

Star SPORT

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Levi rewrites T20 history

South Africa opener Richard Levi rewrote the record books as he hit a magnificent unbeaten 117 to propel his side to an eight-wicket victory over New Zealand in their second Twenty20 international at the Seddon Park ground in Hamilton on Sunday. Levi's 45-ball century was the fastest ever in T20 internationals and included the most sixes, with 13. His 117 run total also equalled the highest ever score by a batsman in a T20 international, matching the mark set by Chris Gayle of the West Indies



Groin injury or rift?

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Will Tamim Iqbal play today? This has been the main question surrounding the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), especially during the tournament's Chittagong leg. The absence of the dashing left-hander since his side Chittagong Kings' first game was initially attributed to a groin injury. But after his last moment deletion from Saturday's player list against Duroto Rajshahi, people started to suspect that there was something wrong in the team management.

Many believe Tamim's rift with the technical director Dean Jones was the main reason behind his absence.

True, Tamim pulled out of the playing eleven at the last moment but it was not because of pain in his groin; it was rather a dispute about the batting order with the Australian. Tamim was not ready to play at the No 3 position and he was also furious at the behaviour of the former Australian batsman. It all started before the second match after which the relationship between Jones and Tamim deteriorated steadily to reach a bitter state before Saturday's match, said a close source of Chittagong Kings.

Because of Jones's rigid stance the fans are not only missing the opener's flamboyant batting, the franchise is also missing the service of their icon player, added the source preferring not to be named.

Sameer Quader Chowdhury, the CEO of the Chittagong Kings, however said that there is a good chance that Tamim will play today's match.

"We desperately want to see Tamim playing the match and he will play tomorrow's (Monday) match if he is fit," informed Sameer when asked about Tamim's chances of featuring in today's match. Later in an official statement the Chittagong Kings management said: "His services will be more crucial for Chittagong Kings in the knockout stage and until then he has been rested by the team management."

Sameer however denied the rift between the player and technical director as the reason behind the absence, but later added: "There can be differences between a player and a coach and it's not abnormal. Each coach has his own method."

Sameer however informed that Jones will no more be with the team as he will leave this afternoon but he denied the notion that the management are packing off the Australian because of the rift.

"He is leaving in keeping with an earlier arrangement. He has some commitment with an Indian TV channel about which he informed us earlier. But right at this moment we have no plan to appoint someone in his place, rather we want to go on with our current setup," explained Sameer.

The player himself also said that he was not fit to take part in the tournament since the first game.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Khulna Royal Bengals opener Shivnarine Chanderpaul flicks one during his blitzkrieg knock of 87 not out against Dhaka Gladiators in their BPL T20 encounter at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Jones fined, Razzaq hurt

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Chittagong Kings technical director Dean Jones has been fined Tk 15,000 for entering the ground during the strategic time-out of their match against Duroto Rajshahi at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium on Saturday.

BPL match referee Mike Procter fined the Australian as according to the law, no officials are allowed to enter the field during the course of play or even in strategic time-out, other than the players and substitute fielders.

Meanwhile, Duroto Rajshahi's Pakistani all-rounder Abdul Razzaq has been suffering from shoulder pain and is uncertain for today's game against Barisal Burners.

Royals Burned

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



Barisal Burners broke their losing habit when they handed a nine-wicket defeat to the winless Sylhet Royals in their Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 match at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

Barisal got off to a flying start in the inaugural BPL T20 with a thumping ten-wicket victory against the same opponents Sylhet in the opening match but they lost momentum after winning the second match losing three on the trot thereafter.

But they bounced back in style in their first match of the second-leg without inspirational opener Chris Gayle.

Pakistani Ahmed Shehzad and Australian Brad Hodge toyed with the Sylhet bowlers during their 116-run opening stand as Barisal posted 121 for one in 13.2 overs in reply to Sylhet's 120 for seven.

Shehzad clobbered five sixes and three fours while Hodge also smashed five sixes to go with his two fours to entertain the small crowd and script the easy victory.

Earlier, left-arm spinner Sohrawardi Shuvo picked up three wickets and Forhad Hossain took two as Sylhet scored 120 for seven.

The Sylhet team management discharged Peter Trego from the captaincy and gave the duty to Alok Kapali, but nothing changed in their performance and the sixth consecutive defeat dashed their hopes of staying in the semifinal race.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Cricket, not the teams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

She was buying flags and t-shirts of both the teams -- Khulna Royal Bengals and Dhaka Gladiators -- for her friends and herself, but she is not a supporter of any of the teams.

She adorned herself in the national colours and her friends had their faces painted in red and green, they all have come to the stadium to enjoy cricket.

Asked why she was buying the flags and the t-shirts of the teams she was not a fan of, she replied cricket is a game of uncertainty and out or boundary -- all these bring pressure for the teams -- and she enjoyed these aspects of the game very much.

"Every ball, every boundary, every wicket as well as good performance of each player give me much pleasure.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

C'paul sinks Dhaka

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



Veteran batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul proved that age is not a factor in the newest version of the game as Khulna Royal Bengals kept up the momentum with an easy 7-wicket victory over Dhaka Gladiators in the BPL T20 at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

In front of a tiny crowd, Khulna proved their mettle to share top spot with Chittagong Kings and Duroto Rajshahi with eight points each from six matches while Dhaka remained on six points from the same number of outings.

Fresh from a two-run victory over Sylhet Royals on Saturday, the Khulna slow bowlers did an excellent job to restrict Dhaka to 140-8 despite Mohammad Ashraful's 42-ball 53 that featured four boundaries and a six. However, veteran Chanderpaul shaped the comfortable win as the West Indies left-hander hit all over the park during his unbeaten 49-ball 87. The southpaw smote eleven fours and a six as Khulna posted 141-3 in 16.4 overs.

Shakib was the other notable scorer with 39 off 34 balls that contained two fours and as many sixes.

Dhaka's hopes of avenging their 19-run first-leg defeat was dashed when they were shot out for a paltry total following disciplined bowling from Sanath Jayasuriya, Abdur Razzak and Shakib.

Chanderpaul, who got the man-of-the-match award for his scintillating innings, however said that the pitch initially helped the bowlers.

"The pitch took some turn early in the match but by the time we batted it became easier," said the experienced campaigner.

It's often said that T20 is a young man's game but Chanderpaul had a different opinion. "It depends on whether you are a good player or not. Age doesn't really matter," observed the 37-year old cricketer from Guyana who has so far played 137 Tests and 268 one-day internationals.

With the victory, Khulna improved their tally to increase their chances of reaching the last four but Chanderpaul wanted to focus on the next matches.

"The team position is looking pretty good now but we cannot let up. We have to try and win the next few games," said Chanderpaul.

On the other hand Dhaka skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza believed that their total was 15 runs short. "It was a good batting pitch but we

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Emeka escapes thru' murky bylaws

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite not possessing an AFC-B equivalent license, Mohammedan's Nigerian coach Emeka Euzzeigo looks likely to carry on with his job in the ongoing Grameen-phone Bangladesh Premier League, courtesy of loopholes in the league bylaws.

The Asian Football Confederation yesterday replied to a Bangladesh Football Federation query whether Emeka's certificates are equivalent to AFC B-license, a mandatory requirement for the participating clubs in the professional football league. The AFC informed that Emeka's USSF certificate is not an UEFA-certified one which is recognised by FIFA and his Dutch certificate is also not recognised by UEFA.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Siddikur finishes joint 17th

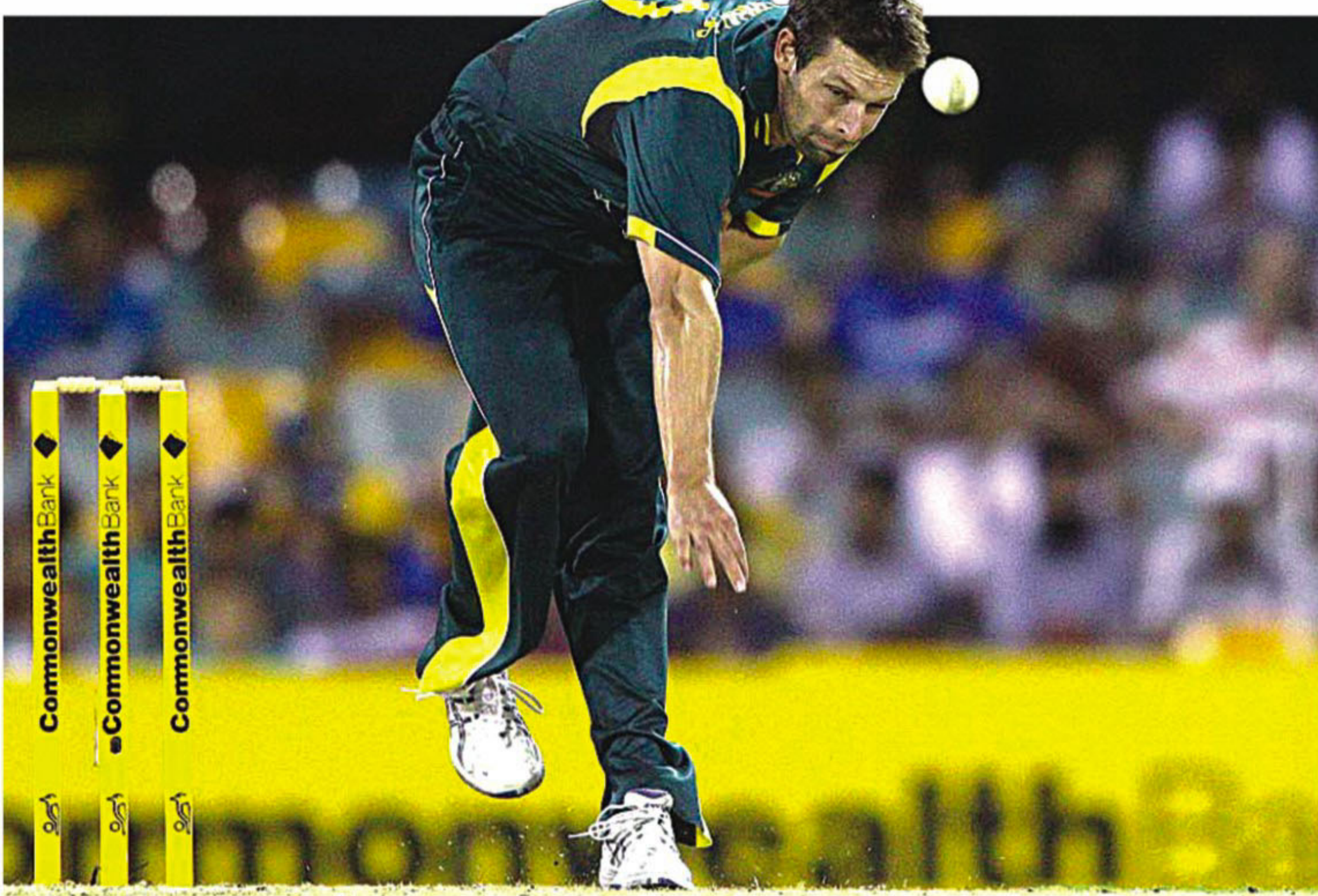
SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman finished the Avantha Masters with a flourish to end in joint 17th position yesterday. The 27-year old picked his game up in the last two rounds to finish with a seven-under-par (281) in the 2.4 million dollar event at the DLF Golf and Country Club on Sunday.

Bangladesh's best golfer Siddikur, who had a slow start to the event with one-under-par and one-over-par scores in the first two rounds, upped the ante superbly to card in three-under-par in the third round before finishing it off with a four-under-par last round.

Siddikur started the day with a birdie on the first hole, but bogeyed the next hole to lose the advantage. However, Siddikur bounced back to card in three more birdies on the 4th, the 6th and the 9th holes before managing another birdie on the 18th hole to cap off an excellent

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Australia paceman Ben Hilfenhaus sends one down during their tri-series one-day international against India in Brisbane yesterday. Hilfenhaus took five for 33 as Australia won by 110 runs.

PHOTO: INTERNET

India outgunned by Australia



AFP, Brisbane

A dominant Australia cruised to a 110-run win over India in their one-day international tri-series match in Brisbane on Sunday.

After blasting 288 for five in their innings, the Australians ripped through the Indian top order to leave the visitors in disarray at 36 for four.

India struggled on but were never in the hunt, finishing all out for 178, skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni playing a lone hand with the bat, scoring 56 off 84 deliveries.

Man-of-the-match Ben Hilfenhaus was the pick of the Australian bowlers with 5-33, while veteran Brett Lee continued his resurgence with 3-49.

After Ricky Ponting won the toss and chose to bat, the Australians recovered from a slow start to overwhelm the Indian attack with some powerful hitting over the final 20 overs.

Veteran Mike Hussey top scored with 59 and combined with newcomer Peter Forrest (52) in a fifth wicket partnership of 100 from 92 balls, while David Hussey (26) and Daniel Christian (30) smashed 65 runs from the last six overs against a demoralised attack.

Left-arm medium pacer Irfan Pathan with 3-61 was the pick of the Indian bowlers, claiming both Hussey and Forrest as well as the dangerous David Warner, who made 43 at the top of the order.

But there was troubling news for the visitors when Sachin Tendulkar was forced from the field at the end of the 25th over after he was struck a painful blow on the left shin while fielding at first slip.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1