

DIV I CRICKET
Trio starts with wins

Sports Reporter
Brothers, Eskaton and Indra Road began their campaigns with a victory each in the Dhaka First Division Cricket League yesterday.

In a curtailed game of 39 overs-a-side, the Baridhara Dazzlers were handed a six-wicket defeat by Brothers at the Dhaka University Ground. Chasing a stiff target of 222 runs, Brothers finished at 223-4 in 37.5 overs.

At the Dhanmardi Cricket Stadium, Eskaton emerged victorious by 26 runs against Rupali Bank after putting 160-9 in the stipulated 36 overs. Eskaton's Rezaul played a fine knock of 47 runs while Raihan bowled well to pick up 4 wickets for 31 runs.

ICL cancels W Series

Cricket Info, undated

The Indian Cricket League (ICL) has hit recession mode with a series of moves that reflect the current economic realities. The World Series Twenty20 tournament, scheduled for March, now stands cancelled, and payments to players have been put on hold until the management completes a stringent performance review that could lead to downgrading of payments and even sackings.

Himanshu Mody, the business head of the ICL, said the non-availability of Pakistan players - Lahore Badshahs are the ICL's biggest draw -- was the other major reason for the cancellation of the March tournament, which will be replaced by one involving Indian players.

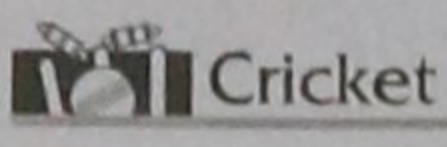
Several other initiatives have also been lined up, including a talent-spotting programme in schools across India, Mody told Cricinfo.

That apart, the ICL is also trying to plug some glaring holes from the last season and has terminated the contracts of Chris Cairns and Dinesh Mongia, who were asked to leave midway through the last season.

Three prominent Indian players, two from Australia, and one from Pakistan have confirmed to Cricinfo that their payments have been delayed and said no timeframe has been specified so far.

While the players claimed that payments for 2-3 months are to be paid, ICL officials said that dues up to December have been cleared. It was all over when Zahid

Aus-NZ 'final' today



Cricket Info, Brisbane

Despite four matches in two weeks, the Chappell-Hadlee Series comes down to one game as the fifth and final one-day international between Australia and New Zealand takes place at the Gabba today.

However, New Zealand remain surprised and pleased to be in with a chance of winning. No matter what happens in this game, the young side will go home with extra belief after up-ending the hosts in such a dramatic way early in the series.

Australia's players, who were hurt and upset by the initial defeats, roared back in Sydney and Adelaide, and will be intent on not wasting this hard-earned position.

In the other match, Farhad, Nasir and Pulak scored in PWD's 3-0 defeat of Rampura KC.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17
players followed her with four points.

Ali and Rony scored in the second half as Rainbow AC came from a goal down to beat Rahmatganj SC 2-1 in the Citycell 3rd Division Football league at the Shaheed Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) trial for under-15 football camp began at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with 54 players taking part on the opening day.

Former national booters Hasanuzzaman Babloo, Sheikh Mohammed Aslam, Kaikobad, Moteleh Hossain, national coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, BFF technical director Shahidur Rahman Shantoo and SZ Yusuf were present as selectors. Brazilian head coach Edson Dido Silva was also present.

BFF's selection for the U-13 development football festival ahead of AFC's U-13

Brothers' 9th

FROM PAGE 17
Farashganj, who crashed 4-0 to Brothers in the first-leg, came back strongly when Nigerian striker Kalu Johnson escaped down the right wing and chipped the ball with his right foot in the 54th minute.

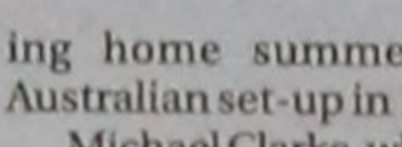
Four minutes later, Liton's freekick from the right went out harmlessly after kissing the top of the crossbar as the riversiders stayed alive for a fightback. They got a golden chance in the 76th minute when Enamul got beyond the opposition defence.

It was all over when Zahid sped into the penalty area and clinically finished, putting the ball beyond outstretching custodian Al Amin for his sixth league goal.

Both teams end their campaign on February 17 -- the final day of the league -- with Farashganj facing Sheikh Russel in Dhaka and Brothers playing away against Chittagong Mohammedan.

TEAMS
BROTHERS: Zia, Aurup, Ashraf, Akramuzzaman, Liton, Mishu, Zahid, Liton (Roni), Matur Munna, Shakil, Tapu (Parvez) and Henry.
FARASHGANJ: Al Amin, Ramjan, Emeke, Mamun Mia, Rajib, Kabir, Khokon, Dominic, Faisal (Rintu), Enamul (Mamun) and Johnson.
Referee: Shahidul Islam.

Muralidaran shocked



Cricket Info, Colombo

Muttiah Muralidaran has said he knew Mahela Jayawardene was planning to quit the captaincy but the decision on Wednesday left the team in shock. Jayawardene said he was stepping down to give his successor enough time to settle down before the 2011 World Cup.

Muralidaran pointed to Jayawardene's impressive record as captain of the Test team over the last three years - his win-loss ratio of 62.5 per cent is the best by a Sri Lankan captain -- and said his ability to manage the younger players and see the team through the transition phase was "brilliant".

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He endured lots of off-field pressure and politics, as any captain does in Sri Lanka, and then walked away with his head held high.

Modi in trouble

Troubled Rajasthan Cricket Association president and Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lahit Modi has landed into fresh controversy after the Nagrik Morcha has demanded a probe against him for not depositing the promised sum to the chief minister's benevolent fund.

The state convener of the Nagrik Morcha, Pandit Suresh Mishra, told reporters that during the first edition of the IPL, Modi had announced they would deposit six crore rupees to the chief minister's relief fund for victims of bomb blast that rocked the pink city on May 13, 2008.

After the match between Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians on May 17 at SMS Stadium Jaipur, Modi had presented a cheque of six crore rupees to then CM Vasundhara Raje but in reality the said amount was never deposited, "alleged Mishra.

Qadir defended Afridi's selection in the probabilities list for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka and said the right-handers was a rare commodity who could bat, bowl and field with equal expertise.

Qadir bats for Afridi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief selector Abdul Qadir has thrown his weight behind out-of-form Shahid Afridi insisting that a player of his talent deserves to be a part of the national team.

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Modi in trouble

Trapped batsman and spinner Harbhajan Singh and pacer Munaf Patel are set to return for the New Zealand tour when the selectors meet in Chennai today to pick the ODI and T20 squad.

The national selectors are likely to retain most of the players who played in the just-concluded one-day series against Sri Lanka.

Harbhajan, who did not tour Sri Lanka due to a hamstring injury, and Munaf, who injured himself after playing the first ODI in Dambulla, are certain to make it to the ODI squad.

Earlier, Arman Hossain top scored 42 for the inserted Victoria, who failed to bank on a 72-run opening stand between Arman and Amit Majumder (31).

DOHS, BKSP win

FROM PAGE 17
BKSP from a precarious 99-7. The number seven batter who shared two significant partnerships, 47 for the eighth wicket and 27 in 14 deliveries for the unbroken last wicket, cracked five fours and two sixes in an explosive 55 not out off 41 balls.

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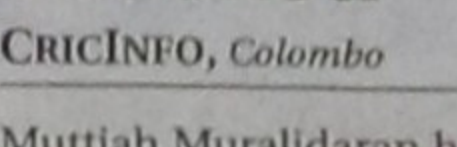
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Mahela explains why



Cricket Info, Colombo

Mahela Jayawardene said on Thursday his poor form in recent one-day matches was a factor in his decision to resign as captain of Sri Lanka.

"I was not making runs according to the standards I had set myself," Jayawardene, 31, told reporters a day after deciding to step down as captain after the upcoming Test series in Pakistan.

"I have been thinking about it for a while and it was the right decision made at the right time," he said.

The middle-order batsman, who scored just one half-century in his last 17 one-day innings, said he gave up the captaincy so that his successor could build a team for the 2011 World Cup.

Sri Lanka are one of the co-hosts of the showpiece one-day event, along with India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Long-time deputy Kumar Sangakkara is widely tipped to take over as Sri Lanka's captain, with Jayawardene confirming "there is an obvious successor to the throne."

"This is the ideal time to leave my successor to make his own imprint."

Jayawardene, named the International Cricket Council's captain of the year for 2006, said the decision to resign was his own and not based on any outside influence.

Media reports said the selectors had proposed to split the Test and one-day captaincy, so that Jayawardene could lead in the longer version of the game while his successor took over the one-day role.

Jayawardene said he wanted to contribute both as leader and top-order batsman during the two-Test series against Pakistan starting on February 21.

"I want the team to win the series for me," he said.

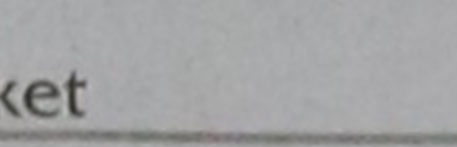
Jayawardene guided Sri Lanka to the World Cup final in the West Indies in 2007, where they lost to Australia.

He captained Sri Lanka in 26 Tests, winning 15, losing seven with four draws.

In 94 one-day internationals under him, Sri Lanka won 54 and lost 35 while the rest ended in no-results.

The first Test in Pakistan will be played in Karachi from February 21-25, while the second and final match will be played in Lahore from March 1-5.

England aim to level



Cricket Info, Colombo

FROM PAGE 17
need to make whatever adjustments are necessary individually to become better, sooner rather than later."

West Indies captain Chris Gayle admitted that a single Test victory -- as dramatic as the opening Test was -- will not be enough to satisfy his side, let alone their fans, that they have turned the proverbial corner.

"We're not going to be lackadaisical for sure," he said. "But we will not put any additional pressure on ourselves because the expectations are going to be high. People are going to be looking for us to go out there and do even better."

"But we just need to play some good, simple, basic cricket like what we did in Jamaica. People said we batted too slow in the opening Test, but patient innings really, really count, since time is very important, especially in a Test match."

"So it's going to be really important for us to stick to the basics. We have to take it one step at a time and see how we cope with it."

"The first session will be key as well because we know that England will be coming hard at us."

Though the team management have called for cool heads to prevail, England are more than likely to make changes to their line-up.

Two soft dismissals and the rising tide of criticism should see Ian Bell lose his place to Owais Shah.

Monty Panesar's hardly fruitful toil on a pitch where Suleiman Benn snared eight wickets places him under the microscope with Graeme Swann waiting.

Steve Harmison and Ryan Sidebottom looked way below their best and James Anderson presents a viable alternative.

Though there could be few complaints about their batting in the opening Test, West Indies chose to fortify their batting reserves.

They have brought left-handed all-rounder Ryan Hinds and utility player Lendl Simmons into their 14-member squad.

But the selectors face a difficult choice about how to accommodate either or both of them, since only one sure place has opened up in the batting, following the omission of Xavier Marshall.

TEAMS
WEST INDIES (from): Chris Gayle (captain), Lionel Baker, Suleiman Benn, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Fidel Edwards, Ryan Hinds, Brendan Nash, Daren Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Lendl Simmons, Devon Smith, Jerome Taylor.

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

Super Cup

FROM PAGE 17
two-crore event, expected to be sponsored by BFF's 'partner in progress' Citycell.

The BFF wants to bring the good old crowd back to the grounds after the ongoing B-League virtually failed to do so.

The format of the tournament has yet to be finalised but BFF officials confirmed that the winners will get Tk one crore, the runners-up Tk 25 lakh and the four semifinals Tk 5 lakh each.

The remaining teams of the eight-team meet will also get appearance money and the BFF is contemplating ring-fencing foreign referees for the semifinals and the final to avoid any type of controversy.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Grid for crossword puzzle with clues: 1 Tavern, 34 Field, 19 Work-bench, 12 Anything, 35 Family member, 8 Lens, 36 Surrender, 12 - Got a Secret?, 40 Blue, 13 Jam in a, 41 'Listen!', 42 Refuse, 14 Impression, 15 Cotton or tobacco, e.g., 47 Stir-fry, 19 Lancaster, 48 Time of anticipation, 18 Do surveillance on, 19 Trumpet part, 20 Point of view, 22 Approached home plate, maybe, 24 Millinery, 25 No. 1 recording, 29 St. G, 30 Gap, 1 Sapporo, 32 Service stripe.

Grid for Cryptokuip puzzle with clues: 12, 15, 20, 21, 24, 29, 32, 37, 38, 39, 41, 46, 49, 44, 45.

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Advertisement for Bangladesh VoIP Service. Includes logo of Bangladesh Telecom Commission, text: 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন আইইবি ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ, ৭ম ও ৮ম তলা), রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০ অবেধ VoIP সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন (বিটিআরসি)'র নিষেধাজ্ঞা অমান্য করে কতিপয় অসাধু চক্র অবেধভাবে ভিওআইপি (ভয়েস ওভার ইন্টারনেট প্রটোকল) প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহার করে কল টারমিনেশন কার্যক্রম চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে। এর ফলে সরকার বিপুল পরিমাণ রাজস্ব হারাচ্ছে। সাধারণত বৈধ পদ্ধতিতে কল আসলে কলকারীর নম্বর প্রদর্শন হওয়ার কথা। তবে ইদানিং লক্ষ্য করা গেছে, বিদেশ থেকে আগত কলে বাংলাদেশেরই কোন মোবাইল বা ল্যান্ড ফোন নম্বর প্রদর্শন করছে। এক্ষেত্রে প্রদর্শিত দেশীয় নম্বরটি অবেধ ভিওআইপি ব্যবসার কাজে ব্যবহৃত হয়ে থাকতে পারে। এরকম কোন নম্বর হতে বিদেশের কল রিসিভ করলে অবিলম্বে বিটিআরসিকে SMS অথবা ফোন অথবা e-mail করে নম্বরটি জানিয়ে দিন। এক্ষেত্রে তথ্য প্রদানকারীর ব্যক্তিগত সব তথ্য গোপন রাখা হবে। দেশের বৃহত্তর স্বার্থ রক্ষায় এগিয়ে আসুন, বিটিআরসিকে এ সংক্রান্ত সব তথ্য দিয়ে সহায়তা করুন। ফোন নম্বর- ৯১৬২২৭৭ এক্স-২২২ SMS নম্বর- ০১৫৫২২০২৭৩২ e-mail - voip@btrc.gov.bd জিডি-৭৯৬ বিটিআরসি