

BCB to get 2 grounds

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board will officially be handed the lease for two grounds at the BKSP on Friday.

President AHM Mustafa Kamal will be present in Savar where he also confirmed that a women's cricket academy would be opened soon.

Meanwhile, the women's national coach Mamatha Maben could get an extension to her short contract.

It has been learned that the former India cricketer will be given a year-long deal as the BCB are quite satisfied with the progress made under her.

BGB win handball crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Border Guard Bangladesh won the Exim Bank 21st National Handball Championship beating Bangladesh Police by 38-17 goals in the final at the Handball Stadium yesterday. Khairuzzaman scored highest 13 goals while Kamal Hossain scored nine for the winners while Mahbubul Alam scored six goals for Police. BGB led the first half by 22-11 goals.

Chittagong Metropolis finished third beating Chapainawabganj by 39-24 goals in the place deciding match yesterday.

Gaibandha crush Khulna

SPORTS REPORTER

Bhabna Das slammed a brilliant hatrick as Gaibandha crushed Khulna by 6-0 goals in a Group A match of the KFC Women's Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Apart from Bhabna's treble, Bidhi Roy struck twice and Mitu netted once to complete the rout of Khulna. In another match, Bangladesh Ansar & VDP drew 2-2 with Satkhira at the same venue.

Jannatul Ferdous Rikta put Satkhira ahead in the 14th minute before Mainu Marma levelled the score in the 49th. Ansar retook lead again in the 76th minute through Tithi Rani Sarker but Suria Khatun scored the equaliser for Satkhira one minute before the final whistle.

Satkhira finished as the Group A leaders by goal difference with 7 points while Ansar became runners-up with same number of points.

Sk Russel

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stay away from the match-fixing, which dogged the league for the last few seasons and came into wide attention last year, "Last year's incident has given all of us a lesson. Moreover, this time there is a stringent set of by laws. We will all be more observant this time to make sure there is no foul play."

Farshganj also registered 24 of their players on the last day yesterday. The revamped Bangladesh Premier League, the fifth edition of the professional league with 11 teams, is expected to get underway on the last week of December after the curtain-raiser Federation Cup.

What's eating

FROM PAGE 16

and here too, it hasn't been his year. Across all formats, Tamim has averaged 31 this year with five fifties. He struck at more than 42 a game last year, hitting those four hundreds as well as eleven fifties.

An average follow-up season after a great one happens upon every sportsman and Tamim is no different. But the dangers of a player fading away after a purple patch is too common in Bangladesh cricket. The onus is on the team management to rouse this batting force but the buck, ultimately, stops with Tamim.

Surely a batsman who has completely overhauled his Test game in a year can revive his desire; since the Tigers are up against the best bowling attack this year, a good time to start for Tamim would be this month.



Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, deputy chairman of National School Football Championship, addresses a press conference at the Purbani Hotel yesterday. The event, organised by the Ministry of Education in association with the Bangladesh Football Federation, will commence on December 26.

PHOTO: STAR

Alamin upends Ctg

SPORTS REPORTER

WALTON

An eight-wicket victory over Chittagong put Khulna on top of the National Cricket League stakes at the end of the third day at Rajshahi's Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium.

Rajshahi too won yesterday, crushing the hapless Dhaka by nine wickets while Dhaka Metropolis and Sylhet will look to push for victory today, the final day of the sixth round of games.

CHITTAGONG-KHULNA

It was Alamin Hossain who cleared the path for Khulna's smooth ride. The paceman who took a five-wicket haul in the first innings, swung back into action in the second with figures of 7 for 36 from 15 overs as Chittagong were bowled out for 144, adding just 44 on the third morning.

Khulna took 27.4 overs to get the job done, Nazmus Sadat scoring an unbeaten 55.

DHAKA-RAJSHAHI

Rajshahi completed the formalities within the first hour after Dhaka declared their first innings on 131-9 as Mahbubul Alam couldn't bat due to a hand injury at the Barisal Divisional Stadium.

It meant the defending champions had to get just 49 runs to claim their fourth win with Sanjamul Islam winning the man-of-the-match award.

RANGPUR-DHAKA METRO

Dhaka Metro kept up the pressure after posting a massive 518 runs in the first innings. Rangpur lost three second innings wickets and are still 71 runs behind as they go into the fourth and final day at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Shamsur Rahman struck 86 while Tasamul Haque also hammered 84 as Dhaka Metro added 240 runs on the day.

Abdur Rahman Rony took four wickets for 121 runs.

BARISAL-SYLHET

Sylhet remained on top after they took seven wickets in Barisal's second innings at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

Firstly, Rajin Saleh ensured Sylhet took over Barisal's first innings score of 264 runs as they took a 17-run lead.

Then it was down to Enamul Haque to make a difference and the left-arm spinner didn't disappoint his teammates, taking a five-for that put Barisal in all sorts of trouble.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHITTAGONG: First innings 200 and second innings 144 all out in 40.4 overs (Nazimuddin 29; Alamin 7-36) v **KHULNA:** First innings 233-9 declared and second innings 113-2 in 27.4 overs (Sadat 55 not out; Merajul 1-14)

Result: Khulna won by eight wickets.

DHAKA: First innings 131 and second innings 131-9 declared in 41.3 overs (Hannan 72; Delwar 4-22) v **RAJSHAHI:** First innings 214 and second innings 49-1 in 8.4 overs (Mizanur 20; Sharif 1-11)

Result: Rajshahi won by nine wickets.

RANGPUR: First innings 354 and second innings 93-3 in 31 overs (Dhiman 37 not out, Robiul 31; Sunny 2-15) v **DHAKA METRO:** First innings 518 all out in 132 overs (Asif 152, Shamsur 86; Rony 4-121)

BARISAL: First innings 264 and second innings 147-7 in 51 overs (Nayeem 43 not out; Enamul 5-49) v **SYLHET:** First innings 281 all out in 112.2 overs (Rahman 77, Rajin 80; Rasel 4-27)

Aussie quicks a concern for NZ

Cricket

INTERNET, *Brisbane*

New Zealand captain Ross Taylor has warned that, despite having a weakened bowling attack, Australia are still a serious threat going into the first Test in Brisbane.

Australia are without the services of injured trio Mitchell Johnson, Ryan Harris and Pat Cummins, but Taylor says the youthful exuberance of James Pattinson, Mitchell Starc and Ben Cummins will be a definite threat on the notoriously bouncy 'Gabba' pitch after watching them bowl for Australia A last week.

"Experience-wise it is one of the weakest [Australian attacks], but they know the conditions better than we do," said Taylor.

"We've had a look at them on a flat Allan Border Field wicket, but I'm sure they'll come at us hard but we'll expect that. We're confident, we've scored runs in the last two first-class games, we just need to take that confidence out onto the wicket.

"I thought James Pattinson bowled very well, he was one of the most consistent, he bowled a good line and length, plus I'd

played with him at Victoria and watched him develop there as well. I'd never seen Starc before. Cutting bowled a lot of short balls and tried to get people with the fuller delivery. So they all bowled reasonably well on a very flat wicket."

The 27-year-old is confident his side can pull off an upset and beat their Trans-Tasman opponents in a Test for the first time since the 1992-93 season, especially as New Zealand go into the match with a more settled starting XI.

Australia, meanwhile, are yet to decide on the makeup of their bowling attack as they could choose to leave out spinner Nathan Lyon depending on the conditions come Thursday.

"That is an option for them, to play four quicks, but I'm not sure how many overs Michael Clarke wants to bowl out there if he doesn't play a spinner," added Taylor.

"The overhead conditions are the biggest part. On that wicket you'd always want to bat first, but the overhead conditions can change your mind. We'll just have to see what the weather turns up with. If there's a little cloud around you'd bat, but if there's a lot of cloud around you might change your decision."

If you can't win

FROM PAGE 16

Showering praises on all-rounder Nasir Hossain, the Bangladesh coach wanted more from the young players when the opportunities come their way.

"When players of Tamim's quality or Shakib's quality are not available in the team someone has to put their hand up and say I want to perform at the international level. It's an opportunity for them. You can't rely on the same players all the time; it puts them under immense pressure. You need young guys coming through. Nasir Hossain is one of them. He showed his skill in being 30 odd not out," said Law when asked about Tamim's last moment withdrawal from the play-ing eleven in the T20 match.

Since elevated into the elite club in 2000, Bangladesh have defeated all the Test playing nations in the limited-overs game except Pakistan, who lost only one game against the Tigers during the 1999 World Cup in Northampton.

Against this Pakistan side, Bangladesh needs to do something special if they want to break the jinx.

Nat'l School C'ship MoU signed

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation and Islami Bank Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday at a local hotel for the National School Championship which is likely to start from the last week of December.

The championship starts from December 26 with students from 4800 secondary schools from across the country taking part. The championship will start at the upazilla level and will reach district and divisional level through qualifying. The final stage will be held with 14 qualifiers.

The title sponsors Islami Bank will provide Tk five crore while co-sponsors Plan Bangladesh will give away ten thousand footballs for the tournament. Ashiyan City and Pran Group are also involved with the tournament as co-sponsors.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid stressed on building moral character and physical fitness of the youth through sports. "We have a goal to flourish our students' mental and physical health. Sports will help the students to build strong character" said the minister.

Chairman of Islami Bank Abunaser Md. Abdus Zaher, chairman of executive committee of school football Mahfuzur Rahman vice-president of BFF Abdus Salam Murshed and other representatives of BFF and sponsors were present at the occasion.

Division I kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Sat Rouja Nabin Sangha and Sonali Bank Recreation Club won their respective matches of the First Division Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Sat Rouja Nabin Sangha beat Arbachin KC 46-33 with one creditable 'Iona' while Sonali Bank Recreation Club defeated Swarnali Sangsad 33-09.

National TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Feni emerged champions in the AB Bank National Table Tennis Championship beating Bangladesh Biman 3-0 in the final of the men's group event at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Bagerhat finished third while Bangladesh Ansar became fourth.

In the women's doubles final, Bangladesh Ansar emerged champions beating Bangladesh Biman 3-0 while Dhaka finished third and Rajshahi fourth.

Veeru thanks Rohit

Cricket

INTERNET, *Cuttack*

Captain Virender Sehwag applauded Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja for batting sensibly and adding 83 priceless runs for the sixth wicket that were instrumental in India edging past the West Indies by one wicket in a thrilling finish to the first one-day international here on Tuesday.

Sehwag was also relieved that tail-enders Umesh Yadav and Varun Aaron scored 12 crucial runs in an unbeaten partnership for the last wicket to ensure the win that came with seven balls to spare.

"I was sitting in the same place and not moving. Good to win another nail-biter."

"Whatever you tell No. 10 or No. 11, they always do what they want to. I just told them to play till the end and whatever happens is fine," Sehwag said.

"Rohit and Jadeja batted really well in that partnership [for the sixth wicket] and we should have won it easily from there. But, still, good to end up winning [the game]," said a relieved captain. "We hope to learn from our batting mistakes in the coming games."

Rohit, who was adjudged the Man of the Match, said that the plan was to bat through. "The idea was to play through the innings. But, unfortunately, I wasn't able to finish it. But it doesn't matter now; we've won the game."

"I needed support from Jadeja at that stage. We played to a plan and he batted brilliantly. Even Vinay Kumar batted really well," he said.

"I didn't have much cricket after my injury, but luckily did well in the Ranji games. I am glad I got an opportunity under pressure and managed to pull it through."

West Indies captain Darren Sammy had to endure disappointment twice in four days as his team failed to win despite being on the verge of it. On Saturday, the visitors failed to win the third Test in Mumbai as it ended in a draw with India nine down and one run short of a win.

"Every time you lose, it is quite disappointing. We just didn't have the last spark to take us past the finish line," he admitted. "The opening bowlers did well to give us a start and we fought all the way to the end, but it wasn't enough."

"We could have done things differently."

"We bowled 23 extras, but I would like to commend the boys."

The next one-day international will be played in Visakhapatnam on Friday.

Nadal takes it easy

Davis Cup final against Argentina

Tennis

AFP, *Seville*

Spanish star Rafael Nadal on Tuesday played down the pressure the hosts will be under ahead of their Davis Cup final clash against Argentina here this weekend.

"We're under the same pressure as they are, we have to win the Davis Cup," insisted the world number two, who has lost just one singles rubber in the competition since making his debut in 2004.

Spain have won the title four times in the past ten years, while Argentina have never lifted the trophy, finishing runner-up three times.

But team leader Nadal insisted that playing at home did not increase the pressure.

Nadal will spearhead the team which includes 24th-ranked Fernando Verdasco, Feliciano Lopez (20) and David Ferrer (5), the same line-up that clinched Spain's last Davis Cup triumph in 2009 against the Czech Republic.

Argentina lost the 2008 final 3-1 to the Spanish at home in Mar del Plata, also falling in their previous two clashes in 2003 and 1926.

"The 2008 final was painful for Argentina,

'We needed more runs'

Cricket

PTI, *Cuttack*

West Indies pacer Kemar Roach rued his team's failure to set a challenging target for India which could have allowed the visiting bowlers to put pressure on the hosts who managed to sneak away with a one-wicket win in the first one-day international here on Tuesday.

After being restricted to 211, the Windies were off to a great start thanks to Roach's quick three-wicket burst, only to lose it by one wicket in the end.

"It was a big game. Playing in India is really tough. But we also fought very hard. It's just that last hurdle we could not cross. To give them a good fight on their home ground is a good effort for us. We are a young side and are gelling well," Roach said.

"The aspect of not putting enough runs on the board did not help us. We would have been

in a comfort zone by putting a few more runs when it comes to bowling."

Roach hoped that his team would bounce back in the next ODI at Vizag on December 2.

"We are not blaming anyone. We will go back to the dressing room and hope to come back fresh in the next game."

Asked about his own bowling, he said: "It was good to get three wickets. I did my job pretty well. But to win the match is the most important part."

"You have got to adapt to situation as quickly as possible. As I said we would have been better off with a few more runs. On a good pitch, with quick outfield it was just not enough."

Roach was also all praise for his Indian Premier League Deccan Chargers teammate Rohit Sharma who set up the Indian chase with a fighting 72 to win the man-of-the-match.

"He is a very responsible guy. I know him quite well since we play together for Deccan Chargers. Congrats to him."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vanna's cohort

4 Chance

7 Eucalyptus eater

12 UN workers' agcy.

13 Geological period

14 "The Age of Anxiety" poet

15 Back talk

16 Ice cream type

18 "The — Daba Honey-moon"

19 Good, in Guadalupe

20 Effervescence

22 "No seats"

23 Instrument of Marxism?

27 Anger

29 Hot dog

31 Popeye's burger-eating pal

34 City boss

35 Skipped a big wedding

37 Stick out

38 Ticklish Muppet

39 Acapulco gold

41 Go nowhere

45 Speak sheepishly?

47 Coloration

48 Movie cowboy who voiced Mister Ed

52 Grecian vessel

53 Anticipate

54 "CSI" evidence

55 Wrestling surface

56 Tubular pasta

57 Sweet potato

58 Shell game need

DOWN

1 Rice recipe

2 Suspect's excuse

3 November birthstone

4 KFC additive

5 Stir up

6 Indiana basketball

7 Deck in the ring

8 "— Town"

9 Big fuss

10 Meadow

11 Moreover

17 Recognize

21 Lighter brand

23 Preliminary matches

24 Whatever number

25 Carnival city

26 For one

28 Catcher's place?

30 Ostrich's cousin

31 Infinitesimal

32 Under the weather

33 Oft-tattooed word

36 Barbie, e.g.

37 Cassidy or Kerns

40 Prepared

42 Blunt blow

43 Emanations

44 Busybody

45 Computer memory unit

46 Side

48 Eminem's genre

49 Have bills

50 Tuna container

51 Family

Solution time: 25 mins.

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S I X H A T E H O S E
M A T E R N A L E P E E
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CRYPTOQUIP

B X I H M I J C W H X O Q J L T G J
E J C H P M L W S A W S Z Q G W S Z P
E W A H O J B B H H Q H X X S M
R H H L : R L H T P T W E E W P .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAVE A SPRITE THAT YOU GIVE TOTAL SUPPORT TO, I'D SAY THAT'S FENDING FOR ONE'S ELF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals W