



Brandao escapes rape charge

Brazilian footballer Brandao has had rape charges against him dismissed for lack of evidence, his lawyer told AFP. Brandao, currently playing for French side St Etienne, was accused of rape by a young woman who claimed that he attacked her in his car after offering to drive her home from a nightclub in Aix-en-Provence, near Marseille, in March 2011. But lawyer Christopher Bass said Friday that the examining magistrate had dismissed the charges following "inconsistencies and contradictions" in the plaintiff's case. The accuser now has 10 days in which to appeal the magistrate's ruling.



Shakib rules out knee op

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was diagnosed with 'degenerated meniscus' in his left knee, before the Twenty20 World Cup, has said that he isn't thinking about going under the knife any time soon.

"There hasn't been any decision made regarding the surgery. I have no such plans as of now. There's still time... I haven't thought about it yet," he said. Shakib, who came to watch Bangladesh A's 50-over match against the West Indies High Performance Team, at the Sher-e-Bangla yesterday, had earlier stated that the post-World Cup period would be an ideal time for the surgery.

Fresh from his fiery innings against Pakistan, the all-rounder is expected to continue playing in the T20 format with the Champions League T20 beginning on October 13. He will, however, need to adjust to the longer version of the game as soon as he returns from India as Bangladesh are scheduled to play a Test series, at home, SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Siddikur guts out the gust

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman remained solid in the second round of the Mercuries Taiwan Masters to remain one stroke off the leading pack which features three locals, one Korean and a Filipino. The 27-year old golfer matched his first round score of par (72) to post a par (144) after two days of testing conditions at the The Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

The golf course was swept by sporadic showers in the morning yesterday but strong gust of wind with speeds of over 30 kilometres per hour continued for the whole day as Typhoon Jelawat is expected to hit the country on Friday evening.

Despite the testing conditions where a tree was uprooted, Siddikur managed to hang on and put himself in strong position of winning his second Asian Tour title.

Siddikur described his round as the 'most difficult' in his career but hopes to better his second place finish at the 2010 Mercuries Taiwan Masters. SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



Pakistan's Umar Gul is about to hoick one for six during their sensational two-wicket victory over South Africa in the Twenty20 World Cup Super Eights match at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan steal unlikely win

AFP, Colombo



Umar Gul turned an unlikely hero with the bat as Pakistan survived a middle-order collapse to beat South Africa by two wickets in the Super Eights of the World Twenty20 on Friday.

Pakistan, chasing South Africa's modest 133-6, crashed to 76-7 in the 15th over before Gul and Umar Akmal combined to share a match-winning partnership of 49 in 27 balls.

Gul smashed two fours and three sixes in his 32 off 17 balls before he was dismissed off the last ball of the 19th over by fast bowler Dale Steyn with nine more needed.

But Akmal, who remained unbeaten on 43, and Saeed Ajmal steered Pakistan home with two balls to spare, Ajmal edging the winning boundary off Morne Morkel.

Pakistan's openers raced to 24 in 2.5 overs before the innings fell apart after Imran Nazir (14) was caught behind off Steyn.

Left-arm spinner Robin Peterson, who came to bowl the fourth over, removed skipper Mohammad Hafeez with his second delivery and Nasir Jamshed with the six to make Pakistan 31-3.

Off-spinner Johan Botha also struck in his first over by bowling Kamran Akmal for

one, Jacques Kallis dismissed Shoaib Malik (12) and JP Duminy had danger man Shahid Afridi caught in the deep first ball.

But Gul and Umar Akmal launched a blistering attack on the Proteas to earn Pakistan full points in the opening match of group two.

India and Australia, the other two teams in the group, play in the second match of the double-header at the Premadasa Stadium later on Friday night.

Earlier, Pakistan's spinners revelled on a slow wicket to restrict mighty South Africa to 133-6.

