

NCL T20 FINAL TODAY

Youth battles experience

SPORTS REPORTER



Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

The money-spinning match will see the winners pocket 70 lac while the runners-up sated with Tk 35 lac. Bangladesh and Khulna captain looking for a contest in the final, so that they can enjoy the match. "I want to enjoy the match looking at the contest both sides make it to the my team is yet its best and happens said a confi- who is yet to impact as a the tourna- But for an



SHAKIB AL HASAN

"I think my team is yet to perform its best and hopefully it happens tomorrow (today)."

TICKET RATES FOR THE FINAL

VIP Grand Stand - Tk 100.00
Club House - Tk 30.00
Special Enclosure - Tk 20.00
Gallery - Tk 10.00

prerequisite is a good pitch for the shortest version of the game, which was completely missing in the league stages. Shakib however believes that one day rest before the final may work positively.

"I hope the pitch will be little bit better than the ones we played in during the league matches because it got a one day rest. We executed our plan in the semifinal and I hope we can do the same in the final. We have a very skilled side where ten batsmen are clean strikers of the ball," he explained.

Tournament committee chairman and former national

skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain however saw little chance of the pitch changing behaviour.

"We advised the concerned people to try their best but you know it's impossible to change a pitch overnight. Still I believe it's not impossible to collect eight runs per over from this surface."

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Rajshahi Rangers captain Khaled Mashud (2nd from right) shares a light moment yesterday with his teammates on the eve of today's final of the Destiny Group NCL T20s against Kings of Khulna.

PHOTO: STAR

WISDEN CRICKETER'S PLAYER OF THE MONTH Award cheers up ailing Tamim

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal achieved his first international award when the left-hander became Wisden Cricketer Magazine's International Cricketer of the Month in its May 2010 edition.

Tamim is the first Bangladeshi player to be named as, the world's best-selling cricket monthly's, International Cricketer of the Month. This edition will be out in April 23. "It's really nice for my performance. I am happy because it's my first international award. I have a big goal to win an ICC award," said Tamim, who is suffering from an injury. "But above everything I am now looking forward to the T20 World Cup. There is still pain on my injured left hand and after tomorrow's check I can only say whether I will be able to play the tournament or not," said the Chittagonian, who suffered the injury while fielding in the NCL T20 competition.



TAMIM IQBAL

The dashing left-hander already has Test centuries against India and West Indies and will be heading for England with his confidence high after averaging 59.25 in two Tests against Alastair Cook's team in Bangladesh.

"I set the goal of scoring Test and one-day hundreds against all other Test-playing countries. And I am very much confident about achieving my target," said Tamim.

"But my immediate goal is to play some good knocks against England at their own soil," he added.

What to WATCH

ATN Bangla
NCL T20 Final
Khulna v Rajshahi
Live from 5:20pm

Max & SuperSport2
Indian Premier League
First Semifinal
Bangalore v Mumbai
Live from 8:30pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

English Premier League
Hull City v Aston Villa
Live from 12:40am (Thursday)

TEN Sports & SuperSport3
UEFA Champions League
Semifinal
Bayern Munich v Lyon
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

GP-BCB Cup FROM TOMORROW Bashar starts new innings

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar will launch a different innings from tomorrow when the Grameenphone-BCB Academy Cup 2010 gets underway with a four-day match against the touring South Africa National Cricket Academy at Chittagong.

Bashar, who announced his retirement from all forms of cricket last month, will act as team operations manager of GP-BCB NCA. With Bashar assuming a new role and former assistant coach of national team Sarwar Imran as the head coach, many feel the platform for future national cricketers is embarking on a new chapter.

"I have always been with cricket. So, the environment is nothing new for me although I will have to play a different role. To be frank I have played with some of these boys," said Bashar during the official launching ceremony

of the GP-BCB Academy Cup at the Grameenphone's headquarters in Gulshan.

There will be two four-day matches, three one-day games and two T20s at four different venues - Chittagong, Bogra, BKSP and Dhaka, in the competition which will conclude on May 11.

The Grameenphone Academy Cup logo was unveiled at the press conference. The Grameenphone-BCB Cricket Academy team that will play in the Grameenphone Academy Cup against the visitors was also announced at the event.

Shakil Kasem -- head of management committee, GP-BCB NCA & member, game development committee of BCB, Kazi Monirul Kabir, chief communications officer of Grameenphone and the two captains spoke at the press conference.

Both the coaches and the captains see this competition as a chance to have some exposure for them. While the Africans are expected to face an acid test against the home spinners and

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BCB meets to discuss tours

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) called an emergency meeting today to give approval on some pending decisions.

The board of directors will meet this afternoon to confirm the appointment of team officials and captains for the national team, A team and Academy team.

"The meeting has been mainly called to approve some decisions. There has been a lot of decisions taken recently which required board approval," said Jalal Yunus, BCB's director and media committee chairman.

"The meeting will also discuss about the national team tour to the T20 World Cup, England trip besides A team and Academy teams home series," he added.

Russel drop points

SPORTS REPORTER



Ten-man Rahmatganj MFS came from behind to hold Sheikh Russel KC to a 1-1 draw in their home match of the Bangladesh League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Moroccan striker Salah Maslouh put Sheikh Russel ahead in the first half while Naimur Rahman Shahed levelled the margin in the second half before the midfielder was sent off three minutes from time.

In the game, the focus was on Rahmatganj coach Kamal Babu, who was once the coach of Sheikh Russel for the first four matches in the league before leaving Sheikh Russel following a disagreement with the club officials.

And after the game, Kamal looked very

emotional with tears in his eyes and the way his charges celebrated, it seemed that they had won the game.

"As a professional coach, I never believe in revenge, but I had a challenge against them (Sheikh Russel) and we needed a point from today's match and the boys achieved the goal," said Kamal, who has guided Rahmatganj for nine matches in which he has won three, drawn three and lost three.

The old Dhaka outfit were forced to field a depleted side following six key players' injuries and suspension and Kamal praised his charges following their hard work on the field.

Sheikh Russel KC coach Mahmudul Haq Liton just termed the game as a bad day for them.

"The luck was not with us today because the

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Rahmatganj forward Naimur Rahman Shahed (R) tries to fend off Kamal Ahmed of Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra during their Citycell Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ASIAN GAMES HOCKEY QUALIFIERS Camp derailed by poor communication

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation added more fuel to their own fire with poor internal coordination ensuring that there was a pitiful turnout of the national players for the Asian Games Qualifiers camp at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Of the 25 players picked for the preliminary camp on Monday, only nine players reported to coaches Barkatullah Chapal and Abdullah Piru. Shockingly, most of them only learnt of their nomination after reading of it in the newspaper.

The qualifiers will get underway on May 7-15. Forward Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, defender Asaduzzaman Chandan and goalkeeper Zahid Hossain admitted that they were not informed about the camp and they had come to report only after being informed by the coaches.

Midfielder Sheikh Mohammad Nannu said that he came to know about the camp after reading it online in a newspaper early Tuesday.

Moshiur Rahman Firoz had come to visit Dhaka from Barisal on Tuesday morning and he learnt about his inclusion through a newspaper and came to report at 6:20 pm, some three hours after the reporting time.

Coach Chapal said some of the players had informed by phone that they would join the camp from today.

Asked whether he himself had been informed, a smiling Chapal said that he got a message through email.

"It was not right that we did not inform the players and at the moment most of the players have come to the federation," said BHF joint secretary Abdur Rashid Shikdar yesterday evening, when contacted over phone.

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MSC point finger at BHF officials

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan SC yesterday released a statement condemning their treatment by certain quarters and protested their involvement in the farcical incident of the Dhaka Bank Club Cup tournament final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

The statement claimed that Mohammedan had been informed by the league committee secretary (Anvir Adil), that they would be able to register their foreign player ten minutes before the start of the game. The Malaysian Chua Boon had been brought in on that premise and they had a receipt of his registration from the federation office.

The club also reiterated

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South Africa A in city

SPORTS REPORTER

The South Africa A team have arrived in Dhaka yesterday for two 4-day matches against Bangladesh A and a tri-nation one-day series also involving West Indies A.

The first four-day match will start at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on April 23 instead of previously announced 22.

The South Africans captained by wicket-keeper batsman Thami Tsolekile, who played three Tests for the national side, have another couple of players with international exposure in their side, such as Alviro Pietersen, Johan

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Sehwag out of World T20

CRICINFO, undated



Indian opener Virender Sehwag has suffered a shoulder injury which will rule him out of the ICC World Twenty20 beginning in the West Indies on April 30. Sehwag has been advised rest for three to four weeks and has been replaced by Tamil Nadu batsman M Vijay in the 15-man squad, the BCCI said in a statement.

The BCCI statement, however, did not mention how or when Sehwag sustained the injury. Sehwag played all 14 IPL league matches for Delhi Daredevils, scoring 356 runs at an average of 25, his last appearance being on April 18. He was deemed fit when included in the World Twenty20 squad so it's likely the injury occurred during Delhi's IPL campaign.

The blow is similar to the one India suffered before the 2009 ICC World Twenty20. Sehwag had sustained a shoulder injury during the 2009 IPL in South Africa, shortly before the World Twenty20 was due to begin. He travelled with the squad to England but was not able to play a game and India were eliminated without winning a game in the second round.

His replacement, Vijay, has been in aggressive form for Chennai Super Kings, scoring 417 runs, including a century, at an average of 38. He has been India's back-up opener for Tests and ODIs as well.

Tight security for IPL semis & final

IANs, Mumbai

Unprecedented security arrangements have been made for the Indian Premier League's (IPL) two semifinals and the final match to be held at the DY Patil Sports Stadium in Navi Mumbai this week, a top police official said Monday.

"Patrons wishing to attend the matches will not be allowed to carry anything inside the stadium, including bags, mobile phone or water bottles," Director-General of Police AN Roy told mediapersons Monday afternoon.

Following last week's blasts outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore, the two scheduled IPL semifinals April 21 and 22, were shifted to Navi

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Mayor Cup resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Ward 27 of Sylhet City Corporation defeated Ward 11 by 3-1 in a keenly contested match of the First Mayor Cup Football Tournament that resumed at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday after a break of five months.

Mohammad netted the first goal for the winners in the third minute. Igro of Ward 11 equalised on the 27th minute, but King got Ward 27 back in front with a 40th minute strike.

Mohammad then scored his second goal on the 84th minute to put the issue beyond any doubt.

The tournament was postponed due to disagreement between two teams over a referee decision in November last year.



Visiting South Africa A team cricketers relax at the lounge of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on their arrival in Dhaka yesterday. They will play two four-day matches against Bangladesh A and a tri-nation one-day series also involving West Indies A.

PHOTO: COURTESY