



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh footballers (L-R) Wali Faisal, Mamunul Islam, Atiqur Rahman, Zahid Hasan Emily and Zahid Hossain upon their arrival at the Dhaka airport from Sri Lanka, where they took part in the AFC Challenge Cup finals, yesterday afternoon.

Nat'l women's chess

SPORTS REPORTER

As many as 10 players shared the lead in the preliminary round of the National Women Chess Championship at the end of second round games at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

They are Nazrana Khan Eva, Zakia Sultana, Dilara Jahan Nupur, Masuda Begum, Shamiha Sharmim Simmi, Farjana Hossain Anne, Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury Moli, Mehnaz Ahmed Mithila, Jahanara Haque Runu and Protiva Talukder.

Eva beat Rokshana Titli, Zakia beat Aeon Sarkar, Nupur beat Feroza Haque Chowdhury Poppy, Masuda beat Farhana Momotaj, Simmi beat Hamida Khatun, Anne beat Ferdousi Ajmira, Protiva beat Arifa Khatun Moni, Moly beat Tahmina Akter Tisha, Mithila beat Tanzina Akter Tani and Runu beat Jannatul Ferdasi.

Hockey

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hold a two-day transfer on March 8-9 for those national players, who skipped the October transfer due to their involvement in the Germany Hockey League as part of the preparation for the regional extravaganza.

Some 19 players will take part in the transfer and each club will be allowed to sign up four players along with five foreign players.

Asked what would the league committee do if any players got no team, League Committee secretary Anvir Adel said, "We will have nothing to do according to the bylaws if anyone fails to get team but we federation officials will sit together to find out a way to accommodate them. Otherwise, they will play abroad as some of them got offers."

Anvir informed that the Premier Hockey League would begin three days after the completion of the Club Cup hockey.

Nasir lifts

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SCORES IN BRIEF
RAJSHAHIVKHULNA
RAJSHAH: First innings 269 for 9 declared in 80.1 overs (Zahurul 20, Forhad 29, Anisur 17, Nasir 122, Sabbir 16, Shahajada 13, Saqlain 12 not out, extras 35; Rasel 2-50, Robiul3-104, Murad 2-56)
KHULNA: First innings 11-0 in 7 overs (Amit 8 not out, Taposh 3 not out)

CHITTAGONGVDHAKA
CHITTAGONG: First innings 294 for 8 in 93 overs (Salahuddin 72, Mamun 43, Sunny 26, Arman 67 not out, Kamrul 41 not out, extras 20; Talha 2-48, Sharif2-30, Rubel2-60)

Aminul

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thought that his sending-off decision by the referee was a part of the game.

The Mohammedan custodian, however, said Bangladesh football is in the right track and that Bangladesh football would go far if the players could keep the style they adopted from departed coach Zoran Djordjevic.

Aminul also found a positive thing from the AFC Challenge Cup and they wanted to keep it intact.

"What we achieved from the tournament is that we showed our consistent performance in big matches against Tajikistan and Myanmar and we are hoping to keep the momentum in the next international engagements."

Kallis praises Parnell

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Reflecting on their thrilling one-run defeat against India at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, South Africa captain Jacques Kallis has said Wayne Parnell's performance with the bat, under pressure, was one of the positives they could take out of the game. Parnell, batting at No.9, scored 49 and was run out off the final ball with South Africa needing three runs to win.

The left-arm seamer didn't make much of an impression with the ball, taking 1 for 69 off nine overs. He walked in the 36th over of the chase with South Africa in trouble at 180 for 7. Kallis and Parnell had added 45 for the eighth wicket, but when the captain fell, India were still well in control. But Parnell's stand of 65 with Dale Steyn gave their side a fighting chance of pulling off an improbable win. Steyn smashed a 19-ball 35 before falling in the final over, as South Africa's hopes rested on the well-set Parnell.

"He's a talented cricketer and he's going to take a lot away from today (Sunday). Everytime he plays he's going to learn. He's still very new to the subcontinent," Kallis said. "He's got all the attributes of becoming a good allrounder and that's something that he's working on. He's a man for the moment, so he's certainly got a bright future ahead of him."

