

Shakib flies out for KKR today

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan will leave the capital later today to join his IPL team for the Champions League Twenty20 tournament. The Kolkata Knight Riders will first take part in the six-team qualification round from September 19 to 21 when they face Auckland (New Zealand) and Somerset (England) in Hyderabad. If the Kolkata franchise qualifies for the tournament proper which begins on September 23, Shakib will stay till October 4, according to a source in the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Dutch hockey instructor arrives

SPORTS REPORTER

Dutch hockey instructor Bert Bunnik arrived on Saturday night to conduct a coaches' course that began yesterday at the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Federation. Some 35 local coaches from across the country are taking part in the five-day training course. Bunnik has been sent by the International Hockey Federation (IHF) to facilitate Bangladesh Hockey Federation's development programme. After the training session, former Netherlands and Pakistan coach Bunnik will inspect training programmes conducted by trainees at the district level -- Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Narail, Jessore and Faridpur. He is also scheduled to watch a U-16 hockey camp in Chittagong during his ten-day stay. In a bid to increasing the number of umpires, the BHF will also arrange a training programme for the umpires from November 15 to 25 which will be conducted by Pakistani umpire Rashid Butt.

BFF's brochure comes out

5-day after Arg-Nig tie
SPORTS REPORTER

Five days after hosting of the Argentina-Nigeria FIFA International Friendly, the official brochure of the event came to the hands of the journalists yesterday. The 54-page brochure with Lionel Messi's picture gracing the cover, is still a work-in-progress, claimed the convenor of souvenir committee Sirajul Islam Bachchu. The brochure contains, among other things, history, sports and culture of the two participating countries as well as hosts Bangladesh and a low-down of the football history and football administration in Bangladesh. Bachchu claimed fifty copy apiece of the brochure were distributed among the two teams while another 150 copies were distributed among the VIP guests on matchday. "We are still working on the brochure. We want to include a few more articles and try to enrich the brochure and republish it," said Bachchu.

BCB Cup

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the two teams. "We will see how they perform, but we will try out other options during this tournament," Akram said yesterday. This confirmation would stop speculation, at least for a few days, and the focus will return to cricket as the BCB Cup will get underway with the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy taking on the nationals side at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Mahmudul Hasan, the only confirmed captain in the tournament, said that his young side will look to win every match. "We will try to take it game by game. The team will bank on individual performances to get the best out of the team," said the all-rounder, who had to learn the new ODI rules as it would be employed during the tournament. Two new balls from each end, the Batting Powerplay to be taken before the 40th over and the discontinuation of the ball change by the 35th over were all explained to the three captains, coaches and umpires. The one-day tournament is touted to be a season opener from now on, though BCB's lack of consistency in holding competitions is well known.

Bopara denies India

Rain-hit match ended in a tie

Cricket

AFP, London

England won the one-day series with India here on Sunday after they tied the fourth one-day international leaving the world champions still winless in all forms of cricket on their tour this summer. Ravi Bopara made 96 as England chased India's 280-5 but when he was the eighth man out with England on 270 and rain brought the teams off they were tied on the Duckworth Lewis method. England hold an unassailable 2-0 lead with just one game remaining. Bopara was attempting to reach his first one-day international hundred with a big shot but was caught on the deep midwicket boundary. Ironically if he had just knocked the ball for a single England would have won on the DL method by a single run. India looked all over the winners when England were 173-5 but Bopara's innings and good supporting roles from Graeme Swann, who made 31 and Tim Bresnan with 27, eased England up to their target. However the first time the teams went off for rain India were ahead on the DL method and eager to get off the pitch. They were less eager to get back on for another over and by the time that had been bowled England were ahead before they went off one more time with the teams tied on DL. Earlier Ian Bell had made 54 but when he and Ben Stokes were out in quick succession England needed a cool head and to steady the ship and Bopara provided it before going for one big shot too many. India's innings had been dominated by a fifth wicket stand of 169 between Suresh Raina and captain MS Dhoni. Raina hit 84 while Dhoni ended unbeaten on 78 in a partnership that was the highest for the fifth wicket for India in one-day internationals against England. Dhoni faced 71 balls, hitting six fours and three sixes, whilst Raina, who accelerated late in his innings faced 75 balls and hit seven fours and two sixes. But it looked like it would be a different story when India were 110-4 in 26th over. Swann had just dismissed Virat Kohli and Rahul Dravid in his first over and one more wicket would have exposed the Indian tail. But Raina and Dhoni got their side to a score well above the average first innings



PHOTO: AFP

India batsman Suresh Raina plays the ball off his hips during a blazing 84 in the 4th ODI against England at Lord's yesterday.

one-day total here with aggressive batting which delighted the hordes of Indian supporters at the ground. They helped their side to add 109 off the last ten overs with both batsmen hitting the English bowlers high into stands as India finally enjoyed themselves after a dismal summer in England. In a bad session for England Stuart Broad went off without completing the final over holding his arm and Steve Finn was called on to bowl the rest of the over. Earlier, Broad had dismissed both openers Parthiv Patel for 27 and Ajinkya Rahane for 38 but Finn, playing his first match of the series, went wicketless despite bowling well. He eventually snared Raina when he was asked to replace Broad when the batsman was superbly caught by Stokes in the deep. **SCORES IN BRIEF** INDIA: 280 for 5 (Patel 27, Rahane 38, Dravid 19, Raina 84, Dhoni 78 not out; Broad 2-52, Swann 2-49) ENGLAND: 270-8 in 48.5 overs (Bell 54, Bopara 96, Swann 31; Singh 3-59) **Result:** Match Tied (D/L Method)

Patuakhali Stadium in bad shape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A portion of the Patuakhali district stadium collapsed on Saturday night endangering any activities inside the arena. The stadium, built way back in 1978, did not see any renovation work since and became shabby and hazardous. Authorities have hung a notice, after the collapse, forbidding entrance inside the stadium. Bakhtiar Uddin Murad, secretary of Patuakhali District Sports Association (PDSA) said they have to conduct work inside the building at life risk. Murad also said that they have failed to obtain any grant from the National Sports Council (NSC). Earlier, district administration wanted to declare the building usable for its fragile condition the local sports authority raised objection as it would stop NSC from granting annual allowance to conduct sporting activities. Murad also said that the yearly sanction that they get from NSC for sporting activities is too paltry and "We got only Tk 2.05 lakh for the 2011-12 fiscal and we will have to conduct all yearly events and maintenance with this amount of money," said a frustrated Murad.

WI to arrive

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the Tigers played their inaugural game against Zimbabwe on November 28, 2006. It will also be the Tigers' first Twenty20 game in more than a year after their early exit from the 2010 World Twenty20s.

Nikola's stern action

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Macedonian football coach Nikola Ilievski has expelled eight booters and assistant coach Mahbubur Rahman Roxy from the U-19 national football camp on disciplinary grounds yesterday. Some 31 booters have been training at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan since August 19 for the AFC U-19 Qualifiers to be held in Bangladesh from October 25-November 4 but the head coach of the national football team was irritated to find that Roxy and eight players were not following his instructions in practice when he was busy with other boys in a trial match at the BKSP ground on Saturday afternoon. "According to the coach, eight players and coach Roxy did not follow the instructions he gave to them and they were kept out of the camp on disciplinary grounds but we will look into the matter," said Badal Roy, the chairman of the national team management committee, who also visited the BKSP yesterday afternoon to talk with the coach. Bangladesh were pitted in a tough group with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, Nepal and Maldives, with the top two teams to advance to the finals. The preliminary 30-member squad comprising 14 players from different teams of the third division league, and the club's officials wanted to get their players back into the fold. "Keeping their request in mind, a trial was held yesterday in a bid to shorten the squad and as 22 players were playing the match, the eight other players and coach Roxy were instructed to practice with the ball. But Roxy and his charges were often found watching the trial match instead of practising, leading to Roxy being withdrawn for negligence of his duty and the squad being shortened by eight," said BFF technical director BA Jubair Nipu. Nikola initially wanted to bring those eight players as substitutes to test them but he continued the trial with the 22 players and selected them, keeping those eight players out of the squad.

Pakistan take series

Cricket

AFP, Harare

Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez with 139 runs and Imran Farhat with 75 formed a record-breaking opening partnership of 228 runs against Zimbabwe here Sunday to secure an overwhelming win in the second ODI to take the three-match series. Their combination beat the previous mark set by Saeed Anwar and Rameez Raja of 204 against Sri Lanka. The Pakistani pair stayed together for the entire 42.1 overs necessary to record a ten-wicket victory over a hapless home side who had scraped together 225-6 in their 50 overs. Hafeez, who recorded his third ODI century and was later named man of the match for the second time on this tour, needed only 147 balls while Farhat's 75 required 106 balls. They treated the Zimbabweans with apparent disdain, running leisurely and with the occasional strikes for boundaries. They gave the home side the appearance of one that still has a long way to go before competing seriously against quality Test teams. In reaching 30 runs, Hafeez passed the 2000

mark in ODIs, adding more than 100 more on the way to the next thousand. It was the fifth time that Zimbabwe had been beaten by ten wickets in 400 ODIs played over the years. In restricting Zimbabwe to 225 runs at Harare Sports Club, Pakistan kept the home batsmen well under their thumb. Winning the toss and deciding to bat, Brendan Taylor's team got off to a very slow start and they struggled throughout as Junaid Khan and Sohail Tanveer bowled three maidens in the first seven overs. Visi Sibanda scored one run from 20 balls before getting out for 14. Hamilton Masakadza managed only four from his first 25 balls faced. And Zimbabwe only managed 22 runs in the first ten overs. Masakadza ended with 68 runs but from 118 balls, well below par compared with the performance of Hafeez. **SCORES IN BRIEF** ZIMBABWE: 225 for 6 (Masakadza 68, Taylor 50, Taibu 26, Chigumbura 17 not out; Tanvir 2-33) PAKISTAN: 228 for no loss (Farhat 75 not out, Hafeez 139 not out) **Result:** Pakistan won by 10 wickets and lead three-match series 2-0. **Man-of-the-match:** Mohammad Hafeez.

SL keep Aussies at bay

Cricket

AFP, Pallekele

Sri Lanka put on a determined batting display on Sunday to improve their chances of forcing a draw in the second cricket Test against Australia. Sri Lanka, who were shot out for 174 in the first innings, moved to 223-2 in their second knock before bad light ended play an hour early on the fourth day at the Pallekele International Stadium. Former captains Kumar Sangakkara (69) and Mahela Jayawardene (38) were together at the crease, having put on 95 valuable runs so far for the third wicket. Sri Lanka, who trail 1-0 in the three-match series, will start the final day's play on Monday just 14 runs behind Australia, and with eight wickets in hand on a good batting pitch. Australia captain Michael Clarke, worried over forecasts of bad weather, had declared his team's first innings at an overnight score of 411-7 in order to bid for a victory. Rain and bad light allowed 79 of the stipu-

lated 98 overs on Sunday, but heavy thunder-showers have been forecast on the fifth day. Australia's hopes of terminating Sri Lanka's innings quickly rest on the second new ball which will be available after one more over. Sri Lanka's openers Tillakaratne Dilshan and Tharanga Paranavitana (55) put on 81 for the first wicket, their best partnership of the series so far after stands of four, zero and two in the previous three outings. Under bright skies they warded off the early threat from the Australian seamers. But Dilshan undid the good work just before lunch with a wild heave, soon after a five-minute stoppage due to bad light. The captain, who looked settled in on 36, drove at a wide ball outside the off-stump from seamer Ryan Harris but only managed to edge a catch to Shane Watson at first slip. **SCORES IN BRIEF** SRI LANKA: First innings 174 AUSTRALIA: First innings 411-7 decl. SRI LANKA: Second innings 223 for 2 (Paranavitana 55, Dilshan 36, Sangakkara 69 not out, Jayawardene 38 not out)

Novak wins an epic

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got to ask him." But Federer couldn't put it away on his second match point, either. His serve hit the back of the line and jammed Djokovic, but somehow Djokovic got it back. Federer cranked a forehand, but it ticked the net and ricocheted out. Federer sprayed a forehand wide at deuce and suddenly, a crowd gearing for a Federer win was shouting "No-vak! No-vak! No-vak!" Djokovic said it was no insult that the fans had been behind Federer, who makes some kind of history seemingly every time he steps on a court. Still, the current world No. 1 wasn't giving up on capturing their hearts. Which was why he made a scene between the match points an awkward time for showmanship, though one Federer said he had no problem with. "At that stage, you're trying to get as much support as you can," Djokovic said. "You're trying to get energy." Stoked with that energy, Djokovic won the last four games and, counting

the two match points he saved, he took 17 of the final 21 points. The match took 3 hours, 51 minutes, while Nadal's win was a 3 hour-24 minute affair. But thanks to the rain that scrubbed two days of play from this tournament and reshuffled the schedule, Djokovic and Nadal will get a day's rest between the semifinal and the Monday final. It's a break from the long US Open tradition of closing things out on back-to-back days on the weekend. Murray and Nadal were each playing their third match in three days and the toll showed more on Murray, who had the tougher road. "We knew it was going to be like that for quite a few days and just tried to get through it and deal with it the best way we could," Murray said. "But it was never going to be easy." Fittingly, given how things have gone lately, the start of the Federer-Djokovic semifinal was delayed for about an hour because showers began falling shortly before the players were

supposed to walk on court, which had "9/11/01" painted in white to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. In the men's opener, Djokovic avenged one of his only two losses this season. He fell to Federer in the French Open to snap a string of 43 straight victories the third-longest win streak in the Open era. Federer, meanwhile, was trying to win at least one Grand Slam tournament for the ninth straight season and appeared more than ready to keep the quest alive. For two sets, at least. After that, Djokovic turned into a steamroller, leaving the unmistakable feeling that a shift of power was being completed from Federer, who won three Grand Slam tournaments each in 2004, 2006 and 2007, to Djokovic, who is trying to do it this year, along with Nadal, who is still very much in that mix. Nadal and Djokovic will meet for the third time over the last five Grand Slam finals.

Roger blames himself

REUTERS, New York



Roger Federer said he only had himself to blame after his agonising five-set loss to Novak Djokovic in the US Open semifinals on Saturday. Djokovic saved two match points when Federer was serving for a spot in the final, the first with a sizzling cross-court winner and the second when the Swiss maestro clipped the net cord with a forehand that sailed out. Re-energised after his lucky escape, Djokovic reeled off the last four games to win 6-7 6-4 6-3 6-2 7-5, leaving Federer to contemplate his misfortune in an epic clash that he might just as easily have won. "Sure, it's disappointing, but I have only myself to blame," said Federer. "I set it all up perfect, but I couldn't finish it." Federer cut a lonely figure as he trudged off the Arthur Ashe Stadium court where he had won the U.S. Open five times before. If he wins another, he will be the first man to win six title at Flushing Meadows since the game turned professional in 1968, but that is no longer a foregone conclusion. Now 30 and no longer the dominant force he was, Federer won the last of his record 16 grand slam titles at the Australian Open in 2010. This year marks the first time he has gone through a season without winning a grand slam since he won his first major at Wimbledon in 2003. "I definitely had some serious chances to do a bit better, and I still made, what was it, semis

(Australian Open), finals (French Open), quarters (Wimbledon), semis (US Open)?," he said. "But I think in a few of them I could have gone all the way, if not a step or two further." The road ahead is unlikely to get easier for Federer, who has slipped to number three in the world rankings behind Djokovic and Rafa Nadal, who are both younger than him. But for a while on Saturday it was like old times for the father of two, winning the first two sets with the crowd on his side willing him to victory before it all started to unravel. His serve, which had been impenetrable, started to fail him and he began hitting balls off the frame. Djokovic squared the match at two sets all but Federer still had the match in his grasp when he broke to lead 5-3 in the fifth only to stumble with the finish line in sight. "It was a tough year in terms of some tough losses at some crucial stages of the season but look, it's not the first time it's happened," Federer said. "I have had big matches where I ended up losing some, but the majority I was able to win throughout my career. "Some of them you just have to move forward with also losses like this and not get too down about it." It was the sort of defeat that might have given Federer cause to question his future but he said it only fuelled his determination to come back stronger next season. "I guess I will be extremely hungry going to Australia next year," he said. "I know if I keep on working hard now that I'm feeling so good right now it will all pay off."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Open a soda bottle
6 Performance
9 Bankroll
12 "—porridge hot"
13 Bill's partner
14 Kyoto cummerbund
15 Knapsack part
16 Desert crosser
18 Mini-program
20 Bygone VHS alternative
21 America's uncle
23 "Of course"
24 Lost cause
25 Neighborhood
27 Invited
29 Basement
31 Don of "Cocoon"
35 Bother
37 Go by

DOWN
1 Prosperous periods
2 Trawler need
3 Candy-covered canoe
4 PDQ
5 Energetic
6 Get at
7 Paint layer
8 Anderson's "High —"
9 Made on a loom
10 Lessen
11 Money of Bahrain
17 Homes
19 Memorize
21 Pouch
22 Exist
24 Prized stone
26 Palin territory
28 Skin-covered vessel
30 Pismire
32 Three-masted
33 With it
34 Shade provider
36 Accepted
38 Hidden stock
39 Forcefully
40 Standards
42 Making all the stops
45 Host
46 Actress
48 Sherman called it hell
50 Bambi's aunt
51 Tic-toe link

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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N S V T X Q V E G V T B M O B D G J.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WANT TO GIVE BUGS BUNNY A VERY COSTLY GIFT, MIGHT YOU BUY HIM A TWELVE-CARROT RING?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals D