

## Badal banned for life

SPORTS REPORTER



Legends of Rupganj owner Lutfur Rahman Badal has been banned for life from participating in any activity related to the Bangladesh Cricket Board. The BCB's disciplinary committee took the decision yesterday night in a meeting that finished at 11:15 pm.

The ban has been enforced five days after Badal made derogatory comments against the BCB president and the board's directors after his side lost a crucial match at the BKSF.

According to a press release sent from the BCB, the ban was enforced as Badal's comments had 'hurt and embarrassed' the country's cricketing fraternity.

Apart from Badal, two other officials from Legends were also slapped with bans. Legends manager Tariqul Islam Titu was banned for five years while another official, Sabbir Ahmed Rubel received a three-year ban.

Earlier in the day, Badal had said that he was 'sorry' for the comments that he had made.

In a press conference organised at his Gulshan office he read out a statement. "I felt that my team was treated unfairly in that match and as a result I had an emotional outburst in front of the media. I

apologise if my comments on that day hurt anybody in the cricketing fraternity," he said.

"After my comments on December 4, there were many statements and counter statements made which turned out to be disrespectful for both the parties. This does not go with the spirit of cricket. Hopefully

this apology will bring an end to the series of events," he added. He had mailed the statement to the BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon.

An hour after Badal read out the statement, members of the CCDM, the governing body of the Dhaka Premier League, in a meeting decided to refer the issue to the BCB's disciplinary committee.

Badal had alleged that the board had manipulated the umpires to act against his team. He also demeaned the BCB president and a number of the board's directors. In reply, the Premier Division clubs organised a press conference at the BCB's headquarters condemning Badal's comments. A case was also filed against Badal soon after the comments were made, albeit on a different issue.

While Badal has been banned, his team in the league however can continue playing in the competition. Legends, led by Shakib Al Hasan, are scheduled to play Mushfiqur Rahim's Prime Doleshwar at Fatullah today.



Australia opener David Warner looks up to the heavens in celebration of his century against India in the First Test at Adelaide yesterday. Warner dedicated his century to Phillip Hughes.

PHOTO:  
AFP

## Warner ton leads Aussies

### Clarke retired hurt

AFP, Adelaide



Australia's David Warner dedicated his stirring century to tragic teammate Phillip Hughes Tuesday as emotions over the batsman's death dominated the delayed first Test against India.

Warner's determined 145 off 163 balls, studded with glances to the heavens, was the mainstay of Australia's innings as they reached 354 for six at the end of day one at Adelaide.

But on a day of tributes to Hughes there was also concern when skipper Michael Clarke retired hurt with a back problem.

Clarke, who had to pass a fitness test on a hamstring problem before playing, left the ground for further assessment of his long-standing lower back complaint.

When the first Test, moved from its December 4 start in Brisbane as Australia mourned, finally got underway, the positive Warner hit a first-ball boundary and remained upbeat, reaching his 10th Test hundred off just 106 balls.

Warner, one of the first to rush to Hughes when he was struck down in Sydney, embraced batting partner Clarke in a long mid-pitch hug as the opener reached his fifth century this year.

Warner looked annoyed after he holed out in the deep off debutant Test leg-spinner Karn Sharma for his 145, with 19 boundaries, in the 57th over.

Australia, who won the toss, lost some late wickets and reached the close with Steve Smith leading the way on an unbeaten 72. Brad Haddin was out for a duck in the day's final over.

There was an uplifting moment when Warner looked to the heavens on reaching 63 and the crowd responded with sustained applause, a scene that was repeated when Smith reached the same score late in the day.

Clarke was also given a huge ovation as he came to the wicket, an acknowledgement of his leading role in the days after Hughes's death. But it didn't end well for the captain, who called for the trainer after experiencing lower back problems and trudged off hurt with a fluent 60 off 84 balls.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 354 for 6 (Warner 145, Clarke 60 retired hurt, Smith 72 not out, Marsh 41; Shami 2-83, Aaron 2-95)

## Offies under threat?

### Senanayake, Williamson cleared

AFP, New Delhi



Off-spinners could be in danger of becoming an endangered species as exponents fall by the wayside in the recent crackdown on illegal bowling actions by cricket's world governing body.

Ever since the International Cricket Council (ICC) accepted a recommendation by its cricket committee in June to punish bowlers with suspect actions, off-spinners have become the main target.

Of the seven bowlers hauled up since then, six were off-spinners: the Pakistani duo of Saeed Ajmal and Mohammad Hafeez, Sri Lanka's Sachithra Senanayake, Kane Williamson of New Zealand, Zimbabwe's Prosper Utseya and Sohag Gazi of Bangladesh.

The seventh, Al-Amin Hossain of Bangladesh, who was cleared of any wrongdoing, was a fast bowler.

On Tuesday, the ICC allowed Senanayake and Williamson to resume bowling in international cricket, saying they had undergone remedial work and remodelled their actions which were now legitimate.

But the governing body warned that umpires were 'still at liberty to report these bowlers in future if they believe the bowler is displaying a suspect action.'

The crackdown has wrecked Pakistan's spin attack, even though they are hopeful that Ajmal, the top-ranked one-day bowler, will be allowed to play in next year's World Cup once he is re-tested.

There is also a question mark over the participation of second-ranked Sunil Narine of the West Indies in the sport's showpiece event that takes place in Australia and New Zealand February 2015.

Narine was withdrawn from a one-day series in India in October and has not been picked for the upcoming Tests in South Africa after being reported by umpires during the Champions League Twenty20 tournament in September.

Even though Narine is not barred from playing international cricket, it is plausible that a worried West Indies team management has wrapped him in cotton wool and asked him to rework his action.

That has left Ravichandran Ashwin of India, Nathan Lyon of Australia and England's James Tredwell as the only established off-spinners still plying their trade.

"Of course illegal actions must be punished, but one gets the feeling umpires look at off-spinners more closely than other bowlers," a former India player, who did not want to be named, told AFP.

"Off-spin is a great art. I hope young bowlers do not get scared of learning it."

NATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING

## Raju, Nayeem, Milon grab gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Raju Kumar Roy, Sheikh Nayeem Hossain and Milon Roy bagged gold medals in their respective events on the opening day of the Walton 34th National Senior, 15th National Junior, 11th National Women and First Masters National Weightlifting Championships at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday.

Raju lifted a total of 186 kilograms in the 56kg category of junior section, where Nayeem became first lifting 209 kilograms in 62kg category. Milon won the 69kg category gold medal by lifting a total of 196 kilograms.

## Dhaka Metro TT begins

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammadpur Club and Ekota Sripur Samity made good start in the Agrani Bank Dhaka Metropolis Table Tennis League, which got off at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Mohammadpur Club beat Lalbagh TT Club in straight 3-0 sets while Ekota Sripur Samity defeated Cynthia Sports Club, also by the same margin.

Some 140 paddlers from 17 teams are taking part in the first division league.

## Police trounce Jail in kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police recorded a 24-7 point win over Bangladesh Jail with two creditable 'lona' in the Victory Day Kabaddi Competition at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. In the day's other match, Boarder Guard Bangladesh played out an 18-18 point draw against Bangladesh Air Force.

## Scotland pick 24

BBC ONLINE

Scotland have announced their provisional 24-man squad for the ICC Cricket World Cup -- which must be reduced to 15 players by 7 January.

Scotland will face New Zealand, England, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Australia in Pool A.

### SQUAD

Preston Mommsen (capt), Matt Machan, Kyle Coetzer, Calum MacLeod, Richie Berrington, Gavin Main, Matthew Cross (wk), George Munsey, Josh Davey, David Murphy, Alasdair Evans, Safyaan Sharif, Hamish Gardiner, Ruaidhri Smith, Gordon Goudie, Rob Taylor, Majid Haq, Andrew Umeed, Moneeb Iqbal, Craig Wallace (wk), Michael Leask, Iain

## Six uncapped in WI probables

AFP, St. John's



Six uncapped players were named in the West Indies' 30-man provisional squad on Tuesday for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next year.

Left-arm seamer Kenroy Peters, 30-year-old leg-spinner Imran Khan, off-spinner Ashley Nurse, teenage fast bowler Marquino Mindley, and left-handed batsmen Evin Lewis and Jonathan Carter are the new names.

However, there was no place for experienced right-arm fast bowler Ravi Rampaul who has played 90 one-day internationals and taken 115 wickets.

The squad will be cut to 15 by the deadline of January 7.

### SQUAD

Sulieman Benn, Carlos Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Dwayne Bravo, Jonathan Carter, Sheldon Cottrell, Miguel Cummins, Narsingh Deonarine, Andre Fletcher, Chris Gayle, Jason Holder, Imran Khan, Leon Johnson, Evin Lewis, Nikita Miller, Marquino Mindley, Sunil Narine, Ashley Nurse, Kenroy Peters, Versammy Permaul, Kieron Pollard, Denesh Ramdin, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Darren Sammy, Marlon Samuels, Lendl Simmons, Dwayne Smith,

## '63 to stay special'

AFP, Adelaide



David Warner said 63 will remain a special score for Australian cricketers as he dedicated his century in the first Test to fallen teammate Phillip Hughes on Tuesday.

Warner's inspired 145 off 163 balls helped boost the hosts to 354 for six at the end of day one against India as Australia returned to action following Hughes' funeral.

The explosive left-hander said he found it challenging when he reached 63, Hughes's score when he was fatally struck in the head by a short-pitched ball in Sydney on November 25.

The Adelaide Oval crowd sensed it too and broke out in sustained applause, as they had before the start of play with a symbolic 63 seconds of clapping to honour Hughes.

"It was quite tough when I was on 63 to actually get that momentum and (batting partner) Michael Clarke asked me if I was okay, and I was," Warner said.

"I had to step away for a couple of seconds to get the thought process back again."

Asked if 63 will now hold a special significance in Australia, Warner said: "In this generation I think 100 per cent, it's going to be with us for the rest of our careers."

"A lot of people would have raised their bats at 63 but in the back of our minds we always are going to look up there and know he's (Hughes) going to be

looking down on us. I am going to carry that for the rest of my career.

"It's one of those things where you just have to keep soldiering on and do your best."

"We know he's always going to be with us and he's always going to be in the back of our minds as well."

Warner said he was in two minds whether to celebrate with his trademark exuberant jump upon reaching his 10th Test century, and fifth hundred this year.

"It was in the back of my mind whether I should celebrate or not but I know what Hughesy's like and he would always have told me to keep jumping and keep doing what I do," he said.

"I dedicate that hundred to him and Michael said to me he would be proud of us both and try to get on and win the game."

As part of his celebration Warner, one of the first to rush to Hughes when he was struck down in Sydney, embraced batting partner Clarke in a long mid-pitch hug.

"It was little moment we shared out there," he said.

Warner said his pain over Hughes will not subside, and he is expecting it to be worse when the India series moves to the fourth Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the New Year.

"For me, personally, I think the hardest thing for me is going to be the New Year's Day Test at the SCG, where it all unfolded and happened," Warner said.

"I think it will be the toughest task for me and the other guys who were there as well."

## Abbott back, with bouncer

AFP, Sydney

Sean Abbott, who delivered the ball that killed Australian batsman Phillip Hughes, bowled a bouncer in his opening over Tuesday on his return to the ground where the freak accident happened.

There had been fears that the 22-year-old fast bowler may have been too traumatised to play again.

But Abbott has received widespread encouragement and held his nerve in his first game back when he was introduced into the New South Wales attack in the 13th over against Queensland in a domestic Sheffield Shield encounter.

Showing little emotion, he sent down four dot balls before a short-pitched delivery that sailed well over ducking Queensland batsman Joe Burns.

NSW paid tribute to Hughes, who once played for that state, by wearing black armbands and "PJH 707" on their shirts, a reference to the well-liked batsman being their 707th representative.



Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu inaugurates the Agrani Bank Dhaka Metropolis Table Tennis League at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday with a friendly game.

PHOTO:  
STAR