

TAEKWONDO C'SHIP
Rajshahi
dominate

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi District Sports Association dominated the second day of the Trust Bank 12th National Senior & Junior Taekwondo Championship at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday. Rajshahi won three gold medals in both senior and junior sections with Salma and Mousumi grabbing the gold in the 46kg and 53-57kg categories in the senior section. Pinki won gold in -50kg category in the junior section.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation also won two gold medals in the senior section as Sweety and Raina grabbed gold medals in the 46kg and 49-53kg categories. Chittagong District Sports Association won two gold medals in the junior section as Nurunnahar and Tanzila took top prize in the 30-35kg and -55kg category respectively.

The remaining three gold medals in the junior section went to Sirajganj,

T&T win 3-2

SPORTS REPORTER

T&T Club of Motijheel recorded a 3-2 win over Youngmen Club Fakirpool in the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Birsreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

T&T club went ahead with a brace from Sohel, who scored in the 19th and 28th minute before Shamim Ahmed pulled one goal back for Youngmen and Rabby equalised in the 75th minute. Helal Uddin struck the decisive goal in stoppage time to help T&T Club leave the field victorious.

Ishant, Akmal fined for spat

IANS, Bangalore

India pacer bowler Ishant Sharma and Pakistan wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal have been fined for their on-field behaviour during the first Twenty20 international on Tuesday.

Ishant was fine 15 per cent of his match fee and Kamran five per cent.

The two cricketers were found guilty of Level 1 breaches of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Code of Code following an altercation during the match that Pakistan won by five wickets.

I'm a hitter

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to have the confidence also -- no way you can be in two minds when you want to hit the ball hard," he added, saying that the wicket and Kookaburra ball helped him to smash 15 sixes and seven fours during his unbeaten 118-ball 152.

When asked about the secret behind his strength and whether the source was a special diet, Zia said: "There is no secret. I'm a normal man and I always take normal food. Actually I am a natural hitter."

BFF renews

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former The two new coaches are former national footballer Mostafa Anwar Parvez Babu and former goal-keeper Jahan E Alam Noori Rahel for one year.

With the inclusion of Babu and Rahel, the number of coaches has now increased to 19.



PHOTO: AFP

Australia captain Michael Clarke celebrates his century against Sri Lanka on the second day of the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

Sheikh Russel take lead

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Biplob Bhattacharjee came out of the post timely to clear the ball outside of the box. But Biplob could not stop a Kingsley header off a cross from Brazilian Garcia Anderson in the 35th minute.

One goal down, Sheikh Russel stepped up the attack and winger Zahid Hossain raced into the box on the right flank to send a low-cross to Tariq, who just tapped in from handshaking distance to restore parity three minutes from the break.

After resumption, both sides looked serious to break the deadlock and Sheikh Russel should have taken the lead in the 60th minute, but defender Ashraf Mahmud Linkon failed to put the ball on target in an open net while Zahid found Brothers' goalkeeper Sabuj Das Rogu in a one-on-one situation and tried to put the ball over the advancing goalkeeper. But Rogu denied Zahid to keep Brothers in the game.

Biplob once again rescued Sheikh Russel after thwarting a close effort from Kingsley before Sony, being set up by Zahid, darted in the box from the left to fire an angular shot past goalkeeper Rogu in the injury time.

"Despite trailing by one goal, we tried to keep the pace and finally left the field with another victory," said Sheikh Russel coach Maruf Haque, who however thanked Brothers Union for playing attacking football despite taking the lead.

"It was a difficult match for us as the opponents put in their full efforts for their first point and we were lucky to win the game," said Sony Norde.

"We have been working hard on the pitch and getting better as the league progresses, but we could not get the results. I think we still have time to improve and need to work more," said Brothers' coach Ladi Babalola, adding that they were losing to better sides like Sheikh Russel, Abahani and Mohammedan.

India must win today

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they go in with the same strategy or include a spinner.

Dhoni's decision to go in with Jadeja ahead of Ashwin also drew criticism.

"Ashwin was not there in this team. So our plan was that if we play out the new ball, then their spinners are not world-class; I know Yuvraj is in great form, but when you don't have a world-class spinner then we can dominate," Pakistan skipper Mohammad Hafeez had said.

Besides, innumerable chances given to Sharma has also been the talking

point and the Indian think-tank may have a lot of work to do before they settle for the playing XI for the match.

It will be interesting to see if a chance is given to Ambati Rayudu, considering his past performances in this format of the game.

Pakistan, on the other hand, lived up to their reputation of a strong bowling unit with three specialist pacers -- Gul, Sohail Tanvir and debutant Mohammad Irfan -- wrecking havoc on a p a c e - f r i e n d l y Chinnaswamy track.

They would look to carry on the momentum on

Friday also though the Sardar Patel track may not give them much assistance.

The visitors' batting, however, has been a cause of concern for them with openers Nasir Jamshed and Ahmed Shehzad struggling to provide a platform during their run chase at Bangalore.

Even the reliable Umar Akmal, Kamran Akmal and Shahid Afridi failed to get big scores.

Hafeez and Shoaib Malik were the saving grace and Pakistan would hope that they continue with their exploits along with the others striking form.

Win and be the leaders

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while this is the one title that has eluded Abahani.

"We will definitely go there for a victory and I hope the boys will be keeping their attacking attitude up in the last three matches," said Titu, who will join his charges after two matches for his illness.

"There is no doubt that Abahani have not performed upto their mark and they can spark against us, but I am hopeful the boys will leave the field with another victory," said the former national footballer.

On the other hand, Abahani, smarting from a 1-0 defeat against Sheikh Russel, are also looking forward to bouncing back to stay in the title race as Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel are hot on their

heels.

"This match may be important to you or to the spectators, but each game is same for me," said Abahani's Iranian coach Ardesir Pournemati, who later said that he would give Abahani spectators something to remember for long time.

"We forgot what happened in the last match and the loss against Sheikh Russel eventually has helped the players to get over the fear of losing the game. Over the last week, I have worked on the psychology of the players and at the moment the boys are at the top physically, psychologically and technically," said Ardesir, wishing to grab the top spot of the table beating Mohammedan.

Clarke's Aussie record

Hosts dictate terms in Melbourne Test

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Captain Michael Clarke trumped Ricky Ponting as Australia's highest run-scorer in a calendar year with another century as his team clamped an iron grip on the second Test against Sri Lanka on Thursday.

Clarke eclipsed Ponting's previous national record of 1,544 runs and went on to score 106 to continue his stellar 2012 as another heavy defeat loomed for the hapless Sri Lankans in Melbourne after losing the opening Test by 137 runs.

It was yet more misery, too, for Shane Watson, who missed out on his third Test century and his first hundred since October 2010 when he fell for a Sri Lankan sucker punch on 83.

At the close on the second day, Australia were 440 for eight with 200-wicket paceman Mitchell Johnson enjoying a great all-round match with his seventh Test half-century on 73 and Nathan Lyon yet to score.

Australia had extended their lead over the tourists to 284 runs with two wickets intact, leaving the undermanned Sri Lanka, skittled for 156 off 43.4 overs on Wednesday, looking down the barrel of defeat on the third day.

"It's nice to get that monkey off my back to get my first hundred in Melbourne," Clarke said.

"In regards to beating Ricky, in my eyes he was certainly the greatest batsman I was lucky enough to play with so to beat any record that Ricky holds is very special,

that's for sure."

Clarke went into the Melbourne Test needing 56 runs to break Ponting's national record and has now amassed 1,595 runs at 106.33 in Australia's final Test of the year.

Only Pakistan's Mohammad Yousuf (1788), West Indian Viv Richards (1710) and South Africa's Graeme Smith (1656) have scored more runs than Clarke in a calendar year.

"Numbers have never really bothered me too much," Clarke said. "It's nice to be making runs and leading by example as one of the leaders in the team and the captain of the team, but to me it's about winning games."

Clarke was finally out when he was caught by rival skipper Mahela Jayawardene in the slips off Shaminda Eranga after 251 minutes at the crease.

The Australian captain, who was in doubt ahead of the game with a hamstring injury, has also scored a triple century and three double centuries in an extraordinary 2012.

But it was not a chanceless innings, with Clarke having a let-off in Rangana Herath's 17th over when substitute keeper Kumar Sangakkara missed a tough stumping chance on 54.

He was also dropped by Tillakaratne Dilshan on five late on Wednesday's first day.

Clarke put on 194 runs for the fourth wicket with Watson, who soon followed his skipper back to the dressing room after again failing to convert a half-century into a ton.

Watson's patient 265-minute vigil ended when he pulled Dhammika Prasad straight to Thilan Samaraweera lying in wait at deep mid-wicket and he trudged head down from the ground.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA:	First innings 156
(Sangakkara 58; Johnson 4-63)	
AUSTRALIA:	First innings (overnight 150-3)
Cowan c M Jayawardene b Prasad 36	
Warner c Prasad b Mathews 62	
Hughes run out (Dilshan) 10	
Watson c Samaraweera b Prasad 83	
Clarke c M Jayawardene b Eranga 106	
Hussey c Herath b Dilshan 34	
Wade c Eranga b Prasad 1	
Johnson not out 73	
Siddle c M Jayawardene b Eranga 13	
Lyon not out 0	
Extras: (b-9, lb-5, w-6, nb-2) 22	
Total: (For 8 wkt in 129 overs) 440	
To bat: Lyon, Bird	
Fall of wickets: 1-95, 2-117, 3-117, 4-311, 5-313, 6-315, 7-376, 8-434	
Bowler	O M R W
Weledagedara 14.4 6 38 1	
Eranga 26.2 2 106 2	
Prasad 24 2 102 3	
Mathews 13 3 47 1	

BCL starts with a Zia bang

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Walton Central Zone as they scored 343 in 73 overs before being all out. The fireworks from the blade of Zia, known as a T20 specialist, outshone the five-wicket haul by left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain.

It was a truncated day as the start was delayed due to fog while play also ended early with the Central Zone opening batsmen returning to the dressing room without facing any ball on account of bad light.

In the day's other match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, the BCB North Zone put in a strong batting display against Islami Bank East Zone as they scored 294 for four before stumps were drawn for the day.

PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE/WALTON

CENTRAL ZONE

Last batsman Murad Khan offered a return catch to occasional spinner Mehrab Hossain to stop Zia's surge against the Central Zone bowlers and dashing his hopes of reaching a rare milestone. Before that

however Murad did a tremendous job to make sure that his partner could complete his maiden hundred. Murad didn't score any runs but survived for 25 balls and shared a 93-run partnership with Zia.

Mosharraf Hossain.

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the opposition bowlers also continuously supplied the deliveries in his comfort zone, allowing an in-form batsman to easily clear the rope.

His barnstorming innings was a source of frustration for Central Zone skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, especially as his team had South Zone in trouble at 149 for five. At one point during Zia's assault, the Central Zone skipper kicked the stumps out of the ground at the non-striker's end after having collected a wayward throw.

Before his dashing knock it was all about poor shot selections from the South Zone batsmen as almost all the batsmen threw away their wickets after being well set in the middle. Mosharraf did the major damage picking up five wickets for 52 runs.

South Zone is being led by stand-in skipper Imrul Kayes after regular skipper Abdur Razzak withdrew from the match due to personal reasons.

BCB NORTH ZONE V ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE

Taposh Baishya gave East

Zone an early break-through but a 131-run second wicket partnership between Forhad Hossain and opener Jahurul Islam gave North Zone a strong foundation to dominate the first day.

Jahurul (79) and Forhad (60) returned to the dressing room in quick succession but captain Mushfiqur Rahim joined Naeem Islam to repair the damage with an 87-run fourth wicket partnership.

Mushfiqur was trapped in front by left-arm spinner Enamul Haque for 48 runs but Naeem was unbeaten on 58.

Taposh claimed three wickets.

Wait till

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At this moment we cannot