



Did U Know?

The Olympic mascot is an animal or human figure that represents the cultural heritage of the host nation.



Roberto Carlos

(Brazil defender)

"My life in football and the club of my heart is Real. It would be a dream to return home to the Bernabeu and help this club win titles."



STAR Cricket & SuperSport6

Australia v West Indies

Third Test, Day 2

Live from 9:30am

TEN Sports

South Africa v England

First Test, Day 2

Live from 3:30pm

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Sports News

Live at 9:30pm

SuperSport3

Euro League

Genoa v Valencia

Live from 1:00am (Friday)

Everton v FC Bate

Live from 3:00am (Friday)

SuperSport7

Euro League

Benfica v Aek Athens

Live from 3:00am (Friday)

19 national hockey players resign

SPORTS REPORTER

Nineteen members of the national hockey team tendered their resignation yesterday in protest against the discriminating behaviour by German coach Gerhard Peter Rach.

The surprise mass resignation was submitted immediately after the Victory Day match between the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) XI comprising national players and Bangladesh police.

The resignation one and a half months ahead of the South Asian Games served a body blow to the BHF, which actually arranged improved training for the resigned 19 players in different European clubs under Rach.

But the visibly aggrieved players called Rach a dictator. They also blamed the German for not taking care of them during their two-month tour of Europe in the resignation letter. The players also stated that they would not join the national team until Rach was removed from his post.

The resignation episode, however, took a decisive twist in the morning when Rach kept six players -- Chandan, Kuti, Shuvo, Hasan, Rimon and Rajan -- out of the BHF XI squad for the ongoing Victory Day hockey competition.

"I have been put in category A during the tour of Europe, but the coach has dropped me without giving any reason. I think he took it personally because we were vocal against him for his mismanagement during the tour of Europe," said defender Asaduzzaman Chandan adding that he would never play for the national team if the coach could prove that he played bad in Europe.

Rach however defended his position saying that the squad picked for the Victory Day competition was not the final team for the SA Games. He also added that the changes have been made to only give other players an opportunity to prove their worth.

Rasel Mahmud Jimmy blamed the coach had never seen a single game they played in Germany, Holland, Italy and Czech Republic.

"He never saw a single match we played during our tour, but he picked the squad after having seen a 20-minute game today and it is unacceptable," said striker Jimmy, who was kept in category B along with Chayan, John and Kiron.

Pintu, a player of category A, said that the allegations brought by Jimmy and Chandan were logical as all the players suffered much during their tour of Europe.

Rach categorised 18 players who toured Europe into four groups -- A, B, C and D. But now he revised it after having analysed video footages.

"Yes, Chandan was kept in category A, but his performance was not good while Jimmy is not improving as he plays in one place. Apart from them, Chayan, Biplob, Tapash, Mimun have improved a lot playing in Europe," said Rach, who turned down the allegations brought against him, adding that two to three players were misguiding others.

When contacted BHF general secretary Khondoker Jamiluddin said that he was on his way to the federation after getting the news of mass resignation.

Anvir Adil, co-ordinator of the national team, said that the national camp would continue and they would investigate into the allegations.



Australia batsman Simon Katich sweeps on the first day of the third Test against West Indies in Perth yesterday. Katich was out for 99.

Aus wallop WI

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Australia's summer of batting near misses and bouts of pain continued, but they won't be too bothered after staying well ahead of West Indies on the opening day of the final Test.

While Ricky Ponting was forced to retire hurt with a throbbing left elbow and Simon Katich and Shane Watson left agonisingly close to deserved centuries, the hosts quickly forgot about their below-par performance in Adelaide and were on track for a series win after posting a formidable 339-3.

Ponting's elbow was the greatest concern for the hosts after he walked off on 23, but he was cleared by X-rays and will bat when required. The damage for West Indies, who could not provide lasting support for Kemar Roach, could

stay a bit longer on a pitch that looked fun for batting - except when Roach was operating.

Roach woke the tourists from their morning slumber during a five-over burst from the Lille-Marsh End in the middle session, forcing Ponting's retirement and removing Watson for 89. Strangely, he was not given the ball again until the second new ball was taken and was allowed an over into the wind before being replaced. He walked off with 1 for 67 in 13 overs, figures which don't reveal the damage he caused.

In between Roach's spells the spinners strangled Katich and Michael Clarke, giving some justification to the strange method of employing them both straight after tea. Katich was the most unfortunate, finding square leg with his sweep of Suleiman Benn to register his second 99 in Tests. He left without emotion but it was a wasted opportunity that maintained

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQ

A RICHLY DESERVED AWARD: Shakib Al Hasan (R) receives a crest from President Zillur Rahman during the Victory Day Parade at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Bangladesh stand-in captain won the accolade for his outstanding contribution to country's sport that saw the Tigers win their maiden away Test series against the West Indies this year.

Victory Day swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

The national swimmers, who have been preparing for the upcoming SA Games, showed a little improvement in the Victory Day Swimming Competition held yesterday at the National Swimming Complex.

A total of 10 events took place with only Dolly Akhter bettering the record in 50m breaststroke. Dolly took 35.81 seconds to eclipse the previous best 36.89 seconds while Mahfuza Khatun and Sonia Akhter clocked 36.56 and 43.31 seconds respectively to

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

2010 WC HOCKEY India, Pakistan in same pool

AFP, New Delhi

Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will face-off in the preliminary league of field hockey's World Cup next year, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced on Tuesday.

India and Pakistan have been drawn together in Pool-B alongside Australia, Spain, England and South Africa in the 12-nation tournament to be played in New Delhi from February 28-March 13.

Defending champions Germany head Pool-A, which includes the Netherlands, South Korea, New Zealand, Canada and Argentina.

Two teams from each pool will advance to the semifinals.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Victoria post easy win

SPORTS REPORTER



Kamrul Islam hit 86 as Victoria posted a five-wicket victory against Cricket Coaching School (CCS) in the Premier Division Cricket Super League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

With their seventh victory, Victoria improved their tally to 14 points from as many matches while CCS remained on ten points from the same number of outings.

Recovering from an early hiccup, Victoria reached their target of 225 with the loss of five wickets thanks to a 109-run fifth wicket partnership between Kamrul and Abul Bashir, who made 54 off 84 balls that included two boundaries.

Man-of-the-match Kamrul struck four boundaries and a six during his 88-ball 86 while Arafat Salahuddin was the other notable scorer with unbeaten 31 off 32 balls as Victoria achieved the target with two overs to spare.

Pacer Aslam Khan took two wickets while three other batsmen were victim of run outs in the Victoria innings, which lost their first three wickets for 48 runs.

Earlier Uttam Sarker and Tarequzzaman made a confident start for CCS after deciding to bat first as the opening pair added 52 runs before Monir Hossain removed Uttam for 32 runs. Tarequzzaman contributed 29.

It was however their Pakistani recruit Shahbaz Butt who hit the highest score with 61 off 95 balls that featured six boundaries as CCS scored 222 runs for eight in their share of 50 overs.

Monir claimed three wickets conceding 52 runs in 10 overs while Sajid Datta took two for 33 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

VICTORIA-CCS

Venue: SBNSCS

CCS: 222-8 in 50 overs (Uttam 32, SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sultana Ahmed, sister of Liberation War martyr Shaheed Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel, receives a memento from BCB's game development committee chairman Aminul Haq Moni after the Victory Day exhibition match between Shaheed Mushtaque XI and Shaheed Jewel XI at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

VICTORY DAY CRICKET Ziaur propels Mushtaque XI

SPORTS REPORTER

Ziaur Rahman's big hitting display helped Shaheed Mushtaque XI to secure an exciting two-wicket victory against Shaheed Jewel XI in the Victory Day cricket match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The seniors actually won the battle against the juniors as the Bangladesh Under-19s, who are going to play the World Cup in New Zealand in January next year, played under the banner of Shaheed Jewel XI.

After Shabbir Rahman, Zia entertained the crowd most in the match, which was first organised in 1972 in memory of Liberation War martyrs Shaheed Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel and Shaheed Mushtaque Ahmed, as the right-hander clobbered three fours and as many sixes during his 22-ball 38 runs knock as Shaheed Mushtaque scored 230 runs for eight

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

MU KEEP PRESSURE ON CHELSEA

Villa leapfrog Arsenal

AFP, London



Manchester United beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 3-0 at Old Trafford on Tuesday to draw level on points with Premier League leaders Chelsea.

England striker Wayne Rooney put United, beaten at home by Aston Villa last weekend, ahead from the penalty spot in the 30th minute after Ronald Zumaar handled Darron Gibson's corner and central defender Nemanja Vidic doubled the lead just before half-time when he headed in a corner that Wolves goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann could only palm into the net.

Antonio Valencia's 66th minute half-volley made it 3-0 as Wolves dropped into the relegation zone.

Victory gave Sir Alex Ferguson a win in his 900th league match as United manager but Wolves boss Mick McCarthy, in what appeared to be an attempt to keep his best players fit for the more 'winnable' game against Burnley on Sunday, made 10 changes to his team.

In Tuesday's other Premier League matches, Villa leapfrogged Arsenal, who play Burnley on Wednesday, into third place with a 2-0 victory away to Sunderland, who had captain Lorik Cana sent-off for two yellow cards.

Cameroon Jerome scored twice as Birmingham City beat Blackburn Rovers 2-1 for

a club record fifth straight Premier League to move up into sixth place.

Meanwhile Bolton beat relegation rivals West Ham 3-1 as they climbed out of the bottom three.

Villa's England striker Emile Heskey made it three goals in six games when, in the 24th minute he struck from 10 yards after James Milner played him in following a lay-off from Stilian Petrov.

And just after the hour mark, Milner made it 2-0 with a 25-yard shot.

Jerome gave Birmingham a 12th minute lead at St Andrews from just a yard out after Christian Benitez headed Sebastian Larsson's cross goalwards.

And three minutes after the break, Jerome doubled City's lead after neat approach play by Larsson and Stephen Carr.

New Zealand's Ryan Nelsen pulled a goal back for Rovers from close range in the 69th minute.

At the Reebok, South Korea's Lee Chung-Yong put Bolton in front with a well-struck 64th minute shot.

But minutes later the Hammers were level when Alessandro Diamanti finished from inside the box.

Then a handling error by West Ham and England goalkeeper Robert Green let in Bolton's Ivan Klasnic for a bizarre goal in the 77th minute before a header from Gary Cahill two minutes from time set the seal on the hosts' victory.



PHOTO: AFP

Aston Villa midfielder James Milner is ecstatic after scoring the second goal against Sunderland during their Premier League match at the Stadium of Light on Tuesday.