



Pakistan women cricketers go through a fitness drill at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Shilpa buys RR stake

BBC ONLINE, undated

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and a partner have bought a stake in an Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket team.

Shetty picked an 11 per cent stake in the Rajasthan Royals with her partner Raj Kundra. She will also be the brand ambassador for the team.

Rajasthan Royals won the inaugural edition of the tournament last year.

Several other Bollywood stars like Preity Zinta, Shah Rukh Khan and Juhi Chawla, are associated with the cash-rich event.

Rajasthan Royals, led by Australian spinner Shane Warne, came out the surprise winners of last year's inaugural IPL.

Sagar topples Liza

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar won the seventh round board against Shamima Akter Liza to snatch the lead in the BASIC Bank 30th National Junior Chess Championship yesterday.

Sagar improved his tally to 6.5 points while Liza, Abdullah Al Saif, Sharif Hossain, Rezaul Islam Babu and Masum Hossain secured six points each to share the second spot.

Mohammad Imran Ali Elin, Ikramul Haque Siam and Mahfuzur Rahman were in third position with 5.5 points each.

Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Club Infinity defeated Sammonoy Sangha by seven wickets and DCP Club beat Lenin Smrity Sangsad by 59 runs in the Gaibandha Second Division Cricket League yesterday.

In the first match, Sammonoy were shot out for 57 runs in 18.5 overs which was successfully chased down by Infinity in 13.2 overs for the loss of three wickets.

In the other match, DCP scored 137-4 in their quota of 20 overs and then bowled Lenin Smrity out for 78.

Dacourt

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Dacourt, capped 21 times by France, previously played in the Premier League for Everton and Leeds and he arrives at a Fulham side on the up under manager Roy Hodgson with the London club now ninth in the table.



Did U Know?

Lonwabo Tsotsobo became the fifth South African player to take four wickets or more on debut in the fifth and final one-day international against Australia on Friday.

India take series

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For two runs. He smashed 17 fours in his 90-ball knock for his 10th hundred in one-dayers.

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene used six bowlers, but none could stop the flow of runs as Yuvraj and Sehwag were quick to punish errors in line and length on a slow pitch.

Yusuf Pathan also feasted on an inconsistent Sri Lankan attack, hitting three sixes and four boundaries in his 38-ball 59 not out for his second half-century.

He added 85 for the unfinished sixth wicket with skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (35 not out). The duo helped their side plunder 83 in the last 10 overs.

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Sri Lanka and India at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Tuesday:

Sehwag run out	116			
Tendulkar lbw b Fernando	7			
Gambhir run out	10			
Yuvraj c Kapugedera	10			
b Muralidaran	117			
Dhoni not out	35			
Raina st Sangakkara b Mendis	9			
Y Pathan not out	59			
Extras: (nb-3, w-7)	10			
Total: (For five wks in 50 overs)	363			
Did not bat: P Kumar, Z Khan, P Ojha, Isharma.				
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-24, 3-245, 4-265, 5-278.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekara	10	0	68	0
Fernando	8	0	63	1
Maharoor	7	0	68	0
Mendis	9	0	64	1
Muralidaran	10	0	60	1

Windies no pushovers

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similar, if not identical result to give them an early boost of confidence.

Captain Strauss has some concern about his main strike bowler Harmison. He has fond memories of his Test-best seven wickets for 12 runs, and would relish a chance of proving himself on a pitch that is likely to give him and all the faster bowlers generous assistance.

"We all know that the more Harmy bowls, the more rhythm he gets into and the quicker he gets it through as well," Strauss said.

Dyson meanwhile expects the conditions in the Caribbean to favour his side.

"We are playing at home, in our own territory," he said. "We know the conditions very well, and we're happy to play again in the sunshine, and we are far happier with the weather here."

Recent history indicates that Sabina Park will produce a result. The last 10 Tests have all ended in victory, but West Indies will be distraught to learn that they have been on the wrong side of four of the last five.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES (from): Chris Gayle (captain), Lionel Baker, Suleiman Benn, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Fidel Edwards, Amit Jaggernauth, Xavier Marshall, Brendan Nash, Daren Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Dale Richards, Ramnareh Sarwan, Devon Smith, Jerome Taylor.

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook (vice-captain), Tim Ambrose, James Anderson, Ian Bell, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Steve Harmison, Monty Panesar, Kevin Pietersen, Matt Prior, Adil Rashid, Owais Shah,

Marathon at Cox's Bazar on Feb 7

SPORTS REPORTER

With a view to make friendship with nature, two marathons competitions will be held on Marine Drive road in Cox's Bazar on February 7.

Extremist, a fitness club, in association with Swiss Bakery, Lloyd Vision and Akiz Group, will organise the Bangla Marathon (42.195 kilometres) and half marathon (21.095 km).

The second edition of the competition will start at 6 am.

The aim of the competition is to publicise Cox's Bazar sea beach, the longest sea beach in the world and incorporating the beach in the seven natural wonders of the world, organisers said at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity conference room yesterday.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation will provide residential facilities for the marathons.

Sajal Khaled, general secretary of Extremist, said 97 participants took part in the marathon's inaugural version in 2007 with 21 completing the race.

Registrations will be held on February 6 (from 12 to 6 pm) at Motel Prabal in Cox's Bazar.

Extremist president Yahya Khan, Ulfat Kader, proprietor of Swiss Bakery, and Hussain Mahmud Rasel, president of Lloyd Group, also spoke on the occasion.

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