

Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 4, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

'Give proofs, or get sued'

Retired Sri Lankan spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran feels his former teammate Hashan Tillakaratne should either furnish proof of match-fixing by the country's cricketers or stop making such allegations as he might just end up getting sued. "I don't know why he has said this. If somebody is making such claims, he should first give enough proof to support them otherwise someone can sue him," Muralidaran told PTI Bhasha.



NAT'L WOMEN'S CHESS

Shamima's winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champion Shamima Akter Liza made a winning start in the Arlin Developer 32nd National Women's Championship but WIM Rani Hamid lost her opening round tie at the Bangladesh Chess Federation playing room yesterday.

Liza, who recently earned the final norm of WIM, defeated Masuda Begum while FM Jakia Sultana beat Rani Hamid, Nazrana Khan Iva defeated Sharmin Sultana Shirin, and Jahanara Haq Runu beat Tanzina Akter Tani.

In the day's other fixtures, Chowdhury Mahmuda Haque Moli drew with Arifa Khatun Moni and WFM Dilara Jahan Nupur drew with Rokhsana Titee.



International Women's Master and current champion Shamima Akter Liza ponders her next move against International Master Rani Hamid in the National Women's Chess Championship at the Chess Federation yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SA Academy win series

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Hardus Viljoen's brilliant all-round performance completed a superb comeback by South Africa Cricket Academy as they clinched the three-match one-day series 2-1 with a tense two-wicket win yesterday. The Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur witnessed an exciting encounter as the low-scoring game went down to the wire with Viljoen and tail-ender Siya Simetu winning it in the final over after the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy gave them an modest 182-run target.

After sharing the longer-version series 1-1, the visitors fought back in the shorter format after going down in the first game by four wickets on April 28. In the second game two days later, they sauntered to an eight-wicket win to level the series.

The Viljoen-Simetu partnership was crucial after the visitors slipped to 141 for eight in the 40th over. They added 43 unbeaten runs for the ninth wicket with

Viljoen hammering a six and three boundaries during his 32-ball 34. Simetu batted out 28 deliveries to score eight runs but the 41-minute hold up was good enough.

For the home side, leg-spinner Noor Hossain Munna kept up the pressure with three wickets including that of Patrick Botha, who made 42. Dominic Hendricks top-scored with 49 off 97 balls before he fell to Nasir Hossain who took two wickets as did left-arm spinner Sanjamul Islam Nayan.

Earlier, a top-order collapse through paceman Viljoen's triple strike with the new ball pegged back the hosts. They recovered from 21 for four through a 33-run fifth wicket stand between Nasir Hossain and skipper Mohammad Mithun.

Nasir hit the highest for the GP-BCB side with 42 off 71 balls with the help of five boundaries while Mithun made 30 with the help of seven boundaries. After Nasir was dismissed by Dane Piedt, Munna and Sanjamul added 38 for the ninth wicket with the latter scoring a

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Abahani win, MSC drop points

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani returned to winning ways with a 2-0 victory over their Chittagong namesake while Mohammedan Sporting Club dropped points drawing 2-2 against their Chittagong namesake in their respective matches of the Grameenphone Bangladesh League played at the Cox's Bazar Stadium.

The sky-blues, who were defeated by Sheikh Jamal 3-1 in their last outing, took the lead through striker Shakawat Hossain Rony in the 38th minute. The lead was doubled by Ghanaian striker Twum Frank in the 59th to secure full points for the Dhanmondi outfit.

This was the tenth strike of the league for the Ghanaian who has been in scintillating form.

The win takes Abahani to second position in the league table with 29 points, two behind leaders Muktijoddha Sangsad and two ahead of third-placed Sheikh Jamal.

Abahani have played one more game than the other two. The defeat for the port city club keeps them pitted at the bottom with only 4 points.

In the earlier match, Dhaka Mohammedan took the lead in the fourth minute with a strike from Nigerian forward Sunday Chizoba. However, Chittagong Mohammedan hit back eight minutes later courtesy of a strike from skipper Arifur Kabir Farhad.

The Motijheel outfit were reduced to ten men when Sohail Rana saw a second yellow on the 70th minute, yet they regained the lead nine minutes later, this time through Uwiringiyimana Amani, but Chittagong Mohammedan's never-say-die attitude reaped rewards as they levelled again in the 82nd minute though Liberian forward Jerry Odesco.

Dhaka Mohammedan now have 17 points from 13 matches while the Chittagong Mohammedan have 11 from the same number of matches.

Yuvi happy with Sourav's inclusion

PTI, Mumbai

Pune Warriors skipper Yuvraj Singh Tuesday welcomed Sourav Ganguly's inclusion to the squad, saying the former India skipper's experience will be an asset to the team and will help him in leading the side better in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

"He's experienced and I will get help in captaining the team," Yuvraj told reporters here Tuesday, the eve of their match against Mumbai Indians.

"Definitely he will bring in some experience," he added. Ganguly, who was picked as Ashish Nehra's replacement following an injury to the left-arm seamer, has however, been ruled out of tomorrow's tie.

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Ganguly in IPL finally

CRICINFO, New Delhi



Sourav Ganguly, the former India captain, has been signed by Pune Warriors as a replacement for Ashish Nehra, who was ruled out

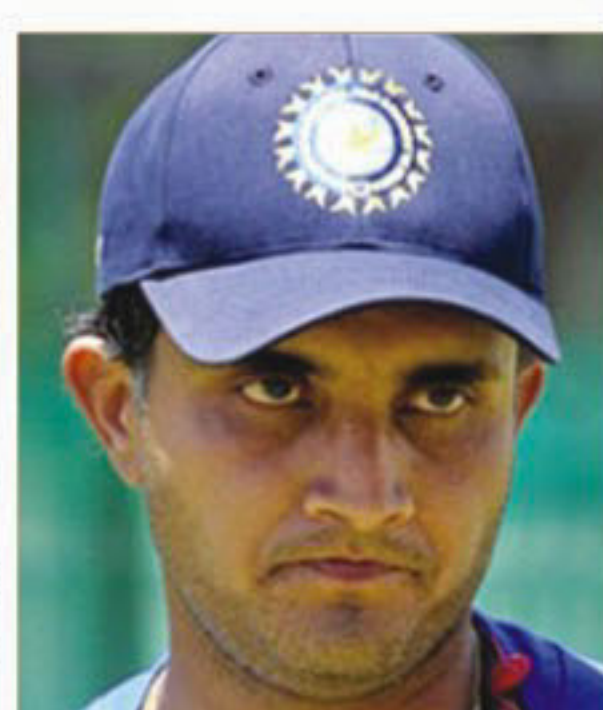
for the remainder of the 2011 season with a finger injury. Ganguly's contract is for a period of one year and is an IPL lifeline to the batsman after he went unsold at the player auction in January, where his base price was 400,000 dollars.

Ganguly will be vice-captain to Yuvraj Singh and is likely to join the Pune squad ahead of their match against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium on May 4.

"We were waiting for Ashish Nehra's fitness report and ultimately the report came yesterday," Abhijit Sarkar, Pune's team director, told PTI. "I was already in talks with Ganguly and we decided that the amount of experience that Sourav has in cricket will no doubt help the team. So we finalised Ganguly last night."

"He is playing in IPL not for money but to prove a point. Our team think-tank felt that Sourav Ganguly is the best possible option available so we went for him. He has been a fighter and a master of comebacks. We are very much confident that he will prove his worth."

Ganguly played for Kolkata Knight Riders in the first three seasons of the IPL and led the



SOURAV GANGULY

team in two of them, while Brendon McCullum was captain for the other. Kolkata fared poorly in those years and are the only franchise not to make the semi-finals. Kolkata did not bid for Ganguly in January despite his name coming up for sale twice, as they revamped their squad entirely, and the batsman later refused a mentoring role with the franchise.

Pune Warriors are bottom of the ten-team league at present, having lost six consecutive matches after winning their first two. Ganguly has an average IPL record - 1031 runs at an average of 28 and strike-rate of 110 - and could strengthen an under-performing and short batting order.

KKR score 169

SPORTS DESK

After a sedate start the Kolkata Knight Riders, inspired by some familiar pyrotechnics from Yusuf Pathan, reached a competitive 169 for four at the end of the first innings in the IPL match against Deccan Chargers at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday. Coming in at 79 for 2, Pathan hammered three 4s and three 6s to remain not out on 47 off 26 balls.

Promoting the out-of-sort Eoin Morgan to open the innings with the solid Jacques Kallis, Kolkata reached 36 when Morgan lost his leg-stump to a slower ball from Daniel Christian for 14 off 15 balls. That brought captain Gautam Gambhir to the crease and he played some enterprising cricket to give the innings some impetus. Deccan Chargers leg-spinner Amit Mishra pulled things back by getting Kallis to hole out to long off for a 31-ball 30.

Five runs later Gambhir edged behind to his opposite number Kumar Sangakkara off left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha for a 22-ball 35, leaving the total at 84 for 3 and with his team's innings in danger of being derailed. That was the last bit of joy for Deccan for a while as Pathan and Manoj Tiwary combined for 80 runs of the next eight overs. Tiwary was out to the fourth ball of the twentieth over, caught by Shikhar Dhawan off speedster Dale Steyn.

In reply, Deccan Chargers reached 10 without loss after the second over when this report was filed.

BKSP duo for World Jr boxing

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan boxers Asif Islam and Arif Hossain will represent Bangladesh in the Junior World Boxing Championship to be held in Kazakhstan from July 20-31.

Before the championship, the duo will take part in a 12-day training programme, funded by International Boxing Federation, from July 7-19. BKSP coach Abu Sufian will accompany the boxers.

Flower renews England deal

Cricket

REUTERS, London

English cricket officials have secured the continuing presence of national coach Andy Flower after the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Tuesday they had agreed a new contract with the Zimbabwean.

Flower has been highly successful since taking over from Peter Moores in April 2009 and though he was already on a permanent contract, the ECB drew up a new deal in the wake of suggestions that he could be poached.

"Andy Flower has made a huge impact during his time as England team director and I am delighted that he has committed to the role and will be continuing to build on the considerable progress the England team has made during his time in the position," Hugh Morris, England's managing director, said in a statement.

"Andy's outstanding leadership, commitment and his open and honest approach have been key factors in the success the England squad has enjoyed over the last two years and I have no doubt that under his direction we

will continue to see England improve as we strive to become the number one side in the world in all formats of the game."

Within months of his appointment Flower had overseen England's Ashes victory over Australia then in 2010 he led them to victory in the ICC World Twenty20 tournament in the West Indies.

A rare away Ashes series victory followed in 2010/2011 but there was disappointment too with a poor showing in the 50-over World Cup in Asia when England limped into the quarterfinals where they were thrashed by Sri Lanka.

During his period in charge England have risen from sixth in the ICC test rankings to third behind India and South Africa and climbed from sixth to fifth in the one-day rankings.

"When I was appointed I stated that I wanted to create a winning England team and I am very pleased with the advances we have made as a

squad over the last two years in all formats of the game," Flower said. "Regaining the Ashes in 2009 and retaining them last winter and the World Twenty20 title are obvious highlights, but there is still plenty more we want to achieve in the longer term."

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ANDY FLOWER

Tillakaratne ready to name names

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Former Sri Lanka captain Hashan Tillakaratne said on Tuesday he was ready to share information on alleged match-fixing with the International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's world governing body.

Tillakaratne, now an opposition politician, said he will name those involved in match-fixing to ICC officials, after claiming last week that Sri Lanka players had been fixing matches since 1992.

"I made the statements [about match-fixing] neither to get political mileage nor to put anyone in an awkward position," he told reporters a day after a police inquiry was ordered into his allegations.

"I made the comments in good faith and I will share the information with the ICC. The exercise was meant to protect the game and the players we all love so much."

Tillakaratne, who played 83 Tests and 200 one-dayers during a 15-year career, added that he had kept quiet for so many years as he feared for his life.

Hours after speaking to reporters, Tillakaratne was asked to appear before the police Criminal Investigation Department late Tuesday.

"We want to record his statement as part of our investigations into his claims that certain cricket matches were fixed," police spokesman Prishantha Jayakody told AFP.

Tillakaratne's allegations have raised a storm, with former skipper Kumar Sangakkara challenging him to prove his claims. "It's interesting to see what he has to say and if he has anything more than allegations," said Sangakkara, who quit as captain after Sri Lanka's defeat to India in the World Cup final. "It's dangerous to throw names around."



I PREDICT A RIOT: Former Sri Lankan cricket captain Hashan Tillakaratne speaks to the media in Colombo yesterday. The former left-handed batsman said that he will share information on matches fixed during his career with the ICC.

PHOTO: AFP