



Rahul Dravid
(India cricket captain)
"It is an honour and a privilege to have been named as captain of India for the next two series."

What to WATCH

SET Max
Australia vs World XI
Super Series Test, Day 3
Live at 6:30 am

ESPN
English Premier Football League
Birmingham City vs Aston Villa
Live at 4:55 pm
Man City vs West Ham United
Live at 8:55 pm

CAB U-17s in command

SPORTS REPORTER

The CAB (Cricket Association of Bengal) Under-17s were in the driving seat in their Bangladesh tour opener when the visitors bowled out Rajshahi U-17 XI for just 119 on the opening day of the two-day match on Saturday.

After electing to bat at the Jagannath Hall ground, the local boys lost both openers with only 13 runs on board. A painstaking 30 off 133 balls by skipper Talha Bin Tareque during a 45-run stand for the third wicket with Myskur Rahman (23) was the only sign of resistance from the Rajshahi lads, who failed to score even two runs per over in their 70-over struggle.

Hamidul (13) and Muktar (16 not out) were the other two batsmen to cross the double-figure for Rajshahi who lost six wickets in the space of 30 runs before the last wicket partnership produced face saving 13 runs.

Soumya Pakeri and Abhishek Nanda each chipped in with three wickets for CAB, who reached 27 without loss at stumps. Sarkar Mondal with 15 and Rohan Bannerjee (8) were the two batsmen at the crease.

Latvian chess coach in city

SPORTS REPORTER

Latvian Grand Master Edvins Kengis arrived in Dhaka on Saturday to join the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) as its new coach.

He will prepare the national team for next year's Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy.

The 45-year-old GM, whose rating is 2528, will train the country's top male players for three months.

The Latvian's salary would be 2,000 dollars per month, which will come from the National Sports Council's fund for intense coaching programme.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

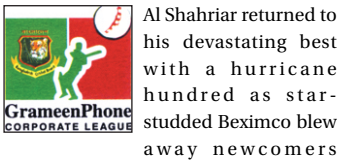
Dear Readers

As The Daily Star approaches its 15th anniversary, the Star Sport team would like to know your feedback on how to make the pages more attractive. So, for the next two weeks send us your suggestions, comments and even criticisms within 200-250 words to sports@thedailystar.net. We intend to publish them and wish your valuable views will enrich your favourite pages. The last date for submission of your comments is October 31.

-- Sports Editor

Al Shahriar explodes at Khulna

SPORTS REPORTER



Al Shahriar returned to his devastating best with a hurricane hundred as star-studded Beximco blew away newcomers Orion Group in one of the three GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League matches held at different venues across the country yesterday.

The out-of-favour Shahriar smashed 147 off 119 balls to fashion a massive 229-run victory for fancied Beximco at the Khulna Divisional Stadium. It was also the first hundred in the Corporate League this year.

The exciting stroke-maker, who lost his national cap due to inconsistency with the bat, clobbered 15 fours and eight sixes to guide Beximco to 324, the highest total so far this year.

Orient, in their chase, were bundled out for 95 in 36.2 overs.

Another debutante Banglacet fared even badly at Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra where they were bowled out for 49 against Epyllion who ran away with a 166-run victory.

National all-rounder Manjarul Islam hammered his second successive half-century as Gazi Tank, who thrashed Bangla Cat by 125-run in the first match, continued their hundred per cent success with a 48-run victory against MM Isphani.

The three winners are now jointly leading the 12-team table after two consecutive victories.

BEXIMCO-ORION

A cautious start by Rashedul Haque and former national opener Shahriar Hossain gave little indication of what was coming after Beximco captain Akram Khan won the toss and decided to bat.

The opening pair added 23 runs in 7 overs before Hossain departed for 14. Runs started to flow like anything when Al Shahriar joined Rashedul.

The stylish right-hander added 139 runs for the second wicket with Rashedul, who scored 68 off 105 balls that included seven boundaries.

National star Mohammad Ashraful also joined the run-feast with 34. But the talented right-hander played the role of second fiddle to a marauding Al-Shahriar.

Chasing the towering total, Orion

Group were caught in the spinning web spread by two left-arm tweakers Abdur Razzak and super-sub Nadif Chowdhury who picked up three wickets each.

EPYLLION-BANGLA CAT

Epyllion rode on two half-centuries by Moniruzzaman and Sajjadul Hasan to score a modest 215.

National opener Shahriar Nafees was dismissed for duck in the second ball of the innings but the two half-centurions laid the foundation putting

129 runs for the second wicket.

Moniruzzaman top scored with 89 off 121 balls that saw six fours and two sixes while opener Sajjadul added 50 off 108 balls.

Super-sub spinner Saju Datta and national paceman Shahadat Hossain then ran through the Bangla Cat batting with some hostile bowling. Rajib made the early damage picking up the first three wickets for 14 runs while Saju was the most successful bowler with 4-10.

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DRESSING ROOM IN TOILET! Gazi Tank's Bangladesh international Aftab Ahmed changes inside the washroom of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. So bad is the situation of the changing room at this venue that the players have to do it here instead.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MacGill calls for more bowling with Warne



Stuart MacGill urged selectors to make his leg-spinning duo with Shane Warne a regular feature of the Australian team after playing another leading role against the World XI in the Super Test here on Saturday.

The 34-year-old tweaker again justified his place in the Test team and his reputation as a Sydney Cricket Ground spin specialist with figures of 4-39 from 9.1 overs as Australia skittled the world all-stars for 190 to seize a 155-run innings lead.

By the close of the second day's play, the Australians had built their lead to 221 runs with nine wickets in hand and four days left for a result.

MacGill, who had taken 40 wickets in six Tests at the SCG prior to the Super Test in a total of 160 wickets in 33 Tests, worked beautifully in tan-

dem with world record holder Warne to bamboozle the world's best batsmen with their beguiling sleight of hand.

Warne, coming off his 40-wicket haul in the recent Ashes series in England, finished with 3-23 from 12 overs and now has 626 wickets in Tests.

MacGill sat forlornly in the dressing room and watched all five Tests as Australia lost the Ashes to England 2-1 last month, and believes he has developed an undeniable case to continue bowling in a leg-spin partnership with Warne in the Australian Test team.

"At some stage in the near future, somebody is going to have to look at the numbers and realise that this is not the first time Shane and I have worked well together," MacGill said after Saturday's play.

"After a certain number of wickets, I think it made a pretty strong case for being a regular feature. It's disappointing other bowlers are able to bowl together in partnership and

Shane and I can't.

"I think we do it very well and we've done it on a number of occasions now."

In 10 Tests alongside Warne, MacGill has taken 48 wickets at 22.42 while Warne has claimed 41 at 30.15.

"It's been great from the moment I started bowling with Shane and I think we've both done very, very well."

MacGill was sanguine about his inactivity during the Ashes, watching helplessly as Michael Vaughan's team came from one Test down to take the series, even with fellow wrist-spinner Warne taking a bucketload of wickets.

"The fact that Shane Warne took 40 wickets on the Ashes tour -- as far as an advertisement for a second spinner, that's as good as you're going to get," he said.

"It's a question that'll remain unanswered forever. I may not have fired a shot over there, but we'll never know."

Still a dream for chess stars

SPORTS REPORTER

No one dreamed that any of the four Bangladeshi chess players would qualify for next year's World Chess Championship when they had left for Hyderabad to participate in the Fifth Asian Individual Chess Championship.

However, Reefat bin Sattar was eyeing to increase his rating to fulfil the quota of earning the Grand Master title. In the end, International Master Reefat was brought down to earth when he saw his rating drop by six points after finishing the 9-round Swiss League at 50th place with four points.

Not only Reefat, Grand Master Ziaur Rahman -- the most experienced player in the country -- also lost one rating point when he finished with 4.5 points to clinch the 42nd place.

The tournament, which concluded at the Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Indoor Stadium on Saturday, however, served the two youngsters better as IMs Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib both won prize money after securing 22nd and 34th places.

Rakib increased his rating by ten points while Rajib added one point as the two bagged 5.5 and five points respectively.

In the ninth and final round, Rakib drew with Yu Shatung of China, Rajib beat Indian IM Lanka Ravi, Zia lost to IM Meilis Annaberdiev of Turkmenistan and Reefat went down to Indian GM RB Ramesh.

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Gazi Tank's Manjarul Islam follows through on a cover drive during his knock of 63 against MM Isphani in their Corporate League fixture at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

World XI caught in a spin



AFP, Sydney

Leg-spin wizards Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill bamboozled the world all-stars working in tandem to give Australia a vice-like grip on the Super Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

SCG specialist MacGill captured 4-39 off 9.1 overs and Warne 3-23 from 12 overs as the Australians skittled the world's best for 190 to seize a 155-run innings lead.

On an eventful second day's play, 15 wickets fell -- leaving the real prospect that the Super Test would finish before its scheduled sixth day.

At the close, Australia were 66 for one and had built their lead to 221 runs with nine wickets in hand and four days left for a result.

First-innings centurion Matthew Hayden, maintaining his patient batting policy, was unbeaten on 27 in 95 minutes with skipper Ricky Ponting not out 17.

Justin Langer, out on the third ball in the first innings, lasted 33 balls before he edged Jacques Kallis' fourth delivery to Graeme Smith at first slip for 22.

Warne, coming off his 40 wicket-haul in the recent Ashes series in England, struck three times in the middle session, claiming the wickets of Virender Sehwag (76), Kallis (44) and Mark Boucher (0).

MacGill, unused in all five Ashes Tests, mopped up the brittle world resistance with the last three wickets, including Andrew Flintoff (35), to further enhance a glowing reputation on his home pitch.

"Australia is well-placed now. This is exactly what you'd try and do in this situation," MacGill said.

"We would have rather made more runs in the first innings -- but having posted the score that we did, to take a lead of well in excess of a hundred is very good for us."

"If we can bat for another two or three days, it should be nice bowling."

Warne removed danger man Sehwag in his fourth over after the free-spirited Indian opener looked primed for his 11th century in his 36th Test.

Simon Katich latched onto a splendid reflex catch at short square leg to send Sehwag on his way after an innings studded with 14 boundaries off just 82 balls.

"We are not embarrassed. We are just backing ourselves and will play good cricket tomorrow," Sehwag said.

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PHOTO: AFP

Australian leg-spinner Stuart MacGill, who took 4-39, lets go a delivery to World XI's Andrew Flintoff on the second day of the Super Test at Sydney on Saturday.

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