

Women's squad for Ireland announced

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-member women's squad for the tour of Ireland to take part in tri-nation ODI and Twenty20 tournaments.

The tournaments, involving hosts Ireland, Bangladesh and Pakistan, will start from August 20 in Dublin. The women cricketers are scheduled to leave here for Ireland on Wednesday.

Bangladesh will start the campaign with the ODI tournament, taking on Pakistan on August 20 followed by Ireland the next day, Pakistan on August 23 and Ireland on August 24. After the completion of the ODI tournament, the Twenty20 leg of the tour will get underway on August 28 with Bangladesh taking on hosts Ireland on the opening day. Bangladesh's second Twenty20 against Pakistan will be held on August 29.

SQUAD: Salma Khatun (captain), Ayasha Rahman Shuktara (vice captain), Panna Ghosh, Lata Mondol, Ayesha Akter, Jahanaara Alam, Rumana Ahmed, Fargana Houque, Nuzhat Tasnim, Sanjida Islam, Sultana Yesmin, Khadija tul Kobra, Tithi Rani, Sharmin Akter and Ritu Moni.

The standby players are Lily Rani, Tazia Akter, Saila Sarmin and Champa Chakma.

2012 off

FROM PAGE 16

But come Games time, everything went without a hitch, thanks in large part to the excellent volunteers or Gamesmakers, who were helpful, polite and friendly to thousands of strangers who had descended upon their city.

But as mentioned, the fans were special. Not just in lauding their own heroes in Jessica Ennis and Mohammad Farah. True, the stadium felt like it would explode when Ennis secured gold, and it felt like it would evaporate in a wall of sound when Mohammad Farah did his double gold or when Bolt pulled out his amazing feats.

But it was the applause feted out to those less lucky, or less fortunate but no less enduring that made this so special. The stadium blew its top to honour Caster Semenya, the South African girl who won silver after so much controversy over the last couple of years. It clapped relentlessly as Oscar Pistorius finished his 4x400 relay in last place and it also saluted Sarah Attar as she ran the 800 metres heat and finished last.

Through their fans, London managed to portray the image of itself it had hoped to emanate through the Games. Gold medals are important, but in true Olympic ideals, it's not the winning that matters, but the taking part. Oscar Pistorius's mother would have understood.

U-19s lose

FROM PAGE 16

to fast-medium bowler Come Dry, leaving the score on 25 for 2. Nurul Hasan and skipper Anamul Haque, who hit a hundred in the opening victory against Sri Lanka, did a fair bit of repair work before a double break came in the 18th and 19th overs as Hasan and Asif Ahmed departed, leaving Anamul running out of partners. And when the skipper fell for 39 with the score at 123, the end was nigh. The lower order failed to put up any resistance as the innings got wrapped up for 161 in the 35th over.

Despite the big loss, Bangladesh still has a very good chance of making it to the Super 8 stage of the competition, courtesy of that opening match victory over Sri Lanka. Bangladesh play their last group match against minnows Namibia on Thursday and a win may ensure their progress given that South Africa beat Sri Lanka too.

SCORES IN BRIEF: SOUTH AFRICA UNDER-19S: 294-8 in 50 overs (Kock 95, Bruyn 63, Coetzee 29; Noor 3-44, Nasum 3-45)

BANGLADESH UNDER-19S: 161 all out in 34.3 overs (Anamul 39, Al-Amin 33, Nurul 27; Moore 3-44, Dry 2-34)

Result: South Africa Under-19s won by 133 runs

Man-of-the-match: Quinton de Kock



Members of the gold-winning Russian men's volleyball team celebrate after their thrilling come-from-behind 3-2 sets win against Brazil in the final at the Earls Court in London yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Walcott youngest to gold

AFP, London

Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott won the men's Olympic javelin title on Saturday to become, at 19, the youngest winner of the gold medal.

Walcott threw a national record of 84.58 metres while Oleksandr Pyatnytsya of Ukraine took silver (84.51) and Finland's Antti Ruuskanen the bronze (84.12).

Walcott gave his country their first athletics Olympic medal outside the sprints.

He is also only their second gold medalist -- Hasely Crawford's victory in the 1976 men's 100m being the first.

"I started javelin in 2009," said Walcott. "It wasn't the most popular event in Trinidad and Tobago so hopefully it will be known now more and field events will be done."

"I am more than stunned. I am surprised by my performance. I just went into the final to enjoy it so to win a gold medal is a feeling I can't really explain."

Savinova holds off Semenya

AFP, London

Russian world champion Mariya Savinova held off a fast-finishing Caster Semenya of South Africa on Saturday to win the 800 metres Olympic title.

Savinova, who was winning a fifth successive major title, made the decisive break coming round the bend and while the young South African came from fifth to second she had left herself too much to do.

Savinova timed 1min 56.19sec to Semenya's 1:57.23 while another Russian, Ekaterina Poistogova, took bronze.

"It's just amazing. Right now I can't feel anything, but I'm amazed," said the 26-year-old champion.

Semenya accepted that she had not run the greatest tactical race of her life -- she was last going down the back straight.

"We all make mistakes, hopefully the next race will be better," said Semenya.

"It was a good race, I am happy with the result. I left it a bit late, but I am happy with the silver. But my coach (former Olympic champion Maria Mutola) is not really happy but Savinova is a good athlete, a good competitor."

"I just need to train harder. I must let the (Russians) know I'm there."

Kenya's defending champion Pamela Jelimo had taken the pace up 300 metres out but was overwhelmed by Savinova's burst and the 22-year-old was passed by Semenya and edged out on the line by Poistogova.

"I knew the Russians were very strong," said Jelimo.

Russia nail volleyball thriller

AFP, London

World Cup-holders Russia came from two sets down to beat world champions Brazil in a thrilling Olympic men's volleyball final on Sunday.

Russia looked down and out at two sets to love and 22-19 down in the third, but with the title in sight, Brazil wilted badly.

The South Americans failed to complete an Olympic double a day after their women beat the United States to retain their title.

It was Brazil's second defeat in a row in an Olympic final. Italy beat Bulgaria to claim the bronze medal.

Djokovic, Gasquet face off

AFP, Toronto

Novak Djokovic endured a second frustrating day of rain delays with the top seed defeating fellow Serb Janko Tipsarevic 6-4, 6-1 on Saturday to reach the final of the Toronto Masters.

Djokovic, who came away empty-handed from the London Olympics, waited out a long rain interruption for the second day in a row as he and fifth seed Tipsarevic had to pause for 90 minutes in the sixth game of their semifinal.

Djokovic will take a 6-1 record into his Sunday night final with Frenchman Richard Gasquet, who defeated John Isner 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, with the American later withdrawing from the Cincinnati Masters with a bad back.

League affected by fixing saga

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The players' transfer window for the upcoming season will be opened from Wednesday, but the professional football league committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has yet to officially announce the standings of the fifth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League, following two pending issues of match-fixing.

The Bangladesh Premier League was completed on July 3 with the match between eventual champions Abahani and runners-up Muktiyoddha Sangsad. Rahmatganj MFS and Farashganj SC were relegated from the 11-team table but match-fixing allegations surrounding the matches between Brothers Union and Rahmatganj, and Brothers against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club prompted the league committee not to declare the standings of the league table.

Brothers Union and Rahmatganj were cleared of the first allegation as the Fixed-Match Identification Committee (FMIC), after two and a half months' investigation, found

nothing wrong in the match which took place on April 25 while the BFF has yet to launch an investigation into the allegations surrounding the Brothers-Sheikh Jamal match which was held on May 26.

Further, the match fixing saga received another twist when Brothers Union manager Amer Khan on August 7 claimed in a television interview that they were forced to play a fixed match against eventual champions Abahani. Following his statement, the professional football league committee has started to look into the matter.

According to the bylaws, if Brothers are proved to have played a fixed match against Sheikh Jamal, nine of their achieved points will be reduced, which will force them into relegation while Farashganj SC, already relegated, will get a lifeline and stay in the top flight.

It is certain that the last two investigations will not be completed before August 15 as BFF acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag informed that the FMIC is likely to sit before Eid for the first time while the league committee has been waiting for the uncut video footage of the interview and Brothers Union's official opinions regarding Amer Khan's comments on Ekattar TV.

Kevin dropped

Cricket

AFP, London

Kevin Pietersen has been dropped from England's squad for the third Test against South Africa after the controversial batsman was caught up in a text message row.

England's selectors made their decision to axe Pietersen following reports he sent text messages to several South Africa players during the second Test at Headingley that were believed to contain derogatory comments about English captain Andrew Strauss and coach Andy Flower.

Jonny Bairstow has been selected in place of Pietersen, whose involvement in the final Test at Lord's, which England must win to draw the series and retain their place on top of the world rankings, had been in doubt throughout a dramatic week.

South Africa-born Pietersen suggested after the second Test that he might walk away from the sport at the end of the current series because he had grown disillusioned with what he perceived as problems in the England squad.

But on Saturday night he appeared to have a change of heart when he posted a video on YouTube in which he agreed to make himself available again for his adopted country in all formats after recently opting out of one-day action.

That wasn't enough to convince the selectors though, who remained furious about the texting controversy, and Pietersen's international career now looks in tatters.

Hugh Morris, the Managing Director of England Cricket, said: "During the past week we have held several discussions with Kevin Pietersen and his advisors."

England's selectors delayed naming their 13-man squad by an extra five hours on Sunday to allow Pietersen extra time to publicly declare he did not send critical texts to the South African team.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Ian Bell, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook, Steven Finn, Graham Onions, Matt Prior, Graeme Swann, James Taylor, Jonathan Trott.

Tamim blasts Wayamba

FROM PAGE 16

Ferveez Maharoof as Tamim continued the form which saw him hit two fifties in Bangladesh's recent Europe tour.

The duo continued in their merry, swashbuckling way, dispatching all comers to all corners of the ground until Akmal was caught in the 19th over off Kevon Cooper for a 55-ball 79 that featured seven boundaries and three sixes. By then however the match was all but in the bag with Wayamba requiring four to win off eight. Tamim sealed it with a six off the second ball of the final over to remain unbeaten on 93 from 61 deliveries, an innings studded with seven hits to the fence and six that towered over it.

Earlier, Imran farhat hit a 22-ball 51 and some lusty blows from Chamara Kapugedera and Ferveez Maharoof down the order carried Uthura's total to a challenging 179 for seven.

MEDALLIST

Table with medal counts for various countries across different sports categories.

'Team core very strong' Farah

FROM PAGE 16

"I was delighted to have won three games on the trot (against Ireland). We didn't play as well as we should have in Holland though. It was a very slow and low wicket...not something that international players would play on often. But it was important to get that experience and get grounded again in order to get our focus," he said.

Despite the defeats against Holland and Scotland, Pybus was impressed by the team's determination to do well. "When you tour countries like Ireland or Holland you can't expect to get first class facilities. The wickets were damp as well. But the guys worked with whatever they had. They showed a generous attitude."

While Pybus believed that the team has improved in the twenty-over format, he however asserted the importance of improving in all three versions of the game. The coach's comment reflects upon the lack of Test matches that Bangladesh has played this year. Come November, the Tigers have an opportunity to make amends when they play the West Indies at home.

He also praised Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for his performance in Europe. "Mashrafe is a quality cricketer. He was struggling a bit initially but gradually got into his rhythm and provided a wonderful show. He showed the kind of attitude that is expected of him," said Pybus.

He further stated that the team would be preparing for more turn in order to cope with the pitches in Sri Lanka.

FROM PAGE 16

Viren, Ethiopian Miruts Yifter and Kenenisa Bekele.

Now the 29-year-old, who moved to Britain at the age of eight after being born in Somalia and spending some years in Djibouti, is eyeing stepping up to the marathon -- but said there was no rush.

"I still want to keep taking part in the 5,000 and 10,000 so there's still a lot of stuff to be achieved," he said.

"In my career I'd like to step up to the marathon but not yet -- keep doing what I'm doing because it's working and see if I can get more medals. In your career you want to be able to collect as many medals as you can."

Despite the immensity of his achievement, the modest Farah was keen to play down suggestions that he might be Britain's greatest ever track and field athlete -- saying London Olympics chief organiser Sebastian Coe was a "legend."

Jamaica's win cements

FROM PAGE 16

That had the press in fits. Even Bolt shook his head.

"I told him, if he keeps talking like that, someday someone is going to put him in a straitjacket," said Bolt.

On Saturday night, no one could. Blake has been almost a shadow Bolt in London -- waiting, biding his time to make his move. He is four years younger and if he manages to keep up his level of growth, Bolt's records might not hold as long as many might believe.

Blake ran the third leg of the relay. When he got the baton, Jamaica were clearly behind, but Blake accelerated in searing pace and when he handed the baton to Bolt for the last 100, the Jamaicans were caught in a dead-heat down the straight with the USA. Ryan Bailey is fast, but against Bolt, he stood no chance as the latter won by a couple of metres.

The Jamaican barrelled down the straight in lane seven sealing a quite unbelievable series of triumphs. "My lucky number," he said later after he had bent down to kiss the athletic track.

This time there were less histrionics from Bolt. In a manner of speaking, he expected this. The USA team was good. In truth they were excellent, equalling the Jamaicans' previous world record of 37.04, but the Caribbean team were better, stopping the clock under 37 seconds for the first time.

Maybe he didn't smile as much, asked the press?

"I think the crowd will forgive me for not

celebrating as much," said Bolt. But in truth he did, joining the British distance runner Mohammad Farah on stage to pull out a celebration that will yet live on as one of the most iconic images of the games. Bolt passed over his famous 'to di world' pose to Farah and borrowed the Briton's expansive Mo-bot.

"Me and Mo, we go way back," said Bolt. "We have been through many ups and downs together."

"I had planned to do the MoBot before, but it slipped my mind. Before the race today, I watched Mo win the 5000 metres and made a note to do this," he said.

It was a fitting image to bring the curtain down on track and field in the Games. Usain Bolt and Mohammad Farah; two of the most enduring athletes of the Games, together, celebrating as 80,000 plus people inside the stadium cheered endlessly.

It will possibly also be the last time we see Bolt in the Olympics. He has already branded Rio in 2016 as a "very difficult challenge" and Bolt seems like a man who has achieved every goal he ever set out for himself in this sport.

"The rest of the season, I will just be running for my fans," he admitted. "Running as a living legend."

For Bolt, life now seems about relaxing. Asked what he would probably be doing in 2022, Bolt's answer was instantaneous.

"Just chilling somewhere. I am a lazy person."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS, DOWN, and SOLUTION TIME: 21 mins. Includes a grid with letters and numbers.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-51 and corresponding letters for solving.

CRYPTOQUIP

Z NVSESV ZLPKANCSGS USGU KE BSLGXVSU GK EXCC KLSU, UK IKX PKXCB UOI Z'A NOVZOC GK NOVZOCU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PRODUCT THEY WOULDING IN SPARKLY STUFF: KITTY GLITTER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O