

SAFF tourney in September

SPORTS REPORTER

The 8th South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, the premier footballing extravaganza of the South Asian region, will be held from September 20 to October 5, 2013 in Nepal, it was decided at a meeting of the SAFF in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

The meeting was presided over by SAFF and BFF president Kazi Salahuddin where SAFF vice-president Manil Fernando and representatives of the eight nations of the region were present. The meeting also decided to hold the 2nd SAFF U-16 Championship from May 15-31, 2013 in Goa, India.

The 7th edition of the SAFF Football Championship was held in December 2011 in India where the hosts successfully defended their title.

Pioneer League Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Nasrin Sports Academy, Khilgaon Football Academy and Tangail Football Academy won their respective matches of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer League Football at separate venues yesterday.

At the Military Museum ground, Nasrin Sports Academy beat Sath Raj Nobin Sangsha 1-0 while Golam Mostafa Lane Krira Sangha drew 1-1 with London Tigers. At the BG Press Ground, Khilgaon Football Academy and Tangail Football Academy notched up identical '4-0' wins over Gazipur Ekadash and Midfield Soccer School respectively.

Good starts

FROM PAGE 16 that will be our target."

Bangladesh's star performer over the last five years, Shakib Al Hasan will miss the five-match series through injury. It was heartening that Bangladesh could pull off a win against a stronger side with such a disadvantage. Mashrafe however does not see his absence as a negative. "I think playing the series without Shakib is very good for our team. People can take it either positively or negatively. I am taking it positively because every player should feel what their role is. If we keep expecting performances from Shakib our team will never improve. Every player has to perform.

"If you look at the matches we have won, while Shakib has performed extraordinarily in them, you will see that someone else had a fifty. In these matches if the players will feel this more, that the fifty Shakib would have scored now has to be scored by one of them, then I think it is important for the team."

Wounded WI

FROM PAGE 16 was confident that they could overcome the home side today. "We have always had respect for any opposition. We know in our setup, once we play to our full potential, we could beat any team. We will go out there and execute all the plans we have, and do it properly. I have no doubt we will come out victorious tomorrow."



South Africa's Hashim Amla, who remained 99 not out on the second day, here works the ball on the on-side.

PHOTO: AFP

SA in driver's seat

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Pace spearhead Dale Steyn rediscovered his best form to bowl South Africa into a commanding position on the second day of the third and final Test against Australia at the WACA Ground on Saturday.

Steyn's four-wicket haul helped decimate the Australian first innings and hand his side a 62-run lead, before Proteas batsmen Graeme Smith and Hashim Amla ripped the match away from the home side.

Skipper Smith and Amla shared in a thrilling 178-run stand for the second wicket at almost seven runs an over as the tourists took a stranglehold on the top ranking in Test cricket.

At stumps, South Africa were 230 for two in their second innings, representing an overall lead of 292 runs with eight wickets left and three days still to play.

Amla was on 99 from just 84 balls with his 18th Test century beckoning, while Jacques Kallis, dropped on three by Nathan Lyon from the bowling of Mitchell Starc, was on 17.

The highest successful run chase at the WACA is South Africa's 414 for four

in 2008. Smith fell for 84 late in the day, brilliantly caught by a diving Lyon at deep square leg off Mitchell Starc to end a devastating partnership in just 25.3 overs with Amla.

Defending just 225 after winning the toss and electing to bat on the opening day, the Proteas rallied behind the fast bowling of Steyn to rout the home side for 163 off 53.1 overs.

Steyn had barely been a factor in the series, with just five wickets in the first two Tests, but tore through the Australian top order to finish with four for 40 off 16 overs.

Vernon Philander, who picked up two for 55, took the prized wicket of retiring Australian champion Ricky Ponting.

Australia resumed at 33 for two and collapsed dramatically.

In his first over of the day, Steyn removed careless opener David Warner, caught behind for 13 when he slashed at a wide delivery, despite the Australian asking for the decision to be reviewed.

Steyn then removed night watchman Lyon three balls later for seven, caught at gully by Faf du Plessis. Ponting strode to the

crease to huge applause in his farewell Test, but lasted just over 15 minutes before being trapped lbw for 4, another Australian decision review failing.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 225 (Du Plessis 78 not out; Lyon 3-41)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 33 for 2)

Warner c de Villiers b Steyn	13
Cowan c Kallis b Steyn	0
Watson lbw b Philander	10
Lyon c du Plessis b Steyn	7
Ponting lbw Philander	4
Clarke c de Villiers b Steyn	5
Hussey c Smith b Morkel	12
Wade b Peterson	68
Hastings c Petersen b Peterson	32
Johnson b Peterson	7
Starc not out	0
Extras: (lb-5)	5
Total: (All out in 53.1 overs)	163
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-18, 3-34, 4-35, 5-43, 6-45, 7-100, 8-140, 9-162	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	16	4	40	4
Philander	16	0	55	2
Morkel	13	6	19	1
Peterson	8.1	1	44	3

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings

Petersen c and b Johnson	23
Smith c Lyon b Starc	84
Amla not out	99
Kallis not out	17
Extras: (lb-6, w-1)	7
Total: (For 2 wkts in 38 overs) 230	
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-206	

Bowler O M R W

Starc	10	0	76	1
Watson	5	2	17	0
Johnson	7	0	35	1

Talha, Mosharraf shine

FROM PAGE 16

KHULNA v DHAKA

In a match that could give Khulna the cup, the team's batsmen faltered against the slow-bowling of Mosharraf. He picked up seven wickets in the innings and in the process took his total tally to 30.

In reply, Dhaka reached 92 and gave away two wickets before stumps.

SYLHET v RAJSHAHI

On a wicket that seemed to have assisted the bowlers, Sylhet, after getting bowled out in the last session of the day, came back strongly as they took two wickets before the end of the day. Enamul Haque Jr took both the wickets in one over as Rajshahi ended the day on 10 for 2.

BARISAL v CHITTAGONG

Salman Hossain will be in pursuit of his first century this season as he remained not out on 90. Barisal lost their first six wickets with just 87 on the board before a

seventh wicket century stand between Salman and Mohammad Shajib took the team into a decent position.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RANGPUR: First innings 129 all out in 43.5 overs (Sajedul 48, Tarik 43; Talha 8-35) v **DHAKA METRO:** First innings 143 for 6 in 39 overs (Marshal 59 not out; Sohrwardi 2-30, Alauddin 2-58)

KHULNA: First innings 171 all out in 59 overs (Nazmus 53, Kayes 43; Mosharraf 7-55) v **DHAKA:** First innings 92 for 2 in 31 overs (Rony 51 not out, Shuvagata 26; Robiul 2-38)

SYLHET: First innings 218 all out in 80.1 overs (Alok 46, Rumman 35; Forhad 4-26, Saqlain 3-35) v **RAJSHAHI:** First innings 10 for 2 in 7 overs (Enamul 2-0)

BARISAL: First innings 189 for 6 in 90 overs. (Salman 90 not out, Shajib 43 not out; Rezaul 2-46) v **CHITTAGONG**

Unity Tigers' strength

FROM PAGE 16

that as many as four debutants -- Anamul Haque, Mominul Haque, Shohag Gazi and Abul Hasan -- not only were allowed to express themselves but one, Gazi, went away with the man-of-the-match prize. It was a total team effort with Mashrafe and Hasan keeping the runs in check so that the spinners, Gazi and Abdur Razzak, could reap the rewards when the big-hitting West Indians tried to hit out.

They will look for more of the same when they take the field today with a team that is likely to remain unchanged. One possible area of concern is the batsmen's dependence on opener Tamim Iqbal, who is in the midst of a red-hot streak of form, having hit his fifth consecutive ODI fifty on Friday to set the Tigers on their way to comfortably chase the 200-run target. While there are players like skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, Nasir Hossain, Mahmudullah Riyad who can score runs, none can do it at the momentum-changing rate that Tamim does.

From the visitors' perspective, man

versus man they are a much stronger side. There is always the threat of Chris Gayle playing an innings only he is able to conjure, while players like Marlon Samuels and Kieron Pollard, especially late in the innings, can take the game away from any side.

But West Indies are also a team that are recovering and on the upward path from a decade of listlessness. They can be gotten to if the Tigers can build enough pressure. West Indies on the other hand will be looking to avoid their mistakes -- namely their middle order batsmen succumbing too easily to pressure -- and making more of a statement through their fast bowlers than they did on Friday.

West Indies are still favourites but what Friday did was show that Bangladesh have a range of performers who can, if they play as a unit, pose a threat to stronger sides. Just like expectations should not have been as low as they were on Thursday, they should not be too high today. One thing is for certain, the home team will try their best, and that may be good enough.

Boxer Freddie wins on debut

AFP, Manchester

Andrew Flintoff will take his time before deciding if he will continue boxing after his successful heavyweight debut against American Richard Dawson.

The former England cricket captain beat Dawson 39-38 on points after a lively affair in front of 5,000 raucous fans at the Manchester Arena, but only after being knocked down in the second round of the four-round contest.

The 34-year-old said he will wait until after Christmas before deciding if he will continue his foray into the paid-ranks of boxing.

"I really enjoyed it. I said at the start that I knew I was starting at a novice level," said the former England all-rounder, who sported a black eye in his post-fight news conference.

"I want some time off, have a nice Christmas. After Christmas I will start to decide what to do. It is quite fresh, still quite raw what happened."

Flintoff had been accused in some boxing quarters of demeaning the sport by thinking he could just casually walk into the professional ranks.

But that did not stop former England teammates, Matthew Hoggard and Steve Harmison, being at ringside to see the man who was twice an Ashes winner during his cricket career.

Flintoff entered the ring wearing the shirt of his county team, Lancashire.

But it was a walk very different to the one he used to make from the pavilion to the crease, this time the roped-off ring awaited him after Dawson had entered to a chorus of boos.

Ctg soccer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Brothers Union Chittagong crushed Agrabad Noujoan Club 3-1 in the Chittagong Premier Division Football League at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Helal, Prince and David scored one goal each in the 15th, 27th and 28th minutes respectively, for Brothers while Nazrul netted the consolation goal for Noujoan Club five minutes before the end of the match.

PREMIER DIV CHESS

MSC retain title

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club retained their chess supremacy by winning the Ultra Milk Premier Division Chess League which concluded at the NSC Auditorium yesterday. Mohammedan won all nine rounds to collect a maximum of 18 points.

In the ninth and final round Mohammedan blanked Air Destiny by 4 points to nothing. Mohammedan were represented by two local GMs -- Niaz Murshed and Ziaur Rahman, two Georgian GMs -- Gagunashvili and Mikheil Mchedlishvili, IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and FM Mohammed Abdul Malek. In the tie-breaking system Titas Club became 3rd and Access Group became 4th. Narayananj Pritam-Prism Chess Club finished 5th, Air Destiny Limited became 6th, Bangladesh Biman became 7th, and Faith Chess Club became 8th.

Farashganj Sporting Club and Destiny 2000 Limited -- who finished in the last two positions -- were relegated to the first division.

In the other last round matches Duronto Rajshahi beat Titas Club 3-1, Access Group beat Faith Chess 4-0, Pritam-Prism beat Farashganj by 4-0 while Biman drew with Destiny 2000 2-2.

Later, Syed Shahab Uddin, vice-president of Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest of the closing ceremony.

MS's call 'immoral'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Kolkata

Prabir Mukherjee, the Eden Gardens curator, has strongly criticised Mahendra Singh Dhoni's call for turning pitches, calling it "immoral", and even sought a month's leave from work.

However, by Saturday evening, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) had convinced Mukherjee to come back to work.

The developments came less than a week before India's Kolkata Test against England, and days after the Board of Control for Cricket in India deployed Ashish Bhowmick, a member of its grounds and pitches committee from Tripura, to "assist" in the preparation for the Test that starts here on December 5.

The series between India and England is tied at 1-1 after India lost on a square turner in Mumbai, with their spinners taking nine wickets between them even as Monty Panesar and Graeme Swann shared 19.

"Why does Dhoni want a square turner on the first day? Then why are you selling tickets for five days? It's immoral," Mukherjee told CNN-IBN. Mukherjee said he didn't like the way the whole issue was handled. "I have not resigned but asked for a month's leave," he said. "I am not loving this atmosphere and not happy that the CAB did not support me."

Dhoni and Mukherjee have famously struggled to get along as professionals. Last year, after India beat England in an ODI in Kolkata, Dhoni said the pitch was an "ugly wicket".

Mukherjee then responded by saying, "Pitches don't score runs, batsmen do." It was also reported that Mukherjee had made disparaging comments about Dhoni's demands for specific pitches. He is reported to have asked for written official instruction if he was to prepare a pitch that began turning and bouncing on the first day.

Shakib out of series

FROM PAGE 16

entire one-day series against the Caribbean.

"We have reviewed Shakib's injury at the Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka today and after consultation with the radiologist and orthopaedic specialist, it has been decided that he will not be taking part in any kind of sporting activity for the next four to six weeks and will continue with his rehab programme as directed by the medical team," BCB's sports physician Debashish Chowdhury said yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Vacation-ing
- 4 Rotating parts
- 8 Grouch
- 12 Melody
- 13 Garfield's pal
- 14 Golf target
- 15 Not restricted by convention
- 17 Facility
- 18 Sprite
- 19 Wing part
- 21 Strolled
- 24 Perched
- 25 Yoko of music
- 26 Storm center
- 28 Skewered entree
- 32 And others (Lat.)
- 34 Moray, e.g.
- 36 Vagrant
- 37 Aligned oneself (with)
- 39 Cosmetics mogul
- 41 Caviar base
- 42 Type measures
- 44 Fifth and Main, e.g.
- 46 Take away (from)
- 50 Dict. information
- 51 Jai follower
- 52 Out of jeopardy
- 56 Uninteresting
- 57 Sweater material
- 58 Chow down
- 59 Partner
- 60 Swiss range
- 61 Mound stat
- 23 Color
- 27 "A mouse!"
- 29 Elsa's story
- 30 Reed instrument
- 31 Transvaal trekker
- 33 With a suspicious eye
- 35 Fond du —
- 38 "CSI" evidence
- 40 Sings in 60-
- 20 "Mighty — a Rose"
- 21 Troubles
- 22 Opposed
- 43 Un-stressed vowel
- 45 Ump
- 46 Arp's genre
- 47 Hebrew month
- 48 Lofty
- 49 Implementation
- 53 Swab the deck
- 54 Corn spike
- 55 Greek H

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	V	J	I	G	S	H	U	N	T
U	F	O	U	L	N	A	O	R	E	O
R	A	G	N	O	P	R	O	B	L	E
F	R	I	S	K	I	O	N			
D	E	E	M	H	O	W	D	Y		
N	O	H	I	T	T	E	R	B	R	I
A	L	E	S	O	L	O	S	I	R	A
R	I	N	D	N	O	M	A	T	T	E
C	O	S	E	C	N	A	N	A		
A	I	R								
N	O	B	R	A	I	N	E	R	R	O
E	A	R	L	G	I	G	I	G	U	N
T	R	A	Y	A	L	G	A	E	N	D

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15			16						17		
		18				19		20			
21	22			23		24					
25			26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45		
46	47	48				49		50			
51					52		53			54	55
56					57				58		
59					60				61		

CRYPTOQUIP

ORN PYS IKIA 'O DNMEES
XMAO OJ PYET IJXA ORMO
CDNXNI CNZLN DMPN, CYO RN
PMZN KA OJ CNND TDNQQYDN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PUT SYMBOLS AFTER THE WORDS "BAM" AND "KAPOW," COULD YOU CALL THOSE PUNCH-URATION MARKS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals D