and Bangladesh and the first two ODIs of the five-match series at the southern divisional headquarters.

"It is going to be a very challenging [series]. We know how dangerous Bangladesh can be at home. It's not a team where you want to go there and take lightly," said Gayle. "You've got to be mindful of the conditions and try and add up as quickly as possible and settle as much and whenever you get a chance, just try and maintain it and take it from there."

Upon making his return to Test cricket, Gayle averaged 80 against New Zealand which includes a 150 in his comeback innings. He has played four Tests against Bangladesh so far, in 2002 and 2004, and has an average of 69.40.

West Indies are expected to arrive in the city on November 5 to play two Tests, five ODIs and one T20I.

End of road for Haddin?

ANI, Melbourne

Cricket Australia selectors are expected to informally agree to persist with Matthew Wade as the wicketkeeper for next month's first Test against South Africa at the Gabba, bringing an end to Brad Haddin's Test career.

The decision not to pick Haddin will be a tough and emotional one, as he has been caring for his sick daughter, missing Australia's Test tour of the West Indies earlier this year.

There had been a view Haddin would automatically reclaim his baggy green cap for the South Africa Test series, but that now appears to be at long odds, The Daily Telegraph reports.

The selectors may delay Australia's squad for the Gabba Test, but there is strong support for Wade among selectors and senior players, the paper said.

One of the factors working in Wade's favour is the fact he scored 106 in his last Test, in the Caribbean, it added.

Kamal

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constitution in the last Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the BCB last March.

The current committee took charge on November 28 in 2008, so their tenure will expire by November 28 this year, in which case the authorities have very little time to start the election process.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Lustrous black
- 4 Corned beef concoction
- 8 Into the sunset
- 12 Unoriginal one
- 13 La Scala showstopper
- 14 Related
- 15 Vitamin B-1 deficiency
- 17 Kindly bloke
- 19 Pi
- 21 Schedule abbr.
- 22 Moulin Rouge dance
- 26 Book of maps
- 29 Yank
- 30 Discoverer's cry
- 31 Seethe
- 32 Historic boy king
- 33 "Big Brother" host Julie
- 34 Census datum
- 35 Census datum
- 36 Ad for an upcoming broadcast
- 37 Chocolately treat
- 39 401(k) alternative
- 40 Pompous sort
- 41 Halo
- 45 Opposite of 8-Across
- 48 Samoan port city
- 50 United nations
- 51 Stench
- 52 Under the weather
- 53 "Little Women" woman
- 54 Pre-schoolers
- 55 Caustic solution
- 56 Pokes
- 57 Duel tool
- 58 Gull's cousin
- 59 Customs
- 60 Gladitors' venue
- 61 Halo
- 62 Opposite of 48-Across
- 63 United nations
- 64 Stench
- 65 Under the weather
- 66 "Little Women" woman
- 67 Stick with a kick
- 68 Perfect

Solution time: 25 mins.



Gayle not taking Tigers lightly

Cricket

CRICINFO, Port Of Spain

West Indies opener Chris Gayle has said that he wouldn't take anything for granted in his team's upcoming tour of Bangladesh. Even though West Indies have lost only an ODI and a Twenty20 each in Bangladesh, he described the hosts as "dangerous at home".

The left-hand batsman was named in the 15-man Test squad which will arrive in Dhaka on November 3 to play two Tests. West Indies will also play five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international.

"It is going to be a very challenging [series]. We know how dangerous Bangladesh can be at home. It's not a team where you want to go there and take lightly," said Gayle. "You've got to be mindful of the conditions and try and add up as quickly as possible and settle as much and whenever you get a chance, just try and maintain it and take it from there."

Upon making his return to Test cricket, Gayle averaged 80 against New Zealand which includes a 150 in his comeback innings. He has played four Tests against Bangladesh so far, in 2002 and 2004, and has an average of 69.40.

West Indies have toured Bangladesh for full series twice, in 2002 and 2011. Gayle wasn't in the teams during last year's tour and as a result it had brought the teams closer. But the likes of Marlon Samuels, Kirk

Edwards, Darren Bravo and Devendra Bishoo starred in the 1-0 and 2-1 wins in the Test and ODI series.

"Most of the guys have been there before in Test series and in ODIs so most of the guys have experience, so it should be an interesting series," added Gayle.

Denes Ramdin also toured Bangladesh in October last year, but played only in the ODI series and the solitary T20I. Carlton Baugh was the preferred wicketkeeper in the Tests, but Ramdin, since making a comeback earlier this year, has scored a century against England.

He has been named the vice-captain for the Bangladesh series, and is keen to take the opportunity after scoring 18 runs in the two Tests against New Zealand recently.

"It (the tour of Bangladesh) is an important one for me. I did not get [many] runs against New Zealand in the home series, and I would like to go out there and capitalise [on the opportunity]. I was there last year but I did not get the opportunity to play, so hopefully I can play this time and get some runs up there," he said.