

Makelele quarrels with ex-girlfriend

Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Claude Makelele has pressed charges against a former girlfriend following an altercation between the pair, police sources revealed on Thursday. The 35-year-old British woman arrived at Makelele's home west of Paris through an open gate at around 8:30pm (1830GMT) on Wednesday and scratched the former France international on the neck, according to the same sources. In order to get away, Makelele had an "exchange" with the woman, who was subsequently taken to a local hospital with a bruised jaw and had to take four days off work.



Tigers raring to pounce

BISHWAJIT ROY



In weather like yesterday's when most people want to curl up under a blanket at home, the Tigers resisted the temptation unlike their New Zealand counterparts and held a practice session in the indoor stadium at Mirpur ahead of the today's second one-dayer of the five-match series.

But under persistent rain the mood was not at all on the challenge of today's match. Rather the question that was going around was whether there was any possibility of seeing a match today following the prevailing inclement weather across the country and the unfavourable forecast.

The current forecast states that there is a chance of heavy to very heavy rainfall over Dhaka today; definitely a bad news for the cricket lovers in the country especially when their beloved cricketers are leading the series after winning the

rain-interrupted first game by nine runs.

Always-positive Shakib Al Hasan, who will lead the team in absence of the injured Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, was however not pessimist about the chances of holding the match, mainly because of the modern drainage system at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"You can't say anything at this moment because this ground is very good and the drainage system is also good. We are preparing for a 50-over match. So, let see what will happen tomorrow," said the all-rounder, who guided the team brilliantly to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

The world's number one all-rounder said that it would be frustrating for his teammates if the match finally washed out as they had each been set an individual target for the series.

"Nobody would like to miss an international match and especially when they trained hard for the series. Everybody has their own plan with the series and they are very focused on that, so it would be a loss for them if they miss

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THIS MOVIE MIGHT BE HANDY IN CASE OF A RAIN BREAK: New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori (R) scans through a movie, Get Him to the Greek, at a DVD shop in the city yesterday.



CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE FOR SOCCER: Bangladesh stand-in captain Shakib Al Hasan uses his pad as an umbrella while juggling with a soccer ball amidst incessant rain at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN



Shakib wants captaincy issue resolved

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had to work very hard to convince Shakib Al Hasan to lead the team in today's second one-dayer of the five-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

It was learnt that the world's number one all-rounder, who almost single handedly guided his team to nine-run victory in the first one-dayer and successfully led the side in absence of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, was reluctant to take on the responsibility.

According to sources, the Magura-lad requested the board to give the duty to any other player. Although he finally consented to lead the team in the second match he expressed his unwillingness to continue the duty till the last match of the series.

Although he has, in the past, told the officials that he is not interested in the job for the next couple of years, he apparently confessed to not being happy with the makeshift duty, rather admitting that he was in favour of a longer term settlement, or at least until the end of next year's World Cup.

He was not even interested to carry on as a vice-captain.

"As a makeshift captain I will lead the team in the next match because the time for decisions is very short. In the meantime the board will definitely take a decision for the rest of the series and then I will give my opinion," said Shakib diplomatically when asked about the captaincy issue.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus was also queried about the issue and he did not elaborate much: "The technical committee will meet tomorrow to discuss the captaincy issue. We have to take a

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Rony eliminated in semis

ANISUR RAHMAN from New Delhi

He might not have timed his best, but there was something to cheer about for Shahjahan Ali Rony as the 2006 South Asian Games gold medal-winning swimmer first qualified and then was eliminated from the 50m breaststroke semifinals in the XIX Commonwealth Games at the Dr SP Mukherjee Swimming Complex here yesterday.

Rony, who qualified for the semifinals as the last swimmer in 31.36 seconds, improved his timing clocking 30.57 seconds to finish 16th in as many swimmers in the semifinals as the swimmers from Australia, England and Canada dominated the pool.

It is a common phenomenon for the

Bangladeshi swimmers that they get eliminated from the heats in big competitions like the Asian, Commonwealth or Olympics Games, but Rony, whose best time is 30.43 seconds which he achieved to clinch the 50m breaststroke gold in the 2006 Colombo SA Games, turned the table to reach the semifinals for the first time.

Rony was ecstatic after competing though he was aware of the fact that he would not be able to qualify for the finals.

"Though it was not my best timing, but I am satisfied with my performance after competing against top swimmers from Australia, England and Canada," said a smiling Rony at the mixed zone of the swimming complex.

"Before starting the semifinals, my target was to regain my best what I made in Sri Lanka," Rony said. "However, I was confident of qualifying for the semifinals when I took part in the heats."

Rony swam in Lane 8 and he never seemed to beat anyone and eventually finished behind all the participants of the first semifinals.

Drawing the attention towards to the well-built Canadian, Australian and English swimmers who were also present at the mixed zone to talk to the reporters, Rony pointed out that your physique is a key to the success in swimming.

But he believed that they would be able to compete at such level if the facilities such as training and food were of international standard for the swimmers.

There was reason to be ecstatic for Rony, but Indian swimmer Sandeep Sejwal, who had been preparing for the Games for the last four years, was not happy after failing to make it to the finals.

"I am disappointed with my performance and not ready to talk," said Sandeep,

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Transfers window closes for locals

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Allegations of player poaching ruled the transfers talk as traditional powerhouse Mohammedan Sporting Club and challengers Sheikh Russel Kriya Chakra completed their registration formalities of local players on the last day of local players' bourse at the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday.

Defending Federation Cup champions Mohammedan, who lost stars like as Emily, Aminul Haque, Wali Faisal, Mamunul Islam, Ariful Islam to Sheikh Jamal and Arman Aziz, Sharif, Nasir and Saikat to Muktijoddha

Sangsad, have amassed 22 local players most of whom are relatively unknown in the highest football scene, with only a few big names along with them.

The biggest transfer for Mohammedan is national midfielder Enamul Haque Sharif whose inclusion has given rise to some controversy. Despite allegedly taking money from Muktijoddha Sangsad, the player has registered with the Black and Whites and that amounted to Muktijoddha issuing a legal notice against the player. Apart from that, Mohammedan have amassed a relatively 'mediocre' team, according to coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who are capable of winning the league title.

"Our target is to be champions of the professional league. Maybe on paper we stand at

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Wheelchair hero Hafizur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Hafizur Rahman became runners-up in the 26th Handi-marathon in Japan, a wheelchair run competition for persons with disability.

The physically challenged athlete from Dhunot of Bogra district won the laurel in Nagoya city on October 3 where participants from South East Asia, South Korea, Philippines, Thailand and host Japan took part.

Hafizur, who became handicapped at the age of 3 after suffering from polio, was one of the two sportspersons representing Bangladesh in the competition.

Bangladesh Protibondhi

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DAY'S EVENT

Micromax ODI Series
Bangladesh v New Zealand
Second ODI
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur
GP Federation Cup
Ctg Abahani v Bangladesh Police
Time: 3:30pm
Venue: Kamalapur Stadium

SPORTS POLL
TODAY'S QUESTION
What is your prediction for the 2nd Bangladesh-New Zealand ODI?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
Follow The Daily Star Sport on twitter
www.twitter.com/dssport

DELHI DIARY

SPORTS REPORTER from New Delhi

After the problems of snakes, dengue and insects, the athletes' village of the XIX Commonwealth Games is facing another civic problem as condoms are clogging toilets at the apartments. However, this time the athletes themselves are to blame.

On Thursday, India's newspaper Mail Today carried a front page story titled "It's a Rubbery Problem" with a shoulder reading "Thousands of used condoms flushed down the toilets choke sewer lines at Commonwealth Games Village."

Plumbers sent to unblock toilets said used condoms were the problem, with an un-named health official quoted as saying 2000 of the 8000 free contraceptives had been used so far.

The report said the condoms are available at the games village polyclinic as a large condom vending machine has been installed at the village which contains at least 4,000 contraceptive packs and half of them already been taken out.

Commonwealth Games Federation president Mike Fennell saw the report as positive.

"Well I hope they clear the toilets," Fennell was quoted as saying. He added, "I am not quite sure what the point is, if that is happening it shows that there is use of condoms and I think that is a very positive story, that athletes are being responsible."

OFFICIAL'S WIFE CWG VISITOR

The high-ups of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) had seemingly criticized the move of including the wives of the sports minister and minister's personal assistant as part of the Bangladesh contingent and one of the BOA officials has proved there is no similarity between their word and work after bringing his own wife to the Commonwealth Games.

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Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin (4th from R) poses for photographs along with other BFF officials and Grameenphone's chief communications officer Kazi Monirul Kabir (5th from R) during the logo unveiling ceremony of the Federation Cup at the BFF House yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Football finds a new partner

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) were desperately looking for a solvent sponsor after mobile operator Citycell abandoned them, and it seems they have found even a better partner.

The BFF, in its endeavour to take the country's football forward, has joined hands with the largest mobile operators of the country Grameenphone and they will sponsor the 23rd Federation Cup that starts today with the match between Chittagong Abahani and Bangladesh Police at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur today.

Even though Grameenphone has mainly been associated with other sports such as cricket and sponsored football tournaments only occasionally, the season's curtain raiser, Federation Cup, is seen as the start to a relationship that is expected to last long and take Bangladesh football forward.

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