

Lee ponders life beyond cricket

Pacer Brett Lee, who is working hard to make a return to the Australian ODI and T20 squad, is also planning for a life beyond sport and has signed a lucrative network deal with Channel Nine. Lee told Insider that cricket would be minimal compared to working across Getaway, A Current Affair and Today. "I can tell you right now I won't be sitting up in a box commenting for six, seven hours. No chance. That doesn't excite me. It's the things away from cricket that really excite me," Lee said.



PHOTO: STAR

THE BIG FISH: Shakib Al Hasan (C) lights up the otherwise inter-club cricketers' transfer on Saturday when the world number one all-rounder signed up for Mohammedan. Here Shakib receives a warm reception from the loyal Black and White fans and officials at the club's Motijheel tent after the big signing that reportedly cost Mohammedan over Taka 25 lakh.

Shakib is Black & White

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The excitement of the Premier League players' transfer was again absent yesterday at the long conference room of the Bangladesh National Stadium. To find the enthusiasm that has been a large part of the annual signing ceremony, one had to be at the unusual location of the Mohammedan Sporting Club tent in the evening where the world No 1 all-rounder was roped in to the colours of the famous Black and Whites.

Shakib Al Hasan put pen to paper for the defending champions through special commission in front of members of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) who had to be present to confirm his signature. Mustafa Kabir, CCDM coordinator Qazi Aynul Islam and vice-chairman Hanif Bhuiyan (also cricket secretary of Mohammedan) went to the club a full half-hour before the leading cricketer arrived.

When asked why the commission had to be undertaken, Mohammedan cricket committee chairman Lutfar Rahman Badal said, "There was a slight worry about a big club, so we decided to use the commission."

In a scene out of a political programme, the long hall at the Motijheel club tent was inundated with Mohammedan supporters chanting Shakib's name and showering him with party foam and flower petals. That left little room for the journalists who jostled for space near where two Mohammedan officials presented their prized possession.

Shakib, who Mohammedan reportedly signed for Tk 30 lakh, forced a smile throughout what looked like an ordeal with people pressing down on him.

"I'm really enjoying it, this is a new experience for me. Obviously there's a lot of interest when you play for Mohammedan," said Shakib when he was finally made available to the reporters.

He said that the special situation created for him was not much of a bother. "It is slightly different [from the normal procedure]. Still I think these things happen frequently in our country so there's not much to worry about," said Shakib, who played for Mohammedan's arch-rivals Abahani last season.

When asked why he returned to Mohammedan from Abahani, Shakib's reply was almost simple: "It is a better offer, better option, better place. Of course Abahani is a good team but Mohammedan has been my favourite club since my childhood so it is always

nice to play for them," he said. Shakib would need to restore most of what Mohammedan did last season and said it would be a challenge and an opportunity for him, since his domestic form has never been as good as his international one.

Apart from Shakib, Mohammedan also signed up (through commission) Nazimuddin, Mukhtar Ali, Fariduddin Masud, Nur Hossain, Enamul Haque, Tarek Aziz Khan, Shuvashish Roy and Shamsur Rahman.

While there was a huge uproar at the Black & Whites' house, the scene at the transfer venue was like it was on Saturday -- quiet and lifeless.

The conference room sprang to life late in the afternoon when the Abahani players arrived with their supporters and officials.

The Dhanmondi-based side roped in Mahmudullah Riyad, Tapash Baisya, Marshall Ayub, Anamul Haque, Saqlain Sajib, Farhad Hossain, Mahbulul Alam Robin and Alauddin Babu. Hannan Sarkar also signed for Abahani, returning to the club after seven years.

Riyad, one of the national pool players, said he looked forward to playing for Abahani for the first time in his career after spending a season in Mohammedan.

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NCL 2ND PHASE Dhaka take on Khulna today

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka take on Khulna in one of two matches of the second phase of the National Cricket League one-day competition at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Barisal face Rajshahi in the other game at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Players in the Bangladesh preliminary squad for next month's series against Zimbabwe and the Asian Games squad, whose divisional teams have qualified, can play in the second phase matches (and also the final) subject to qualification of their respective teams. These players will only join their teams on match days.

However, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (Khulna), Rokibul Hasan (Barisal), Mahmudullah Riyad (Dhaka), Abdur Razzak (Khulna), Shafiqul Islam (Rajshahi) and Rubel Hossain (Khulna) will not be available for tomorrow's round as per the advice of the national team's physiotherapist.

Three Pak cricketers fined

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan team manager Intikhab Alam on Sunday revealed three cricketers were fined for disciplinary reasons, saying there remains no tolerance on the rules implemented in the new code of conduct.

Opener Shahzaib Hasan, spinner Abdul Rehman and wicketkeeper Zulqarnain

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NEO Cricket

India v New Zealand
First Test, Day 5
Live from 10:00am

TEN Cricket

Pakistan v South Africa
Fifth ODI
Live from 5:00pm



Nat'l Cricket League

Dhaka v Khulna at SBNS
Barisal v Rajshahi at DCS

Booters lose 3-0

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh U23 football team made a losing start in the Asian Games as they suffered a 3-0 defeat against favourites Uzbekistan in their Group E opener at the Yingdong Stadium in Guangzhou yesterday.

Bangladesh held their mighty opponents, who are ranked 96th in the FIFA rankings, till the half-hour mark but could not restrict the 2004 champions from having a big win, whose senior side outplayed Bangladesh in three matches they played so far.

No one probably expected a victory against the Central Asian nations but the belief was there that the boys would offer resistance in the 90-minute game. However, Bangladesh adopted a defensive strategy throughout the game and were left chasing their shadows for most part.

Miseries kept compounding on the team as second-choice goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel sustained an injury on his shoulder and had to walk out halfway through the second half. Himel has been ruled out for the entire tournament and standby keeper Mohammad Nehal has been asked to fly from home to join the squad immediately.

Nat'l b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army, Navy, BDR and Khulna moved into the semifinals of the Citycell 24th National Basketball Championship after winning their respective matches at the Dhanmondi Basketball Stadium yesterday.

Army outplayed Police by 119-61 points, courtesy of 20 points by Wadud. The winners led the first-half 51-24.

Earlier, Army defeated BDR by 89-73 points despite trailing in a pulsating encounter. Khulna had a first-half lead of 35-28. Nahid scored highest 30 points for the winners.

Khulna edged out Chittagong by 79-76 points in a pulsating encounter. Khulna had a first-half lead of 35-28. Nahid scored highest 30 points for the winners.

Nahid scored highest 30 points for the winners.

Pakistan eye series

Fifth & final ODI against SA today

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi hopes to upstage South Africa in the fifth one-day international here on Monday, for their first ever limited over series win against their rivals and first since 2008.

Pakistan has twice come from behind to level the five-match series at 2-2, setting up an intriguing last match, and Afridi hopes his team show further improvement.

"I know we have never beaten South Africa in a bilateral one-day series, so that is very much the aim to achieve and the boys are determined to win this final match," Afridi said.

Pakistan has also lost their last six one-day

in the match, Bangladesh went two goals down in the first half. The first goal was conceded when Kenja Turaev availed a lapse in the Bangladesh defence to drive an angular shot past goalkeeper Himel. Odil Ahemdev doubled the margin three minutes before the break.

Aminul Haque, who conceded five goals in the Federation Cup final against Abahani, was the second choice of coach Robert Rubic and had to come under the post in place of injured Himel. Aminul conceded the third goal six minutes after coming on in the 75th minute.

Bangladesh, however, could have lost by a bigger margin had the two keepers not thwarted three dangerous attacks by the opponents.

The fatigue of the players was pointed as the main reason for this defeat by coach Robert Rubic who also admitted that Bangladesh lagged both technically and tactically from their opponents.

He however promised that they would try to rectify the mistakes utilise the experience from this match in the next match against UAE on Tuesday.

With this win, Uzbekistan lead Group E as the other match of the group between United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong ended in a draw.

In the day's other matches, India lost to Kuwait 2-0 and champions Qatar played out a

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Zia wins GM title

Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman of Biman became champion in the Berger Chess Six Seasons Grand Masters Chess Tournament at the Tulip Lounge of Uttara Club yesterday.

Zia earned six points from nine matches to clinch the title while his teammate GM Niaz Murshed became runner-up with 5.5 points.

However FIDE Masters Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and Abu Sufian Shakil failed to pick IM norms in this round as Sagar lost to Shahaj Grover of India and Shakil managed a draw against eventual champion Zia. Grover, who is an

International Master, became third, Sagar finished fourth and Shakil fifth in tiebreaker after the three were tied on five points each.

In the other last round matches, Niaz got walkover against Mehdi Hasan Parag, Vakhidov Tair drew with Sayantan Das and Bitan Banerjee drew with Yee Soon.

The prize giving ceremony was held after the games. General Manager of Marketing and Sales of Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited Mohsin Habib Chowdhury distributed prizes among the winners. A total 10 players including three Grand Masters, one International Master, five FIDE Masters from Bangladesh, India, Brunei and Uzbekistan participated in the event.

Nat'l men's handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Eight matches were decided in the EXIM Bank 20th National Men's Handball Championship yesterday at two venues.

At the Handball Stadium, Rangpur crushed Magura by 30-7 goals; Dhaka University defeated Joypurhat 21-17; Faridpur outclassed Chandpur 20-9 and Khulna beat Gopalganj 15-9.

At the Shaheed Soharwardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur, Mymensingh edged out Chuadanga by 16-15 goals; Dhaka defeated Comilla 25-12; Bangladesh Ansar and VDP beat Jessore 20-15 and Sunamganj outclassed Bagerhat 23-7.

DRU-Pepsi Media Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Destiny, Independent TV, Bangladesh Patrika, New Nation and Kaler Kantho won their respective matches while The Daily Star got walkover on the second day of the DRU-Pepsi Media Cup cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Destiny (23/1) beat Banglanews24.com (21/5) by two runs, Independent TV (83/2) defeated Amader Arthoniti (43/2) by 40 runs, Bangladesh Patrika (11/1) crushed Samakal (9/4) by five wickets, New Nation (21/0) outclassed Sangram (11/8) by five wickets, Kaler Kantho (63/2) beat Bhorer Kagaj (62/2) by three wickets and Daily Star earned walkover against BSS.

IUBAT, IUB in last four

SPORTS REPORTER

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) and Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) moved into the semifinals of the Mentors Inter-Private University Football Tournament as they won their respective matches at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

IUBAT thrashed University of Liberal Arts (ULAB) 5-0 while IUB got a 1-0 win over Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) in the other match.

SPORTS POLL
TODAY'S QUESTION
Who do you think should be Bangladesh's captain in the World Cup?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
Follow The Daily Star Sport on twitter
www.twitter.com/dssport

Martin wreaks havoc

Cricket

AFP, Ahmedabad

Fast bowler Chris Martin bagged a five-wicket haul as New Zealand staged a dramatic comeback on the fourth day of the first Test against India on Sunday.

Martin (5-25) polished off India's top-order in a sensational opening spell of 4-15 off nine overs, including six maidens, before returning to claim his fifth wicket towards the close at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad.

At stumps, India were reeling at 82-6, with Venkatsai Laxman (34) and Harbhajan Singh (12) the not out batsmen.

India lead by 110 runs after bowling out the Black Caps for 459, an innings built around a patient debut century from 20-year-old Kane Williamson (131).

Martin, 35, triggered a dramatic Indian collapse, getting rid of Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Suresh Raina inside the first 11 overs with just 15 runs on board.

Gambhir, suffering a lean spell with the bat this year, was out for a duck, edging Martin behind off the third ball of the innings.

Virender Sehwag, who top-scored with 173 in India's first-innings 487, was run out by substitute fielder Martin Guptill before Dravid

was caught behind in Martin's third over. Tendulkar (12) failed to read an inswinger and ended up getting a thick edge onto leg-stump. Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the fifth victim for Martin, who is seeking to revive his career after struggling last season.

Martin's show was all the more remarkable as his injured pace partner Hamish Bennett did not come out to a bowl.

New Zealand were earlier boosted by Williamson, whose efforts with the bat restricted India's first-innings lead to 28 runs.

The youngster hit 10 fours in his patient 299-ball knock and shared a stand of 86 for the sixth wicket with captain Daniel Vettori (41).

After Williamson's dismissal on the stroke of lunch, India removed Vettori, Gareth Hopkins, Jeetan Patel and Hamish Bennett in quick succession.

Raina had Vettori caught behind before left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha trapped Gareth Hopkins (14) plumb in front to finish with career-best figures of 4-107.

Resuming on his overnight 87, Williamson struck Zaheer Khan for two fours to race to the 100-run mark, becoming the youngest and the eighth New Zealand batsman to score a century on debut.

The baby-faced batsman celebrated the moment by raising his bat and helmet towards

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PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand fast bowler Chris Martin, who rocked India by taking five wickets in the second innings yesterday, is in his follow-through on a delivery on the fourth day of the first Test at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad.