

Nine fined for dissent

SPORTS REPORTER

Nine Rajshahi players were fined for stopping play for nine minutes during their crucial National League tie against Dhaka at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

Among the nine, discarded national wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud and former all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman were fined Tk 5,000 each for breaching the Discipline on the field 21-b and c clause.

Early on the third day, tail-ender Mahbub Alam was adjudged run out by the umpires after the stumps were broken by silly mid-off Shamsur Rahman as Mahbub ventured out of his crease while shadowing a shot that he had just miscued to short leg Sharifullah's body.

Shamsur was seen juggling with the ball after the ball ricocheted off Sharif. According to sources, batsman Mahbub thought that the ball was dead by the time he was shadowing the flick shot which he miscued.

Captain Mashud, Shumon Shaha, Mohammad Shahjada, Arif Hossain, Shafiq Al Jabir, Farhad Hossain and Junaed Imrose all came out on the ropes to tell the batsmen not to come out of the pitch. These players protested the decision along with the batsmen at the crease Mahbub and Mushfiqur Rahman.

Match referee Hemayet Ahmed Siddiqui slapped a total of Tk 27,000 fine on the nine Rajshahi players with Shumon, Shahjada, Arif, Shafiq, Farhad and Junaed each being fined Tk 2,000 each.

Foysal seeks help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Mir Foysal Ali Dollar, a fast bowler taking part in the GrameenPhone Pacer Hunt, is fighting for his life after his kidney failed during the talent hunt programme.

On February 27, the crowd who flocked at the Dinajpur Cricket Ground had their eyes on Dollar. But the son of Mir Mohammad Ali hailing from Paharpur, was suffering from kidney related problems and had to be rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Doctors informed that both his kidneys have already been damaged and advised to send him to India urgently for better treatment. But it will cost at least Tk ten lakhs, an amount that will be tough to arrange for his poor parents.

In this circumstance, Dollar's parents and Dinajpur Sports Association as well as other sports organizations urged the affluent people of the country to save the life of their only son.

While this correspondent was talking with Dollar over cell phone, he expressed determination that sports loving people will stretch their helping hand for him.

For concerned people, his address:
Mir Moktar Ali
Islami Bank
A/C. 8340
Dinajpur Branch
Dinajpur.

Totti explains

FROM PAGE 20
grown Romanista, Totti looked at the difference between his time in the crowd and the current violence problem.

"In my day, we went into the Curva to support Roma as a team and we were all united in that intent. Now unfortunately the political aspect has invaded the fanbase, as some are right-wing and some left. Misunderstandings occur and attitudes that are ugly to see, both for us players and the children who should feel welcome in the stadium."

Veron in Argentina

FROM PAGE 20
Argentine public when he was blamed for the team's first-round elimination at the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan.

He returned home in the middle of last year to play for Estudiantes de La Plata and inspired the team as they won the Apertura champion-

ship.

MU to take on

FROM PAGE 20

The match also marks 50 years of the Red Devils' involvement in European competitions.

The final team-sheets will be announced in Brussels on March 12, the day before the match, at a press conference with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, new UEFA president Michel Platini and Manchester United legend Bobby Charlton.

All proceeds from the evening match, on Tuesday March 13, will go to charity, with the tickets available from the Manchester United website.



Advisor to caretaker government Geete-ara Safiya Chowdhury (C), additional general manager of Grameenphone Ghalib Ahmed Ansari (2nd from L) and media manager of Grameenphone Moeen Tariq inaugurate the Grameenphone Junior Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

JR DAVIS CUP Bangladesh stay alive

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh brightened their chances to move into the second round when they upset top seed Malaysia 2-1 in the Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania zone qualifiers yesterday.

Local boy Omar Faruk Sunny won the first match comfortably, outplaying Amirul Amin 6-0, 6-1 but Mufazzal Hossain conceded his match against Marcus Chee 6-2, 7-6 at the Ramma Tennis Complex.

In the deciding doubles, the hosts snatched a 6-3, 7-6 victory to stay in contention.

Pakistan led the table with two out of two wins when they edged Jordan 2-1.

In the Junior Federation Cup pre-qualifiers, Bangladeshi girls crashed 3-0 to Sri Lanka while Singapore beat Pakistan by the same margin.

Earlier in the morning, Adviser to the Caretaker Government Geete-ara Safiya Chowdhury officially inaugurated the Junior Fed Cup.

Kanwajit Singh, representative of the International Tennis Federation, Bangladesh tennis Federation president AMM Nasir Uddin and general secretary Sanau Haque, sponsor Grameenphone's additional general manager Ghalib Ahmed Ansari and media manager Moeen Tariq were also present.

Sangakkara may not be as big as a star as off-spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran or hard-hitting veteran Sanath Jayasuriya, but is second to none when it comes to delivering under pressure.

He was 22 when he replaced Romesh Kaluwitharana in 2000

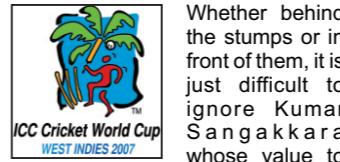
and did not take long to reassure the selectors that they had found a batsman-wicketkeeper for the future.

Sangakkara is different from his predecessor in that he does not believe only in thumping the ball. Instead, he concentrates on building an innings with shrewd shot-selection.

His best came in 2006 when he cracked a career-best 287 in a world-record stand of 624 for the

Sangakkara's time

AFP, New Delhi



ICC Cricket World Cup
WEST INDIES 2007

scored more than 5,000 runs.

He had spent five years in international cricket when he leapfrogged many of his rivals to find a place in the Rest of the World side against world champions Australia for a three-match Super Series in 2005.

The selectors' faith was not misplaced as the Sri Lankan made two successive half-centuries when many of his illusive teammates had been floundering against a strong attack.

Sangakkara says the mental skill is the key to performing consistently at the highest level.

"There is a lot of emphasis on mental toughness, but there should also be emphasis on mental skills, on how you read and adapt to situations," he said.

"I am always thinking about what situation I am in now and what situations I am getting into. No matter whom I am playing, my approach is the same. I respect who is bowling to me."

Not only bowlers, but also batsmen cannot ignore Sangakkara, considered a shrewd sledger who is always aware of the fine boundary between "psychological aggression" and "obscenity".

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Sabuj Vidyapith snuck a one-wicket victory over Adarsha Vidyapith in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket tournament at the Uttara Friends Club ground yesterday.

Shahadat's five-wicket haul could not give Adarsha the win as their 203-run target was topped in the first ball of the 33rd over by Sabuj Vidyapith. Dinar top-scored with 50 for the winners.

In other matches, Manarat trounced BIT by 107 runs, Rahmatullah Model beat Khilagan Government by six wickets while Rajabari beat Faridabad by four wickets.

GAIBANDHA SCHOOL CRICKET

Chandipur High School defeated Islamia High School by seven wickets at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Islamia only scored 91 as they were bowled out in 23 overs.

NATIONAL PAIRS BRIDGE

The national pairs bridge competition will begin at Imperial Hotel on March 2.

Interested pairs are requested to register their names along with Tk 400 for fees.

AMATUER GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam inaugurated the 22nd Cotton Group Bangladesh amateur golf championship yesterday.

Leading golfers from the South Asian region are taking part in the four-day long competition.

JFA CUP

Dhaka and BKSP were drawn in Group A while Khulna and Chittagong were pencilled in Group

B for the final round of the JFA under-15 football tournament at the Army Stadium in Dhaka from March 5.

Dhaka take on Natore while BKSP will play Chaudanga in the opening day matches.

CHALLENGE CLUB CUP

Diganta Prohori Sangha beat Kazhat Sporting Club by 69 runs in the BCB Challenge Club Cup competition.

Batting first, Diganta scored 243-9 in 50 overs to which Kazhat only replied to 174 in 42.3 overs.

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