Hafeez claimed 2-23 and 20-year-old left-arm spinner Raza Hasan conceded just 12 runs in three overs after South Africa won the toss and elected to bat.

Seamers Yasir Arafat and Gul shared three wickets as the batsmen tried to hit out SEE PAGE 17 COL 8



CLEAR[®] MEN

BREAKTHROUGH IN MEN'S SCALP CARE

ICC WORLD T20 TODAY'S MATCHES

MATCH	TIME	VENUE
England v New Zealand	4:00pm	Pallekele
Sri Lanka v West Indies	8:00pm	Pallekele

Close loss for Bangladesh A

SPORTS REPORTER

An all-round effort by Carlos Brathwaite gave the visiting West Indies High Performance side a one-nil lead, in the three-match one-day series, over Bangladesh A, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Brathwaite's brisk 64 and his two crucial wickets, ensured that the hosts failed to reach their target of 226, set by the West Indians after they were put into bat.

Bangladesh A's chase began in the most possible way, as they lost three crucial wickets for just one run. Shahriar Nafees, who had earlier missed the four-day game due to injury, was caught behind, off Brathwaite, for a two-ball duck. Skipper Rokibul Hassan, followed suit, as he got out in the very first ball that he faced.

Struggling at 32 for 3, the hosts fought back for a brief period in the form a partnership, between Imrul Kayes and Shamsur Rahman. They shared a 69 run partnership, before Rahman was caught behind while trying to slash a ball outside the off stump. SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Choking rears its head again

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo



South Africa's limited-over captain AB de Villiers, in a pre-tournament press conference, had stated that choking for them was a 'thing of the past'. The manner in which they lost their game against Pakistan, in the eighth match of the ICC World Twenty20 at the R Premadasa Cricket Stadium yesterday, however, suggested otherwise.

The Proteas, have not won a major world title since their return from an apartheid-induced ban, succumbed to pressure and suffered a two-wicket defeat against Pakistan.

It was tail-ender Umar Gul who took the match away from the Proteas with a 17-ball 32, which included two fours and three huge sixes. His valiant effort gave him the man-of-the match award in an otherwise, low-

scoring affair where South Africa had reduced Pakistan to 76 for 7 in 14.3 overs while defending a total of 133.

Despite the loss, the South Africans weren't dejected at the post-match briefing. They were looking forward to their upcoming games against India and Australia.

"It is a totally different tournament. It's encouraging the way we fought back in the match. We have two more games left and we are hopeful that we will do better in the coming matches to qualify into the semi-final," said Robin

Peterson, at the post-match press conference. "We lost it in the last five overs. But we must give credit to (Umar) Gul who played a brilliant innings under pressure. He simply took the game away from us," the left-arm spinner added. While there have been talks about how differently the pitches in Sri Lanka have

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

SL celebrates, island style

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo



Sri Lanka might be hosting the World Cup of the most popular form of the game at the moment, but by all bearings the World Twenty20 still comes up short when compared to the 2011 World Cup last year, when Bangladesh played the role of hosts and celebrated with frenzy.

In Bangladesh, cricket has a passionate following and whether it is Asia Cup or World Cup, crowds flock to venue as tickets become prime stock. Compared to that, the island nation, however, has shown a marked lack of interest and vigour for this World Cup.

The only time you feel the heat and excitement is when you enter the ground, where despite some half-empty stands during the Pakistan, South Africa clash on Friday, the R Premadasa Cricket Stadium still wore a festive look. Outside though, no one is talking about the tournament and proclamations that you are here to cover the T20 World Cup are met with brief ripostes. The tuk tuk drivers are the exception and match results are readily available from them.

The lack of excitement was even more marked during the first round matches, despite the fact that the biggest cricketing stars in the world had assembled in town. Things though, have changed for the better with the Super Eight's as excitement rose in a flying start at the Pallekele on Thursday.

Sri Lanka's victory in a gripping Super Over against New Zealand followed by the West Indies' close win against defending champions England ignited the excitement among the cricket lovers in the country.

The islanders however have their own style for enjoying cricket. Few people are ready to interrupt their day's work but they all keep track of what is going on. And if you visit the restaurant and pubs during the evenings, you will find that people are glued to the TV sets during the matches.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3



PAK-SA SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA	R	B	4	6
Levi b Ajmal	8	9	1	0
Amla c Malik b Arafat	6	6	1	0
Kallis c Afridi b Hafeez	12	18	0	1
Duminy c K Akmal b Arafat	48	38	2	2
Behardien st K Akmal b Hafeez	18	21	2	0
De Villiers c Nazir b Gul	25	18	2	1
A Morkel not out	9	6	1	0
Peterson not out	3	4	0	0
Extras: (lb-2, w-2)	4			
Total: (For 6 wks in 20 overs)	133			

Did not bat: Botha, Steyn, M Morkel. Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-28, 3-28, 4-66, 5-110, 6-123.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hasan	3	1	12	0
Arafat	3	0	25	2
Ajmal	4	1	26	1
Hafeez	4	0	23	2
Afridi	4	0	26	0
Gul	2	0	19	1

PAKISTAN	R	B	4	6
Hafeez st De Villiers b Peterson	15	9	2	1
Nazir c De Villiers b Steyn	14	11	3	0
Jamshed st De Villiers b Peterson	0	2	0	0
K Akmal b Botha	1	6	0	0
Malik c Steyn b Kallis	12	26	1	0
U Akmal not out	43	41	4	1
Afridi c A Morkel b Duminy	0	1	0	0
Arafat c Duminy b Steyn	3	5	0	0
Gul c Peterson b Steyn	32	17	2	3
Ajmal not out	4	1	1	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, w-3, nb-1)	12			
Total: (For 8 wks in 19.4 overs)	136			

Did not bat: Hasan. Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-30, 3-31, 4-37, 5-63, 6-63, 7-76, 8-125.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	4	0	22	3
M Morkel	3.4	0	33	0
Peterson	4	1	15	2
A Morkel	2	0	26	0
Botha	2	1	10	1
Duminy	2	0	5	1

Hamilton moves to Mercedes

AFP, Berlin

British driver Lewis Hamilton has signed a three-year deal to drive for Mercedes from 2013, replacing seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher, the firm announced on Friday.

"Lewis will replace Michael Schumacher, who over the past three years has made a significant contribution" to the constructor, the firm said in a statement, describing the appointment as a "new chapter" for the team.

Sk Russel here to challenge

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel KC -- the surprise package of the professional football league's transfer season -- completed the players' registration formalities yesterday amid a festive mood with motorbikes leading the players on horse carriages to the Bangladesh Football Federation headquarters.

Sheikh Russel, whose highest success in the top-level football was a runners-up finish in the then Premier Football League in 2003-2004 and three third-thrice finishes in the professional football league, have roped in nine national players this season to challenge the domination of heavyweights like Abahani, Mohammedan and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

Having retained the services of ten players from the last season, Sheikh Russel KC also signed up big names such as winger

Zahid Hossain, striking duo of Zahid Hasan Emily and Mithun Chowdhury, midfielder Mamunul Islam, defenders Nasirul Islam, Rezaul Karim and Mamun Mia from Abahani and Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

"It is a special day for us because today (Friday) is the 66th birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel KC's chief patron Sheikh Hasina. We have been motivated to form a squad for the championship race as our chief patron asked us when we are going to be champions," said Sheikh Russel KC president Nurul Alam Chowdhury at the BFF House yesterday.

"In order to become champions we need some experienced footballers who also have the experience to win the league title and this time we have signed up such players who we believe can help us emerge champions in the coming season," said Chowdhury who called for fair play and neutral refereeing from the administrators.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Russel footballers arrive at the Bangladesh Football Federation headquarters in Motijheel on horse carriage to complete their players' registration formalities yesterday.