



Chess is a passion for an ageless Rani Hamid. Here she competes in the 38th National Chess B Championship with a host of young players at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Japan-SAARC football meet this October

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take part in the Japan-SAARC U-14 Football Exchange Programme to be held in the Far Eastern country over October 7-20.

In a quest to strengthen the bond with the South Asian nations, who came forward to help Japan during its natural calamities, they are going to host a football tournament with the participation of eight SAARC countries as a part of their preparation for next year's AFC U-14 Football Festival, informed BFF's acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

To select the U-14 squad, the BFF development committee will run a trial on September 21 and 23.

Golf team leaves for Bhutan today

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-member Bangladesh Golf team will leave here for Bhutan today to take part in the Bhutan Amateur Open, which will get underway from Thursday.

Major (ret'd) Mohammad Arman Ali Bhuiyan will accompany three golfers -- Mohammad Dulal Hossain, Mohammad Sobhan and Mohammad Sagar, said a ISPR press release yesterday.

Professional golfer Shakhwat Hossain Soheli also is expected to leave here today for India to take part in four tournaments: PGTI Players Championship, Indian Oil XtraPremium Masters and Mumbai Open and Delhi Bilt Open.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh National team comprising of Mohammad Dulal Hossain and Mohammad Rubel became runners-up in the recently concluded 125th Sri Lanka Amateur Tournament and Dulal finished second in the individual event.

Sanath sees three-way battle!

AFP, Colombo

Former explosive batsman Sanath Jayasuriya believes India, Pakistan or Sri Lanka have the best chance of winning this year's Twenty20 World Cup, starting from September 18.

Jayasuriya believes the spin-friendly conditions in the sub-continent would suit these three teams, and added India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which is also the host nation, boast of good T20 teams.

"It's a tough tournament to predict as there are several teams who if they find their rhythm and get their tactics right could ultimately win the competition," Jayasuriya said in an exclusive interview with Pakpassion.net.

Javed advises Sachin to quit at the top



ANI, Colombo

Legendary Pakistani batsman Javed Miandad on Sunday said that top players, like Sachin Tendulkar, must retire when they are on top of their game.

Talking exclusively to ANI here, Miandad was replying specifically on the issue of Tendulkar's retirement.

"I don't want to ask him to retire. Nobody can force him or push him. But if you ask me as a cricketer, he has played enough cricket. Maybe he'll play for another 4 or 6 months. This kind of decision is entirely up to the player. Its better to leave cricket when you are wanted, but don't leave when people say thank God he is gone. Great players should leave when they are on top, when they're wanted. People are talking about him all the time; I don't know what to say. My advice to him as a cricketer is that top cricketers should leave when they are on top," he said.

Miandad expressed happiness on resumption of bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan, and said that both the neighbours should play more often for mutual benefit.

"I am very pleased to see India and Pakistan starting their cricket. We don't mind playing cricket in India. It is nice to see these two countries starting their cricket. We like to continue with it. Lets try and come closer. We should not play once a while, we should play regularly. Its good for both the countries," he added.

Miandad revealed that Pakistani side is "very relaxed" ahead of its practice game against India on Monday, and added that he wishes for an India-Pak final.

"Pakistan team is very relaxed. The pressure is coming not from the inside, but from the outside. Winning and losing is part of the game. The more matches we play, this kind of pressure would not arise. I wish both the teams play T20 final. Tomorrow, it's not a matter of winning or losing. They [Pakistan] should look for the tournament ahead," he said.

Miandad refrained from picking any favourites to win the competition, saying, "It's not that easy to tell. Every team knows to play this kind of cricket. In this kind of competition, you need two good players."

India won its first warm up game, against Sri Lanka, on Saturday, and are scheduled to lock horns with Pakistan in another practice game tomorrow.

Kamran kills India

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seeded to meet in the Super Eights round in Colombo on September 30.

In other matches, England beat Australia by nine runs, the West Indies slammed Afghanistan by eight wickets and South Africa overcame New Zealand by nine runs.

Reigning champions England piled up 172-6 after being sent in to bat, with opener Alex Hales top-scoring with 52 off 38 balls. Luke Wright hit a 29-ball 35 and Eoin Morgan scored a brisk 30 from 16 balls.

