

Archers leave for Indonesia

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Archery team was scheduled to leave the country early today for Indonesia to take part in the 16th Asian Archery Championships and Youth Olympics qualifying round in Bali from November 15 to 22.

The 15-member squad consists of eight players including three female archers while British coach Richard John Priestman and Indian coach Nishith Das will also be part of the team.

Imdadul Haq Milon, who finished second in the 70m recurve bow in fifth Asian Grand Prix, will only be competing in the Youth Olympics qualifying round while the rest of the squad will test their skills in the Asian championships ahead of the South Asian (SA) Games at home next year.

University TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka University table tennis tournament, organised by DU Table Tennis Association, got underway yesterday at the Teacher and Student Centre (TSC) with participation of some 70 competitors from different departments.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique declared the four-day meet open while Prof Biman Barua, director of TSC, Alamgir Hossain, director of Physical Training Centre Shawkat Rahman and DU Table Tennis Association president Mir Shawkat Ali were among others present.



PHOTO AFP

England batsman Eoin Morgan shapes himself up to drive the ball during his blistering knock of 85 in a Twenty20 match against South Africa at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Friday.

India's tough change

Cricket

AFP, Ahmedabad

India will make a quick switch to Test cricket to defend their unbeaten home record against Sri Lanka in a three-match series starting here on Monday.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men have endured a gruelling six-month schedule of limited-overs cricket which ended this week with a one-day series loss against world champions Australia.

The Indians have played just three Tests this year -- in New Zealand in March-April -- and Dhoni agreed the sudden adjustment to the traditional five-day format will not be easy.

"This is the way modern cricket is played," said Dhoni. "We have to be mentally prepared to make the change and I am confident we will be up for the challenge."

Sri Lanka are brimming with confidence after two back-to-back series wins at home against Pakistan and New Zealand which lifted Kumar Sangakkara's men to the number two spot in the Test rankings behind South Africa.

India, however, remains the final frontier for the Sri Lankans, who have never won a Test on Indian soil in six previous series, losing eight matches while the remaining six were drawn.

University football

SPORTS REPORTER

Brac University came from behind to record a 4-2 win over East West University in the Mentors' Inter-Private University football tournament at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

Shakil, Shahed, Mithun and Tanjil struck one goal each for the winners while Mahfuz netted a brace for the losers.

In the day's other match, Presidency University and International University of Business Agriculture and Technological played out a 1-1 draw at the same venue.

Saiful Islam put Presidency ahead in the fourth minute before Manjurul Alam Khan cancelled the lead for IUBAT three minutes from the break.

Eng edge

Alastair Cook followed in the fourth over.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 202 for 6 in 20 overs (Morgan 85 not out, Collingwood 57, Trott 33; McLaren 3-33, Langeveldt 1-39, Steyn 1-40)

SOUTH AFRICA: 127 for 3 in 13 overs (Bosman 58, Smith 41, de Villiers 10 not out; Wright 1-17)

Result: England won by 1 run on Duckworth-Lewis method.

Nadal sets up

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Tsonga, hugely popular with the Paris fans, let slip three more break points in the sixth game and was made to pay the price five games later when a resurgent Nadal grabbed the first break of the match with a stinging forehand drive that the net-bound Tsonga volleyed long.

The Spaniard duly pocketed the set on his own serve.

The second set followed a near-identical pattern to the first with Tsonga holding serve comfortably earlier on and Nadal having a harder time of it.

But once again in the 11th game, Tsonga's concentration wavered resulting in a rash of unforced errors that handed Nadal the break of serve he needed.

The Spaniard had no trouble putting the match away as Tsonga's game fell apart and the title he won superbly last year was taken from him.

"Easy the best match I have played here," said Nadal, who is without a tournament win since May as he has battled injuries and loss of form.

"It's the fifth straight semi-final for me so I am there all the time and when you are there all the time one day you will win."

"But he (Djokovic) is the player who is playing the best at this part of the season so he will be the favourite."

Djokovic's win over Soderling wrecked the Swede's

hopes of a first-ever appearance in the ATP World Tour Finals in the first of the quarterfinals.

Soderling, who made the final of the French Open the last time he played in Paris in June, went into the match knowing that he needed to at least reach the final here to clinch the remaining spot in the season-ending tournament.

But having lost all four of his previous encounters with the young Serb, the Swede knew he would have to produce something special.

He did just that in the second set which he won 6-1 after dropping the first, but in a tense decider he was the first to crack on serve in the eighth game when two unforced errors on the backhand side followed by a double fault gave Djokovic three break points.

Soderling saved the first of these, but then netted a weak backhand to hand the break to the third seed who made no mistake in serving out for the match.

In other quarterfinal action Gael Monfils kept home hopes alive with a closely-fought 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over Marin Cilic of Croatia.

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Channel i lift Pepsi-DRU title

SPORTS REPORTER

Channel i lifted the Pepsi-DRU six-a-side cricket title handing a 33-run defeat to Bangla Vision in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The champions bundled out Bangla Vision for 52 after posting 80 for three in their stipulated six overs, thanks to a blazing 33 from Rakibul Hasan, who was adjudged man of the final as well as man of the tournament.

Rakibul of Channel i also received the trophy for the highstrun-getter while Partho Tanvir Naved was awarded as the highest wicket-taker in the tournament.

The champions dedicated their trophy and Tk 50,000 prize money to their late colleague Mahbub Matin as Chief Whip of National Parliament vice principle Abdus Shahid distributed prizes among the winners.

Mizanur Rahman member of the Parliamentary Committee on Youth and Sports, Tejinder Khurana, country manager of PepsiCo International, Golam Kuddus Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Beverages Limited, Shamim Ahmed, president of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), Pathik Saha, secretary of DRU and Mohiuddin Polash, sports secretary of DRU, were among others present on the occasion.

U-19 booters

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and coming from behind to draw against bottom placed Laos (3-3).

The most interesting thing of the tournament for Bangladesh was that they conceded within first five minutes of every match, even in the 1-0 loss against Vietnam.

Coach Shafiqul Islam Manik found no reasons behind conceding early goals in all five matches.

"I have no explanation about conceding early goals in every match and it was beyond my control and I found no solution," said Manik after his arrival from Bangkok yesterday. "Yes, we expected to qualify for the finals, but the players could not avail the opportunities in the matches against Vietnam and Thailand as I targeted to win either against Vietnam or Thailand after keeping in mind that we would win against Macao and Laos."

The IAAF could ban her from competing again, require that she undergo surgery, or take no action.

Leaked test results said Semenya was a hermaphrodite, sparking anger from the South African public and government, who have rallied behind the athlete.

But as the controversy swirls around her, Semenya said she had found refuge with her

training group and her coach, Michael Seme.

"I am myself here," she told the newspaper. "Everyone just accepts me. They know who I am. I am just Caster to these guys. I feel good with them. I feel much better here with (Seme) and the athletes."

Semenya insisted she was unchanged by her elevation to global stardom.

"What is the point of me changing? If I became another person it would be bad. If I acted in a different way with my friends they would not be happy. It's important I stay the same."

She joked that "I can't go shopping no more" because of her new status in South Africa, but added: "I know who I am. I can't change what (people) say."

Semenya lowered her personal best time by eight seconds to win the world title.

"I am a fighter," she said. "I never give up. And I knew I was going to get better."

With the clock ticking to the IAAF ruling, her coach said: "We hope for Caster. That's all we can do."

Athletics South Africa (ASA) was suspended by the country's national Olympic committee this month over its handling of the Semenya row.

The decision came after ASA boss Leonard Chuene was suspended pending an investigation after admitting he knew about the gender test conducted on the athlete prior to the world championships.

Members of the victorious Channel i receive the Pepsi-DRU Championship trophy from Chief Whip vice-principal Abdus Shahid at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Under-19s

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top four batsmen for duck, leaving the hosts in a precarious position at 47 for six in 16.1 overs. The wrecker-in-chief was paceman Chatara as he got rid of all four batsmen. But then came some rearguard action from Noor Hossain who struck 65 runs off 87 deliveries. Noor Hossain's efforts were complemented by Alaudin Babu's 34-ball 30 that took the hosts close to victory, but left some job yet to be done as they fell leaving 24 needed with a single wicket in hand. But Abul Hossain, the orchestrator of Zimbabwe's doom earlier, turned it a day of his own as he struck five boundaries in 16 balls to score 22 runs and take Bangladesh home from the jaws of defeat.

Both teams now head to New Zealand where they play three Tests with the first Test opens in Dunedin from November 25.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 153 for 5 in 20 overs (Umer 56 not out, Kamran 26, Afridi 22; Butler 3-28)

NEW ZEALAND: 146 for 5 in 20 overs (McCullum 47, Styris 43, Gul 2-29)

Result: Pakistan won by seven runs and take the series 2-0.

Pakistan's

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(17 not out) added a quickfire 39 for the fifth wicket.

Nazir and Akmal gave Pakistan a robust start of 40 with Nazir hitting three fours and six, while Kamran hit four boundaries and a six before New Zealand's bowlers slammed on the brakes.

SRI LANKA (from): Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Muttiah Muralidaran, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Tharanga Samarawansa, Angelo Mathews, Thilina Kandamby, Prasanna Jayawardene, Kaushal Silva, Chanaka Welegedara, Thilan Thushara, Nuwan Kulasekera, Damitha Prasad, Rangana Herath, Ajith Mendis.

KALABAGAN VBIMAN VENUE: BSNCS

KALABAGAN: 219-8 in 50 overs (Javed 42, Rokibul 35, Zubair 66 not out, Artul 26, extras 12; Talha 2-55, Elias 3-35)

BIMAN: 199 all out in 48.2 overs (Jihan Mubarak 66, Sharifulah 25, Mosharaf 23, Talha 20 not out, extras 23; Shahadat 2-36, Masud 2-34, Nazmus 2-3)

RESULT: Kalabagan won by 20 runs.

OLD DOHS V KHELAGHAR VENUE: BKS

KHELAGHAR: 203 all out in 48.5 overs (Aslam 66, Ashraf 29, Ashraf 24, Monowar 23, extras 10; Rubel 3-39, Wasim 3-33)

OLD DOHS: 205-7 in 49.5 overs (Wasim 58, Rabib 31, Rumman 54, Nasiruddin 18, extras 12; Monirul 2-3)

RESULT: Old DOHS won by three wickets.

OLD DOHS V KHELAGHAR VENUE: BKS

KHELAGHAR: 203 all out in 49.5 overs (Sarker 50, Asif 50, Tanvir 34, extras 16; Bashar 2-36, Sharif 5-35)

RESULT: Old DOHS won by three runs.

31 Author Turgenev

32 Bit of wordplay

33 Lascivious

34 Mai —

35 Branch

36 Briskly

37 "My fondest wishes"

38 Cerebral

39 Reed instrument

40 Pulsate

41 Ceremony

42 Menagerie

43 Capri, e.g.

44 Bank transaction

45 Setting for Rachael Ray

46 Menagerie

47 Menagerie

48 Speder spotter