



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
Bangladesh pace bowler Shafiqul Islam spends some time on his mobile phone outside the airport last evening. The national cricketers, who were leaving for the West Indies to participate in the World Twenty20, got some unscheduled free time after arriving at the airport. They were stuck outside and kept waiting for the arrival of team manager Tanjib Ahsan Saad who had all the passports with him.

Nat'l women's chess begins

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champion Sharmin Sultana Shirin and runner-up WFM Shamima Akter Liza got off to winning starts on the opening day of the Arlin Developer National Women's Chess Championship at the Narayanganj Club Auditorium yesterday.

Sharmin, playing with black pieces, took 36 moves to beat Ruksana Titli while Shamima with white pieces beat WIM Rani Hamid on the 47th move.

Nazrana Khan Eva defeated Jahanara Haque Runu while

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Div I basketball

SPORTS REPORTER

Cantonians Club, the Gregarious Club and Europa Youth Club won their respective matches in the Premier Bank First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Cantonians registered a comprehensive 59-27 win over Old DOHS Club after dominating the first half 28-17 while Gregarious handed a 71-43 defeat to Rangers Club after leading the first half 34-22.

However, Europa recorded a hard-fought 80-77 victory over Flame Boys Club after the first half ended 47-38 points.



MAX & SuperSport2

Indian Premier League Final

Chennai v Mumbai

Live from 9:00pm

ESPN

English Premiership

Aston Villa v Birmingham

Live from 4:55pm

Chelsea v Stoke City

Live from 8:55pm

STAR Sports

English Premiership

Burnley v Liverpool

Live from 7:55pm



GP-BCB NCA v SA Academy

First 4-Day Match, Day 4

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong

Bangladesh League

Ctg Mohammedan v Brothers Union

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

Beanibazar v Shuktara

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Sylhet Stadium

Feni Soccer v Muktijoddha

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Feni Stadium

Sk Russel v Farashgang

Time: 4:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

WORLD SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Caution on Asif

ANISUR RAHMAN

Inconsistent shooter Asif Hossain Khan was once again dropped from the Bangladesh squad when the Bangladesh Shooting Federation (BSF) picked a two-member squad for the upcoming ISSF World Championship in Germany that begins in July.

Now gold medalists in the Commonwealth Shooting Championship Sharmin Akter Ratna and Syeda Sadia Sultana, the duo who also won the 10m air rifle gold in the South Asian Games at home, will represent Bangladesh in the 50th edition of the championship in Munich from July 29 to August 11.

But the BSF general secretary ANM Istiaque Ahmed said that Asif still has chance to secure a place in the squad if he could perform well and take his average score to 595 in the two-month training, which will get underway on May 2.

Some point fingers at Asif's lack of seriousness when it comes to training. Even the man himself realised this claim.

"I hear the same things when I am dropped from the squad. And maybe they are right because perhaps I can't follow up my perfor-

mance after any success at international level," said Asif adding that he would again come back.

He also hinted that his old rifle might be a reason behind his poor performance and he was going to change it in line with his body construction and his Chittagong Rifles Club also promised him to provide a new one.

But those who are confirmed to go -- Ratna and Sultana -- had earlier urged the authorities to allow them to take part in the World Cup or the World Championship in a bid to make better results in the 2012 Olympics in England.

"Considering the recent performance of the shooters at the international level, the executive committee on Friday decided to send the women shooters to the World Championships," said BSF general secretary yesterday.

About the exclusion of prolific shooter Asif, Istiaque said that Asif's performance in the recently-concluded Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games and Commonwealth Shooting Championship in India were not good enough to select him though he did well in the SA

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UNOFFICIAL TEST

Visitors thrive on twin tons

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Alviro Petersen and Heino Kuhn struck commanding centuries on the second day of the first unofficial Test against Bangladesh A at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

South Africa A took a 90-run lead after scoring 436 for 5 at stumps. The hosts had made 346 in their first innings on the first day.

Interestingly, the two centurions did not bat with each other as Kuhn came to the crease just after the 29-year-old Petersen had departed as the fourth wicket.

But the two had a major impact and it is fair to say that the visitors are all set to dictate terms in the remaining two days of the match.

Petersen was brutal on the hosts' pacemen Shahadat Hossain and Rabiul Islam, taking them apart as the second-string South African side started off rapidly.

The right-hander who scored a debut Test hundred in Eden Gardens two months ago, reached his century off 105 balls but departed a while later, for 116 off 133 balls with twelve boundaries and two sixes.

He added 103 for the first wicket with Dean Elgar, who added 48 to the partnership but fell leg-before to leg-spinner Noor Hossain.

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SA Academy in control

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

GP-BCB National Cricket Academy need 248 runs but more importantly, South African National Academy require seven more wickets to win on the final day of the first four-dayer at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong after the hosts were 145-3 yesterday.

After the visitors were bowled out for 274 in their second innings, the home Academy side made a poor start, losing Nadimuddin Mintu in the second over. But first innings centurion, Rony Talukdar, was again among the runs as they went for an improbable chase of 394 runs.

The right-hander struck 58 off 79 balls with seven boundaries and two sixes but was trapped in front by captain Wiann van Zyl, who bowls slow left-arm chinaman.

The home side had earlier lost Mohammad Mithun, the

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Junaed out for 10 to 12 days

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A team suffered a blow as their captain Junaed Siddiqui was ruled out for rest of the four-day Test series against visiting South Africa A due to an injury he sustained yesterday.

The left-handed batsman suffered the injury in the first over of the second day of the first four-dayer at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while fielding at in the slips.

"He had three stitches in his right hand and needs at least ten to twelve days to recover from it. There is no chance for him to play the second four-dayer also," informed chief selector

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Bangalore make C. League

CRICINFO, undated

In a yawn-inducing crawl, Deccan Chargers meandered to 82, the lowest total of the season, and Royal Challengers Bangalore knocked it off without much fuss to book their spot in the next Champions League.

Not many people bothered to turn up for the game, nine Deccan batsmen scored less than five runs and a dull, almost anaesthetic, atmosphere pervaded through their innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DECCAN CHARGERS: 82 all out in 18.3 overs (Singh 40, Rao 24; Kumble 4 for 16, Kumar 2 for 18, Kallis 2 for 3)

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 86 for 1 in 13.5 overs (Dravid 35 not out, Pietersen 29 not out; Sharma 1 for 24)

Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 9 wickets

Tendulkar turns 37

PTI, New Delhi

Cricketers, including his Team India colleagues and the Bollywood celebrities wished happy birthday to champion batsman Sachin Tendulkar who turned 37 on Saturday.

Legendary Australian spinner and an old friend Shane Warne wished Tendulkar on his birthday and also hoped he will recover in time for the Indian Premier League final against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday.

"Happy birthday to the little master and my friend Sachin!! Hope he is not injured for the final... Good luck to both teams," Warne said on his twitter account.

Left-handed batsman Yuvraj Singh, who played for Kings XI Punjab in the IPL, tweeted, "Happy birthday Master Blaster. Lots of love n best of wishes for the final."

Another India cricketer Suresh Raina heaped praise on the Mumbaier and said, "Happy Birthday Sachin, a true champion and a genuine family man."

Wishes also poured in from the film fraternity with veteran actor Anupam Kher describing him a "reason to be proud of being an Indian".

"Happy birthday Sachin. You are one of THE reasons to be proud of being an Indian. Tks 4 helping us Rise above the pettiness of our surroundings," Kher said.

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan also joined the bandwagon and wished Tendulkar speedy recovery.

"Happy Birthday Sachin. Hope ur fingers heal soon," Khan said.

Mumbai Indians skipper Tendulkar is battling a hand injury to be match fit for Sunday's IPL final in Mumbai.

MSC overcome Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan players did not let their off-field grievances affect their on-field performance as they handed Rahmatganj Muslim Friends

Society a 3-1 defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to live another day in the Bangladesh League to keep themselves alive in the title race.

Mohammedan's Nigerian forward Alamu Bukola Olalekan scored two goals after Mohammad Mamun had given Rahmatganj a surprise lead. Zahid Hossain Emily's Midas touch in the ninetieth minute capped off a satisfying outing for the Black and Whites. It was the 13th goal of the season for the nippy striker and it also made him the highest scorer.

Mohammedan now have 48 points from 18 matches, four adrift of leaders Abahani, with six games still to play. Mohammedan coach Maruful Haque was satisfied with the team's

performance.

"Rahmatganj are a tough side. They have players who can do a lot of running and they dominated the midfield in the first half," said Maruf.

"But we came back strongly and played according to our potential in the second half. I am still hopeful about our chances of winning the championship."

"Whatever is going off the field is no secret, I do not know where lies the solution of problem and there is nothing we [players and coaches] can do about it. We can only do one thing and that is to play in the field to our potential and win matches," sighed Maruf when inquired about the issue of unpaid wages of the players and coaching staff.

The match started at a very slow pace with Mohammedan doing most of the running and earning a few corners which failed to fetch the targeted outcome. Bukola was threatening from the beginning and made a darting run

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PHOTO: STAR
Mohammedan's Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola (R) speeds down the left flank as Rahmatganj defender Asif Hossain tries to mark him down during their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Bukola scored two goals as Mohammedan won 3-1.



Best wishes to our Tigers

Proud Sponsor of Bangladesh National Cricket Team in the ICC World T20 West Indies 2010.

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