

Tamim still has pain

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal is still having pain in his injured left hand.
"Still there is pain. I consulted the physio [Michael Henry] today and he advised to do the MRI tomorrow [Sunday]. After the MRI I can understand the condition," said Tamim yesterday.

Ansar keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER
Ansar & VDP defeated Abahani by 77 runs in the Women's Club Cup cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.
Batting first, Ansar made 161 in 48 overs with Rashma Akhter scoring 48 patient runs from 83 balls. Her innings included six boundaries. Supriya Das took four wickets but Abahani failed to make any impact with the bat, fizzling to 84-7 from their 40 overs.

Div II cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj
Purba Dasha Cricket XI defeated Biltu Club by five wickets in the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at the Manikganj Government Boys' High School playground here yesterday.
Batting first, Biltu Club made 136-7 in 25 overs. Moni scored 34 & Rakib added 26 runs. Sumon picked up three wickets while Maruf took two wickets.

Bombs blast at Chinnaswamy

AGENCIES, Bangalore
Four people were hurt Saturday when two small bombs exploded at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in India's IT hub of Bangalore, after a generator blew up earlier, injuring three others, police said.
"Two low-intensity blasts have taken place," said police commissioner Alok Kumar, adding that the prior generator explosion was an accident caused by a short-circuit.
One of the bombs was right outside the stadium and the other about 500 yards away.
The blasts delayed the start of the Indian Premier League match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians. The match was due to start at 4.00 pm but the toss was pushed back until 4.45 pm and the start of the game to 5.00pm. There were a substantial number of spectators inside the venue at the time of the blasts and security measures were tightened.
As an immediate response, police stepped up security measures at Eden Gardens, the venue of the day's second game between Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals. Spectators were advised to reach the ground early and without any bags.

Warne denies Akram's claim

IANS, Kolkata
Rajasthan Royals skipper Shane Warne has brushed Kolkata Knight Riders' bowling coach Wasim Akram's allegations of ball tampering in the Indian Premier League (IPL) saying he was hearing such things for the first time.
"I don't agree with it. I have been hearing this for the first time. You better ask Akram. Maybe he is an expert on this," Warne told reporters at the Eden Gardens here.
Akram had on Thursday said that bowlers in the IPL have been tampering the ball by rubbing red soil on it. He also said that umpires were not doing their task properly and were not taking notice of the ball once the flood lights were switched on.
"I won't name anyone but I have seen quite a few cricketers who have been rubbing mud on the ball and that is also tampering," Akram was quoted as saying.



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates his win against compatriot David Ferrer during the Monte Carlo Masters Series semifinal in Monaco on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

Yousuf didn't appeal

Cricket
AFP/PTI, Karachi
Former Pakistan cricket captain Mohammad Yousuf has not appealed against a ban imposed on him by cricket authorities, leaving the punishment to attain finality, official said Saturday.
"The last date to appeal against the penalties was April 16 and since Yousuf did not challenge the punishment, the ban has attained finality," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi told AFP.
The PCB last month imposed heavy fines and bans on seven top cricketers on the recommendations of an evaluation committee, set up to look into team's dismal performance on the tour of Australia between December-February.
The committee also investigated the off-field discipline problems on the Australian tour and two preceding tours of New Zealand and

the United Arab Emirates.
Pakistan lost all three Tests, five one-day matches and a Twenty20 international on the Australian tour.
Yousuf along with another former captain Younus Khan was banned for "indefinite period keeping in view their infighting which resulted in bringing down the whole team."
PCB later clarified that "it is not a life ban and as when the PCB deems appropriate, these players will be considered for selection for the national team."
Yousuf retired from international cricket "for the time being" and did not appeal in protest.
Talking to AFP, Yousuf criticized Saturday saying: "I have left the matter to Allah Almighty and did not appeal."
"I have no intentions of filing any appeal in future as well, I am retired and my international career is over," Yousuf said.

Nadal rolls into final

AP, Monaco
Rafael Nadal is back in the final where he'll try to win a sixth straight Monte Carlo Masters after beating Spanish compatriot David Ferrer 6-2, 6-3 in the semifinal on Saturday.
Nadal could meet top-seeded Novak Djokovic in a rematch of last year's final. The Serb will play sixth-seeded Fernando Verdasco of Spain in the other semifinal.
Nadal leads Ferrer 10-3 overall, and had little trouble after conceding the first game to Ferrer.
The Spaniard held, then broke to lead 2-1 before going on to take the set in little more than 30 minutes when Ferrer's backhand went wide.
Nadal broke to lead 2-1 in the second set, but Ferrer broke back by wrong-footing Nadal with a stinging passing shot.
Ferrer made two unforced errors in the next game to drop serve again, and Nadal held to love for a 4-2 lead. He took Ferrer's serve for the fifth time to lead 5-2 and served for the match.
The 23-year-old Nadal clinched victory on his second match point after the 11th-seeded Ferrer hit a forehand into the net.
Nadal has won 31 straight matches in Monaco.

Scholes

FROM PAGE 17
Evra, substitute Nani and Giggs all had half-chances for United while Gareth Barry and Nigel de Jong threatened the United goal; all in a five-minute period.
United substitute Dimitar Berbatov, on for Rooney, headed inches wide of Given's covering dive from a Gary Neville cross nine minutes from time.
Then van der Sar mishandled a corner, sparking a furious late scramble in which Vieira and Nedom Onuoha had shots blocked.

Why having this NCL?

FROM PAGE 17
There seem to be a universal reluctance to take chances apart from only going after the bowling in the first and last few overs. In the fourteen matches played so far, the average first innings score has been only 138 runs. The most dominant team so far -- Dhaka Dynamites -- are more than happy with anything around 150 and have been perfectly capable of defending it.
In fact the bowlers would probably never have imagined Twenty20s to be so much fun. Bowling in one or two-over spells, most have thrived on the batsmen's muddled thinking. Especially the middle overs have been heavily stacked in favour of the spinners. Of the 15 man-of-the-match performances, 11 have gone the way of the bowlers. Two pacemen -- Mukhtar Ali and Rubel Hossain -- have snapped up five-fors, a rarity in Twenty20 cricket.
Obviously the bowlers would take full advantage of what they are faced with but the lop-sided nature of the

contests has not drawn big crowds.
A refreshing change is the Sultans of Sylhet. Apart from one poor outing, they have been quite the flamboyant line-up. Probably because their trump cards Mashrafe and Alok Kapali have fired, they seem to be the only team so far happy to go after the bowling throughout the Twenty20 overs.
They have posted the highest score of the tournament so far, 182-6 against Rajshahi Rangers, and successfully chased a 150-plus score. Perhaps they have accepted that Twenty20s have to be played in a new method of quick shifts in batting tempos and constant variations in bowling, and not like a miniature form of one-day cricket like most of the others have so far put up. Some of their batsmen, particularly Kapali, have done well.
But the man who has stood out is Tamim Iqbal, who is the leading scorer so far with 193 runs from five matches. The left-hander certainly knows

Jamil was helpless?

FROM PAGE 17
(Friday), said Jamil while talking to reporters in the evening.
"Whatever happened in my presence has annihilated my credentials to remain the general secretary of the federation, both from legal and moral point of view," he added.
Showing his regrets to Usha, Jamil claimed that Mohammedan Sporting Club had acted like 'hoologists' by fielding an unregistered player and questioned how Mohammedan could have not received the by-laws with their councillor Tarikuzzaman Nannu being the secretary of

the by-laws committee.
The tournament committee secretary Anvir Adel has informed that a league committee meeting will be held soon which will take a decision as to whether the awarding of the tournament to Mohammedan holds or should Usha be declared champions, regarding the by-laws of the tournament.
Khandaker Jamiluddin has once again cited the presence of chief guest Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith as the reason for getting into with the game.
"I was turned into a mere spectator to whatever hap-

Yet Rangers thru' Asif-Veena row over

PTI, Lahore
The financial feud between Pakistan pacer Mohammad Asif and actress Veena Malik has finally ended after a common friend's intervention.
The week long saga saw both Asif and Malik file counter cases against each other in the Lahore High Court over a money dispute.
Asif and Veena ended the sizzling scandal at a joint press conference that had captured the attention of the media and the people.

pened for the presence of the minister. If we had postponed the match, I feared we might have come under the cosh.
"Moreover, there is the Asian Games qualifying matches coming up next month. We might have lost the validity of such a big event had we left this tournament unfinished," said Jamil.
But now it seems those fears have heavily backfired since the incidents of Friday have posed a huge question mark on the proficiency, work ethic and mettle of the federation officials on the start of a season which had promised to bring hockey back to the field.

Mumbai unstoppable

CRICINFO, undated
Mumbai Indians, already in the semifinals, sent a strong message to their rivals by crushing second-placed Royal Challengers Bangalore by 57 runs yesterday. The Bangalore side's net run-rate took a beating but remained just high enough to make them favourites for a spot in the last four after a delayed start due to a low-intensity blast outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.
The organisers decided to go ahead with the match, and spectators were ushered into the stands amid heightened security.
Once the match began, Mumbai also brushed aside any criticism about them being overly reliant on orange-cap holder and captain Sachin Tendulkar, whose rare failure didn't prevent the table-toppers from amassing 191 on a greenish track.
Ambati Rayudu has been the best of the ICL returnees this season, and added to his growing reputation with another power-hitting cameo that jumpstarted Mumbai after a dawdling start. Kieron Pollard briefly showed why he was so sought-after during this year's auction, after which JP Duminy's clinical finishing silenced the home crowd, as it had when he lashed an unbeaten 99 in the Champions League.
Needing to score at nearly 10 an over from the outset, Bangalore were rarely in the chase, plodding to 12 after three overs and losing both openers on 34 in the Powerplay. There was still hope for a deep Bangalore batting line-up, but once Harbhajan Singh removed both Kevin Pietersen and Rahul Dravid in quick succession, the required-rate spiralled above 13. That proved too much even for the home side's biggest hitters, Robin Uthappa and Ross Taylor, both of whom were foxed by slower ones, and Bangalore's focus shifted to reducing the mar-

gin of defeat and keeping their net run-rate from slinking too low.
After a slow start, it was in the ninth over that Mumbai switched to top gear. Rayudu launched an onslaught on Pankaj Singh, preferred again to Praveen Kumar, lashing 22 off the over to boost the run-rate to a more Twenty20 level. He benefited from Bangalore's clumsy catching, when Vinay Kumar palmed an overhead chance over the rope at long-on.
A couple of quiet overs followed before Rayudu decided to take on the tournament's most economical bowler, Kumble. He clubbed consecutive sixes over long-on off the Bangalore captain, and backed that up with a couple of fours against Kallis, before a sharp, short delivery forced him to offer a return catch.
Despite that sustained hitting, the crowd wasn't expecting a target near 200 after the sluggish Mumbai start. But Pollard, who murdered the Delhi Daredevils attack in his previous match, continued in the same vein, slamming three consecutive sixes to round off a forgettable day for Pankaj. Kumble, though, made it a short stay for Pollard by tricking him with a quicker delivery, trapping him lbw.
Bangalore thought they had got rid of the danger man but Duminy continued his love affair with the Chinnaswamy Stadium with a controlled cameo. He started by thumping Kevin Pietersen over long-off and then caned Kallis' length deliveries for 19 runs in the 18th over. A boundary each in final two overs pushed him to 42 off 19, and Mumbai had taken 113 off the final nine overs.
SCORES IN BRIEF
MUMBAI INDIANS: 191-4 in 20 overs (Rayudu 46, Duminy 42*, McLaren 40). ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 134-9 in 20 overs (Kohli 37, Pollard 3-28).
Result: Mumbai Indians won by 57 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Ryan McLaren.

Nothing to hide: Modi

CRICINFO, undated
The Indian Premier League's (IPL) third season continues to be dominated by events off the field, with income-tax officials conducting an eight-hour operation -- ending at 3 am on Friday -- in the league's offices and the residence of Lalit Modi, its commissioner, and a team also visiting the office of the Kings XI Punjab in Mohali.
Modi emerged in the early hours of Friday and spoke briefly to reporters.
" They have taken documentation in regard to the bidding, I am sure they will be satisfied with the documents they have got," Modi said. "If they are not satisfied, we will provide them with more information. We are a public body, we have nothing to hide.
" They were given documentation details, they verified the documents and went through the entire process of bidding. The questioning was over in a few minutes, but it took them longer as they had to go through the documents."
Modi said the officials saw the documents related to bidding by the new franchisees, owned by Sahara and the Kochi consortium, as well as those related to other IPL franchises.
In his statement to the Lok Sabha, Tharoor repeated his stand -- that he had acted in good faith as a member of parliament from Kerala and that he had not gained financially from the deal.
" I have neither benefited nor received a single rupee from my association with the consortium," Tharoor said, reading out his statement to reporters in front of Parliament House. "This allegation is particularly wounding because I've had a three-decade career in public service and those who know me are aware that money

has never been a motivating factor.
" My role in mentoring was within the bounds of appropriate conduct of an MP and a minister...there was no misuse of my official position or ministry...my official position gave me no advantage. It was irrelevant to the bid."
The allegations involving Tharoor point to his close relationship with Sunanda Pushkar, a marketing professional who has been given a 4.7 per cent stake in the consortium as sweat equity. The allegation is that she is a front for Tharoor, a charge the minister has consistently denied. "Whatever money that accrues by way of sweat equity is for their work in the future and is not connected to me," he said, adding that he perceived a gender bias to be against this allegation.

C'Ron wants

FROM PAGE 20
" We are out of the Champions League, the Copa del Rey, so we are not very happy of course," he said. " We are still in the league to fight so it's possible to win.
" We'll be very frustrated if we don't win anything. A team like Madrid has to win something every year, but Barcelona at this moment are a little bit stronger than us because they won both times they played us.
" I still believe we can improve in the next games. The next months, the next year, we'll be much stronger than we are at the moment, so if we don't win this season, definitely we will win next year."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS
1 Caspian feeder
5 Couric's network
8 Close
12 One's performance
13 Coloration
14 Macadamize
15 Silicon Valley school
17 Scope
18 Find a new owner
19 Blood lines?
21 "Norma"
22 Soft ball
23 Pump up the volume
26 Underwear with underwire
28 Haley book
31 Fisher-man's supply
33 Duchamp contemporary
35 Legal document
36 Tiramisu topper
38 Navigation aid
40 Actress Susan
41 Northern Iraqi
43 Gun lobby org.
45 Imprisoned
47 Black-eyed legume
51 Hoodlum
52 Joan, Michael or Cindy
54 Traditional tales
55 Diving bird
56 Craving
57 Race place, for short
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1 Cold War initials
2 Memory method
3 "Woe is me!"
4 Hermit
5 Gastrointestinal illness
6 Prickly seedcase
7 Auto style
8 Who killed Cock Robin?
9 Connecticut city
10 Eye layer
11 4:00 get-togethers
16 "The Biggest Loser" target
20 -- the fields we go"
23 Basic learning
24 Chinese chairman
25 Mary of silents
27 Beach
29 Dead heat
30 Pigs' digs
32 U.S. Open, e.g.
34 Flapjack
37 Exist
39 Ship's front
42 Transfer
44 Terrible
45 Wrinkly citrus
46 Midday
48 Sweet opening
49 Therefore
50 Mideast Gulf
53 Regret
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I SAY I WILL CATCH THE WORLD'S LARGEST TROUT TODAY, I RECKON THAT'S ONLY FISHFUL THINKING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T