



Winners of the 28th Lancer Cup golf tournament pose for photographs with chief guest Lt General Mollah Fazle Akbar and A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Rangs Group, at the Swimming Pool of Kurmitola Golf Club on Saturday.

WC officials announced

AGENCIES, Dubai

Umpires Kumar Dharmasena, Richard Kettleborough, Nigel Llong, Bruce Oxenford, Amish Saheba and Shahvir Tarapore have been named to stand alongside the members of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires during the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2011, which begins in Dhaka on February 19.

These six have been identified as emerging and talented match officials, who have already officiated at international level with experience of conditions in the Asian sub-continent and are now ready to umpire at cricket's flagship event.

The full list of umpires is: Billy Bowden, Aleem Dar, Steve Davis, Billy Doctrove, Marais Erasmus, Ian Gould, Daryl Harper, Tony Hill, Asad Rauf, Asoka de Silva, Simon Taufel, Rod Tucker (all from the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires), Kumar Dharmasena, Richard Kettleborough, Nigel Llong, Bruce Oxenford, Amish Saheba and Shahvir Tarapore (all from the Emirates International Panel of ICC Umpires).

The reserve umpire for the tournament has been named as Enamul Hoque Moni, also from the international panel. He will officiate during the warm-up phase of the tournament and be available, if required, during the event proper.

The match referees for the event will be: Chris Broad, Jeff Crowe, Ranjan Madugalle, Roshan Mahanama and Andy Pycroft (all from the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees).

The umpire selection panel consists of David Richardson (ICC General Manager - Cricket), Ranjan Madugalle (ICC Chief Match Referee), David Lloyd (former player, coach, umpire and now television commentator) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (former elite panel umpire).

BHF, Rach part company

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation has decided not to renew the contract of German coach Gerhard Peter Rach, who has already left country after his four-month deal expired on November 30.

The decision was taken yesterday at a BHF governing body meeting, which, however, still decided to ask the German coach to send his full report on the failure at the Asiad. The German coach however, has already placed a report where he alleged that some hockey officials did not carry out their duties properly during the Asiad in China.

"The meeting did not accept that allegation as it was not his duty to evaluate officials' activities. However, we will take action if we find anything wrong in reports of the manager and assistant coaches, who are yet to place their reports," said BHF general secretary Khondoker Jamiluddin adding that they would soon search for a new coach.

Abahani go to Thailand today

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup champions Abahani leave here for Thailand today afternoon to play two practice matches against local clubs in a bid to make them prepared for the upcoming Bangladesh League, beginning from December 27.

"Our intention for the tour is to play some tough opponents before starting the professional league campaign to win the league for the fourth time in a row and we will take the first practice match as the opener in the Bangladesh League," said Abahani's football manager Satyajit Das Rupu yesterday.

This trick has worked wonders for the Sky Blues as before the start of the Federation Cup, the domestic season opener, they went to India. They went on to win the Bordoloi Trophy in Assam before regaining the Fed Cup after 10 years under the supervision of Iranian coach Ali Akbar.

"Playing the Bordoloi Trophy in India helped us a lot as the coach found a good combination before the Federation Cup and I believe this type of practice matches as well as practice in Thailand will give the players advantage during the league at home," said Rupu, adding that they would also try to amend the mistakes they made in the Federation Cup during these practice games.

Abahani were supposed to travel to Thailand in the middle of November, but they could not tour because of non-issuance of visa. A 30-member squad comprising 25 players is leaving today which returns home on December 23.

If it rains, it's gone

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"We have a good drainage system in Dhaka and we are also installing it in Khulna. But we had to drop the idea for Chittagong and Fatullah because of time constraints," admitted Munna.

The decision of holding World Cup matches in Chittagong was taken in October 2009 and even before that, the same problem came up in 2007 when the India game was called off. The Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur has never had this problem so far, matches being played there an hour or two after long spells of rain. BCB chief executive Manzur Ahmed has already said that large covers, those spanning the entire ground, will be made available for this ground.

To have two distinctive international venues in a country reflects deep-seated carelessness among cricket organisers in this country.

National Sports Council director Abdur Rahman confirmed that lifting the ground level would take time. "Yes they told us to increase the slope, but it takes 6-7 months and then they have to rebuild the pitches. There was little time for the World Cup so it wasn't undertaken," he said.

And then there's the hope among many, including a BCB director, that rain stays away from Chittagong during the World Cup. Talk about wishful thinking.

Cup facts

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Sri Lanka, the eventual champions posted a world record high score when they blasted giant-killers Kenya to the tune of 398 for five in their group match in Kandy on March 6. The record stood for ten years before Australia, and then South Africa overtook it in the same match in March 2006.

Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya, the man-of-the-series, had the highest strike rate among batsmen who scored over a hundred runs in the tournament as he piled on 221 electric runs at a strike rate of 131.54.

Indian opener Sachin Tendulkar finished as the highest run-scorer in the 1996 World Cup, with 523 runs (two 100s, three 50s), the highest tournament aggregate in World Cups till he broke his own record seven years later.

Australian opener Mark Waugh, in second place with 484 runs (three 100s, one 50), became the first batsman to score three hundreds in a World Cup, and also the first to score two consecutive hundreds in a Cup.

Gary Kirsten scored an unbeaten 188 against the United Arab Emirates in Rawalpindi on February 16 to create a new record for highest individual score in a World Cup, a record that still stands.

Anil Kumble of India snared the most victims among bowlers, taking fifteen wickets. Waqar Younis was second with thirteen victims.

The best bowling analysis of the 1996 World Cup belonged to Zimbabwean leg-spinner Paul Strang, who took five for 21 against Kenya in Patna on February 27.

Ian Healy was the wicketkeeper with the most dismissals with twelve (9 catches, 3 stumpings), while Rashid Latif of Pakistan was in second place with nine dismissals (7 catches, 2 stumpings).

Boom boom Tamim

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Tamim also equaled Shahid Afridi and Saurav Ganguly in hitting the highest number of sixes, seven in all, in an innings in Bangladesh. While there is not much similarity between the Pakistani and the Tigers opener, the manner in which Tamim chases away the spinners is akin to the former India captain.

"When we talk about him [Ganguly] in the team meetings, we always say that in his prime, he just destroyed the spinners, left-armers in particular. Whenever he came down the wicket, it was a six," he said. On Sunday, Tamim's charge at the spinners looked a bit like those days in the late 1990s when Ganguly made spinners run for cover.

But without thinking too much about comparing himself, the local boy was more concerned to return among the runs after the injury lay-off.

"Definitely it was a welcome score. I feel a lot better now and hopefully, the Premier League will also be a good campaign for me," he said.

Tamim has topped the run-

NAT'L WOMEN'S HANDBALL Semifinalists finalised

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinal line-ups of the Exim Bank 21st National Women's Handball Championship were completed when holders Bangladesh Ansar, Dhaka, Dhaka University and BJMC moved into the last four at two separate venues in capital yesterday.

Ansar face Dhaka in the first semifinal while Dhaka University play against BJMC in the second at the Handball Stadium adjacent to Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

In the quarterfinals, Ansar thrashed Dinajpur 26-3, Dhaka University handed an 11-6 defeat to Panchagargh, BJMC overwhelmed Rajshahi 18-1 and Dhaka defeated Jessore 11-5.

Irresistible

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reserve goalkeeper Mathias Hain to score in the 79th minute.

Bayern took the lead in the first half when Turkey midfielder Hamit Altintop scored an impressive individual goal.

Germany defender Philipp Lahm then netted a spot-kick after St Pauli goalkeeper Thomas Kessler was sent off on 68 minutes for fouling Thomas Mueller.

Ribery proved his ankle injury is behind him when he wrapped up the win with a well-taken solo effort.

Leverkusen are second after they won 4-2 at Hamburg whose coach Armin Veh is in ever-increasing danger of losing his post.

Two goals by Brazil midfielder Renato Augusto did the damage as Jupp Heynckes side picked up their third straight win as Mainz drop to fourth.

Teenage midfielder Christian Clemens scored his first Bundesliga goal when he netted in the 56th minute as Cologne picked up a rare win with a 1-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Three lead rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Three players shared the lead in the 8th Amritolal Dey international rating chess tournament, organised by Barisal Chess Club, at close of fourth round in Barisal yesterday.

National champion FM Minbazuddin Ahmed Sagar, FM Aminul Islam and Jamal Uddin were jointly leading the points table with maximum four points each after beating Chanchal Kumar Ghosh, Sharif Hossain and FM Mohammad Javed respectively.

FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon and Delwar Hossain were jointly holding the second position with 3.5 points each as Emon beat Debaraj Chatterjee and Delwar defeated Sharmin Sultana Shirin.

Siddikur

FROM PAGE 17

Japan's Kenichi Kuboya, who held the lead for first three rounds, had to settle for the second place after signing off with a 70 for a 271 total.

England draw tour tie

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Wicketkeeper Matt Prior said England were aiming to go through their Australian tour unbeaten after the tourists ground out a draw in their three-day match with Victoria on Sunday.

Set 311 runs to win on the final day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, England were 211 for six off 54 overs when the match was called off as a draw with an hour of scheduled play remaining.

England shut up shop after tea, scoring only 52 runs in 21 overs with Prior finishing unbeaten on 102 and skipper Andrew Strauss on 22 from 65 balls.

The tourists go into the third Ashes Test starting in Perth on Thursday holding a 1-0 lead in the five-match series and can retain the urn with a win at the WACA Ground.

Four years ago England were thrashed 5-0 on their Australian Ashes tour, but this time they are undefeated in two Tests and four other first-class games as they set their sights on an unbeaten trip Down Under.

Prior made no apologies for England's dour tactics in the closing overs against Victoria, saying the side were keen to protect their unbeaten run.

"Why would you carry on playing your shots and potentially risk losing a game? We didn't want to do that," he said.

"We were hell-bent that we were going to get through the day.

"Unfortunately it was pretty boring cricket for everyone to watch. Sometimes it's got to be done.

"If we carry on playing the brand of cricket we have been, there's certainly no reason why we can't go through unbeaten."

England were reduced to 149 for six before Prior and Strauss restored the innings with an unbeaten 62-run stand.

Clint McKay led the Victorian bowling with 4-68 from 17 overs.

He bowled Test opener Alastair Cook for 10 before the tourists suffered a double blow, losing Paul Collingwood lbw for eight to Jayde Herrick and Steven Davies (18) caught at slip off McKay two balls later.

Eoin Morgan (six) was caught behind off Herrick before Prior and Tim Bresnan (19) added 45 for the fifth wicket.

Bresnan was caught behind off McKay and Ian Bell was the big pace bowler's fourth victim, caught at short cover for 17 shortly before tea.

Fiery quick Herrick was taken out of Victoria's attack after bowling two full tosses above waist-height in consecutive overs in the post-lunch session.

Australia went unbeaten against the West Indies and Pakistan earlier this year but the tables have quickly turned for Ricky Ponting's men, who are win-less in their last five Tests.

Selectors have gambled on uncapped left-arm spinner Michael Beer and recalled out-of-form paceman Mitchell Johnson for their squad of 12 for the third Test, with Doug Bollinger, Marcus North and spinner Xavier Doherty all dumped.

Young opener Phil Hughes returns for the injured Simon Katich.

Stuey slams selectors

Cricket

CRICINFO

Stuart MacGill, the former Australian Test leg-spinner, has slammed the decision of his country's selectors to call up Michael Beer, a slow left-arm bowler who has played just five first-class games, for the third Ashes Test at Perth next week.

"I am gobsmacked, shocked, I honestly cannot believe it," MacGill told Sydney's Daily Telegraph. "The team will have to change again after the next Test. Good on Michael Beer, good bloke and good player, but look at this as a job interview and show me his qualifications to get this job. He doesn't have any. He is not qualified for the job they have given him. Sending him out there next week, what are they trying to do?"

MacGill, who played 44 Tests before his retirement in 2008, reserved particular criticism for comments made by Andrew Hilditch, the selection panel chairman.

"To be honest, from Andrew Hilditch's comments, he doesn't even really know who Michael Beer is. He said he'll bowl well in Perth because it's his home ground. I'm not sure Andrew thought those comments through before he made them.

"Look, Andrew Hilditch is a lovely bloke but someone needs to tell him Michael Beer has not spent his career playing at the WACA. Three games there and nothing better than a three-for. Honestly, there is no big picture here."

MacGill's criticism comes after left-arm spinner, Xavier Doherty, who was axed after the first two Tests, said the selectors were panicking when it came to picking slow bowlers. MacGill also expressed his dismay at the discarding of Nathan Hauritz, who has taken 63 wickets in 17 Tests, hit a maiden first-class hundred as a night-watchman against South Australia on Wednesday and picked up a five-wicket haul in his last domestic game in Perth.

"Xavier Doherty was [an odd inclusion] too, to be honest. They are clearly telling Nathan Hauritz, 'you are never playing Test cricket again'. I don't understand that. Xavier Doherty should never have played the first two Tests. Michael Beer shouldn't be playing this one."



Martina Hingis with her husband Thibault Hutin.

Hingis, Hutin tie the knot

AFP, Geneva

Retired tennis star Martina Hingis has married French showjumper Thibault Hutin in Paris, Swiss celebrity magazine Schweizer Illustrierte said.

According to the magazine's website, the 30-year-old former Grand Slam champion and the 24-year-old rider held their civil wedding on Friday in the presence of close family.

"Our wedding came as a surprise for many, but it has been in planning long in advance," Hingis told the magazine, which said it would publish on Monday exclusive photos of the event.

The pair intends to hold their wedding feast next summer, said the magazine.

Hingis won five Grand Slam singles titles before retiring in 2007, when she was suspended for two years for testing positive for cocaine at Wimbledon. She denied taking the drug but did not appeal the ban, which ended last September.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17

take part in the tournament, which will be held for the third time in Bangladesh.

The meeting was attended by executive members of the ACC and they decided to support the member countries through introducing four more events for the A Team, U-19, Academy and Women's team.

Mustafa said that they could not disclose the exact date at present but these events would be organized regularly from the next year.

Four Test playing nations along with four qualifiers will play those events.

Mustafa, also president of Bangladesh Cricket Board, also ruled out any more international series for the Tigers before the World Cup.

Tevez wants

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Tevez has scored 33 goals in 50 Premier League games since joining from Manchester United last summer.

His reaction after he was substituted against Bolton last week illustrated his troubled relationship with Mancini.

The pair exchanged angry words on the touchline, with Tevez clearly annoyed at Mancini's decision to replace him with James Milner despite the fact he had scored the only goal.

Tevez missed Saturday's win at West Ham due to suspension, a result which moved City into second place in the Premier League.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong on Sunday:

ZIMBABWE

Taylor run out	0			
Masakadza lbw b Mashrafe	6			
Dabengwa lbw b Mashrafe	9			
Ervine c Mushfiqur b Shakib	46			
Taibu c Mashrafe b Shakib	64			
Chigumbura c Rokibul b Shakib	23			
Utseya not out	12			
Chakabva not out	14			
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-7)	14			
Total: (For six wks in 50 overs)	188			
Did not bat: Cremer, Price, Mpofu				
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-12, 3-21, 4-116, 5-152, 6-168				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mpofu	7	0	40	1
Utseya	10	1	29	0
Taylor	10	1	25	1
Taylor	2	0	14	0
Cremer	10	1	53	1
Dabengwa	4	0	23	1
Result: Bangladesh won by six wickets and clinched five-match series 3-1.				
Man-of-the-match: Tamim Iqbal.				
Man-of-the-series: Abdur Razzak.				

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Storage structure

5 Alkali neutralizer

9 Cudgel

12 Relaxation

13 Musical ending

14 Past

15 "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" set

17 Sister

18 Rug, so to speak

19 Hoosier

21 Bunyan's Babe, e.g.

22 "Star Wars" weapon

24 Dermatologist's concern

27 Increase

28 Hurry

31 "Humbly" Time of your life?

33 Shell game item

34 "Skedaddle!"

36 In medias

DOWN

1 Denomination

2 Headlight?

3 Birthright

4 Czar

5 Farm fraction

6 Bill's partner

7 Altar

8 Muffles

9 "Wheel of Fortune"

10 Chills and fever

11 Broadway prize

16 Driver's license datum

20 "— the ramparts..."

Solution time: 25 mins.

STIR SHE SCAB
LUCT WAX ARGO
ANECDOTE LEAP
PARCEL ROTORS
ILL THIS
HAM LEG SNORE
OBIT NOM ETAL
PESOS OOH END
QUIT DIS
COURSE EGOISME
AVON MASHNOTE
PETE PIT ITEM
PREY TRY CAPO

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15			16						17		
18							19	20			
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24	25	26			27			28	29	30	
31					32				33		
34			35			36			37		
			38			39			40		
41	42					43			44	45	46
47					48	49	50				
51					52				53		
54					55				56		

CRYPTOQUIP

A M C J A S V Y I S M I S V A S Z
U Y Y C M J C H Z S N I S C , H O Y B T C
N T M H W T H I I T S W H J J W B U U S I
O M J M O A S F O M Z C F Y B I A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A "STAR WARS" ACTRESS LUGS AROUND ANGLERS, WOULD YOU SAY CARRIE FISHER CARRIES FISHERS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S