One of the biggest turning points in the chase was Sachin Tendulkar's save at the boundary in the final over. Charl Langeveldt pulled the ball to long leg where Tendulkar dived full length to his right and pulled it back before the rope. Replays weren't conclusive if Tendulkar had simultaneously made contact with the rope and the third umpire gave the benefit of the doubt to the Indians. The South Africans ran three but that extra run was the difference between a tie and an Indian win.

Kallis accepted the third umpire's call but referred to another bizarre incident, also involving Langeveldt, in the final over of India's innings. Langeveldt's yorker to Ashish Nehra had hit the stumps but the bails weren't dislodged. To add to South Africa's ill luck, the ball

deflected to the third man boundary, adding a crucial four runs to India's total of 298.

"That's not our call -- that's what third umpires are there for and he saw that it wasn't four and we've got to accept it and get on with it," Kallis said of the Tendulkar incident. "I think what came back to haunt us was Charl Langeveldt's second last ball that hit the stumps and went for four, which was incredible."

Kallis said he was pleased they had managed to restrict India to just under 300, but the real worries were with the batting. Kallis scored 89 but the rest of the batsmen failed to rise to the challenge, which left plenty for the lower order to handle. The recognised batsmen struggled against the left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who took 2 for 29 from his 10 overs on a good batting pitch.

"I think on the whole we're pretty happy with the way things have gone, although obviously there are things we need to work on. Our death bowling has been a problem for a while but the guys did really well there. At one stage it looked like India would make 330," Kallis said. "On the batting front we need to make sure we don't lose wickets along the way and get some big partnerships going to set the game up. Perhaps we've got to come up with ideas for the way Jadeja bowled - I thought he bowled really well and tied us down for a while, so we've got to make sure that we're strong on our game plans there."

Indian captain MS Dhoni, on the other hand, said India needed to work hard on their bowling.

"It was a team effort and from that perspective it was a good show, but we need to do better with our bowling," Dhoni said. "We cannot give away the runs we did with the new ball, although we were a bit hampered by the absence of Sahwag in the field. He made himself unfit while batting and could not bowl."

"When there are so many runs needed and when the No.9 and 10 batsmen are at the crease, you don't really expect your best bowlers to get hit the way they did. Credit must go to the batsmen, but I'm sure we would do better in the next game if the conditions are the same."

The second ODI will be played in Gwalior on Wednesday.

Querrey rallies to Memphis title

Tennis

AFP, Memphis

Sam Querrey rallied for a 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 triumph over fellow American John Isner Sunday in the final of the ATP Tour's Memphis tournament.

Isner, the sixth seed, overpowered his doubles partner and newly named Davis Cup teammate in the first set, but faltered after taking a 5-2 lead in the second-set tiebreaker.

Eighth-seeded Querrey, who upset top-seeded Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals, battled back to claim the third title of his

career and first of 2010. Querrey was injured in October in Bangkok after falling through a glass coffee table and suffering a cut to a muscle in his forearm that required 25 stitches.

He missed six weeks and spent the winter rehabbing his arm and now will jump from 31st in the world to the high 20s in the world rankings.

"This is the first match we've played," Querrey said of his first match against his friend, hitting partner and, for next month's tie against Serbia -- Davis Cup teammate.

"Hopefully over the next 10 years we'll play 10 or 15 times. I'm sure I'll win some

and he'll win some." Querrey, who was never broken in the match, won two straight points on Isner's serve to take a 6-5 lead in the second-set tiebreaker and rolled from there.

He broke Isner for a 2-1 lead in the third, and broke again to seal the match.

Isner had been in firm control, taking a 5-2 lead in the second-set tiebreaker when Querrey mis-hit a return.

Eng open

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for the second warm-up game. The good news is that Mashrafe (Bin Mortaza) has been declared fit by his Australian physician to play matches. Mashrafe has every chance to play the second practice match," said Rafiqul.

TEAMS
BCB XI: Shahriar Nafees (captain), Rokibul Hasan, Imtiaz Hossain, Nayeem Islam, Nasiruddin Faruque, Shaheen Hossain (wicketkeeper), Mahmudul Hasan, Shafiq Al Jabir, Tanvir Haider, Ariful Haque, Alauddin Babu, Tapash Baishya, Shamsur Rahman, Mohammad Sharifullah.

ENGLAND: Alastair Cook (captain), Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Joe Denly, Eoin Morgan, Matthew Prior (wicketkeeper), Kevin Pietersen, Liam Plunkett, Ryan Sidebottom, Ajmal Shahzad, Graeme Swann, James Tredwell, Jonathan Trott, Luke Wright, Craig Kieswetter (wicketkeeper).

Flower talks about his charges

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

England's coach, Andy Flower, has said that Alastair Cook must concentrate on being his own man as he prepares to lead the team on their tour of Bangladesh, which gets underway with a one-day warm-up against a BCB XI in Fatullah today.

Despite confirming that Paul Collingwood will serve as England's official vice-captain for the five-week trip, Flower is adamant that Cook is sufficiently worldly-wise to shoulder the leadership burden without having to lean too heavily on his senior colleagues.

"The most important thing for Alastair Cook is that he is quite clear in his own head how he wants to lead the side," Flower told reporters prior to the team's departure from Dubai. "Also, how will he deal with the eternal challenge for cricket captains, of leading a team while also making sure that your own game is in order, which is very important."

Following the decision to give Andrew Strauss a break ahead of the English season, Cook was named as England captain for a trip which includes three ODIs and two Tests. It was a move that met with considerable opposition, not least because Cook has not been entirely certain of his place in the side of late. He had been short of Test form until a timely run of scores in the recent series in South Africa, but he was

12th man in this week's Twenty20 series in Dubai, and will lead England into next week's three ODIs without having featured in a 50-over match since November 2008.

"I think he's content with his batting," said Flower. "One of the healthy things about Cook is that he's always looking to improve. He's done some really good work with Graham Gooch, who he respects and I respect tremendously, and they've worked really well together. If you couple his slightly altered technique with the determination and ability to deal with pressure that he's always had, you've got a strong package."

Flower added that he expected nothing less than victory in the five matches of the tour, but felt that the pressure to win straightaway would not place Cook. "I shouldn't think it will be playing on his mind at all," he said. "He will have thought about both series, and talked about both series already, but it would be wrong to look that far ahead. As a sportsman, you control what you can control, and looking at the end result of a five-week tour is not the way to do with that."

Should injury or illness afflict Cook during the tour, Collingwood will now be the man who takes charge, despite admitting that he doesn't want a full captaincy role again having found the job difficult during his time as one-day leader in 2007-08. He is nevertheless an experienced and level-headed figure to have alongside a young captain, and he has also been in impressive form through England's recent overseas trips, beginning with the

Champions Trophy and continuing on the tour of South Africa which concluded last month.

"The last time Colly captained the one-dayers, it took a lot out of him, and he doesn't want to put his name forward in a medium to long-term capacity for the captaincy," said Flower. "But he knows this would only be a stop-gap measure. As he said (on Saturday), if someone gets injured he's quite happy to step into the breach."

Flower added that Kevin Pietersen had also come into consideration for the role, despite some well-publicised difference of opinion between the two during Pietersen's shortlived stint as captain in 2008. "We had to consider all options as possible leadership candidates, and he was one of them," said Flower. "But in the end it was a simple cricketing decision."

"Collingwood did a good job in the Twenty20s, and it does take a while to get up to speed as captain, so the more you get used to thinking in that way, the better," said Flower. "With some of the Twenty20 cricket we've played with Colly captaining, he's feeling more comfortable."

The fact that Pietersen's run-scoring is so important for England may well have played a part in the management deciding not to burden him with the vice-captaincy. He showed a pleasing return to form in the 1-1 series against Pakistan with two impressive innings -- an unbeaten 43 followed by a 40-ball 62 -- after admitting he has found it tough since returning from injury.

Yuvraj to undergo treatment

CRICINFO, undated

Yuvraj Singh, the Indian batsman, will be off to Australia for treatment on the ligament tear he suffered on his left wrist during the tour of Bangladesh. Yuvraj sustained the injury during the second Test in Mirpur, and was subsequently ruled out of the Test and ODI series against South Africa.

"The BCCI has asked Yuvraj to go to Melbourne in for consultation. But I don't know whether he has departed," Ratnakar Shetty, the Indian board's chief administrative officer, told PTI. Yuvraj had informed on his Twitter page about the decision, after India's thrilling one-run win over South Africa in the first ODI in Jaipur. "Great stuff India! Am off to Australia for treatment -- bye guys," he wrote in his Twitter page.

Easy win for Baghdatis

AFP, Dubai

Gilles Simon, the former world number six, has still not won a match on the ATP World Tour for three and a half months after suffering a straight games defeat in the first round of the Dubai Open on Monday.

Simon, who is trying to make a comeback from a long-lasting knee injury, certainly had his moments against Marcos Baghdatis, the former Australian Open finalist, before going down 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 in a one-hour, 42-minute match full of long rallies.

The eighth-seeded Frenchman broke back twice in the first set, and from 0-3 to 3-3 in the second, and played many well-constructed baseline rallies, but had too high an error ratio during key phases of the match, and was therefore unable to capitalise on his best tennis.

IPL threat is credible

CRICINFO, undated



A report commissioned by the players' unions in England, Australia and South Africa and written by the England team's security adviser Reg Dickason has said that the recent threat from the 313 Brigade, Al-Qaeda's operational arm in Pakistan, is credible and that security cannot be guaranteed in India, according to newspaper reports in England and Australia. The assessment has apparently already been passed on to the players' unions and the cricketers concerned have been informed of its contents.

England are currently headed to Bangladesh for a full series after contesting a short two-match Twenty20 series against Pakistan in the UAE. The England players signed up for the IPL are Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Eoin Morgan, Owais Shah, Ravi Bapora, Dimitri Mascarenhas, and Graham Napier. Collingwood, England's Twenty20 captain, and Pietersen are expected to join the IPL only on March 24 but the rest are due to play the entire tournament.

"I am aware of the reported security risks and am in constant communication with Delhi Daredevils," said Collingwood, who till then had not seen the report. "I will make a decision once I have had a chance to review all

the available information and talk to the relevant people."

A report in the Sydney Morning Herald said no final decision had been taken yet by the Australian Cricketers' Association on what advice to give the country's large contingent of players who have signed up with the IPL. "We're not in a position to talk about it right now," Paul Marsh, the ACA's chief executive, told the paper. "I've just received it and I'm working my way through it."

Security fears regarding the IPL intensified after a string of statements warning countries not to send its representatives to major sports events being staged in India, including the IPL. Tim May, the chief executive of FICA, the international players' union, has warned of a spate of player withdrawals from the IPL due to security concerns over playing in India.

May's statements came on a day the Jaipur police said they had received intelligence inputs of a terrorist threat relating to the one day international in the city between India and South Africa on Sunday. This followed other reported threats targeting the Commonwealth Games and the Hockey World Cup, both due to be hosted in India this year. Earlier, the Shiv Sena, a right-wing regional political party, had claimed it would not allow Australian cricketers to participate in the competition as a protest against attacks on Indian students in Australia.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Winners of the 6th Hosaf President Cup Golf Tournament pose with chief guest and Army Chief General Abdul Mubeen (4th from R, back row) and Hosaf Group chairman Moazzam Hossain (5th from R, back row) during the prize giving ceremony at the Club House Auditorium of Savar Golf Club on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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12 Prima donna
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16 American dessert
18 Peppercine
20 Type of bird dog
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23 Square root of IX
24 Draw near
28 Despot
31 Meadow
32 Porch
34 Compass pt.
35 Get your second wind
37 Book supplement
39 — Beta Kappa
41 Architect
42 Scottish land-owners

DOWN
1 Leading man?
2 — Las Vegas"
3 Satan's specialty
4 Fancy fish eggs
5 Disordered mental states
6 Dine
7 Energizes, with "up"
8 Vinegary
9 Christened
10 One of a Great quintet
11 Antelope's playmate
17 Garland from 51-Across

Solution time: 24 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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J W T R I : V P Q R M Q V P M R M Q .
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF SECTIONS OF
MUSICAL PIECES ARE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD, I
GUESS THEY'RE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals R