

## BRAC BANK HOCKEY Usha, Ajax winners

SPORTS REPORTER

Maksudul Alam Habul struck twice as Usha Krira Chakra raced to their second successive win with a 4-0 thrashing of Wari Club in the Brac Bank Club Cup hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.

A traditional powerhouse in the domestic hockey after Mohammedan and Abahani, Usha, who got off to a flier with a 5-0 success against Ajax SC, never looked behind after Zahidul Islam Rajon broke the evening's duck scoring a from a penalty corner in the 22nd minute.

They took a 2-0 lead just before the break with Moniruzzaman finding the target from another well directed penalty corner. The second-half saw two brilliant field goals from their star forward Maksudul Alam, who sealed the one-sided affair with strikes in the 42nd and 48th minutes respectively.

While Usha rolled past a hapless Wari, Ajax had to toil to tame Bangladesh SC 2-1 in the first game under scorching summer sun.

Ajax led the first-half by a solitary goal with Sharafat Ali hitting the board in the 26th minute. Rajib Ahmed made it 2-0 two minutes after the break before Bangladesh Sporting captain stepped up to convert a penalty stroke minutes before the final whistle.

## Mumbai sweat on Tendulkar

CRICINFO, undated

Sachin Tendulkar has said he was not yet fully recovered from his groin injury, leaving him a doubtful starter for the Mumbai Indians' opening IPL match on April 20.

With just three days left for Mumbai's first match, Tendulkar said he was still following a rehabilitation regime and was not 100 per cent fit. "I am a little disappointed that I was not able to play in the two important matches against South Africa. I am yet to recover fully from the injury," he told reporters.

The physiotherapist and the doctor had earlier advised me rest and now they have given me the exercises and I am following their advice."

The Bangalore franchise has also been hit with a few injury concerns.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



## Did U Know?

Korfball is the only sport played with mixed teams, consisting of 4 men and 4 women.



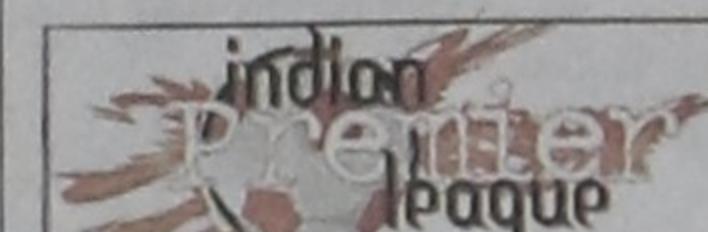
**Peter Roebuck**  
(Revered English cricket writer)  
"Its new leadership has shown itself to be spineless, amoral, unprincipled, shallow, self-centred, ill informed and contemptible."  
How he sees the International Cricket Council office-bearers.

**What to WATCH**  
Indian Premier League  
Bangalore Royal Challengers v  
Kolkata Knight Riders  
Live at 8:30pm  
ESPN

**SET MAX**  
Indian Premier League  
Bangalore Royal Challengers v  
Kolkata Knight Riders  
Live at 8:30pm  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm



## It's IPL time Captains to toss under spotlight



CRICINFO, undated

It will probably be for the first time in their lives that Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly, former India captains and now rival skippers in the Indian Premier League (IPL), will walk out for the toss in a stadium plunged in darkness.

Minutes after a "short, sharp and sweet" opening ceremony on Friday to launch the inaugural edition of the Twenty20 tournament, the organisers are planning to switch off the floodlights in the Chinnaswamy Stadium before the first match between Dravid's Bangalore Royal Challengers, the hosts, and Ganguly's Kolkata Knight Riders, the visitors, which begins at 20.00 local time.

"Then, the spotlights will come on, and focus on the two skippers as they walk out for the toss," Charu Sharma, the Royal Challengers' chief executive, told Cricinfo.

"We are pushing to have the toss under spotlights and are waiting for permission from local authorities, considering the number of people who will be there at the stadium when the lights will be switched off. This is something that has not really been tried before," he said.

After the toss, a couple of players from the fielding side will be "miked up" to chat directly with the TV commentators during the match. "Another attraction for the TV audience, but this has been done before, I guess," Sharma said.

However, the "most poignant moment" of the 45-minute opening ceremony starting 18.30, Sharma said, would be when all the captains gather mid-pitch to jointly read out a pledge reaffirming the IPL's faith in the spirit of cricket. "There will also be speeches by Ray Mali, the ICC president, Sharad Pawar, the BCCI president, and Lalit Modi, the IPL chairman."

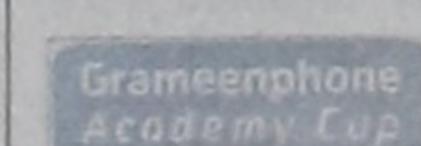
The rest of the ceremony will be a "slick" blend of fireworks, stilt walkers, aerial gymnasts, performers in a bubble suspended over the ground and some Bollywood glitter with the presence Shah Rukh Khan, also the co-owner of the Kolkata team, and Preity Zinta, co-owner of the Mohali franchise. "Shankar-Ehsan-Loy (the Bollywood music directors) will be the central performers who will keep the crowd enthralled throughout the ceremony even as the other performers go through their acts," Sharma said.

Bangalore is also banking on 12 cheerleaders from the Washington Redskins, the 'First Ladies of American Football', to draw more fans to the stadium. "The entire exercise is to have the right balance of glamour and cricket. Usually, cricket is not associated with such ceremonies, and this will be a novelty. At the same time, we would not want the genuine cricket fan to get frustrated waiting for the game to start. Our aim is to present a spectacle that's short, sharp and sweet, which reflects the spirit of the IPL," Sharma said.

Bangalore Royal Challengers, which is owned by Vijay Mallya, the business tycoon, is playing a key role in organising the opening ceremony on their home ground in association with the Karnataka State Cricket Association and the IPL.

## PCA book final berth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Pakistan Cricket Academy complete their job to secure a place in the final of the tri-nation Grameenphone Academy Cup tournament when they easily outclassed South Africa Cricket Academy by 85 runs at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium here yesterday.

Two consecutive defeats in as many matches, on the other hand, pushed the Proteas youngsters in such a position from where their chances to stay now looked very much improbable.

Electing to bat first Pakistan scored a defendable 240 for six in their stipulated 50 overs with the help of two half-centuries from man-of-the-match Wahab Riaz, Shehzad (74 runs off 81 balls) and Khalid Latif (51 runs off 81 balls).

Shehzad, who scored only 18 against Bangladesh on Wednesday, showed his class and fluency of strokeplay yesterday. He hit 13 fours to all corners of the field. Latif, who played an impressive innings of 84 against the host team, added another nicely composed 51 to his name with the help of five fours and one mighty six.

Khurram Manzoor, another half-centurion of the first match, scored 12 followed by Asad Shafiq (18), Azhar Ali (23), Ali Asad (28\*), Anwar Ali (10) and Imdad Wasim (14\*).

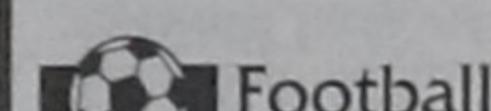
But the real feature of the play was the build up of few steady but mediocre partnerships between the Pakistani players that eventually guaranteed the final score more



SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Ahmad Shehzad sweeps one on way to scoring a stroke-filled 74 against South Africa Academy during their tri-national tournament match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

## Vision Bangladesh back



SPORTS REPORTER

following the NSC chief's meeting with AFC president Mohammad Bin Hammam during the latter's visit to Bangladesh earlier this month.

"We must have coaches at school level so that children can learn from their mistakes early. As an under-developed country, we must also create job-oriented training for young footballers. We have to build multi-purpose grounds so people can take shelter during natural disasters like flood as well as the youth play sports," said the NSC chairman.

Gen Moeen admitted that maybe the current national team will not do better results right at the moment but in a decade's time, the results will start flowing through this grassroots project.

"I hope we will be able to reach the standard set by the AFC in 10 years. I know the Vision Bangladesh will not help our national team but certainly it's

going to develop at the grassroots. To regain our lost glory in football, we should try to develop at school level with help of this AFC programme," added Gen Moeen.

Later in the afternoon, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan admitted that his organisation failed to continue the programme.

"BFF takes full responsibility for failing to carry on such a beautiful project," said Sultan during a press briefing at the local football's headquarters where acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu and the AFC delegation were also present.

The project has been shelved on FIFA-AFC directive to make amendments to the statute of the federation.

It was also revealed that FIFA and AFC have asked the BFF to employ a full-time general secretary, much like a CEO.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Younis returns for fifth ODI

CRICINFO, undated

Younis Khan has been included in Pakistan's 16-man squad for the fifth ODI against Bangladesh, after making himself available for selection. His decision comes days after opting out of the series citing the need for rest. Upon the conclusion of the second ODI, Younis had asked to be omitted for the remainder of the series, a wish the selectors granted for the subsequent two ODIs.

The selectors have made one more change, bringing in Wahab Riaz, the left-arm seamer, in place of Sohail Khan, who took career-best figures of 3 for 30 in Pakistan's seven-wicket win over Bangladesh on Wednesday. However, Cricinfo has learned that the selectors were satisfied with Sohail's performance and are looking to "nurture" him for the future, but wanted to give an opportunity to Wahab, who had made his ODI debut in the home series against Zimbabwe.

The fifth ODI, which will be a day-night encounter, will be played in Karachi on April 19.

### SQUAD

Shoaib Malik (captain), Salman Butt, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Misbahul Haq, Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal, Sarfraz Ahmed, Fawwad Alam, Bazid Khan, Naumanullah, Sohail Tanveer, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul, Rao Iftikhar, Wahab Riaz.

### LOCAL SNIPS

SPORTS REPORTER

There were crucial wins for Gazi Tank Cricketers, Cricket Coaching School (CCS) and Orient Sporting Club in the Super League of the First Division Cricket League in Dhaka yesterday.

But Gazi Tank's victory all but confirms Brothers Union's chances of climbing back to the Premiership next season. Gazi Tank rode on Masumuddoula's 54 to reach 204-8 in 50 overs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Brothers were shot out for 156 in 49.4 overs as they went down by 48 runs. Astar took three for 28 while Apurba snared two wickets too.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Anhoo's 65 gave Orient a four-wicket win over Bangladesh Boys. Batting first, Boys were bowled out for 219, a target that Orient reached in 48.4 overs.

CSCS also kept their hopes of promotion alive, winning by six wickets against Indira Road at the Dhammudi Cricket Stadium. CCS bowled out Indira for 151 runs in 48.4 overs with Himesh taking four wickets. Later, they romped to their target in only 27.1 overs.

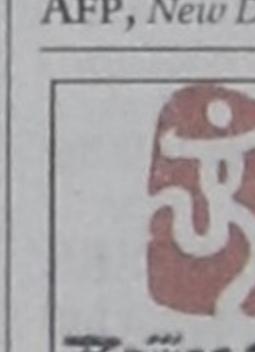
In the other match of the day, Habib scored 133 off 146 balls to give Azad Sporting Club (268-2) an eight-wicket victory over Rupali Bank (266-6) at BKSP.

DIV II CRICKET  
UNB adds: Chandpur Cricket Academy beat Wari Club by 33 runs in the Second Division Cricket League at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

AFP, New Delhi



Beijing 2008

Hundreds of Tibetan demonstrators were arrested in India and neighbouring Nepal Thursday as thousands of police and soldiers defended the Beijing Olympic torch on a suffocating run through New Delhi.

The heart of the Indian capital was sealed off for the most sensitive leg of the protest-hit global relay to date, with security personnel far outnumbering the schoolboys and the other few select onlookers allowed to watch.

India is home to 100,000 Tibetan refugees, including the Dalai Lama and radical youth groups, and authorities wanted to ensure that

chaotic protests like those seen in Paris and London did not mar the event.

The scaled-back 2.3-kilometre (1.5-mile) relay lasted little more than 30 minutes, and there were no disruptions to the event itself.

Relay participants were tightly marshalled by tracksuited Chinese police and soldiers, and allowed to run a few metres each.

An estimated 16,000 police, soldiers and even elite commandos were deployed to throw up a huge security cordon around the central thoroughfare between the presidential palace and India Gate, two of New Delhi's main landmarks.

"We have around 170 to 180 people in custody," a senior police official told AFP after a day marked by a string of protests and shrouded by a sense of atmosphere featuring tracker dogs, bomb disposal units and metal detectors.

Another 46 Tibetans were arrested in India's financial capital Mumbai as they tried to storm the Chinese consulate, police in the city said.

In neighbouring Nepal, police said they had arrested more than 500 Tibetan refugees as they protested outside the Chinese embassy, the most rounded up

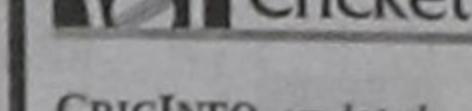
SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



National Sports Council chairman and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed (C) speaks after the 'Vision Bangladesh' presentation at the BFF Bhaban yesterday. Also seen in the picture are (R-L) Vision Asia project director Brendan Menton, Asian Football Confederation general secretary Dato Paul Mony, Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan and acting BFF general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## An all-star cast



CRICINFO, undated

turn into a good replacement for Nathan Bracken. Misbahul Haq and Abdur Razzak, the Bangladeshi left-arm spinner, won't be part of the first game -- nor will the injured Anil Kumble -- but Bangalore still have a potential line-up to go all the way.

Cameron White arrives with 878 runs in 26 Twenty20 matches. A strike-rate of 160.80 suggests an explosive quality like few others in the league. He's also a handy leg-spinner and could well be the lynchpin.

**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS**  
Without Makhaya Ntini and Albie Morkel (who will miss the first two games) the Chennai bowling looks a bit thin. They will now rely on Muttiah Muralitharan and Jacob Oram with the Indian domestic players -- Joginder Sharma, R Ashwin and Manpreet Gony -- to back them up. Mahendra Singh Dhoni is unlikely to keep early wickets.

**BANGALORE ROYAL CHALLENGERS**  
It's not the best of signs when a captain uses the word "uncertainty" three times in a sentence but Rahul Dravid still has plenty of options to choose from. A flurry of flip-flops ended with Jacques Kallis and Mark Boucher being allowed to stay back and Ashley Noffke may

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4