

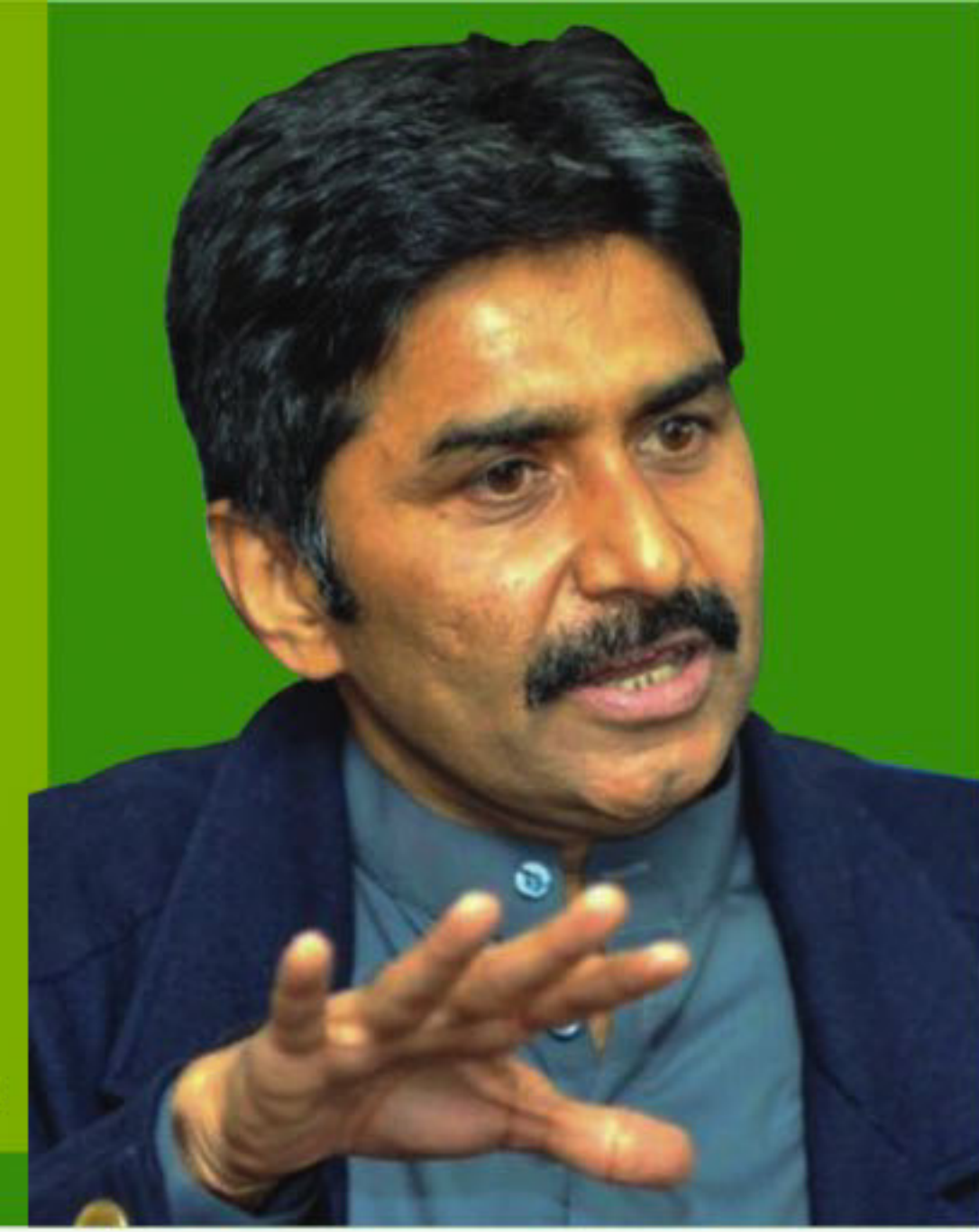
SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

IPL blamed for Aussie debacle

Former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad has blamed the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL) for Australian cricket's decline. "I believe Australia's slump has a lot to do with their players' association with the IPL," Miandad was quoted as saying by the News in yesterday's issue. "Most of their top players got a bit too distracted because of the big cash thrown at them by the IPL. They even started ignoring national duty which has really caused their downfall," Miandad added.

-- Pn



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP TALK

Defying Dublin's cold

Naimur Rahman, dashing batsman, cunning off-spinner and former captain of Bangladesh, was part of the country's first World Cup team in 1999. In a chat with *The Daily Star Sport* he reminisces on those heady days.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How did it feel when you heard you were selected for the 1999?

Naimur Rahman (NR): Our squad was more or less set some time before the 1999 World Cup. Before the World Cup there was a series against Zimbabwe in Dhaka, and we basically expected that team to be selected for the World Cup. After performing well in that series, I was pretty hopeful of my chances.

But near the end of the series I was injured, and so was confused about my prospects. That was also the first time that a physio was attached to the team, and he assured me that I would be fit before the World Cup started, so I was relieved.

DSS: This was the first time you were playing in a global tournament. How was the atmosphere different from other tour or series?

NR: Definitely it was a lot different. We played a sort of dress rehearsal at the ICC Trophy, which was a global tournament but the level was obviously not that high. The World Cup was a completely new experience for us.



NAIMUR RAHMAN

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IS THE WORLD CUP HAPPENING IN BANGLADESH? A youngster in Colombo imprints his palm on a giant white cricket ball that is touring the island to drum up public support ahead of the World Cup. Bangladesh is also a co-host but apart from a roadshow running across the country, there isn't much to show for. A lot can be done, given cricket's immense popularity, but action is in short supply from the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: AFP

SPORTS POLL

Does Chelsea have enough time to win the Premiership title?

No 69.3%
Yes 30.7%

TOTAL VOTES: 101

WEEKLY QUESTION

Who will win the Premier Cricket League derby on Sunday?

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

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Added security for referees

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Referees will be given security on way to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) office as well as at their residence, after Bangladesh League matches, following the physical harassment of referee Mizanur Rahman on Saturday.

Supporters of Mohammedan SC allegedly assaulted referee Mizanur who was on way to the BFF House after he had officiated the game between Mohammedan and Chittagong Mohammedan. In the game, Mizanur's decision to send off Mohammedan defender Emeka Lucky apparently incited the club's supporters.

"As the incident occurred off-the-field, the meeting has decided to provide security in the form of transportation to the referees on way to the BFF House as well as to their residence subject to any unsavoury occurrences on match day," said league committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy after the meeting at the BFF House yesterday.

Asked whether they would punish the respective clubs regarding the incidents, Salam said that they had referred the matter to the disciplinary committee, which would take a decision on the basis of the referee's report.

The meeting also decided to allow holders Abahani to rope in an additional goalkeeper following the injury of goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel, who was injured during

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No decision on spot-fixing hearing

AFP, Doha

An anti-corruption tribunal against Pakistan cricketers Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer that ended Tuesday reached no decision with a further hearing scheduled for February 5.

"The tribunal have throughout been very conscious of the importance of these proceedings to the three players and the wider world of cricket," said Michael Beloff, commissioner of the three-man independent hearing.

"Representations have been made to it to reserve any decision on the charges still before it until it has had sufficient time to give the issues careful consideration and until it is able, at the same time as handing down its decision, to provide written reasons.

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DOHS thrash Tarun

SPORTS REPORTER



Nasir Jamshed and Javed Omar smashed Surjo Tarun bowlers to bits as Old DOHS picked up a ten-wicket victory in the Premier Cricket League at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

Gazi Tank, although not as comfortably, beat BKSP by six wickets at their own den and Cricket Coaching School (CCS) handed strugglers Prime Doleshwar a 20-run defeat at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

TARUN-DOHS

Left-handed Jamshed made light work of the Surjo Tarun attack, smashing seven boundaries and five sixes in his brutal 59-ball 80. The discarded Pakistan international found good support at the other end from the veteran Javed Omar.

The right-hander hit ten boundaries and a six in his 62-ball 55 as Old DOHS reached their target in just 20.1 overs.

Earlier, Surjo Tarun's foreign duo Devendra Singh and Asif Raza made 32 each but the scorecard still read poor as the Dhanmondi outfit made only 152-9

from 50 overs.

DOHS seamer Forhad Reza took four wickets while Shafiu Alam picked up two.



Prime Doleshwar batsman Naadeef Chowdhury hoists one over long-off during his 85-run knock against CCS in the Ispahani Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CCS-DOLESHWAR

When CCS slipped to 150-5 in the 35th over, little did they know that they would lift their total in excess of the 250-mark. Nazmul Hossain Milon had other ideas, smashing six boundaries and five sixes in his 42-ball 74 that took the Kalabagan-based side to 263-6 from 48 overs.

Rubel Hossain, who conceded 82 off eight wicketless overs, bore the brunt of Milon's big-hitting as only Doleshwar's Pakistani left-arm spinner Qaiser Abbas did well with the ball, picking up three wickets.

Only skipper Nadif Chowdhury had an impact with the bat for the newcomers who continued to struggle in the top flight. The right-hander made 85 off 105 balls with the help of nine boundaries but found little support as only Sumon Kumar stuck around for more than an hour for his 35.

For CCS, off-spinner Abul Bashar took three wickets for 39 runs from 10 overs.

BKSP-GAZI TANK

The home side struggled in the 46-overs-a-side affair, being bowled out

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School football final today

SPORTS REPORTER

A Latif Charitable School and Dhaka Residential Model School advanced into the final of the Ashyian City Dhaka Metropolitan School Football Tournament beating their respective rivals at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

The final takes place today at the same venue.

A Latif Charitable School handed a 3-1 defeat to BAF Shaheen College in the first semis where the winners allegedly played over-aged players. Latif Charitable broke the deadlock in the 27th minute through a goal from Anis before BAF Shaheen College bit back to level the margin four minutes later through a strike from Rony.

However, Shaheen could not overcome the opponents and conceded two more goals after the break as Masum gave the winners the lead in the 49th minute and Nayeem sealed the fate of the game in 56th minute.

"In the greater interest of school football, we did not lodge any complaint against them but we let the authority concerned know verbally," said BAF Shaheen College coach Nasir Ahmed, who is also a member of the school football committee.

However, Habibur Rahman, teacher of Shaheen College, said that playing over-aged players would

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Sachin Tendulkar practises throwing the ball during a training session at Kingsmead Stadium in Durban yesterday ahead of their first ODI against South Africa that will be played today.

PHOTO: AFP

Eyes on WC selection

SA-India ODI series starts today



AFP, Durban

South Africa and India enter a five-match one-day international series at Kingsmead today with at least half an eye on the Cricket World Cup which starts in Asia next month.

For both teams it will be the last chance to settle on combinations ahead of a global showpiece in which both have special reasons for wanting to shine.

South Africa have yet to reach a World Cup final, despite being among the favourites at every tournament since they surprised the world by reaching the semifinals in their first appearance in 1992.

This will be Graeme Smith's last chance to lead a winning team in an International Cricket Council event as he will be giving up the one-day captaincy after the World Cup.

Speaking at a recent function to mark 50 days to the start of the World Cup, Smith said: "We are looking to make sure we head into the showpiece with the best preparation possible. The series against India will be our last chance to make sure we are fully prepared."

At the same function Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni spoke of his dream to lead a successful campaign on

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