

Olympic Day Run tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will organise the Olympic Day Run across the country tomorrow.

It is the first time the annual event of the BOA will be held in all districts including the six divisional headquarters in a bid to spread the Olympic movement to every corner of the country.

"We have asked all the sport federations, divisional and district sports associations and the women's sports associations to take necessary measures to join the programme," told BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed at a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday.

BOA vice-president and Olympic Day Run organising committee chairman and Mizanur Rahman Manu, BOA CEO Col (ret) M Waliullah, joint secretary general Anisur Rahman Dipu, Gazi Group chairman Gazi Golam Dastagir, EXIM Bank director Nurul Fazal Bulbul and Coca Cola Far-East Limited's country director Debashish Deb were also present.

"We have also distributed funds to them to meet expenses," Kutub added.

The Run will begin at 7.30am with Bangladesh Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman as chief guest in Dhaka.

The BOA has a number of sponsors in Dutch Bangla Bank Limited, Gazi Group Limited, Coca Cola, EXIM Bank Limited, Amicus Properties, BD Blazer and Samsonite.

The IOCh has provided US dollars 4,000.

The BOA will also organise art competition and blood donation programmes.

Broad worry for England

CRICINFO, undated

England are hopeful that Stuart Broad will recover from the knee injury which kept him out of the warm-up defeat against the Mumbai Cricket Association XI, on Tuesday.

Broad picked up his knee problem during England's first warm-up match on Sunday where he bowled four overs. His knee swelled up but has responded to treatment and the England management will monitor him in the build-up to Friday's opening ODI.

"He's had it injected and it seems to have reacted, but we won't know until he bowls before the match," Peter Moores, the England coach, told Sky Sports.

If Broad joins Sidebottom on the sidelines, it will leave England short of quick-bowling choices for the first ODI. Steve Harmison, James Anderson and Andrew Flintoff played in both warm-up matches, and there is a strong chance England will field two spinners, but it doesn't leave much room for any late injury or illness problems. Ravi Bopara and Luke Wright both offer seam options, although neither bowled during the two warm-up matches.

The squad will head to Rajkot with the embarrassment of being bowled out for 98 by the Mumbai Cricket Association XI still fresh in their minds, but captain Kevin Pietersen has been quick to draw a line under the dismal performance.

Barisal, Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 17

Rezaul 43, Rashedur 0, Monir 9*, Roy 1, Tariq 3-29, Kamrul 2-32, Younus 1-72, Mahmudul 2-17, Anas 1-15). Result: Chattagong won by 53 runs. BARISAL: 274 and 146. DHAKA: 116 and 186 all out in 54.3 overs (Javed 0, Anwar 33, Shamsur 53, Riyad 1, Marshall 58, Nadif 21, Milon 7, Elias 1, Kabir 8, Ashraf 1, Al-Hamim 0*, Talha 3-44, Tariqul 1-23, Dutta 4-53, Arafat 1-8, Nasir 1-24). Result: Barisal won by 118 runs.

KHULNA: 229 and second innings 213 all out in 63.3 overs (Moinul 0, Amit 28, Ashraf 30, Sahagir 56, Tushar 40, Salim 17*, Zia 10, Dollar 0, Sadat 5, Murad 0, Mahmuduzzaman 13; Kabir 2-44, Shuvo 2-55, Shahzada 1-31, Shaful 4-38). RAJSHAHI: 390 and second innings 53-2 in 16.4 overs (Jahurul 23*, Mizanur 3, Farhad 4, Shuvo 13; Zia 1-7, Dollar 1-19). Result: Rajshahi won by eight wickets.



Did U Know?

J R Borota of France was the oldest participant at the Wimbledon Championships. He played in the gentlemen's doubles at the age of 65 years 317 days in 1964.



Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed speaks at a press briefing in connection with the Olympic Day Run at the NSC conference room yesterday.

'Put heat on Ricky'

CRICKET

INTERNET, undated

Former New Zealand off-spinner Deepak Patel believes the pressure on Ricky Ponting and the huge amount of criticism directed at the Australia captain is something the Black Caps should exploit.

Ponting has come under fire from former Australia captain Allan Border and the Australian media for his decision to boost the over rate of his bowlers rather than attack the Indians after they had slipped to 166 for six in the final Test in Nagpur.

The Indians rallied late on the fourth day and eventually went on to win the Test and the series 2-0, with most laying the blame squarely on Ponting, who risked being suspended for the first Test against New Zealand if the over rate fell too far beyond what was required.

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"The pressure from the press there will be pretty negative, so it will make a change that we arrive and the pressure is on them rather than our guys."

"If we are smart we can play on it." Patel however shied away from installing the Black Caps as favourite.

INTERNET, undated

Shane Warne has defended Australia's under-fire captain Ricky Ponting following the 2-0 series defeat in India.

Ponting's leadership came under scrutiny after some bizarre decision-making during Australia's fourth-Test defeat in Nagpur, a result that secured the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for India.

With the hosts in trouble at 166-6 in their second innings at the tea interval on day four, the Tasmanian opted to bowl part-time bowlers Michael Clarke and Michael Hussey to increase the over rate at the start of the final session.

Ponting has already been fined twice this year for his side's slow over rate and faced a possible one-match ban if they transgressed again.

'Good for the game'

CRICKET

AFP, Abu Dhabi

West Indian captain Chris Gayle Wednesday said Australia's Test series defeat in India could be a turning point in international cricket that will make the game better.

India beat Australia 2-0 in the four-match series, raising hopes that a team other than Australia could become world champions in the future.

"India beating Australia is a turning point for us. Getting more wins over such an opponent will make cricket even better," said Gayle who is here for a three-match series against Pakistan, which started here on Wednesday.

Australia's 2-0 loss to India has prompted experts to predict that the world champions' dominance of the game is nearing an end, particularly after the retirement of the likes of Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne and Adam Gilchrist.

But Gayle said he didn't believe that to be the case. "Australian dominance fading, definitely not. Any team playing in India is difficult to beat. However we need to give credit to India for having beaten them," said Gayle, 29.

Gayle said Australia still had a lot of experience at their disposal. "I don't know what their cricket will lead to, but there are a lot of experienced players there and a lot of guys who play a lot of first class cricket."

"We have two more series coming up and these are opportunities for the youngsters to make their marks and help the team to more wins," said Gayle whose team plays two Tests, five one-days and two Twenty20 matches in New Zealand next month.

The West Indies then host England for four Tests, five one-day matches and one Twenty20 international between February and April next year.

Another former skipper Roquibul Hassan had a disappointing tally of just three votes while Abdul Qyum Chowdhury also got three.

Earlier in Category 1, former BCB joint secretary swept the Dhaka division votes with 57 ballots. Jamalpur representative Abdullah Al Foad Reduan (37) joined the former national footballer in the board after finishing second.

His detractors have accused Ponting of putting himself before the team, a charge the skipper has furiously denied.

But with the pressure on the Australia captain unlikely to ease ahead of the opening Test in Brisbane, which starts on November 20, Patel, who played 37 Tests and 75 one-day internationals for the Black Caps, believes New Zealand should look to make the most of it.

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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh blanked Nepal 3-0 yesterday to move to the second place in the Junior South Asian Tennis Championship.

U Sae Sue beat Nepal's Sandesh Sing 6-1, 6-1, Mofazzal Hossain defeated Subhash Rajbahadur 6-0, 6-0 while Sue and Mofazzal beat Nepalese pair Sandesh and Dibakar Ojha 6-2, 6-0 in the doubles. India, who beat Sri Lanka 3-0, led the table with maximum three wins.

NATIONAL CRICKET Moulvibazar (220-8) beat Habiganj (94) by 126 runs in the 29th National Cricket Championship at the Sylhet Stadium. In other matches, Comilla (280-4) thrashed Rangamati (111) by 169 runs, Faridpur (80-2) beat Manikganj (78) by eight wickets, Sathkira (91-5) beat Narail (88) by five wickets, Pabna (178-8) beat Rajshahi (177) by two wickets and Kishoreganj (192-9) beat Gazipur (179) by 13 runs.

DIV II SOCCER Dhanmondi Club and Prantik Krira Chakra shared points in a 1-1 draw in the Second Division Football league at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. Mizan put Dhanmondi ahead after eight minutes while Al Amin scored level in the 53rd minute to secure the sixth point for the side in 13 games. Dhanmondi have 14 points also after 13 matches.

DIV III TRANSFERS The Third Division Football League transfers will begin on November 20 in the city. The procedures will be held from 6-8.30 pm for the first three days and closes at 9 pm on the fourth and final day.

DIV HOCKEY UNB adds: Police AC and Dhaka Wanderers earned identical 1-0 goal wins in the Green Delta Metropolitan First Division League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium. Police beat Farashganj SC with Ramjan Ali Babu's 61st minute strike while Chanchal AI scored Wanderers' match winner against Uttara Hockey Club in the 68th minute.

BGCC duo off to Delhi

SPORTS REPORTER

Maj (ret) Yaad Ali Fakir, founder member of Bangladesh Blind Cricket Council (BCCC), and Hafizur Rahman Bullet, captain of the BCCC cricket team, will represent Bangladesh in the annual general meetings of Asian Blind Cricket Council and World Blind Cricket Council.

The two-member delegation has already left for Delhi, where AGMs will be held on November 15 and 16.

Sonia begins

FROM PAGE 17

"Our players are motivated after the draw against the home side. We also don't know the recent performance of Indonesia but we will play positive and better football. The rest depends on tomorrow's conditions."

Although Ariful, the rightback in a five-man backline did not train, Emily and Arman joined training.

"We are playing against the main team of Indonesia but we have the confidence to play well as all players are mentally boosted. Tomorrow our target is to make something better for the nation," Bangladeshi Skipper Matur Munna said.

Vice captain and key centre-back Sujjan thinks that the injury would not be a big problem. "It's a part of the game. I am hopeful to play good as a team and everybody is serious and committed."

Hard working defender Rajani also believes that the draw against Myanmar has made the team's morale high. "We now have the will force to play better and everybody is confident to work hard for the country."

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Gambhir has no regrets

CRICKET

PTI, New Delhi

Gautam Gambhir had to sit out the Nagpur Test against Australia in the fourth Test in Nagpur for elbowing Shane Watson, but the India opener said he was provoked by the all-rounder and had no regrets for what he had done.

"No gentleman can bear things that I did was wrong, in Delhi. If what I did was in Nagpur, even being sledging should be stopped, it has no place in the game," said the left-hander.

"They were sledging from all corners, they sledged at me in Bangalore, Mohali and then in Delhi. I could have taken (their sledging) only to a point but they tend to get personal which is just not on," he added.

"I agree that I shouldn't have crossed a certain line but people should take the holistic view rather than blaming just me for the episode. Frankly, I don't regret the Watson episode," he said.

Gambhir, who scored Test in Delhi and a hundred before that in Mohali, said Australians never liked their opposition giving a tough fight to them.

"They don't like when the opposition reacts the way we did. Australians were never expecting that we will come hard at them and that's why they reacted the way they did."

The Delhi batsman, who emerged the highest run-getter in the four-match Test series with 463 runs, said he was unhappy for being ignored for the Man of the Series Award, which was bagged by Ishant Sharma.

"I have never been that lucky, maybe I didn't get 400 I'd be lying if I said it didn't hurt. I do comfort in the fact that the team won the series and I am really happy for Ishant who bowled his heart out in the series," Gambhir told ESPN.

The opener thought said he would never shed his aggressive image despite the recent tiff with the Australians.

"I like to be aggressive, I am a fighter who plays for his team, his country and will do everything to restore that pride and never you'd see me taking a backward step."

And reacting to Shahid Afridi's comment that the ban on playing Nagpur Test would help the India opener learn lessons, Gambhir said, "It is a joke coming from Afridi, actually, he should concentrate on his own game rather than telling me what to do. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones at others, I can't take Afridi seriously."

On criticism against him for getting out in the 60s and 70s, Gambhir said, "Frankly, it doesn't really bother me what critics say as long as I help my team and my country win series after series and tournaments after tournaments."

"VVS Laxman told me in Sri Lanka that my biggest challenge will be playing against Australia and I need to pass that test. I met him in Nagpur and asked him if I did clear that test, he told me, 'you have not only passed the test but passed it with a distinction.'"

"I don't think I need any more approvals from anyone," said Gambhir.

Gayle powers WI

FROM PAGE 17

four boundaries in one Abdur Rauf over and then greeted first-change Gul with two powerful sixes as he reached his half-century off just 36 deliveries.

Chattergoon ably supported his skipper with four boundaries during his 55-ball knock before he hauled out to Shoaib Malik in the 20th over.

Gayle, who reached a hundred with a single off Malik, failed to capitalise on a drop catch by Gul into the hands of Shahid Afridi at mid-wicket in the same over.

Sarwan took the baton from Gayle and reached his fifty with a delightful cover drive off Gul for his fifth boundary. He then fell to smart leg-side catch by wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal off Afridi in the next over.

Chanderpaul and Xavier Marshall (26) gave the final touches as West Indies notched 71 off the last ten overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the West Indies innings in the first day-night international against Pakistan at Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Wednesday:

WEST INDIES
Gayle c Afridi b Gul 113
Chattergoon c Manzoorb Malik 33
Sarwan c Akmal b Afridi 55
Chanderpaul c Butt b Tanveer 36
Marshall b Gul 26

Baugh c Malik b Gul 5
Nash run out 9
Taylor b Tanveer 3
Powell b Tanveer 0
Miller not out 0
Extras: (lb-6, nb-2, w-6) 14
Total: (For nine wks in 50 overs) 294
Did not bat: L Baker
Fall of wickets: 1-125, 2-198, 3-213, 4-255, 5-276, 6-285, 7-294, 8-294.

Bowler O M R W
Tanveer 10 1 42 3
Rauf 9 0 77 0
Gul 10 0 66 3
Malik 10 0 43 1
Afridi 10 0 45 1
Fawad 1 0 15 0

Toss: West Indies
Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS), Mark Benson (ENG)

Daily Star

FROM PAGE 17

perfect 35 and 30 respectively in the last two games.

Shamim Ashraf played the perfect supporting act with Azad in a solid opening stand where his contribution was seven.

Amard Arthoniti never looked comfortable in their chase after Daily Star pace demon Jasim Uddin Khan struck with his very first delivery.

The Daily Star will face The Independent in the semifinal at 10:00am today. The final will also be held today.

Tough task for booters

FROM PAGE 17

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Hard working defender Rajani also believes that the draw against Myanmar has made the team's morale high. "We now have the will force to play better and everybody is confident to work hard for the country."

Bangladeshi goalkeeper Aminul, who was in tremendous form against Myanmar, said they would try to keep their promise to win a place in the last four. "We