

Second win for BD women

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's national football team posted their second victory in the warm-up matches in Kolkata when they handed a 4-1 defeat to IFA Eleven yesterday. Aungma Ching and Sabina struck two goals each for Bangladesh while the hosts pulled one goal back after Bangladeshi defender Laboni struck her own net, said a BFF press release.

S'krishnan replaces May

PTI, Dubai

In an appointment that was backed by the BCCI, former India leg-spinner Laxman Sivaramakrishnan replaced Tim May on Monday as a players' representative on the ICC Cricket Committee. "... Sivaramakrishnan is one of the two Current Player representatives [replacing Tim May]. The other Current Player representative is former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara, who has been on the committee since 2007," the ICC said in a statement here today. "Sangakkara and Sivaramakrishnan were recently elected by a vote of the 10 Test captains, and will serve on the Cricket Committee for a three-year term from 2013-15," it added. The appointment was preceded by the head of South Africa's players union's recent allegation that Indian interests have forced a re-vote for the position of players' representative.

BNS bears

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A security guard of BNS informed that some 300 to 400 agitated people, most of them young, entered the stadium with bamboo sticks and brick pieces and proceeded to vandalise everything in sight. They even advanced to vandalise the VIP box and ICC president Box. Mohammad Yahia, administrator of the stadium, said that he along with security guards protected the grand area of the stadium at the risk of their life. Terming the stadium vandalism as an unprecedented incident, state minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarker said that they have already judged the damage of the stadium and would make the venue ready for sport as soon as possible. The BFF has shifted the Sheikh Russel-Feni Soccer match to today but Yahia was not sure whether they would be able to hold the match on schedule.

Sharapova's

FROM PAGE 16
Wozniacki of Denmark and China's Li Na crashed out on Sunday and Monday saw the end for Australia's Samnatha Stosur as she lost 7-6 (9/7), 6-2 to home hope Carla Suarez Navarro. Sixth seeded German Angelique Kerber came safely through with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Alize Cornet of France, while former world number one Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, seeded third, was scheduled to play later against Pavlyuchenkova. In early action in the men's tournament, Japan's 14th seed Kei Nishikori was too good for Jurgen Melzer of Austria winning at a canter 6-3, 6-2.



PHOTO: CRICINFO

Royal Challengers Bangalore opener Chris Gayle scored yet another half-century in the Indian Premier League, yesterday it was against Kings XI Punjab in Mohali.

Miller magic stuns RCB

AGENCIES, Mohali



David Miller bludgeoned his way to a sensational 38-ball 101 as Kings XI Punjab pulled off a dramatic six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in their Pepsi IPL match, here yesterday.

Miller played one of the most breathtaking knocks in IPL history and shared an unbelievable unbeaten 130-run stand for the fourth wicket with Rajgopal Satish (27) as the hosts overhauled the imposing 191-run target with 12 balls to spare.

David Miller became the fourth centurion of this edition of the IPL as he single-handedly kept Kings XI Punjab in contention for a playoff place.

His 38-ball hundred resurrected Kings XI from 64 for 4 and he was chiefly responsible for the 99-run blaze scored in the last five overs of the chase to pull off a coup against a team studded with superstars.

The Royal Challengers Bangalore would not have expected this from the Mohali-based minnows, especially after they recorded the fifth-highest total of the tournament so far. Their innings was built on the shoulders of Chris Gayle - who crossed the fifty mark for the first time since his 175 against Pune and reclaimed the orange cap - and the fit-again Cheteshwar Pujara and given legs by AB de Villiers' cameo at the end.

Kings XI responded with only a spine in Miller. He proved it remains the most important component of the human body and can be totally self-sustaining if needs be.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 190/3 in 20 overs (Pujara 51, Gayle 61; Gony 2/41)
KINGS XI PUNJAB: 194/4 in 18 overs (Miller 101; Kartik 2/24)
Result: Kings XI Punjab won by 6 wickets
Player of the match: David Miller

Nannu blames bad starts

FROM PAGE 16
Bangladesh's bowlers look ordinary. "The ball skids and does not turn. So the spinners have to really use their wits because when batsmen come down the wicket the ball comes to the bat easily. Our seamers have bowled better than our spinners, because the conditions suited them. We have very experienced spinners; Shakib (Al Hasan) is very experienced as well as Razzak. If they concentrate more they will of course do well. "About yesterday, I will say that Zimbabwe have played very well which made our bowling look ordinary. But I believe since our bowlers have bowled well in the Test series and the first ODI, and in comparison have not bowled well in the second game, in the third game we will turn things around," said the former national skipper. Nannu ended with a reminder that a team should not be judged on one match, especially as the result was still 1-1 with the last match to be played tomorrow. "You should not judge a team on one match. The players are also in the middle of a long tour, there are ups and downs. We lost the first Test, recovered in the second and also won the first ODI very convincingly. So it is not that the players have been broken mentally after the second match." "I think we are mentally prepared for the next game. Whatever the result, we are looking forward to playing our best cricket," Ashraful said. "It is painful (to lose against Zimbabwe) to be honest. Everyone, including us, expects to win against them and also dominate. But at the end this is a game of cricket and results might not always be the one that you expect and we should carry that mentality."

No entry for SRK still at Wankhede

INTERNET, Mumbai

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will face Mumbai Indians on Tuesday, their first game at the venue since last year's incident.

Shah Rukh Khan might have repeatedly apologised for last year's Wankhede incident, expressing regret even two days ago in Kolkata, but the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) doesn't seem to be in a mood to relent.

The association, instead, wants the Bollywood star and Kolkata Knight Riders' co-owner to apologise to them directly if he wishes to get his ban lifted and watch his team in action at the stadium.

KKR will face Mumbai Indians on Tuesday, the first time the defending champions will be playing at the venue since the infamous incident. An angry Shah Rukh had fought with the security personnel after his young daughter and her friends were stopped from entering the ground following a KKR victory. The MCA imposed a five-year ban on the actor.

Abahani

FROM PAGE 16
The AFC President's Cup on home soil three years ago and the Iranian coach believed their first match would be very crucial to qualify for the second round. "First match is always important and difficult. We will go to the field with an aim of winning but we will be careful against the hosts' team", said Ardeshtir adding that Abahani were the strongest side of the Group A qualifiers. Three Star Club coach Pradip Humagain had a different opinion and did not want to consider anyone's favourites in the group. "All teams are equal in strength and it is a game of 11 vs 11," said Humagain. "But we have a strong 12th man, which is the home crowd."

Dhoni insults Lord Vishnu?

PTI, Bangalore

A case has been registered in a local court against India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni for allegedly "denigrating" a Hindu God and "hurting" the religious sentiments of the Hindus.

The 6th additional chief metropolitan magistrate Choori Khan registered a case under section 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class) along with 34 of the Indian Penal Code against Dhoni on a complaint filed by social activist Jayakumar Hiremath.

In his complaint, Hiremath alleged that by posing for an advertisement in a business magazine as Lord Vishnu holding several things including a shoe in his hands, Dhoni had denigrated the Hindu god and hurt religious feelings of the Hindus.

Taking cognisance of the offence and registering the case, the court posted it to May 12 for recording of the statement of the complainant.

Tigers duo

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at," said the national team's physiotherapist Vibhav Singh. "Nasir has had this problem for a while now, and we will go to Cape Town for a consultation. If de Beers thinks that he needs surgery now, Nasir will undergo the operation."

"Shafiul has some problems with calluses developing on his heel and ankle because of the way he lands while bowling, and we will go to a podiatrist in Johannesburg to get it looked at," said the South African physio. The same specialist had looked at Shakib Al Hasan's foot when the all-rounder was in Johannesburg with Indian Premier League side Kolkata Knight Riders.

"He [Shafiul] is fine, but it is a problem that crops up at times so we just want to consult the doctor, whether he needs customised shoes or whether he will be fine as is," added Vibhav.

Shakib

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Taylor meanwhile was fined 20 percent of his match fees for a slow over rate as his side was one over short at the cutoff stage during Bangladesh's innings.

Ex-stars confident of good Pak show



PTI, Karachi



Pakistan's former captains Javed Miandad and Wasim Akram are hopeful that the national team can win the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy in England.

The PCB has asked Miandad to assist the batsmen in the national training camp underway in Abbotabad while Akram is also there to work with the pace bowlers.

Both the greats have spent hours working with the players since reaching Abbotabad two days back.

According to details, Miandad, in particular, has spent hours helping the batsmen Misbahul Haq, Asad Shafiq, Umar Amin while Akram has been training the likes of Mohammad Irfan, Junaid Khan, Ehsan Adil, Asad Ali and Wahab Riaz.

Even as the two greats worked with the players, head coach, Dav Whatmore and bowling coach, Mohammad Akram preferred to take a back seat and let them work independently.

"I always say before a major tournament that given the talent we have Pakistan is always among the favourites to win the title," Akram told reporters in Abbotabad.

"Like Brazil in football we are blessed with a lot of natural talent. I believe that

Pakistan has always had this ability of beating any team on its day. I am also confident about our team's chances in this Champions Trophy," he said.

Akram said that if the batsmen were able to post enough runs on the board, the bowling attack was capable of bundling out any side in the tournament.

"It will be a tough tournament but I am backing Pakistan because at this time of the year and over the years the pitches at most venues in England have flattened and our batsmen can score a lot of runs. If they do that our bowlers have the ability to win matches," he said.

He pointed out that despite the absence of experienced pacer, Umar Gul the team was blessed with enough pace and spin talent and could upset any batting line-up. Miandad advised the batsmen to go to England without any pressure.

"I have told them go and play in the Champions Trophy like they would in any other event. If you take the pressure of a big tournament and keep thinking, it does affect your performances," Miandad said.

He said the Champions Trophy would be a close event because all the participating teams were playing well.

"Pakistan, India, England, South Africa and the West Indies are all balanced outfits and it will boil down to how a team plays on a particular day. There is little to separate the teams which have their own set of strengths and weaknesses," he said.

Bracewell does well



AFP, London

Doug Bracewell claimed an impressive four-wicket haul on the second day of New Zealand's warm-up match with Derbyshire on Sunday to strengthen his claim for a place in the tourists' Test side.

Having declared on 289 for five on day one, New Zealand bowled the English county side out for 154 as Bracewell finished with figures of 4-28.

By the close of play, they were 199 for five in their second innings -- a lead of 334 -- thanks mainly to an unbroken century stand from BJ Watling (61) and Tom Latham (47).

Bracewell missed England's tour of New Zealand after cutting his foot on some glass as he cleaned up after a party and is now hoping to force his way into the team for the forthcoming two-Test series with Alastair Cook's men.

"I was looking forward to the previous series and I felt my form was pretty good going in, so I was gutted," he said.

"There was a few stories but I just stood on a piece of glass while I was cleaning up. I had a few mates round the night before and it happened in the morning. "It was pretty bad luck, really. A silly little thing like that to make you miss three Tests, important Tests, is pretty annoying. "Neil [Wagner] has come in and taken wickets, so credit to him, but every game you play you're trying to prove a point. That's what I'm trying to do.

"I'm pretty happy with my performance today. It was good to get some overs under my belt."

New Zealand play the first Test against England at Lord's on May 16.

African

FROM PAGE 16
domestic competitions in Zimbabwe, and after retirement he spends a lot of his time training young referees, 91 of them so far. But he also enjoys telling tales of his experience while making a quick buck driving a cab in Bulawayo - only difference is he is now the one who has to obey the colour red.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Church section

5 Gangster's girlfriend

9 GPS forerunner?

12 Contemptible

13 Met melody

14 Expert

15 Grand

17 Scooted

18 Baltimore athlete

19 Luxurious fabric

21 Rocky Balboa's greeting

22 Native New Zealander

24 Lowers the lights

27 Proscription

28 Make a sweater

31 Historic time

32 Table scrap

33 Id counterpart

34 Zinger

36 Anat. or biol.

37 Fermi's bit

38 Nothing

40 My group

41 Money under the table

43 Star-related

47 Knock

48 Bread spread

51 Greek H

52 Reed

53 Lotion additive

54 Lair

55 Collars

56 Longings

2 Orchard fruit

3 Ganges garment

4 Representatives

5 Guy

6 Plata

7 Lucy of "Elementary"

8 Cow catcher

9 Strict disciplinarian

10 "Superfood" berry

11 Teller's partner

16 "Xanadu" band, for short

20 Clumsy craft

22 Parade

23 Opposed

24 Society newbie

25 401(k)

26 Almond confection

27 Variety of 2-Down

29 "Where did — wrong?"

30 Huck's pal

35 Baby's cover-up

37 Off

39 Lousy car

40 "Born in the —"

41 Raised

42 Assess

43 Census statistics

44 Anger

45 Unsigned (Abbr.)

46 Dregs

49 Lawyers' org.

50 Burgle

S C A M J A B O V A L
U L N A O R O C A M E
B U O Y A N C Y E G A N
S E N A T E L E A R N S
N O S E T N A
R E D P E P H I N G E
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Yesterday's answer 3-28

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CRYPTOQUIP

C H M E K U S W U H P R F M X R

L R P P R F E R K P M K R M V V

P Y M K R N D - Y M X P , C Z U S V N Y M V V

X O R L X O R D R V V U Z W M E R P .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THEY FINALLY PURIFIED THAT LARGE MASS OF POLLUTED METAL, IT WAS REALLY A REFINING MOMENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals L