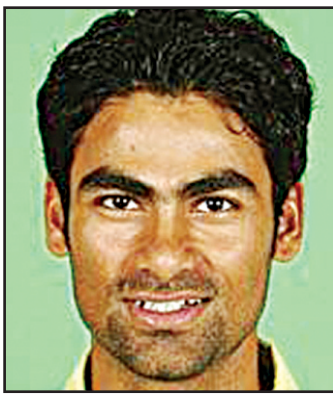




Did U Know?

A record 6,107 hours of televised Australian Open tennis action was broadcast from Melbourne Park to 192 territories across the world in 2006.



Mohammad Kaif

(India batsman)
"I sincerely feel that I deserve a couple of chances to prove myself all over again. I have played for India over six years and 100 ODIs with distinction, so that stage is passed where I have to prove my capabilities. It's just about getting runs in the kitty. Until I get that opportunity, how do I show my form."

Who is waiting for his chance.



ESPN

Australia v England
1st Final, CB Series
Live at 09:13 am
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Pakistan v South Africa
3rd one-day international
Live at 6:28 pm



Premier Division Cricket League
Old DOHS v Sonargaon
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Victoria v Young Pegasus
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Mohammedan v Partex
Venue: BKSP

DCS fracas probe soon

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board decided yesterday to put up an inquiry into the ridiculous incident that transpired during the Premier League match between Brothers Union and Partex at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

Partex only needed six runs to win when certain Brothers supporters as well as their club boy Shahid stopped the match by running away with the stumps at the bowlers' end. RAB had to intervene after the small crowd beat up the three offenders.

The match was awarded to Partex as they were ahead by eight runs according to the Duckworth-Lewis method.

An investigation would be conducted by the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan

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Bashar urges upturn

Tamim set for international debut



SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal is all set to make his international debut as Bangladesh decided to make three changes in the eleven for their third one-day international against Zimbabwe in Harare today, according to team sources.

With the four-match series level at 1-1, the Tigers will bring in the left-handed hard-hitting opener from Chittagong, who will become the third member of the same family to play for the national side.

Tamim, who was picked for the series after consistent performance in domestic cricket, is the nephew of former national skipper Akram Khan and younger brother of now out-of-favour opener Nafees Iqbal.

Tamim will open the innings as Shahriar Nafees's new partner, replacing Mehrab Hossain who has scored 12 and two in the first two games.

The match will also be pace-man Mohammad Sharif's first ODI after a five-year lay-off. Speedster Shahadat Hossain will be rested while Tapash Baisya will return after missing one match for Mohammad Rafique, who was injured on Tuesday in a collision with Sibanda.

Veteran left-arm spinner Rafique, still nursing a badly

bruised nose, was attended by a doctor yesterday and according to TigerCricket.com, will be kept under observation for the next five days as the bleeding from the nose has not stopped fully.

This effectively rules him out of the rest of the series with the Tigers playing back-to-back games today and tomorrow.

AFP adds: Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar has demanded an all-round improvement in his team's performance ahead of the third game against the hosts following an eight-wicket defeat on Tuesday.

Bashar was particularly concerned by his team's woeful batting display which has given him serious cause for concern ahead of the World Cup which starts next month.

"We need to take wickets and get more runs on the board, which we failed to do on Tuesday," the skipper told reporters.

The tourists collapsed to 153 all out on Tuesday, a target which Zimbabwe reached with more than 14 overs in hand.

SQUAD

Habibul Bashar (captain), Shahriar Nafees, Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Sakib Al Hasan, Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, Abdur Razzak, Mohammad Sharif and Tapash Baisya.

"We lost too many wickets in the early stages of the match, we tried all we could but in the end a score of 153 was never going to be enough on that kind of a wicket," added Bashar.

"Zimbabwe bowled well. Now it's up to us to do our best in the next game to get a win."

Bangladesh won the first match by 45 runs, having scored an excellent 260-9; Zimbabwe's win ended a depressing run of 13 successive defeats.

The only really consistent player among the 25 taking part so far has been Zimbabwe batsman Vusi Sibanda with scores of 47 and 93 not out, an average of 140.

The others have been indifferent or up and down, with Bashar being typical with a 78 and then a duck. Gary Brent, for the home side, and tourist Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza have stood out in the bowling department.

Zimbabwe skipper Prosper Utseya believes his young team has developed match-winners in Sibanda and Brent, who took four wickets on Tuesday.

"Sibanda was outstanding on Tuesday, as was Brent. But it was essentially an all-round team effort," said Utseya.

With the series evenly-poised, and with much local publicity given to Sibanda's feats, at least the crowd should be much higher than the 500 or so seen on the first morning on Tuesday.

Samuels caught by Indian cops

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian police have claimed to have tapped telephonic conversation between West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels and a bookie ahead of a one-day international with India in Nagpur on January 21 which allegedly found the cricketer giving out information about his team's batting and bowling line-ups.

Deputy commissioner of Nagpur Police Amitesh Kumar told Indian television channels on Wednesday night that Samuels spoke to bookie Mukesh Kochar and passed on 'confidential' information about the West Indian team regarding who would bat and bowl first and later.

India had won that match by 14 runs.

Asked if the tapped conversation contained any financial commitments, Kumar replied in the negative but said revealing even team details to the bookie is a 'violation' of the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct for players.

Kumar said the police have already sent a report on the issue to the Board of Control Cricket in India (BCCI) vice-president and the Anti-Corruption Unit of ICC whose official was present during the one-day match in Nagpur.

Kumar alleged the bookie is an associate of an underworld gang.

The police official claimed the police have "concrete evidence" about alleged links between Samuels and Kochar even before the Nagpur match and they had alerted the BCCI as well as ICC about it.

The latest controversy involving Samuels came seven years after t h e

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BCB-NCA XI named

SPORTS REPORTER

Nadif Chowdhury was yesterday named captain of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) National Cricket Academy team that will take on the visiting England A side in a three-day warm-up match at BKSP from February 17.

The selected cricketers are requested to report to Shahidul Islam, HP programs logistic officer at the National Cricket Academy House in Dhanmondi at 6pm on February 14.

SQUAD

Zunaed Siddique, Jahurul Islam, Nadif Chowdhury (captain), Nasiruddin Faruque, Marshall Ayub, Mahmudullah Riyad, Sahagir Hossain (wk), Mosharraf Hossain, Dollar Mahmud, Ziaur Rahman, Mohammad Shahzada, Suharwardi Shuvo.

SUB-JUNIOR CHESS Aniruddah keeps lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Aniruddah Majumder of St. Joseph School maintained his solo lead in the

points table with maximum 5½ points after the end of the 6th round of games of the 27th National Sub-Junior Boys & Girls Chess Championship-2007 held at the Chess Federation Hallroom yesterday.

Majumder retained his lead despite being held to a draw by Saimon in this round.

Sharif Hossain, Rezaul Islam Babu and Abdullah Al Saif are tied in 2nd position with 5 points each.

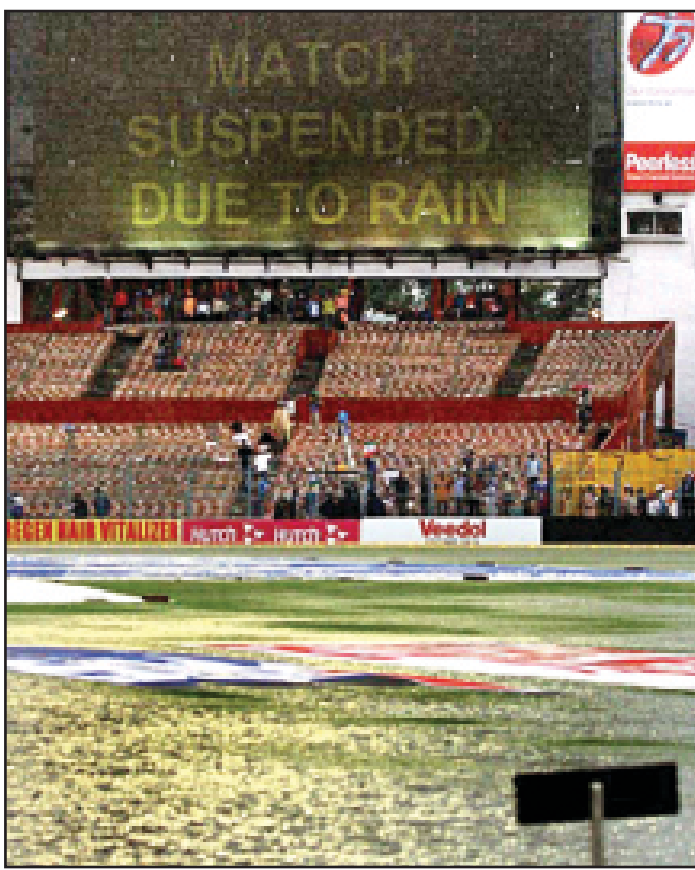


PHOTO: AFP

View of the waterlogged pitch at Eden Gardens which caused suspension of play during the first ODI between India and Sri Lanka at Kolkata on Thursday.

Indo-Lankan first ODI rained off

AFP, Kolkata

Unseasonal rain turned into a torrential downpour, forcing the first one-day international between India and Sri Lanka to be called off here on Thursday.

A sell-out crowd of 88,000 at the Eden Gardens returned home disappointed as the weather ruined what promised to be an absorbing contest.

Sri Lanka were 102-3 after 18.2 overs after being sent in to bat when umpires Simon Taufel and Suresh Shastri ordered players off the field.

The umpires finally called off the match at 8.30 pm (1500 GMT) when no time was left to play 20-overs-a-side, the minimum requirement to gain a result.

Veteran opener Sanath Jayasuriya was unbeaten on 63 off 61 balls and former captain Marvan Atapattu was on five when play was stopped.

Jayasuriya and opening partner Upul Tharanga hammered 23 off the first three overs before fast bowler Munaf Patel hit back with

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Crucial day for champs



SPORTS REPORTER

Last season's top-of-the-table teams Old DOHS and Sonargaon Cricketers clash today as the 11th and final round of the Premier Cricket League's first-leg begins.

Two-time defending champions DOHS are still unsure of a place in the Super League having lost half of their ten games and Akram Khan's struggling side must beat the last year's runners-ups at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium to end doubts.

A DOHS loss will open up chances for three teams -- Young

Pegasus, Kalabagan and Partex -- to join the holders at sixth place and

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	T	A	Pts
Abahani	10	9	1	-	-	18
Victoria	10	8	2	-	-	16
Mohammedan	10	7	2	1	-	15
Sonargaon	10	6	3	1	-	13
Biman	10	6	4	-	-	12
DOHS	10	5	5	-	-	10
Pegasus	10	4	6	-	-	8
Kalabagan	10	4	6	-	-	8
Partex	10	4	6	-	-	8
Indira Road	10	3	7	-	-	6
City Club	10	2	9	-	-	4
Brothers	10	1	9	-	-	2

switch on calculators to find who go through to the last six.

The good news for DOHS is that Super League contenders Pegasus and Partex are facing big opponents in this round. At Fatullah Stadium, young and promising Pegasus are up against second-placed Victoria, who are just two points adrift of leaders Abahani, while Partex face mighty Mohammedan -- currently at third place -- at BKSP.

The first-leg will end tomorrow with Abahani travelling to BKSP in a bid to erase bitter memories of their first defeat in the run, against

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Too many firsts for MSC



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club coach Shafiqul Islam Manik repeated yesterday he has faith that his young footballers are capable of holding aloft the club colours in the coming B. League.

The 19-time Dhaka League champions have formed the weakest team ever in their history but like the club management, the coach was upbeat about chances.

"I am confident that this team will go a long way. They have the ability to fight and I will try my best to make them a unit to reckon with," Manik told at the official team presentation programme for the inaugural Professional Football League at the BFF Bhaban.

"We will go for the championship although we have been rated as a mediocre side," he added.

Club's additional general secretary Mostaqur Rahman, manager Amirul Islam, Manik's associates Saiful Bari Titu (assistant coach) and Mohammed Panir (goalkeeper coach), former national striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, veteran midfielder Sentu and Nigerian forward Paul Nwakuchu were also present.

The failure to keep the national players, who under guidance of

SEE PAGE 22 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan players (from L-R) Paul, Sentu and Nakib display their away jersey for the B. League at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

Rajshahi ride on Rakib treble

SPORTS REPORTER

After opening day's goal drought, the 3rd JFA Cup erupted with goals as Rajshahi brushed aside Rangpur 9-0 to move into the second round yesterday.

In the first round qualifier at the Sirajganj Stadium, Rakib slammed

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