

Siriwardena five hastens big win

SPORTS REPORTER

A five-wicket haul from Milinda Siriwardena destroyed GP-BCB National Cricket Academy to pilot the Sri Lanka Development side to a massive 246-run win in the second four-day at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

On the fourth and final day, the local sides were skittled out for just 191 after being asked to chase 438 runs.

Left-arm spinner Siriwardena picked up the wickets of Marshall Ayub (17), Kamrul Islam (1), Arifat Salahuddin (2), Farhad Hossain (24) and Rabiul Islam (1) as he bowled beautifully in 17.1 overs, giving away 43 runs.

Suraj Mohammed took two while there was a wicket each for Suranga Lakmal, Nuwan

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BUET, JU start well

SPORTS REPORTER

Jahangirnagar University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) won comfortably in the Public University & Services cricket tournament yesterday.

Jahangirnagar University trounced Kazi Nazrul Islam University of Mymensingh by eight wickets at the BKSP while BUET won by 53 runs by the Parabola method against Khulna University at the

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ERRATUM

In our yesterday's article titled 'Jamali okays new CCM committee', BCB president Sina Ibn Jamali's rank was wrongly written. In fact, he is a Lieutenant General, and not Major General. We regret the slip.

-- Sports Editor



Steve Waugh

(Australian cricket legend)
"I'm 43 but wouldn't mind having a crack at it. I think I'll go okay but I am not sure if any side is desperate to take me." On his IPL desire.



BTV

AFC President's Cup Qualifier
Ashgabat FC vs Sri Lanka Army
Live from 6:00pm

SET Max

Indian Premier League
Bangalore Royal Challengers v
Chennai Super Kings
Live from 4:30pm

STAR Cricket

England v West Indies
Second Test, Day One
Live from 4:00pm

ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm



AFC President's Cup Qualifier
Ashgabat FC vs Sri Lanka Army
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh players Tamim Iqbal (L) and Mushfiqur Rahim pick up runs during their practice match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Better being a cheerleader?

LOKENDRA PRATAP SAHI

Tuesday's defeat confirmed what had become evident early in the tournament -- that the Kolkata Knight Riders neither had the ammo nor the drive to make at least the semifinals of the Indian Premier League.

The inaugural season, last year, had seen the franchise finish sixth. This time, the Knights have been monopolising the absolute bottom of the eight-team table.

Poor man management, beginning with the shoddy manner in which icon Sourav Ganguly was sacked as captain, apart, the resources just haven't been utilised in the best manner.

Not that the most exciting exponents of Twenty20 pack the Knights' dressing room. Indeed, there are quite a few very average cricketers wearing the black and gold colours.

To talk of the talent available, it's strange (if not shocking) that John Buchanan hasn't deemed it fit to give Bangladesh's premier strike bowler, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, even

one game. Eleven have gone and the line-up for the last match, against the Royal Challengers Bangalore, saw as many as four changes. Not that the chopping and changing worked.

The treatment meted out to Mortaza lends credence to whispers that Buchanan, who heads the franchise's cricket operations, didn't exactly want him in the squad and that principal owner Shaukat Khan had 'intervened' during this year's auction.

Apparently, one reason for signing Mortaza was to extend the Knights' 'appeal' in Bangladesh, which isn't much more than a stone's throw away from the franchise-city. If anything, folks there must be rather furious.

The 25-year-old right-arm quick, who is a handy bat too, is understood to be cut up. Frustrated as well. With perfectly legitimate reasons.

According to The Telegraph's sources, the other day, Mortaza told a confidant: "It would have been better to be a cheerleader. That way, I would have been doing something..."

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Gayle's gaga!

Cricket

AFP, London

Chris Gayle has said he "would not be so sad" if Test cricket died and that he is thinking of standing down as captain of the West Indies.

Gayle, whose arrival just two days before the start of the first of a two-Test series at Lord's from the Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 event has led to widespread criticism of the opening batsman, including a rebuke from former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd.

It also prompted Andrew Strauss to say: "There's a line there. Certainly we wouldn't want our players to arrive two days before."

However, Strauss was not chosen for the IPL and Gayle, speaking ahead of the second Test against England at Chester-le-Street, told Wednesday's

edition of Britain's Guardian newspaper: "It doesn't concern him [Strauss]."

"[Strauss ought to] Focus on his team, don't worry about West Indies, don't worry about me. Tell him don't sleep with Chris on his mind, tell him get

Chris off his mind."

Gayle, who made 28 and nought at Lord's, said Strauss had cause to worry about his own game because his rival left-handed opener would not survive in the international

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CHRIS GAYLE

PCB sues ICC again

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan is suing international cricketing bodies for moving the World Cup 2011 secretariat out of its country and into India, a lawyer said Wednesday.

The move is a further escalation of Pakistan's protest against an International Cricket Council (ICC) decision late last month to strip the country of its 14 matches in the contest over security fears in the troubled Muslim nation.

The ICC also moved the World Cup 2011 secretariat out of Pakistan's cultural capital Lahore to India's financial hub Mumbai and distributed Pakistan's matches to three other host countries -- India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Saturday it was mounting a legal challenge

against the ICC decision to move the Pakistan games and on Tuesday said it had written to request international arbitration in the matter.

Co-hosts India will now have 29 matches, including a semifinal and the final, while Sri Lanka will host 12 matches with one semifinal, and Bangladesh will hold eight matches and the opening ceremony.

PCB legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi said Wednesday that a case had also been filed at the civil court in Lahore against the relocation of the World Cup 2011 secretariat.

"We have to fight all out against a decision which is legally flawed and to step up our pressure, we have sued the ICC, IDI (ICC Development International) and the Central Organising Committee World Cup 2011," Rizvi told AFP.

"After our initial arguments the court has summoned the three parties on May 18," the lawyer added.

Rizvi said the ICC Executive Board, which

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Rain disrupts Tigers' prep

SPORTS REPORTER



The rain played foul when the England-bound cricketers resumed their practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

After the Port-City Cricket League, the Tigers returned to the business for the preparation of the upcoming ICC World Twenty20s to be held in England in June and were scheduled to play two Twenty20 games against Bangladesh yesterday.

But the second match was abandoned after completion of the first innings due to heavy rain. Dashing opener Tamim Iqbal made maximum use of the unfinished game with a 52-ball 66 that contained eight boundaries and enabled the national side to put up a decent total of 133-9 in their share of 20 overs.

There was however no fireworks in the first game which the national side lost by six runs against the second-string side. Zunaid Siddiqui top scored with 33 off 27 balls with three fours and a six while Rokibul Hasan added 29 off 32 balls with two boundaries as the senior team finished their 20-over quota for 123-7 in reply to 126-9.

Out-of-favour Nafis Iqbal continued his PCL form with a 39-ball 35 while Mahmudullah

Riyad hit 34 in the Bangladesh A innings.

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan however missed the match as he has not fully recovered from the groin injury but is likely to play one practice match out of three against Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA).

MCA will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow where the national players will play three practice matches against the visiting side after playing another T20 against Bangladesh A tomorrow at the same venue.

"I feel better now and hopefully will play one practice match against Maharashtra," said Shakib, who has been out of action for last two months after playing five Premier League matches.

The Tigers are scheduled to leave for England on May 23 and will play additional warm-up games at Wormsley on May 26 (against New Zealand) and May 29 (against Scotland) and then travel to Kent to face Netherlands on May 28. Bangladesh's official practice games are against Australia (on June 1) and Sri Lanka (on June 4) at Nottingham.

Bangladesh have been pitted in group A along with defending champions India and ICC associate member Ireland in the second version of the ICC World Twenty20 which will kick off from June 5.

Ashraf's men face India on June 6 and Ireland on June 8 at Trent Bridge in the group A matches.

School football

SPORTS REPORTER

Magura RK Institute became zonal champions in the Citycell National School Football Championship when they beat Rajbari Raja Surya Kumar Institute 4-3 in tie-breaker at the Rajbari Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into lottery mode after the stipulated time ended in a one-all draw. Nayeem netted for RK Institute while Raju scored for Raja Surya Kumar Institute.

The zonal final match between Town Secondary School and Barguna Zilla School will take place at the Patuakhali Stadium today.

Zia's bright beginning

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman won his first round game in the 8th Asian Continental Chess Championship open section at the Subic Freeport in Olongapo City in the Philippines yesterday.

In the first round Zia beat Wang Li of China. GM Enamul Hossain Rajib, GM Niaz Murshed and FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil drew their first round games.

Razib drew with Lou Yiping of China, Niaz drew with GM Mark Paragua of Philippines and Shakil drew with GM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam.

In the women's section WFM Samima Akter Liza lost her first round games against WGM Li Thanj Tu of Vietnam.

A total of eighty-one players from Asia and Australia including 42 grandmasters, 16 international masters are participating in the tournament. Ten players will qualify for this event for the Chess World Cup in December.

Fahad the 'First Ball er Captain'

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdulla Al Fahad became the lucky winner of the 'Pepsi First Ball er Captain' contest and will be on his way to England to bowl a ceremonial first ball in a match of the ICC Twenty20 World Cup.

The winning contestant was chosen through a two-stage process. During the first stage the contestants SMS-ed a unique code from a scratch card, which was obtained from the purchase of a Pepsi drink. The 200 contestants who sent in the highest number of unique codes were selected to participate in the second phase, the "Prove Yourself Day" where they were evaluated on their performance on a series of activities. The eventual activity was to bowl at a single stump where

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Indian bench to face Bangladesh

PTI, Kuantan

Out of medal contention, defending champions India will test their bench strength when they take on minnows Bangladesh in the sixth-seventh ranking play-off match of the Asia Cup hockey tournament today.

After suffering a 2-3 defeat against arch-rivals Pakistan in their tournament opener, India needed an outright win against China in their last group match yesterday to progress to the semifinals.

But all the Sandeep Singhal side managed was a 2-2 draw to see their title defence go up in smoke.

Disappointed with the performance of his wards, India's coach-in-charge Harendra Singh said he would give the reserve players a chance tomorrow.

"For the first time in eight months I didn't achieve the target I had set. So, I will try out my bench strength tomorrow," a dejected Harendra said.

"I will give players like Hari Prasad, VS Vinaya and Ajitesh

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Ashgabat-SL Army tie today

SPORTS REPORTER



Ashgabat Football Club will be starting as favourites against a desperate Sri Lanka Army

team in the second group match of the AFC President's Cup Group B qualifiers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) today.

State owned Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast the match live from the venue.

The Lankan Army lost 1-2 to a spirited Abahani side in their first match on Tuesday when Shahajuddin Tipu broke the deadlock by blasting one into the net 15 minutes before the final whistle.

Ashgabat FC, who hail from the Central Asian nation of Turkmenistan and were semi-finalists in the last edition of the President's Cup practised at the BNS yesterday. Ashgabat head coach Grigoryantis Boris said that his side would like to start on a winning note although he considered the

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PHOTO: STAR

CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT: Kambarov Aziz of Ashgabat FC, Turkmenistan tries to cool himself off under searing heat during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Bhatia drubs Deccan

AFP, Durban



Deccan Chargers skipper Adam Gilchrist smashed a rapidfire half-century, but failed to stop Delhi Daredevils from posting a 12-run win in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

Delhi scored 173-7 before restricting Deccan to 161 despite Gilchrist's 33-ball 64 to boost their chances of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Delhi lead the eight-team competition, followed by Chennai, Deccan, Mumbai, Rajasthan, Bangalore, Punjab and Kolkata.

Gilchrist went for his shots from the beginning, hitting seamer Ashish Nehra for four boundaries in the opening over. He cracked five sixes and as many fours before inside-edging seamer Pradeep Sangwan's delivery on to his stumps.

Andrew Symonds kept the momentum with a

22-ball 41 before seamer Rajat Bhatia (4-15) triggered a dramatic collapse which saw Deccan lose their last seven wickets for just 12 runs.

Dinesh Karthik earlier helped Delhi set a stiff target with a 23-ball 44 not out, including 18 runs off the last five deliveries from Sri Lankan pacer Chaminda Vaas.

Tillakaratne Dilshan set the pace, plundering 24 runs in an over from paceman Shoaib Ahmed. He cracked one six and seven fours in his 18-ball 37 before being caught by Ravi Teja in the deep off Symonds.

AB de Villiers kept the scoreboard moving after Dilshan's dismissal, scoring a 36-ball 44.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DELHI: 173-7 in 20 overs (Karthik 44 not out, de Villiers 44, Dilshan 37; Ojha 2-26, Vaas 2-52).

DECCAN: 161 all out in 19.4 overs (Gilchrist 64, Symonds 41, Teja 27; Bhatia 4-15, Sangwan 3-18).

Result: Delhi won by 12 runs.



Abdulla Al Fahad (R), the winner of a campaign arranged by Transcom Beverages Limited, is presented with an air ticket to England by Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (L), PepsiCo country manager Tejinder Khurana (2nd from L) and Transcom Beverages general manager Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury during a function at the Mirpur Indoors cricket facility yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR