

ASIAN BEACH GAMES
Only silver in life-saving

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh won a silver medal in the 'life saving' event of the First South Asian Beach Games held at Hambantota in Sri Lanka yesterday.

Palash Chowdhury, who on Monday finished fifth in the 5-km swimming, took part in the run-swim-run event for the first time and finished behind Sri Lanka's Shahan R Singhe. In this event, a competitor has to start running from a certain point of the beach area up to a certain zone of the sea area and then return to the starting point.

Bangladesh also won a bronze medal in women's kabaddi beating Nepal 64-21 after suffering two consecutive defeats against India and hosts Sri Lanka. Organisers had expected gold medal in women's kabaddi and surfing, but athletes of both events put on disappointing performances.

Renowned surfer Zafar Alam skipped the event of 'life saving' due to fever and Abdul Aziz became fifth amongst seven competitors.

NAT'L YOUTH HOCKEY
Dhaka in Super League

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka moved into the Super League stage of the Southeast Bank 22nd National Youth Hockey Championship thrashing Sherpur 11-0 in their group's second and final match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rakib scored a hat-trick, Rabbi and Alamgir netted twice each while Arshad, Raseel, Rashid and Piyal scored one goal apiece for Dhaka who emerged Group B champions with two straight victories.

Narayanganj, Khulna and Gazipur also won their respective group's last matches but still could not confirm their Super League berths as Rangpur, Dinajpur and Narail emerged group champions from Group A, C and D respectively to qualify for the Super League.

Narayanganj also handed an identical 11-0 defeat to Naogaon, thanks to hat-trick from Biplob and two goals apiece from Hridoy and Jewel.

Khulna defeated Munshiganj 2-0 while Gazipur beat Satkhira 2-1.

ATF U-14 TENNIS
Local girls start well

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh made a good start in the ATF 6th BKSP U-14 Series Tennis Tournament as five girls won their respective matches in the girl's singles at the BKSP Tennis ground yesterday.

Eshita Afroz beat Nepalese counterpart Bijisha Shrestha 6-1, 6-0, Shah Safina beat compatriot Pinky Bapary 6-2, 6-0, Ayesha Sultana beat another Nepalese Mahika Rana 6-0, 6-1, Rebeka Sultana beat compatriot Nadia Islam 6-2, 6-3 and Afran Islam Prity beat compatriot Jhilik Chakma 6-2, 6-3.

Apart from the Bangladeshi players, Sri Lanka's Tesha Fernando and Nepal's Bidhuti Karki beat Nepal's Mayanka Rana and Chan Chak of Hong Kong respectively.

Premier Div volleyball

SPORTS REPORTER

Power Development Board (PDB) made a winning start in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League with a 3-1 win over Azad Sporting Club at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

PDB won the first two sets 25-19, 25-11 before losing the third set by 23-25 points. But they bounced back in the fourth set to take the set by 25-18 points and seal the victory.



Action from yesterday's Walton Women's Football League semifinal between Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Farashganj Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Jamal storm into final

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club stormed into the final of the Walton Women's Football League with a massive 16-0 win over Farashganj SC in the first semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Studded with national stars, Sheikh Jamal took a 6-0 first half lead in the one-sided affair, riding on a hat-trick by Sharmin Akhter Rupa, who along with her striking partner Sabina Khatun scored six goals each.

Nubai Ching Marma struck two goals while Aumra Ching Marma and Mirona Khatun netted one goal each as the ball was mostly confined inside the danger zone of Farashganj SC, for whom most of the players came from handball and cricket background.

It was the second biggest victory for Sheikh Jamal after their 26-0 win over Arambagh KS in group-phase. The Dhanmondi club have so far scored a staggering number of 59 goals in the four

matches they played so far. Despite a 12-0 defeat to Mohammedan SC, Farashganj moved into the semifinals after Dhaka Wanderers and Brothers Union, the other two listed sides of the group, pulled out due to failure to form squads. Farashganj's venture ended with conceding a total of 28 goals in two matches.

"It was expected that we would be humiliated at the hands of Sheikh Jamal as only two or three players of our team can kick the ball properly. The rest of the squad have come from handball and cricket, and were given only six to seven days of training on playing football," said Farashganj coach Emdadul Haque Sachchu after the game.

"We were confident that we would win the game as there is a gulf of difference between the two sides in terms of strength. But our strength will be tested against Mohammedan if they can confirm their berth for the final," said Sheikh Jamal coach Mosharrar Badal.

Women cricketers lose badly to SL

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's cricket team suffered an 82-run defeat against their Sri Lankan counterparts in the opening match of the three-match ODI series at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh managed only 156 for nine in their 50 overs after restricting the hosts to 238 for eight in their stipulated 50 overs.

Choosing to bat first after winning the toss, Sri Lanka posted a modest 238 for eight, thanks to fine knocks from one-ended AC Jayangai and middle-order batter Shashikala Siriwardene.

Jayangai played a 34-ball 48 with nine fours while Siriwardene played a patient 53 off 92 balls which featured three fours and a six. Openers SI Galagendra (25), BYA Mendis (12), middle order batters SK Dolawatte (19), MADD Surangika (15) and LE Kaushalya (13) chipped in with handy contributions to see the hosts cross the 200-mark.

Khadiza Tul Kubra was Bangladesh's most successful bowler who claimed three wickets for 44 while Panna Gosh, Salma Khatun and Rumana Ahmed took one wicket each.

In reply, Bangladesh fell in early trouble as they lost both openers with the scoreboard reading 32 before Rumana (35), Farjan Hoque (17) and Salam Khatun (31) provided some impetus to repair the damage.

Lower order batter Lata Mondol played a 53-ball 35 before SP de Alwis (3-22) and Sriwardene (2-33) shared five wickets to clip the visitors' innings far from the target.

Mushfiq, a captain's dream

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Another thing was that I was targeting the smaller side of the ground, and I was confident that even a mishit could travel for six."

He impressed on the field as well, sticking by Rubel Hossain even after the fast bowler had been taken for 17 runs in one over during the Powerplay. "He got hit for two sixes, but one of them was a mishit, and these things can happen in Powerplays. But what I liked was he responded well to the responsibility placed on him and he came back well. He has been bowling really well, so I knew he could do the job."

Despite the hammering in the one over, Rubel finished with a respectable 1-32 in his four overs, vindicating his captain's faith.

"Looking ahead to the one-dayers starting Thursday, the new skipper said that it would be a challenge that he is looking forward to.

"I think if you look at the two teams, West Indies were favourites to win this match, but it all comes down to who plays better on the day, and today we played well in all three departments, and we look forward to doing that in the one-dayers as well."

On vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad's situation, Mushfiq felt that he had gone for some blood tests and hoped that he recovers from the viral fever within two or three days.

West Indies skipper Darren Sammy echoed his counter-

part's sentiments saying, "We knew it was going to be an interesting series. They held their nerves better than we did. We never took them for granted."

He laid the blame for the loss on not scoring enough runs.

"We could have scored more runs, and we could have stopped more balls in the field. But in the end we made more mistakes than they did, that is why we lost."

With the team not scoring enough runs, the inevitable question of missing big-hitting opener Chris Gayle came up. Sammy, however, insisted that it was not a problem.

"We have been playing without Chris Gayle since the World Cup, so we are used to it now. A lot of other guys have got the opportunity, so it's no excuse."

Riyad to miss

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fever and he will join the squad subject to his fitness," said a BCB press release issued after Bangladesh's three-wicket win over West Indies in the lone Twenty20 match.

SQUAD: Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mohammad Ashraful, Shakib Al Hasan, Alok Kapali, Naem Islam, Nasir Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Sohrawardi Shuvo, Shahriar Nafees and Shuvagata Hom

Youths love

FROM PAGE 16

not soon forget -- the last time the two sides met, in a World Cup match in February -- Bangladesh were skittled out for 58.

"That was the past, we do not need to worry about it," said Jipu, a merchandiser who was entering the gates just as the match was about to start.

"Today we will win," he said with a smile full of hope.

"I don't know whether we will win or not, but I want there to be competition between the two sides," said Kanak, an expatriate visiting from London. "I personally think that T20s, because they are so unpredictable, give Bangladesh a very good chance to spring a win today."

And that may be the essence of the appeal of the shortest format of the game to Bangladeshi supporters -- its unpredictability gives their team more of an even chance to finish winners. Whatever the reason, the format is an immensely popular one among Bangladeshis, a fact that bodes well for the T20 World Cup here in 2014.

Smartness

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supporting Shakib Al Hasan's excellent four overs where the erstwhile national captain bowled probably two bad balls.

Shafiqul bowled the final over of the innings that went for just four runs. It stood out for the mixing of his lengths, something that he used to get the runaway Marlon Samuels out, scuttling him with a wide slower delivery.

The Tigers' fielding too stood out, especially Tamim Iqbal's effort down the ground during the last few overs while for once, none of the catches went down. The importance of safe hands was reflected by the visitors' low score.

The calmness while bowling and fielding wasn't exactly mirrored with the bat but Mushfiqur led by example, vindicating his coach and helping himself to a captaincy debut to remember.

BCB, PCB

FROM PAGE 16

talks. We have asked them to take us into consideration."

"We have to decide by December 31. We have to submit a name six months ahead of the vice-presidency election, which will be on June 30, 2012."

"I have to get approval from board itself. They can nominate someone they want," he added.

DRS mandatory no more

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday bowed to India's wishes and made the umpire Decision Review System (DRS) optional, four months after saying its use was compulsory.

The ICC's powerful executive board, which met in Dubai over the last two days, reverted to its original decision of allowing the participating nations in a bilateral series to decide on using the system.

Under the Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS), teams are allowed two television reviews per innings if they feel the on-field umpires have not given the correct decision.

The very influential Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had last month opposed even the partial use of the UDRS, saying the current technology was not suitable.

An ICC release on Tuesday said the change had been made "following recent experiences and the resultant concern about the effectiveness of Hot Spot."

"The Executive Board decided to revert to its previous position to allow the participating nations to decide bilaterally whether they wished to use the UDRS," the release said.

"Although the UDRS improves correct umpire decisions by around five per cent and corrects any blatant errors, there are some who are not convinced by its reliability," ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said in the statement.

"We will continue to work with interested parties to improve the system, while permitting the participating teams to decide whether they wish to use it or not."

The UDRS system will, however, continue to be used at all ICC events like the World Cup, the release said.

The ICC had at its annual meeting in Hong Kong in June made the UDRS compulsory for all international matches, if the host board could afford the costs.

But it had been agreed, at India's insistence, that the Hawk-Eye ball-tracking system for leg-before decisions would be optional, while the infra-red Hot Spot technology to determine edges would be used, if available.

The BCCI reverted to its original oppo-

sition to the entire system after Hot Spot failed to accurately show edges off the bat on several occasions during India's recent disastrous tour of England.

The new BCCI president N. Srinivasan said soon after his election in September that the UDRS needed to be abolished unless the technology was foolproof.

"We were under the impression that Hot Spot was very good, but it is not accurate," Srinivasan had said after the BCCI annual general meeting.

"We do not wish to use the UDRS in its present form, even in its minimum standard."

The UDRS was first used on a trial basis during India's Test series in Sri Lanka in 2008, but the Indians wanted it abolished after numerous decisions went against them.

The BCCI has already said the UDRS will not be in operation for the five-match one-day series against England starting in Hyderabad on Friday.

The system is also unlikely to be used for India's home series against the West Indies in November, or during the tour of Australia at the end of the year.

ICC undecided on Test C'ship

AFP, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) plans to hold the inaugural World Test Championship in 2013 came unstuck on Tuesday over the commercial viability of the event.

The ICC's executive board, which met in Dubai over the last two days, failed to confirm if the championship will replace the originally scheduled Champions Trophy one-day tournament in England.

The ICC will discuss the financial implications of replacing a one-day event with a Test Championship with its official broadcaster, ESPN Star Sports, before arriving at a decision.

"The executive board confirmed their preference to host an ICC Test Championship in 2013, but recognised the significant commercial challenge in trying to replace the Champions Trophy," a statement from the ruling body said.

"Without the support and consent of the ICC's broadcast partner, ESPN Star Sports, the financial implications on the members and the development of the game would be significant."

ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat, an enthusiastic supporter of the Test championship, hoped the event would go ahead in 2013.

"It would be unfortunate if the Test Championship is delayed to 2017, but the board needs to balance several objectives," Lorgat said in the statement.

The Test Championship was planned as a knock-out competition between the top four teams at a yet undecided cut-off date, with the two semifinals and the final being held in England.

England currently lead the rankings with 125 points, followed by South Africa (118), India (117), Australia (104) and Sri Lanka (103).

Test cricket has so far been played mainly on a bilateral basis since the first match in 1877.

'I give you 1m dollars'

Cricket

AFP, London

A shadowy Indian contact offered the agent of several Pakistan cricketers 1 million dollars to ensure they threw a Test match against England, a London court heard Tuesday.

The jury in the trial of former Pakistan captain Salman Butt and fast bowler Mohammad Asif saw video footage of meetings between the players' agent Mazhar Majeed and undercover News of the World reporter Mazher Mahmood.

The former investigations editor for Rupert Murdoch's now-defunct tabloid was posing as an Indian frontman for a Far East gambling syndicate.

In an August 21 meeting in Majeed's house in south London, the reporter recorded the agent on the telephone with the unidentified man in India, discussing deliberately throwing the Test match between England and Pakistan at The Oval, which was under way at the time, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Referring to the number of Pakistan players under his wing, Majeed was heard saying it was "not a problem" to fix the match result, as "you know how many I've got, you know that they do it."

Majeed called his Indian contact and told him: "You know what we spoke about last night, what offer can you give me for today's game? Tell me, just give me a figure now, we haven't got long."

"There's a possibility, I'm just telling you that now, they're talking at least 1.2 -- at least

In dollars."

The prosecution alleged that Majeed and the mysterious contact were floating the possibility of Pakistan deliberately losing the game.

Majeed said: "Boss, you know how many I've got, you know that they do it. So of course that's not a problem. But you just give me the figure and I'm going to get back to you. We haven't got much time. One million, yeah?"

The Indian contact replied: "I give you one [million dollars]. One I give you, but has to be a definite game score."

After the call, Majeed told the reporter: "There's big, big money in results, I tell you, you can see that."

In the event, Pakistan beat England by four wickets to secure a memorable Test victory.

The court heard that Majeed previously told the journalist that Pakistan were trying to win the match at The Oval because the players wanted Butt to remain as Test captain.

Prosecutors allege Butt and Asif agreed for no-balls to be bowled as part of a spot-fixing scam.

The two players have pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to obtain and accept corrupt payments, and conspiracy to cheat at gambling.

Majeed and young Pakistan bowler Mohammad Aamer have also been charged with the same offences but are not standing trial alongside Butt and Asif.

Mahmood gave evidence from behind a screen after the judge banned descriptions of his appearance because his security could be compromised. He could be seen by the judge and the jury.

Olympic venue in limbo

AFP, London



The future of London's Olympic Stadium was plunged into uncertainty on Tuesday after the collapse of a deal which would have seen Premier League

side West Ham move to the venue. Britain's Sports Minister Hugh Robertson confirmed the deal regarding the venue's post-2012 future had unravelled amid mounting concerns over the legal challenges facing the venture.

Tottenham and Leyton Orient had both challenged the Hammers' move to the venue while an anonymous complaint to the European Commission had fuelled concerns the stadium may lay empty for years as legal

battles proceeded.

The stadium will now remain public ownership before being leased to a tenant following a new tender process by the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC).

West Ham, who had joined forces with local Newham council to win the original race for the stadium, confirmed Tuesday they plan to bid for the tenancy.

Robertson meanwhile said Tuesday's developments came after Newham Council indicated it no longer wished to proceed with the deal because of the mounting uncertainty.

"The key point is the action we have taken today is about removing the uncertainty. The process had become bogged down in legal paralysis," Robertson told the Press Association.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Small pellets
4 Cigar residue
7 Soft-drink flavor
11 Secular
13 Sticky stuff
14 Mountain goat
15 Norway's capital
16 Erstwhile acorn
17 Buster Brown's dog
18 Grave robber
20 Red gemstone
22 Pinch
24 Round peg in a square hole

39 Mends old jeans, maybe
41 Old Toyota model
43 Stir-fry pan
44 Cambodia neighbor
46 It makes dough rise
50 God, in Grenoble
53 "CSI" evidence
55 Ancient letter
56 Bedouin
57 Republican
58 Ollie's pal
59 New York ball club

60 Female sheep
61 Choose
21 Huge journal party
23 Favorite Tuna or carp
25 Tuna or carp party
26 Not busy
27 Ball holders
28 Skater Katarina
29 Land measure
30 Shake-spearean king
31 Tree earned an Oscar
35 Mandible
38 Vast expanse
40 Plaything
42 Skiers' hotel
45 Winter forecast
47 Car
48 Break suddenly
49 Campsite shelter
50 Beaver's construction
51 Anger
52 Dine on
54 Gorilla

Solution time: 24 mins.

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T O T T E N O R A S H
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CRYPTOQUIP

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GEEGV QR OEQLDCACU KGECLCT
IXGZUZ: UPA UQUU RAEVV.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE CHINESE COOK MAKES SMALL CREASES IN WON TONS, WOULD YOU SAY HE'S DIMPLING DUMPLINGS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals F