

Trent's fowl play

Ireland captain Trent Johnston has said he would love to do his famous 'Chicken Dance' at the fall of every Australian wicket during this year's Twenty20 World Cup in Sri Lanka.

"Hopefully we'll get to see it again in Sri Lanka -- who knows, Mr. (Dave) Warner or Mr. (Shane) Watson might have to look at it, as they're walking off," the former Wollongong seamer said.

Johnston's party trick is celebrating wickets by flapping his elbows while jiggling from one foot to the other.

According to new.com.au, the 38-year-old Australian expat has already dished one out



Siddikur makes the cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman made the cut in the Yeangder Tournament Players Championship, but only just. The 27-year old golfer was in a precarious position with 3-over-par having played 24 holes in the rain-affected first two days. But he managed to get his game up a bit yesterday at the Linkou International Golf and Country Club to finish the second round on two-over-par, making the cut by a single stroke. The cut was set at three-over-par with 76 players advancing through.

Siddikur was however languishing in joint 51st position with India's Gaganjeet Bhullar leading at nine-under-par 135, going into the last day's play in the 154-stroke matchplay.

Commissioner Gold Cup from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament gets underway tomorrow at four different venues with all 17 districts participating.

The teams, split into four venues, will take part in the knockout tournament and four venue champions will move to the semifinals to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, which will also hold the final on September 30.

The knockout round will take place in Shariatpur, Manikganj, Netrokona and Gazipur, a district which has no BFF approved football body where the district sports association has come forward to hosting the matches.

"We are going to hold this tournament for the second time under Dhaka Divisional Football Association [DDFA] even though we could not hold it last year," said DDFA general secretary Kutubuddin Aksir at a press conference yesterday.

Aksir also said that they were planning to hold a Commissioner Gold Cup with the participation of the champions and runners-up of all seven division from the next year and they have already talked to officials of other divisional football associations.

The fourth edition of the 15-year old tournament is being organised by the DDFA in association with the Dhaka

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Bangladesh national cricket team members play a match of football as part of training at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday, ahead of the T20 World Cup which starts tomorrow. The Tigers will take on Ireland in a practice match today.

PHOTO: COURTESY

'Not just a T20 specialist'

Bangladesh-Ireland warm-up today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team will play their second warm-up game against Ireland at the Moors Cricket Ground in Colombo today. The Tigers, who defeated Zimbabwe on Saturday, will leave for Kandy after today's match, where they'll face New Zealand on September 21.

The team's scheduled net practice session at the Premadasa stadium got cancelled yesterday morning due to incessant rainfall. The players, however, were able to take part in an outdoor workout session later on.

All-rounder Ziaur Rahman, who played a vital role with the bat against

Zimbabwe in the last warm-up game, said that he was looking forward to performing in his first major international tournament. Zia stated that the anxiety of playing in the big leagues hasn't given him the jitters. "I have never been in awe of my surroundings. I enjoy my role in the team and I am confident about playing the game in my own style," he said.

Zia initially entered the game as a pace bowler and later switched to the long handle after he went through a series of injuries. Today, his batting ability has given the Bangladeshi middle order a much-required boost. He justified his presence in the last game with a quickfire 26, an innings which included three sixes and helped the

Tigers race to victory.

While he was selected in the inaugural World T20 in 2007, he had been chosen as a pace bowler and didn't get a berth in the playing eleven that year. "I was selected as the third-choice seamer probably but it was tough to get into the side with Mashrafe (Mortaza), (Syed) Rasel and Farhad Reza playing. Now I see myself more as a batsman and I have been given another opportunity. I am really looking forward to this tournament as we have done quite well in the lead up to the World T20 and have played a lot of Twenty20 matches."

The 25-year-old, who is widely known to be a T20 specialist due to his hard-hitting ability, believes that he is

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

WIHP ride on twin tons

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The West Indies High Performance team scored 394 for five at the end of the first day of the four-day match against the Sahara-BCB National Cricket Academy team at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

The visiting side, who elected to bat first, lost a wicket in the very first over of the day when opener Kjorn Ottley was caught behind off Dollar Mahmud. The batting side lost another wicket in the 18th over before a century third-wicket stand between opener Andre Fletcher and Kyle Hope took the score past 200. Fletcher was caught behind in the 49th over off Nazmul Apu after scoring an impressive 105.

The visitors' domination continued as Keddy Lesporis and Hope shared a 168-run fourth-wicket partnership in good

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Election culls summer meet

Athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

The 11th Summer Athletics Championships held in October last year produced a new fastest man from Bangladesh in the shape of Hafizur Rahman. But there will be no such revelations this time around as it is all but certain that the 12th edition of the traditional summer meet will be scrapped from the calendar due to the Bangladesh Athletic Federation elections.

The four-year tenure of the existing executive committee will expire on November 1 and the officials are now reportedly busy preparing the list of councillors for the election. This means that the Summer Athletic Champions, one of only three athletic championships in a calendar year, will be scrapped.

The officials of BAF have sat almost idle for the last three and a half months, following the completion of the Junior Athletics Championships held in May. Yet there was little interest from the governing body to take the initiative to host the Summer Athletics Championships. Excuses however, have already been prepared.

"There is no chance to hold the Summer Championships before the election of the Bangladesh Athletics Federation as the all affiliated bodies have been asked to submit their names of representatives by September 22. After the completion of the voters' list, the National Sports Council will declare an election schedule," said BAF acting general secretary Manzor

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

TT players put forward demands

SPORTS REPORTER

Senior table tennis players of the country yesterday urged the federation officials to treat all players equally and arrange training camp for the upcoming South Asian Games as soon as possible.

The national players, including Mahbub Billah, and Manash, placed their demands at a press conference at the newly-built Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday morning.

"We are often told to quit the game to make room for youngsters even though there are no young players who can beat us at the moment. Then why should we quit the game?" questioned Mahbub adding that he was the number-one ranked player in 2010 and number two 2011.

Manash said that the officials close to general secretary Kamrul Huda were spoiling the game.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Appetiser in the form of India v Pakistan today

PTI, Colombo



Their tails up after an easy outing against hosts Sri Lanka, India would like to keep the winning momentum going when they take on arch-rivals Pakistan in their second warm-up game on Monday ahead of the ICC World Twenty20 beginning on September 18.

The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led Indian team would, however, want their batsman to come good against a superior Pakistani bowling unit to maintain a clean slate ahead of their World Twenty20 opener against Afghanistan on September 19.

Though, India won comfortably against the hosts in their opening warm-up game, they certainly need to put up a better show with the bat against Pakistan, who boast of quality bowlers like Saeed Ajmal and Umar Gul in their ranks.

Injury to opener Gautam Gambhir, who hurt his wrist against Sri Lanka, would be a concern for the Indians but Virender Sehwag along with other top-order batsmen need to redeem themselves against Pakistan following their dismal show with the bat in the first match.

India, in particular, would like Sehwag to

fire against Pakistan and get some runs under his belt ahead of the tough battle ahead.

Virat Kohli, on the other hand, has been a consistent performer, but the young Delhi lad would look to settle down and get batte



MOHAMMAD HAFEEZ



MS DHONI

ready with a solid knock against Pakistan at the R Premadasa Stadium.

Yuvraj Singh, who made a comeback to world cricket after recovering from cancer with a cameo of 34 runs against New Zealand in the second T20 game in Chennai, also needs to get some more runs under his belt.

And the match against Pakistan will provide the gutsy left-hander with an opportunity to prove that he is ready and looking forward to take on the world with the same

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Booters in Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Football Team had a light practice session at the Nepal Police Sports Ground in Kathmandu yesterday after arriving in the Himalayan country to play two exhibition matches against the hosts.

The matches are scheduled to be held at the Dasharath Stadium on September 18 and 20.

Before leaving here for Nepal, coach Saiful Bari Titu emphasised on the need of such exhibition matches for the national team and urged the federation to arrange more matches and against stronger teams. Titu also expected both the matches against Nepal to be even contests.

Div-I hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bachelors Club and Shishu Kishore Sangha won their respective matches of the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bachelors Club defeated Barnak Samaj 3-1 after leading the first half 2-1.

Sheikh Sumon scored two field goals for the Bachelors Club in the 24th and 26th minutes respectively, while Arnab pulled one back for Barnak Samaj in the 29th minute.

Sheikh Imran sealed victory for Bachelors Club scoring in the 44th minute from a penalty corner.

In the day's other match,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Bangabandhu, Bangamata Gold Cup

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

The Brahmanbaria District phase of Bangabandhu Gold Cup and Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournaments started yesterday at the Neaz Mohammad Stadium.

All nine champions from the upazila level, in both boys and girls section, are participating in the tournament.

In the inaugural match, Shuhilpur Maddyo Government Primary School defeated Bhatamata Government Primary School 5-0 while Gangihata girls' defeated Ranirkar girls' 1-0 in the opening match of the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup.



ICC WORLD TWENTY20 SRI LANKA 2012 FIXTURES

GROUPINGS
 GROUP A: ENGLAND, INDIA, AFGHANISTAN GROUP B: AUSTRALIA, WEST INDIES, IRELAND
 GROUP C: SRI LANKA, SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE GROUP D: PAKISTAN, NEW ZEALAND, BANGLADESH

GROUP PHASE			
DATE	TIME	MATCH	VENUE
Sept 18	8:00pm	Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe	Hambantota
Sept 19	4:00pm 8:00pm	Australia v Ireland India v Afghanistan	Colombo Colombo
Sept 20	8:00pm	South Africa v Zimbabwe	Hambantota
Sept 21	4:00pm 8:00pm	New Zealand v Bangladesh England v Afghanistan	Pallekele Colombo
Sept 22	4:00pm 8:00pm	Sri Lanka v South Africa Australia v West Indies	Hambantota Colombo
Sept 23	4:00pm 8:00pm	Pakistan v New Zealand England v India	Pallekele Colombo
Sept 24	8:00pm	West Indies v Ireland	Colombo
Sept 25	8:00pm	Pakistan v Bangladesh	Pallekele

SUPER EIGHTS			
GROUP ONE (G1): A1, B2, C1, D2			
GROUP TWO (G2): A2, B1, C2, D1			
DATE	TIME	MATCH	VENUE
Sept 27	4:00pm 8:00pm	C1 v D2 A1 v B2	Pallekele Pallekele
Sept 28	4:00pm 8:00pm	D1 v C2 B1 v A2	Colombo Colombo
Sept 29	4:00pm 8:00pm	A1 v D2 C1 v B2	Pallekele Pallekele
Sept 30	4:00pm 8:00pm	B1 v C2 D1 v A2	Colombo Colombo
Oct 1	4:00pm 8:00pm	B2 v D2 A1 v C1	Pallekele Pallekele
Oct 2	4:00pm 8:00pm	B1 v D1 A2 v C2	Colombo Colombo

SEMIFINALS	
Date: Oct 4	Time: 7:30pm
G1 winners v G2 runners-up	
Venue: Colombo	
Date: Oct 5	Time: 7:30pm
G1 runners-up v G2 winners	
Venue: Colombo	
THE FINAL	
Date: Oct 7	Time: 7:30pm
Winners of Semifinals	
Venue: Colombo	
(All times are Bangladesh Standard Time)	