



Workers are hammering down the spectators' stand (above) at the southern end of Dhanmondi Stadium in an attempt to construct accommodation facility for players of Abahani Limited, which is the custodian of this part of the vast ground. (Left) Youths of the locality who have been using this facility without any intervention from any quarters over the years, are seen protesting the demolition fearing that this might eventually shut the doors for them perpetually.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Hayden quits all cricket

AFP, Sydney

Veteran Australian opener Matthew Hayden has called time on his glittering playing career, opting not to play in Australia's domestic Twenty20 series this year, his Brisbane Heat team said Thursday.

The Heat said that after lengthy discussions, Hayden, 40, had opted not to return for a final series after signing as their marquee player for last season's inaugural T20 Big Bash League.

Hayden, who retired from Test cricket in 2009, played for the Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League in 2010. He took a sabbatical from cricket before returning to play for the Brisbane team in 2011-12.

## Gillete winners

FROM PAGE 16 won the tickets as part of the "Gillete Mach 3- Go to Sri Lanka for T20" programme.

The two-month long programme that saw people from different sectors participate, was organised by Procter & Gamble in partnership with I Creation Ltd. The three lucky winners will be provided round-trip air tickets to Sri Lanka as well.

## Kallis

FROM PAGE 16 fourth wicket with Stuart Matsikenyeri (11), to help Zimbabwe just avoid their lowest total of 84 in all Twenty20 internationals, made against New Zealand in 2010.

There were only six fours hit in the entire Zimbabwe innings and four of them came off Ervine's bat.

Morne Morkel dismissed Vusi Sibanda (nought) and Brendan Taylor (four) in his first two overs before Kallis polished off the middle-order with the wickets of Matsikenyeri and Elton Chigumbura off successive deliveries in his first over.

He then dismissed Graeme Cremer (six) and Ervine to improve on Morne Morkel's 4-17 against New Zealand in 2007 which was the previous best bowling by a South African in a Twenty20 match.

It was Zimbabwe's second defeat in the group from as many matches and they become the first team to be eliminated from the tournament. They lost to Sri Lanka by 82 runs in their opening match on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka play South Africa in the final group match on Saturday.

The top two teams from each of the four groups will advance to the Super Eights.

# Mohammedan banks on youth, continuity

SPORTS REPORTER

The popular Mohammedan SC once again formed a mediocre but youthful squad for the Bangladesh Premier League after the Black and Whites yesterday completed their players' registration formalities to sign up 23 players at the Bangladesh Football Federation. Mohammedan, who came with a horse carriage accompanied by supporters beating the drums were the first team amongst ten participating clubs to appear in the transfer market. But the Motijheel-based outfit had no aggressive plan to rope in experienced and star players like they had done in their heydays.

Instead, they retained the services of last season's 13 players including veteran Rajani Kanta Barman, Motiur Munna and Alfaz Ahmed while roping in 10 new players from Mutkijoddha Sangsad, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Abahani, Sheikh Russel and Farashganj SC. Most of the new faces were bench-warmers for their respective clubs last season.

"After retaining the services of most of the players who played for Mohammedan last

time, we also signed up some youthful players which helped us to form a good team this season. We believe all of these players will represent the national team in the future," said Mohammedan football committee chairman Manzur Alam Manju yesterday at the BFF House.

Manju however could not say with confidence that Mohammedan would break their drought of not winning the professional football league title, the only trophy that was missing in their trophy-laden shelves.

A veteran player seeking anonymity said that this is not a squad for the championship race rather it could finish third or fourth in coming professional football league.

The chairman, Manzur, though said that they would try to rope in good players next season. But such statements are rapidly sounding like platitudes in the face of similar promises over the past few seasons.

Squad: Rajani, Titu, Munna, Yeasin, Mubarak, Wahed, Shariful, Sohel Rana, Shohag, Sweet, Tapu, Bipu, Alfaz, Maruf, Mamun, Mintu, Jitu, Robin, Manik, Mamun Miah, Saidul, Zahirul and Iqbal.



Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday arranged a spectacular horse-carriage ride for their newly-signed booters. But it did not invoke much enthusiasm among the Black and White faithful as there were no sensational signings.

PHOTO: STAR

## Taylor looks for seam

FROM PAGE 16

"I guess we will be looking to our seamers to have a big play in the tournament. Few of the players played SLPL (Sri Lanka Premier League) and had some success there. The boundaries here in Pallekele are a lot bigger than other grounds. Spinners will play a role because in Twenty20 cricket spinners do have a big part to play," he observed.

Though the bowling took centre stage in the discussion, the fact is that the Pallekele pitches have produced better run-rates than the other two venues at the World Twenty20 and New Zealand have sweet memories as they amassed a 300-plus score against Pakistan in the World Cup here last year and won by 110 runs. The New Zealand skipper however did not want to dwell on memories.

"I have good memories of this ground. But that was in a different format of the game against a different country. It was also my birthday (when I played against Pakistan in the World Cup). My birthday is not any time soon, this is a different tournament where we need to start well," said Taylor with a broad smile.

The Kiwi skipper was however excited with the fact that some of his key players are feeling better. Daniel Vettori, Tim Southee and Rob Nicol came to Kandy a day later than the rest of the team as the trio suffered stomach problems in Colombo while Kyle Mills, who was recovering from his collision with McCullum during the India T20, is expected to be fit too.

"We won't know until the end of training whether we will have the full quota of 15. Every couple of hours they are feeling a little better. The weather is bit colder so hopefully they can gain some energy and be available to play," hoped Taylor.

## Melbourne eyeing KP

AFP, Sydney

The chief of Australia's Melbourne Renegades team will fly to the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka next week in a bid to sign estranged England batsman Kevin Pietersen for the domestic Big Bash series, reports said on Thursday.

Renegades boss Stuart Coventry said he hoped to arrange a meeting with Pietersen, who is working as a television commentator at the World Twenty20.

"I'd like to [meet Pietersen] but I think I would want to get an indication first about his availability before talking further," Coventry told The Sydney Morning Herald.

"We have three places left on our list and one of them is for an international.

## Tigers intent

FROM PAGE 16

Mushfiquar also echoed that sentiment while speaking in the pre-match press conference at the Pallekele International Stadium yesterday.

"We are doing everything within our power to give us the best chance to get into the second round, though that comes later. We have to be happy with what we get in the end tomorrow, but we will do everything to win the game. We are confident that if we can apply our skill one hundred percent we can win," said the wicketkeeper-batsman.

"I think we are in a tough group. But we have a balanced side and that's one of our strengths. If we do the basics right and execute our plans, we can beat any team in the world. We have been playing together for quite some time now and that's where the confidence comes from. If we can put a good performance you never know," he added.

Bangladesh captain had high praise for his opponents but there was no shortage of confidence in his voice due to his team's strength regardless of whether the pitch offers assistance to pacers or spinners. But still the Bangladesh captain hoped that luck will also help them to bring joy to cricket lovers back home.

This is Bangladesh's first major international tournament since their rousing Asia Cup performance and the little man said that he could not wait for the action to start.

# LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPOTER

Combined SC defeated Bangladesh Railway SC 2-1 in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at the Maulna Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Shahed and Nizam scored for Combined while Monir scored for Railway.

In the second match, Farashganj SC played out a 1-1 draw against Barnak Samaj. Boni put Farashaganj ahead before Rumel cancelled the lead.

## U-14 Tennis

Three Bangladeshi players moved into the next round of the boys' singles in the Asian U/14 Series Tennis Competition beating their respective rivals at the National Tennis Court in Ramna yesterday.

Bangladeshi Mahin Reza Khan beat Malaysian Suresh Darrshan 6-1, 6-7, 6-1, Rubel Hossain of Bangladesh beat his compatriot Amio Naimol Islam 6-3, 6-1, Kawsar Ali beat Pakistani Shaibzada Ali 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 and Pakistani Kaleem Syed Nofi beat Bangladeshi Faruk Hossain,

In the girls' group, Pinky, Sha Shafina, Rojoni Tasin and Prity Afrana won their respective games.

