

Star SPORT

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Chakvetadze seeks seat in State Duma

Russia's 2007 US Open semifinalist Anna Chakvetadze is to try her hand at politics as she is to stand for the Right Cause Party in the upcoming elections for the country's lower house of parliament, the State Duma.

The 24-year-old, formerly ranked in the top five in the world and winner of eight WTA titles, has not played since Wimbledon because of poor health.

However, she faces an uphill task in the elections as the party is in disarray after billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov was ousted as their leader last week.

Chakvetadze, though, said she wanted to "try something new" and focus on women's rights and children's sports.

— AFP



JFA CUP U-15 FOOTBALL

Dhaka Metro School XI champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Metropolitan School XI emerged champions in the JFA Cup U-15 football tournament with a 4-2 win over Tangail in the tiebreaker after regulation time ended 1-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Jewel Rana put Tangail ahead in the 3rd minute of the match with a spectacular dipping shot from outside the danger zone before Zahid levelled the margin with a side-volley in the 32nd minute. The rest of the regulation time failed to produce a decider as Tangail goalkeeper Akash made two brilliant diving saves in the second half to take the game to the straight shootout.

Dhaka Metropolitan School XI, comprising the best players of various schools of Dhaka city, enjoyed the lion's share of possession but were

denied due to some brilliant defending from the Tangail backline. However, Tangail's valiant efforts were undone in the shootout as two of their shots failed to find the target.

Tangail coach Atiqur Rahman Khan Jamil was satisfied with the performance of his boys but raised questions about the justification of including a team which is nurtured by the BFF coaching staff.

"From the very beginning, the boys feared teams like Dhaka Metropolitan School XI and BKSP, but I am happy with the way they played throughout the tournament and reached the final and became runners-up," said Jamil adding that only the district teams should be given the opportunity in the JFA Cup.

"Dhaka Metropolitan School XI were given the opportunity to test their improvement following a request from

the BFF School Committee, which has been nursing the team after picking them from the Dhaka Metropolitan School Tournament," said BFF technical director BA Jubair Nipu.

"Our boys were under pressure in the final and could not play well due to the lack of preparation. But in the end, it is a big achievement to become champions," said BFF coach Jabid Hossain Apu.

Dhaka Metropolitan School XI, despite having the upper hand in the game, found it hard to break the backline of Tangail. On the other hand, Tangail gambled with the lineup as they didn't start with two of their best players -- striker Ilias and midfielder Rana -- a move which seemingly did not work.

Before the final Ilias was the centre of all attention as he struck eight goals including two hattricks in four

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Players of the Dhaka Metropolitan School XI celebrate with the JFA Cup U-15 football tournament trophy after beating Tangail 4-2 in tiebreaker in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Imrul Kayes cuts the ball through the off-side field during his 85 for BCB Red against BCB Green on the second day of the practice four-dayer at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Imrul finally scores

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Only a determined Imrul Kayes batted wholeheartedly on the second day of the four-day practice match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The left-handed opener who was going through a poor patch since the Zimbabwe tour finally demonstrated some confidence yesterday as his stroke-filled 85 helped BCB Red to 215-7 at stumps, after BCB Green were all out for 281 in the first innings with Naeem Islam dismissed caught behind by Shafiqul Islam on his overnight score of 95 off the fifth ball of the day.

BCB Red is made up of the Tigers' Test batsmen mostly but they ended up losing seven wickets in 54 overs.

It was only Imrul who showed poise at the crease and was quick off both feet.

Out of the 14 boundaries and the single six he hit during his 133-ball knock, some were timed splendidly through the off-side field while he was also driving very well too, both strengths that came out through his changed stance at the crease.

"I used to have a short stance and then opted for a big stance but some how I was not comfortable," said Imrul, whose last

half-century was in April against Australia. "Today after playing for some time with the long stance, I tried to go back to my own stance and it worked as I could play freely."

"I think this innings will help me get back my confidence. For quite some time I could not play a big knock but I am happy that I have returned," he added.

Imrul wasn't the only positive man at the crease but none of those who batted reasonably during the BCB Cup showed the intent to stay long at the crease. Imrul added 52 for the third wicket with Mohammad Ashraf after fellow opener Tamim Iqbal and Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury (promoted to No 3) fell to Shahadat Hossain in the third over.

Before Shuvogoto was sucked into a bad shot (caught at gully) just after he evaded a sharp bouncer, Tamim was bowled off the first ball of Shahadat's second over.

Shahadat and Robiul Islam's attacking mindset paid off as at the other end, off-spinner Sohag Gazi picked up Ashraf caught at short-leg by Mominul Haque.

After 40 runs were added by Imrul and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, Elias Sunny had the wicketkeeper-batsman leg-before for 20 while Imrul fell an hour later when he edged to Sahagir Hossain off Shahadat.

Nasir Hossain batted with little regard for the dire situation BCB Red were in (146-5) as he went after the bowling. After Mahmudullah Riyad fell to Tanvir Haider, Sohrawardi Shuvo tried Nasir's approach but he skied a full toss from the leg-spinner in the last hour.

Nasir remained not out on 40 off 47 balls with eight boundaries and will have Abdur

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Broad hopes to be fit for India series

AFP, London

England's Twenty20 captain Stuart Broad said on Monday he was determined to be fit enough to make his international return against India in a Twenty20 game in Kolkata on October 29.

The 25-year-old pace bowler missed the final one day international against India and a two match Twenty20 series against West Indies after he tore a shoulder muscle earlier this month.

However, on Monday the Nottinghamshire county star told Sky Sports News that having originally been pessimistic about making the match in India he was now aiming to play in it.

"It's [the shoulder] going to be okay," said Broad, who was the somewhat surprise choice to replace Paul Collingwood as Twenty20 skipper last May.

"I've got it in mind that I want to play that Twenty20 game in India. It's a tight target but you've got to have those targets to get you through the mornings in the gym."

"The muscle's torn so it takes time to heal. I've got

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Delay vexes Danish

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan leg-spinner Danish Kaneria hit out Tuesday against another court-room delay putting back his bid to revive an international career embroiled in a spot-fixing scandal.

A court on Tuesday again adjourned his appeal against the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) failure to clear him of fixing allegations. The new date set for the hearing in Sindh High Court in Karachi is October 20.

Kaneria and fellow Essex bowler Mervyn Westfield were arrested last year on charges of spot-fixing during a Pro40 one-day match against Durham in 2009.

Kaneria was later released without charge but Westfield faces criminal proceedings, prompting the PCB not to clear Kaneria for national selection.

"I am frustrated at the delay which has kept me from playing," Kaneria told AFP. "I don't know why the PCB is delaying the case."

Kaneria said there was no proof against him.

"When there is no proof against me why is the PCB not clearing me? It's mental torture. Is it because I am from Karachi or because I have a different religion?" said Kaneria, only the second Hindu to play for Pakistan.

PCB legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi said the board would now write to Britain's Crown Prosecution Service with Kaneria's consent to ask for details of the British investigation.

"Kaneria was arrested so there were allegations against him and the PCB wants the transcript or the tapes of the investigation," Rizvi told AFP.

Kaneria, who has chalked up 61 Tests and 18 one-days for Pakistan, has not played internationally since being dropped on tour in England last year.

The court delay means Kaneria will not be able to feature in Pakistan's three-Test series against Sri Lanka next month to be played in the United Arab Emirates. Pakistan also play five one-day and a Twenty20 against Sri Lanka.

Despite an international ban, Kaneria is allowed to play at home. He is leading a Karachi side in the ongoing Twenty20 tournament in Karachi.

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