

BFF gathers Tk 1m for Sidr victims

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) earned over Tk 10 lakhs from the best of three charity series between archivists Mohammadan and Abahani.

BFF received Tk 7.5 lakhs as gate money besides the series sponsors' Tk 3 lakhs.

"The amount is not satisfactory because we had more expectations when we arranged the matches to help the Sidr victims," said BFF acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu.

Mohammadan won the series 2-1.

Sainu slams four

UNB, Dhaka

Sainu Pru struck four goals as Rangamati drubbed Sharaitpur 8-0 to make a flying start in the second inter-district women's football competition at the Dhamondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Sainu netted in the 3rd, 8th, 12th and 35th minutes while Joya struck twice in the 6th and 46th minutes besides Nunai and Rina's one goal apiece in the 33rd and 40th minutes respectively.

In the day's other match, Rangpur outplayed Pabna 7-0 while Khagrachari beat Sathkhira 2-0 at the same venue.

BAF Josephites win easily

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Air Force and Josephites' Club won their respective matches in the Total Victory Day basketball tournament that began at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

BAF outplayed Eagles 72-22 and Josephites crushed Bangladesh Police 107-40.

Sports Adviser Tapas Chowdhury inaugurated the meet where nine teams are split into two groups.

Galle row returns

APP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's tsunami-hit cricket stadium at Galle was once again embroiled in a heritage row Sunday as it prepared to host the third and final Test against England next week.

The new pavilion at the picturesque Galle International Stadium must be demolished after the match which begins on December 18, a press report quoted Urban Development Minister Dinesh Gunawardena as saying.

"I got cabinet approval to demolish the building once the Test match is over," the minister told the Colombo-based Sunday Times newspaper, as its new construction was not in line with heritage guidelines.

Ton to help

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Khan and Munaf Patel.

"It's a great feeling to get the new ball again (in Tests), no matter what the circumstances -- injuries (to others) and everything. I was pretty happy bowling the nine overs, looking very good and feeling very good," Pathan said.

The 23-year-old's confidence ebbed when he was sent home from South Africa last December and did not make the starting XI at this year's one-day World Cup, where India made a first-round exit.

Pathan staged a comeback into the one-day team following a successful run in the Twenty20 format where he was part of the squad that won the inaugural World Cup in South Africa.

Fahim hails

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Australia and England."

He pointed out that though it was a newly compiled side, they showed spirit through performance and almost everyone contributed.

"Someone or the other stood up. But I think (Suharwardi) Shuvo, Dolar (Mahmud), Mahmudul (Hasan) and Nasir Hossain all were impressive. Rony (Talukdar) hit a hundred but did not click in the one-dayers. Mithun Ali, the wicketkeeper, kept well and scored a few vital runs at times," said the grey-haired head coach of the youth side.

He was also quite happy with Marshall Ayub, who scored a vital 88 in the pivotal fourth match, in which the young Tigers won by 13 runs.

"There was a consistent pattern and not flashes of brilliance. One must also consider that this is a must."

"Shuvo took his time and then picked up on his captaincy. There was rapid improvement to be seen," concluded Fahim.

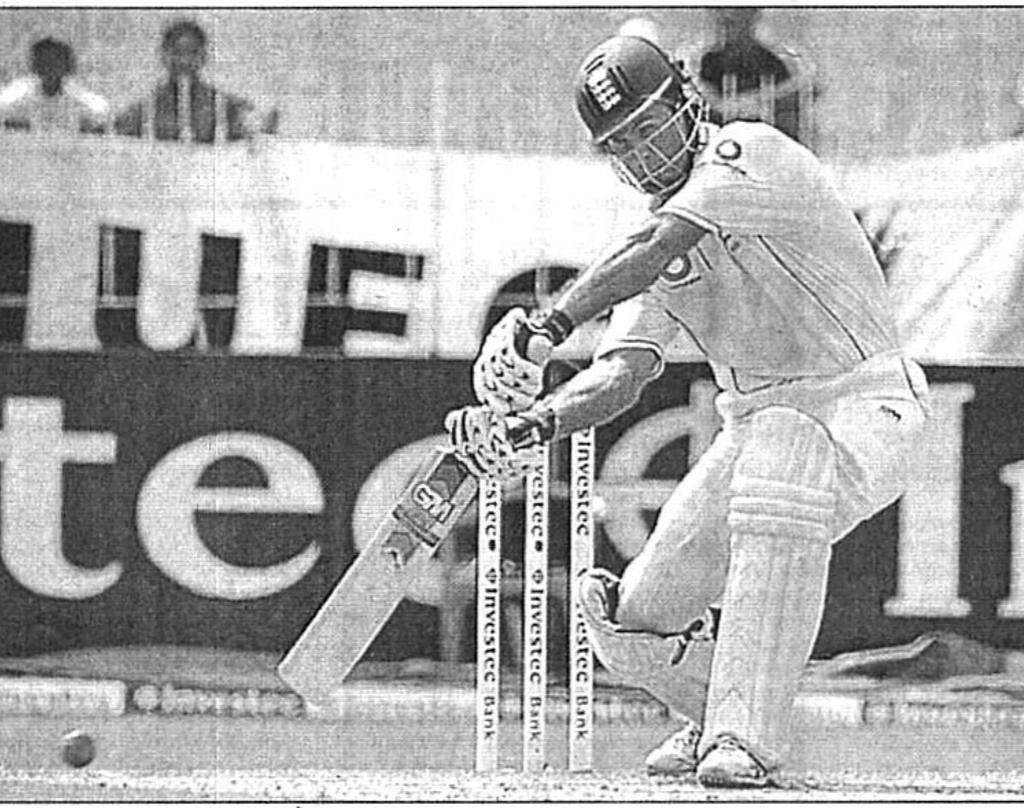


PHOTO: INTERNET
England captain Michael Vaughan drives the ball during his fine knock of 87 on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the SSC ground in Colombo yesterday.

England lose way

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Harper once again raised his finger.

Left-handed Cook, who returned to form after being dismissed for zero and four in the Kandy Test, was unfortunate to be declared leg-before by Harper off Malinga bowling with the second newball.

Replays indicated the ball would have missed leg stump and loud jeers rang out from 3,000 travelling English supporters who outnumbered local fans.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between England and Sri Lanka at the Srihale Sports Club on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings

Cook lbw b Malinga 81
Vaughan lbw b Muralidaran 87

Bell c Mulari b Muralidaran 15

Pietersen c Sangakkara b Vaas 1

Collingwood not out 49

Bopara b Malinga 0

Priore not out 10

Extras: (b-8, nb-7) 15

Total: (For five wts in 87 overs) 258

To bat: Sidebottom, Harmison, Broad, Panesar.

Fall of wickets: 1-133, 2-168, 3-171, 4-237, 5-237.

Bowler O M R W

Vaas 23 5 49 1

Malinga 14 1 57 2

Fernando 16 2 59 0

Muralidaran 34 5 85 2

Toss: England

Umpires: Aleem Dar (PAK) and Daryl Harper (AUS)

TVumpire: Gamin Silva (SRI)

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Place a bid to face Murali

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka's legendary off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran is offering his fans the opportunity to bid on eBay for the chance to face him.

The charity auction, at ebay.co.in, ends on December 11, and all the funds raised will go to Muralidaran's own charity, the Foundation of Goodness which was set up in 2004 following the tsunami which devastated the country.

The highest bidder will face ten deliveries from Muralidaran on December 16 at the Seeningama Oval in Galle.

Ash expects

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"Team like India even struggled in New Zealand but we have a good opportunity to acclimatise with the conditions as there are three warm-up matches and a charity Twenty20 game before the series," he said adding that their practice in a simulated condition would be of great help.

The 43-year-old Siddons however was not ready to look back at what happened in the past rather he wants to make a fresh start in his first assignment as a full coach.

"I've no recollection of the tour in 2001. I can compare my players with their present stature only. I am just looking for them to play good cricket as well as they can. I think my players will give their best, and most importantly we can improve throughout the tour," he said.

"We haven't had a lot of time to prepare. I have just got into Bangladesh and I won't be expecting massive improvement overnight. The important thing is that the players had good preparations in the national league and the (practice) camp," Siddons said adding that his unique practice session would help the boys to do a little better.

Siddons was also not ready to single out any individual player. "I think, there are a lot of special players. My job is to prepare all the players, not one or two only. What we look for in the players is to be consistent, to become a good player at international level."

The difference between the two incidents is that at Lord's last year when Kevin was given out, they saw the screen and they changed their opinion," added Vaughan. "It always seems to be Kevin out there. Common sense should have prevailed and I'm sure the umpires will feel exactly that way now."

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