



Students of Incidin Bangladesh are delighted after becoming Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School cricket champions (Dhaka Metro) at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Incidin pip ESS to lift Dhaka schools title

SPORTS REPORTER

Incidin Bangladesh defeated European Standard School (ESS) by two wickets in the Dhaka Metro Zone final of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, ESS managed to score 163 runs before getting all out. Mahmudul Hasan scored 37 runs off 54 balls for ESS while Sourav took three for 27 for Incidin.

Incidin chased the total in the 46th over with Belash Ahmed scoring 42 off 98 balls. Mahmudul claimed three wickets for 28 runs for ESS.

Sourav of Incidin was given the man-of-the-match award for his unbeaten 16 runs and three wickets.

S Africa A

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raced to a run-a-ball 39, but wickets continued falling at the other end.

Once Ashraful was caught at third man off Craig Alexander, the match was as good as over. Philander came back to take a fourth and Bangladesh folded for 229 in 48 overs.

The third game of the series will be held today at Kimberley.

BRIEF SCORES

SOUTH AFRICA A: 285 for 6 in 50 overs (Rudolph 89, Behardien 66; Forhad 2-57)
BANGLADESH A: 229 all out in 48 overs (Junaed 39, Ashraful 39; Philander 4-24)
Result: South Africa A won by 56 runs.

Gayle blows

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smashed three sixes and as many fours in his brisk 24-ball innings.

Seamer Sreenath Aravind dismissed both Gambhir and Pathan to finish with 2-37 off three overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 171-5 in 20 overs (Gambhir 48, Pathan 46, Kallis 40; Aravind 2-37)
ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 175-1 in 18.1 overs (Gayle 102 not out, Dilshan 38, Kohli 30 not out)
Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by nine wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.

Lone hand

FROM PAGE 16
Asif Iqbal and wicketkeeper Arman Hossain were unbeaten on 21 and 18 respectively.

For Rajshahi, pacemen Delwar Hossain and Mohammad Shahjada took two wickets each.

BRIEF SCORES

BARISAL: First innings 257 all out (Nafees 123, Gazi 47; Alok 5-45, Fakhrul 2-43).
SYLHET: First innings 6-0 (Saikat 5 not out, Intiaz 1 not out).
DHAKA: First innings 217-6 (Mosharrab 69, Mehrob 42; Shahjada 2-23, Delwar 2-33).

Punjab trample Rajasthan

AFP, Mohali



Shaun Marsh hammered 71 off 42 balls as Kings XI Punjab crushed Rajasthan Royals by 48 runs for their third win in a row in the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Marsh capitalised on a blazing start by new batting sensation Paul Valthaty (46) and skipper Adam Gilchrist (28) to help the home team post 195-7, the highest total of the Twenty20 tournament so far.

Rajasthan were hardly ever in the chase, folding up at 147-7 with seamer Praveen Kumar and Bhargav Bhatt grabbing two wickets apiece on an easy-paced track at the Punjab Cricket Association stadium.

Ashok Menaria (34) did try to salvage the innings after Rajasthan were reduced to 99-5 but in vain.

The defeat was Rajasthan's third in six matches while Punjab joined Mumbai Indians at the top with six points from four outings each.

Skipper Shane Warne's decision to field first backfired as Punjab raced away to the 100-run mark inside the first 10 overs.

Luck also seemed to go Punjab's way with openers Gilchrist and Valthaty enjoying

early reprieves in their knocks.

Gilchrist played on to his stumps off Siddharth Trivedi but it turned out to be a no-ball and Valthaty was caught at third slip, but this time Shuan Tait (3-22) was found to have over-stepped.

The Australian wicketkeeper-batsman went on to share 67 runs off 26 balls with his younger partner before falling to his former teammate Shane Watson.

Valthaty, who was dropped twice in two balls in his 40s, finally ran out of luck when he was caught by Tait off Warne in the 10th over.

He hit three sixes and four fours in his 31-ball knock to surge to the top of the batting charts with 247 runs ahead of superstar Sachin Tendulkar (236).

Marsh also made merry, once carting three sixes in an over by Warne to cap a miserable outing for the Aussie spin legend.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 195-7 in 20 overs (Marsh 71, Valthaty 46, Gilchrist 28; Tait 3-22, Watson 2-24)
RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 147-7 in 20 overs (Menaria 34, Binny 30; Bhatt 2-20, Kumar 2-22)
Result: Kings XI Punjab won by 48 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Shaun Marsh.

Wozniacki in last four



AFP, Stuttgart

World number one Caroline Wozniacki avenged her shock Miami defeat to Andrea Petkovic by battling back to beat the German crowd favourite 6-4, 6-1 and reach the Stuttgart semifinals on Thursday.

Despite finding herself 4-1 down after just 21 minutes of the first set, the 20-year-old Danish top seed roared back to break Petkovic, ranked 19th in the world, three times to take the opener.

Petkovic then ran out of steam and the 23-year-old had few answers as Wozniacki blazed into a 5-0 lead in the second set.

"It was tough for me to come back in the first set," admitted Wozniacki, who has won her last seven matches after also winning the Charleston tournament.

