



India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (C) attempts to catch a ball as Ashish Nehra (L) looks on during a practice session in Mumbai yesterday.

Rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon became champion in the Pexatech Limited Open International Rating Chess Tournament defeating Saiful in the ninth and final round held at the Federation hall-room yesterday.

Emon of Air Destiny earned eight points while Shafiq Ahmed became runner-up through a tie-breaker after four players finished behind Emon to have earned 7.5 points each.

Abdur Rauf, Masum Hossain and Khairul Islam finished third, fourth and fifth respectively.

Meanwhile, over 200 participants took part in the tournament though the country's leading chess player like GM Reefat Bin Sattar, GM Abdullah Al Rakib, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag boycotted the tournament protesting the appointment of an ad-hoc committee in the chess federation.

Ponting

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Sanath Jayasuriya (13,377). Ponting finished with the highest aggregate of 228 runs from five matches in the Champions Trophy and was named the player of the tournament.

"I have played some of my best one-day cricket over the last few months," he said. "A lot of responsibility is on my shoulders as the number three batsman in the team."

The first one-dayer will be played in the western city of Vadodara on Sunday.

Gayle ready

FROM PAGE 17

side that lost to Bangladesh and then struggled at the Champions Trophy. He said it was heartbreaking but was hopeful that the situation would improve and a full-strength squad would head to Australia for three Tests starting in November.

"I'm happy agreements have been reached but at the same time, hopefully things will be better for our infrastructure so that we can work as one unit and leave the controversy behind, put it to one side and go out and enjoy the game," Gayle said. "I think it will happen. Let's keep our fingers crossed, everyone is looking to work together."

Ricky not chasing Sachin

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Ricky Ponting said on Wednesday he would prefer to win matches for Australia than chase the record-breaking feats of Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar.

"It's not about personal achievement or how many runs you score. It's the number of games you can win for your team," Ponting said ahead of a seven-match one-day series against India.

"I will do my best to win quite a few games for Australia in the next couple of weeks. I will keep plugging away, doing the best I can and hopefully keep playing well enough to win a number of games for Australia."

"That's what it's all about."

Ponting, who turns 35 in December, is considered the nearest contender to surpass

Tendulkar, who has the most runs and centuries in both Test and one-day cricket.

The Australian captain acknowledged the feats of the long-serving Indian star, saying Tendulkar, 36, had set a "benchmark for international players in the world."

"He's going into his 20th year in international cricket, which in itself is a remarkable feat within itself," said Ponting.

"The records he has set in Test and one-day cricket would be hard for anybody to tame down the track."

Tendulkar, has scored 12,773 Test runs with 42 centuries since his debut in November, 1989 against Pakistan. He also has 16,903 one-day runs with 44 hundreds.

Ponting, in contrast, has scored 11,345 Test runs with 38 centuries and 12,044 one-day runs with 28 hundreds.

Ponting and Tendulkar will face off when the first one-dayer opens in Vadodara on Sunday.

'Go slow on Bond'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori has said that Shane Bond will not be rushed back into Test cricket when Pakistan arrive next month. Vettori said Bond will be given the freedom to decide on his return after acclimatising and adjusting to the rigours of the longer version of the game after a lengthy lay-off.

New Zealand will face Pakistan for three ODIs and two Twenty20s in the UAE early next month before heading back home for three Tests. Bond, who made his international comeback in Sri Lanka recently, has been included for the UAE leg. It has been close to two years since he played a Test and his availability for the first match in Dunedin, starting November 24, is not guaranteed, according to his captain.

"It's a difficult one, it's going to be tough. Obviously that's what we want to happen but Shane hasn't played four-day cricket for a long, long time," Vettori said. "We don't want to force

him into it and realise we could set him back. He's going to need some four-day cricket and as soon as he gets that I think he's going to be able to put his hand up for selection."

New Zealand conclude their UAE tour on November 13, after which the players join their domestic sides for the first-class State Championship. Bond will have an opportunity to acclimatise when Canterbury play Otago from November 17. But if Bond feels he is not fit for the first Test he will have to wait till Canterbury's next game, against Auckland starting November 24, and that will mean skipping the Test.

"He's got the opportunity to play in a four-day game but that's probably a day after stepping off the plane after being in Dubai," Vettori said. "Whether that's the best thing to do or not, Shane is the best judge of that."

"If he plays in that first Canterbury game and goes well the selectors will definitely look at him. I'd be guided by what he says because he's such a valuable asset that if we don't utilise him well, we could get ourselves in trouble."

The second Test starts at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on December 3.

Warne taking new role

Cricket

ANI, Melbourne

He's known for his love of fast cars, and now Australia's spin king Shane Warne will be revving up television screens as the host of a new series of Top Gear.

Warne, whose stable of luxury cars includes a head-turning black Lamborghini Superleggera, is set to front a new series with Jeremy Clarkson, reports The Herald Sun.

He is likely to host six episodes of the popular motoring show.

In a TV coup, Channel Nine is believed to

have snared the rights to the motoring franchise from SBS.

Nine and SBS were both believed to have been in discussions with BBC Worldwide, which owns the rights to the motoring show fronted by Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May.

First-run episodes of Top Gear regularly top one million viewers on SBS.

Nine has confirmed that it has held discussions with Warne to host Top Gear Australia. No formal agreement has yet been signed, but he is their pick to host the series.

A Nine source says an agreement is likely to be completed within days.

Bangladesh Under-19 lose badly

SPORTS REPORTER

England under-19 pace-bowler Ben Stocks turned in an all round performance to hand Bangladesh under-19 team an embarrassing 117-run defeat in a limited overs practice match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Cricket Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Stocks scored 47 runs off just 27 deliveries hitting four massive sixes to set up a mammoth total of 258 for 8 in 50 overs and later took 3 wickets for 21 to reduce the hosts to 141 run all out in 46 overs.

None of the Bangladesh batters managed to play any substantial knock as they collapsed against a disciplined attack from the English chasing a tall target of 259. Bangladesh innings never recovered from a devastating start that saw them reduced to 23 for five in 11 overs. A few 20-something innings in the middle order could only reduce the margin of defeat for the hosts.

Earlier, batting first England were given an excellent platform with a 153-run 1st wicket partnership between Joe Root and James Vince. Vince scored 87 runs off 102 deliveries while Root got 65 off 109. Ben Stocks later provided his pyrotechnics to post the mammoth target for Bangladesh under-19.

GP BCB squad announced

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-member GP-BCB academy team for a practice match against the national side ahead of the Tigers' five one-day internationals series against Zimbabwe.

Marshall Ayub of Mohammedan will captain the GP-BCB side in the day-night affair on Saturday at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium as the Tigers will play the three matches against Zimbabwe under floodlight at the same venue.

Wicketkeeper M Mithun will be acting as deputy for Ayub.

Players have been asked to report head coach Ruwan Kalpage on the match day.

Squad: Marshall Ayub (captain), Md Mithun (vice captain), Rony Talukdar, Hamidul Islam, Mayshique Rahman, Shaqlain Sajib, Emon Ahamed, Shahul Islam, Muktar Ali, Tanvir Haider, Sanjamul Islam, Ariful Haq, Nasir Hossain and Farhad Hossain.

Officials: Ruwan Kalpage (head coach), Sohail Islam (asst coach), Mahbub Ali Zaki (fielding coach), Mohammad Salahuddin (computer analyst) and Dr. Debashis Chowdhury (team doctor).

C'WEALTH WEIGHTLIFTING Hasanuzzaman bags bronze

SPORTS REPORTER

Hasanuzzaman bagged a bronze medal on the opening day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship in Penang, Malaysia yesterday.

The Bangladeshi weightlifter finished third in the 62-kg category, informed Bangladesh Olympic Association deputy secretary general Anisur Rahman Dipu, but he failed to give the details.

Apart from Hasanuzzaman, Hamidul Islam and Fahima Akter are other two Bangladeshi participants in the championship.

Nimbus retains cricket rights in India

CRICINFO, undated

The rights to India's home international games for four years from April 2010 have been provisionally awarded to Nimbus Communications for a projected valuation of 2,000 crore rupees (431 million dollars).

The deal is fixed at 31.25 crore rupees (approximately 6.6 million dollars) per match, whether a Test, ODI or Twenty20, and is conditional on Nimbus furnishing a bank guarantee by January 15 of 2,000 crore rupees.

That figure is based on the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) current calculation of the number of games it might play between 2010-2014 but it is only a rough estimate given that the current Future Tours Programme ends in 2012 and the next one has not yet been made public.

Henin to come back in Brisbane International

Tennis

AFP, Sydney

Belgium's seven-time Grand Slam winner Justine Henin on Wednesday confirmed she would make her comeback from a 15-month retirement at Australia's Brisbane International in January.

The former world number one's return to tournament tennis will pit her against compatriot and fellow ex-retiree Kim Clijsters, who won September's US Open just five weeks after ending a two-year hiatus.

"After a 15-month absence I am pleased to begin my second tennis career at the Brisbane International," the 27-year-old Henin said in a statement.

"It will be great to get back to playing competitive tennis again and with the strong field, the same court surface and a similar climate to Melbourne, it will be the perfect preparation leading into the Australian Open."

Tournament director Steve Ayles said Henin will also be up against Serbia's former French Open champion, Ana Ivanovic, and home favourite Jelena Dokic at the January 3-10 event.

"It will be tremendous to see Justine match up against her former rival and countrywoman Kim Clijsters," said Ayles.

"With the former French Open champion Ana Ivanovic and Australian Open quarter-finalist Jelena Dokic confirmed, we are looking at an extremely strong women's field."

Despite winning a total of 41 WTA Tour titles and holding the world No. 1 spot for 117 non-consecutive weeks, Henin will be given one of four wildcard entries into the tournament, as she has no current WTA ranking, Ayles said.

Henin, who retired on May 14, 2008, citing a succession of injuries and a desire to live a life away from tennis, will play two exhibition events in Charleroi and Dubai later this year before her tournament return, he added.

The Olympic gold medalist and holder of three of the four major titles announced her

comeback shortly after Clijsters won the US Open, saying her passion for the game had been rekindled.

Small in stature but gifted with a fabulous one-handed backhand, a great all-round game and a tough mentality, Henin won seven Grand Slam titles in the seven years from 2001 -- four French Opens, two US Opens and one Australian Open -- as well as two WTA Tour Championships.

Henin said her comeback goal was to win



JUSTINE HENIN

Wimbledon, the only Grand Slam event to elude her, and has vowed to return to the top of women's tennis.

"Tennis is what I do best. I'm 27 and still physically capable," she said in September.

"I like a real challenge. Ambition is part of me, I need to live something exceptional, to feel the adrenaline."

Clijsters welcomed the return of her compatriot, saying it was "fantastic" for women's tennis and for Belgium, adding that Henin was a hard worker who had achieved magnificent results in her earlier career.

Hick awarded MBE

Cricket

AFP, London

Former England batsman Graeme Hick and ex-England rugby union international Alastair Hignell were among those receiving honours from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II here on Tuesday.

Hick, born in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, was awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) medal by the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

The 43-year-old never lived up to his promise as a Test match batsman but retired in 2008 having played more matches in all forms of senior cricket than anyone else after breaking former England captain Graham Gooch's record.

It was a feat acknowledged by the Queen, who told Hick on Tuesday the modern game had become even more "demanding".

Hick said: "I'm very honoured and very privileged. It's an amazing moment and a lot more nerve-wracking than walking out at Lord's, but it's a very special day for me and my family."

"It's something I'm sure I'll look back on and really cherish."

A night

FROM PAGE 17

Debreceen but they then pulled away to lead 4-2 at the break with Adrian Mutu scoring a brace.

It was enough to keep Fiorentina in second place in their group, three points behind Lyon with Liverpool facing a real struggle to qualify.

Zimbabwe

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October 27 under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, which will host the second and third matches on October 29 and 31 respectively.

Then the visitors will travel to Chittagong to play the fourth and fifth matches on November 3 and 5 at the Divisional Stadium.

Good

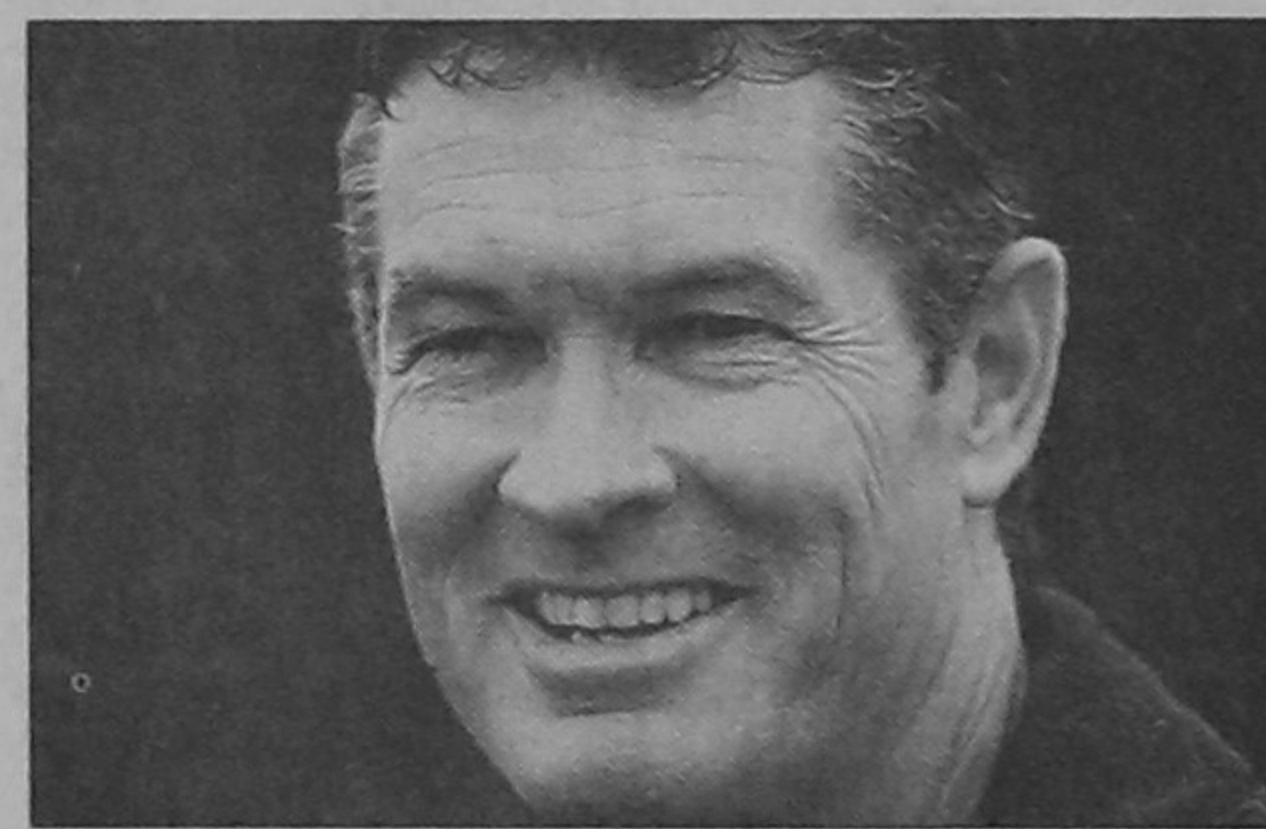
FROM PAGE 17

Federation Cup title with a 4-1 shootout win over the Sky Blues.

Besides, the football's governing body sold seven billboards at the cost of Tk 14 lakh.

"Sponsors Citycell will provide all the expenditure what we spent to stage the Federation Cup, so the revenue earned from gates and billboards is the federation's profit and the amount of the profit is about Tk 25 lakh," said BFF member Anwarul Haq Helal.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin informed that the revenue earned from the tournament would be spent in development sector.



GRAEME HICK

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ASKED TO PICK HER
PREFERRED APPAREL, THE FEMALE CARTOON
MOUSE DECIDED UPON A MINNIE SKIRT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P