

SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Mourinho bows to Maradona

Jose Mourinho appears to have a modest side after all as the Real Madrid coach has reportedly displayed an unusual deference when in the presence of footballing legend Diego Maradona. "You are the number one, I bow before you," Mourinho wrote on a Real Madrid football jersey given to Maradona when he visited the club's training ground on Friday, local media reported Saturday. Maradona displayed the shirt signed by Mourinho, who wrote that he was "embarrassed to sign a jersey for Sir Diego".



Tamim certain, but is Mashrafe?

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM from Chittagong

It is quite rare for the Tigers' think-tank to endure a "pleasant headache" but that is exactly what they would be facing when later this month, they sit to select the team for the five-match one-day series against Zimbabwe.

One of them, the return of Tamim Iqbal, would be as smooth as the left-hander's straight-drive but the other -- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza -- looks set to be a tough one for all concerned.

According to Tigers coach Jamie Siddons, Mashrafe's route to the first XI is simple enough on paper, but given the performance of the new-ball duo Rubel Hossain and Shafiqul Islam during the New Zealand whitewash last month, the Narail Express could very well have to wait for a return in the Zimbabwe series.

"Rubel got man-of-the-match in the last game [against New Zealand], [Shafiqul] Shuhash is bowling beautifully, so Mash has to fight his way back in," said Siddons yesterday after the first day of training at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, which is undergoing massive renovation for next year's World Cup.

In the four matches against the Kiwis, the Rubel-Shafiqul pair took nine wickets between them but more importantly, stepped up to the plate at crucial times and kept the Kiwis at bay.

Mashrafe, the incumbent captain who joins practice in the port city today, got tangled in a

freakish ankle injury in the first game of the New Zealand series but it was expected that his return would be automatic. But this time, the performance of Rubel and Shafiqul is standing in his way, though Siddons was not ready to count him out completely.

"If he's [Mashrafe] fully fit and bowling as fast as he can and swinging the ball, of course, he's our senior bowler so he'll be straight in," said Siddons.

Tamim's recovery from the wrist injury, on the other hand, pleased the coach who said that the inclusion would be at the cost of someone in the top-order. "It's great to see him out there training. Unfortunately someone's got to come out of the team and fit him in," he said.

The hometown boy confirmed that he was "100 per cent fit" and said that his target would be to score the most runs in the Zimbabwe series.

Apart from the pace conundrum and Tamim's timely recovery, the Chittagong wicket also concerns the head coach of the national team. In November 2009, Zimbabwe were bowled out for just 44 runs, the Tigers winning the game by six wickets. The 14 wickets that fell in quick succession that morning was courtesy of excessive spin on the wicket and Siddons believes it was due to the moisture.

"The pitch spins more here, especially early in the morning when the wicket is not dry. Today it was bit like the game against Zimbabwe last time around where they got bowled out for 40-something," he said as the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

THE DASHER IS BACK: Tamim Iqbal showed no signs of pain during his first full-length practice session at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. Here the dashing left-hander bats in the nets on the first day of the Tigers' training after the Eid vacation.

More bad than good

SPORTS REPORTER



with some heartening results chipping in amid disappointing ones.

The most commendable performance of the day came in chess where the men's team completed a clean 4-0 sweep of South Korea while the women's lost 1.5-2.5 to leaders China.



TEN Sports
Asian Games Day Ten
Live from 8:00am
NEO Cricket
India v New Zealand Third Test, Day 3
Live from 10:00am
TEN Cricket
Pakistan v South Africa Second Test, Day 3
Live from 12:00pm

In the men's board, GM Ziaur Rahman, FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagor, FM Abu Sufian Shakil and FM Mehedi Hasan Parag won over their respective opponents. The men's team is in the eighth position with four points from four rounds while China lead the table with 8 points.

In the women's section, WFM Sharmin Sultana beat China's WGM Zhao Xue while Shamima Akhter drew with another WGM Ju Wenjun. However, Nazrana Khan and Masuda Begum lost their respective boards. The women's team now have four points from four rounds and are in the sixth position as China lead the table with 7 points.

Bangladesh women's archery team gave North Korea a run for their money but ultimately conceded a 205-195 defeat in the pre-quarterfinals at the Aoti Archery Range. The final scores however do not fully reflect the performance as two out of the four rounds were won by the Bangladeshi trio of Mathui Prue, Beauty Roy and Najmin Khatun. However, the aggregate scores from Bangladesh over the four rounds weren't good

enough to challenge their more established opponents.

There was good news from track and field too, where the country's fastest man Azharul Islam made it to the semifinals of the Games' showcase event 100m sprint. Azharul timed 11.19 seconds in heat No. 6 to finish fourth from the six-man heat. The semifinals of the event will be held today. However, Azhar's female compatriot Nazmun Nahar Beauty could not follow his footsteps as she finished 22nd among 26 participants to bow out from the heats. She finished her race with a timing of 12.72 seconds.

Erratic performance in the hockey field continued when Bangladesh lost their last group match against Pakistan by 6-1 goals.

Taposh Barmon scored a consolation goal seven minutes from time after conceding six goals against the former world champions.

Veterans Shakeel Abbasi and Sohail Abbas scored two goals apiece to give Pakistan a 4-0 first-half lead before Muhammad Imran converted two penalty corners in the second.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

Under the Packer cloud

It may have been held more than thirty-one years ago, but the 1979 World Cup was played under conditions quite similar to what the cricket world is faced with today. Two years ago, in 1977, a revolution took place in Australia, the effects of which can be felt even today. Just as the rebel Indian Cricket League in 2007 had drawn players away from national duty, incurring the wrath of national boards around the world, Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket divided the cricket world in two in the late 1970s.

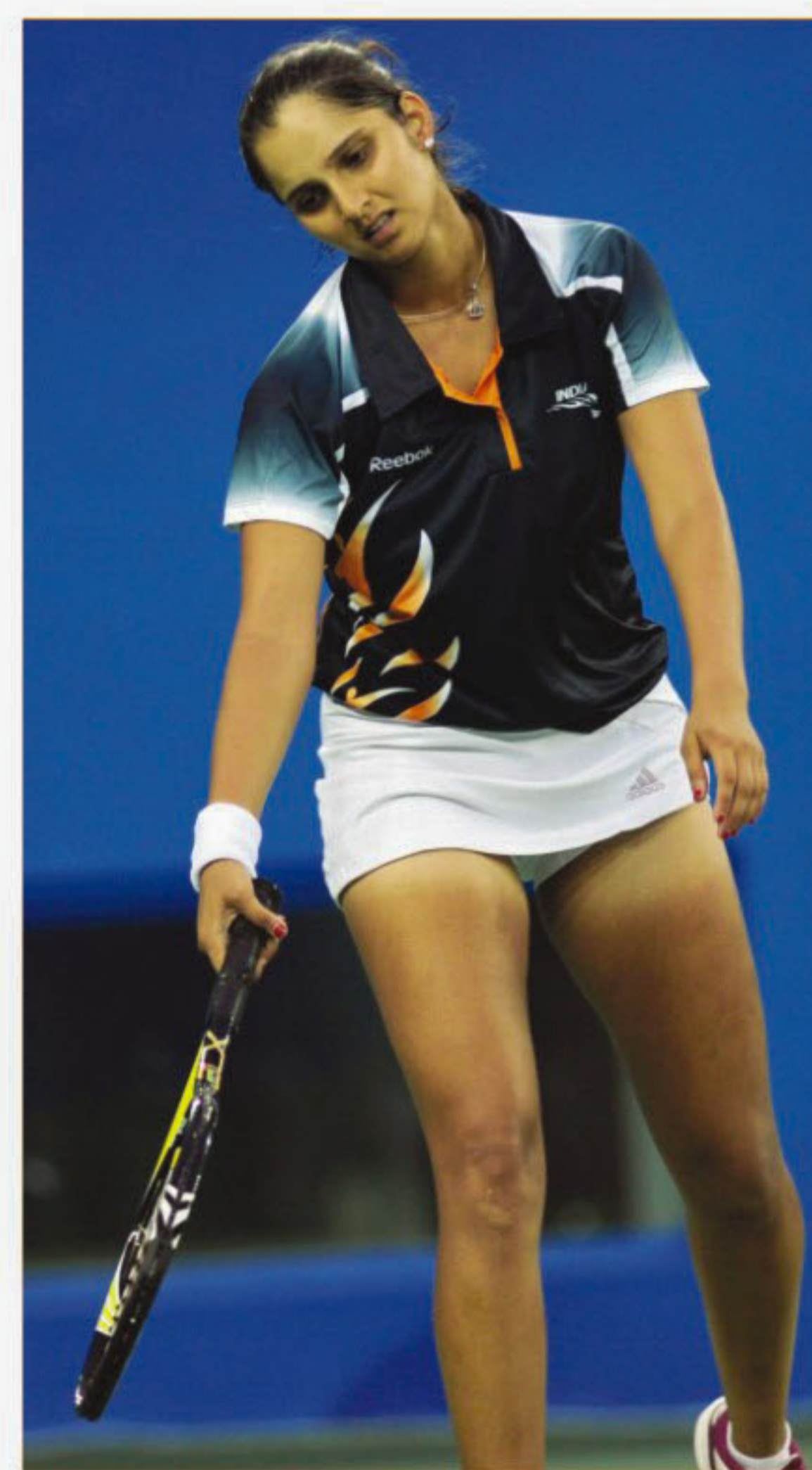
The series originated due to two main factors the widespread view that players were not paid sufficient amounts to make a living from cricket, and that Packer wished to secure the exclusive broadcasting rights to Australian cricket for Channel Nine, an offer that was turned down by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) in 1976.

In early 1977, he began contracting a list of Australian players provided by recently-retired Australian Test captain Ian Chappell. Soon he convinced England captain Tony Greig to not only sign on, but to act as an agent in signing players from around the world. By the time the season climaxed with the Centenary Test match between Australia and England at Melbourne in March 1977, about two dozen players had committed to Packer's enterprise. It was revealing of the players' dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs that they signed on to a league without grounds or administrators, and one that was hidden from the rest of the world.

When news broke of this covert operation, it was met with outrage. After Packer's negotiations with the game's authorities in England in mid-'77 was unsuccessful, ICC decided that Packer's matches would not be given first-class status and that all involved players would be banned from Test match and first-class cricket.

When the first season began in late '77, there were three teams - an Australian eleven including greats like Dennis Lillee, Ian Chappell Greg Chappell, Rodney Marsh, and Doug Walters, a West Indian eleven boasting the likes of Viv Richards, Clive Lloyd, Lance Gibbs, Rohan Kanhai, Michael Holding and Andy Roberts, and a World eleven featuring names such as Tony Greig,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



India's tennis sensation Sania Mirza reacts after losing a point to Akgul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan during their singles semifinal of the 16th Asian Games at the Aoti Tennis Centre in Guangzhou yesterday. Sania lost the marathon match 7-6, 3-6, 4-6. PHOTO: AFP

Sania bites the dust

AFP, Guangzhou

China's Peng Shuai shattered 40-year-old Kimiko Date Krumm's dream of a second Asian Games title on Sunday to keep her triple gold bid on course.

Peng clinched a 7-6, 3-6, 6-2 win over the veteran Japanese, who won her first singles gold at the Hiroshima Asiad in 1994, and now faces Uzbekistan's Akgul Amanmuradova, who put out Indian golden girl Sania Mirza. Peng, 16 years Date Krumm's junior, made the most of her opponent's inconsistency where an impressive 59 winners were cancelled out by 73 unforced errors and a morale-sapping six double faults.

World number 72 Peng has already helped China to team gold in Guangzhou and is also in the women's double semifinals with Yan Zi.

Date Krumm admitted the season had caught up with her but that she had been determined to take part in the Games.

Mirza needed six set points to wrap up the opener after more than an hour on court against the big-hitting Amanmuradova who she had defeated in all three of their previous meetings.

But the Indian's game unravelled in the second set and the world 69 levelled the tie.

As the clock ticked towards the three-hour mark, Amanmuradova's greater stamina paid dividends as she took victory on the first of three match points for a 6-7, 6-3, 6-4 win.

Defending men's champion Danai Udomchoke was knocked out in the quarterfinals, losing to Japan's Tatsuma Ito 6-4, 6-1.

Its next faces Indian number Somdev Devverman who defeated China's Zhang Ze 6-4, 6-4.

Top seed Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan reached the semifinals after a 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 win over Karan Rastogi with the vanquished Indian praising his opponent's sportsmanship.

SPORTS POLL WEEKLY QUESTION

Which Tigers opening pair you think will be ideal in the Zimbabwe series?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on

twitter www.twitter.com/dssport

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh wicketkeeper Zahid Hossain (L) makes a desperate clearance to keep Pakistan at bay during their final Group B match of the 16th Asian Games at the Aoti hockey field in Guangzhou yesterday. Bangladesh however lost the match 6-1.

Siddikur placed 26th

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman made a steady finish in the UBS Hong Kong Open yesterday where he secured the 26th position with a fourth-round score of 3-under par. The overall score for the four rounds stood at 9-under par 271.

This performance elevated him to the eighth position in order of merit of Asian Tour and earned him a paycheque of 24,150 dollars which is equivalent to 1.8 million taka.

Ryder Cup star Ian Poulter won the 2.5 million US dollar event with a score of 22 under par 258. His English compatriot Simon Dyson and Italian teenager Matteo Manassero both finished one shot behind the winner.

Siddikur started the day well, scored at par on first hole, birdied in the 2nd hole but eventually bogeyed in the 11th hole which was however made up for in the 14th hole while the rest of the holes went at par.

Siddikur is expected to return home before he takes part in Indian Open which starts December 2.