



Did U Know?

The first golf balls, used in the mid-1500s in Scotland, were made of wood.



Jose Mourinho

(Former Chelsea manager)
"Being the coach of a national team is not the same as being coach of a club. It's a job for someone who doesn't like working much."

While ruling out the possibility of becoming the England manager.



TEN Sports

UEFA Champions League
Besiktas v Liverpool
Live from 12:00am (Thursday)
Real Madrid v Olympiakos
Live from 2:45am (Thursday)

ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

BFF duo for FIFA course

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) communication manager Ahmed Sayed Al Fatah and professional league and club manager Abu Nayem Sobah will leave Dhaka this morning for Pakistan to participate in the 'FIFA Future III: Administrative and Management Instructors' Refreshers Course' in Lahore.

The course, to be conducted by FIFA and AFC instructors, will be held from October 25-31. A similar course was held in New Delhi, India last year.

A total of 23 participants will attend from member countries of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) apart from Iran.

General secretaries of Bhutan, Pakistan and Afghanistan football federations will also participate.

Dhoni worried of schedule

Pti, Melbourne

Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has highlighted concerns that his side may be physically and mentally exhausted when it arrives in Australia in December following a gruelling schedule.

The Indians have been flat out almost since May, and they will play archrivals Pakistan in a three-Test and five-match limited-overs series before reaching Down Under.

"We have a 10-day gap right now, and in between the Pakistan series and the Australian series we have just a three or four-day gap," Dhoni said.

"It's quite tough on the cricketers, but that's the way it goes. Even if you're feeling tired or exhausted, you cannot walk out on any of the matches," he was quoted as saying by the 'Australian Associated Press'.

Australia will be relatively fresh by comparison, having started its international season last month.

Australia plays Tests against Sri Lanka in Brisbane (November 8-12) and Hobart (November 16-20), and three one-day matches against New Zealand, before meeting India again.

Mashrafe is back

SPORTS REPORTER


Pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza showed signs of returning to his belligerent best with a hostile spell while his new ball partner Syed Rasel lived up to his billing as Mr. Accurate to ensure Khulna complete a successful Dhaka trip with a 39-run win over the hosts in the opening round one-day match of the 9th National Cricket League at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Left-arm pacer Rasel took a five-for but it was Mashrafe's fiery spell, something which was desperately missing for the last one year, that gutted Dhaka despite a brilliant recovery act by the left-right combination of Mosharraf Hossain (72) and Mahmudullah Riyad (65).

Chasing a fighting Khulna total of 240, Dhaka were bundled out for 201 with more than five overs to spare in front of a strong 8,000 home crowd.

Mashrafe confirmed that there would be no fireworks from Mohammad Ashraful (1) when he had Dhaka and the national captain trapped in front with a superb inswinger in the fifth over, leaving the hosts tottering at 13-3.

The Narail Express then returned to his second spell to effectively dash Dhaka's hopes of

an intriguing finish after Mosharraf and Riyad produced 101 runs for the fourth wicket.

Bowling with extreme pace that was missing since he collapsed in Sri Lanka two years ago, Mashrafe dismissed Dhaka's wicketkeeper Sajjad Kadri for a duck after left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak broke the stubborn fourth wicket stand.

But his third wicket was a spectator's delight. The ball landed at 140kpm on Nazmul Hossain's off-stump and the batsman could only fend off the rising ball behind the wicket.

"I haven't seen him bowling so well for a long time. I think he was playing all six matches together here," said Ashraful while praising the fantastic effort of the fast bowler who also bowled brilliantly in the drawn four-day match at the same venue.

"It looked like the Mashrafe of old. It was fantastic to watch the way he bowled in the four-day and then in the one-day game and after a long time he got back his rhythm. We have four regular national team bowlers in the team and that's why we were always confident to defend the total," said Khulna captain Habibul Bashar.

Rasel also played his part in the match. He removed both the Dhaka openers on a wicket that suited his bowling most. The left-armers struck in his very first over with a ganging Al-Shahriar, who

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JOB HALF DONE: Khulna players unite to celebrate the fall of Dhaka captain Mohammad Ashraful's wickets during the one-day match of the National Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Booters leave today Nayeemuddin's last chance!

SPORTS REPORTER

Syed Nayeemuddin could well have his last match as Bangladesh coach this week when his boys face Tajikistan in the second leg of the 2010 World Cup pre-qualifiers away in Dushanbe.

The only probable chance the Indian coach has to survive a premature chop from the job is to guide the team perform a miracle: either beat Tajikistan or draw at least 2-2 on October 26 to make it to the second stage of the Asian qualifiers.

BFF's indifference directs that it would ultimately make Nayeem the scapegoat in a bid to save a few months' salary. And no one would wonder because BFF, under the same leadership, had previously shown the doors to SAFF Championship winning Austrian coach George Kottan and Diego Cruciani of Argentina, whose side were losing finalists in the same tournament, without giving them enough time to build on their success.

Nayeem, however, was not bothered by the fact that he has been provided minimum facilities to prepare the side.

The former Indian coach and international, who was given the responsibility of the national team with a view to prepare them for the SAFF Championship, seems to have lost his usefulness to a cash-starved Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) since the regional football extravaganza's deferral to

June next year from this December, when Nayeem's contract expires.

The writings are also on the wall. Senior players have deserted the national team now and again and the BFF officials hardly did anything to pursue them back, washing their hands off the matters as well as pushing Nayeem into centre of controversies.

BFF's indifference directs that it was proof of the booters' fitness as they never showed a tired leg or two during the proceedings.

"If we can play like that match again, we have a chance," said Nayeem adding that they would never go for a draw.

"We would be on the backfoot from the word go if we start defensively. We want to play with the attacking mindset like our first game, where we fought till the end."

He, however, will miss the defensive solidity of the team after centre-back Nazrul Islam's walkout. The options to replace him are young Ariful, an erratic Shuvra and veteran Hassan.

"You expect too much from these boys without giving them what they need," Nayeem told from the team's residential camp in Dushanbe yesterday.

"They played like lions in the home match against Tajikistan. Since then we haven't had any

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practice match. But I am happy to see the commitment and fitness levels high.

"Biplab and Rajani did not leave camp to join their greatest festival, the Durga Puja. I also believe the players have the stamina to play with the same pace and spirit for 90 minutes," told the 60-year-old.

Bangladesh's first-leg match in Dushanbe was proof of the booters' fitness as they never showed a tired leg or two during the proceedings.

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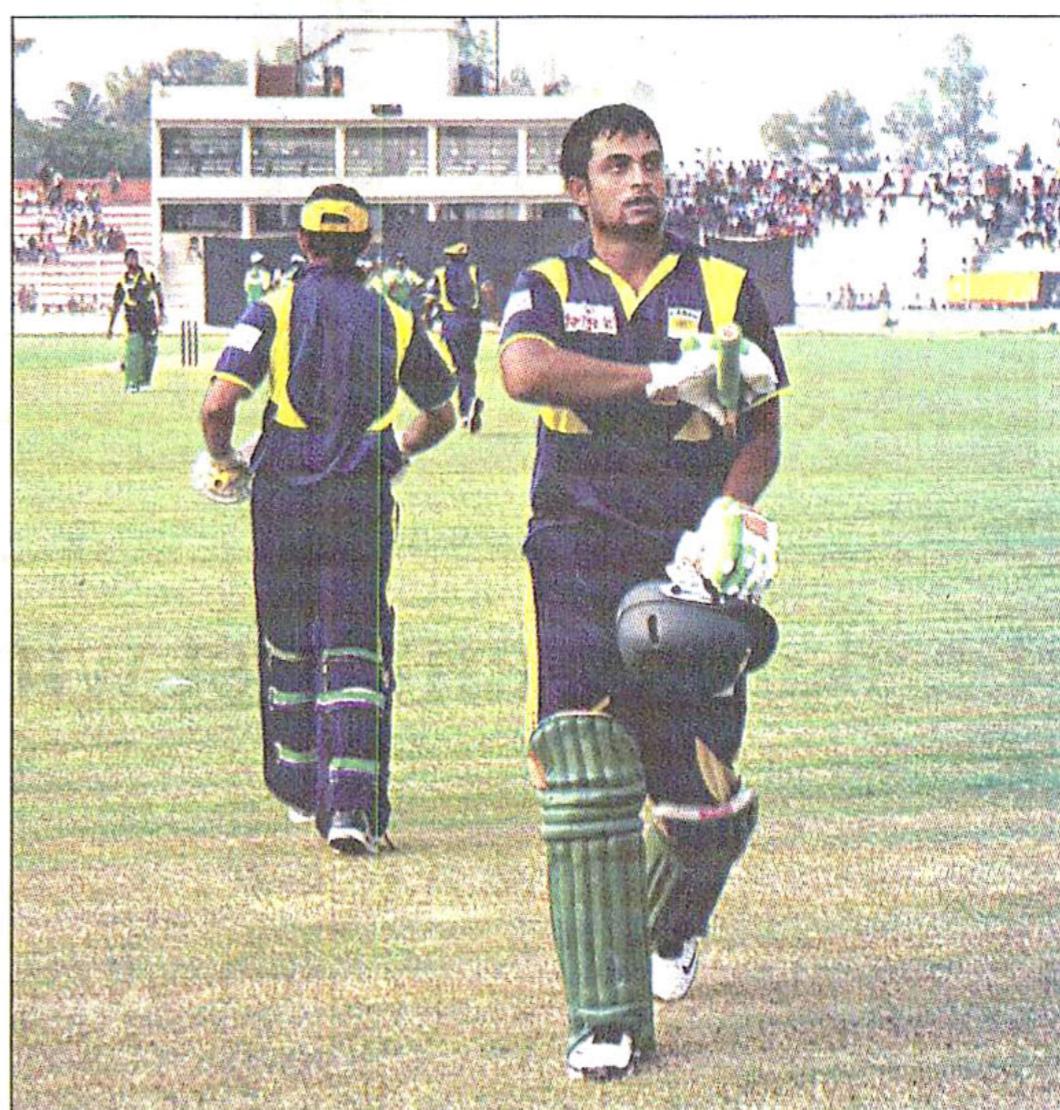
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He, however, will miss the defensive solidity of the team after centre-back Nazrul Islam's walkout. The options to replace him are young Ariful, an erratic Shuvra and veteran Hassan.

"Not to worry about one players' absence because we work as a team. My only regret is to not get a practice match during the last two weeks. But it's beyond my control."

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DAY OF PAIN AND PLEASURE: Chittagong opener Tamim Iqbal leaves the field after hammering a 133 against Barisal in the one-day of the National Cricket League at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday. He received the man-of-the-match award for his match-winning knock, but at the same time received a heavy ban for a scuffle with Talha Jubair.

Commentary, live from hell

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Television's live telecast of the opening National Cricket League match has earned much appreciation but in the same breath, one can never forget to mention the unforgettable commentary.

Words are never enough to express and describe such an act but the last five days have been nothing short of entertaining, no matter how diabolical it's been.

"Side cut", "bowler's back drive over cover" and "long handle" are just some of the newly invented cricketing terms by this team. When such terms are spoken out loud: laughter.

During yesterday's one-dayer, the press box was a laugh-a-minute with an eruption after every boundary; not cheering the shot but in 'appreciation' of the commentary. It must be mentioned that televisions in all press boxes are usually muted but the reporters did not even think twice in turning up the volume in Mirpur.

Barring one commentator, the rest are a joke. Newly created words aside, misinformation was flowing to deceive anybody's cricket knowledge. In one instance, a batsman had mistimed a flick, which was branded as an odious shundor shot by a commentator, and ran his partner out but the man with the microphone failed to see what was going on. Thankfully, a former cricketer who was beside him bailed him out.

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Tamim, Talha banned over fracas

SPORTS REPORTER

While he scored a scintillating century, Chittagong opener Tamim Iqbal was involved in a clash with Barisal fast bowler Talha Jubair resulting in both players being served a ban by the match officials during a National Cricket League one-dayer at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Match referee Akhtar Ahmed recommended a ban of two four-day or four one-day matches ban on both youngsters after receiving the on-field report from umpires Enamul Haque Moni and Abdullah Al Matin.

In the seventh over of Chittagong's chase, Tamim exchanged abuse with Talha after hitting a four through the covers. After the initial verbal exchange, the two went toe-to-toe after which there was shoving between them.

The two were separated by the players and umpires, who warned both players for their misconduct at that point.

Chittagong won the match by eight wickets.

Meanwhile, Khulna captain Habibul Bashar was fined 10 per cent while ten players of his team were charged five per cent of their match fees for failing to meet the over rate during the four-day NCL match in Dhaka on Monday.

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