

Lara Ctg
Kings' brand
ambassador
CRICINFO, Dhaka

Chennai, MI stumble

SPORTS DESK



It was a day of disappointment for the Indian teams in the Champions League Twenty20 at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday.

Chennai Super Kings suffered a 14-run defeat at the hands of Sydney Sixers in the first match while Lions handed a punishing eight-wicket defeat on Mumbai Indians in the second game.

Sent into bat, Mumbai scored a fighting 157 for 6 thanks mainly to a run-a-ball 30 by Mitchell Johnson after star opener Sachin Tendulkar was clean bowled for an unimpressive 16.

Lions started slowly, but picked up the momentum gradually with Neil McKenzie and Quinton de Kock producing an unbeaten 121 runs for the third wicket. McKenzie struck a 41-ball 68 while de Kock hammered 51 off 33 deliveries as the home side race to victory with seven balls to spare.

Earlier, a blistering stand of 75 between Moises Henriques and Steve Smith towards the end of the innings was the difference, as Sydney Sixers' 185 was enough to keep out Chennai Super Kings in a high-scoring contest.

Henriques made telling blows on the field as well, as his three middle-order wickets derailed Super Kings' chase just as the asking rate started reducing. Suresh Raina threatened with an attacking half-century, but the lack of support at the other end hurt Super Kings' chances.

Shane Watson gave the Sixers a rousing start after they were put in to bat, and Chennai's spinners hit back with wickets, but none of the bowlers were spared once the Smith-Henriques pair came together.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SYDNEY SIXERS: 185 for 5 (Henriques 49 not out, Watson 46)

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 171 for 9 (Du Plessis 43, Raina 57; Henriques 3-23)

Result: Sydney Sixers won by 14 runs.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Menzis KC, Dhaka Mariner Young's Club and Surjodoy KC won their respective matches in the Cuite Premier Division Handball League at the Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Menzis thrashed Old Ideals 44-21, Mariner Young's defeated Bhratirya Samaj Kalyan Sangha 26-15 and Surjodoy overwhelmed Victoria SC 41-13.

Div-II Hockey

Dilkusha moved into the Super Four of the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League with a massive 8-0 win over Dhaka Hockey Club in a Group A match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sabab struck three goals, Saim scored twice while Fuad, Sayem and Alangir netted one goal each to take Dilkusha to the top of the group with 12 points while PWD brightened their chances of advancing to the Super Four with a convincing 6-0 win over East End Green Club.

Table Tennis

Abid clinched the unseeded boys' singles title in the Baizid Steel Federation Cup Open Tennis Tournament with a 3-2 win over Dipu in the final at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Sheikh Russel KC and Ciciron Table Tennis Club moved into the final of the men's team event beating their respective rivals. Sheikh Russel beat Destiny Table Tennis Team 3-0 while Ciciron also recorded an identical win over Armanitola.

Mahbub, Manash, Tuhin, Parag, Jubair, Rimon, Hridoy and Palash emerged group champions in the men's singles event beating their respective rivals while Rumi and Soma emerged group champion in women's singles event beating Snigdha and Sintia respectively.

Inter-Club Tennis

Noangaon registered a 2-1 win over Amajan Club in the Inter-Club National Tennis Tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. The Officers Club defeated Munshiganj Tennis Club 2-0 in the day's other match.

BOA Election Commission

A three-member election commission at the Bangladesh Olympic Association has been formed to run the November 22 election, which was supposed to be held in April.

BSK director general Brigadier General M Emadul Haque has been appointed the election commissioner while Obaidul Haque, deputy secretary of the youth and sports ministry, and Mizanur Rahman, NSC director, have been appointed returning officer and assistant

Want to buy an IPL team?

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian Premier League (IPL) on Sunday took out newspaper advertisements inviting bids to set up a new team to play in the glitzy Twenty20 tournament that has transformed cricket in recent years.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which owns the event, is looking to replace the cash-strapped Deccan Chargers, who were thrown out for financial violations including failing to pay players.

The advertisement, placed in the Times of India, said that the new team had to be based in one of 12 named cities, including Ahmedabad, Dharamshala, Hyderabad and Kochi.

The winning bidder will be granted the right to own and operate a new team which will compete in the IPL each year from and including 2013, "it said.

The BCCI added that the franchise would have to meet its eligibility criteria, and would have the right to qualify for the international Champions League Twenty20.

Hyderabad-based Deccan Chargers were expelled from the IPL on Saturday after its owners failed to meet a deadline to submit 19 million dollars as guarantee money to the Bombay High Court.

Siddikur surges to third

FROM PAGE 16

Siddikur finished strongly with four birdies in his last six holes for tied third as he snatched the last ticket to the WGC-HSBC Champions in China next month from the Order of Merit ahead of Scott Hend, who finished equal sixth.

"It was excellent putting and I hit the ball really well," Siddikur told the Asian Tour website after yesterday's play. "I really wanted to get in to the HSBC. I was competing with Scott every day. It was really a good fight. My putting wasn't going in at the start of the round but I came back today. I just persisted."

Jonathan Moore of the USA enjoyed the best round of the day, carding a six-under-par 65 to shoot up to second position, two shots behind Bhullar, while Thitiphun Chuayprakong of Thailand shared third spot with Siddikur.

BCB yet to find a TV

FROM PAGE 16

bidders apparently wanted the BCB to handle the production, something that the BCB reportedly isn't ready to do. "We are negotiating with the media companies and we'll try to come up with the best possible solution in the upcoming days," said Mizanuddin Sujon, BCB's acting CEO.

The BCB, in its attempt to sell its media rights earlier launched a tender for the upcoming West Indies series. This was after the board had floated a tender for TV rights for the period of November 1, 2012 to April 30, 2016. However, the BCB failed to come to terms with local media conglomerate Virgo Media Limited, the only bidder to have accepted all of the board's conditions.

Tamim a Firebird

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal is set to make his third appearance in a domestic league abroad, after he received a no objection certificate from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday to play for the Wellington Firebirds, a first-class team in New Zealand. Tamim, who had earlier represented Nottinghamshire in county cricket and the Pune Warriors in the Indian Premier League will leave for New Zealand in December, after the completion of the West Indies series.

He is scheduled to stay there for a month and is expected to play 10 Twenty20 matches and one four-day game. "The deal was signed a while back, I was just waiting for BCB's clearance and I got that yesterday," said Tamim. "This is a great opportunity for me and I hope to play well and learn from this experience," he added. Legendary off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran and former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming are two notable players who played for the Firebirds in the past.

Kamal's

FROM PAGE 16

family to come to Dhaka. But I think that problem hasn't yet been solved. We have to take a decision regarding his position in the upcoming meeting," said Kamal.

Pybus, who left the country last month, has been criticised by BCB officials for his 'long leaves'. Kamal also referred to Richard McInnes, who is currently the head coach of the BCB Academy, as a trainer who has the potential to coach the national side.

"We have a good coach [McInnes] at home and I'll definitely bring his name up, as a possible replacement, at the board meeting," said Kamal.

Furthermore, Kamal plans to form a committee to address umpire Nadir Shah's alleged involvement in spot-fixing as soon as possible. While the cricket boards in Sri Lanka and Pakistan have already set-up committees to analyse the footages of the umpires, aired by India TV, the BCB is yet to form one.

NCL fitness

FROM PAGE 16

Our players have been playing Twenty20 cricket for the last couple of months and they'll have to adjust to the longer version of the game quickly," he said.

Akram hopes that the national team players can play at least one four-day game before the first Test match against the West Indies.

Meanwhile, the league's administrators have been working on tweaking some of the rules of this year's league in an attempt to make it fairer. "We are trying to change the points system of the league. Last year, the teams focused more on earning the bonus points and that created an unsporting environment. That was the reason why we had to organise a 'final' game, last year, which is usually not required in a league," said Hafiz Joardar, member-secretary of the board's tournament committee.

Novak Masters

FROM PAGE 16

When Djokovic was broken for the fourth time in the 11th game, he lost his cool and shattered his racket by smashing it into the ground four times before slinging it disgustingly toward his sideline chair. But the momentum seemed to shift with one audacious shot from the Serb, just as Murray appeared to be closing in on his third straight title at the tournament.

Trailing 5-4 and 30-0 in the second set, Djokovic chased down a lob from Murray and hit a perfect between-the-legs shot, then followed it up with a drop shot to win the point. He went on to save Murray's first match point with a forehand and broke back when the Briton missed a forehand of his own two points later.

In the 20-minute tie-breaker, Djokovic finally prevailed when he converted his fourth set point with a forehand winner.

Murray couldn't recover, and Djokovic broke for a 4-3 lead before winning the next two games to wrap up the win.

DHAKA MONDAY
OCTOBER 15, 2012
E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

17

Afridi's apology

ANI, Karachi

Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi has apologised over his bad performance in the recent ICC World Twenty20, for which he has been panned by cricketing gurus.

Afridi apologised to the nation for his bad performance and vowed to try his best in the next matches, and added that he has no plans of retiring from international cricket as of now, reports the Nation.

Earlier, former Pakistan captain Moin Khan had advised all-rounder Afridi to take a break from the game. Moin said that he did not agree with suggestions that it was time for the flamboyant all-rounder to call it a day from international cricket.

"I don't think he should retire. I sincerely believe he can still serve Pakistan cricket for a few more years. All he needs to do now is take a break from the game, spend some time with his family and come back before the India tour fresh and confident," Moin had said.

WIHP spinner

FROM PAGE 16
prevailed over India A in a home series.

Meanwhile, Barbados batsman Kirk Edwards has been recalled, after losing his place for the third Test on the tour of England earlier this year.

West Indies, who won the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka last week, are scheduled to play two Tests, five one-day internationals and one Twenty20 match on their tour of Bangladesh between November 3 and December 12.

SQUAD

Darren Sammy (captain), Denesh Ramdin (vice-captain), Tino Best, Darren Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Narsingh Deonarine, Kirk Edwards, Assad Fudadin, Chris Gayle, Sunil Narine, Veerasammy Permaul, Kieran Powell, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach, Marlon Samuels.

BU stun

FROM PAGE 16
winger Towhidul Alam emerging in place of Santana and Abdul Baten Komol. The changes had no impact and Brothers took a lead in the 78th minute through Joshua. The Nigerian raced down the left flank and powered in an effort from inside the box.

The surprising goal recharged the Brothers players and they again came close to doubling the lead four minutes later but the woodwork denied a Samson Illiasu header off a Francis chip from the right-hand box.

"We went all the way and deserved the victory," said Brothers coach Ladi Babalola. "Dedication, hard-work and motivation were the key to winning this match as we made the players feel that every game is important."

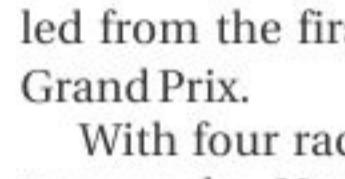


PHOTO: AFP

Red Bull-Renault driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany celebrates with the trophy after winning the Formula One Korean Grand Prix in Yeongam yesterday.

Vettel overtakes Alonso

AFP, Yeongam



A peerless Sebastian Vettel leapfrogged Fernando Alonso at the top of the F1 World Championship on Sunday as the Red Bull driver led from the first corner to win the Korean Grand Prix.

With four races to go starting in India in two weeks, Vettel, the reigning champion who is chasing a third drivers' title in a row, sits atop the standings with 215 points. Alonso, who finished third, is on 209.

It was the 25-year-old German's third win in three races and he will now be favourite to retain his crown, in what had been a highly unpredictable season until he took the championship by the scruff of the neck.

Second at a cool but sunny Yeongam was Vettel's team-mate Mark Webber, who started on pole. It was the first Red Bull one of the season.

Alonso's fellow Ferrari driver Felipe Massa, second at Suzuka seven days ago, continued his resurgence with a fourth-place finish. Lewis Hamilton, who still had title aspirations going in this grand prix, finished down in 10th.

It now looks increasingly like a two-horse race for the title.

Fifth was Kimi Raikkonen of Lotus, followed by Nico Hulkenberg in a Force India. Romain Grosjean (Lotus), Jean-Eric Vergne, Daniel Ricciardo (both Toro Rosso) and Hamilton rounded out the top 10.

"Very pleased. Fantastic, I'm very happy," Vettel told the crowd, having celebrated his 25th career victory by jumping on top of his Red Bull with his arms aloft. "It was a fantastic race."

"Towards the end I felt I had a bit more in the tyres," said Vettel, whose front-right tyre

in particular was badly worn by the end. He had been warned repeatedly by his team to "look after" his tyres.

"I could've gone on a bit longer. We were all a bit worried about the front tyres."

Alonso, also a double world champion, put a brave face on losing his lead in the standings. "We have to be happy with the performance today," he said. "It was a good day for the team and for me. Today was better than expected."

Vettel, who started second on the grid behind Webber, nipped in front of his teammate at the first corner. Behind them Alonso and Hamilton duelled over third place, with the Spaniard winning through.

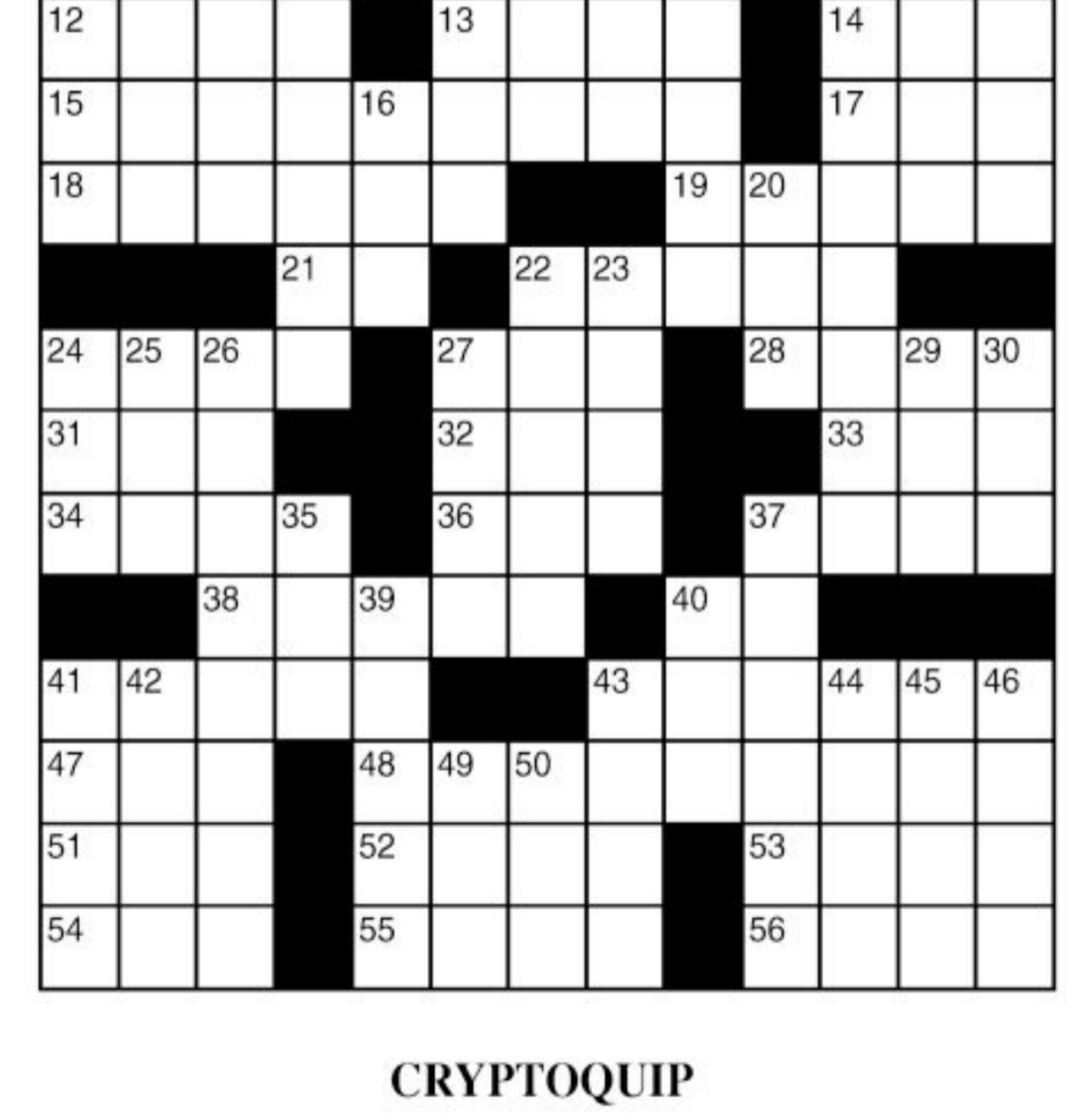
Jenson Button's bad weekend finished almost as soon as the race began. His fine start from lowly 11th was wrecked when Kamui Kobayashi came flying down the inside, smashing into Button and destroying his suspension.

"I've just been hit by Kobayashi. What an idiot!" the McLaren driver and 2009 world champion exclaimed over the team radio.

Also out, not long afterwards, was Nico Rosberg who retired his Mercedes because of the same incident. The Sauber driver Kobayashi, third last week in his native Japan, was forced into the pits for a new nose and tyre.

He was then landed with a drive-through penalty for causing the early carnage and bowed out soon afterwards when Sauber decided that the damage to his car was too extensive. Kobayashi later apologised to Button and Rosberg.

Vettel, the man in form after victories at the last two races in Singapore and then Japan last week, was in firm command. Webber -- intentionally or not -- was a buffer between the leader and the chasing pack.



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 37 On in years
- 40 Hosp. staffer</li