

SA captain quits int'l football

South Africa captain and Everton midfielder Steven Pienaar has quit international football because his "body is tired", the national football association said Tuesday. Pienaar, who succeeded Aaron Mokoena as skipper after the 2010 World Cup and had limited success, revealed his decision in a letter to the association, which was read out ahead of a national squad announcement. The slightly built 31-year-old midfielder -- the only South African footballer featuring regularly in a major European league -- said he could no longer cope with the physical demands of playing for his club and



Shakib leaves for CLT20 tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will be leaving tomorrow en route for South Africa to participate in the Champions League T20 which begins on October 13. The all-rounder will be playing for Indian Premier League (IPL) team Kolkata Knight Riders, who are scheduled to face the Delhi Daredevils at the SuperSport Park in Centurion on October 13.

Shakib along with West Indian mystery spinner Sunil Narine played a key role in KKR's victory in the IPL earlier this year. Fresh from his blistering innings against Pakistan in the ICC World Twenty20, the all-rounder will be hoping to carry on with his good form in the last edition of this tournament.

The finals of the Champions League will take place on October 28. Shakib, however, will stay abroad as long as KKR remains in the tournament.



Pakistan's Nasir Jamshed (R) plays a slog sweep as Australia wicketkeeper Matthew Wade looks on during their ICC Twenty20 World Cup Super Eights match at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Australia crushed by Pakistan spin

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

Pakistan staged a dramatic comeback after a dismal show against perennial rivals India to increase their chances of qualifying for the semifinal of the ICC World Twenty20. They not only brought down the high-flying Australians with a convincing spin-inspired 32-run victory at the R Premadasa International Stadium, but also left their archrivals a daunting task against South Africa, who will play only for pride, in the last Super Eights match at the same venue to qualify for the semifinals.

But Australia will take solace from the fact that they at least achieved their target of reaching the semifinals -- becoming the first team from Group to do so -- which was why Michael Hussey punched the air in joy after hitting a boundary off the first ball of the final over from Umar Gul. It seemed as if Australia won the match, but the reality was that the boundary took them through to the semifinals as Australia crossed 112, the target they knew they had to overcome to make the last four.

Pakistan rode on controlled bowling from the spinners to defy Hussey a repeat of his heroics in the last World Twenty20 against the same opponents he had then played a

blinder to eliminate Pakistan in a Saint Lucia semifinal. This time though Pakistan kept their cool to halt the winning streak of the Aussies, who played out their 20-over quota for a paltry 117 for seven in reply to Pakistan's 149 for six.

But the left-hander's unbeaten knock of 54 off 47 balls, that contained four boundaries and a six, was as precious as it could be as at one stage it seemed that the biggest

SEMIFINALS

DATE	MATCH	TIME	VENUE
Oct 4	Sri Lanka v Pakistan	7:30pm	Colombo
Oct 5	Australia v West Indies	7:30pm	Colombo

Visit: www.clemonsports.com
Win Samsung Galaxy SIII & many more lifestyle goodies

upset was going to take place after the way the Australian middle-order was caught in the web of spin following the early dismissals of the two in-form openers Shane Watson and David Warner.

"I'm grateful to see the effort put in by the boys. We got the total we wanted, Raza Hasan was brilliant," said Pakistan skipper Mohammad Hafeez after the emphatic victory against Australia.

A big talking point surrounding the match

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Sponsors to boost NCL profile

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The 14th edition of the National Cricket League (NCL), beginning on October 14, which will take place on a franchise-based system, is scheduled to witness a series of sponsorship-related deals for the franchises today.

The country's lone first-class competition, which has been starving for sponsors over the years, might see money finally injected into the competition and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday stated that a majority of the eight teams in the NCL are set to get sponsors.

"Several organisations have already given us their word. We just need to sign an official deal with some of them in the coming days," he said.

The President named Prime Bank, Islami Bank, Walton and City Bank as the organisations who have expressed their interest in sponsoring the franchises. "I am confident that at least six out of the eight franchises will get sponsors this year," said Kamal. Earlier, the BCB had decided to convert the NCL into a franchise-based tournament claiming that such a move would increase competition among the teams. The BCB also decided to introduce day-night games, which are to be played with pink balls, this year. The board has also brought a large number of players under the BCB salary structure this year.

The lack of preparation for the league, however, has attracted criticism. With a little more than a week left for the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

SL play the trick game

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo

Sri Lanka came up with a strange yet sensible move on Monday in their final Super Eights game against England to avoid the captain or vice-captain being ruled out for the crucial semifinal of the ICC World Twenty20 for maintaining repeated slow over rates.

ICC regulations dictate that two slow over rate offences within a period of 12 months mean the captain or the side will receive a one-match ban for the country's next game. Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene and vice-captain Angelo Mathews had already been found guilty of the offence once within the last year.

Another offence yesterday by the captain, whether Jayawardene or Mathews, would have meant that whoever led the side would miss out on the semifinals, and so Kumar Sangakkara

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Consolation for BD A

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A salvaged some pride by beating the West Indies High Performance Team by 9 wickets in the last game of the one-day series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The match, which lasted for a total of 26.4 overs, saw the visiting side get bowled out for just 54 runs. The hosts romped home in just 8.4 overs as youngsters Anamul Haque and Mominul Haque hit a flurry of boundaries to finish the game before the lunch time. The victory, however, was just a mere consolation for the hosts as they lost the series by two games to one.

Electing to bat, the West Indians were in trouble right from the go as they lost both their openers in the first over of the game. Andre Fletcher was run out on the second ball of the innings, while his partner Trevon Griffith was caught in front off Abul Hasan, who joined the side after his stint with the national team in Sri Lanka.

Hasan struck again as he got the crucial wicket of Keddy Lesporis, who was caught by Mominul in the deep.



BCB chief selector Akram Khan (L) hands over the winners' trophy to West Indies High Performance Team captain Carlos Brathwaite after the final one-dayer against Bangladesh A at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The visitors lost their next seven wickets for just 30 odd runs and looked like a completely different batting unit, as compared to their performance in the first two games. Hasan, Soumya Sarkar,

Naeem Islam and Enamul Haque Junior took two wickets each as they collectively ran through the batting order.

The manner in which the young

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Briton stole T20 ticket

AFP, Colombo

A Briton on Tuesday pleaded guilty to stealing tickets for a crunch World Twenty20 cricket match between hosts Sri Lanka and defending champions England.

Police said Caesar Buller, 54, had gone to a sales booth in the capital Colombo on Sunday and pocketed four books of tickets for Monday's game, which Sri Lanka won, eliminating England from the tournament.

He was arrested after sales staff raised the alarm.

Colombo Chief Magistrate Rashmi Singappuli ordered Buller, from Manchester, to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Girls crowd around the counter to register with the BCB in response to the board's call for talented women cricketers at the Academy Ground in Mirpur yesterday. (INSET) A girl displays her bowling ability in the nets of the Academy.

PHOTOS: STAR

Huge response to BCB call

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sameeha Chowdhury, a 13-year-old girl from Old Dhaka, was all excitement as she stood in line to register her name with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). "I have been playing cricket ever since I was 11 years old. I used to play with my brother and my cousins. It'll be a dream-come-true for me if I can represent Bangladesh on the international stage in the near future," she exclaimed.

Sameeha, of course, wasn't the only one gleaming in joy. The BCB Academy Ground in Mirpur was flooded with more than 400 applicants, who came in response to the board's call for women cricketers. The scene at the ground was one that could win many hearts. On the one hand there were parents who were encouraging their girls to do their best on the field and on the other side there was Richard McInnes, the head of the Cricket Academy and several other national players

on the lookout for the next Salma Khatun.

"We initially thought we'd select a few girls after seeing them play today. But there were so many of them. We honestly didn't expect such a good response," said Abdullah AL Fuad Redwan, chairman of the Women's Wing of the BCB.

Having registered the applicants, the board now plans to call them based on the divisions they belong in, to scrutinise them based on their abilities. "We are looking for at least 50 young players. Once we select them, they are going to go through an intensive training programme, after which we can hopefully have a bigger pool of players," added Redwan.

Women's cricket in Bangladesh has been on the rise over the last few months. Impressive results against the likes of Ireland, Pakistan and South Africa prove that the players have begun to find their feet in the international arena. The Bangladesh women will next travel to China to play the Asia Cup. Judging by these recent results the initiative taken by the BCB, which was the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6