

Star SPORT

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Gigi hits back at Kaiser

Veteran Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon hit back Wednesday after being labelled "a pensioner" by former Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer for failing to stop an early goal in their Champions League defeat. Juve lost 2-0 in Munich but Buffon said Beckenbauer should be wary of speaking too soon ahead of next week's second leg in Turin. On Wednesday the 35-year-old Italy international warned: "I have no objection to being called that by an old wise man like Beckenbauer. "But he should be quiet and wait for the (outcome of the) next game."

-AFP



Bangalore's last-ball victory

AGENCIES, Bangalore

Royal Challengers Bangalore, inspired by Chris Gayle and indebted to Vinay Kumar, made a winning start to their IPL 6 campaign in nail-biting manner by beating Mumbai Indians by two runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

Defending 10 runs off the last over of Mumbai's innings, Vinay removed half-centurion Dinesh Karthik and Ambati Rayudu in consecutive deliveries before bowling a blockhole-length final ball to Kieron Pollard to send the RCB dugout into a tizzy.

The match was headed to the wire following Karthik's assault on Daniel Christian in a 24-run 17th over, but when Jaydev Unadkat conceded just seven from the penultimate

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Royal Challengers Bangalore's Chris Gayle shapes to pull during his lone hand of an unbeaten 92 in the IPL match against Mumbai Indians at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Siddikur solid in windy Delhi



Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace Bangladesh golfer Siddikur Rahman continued his upward trend in form this season by ending the first round of the Panasonic Open in joint 12th position at the Delhi Golf Club yesterday.

His recent good form -- he finished joint fifth in the Maybank Malaysian Masters last week -- is reason for hope that he can improve on last year's runner-up finish in the 300,000 dollar event.

If he manages to do that he will bag his second Asian Tour title after becoming the first Bangladeshi to win on the Tour by clinching the Brunei Open in 2010.

Firing a round of one-under-par 71, Siddikur was only four shots shy of joint leaders Kieran Pratt and Wade Ormsby of Australia, and Singapore's Lam Chih Bing.

India's SSP Chowrasia was next on the leader board on fourth position with a three-under-par 69, while seven competitors jointly occupied the fifth spot immediately above Siddikur's with two-under-par-70s.

Siddikur's good show is especially impressive as it was done under difficult golfing conditions, as local player Chowrasia told the Asian Tour website that there was wind in all the holes. Windy conditions have troubled the 28-year-old Bangladesh golfer in the past, but yesterday he overcame them to trade two birdies -- on the eighth and 14th holes -- for a bogey on the ninth in a consistent round of golf.

Siddikur's countryman Shakhawat Hossain Sohel also

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BPL payments still an issue



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

At least 45 Bangladeshi cricketers who participated in the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 are yet to receive 50 per cent of their payment, which according to the tournament bylaws was supposed to be paid before the end of the tournament.

The information was revealed by the Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) and based on a survey they conducted on 73 players. According to a CWAB press release, 32 players received 25 per cent of their payment, four received a sum below 20 per cent while eight did not receive any payment at all. The survey further states that 15 players who played for Khulna Royal Bengals and Durgam Chattri received 50 per cent of their payment. The remaining twelve cricketers could not be contacted.

The players who received 25 per cent of their payments include Mohammad Ashraful, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Nasir Hossain, Shohag Gazi and Mominul Haque. Former national player Alok Kapali and Elias Sunny have received 15 per cent of their payments, while Naeem Islam, Rubel Hossain and Enamul Haque Jr belong to the group of players who have not received any money as yet.

The likes of Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and

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Mash not up for Zim Tests

Test squad to be announced today



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team is set to tour in Zimbabwe with a vulnerable pace attack. The experienced Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has no chance of making the squad for the two-match Test series, which the national selectors will announce today.

There has been a lot of talk over the past few days surrounding the possible return to the Test fold for the country's leading paceman, but sources close to the team informed that the Akram Khan-led panel picked the team for the demanding tour without the 'Narail Express'.

It was learnt that Mashrafe was yet to fully recover from his injury and he was not ready -- physically and mentally -- for the rigours of Test cricket; he wanted instead to work towards becoming fit and available for the three-match ODI and two-match T20I series against Zimbabwe. Mashrafe hurt his left ankle recently

during practice while he was in the process of recovering from a heel injury.

"I still believe Mash (Mashrafe Bin Mortaza) will be able to play Test cricket, so does Shane (Jurgensen). But the problem with that is his (heel) injury has not resolved as we wanted it to. We thought he would have

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has not yet recovered from heel injury. Hopes to be fit for Zim ODIs.

Shakib Al Hasan fit for tour. Tamim Iqbal expected back in time for first Test.

improved further by now. He hasn't bowled a ball since the 18th of February. It's a long shot. Give me three days and let me see how he responds to my management. If we don't see him in a Test match in Zimbabwe our goal is for him to play in the New Zealand Tests (at home in

October)," national team physio Vibhav Singh explained about the current state of Mashrafe's injury.

The selectors were desperately hoping for Mashrafe's participation as they have been at pains to settle on a competent pace attack for the two-match Test series, which will be played in the seam-friendly Harare Sports Club ground. Rubel Hossain and Robiul Islam, who toured with the team in Sri Lanka, are likely to keep their places in the team. The selectors however were in a dilemma about the erratic Shahadat Hossain and that may pave the way for left-arm pacer Sajedul Islam, who played two Tests in 2008 in New Zealand, to be recalled as Nazmul Hasan, Shafiul Islam and Abul Hasan are injured.

There was however good news for the selectors in the return of stalwarts Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal. Shakib will have recovered from surgery on his shin by injured his thumb during fielding in the first ODI against Sri Lanka at Hambantota, is most

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Bangladesh golfing sensation Siddikur Rahman watches a drive sail across the fairway during the first round of the Panasonic Open at the Delhi Golf Club yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET



PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Walton Independence Day Hockey Tournament match between Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

Easy win for Army

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Navy 3-1 in the Walton Independence Day Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Army went ahead with a penalty strike from Rokonzaman before the lead was doubled due to an own goal by Navy. Rokonzaman made it 3-0 before Krishna Kumar pulled one back.

Siam loses 6th game

SPORTS REPORTER

National junior champion Ikramul Haq Siam lost his board again in the Asian Junior U-20 Chess Championship when Saiyn

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Shoddy state before Games begin

SPORTS REPORTER

With only half-a-month to go till the start of the Bangladesh Games, half of the venues for the mega extravaganza have not been prepared yet, while events like swimming will probably be held without electronic devices at the Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

The Eighth edition of Games is scheduled to take place from April 20-28 in the capital.

A total of 20 venues will host 357 gold events of 31 disciplines but the venues like swimming complex, athletic track at Bangabandhu National Stadium, Shaheed Tajuddin Wooden Floor Gymnasium, Dhanmondi Wooden Floor Basketball Gymnasium, Handball Stadium, Ramna Tennis Complex, Volleyball Stadium, Kabaddi Stadium, NSC Gymnasium are yet to be ready for the 10 disciplines. Among those venues, the conditions of swimming complex and

athletic track are the worst.

The electronic device at the swimming complex, installed during the 1993 SA Games, has already expired but the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) made it functional during the national meets. It had been evident that the electronic scoreboard has broken down many times during the meets and the rest of events were recorded with hand-timing.

The electronic scoreboard is at present not functional and the federation is therefore thinking of holding the events of swimming with hand timers.

The athletic track, which was damaged during the Grand Concert following the opening ceremony of the ICC World Cup in 2011 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, has still not been repaired in two years. A total of 28 damages were found in the post-concert assessment and the condition of the 100m sprint track was the worst, with big holes causing injury

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