

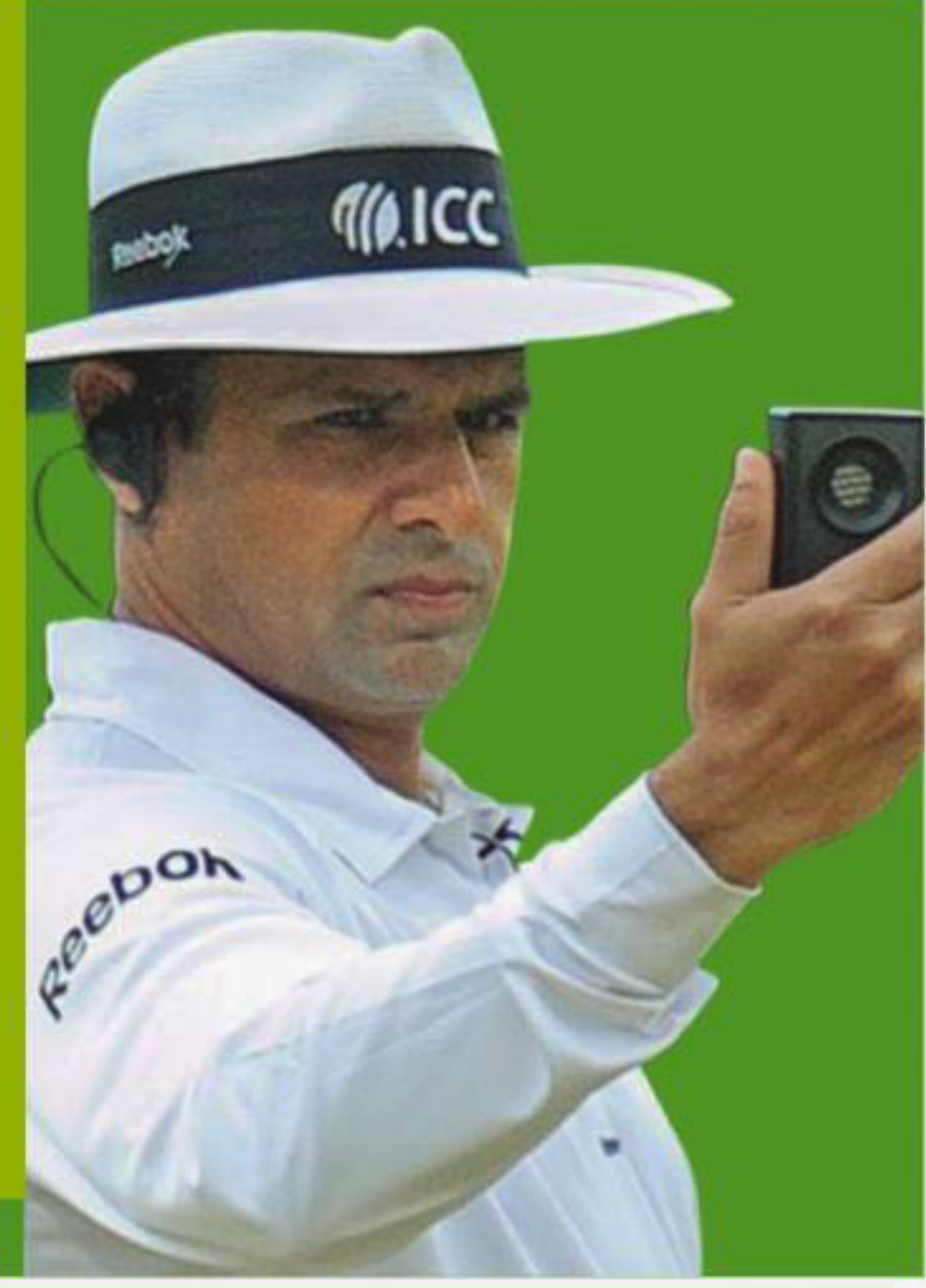
Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 28, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Dar Asia's most Test-ed umpire

Three time winner of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Umpire-of-the-Year award, Pakistan's Aleem Dar has achieved yet another landmark by becoming the Asian umpire to officiate in the most Test matches.

Dar achieved this landmark after officiating in his 74th Test, between England and West Indies. He broke the record held previously by Indian umpire S Venkatraghavan, who officiated in 73 matches, reports the Express Tribune. "Umpiring is my passion and I would continue doing it," Dar was quoted as saying. Dar, 43, ranks sixth in the world for having



KKR clinch maiden title

SPORTS DESK



At the halfway mark of the IPL final the balance certainly tilted towards Chennai Super Kings, who were playing for a hat-trick of titles and had put on a massive total of 190-3 before their home crowd at the MA Chidambaram Stadium yesterday.

Their opponents Kolkata Knight Riders were up against history when they started their chase of 191, a score they have not scored in this year's IPL so far. However, at the end of a pulsating finale the Knight Riders were crowned as the new champions of the glitzy multi-million dollar tournament when they reached the summit with two balls to spare and five wickets in hand.

Opener Bisla preserved the best for the last, hitting a blistering 89 off 48 balls that contained eight fours and five sixes. Jacques Kallis, who played the sheet anchor role after Knight Riders captain Gautam Gambhir (2) departed in the second over, took his side close to victory with an imperious 69 off 49 balls.

But still the Knight Riders needed a small but very significant contribution from Bangladesh's champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan to win their maiden IPL title. After taking a magnificent diving catch and bowling the last over like a man possessed during the Chennai innings, the left-hander struck a crucial boundary a scoop over fine leg in the penultimate over that left Kolkata with an easy task of scoring nine runs from the last six balls. Knight Riders' fans in India and Shakib's 17 million followers in Bangladesh erupted into joy

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Kolkata Knight Riders players celebrate with their maiden IPL trophy after defeating Chennai Super Kings in the final at the MA Chidambaram Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Joy threatened referee?

SPORTS REPORTER

Team BJMC manager Arif Khan Joy, who is also a vice president of Bangladesh Football Federation, allegedly threatened referees during BJMC's Bangladesh Premier League match against Farashganj SC yesterday.

Farashganj SC coach Kamal Babu alleged that Joy threatened the referees that they would lose their jobs if they did not blow whistle in right direction.

Two Farashganj officials, who were in the press box, were seen to inform the match commissioner about Joy's remarks. Farashganj SC even refrained from playing for five minutes at the start of the second half, protesting Joy's behavior.

"When a high official of football federation threatens the referees during the game, then small team like Farashganj become helpless and have little opportunity to play," said Farashganj coach Kamal Babu.

Kamal also alleged that the referee awarded BJMC with a penalty after the threat of Joy.

"We were fighting well against them but the penalty pushed us out of the match," said Kamal.

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Ismael Bangoura of Team BJMC signals his hat-trick against Farashganj in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Bangoura tames Farashganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Guinean striker Ismael Bangoura slammed a hat-trick as Team BJMC ended a good run of form for Farashganj SC by inflicting a 3-1 defeat on them in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League yesterday.

Bangoura struck in the 43rd, 53rd and 75th minutes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to complete his first and league's eighth hat-trick. The Guinean striker has now scored in three successive matches for BJMC which took his tally to 10 goals for the league.

Their sixth win puts BJMC in third position with 23 from 13 matches while Farashganj remain in eighth position with 14 points from 13 outings.

High flying Farashganj SC came into the

match on the back of two stunning victories, over title contenders Muktiyoddha Sangad and holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, but yesterday's performance was a shadow of those earlier matches as they missed four regular players due to suspension and injury.

However, Farashganj came close to taking the lead in the 26th minute when Jewel Rana drove a long-range shot to force goalkeeper Atiqul Islam Tareq to diving save.

BJMC too went close to scoring but this time Farashganj keeper Sultan Ahmed came to the rescue. BJMC however broke the deadlock in the 43d minute when they were awarded a penalty after Bayback was tackled from behind inside the danger zone by Davis Mario. Bangoura stepped up and sent the goalkeeper the wrong way to put BJMC ahead.

Bangoura doubled the lead in the 53rd

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Gerhard's MSC mission begins

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan yesterday started their hockey training camp at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium under German coach Gerhard Peter Rach ahead of season's curtain-raising tournament Club Cup which starts on May 31.

Sixteen players reported to the former Bangladesh coach Gerhard guided the national side to a third place finish in the 2010 South Asian Games, which is the only mentionable success of his 18-month tenure.

Later in the afternoon, the club introduced the coach and his assistant and video analyst Achim Mertens to the journalists at the club premises in Motijheel.

"I loved hockey in Bangladesh, that's why I accepted the offer made by Mohammedan Club," said Gerhard. "Coaching a national team and a club team has a big difference as the national team has long-term targets while club has a short-term target which is achieved in a short time as well."

"So it is always challenging for a coach to guide a club side, but most of the Mohammedan players are known to me and I believe I can get them after improving their fitness and tactical aspects," said the German coach.

Dipali, Orient saunter to wins

SPORTS REPORTER

Dipali Jubo Sangha beat Indira Road Krira Chakra by 37 runs in the 4th Women's Club Cricket League match at the BKSP-2 yesterday.

Batting first, Dipali made 134-8 in 40 overs with Asha top-scoring with 24 and Nigar making 19. Nurunnahar took four wickets.

In reply, Indira Road were restricted to 97-9 in 40 overs with Asha picking up three wickets.

In the day's other match, Orient Sporting Club beat Kalabagan Krira Chakra by five wickets at the adjacent ground.

T20 summer promises much



SPORTS REPORTER

It will be a Twenty20 summer for the Tigers this year as they build up to the ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Sri Lanka this September.

After the tri-series next month in Zimbabwe involving South Africa, there are ongoing negotiations with Cricket Ireland for five games as well as the four-nation tournament in celebration of Trinidad & Tobago's Independence Day. In addition, four more Twenty20 matches as warm-up games are also scheduled to be held just ahead of the mega-event.

Keeping in mind the last Twenty20 game that the Tigers have won was in

October and against West Indies, and the recent international success in the Asia Cup, it is safe to say that several places in the starting line-up is predictable but there is still room for new faces, some of whom can carve a niche in this new global craze.

The likes of Shakib Al Hasan, skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal will be the leading lights with Mahmudullah Riyad, Nasir Hossain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Abdur Razzak maintaining a balanced structure to the team. Jahurul Islam and Shaiful Islam are also figures that can tilt the make-up of the playing eleven with their performances, but none of these are out-and-out Twenty20 specialists. One can say that Shakib and Mushfiqur are the genuinely recognised match-winners with the No

1 all-rounder in the world making waves in the IPL in the limited number of opportunities he's had thus far.

Having mentioned the finisher Mushfiqur, it would be unfair if Nasir's name is not included but the young all-rounder hasn't done what his skipper did last October when out of nowhere, Mushfiqur snatched the game away from the West Indies.

In a bid to build a base of Twenty20 specialists, the national selectors led by Akram Khan have named Ziaur Rahman and Alauddin Babu and recalled Junaed Siddique and Mohammad Ashraful. The two more experienced players have done well in the past and their place in the selectors' radar says a lot about Twenty20 options

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Del Potro gets thru'



AFP, Paris

French Open dangerman Juan Martin Del Potro shrugged off a knee injury scare as well as sweltering 30-degree heat to reach the French Open second round on Sunday.

The ninth seeded Argentine, who made the semifinals in 2009 before going on to claim the US Open title, saw off Spanish veteran Albert Montanes 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-1 in a shade over three hours.

He will tackle France's Edouard Roger-Vasselin for a place in the last 32.

Del Potro, a potential quarterfinal opponent of Roger Federer, had beaten Montanes in straight sets on his way to the Estoril title in April.

But he endured a bumpy ride on Philippe Chatrier Court on Sunday when his troublesome left knee, which had already been taped, required further strapping at the end of the marathon second set.

The 23-year-old, the only man outside of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Federer to

win a Grand Slam title in the last seven years, also needed a doctor three games into the second set as the soaring temperatures threatened to take their toll.

"I was struggling a little, but I had some good treatment which allowed me to finish the match," said Del Potro.

"Roland Garros is a physically-demanding tournament. I have to keep that in mind as I am playing well at the moment." Also making the last 64 on the opening day of the 2012 tournament was 2003 winner Juan Carlos Ferrero, who defeated French wildcard Jonathan Dasnières de Veigy 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.

Ferrero, playing in his 12th Roland Garros, next meets Croatian 21st seed Maran Cilic.

US Open champion Samantha Stosur had the honour of being the first player into the second round, brushing aside Britain's Elena Baltacha in her opener.

Australian sixth seed Stosur, the 2010 runner-up to Francesca Schiavone, took just over an hour to see off the 68th-ranked Baltacha 6-4, 6-0 on Philippe Chatrier court.

The 26-year-old from the Gold Coast, who hammered 23 winners to Baltacha's eight,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Ennis sets new mark

AFP, Gotzis

Former world heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis gave her hopes of winning Olympic gold in London a timely boost on Sunday by winning a combined events meeting here in a new British record points tally.

The 26-year-old recorded a new personal best of 6,906 points to replace in the record books Britain's 2000 Olympic champion Denise Lewis whose previous best was at 6,831.

Russia's Tatyana Chernova, who took Ennis' world title in Daegu last year, was 132 points behind in second, with Olympic champion Nataliya Dobrynska a distant ninth almost 600 points adrift.

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