



Players of Bangladesh Ansar are delighted after they won the Meizan National Kabaddi Championship at the Outer Stadium Kabaddi Court yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Ansar lift women's kabaddi title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar emerged champions in the Meizan National Kabaddi Championship defeating BJMC 18-7 in the final at the Outer Stadium Kabaddi court yesterday.

Shahnaz Parvin Maleka of the star-studded Ansar was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

Before moving into the final, Ansar easily thrashed Magura 51-11 while BJMC outplayed Gazipur 34-9 in the semifinals.

Shoab M Asaduzzaman, head of sales and marketing of Edible Oil Limited, distributed trophies and prize money among the winners while Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation vice-president Mukitir Rahman was also present.

England call Bell back 4th ODI against Pakistan today

CRICINFO

Batsman Ian Bell, who scored a match-winning 107 from 95 balls for Warwickshire in the final of the English 40 overs competition against Somerset at Lord's on Saturday, has been added to England's squad for the remaining two one-day internationals in the NatWest Series against Pakistan.

The fourth ODI will be held at Lord's on Monday.

Bell has not been part of the England set-up since breaking a bone in his foot while fielding during the second one-day international against Bangladesh at Bristol earlier this summer. He has since recovered from the metatarsal injury, scoring 107 off 95 balls in Warwickshire's victory over at Lord's.

"It's been great to be back on field. When I did the injury the England guys and the specialists erred on the side of safety," Bell said on Saturday. "The surgeon suggested eight weeks off, I probably could have played after seven but was it worth risking it ahead of us? Probably not."

"So hats off to the ECB -- Kirk Russell [the physio] and Nick Pierce the doctor got it right in terms of giving myself enough time but also getting some cricket under my belt."

Bell made a successful return to the one-day squad in the first match against Bangladesh, where he struck an unbeaten 84 to seal victory at Trent Bridge but was soon back on the sidelines after his injury at Bristol. With England's impressive one-day form it's a battle to find a place in the line-up, especially with Kevin Pietersen to return, but Bell feels he is now coming into his prime.

"I'll just keep working as hard as I can to get in the side in one-day cricket as well as Test cricket," he said. "I feel I'm improving all the time. I'm desperate to keep improving because at 28 the best years are still to come."

CSK in survival battle

AFP, Port Elizabeth



After an unsuccessful gamble by captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the Chennai Super Kings will have to wait until Wednesday to know whether they will qualify for the semifinals of the Champions League Twenty20 tournament.

Chennai were beaten in a Super Over by Australia's Victoria Bushrangers at St George's Park on Saturday after both teams scored 162 in 20 overs.

Dhoni entrusted the shoot-out over to off-spinner Ravichandra Ashwin, who conceded 23 runs, 22 of them scored by Victoria captain David Hussey.

Chennai could only manage 13 off Victoria medium-pace Clint McKay.

It set up a situation where three teams could finish with three wins each in Group A -- Chennai, Victoria and South African champions the Eastern Cape Warriors.

Victoria play Wayamba Elevens in Centurion on Monday and will be favourites to beat the Sri Lankans, who have lost both their games so far.

Chennai meet the unbeaten Warriors in Port Elizabeth in the last round robin match of the tournament on Wednesday in what shapes up as a crucial encounter.

The Warriors completed their third successive win in the early match of Saturday's double-header when they defeated New Zealand's Central Stags by six wickets.

Dhoni defended his choice of Ashwin to bowl the Super Over.

"He's got a bit of variation. He can bowl the one that goes away from the batsman and at the same time he's the one bowler who bowls more often than not for us in the first six overs. And our fast bowlers did not bowl very well."

Dhoni said drizzle which fell during the Victoria innings, twice causing brief delays in play,

had made it difficult for his bowlers to defend the 162 for six scored by Chennai.

The Indian Premier League team were also hampered by the absence of injured all-rounder Albie Morkel, which meant Dhoni had to use part-time off-spinner Suresh Raina as his sixth bowler.

Raina, though, bowled so well that he had figures of two for 15 after three overs, prompting Dhoni to keep him on for the last over which started with Victoria needing 12 to win with three wickets remaining.

McKay hit a six but Raina then took two wickets in two balls.

Peter Siddle hit a four and was able to scramble an overthrow before there was a run-out off the last ball when Bryce McGain could not get the ball away and was run out by half the length of the pitch.

David Hussey said it had been a good effort from his team because several players were suffering from a virus.

"We scrambled the Super Over and it was just lucky we got the points and we get another chance to do well in this tournament," he said.

Victoria's win meant the Warriors could not enjoy only a muted celebration of a win in which they had to mount the highest successful run chase of the tournament.

The Stags scored 175 for three in their 20 overs with captain Jamie How making an unbeaten 88.

Warriors captain Davy Jacobs hammered 74 off 47 balls as he and Ashwell Prince (64) put on 147 for the first wicket.

The Port Elizabeth side then lost four quick wickets before securing the win with five balls to spare.

Jacobs said the Warriors fielding had not been as good as in previous games in allowing the Stags to make a highly competitive total.

"We knew somewhere along the line we were going to have a tough game but we spoke about the need to win from different situations," said Prince.

Hosts take

FROM PAGE 17

Under-19 team qualified for the main competition in their first attempt in 2006. Aya Al Magaly, the tall captain of the Jordan team, informed that they had two months of training in which time they played against the national women's team. Speaking of opponents, she said they don't have any knowledge about the hosts, but thinks Iran and India are at a same level as Jordan.

India coach Shukla Dutta called her charges as a disciplined and dedicated bunch who had a rigorous training of one and a half months where they emphasised on improving technical skills.

Only the captain of the side, Kamala Devi, has the experience of representing the national women's side. Kamala was part of the side for the SA games when they beat hosts Bangladesh 7-0 earlier this year. Being an attacking midfielder herself, Kamala wants to see her side to top the group with maximum points.

The other team in the group are Iran who like Jordan have started taking up the game only four years ago but made some good progress in this time. They have had the longest practice for this campaign among the teams. In the last four months they have played couple of matches against a Thai club.

The four teams will take on each other once in the round robin league system from where the top team will advance to the second round.

The other group comprises Philippines, Myanmar, Hong Kong and Uzbekistan.

The second round of qualifiers will be held from October 21 to 30 in Kuala Lumpur.

Berbatov

FROM PAGE 17

It was the second time in the space of a week that United had let slip a two-goal lead, having been held to a 3-3 at Everton last weekend.

Buoyed by the goals, Liverpool looked capable of taking all three points, but Berbatov's late header ended their fightback and left Roy Hodgson's team with only one win from five games.

"I thought our second-half performance was good and we deserved to get back in the game," Hodgson said.

"I think we were a bit unlucky to go two down when we did -- and of course to concede late on was tough. Had we had a little bit more composure at the end, maybe we'd have seen the game out."

Hodgson also defended the mixed performance of Spanish World Cup winner Torres, who was at fault for Berbatov's opening goal before winning the penalty and free-kick that allowed Liverpool to get back on level terms.

Shakib

FROM PAGE 17

hit with counties and Shakib has continued the tradition, though he said he liked what he saw in England's domestic game.

"At least two foreign players are there and the others are also good. Actually, county cricket is not too far away from international standard," he said.

And Shakib's figures -- 35 wickets and 358 runs from eight games -- would also help other players from the country to play the oldest first-class competition in the world. "If not a lot of players, at least one would certainly be playing there next year," Shakib confirmed.

He would be joining the Tigers' camp for the New Zealand series on September 26 and Shakib said he felt confident in a team ahead of the five matches.

"We have a balanced side and I hope we do well," said Shakib.

Lions gun Guyana down

AFP, Johannesburg



Ethan O'Reilly ripped through Guyana's batting as the Highveld Lions crushed the West Indian team by nine wickets in the Champions League Twenty20 tournament at the Wanderers Stadium on Sunday.

Opening bowler O'Reilly took four for 27 as Guyana struggled to 148 for nine in their 20 overs. The Lions raced to victory with 4.5 overs to spare as captain Alviro Petersen (57 not out) and pinch-hitter Richard Cameron (78 not out) put on an unbeaten 133 for the second wicket.

It kept the Lions in contention for a place in the semi-finals. A win against the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the final Group B match at the Wanderers on Tuesday will clinch it for the South African side.

O'Reilly dismissed opening batsmen Travis Dowlin and Sewnarine Chattergoon in an opening spell of two for 22. He came back later to bowl Jonathan Foo and Royston Crandon with fast, full deliveries.

The key wicket of the day, though, belonged

to fast bowler Craig Alexander, who had Guyana captain and star batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan superbly caught at backward point by a leaping Jean Symes. Sarwan had looked in ominous form as he made 21 off 16 balls.

"The guys play for each other," Petersen said of his team's success.

He praised Cameron's powerful hitting for enabling the Lions to improve their net run rate, which could be a factor in they lose to Bangalore.

"After the tenth over we knew we could push the run rate up. Richard played beautifully."

Cameron's runs were scored off 41 balls with six sixes and five fours.

It was another disappointing result for Guyana, who have lost all three of their matches. "We need to work harder on our game," said Sarwan.

SCORES IN BRIEF

GUAYANA: 148-9 in 20 overs (Sarwan 21, Jacobs 34; O'Reilly 4-27).

LIONS: 149-1 in 15.1 overs (Petersen 57 not out, Cameron 78 not out).

Result: Lions won by nine wickets.

Zaheer, Harbhajan await Test recall



CRICINFO

India are not going to wait for the Board President's XI game before selecting the squad for the first Test of the two-match series against Australia, beginning on October 1 in Mohali. The selectors will meet on Monday, 11 days before the first Test, and five days before the BP XI game.

The tour game against the Australians features Shanthakumaran Sreesanth and Cheteshwar Pujara, who would like to press claims for their selection, and Gautam Gambhir, who will be playing his first first-class game since a knee injury ended his Sri Lanka tour after the first Test, in July. The squad also includes Abhimanyu Mithun, who impressed the team management in Sri Lanka in the absence of Zaheer Khan and Sreesanth. Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, too, would believe he is not too far from being in the frame, after Amit Mishra's dismal show in Sri Lanka. However, anything these players do in this game is going

to influence selection only for the second Test.

The Test squad itself shouldn't pose too many problems. Yuvraj Singh, who lost his No. 6 slot to Suresh Raina during the Sri Lanka tour, should keep his place in the squad. Before his illness made way for Raina in the second Test, Yuvraj had done decently with a hundred in the tour game and a fifty in the first Test. Murali Vijay should be the other back-up batsman apart from the main six.

Zaheer Khan, fit now, should replace Munaf Patel from the squad that travelled to Sri Lanka. Harbhajan Singh should come back too after missing the third Test in Sri Lanka with fitness issues. If the selectors feel the need for a back-up wicketkeeper, Wriddhiman Saha, who was part of the touring party to Sri Lanka, should retain his place.

LIKELY SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Murali Vijay, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Pragyan Ojha, Abhimanyu Mithun and Amit Mishra.

Ricky eyes series win



CRICINFO

Ricky Ponting hopes the two-Test series in India next month will be a step towards Australia reclaiming the No. 1 Test ranking. Australia are presently fourth in the ratings, 14 points behind top-ranked India, and a 2-0 win for the visitors will narrow the gap to four.

"It's an important tour for all of us," Ponting said before his side's departure to India. "I don't expect miracles, but I expect a very high level of performance over the next few weeks. If we happen to play the cricket I know we are capable of in India, and we can win that series, that will do great things for us to get back up near the No. 1 ranking."

Australia and India have been neck-and-neck in Test cricket over the past decade: India won seven matches, including two away, while Australia prevailed in six. Their last tour to India was one of the more one-sided contests, which the hosts won 2-0. In the build-up to this tour, there have been suggestions that it wasn't ideal preparation ahead of the Ashes that begin later in the year. Ponting, however, dismissed those claims.

"There's been a bit of talk the last few weeks about our preparation into what we've got later in the summer, and I definitely couldn't be happier with it, playing Test cricket at this time of year. I think it will be great to be challenged by a very good team and by the conditions. I think it will be great for us when November [and the Ashes] comes around."

Ponting also called upon the ICC to act quickly on the spot-fixing allegations that have marred Pakistan's ongoing tour of England. "The events of the last couple of weeks have had a big impact I'm sure around the world on the way that the game is viewed, but that's completely out of our hands. The ICC needs to be doing whatever it can to get on top of these things as quickly as possible."

Three Pakistan players -- Salman Butt, Mohammad Amir and Mohammad Asif -- were provisionally suspended by the ICC after the spot-fixing controversy broke during the Lord's Test. Yesterday, the ICC launched an investigation into the third ODI at The Oval, after receiving information from The Sun newspaper prior to the game on Friday, alleging bookies were aware of certain scoring patterns that occurred during the match. Ponting lauded the ICC's moves to curb the men-

ace, and said there was little players could do except play honest cricket.

"They've done a pretty good job over the last few weeks already and with this latest allegation, hopefully they will get to the bottom of this pretty quick as well," Ponting said. "There's nothing we [players] can do about that. As an Australian cricket team, all we can do is play the best brand of cricket day in and day out."

Because

FROM PAGE 17

Bachchu said the team would not face any problem as the second coach Mahmud Alam Babu (BFF has the luxury of having two coaches for the women's U-19 team) has been with the team since the programme of Choton was finalised.

Bangladesh's target is to put up good show though they did not play any practice matches.

"If the girls go down in warm-up matches, they will lose confidence. That's way we did not arrange warm-up matches though they practiced with the senior players," said Mahfuza Akhter Kiron, deputy chairperson of women's football committee.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 24 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers for solving.

CRYPTOQUIP

OBKR EBK PSPMBRAT YNNDKT
ENOPST EBK ONVPR 'W OPSV
PLLYK TSARD, EBK WLATKS
WLAKT BKS MATKS

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN AT A FARMERS' PARTY, I IMAGINE PEOPLE WOULD KEEP ASKING "SO, WHAT FIELD ARE YOU IN?"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T