

Jamil made MSC cricket head

SPORTS REPORTER

Khandaker Jamiluddin has been made the chairman of Mohammedan Sporting Club's cricket committee, the club announced yesterday.

The 12-member panel for the 2011-12 season also includes Habibullah Don as the senior vice-chairman and five other vice-chairmen.

National cricketer Naeem Islam has been named skipper for the season while Sohel Islam is the coach.

Meanwhile, ASM Faruque will be the convenor of the newly-formed technical committee.



India fast bowler Umesh Yadav exults after cleaning up Australia opener David Warner on the third day of the first Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

Knife-edge MCG Test



Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

India struck back with four late wickets while Australia's Mike Hussey posted a defiant half-century to leave the first Test delicately poised at the close of the third day on Wednesday.

In a pulsating day of high drama at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, paceman Zaheer Khan dismissed Ricky Ponting for 60 to end a 115-run stand with middle-order batsman Hussey and spark another batting collapse for the hosts.

Hussey, under pressure to retain his place in the rebuilding team after a pair of golden ducks in his last two innings, hung on doggedly for 79 as his partners wilted, pushing Australia to 179-8 at stumps and an overall lead of 230.

The grizzled 36-year-old will resume with James Pattinson, a 21-year-old paceman on three not out in

his third Test, as they negotiate a wicket that showed enough on Day Three to encourage the seamers and keep a crowd of 40,000 at the MCG enthralled.

Despite Ponting and Hussey's defiant partnership, the day belonged to the bowlers with 15 wickets falling.

Australia paceman Ben Hilfenhaus, back in the Test side after a year in the freezer, played a key part early by taking five wickets to help skittle India for 282 after the tourists resumed on 214-3.

The 28-year-old bowled Rahul Dravid for 68 with the second ball of the day and blitzed India's middle-order to finish with a career-best innings haul of 5-75.

That gave Australia a lead of 51 after lunch, but any hopes of grinding India into the dust were dashed when the hosts' top-order collapsed spectacularly in the face of a pace onslaught from Umesh Yadav.

The rangy 24-year-old

had opener David Warner (five) and number three Shaun Marsh (three) both play onto their stumps and trapped Ed Cowan lbw for eight after he failed to offer a shot.

Paceman Ishant Sharma bowled skipped Michael Clarke through the gate for one to leave the hosts reeling at 27-4.

Hussey and Ponting doggedly dug in for their half-centuries to swing the momentum to the hosts, but Zaheer stole it back when he struck with a devastating spell after tea.

Zaheer coaxed Ponting into a miscued drive with his second ball that went straight to Virender Sehwag in the gully.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings 333 (Cowan 68, Ponting 62, Zaheer 4-77)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 214-3)

Gambhir c Haddin b Hilfenhaus	3
Sehwag b Pattinson	67
Dravid b Hilfenhaus	68
Tendulkar b Siddle	73
Sharma c Haddin b Hilfenhaus	11

Laxman c Haddin b Siddle	2			
Kohli c Haddin b Hilfenhaus	11			
Dhoni c Hussey b Hilfenhaus	6			
Ashwin c Haddin b Siddle	31			
Zaheer b Pattinson	4			
Yadav not out	2			
Extras: (w-1, nb-3)	4			
Total: (All out in 94.1 overs)	282			
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-97, 3-214, 4-214, 5-221, 6-238, 7-245, 8-254, 9-259				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pattinson	23	6	55	2
Hilfenhaus	26	5	75	5
Siddle	21.1	2	63	3
Lyon	17	2	66	0
Hussey	5	0	15	0
Warner	2	0	8	0
AUSTRALIA: Second innings				
Warner b Yadav	5			
Cowan lbw b Yadav	8			
Marsh b Yadav	3			
Ponting c Sehwag b Zaheer	60			
Clarke b Sharma	1			
Hussey not out	79			
Haddin c Laxman b Zaheer	6			
Siddle c Dhoni b Yadav	4			
Lyon lbw b Ashwin	0			
Pattinson not out	3			
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-1, nb-3)	10			
Total: (For 8 wkts in 60 overs)	179			
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-16, 3-24, 4-27, 5-142, 6-148, 7-163, 8-166				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	13	1	32	2
Yadav	15	3	49	4
Sharma	11	0	41	1

Sharma now Isshannt!



Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

Ishant Sharma has not been much of a handful for Australia's batsmen but the superstitious Indian pacer will at least become a real mouthful after tweaking his name in a bid to change his bowling fortunes.

The lanky 23-year-old is battling indifferent form and a fragile ankle but was diligently practising a new signature after a graphologist advised him to change the spelling of his name to 'Isshannt', local media reported on Wednesday.

Graphology is the study of hand-writing as expression of the writer's character.

"I do not know how and why, but I'm more at peace now since the signature change," the bowler was quoted as saying in a report that appeared in Hindustan Times newspaper.

However, there was little evidence in the first Test to suggest the tactic had worked as Sharma toiled without success in Australia's first innings but did claim a single victim in the home team's ongoing second innings in Melbourne.

Despite generating plenty of speed, Sharma's problem

could be the amount of time he is devoting to perfecting his new signature.

"Instinctively I still end up writing my old signature as it is hard to give up. But I'm working on it. I have so far exhausted about 20 notebooks practising.

"I haven't changed them in my bank account or official papers as that is a long drawn-out process," the bowler added.

His father, however, was unaware of his son's actions.

"I'm not sure about it. He remains Ishant on paper and I'm not aware if he has changed his autograph,"

Vijay Sharma told Reuters.

Even if he has, Sharma junior can hardly claim to be a trend-setter.

Former India captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth, head of the selection panel that picked Sharma for the four-Test series, is also believed to have added an extra lucky 'k' to his surname, although he would not confirm the switch.

The same recipe for success prompted former all-rounder Sanjay Bangar to spell his name 'Sunjoy' but his international career stalled after he played 12 Tests and 15 one-dayers between 2001-04.

The trend is much stronger in Bollywood, India's movie-churning machine, where Rakesh Roshan is known for directing films with titles beginning with 'K'.

Some other directors have thrown an additional letter into film titles while quite a few A-list actors have inserted an extra 'a' in their names in the hope that the extra vowel will result in extra income.

Blake to miss Australian Open

AFP, Paris

American James Blake is set to miss the Australian Open for a second straight year after tournament director Craig Tiley posted the news on Twitter.

"Just got word that James Blake has withdrawn from the Australian Open and Brisbane. Sorry to hear this and we wish James all the best," Tiley tweeted.

The Brisbane starts on January 1 with the Australian Open starting on January 16.

Blake, currently ranked 59, also missed out last year amid a variety of fitness battles.

Amol thru' to pre-qtrs

SPORTS REPORTER

Amol Roy of ERC beat Masud Bepari of BKSP 6-1, 6-1 to move to the men's singles pre-quarterfinal of the Runner Group Victory Day Open Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Court Complex Ramna yesterday.

In the other men's singles matches of the day, Nironjon Ram, Munir Hossain, Kanchan Ram, Wo Suye Suye, Dipu Lal, Jamil Bhuiyan, Mohi Uddin Sabuj, M Anwar Hossain, Hanif Munna, Biplob Ram, Arif Hossain, and Ranjan Ram won against their respective rivals to advanced to the pre-quarterfinals stage.

In the men's doubles events, M Selim and Shawan Das pair and Arif Hossain and Abu Ibrahim pair won their respective matches to move to the second round.

In the boy's singles 16 years event, Rana, Shawan Das, Mahin Reza Khan, Atul, Nabil, Shariful Islam, Rubel Hossain, Kawsar Ali and Noor Mohammad won their respective matches to reach the second round.

Team hopes

FROM PAGE 16

can't expect much from this event because the mat of floor event is newly laid and not really bouncy."

The 21-year old believed that Indian gymnast Ashish Kumar and Uzbekistan gymnasts Otabek Masharipov and Dautlet Narmetov would be his major rivals in the Parallel Bar competition.

Bangladesh has only one international bronze medal in gymnastic when Amir Ali, who is now acting as a judge of the tournament, won the Parallel Bar bronze from the first Central South Asian Gymnastics Championship held in India in 1995.

Bangladesh gymnast Tanvir Ahmed Sajib said that they are now more inspired at the presence of Syque and believes they could have done well in the competition had Syque joined the camp a month before.

"We have improved a lot in seven days. He made us aware of some points like judges' marking, corner marking etc. At the training camp, we need a gymnast like Syque, who is a complete gymnast," said Tanvir Ahmed Sajib.

Praising Syque, Bangladesh coach Dewan Nazrul Mohammad Hossain said, "Syque is the best ever Bangladeshi gymnast I have seen from my playing career that had started in 1974."

The championship got underway with a brief opening ceremony that featured a dance composition by Nriyanchal and a rhythmic gymnastic display.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith inaugurated the six-nation championship that will finish on Friday.

LOCAL snippets

School football tourney from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The National School Football Tournament begins today with Govt. Laboratory High School taking on Kakoli High School in the opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will formally inaugurate the country's biggest football meet to be participated by some one lakh booters of nearly 5,000 schools across the country. Seventy metropolis school teams, split into eight groups, will take part in the meet at the six city venues.

Kabaddi final round begins

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Tangail, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Police, Bogra and Bangladesh Army notched up victories on the first day of the final round of Meizan National Kabaddi Championship at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

BGB beat Mymensingh 69-24, Tangail defeated Rajshahi 20-8, Navy outplayed Khulna 40-13, Police defeated Comilla 39-14, Bogra outplayed Barisal 62-15 and Army thrashed Jessore 47-18 in the day's matches.

14 teams, split into four groups, are competing in the final round before the semifinals and final.

Feni cricket

Friendship Cricket Club thrashed Pubali Sangsad by 216 runs in their Feni First Division Cricket League match at the Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni on Tuesday. Batting first, Friendship put on 280 runs, courtesy of a century from Abu Bakar. Pubali's reply

Mash's wait

FROM PAGE 16

but you know I have to prove myself before that," he added.

Mashrafe was so frustrated with the latest injury that he was even thinking of saying goodbye to the longer version of cricket, but he has got back his confidence through the way he has been recovering from the injury.

"You all know this was the seventh operation on my knee, so you can understand what had been going through my mind when I again underwent surgery in May this year, but now I'm confident about reviving my Test career. Definitely, my goal is to prepare myself so that I can play Test cricket again. But before all that I want to perform well in the Premier League no matter how many matches I play," said Mashrafe.

BCB's physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury also expressed his optimism over Mashrafe's recovery.

"Mashrafe is now fine and hopefully he can play the Premier League from mid January next year. He is almost okay and giving seventy percent effort in his bowling. What we must ensure is that we manage him properly when we handle him in competitive cricket," opined Debashish.



PHOTO: STAR

Dipu Lal in action in a men's singles match of the Runner Group Victory Day Open Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Court Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Tricky ties

FROM PAGE 16

Their opening day opponents have roped in some of the younger talents, led by Tigers captain Mushfiqur Rahim. The likes of Sohrawardi Shuvo, Shamsur Rahman, Mehrab Hossain Jr, Dollar Mahmud and Mahmudul Hasan gives the promise of an exciting time for the Dhanmondi outfit, beginning with the first game at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Shahriar Nafees and Khaled Mashud will have to take major responsibilities for Prime Doleshwar, who are up against Gazi Tank in the other opening day game at the BKSP-2 ground in Savar.

Gazi Tank has retained Nasir Hossain and Alok Kapali while players like Mithun Ali, Sanjamul Haque, Kazi Kamrul Islam and Mominul Haque keeps them in contention as one of the favorites for the Super League.

All the teams however will also look to their three foreign recruits though this new system will definitely attract criticism if some of the bigger local names miss out.

Chopper ride

FROM PAGE 16

"It is practically impossible for them to reach the event on time, so we will have a helicopter pick from one ground and then go to the other. They will be dropped off at the Army Stadium near the hotel," said BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

জাতীয় স্কুল ফুটবল টুর্নামেন্ট ২০১১

ইসলামী ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর পৃষ্ঠপোষকতায়

শুভ উদ্বোধন

আজ ২৯ ডিসেম্বর বৃহস্পতিবার, বিকল ৩ টায়

বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতীয় স্টেডিয়ামে

এই প্রথম সারাদেশের

৪৮০০

স্কুল অংশগ্রহণ করছে

আকর্ষণীয় উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান ও খেলা সকল দর্শকদের জন্য উন্মুক্ত

বিকাল ৩টা থেকে উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান ও খেলা সরাসরি সম্প্রচার করবে এটিএন বাংলা

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় ও বাহুবল্লভ বৌদ্ধ উদ্যোগ

প্রধান পৃষ্ঠপোষক

মিডিয়া পার্টনার

আমিষান

Plan

আয়োজনে : বাংলাদেশ ফুটবল ফেডারেশন

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sweet potato

4 Wyoming neighbor

8 Medicinal amount

12 Id counterpart

13 The Eternal City

14 Physical

15 Baby picture?

17 Options list

18 Raw rock

19 Shenanigans

21 Those who shun animal products

24 Yuletide beverage

25 Listener

26 Car : jalopy :: boat : —

28 Hayseed

32 Memo acronym

34 — de plume

36 Queen of Carthage

37 Madagascar critter

DOWN

1 "Of course"

2 Past

3 Decorative lettering

4 High-priority

5 Anderson's "High —"

6 Oriental nurse-maid

7 Confine

8 Nearly divine one

9 The yoke's on them

10 Founder-ed

11 Ostriches' kin

16 Man-mouse link

20 Bliss

21 — scallopini

22 Relaxation

23 Baltimore newspaper

27 Jazzy style

29 Mass measure

30 Tend texts

31 Source of riches

33 Childish

35 Buddy

36 Catcher's place

40 Hercules had 12

43 Old anesthetic

45 Glutton

46 Engrossed

47 Reverberate

48 Pace

49 Unspecified amount

53 Back talk

54 Matter-horn, e.g.

55 Expression of disinterest

Solution time: 25 mins.

ALF MEAT SLED COE ERGO HALO TIT GRABACKS SNARU NIL TSAS NOMAC CUTBACKS MIMIE ONE EIEIO SON UTAH SETBACKS POLAR TUTU WOO UKASE KICKBACKS WON EDIE FREE LUV NOIR SGAR SPY

CRYPTOQUIP

FZWR F ZBYHU USZEN JZWY

SEFFULYYHJ' UNZLYWYLN

QZH NGYRH JRLJ: "NGY

BRHUNYJ ZQ BYLULFY."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ACTOR PLAYS A "STAR TREK" NAVIGATOR, I RECKON YOU MIGHT SAY HE GIVES A SULU PERFORMANCE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F