

Star SPORT

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Kangaroo karma for Caroline

Top seed Caroline Wozniacki got into trouble last year when she said she'd been scratched by a kangaroo -- and then admitted she'd made the story up. And the episode rebounded on her this year. "I actually had a small kangaroo and I'm not kidding this time. I was holding a small kangaroo, baby kangaroo, trying to show that actually it was very nice to me this time. Do you know what it did afterwards? I gave it some milk, and it just spat it all over me."



Imrul dazzles to level series

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Imrul Kayes continued his good form with a scintillating half-century as Bangladesh A shared the honours in the T20 series against the visiting England Lions with an 11-run victory in the second and final game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Riding on Imrul's 62, the home side posted 166 for six in 20 overs and then restricted their opponents to 155 for seven to sign off their campaign against the English side with an exciting win. England Lions trounced the home team in the first match by 32 runs at the same venue on Sunday.

After some lacklustre performances for the national team Imrul rediscovered his form in the ongoing Premier

Division Cricket League and carried it into the A team to help the second string side win the five-match one-day series 3-2 and level the two-match T20 series.

The southpaw batsman showed his big-hitting ability during his 47-ball 62 as the left-hander clobbered three big sixes

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: 166-6 in 20 overs (Imrul 62, Nazimuddin 12, Jahurul 27, Shuvagoto Hom 6, Kapali 23, Mithun 1, Shabbir 24 not out, Shuvo 1 not out; Brooks 1-38, Buck 3-22, Borthwick 1-42)
ENGLAND LIONS: 155-7 in 20 overs (Roy 0, Hales 1, Maynard 68, Baristow 5, Taylor 43, Buttler 12, Borthwick 5 not out, Briggs 10, Brooks 6 not out; Mosharraf 2-22, Shuvo 1-29, Babu 2-39, Shuvagoto 1-10)
Result: Bangladesh A won by 11 runs.

and four boundaries but credit must also be given to number seven batsman Shabbir Rahman, whose whirlwind unbeaten knock of 24 off 11 balls boosted the home side to a fighting total.

Shabbir smote two fours and a six while Jahurul Islam (27) and Alok Kapali (23) were the other notable scorers.

Nathan Buck picked up three wickets conceding 22 runs in the allotted four overs.

In reply, England Lions made a disastrous start when they lost both openers in the first over and the third wicket falling with only 14 runs on the board. But captain James Taylor joined Thomas Maynard to repair the damage and kept their team in contention.

The pair added 87 runs for the fourth wicket before spinner Shuvagoto Hom removed Maynard for 68 from 52 balls with nine fours and a six, while Taylor

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GOOD TIMES CONTINUE: Bangladesh A opener Imrul Kayes slams the ball over midwicket during his blazing 62 against England Lions in the second and final Twenty20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Fed Cup gets new champs today

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Federation Cup 2011

When the dust settles today, the Federation Cup will have a new champion as Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Team BJMC face off in the final of the season's curtain-raising tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The game starts at 4:00pm.

All the previous 24 titles of the Federation Cup have been shared between giants Mohammedan, Abahani, Brothers Union and Muktijoddha Sangsad. But this season signals to a passing of the baton as both relative newcomers battle out for a chance to start the season on a high. While Sheikh Jamal had been touted as contenders, little was expected of BJMC, re-launched after a 29-year gap, especially after they had been pitted in the group of death.

But the old horses like Alfaz Ahmed, Abul Hossain, Amit Khan Shuvro, Masud Khan Jonny and Ashraful Karim raised themselves for one last hurrah and showed excel-



Players of Sheikh Jamal (L) and Team BJMC practise at the Dhaka University Central ground and the BUET ground respectively yesterday, ahead of today's clash in the Grameenphone Federation Cup final.

PHOTOS: STAR



lent temperament to fire BJMC into the unlikely position of prospective champions.

"Every one has been working hard to prove a point and the team spirit will be our key instrument in the final," said BJMC captain Alfaz Ahmed. BJMC will certainly rely on their striking duo of Nigerian

Ajagun Rasheed (4 goals) and Ismael Bangoura (3 goals) and coach Jakaria Babu felt that they could consider themselves favourites in the final.

"Apart from Rasheed and Ismael, Abul, Alfaz, Rony and other players are also getting goals and I would like other players

score in the final," said a confident Jakaria.

His Sheikh Jamal counterpart Saiful Bari Titu was happy to relinquish the tag of favourites and preferred to keep his feet on the ground.

"When BJMC can beat a team like

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U-19s take 2-0 lead

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s took a 2-0 lead in the seven-match one-day series over England Under-19s at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

The lead came through a 19-run win after they made 256-9 in 50 overs. Batting first after being sent in, the home side rode on an excellent opening stand between Soumya Sarkar and Liton Kumar Das and despite the former's fall after adding 50, Liton went on.

The right-hander slammed six boundaries in his 82-ball 53 but his dismissal didn't discourage one-down Salman Hossain, who struck 59 off 74 balls with the help of eight boundaries.

His 94-run third wicket partnership with skipper Asif Ahmed Ratul provided the major impetus towards the end as the latter hammered a 38-ball 45.

Off-spinners Rammy Singh and Sam Wood took three wickets each while Shozair Khan and Adam Ball picked up one each.

The visitors replied in earnest through Daniel Bell-Drummond's 124-ball 92 that had nine boundaries. The opener put together three partnerships -- 70 for the first wicket with Wood, 40 for the second with Ben Foakes and 49 for the third with Sam Kelsall, who made 43 off 51 balls.

But once the eventual man-of-the-match Bell-Drummond

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Mashrafe back after 9 months

SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza will take his first steps into full match recovery when he takes the field for Bangladesh Biman in the Dhaka Premier League today.

The former national captain's return to competitive cricket after nine months and ten days will be the national airliner's sixth round tie against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The paceman has been allowed to bowl a maximum of four overs at full tilt, but is cleared to field and bat. It

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Kamrul 6-for sinks DCA

SPORTS REPORTER

Kamrul's six-wicket haul sunk Dhanmondi Cricket Academy (DCA) on the opening day of the Dhaka Second Division Cricket League yesterday.

The bowler's deadly figures of 6-18 from 9.5 overs gave Talent Hunt Cricket Academy an easy five-wicket win at the BKSP-4 ground after DCA were bowled out for 131 runs in 48.5 overs. Ratnak Saha top-scored with 59 runs.

Meanwhile, Jatrabari Krira Chakra, Mirpur Cricket Club and Rayer Bazar Athletics Club won their respective matches.

LOCAL snippets

BKSP finish 3rd

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) finished third in the Trust Bank-Viyellatex 28th National Hockey Championship with a 3-1 tiebreaker win over Bangladesh Navy in the place-deciding match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into the direct shootout after the regulation time ended in a 2-2 draw.

The final will take place today with defending champions Faridpur facing spirited Bangladesh Army at the same venue at 3:00pm. Finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith is expected to be present as chief guest.

2nd Div football

Bangladesh Police AC got off to a winning start in the Destiny Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League with a 3-0 win over Dipali Jubo Sangha at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Amirul Islam slotted a hattrick for Police as he scored in the 42nd, 81st and 84th minutes respectively.

School football

Dhakeshwari Mill High School and Morich Pasha High School emerged champions in their respective

17 days to go...

Starts from 10 February 2012

BPL T20

Starts from 10 February 2012

DURONTO RAJSHAHI

শৈশব, কৈশোর, তারুণ্য
পদ্মার ধু ধু চর
দুরন্ত রাজশাহী
দুরন্ত বাংলাদেশ

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