

BANGLADESH GAMES BCB to bear cricket costs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will bear all expenses for the cricket competition of the Bangladesh Games.

“There is no uncertainty as we are going to bear the expenses,” said BCB’s media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

The BCB need around Tk 70 lakhs to run the show. The cricket event in the T20 format is scheduled to start from April 21 with eight teams at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Tamim remains Fair & Lovely ambassador

SPORTS REPORTER

Dashing opener Tamim Iqbal renewed his contract as a brand ambassador for Fair and Lovely MAX Fairness for one more year.

The left-hander, who has been the official brand ambassador for the face cream for men for the last three years, also launched new and improved Fair and Lovely MAX Fairness Multi Expert Cream during the signing ceremony recently.

No play on third day

SPORTS REPORTER

The third day of the four-day match between Bangladesh under-19 and Sri Lanka under-19 cricket teams was washed out without a ball being bowled due to consistent rain at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

With three days gone and the teams are yet to complete their first innings, the most likely result is a draw.

Cyclife to give cycles to BJMC

SPORTS REPORTER

Cyclife Exclusive, a concern of Meghna Group, will present 10 high-end racing cycles to the Bangladesh Jute Mill Corporation (BJMC) Cycling Team for the upcoming 8th Bangladesh Games that starts from April 20.

A deal to this effect has been struck between the organisations, with Ziaul Islam Tomal, general manager of Cyclife Exclusive, and Tofazzal Hossain, general manager of BJMC Cycling Team, signing it on behalf of their respective organisations at the BJMC Complex in the capital at yesterday.

The total value of the cycles and helmets are Tk 2.5 lakh.

Shakib given

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rehabilitation process.

“[Spin-bowling coach] Saqlain Mushtaq and myself decided that Shakib should bowl a few overs in a match situation before he starts full time bowling from the second Test,” said Vibhav. “If you noticed, he bowled with a shorter and slower run-up, so it was part of his rehabilitation process. He would have had to bowl in the nets anyway so it was better that he bowled in the match. After his sixth over he looked at me in the dressing room and signalled that he was okay to bowl one more over, and I said that he could.”

'If I read papers, who'll bat?'



PTI, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar may not be in the best of form of late but the senior Indian batsman on Thursday said that he was not bothered by the opinion of others about his retirement and that he would just stick to his job.

“Lots of people have been talking about this question (of retirement). If I remember correctly, this question began in 2005 and it has been continuing since then. But my answer has been I will stick to my job and you stick to your job,” he said at the launch of India’s first e-newspaper, www.englishnewspaperofindia.com.

“It does not affect me,” Tendulkar said when asked whether the constant talk of when he would retire had irritated him or affected his performance.

Tendulkar talked about how media speculated on his 100th international century after he scored his 99th ton during the 2011 World Cup.

“It was the media doing all the build-up. I scored my 99th international hundred during the World Cup. You (media) kept quiet during the World Cup, not discussing about my 100th ton as there were the other more important matter of India winning the tournament. After the World Cup there was again this focus on my



SACHIN TENDULKAR

100th international ton,” he said.

Asked if he read newspapers often, Tendulkar shot back, “Main newspaper parte rahunga to kaun khelega (If I keep on reading newspaper then who will play).”

On the question of the likes of former captains Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid and V V S Laxman giving opinions about him, though not necessarily negative, Tendulkar asked, “You think they were talking wrong things about me?”

On a serious note, Tendulkar said that he was not bothered by the opinion of the others.

“People are free to give their opinions. Lots of people are giving opinions about me. Some have played the game and they were giving opinions. Some have not played the game and

they are also giving opinions. But I don’t worry about opinions,” he said.

“It’s a package deal. You won’t score a hundred everytime you go out to bat. And like that you won’t get positive comments all the time. So I can’t control on what others say. What I can do is to just focus on the things I can handle, that is to play to the best of my ability,” he added.

Tendulkar said his family does not discuss cricket and so the game was not at the centre of things in his household.

“We don’t discuss cricket in our family. Our family discuss other issues of the day but not cricket. When I want to discuss cricket, I do it with my brother,” said Tendulkar who is now a Rajya Sabha member.

Tendulkar has now become one of the most followed celebrities in the social media space with 3.2 million people following his Twitter handle and he said was happy that he was able to raise money for charity through this platform.

