

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 3, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

100 gold coins to shower on Sachin

Sachin Tendulkar would be showered with 100 gold coins by Mumbai Cricket Association for accomplishing the fabulous feat of compiling 100 international centuries in Dhaka last month. The decision to felicitate the champion cricketer with 100 gold coins worth between 23-25 lakh rupees was taken by MCA's managing committee headed by Union minister Vilasrao Deshmukh. "Vilasrao Deshmukh announced at the last committee meeting that he had spoken to Tendulkar requesting him to give a date for the felicitation function and that he has agreed," MCA joint secretary Nitin Dalal said on Monday.

—PTI



WC memories not to go away

PTI, New Delhi

India might have completed their first anniversary of the World Cup triumph on Monday, but the memories of the historical feat has left an everlasting impression on Sachin Tendulkar.

Tendulkar, who was vital to India's success in the World Cup a year back, said that he will cherish the memories of the triumph throughout his life.

"Time flies but memories last forever. What a day it was!!! 02-04-2011," tweeted Tendulkar as the country celebrates the first anniversary of its second World Cup triumph.

Exactly on the same day a year ago, India defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai to lift the World Cup after a gap of 28 long years.

Tendulkar's World Cup-winning teammate Virender Sehwag also recollected the memories of the historic feat and thanked the cricket-crazy fans of the nation and the BCCI for their enormous support.

"Can't believe it's been a year since we were crowned the World Champs! Everyone contributed to the dream spcily the supporting fans! Thank you," he tweeted.

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'Crisis over in two days'

SPORTS REPORTER



The Dhaka Premier Cricket League could start later this week as the four-member committee formed to solve the crisis have expressed confidence in finding a way out.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal on Sunday formed the committee which will be headed by senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam with Dewan Shafiqul Arefin, Gazi Ashraf Hossain and Siraj Uddin Md Alamgir being the other members.

The body was directed to convince all three clubs including Victoria Sporting Club to return to the league which has not seen the light of day since March 28, the second round of the Super League phase. It had to come down to this four-member committee after the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) passed the buck to BCB, the highest decision-making authority, to end the deadlock that began when Abahani, in protest of Mohammad Yousuf's move to Victoria from Mohammedan, refused to play against the former in their game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Since then, there has been a lot of confusion about Yousuf's clearance letter from Mohammedan to Victoria obtained last year with the CCDM claiming after their standing committee meeting on Saturday that the papers provided were legal.

"We have talked to each of the three clubs -- Abahani, Mohammedan and Victoria -- individually and all of them have urged for

the league to commence once again. Everyone has been cordial so far," said Alamgir, the BCB director.

"[Nazmul Hasan] Papon bhai, who is in Singapore with his father, our honourable president, has told us that Abahani will have no issues regarding the league if the club's prestige remains intact. The same was told by Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, Mohammedan's director-in-charge, that they would come forward and help us solve this problem," he said, though the committee would only be sitting with the three clubs today following separate talks yesterday.

"We will all sit together tomorrow [Tuesday] and I am hopeful that by then, we can come to a decision which will be to resume the cricket in a day or two," added Alamgir, though he made it clear that the CCDM decision to award the two points to Victoria is all set to stay. He informed that all the papers regarding the Yousuf clearance has been passed on to the lawyers to check.

"Just like Abahani was probably wrong to not continue the game, Victoria's situation too isn't normal. But sometimes we have to put aside our differences in opinion and the criticism or discussion of a previous decision to one side just so that the cricket can go ahead.

"We have given all the papers to the lawyers who will advise us. See, we want the league to start very quickly and as we have found out since being put in this committee, this problem could have been solved much earlier," he said.

Alamgir was of the opinion that some of the workings of the CCDM must come under

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PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Bangladesh Premier League encounter between Arambagh KC and Rahmatganj MFS which ended in a 1-1 draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Arambagh, Rahmatganj share points

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh and Rahmatganj MFS shared points in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter when they played out a 1-1 draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Shamsuzzaman Sohel put Rahmatganj ahead on 28 minutes while Nigerian hitman Eleta Kingsley cancelled the lead on 58 minutes.

The outcome did not change the team standings as Arambagh stayed at the eighth position with eight points from seven matches while Rahmatganj remained at the bottom of the 11-team table with six points from seven outings.

On the consideration of the performance, Arambagh held the upper hand but it was Rahmatganj who took the lead, courtesy of a placing shot from Sohel after Shyamal Ahmed Rony had whipped a low cross from the right flank.

After going down, Arambagh lunched a series of attacks to unsettle the Rahmatganj backline but could not get the equaliser in the first half even though midfielder Parvez rattled the cross-piece five minutes from the breather.

Arambagh carried the momentum into the second half and restored parity in the 58th minute through Kingsley, who drove a fierce left-footer from the top of the box past goalkeeper Shujan Chowdhury. The goal took the Nigerian to the top of the scorer's chart with five goals, along with Muktiyoddha Sangsod's Sunday Chizoba and Sheikh Jamal's Kester Akon.

Goalkeeper Shujan Chowdhury thwarted a powerful shot from Arambagh's Umkoro Goodwin in the 70th minute to help Rahmatganj snatch a valuable point.

Star TV gets India rights

AFP, New Delhi

Star TV has won the right to broadcast cricket matches played in India for six years after the Rupert Murdoch-owned group bid more than 750 million dollars, Indian cricket chiefs said Monday.

Star TV will hold telecast rights for all Test and one-day cricket played in India until March 2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced after its marketing committee met in the southern city of Chennai.

"The BCCI is very happy with the deal," board president N Srinivasan told reporters.

The 38.51-billion-rupee (751-million dollars) deal also includes internet and mobile phone rights.

The BCCI issued a tender for the lucrative deal after it terminated its contract with Nimbus in December, claiming it had defaulted on its payments.

According to the deal, each India match will be worth 7.8 million dollars, which is 1.5 million dollars more than Nimbus was paying, Srinivasan said.

The second-highest bidder was Multi Screen Media, owned by Sony Television, which offered 722 million dollars for the rights, Srinivasan said.

Mashrafe wants to keep playing

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza doesn't want to miss any more cricket after becoming one of fifteen national cricketers to be included in the BCB players' contract for 2012.

The contract, which will run from January 1 to December 31, was approved on Sunday in the board meeting with skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Abdur Razzak and Mashrafe being put up in Grade A+, the top among the five contract categories.

Vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad and Imrul Kayes have been placed in Grade A while Grade B will have Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam and Nazmul Hossain while Nasir Hossain and Jahurul Islam are in Grade C. The rookie grade has gone to Nazimuddin, Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury and Elias Sunny.

It was a particularly auspicious event for Mashrafe who made a successful comeback to competitive cricket after a knee injury that took out another eleven months out of his

career. Ever since his international debut in 2001, Mashrafe has missed 32 Tests (played 36), 94 ODIs (played 124) and five T20s (played 13) for the national team.

"I haven't set any goals in particular for this year ahead but I want to continue playing. I have missed more than hundred games for Bangladesh, I think. So I want to make sure I play more cricket because if I had played those games that I've missed, I could have taken more than 300 wickets till now," said the man who has taken 245 international wickets thus far.

"Of course it makes me happy, but the return was more important to me. It was necessary for me to make the comeback because that's why I had the surgery back in May," Mashrafe said yesterday.

"But it isn't just the comeback, I always said that I have to perform and stay in the team. There are things which usually stay out of my control but I would like to manage whatever I can, as far as my fitness and performance is concerned. My focus is on cricket and it is important to be among the contracted

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PHOTO: STAR

A Viquarunnissa Noon School and College player leaps to make a shot on goal during their Polar Ice-Cream 20th School Handball Tournament match against Siddheswari Girls High School at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

Protiva joins Shirin

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharmin Sultana Shirin lost her solo lead in the qualifiers of the National Women's Chess Championship when she drew against WFM Zakia Sultana, at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room yesterday.

Sharmin now shares the lead along with Protiva Talukdar, who defeated Tisha to have 3.5 points from four matches.

Ten players are in joint second position with three points each. They are Zakia Sultana, Sharmin Samia Simmi, Farzana Hossain Annie, Arifa Khatun, Amena Khatun, Chowdhury Mahmuda Haque, Jahanara Haque, Fatematu Shrabonee, Hamida Khan and Jannat Jisa.

Lanka want 2-0 margin Second Test against England from today

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka will settle for nothing less than a 2-0 series whitewash in the second and final Test against England in Colombo from Tuesday, as the buoyant hosts celebrate 30 years of Test cricket.

Sri Lanka won the first Test in Galle by 75 runs, meaning a draw would be enough at the P Sara Oval in the Sri Lankan capital for a first series Test victory since 2009, when they beat New Zealand 2-0 at home.

"We will go for 2-0 because we play our best cricket when we are positive," skipper Mahela Jayawardene said on Monday.

Andrew Strauss's spin-wary England will slip to number two in the world rankings behind South Africa if

they lose or draw the second Test, but Jayawardene said his team was not going to show the tourists any mercy.

"When you play a team like England, you have to be aggressive and look to get in front of them from the first ball. They are a strong side and will come hard at us," he said.

"But we are prepared for that and ready to play good cricket. We played well in Galle and must now look to improve on that."

It was at the same venue that Sri Lanka played their inaugural Test in February 1982 against an England side led by Keith Fletcher, which won by seven wickets inside four days.

"It is going to be somewhat emotional," Jayawardene said of the landmark Test. "Everyone who plays the match will become part of our rich history. We are humble and proud to be

part of such an important game."

The Galle win was only Sri Lanka's second, and the first at home, in 18 Tests since world bowling record holder Muttiah Muralidaran retired in 2010 with a record 800 Test and 534 one-day wickets.

The other win came in December, when they thumped South Africa by 208 runs in Durban, but went on to lose the series 2-1.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath, who claimed nine wickets against South Africa, destroyed England in Galle with six wickets in each innings to earn the man of the match award.

Jayawardene said the P Sara Oval wicket will provide exciting cricket over the next five days.

"It is usually a very good Test-match wicket," he said. "There will be something

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England captain Andrew Strauss practises in the nets during a training session in Colombo yesterday, ahead of the second Test against Sri Lanka starting here today.

PHOTO: AFP