

Gerrard's 600th appearance

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard was presented with a statue of the city's liver bird symbol to mark his 600th appearance for the club before their Premier League game against Newcastle United at Anfield on Sunday. Manager Brendan Rodgers compared him to Superman before the game. "You saw him the other night when we were playing Swansea and the game was flat in the first half. He dons his Superman cape, comes on and changes the whole dynamic of the



'Expect them to come hard'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

West Indian great Richie Richardson said that the Bangladesh tour will be an important one for the team to move up the Test rankings. The former West Indies captain who is currently the team's manager further stated that he expected the Bangladesh team to come 'hard' at them.

"We have been playing well in all the formats. We are working hard and taking no team for granted. There is still a long way to go for us, but as of now things are going good," said Richardson.

Earlier, a 23-member West Indian contingent received a rainy welcome at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka early yesterday morning. The team, led by Darren Sammy, will play two Tests, five one day internationals and one Twenty20 international over the next month.

They are scheduled to begin the tour with a three-day warm-up game at the BKSP against a strong



(L) West Indies skipper Darren Sammy gives thumbs up (right) while two of the stars of his side Marlon Samuels (above, R) and Chris Gayle pass through the lobby at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday morning. The World T20 champions came here to play two Tests, five ODIs and a T20I against the hosts.

PHOTOS: STAR

'BCB-XI' led by the national team captain Mushfiqur Rahim on Thursday. However, with the city expecting a rainy-week, the fate of the warm-up sessions and the three-day game remains uncertain.

Commenting on the Bangladesh team, Richardson stated that the Tigers are a competitive unit at home. "We are expecting a stronger performance from them this time as compared to last year. They have a number of

good players who can change the scenario of the game if given the opportunity," added the manager.

The former batsman also claimed that the team management were quite 'content' with the current West Indian line-up. "The arrival of Chris Gayle has obviously made a difference," said Richardson, referring to the return of Gayle to the team, who didn't play for the West Indies for over a year till June this year due to certain contractual disagreements.

"He is one of the most destructive batsman in any format of the game. We also have Sunil Narine who has been among the wickets recently. Verasammy Permaul is another talented player who is in the side," added Richardson.

Richardson also believed that the West Indies could replicate their T20 success in the Test arena. "Winning the T20 world cup has no doubt given us a boost. We have also won a number of fans. But we

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No place for Ashraful

Preliminary squad for 1st Windies Test named

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The preliminary squad for the first Test of the two-match series against the West Indies announced by the national selectors yesterday has seen an influx of new faces.

Mohammad Ashraful failed to secure a place even in the 22-member long list for the Test starting on November 13, and he was the only notable omission besides pacer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who has been uncertain over the fate of his longer-version career. Also missing was left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak -- he played his last Test in August last year and since has been considered only for limited over matches.

Ashraful, a former Bangladesh captain, was in the team that played the first Test against Pakistan in

December last year, but he scored one and zero in the match, which resulted in his omission from the squad for the second Test, which was Bangladesh's last till the first Test against the West Indies next week. Chief selector Akram Khan said that the right-hander hardly had anything under his belt which would warrant a recall, and his frustrating performance in the first two rounds of the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL) made matters straightforward for the three-member selection panel.

The obvious question was why had the selectors picked a preliminary squad so close to the start of the first Test, but Akram explained that the selectors were still undecided about some places, which is why they are looking forward to the three-day warm-up match against the visitors which will be held at BKSP from November 8.

Interestingly enough, national skipper Mushfiqur Rahim will lead the team in the three-day match with deputy Mahmudullah Riyad also included in the side, but the focus will be on the two promising up-and-coming batsmen Anamul Haque and

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BANGLADESH PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Junaed Siddiqui, Jahurul Islam, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Naeem Islam, Nasir Hossain, Nazimuddin, Enamul Hoque, Mohammad Elias, Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Shahadat Hossain, Anamul Haque, Mominul Hoque, Taskin Ahmed, Shohag Gazi, Abul Hasan and Al Amin.

BCB XI SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Shahriar Nafees, Junaed Siddiqui, Jahurul Islam, Anamul Haque, Mominul Hoque, Mahmudullah Riyad, Nazimuddin, Taskin Ahmed, Enamul Hoque,

FICA director due today

SPORTS REPORTER

The legal director of the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA) Ian Smith is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today to talk with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials regarding the non-payment of salary of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) players.

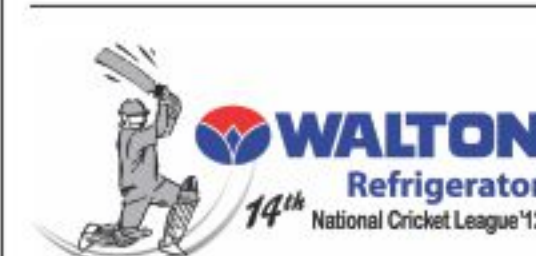
Debabrata Paul, the secretary of the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB), informed that Smith has desired to talk with BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury and the officials of the BPL's governing council.

BCB's sources also confirmed that Smith

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Anamul trumps Rangpur

SPORTS REPORTER



Khulna were the only team to win a match in the second round of the 14th National Cricket League (NCL) yesterday as they beat Sylhet by five wickets at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna.

Two games, the match at the BKSP between Chittagong and Sylhet and the match between Rajshahi and Barisal at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi were deemed 'washed out' due

to incessant rainfall. While the rain also interrupted the match between Dhaka and Dhaka Metro at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, the game however was declared a draw. "The game between Dhaka and Dhaka Metro progressed to the second innings and therefore will be counted as a draw, rather than a wash out," informed Hafiz Joarder, organising secretary of the tournament committee.

Games that are washed out have points divided equally between the two teams, while in the event of a draw, the side that achieved a first innings lead is awarded

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SCORES IN BRIEF

RANGPUR: First innings 388 all out in 117.3 overs (Naeem 127, Ariful 75; Razaq 5-103, Shakib 3-111). Second innings 92 all out in 46 overs (Ariful 17; Soumya 5-34, Razaq 4-32).
KHULNA: First innings 249 all out in 81.1 overs. (Mithun 89, Anamul 45; Alauddin 6-56). Second innings 234 for 5 in 46.5 overs (Anamul 105 not out, Soumya 45; Tanvir 3-37).

Result: Khulna won by 5 wickets.
CHITTAGONG: First innings 367 all out in 77.5 overs. **SYLHET:** 188 for 8 in 66 overs. **Result:** Washed out.
RAJSHAHI: First innings 466 for 3 in 133.4overs. **Result:** Washed out.
DHAKA METRO: First innings 205 all out in 47.2 overs. Second innings 128 for 6 in 49 overs.

Sudden death for BFF Juniors

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal is proving to be an insurmountable barrier for both the junior and national sides of Bangladesh. Following the national side's fruitless encounter in September, yesterday, the BFF Junior Eleven were eliminated from the Safal Pokhara Cup after suffering a 5-4 defeat in a penalty shootout against Yeti Himalayan Sherpa Club in the third quarterfinal at the Pokhara Stadium in Nepal yesterday.

BFF Juniors exited on penalties after missing their sudden death penalty, after the first five shots had seen both sides finish with an equal 4-4 scoreline. But Bangladesh captain Linkon failed with his effort after Heman Gurung had found the net with his first sudden death effort.

The defeat continues a worrying pattern of defeat for Bangladesh when it comes to Nepal. The Bangladesh national squad had earlier conceded a 1-0 defeat to their Nepalese counterparts in the 2011 SAFF Championship. And earlier this year, the Bangladesh U-22 squad suffered a 4-1 defeat to Nepal U-22 side in the AFC U-22 Asia Cup. This then was the third defeat for a Bangladesh U-22 side, albeit an U-23 one.

The visitors will now have to catch the next available flight home after playing in just a single encounter. Bangladesh had been given a direct quarterfinal berth in the tournament which was won by Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club last season.

The game rolled into the shootout and the extra time after the regulation 90 minutes ended in a 1-1 draw as Sachindra Dhimal canceled Bangladesh's 25th minute lead, courtesy of an own-goal, three minutes into the second half.

BFF Junior Eleven could have won the

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BFF Junior Eleven striker Yamin Munna (L) tussles for the ball with a player of the Yeti Himalayan Sherpa Club in their Safal Pokhara Cup quarterfinal clash at the Pokhara Stadium in Nepal yesterday. BFF Junior Eleven lost the match in sudden death.

PHOTO: COURTESY

BD to take part in T20 WC for blind

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take part in the T20 World Cup for the blind to be held in Bangalore from December 1 to 13. Except for New Zealand, all the eight Test playing nations -- India, England, South Africa, West Indies, Australia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh plus Nepal will be taking part in the round-robin league tournament from where top four finishers will advance to the semifinals. The semifinals and the final are scheduled for December 13.

Bangladesh will start the campaign by taking on

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