

Star SPORT

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Love will keep Ana going

Glamour girl Ana Ivanovich has an added incentive to make further progress at the Australian Open -- golf-star boyfriend Adam Scott will stick around for as long as she stays in the tournament. When asked if Scott, who plays on the US PGA Tour, would stay in Melbourne, the former world number one said: "Yeah, that's the deal. I really hope I can go far and spend another week here. That would be fun to compete next Saturday."

- AFP



PHOTO: STAR

England Lions players celebrate their 32-run win over Bangladesh A in the first Twenty20 game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Lions trounce A team

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Lacklustre batting cost Bangladesh A victory in the first Twenty20 game against England Lions by 32 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The target of 144 runs was never a daunting task on a slow featherbed at the Mirpur ground but it never realised into a proper chase as the home side were bowled out for 111 runs in 20 overs.

Imrul Kayes started off with a bang, two in fact, when he hammered two sixes early in the piece. But after Nazimuddin was stumped by Jonny Bairstow off Danny Briggs, a swinging Imrul was cleaned up by Nathan Buck for a 19-ball 23.

Skipper Jahurul Islam then saw a flurry of wickets fall at the other end which included two needless run-outs, though the one of Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury was more down to the brilliance of Jos Buttler who threw down the stumps from long-off.

Jahurul held the key but still attacked, hitting leg-spinner Scott Brothwick for two sixes (high over long-on and square-leg), but fell to a catch at long-on where his well-timed shot went straight to Alex Hales off the bowling of Stuart Meaker.

Paceman Buck was the best bowler of the lot, picking up three wickets while left-arm spinner Danny Briggs took two wickets. Also, Bairstow's wicketkeeping stood out, especially the brilliant stumping to dismiss Sohag Gazi off a Briggs quicker ball.

It was Jason Roy who took the initiative for England Lions after they chose to bat first. The upright right-hander struck seven boundaries in his 19-ball 40 but fell in the ninth over when he missed a Mosharraf Hossain Rubel delivery to be out bowled.

James Vince held the innings together with his 33-ball 32 while skipper Taylor tapped the ball around for 28 off 30 balls, but the tourists missed out on the final flourish.

Rubel ended with two wickets while Sohrawardi Shuvo, Nazmul Hossain and

BFF rejects Russel, MSC appeals

SPORTS REPORTER

The professional football league committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday rejected the appeals of a couple of the clubs to sign new foreign players ahead of the Bangladesh Premier League starting from February 1.

Sheikh Russel KC and Mohammedan SC wanted to sign new foreign players outside the registration period under the FIFA registration clause 6.1, which states 'players may only be registered during one of the two annual registration periods fixed by the relevant association. As an exception to this rule, a professional

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MSC spending heavy

Transfer bourse opens Feb 15

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

With three weeks still left to the resumption of the hockey inter-club players' transfers window, Mohammedan SC have already made a buzz by confirming three of the top national players. Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Kamruzzaman Rana and Imran Hasan Pintu have reportedly signed fresh contracts with the club for a big amount of payment.

The Black and Whites are also in discussion with Abahani players Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Moshir Rahman Biplob and Puskor Khisha Mimo in a bid to defend their title. The three-day transfer will begin from February 15, nearly two and a half years after the last transfer took place in 2009.

Jimmy has reportedly been paid Tk 6 lakhs, the highest payment in hockey transfer history, breaking the earlier payment record of Tk 4.5 lakhs that he got from Mohammedan two seasons ago.

Chayan is also set to get Tk 6 lakhs though the penalty corner specialist is bargaining

for Tk 6.5 lakhs. It has been learnt that Pintu, Rana and the other players are getting somewhere around Tk 4 lakhs.

"Yes, I am going to play for Mohammedan this season too which has been confirmed 15 days ago," said Jimmy adding that he has already been paid the whole amount.

"Since the 2009-10 transfer, the players have been virtually sitting idle as there were no competitions. However, the amount that Mohammedan is paying this time will compensate for that to some extent," said the national striker.

"The way Mohammedan is approaching the players is positive and I think they are going to form the best possible team this season," said Jimmy.

Mohammedan have already appointed former captain Ariful Haque Prince as team manager as well as the club's representative at the hockey league committee.

Prince informed that they are on the verge of roping in Chayan, Mimo and Biplob from Abahani and Shamsuddin Tuhin from Usha Krirachakra and hope of signing them within

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Faridpur, Army in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Faridpur and Bangladesh Army moved to the final of the Trust Bank-ViyellaTex 28th National Hockey Championship beating their respective rivals in the semi-finals at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Faridpur defeated Bangladesh Navy 2-0 in the first semifinal. Veteran Musa Mia opened the scoring with a field goal in the 5th minute before Khondokar Hasan Ahmed sealed the match from a penalty corner in the 28th minute.

In the second semi, Bangladesh Army eked out a 1-0 victory over Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) at the same venue.

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PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's National Hockey Championship match between Bangladesh Army and BKSP at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

U-18 CRICKET BKSP, Dhaka Metro win big

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP handed Dhaka North an innings and one-run defeat within two days of their National Under-18 Cricket competition at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore on Saturday.

Batting first, Dhaka North were bowled out for 89 to which BKSP replied with 232. In the end, Dhaka North could only manage 142 in their second innings.

BKSP's Joyraj Shaikh was man-of-the-match for making 111 runs.

Yesterday, the match between Chittagong and Dhaka South ended in a draw at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra. Batting first, Chittagong made 178-9 declared and in reply, Dhaka South made 222-6 declared. Chittagong then were bowled out for 106 in their second innings when the match petered out to a draw.

Ariful Islam of Dhaka South was adjudged man-of-the-match for making 112 runs. In the other matches, Dhaka Metro defeated Rangpur by 10 wickets at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi while Barisal were awarded winners after Sylhet refused to play at the Faridpur District Stadium.

BPL won't change rule for Sylhet

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Premier League's governing council are adamant to keep the icon players' magnitude intact after one franchise protested their latest ruling.

The Sylhet Royals are urging the authorities to change the decision that was taken on Saturday which had the six icons - Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shahriar Nafees, Alok Kapali and Mohammad Ashraful -- getting five per cent more than the highest paid local cricketer.

In that case, they will receive 210,000 dollars as Nasir Hossain was contracted for 200,000 dollars by Khulna. But it was learned that the Sylhet franchise wants to pay 5 per cent more than their highest-paid local, which is 90,000 dollars that they paid for Naeem Islam.

BPL governing council secretary Sirajuddin M Alamgir has

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CORPORATE FOOTBALL Sheltech, BJMC in title tie

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheltech and Team BJMC qualified for the final of the Walton Women's Corporate League.

Sheltech ensured their final berth with a game in hand after beating Sun Beam Properties 2-0 in their super league match at the at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, yesterday.

Farhana Khatun scored the opening goal in the 63rd minute before Tahmina Akter made it 2-0 in the

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Up against whitewash

India's last chance to salvage pride

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Struggling India are desperate to avoid the ignominy of another 4-0 series wipe-out in the fourth and final Test against Australia starting at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday.

It has been a tour from hell for the Indians, collapsing to heavy defeats in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth and with their skipper M.S. Dhoni suspended for the Adelaide Test for a slow over rate in the abject third Test defeat.

India, who relinquished their top Test ranking when they were crushed 4-0 in England last year, face their eighth

consecutive away defeat if they cannot prevent the rejuvenated Australians from inflicting another drubbing.

Test cricket's greatest run-scorer, Sachin Tendulkar, is still seeking his 100th international century and has the chance to reach the mark at the Adelaide "home" ground of cricket legend Don Bradman.

It has been a frustrating time for Tendulkar, 38, and probably on his farewell tour of Australia, missing out on his elusive ton in six innings in the series so far.

Tendulkar, stuck on 99 Test and one-day international hundreds, has now gone 10 Tests and 20 innings without a hundred, one of the longest waits for a

Test century in his 187-Test career.

But while fingers have been pointed at India's ageing batsmen for their role in India's sorry series, Tendulkar has been solid, scoring 249 runs at an average of 41.50.

The Adelaide Test looms as a crucial one for senior batsman VVS Laxman, who at 37 is under extreme pressure over his Test future after a miserable series in which he has scored just 102 runs at an average of 17.

Laxman reportedly batted for nearly two hours in the Adelaide Oval nets on Thursday in a desperate bid to regain his touch with indications that he will play in the final Test.

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Classical dancers perform during yesterday's opening ceremony of the Destiny Second Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH

Clarke wants it 4-0

Cricket

PTI, Adelaide

Australia captain Michael Clarke on Saturday stated that his team wouldn't be satisfied with anything less than a 4-0 whitewash in the ongoing Test series against India.

Having already pocketed the series 3-0, the two teams will play the final Test match at the Adelaide Oval from January 24.

"We are thinking one thing heading into the last Test against India -- whitewash. Anything less than a 4-0 defeat of this powerful Indian team will be a disappointment to all of us," Clarke wrote in his column for 'The Telegraph'.

The Aussie skipper admitted that it was

really satisfying to clinch the series in Perth especially against a side that was ranked No 2 in the world before the series started.

"There was great satisfaction with clinching the series in Perth. It was a fine achievement to beat a side ranked second in the world when the series started," he wrote.

However Clarke feels that neither he nor his boys can let any slip-up as the job isn't complete yet.

"This is something all the guys can be proud of. But the job's not done. Having dragged ourselves up after a disappointing loss to New Zealand in Hobart, little more than a month ago, the last thing we want to do is stumble again. There has been too much of that in the recent past."

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