

Kean employs bodyguard

Beleaguered Blackburn manager Steve Kean has revealed that a bodyguard accompanies him at all times following a vitriolic campaign to have him sacked as Rovers boss.

Kean, a controversial appointment following the dismissal of Sam Allardyce in 2010, has faced repeated calls from fans to resign this season as Rovers struggle near the foot of the table. The 44-year-old Scot told The Times on Friday that he now has a personal security detail as a precaution.

Kean said his bodyguard was a martial arts expert but admitted it was a "surreal" development in his life.

- AFP



Chittagong dance past Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong Kings relied on the dancing Caribbeans in their comeback win over Dhaka Gladiators yesterday. The 13-run win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium was a timely comeback after their twin losses in their hometown.

Dwayne Bravo and Kevon Cooper starred with bat and ball and did little jigs after every success as the Kings defended their 120-run total successfully by holding the Gladiators to 109-7 in their 20 overs.

"It [dancing] is part of our culture. That is the way the West Indians celebrate. That is our unique way of celebration; we obviously love dancing, so that is how we do it. (Kevon) Cooper, (Kieron) Pollard, we all have our different styles and it is nothing personal toward anyone and that is our way," said Bravo after the game.

The thrill of a low-scoring game kept the large weekend crowd on its toes for most of the afternoon. After Chittagong made off

with a good start with the bat, Dhaka pegged them back with the eventual left-arm spin and but the pull-back by the away team, mainly through good catching, was what stood out in the end. Ziaur Rahman's excellent penultimate over, conceding just three runs when 23 were required from twelve balls, sealed the deal for the Kings.

Cooper used his change of pace in the four overs, picking up three wickets while Bravo took two. The West Indians, as well as Ziaur Rahman, Jason Roy and Arafat Sunny took excellent catches while Enamul Haque Jr contributed with two scalps of his own.

The Dhaka innings never took off despite Mohammad Ashraful's steady 20 off 28 balls. It was actually young Anamul Haque who kept them in the game for a while but his lack of power stood out, making only a run-a-ball 22 with two boundaries.

Earlier, Nasir Jamshed's early dismissal didn't dissuade Jahurul Islam, who went on to make 40 off 35 balls with the help of three boundaries. After he fell to Kieron Pollard in the eleventh over, Bravo took over with some

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Rasheduzzaman poses with his javelin which he threw to a 63.74-metre distance to break the 22-year-old record on the opening day of the Walton 37th National Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Rashed breaks 22-yr old record

Lap controversy in Nat'l Athletics meet

SPORTS REPORTER

The Walton 37th National Athletics Championship got underway with a national record in javelin throw but the real talking point of the day turned out to be the declaration of the 5000-metre run winner at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rasheduzzaman, a lance corporal of Bangladesh Army, cleared a distance of 63.74 metres to break the 22-year standing record of 63.58 metres set by Ariful Haq in 1990.

This was Rasheduzzaman's third win in three years the event and his previous best was 62 metres which he set in practice.

"I had a dream of setting the national record after I switched from volleyball to javelin throw and the dream came true today," said the lad from Rangpur.

However the big controversy arose in the 5000m run, where Army man Jamrul Islam was declared the winner even though it appeared that Amir Ali Khasru of Chittagong DSA finished ahead of Jamrul and started celebrating his first gold at the national-level competition.

However, the celebration was cut short as he was informed that he ran one lap less than the others. The jury board, headed by Abdul Khaleq, decided that Jamrul was the winner at 16 min 36.1 sec while Rafiqul of

Bangladesh Army and Enamul Haq of Ansar and VDP were declared second and third respectively.

But the judgement of the jury board raised questions why Khasru was not informed immediately about his number of laps. The more puzzling question was the fact that time-keepers and chest-recorders also claimed to be not aware of Khasru's laps.

"I kept with both the Army men from the beginning and finished ahead of them but I was now told that I ran a lap less than the others.

"I finished third with a time of 16.32 minutes during inter-departments sports in Bangladesh Jute Corporation Mills last month and I can show you certificate," said Khasru as he burst into tears.

Army coach Kitab Ali claimed that it was the right decision taken by the jury board as he said: "In my 30-year experience in athletics, I have never seen any unknown athlete win the 5000m gold."

When the chief judge Abdul Khaleq was asked to show the documents, the veteran judge failed to produce any although he claimed he has records of Khasru's laps.

"I didn't make any mistake and the winner of 5000m was declared accordingly," said Khaleq.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

BJMC, F'ganj split points

SPORTS REPORTER



Team BJMC stumbled again in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League as they were held to a 1-1 draw by visitors Farashganj SC in their first home match at the Tangail Stadium yesterday.

Farashganj went ahead in the 25th minute with a strike from Congolese striker Zunapio who availed a square-pass from Aminur Rahman Sajib before slotting it at the back of the net.

After the resumption, BJMC stepped up the attack for an equaliser and they restored the margin in the 56th minute. Midfielder Abul placed a re-bouncer home when an Alfaz Ahmed's volley on an Ajagun Abdul Rasheed corner came his way after hitting Farashganj defender Sajib.

But the game was suspended for 10 minutes after referee booked BJMC striker Ismail Bangoura, before it got resumed again and ended in the 1-1 draw.

"It was surely a red card offence as Ismail punched Albau in off-the-ball situation but referee cautioned him with a yellow card and the result of the match could have been different if Bangoura was sent off at that time (70 minutes)," claimed Farashganj coach Kamal Babu over phone.

"The match was 50-50 and any side could have won as both sides missed some scoring chances," said Kamal adding that they adopted a counter-attack based strategy after taking a lead in the first half.

The Farashganj coach also said that pitch was bouncy and not good enough for the professional football league.

Kamal's counterpart Jakaria Babu was disappointed with yet another draw and blamed his boys for not winning the game.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Chittagong Kings all-rounder Dwayne Bravo starts celebrations after picking up a Dhaka Gladiators wicket during their BPL T20 game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Abahani tasted their first win of the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League when they defeated Victoria Sporting Club 2-0 at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Mamun put Chittagong Abahani ahead in the 39th minute and Simul sealed the victory in the 86th minute.

This win saw Abahani move up to fourth position with four points from three matches while Victoria remain at the pit with 3 points from same number of matches.

Div-II football

Shadhinata Krira Sangha defeated Prantic Krira Chakra by 3-0 goals in the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Hafiz opened the scoring in the 24th minute before Mamun made it 2-0 in the 64th. Helal grabbed the third a minute before the end to confirm a comfortable victory for Shadhinata Krira Sangha.

Pallima badminton

Rozina and Gautam pair moved to the final of the Prime Bank-Pallima badminton tournament defeating Rehana and Shakti pair by 21-15, 21-09 points in the semifinal at the Pallima Sangsad premises yesterday.

Earlier, Rozina and Gautam defeated Ratna and Tarek pair while Rehana and Shakti pair defeated

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Sylhet win at last

SPORTS REPORTER



Sylhet finally won a game in the BPL T20 yesterday. They beat Duronto Rajshahi by nine wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in a game when everything clicked for the hapless outfit.

It also brought Rajshahi down to earth, their first loss after winning five on the trot (third overall defeat). Batting first, they made 124-9 in 20 overs but the low total was taken care of by the Royals in only 16.3 overs when they completed the emphatic victory.

Kamran Akmal smashed three sixes and seven boundaries in his unbeaten 51-ball 72 with help from Peter Trego, who chipped in with 24 and Tom Maynard's unbeaten 22. Earlier it was Sohail Tanvir who finally bowled a brilliant Twenty20 spell, picking up four wickets including the key wickets of Junaed Siddiqui and Abdul Razzaq. Paceman Abul Hasan was also key in Sylhet's win as he took three wickets that had Marlon Samuels and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim as his victims.

Royals coach Stuart Law was a happy figure as Sylhet inched towards their victory but his opposite number, Khaled Mashud, would be wondering what happened to the famed Rajshahi fielding as they dropped four catches.

Shahzaib Hasan, the Rajshahi opener, scored his second half-century, making 54 off 46 balls. Razzaq made 21 and Khalid Latif 14, the only other batsmen apart from Shahzaib to get into the double-figures in an sudden display of ineptness by the high-fliers.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: 124-9 in 20 overs (Shahzaib 54, Razzaq 21; Tanvir 4-13, Hasan 3-30).

SYLHET: 125-1 in 16.3 overs (Akmal 72 not out, Trego 24; Saqlain 1-22).

Result: Sylhet won by nine wickets.



Sylhet Royals' wicketkeeper-batsman Kamran Akmal scoops the ball during his match-winning knock against Duronto Rajshahi in their BPL T20 encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Ireland clinch Kenya series

AFP, Mombasa

Ireland beat Kenya by two runs to complete a 3-0 clean sweep in their Twenty20 cricket series at the Mombasa Sports Club on Friday.

Batting first, Ireland made 107-9 and despite an impressive 4-14 from man-of-the-match Shem Ngoche, the Kenyans came too short of overhauling the target in the low-scoring match.

Skipper Collins Obuya top-scored with 42 and Indian Premier League-bound Tanmay Mishra contributed 37 as the hosts put up a more competitive contest than in the previous two matches of the series.

Fast bowler Boyd Rankin and spinner George Dockrell put the early brakes, taking both the Kenya openers, David Obuya and Alan Duncan cheaply in a fast openings spell.

All-rounder Andrew White weighed in with another two wickets and John Mooney grabbed the last wicket to ensure the narrow victory.