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Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 27, 2009, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

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Ash's all-round show

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraf continued his impressive run while left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak returned to business in the second round of the Premier Division Twenty20 cricket yesterday.

Ashraf's all-round performance gave Gazi Tank their second consecutive win while Abahani and Mohammedan also maintained their winning streaks. Bangladesh Biman, on the other hand, bounced back from their first round defeat.

The under pressure Tigers skipper followed up his 20-ball 32 with a three-wicket haul for 21 runs as Gazi Tank brought down Surjo Torun, who upset Biman in the first game, by 54 runs.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Gazi showed strong batting performance when national opener Imrul Kayes smashed a 26-ball 47 with two fours and four

sixes and number nine Mukter Ali clobbered four sixes in his whirlwind 9-ball 28 to put up 169 for eight in their stipulated 20 overs.

Surjo Torun were bundled out for 115 runs. Earlier in the morning, a scintillating 59-run opening stand between Shamsur Rahman (39) and Nasiruddin (30) guided Mohammedan to 154-9 at the same venue. In reply, Arafat Salahuddin slammed a 27-ball 44 but still Victoria were all out for 120 to suffer a 34-run defeat.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Abahani rode on Nasir Hossain's 32-ball 37 to beat Old DOHS by four wickets as the holders scored 125-6 in 19.4 overs to DOHS's 124 for eight.

In the second match at this venue, CCS beat BKSP by six wickets. Atiqur Rahman's 34-ball 37 helped BKSP score 123 while Nazmul Hossain and Nizamuddin Ripon scored 30 each as CCS achieved the target in 19.1 overs.

At BKSP, Razzak, who has been suspended from international cricket due to illegal action, bowled yesterday after a break as the board's bowling review committee had given him the

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India arrive in Lanka

PTI, Colombo

The Indian cricket team, led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni, arrived at the Bandaranaike International airport here yesterday afternoon and was received by Sri Lankan officials.

The players were given a warm welcome. A large crowd had turned up to catch a glimpse of the stars as they trooped out from the terminal.

The Indians had a practice session in Chennai in the morning from where they boarded a flight to Colombo.

Dhoni and his teammates will take on the hosts in five-match one day series, beginning with the first ODI on Wednesday at Dambulla.

The tour will be rounded off with a Twenty20 international on February 10.

Niaz slips to second

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed slipped to second position in the First Gurgaon Open International Chess tournament after the end of sixth round in Haryana yesterday.

Niaz Haryana another half-a-point when he drew with Ukrainian GM Yuriy Kozobov to secure five points to share the second spot along with thirteen other players.

FIDE Master Mohammad Javed and Debaraj Chatterjee have four points each while Mohammad Ali and Monir Hossain bagged 3.5 points each. In the sixth round, Debaraj

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HOW ARE YOU? England XI's Kevin Pietersen shakes hands with a young fan after his century in his side's warm-up match against St Kitts Invitational XI at Warner Park in Basseterre on Sunday.

Kevin leaves everything behind

AFP, Basseterre

Kevin Pietersen put the confusion of the last month behind him, and Owais Shah made a strong claim for a place with hundreds in England's opening tour match against St. Kitts and Nevis on Sunday.

Pietersen hit 103 at better than a run-a-ball, and Shah was undefeated on 125, as England, choosing to bat, reached 424 for eight in their first innings at the close on the first day of the three-day match at Warner Park.

Steve Harmison made 58 in a late flurry, and Alastair Cook got 52 early on, as England plundered the inexperienced St. Kitts and Nevis attack.

Leg-spinner Akito Willett, the son of former West Indies left-arm spin bowler Elquemedo Willett, still managed a career-best five wickets for 118 runs from 24 overs.

Pietersen was removed from the post of England captain, following a dispute with former England head coach Peter Moores, but he showed there clearly may not be any hard feelings, when he smashed 13 fours and three sixes from 107 balls.

Shah, looking to unseat Ian Bell for a place in the middle order for the first Test against West Indies in Jamaica, cashed in on the modest attack and hit a dozen boundaries from 169 balls.

England were away to a shaky start, when their new captain Andrew Strauss fell for a duck, when he fended the second ball of the match from Calvin Williams to third slip.

Ian Bell came to the crease and with Alastair Cook, the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Bangladesh Golf Federation's senior vice-president Major General Shafiqul Islam (R) addresses a press conference organised in connection with the Bangladesh Open Pro-Am Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Pro golf returns

SPORTS REPORTER



(KGC) today.

Out of the 73 professional golfers, 52 are from India including three Nepalese, two US and two Australians, who compete with 21 local players in the Tk 30 lakh professional tournament, the second of its kind to be held in the country after 2001.

The hosts will pin hopes on Siddikur Rahman, whose rank is 12 in the Indian circuit. Among the visitors, four players have higher rankings than the top Bangladeshi golfer, a double-tourner on the PGTI in 2007-08.

The tournament will tee-off today with the Pro-Am event while the main part is scheduled for January 28-31.

It is also the first time that the Aircel-PGTI's is being held outside India.

The Indian party includes big names like Rahil Gangjee, Gaganjeet Bhullar, Shamim Khan, Harmeet Kahlon and Bhendra Gupta.

The top 50 players will receive the prize money with about Tk 5 lakh going to the winners. The ten amateurs are taking part in the meet for exposure but will not receive prize money even if they finish among the top 50.

"We are delighted to hold our first event in partnership with Aircel-PGTI. Golf has experienced tremendous growth in Bangladesh over the last few years and Aircel-PGTI's initiative to revive the Bangladesh Open will give further impetus to this sport in our country," said Maj Gen Md Shafiqul Islam, vice president of Bangladesh Golf Federation, at a press conference at the KGC.

"The Kurmitola Golf Club is in great condition and we expect very keen competition among the top professionals of the region."

"This is a landmark event for us as it not only marks our debut outside India but is also a major step towards raising the standard of professional golf in the South Asian region," said Padamjit Sandhu, director of PGTI.

"With support from the Bangladesh Golf Federation, we are confident that we will not only be able to develop Bangladesh Open into a major event on the tour but also help develop professional golf in the country. On behalf of Aircel-PGTI and all our tour partners, I sincerely thank BGF for helping create another professional event for the players of the region."

Formed in 2006, the PGTI is recognised as the official body of professional golf in India. PGTI's objective is to promote professional golf in the country by conducting prize money tournaments through sponsorships as well as giving players an opportunity to be involved in decision making for all aspects of the game.

South African double

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Adelaide

South Africa completed a magnificent Test and one-day double over Australia with an eight-wicket win in the fourth one-day international at the Adelaide Oval on Monday.

AB de Villiers (82) and Hashim Amla (80) shared an unbroken stand of 144 as the tourists took winning 3-1 lead in the one-day series, with one match to play.

After losing the toss, the tourists ripped through the Australia batting line-up with Makhaya Ntini (3-52) and Dale Steyn (3-49) on song.

Only Ricky Ponting (63) and James Hopes (42) provided home resistance.

The commanding victory, on Australia Day at the picturesque Adelaide Oval, will help avenge problems on Ponting, who takes his beleaguered side to Perth for the final match of the five-game series on Friday.

Should South Africa win at the WACA, they will usurp Australia at the top of the one-day team world rankings.

Ponting won the toss and opted to utilise what looked like a flat batting surface to compile an intimidating total for his opponents.

But his plans were thrown into disarray within the first three overs when both openers needlessly gave their wickets away.

Both men were caught by Morne Morkel -- the swashbuckling David Warner mis-hit Ntini to mid-on before partner Shaun Marsh holed out to third man in the next over.

Ponting and Mike Hussey rebuilt the innings with a 93-run stand, with the Australia captain

looking particularly imperious through the covers and mid-wicket.

But Hussey's dismissal -- trapped lbw by Proteas skipper Johan Botha on 28 -- sparked a capitulation by the home side, losing their remaining eight wickets for just 110 runs.

Ponting fell soon after, while Cameron White (30) threatened a lower-order renaissance alongside Hopes before the hard-hitting Victorian edged Steyn to de Villiers, who was keeping wicket in place of the injured Mark Boucher.

Australia's prospects of building a defensible total ended when Albie Morkel to Neil McKenzie at cover in the 47th over.

And the innings ended an over later when Ben Hilfenhaus was caught behind off Morkel.

With a less than intimidating total to chase on an easy-paced wicket, South Africa made an emphatic start -- courtesy of big hitting from Herschelle Gibbs.

The opener struck 38 from 29 balls, using his feet to shuffle down the wicket to the quicks, before guiding Hilfenhaus to Mike Hussey in the 10th over.

Jacques Kallis (13) fell soon after, but man-of-the-match de Villiers and Amla compiled a brilliant match-winning stand.

Amla in particular looked assured, caressing anything straight through mid-wicket while de Villiers used his feet intelligently to disrupt the rhythm of the Australian attack.

De Villiers's innings featured one six and six boundaries from 85 deliveries.

SCOREBOARD
The fourth one-day international between Australia and South Africa at the

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Badda record first win

SPORTS REPORTER

Imran hit 62 as Badda Ekota registered their first victory in the First Division T20 Cricket League when they handed a five-wicket defeat to Azad Sporting Club at the CCG ground yesterday.

Badda Ekota achieved their target in the last ball as they scored 158 for 5 in 20 overs in reply to Azad's 155 for seven.

At the same venue, Bangladesh Boys (137-8) continued their winning spree when they secured their third consecutive win with a 33-run victory over Jatrabari Krira Chakra (104-10).

In the DUG ground, Indira Road posted their second win when they beat Prime Doleshwar by five runs. Indira scored 122 for six and then wrapped up Prime for 112 runs.

Brothers Union recorded their first win in a row when they beat Sadharan Bima by 12 runs at the same venue. Bima scored 112 for seven in reply to Brother's 124 for eight.

Khelaghar (99-1) bagged an emphatic nine-wicket win over Agrani Bank (98-9) at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. It was Khelaghar's third win in a row.

In the other match at this venue, Orient (121-6) defeated Eskaton (118-6) by four wickets to register their first win in three games.

Top seeds move up

SPORTS REPORTER

Top seed Sathi Sarkar and Disha Islam along with Ayami of BKSP moved into the women's singles semifinals of the Runner Group Tennis tournament at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Sathi beat Anchal 6-1, 6-0, Disha won 6-1, 6-2 against Leena and Ayami defeated Z Zoba 6-0, 6-0 to reach the women's singles semis.

In the men's singles, top seed Amol Roy beat Niranjan Ram 6-3, 6-2, Omar Faruk Sunny beat Asmatullah 6-1, 6-1, Anwar Hossain beat Robin 6-3, 6-3, Dipu Lal beat Hanif Munir 6-4, 6-3, Mofazzal Hossain beat Pritul Mondal 6-3, 6-4, Ranjan Ram beat Mahmudul Haque Babu 7-6, 6-0 to move into the quarterfinals.

In the boys singles, top seed Rustom Ali beat Akhtar 6-2, 6-3, Sajal beat Sadhan Das 3-6, 7-5, 7-5, Shams beat Sami Laskar 6-0, 6-0, Tanjib beat Aqib Munir 6-2, 6-4, Essam Sami Laskar beat Mamun 6-4, 6-2, Delwar Hossain beat Sajjad 6-0, 6-3, Ranjit Passi beat Biplob 6-1, 7-6 to advance to the quarterfinals.

Russel hope dented

SPORTS REPORTER



Stadium yesterday.

Russel bounced back after conceding an early lead when Samir Omari cancelled Shakil Ahmed's opening goal while Alfaz Ahmed's 14th league goal gave them a 2-1 advantage at the break.

Wajed Gazi's men, however, failed to keep the tempo after the break and Zahid Hossain nodded in a deserved equaliser for the Oranges in the 66th minute.

After 16 matches, Russel climbed to 35 points -- three points behind leaders Abahani who have a match in hand. Brothers on the other hand, remained fourth with 28 points

after 16 outings.

Brothers, who rested last week, got off to a bright start when Kenyan player Nicodemus cut the ball back from the right flank to catch Russel goalkeeper Azam and defenders Hassan and Zahurul napping. The ball rolled to the left side for Shakil to tap home just ten minutes after start.

Moroccan striker Omari and Alfaz paired to lead Russel's raiders and they got the result in the 28th minute in shape of a penalty when Omari was felled by rival centre-back Ariful inside the area.

Omari's weak shot from the spot was parried by Zia but the Moroccan kept his cool, slotted in the rebound, though under pressure from the charging Brothers defenders, for his fifth goal in as many appearances.

Alfaz, now the top scorer of the league, came close in the 36th minute when he went past Shakil down the right but Ariful's inspired tackling inside the box dispossessed the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Sheikh Russel's Alfaz Ahmed (L) going past Brothers Union fullback Mishu during their Citycell B League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Murray's dream over

AFP, Melbourne



Top seed Nadal maintained his perfect record by sweeping past Chile's Fernando Gonzalez and into a last-eight clash with France's Gilles Simon as the Spaniard seeks his maiden hard-court Grand Slam.

But pre-tournament favourite Murray went down in a gripping five-setter to Spanish star Fernando Verdasco, who beat the Briton 2-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Rounding out the men's quarterfinals was

French fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga who proved too hot to handle for American James Blake in a 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) rout. He will meet Verdasco for a place in the semis.

Williams was fortunate in a tournament throwing up plenty of surprises when a distraught Victoria Azarenka retired with an apparent virus while leading 6-3, 2-4.

Azarenka, the 2005 Australian junior champion from Belarus, had broken Williams twice to win the first set and was down a break in the second when she eventually conceded in floods of tears and was helped off by two trainers.

"I woke up at 6:00 am and I was throwing up

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What to WATCH
STAR Sports
Australian Open
Live from 6:00am
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
English Premiership
Portsmouth v Aston Villa
Live from 1:55am (Wednesday)



Did U Know?

1998 Australian Open winner Petr Korda was labelled a drug cheat after testing positive for steroids at Wimbledon the same year.



Glenn McGrath

(Former Australia fast bowler)
"It's probably best to give him a chance to find out what first-class cricket is like. Give him a handful of games to provide him a bit of experience."
On the wonder boy David Warner.

Citycell B League
Rahmatganj v Mohammedan
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka
Time: 4:30pm