

Women's cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Ansar and VDP scored an 86-run victory over Azad Sporting Club in the Women's Club Cup Cricket tournament at the Dhankundi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Ansar and VDP posted a huge total of 186 for four in their 40 overs, thanks to 45 from Panna Ghosh, 43 from Ayesha Akter and 40 from Lota Mondal. Later Lota took three wickets for 19 while Sharifa Akter took four for 20 as Azad Sporting were bowled out for 100. Rehnuma Zaman remained unbeaten for 37 while no other batsmen reached double figures for Azad Sporting.

In the other match of the day, a low-scoring affair, BKSP (45 for 2) destroyed Indira Road (44 all out) by eight wickets.

BKSP win in Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP defeated Pakistan National Academy by seven wickets at the NBP Sports Complex in Karachi yesterday. BKSP got the hosts bowled out for 184 in 40 overs. Mohammad Forqan took four wickets while Asif Ahmed Ratul took three. In reply, Ratul rattled an unbeaten 74 as the visitors reached the target in 37 overs. Tariqul Islam scored 45.

BSF plans for Korean coach

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Shooting Federation plans to bring Korean coach Lee Joang Hyun ahead of this year's Commonwealth, Asian Games and the 2012 Olympics in England.

The federation also plans to handover only three to four shooters like Sharmin Akhter Ratna, Sadia Sultana and Asif Hossain Khan to him for intensive training in a bid to achieve medals from the Olympics.

Lee, a specialist coach of rifle, has been in Bangladesh from November 2009 to February 2010 as a Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan coach.

BSF general secretary ANM Istiaque Ahmed Bablu said that the final decision would be taken at Wednesday's training committee meeting as they have already offered Lee and were waiting for his reply.

He also informed the members that the training committee is positive about Lee, who also expressed his desire to work with Bangladesh national shooters during his departure in February.

Boxer commits suicide after killing wife

INTERNET, undated

Venezuelan boxing superstar Edwin Valero has reportedly killed himself in prison after being arrested for murdering his wife.

Chief Wilmer Flores of the Venezuelan Federal Police said that he hung himself using his clothes in the early hours of Monday morning.

Valero, a former WBC lightweight champion who was being lined up as Manny Pacquiao's next opponent, had been arrested on Sunday for the murder of his wife, Jennifer, who had been discovered with three fatal stab wounds in a room at the InterContinental hotel in the Venezuelan city of Valencia.

The attorney-general's office said after the arrest that Valero had confessed to the murder.

The statement read: "Valero went down to a hotel reception and confessed to the employees that he had carried out the murder."

The 28-year-old fighter had suffered in the past from drug and alcohol problems, and was detained in March for mistreating his wife.

The incident appears to mark a gruesome and tragic end to a stellar boxing career that has seen him earn a reputation as one of the hardest punchers in the sport.

He was unbeaten in 27 professional fights, but relinquished his world lightweight title earlier this year in order to move up a weight division.

Kings depose

FROM PAGE 17

KINGS OF KHULNA: 134-4 in 19.4 overs (Mithun 21, Udawatte 38, Kayes 38, Farhad 15); Mashrafe 2-26. Result: Kings of Khulna won by six wickets. Man-of-the-match: Mahela Udawatte.

'Tweeted' out of office

AFP, New Delhi



Scandals have ruined many a political career in India, but Shashi Tharoor is the first minister to be brought down via Twitter.

A former UN undersecretary general, Tharoor had brought a rare touch of international flamboyance to his brief tenure as junior foreign minister, which was frowned on by more traditional elements in the Congress Party-led government.

Known in the media as "Twitter Tharoor," he showed a particular penchant for the microblogging site that he felt allowed him to engage with ordinary people.

His Twitter page showed he had more than 720,000 followers at the time of his resignation late Sunday over allegations of corruption linked to the multibillion-dollar Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket tournament.

Since taking up his post, his outspoken tweets on various issues had sometimes got him into trouble with the Congress hierarchy, but the message that forced him to step down came from another keen user of the ubiquitous social networking tool.

IPL chief Lalit Modi used his Twitter site to leak details of the stakeholders in a consortium that Tharoor had helped put together for a

successful bid for a new IPL franchise. One of those named as receiving a free stake worth around 15 million dollars was a friend of Tharoor's -- said by Indian media to be his girlfriend.

The minister denied any wrongdoing, saying he had helped only by "mentoring" the bid, but opposition protests and growing pressure finally forced him to resign.

"A Twitter-sweet end," observed a headline in the Times of India.

While Twitter and other social networking tools like Facebook have become popular with politicians in many countries, they have generally been viewed with suspicion in India's largest democracy. The world's political elite have never been particularly keen on any instrument that breaks down the bureaucratic barriers between themselves and those they rule.

Tharoor's tweets soon became a regular news item in India as newspapers and TV channels competed to uncover messages that might get the minister into hot water.

An early contender was a tweet that criticised his own government's visa policy.

Then, in the middle of a Congress-led austerity drive that required ministers to fly economy class, Tharoor upset Hindu sensibilities by tweeting that he was travelling "cattle class in solidarity with all our holy cows".



SHASHI THAROOR

Bukola brace fires MSC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong



Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola Olalekan struck two goals as title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club registered an emphatic 3-1 win over hosts Chittagong Abahani in their second meeting of the Bangladesh League at the MA Azad Stadium yesterday.

Bukola was also instrumental in the Black and Whites' first goal struck by mercurial striker Zahid Hasan Emily, who had struck five goals against Arambagh KS in the previous match in Dhaka.

On the back of a 7-0 drubbing of Arambagh, the high-flying visitors took to the field with a good impetus before facing the challenge from the hosts, who held them for over half-an-hour before conceding the first goal in the 37th minute.

Bukola ran down the right before whipping in a cross for Emily, who sent the cross home in a goalmouth melee to join top-scorer Sheikh Rusel's Moroccan striker Samad Omari on 13 goals.

Then, Bukola doubled the lead on the eve of the break with a well-judged header when a rebound off a Wali Faisal free kick came in his way and the Black and Whites went for a comfortable breather.

After resumption, local boys stepped up the attacks and put up signs to come back in the match and the pressure paid off immediately when Rony set up by Mithun Chowdhury drove the ball home giving Mohammedan goalkeeper Aminul Haque no chance to react.

But Bukola made the result of Mohammedan safe striking his ninth league goal in the 64th minute.

Having collected a long ball, Bukola advanced into the box without facing trouble and sent the ball over the head of Abahani's advancing goalkeeper Khaled Azam Biplob, who, had earlier foiled a couple of chances from the visitors.

The local side also got a great chance in the first half but Abahani's national forward Mithun set by Rony drove his shot miles off the target in a one-on-one situation to disappoint Chittagong Abahani, who also lost 3-0 to Mohammedan in their first meeting in Dhaka.

Mohammedan have now 45 points from 17 outings, four points behind leaders Abahani while Chittagong Abahani stick to 17 playing as many matches.

Special One

FROM PAGE 17

than with the feet," he said before insisting that he would have no problems celebrating against his former team.

"If I was to score at the San Siro of course I'll celebrate but maybe if I score in the Camp Nou I won't."

"We're nourishing the dream of making history. Barcelona are the best team at the moment but every game has its own story and we want to write our own story against Barcelona."

While the Catalans won the treble last season -- league, Champions League and domestic cup -- and thus matched the achievement of Manchester United in 1999, Inter are dreaming of joining that select band this season.

Already they are through to the Coppa Italia final and are second in Serie A, just a point

behind AS Roma. But if they are to achieve the treble, one suspects that this will be the biggest hurdle to surpass.

"Are we good enough to beat Barcelona? We hope so but we're playing the best team in the world in terms of quality and class," said nerazzurri captain Javier Zanetti, who has racked up 500 games for the Italians.

"We're in good shape, we're playing many games one after another and each one requires a special effort."

"But when you get a bit tired, you need intelligence. That's how you overcome these moments."

It's not just volcanic ash that is against Barcelona, though, as Spain midfielder Andres Iniesta is out injured while Inter will be at full strength.

Rangers defuse

FROM PAGE 17

For Rajshahi, Naem took two while there were two each for Sanjamul and Shafuil as well.

When the Rangers batted, their Australian recruit Aiden Blizzard tore into the Dynamites with a string of boundaries in the first few overs.

The Victorian opener was severe on Shahadat, taking 18 off his second over that included a beautifully driven straight six. Dhaka eventually got him out in the fifth over for a fiery 16-ball 32 that contained a six and six boundaries.

Hannan Sarkar and Juaed Siddiqui worked on the fast start and both got into the 20s but it was Naem who batted like Blizzard. The right-hander

struck a boundary and two sixes in his 21-ball 31, giving the Rangers a much-needed impetus late in the innings.

For Dhaka, Taposh took two for 17 while Rafique, Riyad, Ashraf and Mendis picked up one each.

SCORES IN BRIEF RAJSHAHI RANGERS: 142-6 in 20 overs (Blizzard 32, Juaed 23, Hannan 20, Abbas 13, Naem 31; Taposh 2-17). DHAKA DYNAMITES: 130 all out in 19.5 overs (Kandamby 33, Riyad 25, Taposh 15; Naem 2-23, Sanjamul 2-15, Shafuil 2-26). Result: Rajshahi Rangers won by 12 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Naem Islam.

Div II cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Gilanda United Club defeated Sir Sadat Ali Memorial Club by one wicket in the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at Manikganj Government Boys' High School play ground here yesterday.

Batting first, Sir Sadat Ali Memorial Club scored 134 for nine in 22 overs. Sabuj top-scored with 35 runs. Monir picked up four wickets while Sanjit and Bijoy took two wickets for Gilanda United Club.

In reply, Gilanda United Club reached 135 for nine in 20 overs. Moni scored 28 runs and Samad added 22 runs. Tarukul picked up three wickets while Tanvir took two wickets for Sir Sadat Ali Memorial Club.

Modi aims to resolve crisis

CRICINFO, undated

Lalit Modi met the new chairman of the Kochi franchise, Dubai-based Harshad Mehta, in an attempt to solve the row over the team's ownership structure that has snowballed into a major political issue in India.

Modi, who was in Dubai for an ICC meeting with BCCI president Sharad Pawar and ICC principal advisor IS Bindra, was confident that a solution was in sight after meeting with Mehta. "Kochi issue would be resolved. I am confident the Kochi team will continue and contribute to the success of IPL," Modi told PTI.

The controversy was triggered by an update on Lalit Modi's twitter account that questioned the ownership structure of the Kochi consortium, particularly the nature of equity owned by Sunanda Pushkar, who is a friend of Shashi Tharoor, a cabinet minister in the Indian government.

Ms. Pushkar has since given up her stake in the franchise, while Tharoor was forced to resign from his office, over allegations of conflict of interest in his mentoring of the consortium.

Modi denied he had a personal agenda against Tharoor, or that there was an element of political power struggle. "It is not Modi Vs Tharoor... My priority is cricket and we would resolve the entire issue at the earliest," Modi said.

FROM PAGE 17 make it into the last four in three IPL seasons so far, played only for pride as soon as Dwayne Bravo, leading Mumbai in the absence of a resting Tendulkar, chose to bat. If Kolkata had batted first and beat Mumbai Indians by around 175 runs, they could have improved their net run-rate so much as to take them into the last four.

SCORES IN BRIEF MUMBAI INDIANS: 133 for 8 (Tiwary 46, Kartik 2-20, Bond 2-24). KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 135 for 1 in 17.3 overs (McCullum 57 not out, Ganguly 46). Result: Kolkata won by nine wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Murali Kartik

Sania, Shoaib to go to Pakistan in few days

PTI, Hyderabad

Newly-wed couple Sania Mirza and Shoaib Malik will leave for Pakistan in few days with the Andhra Pradesh High Court yesterday directing the release of the passport of the Pakistani cricketer.

"I heard from someone that I am getting my passport back sometime tomorrow. Actually, I was not waiting for my passport. But, I am getting it by tomorrow," Shoaib said here yesterday.

Shoaib said he and Sania will leave for Pakistan in another few days.

Andhra Pradesh High Court yesterday ordered the release of Shoaib's passport in the wake of the city police seeking closure of a cheating case filed against him by his now divorced wife Ayesha Siddiqui.

Laxman, Harris congratulate Tendulkar

PTI, New Delhi

With Sachin Tendulkar approaching his 38th birthday on April 24, his India teammate VVS Laxman yesterday congratulated the master batsman and hoped that he will continue to serve the country in the coming years.

"I wish Sachin happy birthday. He is a great cricketer who has done so much for his country and I wish him a nice life ahead," Laxman said.

Tendulkar, who made his Test debut against Pakistan in 1989, has become the highest run accumulator in both forms of the international cricket -- Test and ODI.

"I hope Tendulkar will continue with his fine form in the international cricket for some more time and will guide Indian team to more memorable victories," Laxman told reporters here.

Meanwhile, Laxman's Deccan Chargers teammate Ryan Harris also congratulated Tendulkar.

Veterans

FROM PAGE 17

German coach Gerhard Peter Rach is scheduled to arrive in the capital today and the players have been asked to report to coaches Barkat Ullah Chapal and Abdullah Piru by 3:00pm today.

SQUAD

Hossain Hossain Kiron, Zahid Mossab, Manwar Hossain Russel, Isa Mia, Asaduzzaman Chandan, Mashur Rahman Biplob, Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Imran Hossain Pintu, Tapash Barman, Irfanul Haq, Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Sheikh M o h a m m a d N a n n u, Kamruzzaman Rana, Musa Mia, Abdus Sajjad John, Puskor Khisa Mimu, Golam Mostafa Manik, Hasan Jubair Niloy, Krishna Kumar, Samsul Alam Sujon, Riaz Ahmed, Maksudul Alam Habul, Moharrar Hossain Kuti and Zahid Bin Talib.

Standby: Enamul Kabir Turjo, Ajit Kumar Ghosh, Asim Ghop, Rimon Kumar and Sabbir Rana.

IPL under the microscope

CRICINFO, undated



A day after the resignation of Indian minister Shashi Tharoor, the IPL and the BCCI remain at the centre of a growing political and financial controversy that echoed in the national Parliament. Amid a growing call for closer regulation of cricket in India, and reports of various government agencies investigating the IPL's financial transactions in a coordinated operation, the BCCI has rescheduled its working committee meeting to May 2.

In Parliament the finance minister, Pranab Mukherjee, made a brief intervention in a heated debate on the IPL controversy to say that the "concerned department" -- which is probably the income-tax department -- was already looking into the IPL's funding. "Some members raised the issue of the IPL and wanted to have the probe in all its aspects. In fact, I want to assure them that all aspects of the IPL, including the source of funding, how they have been invested, will be looked into," Mukherjee said.

Media reports have suggested that the Corporate Affairs ministry is also planning, pending the cabinet's approval, an investigation of the manner in which the IPL franchises are run. This ministry's involvement will be mandated given that there are several listed companies among the IPL franchise owners; it is also expected to look at the mechanism of the Kochi deal.

Three years since its inception, the IPL has been a money-spinner on many counts. The first set of eight franchises were sold in a high-profile auction that earned 700 million dollars. Those numbers were trumped by the two new franchises added this year, that fetched over 700 million dollars between them. Additionally, the BCCI made close to 1 billion dollars from the sale of TV rights. The league was recently valued at a mind-boggling 4.13 billion dollars. All components that add up to this figure are now set to come under the scanner.

CNN-IBN, quoting Government sources, reported that the Revenue Secretary and Enforcement Directorate were to brief Income Tax officials on Monday on how to speed up investigations. The outcry against the IPL came on a day a leading financial daily published a report leveling allegations against Modi, a report Modi has denied.

The speed of the developments suggests that the BCCI could have taken a decision -- or be presented with a fait accompli -- before it meets on May 2. That meeting will be preceded by one of the IPL's governing council, where the first moves will be taken to set the house in order.

"The working committee meeting has been postponed because all things have to be discussed in the governing council meeting first," Rajiv Shukla, the BCCI's media and finance committee chairman, told PTI. "There is no point in having a working committee meeting before that. All the allegations and other issues will be discussed in the governing council, but that date for that meeting will be announced soon."

The BCCI's first official response to the controversy, which broke last weekend when Lalit Modi disclosed the details of the Kochi franchise ownership, was a statement on April 13 that a meeting of the IPL Governing Council would be convened "within 10 days to discuss all the issues and take a decision". It is now clear that deadline will not be met, though no explanation has been given for the delay.

The controversy was triggered by an update on Lalit Modi's twitter account that questioned the ownership structure of the Kochi consortium, particularly the nature of equity owned by Sunanda Pushkar, who is a friend of Shashi Tharoor, a cabinet minister in the Indian government. Ms. Pushkar has since given up her stake in the franchise, while Tharoor was forced to resign from his office, over allegations of conflict of interest in his mentoring of the consortium.

One fallout of Modi's Twitter revelation was to swing the spotlight on the IPL's financial dealings, and on Sunday the BCCI said it had received a summons from the income-tax department to furnish complete details of all eight original Indian Premier League franchises, who were successful bidders for the city-based teams in January 2008, on April 23. The taxmen have already carried out inspections of the IPL's offices and Modi's residence in Mumbai and also the Kings XI Punjab franchise office in Mohali.

"Day before yesterday they had asked for details only about the two new franchises -- their shareholding patterns, addresses, player auction and bidding process. Now they want us to furnish all the details about the eight other franchises too," the BCCI's chief administrative officer, Ratnakar Shetty had said.

Stosur rips Zvonareva

AFP, Charleston

Australian fourth seed Samantha Stosur won her second career WTA title on Sunday, routing Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-0, 6-3 in the final of the 700,000-dollar Family Circle Cup.

Stosur, whose only prior WTA crown came last year at Osaka, improved to 5-2 all-time against seventh seed Zvonareva with her fifth victory in a row over the Russian.

"It's always great to play well in any match but to play that well in a final when you want to play that extra little bit better, it was great," Stosur said. "I was glad I was able to

keep it going all the way to the finish."

With the 107,000-dollar top prize in the clay-court event, 11th-ranked Stosur assured a place in the top 10 in Monday's WTA rankings and signaled she can be a threat at the French Open, where she reached the semi-finals in 2009.

"After this week, I'm feeling great on the clay," Stosur said. "It's great to be able to start the clay season. When I get to Roland Garros I will be ready to go and try to at least go as far as I did last year."

Stosur wore a left wristband bearing the words "attitude" and "composure".

"They are just two words that stood out to me for the last little while," she said. "It just keeps me focused on those two things. With the way I played, I was able to do that."

Zvonareva, ranked 22nd, also was a Charleston runner-up in 2008. Zvonareva, 25, fell to 19-6 on the year and failed in a bid for her 11th career title and her second of the year after a successful title defense in Pattaya City.

"Sam played unbelievable and she deserved to win," Zvonareva said.

Stosur dominated the first set, surrendering only five points to her Russian rival. Stosur broke at love for a 4-0 edge, having allowed Zvonareva only two points in the first four games.



Australian Samantha Stosur looks to return the ball against Russian Vera Zvonareva in the Family Circle Cup final in Charleston on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Miss Piggy's pronoun 4 Second-year student 8 Entreat 12 Rowing need 13 Actress Spelling 14 Obey reveille 15 Unreservedly 17 "My bad" 18 Soda shoppe treat 19 Chick's mama 21 On in years 22 Stymie 26 Leaves out 29 Proscribe 30 Peculiar 31 Bart's sister 32 Director's cry 33 Disposition 34 Barn resident 35 Comedian 36 Abdomen 37 Cravat accessory 39 Drunkard 40 "I" trouble 41 Consecrate with oil 45 Stretched to the limit 48 Trivial funds 50 Winnow 51 "Do — others ..." 52 Upper bound 53 Tactic 54 Card game for three 55 Mimic DOWN 1 Takes blades to blades 2 Honolulu's home 3 Unyielding occupant 4 Plagiarizes 5 Reacted to fireworks 6 Expert 7 Snobbish 8 Tine 9 "Flying Down to —" 10 Venomous viper 11 "Undenially" 16 Parkinson's medication 19 Annual visitor 24 Pedestal 25 Vortex 26 Coin aperture 27 New Zealand bird 28 Capri, e.g. 29 Annoy 32 Big star in Carina 33 Tag-along's remark 35 Peruke 36 Witticism 38 Insignificant 39 Annual visitor 42 Bygone Peruvian 43 Kind of tide 44 Work at the keyboard 45 Recipe means 46 Be under the weather 47 Extraterrestrial's transportation 49 Squid

Solution time: 25 mins. B A A L M O B S O L D A L G A T I D E M F A A S T O P A N D G O F I R H O G T I E T H A N K O R Q U E E N S H I P M A N E D I T E O N P A N D O V A T E A L I D O K N E W T E A L I D O K N E W L E D G E M E D U S A I L O H I T A N D R U N F L U A K I N I S N T E S T B E N E E A S E

Cryptic crossword grid with numbers 1-55 and black squares.

CRYPTOQUIP V O W I R C O L I X F K O V O C F K Z R C O D E I S F C D H I B O H L S F K O Y Z H E T , Y Z R E T B Z R W I E E X O F K O X I C F O H X L C F O H ? Yesterday's Cryptiquip: WHEN AN INFANT STARTS UNDERSTANDING WHO HIS FATHER IS, I SUPPOSE IT'S CALLED DADA PROCESSING. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: X equals M