## Boys' and Girls' handball

The Igloo U-12 Boy's and Girl's School Handball tournament will get underway from tomorrow at the M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium.

Seven teams, split into four groups, will play in the boy's group while 12 teams, divided into four groups, will play in the girl's group.

# Wedding not priority!

CRICINFO, Colombo



A kindly message to the future mother-in-law of Danny Briggs, proud husband to be and excited England spinner: when he remarked in Colombo that the World Twenty20 was a priority compared to his wedding, the words probably just got tangled up and it did not quite come out as it should have.

After all, he had just taken three Pakistan wickets in England's final warm-up in Colombo and can now anticipate playing a central role in their defence of the trophy. If he did not seem entirely abreast of the detailed arrangements for his wedding, it was probably just a touch of the sun.



PHOTO: REUTERS

England spinner Danny Briggs bowls during a training session at Nondescripts Cricket Club in Colombo yesterday.

He might be flighty as spinners go, but he does not seem at all flighty off the field. He is a softly-spoken, polite lad who still lives on the Isle of Wight and travels over for Hampshire matches on the ferry.

If Briggs's future wife, Linsey, was naive about the itinerant life of a professional cricketer, she was naive no longer when their wedding, scheduled for the end of September, was postponed until October so England's up-and-coming young spinner could take part in World Twenty20.

Actually, even the rearranged wedding date is far from perfect as it clashes with Hampshire's qualification matches in the Champions League, meaning that Briggs will only fly out if Hampshire reach the final stages. For cricket obsessives, it is a bit of a shame that it was not postponed for a second time, but priorities can be tricky things.

Briggs himself, the first of Isle of Wight cricketer to represent England, shrugs it off manfully. "It is so busy with cricket, you never know where you are going to be," he said. "I do miss the Champions League qualification because of the wedding, but I changed wedding plans once for World Twenty20, which was obviously the priority. I will fly out if Hampshire qualify."

It is to be hoped that the Champions League does not cause the honeymoon too much disruption.

England's World Twenty20 campaign begins in earnest at the R Premadasa Stadium on Friday and instead of his wife-to-be whispering sweet nothings in his ear under candlelight, he is likely to be faced by the wanton aggression of Afghanistan's batsmen under floodlights. He cannot be sure of selection, though, so early in the tournament on a Premadasa surface that will favour the pace bowlers more than spinners before the pitches tire, but his time will come.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Highway division
- Lamb's mama
- Take to the pool
- Press
- Atlas page
- Windy day toy
- Uncategorized (Abbr.)
- Pete Fountain's instrument
- Rifle attachment
- Minus-cule bits
- Regret
- Big Apple letters
- Bedding material
- Stocking style
- Exist
- Office machine
- Hockey legend
- Bobby
- Presidential advisors

DOWN

- Big branch
- Operatic solo
- Inquisitive
- "Keep singing!"
- Host
- Poet
- Whitman
- Eco-friendly govt. agency
- Band-leader
- Henderson
- Drunkard
- Particular
- Citi
- Field team
- Beams
- Sister

22 Put the kibosh on

- Varnish ingredient
- 401(k) alternative
- Kan.
- neighbor
- Obese
- Ph. bk. data
- Geological period
- Attempt
- Not many
- Belong naturally
- Approach
- Listener
- With 39-
- Across, holiday entree
- "Monopoly" buy
- Pocket bread
- Any time now
- Dazzle
- Relinquish
- Unless, in law
- Greek vowels
- So
- Yule quaff

Solution time: 21 mins.

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A	S	E	A	M	A	N	D	A	T	E
M	O	U	S	E	T	O	F	F	E	E
M	I	G	R	A	T	E	S	N	O	R
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CRYPTOQUIP

A B M R P M Z B P K Z N N R H X P M I  
S M Z N L M I A N V F J - A M X V K ,  
C ' L H D M I I C R H B M Z N D F J  
F C I P M R P N S C F F - S N V M J B C P I .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOVEL ABOUT AN AVIAN MIMICKER THAT ADORES THE LIQUOR IN MARGARITAS: "TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals I