BCB ELECTIONS

Voting only for 4 posts

SPORTS REPORTER

A total of nineteen directors have been elected unopposed out of 23 as twelve candidates withdrew their nominations yesterday from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) elec-

In Category II, all 12 directors won unopposed as nine withdrew their candidacy.

Incumbent BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon and ad-hoc committee members Ahmed Sajjadul Alam and Ismail Haider Mallick withdrew their nominations and they are all set to become directors from the NSC quota.

But voting will be held in Category I and Category III as the number of candidates is bigger than the posts -- 10 posts in I and one in III.

Former skipper Naimur Rahman, Monjur Kader and Mirza Zillur Rahman will be fighting for the two slots in Category I.

Rafius Shams Paddy and Saiful Alam Swapan will contest for the lone director's post in Rajshahi.

But the focus will be on Category III where two former national captains Gazi Ashraf Hossain and Khaled Mahmud will try to win the hearts of 43 voters.



Number 3 in focus

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

The abandonment of the warm-up match has caused headaches for the Bangladesh team management as the game would have helped them settle on an 11 for the first Test against New Zealand at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong. As it is, a few positions remain uncertain a day before the series opener, namely the number three position.

Number three was a position that was previously occupied by Mohammad Ashraful, who upon his comeback to the Test side on the tour of Sri Lanka hit a 190 and the troublesome position seemed settled before he was discovered to be involved in cricket corruption.

Marshall Ayub, Naeem Islam and Mominul Haque are the three who are in with a chance to occupy that position. Coach Shane Jurgensen told the media last week that he believed Marshall was the frontrunner to play one-down. The uncapped player had scored 157 at





number three in Bangladesh's only three-day practice match before the Test in Khulna last month and that gives him the edge.

Assuming that Marshall debuts at number three, Naeem and Mominul will have to battle for the number four position. Naeem scored his first Test century last year while batting at number four against the West Indies but soon lost his place in the side following an injury in the Bangladesh Premier League. He has scored two centuries in the last two months -- one for Bangladesh A in England and the other in the Dhaka Premier League last month -- and has earned a recall.

Mominul replaced Naeem at num-

ber four in Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe and has had a brisk start to his Test career. Both players are handy with the ball as well and can add to the team with their

Apart from the batting positions at number three and number four, the team management will also have to make a call on the bowling combination.

Al Amin Hossain, who could not attend the first three days of the camp due to his university exams, is unlikely to make his debut in the first game. That means that Rubel Hossain and Robiul Islam will take care of the pace department, with Abdur Razzak likely to miss out. The only way Razzak can get a game is if the team decides to go in with just one pacer in the side or drop one of their eight batsmen.

Tamim Iqbal and Anamul Haq Bijoy are expected to start off at the top, while Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim Nasir Hossain and Mahmudullah Riyad will form the middle order.

Tamim wants to be part of 2010 encore



Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim and his team go through a warm-up drill ahead of practice at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong





Opener Tamim Iqbal was not a part of the Bangladesh squad that trounced New Zealand 4-0 back in 2010. Despite the exclusion -- he was injured and was

replaced by Shahriar Nafees -- the left-hander watched the series from the dressing room and celebrated the epic victory with the team after the final win.

It was a scene that the player wants to relive this time as a member of the squad, Tamim told reporters at the Zohui

Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS) in Chittagong yesterday. "I was in the dressing room back then. I want to be a part of the happiness like in 2010, but for that, we need to work

very hard," said Tamim. "Actually, I am more hopeful about this Test series than the last ten Tests. It is on our home ground where we have started to push teams. Results recently have been very close. We hope to turn those results towards us. We know their weaknesses, so we will have to take advantage of it," Tamim said.

The left-hander hopes to stifle the visitors with the hosts' spin attack. "We hope it will be a spinning wicket on which we can restrict them like last time. When you talk about playing spin, you have to do it out in the middle. You can practice and prepare all you want, but we are going to work on their mental block," said Tamim.

Playing in Tamim's home town of Chittagong is something that the team has always relished. This time though, they may face slightly unfamiliar conditions due to the newly-laid wicket at the ZACS.

"My feelings are the same as everyone else's when playing on a new wicket. But it is my home venue where I will play in front of family and friends. We want to make a good start on the first day, which will set the tone for the rest of the game, said Tamim.

The left-hander believed that the side that adjusts to the wicket the fastest would have the better chance of winning the match.

Jamal, Sayum grab early lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's professional golfers Jamal Hossain Mollah and Mohammad Sayum took the early lead in the bti International Golf Championship after both carded five-under-par (67) on the opening day at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Jamal, the former champion, was in brilliant form as he carded eight birdies for three bogeys on the day. Five of Jamal's eight birdies were consecutive ones, coming on the back nine. Indian golfer Ranjit Singh settled for second place after finishing the day on four-under-par (68). Shiva Ram Shrestha of Nepal and Raju Ali Mollah of India were in joint third position at three-under-par (69). India's highest-ranked golfer in the event, Shamim Khan, was behind them at two-under-par (70). Bangladesh's Shahidul Islam and Shakhawat Hossain Sohel were on one-under-par (71).

The event is being organised by real estate developers bti (Building Technology & Ideas Ltd), in association with the Bangladesh Professional Golfers' Association (BPGA). 72 professional golfers from Bangladesh, India and Nepal are taking part in the 4-day event.

Maasranga champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Maasranga TV retained the title of Walton-DRU Media Cup cricket after handing a 10-run defeat to NTV in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Opting to bat first, Maasranga posted 96 runs for one wicket in the six-aside tournament with the help of a 30-run knock by Mahfuz and then restricted NTV to 86 for four in the stipulated six overs.

Jubair of Maasranga, who scored 23 runs and then picked up two wickets, was adjudged the man of the final as well as man of the tournament.

Former captain Naimur Rahman Durjoy witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the winners while DRU president Shahed Chowdhury, general secretary Ilias Hossain and the sponsor's additional director Iqbal Bin Anwar were among others present.

Ross's 'own formula'

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Ever since New Zealand arrived in Chittagong, the media's line of

questioning focused mainly on two crucial issues -- the visitors' ability to adjust to the local conditions, and their weakness against spin.

For former Kiwi skipper Ross Taylor however, these factors are not much of a concern. His last two centuries were 🗄 scored in the sub-continent last year. He scored 113 against India in Bangalore and followed that with a 142 against Sri Lanka in Colombo in November last year.

In fact, he scored more than 200 runs in the game against Sri Lanka and almost single-handedly led his side to only their eleventh Test win in the sub-continent.

Getting ready for these conditions, according to Taylor, merely depended upon the player's 'own formula'.

"Every time a New Zealand side comes to the sub-continent, that's always the first question that pops up. It doesn't come naturally to us to play aggressively



New Zealand skipper Brendon McCullum (L) discusses strategy with teammates.

against spin, but if we use our own formulas to succeed, it does not matter what you do as long as you can play the ball and score runs," Taylor told reporters at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

He also reckoned that the Kiwis, with young leg-spinner Ish Sodhi and slowleft armer Bruce Martin, themselves had a good spin attack for the series.

"Bangladesh would not have seen a lot of them [New Zealand spinners] as well so that's a plus for them," he said.

Taylor, who was a part of the ODI squad that went down 4-0 to

Bangladesh in 2010, stated that the Kiwis were not looking for any revenge.

"Until you mentioned it I had forgotten all about it [series defeat]. I think the Test series last time [2008] was 1-0 [in New Zealand's favour] and we were in a bit of trouble at one stage before Daniel [Vettori] and co batted well. We know that Bangladesh are a very good side in these conditions," said Taylor.

Taylor also added that they had scanned through videos of a number of players, particularly Shohag Gazi, who they have never faced before.

Fahad wins SK Russell chess

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Fahad Rahman emerged unbeaten champion of the Sheikh Russell Memorial Chess tournament, organised by Sheikh Russell Jatio Shishu Kishor Parishad, at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hallroom yesterday.

Fatematuzzohor Shraboni and Sumiya Khandokar finished runner-up and third in Group C (senior group) respectively, while Mossammat Zhorna Begum also became unbeaten champion in Group B followed by Amit Bikram Roy and Kazi Fahim Wahid. In group A, Junayed Al Sami finished first followed by Tahsin Anjum and Ajmain Iktidar.

A total of 50 school students participated in the event, said a press release.

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Tiger keeps Presidents for USA

AFP, Columbus

Tiger Woods clinched the Presidents Cup for the United States for the third time in a row on Sunday, giving the Americans an insurmountable 18-14 lead over the Internationals at rain-soaked Muirfield Village.

World number one Woods edged 41st-ranked Richard Sterne of South Africa 1 up to secure the trophy, thwarting an Internationals fightback and boosting the Americans to 8-1-1 in the overall rivalry with their

fifth win in a row. Battling nagging back spasms over the final five holes, Woods won the par-3 16th with a par, chipped from the rough to inches from the hole at 17 and halved 18 for the victory.

"It feels good," Woods said. "It was a tough day, tough conditions, rain, wind all around.

"[My back] acted up from 14 on in. It keeps getting worse, a little tight, but I think we can find something for it."

Abahani another step closer to relegation

GAZI TANK: 189 all out in 49 overs (Imrul 39, Styris 30, Rokibul 42, extras 13; Babu 2-40, Nabil 2-28, Zander 2-39, Al Amin 3-27) ABAHANI: 176-8 in 49 overs

(Kandambi 44, Al Amin 37, extras 7; Oram 3-39, Nayeem 2-41, Shaid 2-39) Result: Gazi Tank won by 13 runs.

Sunny 2-34, Nahidul 2-23) SHEIKH JAMAL: 203-2 in 29.5 overs (Munaweera 95, Junaed 74 not out, extra 1; Parvez 2-35) **Result:** Sk Jamal won by eight wickets. **Result:** MSC won by 42 runs.

10: Gulbadin 4-31, Munaweera 2-26,

PRIME BANK: 200 all out in 46.4 overs MOHAMMEDAN: 240 all out in 50 (Bopara 74, Parvez 48 not out, extras overs (Ezaj 44, Shamsur 44, Tharanga 73, extras 20; Monir 4-50)

VICTORIA: 198 all out in 45.1 overs (Rasel 32, Milinda 43, Soumya 57, extras 11; Mashrafe 2-25, Asela 2-39, Muktar 2-18, Murad 3-26)

SPORTS REPORTER



Yet another defeat for relegation-threatened Abahani, chaos over leg before decisions and a storm from Sri Lankan Dilshan Munaweera marked Dhaka Premier

League's seventh round matches yesterday at different venues across the country. The umpires gave a total of six lbw deci-

sions against Gazi Tank Cricketers at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium but the officials of this club only protested the decision against New Zealand all-rounder Jacob Oram that stopped play for 15 minutes in the first innings.

In the end however Gazi Tank's 189 proved good enough for them to condemn Abahani to their sixth defeat in seven games to push them another step downward to the relegation league.

Gazi Tank's 13-run victory helped them to improve their tally to 10 points while Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club also secured the same number of points, thanks

to Munaweera who cancelled out England batsman Ravi Bopara's 74 to make sure his side register an emphatic eight-wicket victory over Prime Bank at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra. Munaweera toyed with the opponent

bowlers during his 57-ball 95 that featured 15 fours and three sixes as Sheikh Jamal overtook Prime Bank's 201-run target quite convincingly in 29.5 overs. The Sri Lankan had a 130-run opening stand with Junaed Siddiqui who struck an unbeaten 74.

Prime Bank remained on eight points.

At the BKSP, Sri Lankan Upul Tharanga steered Mohammedan to their fourth victory as the popular Motijheel outfit defeated Victoria by 42 runs. Tharanga smashed six fours and four sixes during his 62-ball 73 as Mohammedan scored 240 runs.

In reply, Victoria were bundled out for

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza bowled brilliantly to take two wickets.

Victoria stayed on nine points after seven rounds while the winners raised their collection to eight.

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