

Mominul hurts his finger

SPORTS REPORTER

Talented left-handed batsman Mominul Haque received a finger injury in yesterday's game against the West Indies High Performance unit. Mominul who scored a 50 in the first innings of the game and a run-a-ball 27 in the second, hurt his hand while fielding. The mishap proved to be an anti-climax on the final day of the match, which Bangladesh A went on to win by 52 runs.

While the depth of the damage can only be confirmed after a thorough medical check-up, the immediate possibility, according to the team management, is that of a fracture.

The injury will be a vital blow for the left-handed batsman, who's trying to win a place in Bangladeshi squad that'll be playing the West Indies in November.

Mominul's injury is the second case in as many weeks, as discarded opener, Shahriar Nafees, was also injured at a training session last week. It forced the batsman to sit out of the recently concluded four-day game.

Umpire Taufel set to become their overseer

AFP, Colombo

The International Cricket Council announced on Wednesday that seasoned umpire Simon Taufel will step down from on-field duties next month to take up a new job as umpires' supervisor.

Taufel, 41, will leave the elite panel of umpires at the conclusion of the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka on October 7 and begin his new role as the ICC's umpire performance and training manager.

The Australian official, who was adjudged the umpire of the year for five consecutive years from 2004 to 2008, has stood in 74 Tests and 174 one-day internationals since his debut in 1999.

"I am moving on from active international umpiring for personal and professional reasons," Taufel was quoted as saying in an ICC statement.

"My wife and children have supported me immensely throughout my career and it is time for me to spend more time with them," he said in the statement.

"My passion for cricket umpiring and personal professional development has shifted from on the field to off the field. In my new position I look forward to help create professional programmes and resources to support the current and future generations of cricket match officials."

ICC chief executive David Richardson described Taufel as "one of the most respected umpires for over a decade and a role model for umpires globally who look to him for inspiration and guidance".

BD A spin

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Having finished contesting in the longer version of the game, the teams will now face-off in three 50 over games, at the same venue, beginning on Friday. Following the one-day matches, the teams will play two Twenty20 games to finish the tour.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: First innings 199 all out in 87.1 overs (Mominul 50, Rokibul 32; Cotterrell 4-15, Warrican 2-32). Second innings 186 all out in 87.5 overs (Naem 60, Rokibul 35, Mominul 27; Permaul 4-44, Sheldon 2-15).

WEST INDIES HP: First innings 147 all out in 43.5 overs (Fletcher 51, M Barclay 22; Enamul 7-45, Saqlain 2-43). Second innings 186 all out in 57.4 overs (Hope 52, Hamilton 47 not out, Barclay 33; Saqlain 5-61, Enamul 3-73).

Result: Bangladesh A won by 52 runs
Man-of-the-match: Enamul Haque Jr.

Narine the trump card

AFP, Pallekele



West Indian captain Darren Sammy admitted off-spinner Sunil Narine will be his trump card to exploit England's weakness against slow bowlers in the Super Eights match here on Thursday.

England, defending the World Twenty20 title they won in the Caribbean two years ago, crashed to their heaviest T20 defeat of 90 runs in their first round match against India, with off-spinner Harbhajan Singh grabbing 4-12.

And that prompted Sammy to raise more hopes with Narine.

"Sunil is our trump card, he's done well for us in that format, hopefully he could have a big impact on the English batting line-up," said Sammy of the 24-year-old spinner who has made a big impact at Twenty20 level.

Besides Narine, West Indies have the option of bringing in leg-spinner Samuel Badree to add to the guile of Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels, who can also bowl handspin.

"We'll definitely look to bowl spin against them, but we have quality seam bowlers upfront also. We have Badree who is another spinner in the line-up so hopefully we will bowl well against England and have a good game," said Sammy.

The top eight teams compete in the Super Eights round beginning with the group one clashes between hosts Sri Lanka and New Zealand, followed by England and the West Indies.

Pakistan play South Africa while India meet Australia in group two in Colombo on Friday. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semifinal with the final on October 7.

Sammy said the West Indies -- who have not won a major event since winning the ICC Champions trophy in 2004 -- have the self-belief to finally win a trophy.

"The biggest strength for us is the belief in the dressing room that we could win this tournament and we left home thinking that. We have quality in the dressing room, it's up to us to go out and display that quality out there," said Sammy.

England captain Stuart Broad admitted the West Indies team posed a challenge.

"We've played against the West Indies this summer [in England], we know they are a dangerous side and they had success in the Twenty20 format with some players who have done well but we are focused for the match," said Broad.

"It's important that you learn from the mistakes you make, so with that you need to talk about them, but you don't need to dwell on them. We have guys who have played spin really well at times so we just build on that."

WOMEN'S WORLD T20 Proteas begin with easy win

REUTERS, Galle

Trisha Chetty spent a productive day on either side of the stumps as South Africa kicked off their women's Twenty20 World Cup campaign with a comfortable six-wicket victory over hosts Sri Lanka in a Group B match on Wednesday.

South Africa captain Mignon du Preez put Sri Lanka in after winning the toss and had every reason to feel vindicated as the home side slumped to 34 for six wickets inside 12 overs.

Pace bowler Susan Benade (2-7) and leg-spinner Dane van Neikerk (2-9) wrecked the Sri Lankan top order before South Africa's sharp fielding was rewarded with five runs outs as Sri Lanka were dismissed for just 79 runs in 20 overs.

Only two Sri Lankans -- Dilani Manodara (24) and Chamani Seneviratna (14) -- reached double figures in the match played at the Galle International Stadium.

Wicketkeeper Chetty was involved in six of the dismissals, including four runs outs, one catch and a stumping.

Shuttlers avoid hearing

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's top seven shuttlers including Enayetullah Khan and Elina Sultana refrained from appearing before the Bangladesh Badminton Federation's enquiry committee yesterday which was formed to look into the issue regarding a player's general diary against the federation officials as well as players' objectionable statements against the federation.

"Instead of appearing before the committee, they informed us through a letter that the hearing should take place in the federation office in line with the constitution today (Wednesday)" said BBF vice president and head of enquiry committee Enayetul Islam Saikat adding that they had chosen the hearing at Dhaka University as Elina had earlier expressed her fear about going to the federation.

Saikat, also a teacher of Dhaka University, said that they would now issue another letter to those players to appear before the committee at the federation office on October 3 and then they would submit their recommendations to the executive committee meeting.

BBF's acting general secretary Golam Aziz said, "The BBF has asked seven players to appear before the enquiry committee as Enayetullah and Elina are giving objectionable statements against the newly-elected committee while the other five were asked to brief on what they witnessed during the alleged attack on Enayetullah by the federation officials."

"It is nothing serious. We want to close the gap with those players and officials to bring a congenial environment in the federation," said Aziz adding that they had no intention of keeping those players out of the upcoming Summer Meet, a championship through which the players are selected for the national team.

Caroline crushes Li

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki issued a stark warning she was back to her best Wednesday as she ousted China's former French Open champion Li Na to reach the Pan Pacific Open quarterfinals in Tokyo.

Wozniacki ground out a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win to join a powerful last eight, where she will play defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska. Maria Sharapova, Samantha Stosur and world number one Victoria Azarenka are also through.

Denmark's Wozniacki won her first WTA title in more than a year last week in Seoul, and she was not to be denied despite going a set down against Li. Showing trademark grit, she toughed it out in the last set for her eighth straight win.

Elsewhere Sharapova found improved form to reach the quarter-finals -- but still needed a second-set tiebreak to shake off Lucie Safarova 6-2, 7-6 (7/5).

The French Open champion from Russia,

who needed more than three hours to beat British qualifier Heather Watson on Tuesday, admitted frustration at letting the Czech player back into the match.

Six games in the first set went against serve, and both players struggled to hold at the end of the second set as it went to a tiebreak. Sharapova took a 3-0 lead before being pegged back to 4-4, but finally clinched it 7-4 with an ace.

In the quarterfinals on Thursday, Sharapova will play eighth seed and former US Open champion Samantha Stosur of Australia, who defeated Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-4, 7-5.

Belarusian top seed Azarenka outlasted Roberta Vinci of Italy 6-4, 6-2 to set up a meeting with Angelique Kerber, while last year's winner Radwanska, the third seed, defeated qualifier Jamie Hampton of the United States 6-4, 6-3.

Sixth seed Sara Errani of Italy outclassed ninth seed Marion Bartoli of France 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 to set up a quarterfinal with Nadia Petrova of Russia, who beat 73rd-ranked Croatian Petra Martic 7-6 (7/2), 6-7 (1/7), 6-4.

'Need to improve home standards'

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case I have to sacrifice a bit of my batting. DSS: Where do you think the problem lies?

SAH: There has been a lack of competition in our country because I know there is none who can replace me, which is very bad. Look at India's Irani Trophy where Rest of India players performed so well that they are putting pressure on the national team players. Whether you agree or not, the real fact is that somehow or other we become complacent, even if sub-consciously, as there is hardly anybody who can push us. This is a real problem in our cricket. Indian batsman Manoj Tiwary was out of the team for 13 matches after making a hundred. Is it possible for our country? There is a healthy competition between Harbhajan Singh and

Ashwin in the Indian team but we miss this kind of competition in our team.

DSS: How can we improve our performance?

SAH: Again we must say the same things that we repeatedly say, which is that we have to improve our domestic standard. We must play cricket on true wickets where one can really test his talent. You can't judge one if he does something in favourable conditions. And you have to have the personal urge. I learnt that Ajmal tried his doosra at home by throwing the ball in the nets to his wife. Ajmal is a top bowler in the world now, but still he spent 15 to 20 minutes with our spin bowling coach Saqlain Mushtaq to take his advice, so you have to have that kind of hunger if you want to develop anything in your performance.



PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH

Players of the Bangladesh A team appeal for a wicket on the final day of the 4-day match against the West Indies High Performance Team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh A won the encounter by 52 runs.

T20 battle begins in CTG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve local cricket academy teams will be participating in the FMC-Ambia Academy Cup Twenty-20 cricket tournament, which begins tomorrow, at the Shagarika Divisional Women Sports Complex in Chittagong. Neo cricket Academy, a local cricket training institution is organising the tournament. The Champions and runner-up teams will be awarded Tk 15,000 and Tk 10,000 respectively as prize money. The final will take place on October 9.

Dual challenge

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old golfer will be hoping that he turns a corner at this event where he narrowly missed out on the title two years ago when he finished second after a play-off. He did not take part in the event last year.

Siddikur will be joined by an elite field which includes Miguel Tabuena of the Philippines, Mardan Mamat of Singapore, Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand, Scott Hend of Australia, and Gaganjeet Bhullar of India, who won a title in Tapiel last week.

Title holder Lu Wei-chih will not defend his title this year as he recovers from a brain surgery to remove a tumour.

Siddikur will tee off at 7:25am for the 600,000 dollar event, the winner of which will grab 100,000 dollars.

Hockey camp

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League second round which is expected to be held in New Delhi in February next year.

"These tournaments will help us prepare for the World Hockey League challenge. Otherwise we would have had to play practice matches, which might not have been as good as preparatory tournaments," said BHF general secretary Khaja Rahmatullah.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bangladesh Ansar and VDP made a flying start in the KFC National Women's Super League when they handed a massive 10-0 defeat to Thakurgaon at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Ansar and VDP led the first half 3-0 before adding seven more goals in the second half with Aumraching Marma scoring four goals and Mainu Marma bagging a hat-trick.

Jahanara Akter Janu, Nubai Ching Marma and Rowshanara Akther joined the party to score one goal each in the one-sided affair. Earlier, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan declared the eight-team final round open as chief guest where Akku Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Transcom Foods was among others present.

Igloo school handball

The semifinal lineup of Igloo U-12 Boys' and Girls' School Handball Tournament was completed at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali Handball Stadium yesterday.

Scholastica, St Gregory's, BIS and Manarat Dhaka International emerged champions in their respective groups to move into the boys' semifinals. Scholastica and Manarat will play the first semifinal while St Gregory's will take on BIS in the second semi in the boys' group.

Summerfield, Viqarunnissa Noon School and College, Banani Biddyaniketan and Dhanmondi Tutorial advanced to the girls' semifinals with Summerfield taking on Dhanmondi Tutorial while Viqarunnissa face Banani Biddyaniketan today.

Women's kabaddi

Jatrabari Krira Chakra and Dhaka Wanderers Club won the opening day's matches of the Walton Refrigerator Women's Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. Jatrabari defeated Azad Sporting by 35-13 points with three lonas while Wanderers beat Jurain Janata Club 34-24 with one lona. Earlier, the State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker inaugurated the league as the chief guest.

It's now men versus men

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final really in the context of the tournament." The marquee fixture in the Super Eights will be Sunday's clash between India and Pakistan in Colombo, the first T20 international between the arch-rivals since the inaugural World Twenty20 final in 2007.

A well-balanced Pakistan, boosted by the presence of prolific spinner Saeed Ajmal in a versatile bowling unit, will look to break the jinx of never having beaten India in the 50-over World Cup or the World Twenty20.

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, whose young side defeated Pakistan in the 2007 final in Johannesburg, played down the hype

over Sunday's game.

"It's never about one team," said Dhoni. "One has to play consistently well through a tournament to win. We will take it one game at a time."

The competition will be intense as even two wins out of three in a Super Eights group may not guarantee a semifinal berth if one team loses every match and the other three beat each other.

If teams are equal on points, run-rates will determine which one loses out.

With bad weather forecast for the rest of the tournament, several twists and turns could be on the cards before the winner is crowned on October 7.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Rosary component
5 Ever-green
8 Apple's center
12 Make undue claims
14 By word of mouth
15 Drunk, in slang
16 "Damn!"
17 Brewery product
18 They're read on a Kindle
20 Braid
23 Bruin
24 Antler
25 Pet rodent, often

35 Arctic diving birds
36 Jones' "Men in Black" co-star
37 Hurts
40 Devoured
41 TV legend
42 Griffin
43 First Treasury Secretary
47 Great Lake
48 Secondary quality
49 Well-being
50 Bill with a portrait of
42-Across

51 Leftovers recipe
19 Low voice
20—Beta Kappa
21 Ness, for one
22 Geometry calculation
23 Farm structures
25 Basketball tactic
26 Needle case
27 Landlord's due
29 Pornography
31 Fire residue
33 Wonder
34 Works in a refinery
36 Use a teaspoon
37 Old World duck
38 Unembellished
39 Met melody
40 "So be it"
43 Rd.
44 Youngster
45 Individual
46 Fresh

DOWN
1 "Phooey!"
2 Historic period
3 Upper limb
4 Realm
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6 Resident (Suff.)
7 Cashed in
8 Companion
9 Sandwich cookie
10— and pinion
11 BPOE members

Solution time: 24 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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D W Y N L Y W Y B Y H Y N D
W P V V Z D Y O Y W H I .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE MY BOSS CONSTANTLY UNLEASHES VIOLENT ANGER ON ME, I GUESS I'M GIVEN AN HOURLY RAGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals W