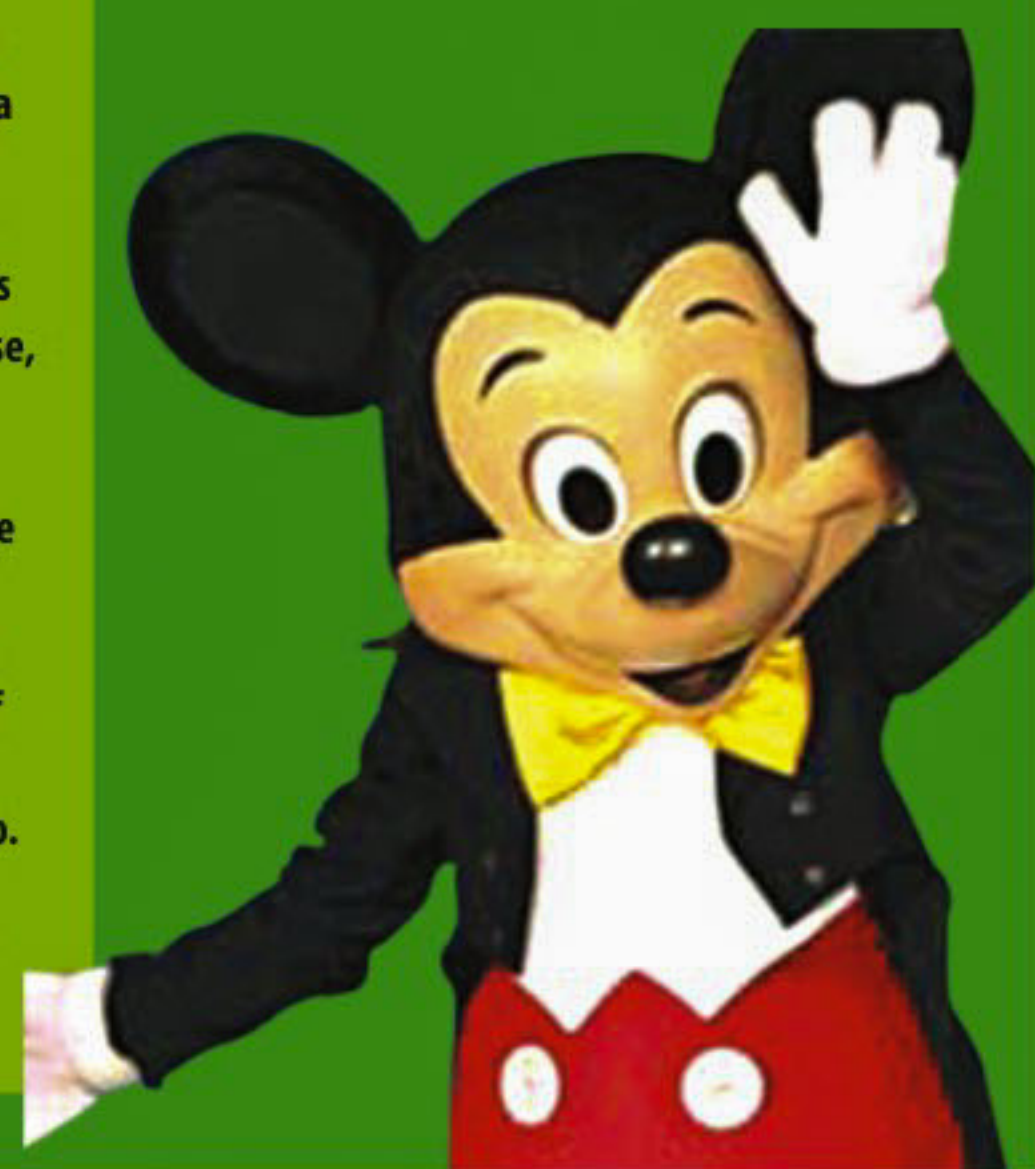


Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 9, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Mickey cricket

The Walt Disney Company and the IPL team Mumbai Indians have launched a collection that includes apparel and accessories, footwear, stationery and toys, all featuring Disney's five famous characters -- Mickey Mouse, Mini Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy and Pluto -- in cricketing attire. "It is called Mickey Cricket and we have launched it for the first time in association with Mumbai Indians. We want to get the fans to get the best of Mickey and obviously Sachin (Tendulkar), who is another superhero. So it is a great association," the Walt Disney Company India vice-president Roshini Bakshi said.



PATIENCE IS VIRTUE: West Indies batsman Darren Bravo leaves a delivery just outside the off stump during his patient knock of 51 on the second day of the first Test against Australia at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Threats loom large

CCDM announces fixtures

SPORTS REPORTER



Trouble doesn't seem to keep away from this season's Dhaka Premier League after two out of the three clubs involved in the standoff have continued with their threat not to participate further in the competition.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had on Saturday announced that the league would resume on Tuesday after an exhaustive emergency meeting in the evening. It appeared to be the conclusion of uncertainty that had gripped the country's cricket for ten days with the league remaining suspended from March 28.

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) yesterday announced the remaining schedule with matches slated for April 10, 12 and 15 to conclude the lengthened tournament. But Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani have said that they will not take part in the Super League phase for particular reasons while Victoria Sporting Club are still undecided.

The board's endorsement of the match referee's decision of awarding two points to Victoria has not sat well with Abahani, who had refused to play in the March 28 Super League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Abahani's cricket secretary MA Awal Chowdhury said that they will stand by their

original stance of not returning to the field of play as they didn't get a reply from the authorities after they had asked for an explanation of Mohammad Yousuf's clearance.

"We gave them a letter asking whether Yousuf's papers were legal or not. They didn't reply to us so we shall stand by our decision of not participating," Awal said yesterday.

It was learned that they would wait for Nazmul Hasan, the club's cricket chairman, to return tomorrow evening from Singapore before changing the decision.

BCB also decided that Yousuf will be "refrained from further participation in the league this season as the legitimacy of his registration for Victoria is being disputed by Mohammedan Sporting Club Limited. The board is of the opinion that if the transfer and registration is proved invalid then appropriate action may be taken as per the law of the land".

However, Mohammedan are not convinced with this statement as director-in-charge Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan has mentioned in his comments that they will not play as they want the BCB to announce categorically that Yousuf's clearance was "illegal".

"We will stand by our decision not to play. Look, what have they done for us? Mohammedan club doesn't only let the boys play, it is about our image," he said.

The board's special consideration of allowing registration of ten foreign cricketers

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WI slow but steady

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

A slow Kensington Oval pitch and three dropped catches helped the West Indies make a solid start against Australia on the opening day of the first Test on Saturday.

When rain curtailed the action, the home side were 179 for 3 with the backbone of the score being a century second-wicket partnership between Kraigg Brathwaite and Kirk Edwards.

At lunch yesterday (Sunday), West Indies had reached 291 for five with Shivnarine Chanderpaul batting on 58 and Carlton Baugh giving him company, unbeaten on 4. Narsingh Deonarine was the fifth West Indian wicket to fall two overs before lunch was taken, caught behind off Australia fast bowler Ryan Harris.

On Saturday, having won the toss, the West Indies' openers made a steady start and the initial breakthrough for Australia didn't come until the 18th over.

For his second spell, Harris had replaced Nathan Lyon at the Malcolm Marshall end and came around the wicket to Adrian Barath.

His third ball was a bouncer outside off stump that Barath, who had made 22, hit high in the air for Peter Siddle to get under at

fine-leg.

Edwards joined Brathwaite and he started slowly but the score was steadily building with Brathwaite being fortunate to survive two tough chances that he offered.

In his third over, Siddle had him playing too early and, as his hand came off the bat, the ball looped back to the bowler who, despite getting his left hand down to the dropping ball, couldn't hold on.

Brathwaite moved on to 44 when Shane Watson induced an edge that went wide to Ricky Ponting's right at second slip.

He did well to reach the ball but he couldn't grasp it as the ball died on him.

It was Watson, himself, who then gave Edwards a life.

Siddle found the edge when the batsman had made 56 and the ball flew high above Watson's head at fourth slip and, despite getting both hands to the ball, he couldn't hang on.

It came at a time when Edwards had upped the tempo as he hit several boundaries and smashed Lyon over long-on for six.

As Michael Clarke looked for options he turned to part-time leg-break bowler David Warner.

When Edwards had reached 61 he smashed a return catch back at Warner who took it smartly.

It was his first international wicket and he

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police AC came from behind to register a 3-2 win over BG Press Sports & Recreation Club in the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Shamim and Sohel Rana struck one goal each inside 11 minutes to put BG Press ahead before Amirul, Nazrul and Al Amin netted one each to pull off a brilliant victory.

School Football

Damkurahat High School of Pauba Upazila emerged Rajshahi district champions in the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament with a 1-0 win over Saipara High School of Bagmara in Rajshahi yesterday.

Bipulasar Ahmedullah High School of Manoharganj moved into the Comilla district semifinals with a

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Fury over Shakib exclusion

Kolkata lose again

SPORTS REPORTER



After Kolkata Knight Riders lost their second consecutive Indian Premier League

game, this time a 22-run defeat at the hands of Rajasthan Royals yesterday, the uproar about Shakib Al Hasan's inclusion has intensified among many in the country.

Having won man-of-the-tournament awards in the preceding tournaments Bangladesh Premier League T20 and the Asia Cup, it has been quite confusing to see newcomers like Marchant de Lange and Sunil Narine being taken in the line-up ahead of the world's No 1 all-rounder in Tests and ODIs, and especially perplexing to see an in-form cricketer sit out.

The social network websites like Facebook and Twitter have been abuzz with comments and speculations about the Knight Riders' decision to bench the Tiger.

Muatasim Ornob, a Bangladeshi engineering student in Malaysia, questioned whether decision to drop Shakib was an informed one.

"The reason why Shakib [Al Hasan] was dropped even in the second game can be due to the team selector or team management's probable lack of knowledge about his skills and capabilities," he wrote in Facebook. "Or they have this mentality that Bangladeshi players are not that great or it can be due to some politics. This is my opinion."

Isnaad Sharahbeel, a student at Notre Dome College reasoned that it could be the hype of Indian media that could have prompted the inclusion of rookies like Narine.

"The major reasons for Shakib's exclusion from the eleven are a) Indian media's over hype regarding a mediocre [player like] Sunil Narine who is still trying to find his way in international cricket.

"Underestimation of a player of Shakib's calibre just because he belongs to a country referred to as

'minnows'. They just cannot trust on Shakib as much as many others (for instance, Brett Lee, Jacques Kallis) no matter how much Shakib goes on to prove himself," he said.

Md Zahidur Rahman echoed the views of Ornob and Isnaad, saying that the Kolkata franchise might now realise what they have missed.

"My simple question to the KKR team management is that are they kidding with us? When there is a man to offer you all the stuff then what is the reason to pick such an off-spinner who hardly can create any chance to give you breakthrough.

"Has Narine showed much in his T20 career? Hope there is no racial matter. After watching today's [Sunday's] game, I'm feeling like KKR needs to think about Shakib instead of Kallis," he wrote in a message on Facebook.

By contrast, Tanoy Kanti Dutta dispassionately claimed that it is still Knight Riders' decision to play him or not.

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Yuvraj comes home today

PTI, New Delhi

Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh, who is recuperating in London after undergoing chemotherapy for a rare germ cell cancer between his lungs, will return to the country on Monday.

"Finally the day has come! I am going home tomorrow! I can't wait, excited to see my friends and family... see you india!! mera bharat mahan!" Yuvraj tweeted.

But the 30-year-old batsman is not expected to play for a few more months.

After being diagnosed with the disease, Yuvraj underwent three sessions of chemotherapy and was discharged from his hospital in the United States last month.

He is expected to announce his future plans and details about treatment that he underwent after returning to the country.

Recently, Yuvraj met Sachin Tendulkar in London who had gone there to get a check up on a toe injury.

Overseas training for four shooters

SPORTS REPORTER



27 to August 12.

Four female shooters -- gold medallist in Commonwealth Shooting Championship and SA Games Sharmin Akter Ratna and Sadia Sultana, SA Games gold medallist Sharmin Akter and Tripti Datta -- have been selected for the 14-week training to be held at the Bisley International Shooting Range in Surrey, London. The shooters are likely to leave for London on April 16.

However, of them only the wild card winners will be receiving the training up to the start of London Olympics and rest of them will return after training.

Bangladesh Olympic Association has appealed for two wild cards this time, both in women's 10m Air Rifles event. Wild cards are given to those countries who fail to qualify directly for the mega extravaganza, and this time distribution of wild cards will be finalised by mid May.

"If we get wild cards as per our require-

ment, then two of the of the shooters will return home while rest will continue their training under a foreign coach and a Bangladeshi coach from where they will join the Bangladesh contingent in London," said CEO of Bangladesh Olympic Association Colonel (retd) Waliullah yesterday.

Waliullah informed that the training would cost 65,000 pounds. Canary Wharf would provide 10,000 pounds, British government will bear 25,000 pounds and Bureau of Tower Hamlet would also bear a portion while the rest of the amount including air fare would be borne by the BOA.

Waliullah also informed that Bangladesh would have to provide 9,000 bullets per shooter during the training.

Bangladesh coach Shoaibuzzaman informed that four shooters have been training at the BKSP Shooting Range for four months.

Shoib also informed that there will be three competitions held in London among the four shooters and the top two, depending on wild card availability, would be selected for the Olympics Games.

Bangladesh have also appealed for one wild card each for archery, taekwondo and swimming.



PHOTO: AFP

Kolkata Knight Riders have been in all sorts of troubles in this year's IPL. Here their lower-order batsman Sunil Narine, picked ahead of Bangladesh's champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, looks back at his upside-down furniture at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur yesterday.