



Did U Know?

Women took part in the modern pentathlon for the first time in the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.



Stephen Fleming
(New Zealand cricket captain)
"He's arguably the best bowler in both forms of the game. He's proved he can do it in any conditions."

What to WATCH

SET Max

ICC Champions Trophy
South Africa v Sri Lanka
Live at 2:45 pm (Tuesday)

ESPN

Sportscenter India
Live at 8:30 pm

Bankers post third win

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Bank went into the first break of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Hockey League with a 2-1 win over Azad Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The league will be halted for five days for the Eidul Fitr and resumes on October 28 with Azad taking on Sadharan Bima.

Sonali Bank, who led the first half 1-0, secured nine points from six matches with their third win, thanks to goals by Sumon and Indian recruit Satyander Singh either side of the break.

Azad, who are on four points, pulled one goal back through Manik.

Abahani are leading the 9-team table with maximum 21 points, followed by holders Usha who have 18 points from six games.

BCB's 25 for U-15 side

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday picked up 25 cricketers for the Under-15 Development Squad-2006 training camp.

The selected players have been requested to report to High Performance (HP) Operations and Logistics Officer Shahidul Islam at the Dhanmondi Indoors on October 27 at 5pm.

The squad: (Batsmen) Jewel Datta, Bayejid Imran, Aninda Dey (Chittagong), Jayanta Das, Nahidul Islam, Tawfiq Turag, Mohammad Mamun (Khulna), Tajjul Islam, Mamun Hossain (Rajshahi), Saddam Khan, Abu Hanif Sohel (Metro Green); (pacers) Mizu Ahmed Ratan, Abul Hossain Raju (Sylhet), Omar Soeb, Afazzur

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Gayle unhappy about fine

PTI, Ahmedabad

Dashing West Indies all-rounder Chris Gayle is "disappointed" by the fine imposed on him by an ICC match referee for arguing with Australian batsman Michael Clarke as he believes such banter is part of the game between two competitive teams.

Gayle also said Clarke should have also been heard in the same meeting which was conducted

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

A welcome break



BISHWAJIT ROY from Jaipur

The ICC Champions Trophy took two days' break after Australia's six-wicket triumph over their traditional rivals England here on Saturday which kept Ricky Ponting's men alive in the competition.

The action resumes Tuesday with the match between South Africa and Sri Lanka at Ahmedabad, another cracker of a game that sees exit of one of the former champions of the tournament.

While the Indian cricketers have been in leisure with their families in different states to celebrate the ongoing Diwali festival and the coming Eidul Fitr, the visitors also got a little time to get involved with the country's biggest carnival. Among them, the Pakistan team took the opportunity to watch the much talked about movie Don -- the remake of the 70s great film starring Amitabh Bachchan -- which was highlighted by the media most.

In the cricketing arena there is, however, much hype about the India-

Australia match which will take place at Mohali on October 29 -- the last group stage game -- although the home team, who won their first game against England by four wickets, face a revamped West Indies on October 26 at Ahmedabad.

And it was none other than Australian skipper Ricky Ponting who began beating the drum saying that they were looking forward to the match against India -- another do-or-die match for the world champions after the England match.

"It is always exciting to play India in their own den. We are looking forward to the match because it would be another knockout game for us. We have beaten them here earlier so we are confident that we can do it again. If we can play with the same intensity what we did against England then it will be a big competitive match," said Ponting after his side showed the doors to England.

"It is a big challenge to play India on their home soil. But we always love the contest," said Damien Martyn, who was adjudged man of the match for his unbeaten 78 in the crucial encounter against England.

The former Indian cricketers also joined the party after the outcome of Saturday's match as they said that

the cricket crazy fans in the country are eagerly waiting to watch the India-Australia match after the two big religious festivals.

"Definitely I will want India to confirm their semifinal berth beating the West Indies. But actually we are all waiting for the India-Australia match after Diwali and Eid because the contest of the sides always brings immense pleasure for cricket lovers. But if India get out from the race then all interest about the tournament will almost vanish," commented Ajay Jadeja during a television interview.

On the other hand, India's World Cup winning skipper Kapil Dev came hard on current captain Rahul Dravid, branding him as a 'weak captain'.

"Rahul (Dravid) is weak as a captain (kamjori). He hardly has any control over his team on the field. He looked like to carry out someone's (Greg Chappell) decision on the field which is not good for a captain because captain is everything on the ground," told Kapil, arguably the greatest fast bowler of the country, to a TV channel.



PHOTO: AFP

ONE FOR EACH HAND? Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar enters the nets to bat during a practice session at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Zimbabwe due Nov 23



SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe will play their first one-day international of a five-match series against Bangladesh on November 30 at Khulna, confirmed Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday.

The crisis-hit Zimbabwe, who have played two full series on Bangladesh soil, are in self-exile from Tests since playing India in September 2005 due to exit of the top players over row with the cricket board.

It would be a chance for the Tigers to take revenge of their 3-2 series loss to the young southern African side last July-August. Bangladesh, however, were victorious when the two sides met just over a week ago in the ICC Champions Trophy preliminary round in Jaipur.

Zimbabwe, who arrive in Dhaka on November 23 for an 18-

day trip, will get ample chance to adapt to the conditions as they will

ITINERARY

- November 23:** Arrival
- November 26:** Warm-up match at BKSP
- November 28:** Twenty/20 at Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Motiur Rahman Stadium (BSSMRS), Khulna.
- November 30:** First ODI at BSSMRS
- December 3:** Second ODI at Shaheed Chandu Stadium (SCS), Bogra (D/N)
- December 5:** Third ODI at SCS (D/N)
- December 8:** Fourth ODI in Dhaka (Mirpur/Fatullah Stadium)
- December 9:** Fifth ODI in Dhaka (Mirpur/Fatullah Stadium)
- December 10:** Departure. (D/N: Day Night)

start with a warm-up match at BKSP in the capital and a Twenty/20 match -- the first ever international of the shortest version of the game to be held in the country -- at Khulna on November 28.

Bogra will host two ODIs before the party returns to Dhaka for the final two matches. Both the matches will be day-nighters.

The board has yet to fix the venue in Dhaka as the renovation of the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur is still going on.

It can be noted that the BCB's bid to host a match at the Mirpur Stadium -- Bangladesh cricket's so-called new home -- during Australia's tour last April failed due to the slow construction works.

In case Mirpur Stadium is not prepared, Fatullah Stadium will host the final two one-dayers.

The last time Zimbabwe toured Bangladesh under the leadership of Tatenda Taibu, the visitors lost both the Test and one-day series.



PHOTO: STAR

SA Games gold medallists Shahjahan Ali (L), Mizanur Rahman (C), Mahfuzur Rahman receive cheques from Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president Moeen U Ahmed (R) at the BOA office in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

SUBLIME: Australian batsman Damien Martyn strokes the ball on the off-side as England wicketkeeper Chris Read looks on during their ICC Champions Trophy match at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Saturday.

Bangladesh to play China in int'l friendly

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are expected to play an international friendly against China next month ahead of their 2007 Asian Cup qualifier against Hong Kong.

The Chinese FA has invited Bangladesh to play against their national team in Guangzhou and the Bangladesh Football Federation is considering accepting the offer.

Both teams will take it as part of their preparation for the last round of the Asian Cup qualifiers.

Bangladesh, who have lost all their qualifying matches, will meet Hong Kong away on November 15 at the Mongkok Stadium while China also play on the same day when they host Iraq.

The BFF has proposed November 12 as a tentative date so that they can make the two-hour trip to Guangzhou (former Canton) from Hong Kong and return on time for the qualifier. Bangladesh will leave Dhaka on November 10.

The Chinese FA will bear all the costs of Bangladesh's return trip from Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar FA has again invited Bangladesh to participate in their regular event, a four-nation international invitational tournament to be held this December.

Bangladesh won the trophy in 1995 beating the hosts, who beat Bangladesh in last year's final to take revenge.

BOA honours SA Games gold medalists

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) rewarded the three South Asian Games gold medallists according to its earlier promise at its office yesterday.

BOA President and Army Chief Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed handed over cash award of Tk one lakh and a certificate to each of three athletes who won gold medals at the 10th edition of the regional Games held in Colombo in August.

The winners are swimmer Shahjahan Ali Rony (50m breast-stroke), hurdler Mahfuzur Rahman Mithu (110m hurdles) and martial artist Mizanur Rahman (taekwondo middle weight).

The BOA also distributed crests to the winners of the essay and painting competitions for students.

Acting BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed and executive committee members were also.

Meanwhile, the BOA received Tk 25 lakh donation from the National Sports Council (NSC) for the construction of the BOA Bhaban in the city.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, also the NSC chairman, handed over the cheque to the BOA chief at the Ministry yesterday.

Martyn's b'day bash



AFP, Jaipur

Stylish Australian batsman Damien Martyn has more than one reason to be pleased with his match-winning performance against Ashes rivals England in a crucial Champions Trophy match.

He was a purists' delight during his fluent 78 here on Saturday, steering Australia to a crushing six-wicket victory in a match they desperately needed to win to stay alive in the competition.

Martyn's knock came when his side were wobbling at 34-3 while chasing a modest 170-run target. It was a special innings on a special occasion, for he had turned 35 the same day.

The birthday boy also had a point to prove against England.

Martyn suffered a slump in form on the Ashes tour of England last year, scoring 178 runs in five Tests with an average of 19.77. Soon, the knives were out and he lost his place in the Test side.

"When I walked in there I did not go with any set plans. It just hap-

pened that way, with the powerplays and the field in. And with (Michael) Hussey at the other end, we were able to build a partnership."

Martyn put on 118 runs for the fourth wicket with Hussey (32 not out) to ensure England did not bounce back into the day-night game.

England tour Australia next month for the Ashes series.

Martyn has scored 4,361 runs in 65 Tests since making his debut against the West Indies at home in 1992. But he struggled to cement his place as he was out of the Test side for seven years before coming back in 2000.

He has also proved himself in the shorter version of the game with his class batting. He has already made 5,200 runs in 205 one-day internationals with five hundreds and 36 half-centuries.

Martyn's knock on Saturday virtually ended England's chances of qualifying for the semifinals from the four-team Group A. They have lost both matches, while India, the West Indies and Australia have posted one win apiece.

The top two sides advance to the next round.

"They did not bowl great," said Martyn.

"When I walked in there I did not go with any set plans. It just hap-

Asif on shortlist



AFP, Mumbai

Pakistani paceman Mohammad Asif has been shortlisted for an ICC award despite testing positive for a banned substance, it was announced here on Sunday.

"Asif is eligible for the award as the period under consideration was before the doping offence," said Malcolm Speed, chief executive of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Asif, who was asked by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to return from the ongoing Champions Trophy along with pace spearhead Shoaib Akhtar, is among four players in contention for the 'emerging player' award.

English batsmen Alastair Cook and Ian Bell and left-arm spinner Monty Panesar are the others in the reckoning.

Asif had tested positive for banned substance 'nandrolone' during tests conducted by the PCB before the team left for India.

"The PCB has conducted a hearing and we have been informed that a decision will be taken by October 26," added Speed.

The player in reckoning for the maximum awards was Australian skipper Ricky Ponting, shortlisted in four categories.

Ponting, 31, is a strong favourite for the 'Test player' award having scored nine centuries in Tests between August 1 last year and August 8 this year, the period for which the awards are being given.

Ponting's run during the period includes three instances of scoring a century in each innings of a Test match.

He is also in the running for 'one day player', 'best captain' and 'player of the year' award.

The panel for the awards is headed by former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar.

The awards will be presented in

ONE-DAY PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Michael Hussey, Mahela Jayawardene (SRI), Ricky Ponting, Yuvraj Singh (IND).
EMERGING PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Mohammad Asif (PAK), Alastair Cook (ENG), Ian Bell

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



PHOTO: AFP

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed announces the shortlist of 'ICC Awards 2006' in Mumbai on Sunday.