



Bangladesh vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad (C) trains at the BCB Academy ground yesterday ahead of the Bangladesh Cricket League where he will lead the Central Zone. The franchise-based event involves four zones and will commence on Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR

Walk to fight drug abuse

SPORTS REPORTER

APONGAON, a drug rehabilitation centre founded in 1994, in partnership with the Gregorian Association and Class of 1967, has organised a 5 km walkathon-race that will take place on December 28. The proceeds from the walk will go towards the APONGAON Foundation to help raise awareness about drug abuse in society, especially among the marginalised street children.

Registration for the race will start at 8:00 am. The race itself will get underway from 9:00 am on the morning of December 28 from RAOWA Club in Mohakhali and will end at Manik Mia Avenue. There are no registration fees, but the organisers hope to raise funds from donations by the participants.

INDO-PAK SERIES

Bomb squads, sniffer dogs comb venue

AFP, Bangalore

Police bomb squad officers and sniffer dogs combed Bangalore stadium Monday as part of a massive security operation for the start of the first Pakistan cricket tour to India for five years. Hardline Indian nationalist organisations including Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Shiv Sena have both threatened to hold protests outside all the venues for the five-match series which begins here on Tuesday evening.

Thousands of Pakistani fans have been allowed to travel to India for the series -- the first since the 2008 Mumbai attacks which led to a complete breakdown in relations between the two countries.

Dhaka falter

FROM PAGE 16 Simon Williams respectively while GM Niaz Murshed and IM Abu Sufian Shakil lose to GM Nigel Short and IM Zhou Yang Fan respectively.

Dhaka, representing Bangladesh, were scheduled to face Lund City of Sweden last night in the third round. Dhaka earned 2 match points and 4 game points at close of the second round.

BGB retain

FROM PAGE 16 BGB while Helal netted five goals for the vanquished.

Since the championship's inception in 1984, BGB, formerly Bangladesh Rifles, failed to win the championship only once, in 1988, and yesterday's was their 17th title in a row.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Jatrabari Krira Chakra recorded a lone-goal win over T&T Club in the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Arif struck the all-important goal in the 51st minute.

Victory Day Volleyball

Boarder Guard Bangladesh registered a straight 3-0 win over Bangladesh Jail in the KFC Victory Day Volleyball Tournament at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Police and Titas Club also beat Fire Service and Bangladesh Air Force by identical margins.

Victory Day Tennis

Amol Roy clinched a double in the Runner Victory Day Open Tennis Tournament as he won both the men's singles title and the men's doubles title at the Noagaon Tennis Club yesterday.

He beat Alamgir Hossain 6-3, 6-1 in the final to lift the singles title and paired with Ranjan Ram for the doubles crown. The pair recorded a 6-2, 6-4 victory over the Anwar Hossain-Dipu Lal pair.

Sharmin Alam Sarda emerged champion in the women's singles with a 6-0, 6-7, 7-5 win over Ishita Afroz in the final. However, Ishita Afroz, pairing with Ayesha Sultana, won the title in the doubles beating Priti-Laxmi pair 6-1, 6-2.

Primary School Football

Nicchintapur Registered Primary School moved into the semifinals of the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament with a lone-goal win over Pacchim Shokol Govt. Primary School yesterday.

Dakhin Dondari Koranipara Registered Primary School also advanced to the semifinals of Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament with a 1-0 win over Udbastu Adarsha Registered Primary School.

The final phase of both the tournaments got underway yesterday at the Dhaka University Central Playground.

Friendly Badminton

Bangladesh badminton team registered a 4-1 win over Tower Hamlet Team in friendly matches held at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The Sumon-Saif pair, Gautam-Lal Chand pair, Enam-Khalid pair beat their respective rivals but Parosh-Raise pair lost to Jewel-Shamim pair of Tower Hamlet. Jahidul Islam Kochi beat Manju 21-13 and 21-13 in the singles event.

Air Gun Championship

The IFIC Bank 5th National Air Gun Championships got underway at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday with 220 shooters from 42 rifle clubs and shooting clubs taking part.

The championships feature 10 events. Managing director of sponsors M Shah Alam Sarwar inaugurated the three-day meet.

Taekwondo Championship

The Trust Bank 12th National Senior-Junior Taekwondo Championships will begin at the National Sports Council Gymnasium tomorrow.

Some 350 athletes including 150 women from 15 districts and nine

Hafeez happy

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returns to Pakistan soon so that our people can also enjoy watching us play against others on home turf," Hafeez noted.

Noting that T20s and one-dayers were pressure games, especially when playing against India, he said Pakistan was looking forward to an exciting contest ahead with a good combination of pacers, spin bowlers and in form batsmen and fielders.

"As we have a mixture of new, young and seasoned players, we are confident of taking on the Indian team, which is quite strong in both versions [T20 & ODIs] and has the advantage of playing on the home ground," the skipper said.

"It has been a learning process for me when I was out of the team for some time. I have worked hard to regain form and score runs consistently in both forms of the game. I am now confident of doing more with the bat and ball," Hafeez quipped.

Div I cricket

FROM PAGE 16

Hadiur 2-27, Rezwani 3-44, Nuruzzaman 2-27)

BANGLADESH BOYS CLUB: 21

Result: Bangladesh Boys Club won by five wickets.

INDIRA ROAD KRIRA

CHAKRA: 261 for seven in 46

overs (Mahadi Mahmud 74, Sadman Islam 60, Nasum

Ahmed 46, Imran Hossain 38,

Hasibur Hossain 2-53, Al-

Mamun 2-64)

CITY CLUB: 231 all out in

42.1 overs (Mohaiminul

68, Tonumoy Ghosh 36,

Kaiser Niaz 3-25, Sohag

Reza 3-53)

Result: Indira Road Krira

Chakra won by 30 runs.

PARTEX SPORTING CLUB:

252 for six in 50 overs

(Salahuddin Pappu 66, Al

Imran 57, Tohid Tareq 46,

Humayun 39, Jahru

Islam 2-18, Abdul Gaffar

Rony 2-59)

YOUNG PEGASUS CLUB:

215 all out in 47.5 overs

(Rahat Sadek 49, Raisul

Islam 29, Mehedi Hasan

26, Monjurul Islam 3-36,

Monjurul Islam 3-51)

Result: Partex Sporting

Club won by 37 runs.

He taught us humility: MS Sachin the greatest batsman of this era, say the Ws

Cricket

AGENCIES, Bangalore

It's not only the nuances of the game but also the quality to treat success and failure equally which the young India cricketers learnt from Sachin Tendulkar, skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said on Monday.

Tendulkar quit one-day cricket on Sunday but will continue to play Test matches.

"As youngsters we got to see how Sachin prepared himself for each and every game and at the same time he showed us how to be humble in life and digest success and defeat, which is one of the most difficult things to do. All the way he guided each one of us," Dhoni told reporters in Bangalore.

Dhoni said it is disappointing that people won't see the 50th century in the coloured clothing and 100 half-centuries as Tendulkar finished with 49 tons and 96 fifties.

"That's something we'll definitely miss. But I think he has been an inspiration, encouraging thousands and millions of people to take up the sport and made us learn a lot of things about cricket," he said.

Dhoni said he learnt a lot about the game when he batted with him in

the ODI format.

"He told us which bowlers we can target and what should be the target in next four to five overs and things like that. This helped me learn a lot from him. Sachin's contribution is immense and definitely India will miss him," Dhoni said.

Replying to a question, Dhoni said Tendulkar is irreplaceable because of his unmatched batting skills and immense experience.

AFP adds from Karachi, famed Pakistan pace duo Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis Monday paid rich tribute to the Indian batting maestro, labelling him "the greatest batsman of this era".

Tendulkar, 39, announced his retirement from one-day internationals on Sunday after scoring 18,426 runs in 463 matches with 49 centuries -- all three world records for most runs, matches and hundreds.

"I don't say that a batsman like him will not come but he was the greatest batsman of this era and to maintain the zeal and fitness for 23 years was a big achievement for him," said Waqar, who retired in 2004.

"I also feel proud that I played against him and found him a great player and a nice gentleman."

Wasim said Tendulkar's records spoke volumes about his achievements.

"It will be tough to match them in the years to come," Wasim told AFP. "He was a special talent and a very special cricketer."

Tendulkar made his Test debut against India's arch-rivals Pakistan in Karachi in 1989 and Wasim recalled mocking the young batsman with his bowling partner.

"Sachin was really 16 at the time when he came to Pakistan in 1989 and Waqar and I thought, 'What will this 16-year-old do against us?'" he said.

"I hit him on the mouth but he showed a lot of gumption and courage to score a fifty in the fourth Test in Sialkot and after that innings we realised that he is a special talent."

As the leading batsman for cricket-mad India, Tendulkar carried the weight of a nation's expectations on his shoulders, but Wasim said he handled the burden well.

"Sachin always played under a lot of pressure from the billions of Indian fans and the kind of consistency he showed proved that he handled those pressures and huge expectations admirably well," said Wasim.

Blackout once more

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistan's first cricket tour to India in five years faced a media blackout Monday after international news agencies, including AFP, suspended coverage over a decision to bar their photo counterparts.

News outlets said they would not be filing any text or pictures after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) refused to accredit the international picture agencies Getty Images and Action Images as well as two Indian agencies.

The five-match series is due to start on Tuesday with a Twenty20 International in Bangalore.

"It is regrettable that the politically-charged Pakistan tour will be affected by the BCCI's failure to recognise the long-standing importance of photographic news agencies in the flow of sport and news images every day," said the News Media Coalition, which represents a group of media organisations including AFP.

Other international agencies who are members of the coalition, such as Thomson Reuters and the Associated Press, will also halt text and photo coverage.

Taylor-made Kiwi win

AFP, East London

Advice from former captain Ross Taylor helped Martin Guptill to hit a thrilling century and clinch a last-ball, eight-wicket victory for New Zealand in the second Twenty20 International against South Africa at Buffalo Park on Sunday.

Guptill finished with 101 not out off 69 balls, hitting the last ball of the match from Rory Kleinveldt over cover for four to enable New Zealand to reach a target of 169 in a match reduced to 19 overs a side because of a floodlight failure.

The result enabled New Zealand to level the three-match series with the decider to be played in Port Elizabeth on Wednesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 165 for 5 in 19 overs (Davids 55, Du Plessis 63, Miller 33)

NEW ZEALAND: 169 for 2 in 19 overs (Guptill 101

not out, Nicol 25,

McCullum 17)

Result: New Zealand won by eight wickets (D/L method).

Player-of-the-match:

Martin Guptill.

New deals, old

FROM PAGE 16

(Mushfiqur Rahaman Mohan) on my behalf how he can claim to have cleared my dues?" said Mushfiqur when his attention was drawn to Duronto Rajshahi owner Mushfiqur Rahman Mohan's claim that they not only cleared the dues but also gave more than that.

Former BPL governing council chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain however said that the Duronto Rajshahi owner's claim was right if they paid \$110,000 to Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur.

"Initially it was decided that an icon player will get five percent more than the highest paid player in the team but later we changed it on request of the franchises and it was decided that an icon player will receive 110,000 dollars. This decision was taken under the prevailing circumstances at the time," said Gazi Ashraf.

"We also conveyed this decision to our icon players. I personally talked with Mushfiqur Rahim