

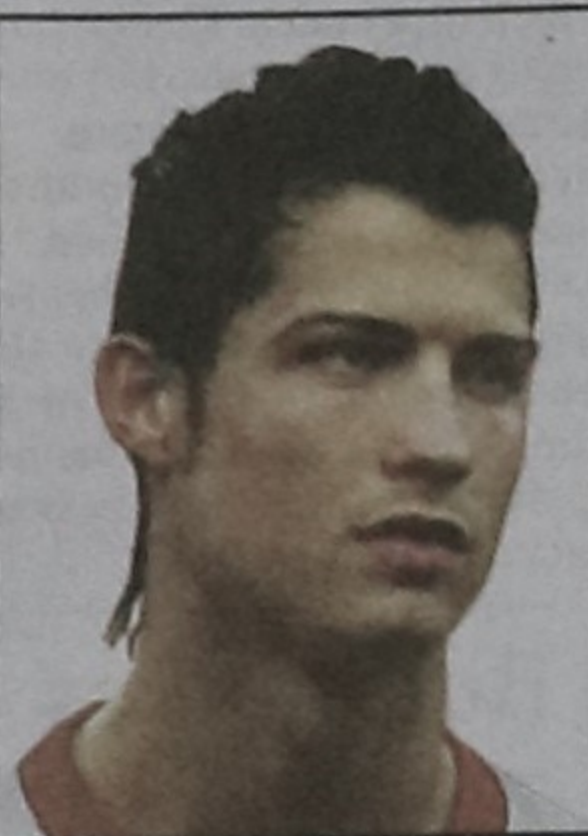


Did U Know?

Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov was banned for six months in 1990 for stamping on the referee's foot after being sent off in a Cup tie against Real Madrid.



Talk Turkey



Cristiano Ronaldo

(Real Madrid superstar)
"The great players cost a lot of money and I'm happy to be the most expensive player in the world. I will show that the money Real have paid is a good decision."



What to Watch

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka v New Zealand
Second Test, Day Three
Live from 11:30am
ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm

India suffers F1 setback

AFP, New Delhi

India's hopes of hosting a Formula One race have suffered a setback following differences between the government and race promoters, local media reported Thursday.

India is scheduled to host its first ever F1 Grand Prix in 2011, but the sports ministry has turned down race promoters JPSK Sports' request to be allowed to pay Formula One 36.5 million dollars for the rights.

The ministry has recently described the event as "entertainment", saying it would have "no impact on the development of sports in the country".

"F1 is not purely sports. It is entertainment and this venture by JPSK is a commercial initiative," the Times of India quoted a ministry source as saying.

"The proposed F1 race
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Russel stick to youth

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

With a bunch of young booters, Sheikh Russel completed their players' registration formalities for the season yesterday.

The new powerhouse of country's football made a bold presence at the BFF Bhaban as nearly hundred supporters chanted slogans during the registration of 21 players including three from the national team with a hope to become champions in the country's lone professional football competition: B. League.

Russel finished third last season and set a target to improve their standing despite the fact that they didn't trope in any big names to their tent.

Their coach Kamal Babu is even quite optimistic to clinch all football titles of the season.

"Sheikh Russel always forms the team with a target to become champions and there is no exception this time. I think we have got a good team to be successful in this season," hoped Babu.

"Our striking position is a bit weak, but this will be met by recruiting foreign players. Three Serbian players and one Ghanaian player are already practicing with us and we will pick them if we think they are good enough," he added.

Sheikh Russel however was excited at the inclusion of young Mohammedan goalkeeper Majharul Islam Himel.

"I think we have got a good player to stand under the bar," said Kamal.

Besides Himel, midfielders Emon Mohammad Babu and Mobarak Hossain Bhuiyan were the other two players who are in the national team squad.

Russel kept faith with new faces as they included 16 new players in the 21-member squad and only five old players managed to continue with the club.

Asked why they dropped most of their old players, Kamal said: "This time, we wanted young and energetic players. So, we gave them the chance."

Players registered for Sheikh Russel: defenders Zahirul Islam, Aminul Islam and Raquibul Islam, midfielders Mobarak Hossain Bhuiyan and Rajan Mia (Sheikh Russel), custodian Mamun Mia (Chittagong Mohammedan), defenders Ramjan Ali Mollah and Uttam Kumar Banik, striker Mohammad Yusuf and midfielder Khokon Das (Farashganj), striker Nurul Afsar, defender Mamun Mia, midfielder Emon Mahmud Babu and custodian Mohammad Sunny (new registration), defender Kamal Hossain, custodian Majharul Islam Himel, midfielder Maruf Ahmed and striker Mohammad Ronny (Dhaka Mohammedan), defender Shobir Hossain Sunny (Abahani), midfielder Abdullah Al Parvez (Brothers Union), midfielder Aminul Islam Ripon (Rahmatganj).

Kiwis left tottering

Successive ton for Samaraweera

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

New Zealand's batting was left in tatters in the second Test on Thursday as Sri Lanka's Thilan Samaraweera scored a second successive century to surpass

1,000 Test runs this year.

The tourists, replying to Sri Lanka's first innings score of 416, saw their entire top order wiped out as they struggled to 159-5 by stumps on the second day at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

Ross Taylor was unbeaten on 70 after surviving a close

appeal for leg-before by spin king Muttiah Muralidaran when on 30.

Brendon McCullum was on five with the tourists still needing 58 more runs to avoid the follow-on.

Samaraweera, who made 159 in the first Test at Galle which Sri Lanka won by 202 runs, hit 143 on way to becoming the second batsman after England captain Andrew Strauss to complete 1,000 runs this year.

The right-hander has so far scored 1,058 runs in eight Tests in 2009 with two double centuries among his four three-figure knocks. Strauss, in comparison, has 1,071 runs from 12 matches.

Samaraweera, who turns 33 next month, endured an extraordinary year in which he hit two successive double-centuries against Pakistan before being laid low by gunshots during a militant attack. He was hospitalised for two weeks after he suffered a bullet injury in the left thigh when gunmen opened fire on the Sri Lankan team bus in the Pakistani city of Lahore on March 3.

Seven Sri Lankan cricketers and an assistant coach were injured in the attack, while eight Pakistani security men and bystanders were killed.

"When I was attacked in Lahore, I never thought I would play cricket again," said Samaraweera.

"So to score more than 1,000 runs this year in Tests is very good. It also helps the team do well."

Samaraweera said he was
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PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor sets off for a run on way to an unbeaten 70 during the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo yesterday.

BCB unworried by ailing Siddons

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was not overly worried at the news that national coach Jamie Siddons has been diagnosed with skin cancer.

"As far as we know there is nothing serious with his skin cancer and the coach himself is also not too worried. And what we have learnt is that it's a curable disease," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday reacting to a local Bengali daily's disclosure.

The Australian has been suffering from skin cancer and was expected to undergo an operation yesterday in Australia.

"Definitely we will be careful about the issue. I think everything will be clear when we get the medical report and we have also the medical committee to check everything. But we don't think there is any reason to be too much concerned with this issue," Yunus added.

BCB however was informed about the sickness of Siddons almost six months back.

"It was almost six months back we learnt that he has been suffering from skin cancer. And initially it remained only [localized] to his head but later spread it to his eyes. We have a cricket operations committee and the medical committee and they can definitely take care of the issue," said BCB's director Gazi Ashraf Hossain.

"But as far as I know it's nothing serious and the operation is also not complicated. We wish him the best of luck and hope he is okay after the operation to continue his job," said the former national skipper.

Ayub shines in Academy win

SPORTS REPORTER

GP-BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) finished their South Africa tour with a five-wicket victory in the second T20 match against Standard Bank National Cricket Academy of South Africa (SBNCA) at Tukkies1, Pretoria on Tuesday.

The visitors lost the first T20 match on the same day by 23 runs but bounced back in the second match to finish the tour with a win after losing the four-day series 2-0 and one-day series 2-1.

Marshal Ayub led from the front with 48-ball 62 that featured four boundaries and two over boundaries as NCA posted 166 for five in 19 overs in reply to home side's 163-6.

Shuvagato Hom smashed an unbeaten 31 off 16 balls that contained three sixes while Nasir Hossain was unbeaten on 30 off 24 balls that saw three boundaries.

In the first match, SBNCA scored 135 for six in their share of 20 overs and then restricted NCA to 112-9 in 20 overs.



PHOTO: STAR

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib ponders his next move while fellow GM bespectacled Abdullah Al Rakib watches during the eighth round matches of the United Insurance Ninth Grand Masters Chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Shakib yet to decide on club

Cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shakib Al Hasan has said that he is yet to decide about his club for the upcoming Premier Division Cricket League.

"A number of clubs including Abahani and Gazi Tank showed their interest but I am yet to decide. I will go back to Dhaka within two days and take the final decision soon," informed Shakib while talking with local reporters yesterday.

The number one all-rounder, who played for Bangladesh Biman last season, is the centre of attraction for this season's players trans-

fers after his steady rise in the highest level of the game and is all set to make a record deal this season.

The most coveted domestic competition, the Premier Division Cricket League will kick off with the T20 version from October 10 to October 18 while the one-day competition is scheduled for October 23 to December 15.

The three-day players' transfer will start from September 29.

The stand-in Tigers skipper, who led the team to a historic 2-0 Test and 3-0 one-day series victories against West Indies followed by a 4-1 series success against
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PHOTO: STAR

Stand-in Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan (R) is seen with his parents during a reception at his hometown in Magura yesterday.

Barua, Mikheil drop points

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian Grand Master Dibyendu Barua and Georgian Grand Master Mchedlishvili Mikheil both dropped points in the eighth round but still maintained their joint lead in the 9th United Insurance Chess Tournament by securing six points each.

In the eighth round held at the NSC conference room yesterday, Mchedlishvili drew with Georgian Grand Master Gagunashvili Merab and Dibyendu drew with Bitan Banerjee of India.

Both Gagunashvili Merab and Bitan Banerjee followed the leaders closely with 5.5 points each.

Bangladeshi GM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and GM Neelotpal Das were sharing the third slot with 5 points each.

In the day's other 8th round games, Parag drew with Neelotpal, Rajib beat FM Khandakar Aminul Islam, FM Taibur Rahman drew with IM Vishal Sareen of India, Nepali Badrilal of Nepal beat FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, FM Hamal Manish drew with Tandukar Naveen, Abdullah Al Saif drew with Ikramul Haque Siam and Aminul Islam Polash drew with Shrestha Bilal Lal.

ICC-Pak peace deal

AFP, Dubai



The International Cricket Council said Thursday it and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have resolved their dispute relating to the staging of the 2011 Cricket World Cup.

The breakthrough came at a meeting between ICC President David Morgan and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ijaz Butt at the ICC office in Dubai, the governing body revealed in a statement made available to AFP.

In an agreement with the ICC's commercial arm, the PCB will retain its host fees and also receive an additional 10 million dollars as 'reasonable compensation' for loss of hosting rights which it would have pocketed had it hosted the matches on Pakistani soil.

Earlier this month, a PCB official indicated Pakistan had decided to end its legal battle against cricket's governing body over being stripped four months ago of its share of World Cup 2011 matches owing to security fears.

The ICC relocated Pakistan's share of 14 matches because of security fears after attacks in its eastern city of Lahore on the Sri Lankan team on March 3.

The attacks injured seven players and their assistant coach and killed eight people.

The Central Organising Committee of the World Cup 2011 last month awarded eight of Pakistan's matches to India, four to Sri Lanka

and two to Bangladesh.

Besides World Cup matches, the Champions trophy 2008 was also moved out to South Africa after several teams refused to tour Pakistan over security fears.

On Thursday, it was further agreed the PCB would be free of its liabilities and obligations associated with hosting matches during the tournament, including the location of the tournament secretariat which had originally been set for Lahore.

Butt indicated to AFP there was still a chance of some action coming to Pakistan.

"We have also demanded to include a clause in (Thursday's) agreement that if the security situation improves in Pakistan, some of the World Cup matches be played in Pakistan subject to teams' acceptance," Butt stated.

The ICC said it was expected the agreement would be signed later in the day and that the PCB had as a result agreed to withdraw legal proceedings against the body.

Morgan said: "This resolution is good for world cricket and provides an improved platform for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 as we now have a degree of certainty surrounding the event that was not there while the dispute was ongoing."

"I am glad we were able to come to an amicable agreement and I believe this is a fair resolution for the PCB and the ICC."

"When the position in Pakistan, from a safety and security point of view, becomes
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