

Gayle force leaves Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

The dashing Chris Gayle will play his last match today for Barisal Burners against Chittagong Kings in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Jamaican left-hander will fly to South Africa tonight to play for Sunfoil Dolphins in South Africa's MiWAY20 challenge.

Barisal Burners will not miss the services of Gayle but the tournament will also be poorer without his presence as he has already smashed two hundreds in four games in the competition.

Rubel Hossain, the Sylhet Royals paceman, has been ruled out of the competition with a shoulder injury and the BPL governing council has approved the inclusion of his replacement Abul Hossain in the Royals squad from the BPL Auction's unsold players' list.

Meanwhile due to injuries and the unavailability of the international players the governing council has decided that the franchises will have the option to extend their squads to 22 members from the original squad of a maximum of 18 players.

Teams will have to pick two international and two domestic cricketers if they want to take advantage of the new ruling. It is mandatory to choose the domestic players from the list of unsold cricketers of the BPL auction.

In the case of international players franchises have the option to select beyond the unsold list. The governing council on receiving the names will fix the category of the player.

The deadline for new player registration is February 24.

The BPL governing council also requested the franchises to give priority to cricketers of respective divisions while selecting local players.

MSC women win h'ball title

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan SC emerged unbeaten champions in the CUTE 1st Division Women's Handball League with a 16-12 goal win over Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club in the final at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan, who came to the top-level handball league after an absence of eight years, led the first half 11-8 and later sealed the victory with Dalia Akhter and Shipli Akhter scoring six and four goals respectively. Khaleeda of RN Sports Home was adjudged best player of the league.

State minister for home Advocate Shamsul Haq Tenku witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the winners.

Actor Riaz becomes hockey ambassador

SPORTS REPORTER

Riazuddin Ahmed Siddiqui Riaz, popular actor of the silver screen, is going to be the goodwill ambassador of Bangladesh hockey, it was revealed at a press conference at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday.

Wing Commander Rafiul Haq, representative of BHF president Air Chief Air Marshal Ziaur Rahman, revealed this at the press conference arranged to announce the Shaheed Smriti Hockey tournament.

"Riaz, who is chief executive officer and director of Ashiyani City, has expressed his interest to sponsor the national hockey team for five years and the conversation with him getting shape," said Rafiul.

Riaz is expected to be present at the final of the Dhaka Metropolis School Hockey Tournament today as chief guest.



Muktijoddha Sangsad striker Zahid Hasan Emily celebrates one of his two goals against Rahmatganj MFS in their Bangladesh Premier League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Reds on a roll

SPORTS REPORTER



A brace from Zahid Hasan Emily powered title aspirants Muktijoddha Sangsad to an emphatic 3-0 win over Rahmatganj MFS in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Emily's first-half double, Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba struck his first goal of the league to ensure Muktijoddha's third straight victory which took them to the top of the table with maximum nine points, three ahead of Abahani, who have a match in hand.

Fresh from their 2-0 away win at Feni Soccer Club, Muktijoddha went on the attack from the beginning with a 3-4-1-2 formation and came close to scoring when Brazilian midfielder Lima De Souza rattled the crossbar in the fourth minute of the match.

Muktijoddha, who narrowly missed the league title last season finishing second, however found the back of the net eight minutes later when Emily headed in a well-judged cross from his elder brother Shakil Ahmed.

Emily then struck his third goal of the league five minutes before the breather with a placing shot. The initial ball came from defender Ariful Islam who put a lob for Sunday but the Nigerian's miscued shot went to unmarked Emily and the national

striker obliged by placing it at the near post.

Muktijoddha looked more organised compared to their first two matches as winger Shakil and defender Ariful secured places in the starting eleven with Emily playing on the right side while Mithun Chowdhury and Sunday played upfront to keep the Rahmatganj backline busy throughout the game.

Mithun was searching for his league's first goal and almost found the back of the net early in the second half when he headed a weak clearance from Rahmatganj goalkeeper Sujon Chowdhury that hit the lower part of crossbar before defender Shimul cleared the ball off the goalline.

Rahmatganj mustered their first shot on goal in the 79th minute with Lucky Divine running down the right flank to drive in a powerful shot that hit the side-netting. But it was Muktijoddha who got another, courtesy of Sunday two minutes before the regulation ninety. The Nigerian snatched the ball from Jahangir Alam to run into the box with a neat one-two with Lima before letting loose a powerful shot past the opposition goalkeeper to make it 3-0.

Sunday celebrated his first league goal in unique fashion, racing towards the VIP gallery, situated over the first-floor dressing rooms, to see a yellow card from the referee which was the last action of the match.

Cook lifts Eng to 250



AFP, Abu Dhabi

Alastair Cook hit a second successive hundred to propel England to another challenging score of 250 for 4 against Pakistan in the second day-night international at Abu Dhabi Stadium here on Wednesday.

Cook scored 102 for his fourth hundred -- the first England captain and ninth batsman for his country to hit back-to-back hundreds in one-dayers -- to carry on the good work after his career-best 137 in Monday's win in the first match.

The 27-year-old left-hander put on 67 for the opening wicket with Kevin Pietersen (26) after England won the second successive toss and batted. He also added 49 with Jonathan Trott (23) for the second and 78 for the third with Ravi Bopara who made an attractive 58.

Cook was again at his

fluent best, hitting 10 boundaries off 121 balls before he gave a return catch to leg-spinner Shahid Afridi in the 42nd over.

He hit paceman Umar Gul for two boundaries to reach 99 and then took a single off Abdul Rehman to reach the three-figure mark as he carried the batting right from the off.

Pakistan, who lost the first match by 130 runs here, brought in paceman Aizaz Cheema, batsman Azhar Ali and left-arm Rehman in place of Wahab Riaz, Asad Shafiq and Shoaib Malik.

England, who remained unchanged from the first match, also owed their progress to a dropped catch by part-time wicket-keeper Umar Akmal who dropped Cook on 28 off Afridi, a costly laspe for Pakistan.

Ajmal, who finished with 1-54, again provided the breakthrough when he trapped Pietersen leg-before in the 16th over. Paceman Cheema had Trott, caught

behind before Cook and Bopara followed their 131-run stand in the first match with another solid partnership.

Bopara, who hit four boundaries during his 66-ball knock, gave finishing touches to the innings with a 56-run stand for the fourth wicket with Eoin Morgan whose 25 not out had one six.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND
Cook c & b Afridi 102
Pietersen lbw b Ajmal 26
Trott c Umar b Cheema 23
Bopara c Umar b Cheema 58
Morgan not out 25
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-10) 16
Total: (For four wickets in 50 overs) 250
Did not bat: Kieswetter, Patel, Broad, Swann, Anderson, Finn.

Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-116, 3-194.
Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Gul 7 1 43 0
Cheema 9 0 49 2
Hafeez 4 0 24 0
Rehman 10 0 36 0
Afridi 10 1 38 1
Ajmal 10 0 54 1

PAKISTAN: Misbah, Younis, Afridi, Hafeez, Farhat, Akmal, Gul, Cheema, Ajmal, Rehman, Azhar.

Shaheed Smriti hockey sans champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Shaheed Smriti Hockey Tournament gets underway at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium tomorrow sans the defending champions Sadharan Bima.

Only five teams are taking part in the tournament, which was eight last time. "Other teams are busy for the upcoming players' transfers which is why they cannot take part in the tournament," explained Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah at a press conference at the BHF office yesterday.

The participating teams are Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Police and Abahani with Army and Navy playing the opening match on Friday.

Exim Bank and Nurjahan Group are jointly sponsoring the tournament as they will provide Tk 2 lakh each. The champions and runners-up will be awarded Tk 25,000 and Tk 15,000 respectively.

Rajshahi off

FROM PAGE 16 tightly to keep the Khulna side in check.

SCORES IN BRIEF
KHULNA: 145-7 in 20 overs (Shakib 44, Nasir 24; Razzaq 2-26)

RAJSHAHI: 146-4 in 19.1 overs (Shahzaib 52, Mushfiqur 47 not out; Shakib 2-35)
Result: Rajshahi won by six wickets.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Euro Famous Club drew 1-1 with City Club in their match of the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shahid Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Mohammad Mamun opened the scoring for City Club with a goal in the 66th minute before Ziaur Rahman equalised in the 80th minute.

Championship League

Uttar Baridhara Club defeated Chittagong Abahani by 3-1 goals in their Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League match at the Birshreshtha Shahid Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

An own goal in the 47th minute gave Uttar Baridhara the lead before Tony Barman made it 2-0 a minute later. Mohammad Jibon scored the third for Baridhara in the 75th minute before Mohammad Jewel grabbed a consolation goal for Chittagong Abahani in the 88th minute.

DU volleyball

Zahurul Haq hall and Begum Rokeya hall emerged champions in the men's and women's group of the Dhaka University Inter-hall Volleyball Competition that was held on Tuesday at university's central playground. Zahurul haq hall beat Jagannath hall while Begum Rokeya hall beat Kuwait Moitri hall to emerge champions in respective groups. Kanan Mia of Zahurul Haq hall and Anjuman Hossain of Kuwait Moitri hall were adjudged best players in their respective groups.

School football

Six more schools moved into the next round of the National School Football Islami Bank tournament after emerging their respective upzila champions at different venues yesterday.

The upzila champions are -- GINBS High School (Avoyonagar Upazila), Sheikh Akiz Uddin High School (Jhikargacha Upazila), Narayanpur BU High School (Chowgacha Upazila), Boalmari George Academy (Boalmari Upazila), Nawapara High School (Alfadanga Upazila), Kamanna Multilateral High School (Shaikupa Upazila).

Tracking ball-tracking



CRICINFO, Dubai

The most contentious aspect of the Decision Review System -- the ball-tracker -- is being put to test by the International Cricket Council (ICC) at the Cambridge University to establish the accuracy of the two rival tracker systems accredited by the ICC for the DRS.

The ball-tracking technologies currently in use for the DRS -- the Hawk-Eye and the Virtual Eye -- are being tested by a company called Computer Vision Consulting Limited. The results of the test should be available to the ICC's cricket committee in time for its next meeting in May this year.

Dave Richardson, the ICC's general manager of cricket, told ESPNcricinfo in an interview that the company had been asked to review "the level of accuracy and reliability of the two ball-tracking companies ... In terms of accuracy we want to know whether their virtual depictions of where the ball has pitched and where the ball has impacted the batsman accord with the reality, and whether their predictions as to where the ball would have hit the stumps are correct."

The issue of reliability he said was to find out "the percentage of times they can deliver an accurate tracking. If, in a Test, there are 60 lbw appeals and the ball-tracking technology is only able to deliver an accurate tracking on, for example, 50 of those occasions, then they would not be regarded as very reliable. On the other hand, if they were getting it right on 97 out of 100 occasions, we would probably regard that as being acceptable."

Before the introduction of the DRS in 2008, Richardson said, the ICC had conducted some basic manual testing which had left them satisfied before launching the system. The current test he said was "a far more detailed review by a completely independent party. Hawk-Eye and Virtual Eye both tell us how accurate they are, but this will verify those claims." The contention between the two rival ball-tracker technologies was largely around the number of frame

rates offered by their cameras in order to provide data to work with the ball tracker.

The ball-tracking technology was first included as part of the DRS's earliest mandatory requirements but in June, the ICC made it optional, and the Hot Spot infrared thermal imaging camera compulsory. Both technologies have come under criticism, due to a series of what appeared to be flaws.

There were no plans to test the Hot Spot technology because, "Hot Spot is real, it's not a virtual picture." What the owners will be working on is to make their cameras more sensitive so that the "smallest of touches" could be visible. The priority of the infra-red cameras in use in the DRS was their "sensitivity, that is, its ability to generate a visible heat mark as opposed to clearly defined pictures which look nice but do not provide the level of sensitivity to pick up the faintest of edges."

Lance boost for Yuvraj

AFP, New Delhi

India's cancer-stricken World Cup star Yuvraj Singh said Wednesday he was inspired after getting a message from US cycling legend Lance Armstrong wishing him a speedy recovery.

"Message from @lance-armstrong makes me feel better! Thank you lance means a lot hope we can meet," tweeted Yuvraj, who is undergoing chemotherapy in the United States for a malignant tumour located between his lungs.

The ace all-rounder, named man-of-the-tournament after India's cricket World Cup win in April last year, already said he had been drawing inspiration from Armstrong, who overcame testicular cancer to win the Tour de France seven times.

A photo of the message, posted on Yuvraj's twitter account, read: "Yuvi, I want you to know that the entire LIVESTRONG team is here for you."

"We say it all the time, and truly believe in it: Knowledge is power, Unity is strength, and Attitude is everything. Please know that we are here to help you and your family in any way possible. Go Yuvi!! Livestrong."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
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5 Society newbie
8 Sleeping
12 Continental coin
13 Moray or conger
14 Existed
15 Use a swizzle stick
16 To and —
17 Slave to cross-words?
18 1970s rock band, Mott the —
20 Claim-plained
22 Scull tool
23 Farming (Abbr.)
24 Despot
27 Disparaging words
32 Alley follower

DOWN
1 Netting
2 Car
3 Small combo
4 Lethargy
5 Respectful naturally
6 Eterne
7 Online journal
8 "Anchors —"
9 Sprinkled, old-style
10 Sea eagle

Solution time: 25 mins.

ATOM HIS AGRAL
LEGO ALLE VAIL
GARRISON ORCA
AREAS THIGHS
SMOG ADO
TOGS PASS YEW
ERA GARTH LAO
EER ALBA AERO
BAT OXEN
SPARTA LODGE
HANS GARFIELD
ORZO EVE NEEDED
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CRYPTOQUIP

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MGWTNC NEJQM YKC IHGXO
WHMGX RYJKD V AUGJGD
ZYXOZQYS: Y UEXO-EAGNQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINGER STEVENS AND ACTOR LIOTTA ARE VERY CHEERFUL GUYS. I'D SAY THEY'RE RAYS OF SUNSHINE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T