

Paris Hilton is to co-own a team in the 2011 Moto 125cc grand prix series. The socialite and tabloid celebrity is to take control of SuperMartXé VIP, whose riders are Sergio Gadea and Maverick Vinales. Hilton says she plans to attend as many races as possible next season. Last year Hollywood actor Antonio Banderas backed the Jack&Jones Moto2 team, but the squad will not be present in 2011.



SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Cheat caught in World Cup fraud

SPORTS REPORTER

Swindling in the name of the World Cup has made its debut but the cheater got caught after the victims brought it to the notice of the authorities in the nick of time.

Mirpur police late on Sunday arrested Zahidul Islam Shawon for allegedly selling forms to youngsters, eager to join as security volunteers for the mega event, by posing as a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official.

The matter came to a head when some of the victims laid siege to his Mirpur section 6 residence, alleging him of ripping them off. One of his victims then informed the matter to the BCB. Col (ret'd) Mesbahuddin Serniabat, the security director of the tournament's Local Organising Committee (LOC), rushed to the spot along with BCB officials and caught Shawon red-handed with forged forms for volunteer jobs. He was later handed over to a patrol team of Mirpur police, though his accomplice Akram is still at large.

Dipto, one of the victims, filed a case against Shawon, who was produced to the magistrate's court yesterday morning and was sent to jail.

"We have become alert after this incident. We hope these matters won't happen again," said Serniabat.

"Shawon apparently took Tk 500-1,000 for each form which they printed themselves. The youngsters became trapped because they figured out they can watch World Cup matches, get paid a thousand Taka per day, and they can be proud of being involved with such an event," he said, adding that he takes these volunteers from various cricket clubs from around the city.



Captain to be named the day before the match?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal bowled a beamer on Monday against those who were rallying for the pressing issue of captaincy with the ICC World Cup 2011 just two months away.

The BCB boss bravely announced that they were not in any hurry to announce the name of the captain while talking with reporters during a road show programme for the showcase event styled "Catch Bangladesh Catch".

"Is there a match tomorrow?" questioned Kamal sarcastically when asked when they were going to announce the captain for the World Cup. He also added: "You [the journalists] do your work and let

us do ours." It may be mentioned here that Shakib Al Hasan had been named captain only for the Zimbabwe series in a dramatic fashion, which only created chaos as Shakib himself had expressed disappointment over the decision. The world's number one all-rounder had at that time raised question about the role of the skipper in team selection.

Many thought that the game's governing body in the country would take lessons from that incident, but it seems that they are not ready to give much importance to the captaincy issue while selecting the team, despite the role being an integral part in cricket. Rather, the BCB boss demeaned the role by saying, "We must pick the team first and then the captaincy issue will come. Team is first, then the captain."

"What benefit will you get by announcing the captain now?" said Kamal when it was mentioned that a captain has to do his homework with his team and thus would require a certain amount of time for that.

"We will issue a press release when we announce the captain. We have our own plan. We didn't find any reason to talk about the captaincy issue in the board meeting at this moment. There are some other sensitive issues and we must do everything professionally. It's a serious issue and a hard job," continued Kamal.

"You can't easily pick someone because we don't have such a player. We gave the job to Shakib because Mashrafe [bin Mortaza] was not available," he added.

Kamal however dismissed notions of

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Tickets info next week

SPORTS REPORTER

The fate of the ICC World Cup tickets will be known next week as the Local Organising Committee (LOC) still could not confirm the major aspects of its sales.

Yesterday the LOC sat for their meeting later than the scheduled time, subsequently pushing back Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) meeting to the point where it could only be held for ten minutes at Hotel Purbani, as the earlier programmed road show was slated for a 3:00pm start.

But the meeting drew no results when it came to news of the World Cup tickets, the BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus only informing that the issue will be confirmed a few days before the tickets are set to be released.

"It will be confirmed on December 27 or 28. The tickets will be out for sale on January 1 in City Bank branches that are MoneyGram affiliated," said Yunus.

"We cannot confirm much of the details now because the seat numbers are still not finalised," he added.

It was gathered that the delay is designed to avoid any manipulations with tickets.

It was also earlier announced that the tickets will also be distributed in the 64 districts but in each district, only 100 to 150 tickets will be made available.

Apart from the tickets issue, the opening ceremony of the World Cup was also discussed during the LOC meeting. It was learned that the BCB was not happy with ICC as the deal for the opening ceremony between the two bodies had not yet been signed. According to a source, though the government are aiding the BCB to do the opening ceremony, it is still essentially an ICC affair.

Wizcraft, the event management agency who won the rights to manage the February 17 event, will make another presentation tomorrow as their first was only of the Bangladesh segment of the event.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

Sachin & Vaas far ahead

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

The 2003 World Cup saw the entrance to the global stage of a lot of young players who are today at their peak, and those who have dominated the international arena. Champions Australia welcomed the monstrosity athletic Andrew Symonds, who amazed crowds with huge sixes and by flying across the turf to catch and stop everything in sight. It was also the first Cup for Brett Lee and Shane Watson. Lee, one of the fastest bowlers on view and with

Glenn McGrath, formed a potent opening partnership en route to becoming the second highest wicket-taker of the tournament with 22 wickets.

The explosive Virender Sehwag made his Cup debut for India and enjoyed moderate success, namely a fine innings of 82 in the final against Australia. His countrymen Yuvraj Singh, Zaheer Khan and Harbhajan Singh also played their first, and each made valuable contributions to India reaching the final.

All-rounder Andrew Flintoff, England's biggest star since Ian Botham, played his first World Cup. He could not really impress, as England did not make it past

the first stage. Other notable newcomers to the scene were New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond, Pakistan's star batsman Younis Khan, Sri Lanka's future captains Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara, and West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan.

In contrast to the new faces, it was the last World Cup for three of the greatest fast bowlers of all time: Pakistan's Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, and South African Allan Donald. It was also the farewell Cup for Sri Lankan great Aravinda de Silva, and South Africa's last action hero Lance Klusener.

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The Bangladesh women's football team members practise on Monday in Cox's Bazar, ahead of today's semifinal clash against Nepal in the SAFF Women's Football Championship. PHOTO: STAR

Hosts cautiously hopeful

ATIQUE ANAM from Cox's Bazar

The tension and excitement in the Bangladesh camp was palpable yesterday on the eve of today's second semifinal of the SAFF Women's Football Championship against Nepal.

The players deferred practice by two and a half hours to match the timing of the semifinal, purportedly to acclimatise to the weather conditions of that exact time. In doing so, they had to also forego watching the first semifinal that was taking place between India and Pakistan at that time.

Striker Sabina Khatun, claiming that she was under no pressure, conceded that Nepal were the favourites in the match.

"Nepal have improved a lot in recent times, but so have we. Even though they are a better side in many respects, we will try to take the game to the opponents. Our target would be to score an early goal and if possible hold the lead," said the 20-year old from Shatkhira.

Scoring apart, Bangladesh will have to be at their best in defending and under the bar to stop the likes of Anu Lama and Jamuna Gurung who have scored 18 goals between them. Bangladesh's 5'7" custodian Sabina Akter has so far been at her best and knows she will need to pull up her socks to stop those two from scoring. "We took a lot of pressure against India

because they are much stronger. Nepal are a good side too but not as good as India. So, we will give our best and maybe we can win if we can stop Jamuna and Lama."

The Anu, Jamuna partnership has created havoc for the all the defences with their power, agility and guile. They themselves were looking forward to extending their goal spree.

"Bangladesh have a few good players, but if we play to our strengths we will win. I have scored three hattricks and I wish to score more," said Anu, the second highest goalscorer with 10 goals.

The last time that these two sides met resulted in a 1-0 win for Nepal. Jamuna Gurung who already has 8 goals to her

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BANGLADESH LEAGUE Cox's Bazar Ctg Abahani's home ground

SPORTS REPORTER

Cox's Bazar will host matches of the upcoming Bangladesh League as the league committee yesterday approved the seaside venue as the home of Chittagong Abahani.

Following unavailability of MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong ahead of the ICC World Cup 2011, Chittagong Abahani and Chittagong Mohammedan sought the league committee's permission to host their home matches in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban respectively.

"The meeting endorsed Abahani's plea straightaway. But Mohammedan's appeal of hosting their matches in Bandarban depends on the venue inspection," said Bangladesh Football Federation

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SAFF Women's Football
Second Semifinal
Bangladesh v Nepal
Time: 1:30pm
Venue: Cox's Bazar Stadium

Premier Division Cricket League
Mohammedan v Prime Doleshwar
Venue: Rajshahi
Biman v Surjo Torun
Venue: Bogra
Abahani v BKSP



An elephant, the 2011 World Cup mascot, leads the road show as part of Bangladesh's campaign of hosting the showpiece event for the first time on the city's Topkhana Road yesterday. PHOTO: STAR