

Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

A-Rod's idea of cricket

The rules of cricket and the English use of the expression "chalk and cheese" confuses Andy Roddick. "I have a problem calling anything where you wear formal pants a sport. I have a problem that you have a break for tea and with anything that you play for five days and can still end in a tie," he said. "I've never understood 'chalk and cheese' - I know they're supposed to be different but it just sounds disgusting. If you ever want me to skip a meal just keep saying that beforehand!"

-AFP



DOUBLE CELEBRATION: Mohammedan's Sunday Chizoba (L) celebrates his match-winning goal as well as the birth of Anwar Hossain's (R) daughter, also born yesterday, during their Grameenphone Bangladesh League game against Sheikh Russel at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

MSC shatter Sk Russel's dream

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010
Sheikh Russel Kriya Chakra were all but out of the race for the Grameenphone Bangladesh League title as they lost to Mohammedan Sporting Club 0-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sunday Chizoba, Mohammedan's Nigerian striker, scored the all-important goal in the 25th minute to muster the first win for the Black and Whites over a higher-ranked team in this edition of the league.

The win took Mohammedan to 29 points from 20 matches but more importantly kept Sheikh Russel on 39 points with just two matches left for both teams. Sheikh Jamal are leading the table with 44 points, followed by Muktijoddha Sangsad on 43, both with three games in hand.

Sheikh Russel coach Mahmudul Haque Liton did not hide his frustration at the defeat.

"The title race is over for us, and I am not even looking at a second-placed finish. We just want to win the two remaining matches and let's see where we can finish in the end,"

said Liton.

The Black and Whites dominated the match from the beginning and despite missing a couple of chances took the lead in the 25th minute, courtesy of Sunday who took his tally in the league to 12 goals from nine appearances. Sunday sped through the right side into the box after being fed by compatriot Nnadi Victor. The prolific striker dodged the on-rushing goalie Mamun Khan before placing it at the back of the net.

Sheikh Russel defender Bappi kept Mohammedan from doubling the lead when he cleared a header from Baybeck off the line at the stroke of half time.

Russel's best chance in the game came at the 59th minute but substitute midfielder Mobarak's shot landed straight into the gloves of Mohammedan goalie Titumir Chowdhury.

Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who has overseen this traditional club fall by the wayside, blamed poor finishing from strikers and poor refereeing for their poor league standing. "We have not played badly in the league. It was due to some poor finishing from our strikers and

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

YOUTH KABADDI Three districts become zonal champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Three more teams -- Rajshahi, Manikganj and Khulna -- emerged zonal champions to reach the final round of the 13th Meizan National Youth Kabaddi yesterday.

At the Naogaon venue, Rajshahi beat Joypurhat 30-12 with two creditable 'lona' to emerge zonal champions.

At the Faridpur venue, Manikganj beat hosts Faridpur 38-12 with six 'lona' to emerge zonal champions.

At the Khulna venue, hosts Khulna emerged zonal champions to reach the final round beating Bagerhat 26-07 with two 'lona'.

Apart from these, Comilla crushed Feni DSA 78-15 with five 'lona' and Chittagong defeated Noakhali 46-32 with three 'lona'.

Earlier on Thursday, four districts confirmed their final round berth which begins on June 16 in Dhaka.

Shakib's losing return

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

Yorkshire gained their first victory of the season in the Friends Life t20 North Group but it was a desperately close run thing as they overcame Worcestershire by just two runs at Headingley.

The visitors however remained without a win in three games, but it was just the tonic they needed ahead of Friday night's Roses clash at Old Trafford.

Defending a total of 152 for 7, Yorkshire were well served by man-of-the-match Richard Pyrah who captured 4 for 21 and Adil Rashid who claimed 3 for 19 off his four overs. But the real star performance came from Worcestershire's Gareth Andrew who followed up his 3 for 30 by smashing an unbeaten 60 off 24 deliveries with five fours and four sixes.

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan, playing in his second season for Worcestershire, took two wickets including a spectacular return catch but didn't make any impact as he made just three off six balls in 21 laborious minutes in a bid to resurrect his side's poor start but he fell to make the score 37 for four.

With Rashid and Pyrah each collecting two wickets in an over, Worcestershire slumped to 67 for 5 before Andrew set about the bowling, striking David Wainwright for two big sixes and a four in one over and hammering Steve Patterson for four and six to take his side into three figures.

James Cameron helped him add 59 in five overs for the sixth wicket before falling in

another double-wicket over from Pyrah but Andrew refused to give up the fight and Ryan Sidebottom had to bowl the final over with 12 wanted.

Shaaq Choudhry drove his first ball for three and when Andrew could only run a bye off the fifth his partner needed a boundary to win it for Worcestershire but he failed to make contact and the pair could only scamper another bye.

As so often has been the case this season, Yorkshire's Andrew Gale got the innings off to a cracking start in an opening stand of 40 in 28 balls with Jonny Bairstow, the Yorkshire captain smacking five boundaries in his 29 off 15 deliveries before miscuing Shakib to Damien Wright running in from mid-on.

A powerful off-drive by Adam Lyth at the expense of Jack Shanry raised the 50 inside six overs but when Choudhry came on the left-hander drove his second ball straight to Moeen Ali at deep mid-on.

Bairstow was lbw swinging at Ali for 24 from 27 balls and Anthony McGrath just appeared to have got into his stride when he tamely played Andrew's third ball to Shanry at midwicket, making it 99 for 4.

The slide continued as Gary Ballance flicked a ball from Andrew into Ben Scott's gloves and the seamer picked up his third wicket by getting Gerard Brophy to hole out to Daryl Mitchell.

Shakib went full stretch to pluck a left-handed return catch from Pyrah out of the air and it was only some effective hitting by Sidebottom in the final over from Andrew that gave Yorkshire a total they were so narrowly able to defend.

Zaheer, Sree out of WI Tests

AFP, New Delhi

Injured fast bowlers Zaheer Khan and Shanthakumaran Sreesanth were Friday ruled out of India's three-Test series against the West Indies starting later this month.

The pace duo also missed out on the ongoing five-match one-day series in the Caribbean which India are leading 2-0.

"Zaheer has a right ankle problem, and Sreesanth has a right elbow problem. Both players will require some time off for rehabilitation," said N. Srinivasan, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Abhimanyu Mithun and Praveen Kumar have been named as their replacements in the Test squad.

India are already without Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh for the Test series beginning in Kingston, Jamaica on June 24.

Tendulkar, the world's leading batsman in both Tests and one-dayers, has opted out of the tour in order

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Katich fury at axe

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Simon Katich hit out at selectors and Cricket Australia as he vowed Friday to bat on after the contentious loss of his Test contract for next season.

The 56-Test veteran was stunned to be told Tuesday that he was cut from Cricket Australia's 25-man list of contracted players for the 2011-12 season, despite being one of the country's most consistent performers.

Katich called a press conference in Sydney but instead of what was anticipated to be the announcement of his retirement, the 35-year-old opening batsman said he would continue playing for his New South Wales state side.

The no-frills left-hander did not miss the opportunity to castigate the selection panel and the governing body for their part in what he called an "absolutely ridiculous" situation.

Katich, who has averaged 48 in Tests over the last three years and 45 throughout his career since 2001, ripped into what he said were the inconsistent selection policies of chairman Andrew Hilditch and his panel.

"It certainly didn't come as a total shock on Tuesday, only because I know how they operate. I've been through this situation

before," said Katich, who was told he was finished when he was dropped in 2008, only to fight his way back into the Australian team.

"I guess it was particularly disappointing because of the reason that was given," he said.

"To be told that it's because the opening partnership needs to be bedded down for 2013 (Ashes) when I know for a fact that

Watto (Shane Watson) and I thoroughly enjoyed opening together and it's been one of the bright spots of our team in the last two years.

"I find it very hard to believe that and as a result the system at the moment is not only just affecting me but it has also affected a number of other players."

Katich, who was once touted as a future Australian captain, didn't leave Cricket Australia out of his criticism.

"There are people above the selectors who make decisions on their (players') future and they ratify the decisions that are made," Katich said.

"I've only had a four-minute conversation with Andrew Hilditch on Tuesday and I haven't heard from anyone from Cricket Australia since and I've been involved with the organisation since 1999.

"I certainly made it clear to him what I felt

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Bolt's only human

Athletics

AFP, Oslo

Usain Bolt cruised to his 14th successive 200m victory at the Bislett Games but then warned critics of his early-season form that he was "only human".

Bolt has failed to hit the highs he set when first exploding to triple Olympic gold at the Beijing Games, all in world record times, and then also securing a golden treble at the Berlin worlds a year later, re-setting the 100m and 200m world records in the process.

Last season was pretty much a write-off, with the 24-year-old athlete sitting out six weeks in full summer with an achilles tendon problem that saw him cede his 100m number one ranking to American arch-rival Tyson Gay.

The lanky Jamaican, who dominated the field on Thursday to win in 19.86 seconds, is now back on the circuit but insisting that he needed time to properly get back into race mode from his injury.

"It's always good to finish a race because it shows I'm in good shape. And I finished injury-free, that's key," Bolt said after his Oslo victory.

"It's not the old Usain Bolt but I'm getting there. That's a good look for me and I'm very happy."

He added: "People expect too much from me. Yes, I set a high standard for myself, but I'm only human. So I got injured and am taking my time working my way back up. You take steps, you never just jump. I'm feeling good and I'm getting there."

Bolt denied that he was feeling under pressure in the build-up to the August 27-September 4 World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea.

"There's never pressure for me. It's two-and-a-half months to go. I have nothing to worry about. My coach (Glen Mills) is not worried so I'm not worried."

"I know what I need to do: go home, execute and try as much as possible to stay injury-free. Get injured now and I'm back to square one."

"So the focus is on staying injury-free and getting the ticket to the top."

Given his training mates, Bolt has no shortage of race-like conditions to perfect his sprinting abilities. "I train with some great athletes: (Antigua's) Daniel Bailey, Yohan Blake, Mario Forsythe (both Jamaica). These guys are top athletes so I can work on techniques easily in training," he said.



Youngsters can't contain themselves as Jamaican champion Usain Bolt signs autographs after winning the men's 200m at the Diamond League Athletics in Oslo on Thursday.

Bolt also played down Gay's decision to concentrate on the 100m to the detriment of the 200m, saying he never focused on one rival athlete.

"Tyson is thinking about his injury," Bolt said. "I think he has a really bad back problem and I'm figuring that's why he hasn't run the 200m all season."

"But for me it's never about one person. I take everyone seriously. When you start

focusing on one person, someone can sneak up on you. I'm focused on everybody: as long as they're in a lane next to me, I focus."

Bolt said he had three more races planned before the Daegu worlds, but intimated that that could change depending on how his training pans out.

"My coach will watch me in training and will determine if I need to do more (races) in the month to come."

Aamer match official: ECB

Cricket

CRICINFO

The England & Wales Cricket Board has launched an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the appearance of the banned Pakistan fast bowler, Mohammad Aamer, in a Surrey League fixture last weekend, after accepting that the fixture, between Addington 1743 CC and St Luke's, falls under its regulatory jurisdiction.

In a press release, the ECB announced that it had requested the Surrey Cricket Board to assist it in its investigation, adding that it had also written separately to Addington, seeking a full written explanation from the club of the events leading up to Aamer's appearance in the match.

The ECB's acknowledgement of the incident increases the likelihood that Aamer will now face sanctions from the ICC for breaching the terms of the five-year ban that he incurred earlier this year, following his involvement in the spot-fixing scandal which erupted during the Lord's Test between Pakistan and England last August.

Though Aamer did not deny reports in the Daily Star that he had taken part in the fixture, he claimed he had done so on the understanding that it did not contravene the terms of his ban - something that the ECB have now made clear is not the case.

"I was informed by club representatives before the game

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6