

Ronaldo accepts libel damages

Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo accepted substantial libel damages from a British newspaper on Monday over a claim that he put his injured ankle at risk by "living it up" in a Hollywood nightclub. Ronaldo was not at London's High Court for the settlement of his action against Telegraph Media Group Ltd over a Daily Telegraph story in July 2008. His lawyer Allan Dunlavy told judge Victoria Sharp that the report, which claimed the Portuguese player had laid down his crutches and taken to the dance floor with four models, caused him embarrassment,



Bangladesh take on UAE today

SPORTS REPORTER

In quest of staying in the race, Bangladesh U23 football team are looking forward to denying their mighty opponents in their second match of Asian Games when they take on United Arab Emirates in Group E encounter at the Yingdong Stadium in Guangzhou, China today.

Bangladesh's bid to qualifying for the 16-team second round will be virtually over if they go down against UAE, a side that are 51 steps above of Bangladesh in the FIFA rankings and are apparently desperate to win today's match after being held to a goalless draw by Hong Kong in their first match. In the other match of the group, Uzbekistan will take on Hong Kong today at a different venue.

The job of holding UAE will no doubt be a hard one for Bangladesh's U23 boys, whose senior side lost all the four times they played against UAE national side.

However, the smallest defeat margin of 1-0 against

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Khulna batsman Imrul Kayes plays the scoop shot during his match-winning century against Dhaka in the National Cricket League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

ASIAN GAMES

Athletes to leave tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The majority of the Bangladesh contingent for the Asian Games leaves early tomorrow for Guangzhou in China with a hope of winning medals in cricket and kabaddi. Altogether, Bangladesh will take part in 14 more disciplines in the 16th edition of the games, scheduled to take place from November 12 to 27.

The 235-strong Bangladesh contingent will take part in a total of 16 disciplines and the squads of archery, chess, cricket (women), golf, hockey, shooting, swimming, weightlifting and wushu consisting of some 120 members are scheduled to leave tomorrow while the members of athletics, billiard, boxing, cricket (men), kabaddi, karate and taekwondo will join in part.

Since their first appearance in the Asian Games in 1986, Bangladesh has so far won one bronze in boxing and one silver and bronze in kabaddi. Thus the large number of

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DRU-MEDIA CRICKET Four confirm quarters

SPORTS REPORTER

BanglaVision, Destiny, Daily Sun and Channel i moved to the quarterfinals of the DRU-Pepsi Media Cricket as they won their respective matches at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

BanglaVision (40/0) posted a five-wicket victory over Radio Today (36/5), Destiny (66/1) scored a four-wicket victory over Naya Diganta (63/1), Daily Sun (63/5) beat Banglabazar Patrika (55/4) by eight runs while Channel i (52/1) defeated New Age (48/5) by four wickets.

In the day's other matches, Ittefaq (88/2) beat Manabzamin (52/4) by 36 runs and Diganta TV (50/2) defeated Korotoa (49/1) by three wickets.

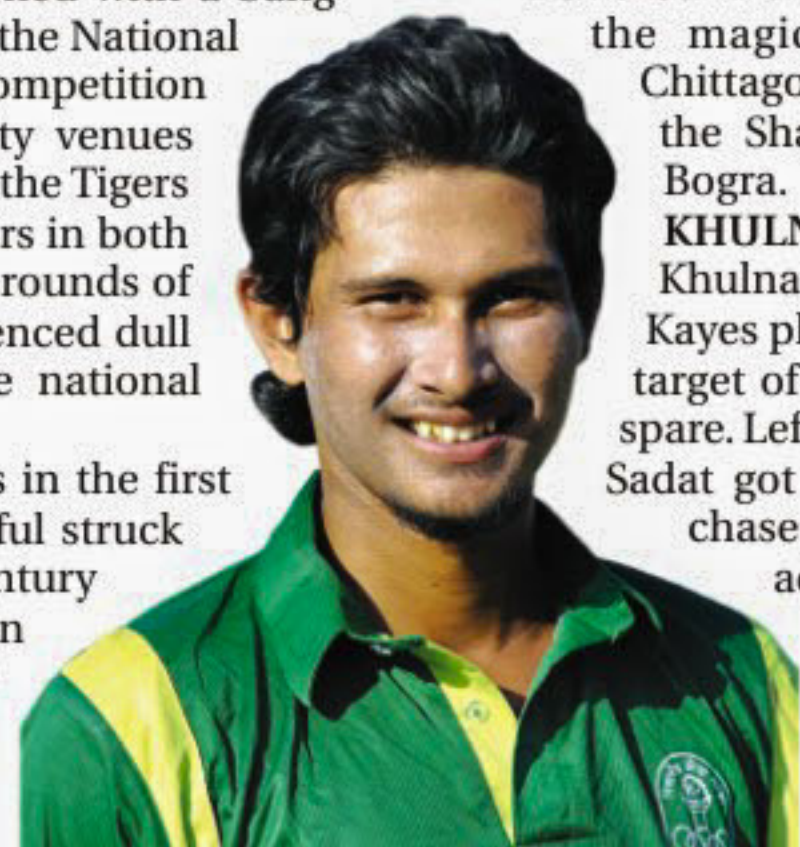
National stars shine

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The national players returned with a bang when the second phase of the National Cricket League one-day competition began at two different city venues yesterday. The presence of the Tigers also saw high-scoring affairs in both matches after the last two rounds of the first phase had experienced dull and drab affairs sans the national players.

After two half centuries in the first round, Mohammad Ashraf struck a stroke-filled unbeaten century in a bid to regain his place in the national side but the right-hander's effort went in vain as Khulna rode on national opener Imrul Kayes' century to post a four-wicket victory over Dhaka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur.



RABBI.. 148 not out

Fazle Rabbi was the star in Barisal's eight-run victory against Rajshahi despite wicketkeeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim's hundred at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The young left-hander Rabbi hit his second hundred in the competition after making the magical three figures against Chittagong in the first round game at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

KHULNA-DHAKA Khulna's top order led by Imrul Kayes played brilliantly to reach the target of 273 runs with four balls to spare. Left-hander Imrul and Nazmus Sadat got off to a confident start in chase of a massive total as the pair added 46 runs in eight overs before Sadat was caught and bowled by leg-spinner Nur Hossain.

A 140-run second wicket stand between Imrul and Mohammad Mithun however gave the over Dhaka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. Imrul smashed the target. Imrul smashed the target. Imrul smashed the target.

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Bhaji hits maiden ton

Indo-Kiwi first Test ends in a draw

Cricket

AFP, Ahmedabad

Tailender Harbhajan Singh smashed his maiden century and Venkatsai Laxman made a fine 91 as the first Test between India and New Zealand ended in a draw on Monday.

Harbhajan hit three sixes and 11 fours in his 115-run knock and shared a 163-run stand for the seventh wicket with Laxman to rescue the Indians from a precarious 65-6.

Their efforts took India to 266 all out in their second innings, leaving New Zealand with an improbable target of 295 off 24 overs.

The Kiwis were 22-1 when the rival captains decided to end the match an hour before the scheduled close at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad. The top-ranked Indians were indebted

to Laxman and Harbhajan, who saved their blushes against a side placed a lowly eighth in the world cricket order.

"It was fantastic to get my hundred finally," said Harbhajan, named man of the match. "A big thanks to Laxman, without whom I could not have scored this."

"Laxman was brilliant at the other end. At one stage, when we were five down for 15 runs, we were out of the game. So, we are satisfied that we were able to save this match."

Laxman, 36, showed remarkable poise during his stay at the wicket of nearly six hours, hitting nine fours in his 253-ball knock.

The veteran batsman, India's saviour in many a Test match, was adjudged leg before wicket by Australian umpire Steve Davis but TV replays showed the ball from Daniel Vettori had deflected off the bat.

Harbhajan, playing his 88th Test, was nearly denied his ton by Chris Martin, but the fast bowler failed to latch on to a sharp

chance off his own bowling when the batsman was on 93.

He reached the 100-run mark in style, dancing down the track to loft Vettori over long-off for a huge six.

Harbhajan's remarkable innings came to an end when he top-edged a full-toss from part-timer Ross Taylor, who claimed his first Test wicket.

Taylor, bowling in a Test for only the third time, claimed his second wicket when he had Shanthakumaran Sreesanth caught behind in his next over to bring an end to India's innings shortly after tea.

"I am proud how the guys stepped up at times when we needed them," said Vettori. "Jesse [Ryder] and Kane [Williamson] with the bat, and Chris Martin with the ball gave us a small chance of victory."

"Unfortunately it was always going to be difficult with the injuries. It's important we continue from this performance, we can't afford to rest on whatever laurels we

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Progress smooth, assures Kamal

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal vowed that the 2011 ICC World Cup would take Bangladesh to new heights on the world's sports map.

"It's a huge challenge but also a great opportunity for us to take our country to new heights. We need a united effort to make it a successful event. It's everybody's event so all must lend their hands to showcasing the mega event," said Kamal while speaking at a "meet the press" event to focus on the progress of the 2011 World Cup where Bangladesh is a co-host along with India and Sri Lanka.

Dewan Shafiul Arefin, BCB's director and convener of the local organising committee (LOC), read a long statement to inform about the preparation of the mega event.

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South Africa 317 for 5

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Jacques Kallis scored a brilliant 83 to steer South Africa to 317-5 - one of four fifties - in the fifth and final one-day match here on Monday, also completing 11,000 runs during the knock.

The 35-year-old propelled the total during his 95-ball innings, adding an invaluable 121 with AB de Villiers (61) and another 61 for the second wicket with Hashim Amla (62) after South Africa won the toss and batted at Dubai Stadium.

Kallis, who scored a brilliant 66 in South Africa's eight wicket win in the first match in Abu Dhabi, hit four boundaries before he cut leg-spinner Shahid Afridi straight into the hands of Wahab Riaz in the 39th over.

When Kallis reached 81, he completed 11,000 one-day runs in his 307th match. He became the sixth batsmen to score 11,000 or more runs in 50-over format of the game.

India's Sachin Tendulkar (17598), Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya (13428), Australian Ricky Ponting (13082), Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq (11739) and Indian Sourav Ganguly (11363) were the others to cross the 11,000-run mark.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 317 for 5 (Amla 62, Smith 14, Kallis 83, De Villiers 61, Duminy 59 not out, Botha 28 not out; Afridi 2-59)

PAKISTAN: Mohammad Hafeez, Shahzaib Hasan, Fawad Alam, Younis Khan, Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Yousuf, Abdul Razzaq, Umar Akmal, Wahab Riaz, Abdul Rehman, Shoaib Akhtar



India's Harbhajan Singh celebrates after scoring his century on the fifth and final day of the first Test against New Zealand at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

Where's Haider?

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan wicketkeeper Zulqarnain Haider has gone missing from the team's hotel in Dubai and did not come to the ground for Monday's one-day international against South Africa, team manager Intikhab Alam said.

"I can't make much comment on this, but I can only confirm that Haider did not come with the team to the ground and we are looking for him," Alam told reporters.

The 24-year-old Haider was fined 500 dirhams (136 dollars) on Sunday after he broke curfew hours imposed by the team management.

Haider scored a match-winning 19 not out to help Pakistan win the fourth one-day international played here on Friday which levelled the five-match series 2-2.

Haider sent a SMS text message to a Pakistani journalist and posted a message on his Facebook page which both read: "Leaving Pakistan cricket because get bad msg fr 1 man fr lose the match in last game."

Haider's family members told a local channel in Pakistan that they had no new information about him but that they were worried about his welfare.

Pakistan Cricket Board media spokesman Nadeem Sarwar said Dubai police had been informed.

"Haider had taken away his passport from the team management on Sunday night and we have reported the matter of him missing to the Dubai

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PHOTO: STAR

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal speaks at a press conference on Bangladesh's preparation for the upcoming cricket World Cup at a local hotel yesterday.