

Star SPORT

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Ukraine keeper fails drugs test

Ukraine international goalkeeper Alexander Rybka faces a two-year ban after testing positive for a banned substance contained in a weight-loss product, local media reported Friday. Reports said that the samples, which the 24-year-old Shakhtar Donetsk player gave after a domestic league match in November, contained a banned diuretic. "After November's league match with Karpaty Lviv, Rybka took the diuretic in attempt to lose some weight," said Shakhtar general manager Sergei Palkin. "After UEFA discovered that his samples contained the banned medication they sent us a letter demanding to suspend him from matches under UEFA control."



Muktar's shot at the Sky

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The best game of the season so far unveiled itself slowly at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Though the result -- Victoria Sporting Club managing a nail-biting three-wicket win over holders Abahani in the Dhaka Premier League -- was mightily important, the rise and fall of fortunes of both teams made for enthralling viewing for the tiny crowd that turned up braving the chilly weather. There was no shortage of excitement and drama as Abahani recovered from 30 for three to put up a fighting total of 253 and Victoria chasing down the total through last over drama where No 9 batsman Muktar Ali became the hero for his match-winning six off the last ball, when three runs were required.

It was nerve-wrecking stuff as paceman Abul Hasan ran in for the final over with 15 required to win. Muktar smashed the first

two balls for boundaries before he and Mosharraf Hossain picked up two singles and a two off the next three. The final shot was emphatic, the slower ball from Hasan deposited over long-off's head for a six. Muktar took off like a mad man in the direction of on-rushing teammates and shell-shocked Abahani players.

Muktar was unbeaten on a 10-ball 24 while Mosharraf made a crucial 18 off 25 balls. The shot by Muktar was the loudest as it silenced the noisy Sky Blue supporters and helped Victoria return to the winning ways.

Shakib wrote the first act of the drama, picking up two top-order wickets after opening the bowling.

Abahani's skipper Mahmudullah hit a well-composed hundred to defy his opposite number's burst. He joined Marshall Ayub to repair the early damage adding a 93-run fourth wicket stand with the latter

making 57 off 96 balls. Riyad added a further 94 for the sixth wicket with Farhad Hossain, which gave Abahani a good total

to fight with.

Riyad, who was congratulated by Tamim Iqbal running in from the boundary line upon reaching the century, ended up on an unbeaten 109 off 125 balls. The shot by Muktar was the loudest as it silenced the noisy Sky Blue supporters and helped Victoria return to the winning ways.

Victoria slipped from 180-1 to 203-6 and at one stage, it seemed Abahani will have the last laugh. Shakib's dismissal stood out as the left-hander threw away his wicket at a crucial moment when he needed to finish the game. The world's No 1 all-rounder skied the ball to Riyad but Sabbir Rahman and Mosharraf revived the hope through a 27-run stand for the seventh wicket.

The 168-run partnership between Tamim was broken when Tamim played uppishly against pacer Peter Trego, the

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A MOMENT TO SAVOUR: Victoria Sporting Club's Muktar Ali lets out a victory cry after he hit a six off the last ball to take his team home against Abahani during their nerve-tingling Dhaka Premier League game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Kapali to lead 'A'

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Alok Kapali will lead the Bangladesh A team against the visiting England Lions in the fourth and fifth one-day matches at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium.

The fourth match will be held tomorrow and the fifth and final one-dayer will take place on January 18.

The home side is leading the series 2-1.

The selectors continued to change the team.

4TH ONE DAYER SQUAD

Alok Kapali (captain), Imrul Kayes, Nasir Uddin Faruque, Jahurul Islam, Rokibul Hasan, Mohammad Mithun (wicketkeeper), Naeem Islam, Mosharraf Hossain, Shohag

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MSC, Gazi win easily

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club continued their excellent run in the Dhaka Premier League through a six-wicket win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other game at the BKSP in Savar, Gazi Tank beat Cricket Coaching School by five wickets but the point of interest was the return of one-time national cricketer Al Shahriar who turned out for CCS. But the stylish batsman was dismissed for a duck in his Dhaka return after three seasons.

KALABAGAN-MSC

Syed Rasel sunk Kalabagan to their knees in the first hour of play when the left-arm seamer picked up three vital wickets at the top.

From 39-4, Kalabagan somewhat recovered through Nazimuddin Ripon and Abid Ali as the pair added 54 for the fifth wicket, but once they fell after getting starts, the

game tapered off. Kalabagan were bowled out for 145 runs in 47.1 overs. Rasel's three apart, Yasim Murtaza and Hammad Azam took wickets two each.

Mohammedan took 39.4 overs to knock off the target. Their skipper Naeem Islam struck an important half-century while Imrul Kayes made 45.

CCS-GAZI TANK

Apart from Al Shahriar's return, there wasn't much to write home about for CCS, who were dismissed for 132 runs in 37.1 overs. Pakistan discard Mohammad Sami took four wickets, three of which came at the end.

Gazi Tank spent 29.3 overs to reach 135-5 with Nasir Hossain hammering eleven boundaries in his unbeaten 62.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KALABAGAN: 145 all out in 47.1 overs (Nazimuddin 31, Abid 29; Rasel 3-12, Yasim 2-16, Hammad 2-34)

MSC: 149-4 in 39.3 overs (Imrul 45, Naeem 53 not out; Shahadat 2-30)

Result: MSC won by six wickets.

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Fed Cup revised

SPORTS REPORTER

All the quarterfinals, semifinals and final of the Grameenphone Federation Cup will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) in different times, as the Bangladesh Football Federation rescheduled the knock-out round matches yesterday. The first quarterfinal will be held on Monday with BJMC taking on Rahmatganj MFS at 2:30 pm while Muktijoddha Sangsad will take on Farashganj SC at 5:30 pm at the same venue.

The other two quarterfinals will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday at the same venue. The final will be held at 4 pm on January 24.

Questionable players' list

SPORTS REPORTER

BPL There is a lot of talk among the local cricketers ahead of their auction for the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) which will be held on January 19.

National selectors alongside the BPL governing council have put together an 82-member list divided into three categories. Some of the more accomplished cricketers are expecting a huge pay day while the lesser-known ones are crossing their fingers for a lucky break.

"The BPL governing council and we, the selectors, have put a lot of thought into putting together the list. We have tried to make sure that those placed in the top two grades have a better chance of getting a team in the competition," said chief selector Akram Khan.

Though Grade A and B are largely fine, the placement of Aftab Ahmed, Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury and Faisal Hossain is quite surprising given their style of cricket. But Akram believed that it was performance that ultimately counted.

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Whatmore in Lahore for interview

AFP, Lahore

Dav Whatmore, the man tipped to become Pakistan's next cricket coach, arrived for an interview in Lahore Saturday, moving a step closer to taking the sport's hot seat.

The 57-year-old former Australian batsman, who coached Sri Lanka to World Cup glory in 1996, is the favourite to replace Waqar Younis who quit the post in September last year over health issues.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) appointed former opener Mohsin Khan as an interim coach against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh but

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Women shooters fail too

SPORTS REPORTER

Following the footsteps of their male compatriots, Bangladesh's female shooters too failed in their favourite 10m Air Rifle event in the 12th Asian Championship in Doha yesterday to fall short of the required points for qualification in the 2012 London Olympics.

Bangladesh's best hope Sharmin Ratna ended on 19th position with 394 points in, falling short by three points. The other two Bangladeshi participants in this category -- Tripti Dutta finished 26th with 392 points and Sharmin Akhter finished 36th with 388 points. None of them made it to the final round as the final round featured the top eleven qualifiers.

The surprising result came in the 10m Air Rifle Junior's event where Bangladesh's Sadia Sultan missed a bronze medal by a 0.1 point. Sadia scored 395 points in qualification and 101 in the final for an aggregate of 496. The winner of this category notched up 499 points while the bronze medallist scored 496.1 points.



Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni looks distraught as India stare down the barrel after the second day of the third Test against Australia at the WACA in Perth yesterday.

India on a downer

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Another dismal performance by India's creaking top-order had the tourists tottering towards a heavy defeat after the second day of the third Test against Australia in Perth on Saturday.

At the close of play, India, needing to win to have any hope of retaining the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, were 88 for four in their second innings after yet another collapse, an overall deficit of 120 runs.

Veteran Rahul Dravid was unbeaten on 32 and Virat Kohli on 21.

Australia were dismissed earlier for 369 in their first innings, bolstered by a pugnacious 180 from opener David Warner, giving the home side an overall lead of 208 after the Indians made just 161 in their first innings.

India paceman Umesh Yadav, who was a rare chink of light for the tourists as he took his first five-wicket haul in Test cricket, put on a brave face.

"There are still three days left in the game," he said.

Yadav's one-man heroics gave his Indian side some hope, but their ageing top-order batsmen again failed to deliver in the

second innings.

As was the case in their 122-run defeat in Melbourne and innings loss in Sydney, the Indian rot set in early in their second time with the bat.

Left-arm paceman Mitchell Starc picked up the wicket of opener Gautam Gambhir (14), caught in the slips from a steaming delivery in his first over.

Out-of-form opener Virender Sehwag never looked comfortable and fell to Peter Siddle one run later for 10, while Sachin Tendulkar will have to wait at least one more Test for his 100th international century, after being trapped leg-before wicket by Starc for a paltry eight.

VVS Laxman's poor series continued when he was caught in the slips off Ben Hilfenhaus for a nine-ball duck as India slumped to 51-4.

Australia resumed the second day at 149 for no wicket and looked set to bat the Indians out of the match when openers Warner and Ed Cowan put on 214 for the first wicket.

However, three wickets fell to Yadav before lunch -- Cowan (74), Shaun Marsh (11) and Ricky Ponting (seven) -- sparking a brief Indian fightback.

U-19 team for practice

SPORTS REPORTER

The selectors announced a 14-member Bangladesh U-19 squad for the practice match against England U-19 team.

The match will be held in Chittagong on January 18.

During the tour, England Under-19 will play seven limited-over games against their Bangladesh counterparts.

SQUAD Aslam Hossain, Al Amin, Touhid Tareq Khan, Salman Hossain, Mosaddeq Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Dewan Sabbir, Al-Rasel, Abu Zayed, Nasum Ahmed, Naeem Islam, Zakaria Masud, Shahriar Sumon and Liton Kumar Das.

NATIONAL HOCKEY Patuakhali beat Comilla

SPORTS REPORTER

Patuakhali beat Comilla by 5-2 goals in the lone match of the Trust Bank-Viyellatex 28th National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Sumon scored three goals while Sohel and Arif scored one apiece for Patuakhali. Nabil and Asibul scored a goal each for the losing team.