

V-Day cricket teams named

SPORTS REPORTER

Sabbir Khan will lead the Shaheed Jewel XI while Mahmudullah Riyad will skipper the Shaheed Mushtaque XI in the Victory Day exhibition match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on December 16.

Players of both sides have been requested to report to their respective coaches -- Imran Sarwar (Mushtaque XI) and Abdul Hadi Ratan (Jewel XI) -- at 8am in the morning of the match.

TEAMS

Shaheed Mushtaque XI: Mahmudullah Riyad (captain), Nazmus Sadat, Tamim Iqbal, Uttam Sarkar, Shirajullah Khadem, Dhiman Ghosh (wicketkeeper), Musharraf Hossain, Ishraq Sonnet, Sajidul Islam, Rizual Islam, Suharwardi Shuvo, Nazmul Hossain, Kamrul Islam and Humayun Kabir. Coach: Imran Sarwar.

Shaheed Jewel XI: Sabbir Khan (captain), Imrose Siddiqui, Naeem Islam, Farhad Hossain, Nasir Hossain, Mahmudul Hasan, Nadimuddin Mintu (wicketkeeper), Taposh Ghosh, Alomgir Kabir, Rummon Islam, Arif Hossain, Arifat Salahuddin, Ziaur Rahman and Gazi Salahuddin. Coach: Abdul Hadi Ratan.

Samakal's sports editor loses father

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammed Abdul Wadud, former superintendent engineer of PDB, died of cardiac disease at the National Institute of Cardio Vascular Research Hospital yesterday. He was 63.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter to mourn his death. He will be buried today at his native village Nimsar in Burichong thana, Comilla.

Abdul Wadud's son Moshirul Rahman Tipu is the Sports Editor of the daily Samakal.

Lindsay to quit after child-birth

REUTERS, London

Three-times Grand Slam tournament winner Lindsay Davenport has no plans to play tennis again after giving birth to her first child next year.

"I hate the word 'retirement' but this season was such a struggle before I can't imagine playing again," Davenport told ESPN.com (www.espn.com).

The 30-year-old American missed most of 2006 with back problems before reaching the quarterfinals at the US Open.

In her career, she has won the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open singles titles plus the 1996 Atlanta Olympics gold medal. Her 51 singles titles put her ninth on the all-time list.

Davenport began her professional career in 1993 and was one of the pioneers of the power game in women's tennis.

Tamim greets

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"They (Scotland) lacked real strike bowlers and as a result failed to pose any threat for us," Nadif observed.

SCORES In BRIEF

BCB ACADEMY: 252-6 in 50 overs (Sadat 30, Tamim 105, Jahanur 1, Nadif 68, Sharmin 19, Khader 0, Shuvu 10*, Sonnet 4*, Haq 3-35, Wright 2-21, Lyons 1-39).

SCOTLAND: 219 all out in 47.2 overs (Watts 4, Poonia 63, Watson 1, Hamilton 11, Brown 47, McCullum 57, Smith 1, Wright 12, Haq 10, Blain 0, Rogers 0*, Sonnet 2-21, Khader 2-40, Mushtaque 4-32, Dollar 2-37).

Result: BCB Academy won by 33 runs.

Brazil not ready

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host the tournament, which FIFA wants in South America under its rotation policy.

But standards of infrastructure and safety could cause concern for the world governing body.

Aside from needing to revamp its stadiums and transport, Brazil is notorious for its street gangs and high crime levels.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has said high standards had been set in recent World Cups and warned the governing body would be ready to look "further north" if there were no suitable South American candidates.

Brazil is the only five-time World Cup winner and hosted the tournament once before in 1950, losing 2-1 to Uruguay in the final.

Four previous World Cups have been held in South America: Uruguay 1930, Brazil 1950, Chile 1962 and Argentina 1978.

The next World Cup will be held in South Africa in 2010.



India won't add cricket

AFP, Doha

India will not include cricket in the Asian Games if New Delhi wins the right to host the 2014 edition, the country's sports chief said on Thursday.

"I am not in favour of having cricket at the Asian Games because it is not an Olympic sport," Indian Olympic Association president Suresh Kaladji told reporters here.

"I know cricket is a religion in India and draws huge crowds wherever it is played in the country. "But we do not want Olympic sports to be overshadowed by one sport. Frankly, I don't want it at the Asian Games."

Kaladji's comments came after Olympic Council of Asia chief Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah had said earlier that discussions were on to introduce cricket at the Asian Games.

"It would be wonderful to have India and Pakistan and all the other Asian countries that play cricket competing at the Asian Games," Sheikh Ahmad said here on December 5.

Paes and his partner Sania Mirza.

Monty Panesar finally had his day in the Australian sun in the third Ashes cricket Test between England and Australia at the WACA Ground here Thursday -- and what a day it was.

The left-arm spinner was surprisingly, and somewhat controversially, left out of the England team for the opening two Test matches, both won convincingly by Australia, and the calls for his inclusion have been getting louder and louder.

Panesar got his chance on Thursday when he was recalled to the England team in place of Ashley Giles, and while he may be known as a fielder of modest ability, this was one chance he didn't drop.

Panesar finished with figures of 5-92 as Australia were bowled out for 244, while his victims included Justin Langer, Andrew Symonds and Adam Gilchrist.

If he was feeling the pressure of being labelled England's saviour on his Ashes debut, Panesar didn't show it as he landed the ball on the spot from the first over.

"I was probably nervous for the first few overs, but I just took my time, I didn't want to rush anything and I was pretty pleased with the way the ball came out," he said.

Panesar said Thursday's performance was one of the best days he has had in Test cricket and ranked alongside his five-wicket haul against Pakistan at Old Trafford earlier this year.

PSG put troubles

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the ball but could not prevent it going over his head and rolling into the net.

Hardly had the second half got under way than Pauleta struck again running on to a pass to speed clear of the Greek defence and hammer a low right-footer into the corner of the net.

A double from the impressive Kalou after 52 and 54 minutes ended the match as a contest and assured PSG would keep their season alive with an appearance in the last 32.

"It was a tough match, but we were efficient, we played with heart to give our public this win," said Lacome.

The atmosphere in the Parc was hot and after we went 2-0 it was a great party. We knew it was a high risk game but we came through and are now going to savour this win."

Hooper Tel Aviv finish third in Group G after a 1-1 home draw against Czech side Mlada Boleslav.

In Italy, Palermo suffer an early exit after being held 1-1 by Celta Vigo in their Group H, with Fenerbahce finishing third in the group after a 2-2 draw against visiting Eintracht Frankfurt.

Elsewhere Former Champions League winners Ajax won second in Group F after a 3-0 win over SV Zulte Waregem of Belgium, who qualify in third.

Much ado

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It is expected that the big names like Abahani, Mohanned, Muktidhodha and Brothers Union will come alive within the first week.

The transfer closes on February 14 and the league is scheduled to start on the next day.

Four-dayer

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Mohammad Shahjada and Anthony Ireland took wickets at will, exploiting the pitch.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) retained the same side for the four-dayer.

SQUAD

Jahanur Islam, Javed Omar, Tushar Imran (captain), Rajin Saleh, Alok Kopali, Manzurul Islam, Sahagir Hossain, Marshall Ayub, Tapash Baisya, Dollar Mahmud, Mohammad Sharif, Enamul Haque, Mohammad Shahjada.

Sachin ready to change

Cricket

PTI, Johannesburg

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar concedes that his body is not of a 17-year-old anymore but says he is brave enough to accept it and use it smartly.

"There are things which I sometimes think I can't do and end up doing. Over the next two days your body starts telling you it's no longer 17 and actually is 33 years old," said Tendulkar after he surprisingly received best bowler's award for 2004-2005 at the Castrol award function here on Wednesday.

He said it appeared the chances of the pair, dubbed the "Indian Express," combining again for the 2008 Olympics were nil.

"We should forget about the Olympic gold because it's clearly not happening with both of us. I'm not going to begging for anybody," he added.

The outburst is the latest in a series of disputes between the pair who combined to win three Grand Slam titles together but parted soon after the Athens Olympics in 2004.

Paes later defended the row saying "I would love to play with him for India again."

"I would love to have Mahesh on my team anytime, he is a great asset," said Paes courtside after winning the mixed doubles gold

to play his best at the World Cup next year.

The former Sri Lankan captain said the constant scrutiny put Tendulkar under a lot of pressure which in turn affected his confidence.

"I think he has been a lot under the scrutiny of the media and the whole country needs to get behind him and support him and get the best of him leading into the World Cup, because he will be needed badly at the premier competition," he said on the sidelines of a press conference here by Neo Sports channel which announced its test schedule till 2010.

"He has lost a great degree of his confidence and he is doubting his ability because of the pressure factor," added D'Silva, the chief architect of Sri Lanka's only World Cup success ten years back.

Meanwhile, Tendulkar on Thursday received a sound backing from former Sri Lankan batting ace Aravinda De Silva who said the Indian star must be spared the intense media scrutiny to allow him

Monty puts Eng on front foot

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home side would need early wickets on the second day as he expects the pitch to become easier to bat on.

"We are going to have to get early wickets tomorrow (on Saturday), get into that middle order and it looks like quite a long tail," Hussey said.

"We need to get some early wickets and hopefully we can put the English middle order and tail under pressure."

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third Ashes Test between Australia and England at the WACA on Thursday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings Langer v Panesar 37 Hayden c Jones b Hoggard 24

ENGLAND: First innings

Ponting lbw b Harmison 2 Strauss not out 24 Hussey not out 74 Cook c Langer b McGrath 15 Clarke c b Harmison 37 Bell c Gilchrist b Lee 0 Symonds c Jones b Panesar 26 Collingwood not out 10 Gilchrist c Bell b Panesar 0 Extras: (nb-2) 2 Total: (For 2 wkt in 14 overs) 51 Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-37

To bat: Pietersen, Flintoff, Jones, Mahmood, Hoggard, Harmison, Panesar

Bowling O M R W Lee 5 0 24 1 McGrath 5 1 18 1 Clark 2 1 1 0 Warne 2 0 8 0 Extras: (nb-4) 4 Total: (All out in 71 overs) 244 Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-54, 3-69, 4-121, 5-172, 6-172, 7-214, 8-234, 9-242

Toss: Australia. **Umpires:** Aleem Dar and Rudi Koertzen.

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