"I am sorry I beat the home favourite, but I hope the crowd will support me now.

"I feel very good at the moment, my volleys were working really well, which they haven't always done, and I played some good shots."

Wozniacki will now play Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska in Saturday's semi-final after the 22-year-old needed two hours to beat German wild-card Kristina Barrois 7-5, 6-3.

Earlier, Australia's Samantha Stosur recovered from losing the first set to knock

out second-seed Vera Zvonareva.

The 27-year-old fifth-seed battled back for a 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) victory over the Russian, who is ranked third in the world, in just over two-and-a-half hours.

Having made an early exit from January's Australian Open, Stosur, ranked seventh in the world, is hoping to use Stuttgart to recapture the form which helped her reach the French Open final last year.

"These three-set matches were what I had been struggling with, so to win two back-to-back after being a set down today, it is very encouraging," Stosur told AFP having also beaten Daniela Hantuchova in a three-setter on Wednesday.

"That's probably the best match I have played all year, but it was pretty tough out there.

"It is very encouraging to beat a player as good as her in a tough, tight match."

In her semifinal, Stosur will play Germany's Julia Goerges, ranked 32nd in the world, who beat the Australian's doubles partner Sabine Lisicki 6-4, 6-4.

"I am glad that I served well. I knew that Sabine is back on the road and has been playing well, so it was good to get a win," said Goerges.

The German is still in the hunt to claim the winners prize of a brand-new sports car worth 111,000 US dollars.

Hurley turns cheerleader

AFP, Mohali



British actress Elizabeth Hurley made headlines as she cheered for Australian spin legend Shane Warne at an Indian Premier League match in northwest India.

Dressed in a sleeveless dark pink top and blue jeans, Hurley was spotted in one of the VIP stands at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium where Warne's Rajasthan

Royals were slogging it out against Kings XI Punjab.

Warne's son Jackson was seen sitting next to the British beauty.

The Press Trust of India news agency said the couple had been enjoying their stay at a five-star hotel in nearby Chandigarh where they were also photographed in a relaxed mood next to the swimming pool.

"Warne and Hurley are enjoying the Indian food," it quoted a hotel staff as saying.

Hurley split with her Indian businessman husband of three years Arun

Malinga quits Tests



AFP, New Delhi

Injury-prone Sri Lanka pacesman Lasith Malinga on Friday quit Test cricket in a bid to prolong his career in one-day internationals and Twenty20 matches.

Malinga is playing for Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League and had recently made himself unavailable for Sri Lanka's tour of England, attracting criticism that he had chosen to play for club over country.

"In January this year I wrote a letter to Sri Lanka Cricket and released a statement to the media confirming that I planned to reassess my Test future after the World Cup," he said in a statement.

"I decided that I needed to make myself unavailable for Test cricket in an effort to prolong my career as a national cricketer for Sri Lanka.

"Although I am sufficiently fit to play both ODI and T20 cricket, I have a long-standing degenerative condition in



LASITH MALINGA

my right knee that needs to be carefully managed."

The 27-year-old Malinga, known for bowling accurate yorkers, bagged 101 wickets in 30 Tests with his slinging action since making his debut against Australia in Darwin in 2004.

He took a three-year break from Test cricket until coming back to the format when he figured in a home series against India in 2010. He has three five-wicket hauls in a Test innings to his credit.

"I did try to return to Test cricket after a three-year absence last year following requests from the team management and the selectors, but it left me unfit nursing severe knee pain for two months," Malinga said.

"I have realised that the heavy workload of Test cricket, which requires a fast bowler to be able to bowl more than 15 overs, sometimes on consecutive days, could lead to permanent injury.

"I have carefully considered my options and have decided that not playing Test cricket will help me achieve my goal of representing Sri Lanka in the 2012 World Twenty20 and the 2015 World Cup."

India coach decision delayed

PTI, Mumbai

The BCCI is in no hurry to appoint a new cricket coach for the team and is unlikely to decide on the matter in its Working Committee's meeting on April 27 where the agenda would include various sub-committees' reports.

"We are still in the process of doing so (finding a new coach). There's no hurry as the team is leaving for the West Indies only on June 1," BCCI president Shashank Manohar told PTI from Nagpur on Friday.

A lot of names, including England's director of coaching Andy Flower and another Zimbabwean Duncan Fletcher, are doing the rounds as the candidates likely to get the job.

There are talks that an interim coach could be appointed by the BCCI for the Windies tour in case it is unable to find a suitable candidate to replace Gary Kirsten who quit the job after guiding India to the World Cup triumph on April 2.

"The reports of various sub committees would be tabled at the meeting," the BCCI chief said about the agenda for the April 27 meet.

Manohar confirmed that an understanding has been reached by the BCCI with its Sri Lanka counterpart, which allows the players from the island nation to stay on and represent their franchises in the ongoing Indian Premier League till May 18.

"They will be here till the 18th and then directly go to England from Mumbai," said Manohar.

The BCCI Chief, however, could not confirm whether the same understanding will apply to speedster Lasith Malinga who has been excluded from Lanka's Test outfit to tour England as he had cited an injury to stay on and play for Mumbai Indians.

Russel

FROM PAGE 16

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN: Titumir Chowdhury, Arafat Ali Ronny (Kabir Hossain), Akramuzzaman Liton (Tapu Barman), Uwiringiyimana Amani, Hasan Al Mamun, Anwar Hossain, Ramzan Ali Mollah, Akbar Hossain Ridon (Sohel Rana), Shariful Islam, Sunday Chizoba and Baybeck.
SHEIKH RUSSEL KC: Mamun Khan, Bappe Hassan Murad, Aminul Islam, Prodip Barua, Mezbabul Haque (Naimur Rahman Shahed), Moro Mohammed, Edward Sakhnevich, Monaem Khan Raju, Mobarak Hossain Bhuiyan (Mohammad Yusuf), Abass Inusah and Effiong Duke (Emrul Hasan).
Referee: Tayeb Hasan

Bishoo bowls Pak out



AFP, Gros Islet

Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo captured four wickets while Lendl Simmons composed a fluent 65 as West Indies beat Pakistan by seven runs in their inaugural Twenty20 international on Thursday.

Umar Akmal led the way with 41, Asad Shafiq made 25, and Saeed Ajmal scored 21 not out as the Pakistanis were restricted to 143 for nine in their 20 overs, chasing 151 for victory at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

"I think the pitch was good for batsmen, and I don't know why we missed this opportunity to win this match," said Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi.

"We are not building any partnerships. This is what has been missing for us for a few months. Bishoo bowled really well, and all of their bowlers delivered in the right areas."

The visitors' batting was undermined chiefly by leg-spinner Bishoo, whose four wickets for 17 runs from his allotted four overs earned him the man-of-the-match award, and Ravi Rampaul supported with three for 31 from four overs.

"The jump from domestic cricket to international cricket is a big difference," said Bishoo.

"You have to be far more containing because the batsmen take good balls and turn them into bad balls. The pitch was a good pitch and I felt it would slide onto the bat."

Pakistan bowlers' looked short of work as

opener Simmons struck seven fours and two sixes in the top score of 65 from 44 deliveries as West Indies built a total of 150 for seven from their 20 overs.

Abdur Rehman gave Pakistan an early breakthrough, when he trapped Andre Fletcher lbw for one, but Simmons and Darren Bravo added 99 for the second wicket to put West Indies back on track for a decent total.

Rehman made the breakthrough again when he had Bravo caught at long-on for 42, and West Indies wobbled the rest of the way, with no other batsman passing 20.

Rehman, Wahab Riaz and Saeed Ajmal collected two wickets apiece for Pakistan. Pakistan made a shaky start to their chase and soon slid to 49 for four in the seventh over when Bishoo tightened the screws, having Asad Shafiq caught at short mid-on with his fourth delivery, and next ball, had Misbah-ul-Haq hit wicket for a first-ball duck.

Akmal tried to keep the momentum going in the middle of the innings, but Bishoo had Afridi caught at extra cover for 12 to effectively dent Pakistan's hopes.

The two sides contest the first one-day international in a series of five, starting on Saturday at the same venue.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 150-7 (Simmons 65, Bravo 42, Hyatt 14, Barnwell 11 not out; Rehman 2-22, Ajmal 2-35, Riaz 2-24)
PAKISTAN: 143-9 (Shafiq 25, Akmal 41, Ajmal 21 not out, Rampaul 3-31, Bishoo 4-17)
Result: West Indies won by seven runs.
Man-of-the-match: Devendra Bishoo.

Nadal sails to semis



AFP, Barcelona

Rafael Nadal brushed aside French seventh seed Gael Monfils in a quick 6-2, 6-2 quarterfinal victory on Friday which put the five-time champion into his accustomed weekend place at the Barcelona Open.

The top seed could be the first of four countrymen in a possible all-Spanish semifinal lineup at the Real Club de Tennis.

Locals have dominated for the past decade, with only a 2002 title from Argentine Gaston Gaudio interrupting Iberian success dating to Juan Carlos Ferrero in 2001.

The 31-year-old Ferrero remains in contention at this edition, facing off later against eighth-seeded compatriot Nicolas Almagro. Nadal took just 75 minutes to post his

32nd consecutive victory on clay; he last lost on the surface against Robin Soderling at the 2009 French Open fourth round.

The Spanish world number one will face a semifinal against either Croatian Ivan Dodig or Spain's Feliciano Lopez.

Nadal has stormed through the field so far this year, losing just ten games in three matches. He owns eight wins from nine meetings with Monfils, the seventh seed who was playing in only his second event since a wrist injury forced him out in February.

Nadal improved to 28-1 in Barcelona as he was untroubled by Monfils on a grey cloudy day after morning rain which produced the heavy clay conditions so favoured by Nadal.

The Spaniard never faced a break point in the one-way contest while breaking Monfils four times.



Spaniard Rafael Nadal plays a drop shot against Gael Monfils of France during their match of the Barcelona Open on Friday. Nadal won the match 6-2, 6-2.