“Actually, I started this twitter handle after my friends told me that there were many fake accounts in my name telling things which I have not said and done. To stop all those things I started my twitter account.

“But, the platform of social media served a very good purpose,” he added.



Bangladesh Army players celebrate after scoring a goal against Bangladesh Air Force on the opening day of the Bangladesh Games hockey competition at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Chennai drub Delhi

PTI, New Delhi

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Chennai Super Kings on Thursday inflicted a crushing 86-run defeat on Delhi Daredevils, handing out the sixth consecutive loss to the home team whose miseries show no signs of end with a pathetic batting display by the top and middle order in their match in New Delhi.

On the other hand, Chennai, desperate to get back to their winning ways, capitalised on some ineffective bowling by the Daredevils to put up a challenging score of 169 for four on the back of a scintillating 65 not out by veteran Mike Hussey and swashbuckling innings by skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, a 23-ball 44.

Daredevils suffered the ignominy of

being bowled out for 83 inside 18 overs and it became the season’s lowest total.

Delhi’s miseries compounded as unheralded medium-pacer Mohit Sharma bowled an impressive opening spell in which he removed David Warner and Virender Sehwag, literally shutting the match out for the hosts. He capped off an impressive bowling figure of three for 10.

SCORES IN BRIEF
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 169 for 4 in 20 overs (Hussey 65 not out, Dhoni 44, Raina 30; Pathan 1-30)
DELHI DAREDEVILS: 83 all out in 17.3 overs (Jadhav 31, Sehwag 17; Sharma 3-10, Ashwin 2-18)
Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 86 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Mike Hussey.

Games corner

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Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Air Force 5-1 with Abdul Malek scoring three goals while Bangladesh Navy also recorded identical 5-1 win over Mymensingh with Jahidul Islam striking two goals.

NO TICKETS FOR OPENING CEREMONY

Some 12770 sports lovers will have opportunity to watch the colourful opening ceremony of the Bangladesh Games from the galleries of Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

The Bangladesh Olympic Association disclosed this at the official press conference yesterday and confirmed that no tickets will be issued for the ceremony. Spectators will be seated in a first come-first serve basis. The rest of 25570-seater stadium have been reserved for invited guests, organisers and athletes.

TAEKWONDO, TT, SQUASH FROM TODAY

The events of Taekwondo, Squash and Table Tennis will get underway today at three different venues after three more disciplines -- tennis, badminton and hockey – had begun before the official inauguration of the Bangladesh Games.

Taekwondo will feature 22 events, 11 each for men’s and women’s at the National Sports Council Gymnasium while there will have three events for Squad to be played at Dhaka Club and Gulshan Club.

Eight teams each from men and women will compete for seven events of Table Tennis at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium.

A cosy venue

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enjoy the sun and the breeze under beach umbrellas. It is a perfect place to enjoy the ebb and flow of Test cricket, cricket’s oldest and premier format.

Behind the mound that forms the grass bank are the practice nets where first-class and national cricketers usually practice. Yesterday a group of four boys aged not more than 12 were playing half-pitch cricket there. Seeing people from the subcontinent, they immediately asked which IPL team we supported. If that worries Test cricket enthusiasts, they will be happy to know that the game the Royal Challengers Bangalore fans were playing was a Test match.

Opening

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teams will start the march past and exit after taking oath.

“For the spectators, there will be some surprise as the march past of plus 100 participating teams will not follow the traditional way as we have incorporated some new ideas,” said Lt Col Kamrul Hasan, member secretary of Ceremony Committee, yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Actor Clint	DOWN	19 Kiev's country (Abbr.)
1 Long sandwich	41 Archaeologist's find	1 Litigious one	22 Libertine
4 Loathe	43 Approach	2 Incite	23 “— is an island”
8 Den	44 Chow down	3 United nations	25 Erté's style
12 Web address	46 Actress Winona	4 New Testament book	26 Full of energy
13 Pianist Gilels	50 “American Gothic” painter	5 I love (Lat.)	27 Oklahoma city
14 Competent	55 Hearty quaff	6 Up to	28 “The Lion King”
15 Swelled head	56 Top-notch	7 — May Clampett	29 Own
16 India's movie industry	57 Spherical do	8 Marshals et al	30 Organic compound
18 Happen again	58 Work with	9 Blood-group letters	31 Amount of medicine
20 Thanks-giving veggie	59 Bosch or Bartlett	10 Dock-workers' org.	35 Fame
21 “Show Boat” composer	60 Goblet feature	11 Roulette bet	38 Hot dog
24 Club used in sand traps	61 Foundation	17 Deviate off course	40 Like some humor
28 Robin Hood's forest			42 Feline
32 Night light			45 “— the night before ...”
33 Tin container			47 Smear
34 Japanese wrestlers			48 Otherwise
36 Movie trickery, for short			49 Clarinetist's need
37 Declare			50 Space
			51 Fish eggs
			52 Santa — winds
			53 Frequently, in verse
			54 Raw rock

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-13

Nadal cruises, Murray fails



AFP, Monte Carlo

Roger Federer will return to second in the ATP standings next week after Andy Murray collapsed to a 6-1, 6-2 third-round loss to Stanislas Wawrinka at the Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday.

A shell-shocked Murray committed 24 unforced errors as he lost to Federer’s Swiss compatriot, seeded 13th, in 58 minutes.

Rafael Nadal stepped up his campaign for an historic ninth straight title at the event as the third seed won his 44th match in a row at the venue with a 6-2, 6-4 defeat of German Philip Kohlschreiber.

The Spanish great lifted his record at the seaside Country Club to 46-1 at a tournament where he suffered his lone defeat in 2003 against Guillermo Coria.

Nadal will next line up in the quarterfinals on Friday against Grigor Dimitrov, who beat Germany’s Florian Mayer with an identical 6-2, 6-4 scoreline.

Nadal advanced in 80 minutes and earned revenge for his only loss to Kohlschreiber from 10 meetings, a grass quarter-final defeat from last summer in Halle.

This win was his 16th in a row after successive titles this season in Indian Wells and Acapulco.

Unpredictable Italian Fabio Fognini sprung a surprise on fourth seed Tomas Berdych, dismissing the Czech 6-4, 6-2. French sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga thrilled his home fans as he overwhelmed Austrian Jurgen Melzer 6-3, 6-0.

Tigers fighting back

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and a six. Only after Cremer’s departure did he try to slog, and immediately paid the penalty when an attempted slog-sweep was taken by Mushfiquur.

But the Harare wicket seemed not to favour the Tigers’ traditional strength of spin bowling. The spinners bowled well, with Enamul Haque Jr taking three wickets in his comeback game, and Shohag Gazi was his usual impressive self taking two wickets -- that of Cremer and last man Shingi Masakadza -- while conceding few runs. But the fact that batsmen like Cremer and later tailenders Shingi Masakadza and Keegan Meth could score more than 20 is far from ideal.

That even an injury-weakened pace attack were the most threatening bowlers on the park says much about Rubel and Robiul’s discipline and also that the wicket warrants a heavier pace arsenal. The string of injuries to front-line pacers make that option difficult as the two other fast men in the squad are Shahadat Hossain -- who has never inspired confidence -- and Sajidul Islam, who is back in the national fold after five years.

Blame it on camera

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Zimbabwe and Bangladesh in Harare on Wednesday, Bangladesh fast bowler Rubel Hossain bowled two batsmen, but only one was out. Elton Chigumbura’s defences were beaten a few overs before the close of play but consultation with the third umpire led to the ruling that Rubel had overstepped. The problem with the referral was that the camera angle on which the no-ball call was based was not square on to the bowling crease, and therefore made it impossible to know for certain whether Rubel had in fact overstepped.

It was learnt from the television production crew yesterday that one of the square cameras, which are situated at a right angle to each set of stumps, was out of order on Wednesday. That begs the question that if the technology available is not available, even if temporarily, why use a poor substitute during an international match? Not long ago no-ball calls were rarely if ever referred to the third umpire. Over-dependency on technology cost Bangladesh on Wednesday, and though it was not very costly as Chigumbura was out off the ninth ball of the following morning, it is a mistake that could very easily have been avoided.

CRYPTOQUIP

V M K L S C K N D R L B L R E B J L I

F R V L C J L D F K E J F K D H R

V K S N S M S H J I Z K D D J H

D M R Z P F O K S O R V P K N

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HUMOROUS MONTY PYTHON FLICK ABOUT THE MAKING OF PICKLING SOLUTION: “THE LIFE OF BRINE.”
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals I