

**BANGLADESH LEAGUE
4 foreigners
allowed**

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh League Committee once again bowed down to pressure from the big clubs as they permitted four foreign players in a game for the upcoming professional football league.

"Each of clubs will be allowed to sign four players and field all of them in a match," said acting Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

The league initially wanted to reduce the foreign quota to fix it at only three for the next three seasons but they could not hold on to the initial decision as Mohammedan SC and holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club requested football's governing body to increase the quota of foreign players.

In contrast, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, who formed the second best squad this season, requested the league committee to reduce the number of foreign players.

"After taking the consideration of three teams, we have reduced the number of foreign players which was five last season and the meeting also decided to reduce it to three after the fifth edition of the league," said Shohag.

Last season, each of clubs were allowed to play five foreign players including a goalkeeper and it was seen only Mohammedan fielded five players while other clubs fielded regular four that forced local players to sit on the bench.

The league committee also decided to start the second-tier league with six teams, who will face each others thrice in three separate venues of Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Chittagong.

The transfer of the league will start on October 20 and end on October 31. The league is expected to get underway from the middle of November.

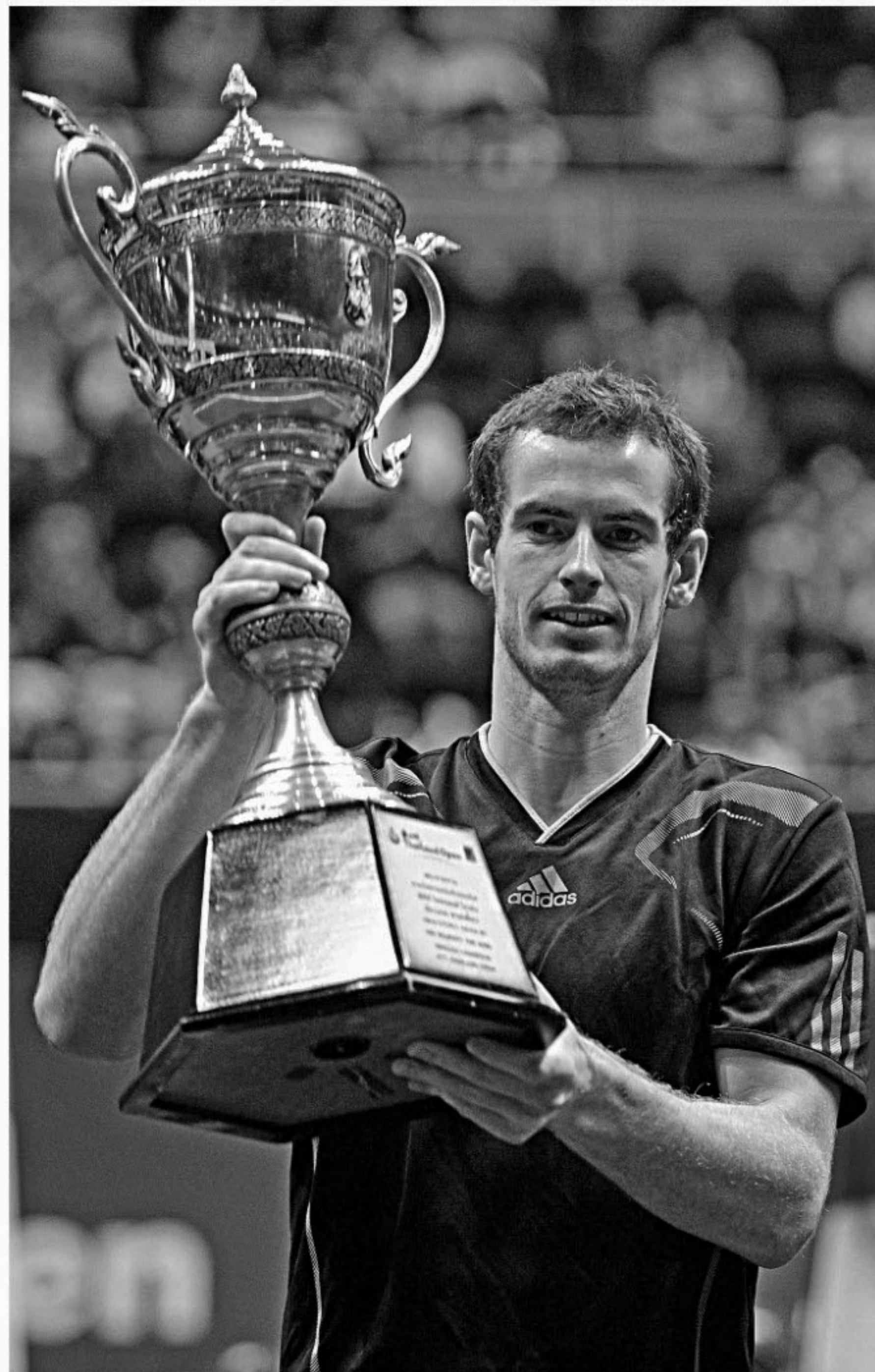
Shane appeals

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When she met Warne, Hurley was still married to Indian businessman Arun Nayyar but the couple divorced in December.

Warne has dramatically lost weight since starting to date Hurley and new pictures of the noticeably slimmer star caused astonishment in Australia when they emerged in August.

His romances have sparked almost as much media attention as his performances on the pitch and his energetic love life is widely thought to have cost him the Australian captaincy. Hurley and actor Hugh Grant were one of Britain's leading celebrity couples in the 1990s but separated in 2000.



Andy Murray shows off the Thailand Open trophy after beating Donald Young in the final in Bangkok on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Murray wins Thai Open

Tennis

AFP, Bangkok

Britain's Andy Murray hammered Donald Young of America 6-2, 6-0 in an awesome show of power on Sunday to win the ATP Thailand open, his third title of the season.

The top-seeded Scot, 24, crushed any faint hopes of first-time finalist Young, ranked 55th, with a dominating performance, romping to victory in just 47 minutes.

"I barely made any errors. I was able to take all of my opportunities. It was a great match for me," said Murray, who lost the first final he played in Bangkok in 2005 when he went down to Roger Federer.

This time Murray himself used all his experience against Young, who will still rise to a career-best placing inside the Top 50 in Monday's rankings despite his resounding defeat.

"I played very well today, by far my best match of the tournament," said Murray, winner of 19 career titles.

"I made it difficult for him to do anything. He picked up a bit in the middle of the first set but by the second I was in control," he said.

The win was the second in a month for Murray against Young after victory against him at the US Open. That win followed a shock defeat for Murray at the hands of the American in Indian Wells earlier this year.

Young, 22, admitted he had been well beaten by an in-form Murray.

"This was my first final, I wasn't nervous, but he just took me out of my game. I still can't be disappointed about the week, getting to the top 50 has been one of my goals. He played very well and I couldn't do much."

Murray now travels to Tokyo to play in a field featuring Rafael Nadal. He said that despite his success this week, nothing is guaranteed on court.

"It's a big change of surface and Tokyo's not that close," he said, referring to jet lag. "I may have to be realistic in my expectations a bit."

"But this was a great week for me and it helps to begin the Asian swing like this."

T20 after 17 months

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think these games will give the team management a good idea about these players," said chief selector Akram Khan.

Having tried different batsmen at No 3 during the BCB Cup, the selection panel have provided every opportunity for the likes of Mohammad Ashraf, Junaed Siddiqui and Shuvogata Hom Chowdhury with the latter two ending with disappointing performances mostly.

"For the younger lot, I think it is best to forget their past performances when they're playing at his level. They have to start afresh but they are players for the future," said selector Habibul Bashar.

TEAMS

BCB RED: Mushfiqur Rahim (captain & wicketkeeper), Mahmudullah Riyad, Imrul Kayes, Tamim Iqbal, Nasir Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Naeem Islam, Elias Sunny, Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Tanvir Haider, Mominul Haque.

BCB GREEN: Shahrir Nafees (captain), Shuvogata Hom Chowdhury, Sohrawardi Shuvo, Shahadat Hossain, Alok Kapali, Mohammad Ashraf, Sahagir Hossain (wicketkeeper), Robiul Islam, Nur Hossain Munnna, Alauddin Babu, Nazmul Hossain Apu, Junaed Siddiqui and Rokibul Hasan.

Chumki, Khalil

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managed to win the high jump gold, clearing 2.00 metres while Sumita Rani easily won the 100m hurdles clocking 14.84 seconds, 2.59 seconds ahead of Mukta Khatun, who won the bronze medal.

Like the last two editions of the national and junior championships, the summer meet is also being held without electronic timers, although the federation officials claimed that the last day of the meet would be held with electronic timers.

"Time-house has already been installed and we hope to hold the last day of the meet under electronic device," said Bangladesh Athletic Federation acting general secretary Manzur Morshed.

It has also been seen that the BAF officials were reluctant about a disciplined march past, which saw nearly 30 out of 30 participating teams attending the march past with most teams -- with the exception of the services teams -- even failing to bring their respective District Sports Association flags. Teams like Dhaka, Jessore, Sylhet, Dinajpur and many other teams followed the services teams in the march past with two to five athletes.

MSC to bank

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squad, including new inclusions Rajani Kanta Barman and Matir Munna from Muktiyoddha and Mohammedan's own Hasan Al Mamun, are old but can provide some solidity in defence and midfield. Mehedi Hasan Ujjal of Abahani, who is set to complete his registration formalities within a day or two, is another old leg, but nonetheless a proven midfielder.

The Black and Whites however have not confirmed whether Shafiqul Islam Manik will remain coach this season or who will wear the captain's armband this season.

REGISTERED PLAYERS

Goalkeepers: Titumir Chowdhury Titu (Own), Arifuzzaman Himel (Muktiyoddha).

Defenders: Rajani Kanta Barman (Muktiyoddha), Hasan al Mamun (Own), Moniruzzaman Mamun (Ctg Abahani), Shahnur Rahman Roni (Muktiyoddha), Shahed Ahmed Shagor (Own), Mursalin Parvez (Ctg Abahani), Mohammad Yasin (Own).

Midfielders: Motiur Munna (Muktiyoddha), Mehedi Hasan Ujjal (Abahani), Mobarak Hossain Bhuiyan (Sk Russel), Shariful Islam (Own), Habibur Rahman Shohag (Abahani), Monjurul Islam Emon (Rahmatganj), Sohel Rana (Own).

Forwards: Mohammad Rony (Muktiyoddha), Mohammad Wahed (Sk Russel), Mehedi Hasan Topu (Brothers).

NCL's latest hitch

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Cricket League has hit another snag, making uncertain the start date of October 18.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) tournament committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain said yesterday that they will hold a meeting on Tuesday once again, this time with the different divisional sports authorities to take on some of the more important issues which include Rangpur's troubles.

The northernmost division have a court case pending on who will take charge of their sporting involvement in the country.

"We will sit on October 4 with the divisional authorities. After that we will be able to inform of the starting date as we need to discuss the schedule of the

different phases," said Ashraf.

"We have a lot of combinations and permutations to keep in mind; we are slightly squeezed for time," he added.

The erstwhile six-team NCL has been expanded to eight teams with the addition of Rangpur and Dhaka Metropolis. The tournament format is also different this year with the eight teams playing in a single-league format. Later in December, the top four will play in the Super League with the best two set to play a five-day final in April next year. The four teams who don't make it to the second phase could also play three-day games against each other.

It is now pretty clear that the tournament committee are struggling to put together the eight teams despite handing over the selection responsibilities to the divisional authorities. The selection committee led by Akram Khan have also tallied the number of avail-

able cricketers to help pick the best available players.

The national team's international commitments hinder the participation of the Tigers but with Bangladesh A also scheduled to tour West Indies from October 30 and also the Dhaka First Division Cricket League from October 23, there's a clear shortage of players.

It puts forward the question of the board's priorities. Despite talking un- a storm about the country's first class cricket, there is a case of misplaced priorities from the governing body. On the one hand, BCB has avowed the need for a better structure but certain actions clash with their motive; case in point the scheduling of the A team's tour.

The importance of Bangladesh A touring West Indies is not argued but a different country could have been chosen earlier or later, since NCL is talked about with such importance.

Jerin Karim heads MSC's women's team

SPORTS REPORTER

Zerin Karim, daughter of MSC Ltd president Obaidul Karim, has been named the chairman of Mohammedan's women's football committee.

Irin Nahar was selected as the secretary of the 10-member committee, which also comprised two advisers - architect Lainur Nahar Ikram and Dr. Selina Ahsan.

The announcement came yesterday during the official introduction of Mohammedan's women's football team which will kick off the Women's Football League campaign by taking on Farashganj SC on Tuesday.

Magnum Marketing Limited, a local agent of Hitachi, is sponsoring Mohammedan women's football team, providing Tk2 lakh.

Private varsity football from October 8

SPORTS REPORTER

Inter-private university football tournament Global Neway University Premier League starts on October 8 at the Army Museum Ground. A total of 13 universities from Dhaka city will take part in the tournament that will run over three weeks, speakers said at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

Champions of the tournament will get Tk 1 lakh while the runners-up will get 50,000 as prize money. There will be lucrative prize money for the players of the tournament and top scorer as well. The tournament will be organised by JESSCO International Limited while Anokhi will work as online partners.

Participating teams:

EWU, NSU, AIUB, BRAC University, IUB, SEU, NUB, UIU, ASAUB, SUB, and IUBAT.

KKR win via D/L

IANS, Bangalore



Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) were declared winners against Warriors of South Africa late Saturday, as the group A match was called off due to heavy rain in the ICC Champions League Twenty20 (CLT20) at the Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

Riders won the abandoned tie by 22 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis method after rain played spoilsport when they were 83 for one after nine overs.

Set to score a modest 156 for a second win in the third edition of the tournament, the upbeat Riders began their chase on a breezy note with openers Manvinder Bisla and Jacques Kallis posting 35 runs in 3.3 overs.

After Bisla was out for 19 caught behind by Mark Boucher off a Wayne Parnell delivery, skipper Gautam Gambhir joined Kallis to accelerate the score to 83 with a 48-run second wicket partnership.

With no-let up in the rain after 36 minutes of play, umpires M. Erasmus and S. Ravi inspected the wet field under covers and decided to call off the match as further play was ruled out even in the extended time.

Playing a cameo innings, Gambhir made 33 off 23 balls with three fours and one six,

while Kallis made 31 off 19 with three fours and one six.

Earlier, put to bat first, Warriors were restricted to 155 for four wickets in 20 overs in the second tie of the day that was delayed 30 minutes due to heavy rains in the evening.

Riders' attacking bowling and tight fielding tamed Warriors from accelerating the score in the middle and slog overs.

With three sixes and three fours, Colin Ingram was the highest scorer -- 61 off 47 balls, while opener JJ Smuts hit 46 off 43 balls with six fours.

Keeper Mark Boucher remained unbeaten on 38 off 27 balls with five fours.

For Riders, Lakshminipathy Balaji took two wickets while Brett Lee and Kallis shared one wicket each.

Earlier in the day, the Group B match between Somerset and South Australian Redbacks was also abandoned due to heavy rain in the evening.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WARRIORS: 155 for 4 (Ingram 61, Smuts 46, Boucher 38 not out; Balaji 2-35, Lee 1-25)

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 83 for 1 in 9 overs (Gambhir 33 not out, Kallis 31 not out; Parnell 1-24)

Result: Kolkata Knight Riders won by 22 runs (D/L method)

Afridi clears the air

Cricket

PTI, New Delhi

Just a day after claiming that he saw Sachin Tendulkar's legs trembling while facing Shoaib Akhtar, Pakistan's former captain Shahid Afridi has now stated that he did not intend to question the Indian batting icon's greatness and was only talking about one incident. (Also read: I saw Sachin shiver against Shoaib)

"I am not denying what I have said. I have seen that Tendulkar was not at all comfortable against Shoaib in Kolkata Test in 1999. It was Shoaib's first tour of India and he bowled out Sachin without giving him a chance to open his account. He also claimed (Rahul) Dravid's wicket in both the innings," Afridi told

'PTI-Bhasha' from Karachi.

"Shoaib was in full form on that tour and had tremendous speed. He terrorised almost all the batsmen in the world at that time. I have seen Sachin trembling as I was fielding at square leg, I am still saying that."

"But this was only one incident. He never spared Shoaib after that. We all have seen what happened in 2003 World Cup," he added.

Afridi went on to state that the Indian batsman does not need his certificate.

"Sachin is one of the best batsmen and the whole world knows this. He does not need mine or anybody else's certificate. His records speak for him," Afridi said.

The controversy-prone former captain on Saturday backed his ex-teammate Akhtar's claim that Tendulkar was uncomfortable against his pace, saying that he had

once witnessed the Indian batsman "trembling" while facing the pacer.

Afridi, who retired after revolting against his own board and has a history of making controversial remarks, said Tendulkar was uneasy against Akhtar, a claim which the pacer made in his recently-launched autobiography 'Controversially Yours'.

Shakib back

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"There's always scope for doing better. But I think it was okay. I tried to do my best, the rest is not up to me," said Shakib, who opined that the Champions League was slightly more competitive than the IPL.

Shakib also affirmed that he will play in today's practice Twenty20 game.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Slithery squeezer
4 Visibility hindrance
7 Violinist's stroke
12 1960s hallucinogen
13 Raw rock
14 - Roman wrestling
15 Midafternoon hour
16 Venetian painter
18 Society page word
19 With unfriendliness
20 Snare, e.g.
22 Shelter opener
27 Ram's ma'am
29 Appetizer
31 Got up
34 Ms. Midler
35 Stephen Harper is
37 Expert

38 Pairs
39 Auto-mobile
41 Misplace
45 Reserved
47 Last (Abbr.)
48 Florida peninsula
52 Greek cross
53 Small egg
54 Type measures
55 Accomplished
56 Become established
57 Vast expanse
58 Individual

DOWN
2 Wicker willow
3 Farewell
4 Points of convergence
5 Delphic prophet
6 Bottled spirit
7 Grotesque
8 Opposite of "post-"
9 Wager
10 Autumn mo.
11 Court
17 Baldwin of "30 Rock"
21 Small plateau
23 Genuflect

24 - "King" Cole
25 Make up your mind
26 Spelling contest
28 Marry
30 "The View" ailer
31 Performance
32 Uncooked
33 Yoko of music
36 Teen's woe
37 Obscure
40 Buenos -
42 Surpass
43 Done in piece
45 Microwave, e.g.
46 "Born Free" lioness
48 Trigonometry abbr.
49 Rd.
50 Eccentric
51 "The Greatest"

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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JTLLEJK ZET'OK HYCKX
ETD EH HKQOEQ IMDG MD.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RISQUE COMING-OF-AGE FLICK ABOUT A TEEN WHO STARTS UP A LIQUOR COMPANY: "WHISKEY BUSINESS."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals N

SPORTS POLL
WEEKLY QUESTION
Who do you think West Indies will miss the most during the ODI series?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
Follow The Daily Star Sport on **twitter**
www.twitter.com/dssport

What to WATCH
ESPN & STAR Cricket
Champions League T20
Bangalore v Somerset
Live from 8:30pm

DAY'S EVENT
BCB Cup
BCB Red v BCB Green
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium