



DATE: 17, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Armstrong could confess: NYT

Lance Armstrong, the American cyclist at the centre of the biggest doping scandal in the sport's history, may admit he used performance-enhancing drugs during his career, the New York Times reported in Saturday's editions, citing unidentified sources.

Such an admission would be a stunning reversal for Armstrong, who has vehemently denied doping for years.

The Times reported that Armstrong, 41, has told associates and anti-doping officials he may make the admission in hopes of persuading anti-doping officials to allow him to resume competition in athletic events that adhere to the World Anti-Doping Code, under which Armstrong is currently subject to a



Bonus points to stay in BCL

SPORTS REPORTER

After much deliberation on the issue, batting and bowling bonus points will remain in the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL), informed the technical committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday.

If a team scores a minimum of 300 runs within 100 overs in the first innings, the side will be awarded a bonus point if it can bowl out a side in the first innings. The standings of the teams will be announced as per the revised rules on Monday, said BCB officials.

Earlier, the playing conditions of the ongoing BCL became the subject of chaotic contention as there seemed to be a gap in communication between the franchises participating in the league and the BCB.

The tournament committee initially informed through a press conference prior to the start of the inaugural BCL that the

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India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni plays a lofted pull shot on way to scoring 37 in his team's consolation win in the third and final ODI against Pakistan at Ferozeshah Kotla in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

India avoid ignominy

Pakistan take ODI series 2-1

PTI, New Delhi

A spirited India clinched a sensational 10-run victory in a low-scoring thriller to avoid a series whitewash and restore some pride in the third and final one-day international against archrivals Pakistan here on Sunday.

India were first bundled out for a paltry 167 in 43.4 overs but relied on a brilliant bowling display under pressure to stop the visitors at 157 in a nerve-racking day-night contest, held in extremely chilly and

windy conditions.

Fortunes fluctuated from one team to the other till the very end before the hosts finally brought some cheer for their fans with the dramatic victory, which reduced their margin of defeat to 1-2 in the three-match series.

It was another poor batting display by India who never really got going as the Pakistan pacers Mohammad Irfan and Junaid Khan caused early damages before Saeed Ajmal joined the party with a career-best effort of five for 24.

But the host bowlers made amends in the end to fashion the win.

Pakistan, chasing the small target, were in a spot of bother as pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar rocked the innings with the early dismissals of Kamran Akmal and Younis Khan, but the visitors recovered through a gritty partnership between captain Misbahul Haq (39) and Nasir Jamshed (34), who were the top contributors for Pakistan.

However, the Pakistan innings collapsed again, giving the hosts an opportunity to come back into the game.

A nearly fully-packed holiday crowd, defying the chilly winds which blew right through the day,

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Firebirds ride on Tamim blitz

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal continued his good run in the HRV T20 CUP as he smashed a 47-ball 74 against the Canterbury Wizards yesterday. The left-handed batsman, who is playing for the Wellington Firebirds in the competition, was the highest scorer of the match which the Firebirds won by 57 runs.

Tamim, with fellow opener Jesse Ryder, set up a strong platform for the Firebirds with an opening stand of 71 runs in just 7.1 overs after being asked to bat first by the Canterbury Wizards' skipper Tom Latham.

Jesse Ryder triggered the early charge, pumping boundaries from the beginning and racing to 37 off 24 balls. But after spinner Ronnie Hira pocketed Ryder with his first ball of the day, it was dasher Tamim who led the charge with Ben Orton (37 out) followed by Michael Papps (32 not out) towards the end as Wellington cruised to 190 for 2 in 20 overs.

Tamim, starting his innings a bit cautiously, smacked two consecutive sixes off Ronnie Hira's third over to go past his 50 off 35 balls (4 x 4, 3 x 6). And then he scored his next 27 runs off 11 balls with four more boundaries.

In the chase Canterbury Wizards crumbled, losing 3 wickets for 14 in 4 overs. Struggling to get partnerships going against a tight all-round bowling performance, the Wizards teetered on 60 for 5, thanks to a devastating spell of 4-14 from the Firebirds' pace bowling debutant Malaesaili Tugaga who claimed the first four Wizards scalps.

Tamim's blazing innings follows his 49-ball 68 in the last match against the Northern Districts. In the three other matches that he has played, he scored 14, 0 and 35. He'll play his next game against the Otago Volts on January 11.

Football coaches due today

SPORTS REPORTER

The two Dutch coaches chosen by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for the national football team and the Sylhet Academy will arrive in Dhaka today.

Former Dutch professional player-turned-coach Lodewijk de Kruif is expected to be the head coach of the national team while his assistant Rene Koster will take charge of the BFF Football Academy in Sylhet if negotiations go according to plan.

Earlier, the two coaches were approached by BFF president Kazi Salahuddin during his visit to London last month. On December 29, Salahuddin had fruitful discussions with the two coaches in London and they agreed to come to Dhaka and watch two Bangladesh Premier League matches on January 9 and 11.

The two coaches will sit for a meeting with BFF officials to decide on the terms and conditions and

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FAREWELL MR. CRICKET: Australia cricketers Peter Siddle (R) and Mitchell Johnson (L) carry teammate Michael Hussey off the field after he helped his side defeat Sri Lanka with an unbeaten 27 on the fourth day of the third Test, Hussey's last, at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mike goes out a winner

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Mike Hussey says he is relieved his Test career is over after a fairytale finish, steering Australia to a clean-sweep series victory over Sri Lanka in Sydney on Sunday.

The 37-year-old left-hander was at the crease when the winning run was hit by batting partner Mitchell Johnson to clinch a five-wicket win over the Sri Lankans and script the perfect ending for his 79-Test career.

"What a place to finish. The SCG is probably my top three favourite grounds in the whole world," Hussey said.

"The crowd support and the support in general has been a bit overwhelming and I've been a bit embarrassed by it.

"In a way I'm quite relieved that it's over now. The stress and pressure, I can relax away from it now. I don't have that sick feeling in my stomach before I go out to bat.

"I feel like the pressure is off and I feel very proud to be able to finish in Australia and here at the SCG."

The popular West Australian, who only made his Test debut at the late age of 30 back in 2005, finished as the highest scorer above Ricky Ponting in Australia-

Sri Lanka Tests with 994 runs at 110.44 in eight Tests.

Hussey was adoringly feted by the Sydney crowds throughout the final Test and unselfishly offered a reluctant Johnson the chance to hit the winning run.

"I was telling Mitch [Johnson] the over before, if it comes up that you hit it then I'm more than happy to let us get this over and done with," he said.

"I was more than happy to be out there when the winning run was hit. A dream come true. The important thing was making sure we won the Test match."

Hussey said the realisation of having

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FACTFILE

Name: Michael Edward Killeen Hussey
Batting: Left-hand
Bowling: Right-arm medium
Date of birth: May 27, 1975 (Age 37)
Major teams: Australia, Western Australia, Northamptonshire
Test debut: v West Indies, Brisbane, November 3, 2005
ODI debut: v India, Perth, February 1, 2004
T20 debut: v New Zealand, Auckland, February 17, 2005

TESTS	M	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct

Badda's title fixed!

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has started an investigation into the alleged fixed match of the Metropolis Senior Division League between Badda Jagoroni and Dhaka Wanderers Club on January 2. The Metropolis Football League Committee (MFLC) has decided to investigate the matter after Jatrabari Kirra Chakra, who finished runners-up, lodged complaints of match-fixing. Committee chairman Sheikh Maruf Hasan said, "I haven't yet seen the complaint. But we will do the investigation since there has been a complaint lodged."

Jatrabari finished with 26 points in the league, while eventual champions

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