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Did U Know?

Badminton was first introduced as an official Olympic sport in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.



Brian Lara
(West Indies cricket legend)
"One of the reasons I have been looking forward to the Sixes is the chance to do some wicketkeeping. Playing alongside Shane (Warne) and Glenn (McGrath) is new, and it is equally unusual for me to be behind the stumps."
On his role in the Hong Kong Sixes tournament that ended yesterday.



TEN Sports
Pakistan v South Africa
Fifth ODI
Live from 12:00pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm



DRIVE'S EVENT
National Cricket League
(Second Round, Day Four)
Rajshahi v Barisal
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium
Khulna v Chittagong
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

BCB boss to attend ICC meeting

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali will attend the ICC (International Cricket Council) executive meeting in Dubai on October 30 and 31.

He will leave for Dubai today. After the meeting, the BCB president will head to Kuwait on invitation from the Kuwait Cricket Association to witness the final of the ACC Twenty20 Cup 2007, a competition for Asian Cricket Council's associate members, on November 2.

BCB's CEO Mahmudur Rahman will accompany him on the tours.

Dhaka win big

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka stormed to a massive innings and 34 runs victory over Sylhet while Rajshahi were close to their second consecutive win at the end of the second day in the National Cricket League yesterday.

Khulna continued their second innings blues when they were shot out for 204 runs. That set visitors Chittagong a winning target of 367 runs. At stumps, they were 25 for no loss. Sylhet, forced to follow on after going down for only 96 in the first innings, again showed their batting frailties, being bowled out for a slightly-improved 221 runs.

The win gave Dhaka a maximum of 16 points, while Sylhet had to be content with three bowling points. In Rajshahi, the hosts had Barisal in the ropes, trailing by seven runs after they followed on. At the end of the third day, Barisal were 216 for nine.

SYLHET-DHAKA

Resuming the day on one run, Sylhet lost opener Imtiaz Hossain when the right-hander edged to Anwar Hossain off Mohammad Sharif for 11.

Wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim was first of left-armers Mehrib Hossain's victims, falling to a catch to

Shamsur Rahman. He scored only 1. After Golam Rahman was bowled by Mehrib on 48, captain Rajin Saleh and Alok Kapali batted with contrasting styles. Rajin, ever the stubborn batsman, scored his 32 off 87 balls while Kapali was more enterprising in scoring 29 off 33 balls, including five boundaries. But one similarity



MEHRAB...m-o-m

was that both batsmen failed to take Dhaka to the last day.

Tail-enders Nazmul Hossain and Enamul Hossain delayed the inevitable, adding 79 for the ninth, with Nazmul scoring 45 and Enamul chipping in with 36.

KHULNA-CHITTAGONG

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan backed up his first innings hundred with a

composed half-century to keep Khulna on top at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Matur Rahman Stadium.

His 69-ball 50 gave Khulna the much needed push to set Chittagong a target of 367 runs on the last day. After scoring 108 in the first innings and two half-centuries in Dhaka, Shakib struck three fours and a six in his fourth successive good score in three games (two first-class and one one-day).

Apart from Shakib, none of the batsmen could match their first innings verve. With focus on setting Chittagong a target, they threw their wickets and in the end, another crucial 30 from Mashrafe Bin Mortaza took the lead past 300 runs. Chittagong's opening bowler Tariq Aziz took four for 25.

Chittagong had the lqbal brothers to thank as Tamim and Nafis made sure there was no damage in the nervous last hour.

Earlier, left-armers Syed Rasel cleaned up the tail claiming all three first innings wickets to give Khulna eight bonus points. Chittagong however took only one batting point, in addition to their four bowling points.

Chittagong need a further 342 runs for an outright victory.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Tottering on 77-9, Barisal added ten more to be forced to follow on

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Bangladesh lose 5-0

Hakimov slams hat-trick for Tajikistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's dream to move into the second round of the Asian qualifiers for the 2010 World Cup, shattered when they crashed 5-0 to Tajikistan yesterday in the second leg of the pre-qualifiers in Dushanbe.

Tajikistan, who had also qualified for the second round qualifiers for the World Cup in Germany with identical 2-0 wins over Bangladesh in both legs in 2003, advanced to the next round with a 6-1 aggregate after the first leg in Dhaka ended in a 1-1 draw on October 8.

Bangladesh, who made the trip to Central Asia with a depleted side in absence of key centre-back Nazrul Islam, began brightly and held Tajikistan to 0-0 at half time in the Tajik capital.

However, a dip in the temperature saw the visitors' performance heavily deteriorated after the break and they failed to show similar

resistance as the home side ran them ragged with Numondzhon Hakimov slamming a hat-trick.

Midfielder Zahid Hossain was unavailable for the game due to dysentery as Bangladesh's Indian coach Syed Nayemuddin had only three players in the bench.

Arif replaced Zahid in the line-up while Shuvra started beside Rajani in central defence, which cracked in the very first minute after resumption and conceded three goals inside five minutes.

Tajikistan, who made eight changes from the side that started in Dhaka -- keeping only goalkeeper Mukannin and attackers Mahmudov and Hakimov -- went ahead in the 46th minute with Hakimov opening the account and the striker added his second a minute later.

Dzhomikhon Mukhidinov found the net in the 50th minute while substitute Dilshod Vasiev was on target in the 70th.

Hakimov, who scored Tajikistan's equaliser from a penalty at the Bangabandhu National Stadium earlier this month, then completed

his treble to seal the victory from a 75-minute potluck.

Hassan Al Mamun, the Bangladesh captain who gave away the penalty, shared the best player award with Hakimov.

Bangladesh team's co-ordinator Amirul Islam, meanwhile, complained about local hospitality during Bangladesh's stay in Dushanbe.

According to a telephone message received in Dhaka, Babu informed that although Tajikistan were given 5-star accommodation in Dhaka, the Bangladesh team were kept at a non-star hotel. The food was also not up to the mark, resulting in stomachaches for a few including Zahid and Sharif.

"We played well in the first half and held them although the players felt weak due to inappropriate food. The temperature was okay (18 degrees Celsius) in the first half but it was 12 degrees in the second. Our players failed to cope with the changed conditions as the opponents went on to expose our weaknesses," Arifur Islam told over

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



STAR HUNTERS: The lightweight Sri Lankan team celebrate their title triumph after defeating the All Stars in the final at the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes yesterday.

Tigers crash from qtrs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh failed to go past the quarterfinal stages of the Hong Kong Sixes tournament, losing to Pakistan by 6 runs at the Kowloon Cricket Club yesterday.

In the five-over ball-bash, the Tigers captain Mohammad Ashraf's 31 could not inspire his teammates to go past Pakistan's 98-3.

Bangladesh got into the quarterfinal by virtue of beating hosts Hong Kong by 9 runs. Batting first, Ashraf's men scored 93 for two. The captain himself scored 26 while big-hitter Nazmul Hossain smacked 31.

In reply, the hosts could only muster 84 for one in their stipulated five overs.

U-16s booters end with four losses

SPORTS REPORTER

After their seniors suffered a 5-0 defeat to Tajikistan in the 2010 World Cup pre-qualifiers yesterday, Bangladesh's Under-16 team lost 3-1 to the Tajik youth team on the same day in the AFC Championship qualifiers.

Bangladesh, who had started the Group D qualifiers in Abu Dhabi with an impressive 9-1 win over Palestine, ended their campaign in the five-team race with that single victory and four defeats.

Bangladesh paid for missing numerous chances after the Tajiks took lead through Saidov in the 12th minute at the Al Wehdy Stadium. Shakil wasted a first half opportunity while Nadim failed to convert three sitters either side of the break as Bangladesh failed to come back in the game.

Sohel and Saifuddin also fluffed easy chances as Gafurov doubled the lead for Tajikistan in the 83rd minute from a counter attack before putting the result beyond doubt six minutes later.

Sohag reduced the arrears for Bangladesh in the 90th minute after a pass from Saikat.

Bangladesh, who lost 9-1 to hosts United Arab Emirates, 3-1 to Turkmenistan and 3-2 to Uzbekistan, will return home today.

DC Gold Cup football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Sadar Upazila defeated Barkal Upazila 3-0 in the opening match of the Rangamati Deputy Commissioner's Gold Cup football tournament which began yesterday at Rajbari Stadium in the hill town.

A total of 10 upazilas are participating in the tournament, organised by the Rangamati District Sports Association.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil inaugurated the meet as chief guest.

Sadar Zone Commander Lt Col Masud Razzak, DC of Rangamati Nurul Amin and police super Abdul Baten were present as special guests.

Kavkhal will face Juraichhari in today's match.

UNB adds: Nawabganj Upazila got off to an auspicious start in the Dhaka DC Gold Cup football tournament beating hosts Keraniganj by a solitary goal at the Nekrojbagh ground yesterday.

Alam scored the match winner for Nawabganj.

Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka M Kamaluddin inaugurated the five-team tournament also involving Dohar, Dhamrai and Savar.

BCB's best kept secret

Siddons Bangladesh's new coach

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) kept its promise to find a new national coach with Australian Jamie Siddons set to arrive in Dhaka this morning to take over the challenging assignment.

43-year-old Siddons, who is currently enjoying a role with the Centre of Excellence and as one of the assistant coaches of the famed Australian national side, will be precisely the eighth foreign coach of the Tigers provided that everything goes according to plan during his brief sojourn.

"Jamie Siddons will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow, 29 October 2007, Monday to finalise his employment contract and have discussions with the Bangladesh Cricket Board relating to his new responsibilities as coach of Bangladesh," said the press release of the BCB yesterday, confirming that the secret assignment of the board's cricket operation's committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain in India during Australia's visit there earlier this month was a successful one.

Lipu took the guarded stand

because of the twists of events over the last one month that saw shock-refusals one after another.

"Before the official signing, we can't say that Siddons is our national coach but both parties have agreed in principle and now, it's just a formality. He will make his presentation to the board," said an excited but cautious Lipu, who was under tremendous pressure to find a new coach after Australian Dav Whatmore's contract expired in May. Untreatably, Lipu was not interested to disclose the financial packages of the former Victorian batsman. However, it was learnt that he is going to receive a much-improved salary than his predecessor Whatmore, who received a monthly package of Tk 14 lakh.

"We are trying to maintain the

Australian standard," said a diplomatic Lipu.

With the surprise development it is now all but confirmed that the Tigers are going to travel to New Zealand for a full series in November under a permanent coach.

"I am thrilled to announce that I have accepted an offer from the BCB to coach Bangladesh," Siddons said in a message to the board.

The Siddons news came as a relief. Over the last month, it seemed that it would not be possible for the board's ad-hoc committee to meet their deadline after all three short-listed candidates, made by the previous board, including Siddons, withdrew from the race.

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FACTFILE

Name: Jamie Siddons										
Current age: 43 years 186 days										
Major teams: Australia, South Australia, Victoria.										
Batting style: Right-hand bat.										
Bowling style: Leg-break googly.										
BATTING & FIELDING										
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Ct	
ODIs	1	1	0	32	32	32.0	0	0	0	
First-class	160	280	22	11587	245	44.9	35	53	206	

Akhtar rushed back

Final SA-Pak ODI today

Cricket

AFF, Lahore

Pakistan's captain hopes returning paceman Shoaib Akhtar can bowl the team to victory in the final match here Monday to clinch their first-ever one-day series against South Africa.

South Africa beat Pakistan in the fourth match in Multan on Friday to level the series 2-2 and set up a nail-biting finale in Lahore.

Pakistan recalled the controversial Akhtar on Friday after he finished serving a 13-match ban for hitting a teammate with a bat during practice.

"It is a great opportunity to win a series against South Africa for the first time and we will use Akhtar as our main bowler in the hope of bringing the best out of him," said captain Shoaib Malik after practice on Sunday.

The 32-year-old Akhtar was suspended and given a 34-million-rupee (US dollars 56,000) fine for hitting fellow bowler Mohammad Asif ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa last month.

Malik said a fit Akhtar, who has been plagued with injuries this year, was an asset for the team as Pakistan looked ahead to the tour of India.

The team will fly there on November 1 ahead of five one-day internationals to be followed by three Tests.

"If fit, Akhtar is an asset and has done well for Pakistan for so many years now. But we will need a team effort to win the last match and if we win we will go on an important tour of India with more confidence."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



BACK ONCE AGAIN! Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar bowls in the nets at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. Shoaib is set to make a comeback for the crucial fifth and final ODI against South Africa after serving only half of his 12-match ban.

শোভামান
এ সপ্তাহের বিষয়: নেতা জিহি: ড. সৈয়দ মনজুরুল ইসলাম
আজ দুপুর ২ টা ১৫ মিনিটে শুধুমাত্র রেডিও টুইটে এফএম ৮৯.৬-এ
উপস্থাপনা: আবদুল নূর তুষার
আপনার প্রশ্ন অথবা অনুষ্ঠিত জানিয়ে SMS করুন ৮৯৬০ নম্বরে (knn_question)
ইমেইল করুন: knn@radiotodaydhaka.com
পোষ্ট বক্স: ৯০৩২ বনানী, ঢাকা
ফোন করুন: ০১৮১৯২২৮৯৬০ নম্বরে

SL Sixes heroes

Cricket

AFF, Hong Kong

An All-Stars team containing some of the greatest names in world cricket was beaten in the final of the Hong Kong Sixes on Sunday by a team of little-known Sri Lankans.

Over two days of carnival cricket, the All-Stars -- featuring captain Shane Warne, Brian Lara, Glenn McGrath and Anil Kumble -- had produced explosive cricket in the tournament's unique five-overs-an-innings format.

But their run of success came to end when the young Sri Lankans refused to be intimidated and

posted 127 for three after five eight-ball overs, a total that proved too much for their illustrious opponents, who made 111 to lose by 16 runs.

Also in the All-Stars squad were Zimbabwe's Heath Streak, England's Geraint Jones and Craig McMillan of New Zealand, who won the man of the tournament award for his brutal batting, though he went for a golden duck in the final.

Sri Lanka's surprise star was captain Indika De Saram who, under the Sixes' quirky rules, scored 40 in the final after returning to the wicket having earlier retired not out for 32.

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