



Action from yesterday's opening match of the CityCell Federation Cup Basketball Championship between Europa Youth and Wraiths at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium.

PHOTO: STAR

Kapali, Nafis

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TEAMS
SHAHEED JEWEL XI: Alok Kapali (captain), Nasir Uddin Fauque, Tasamul Haque, Nur Hossain, Junaed Siddiqui, Rokibul Hasan, Forhad Hossain, Anamul Haque (wicketkeeper), Enamul Haque, Saqlain Sajib, Shuvashis Roy, Syed Rasel and Alauddin Babu.
SHAHEED MUSHTAQUE XI: Nafis Iqbal (captain), Rony Talukder, Shohag Gazi, Soumya Sarker, Asif Ahmed, Shuvogata Hom, Mahamu-dul Hasan, Dhiman Ghosh (wicketkeeper), Mosharraf Hossain, Arafat Sunny, Mohammad Sharif, Kazi Kamrul and Mahbubul Alam.

Fed Cup on

SPORTS REPORTER



Citycell Federation Cup Basketball Championship kicked off at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Europa Youth beat Wraiths 54-40 after leading the first-half by 21-20 points. Mithun scored maximum 25 points for Europa Youth while Tanvir scored 12 points for Wraiths.

Earlier, David Lee, chief operating officer of Citycell, formally inaugurated the meet which is being sponsored by Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited. Bangla-desh Basketball Federation president Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin MP and officials of the federation and Citycell were present.

Citycell will be the sponsors of two more competitions this month, three-on-three basketball tournament starting on the 24th and Victory Day Basketball Competition starting on the 27th.

MANIGANJ CRICKET Bandhu XI champions

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Manikganj

Bandhu XI became champions in the AM Sayedur Rahman Sriti T-20 Cricket Tournament defeating Retired XI by 53 runs at Shahid Miraz-Tapan Stadium in Manikganj yesterday.

Batting first, Bandhu XI were all out for 142. Kajol top-scored with 39 from 30 balls while Saikat added 28 runs from 21 balls. Al-Amin of Retired XI took three wickets while Tanvir bagged two.

In replied, Retired XI were bundled out for 89 runs in 19 overs. Al-Amin top-scored with 20 runs from 19 balls. Bashir took four wickets while Saikat took three wickets for Bandhu XI.

Saikat was adjudged man of the match for taking three wickets and scoring 28 runs.

Eight teams took part in the prestigious cricket tournament.

BMW trouble!

AFP, Sydney

Teenage Australian tennis star Bernard Tomic on Wednesday said he was being targeted by a police officer who he said had repeatedly pulled over his distinctive orange sports car.

The 19-year-old, ranked 42 in the world, has been granted a special exemption from his provisional licence to drive his high-octane 150,000-dollar BMW M3 to and from tennis training.

But the teenager, who this year became the youngest man to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals since Boris Becker in 1986, said he was pulled over by a policeman in the state of Queensland on Sunday night for allegedly "hooning".

Hooning is an Australian term that covers driving recklessly and street racing.

"The car's very loud but I don't know what he defines as hooning," Tomic told the Courier Mail newspaper.

"I didn't speed, I didn't do any of that stuff."

Tomic said he felt the officer had taken a personal dislike to him and was "always on my tail", insisting he had done nothing wrong and was simply going "about my business as a tennis player".

Brothers' smart

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although there was no plan to sign players from the national pool. I don't have any monetary deals with them," he added.

National discard Rokibul Hasan has signed up for CCS from Kalabang Krira Chakra apart from Pakistani veteran Rashed Hanif, Imrul Mustakim and Robiul Islam.

Bhajji gets

FROM PAGE 16
early during the tour of England because of an abdomen injury and was then left out of the home series against England and West Indies. Harbhajan was also not selected in the Test squad for the upcoming tour of Australia.

First Test from today

SL should not be a big issue for SA



AFP, Centurion

South Africa will seek to end a sequence of disappointing results in home series when they take on Sri Lanka in the first of three Tests at SuperSport Park from Thursday.

South Africa have lost one and shared three of four most recent home series, with a loss against Australia in 2008-09 followed by drawn series against England, India and Australia.

Sri Lanka, though, should not provide too stiff a challenge for the home side.

The tourists have had more than a year of poor results and appear to be particularly vulnerable in bowling since the retirement of world record-breaking off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, whose last Test match, against India in Galle in July 2010, marked Sri Lanka's most recent win.

Since then Sri Lanka have lost four and drawn 10 of 14 Tests.

The large number of drawn games is an indication that Sri Lanka's batting is stronger than their bowling -- but they will be up against a strong South African bowling attack in conditions expected to favour pacemen.

"The main thing we need to adapt to is the bounce and the pace," Sri Lanka vice-captain Angelo Mathews said.

He admitted the team had not played well recently but said there was a confident mood in the side.

Twin scare for Aussies



AFP, Sydney

Australia's beleaguered batting line-up faces fresh problems ahead of their series against India with Shaun Marsh unlikely to be fit for the first Test and question marks over Shane Watson's role.

Left-hander Marsh and opener-cum-all-rounder Watson had been expected to return from injury to shore up the top order after Monday's humiliating loss to New Zealand, when the hosts threw away their last eight wickets for 74 runs.

The first home defeat to New Zealand in 26 years was a heavy blow for a team which will face India on December 26 with veterans Ricky Ponting and Michael Hussey in the firing line, and the young

batsmen also mostly in poor touch.

As ex-Test great Shane Warne called for "brave decisions", new coach Mickey Arthur urged the selectors to decide where injury-prone Watson would bat and how much he would be asked to bowl.

"It has been speculated about a huge amount," the South African said.

"We have to come to a point where we make a decision where Shane is going to bat in the batting order and how many overs we expect of him so there is no more debate about the issue."

Arthur added that Watson needed a "clear role definition" before the Melbourne Test, indicating he may be moved down the order.

"We have to balance out how many overs we can possibly get out of him -- that is going to determine the balance of the

taking only two wickets and conceding 142 runs in 31 overs.

But Mathews said he was not concerned about Mendis' form.

"He was coming back from two or three months of injury. We all know what a good spinner he is. He can turn a match around."

Sri Lanka's pace bowling resource have been hit hard by injuries, with four players ruled out before the tour and Nuwan Pradeep suffering a tour-ending injury in the warm-up game.

They do not have the fast bowling firepower of the hosts but Proteas batsman Hashim Amla warned that in South African conditions no seam bowlers could be taken lightly.

"We haven't seen them before so that makes them dangerous and our task a bit more challenging."

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA (probable): Graeme Smith (captain), AB de Villiers (vice-captain), Jacques Rudolph, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, Ashwell Prince, Mark Boucher, Vernon Philander, Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel, Imran Tahir.
SRI LANKA (from): Tillakaratne Dilshan (captain), Angelo Mathews (vice-captain), Tharanga Paranavitana, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Dinesh Chandimal, Kaushal Silva, Lahiru Thirimanne, Dimuth Karunaratne, Chanaka Welegedara, Dilhara Fernando, Thisara Perera, Ajantha Mendis, Rangana Herath, Thilan Samaraweera.

LOCAL snippets

Niaz, Zia lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed and Grand Master Ziaur Rahman assumed joint lead of the Walton 37th National Chess Competition with full three points at the end of the third round at the BOA media room yesterday. Niaz beat Sohel Chowdhury while Zia defeated Mahtabuddin Ahmed in this round.

The other Grand Master in the tournament, Rifat Bin Sattar beat Shafik Ahmed to take his points tally to two as he was joined by Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar who beat Javed in this round.

In the other matches, Abu Sufiyan drew with Mehedi Hasan, Mahfuzur Rahmna drew with Golam Mostafa and Debraj Chatterjee drew with Monir Hossain.

V-Day volleyball

Titans Club and Bangladesh Army won their respective matches of the KFC Pizza Hut Victory Day Volleyball Tournament at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Titans Club beat Border Guard Bangladesh in straight 3-0 sets (25-11, 26-24, and 25-17) while defending champions Bangladesh Air Force also defeated Bangladesh Air Force in straight sets (25-21, 25-16, and 25-23).

V-Day kabaddi

Border Guard Bangladesh defeated apprentices by 33-19 points with two creditable Iona while Bangladesh Army thrashed Bangladesh Jail by 45-12 points with three creditable Iona on the opening day of the Victory Day Kabaddi Competition at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. Earlier, secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association



Grand Master Niaz Murshed (R) makes a move against Sohel Chowdhury during their match in the Walton 37th National Chess Competition at the BOA media room yesterday.

IPL yet

FROM PAGE 16
the BCCI after the third season on charges of financial irregularities.

"The BCCI has made a U-turn on my contract," Gavaskar told the NDTV news channel. "I am baffled after reading reports that the BCCI has refused to pay me my dues."

"My faith in the BCCI has been shaken."

The IPL, which features leading players from around the world in a franchise-based contest, is facing a government probe into financial mismanagement and money laundering.

The BCCI has declined to comment on Gavaskar's demand.

Haze over Nimbus deal



CRICINFO, New Delhi

A day after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) reportedly terminated its contract with Nimbus Communications, the rights holders for cricket in India, there has still been no official statement from the board or Nimbus on whether their agreement has, in fact, been cancelled.

Nimbus, one of India's leading television marketing companies, did release a statement but said it could not discuss details of its contract with the BCCI. The statement said Nimbus could only "confirm that it has acted in compliance of its contractual obligations and variations agreed between the parties from time to time." One of the reported reasons for cancelling the contract, which was to run till 2014, was that Nimbus had run into issues regarding payments.

The company had reportedly asked the BCCI for an extension on their payment deadline recently. The board turned down the request and decided to scrap their deal at its working committee meeting in New Delhi on Monday.

Despite news of the termination of its contract, Nimbus's cricket channel Neo Cricket telecast the first day of the Ranji Trophy match between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, though not the second day's play on Wednesday.

A BCCI official revealed that the board would begin discussions with Nimbus soon to

ensure that Ranji Trophy games could be telecast until the end of the tournament on January 23. The BCCI owns the production rights of its domestic matches and has a separate deal with Nimbus to produce the live TV footage of domestic matches. Under this deal, Nimbus receives payment by the board.

The reports of the termination of the BCCI's contract with Nimbus has no direct effect on television coverage of India's international matches at home. The team's engagements in India have concluded for the next ten-odd months; the lengthy gap between the final ODI against West Indies and India's next scheduled home series in September, 2012 would give the BCCI plenty of time to solicit fresh bids for the India rights.

The first sign of payment problems with regard to television coverage of Indian cricket began this season on October 14. The telecast of the one-day international between India and England in Hyderabad started after three overs had already been bowled. This was due to a dispute over the payment of a bank guarantee from Neo Sports, Nimbus' channel, to Prasar Bharati, the government agency responsible for uplinking live telecasts out of India.

Nimbus also said it was working to resolve its differences with the board and was hopeful of reaching a solution over the next few weeks. At the same time, the company said it has "fully reserved all its rights and options, including of invoking the arbitration process if need be."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Navigator's stack	1 NYC cultural center
5 Deck in the ring	2 "Planet of the —"
9 Upper surface	3 Household critters
12 Oil cartel	4 Threaded nails
13 Leading man?	5 Philosopher Immanuel
14 "Hail, Caesar!"	6 Big bother
15 Pianist's ticker	7 Sweet potato
17 Barbie's companion	8 Last letter
18 Agree-ment	9 After-taxes
19 No stay-at-homes	10 Finished
21 Lindbergh book	
22 Plot mathematically	
24 Back talk	
27 Greet the villain	
28 Grant's —	
31 Thickness	
32 Once around the track	
33 Long March leader	
34 Yin counterpart	

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

K J D Z S E C P N Z X Y A E J Y S E A K X A
Y I R R J Y N K X H D J M A P J
M J J D S E C X C Y J X A H J E H J
I M X B B I P Z D S B J - P J E A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THINGS BECAME SO ABNORMALLY SILENT AT THE RECYCLING PLANT THAT YOU COULD HEAR A BIN DROP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals C