



Did U Know?

The first ice-skating World Championship was held in St. Petersburg in 1896, and was won by a German skater called Gilbert Fuchs.

What to WATCH

SuperSport 2

South Africa v Bangladesh

Second Test, Day 1

Live from 3:30pm

Neo Cricket

India v England

Fifth ODI

Live from 3:00pm

ZEE Sports

UEFA Champions League

Liverpool v Marseille

Live from 2:30am (Thursday)

ESPN

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

TEN Sports

ICL World Series

Pakistan XI v World XI

Live from 8:00pm

UEFA Champions League

Bordeaux v Chelsea

Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

Plan damage limitation

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY in Johannesburg

It doesn't get any tougher than playing South Africa in their own den and for the Tigers it was like a knife's edge that ripped them apart in the first Test, which they lost by an innings and 129 runs last week.

Now ahead of the second and final Test, which starts today at Centurion, Mohammad Ashraful's men have only one mantra: Be courageous and face the South African pace fury with some degree of fire.

"Before the series we all knew how big the challenge would be to face South Africa in their own conditions. We bore the brunt of it in the first Test. But we have to have the courage if we want to improve our performance," said Ashraful while talking with the Bangladeshi reporters prior to the second and final Test.

"We can't survive against this attack if we keep thinking of leaving the ball. Rather we can only take off the pressure if we punish the bad balls and keep scoring against them. Patience is important but we can't be bogged down against this attack," he added.

The Bangladeshi captain believed that Dale Steyn would be a major threat like he was in the first Test where the fiery fast bowler finished with a match haul of seven wickets including his maiden five-for against the tourists.



Mohammad Ashraful works on his horizontal bat shots at Super Sport Park yesterday ahead of today's second Test against South Africa.

total of 369 and Dhaka replied in glee.

KHULNA-BARISAL

It was all action at the Khulna Divisional Stadium as Barisal posted a competitive 252 in their first innings, only to find out that the small total was good enough to win in two days.

Paceman Talha began Khulna's destruction, taking five wickets in the first innings with some help from military medium Salahuddin, who took three wickets.

The pace duo then ensured they each left with eight wickets in the kitty as Salahuddin ended with a five-for in the second innings while Talha took three and picked up the man-of-the-match award.

Only Raihan Anas, an under-19 allrounder, entered double-figures in both innings, scoring 19 not out and 20 respectively.

CHITTAGONG-RAJSHAHI

Shafiqul Islam and Suharwardi Shuvu took three

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Barisal hand Khulna two-day rout

SPORTS REPORTER



ISPAHANI

MIRZAPUR ETIA

Cricket

Usain Bolt

(Jamaican sprint superstar)
"It is something that will remain with me for the rest of my life, and something that will remain with the people who saw it."

On his achievements at the Beijing Olympic Games.



UIU lift TT team title

SPORTS REPORTER

United International University (UIU) clinched the team title of the 3rd UIU-Bank Alfarah table tennis tournament defeating Brac University 3-1 at the UIU auditorium yesterday.

Earlier, UIU moved into the final eliminating North South University 3-0 while Brac ousted East West University in the semifinals.

The singles and doubles finals will be held today at the same venue.

Nafees powers Bangladeshis

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh XI scored 165 runs in 19.3 overs to beat India XI by five wickets in the ICL World Series match at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad last night.

Aftab Ahmed and Alok Kapali played handy knocks in a five-wicket, last-over win, but it was Shahriar Nafees' splendid unbeaten 70 from 54 balls that finished the job in tense fashion.

Totals around 160 had proven tough to defend all season, and India will rue that no batsman apart from their captain, R Sathish, went on to score something substantial in their total of 164 for nine.

Bangladesh lost Nazim-

uddin in the opening over of their chase, slogging Rajaraman Jesuram's fourth ball to third man. That brought Nafees to partner Aftab, and they took after the attack like there was no tomorrow. Nafees slapped ten in two balls from Rakesh Patel while Aftab, executed the paddle shot superbly against the medium-pacers. The Aftab-Nafees stand had added 52 in 6.4 overs before Aftab missed a slog-sweep and was bowled by Inder Shekhar Reddy for 26 from 18 balls.

Kapali got off with two slugs - one for six, the other for four - against Reddy. His third six came off Patel, a lovely lofted drive over cover, and it inspired Nafees to saunter out of his crease and deposit Ali Murtaza for the biggest six of the night.

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Muktijoddha in more trouble

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsads's struggle continued despite the club received Tk ten lakh from their B. League sponsors recently.

Players have not attended camp regularly in the last two weeks as the club officials distributed only Tk two lakh as footballers salary.

Players complained that the officials have divided the rest Tk eight lakh among themselves.

"So far, we have received just a month's salary. The players had made a great sacrifice by deciding to play for Muktijoddha without any financial guarantee. We did it only for the sake of the club's existence but even after financial solvency, the officials keep ignoring us," said a footballer yesterday seeking anonymity.

Dismissing the allegations, acting general secretary of the club Saidur Rahman Feroz told that they are trying to

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Runs scored... Wickets down...

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BCB's new EC makes debut today

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly elected executive committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is expected to elect a senior vice-president and two vice-presidents through secret ballot in its first meeting this afternoon.

The ad-hoc committee, which has been in control was in charge of the board since August 2007, however, will have its last meeting before handing over charge to the new committee at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur.

Former BCB general secretary Mahbub Anam and Enayet Hossain Siraj are the two likely candidates for senior vice-president, which will be elected by the 24 directors. In case of a tie, board president Maj Gen Sina Ibne Jamali will cast his vote.

The other two vice-presidents will be elected by the directors of their respective categories.

Jahid Hossain of Khulna or Sirajuddin Mohammed Alamgir of Chittagong will vie

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Rasel uncertain for SL series

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm seamer Syed Rasel will have no activity for up to three weeks, according to chief selector Rafiqul Alam.

The Khulna paceman who returned home midway from the South Africa tour on November 17, has been asked to rest by team physio Darryn Lifson after suffering a back injury.

"The latest on Rasel is that he has been asked to rest for three weeks and won't be playing National Cricket League in the meantime," said Rafiq.

"We are awaiting a report from our physio Darryn Lifson and then the due course of action will be taken. Hopefully he will be fit for the Sri Lanka series," added the chief selector.

If he does return to action after a month, he might only have the last round of NCL to prove his fitness ahead of the Sri Lanka series that begins in the middle of December.

Rasel has been in and out of the Tigers' side since a shoulder dislocation he suffered in New Zealand. He has played only eight of Bangladesh's 26 ODIs this year, and hasn't played in a Test since July 2007.

Like the other bowlers, Rasel didn't have too much success in the ODI leg of their South Africa trip, giving away 131 runs in 20 overs for his two wickets.

As a like-for-like replacement, Sajidul Islam was called up to the Test squad in South Africa.

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Russel back on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Touati Youness fired a 90th minute winner to help Sheikh Russel reclaim pole position with their fifth win and end Brothers Union's unbeaten run in the Citycell B. League

yesterday.

Maksudur Rahman Bulbul opened the scoring in Russel's 2-1 win at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Moroccan forward Youness, who played as a midfielder, scored a poacher's goal after Brothers looked set to hang on for a draw with Atiqur Rahman Mishu's equaliser.

With 17 points from eight games, Russel who lost to Mohammedan in their previous match, opened up a one-point lead over Abahani who have a match in hand.

Meanwhile, Brothers' maiden defeat in seven rounds endangered their championship hopes as they stuck to the mid-table with ten points.

Brothers coach Wasim Iqbal, however, could only blame his players for throwing away the chance to take lead in the first half which they dominated.

Henry Quaye created a fine opening after ten minutes when the Ghanaian striker drew Russel goalkeeper Azam well out of his line during a corner and set Divine Chibuike with a nice pass. But the Nigerian midfielder, who had only a couple of rival defenders in front and no goalkeeper, failed to keep his volley on target near from the penalty spot.

Mishu then failed to control a pass by Zahid who picked up Divine unmarked minutes later but the Nigerian's weak effort from close gave no trouble to Azam.

The Oranges kept up the pressure but Hossain survived a series of threats, an otherwise unimpressive Russel came close to score twice against run of play but Alfaz blasted his

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Striker Bulbul (No. 9) scores the opening goal for Sheikh Russel in their Citycell B. League match against Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

India sense 7-0 sweep Fifth ODI against England today

Cricket

AFP, Cuttack

India will approach Wednesday's fifth one-day international against England as the start of a new series after clinching a decisive 4-0 lead, with the tourists out to salvage some pride.

National under-19 captain and top-order batsman Virat Kohli, left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha and recalled all-rounder Irfan Pathan could make their first appearances in the series on Wednesday.

India vice-captain Virender Sehwag said coach Gary Kirsten wants the hosts to play with the same intensity even though the seven-match series had been comfortably won already.

"Gary said we should see the remaining matches as a three-match series and try to win them all," Sehwag said ahead of the day-night match.

England, meanwhile, will use the remaining games to get used to the fervent atmosphere in South Asian cricket

at the Barabati stadium in this coastal eastern town.

India are expected to throw in new faces for the rest of the series as the selectors attempt to build a strong base for the 2011 World Cup, to be hosted in South Asia.

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