



Did U Know?

Boxing made its first appearance at the Olympic Games in 1904.



Merlene Ottey
(Olympic track legend)
"I can only imagine the pressure, the stress she was under, knowing she was innocent."
On Marion Jones.



ZEE Sports

Australia v West Indies
DLF Cup Final
Live at 11:30 am

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Newcastle United v Everton
Live at 8:55 pm
Primera Liga
Barcelona v Valencia
Live at 12:55 am (Monday)

TEN Sports

Sunfeast Open
Day 7
Live at 5:30 pm

Hingis cruises past Mirza

INTERNET, undated

Former world number one Martina Hingis produced a masterclass to rout Indian hope Sania Mirza 6-1, 6-0 and storm into the final of the Kolkata Open on Saturday.

The Swiss top-seed reached her fourth final since making a full-time return to the tour this year, having retired in 2002 with foot and ankle injuries.

The 25-year-old Hingis, who has already won the Italian Open this season, showed glimpses of the class which fetched her five grand slam singles titles to stun the fans rooting for Mirza at the indoor stadium.

Hingis broke the 19-year-old Indian in the fourth and sixth games to wrap up the opening set

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Wisdom dawns on BCB

Mahmud replaces controversial Harun



SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday rejected the appointment of controversial Flight Lieutenant (ret.) Mohammed Harunoor Rashid Bhuiyan as manager and instead replaced him with former national captain Khaled Mahmud for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in India.

"Most of the board members were against the appointment of Harun but unanimously accepted Khaled Mahmud as manager for the Champions Trophy. What the members felt was that the board can't ignore such massive allegations

raised on the newspapers against the man," said media committee chairman Reazuddin Al Mamun after the board's executive committee meeting at a local hotel yesterday.



KHALED MAHMUD

"We are yet to decide if Mahmud will get a long stint as national team manager. He is already working as the operations manager for the Academy, so we will decide about it after the ICC Champions Trophy," he added.

The last few days have seen a lot of controversy surrounding the appointment of the ex-armed forces man with an adamant BCB general secretary Mahtubul Anam backing his appointment despite serious allegations of Harun's past was raised in local newspapers.

Mahabub was quoted in the newspapers earlier that, "when we issued the press release confirming his (Harunoor Rashid Bhuiyan) appointment, it was our final decision".

The BCB general secretary, though, belatedly accepted that they made a 'mistake'. He however

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Tigers want to leave early



SPORTS REPORTER

After incessant rain dashed Bangladesh cricket team's much-needed practice games at home for next month's ICC Champions Trophy, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) now plans to send the Tigers early to India.

But the early departure of Habibul Bashar's men to India, which will host the second best one-day tournament after the World Cup in October-November, would depend on whether the board could arrange at least two more warm up

games on the sidelines of their lone scheduled practice game against Punjab Cricket Association on November 5.

Bangladesh were scheduled to play two practice matches at the BKSP but both were called off due to the inclement weather.

"We have no control over the elements. No doubt there is no alternative other than match practice that's why it would be really good for us if the board can arrange one or two practice matches in addition to the proposed one," told Bangladesh captain Bashar yesterday.

"What I have learnt is that the board is also trying to send the team two or three days before the earlier schedule to play more practice games," he added. Bangladesh is

scheduled to leave Dhaka on October 1.

Asked whether the lack of match practice would be an issue when Bangladesh's two opponents—West Indies and Zimbabwe—in the four-team qualifying round have enjoyed it to the maximum, chief selector Faruque Ahmed and Bashar both found no reason to be worried with the fact.

"We don't want to compare us with Sri Lanka but the fact is they also don't have match practice. I don't think it is a big issue because we played one-day games last month (Kenya and Zimbabwe)," explained the 33-year old Tigers' skipper.

"Yes, it is a little bit frustrating that we couldn't find any practice

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

Swiss star Martina Hingis (R) shakes hands with Sania Mirza after dispatching the Indian 6-1, 6-0 in their semifinal encounter at The Sunfeast Open in Kolkata on Saturday.



PHOTO: AFP

Australia captain Ricky Ponting (2R) and paceman Glenn McGrath (R) inspect the pitch for the final during their training session at the Kinara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Rookies get contract

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have awarded new boys Sakib Al Hasan, Farhad Reza and Mehrob Hossain with rookie contracts.

The decision was taken at the board's executive committee meeting, headed by president Ali Asghar, at a local hotel yesterday.

All-rounders Sakib and Forhad made their debuts in the recent tour of Zimbabwe and Kenya while batsman Mehrob was picked in the national side for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in India.

Now the number of contracts to the national cricketers have risen to twenty-three as the board refrained from axing any of the existing players.

The three new boys join batsman Shahriar Nafees, pacemen

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Booters' camp from today

UNB, Dhaka

The national football team today begin a practice camp at the Brothers Union Club ahead of the AFC Asian Cup qualifying round match against Uzbekistan on October 11.

Bangladesh, who are placed in group F, have already bowed out from the competition after failing to secure any point after playing four matches.

Rajani Kanta Barman, Mostafa Anwar Parvez Babu, Zahid Hossain and Mehdi Hasan Ujjal did not report to coach Hasanuzzaman Bablu at the BFF Bhaban yesterday morning. They are likely to join the practice session today, said a BFF source.

After the home match against Uzbekistan, Bangladesh will play their last qualifying round match on November 15 against Hong Kong.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Sides hope for batting show

Aus-WI final today



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Australia and the West Indies lock horns on Sunday to determine who goes to the Champions Trophy next month on a high, with both sides relying on their batsmen to come good and sneak victory.

The West Indies will need to be at their very best in the DLF Cup final to beat the world's top team, which has such depth in its squad that they have experimented here and yet still made the playoff at India's expense.

Captain Ricky Ponting said the tournament had been valuable experience for the younger members of the team, but is expected to field his strongest side on Sunday.

"We've mixed and matched our teams, and we've won just enough games to make the final, as we always wanted to do," he said.

"We've got some younger players we see as being future Australian players but without having exposure at international level you really don't know what they are capable of."

"We knew it was going to be that way before we came away, so we've tried to do the best we can with the squad we've had here."

Even with an experimental team they have maintained their record of reaching every final of a triangular tournament they have played since the VB Series in 2001-02.

That failure led to Steve Waugh being replaced as one-day captain by Ponting, who now must decide

whether to bring back form players Michael Clarke and Shane Watson, who both missed out against India on Friday.

Aside from a stubborn Matthew Hayden at the top of the order, and a maiden one-day century by Michael Hussey, Australia's batsmen have yet to click and Ponting knows this is an area that must improve.

"We've got to get a lot better before the final. The batting hasn't been good. We've got out of jail a couple of times," he said.

But he is buoyed by the way his bowlers fought back on Friday and by the return of Brett Lee, who won the game for Australia with a five-wicket haul.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Action from the Club Cup Hockey tournament match between Mohammedan and Ajax Sporting Club yesterday.

MSC off to a flyer

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club completely outplayed Ajax Sporting Club in the Shah Sports Club Cup hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Black and Whites won their opening encounter 3-0 and are on par with arch-rivals Abahani and Usha Krira Chakra who won their first matches on Friday.

Anisuzzaman got the heavy-weights off to the perfect start as his strike just a minute before half-time changed the course of the game.

Anifal Haq and Shamim Reza then added with their own strikes in the 48th and 55th minute respectively.

Dhaka Mariners Club made a flying start as they beat Sadharan Bima 4-0 in the other match of the day.

Rahul and Chandan scored in the span of seven minutes in the first-half, both from penalty corners.

After the breather, Shishu and Meraz completed the scoring with two more strikes.

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