

Hasan warms up with 82

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudul Hasan led from the front with a steady 82 on the opening day during Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Development Squad's two-day practice match against the Sri Lanka Under-19 side at BKSP yesterday.

The all-rounder slammed eleven boundaries and a couple of sixes in his 126-ball knock that spanned four minutes short of three hours before retiring to let the others bat. All-rounder Noor Hossain also contributed with 39 runs as the local side declared their innings at 197-9 from 61.1 overs. Mathusha Perera and Madushan Ekanayake took three wickets each.

The visitors started well with opener Dinesh Chandimal stroking ten boundaries in his 67-ball 60. He was unbeaten with Banuka Rajapaksha, who made 18 as the umpires called time.

U-15s' cricket match drawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Satyki Dutta spared the blushes of visiting Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) under-15 side on the final day of the two-day match against BCB under-15s that ended in a draw at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

The number seven batsman scored 40 off 74 balls with four boundaries as CAB made 181 before being bowled out in

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Did U Know?

Arthur William Charles 'Wentworth' Gore holds the record for most Wimbledon appearances, playing in 36 competitions between 1888 and 1927.



Intikhab Alam

(Pakistan cricket coach)
"I am hugely disappointed. Pakistan has been singled out for security, which is unjust and has hit our cricket with a big, big blow which will be hard to overcome for years." While criticising the ICC decision to strip the country of its 2011 World Cup matches.



SET Max
Indian Premier League
Bangalore Royal Challengers v Chennai Super Kings
Live from 8:30pm
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

Glitzy IPL off with upsets

AFP, Cape Town

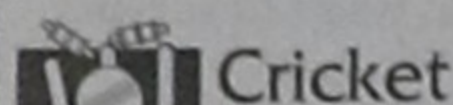
The Indian Premier League started on foreign soil with an explosion of entertainment and two cricket upsets at Newlands Saturday.

A sell-out crowd -- although there were gaps in the IPL hospitality area -- saw both last year's finalists

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PCL gains momentum

Habib Group title sponsor, players' auction on April 25



SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Preparations for the PCL (Port City League), set to be kicked off on May 2, stepped up further yesterday with the signing of title sponsor agreement with a prominent business group.

Habib Group came forward to buy the title sponsorship in exchange of Tk 20 lakh.

The organisers set a budget of Tk 1,40,00,000 for the Twenty20 tournament and so far received confirmation of Tk 70 lakh from the sponsors.

Besides Habib Group and Taher Group, who agreed to give Tk 10 lakh, there are many sponsors like Inter Sports, Meridian Hotel, Asian SR Hotel, UCBL, Karnaphuli Guest House and Chittagong Club who all have come forward with medium amounts.

A list of 48 players to be auctioned in five

different categories was announced with Tigers opener Tamim Iqbal and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak in the A+ grade with a floor price of Tk 30,000.

Players like national opener Imrul Kayes, Zunaed Siddiqui, Mehrab Hossain, Rokibul Hasan, Shahadat Hossain, Syed Rassel, Nazmul Hossain Mahbubul Alam, Rubel Hossain, Mahmudullah Riyad and Nayeem Islam have been placed in A grade with the floor price of Tk 20,000.

For A- grade the floor price is Tk 15,000, B+ grade Tk 10,000 and B grade Tk 8,000.

The auction will be held at the Karnaphuli Resort on April 25 and the bidding opens at 11:00am.

The agreement signing ceremony of the title sponsorship took place at the office of Chittagong Divisional Krira Sangstha (CDKS) yesterday in presence of a large number of sports organisers, government officials, media

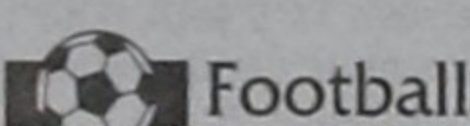
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PHOTO: STAR

Managing director of Habib Group Yeasin Ali (L) unveils the logo of the PCL Twenty20 championship at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday. The PCL involving eight franchises mostly based in the port city will commence on May 2.

Club Cup renamed



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to change the name of the Club Cup.

The tournament will now be called the Champions Club Cup and is likely to start from May 12 across the country.

The name change of the competition came about as an initiative to avoid confusion over the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) understanding over which contest was the top most in the country.

The new name Champions Club Cup literally illustrates the concept of the tournament which will be contested by the

champion clubs of each district.

Out of 64, a total of 60 clubs from all over the country will take part in the meet.

The tournament was originally scheduled to start from May 6 but the new date has been declared in order to avoid any clash with the Citycell School Championships which start on May 2.

No sponsors have been fixed for the tournament but will be announced in due course.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will be participating in this year's Danone Cup in France which is an international football competition participated by 10- to 12-year-old players from 40 countries. BFF has already started its preparations for the tournament.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) will get a donation of Tk 12 lakh for the Asia Cup to be held from May 9 in Malaysia.

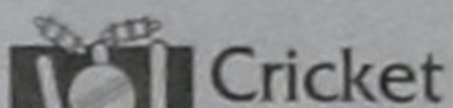
BHF general secretary Jamil Uddin yesterday informed reporters that the National Sports Council (NSC) sanctioned the donation earlier on the day.

Besides, the federation will accord a belated reception to the national hockey team on April 21 for emerging unbeaten champions in the Asia Cup qualifying round in Singapore last year.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar will

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PCB considers switch



AFP, Dubai

Pakistan are considering whether to switch a home series to New Zealand after the Black Caps refused to tour the troubled country, a cricket official said Sunday.

New Zealand were scheduled to tour Pakistan in November-December for a three-Test and five-match one-day series but had hinted they will not tour following attacks on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore last month.

The brazen attacks, which left seven Sri Lankan players and their assistant coach injured besides killing eight policemen, put paid to Pakistan's chances of hosting international cricket for the foreseeable future.

The International Cricket Council on Friday stripped Pakistan of its share of matches in the 2011 World Cup, citing the "uncertain security situation" in the country.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt said he held detailed meetings with New Zealand Cricket chief executive Justin Vaughan here and was considering their offer to switch the series to New Zealand.

"We have discussed the series but have yet to reach a final decision on it," Butt told AFP. "At the moment New Zealand are averse to touring Pakistan. So among the options available, the best is to play in New Zealand."

Butt said Pakistan can save a lot of money by playing in New Zealand.

"The recent series cancellations in Pakistan have hit our finances, so by playing in New

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PHOTO: AFP

Bollywood star and co-owner of Kings XI Punjab Priety Zinta cheers her team against Delhi Daredevils on the second day of the IPL Twenty20 championship at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori (C) celebrates with his Delhi Daredevils teammates after taking the wicket of Kings XI Punjab's English batsman Ravi Bopara (2nd from L) during their opening match of IPL at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday. Vettori claimed three wickets as the Daredevils strolled to a ten-wicket win in the rain-hit match.

BCB suspends Shaju sine die

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board's game development committee has yesterday suspended Shahjahan Shaju for his assault on an umpire last week.

The cricket coach has been barred 'from all coaching activities until further notice', according to sources.

This means he cannot officially coach a team that participates in a BCB competition and take part in the board's different coaching courses held during such time.

In his self-explanatory letter to the game development committee, Shaju expressed his innocence in the matter but the BCB has decided to suspend him and put forward his case to the disciplinary committee for further enquiry.

Vettori spins Delhi to victory

AFP, Cape Town



AFP, Cape Town

New Zealand left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori took three for 15 as the Delhi Daredevils won a rain-shortened Indian Premier League match against Kings XI Punjab by ten wickets at Newlands Sunday.

Vettori's bowling was mainly responsible for restricting the Kings XI to 104 for seven in 12 overs in an overs-reduced game after rain delayed the start by more than an hour and a half.

Indian opening batsmen Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir made a revised target of 54 in six overs look easy, with Sehwag finishing the match with his fourth six in an innings of 38 not out off 16 balls.

Punjab made a flying start, reaching 67 before losing their first wicket off the last ball of the sixth over when Vettori caught Karan Goel at mid-on off Yo Mahesh.

Goel hit 38 off 21 balls with three fours and three sixes, including a massive hit off Mahesh which sailed out of the ground beyond mid-wicket.

Vettori came on to bowl the next over after the mid-innings break and trapped Ravi Bopara (22) leg before with his first delivery.

The Punjab innings never regained momentum as Vettori took two more wickets in his three-over spell and two run-outs contributed to the collapse.

"I think spinners are going to play a huge part in the tournament," said man of the match Vettori, referring to good performances by Mumbai's Harbhajan Singh, Rajasthan's Shane Warne and Bangalore's Anil Kumble Saturday on the first day of a double header opening weekend.

"Spinners have adapted as quickly as anyone in the Twenty20 game."

Sehwag and Gambhir reached 24 in 1.5 overs before rain halted play. The revised target

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PHOTO: INTERNET

A spectacular laser show paints the Newlands Stadium in Cape Town with multiple rainbows during the opening ceremony of the multi-million dollar IPL on Saturday night.

Rayer Bazar, DCA notch huge wins

SPORTS REPORTER

Rayer Bazar and Dhanmondi Cricket Academy (DCA) banked on devastating bowling performances as they won their respective Second Division matches yesterday.

Rayer Bazar bowled Talent Hunt Cricket Academy out for only 32 runs at the Jahangirnagar University Ground with Abul taking four wickets and Yasin picking up two. Earlier, Rayer Bazar were bowled out for 172 from 48.1 overs. They won by a whopping 140 runs.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Shama and Rumman took five-wicket hauls as DCA defeated Green Leaf by six wickets. Batting first, the Agargaon-based side were bowled out for 71 runs and in reply, DCA knocked off the target in just 15.5 overs.

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Sachin sets the tone

CRICINFO, undated



CRICINFO, undated

For gnarled, one-year veterans of the Indian Premier League there will be always be Brendon and Bangalore. The bar was set so high by last year's curtain-raiser, when Brendon McCullum lit up the night sky with a pulsating 158 not out, that whatever happened today was destined to feel like an anti-climax. Sure enough, Sachin Tendulkar's unbeaten 59 from 49 balls was a model of good sense. Despite the impression given by some of its officials, the IPL can't have everything.

Tendulkar, though, knew what he was doing. MS Dhoni had asked the Mumbai Indians to bat in conditions that must have made tournament organisers wince after they backed South Africa as hosts ahead of England partly because of the weather. Drizzle was in the air and the outfield looked lush. The only thing persuading Andrew Flintoff that he hadn't just rocked up at Derby or Northampton was the sight of Table Mountain, although even that was shrouded in party-poop cloud.

The result was that Tendulkar and his opening partner Sanath Jayasuriya actually had to play themselves in, a concept that struggled to catch on in India in 2008. The first boundary did

not come until the 10th ball -- that was only a leg-side tuck for four -- and it took until the third over, when Tendulkar lofted Manpreet Gony over extra cover, that the first shot was played in anger. Look out for the role of the seaming new ball as this tournament progresses.

"At the start of the day the wicket was damp," Tendulkar said. "In the first six or seven overs it was not easy to get the ball away. Later, when it dried up a bit, there were more shot options." Asked whether he intended to bat through the innings on a regular basis, he replied: "If we disclose all our strategies, they won't be a secret any more."

As wickets kept falling at the other end, Tendulkar's secret may have been that he just kept on going. It wasn't always easy. A quadruped of indeterminate pedigree made its way onto the field after 6.1 overs and wouldn't leave for 11 minutes, thus eating into crucial advertising time and, as security guards missed a succession of rugby tackles. Then, the man in charge of the musical system held up play for a further two minutes, obviously banging his drums while the players waited and waited. Finally came the time-out.

But Tendulkar was not to be distracted and found a more gung-ho ally in Abhishek Nayar.

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