Australia managed only 163-6 in reply against the tight England bowling despite a polished 71 off 51 balls from Michael Hussey, who hit five sixes.

England, who take on Afghanistan in their opening match in Colombo on Friday, play another practice match

against Pakistan on Wednesday.

West Indies opener Chris Gayle warmed up for the tournament with an unbeaten 65 off 48 balls as the West Indies eased past Afghanistan's modest 122-7 in the 16th over.

New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor hammered seven sixes in an unbeaten 75 from 42 balls, but could not prevent South Africa from carving out a nine-run victory.

South Africa rode on captain AB de Villiers's 54 to make 186-6 before four wickets from Dale Steyn restricted the Black Caps to 177-8.

SCORES IN BRIEF
INDIA: 185-3 in 20 overs (Kohli 75 not out, R Sharma 56, Sehwa 26; Ajmal 2-22)
PAKISTAN: 186-5 in 19.1 overs (K Akmal 92 not out, Malik 37 not out; Ashwin 4-23)

Result: Pakistan won by five wickets.

ENGLAND: 172-6 in 20 overs (Hales 52, Wright 35, Morgan 30; Hogg 2-39, Starc 2-32)

AUSTRALIA: 163-6 in 20 overs (Watson 37, M Hussey 71; Finn 2-26)

Result: England won by nine runs.

SOUTH AFRICA: 186-6 in 20 overs (De Villiers 54, Duminy 30, Behardien 24 not out; Milne 2-26, Franklin 2-31)
NEW ZEALAND: 177-8 in 20 overs (Taylor 75, Nicol 37; Steyn 4-25)

Result: South Africa won by nine runs.

AFGHANISTAN: 122-7 (Stanikzai 53; Edwards 3-24, Narine 2-23)
WEST INDIES: 125-2 in 15.5 overs (Gayle 65 not out; Nabi 2-29)

Result: West Indies won by eight wickets.

Bangladesh to end 'This should

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that tournament, Nepal held hosts and eventual champions India to a draw and showed plenty of improvement. Even the Nepal U-22 team have made giant strides and recently humiliated their Bangladeshi counterparts with a 4-0 defeat in the AFC U-22 Asia Cup earlier this year.

Bangladesh then, face a strong challenge against a Nepal side who are not only speedy and quick but also know how to take advantage of set-pieces. Both the Bangladesh senior side and junior side faced the consequences of this, conceding all of their goals to Nepal from set-pieces in both the SAFF Championship and AFC U-22 Asia Cup.

The statistics though, are still in favour of Bangladesh as they have posted nine including six straight victories (from 1995 to 2005) in 16 matches they played against Nepal. As such, a good start in today's game will boost the booters for the second and final friendly on September 20.

The Bangladesh team will be hindered in their prospects by a lack of fitness. The footballers have been out of action for over two months after the end of the professional football league and thus their conditioning will not be up to the mark. Coach Saiful Bari Titu has already expressed his concern about the fitness status of the players.

Bangladesh have played against Nepal at Dasrath Stadium four times with both having an equal record of two wins each.

Hope flays

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and Permaul Verasammy. The latter was bowled by Kamrul Islam at the fag end of the day.

Shakir Ahmed was the pick of the bowlers for the home-side as the two scalps in the day took increased his tally to four.

SCORES IN BRIEF
WEST INDIES HP: 521-8 in 117 overs (Hope 214 not out, Fletcher 105, Lesporis 97, Verasammy 42; Shaker 4-113, Apu 2-127, Dollar 1-62)

'This should

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"Practice games are important but they are not that important that you should start feeling demoralised over a loss in such games. These matches allow you to assess where you are at individually and as a team and you work on the findings," he added.

Shakib was happy with the way he batted in the match as well as with his form but he felt that some fine tuning is required with some individual players before the group matches against New Zealand and Pakistan, and despite the defeat he was optimistic about their chances of qualifying for the second round of the tournament.

"I think there are certain individual fine tuning that is required. The atmosphere will be different and you have to be totally switched on from the first ball. I am sure we will get there. There is a good chance that we will qualify for the next round if we win one game. We are taking it one match at a time," hoped Shakib, who will have to play a major role if his side want to make this campaign last beyond the first round.

Eleven share lead in chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Eleven players were jointly sharing the lead in the Access Group 38th National Chess B Championship at the end of third round matches at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

All eleven players recorded their third straight victory. They are IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, IM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Taibur Rahman, FM Mehdi Hasan Partag, FM Mohammad Abdul Malek, Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin, Hasan Emam, FM Mohammad Javed, Saiful Islam Chowdhury, Aminul Islam Polash and Delwar Hossain.

Kln Abahani's second win

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Abahani brightened their chances of qualifying for the Federation Cup when they defeated Uttar Baridhara Club to post their second straight victory in the Grameenphone Federation Shield at Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

Khulna Abahani, who played the first two editions of the professional football league before being eliminated, were put ahead by Pikul two minutes before the break. The same man doubled the margin to seal the match in the 63rd minute. Khulna Abahani had defeated BKSP 1-0 in their first match.

At the same venue, hosts Jessore were held by BKSP 1-1 despite taking a lead in the 33rd minute through Krishna Biswas. Ratul Islam cancelled the lead to give BKSP their first point in two matches.

At the Bhasa Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni, both matches ended in identical 1-1 draw as Noakhali Football Academy played out a 1-1 draw against Rampur Boys Club while Rahmatganj MFS were held 1-1 by Rangpur DEAEleven.

Wanderers' big victory

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers posted a 4-1 win over Farashganj SC in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka Wanderers led the first-half with a strike from Nitin Kumar before Sajib doubled the lead two minutes into the second-half. Mohsin then struck a brace to widen the margin. Rumel pulled one goal back for Farashganj.

In the day's other match, Combined SC defeated Mukta Bihangha 2-0 with Dhiman scoring both the goals in the 13th and 29th minutes respectively.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Stashed
4 "Kapow!"
8 Crooner
12 Cinnabar
13 — mater
14 Soul singer
15 Magnetic coil
17 Cry
18 Vim
19 Lemieux milieu
21 Roulette bet
22 Grave
26 House on an estate
29 "Glee"
30 Meadow
31 Winged
32 Grecian vessel
33 Opening day?
34 Omega precursor
35 Emulate
41-Across
36 Edison rival
37 Excluding all else
39 Bro or sis

DOWN
1 Firetruck necessity
2 Unyielding
3 Take out of context?
4 Brit's sausage
5 Harold of silents
6 Parisian pal
7 Unger's sloppy roommate
8 "Wheel of Fortune"
9 Noshed
10 Recline
11 Sixth sense, for short
16 Fielder's woe
20 Courteney of "Cougar Town"
23 "Desire Under the —"

Solution time: 25 mins.

ACROSS
1 Stashed
4 "Kapow!"
8 Crooner
12 Cinnabar
13 — mater
14 Soul singer
15 Magnetic coil
17 Cry
18 Vim
19 Lemieux milieu
21 Roulette bet
22 Grave
26 House on an estate
29 "Glee"
30 Meadow
31 Winged
32 Grecian vessel
33 Opening day?
34 Omega precursor
35 Emulate
41-Across
36 Edison rival
37 Excluding all else
39 Bro or sis

SL's biggest occasion

Take on Zimbabwe in the opener today

AFP, Hambantota



global title.

In Hambantota, the home town of President Mahinda Rajapakse, Sri Lanka should encounter few problems against minnows Zimbabwe as they raise the curtain on Twenty20 cricket's three-week, 12-nation, world championship.

Sri Lanka have yet to emulate their 50-over World Cup victory in 1996, despite reaching the final in 2007 and again last year. They were World Twenty20 runners-up in 2009 and went out in the semifinals in 2010.

The tropical "Teardrop Island", torn by a 37-year ethnic conflict until hostilities were declared over in 2009, has never held a tournament on this scale, although it was a co-host of the 1996 and 2011 World Cups.

Despite a fast and furious format which makes predictions unwise, Mahela Jayawardene's team start as slight tournament favourites because of home advantage and because they are known as a team for the big occasion.

Along with newly crowned cricketer of the year Kumar Sangakkara, Jayawardene and Tillakaratne Dilshan will do damage with the bat, while Sri Lanka can also call on talented all-rounders Angelo Mathews and Thisara Perera.

Fast bowler Lasith Malinga and unorthodox spinner Ajantha Mendis complete a formidable line-up which will also be familiar with the varied conditions in the capital Colombo, steamy hill town Palallelele and coastal Hambantota.

In an open field, at least half of the teams will consider themselves strong contenders to lift the trophy in Colombo on October 7 -- and the others will be encouraged by the tournament's reputation for surprises.

India, initially reluctant to embrace

cricket's newest format, won the inaugural event in South Africa in 2007 under rookie skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, after senior pros Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly opted out.

It was in the same tournament that Zimbabwe stunned Australia and Bangladesh upset the West Indies. India brushed aside England, South Africa, Australia and defeated Pakistan in successive games to grab the title.

Pakistan won the second edition in England in 2009, a tournament that made a stunning start when the Netherlands, a non Test-playing nation, upset the hosts by four wickets in front of a packed house at Lord's.

England won the 2010 event in the Caribbean against Australia, who had pulled off an amazing escape in their semifinal against Pakistan when Michael Hussey smashed 38 off 10 balls to win the match with one delivery to spare.

The 12 sides have been divided into four pools for the preliminary league, with the top two from each group advancing to the Super Eights round.

If the seedings go to plan, fans can expect high-voltage action in the Super Eights, a week-long race to the one-off semis and final.

England, the West Indies, Sri Lanka and New Zealand are seeded to meet in group one of the Super Eights, with the top two teams making it to the semifinals.

Group two is already being billed as the "Group of Death", with arch-rivals India and Pakistan seeded to face Australia and South Africa, should all go through to the Super Eights.

England are out to prove they can defend the title without star batsman Kevin Pietersen, the man of the tournament in 2010 who has been axed from the national team on disciplinary grounds.

The West Indies are also touted as potential champions, with explosive batsmen in Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard and Marlon Samuels, and a wily spinner in Sunil Narine.

Tigers lose last warm-up

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in the match with a 41-71 that featured five fours and as many sixes, Bangladesh's poor fielding -- but in the end the most pointed questions will be about the Tigers' poor approach with the bat. One cannot hope for a Bangladesh win against New Zealand or Pakistan with the sort of batting performance they put in yesterday.

Shakib Ali Hasan was looked shaking his head in the middle after he was dismissed for a 23-ball 52 that

contained three fours and five big sixes. The left-hander might have been frustrated as he could not finish the match but the blame should go to the other recognised batsmen.

Much has been made of the Tigers' ample preparation for the showpiece event, but it may all amount to nothing if they do not find the answers to the questions raised by yesterday's warm-up.

SCORES IN BRIEF
IRELAND: 164-6 in 20 overs

(Porterfield 17, Stirling 71, Joyce 39, Wilson 13, Johnston 10 not out, extras 11; Mashrafe 2-33, Shakib 2-21, Sunny 1-21)

BANGLADESH: 159-9 in 20 overs (Tamim 35, Ashraful 7, Shakib 52, Mushfiqur 7, Riyad 7, Nasir 1, Zia 26, Mashrafe 14, Sunny 1 not out, Razzak 1, Shafiqul 1 not out, extras 8; Johnston 2-25, Cusack 2-28, Jones 1-25, Kevin O'Brien 3-24).

Result: Ireland won by five runs.



Action from yesterday's Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League match between Dhaka Wanderers and Farashganj SC at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

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45	46	47				48	49					
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53						54				55		

CRYPTOQUIP

H Y I X N J L G N B G Y W C C N W K

H C A N A N K N G N Y J N J H Q

L G N B M K K N B L J H K N B L H M Q ,

Y Q J G N I Y H J "ANIL Y I I W K N J."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BLACK-

FEATHERED CROW WERE TO BEHAVE VERY

WACKILY, YOU COULD CALL IT A RAVEN LUNATIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals W