

LIPRO
Presents
HIMOINSA
DIESEL GENERATORS
FROM SPAIN
Lipro Energy Ltd.
Call: 8817147, 8817918, 8818082

চাকরি
chakri.com.bd
A Platform for Employers and Job Seekers, to Meet and Exchange Information.
SignUp Now!!
www.chakri.com.bd



Did U Know?

Over 300 pupils from local schools compete annually for the prestige of being one of the 200 ball boys/girls at the Wimbledon Championships. Ball boys and girls are drawn solely from local schools since 1969 and 1977, respectively.



Adam Gilchrist

(Australia's just-retired wicketkeeper) "I was bawling my eyes out about two minutes before the final session." Revealing his softer side while delivering his final oration as a Test player.



STAR Sports
Australia v India
Twenty20 International
Live from 2:00pm
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

DAY'S EVENT
V-Day Club Cup Football
Mohammedan v Youngmen's Fakirerpool
Time: 5pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Smith may not tour here

SPORTS REPORTER

If there was one thing that South Africa captain Graeme Smith would like to change about modern day cricket, it would be scheduling. So much so, he's ready to sit out the upcoming tour of Bangladesh in February-March.

"The biggest issue for us at the moment is definitely the schedule and trying to manage it," Smith was quoted as saying in an interview to Independent Online, a South African website.

"We are facing the prospect of three months on the subcontinent in a couple of months' time, which

SEE PAGE 22 COL 5

Sunrise ride on Liton

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace by Liton Barman helped Sunrise Krira Chakra come from behind and edge Wari Club 2-1 for their second win in the Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Mohbarak put Wari ahead after 24 minutes with a pass from Anwar but Sunrise equalised in the 40th minute through Liton.

Liton struck the match winner in the 70th minute when he shot the ball in off the crossbar after the rival goalkeeper's vain effort to stop it.

Sunrise pushed their tally to nine points after six games while Wari remained on six points after seven outings.

Today, Arambagh meet Mohakhali XI while Badda face Dipali.

Picture not perfect

Players, business suffer alike

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Business at a good number of sports goods shops in and around Dhaka is going through a dip, much like the mercury.

From the glamorous stores on the New Elephant Road to Gulistan's wooden stalls, shop-owners are not enjoying the usual boom in business they experience every season before cricket starts in the various Dhaka leagues.

"At this time last year, cricketers were overflowing at my shop and business was pretty good. But it is so different this year," said Mahmudul Haq Rinku, owner of Active Sports at Gulistan's Cooperative Market.

"Actually the lack of money in this year's market is the main problem for us and the players. The ones who usually get one lakh taka last season are settling for 25,000 taka," he continued.

The lacklustre picture at these

stores is a true reflection of this season's transfer market. Players are becoming increasingly anxious, especially Premier League regulars and hopefuls.

But the financial downturn has made the clubs panic but none of them has gone into a panic-buying mode yet. Most are looking for a last moment spree that would see players settling for any amount, as the bourse would start by then. Smaller clubs are known to have practised this but when the bigger clubs wait on players' misery, it is alarming. Add to that, some Premier League clubs have preset squads; case in point is BKSP.

But Wasiq Rafiq, president of Sonargaon Cricketers, pointed out that his side are settled well before others.

"We wouldn't wait for those players who would settle for anything. In fact, we are the first club to have set our squad for this season and it is well within our budget," said Wasiq, a more hands-on club president than you would expect, when contacted last evening.

Apart from four players who served Sonargaon last season, Wasiq has confirmed Arman Islam, Mostafizur Rahman, Sharifullah, Saif Mahmud, Mohammad Azim and Kamrul Islam.

Promoted from last year's First Division, Surjo Torun have packed quite a punch in the market. It was learned that former national captain Khaled Mashud and Tigers all-rounder Forhad Reza are their big catches while the likes of in-form batsman Nayeem Islam, explosive all-rounder Nazmul Hossain Milon have confirmed their places and Shamsur Rahman, Delwar Hossain and Uttam Sarkar are also close to their club.

Departure of Mashud and Nayeem could weaken Abahani who, it was understood, only have confirmed services of pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza from the national pool.

Their archrivals Mohammedan, however, have the biggest name linked with them. Mohammad Ashraful, Bangladesh captain and

SEE PAGE 22 COL 4



SKILL V POWER: Muktiyoddha's silky midfielder Arman Miah (L) vies for possession of the ball with Dhaka Wanderers' African recruit Lunti during their Protivi Pharma Victory Day Club Cup tournament's first-round clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sachin set for T20 debut

PTI, Melbourne

Sachin Tendulkar is all set to make his Twenty20 debut when world champions India take on Australia in an one-off match here tomorrow with the visitors keen to maintain their supremacy in the shortest format of the game.

With the Harbhajan Singh racial issue having been sorted out, the focus will be back on cricket but the Indians can expect a fierce backlash from the Australians who have been quite livid with the developments in the last two days.

But the Indians are quite prepared to counter the home team with a number of younger players joining the team for the tri-series, leaving Tendulkar to be the only veteran player in the squad.

Tendulkar, who had opted out of the last year's Twenty20 World Cup to give chance to youngsters, has been in great form since setting foot on Australian soil and will be keen to carry the momentum into Twenty20 game and the subsequent tri-series.

The other senior players like captain Anil Kumble, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman have returned home to give way to the youngsters. The presence of the youngsters will no doubt raise the fielding standard of the team but they have to quickly acclimatise to the conditions here.

While Twenty20 star Yuvraj Singh is out of action for a couple of matches owing to his knee injury, Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Rohit Sharma, Dinesh Karthik and Suresh Raina will get the opportunity to prove their worth, depending who gets the chance to be in the playing eleven.

Pakistan rest Afridi, Yousuf

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan have tried out a few newcomers already in the ongoing series against Zimbabwe, and a 4-0 advantage has further emboldened the selectors to test more players for the fifth and final ODI in Sheikhupura.

Mohammad Yousuf, Shahid Afridi and Kamran Hussain, the left-arm medium-pace who made his debut during this series, have been omitted, while Naumanullah, Rizwan Ahmed, Junaid Zia and Abdur Rauf have been drafted into a 15-member squad.

Naumanullah was the top run-getter in the 2007-08 Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, with 949 runs at over 60. He made 86 while playing for the Patron's XI in a tour game against the Zimbabweans. Rizwan Ahmed, the leg-spinning all-rounder, has been called up while Zia and Rauf bolster the pace attack.

Of the four, Zia has previously played for Pakistan, in four ODIs against Bangladesh in 2003. He was impressive in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, with 46 wickets for Lahore Ravi, costing 26.76 apiece.

The absence of Yousuf, who scored a hundred in Faisalabad, Afridi, and Hussain mean Pakistan will make at least three changes to

SEE PAGE 22 COL 1

Giants tumble on Day 2

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

After the opening day's upset Badda victory over Abahani, the second day of the Protivi Pharma Victory Day Club Cup football tournament suffered from goal drought as both the matches ended in goalless draws.

Lack of match practice and fitness was evident as professional clubs Arambagh Krira Sangha and Muktiyoddha Sangsadh both suffered against their respective Senior Division sides at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first affair, Abu Yusuf's Victoria Sporting Club should have left the ground with a win while Dhaka Wanderers also looked similarly aggressive against Muktiyoddha later in the night.

Both the Senior Division clubs had the edge, mostly due to their in-match rhythm from playing in the ongoing league.

Mithun Chowdhury was at the heart of Victoria attacks and the prolific striker, who has kept his side among the top two in the Senior Division table, created great chances either side of the break.

Mithun picked up Jahurul, whose first-time volley on a superb cross was parried by Arambagh keeper Piru in the 27th minute.

Ten minutes from time, Mithun

provided a chance for Turjo whose header was tipped onto the crossbar by Piru before a fellow defender cleared the danger.

After Arambagh, fellow professional club Muktiyoddha made a great escape although they had a better start.

After Arman Aziz shot two long-rangers off target, Maruf's solo run brought Kanchan close to score after 22 minutes but the winger's slow reaction allowed Wanderers goalkeeper Jahangir to snatch the ball.

Jahangir then kept out a 30-yarder from Reds captain Arman for a corner to inspire a Wanderers counter attack that put Muktiyoddha's Aminul to the test.

Playing for his side after one year following injury, the national goalkeeper gripped an overhead shot well after Wanderers' foreign recruit Lunti, taking a through from Kabir, unleashed a powerful left-footer just inside form the area.

Lunti was again sent racing into the box by a headed through-ball from fellow African Luxal but this time the former shot the ball into the sideneeting after beating Aminul.

Wanderers, who had several guest players in their squad in Brothers' Shuvra, Chittagong Mohammedan's Asif, Farashgan's Kabir and Seikh Russel's Aminul, should have sealed three points inside the first 15 minutes of the second half but for Luxal's poor marksmanship.

Luxal had the whole Muktiyoddha defence at his mercy after a stunning run through the middle but too much dependency on his left foot denied him a shot at goal in the 47th minute.

The forward was within striking distance a minute later when Aminul lost a low cross from Lunti under pressure but the forward failed to take possession to waste a great opportunity.

Luxal was once again picked up by Lunti but he drove a low shot past Aminul and the sidebar on the hour.

The Reds came close to a lucky winner but Kanchan's powerful header on a centre by Rajani rattled the crossbar in the 67th minute. Kanchan should have scored eight minutes from time but his effort during a melee was cleared from the goalline by Wanderers skipper Jahangir Sr, the fullback who also kept the ball out after Maruf pushed the ball on the rebound.

Yellow card: Deen Mohammedan (Muktiyoddha)

TEAMS
MUKTIYODDHA: Aminul, Hassan Al Mamun, Rajani, Deen Mohammed, Parvez, Saiful (Manju), Arman Aziz, Arman, Mohammedan's Asif, Farashgan's Kabir and Seikh Russel's Aminul.
WANDERERS: Jahangir, Aminul, Anupam, Shuvra, Afzal, Jahangir Sr, Asif, Kabir, Lunti, Luxal and Anisul. Referee: Azad Rahman.

Love on her mind

Tennis

AFP, Berlin

Tennis pin-up Maria Sharapova has forewarned her future husband that he will literally have his hands full - once when she finally fulfils her ambition to find true love.

The 20-year-old Russian-born blond beauty, who recently won the Australian Open and has picked up more than a million US dollars in prize money already this year, is single, but says the man of her dreams had better beware.

"If I ever love a man as much as my dog, the guy will have a real problem, because I am all over that dog," the statuesque Russian said in an interview set to be published in the German edition of Vanity Fair.

"I have already had crushes during my career, but I don't believe it was true love.

"Perhaps in five years I will be able to say for sure. I think the trick is not to go looking for love."

While the future beau of the Russian may have to fight for her affections with her pet dog Dolce, Sharapova is certainly the darling of the tennis world having won all the Grand Slam titles except Roland Garros.

When Sharapova, currently fifth in the WTA tour rankings, was seven years old, her father Yuri took her to America so she could follow her dream to be a tennis player.

But having won her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2004, at

SEE PAGE 22 COL 1



A batsman drives the ball during the Cricket on Ice event on the frozen lake of Saint Moritz in Switzerland yesterday. This eccentric cricket game began in 1988 when a group of Britons challenged the students of the International Boarding School Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz to a game.

PHOTO: AFP



MARIA SHARAPOVA