

Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 19, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Artful bat

Matthew Hayden made a splash with his promotion of the Mongoose during the IPL but he's gone back to the old-fashioned bat for the Big Bash League. Well, not quite. Old-fashioned bats don't cost five-figure sums, which is what Hayden's bat is worth, according to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald. The four bats Hayden will use during the BBL have their backs painted by a Tiwi Island artist. And when the tournament is over, they will be auctioned to raise money for a school.

—INTERNET



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh batsman Shakib Al Hasan cuts the ball away off the back foot on way to recording his highest score of 144 on the second day of the second Test against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Shakib brings respectability

MOHAMMAD ISAM



Bangladesh To Pakistan
Chittagong, Dec 19, 2011

Shakib Al Hasan helped Bangladesh expand upon their strong base during the second day's play of the second Test against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The day ended with Pakistan on 87-1 after bad light stopped play. In all, 26 overs were lost on the day after the morning session began an hour late due to the same problem as on the first day -- early morning fog.

But the story of the day remained the Tigers' score of 338 all out in 107.2 overs. It was an impressive score especially in a series where the batsmen haven't stood up for themselves. Though the top-order had only one major contribution on the first day, the middle-order was propped up by Shakib and Mushfiqur Rahim who took the much-needed calm approach. The brightest part of their partnership was in the opening session when the pair

batted out 21 overs to score just 51 runs as if nothing could go wrong. It wasn't a negative approach but caution has been the most pressing need for the Tigers.

But it all imploded for Shakib when on 144 he was run out. Mushfiqur had prodded the ball to midwicket and called the non-striker but after Shakib had taken off, the skipper screamed no. It was too late as Taufeeq Umar had swooped in to knock down the stumps, a fuming Shakib walking off.

The 242-ball effort took Shakib almost six hours to compose and though he had hammered 15 boundaries, it was the 63 singles that really built the Tigers' innings. The unfortunate run-out ended the 82-run sixth wicket stand and what happened next was just how a collapse usually pans out.

Mushfiqur, who had been the perfect foil for Shakib with his 102-ball 40, was strangled down the leg-side by Gul off the very next ball.

It exposed the longish tail though Shahadat Hossain batted quite well to make 21 off 31 balls with the help of a six and two boundaries. Runs are expected from Elias Sunny due to his domestic record and although he just made 12, he batted for nearly an hour.

Gul and Aizaz Cheema took three wickets each for Pakistan while spinner Saeed Ajmal

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Ishant still a doubt

CRICINFO, Hobart

The uncertainty around Ishant Sharma's ankle remained as he didn't bowl during India's training session on the eve of their three-day match against the Cricket Australia Chairman's XI.

He was present with the team at the Manuka Oval on Sunday, though. He played the football game that India play before their training sessions, and took part in light fielding drills too, but did not bowl.

Ishant has been advised two-day's rest by a specialist in Canberra, and is a sure non-starter for the tour game that begins on Monday. But the match is not a first-class fixture, which means he can be drafted in on for the second or third day if he recovers.

Ishant bowled only 5.3 overs in India's first tour game, walking off twice during that brief spell. The Indian camp said that day that Ishant was anyway going to bowl only six overs, and when the strapping on the ankle came loose with three deliveries left in the quota he felt no need to come back.

Zaheer Khan and Rohit

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Lin lifts first Super Grand Slam

AFP, Liuzhou

Chinese ace Lin Dan claimed the World Superseries Finals title on Sunday, defeating his compatriot Chen Long in less than an hour, 21-12, 21-16.

The rapid victory gave "Super Dan" badminton's first-ever "Super Grand Slam", with the 28-year-old Chinese pin-up, already the sport's most decorated player, having now won all nine of its premier titles.

Lin had breezed past his long-time foe and Danish veteran Peter Gade to set up the final with Chen, who created the shock of the series after beating defending champion and world number one Lee Chong Wei in the semis.

Rajshahi on top

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh To Pakistan
Chittagong, Dec 19, 2011

The Saqlain Sajib-Mukhtar Ali pair sunk Dhaka Metropolis on the first day of Rajshahi's second game of the National Cricket League's second phase at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The defending champions ended the day on 94 for one after bowling out Dhaka Metro for 201 runs in 55.3 overs. The game started 15 minutes late after the bus carrying the Dhaka Metro players arrived late in Sylhet due to a breakdown.

The rattled Dhaka Metro line-up lost skipper Mohammad Ashraful in the tenth over when the discarded national player was caught by Anisur Rahman off Sajib. He removed the other opener in his next over when Arman Hossain was clean bowled.

The newcomers retaliated well through a 93-run third wicket stand between Asif Ahmed and Shamsur Rahman, who made 53. But the pair, along with Mehrab Hossain Jr, Tasamul Haque and Marshall Ayub fell in a heap after lunch.

Mukhtar and Sajib were rampant as they

took nine between them with the latter picking up a five-wicket haul.

Away at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong, Mithun Ali's unbeaten century held together the Khulna first innings against Sylhet.

The two top teams at this stage of the competition were evenly balanced at the end of the day as Khulna, the league leaders, were 296-8 in 75 overs after play began 90 minutes later than scheduled.

Mithun struck 105 off 102 balls with the help of six sixes and four boundaries. Skipper Tushar Imran made 62 as well with the help of eight boundaries and a six.

Alok Kapali and Tapash Baisya took two wickets each.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DHAKA METRO: First innings 201 all out in 55.3 overs (Shamsur 53, Asif 45; Sajib 5-59, Mukhtar 4-47). **RAJSHAHI:** First innings 94-1 in 29 overs (Jahurul 47 not out, Junaed 35 not out; Taskin 1-12).

KHULNA: First innings 296-8 in 75 overs (Mithun 105 not out, Tushar 62, Dollar 40; Kapali 2-45, Tapash 2-48) vs Sylhet.

BFF SIGNS BKSP DEAL

Bangladesh gets first football academy

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) long held dream of maintaining their own football academy came true yesterday when they signed a five-year deal with the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) to use their Sylhet facilities.

"We had desired to build a football academy for a long time but we could not do it due to financial problems. But our dream has finally come true after this agreement with the BKSP and I, on behalf of Bangladesh Football Federation would like to thank the Prime Minister and the Youth and Sports Ministry for their help in assigning the Sylhet BKSP solely for football," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin at the signing ceremony at the NSC Tower yesterday.

"After getting the clearance for the Sylhet BKSP, our first job now is to collect funds and then together with the jubilant footballers initiate the academy in one-and-a-half months," said the BFF boss.

He added that managing sponsors would be a tough job but not an impossible one as they were already in discussions with sponsors.

The Sylhet BSKP has a 100-student capacity dormitory, a dining hall, 20-official-and-staff quarters, two grounds, one gymnasium and one swimming pool but there is

still some work to be done until completion.

At the moment, there is no furniture at the dormitory and official-staff quarters, there has been no filtration at the swimming pool, and many more equipments have to be set up at the gymnasium before it is possible to turn the facility into a full-fledged football academy.

To use the Sylhet BKSP's infrastructure, the BFF will have to pay Tk 50,000 per month for five years and the football governing body sought help from the National Sports Council to equip the newly-built regional training centre of BKSP.

Kazi Salahuddin and BKSP director general Brigadier General MM Salehin signed the agreement for BFF and BKSP respectively.

"The talent hunt will get underway from January next and the academy will start from late February or early March," Salahuddin said. "We want two types of results from the academy. The first one is to get quick results through U-18, U-19 and U-20 footballers and then last one is to get long-term result after nursing U-14 players."

Explaining about the educational facilities at the academy, the BFF boss said that the players would get facilities to learn the basic education of Bengali, English and Mathematics.

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'Have to do well in 2nd dig'

BISHWAJIT ROY



Bangladesh To Pakistan
Chittagong, Dec 19, 2011

"It's part of the game." When Shakib Al Hasan made this comment with an inquisitive smile on his face, a few hours had already passed after the incident which deprived him of doing something special at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

But it was definitely not the case when his splendid knock ended with an unfortunate run-out. The left-hander was found gnashing his teeth at the indecision in the middle and why not? He looked so solid with the bat that the dream of a maiden double hundred by a Bangladesh batsman was forming in many minds. True he was far away from the milestone but the determination

and calmness in his batting raised hopes of a special achievement. But he had to stop on 144 runs, his best knock in Test cricket and overall the fourth best by any Bangladesh batsman.

"I am a little disappointed but in the end I am happy as I scored some runs. It would not be true if I say that the 200-run milestone was not in my mind," said the ever-confident former Bangladesh skipper when asked about the sad end to his solid innings. It was unlike Shakib when he said that the individual best score, the unbeaten 158 by Mohammad Ashraful, was also at the back of his mind.

There were a few appeals against him but Shakib never looked unsettled in the middle and the way he milked the singles was outstanding and gave his partner Mushfiqur Rahim enough confi-

dence to frustrate the Pakistani bowlers.

That is why the manner of his dismissal was painful. Captain Mushfiqur made the blunder when he called for a single to summon Shakib to the middle of the pitch only to send him back. Shakib tried to make it back, but Taufeeq Umar had picked it up running in from mid-on and shattered the stumps at the non-striker's end. Shakib was however not ready to blame his captain, instead saying, "It can happen in cricket."

"The target was to bat as long as possible. There was something in the pitch in the morning session otherwise the wicket was good for batting. My main focus was to contribute for my team. It would have been fantastic if we could bat all through the day," he added.

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Muktis sign Brazilian deal

SPORTS REPORTER

In the quest of getting some facilities from a Brazilian club, Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SB Saad EC, Brazil at the Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command yesterday.

SB Saad EC is a premier division club in Mota Grosso Do Sul, Brazil from where Muktiyoddha Sangsad has already roped in two players for the upcoming season.

Under the agreement, both clubs will travel to their counterparts clubs to play friendly matches, will exchange players, use each others training facilities, organise regular coaches' clinic and market the brand of the respective clubs.

"We will provide the accommodation, food and training facilities if the players from Muktiyoddha Sangsad are picked for the training which will be organised in the off-season. We will first see video footages of your players and our coaching staff will select them for training," said SB Saad EC president Romeo Cardalho de Castro at the signing ceremony.

"At the moment, we are not thinking of the financial

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