

SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 23, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Another feather in Vettel's cap

Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel cruised to another success on Sunday as he was named German sportsman of the year. The Red Bull pilot - who at 23 became the youngest Formula One world champion when he clinched the title in the final Grand Prix of the season in Abu Dhabi - compiled a total of 4,288 points ahead of table tennis star Timo Boll (2088 pts) while US PGA Championship winner Martin Kaymer was third (1763 pts). Vettel succeeds swimmer Paul Biedermann, who won two swimming world titles in 2009.



Sheikh Jamal almost in Premier Div

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club have all but confirmed a place in next season's Premier Cricket League with a massive 140-run victory over Uttara Sporting Club in the First Division Super League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Rampant through thirteen consecutive wins in the league, Sheikh Jamal are just one win away from the promotion. They take on Brothers Union tomorrow and have two more games left to play and given their current form, it could be just a mere formality.

Batting first yesterday, Sheikh Jamal made 263-6 in 50 overs with Abdul Majid scoring 109 off 150 balls with the help of eight fours and three sixes.

In reply, Uttara were bowled out for a meagre 123 in 36 overs with Lal Mohan top-scoring with 55.

In the day's other match, Brothers (228 all out) beat Baridhara Dazzlers (173-9) by 55 runs at the new BKSP ground.



India players do the hard yards during practice on Wednesday, ahead of today's final of the SAFF Women's Football Championship against Nepal in Cox's Bazar.

Anxious 10 days for Mashrafe

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The next 10 days will be a nervous wait for injured Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as the consultants have suggested a conservative treatment after the final report of an MRI confirmed a near complete tear of the reconstructed ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) graft on the paceman's right knee.

Following consultation yesterday between Dr. M Ali, consultant orthopaedic surgeon and knee specialist of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, Dr. David Young, orthopaedic surgeon of Melbourne Orthopaedic Group, Dr. Bidyut KR Saha, consultant radiologist of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka and Dr. Md Manirul Amin, sports physician of the BCB, it was decided that a conservative management of the injury would continue.

This management includes rest for ten days, a review after three days, medication, administering ice on the affected area and constant monitoring.

"You can't absolutely say anything about his World Cup fate right at this moment. Yes, there is a possibility but everything will depend on the progress of the conservative treatment and progress of his recovery. We have to wait for that," said Dr. Amin.

The bowler himself however expressed optimism about playing the World Cup. "Dr. Young said that there are two courses of treatment for this injury, one is short-term and the other long-term. In the long run another surgery will be needed, but if I want to play the World Cup there is no scope to have that surgery now. There is a chance to play the World Cup if the conservative treatment makes satisfactory progress," said Mashrafe while talking with journalists at his residence yesterday.

"I'm hopeful about my chances of playing the World Cup. My

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INDIA-NEPAL FINAL TODAY Fight for regional supremacy

ATIQU ANAM from Cox's Bazar

Favourites India and title contenders Nepal will fight for South Asian supremacy when they meet in the final of the SAFF Women's Football Championship at the Cox's Bazaar Stadium today.

In what would be a rematch of the SA Games final, India are slated to be the favourites even though Nepal will surely give them a run for their money. The SA Games final was won 3-1 by India, but even in that game they were trailing 1-0 till the 60th minute.

Nepal captain Jamuna Gurung referred to that game yesterday as her team were having a rest day, in order to recover from weariness of the semifinal of the previous day.

"It's true that India are a stronger side than us, but we will give our full effort in the final. Anything can happen in football, remember we were leading them till 60 minutes in the final of SA Games," recollected Jamuna who has been

in top form scoring 10 goals. Her strike partner Anu Lama has got one more and the team's tally has been raised to 34 in 4 matches.

India have exceeded Nepal in that respect, scoring a staggering 39 goals with Sasmita Mallik leading the scorers list on 13 goals followed by Bala Devi with 11. And given the fact that India have either rested or substituted few of their key players in most of the matches, one wonders what their attack would be like if they unleash their full strength.

At the other end of the field, both defences were hardly ever seriously threatened and the two goalkeepers remained un-breached.

But India coach Shahid Jabbar expects a stiff opposition this time, even though he is confident about winning.

"We are expecting a tough match in the final. But our aim was to take the title, and we are confident we can achieve that," said Jabbar as he watched his charges toil under the morning sun at the BDR Ground.

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Mehrab ton rescues DOHS

SPORTS REPORTER



Premier Division Cricket League

Mehrab Hossain was the star of the day as the Old DOHS skipper scored the first century of the Premier Cricket League in his side's eight-run win over Victoria Sporting Club, while Kalabagan Kriya Chakra won a vital encounter against Gazi Tank Cricketers by just one wicket.

In the other match of the day, Cricket Coaching School (CCS) crushed Orient Sporting Club by seven wickets at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

DOHS-VICTORIA

Mehrab's 128 off 144 balls wasn't just a statistical highlight for the left-handed batsman, it saved his team from certain annihilation. The innings, filled with fifteen boundaries and a six, eventually brought DOHS a fine victory at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

At one stage, DOHS were 65 for six after being sent into bat by Victoria

captain Kamrul Islam. Forhad Reza joined Mehrab and the pair added 148 runs for the seventh wicket that took their side to a score of competitiveness -- 249-9 in 50 overs.

Victoria were in a good position till the start of the 39th over (166-3), but lost their way when their form batsman Mominul Haque was dismissed for 70 off 91 balls.

A late-order flurry of wickets, including the run out of Mominul, made sure DOHS remained in the game though in the final overs, Kamrul Islam Rabbi smashed two sixes and a four in his 6-ball 20.

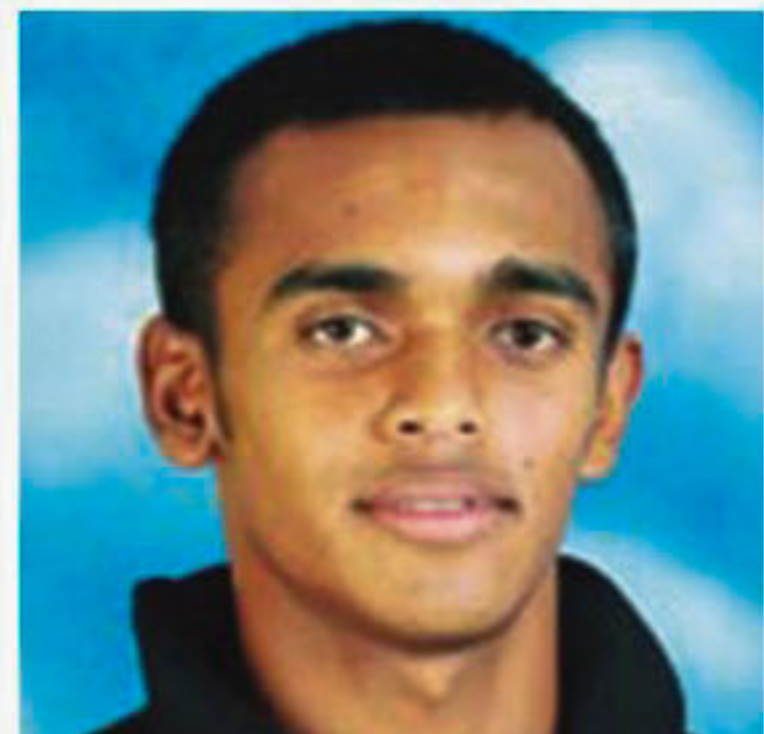
Forhad, Taskin Ahmed and Shafiq Alam took two wickets each.

GAZI TANK-KALABAGAN

Kalabagan wriggled out of a tight spot with a 1-wicket win over Gazi Tank at the BKSP ground in Savar.

Chasing 183 to win, they slipped to five for 61 in the 23rd over but all-rounders Mahmudul Hasan (40) and Ariful Haque (35) staged a fightback through a 69-run sixth wicket stand. But both batsmen were dismissed within two runs of each other in the

42nd and 44th over, plunging Kalabagan into more trouble.



MEHRAB...128

Arafat Sunny (14 not out) and Mohammad Sharif then ensured of a win, though Nasir Hossain ran out the latter for 18.

Earlier, Arafat's three-wicket haul and two each by Sharif and Mahmudul restricted Gazi Tank to 182 in 48.4 overs. Nasir struck a steady half-century off 80-odd deliveries, includ-

ing four boundaries.

ORIENT-CCS

Left-handed opener Amit Mazumder smacked eight fours and three sixes in his 104-ball 82 that ensured the first win of the season for CCS, after their loss to Old DOHS in their first game on December 19.

Amit's innings was the key in their chase of 211 runs against Orient Sporting Club, who succumbed to their second defeat in consecutive matches.

Batting first, Orient made 210-8 in 50 overs with a half-century from Robiul Islam while Sadid Hossain, the wicketkeeper, made 44 off 100 balls.

For CCS, paceman Aslam Khan took three wickets while Mohammad Ashraf, who later made an unbeaten 43 off 58 balls, took two wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF

OLD DOHS: 249-9 in 50 overs (Mehrab 128, Forhad 63; Arsalan 3-41, Monir 3-40)

VICTORIA: 241 all out in 49.3 overs (Sami 48, Mominul 70; Taskin 2-26) Result: Old DOHS won by eight runs.

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SPORTS POLL
Should Shakib Al Hasan be continued as Bangladesh captain?
Yes 53.4%
No 46.6%
TOTAL VOTES: 401
WEEKLY QUESTION
Which team you think will win the Bangladesh League this season?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
Follow The Daily Star Sport on **twitter**
www.twitter.com/dssport

McGrath, Warne top sledgers

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

England's Kevin Pietersen Wednesday said Australia's current team could not out-sledge Test greats Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath, dismissing a sharp rise in verbal clashes during the Ashes series.

Pietersen said he had faced some "pretty big verbal contests" during England's last tour of Australia, when the legendary bowlers were still playing, but had seen nothing unusual in this year's Tests.

Both teams have acknowledged raised temperatures during the home team's

series-levelling win in Perth, with England's James Anderson and Matthew Prior in the thick of it along with Australia's Mitchell Johnson and Peter Siddle.

"There's not really any big chipmunks or big sledgers, it's just England versus Australia. It's an Ashes series," said the South African-born batsman.

"Blokes get a bit of red mist occasionally. You're allowed to do that on both teams. You're little um. It's huge. But nothing is overboard."

Test since July until they wrapped up the big 267-run win on Sunday in a performance marked by a return to their traditional aggression. The series is poised 1-1 going into Sunday's penultimate Test.

Australia were ordered to tone down their sledging after the notorious 2008 Sydney Test against India, when alleged racial remarks prompted an angry public backlash against a team dubbed the "Unloveables".

But Australian Cricketers' Association chief executive Paul Marsh said the softer approach had hindered the side, which was toppled from the top Test ranking last year and has since fallen as low as fifth.

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PHOTO: INTERNET
England batsman Kevin Pietersen poses for a picture following a press conference in Melbourne yesterday.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

The good, the bad, and Mugabe

The 2003 World Cup was the first to be held in the continent of Africa with South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya as co-hosts. Zimbabwe at that time was in turmoil under the iron fist of Robert Mugabe and his party ZANU-PF, a rule that victimised white farmers. Mugabe had enjoyed top spot in Zimbabwe politics since 1980. He was the Prime Minister from 1980-87, and from then till the present day, he has been the country's President.

From 12 to 13 February 2000, a referendum on constitutional amendments was held, proposing that the terms of future presidents be limited to two years. As it was not retroactive, Mugabe could have stood for another two terms. It also would have made his government and military officials immune from prosecution for any illegal acts committed while in office. In addition, it allowed the government to confiscate white-owned land for redistribution to black farmers without compensation. The motion failed with 55% of participants against the referendum.

Initially Mugabe said that he would honour the will of the people. Actions, however, eclipsed his words as almost immediately, self-styled 'war veterans' began invading white-owned farms. Those who did not leave voluntarily were often tortured and sometimes killed.

By the time the World Cup started, the atmosphere in Zimbabwe was toxic. It took two brave, conscientious men to highlight their countrymen's plight on a global stage. During their opening game against Namibia, Zimbabwe cricketers Henry Olonga and Andy Flower (the current England coach) wore black armbands. Later when asked why, the duo replied that they were "mourning the death of democracy in Zimbabwe". It was a brave statement, and they paid for it with their careers. Both players retired after the World Cup, and Henry Olonga was banished from the country.

The political climate in Zimbabwe, and to a lesser extent Kenya where a bomb had erupted late in December 2002, had a big influence on the tournament. Sixteen people were killed in a suicide bombing in Mombasa, 300 miles from Nairobi, where Kenya's matches against New Zealand and Sri Lanka were to take place. New Zealand, who had been witnesses to a similar attack opposite their hotel in Karachi, forfeited the match due to safety reasons. England had done the same for their match

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MSC still not limited

SPORTS REPORTER

Five months have passed since Kutubuddin Ahmed took over the post of the convener of the ad-hoc committee of Mohammedan SC, but the move to turn the club into a limited company still hangs in the balance.

Mohammedan's long-serving president Mosaddek Hossain Falu had resigned from the post of convener of the ad-hoc committee in August last year over the dispute of the board of directors' list that was placed at the Joint Stock Commission to enroll Mohammedan as a limited company.

After assuming power, new convener Kutubuddin declared he would try his best to turn the club into a limited company in his three-month period. But even in his sixth month there is still no move in the right direction even though a 47-member ad-hoc committee was formed in August 2009.

"You all know what is happening and I hope everything will be done by this month," Kutubuddin said. "There is no dispute over the board of directors though there is a dispute over the list of members and we are stuck at that point."

Kutubuddin said that he would sit an emergency meeting in a couple of days and then would call an emergency general meeting to approve the list of members.

"We will just place a regulation to the Joint Stock Commission letting them know

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What to WATCH
ATN Bangla
SAFF Women's Football India v Nepal (Final)
Live from 1:30pm
ESPN
Sportscentre India Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

DAY'S EVENT
SAFF Women's Football
India v Nepal (Final)
Time: 1:30pm