

TALK TURKEY



Marcello Lippi

(Italy soccer coach)
"I'm not going back to Juventus, neither as coach nor as a technical director, have I made myself clear. Whatever anyone says, it's not true, I'm not going back to Juve."

What to WATCH

SET Max
Indian Premier League
Chennai Super Kings v Deccan Chargers
Live from 8:30pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm
English Premier League
Aston Villa v Hull City
Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

Port-city Cricket League
Pirates of Cig v Ispahani
Time: 10:00am
Mohammedan v Brothers Union
Time: 2:00pm
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

Rain plays spoil sport

Ctg Abahani 'awarded a tie', Dhaka Sports win

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong



Rain played foul on the second day of the Habib Group PCL Twenty20 tournament as Dhaka Sports Club won the curtailed-over first game against Dada Warriors and the second match between Chittagong Abahani and Chittagong Brothers Union ended in a tie at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Heavy overnight shower reduced the first game to a 10-overs-a-side affair and Rajin Saleh-led Dhaka Sports Club secured full points with a seven-wicket victory, but rain spoiled the second one what could have been an exciting game.

Local hero Tamim Iqbal, the most expensive player of the tournament, was on fire before rain stopped Abahani's charge. The dashing left-hander remained not out on a 36-ball 41 that contained four boundaries and a six as Abahani scored 77 for 2 in reply to Brothers' 150-7 in 20 overs.

The match's fate was then decided by Duckworth-Lewis method which saw the battle tied.

Chasing a challenging target, Abahani looked well on course when Tamim and

Hannan Sarker laid the foundation by adding 64 runs for the second wicket after early the departure of Rabiul Islam.

The drama began after Abahani reached 69 for 2 in 10 overs. Sri Lankan Chamara Silva had just joined Tamim a ball earlier. It started to drizzle before the start of 11th over. Brothers Union at that stage (after 10 overs) were 73 for 2, ahead of Abahani.

Tamim was seen a bit tense and urged the umpire to continue the match. Amid light drizzle, Mohammad Shahajada bowled the 11th over and Tamim and Silva took eight runs from it with a 'priced' boundary from the local boy that eventually saved Abahani from a sure defeat.

Immediately after the over, heavy rain set in while strong wind ripped the dug-outs, banners, bill boards and tore apart the large canopy over the stands. What added to that was the power cut at the time that ensured no further play.

With Abahani standing on 77 for 2 in 11 overs and Brothers Union on 78 for 2 at the corresponding period, everyone thought that Brothers will have the last laugh as per D/L method.

But match referee Zahid Razzak Masum pronounced that as per D/L method the score

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Mahela leads Punjab

AFP, Port Elizabeth



Mahela Jayawardene struck an unbeaten 52 to guide Kings XI Punjab to a nail-biting six-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

The Sri Lankan batsman hit seven fours in his 41-ball knock as Punjab surpassed Kolkata's competitive 153-3 in a last-ball finish at St. George's Park.

Needing seven from the final over by Kolkata pacesman Ajit Agarkar, Jayawardene hit a four while Irfan Pathan (19 not out) fetched the winning runs for Punjab.

The victory helped Punjab climb to the second position in the points table while the struggling Kolkata continued to languish at the bottom with their sixth defeat from eight matches.

The Yuvraj Singh-led Punjab have now won four of their seven matches in this Twenty20 competition.

Punjab were off to a disappointing start with Ishant Sharma claiming Kumar Sangakkara for

a duck in the first over but a slew of dropped catches and poor fielding did Kolkata no favours.

Simon Katich (34) was dropped on five by Chris Gayle while debutant Sunny Sohail also thrived on a grassed chance to make a fine 26-ball 25 on debut.

Kolkata's innings was built around Brad Hodge who top-scored with an unbeaten 70 off just 43 balls and shared key partnerships with Sourav Ganguly (22) and Morne van Wyk (18 not out).

The Australian smashed 10 fours and a six in a late assault that saw Kolkata put on 101 runs in their last 10 overs.

Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla was the most successful bowler with 2-27 from four overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 153-3 in 20 overs (Hodge 70 not out, Ganguly 22; Chawla 2-27).

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 154-4 in 20 overs (Jayawardene 52 not out, Katich 34, Sohail 25; Sharma 2-27)

Result: Kings XI Punjab won by six wickets. Man-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardene.



MONEY DELIVERS: Tamim Iqbal showed why he is the most expensive player of the Port-city City League (PCL). Here he plays one over mid-off during his blistering 41 not out for Chittagong Abahani against Chittagong Brothers Union at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain wreaks havoc with Club Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Results of four National Cup matches were determined off the field after rain played havoc across the country yesterday.

Rahmatganj Young Association of Sirajganj, Sherpur's Moitribari Cricket Club, Shariatpur Cricket Academy all won after a flip of a coin went in their favour after matches in Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Faridpur were rained out. Shariatpur face Shamsuzzoha Smriti XI while Rahmatganj take on Mukti Shingha of Rajshahi in their respective zonal finals today.

There was further chaos at Noakhali's Shaheed Bhulu Stadium when Rangamati's Avilash Cricket Club were declared winners by toss but when Gaa Khola Krira Chakra of Chandpur lodged an official protest claiming that Avilash Cricket Club violated tournament bylaws by fielding players who did not belong to the district. The tournament committee upheld the protest and awarded the match in favour of Gaa Khola Krira Chakra.

Nilphamari's National Cricket Club and Victoria United Club of Pirozpur were the only clubs to have won due to their on-field efforts.

At the Patuakhali Stadium, Victoria (118 all out) beat Sabuj Bangla Cricket Academy of Barguna (94 all out) by 24 runs. They move to the zonal

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Nine nations confirmed for int'l meet

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin returned to the capital yesterday with good news for the country's football loving public as nine countries are set to participate in an international tournament in Dhaka on November this year.

On a two-week tour of several Asian countries, Salahuddin met their football federations and Sri Lanka, Qatar, Indonesia and Thailand, among nine teams, have confirmed that they will come to Dhaka and play.

Other countries that have expressed their desire to take part in the contest are Turkmenistan, Iraq, Iran and Lebanon.

BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi has said that the tournament might be held on a club basis.

"Clubs generate a lot of interest among the people so we might be inviting clubs from the respective countries for the tournament planned," informed Sadi.

"Nothing has been planned and decided so far as the President has returned today and he has not sat down with us yet," added the general secretary.

Kallis crushes Mumbai

AFP, Johannesburg



A superb unbroken stand between Jacques Kallis and Robin Uthappa led Bangalore Royal Challengers to a nine-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians in an Indian Premier League clash on Sunday.

After winning the toss at the Wanderers and opting to bat, Mumbai recovered from a poor start to reach 149-4 and in reply, Bangalore made 150-1 with 11 balls to spare.

Kallis got off to a cracking start after fellow opener Wassim Jaffer had fallen early on and although he slowed, still reached his half-century off 39 balls.

Uthappa was even quicker, making his fifty off 36 deliveries.

The pair shared 126 runs for the second wicket with Kallis 69 not out from 59 balls, including five fours and two sixes.

Uthappa was unbeaten on 66, having faced 42 deliveries in an innings that included eight fours and two sixes.

Bangalore seamer Dillon du Preez, who returned with 3-32, got his IPL debut off to a dream start, bagging three wickets before

conceding a run.

Coming on at first change, Du Preez removed Sachin Tendulkar and Ajinkya Rahane with successive deliveries in his first over.

And in his next, he had JP Duminy caught behind to leave Mumbai reeling at 23-3 before Sanath Jayasuriya and Dwayne Bravo compiled 60 runs for the fourth wicket to stage a recovery.

Jayasuriya smashed 52 runs from 43 balls with six fours and one six. The Sri Lankan veteran was removed by spinner Roelof van der Merwe in the 15th over, but Abhishek Nayan joined Bravo in an unbroken 66-run stand for the fifth wicket to keep Mumbai in control.

Bravo made 50 not out from 40 deliveries with one boundary and two sixes, and Nayan was unbeaten on 29 off 20 balls.

BRIEF SCORES

MUMBAI INDIANS: 149-4 in 20 overs (Jayasuriya 52, Bravo 50*; du Preez 3-32).

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: (Kallis 69*, Uthappa 66*; Khan 1-12).

Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by nine wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Jacques Kallis.

Akmal outshines Watson

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Kamran Akmal smashed an unbeaten 116 in the fifth and final one-dayer that his side won by seven wickets against Australia at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi last night.

Chasing 251 for victory and gather some respectability for their showing so far in the series, the 'home' side went about their business professionally and ensured they reached the target with 18 balls to spare. Australia though would be happy to have won the series 3-2.

Kamran added 198 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket with Misbahul Haq, who also knocked a beautifully composed 76 off 81 balls. But it was Kamran who stole the show, hitting 13 boundaries in his 115-ball knock that had the knackered Australian bowlers at his mercy.

But the two joined when Pakistan were in deep trouble at 56 for 3 with off-spinner Nathan Hauritz picking up two wickets -- Ahmed Shehzad and Younus Khan -- and Salman Butt falling victim of a run-out. Australian captain Michael Clarke used as many as seven bowlers but none could find a breakthrough as the man-of-the-match Kamran blazed his way to a match-winning century.

Earlier, all-rounder Shane Watson



Australia's Shane Watson lines up a big hit towards the leg side during his second one-day hundred in the fifth game against Pakistan at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

School soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Fifteen matches of the Citycell National School Football Championship were decided on the second day at different zonal venues across the country with five teams getting walkovers.

Kabi Nazrul Shikha Manzil beat Sharajganj High School 3-2 in a tiebreaker at the Rajbari Stadium. At the same venue, Jibon Nagar Pilot School bagged a walkover after Ticker Villa High School failed to turn up.

In Srimangal, Karar Char Md Tofazzal Hossain won 7-1 against Rasmay Memorial High School and Zia Sarker Khan High School beat The Aided High School 3-0.

Matiranga High School and Ramu Khijari High School also got walkovers from their opponents in Rangamati.

In Khulna, ABCDS Hossainpur Siddiqia High School won 5-0 against Uksha School and Imadanga Tungipara High School earned a walkover from ACLaha School.

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RP close to WC squad

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The IPL assumes relevance to different parties in different ways, but for India's selectors it has provided a happy headache or three. Barely two weeks after the IPL finishes in South Africa on April 24, Indian players from the various teams will come together to defend the ICC World Twenty20 crown. The deadline for announcing squads is May 5, so in all probability the composition of the squad going to England will be revealed tomorrow.

The Twenty20 squad of 16 that went to New Zealand had a solid and settled look to it, the 2-0 loss notwithstanding. While for no changes would have been necessary for the IPL, two names have come into the reckoning for a spot to England this summer -- RP Singh and Abhishek Nayar, though the Mumbai Indians allrounder is only an outside chance.

The selectors had one preliminary meeting in Cape Town on April 24, in the presence of N Srinivasan, the board secretary. Whether they will need to meet once again is uncertain.

RP, back to the scene of India's World Twenty20 triumph, has discovered close to the same form that took him to No. 3 on the wicket-takers' list then. Two years later he has donned the purple cap for the longest period in the IPL,

and is currently the second-highest wicket-taker. But his way back is not that simple: none of the three pace bowlers he can replace has done badly so far.

Irfan Pathan has provided Kings XI Punjab with early breakthroughs regularly and backed that with quick and important runs. Munaf Patel has had just two really ordinary games, one when Sourav Ganguly struck into him and then again Deccan Chargers, but has come back well to top the wickets for Rajasthan Royals. An economy-rate of 7.35 is not that bad. Praveen Kumar, not a part of the best of the teams, is Royal Challengers Bangalore's second highest wicket-taker. Praveen has given runs at 7.34 and showed his mental strength in the last over against Punjab when defending 12, taking two wickets. It will make for an interesting exclusion if RP does find his way back. Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma could be beyond this debate.

The only other close call for this squad is that India took 16 players to New Zealand, and here must name 15. The two most disposable members of those 16 are Dinesh Karthik and Ravindra Jadeja. Karthik, especially, has made a strong case for himself with 127 runs at an average of 25.41 and a strike-rate of 140 in the IPL's second season.

Nayar has been sent up the order twice, to No's 4 and 5, without much success but what really stood out was his 14-ball 35 against

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