

Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

From pool to school

South African swimming hunk and Olympic gold medalist Chad le Clos made a girl's day by agreeing to go to her school dance when she wooed him with a poster at a Johannesburg airport.

"I just started to cry. I was shaking and I was so nervous," said Melanie Olhaus, 17, after Le Clos agreed to be her date. Le Clos beat US legend Michael Phelps by five-hundredths of a second to take gold in the 200m butterfly on July 31. His unexpected victory catapulted the tanned 20-year-old to instant stardom



Forhad in 15 for T20 World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER



All-rounder Forhad Reza made a comeback to the national fold as the Bangladesh Cricket Board named a 15-man squad for the ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Sri Lanka from September 18. The Akram Khan-led selection panel made only one change from the team which recently toured Europe, bringing in the pace-bowling all-rounder in place of right-arm paceman Nazmul Hossain.

Before the World Cup the same team, under the banner of BCB XI, will participate in an invitational Twenty20 tournament in Trinidad commemorating Trinidad & Tobago's 50th anniversary of independence in early September.

Forhad, the 26-year old all-rounder from Rajshahi, played the unofficial tri-nation tournament in Zimbabwe but the axe fell on him when the selectors picked the team for the Europe tour where Bangladesh won four matches out of six. However, his all-round abilities led the selectors to change an otherwise settled lineup.

"What we repeatedly said was that we are not in favour of making random changes because this team has been playing good cricket for the last few months. We have kept faith in the boys. We made one change to the team that toured Europe by bringing in Forhad Reza in place of Nazmul Hossain because we consider Forhad's batting down the order apart from his role as a seamer," explained Akram when asked about the change.



FORHAD REZA

The selectors got ample opportunity to assess the players' performance before picking the team for the World Cup as Bangladesh toured Zimbabwe in June and Europe in July, during which time they played ten matches against Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ireland, Scotland and Netherlands.

"We thought that it would be unwise to unsettle this team when they have been playing good cricket for last few months. The most important thing is that these boys have now started to understand the craft of the latest version of the game and I'm hopeful that they will play good cricket in the World Cup," hoped Akram.

Bangladesh has been placed in Group D along with New Zealand and Pakistan. The Tigers will take on New Zealand on September 21 before meeting Pakistan on September 25. Both matches will be played at the Palkelele International Cricket Stadium.

Bangladesh started their preparation camp with 19 cricketers of whom Imrul Kayes, Naeem Islam, Nazmul Hossain and Shabbir Rahman failed to make the cut. Yesterday was the last day of preparations before the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays after which the cricketers will return to business on August 25.

SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Mahmudullah Riyad (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Junaed Siddiqui, Jahurul Islam, Mohammad Ashraful, Shakib Al Hasan, Nasir Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Elias Sunny, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Forhad Reza, Shafiu Islam, Ziaur Rahman and Abul Hasan.



PHOTO: AFP

Argentina superstar Lionel Messi (L) lobbs the ball over Germany goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen but misses the target during their international friendly in Frankfurt on Wednesday.

Argentina destroy Germany

Football

AFP, Frankfurt

Argentina, whose World Cup ambitions died in a four-goal thumping at German hands two years ago in South Africa, turned the tables Wednesday in winning a friendly international 3-1 in Frankfurt despite missing a penalty. Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella had promised to tease the best out of star man Lionel Messi by "talking to him as little as possible" - and both he and his teammates let their football do the talking against hosts who played an hour with ten men.

"One action changed the match," noted Sabella afterwards in referring to Germany losing inexperienced goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler after he upended the onrushing Jose Sosa on the half hour.

"At that moment the Germans were getting the upper hand and that turned things around. But they never gave up hope of getting back into it," noted an admiring Sabella.

Germany counterpart Joachim Loew insisted: "I was satisfied with our opening 20, 25 minutes, and we could have led."

"After the red card and an own goal it's not easy to have a go at the players," added Loew, referring to a curious opening goal which saw Sami Khedira knock the ball over his own line in first half injury time following Real Madrid teammate Angel Di Maria's corner.

It was the last thing Khedira needed as he had felt moved Monday to answer critics from the political Right as to why players of non-German origin often do not sing the national anthem.

The 25-year-old former Stuttgart man has a Tunisian father.

Before Khedira's unfortunate con-

tribution, Zieler's foul had forced Die Mannschaft to take off midfielder Thomas Mueller and also send on 20-year-old rookie Marc-Andre ter Stegen of Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Ter Stegen took his place between the sticks - then promptly saved a poor Messi penalty.

First choice Manuel Neuer was unavailable after bruising his pelvis in Bayern Munich's weekend German Super Cup win over Dortmund at the weekend.

Messi - who shattered Europe's goalscoring records last season with 73 goals in total for Barcelona in 60 games to beat German Gerd Mueller's mark of 67 set 1972-73 - would not be denied, however, and was at the heart of a fine win with the second goal in 52 minutes.

Another Real Madrid man, Higuain, was in the thick of the action as, having dusted himself down from his collision

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U-19s storm into qtrs

Play Australia on Sunday

SPORTS REPORTER



As expected the Bangladesh Under-19s won the match against Namibia Under-19s quite comfortably, by seven wickets yesterday, to advance to the Super League stage of the ICC U19 World Cup for the third time in the history of the competition.

Anamul Haque's team faced hardly any resistance from their lowly opponents at the Peter Burge Oval in Brisbane to accomplish their first mission of reaching the Cup competition. They are now set to face a stiff challenge when they take on hosts and defending champions Australia in the quarterfinal at the Endeavour Park in Townsville on Sunday.

The bowlers made it things clear that Bangladesh were going to play the Cup com-

petition for the third time after 2006 and 2008 as they dismissed their opponents for 151 runs after Namibia decided to bat first. Bangladesh opener Liton Das then ensured there were no hiccups against the qualifiers. Liton scored an unbeaten 70 off 115 balls that contained five boundaries to guide his team to 155 for three from 37 overs. Skipper Anamul Haque also continued his good form with a 36-ball 32 that featured five boundaries.

Earlier, a gutsy 40-run knock from Namibia captain Stephan Baard, who smashed two sixes during his 70-ball essay, was not enough to put up a challenging total on the board.

Paceman Abu Jayed was tidy and incisive, finishing with three from 29 from eight overs while his new ball partner Taskin Ahmed and Nayeem Islam claimed two wickets each.

Bangladesh Under-19s head coach

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PHOTO: AFP

England fast bowler Steven Finn (R) celebrates taking the wicket of South Africa batsman Alviro Petersen during the opening day of the third and final Test at Lord's yesterday.

SA fight after collapse

Cricket

AFP, London

Jacques Rudolph helped South Africa recover from an early collapse against England but the tourists were still struggling at 151 for five at tea on the first day of the third Test at Lord's on Thursday.

Rudolph was 41 not out and JP Duminy 26 not out, with the Proteas having been in dire straits at 65 for four at lunch.

But AB de Villiers was the only man dismissed in the second session after fast bowler Steven Finn (three for 48) had taken three wickets for three runs in seven legitimate deliveries.

South Africa, in a match where they only had to avoid defeat to replace England as the world's number one ranked Test side, saw captain Graeme Smith win the toss and bat in overcast conditions.

The opener had made scores of 259 and 107 in his two previous Lord's Tests.

But a third century eluded him Thursday when James Anderson, with his first ball from around the wicket, had the left-hander caught behind by wicketkeeper Matt Prior although England had to review Sri Lankan umpire Kumar Dharmasena's initial not out decision.

It was the first time in four innings this series that Smith, who on Thursday broke Australia great Allan Border's record for

most Tests as captain by leading the Proteas for the 94th match, had failed to make a fifty.

First change Finn, who retained his place at the expense of Tim Bresnan after England recalled off-spinner Graeme Swann having opted for an all seam attack during the drawn second Test at Headingley, then took over.

Petersen, who made a Test-best 182 in Leeds, was next out when he 'gloved' the tall Finn, getting good bounce, down the leg-side to Prior for 22.

It seemed he'd withdrawn his hand from the bat in time, but Petersen did not review the decision.

And 49 for two soon became 54 for four as England, whose build-up to this match had been overshadowed by their decision to drop Kevin Pietersen for sending text messages to South African players, saw Finn make a quick double strike.

Amla, who posted national record 311 not out in South Africa's innings victory in the first Test at The Oval, was bowled for 13 by a superb Finn delivery that nipped between bat and pad to clip off-stump.

Kallis then fell for just three, going the same way as Petersen, although his leg-side glove needed a review by Australian third umpire Rod Tucker that took several minutes.

It appeared his hand too was off the bat at the moment of impact.

But Tucker felt differently, much to Kallis's obvious disbelief, and England captain

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Arif likely to miss season

SPORTS REPORTER

National defender Ariful Islam is likely to be ruled out of the upcoming season as the promising defender has been nursing a serious right knee-cap and ligament injury.

Ariful sustained the injury during his team Mukti Joddha Sangsad's match against eventual champions Abahani in the last match of the Bangladesh Premier League. On the basis of a recent MRI scan it was suggested that he undergo surgery on his knee, which may take four to seven months to heal completely.

"After having examined the MRI report, Dr Debashish has suggested that I undergo surgery in India and it may take four months to recover from the injury if the surgery is a minor one, but it will take seven months to be fit if the surgery is a major one," said Ariful.

Ariful informed that he had contacted Indian doctor Ananad Joshi and would fly for Kolkata after the Eid-ul-Fitr vacation for surgery.

The tall defender, who is set to join Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club for the upcoming season, hopes that he would be back to business in the middle of the sixth edition of the professional football league.

Meanwhile, the season's curtain-raising tournament, the Federation Cup, will get underway from the third week of September and the professional football league is scheduled to start from early November.

ICC extends deadline

CRICINFO, Dubai

The ICC has extended the deadline for naming the World Twenty20 squads, although the chances of Kevin Pietersen being included for England remain very slim.

The original deadline was Saturday but boards have now been given until August 24 to submit their 15-man lists for the tournament which begins on September 18, after the ICC received requests "from several of its members".

It is understood that the ECB was one of the boards who asked about the possibility of an extension with the ICC but that was to avoid a clash with the final Test against South Africa which starts on Thursday. The ECB was also believed to be happy to abide by the Saturday deadline if required.

Sri Lanka, who are currently in the midst of the SLPL, are another country who requested an extension as their domestic Twenty20 tournament will help determine selection for the World Twenty20.

It is now expected that England will name their squad on Tuesday, following the conclusion of the Test series, although the party, it is believed, was decided during a selection meeting at Edgbaston last week.

Although Pietersen offered an apology to the ECB on Tuesday night for what he termed 'provocative' text messages to South African players it was met by a cool response from the management and Andrew Strauss.