

Bane for pacemen

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The season's transfer market for the upcoming Premier Division Cricket League may not have started yet, but it has already stamped its mark in the domestic arena with a few players signing whopping deals with the top-ranked clubs.

Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, vice-captain Shakib Al Hasan, dashing opener Tamim Iqbal, who added more spice to the whole thing by making a somersault, and former national skipper Mohammad Ashraful all have already significantly improved their price tags to kick-start the transfer market with record deals with the country's two popular sides -- Abahani and Mohammedan.

But there have been contrasting fortunes for the other national players like Shahadat Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Rokibul Hasan, Syed Rassel, Enamul Haque as these players almost begged to get a team for this season.

Especially the pace bowlers have been facing the adverse situation following

Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) pool system where one club is eligible to sign a maximum of three players.

Right-arm paceman Shahadat urged the game's governing body to keep the pacers out of pool so that they can avoid the painful situation.

The lanky paceman talked with the reporters after sign-

ing for Kalabagan Krira Chakra from Bangladesh Biman yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The inter-club players' transfer is originally scheduled from September 29 to October 1, but a special arrangement has been made to accommodate the players of the Bangladesh A team who will be touring Indian

state of Maharashtra from September 26 to October 17.

"It seems that I made a mistake by representing the national team. It's painful that nobody showed any interest in me. Thank God, I finally got a team. When some of my colleagues are getting huge amounts, players like me have been left suffering to even get a team. It's happened because of the pool system. I don't find any logic about it," complained Shahadat.

"Now nobody will show interest to become a pace bowler if this kind of trend continues. It is very sad that the pacers have never been rated either in the domestic scene or in the national side. Mashrafe is exceptional but think about Mohammad Rubel who is yet to get a team although he is a very promising pace bowler in the country," he said adding that the authority must take the matter seriously.

Experienced paceman Tareq Aziz, who switched to Biman from Mohammedan, also echoed the sentiment though he is not in the pool.

"I think only the pacers have been suffering for the pool system and they should be kept



Opening batsman of the national cricket team Imrul Kayes signs for Abahani ahead of the Premier League at the club office yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Real Madrid's world record signing Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his second goal against FC Zurich during their Champions League match in Zurich on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

WC 2011 Inspection team to rule on Ctg

SPORTS REPORTER

The hosting of 2011 World Cup matches in Chittagong will only be confirmed after the International Cricket Council (ICC) inspection team's visit to Bangladesh between October 26 to October 27.

Bangladesh will host the showcase event for the first time along with India and Sri Lanka and they have been awarded eight matches including two quarterfinals and the opening ceremony to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has selected two match venues -- Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and Chittagong Divisional Stadium while Khulna and Fatullah Stadium are being considered as alternative venues.

Initially Mirpur and Fatullah were the main venues but later the authority changed their mind following constant pressure from the port city organisers.

Meanwhile, a central organising committee (COC) meeting for the 2011 World Cup will

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



Did U Know?

Clijsters took up tennis and won her first WTA Tour singles title at Luxembourg in 1999, and reached her first major final in 2001, losing to Jennifer Capriati in the French Open.



Roger Federer

Swiss tennis superstar

"I tried everything, you know. Didn't work. I missed chances. He played well and in the end it was a tough fifth set. It's acceptable. But life goes on. No problem."

After losing the US Open final to Argentine Juan Martin del Potro on Monday.



STAR Cricket

England v Australia

Sixth ODI

Live from 8:30pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 9:30pm

TEN Sports

UEFA Europa League

Panathinaikos v Galatasaray

Live from 12:00am (Friday)

Everton v AEK Athens

Live from 2:00am (Friday)

Niaz in 3rd spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Morshed was on third position along with three other players at the close of the fifth round of Ravana Challenge International Chess tournament in Colombo.

Niaz drew with Iranian IM Toufighi Homayoon to earn 3.5 points after five outings, said a press release yesterday.

Some 74 players including 12 GMs are taking part in the tournament.

Doel is the mascot

SPORTS REPORTER



The executive committee of the Bangladesh Olympic Association on Tuesday approved the mascot of the 11th South Asian Games that will be held from January 29 to February 9 in the country.

Doel (Robin Magpie), the national bird of Bangladesh, has been chosen as the figure of the mascot. The Doel, holding the Olympic torch, will entertain the athletes of the eight participating nations during the 12-day regional extravaganza.

It is the third time that Bangladesh is hosting the regional showpiece event after 1985 and 1993.

Mahmud Islam, a former student of Dhaka University

Art Institute, designed the mascot.

Prominent artist Mostafa Manwar had designed the 1993 meet mascot -- a Mishuk -- while a tiger's cub was the mascot of the 1985 meet.

The 11th edition of the meet will see highest 23 disciplines, with five disciplines cricket, golf, ushu, handball and cycling have been included for

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



AFC U-16 C'SHIP Bangladesh to take part in qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) finally decided to send its squad to the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers in Philippines, scheduled for October 3 to 13.

The players have been asked to report to the coach today at the BFF House as their training camp resumes on Friday before leaving the country on September 30.

The governing body of local football had earlier decided not to send the team to the qualifiers, citing financial problems, and postponed the residential camp in Khulna on September 6 after one-and-a-half months.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Del Potro basks in glory

AFP, New York



Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro sees plenty of room for improvement on Tuesday as he targets more titles after stunning the tennis world with his maiden Grand Slam victory at the US Open.

Del Potro's 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 victory over Roger Federer snapped the Swiss star's five-year title run at the US Open.

"I would like to be top 4, top 3 or top 1 in the future. But I have to play like today many, many weeks in the year. I don't have the shape to do that but maybe if I'm still working and still going in the same way, maybe in the future I can," said the 1.98m star who is dubbed the 'Giant of the Pampas'.

Del Potro, who turns 21 next week, became the first South American to win a US Open since compatriot Guillermo Vilas in 1977 and the first non-European player to win a major since countryman Gaston Gaudio won the 2004 French Open.

Gaudio was a one-hit wonder who has never since matched his sparkling fortnight on the red clay at Roland Garros, but Del Potro has the tools to fare better with his massive size, booming forehand, formidable backhand and effective speed around the court. And he beat the world's two top players, Nadal and Federer, in his final two matches to win the title.

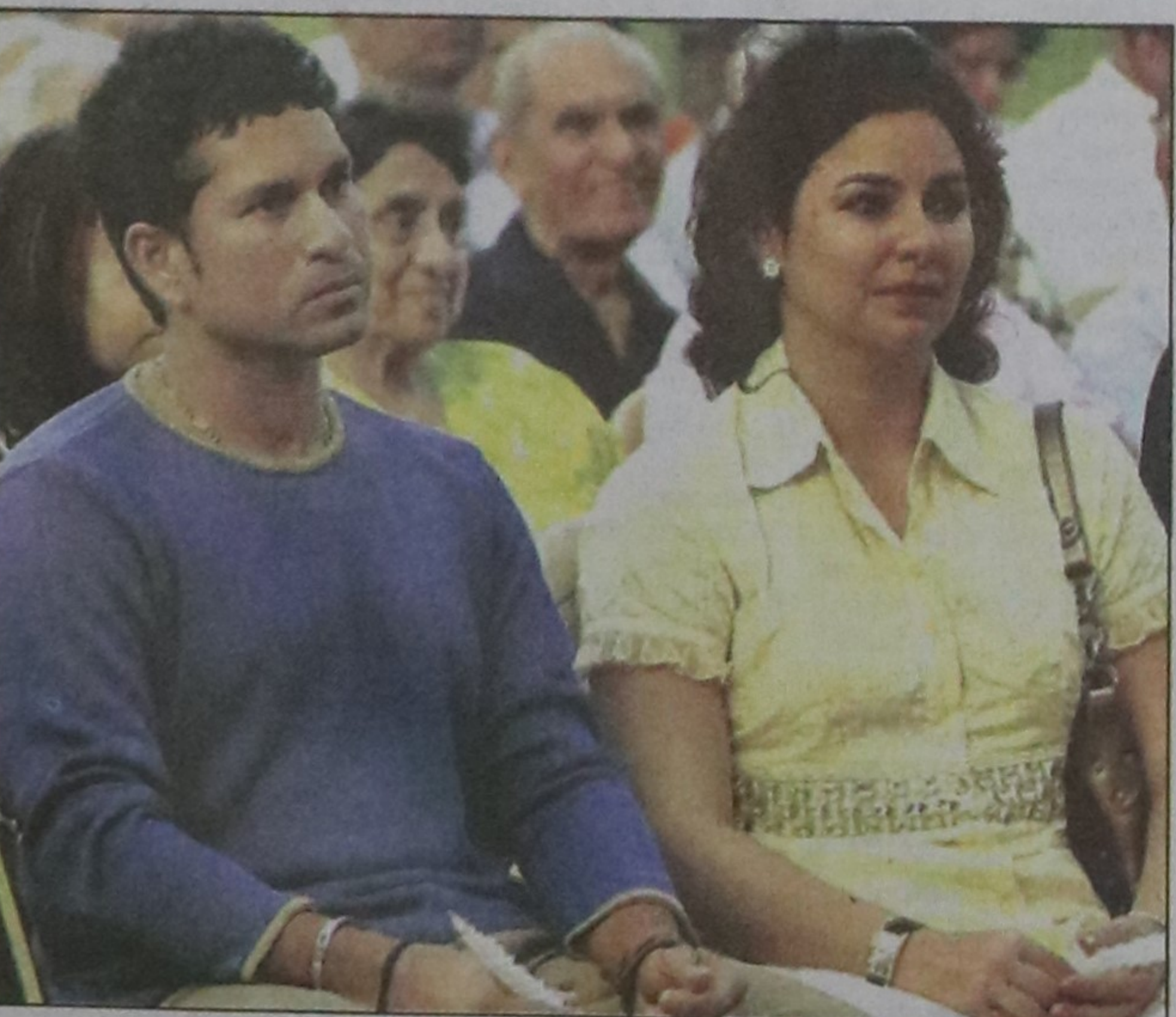
"I just want to live this moment," Del Potro said. "I have new opportunities in the other Grand Slams to win. If I here beat Nadal, Federer and many good players, maybe I can do it one more time."

"But of course it will be difficult because I was so close to losing."

Del Potro amazed even himself by rallying from a two sets to one down to beat the player seen by most as the greatest in tennis history after accumulating an all-time record of 15 Grand Slam titles.

"Maybe next week I will be believing in this, but now I don't understand nothing," Del Potro said.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3



Sachin Tendulkar and his wife Anjali attend a condolence service for former BCCI president Raj Singh Dungarpur in Mumbai on Tuesday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Mokaddes refutes allegations

SPORTS REPORTER

Mokaddes Hossain, general secretary of the newly formed ad-hoc committee of Bangladesh Chess Federation, yesterday urged all to refrain from negative activities for the greater interest of the game.

The allegations, brought against the newly formed ad-hoc committee in two separate press conferences on September 13 and 15, were false, baseless and indecent and everyone is urged to refrain from such activities for the greater interest of chess, said a press release from chess federation yesterday, which was signed by the general secretary.

The press release said that it was sad to see the new committee being termed as

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Ricky Ponting (L) gave Andrew Strauss plenty to think about during the 5th ODI between England and Australia at Trent Bridge on Tuesday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Ricky helps Aus go 5-0 up

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Australia captain Ricky Ponting's superb century paved the way for the world champions to beat England by four wickets in Tuesday's fifth one-day international (ODI) at Trent Bridge.

Victory saw Australia go 5-0 up in the seven-match series as they stayed on course to whitewash their oldest foes.

Set a seemingly challenging 300, master batsman Ponting's 126 -- his best ODI score against England, surpassing the 119 he made at Melbourne in 2002 -- took Australia to within sight of victory.

They still needed 39 off 36 balls after Stuart Broad had struck twice in the 44th over, Callum Ferguson plumb lbw and Ponting driving to Owais Shah at long-off.

But Cameron White and Mitchell Johnson, who ended the match with a six off Ryan Sidebottom saw them home with 10 balls to spare.

England's batting had repeatedly

failed this series.

But here they made 299 -- and still it wasn't enough.

Former Ireland batsman Eoin Morgan top-scored with 58 -- his best for his adopted country.

But Ponting, who shared a third-wicket stand of 133 with vice-captain Michael Clarke (52), showed how hundreds, not fifties, win games.

Ponting was soon into his stride and struck a huge straight six off left-arm quick Sidebottom.

But on 40 he was dropped by opposing captain Andrew Strauss, a drive off leg-spinner Adil Rashid skimming the England skipper's fingers at short extra-cover on its way to the boundary.

Ponting went on to complete a fifty off 51 balls under the floodlights and two magnificent sixes in as many deliveries from Rashid took him to 97.

A single off Rashid saw Ponting to his 27th hundred in 317 ODIs off 92 balls with three sixes and 10 fours.

Despite losing Clarke and Michael Hussey in quick succession, Australia

started the last 10 overs needing 70 more runs for victory.

Earlier 22-year-old left-hander Morgan, a Middlesex colleague of Strauss, reached fifty with a six off Nathan Bracken.

And he later audaciously reverse-hit Bracken for four, a shot Morgan has said previously was developed out of the Gaelic sport of hurling.

But, trying for a repeat next ball, he was caught at short third man.

Fast bowler Johnson saw his 10 overs cost an expensive 80 runs.

Both the new ball duo of Peter Siddie, recalled in place of Brett Lee despite the rested fast bowler's five-wicket haul in Australia's seven-wicket win at Lord's on Saturday, and Bracken started with a maiden apiece.

But Strauss, who after leading England to Ashes glory has won five straight ODI tosses but not much else, was again in good form with three boundaries in four balls off Siddie.

However Strauss, who the previous ball had driven off-spinner Nathan

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2