



Shakib slams first century

SPORTS REPORTER



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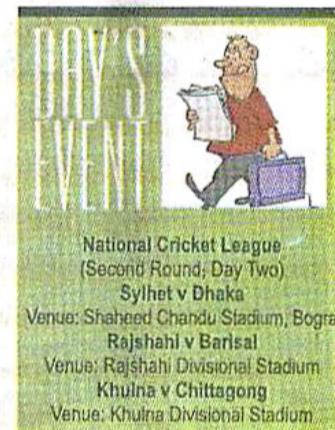
The first organized weightlifting competitions began in Europe in the late 1800s, and the sport's first world champion was crowned in 1891.



Harbhajan Singh

(India off-spinner)

"Inzamam is the Sachin Tendulkar of Pakistan and his decision to retire from international cricket recently will definitely be an advantage for India."



Indian selectors bide their time

CRICINFO, undated

India's national selectors have deferred the appointment of a Test captain, which was scheduled to happen during the selection committee meeting in Ahmedabad on Saturday. The focus of the meeting will now be on the squad for the first two ODIs of the series against Pakistan beginning on November 5.

Bhupinder Singh, the North Zone selector, said that the selection panel wanted to observe Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy for a while longer before taking a decision on the Test captaincy.

"We had originally decided to watch Dhoni for 12 games and it's only five games now so we will have to wait," Bhupinder told Cricinfo. He, without confirming, indicated that the announcement could happen at the next selection meeting on November 8 in Mohali, when the squad for the rest of the ODI series against Pakistan would be announced.

Dhoni, who led India to the World Twenty20 title in his first assignment as captain, is one of two chief contenders for the Test captaincy along with Sachin Tendulkar. Tendulkar is also widely tipped to be retained as the interim cricket manager for the home series against Pakistan. The announcement is expected to be made during the selection meeting on Saturday.

skipper Habibul Bashar, praising the centurion.

Shakib Al Hasan slammed his maiden first-class hundred as hosts Khulna cashed in against Chittagong on the first day of the second round four-day match of the 9th National Cricket League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium yesterday.

The 20-year-old left-hander's exciting 108, first in first-class this season, and half-centuries from Tushar Imran and Imrul Kayes steered the star-studded home side, which had a fruitful first-round tie against Dhaka, to finish the day on 361-7 to confirm the maximum batting points of four.

National all-rounder Shakib, who has played three Tests and 34 ODIs, clobbered 13 boundaries and a six during his 140-ball knock, to continue his good form after having made 78 in the first innings in the opening round match and 56 in the one-day game.

"It's a confident knock and he played fluently to give us a flying start in this round. What is encouraging is that has maintained some consistency. He was suffering from cold otherwise it could have been a much bigger innings," said Khulna

skipper Habibul Bashar, praising the centurion.

Number five Shakib, whose previous best was 85 in 17 first-class matches, gave only one chance in the nervous nineties but a diving Nazmus Sadat (15) and Kayes made a confident start for Khulna after being sent into bat first before the former was caught behind off Ashiqur to put an end to the 59-run opening stand.

Chittagong picked up one more wicket before lunch, when Bashar was bowled by his counterpart Ehsanul for 22 runs and the visitors got a quick breakthrough in the second session following the dismissal of left-hander Kayes, who smashed 52 off 89 balls with the help of eight fours and six.

Shakib however joined Tushar to deny further damage and shared 96 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter was dismissed by left-arm spinner Saju Datta for 51. Right-handed Tushar smote seven boundaries in his 96-ball knock.

Wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain was the other notable score with 47 off 98 balls that featured four boundaries and added 102-run with Shakib in the fifth wicket while Mashrafe Bin Mortaza played a 17-ball 21 to ensure their side's maximum batting points.

Ashiqur claimed three wickets for 71 and Saju captured three for 73 as Chittagong so far managed two bonus points.

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"It could have been much better if I made it much big and it was not impossible because I enjoyed batting on the flat track. Unfortunately, I was a little sick. I am looking forward to continue my form because I have a big target this season," said Shakib, who has already cemented his place in the

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