

BD Boys, Eskaton on course

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Boys defeated Partex by six wickets in their First Division Super League match at the BKSP-3 ground yesterday.

Being sent into bat, Partex were bundled out for 120 in 39.5 overs with Nayeem taking 4-35. In reply Bangladesh Boys reached their target in just 25.3 overs with Mokhlesur Rahman top scoring with 47.

In the other match, Eskaton Sabuj Sangho defeated Kalabagan Cricket Academy by just one wicket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium in a closely-contested affair.

Batting first, Kalabagan scored 213 for seven in 48 overs with Mostafiz taking four wickets.

In reply, Eskaton won the match in the last ball with Jonny top scoring for them with 42 runs.

Security team

FROM PAGE 16 the report of the security team," he added.

The BCB promised to send a security team when Pakistan Cricket Board president Zaka Ashraf visited Dhaka last month. PCB are desperately looking to revive international cricket in their country through Bangladesh's visit.

Pakistani cricket has suffered a dearth of international tours to the country since 2009 after an attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore.

In another decision, the board has asked the disciplinary committee to summon two Gazi Tank cricketers -- Mominul Haque and Asif Ahmed -- for their failure to report to the Bangladesh A team. "We want a recommendation regarding these players' absence," said Yunus.

Gazi Tank, the Premier League club, didn't release the two players for national duty which created chaos to form a team for the limited-over warm-up match against the visiting England Lions on Friday.

The meeting also decided that each member of the Bangladesh women's cricket team will receive taka one lac for getting ODI status while the board will also approach the relevant authorities for using a vacant area adjacent to the National Academy Ground for the training of women cricketers.

F'ganj stun

FROM PAGE 16 the second minute Nigerian forward Ulaelekan Joshua unleashed a powerful shot from 20 yards out that needed a fingertip save from Farashganj keeper Sultan.

Farashganj made their first serious attack in the 20th minute when striker Ridon broke free and cut the ball back for Nigerian midfielder Peter whose centre was headed wide by Sabbir.

Farashganj had another excellent scoring opportunity in the 63rd minute when forward Pushbon Mollah fed his Congolese partner Siyo Zunapiyo a nice through pass but Zunapiyo placed the ball straight at the Brothers goalie Raghu.

However, Zunapiyo made amends for that missed chance in the 86th minute when he, receiving the ball from skipper Jewel Rana in the midfield, unleashed a powerful shot to beat the keeper and break the deadlock.

Farashganj coach Kamal Babu said his charges delivered on his plans to eke out the valuable win. Kamal's counterpart Naemuuddin felt his side didn't play that badly but rued the missed chances. He however felt that they have a good chance of making it to the next round by winning the last match.



Army chief General M Abdul Mubeen (4th from R) inaugurates the Trust Bank-Viyellatex 28th National Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Goals galore on Day 1



SPORTS REPORTER

Goals rained on the opening day of the Trust BankViyellatex 28th National Hockey Competition as Dhaka, BKSP and Faridpur inflicted heavy defeats on their opponents at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Star-studded Dhaka romped Rangpur by 15-0 goals in the first match, thanks to five goals with a hattrick from Iqbal Nadir Prince and four, including a hattrick, from former national skipper Rassel Mahmud Jimmy.

Prince started the rout scoring in the second minute before he struck two more in the sixth and eighth minutes to complete his hattrick. Then Jimmy scored his first in the 11th minute before Prince scored his fourth two minutes later. The first half ended 7-0 as Sheikh Mohammad Nannu and Mamunur

Rashid scored one each. Jimmy raced to his hattrick scoring three goals in the space of six minutes at the start of the second half before Prince got his fifth in the 45th minutes, all five of his goals being field goals. Nannu added another while Chandan, John and Faysal chipped in too with a goal each as Dhaka completed a 15-0 rout of hapless Rangpur.

There was no respite for Chittagong too as BKSP put 11 goals past them, with Salman Sadik scoring three while Rabbi Salehin and Deen Islam scoring two apiece. Farhad, Joy, Shueb and Rayhan scored the other goals. Mamunur Rahman Chayan scored three goals as Faridpur Police AC won 5-0 in the last match of the day.

Earlier, president of Bangladesh Olympic Association and chairman of Trust Bank, Army chief General M Abdul Mubeen inaugurated the meet as chief guest where the president of Bangladesh Hockey Federation and other officials were also present.

Pup toast of Australia



AFP, Sydney

Captain Michael Clarke was Saturday praised as the force behind Australia's second Test victory over India, in which he scored a triple century and took the crucial wicket of Sachin Tendulkar.

Australia won the second Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground by an innings and 68 runs on Friday, helped by Clarke's unbeaten first innings total of 329 runs, which allowed the skipper to declare at a massive 659.

Not content with his efforts with the bat, Clarke then gave himself the ball on Friday, claiming Tendulkar with one of his left-arm spin deliveries when the master batsman was on 80.

The ball, which enticed Tendulkar forward to get a thin edge and was caught by Mike Hussey at first slip, once again robbed the "Little Master" of claiming his 100th international century.

"Is there anything he can't do?" read a headline in Sydney's Daily Telegraph above a photograph of a jubilant Clarke celebrating Tendulkar's dismissal.

"Few people have ever upstaged Sachin Tendulkar. No one is likely to do it more completely than Michael Clarke in this 100th SCG Test," wrote Malcolm Conn in the tabloid.

"Is there nothing Clarke can't do as captain? A triple century one day, the prized

wicket of Tendulkar the next."

The fall of Tendulkar's wicket was an important turning point in the game, leaving the Indians at 4-271. The tourists managed to get to 400 but were all out with runs still to chase on Australia's first innings total.

"He took only one wicket yesterday, but it may as well have been five, for when Sachin Tendulkar falls, a trapdoor opens beneath the innings," wrote Peter Lalor in the Australian.

Other commentators continued to compare the Australian skipper to the late Don Bradman, with The Australian saying he "went one better than the Don" by leading from the front with the ball as well as the bat.

The fresh-faced, tattooed Clarke, nicknamed Pup, has won over new fans with his display of sharp captaincy and superb batting at his home ground of the SCG.

"Clarke can bat, can bowl, can captain," read a headline in the Sydney Morning Herald above a story that continued that the skipper could do no wrong.

"Clarke led Australia in every way," wrote Chloe Saltau. "The 30-year-old commander the Sydney Test with bat, ball and positive captaincy, his declaration halfway through day three enabling his team to crush India within four days for the second time in as many matches."

Australia now go into the third Test in Perth 2-0 but the celebrations have been marred by news that rising star quick James Pattinson will be out for the rest of the series due to a foot injury.

'We've got over scandal'



AFP, Lahore

Captain Misbahul Haq insisted on Saturday that Pakistan had thoroughly dispelled all thoughts of the spot-fixing scandal that engulfed his side, ahead of the series against England.

It was against the same opposition, in August 2010, that a British tabloid exposed the scheme that ended in jail terms for Test captain Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer, and roiled the sport in Pakistan and beyond.

"The Pakistan team has already proved a lot and the scandal is no more on our minds," Misbah said ahead of the three-match Test series between top-ranked England and a resurgent Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"It's quite clear now that

nobody has kept that scandal on his mind and everyone is just focusing on cricket and will do the same in this series by focusing on cricket," said Misbah, who replaced Butt as Test captain.

Speaking at the conclusion of a training camp in Lahore, Misbah, 37, praised his team's resolve after the scandal.

"I must say that this team has focused on cricket on and off the field and that is why we have done well," said Misbah, under whom Pakistan have not lost any series since being defeated by England in 2010.

He said that Pakistan will have an advantage this time because they know the conditions in the UAE, where they have been playing since 2008 because most teams refuse to tour the South Asian country over security fears.

"Playing in Pakistan would have been different,

National basketball

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna, Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Police won their respective second round matches of the Citycell 25th National Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Khulna beat Bangladesh Police by 62-53 points after trailing the first half 32-26. Bappi and Nahid scored 16 and 15 points respectively for the winners while Emilon caged 20 points for Police.

Bangladesh Air Force registered a hard-fought 67-60 point victory over Dhaka after leading the first half by 33-28 points. Masum caged highest 19 points for Air Force.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Police overpowered Satkhira by 76-57 points. The winners were off to a flier, leading by 33-28 points at the breather.

BIS group champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh International School emerged Group G champions in the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament beating Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment School by 2-0 goals in the final at the Uttara Friends Society ground yesterday.

Earlier, Bangladesh International School edged past Banani Bidya Niketon by a solitary goal while Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment School defeated Civil Aviation High School by 3-1 goals in a penalty shootout in the two semifinals at the same venue.

Starc in for Pattinson

PTI, Sydney

Left-arm seamer Mitchell Starc is the only change, coming in place of injured fast bowler James Pattinson, in the 12-man Australian squad for the third Test against India in Perth, starting on January 13.

Pattinson is carrying an injury in his left foot and has consequently been ruled out of the remainder of the four-match Test series.

Like Pattinson, Starc is too a 21-year-old fast bowler who is rated immensely even though he has just four wickets from two Tests he has played. The 1.96m tall New South Wales bowler is known to generate tremendous pace and bounce.

SQUAD

Michael Clarke (captain), Brad Haddin (vice-captain), Ed Cowan, Ryan Harris, Ben Hilfenhaus, Mike Hussey, Nathan Lyon, Shaun Marsh, Ricky Ponting, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc, David Warner.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Abounds	1 Unisex
6 Pulitzer Prize category	2 Pass by
11 Dormant	
12 We get down from them	
14 Alter	
15 Moocher	
16 With it	
17 War-bucks' ward	
19 Wine cask	
20 Celtic language	
22 "Le Coq —"	
23 Like Yale since 1969	
24 Place	
26 Slows the progress of	
28 Peregrinate	
30 Muppet eagle	
31 Wealthy	
35 Minion of Satan	
39 Addict	
40 Have a bug	
42 Tibetan monk	
3 Dark time, in verse	
4 Ginormous	
5 Be prodigal	
6 Wants	
7 Ready for the picking	
8 Big bother	
9 Personal counselor	
10 Debated	
11 Heart problems?	
13 Transmits	
18 Neither mate	
21 Avid	
23 Ship of the desert	
25 Rotation duration	
27 Slight bit	
29 Casino personnel	
31 Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher	
32 Husband/ brother of	
33 Outer-space gas cloud	
34 Accomplished	
36 Lode-stone, so to speak	
37 Alphas' opposites	
38 Finger-pointer	
41 Inmate with no hope of parole	
44 Curved molding	
45 Sea eagle	
48 Put the kibosh on	
50 Egos' counterparts	

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	A	S	I	S	M	F	D	A
A	L	A	M	O	N	E	O	E
H	E	M	A	N	S	A	M	U
J	O	E	L	E	T	S	A	W
I	D	E	A	S	T	A	I	R
M	E	D	D	L	E	U	N	E
A	I	R	E	D	R	A	I	D
W	E	D	G	E	X	I	I	M
A	M	O	I	D	E	T	R	O
S	A	M	O	V	A	R	I	N
T	I	E	A	N	T	S	C	E
E	L	D	N	A	S	H	E	R

Stars under attack



AFP, New Delhi

Pressure mounted on India's ageing cricket stars Saturday after their dismal batting performances on tour in Australia, with former players calling for an injection of youth to the side.

India suffered their sixth successive overseas Test defeat, including four in England last year, when they lost to Australia by an innings and 68 runs in Sydney on Friday to go 2-0 down in the four-match series.

Fragile batting has cost the tourists dearly in both Tests despite the presence of prolific run-getters including Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Venkatsai Laxman and Virender Sehwagin the squad.

The tourists managed 282, 169 and 191 in three of their four innings before making 400 on a Sydney featherbed on Friday.

"India is paying for a short-sighted selection policy over the last few years," former Australia captain Ian Chappell wrote in the Hindustan Times.

"The batting line-up has been crying out for an injection of youth and perhaps six overseas losses in succession will convince the selectors of the error of their ways.

"Part of the art of batting is to learn from mistakes and the Indian batsmen, Tendulkar included, are paying for repeatedly falling into the same trap," he said.

Dravid and Tendulkar, the world's top two scorers in Test cricket, will soon be 39 while Laxman is 37.

"The selectors are now faced with making changes when the team is down, never the ideal time for bleeding young players," Chappell wrote.

"Nevertheless, they have nothing to lose; the seniors are struggling to cope with a

rampant Australian bowling attack and maybe a bit of youthful brashness will change India's fortunes."

Tendulkar, one ton away from an unprecedented 100th international century, has been India's best batsman in the series with 226 runs in two Tests, including an 80 on Friday.

Former India captain Kapil Dev said no one should take their place in the team for granted.

"A line-up may look brilliant on paper, but whether it's the best or not depends how it fares on the given day," Dev told the Hindustan Times.

"Retirement is something a player should understand. But if you are not performing and the team isn't winning, your past laurels shouldn't help you retain a berth."

Another former captain, Dilip Vengsarkar, told the Times of India newspaper the "scary part" about Indian cricket was that "nobody knows how the turnaround will happen".

"The bitter truth is that we don't have new champion players who can take up the mantle," he said. "We might have left the best behind. The big batting guns have long covered up other shortcomings but they are nearing the end.

"The increased dependence on Tendulkar after more than two decades is a sign of poverty."

Meanwhile, former batting great Sunil Gavaskar lashed out at the players for skip-practice during the tour.

"Christmas is big in Australia and it's understandable for Australian players taking off after the first Test," he said on the NDTV news channel.

"But what were our players doing? Why were not they doing practice? Have they gone there for sightseeing or play cricket?"

The third Test starts in Perth on Friday.

Czechs lift Hopman Cup



AFP, Perth

The Czech Republic thrashed France to lift their second Hopman Cup on Saturday as world number two Petra Kvitova sent warning signals to her closest rivals ahead of the Australian Open.

Kvitova put her country ahead with the first victory of the day against Marion Bartoli, and her teammate Tomas Berdych wrapped up the contest beating Richard Gasquet, with neither dropping a set. The mixed doubles was not played.

Unbeaten in her three previous singles matches in Perth, including beating world number one Caroline Wozniacki on Friday, Kvitova was too good for ninth-ranked Bartoli.

Kvitova won 10 of the last 11 games on her way to an impressive 7-5, 6-1 win, while Berdych, ranked seventh, overpowered the 19th-ranked Gasquet, 7-6 (7-0), 6-4.

Berdych was thrilled to have claimed one of the unique diamond-encrusted tennis balls presented to the winners and he paid tribute to Kvitova's form during the tournament.

"Petra won all that she can, and I had some wins, and we are able to be here with such a nice trophy."

Kvitova said it was the perfect start to 2012, as she eyes the first Grand Slam of the year starting Monday week in Melbourne.

"It is great to win at the beginning of the season," she said, adding that her form against Bartoli was better than against

Wozniacki a day earlier.

Bartoli, 27, was up a break at 5-3 against Kvitova and served for the first set, but last year's Wimbledon champion turned on the quality to reel off the next seven games and seize control.

She hammered a forehand winner from the Bartoli serve to seal the first set after 59 minutes, and the 21-year-old continued in the same blistering form to earn an early break in the second set.

The Frenchwoman has one of the biggest serves on the women's circuit, but had no answer to the Czech's booming forehand, and Kvitova broke her three times in succession.

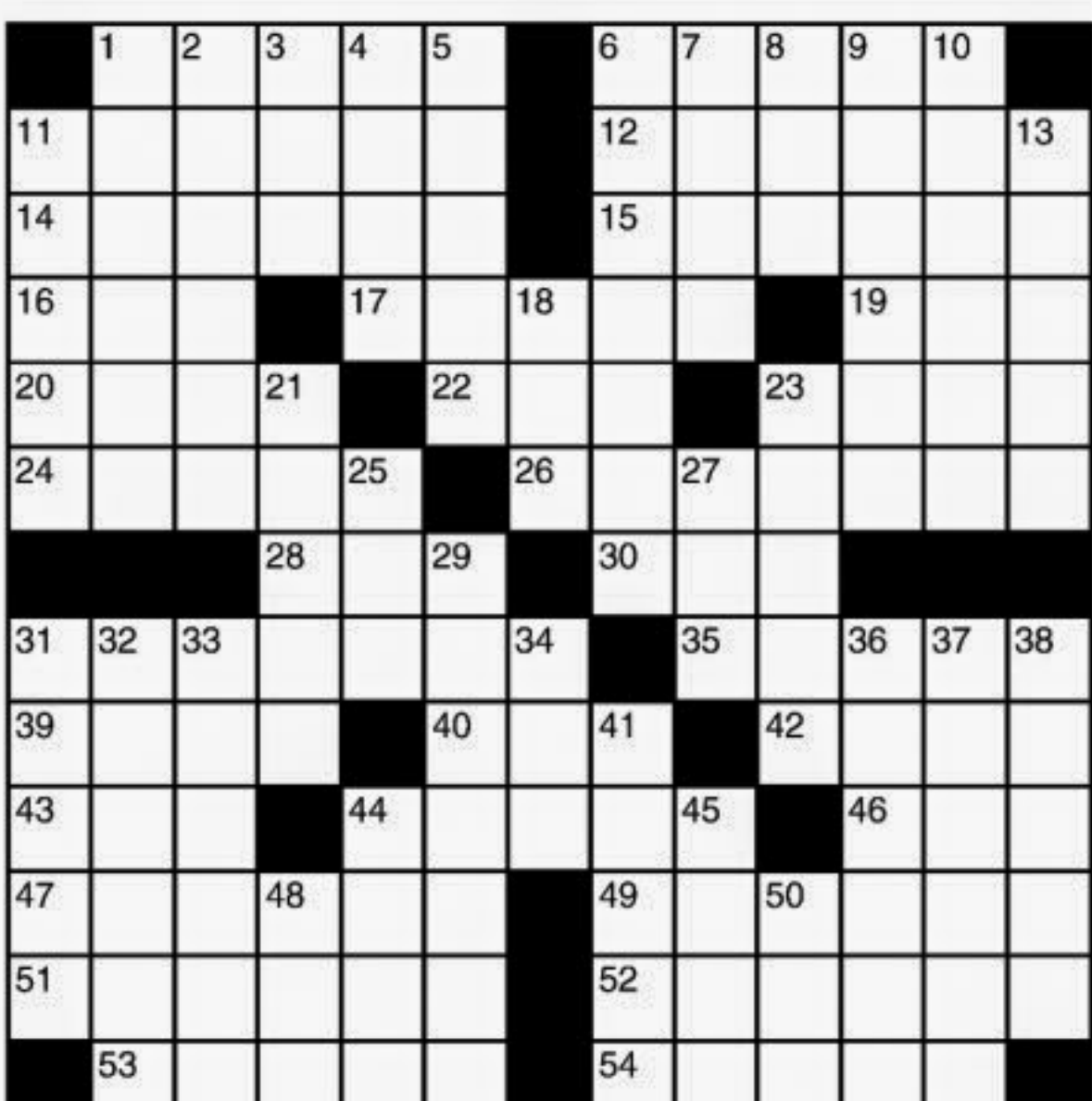
The Czech left-hander served out the match to love to wrap up a commanding performance that again signalled her intention to claim the top ranking off Denmark's Wozniacki.

In the men's singles, Berdych and Gasquet traded blows from the back of the court, but the Czech emulated his teammate with a raft of forehand winners that wore down his opponent.

Gasquet clawed back one break and saved three match points in the ninth game, before Berdych served out the match with an ace.

It was the second title for the Czech Republic, after Jana Novotna and Petr Korda lifted the Hopman Cup in 1994, while it was two losses out of two for France after their defeat in 1998.

Czechoslovakia also won the inaugural Cup in 1989.



CRYPTOQUIP

V Y . B Y T B A E R B O X Y R X Q K
L Y E T W E T F C K K A X , R K J E R
C N L L E X R N R N B H H G V B W X
J E V Q J X L X R E - F T B Q X L L Y E O X Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD SOMEONE CALL SPECIAL DIPLOMAS IF THEY WERE MODERATELY TALL? DEGREES FAIR IN HEIGHT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals D