

Lotto to sponsor women's nat'l team

SPORTS REPORTER

Lotto, one of world's leading sports gear company, became the kit sponsor of the Bangladesh Women's National Football Team for the 2nd SAFF Women's Football Championship to be held in Sri Lanka from September 7 to 16.

Lotto will provide seven types of its products match jersey, practice jersey, dining T-shirt, boot, trouser, track-suit, running shoe and travel bag, informed Lotto Bangladesh's managing director Kazi Jamil Islam at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

The Italian-based sports gear company, Lotto, had earlier become the official kit sponsor of the Bangladesh U-22 National teams for the AFC Asia Cup in April and it is the second time that they have associated with football.

"We will be hoping for a good show from the girls in the tournament and if they can produce expected result, then we will be inspired to come further," said Jamil.

BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy, Women's Committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu and BFF acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag were present on the occasion.

Chess Olympiad Men & women teams falter

SPORTS REPORTER

Both Bangladesh men's and women's teams suffered defeats in the third round of the 40th World Chess Olympiad at the Expo Centre of Istanbul, Turkey yesterday.

The men's team, who lost straight 4-0 to third-seed Armenia in the second round on Wednesday failed to come out of their losing ways as they were defeated 3-1 by 32-ranked Belarus.

GM Enamul Hossain beat GM Andrey Zhigalko but his countryman Abdullah Al Rakib lost to GM Sergei Zhigalko while GM Niaz Murshed lost to GM Kirill Stupak and GM Reefat Bin-Sattar lost to IM Vladislav Kovalev in the third round.

After bouncing back in the second round to post a straight 4-0 win over Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh women's team narrowly slipped to a half point defeat of 2.5-1.5 against 38-ranked Switzerland.

Nazrana Khan Eva beat Laura Stoeri and WIM Rani Hamid drew against WIM Gundula Heinatz but Sharmin Sultana Shirin lost to WIM Monika Seps and WFM Zakia Sultana lost to WFM Camille De Seroux to pave the way for Switzerland.

Swann rested 3rd ODI against SA today

AFP, London

England spinner Graeme Swann has been rested from the final three one-day internationals against South Africa, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced Wednesday.

Fellow off-break bowler James Tredwell has been called up as cover. Swann is one of a select group of England players who feature in all three international formats.

Officials are keen to manage Swann's workload in light of a longstanding elbow injury, especially as England defend their World Twenty20 title in Sri Lanka next month.

Iniesta best

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every major honour in the game with Barcelona and Spain over the last four years and notably scored the extra-time winner against the Netherlands in the 2010 World Cup final in South Africa.

Despite his success at Euro 2012, Iniesta saw Barcelona miss out to Ronaldo's Real Madrid in last season's La Liga title race, while the Blaugrana also fell to eventual champions Chelsea in the semifinals of the Champions League.



Bangladesh women's football team captain Trishna Chakma (R) is handed over a boot by Managing Director of Lotto Bangladesh Jamil Islam (3rd from right), the teams new kit sponsor, at a press conference held in the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Clarke calls for better show Second ODI against Pakistan today

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Australian captain Michael Clarke hopes his batsmen will continue to show improvement against Pakistan's spinners when the teams clash in the second one-day international in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Australia negotiated the high-profile Pakistan spin trio of Saeed Ajmal, Shahid Afridi and Mohammad Hafeez to the best effect to win the first one-day in Sharjah by four wickets on Tuesday, taking a 1-0 lead in three-match series.

And Clarke, 31, hopes his batsmen show improvement with each game.

"Playing spin bowling is an area of our game that we need to continue to improve. It's something that we've focused on when we've played away from home," said Clarke, who led the modest run chase of 199 with a sedate 66.

George Bailey hit a patient 88-ball 57 not out to steer Australia home in the 49th over after Ajmal (3-30) and Hafeez (2-29) threatened to catch Australia in a spin web.

Clarke was delighted with the opening win.

Australia considered the option of bringing in left-arm spinner Xavier Doherty or spinning all-rounder Steve Smith for the Abu Dhabi game.

Clarke praised Bailey for his responsible innings.

Pakistan, meanwhile, will look to improve their batting, after being bowled out in 45.1 overs with left-arm seamer Mitchell Starc taking a career best 5-42.

Captain Misbahul Haq said he was disappointed over his side's batting failure, despite packing the XI with seven batsmen.

SQUADS
AUSTRALIA (from): Michael Clarke (captain), David Warner, George Bailey, Dan Christian, Xavier Doherty, Callum Ferguson, David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Glenn Maxwell, Alister McDermott, James Pattinson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade.
PAKISTAN (from): Misbahul Haq (captain), Nasir Jamshed, Mohammad Hafeez, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq, Umar Akmal, Kamran Akmal, Shahid Afridi, Sohail Tanveer, Aizaz Cheema, Saeed Ajmal, Imran Farhat, Shoaib Malik, Abdur Rehman, Junaid Khan, Anwar Ali.

Murray coy over Harry

AP, New York

Andy Murray is getting some unusual questions at this year's US Open - and they have nothing to do with his newfound status as Olympic gold medalist for Britain.

The queries have to do with the nude photos of Prince Harry that a British tabloid used.

After reaching the third round at the US Open for the seventh year in a row, beating 118th-ranked Ivan Dodig of Croatia 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 on Wednesday night, Murray joked during his on-court interview about how he's dealing with extra attention.

"It has been a little bit different. I've had a few people with cameras waiting outside my hotel, asking very strange questions," Murray said with a smile. "Did I see the pictures of Prince Harry? I said, 'No comment.' And then they asked what I thought of the crown jewels. I didn't comment on that, either."

The Sun newspaper ran pictures that captured the third in line to the throne frolicking in the nude with an unidentified woman after what was alleged to have been a game of strip billiards in his Las Vegas hotel room.

Against Dodig, who never has made it past the second round at any Grand Slam tournament, the third-seeded Murray saved all three breakpoints he faced.

Murray was the runner-up at Wimbledon this year, joining his coach, Ivan Lendl, as the only men in tennis history to lose their first four major finals. Murray also fell one win shy of a title at the US Open in 2008, and the Australian Open at 2010 and 2011.

Kim bids goodbye

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6-2, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Frenchman Guillaume Rufin.

And Australian Lleyton Hewitt, the 2001 US Open champion, reached the second round by dispatching Germany's Tobias Kamke 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Reigning Australian Open champion Azarenka reached the third round by defeating Belgian qualifier Kirsten Flipkens 6-2, 6-2 in only 65 minutes for her 50th match victory of the year.

"I'm proud of everything I have achieved this season," she said. "It has been a great year."

Azarenka, who has reached the last eight in every Grand Slam event except the US Open, will next face Chinese 28th seed Zheng Jie.

Australian seventh seed Stosur took an hour to beat Romanian qualifier Edina Gallovits-Hall 6-3, 6-0 to reach a third-round date with US 31st seed Varvara Lepchenko.

Russian third seed Sharapova ripped Spain's Lourdes Dominguez Lino 6-0, 6-1 to book a third-round match against 21-year-old US wildcard Mallory Burdette, ranked 252nd, who advanced with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Czech Lucie Hradecka.

Ferrer, whose best Grand Slam showing was a 2007 US Open semi-final run, beat South African Kevin Anderson 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) to reach a second-round match against Dutch qualifier Igor Sijsling.

Isner, the top American hope to end a nine-year US men's Grand Slam title drought, struggled to subdue Xavier Malisse 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 7-6 (11/9).

Del Potro, the 2009 US Open winner, advanced over France's Florent Serra 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4.

Russian v'ball coach found dead

AFP, Moscow

Sergei Ovchinnikov, the head coach of Russia's national women's volleyball squad, has died suddenly at the age of 43, local media reported Wednesday.

Reports said that Ovchinnikov, who was also head coach of Moscow Dynamo women's volleyball squad, died at his club's training camp in the Croatian town of Porec.

"We do not know any details. For the moment I can only confirm the fact of Ovchinnikov's death," the president of Russia's volleyball federation Alexander Yaremenko told the press.

Croatian media reports claimed that police there were investigating the death, saying that he was found hanged in his Porec hotel room.

'Team is in a good shape'

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Iqbal while talking with the reporters at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

The left-hander was quite optimistic about Bangladesh's chances in the ICC World Twenty20.

"The team is now in a good shape because we already played a number of T20 matches and are going to play some matches in West Indies before the World Cup. We have the ability to do something in the World Cup this time around," he added.

The Tigers, who play the Trinidad Quadrangular T20 competition under the banner of BCB XI, will play a practice match against a local selection on September 5. They take on Barbados on September 6, Afghanistan on September 7 and Trinidad & Tobago on September 8 at the Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain. They then head for Sri Lanka on September 9 to take part in the ICC World Twenty20 starting from September 18.

Captain Mushfiqur was reluctant to talk with the media but all-rounder Nasir Hossain echoed the sentiment of Tamim.

"It's frustrating that I could not play a single match but it's a plus point for us that my other teammates played some matches and their experience will help us to do something in the World Cup," said Nasir.

Bangladesh has been placed in Group D along with New Zealand and Pakistan in the ICC World Twenty20. The Tigers will take on New Zealand on

September 21 before meeting Pakistan on September 25. Both matches will be played at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.

Before the group matches, Mushfiqur Rahim's men will play two practice games against Zimbabwe on September 15 and against Ireland on September 17 in Colombo.

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

Siddikur in trouble

FROM PAGE 16

season and has yet to miss a single cut and came close to lifting his second Tour title at the Queen's Cup.

Meanwhile, India's Anirban Lahiri passed his opening test with flying colours when he powered his way to the top with a five-under-par 66 to grab a share of the clubhouse lead alongside England's Robert Coles and Wales' Rhys Davies.

The Omega European Masters is the first event in Europe to be co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour since 2009.

India eye clean sweep

Second Test against NZ starts today

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

India have vowed no let-up as they target a clean sweep in the series against New Zealand with a win in the second and final Test starting on Friday, skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has said.

The hosts put in a strong all-round performance to win the opening Test by an innings and 115 runs with a day to spare in Hyderabad on Sunday.

"We don't have to be overconfident. We are a side which respects the opposition," the Indian captain told reporters on the eve of the match in Bangalore.

"Whatever right we did in the first Test we have to repeat everything. We have to try and stick to the basics and keep it simple. We don't want to complicate too much."

The Indian batsmen were not tested by New Zealand's attack in the last match as they posted a huge 438 in their only innings, but Dhoni said the conditions in Bangalore would be different.

"I think they (New Zealand) are a good bowling side, especially on this kind of wicket and overcast conditions. They will come up with good bowling plans and execute their plans well," he said.

"Hyderabad was a bit different as there was not much for the fast bowlers, but still they got wickets."

Cheteshwar Pujara was the batting hero in the Hyderabad match, India's first after the retirement of veterans Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman, as he cracked a solid 159 for a maiden Test century in only his fourth match. The Indian bowlers then struck it rich,

with off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin taking 12 wickets and left-arm spinner Pragnan Ojha six as New Zealand collapsed to 159 in the first innings and 164 in the second.

"Of course in the last match the spinners got a lot of wickets, but they had to work hard. Ashwin bowled brilliantly and Ojha had to keep it tight," said Dhoni.

"I personally feel if we can get a bit more spin and a bit more bounce for the spinners it will be really good."

New Zealand will hope for a much-improved performance from their batsmen against spin if they are to avoid a second successive Test series defeat. They lost both Tests in the West Indies before this tour.

Only Kane Williamson (52) and opener Brendon McCullum (42) offered any resistance in the second innings at Hyderabad.

"It's never easy when you lose a Test by over an innings. We need to forget about it as quickly as possible and find ways of playing Ashwin and Ojha," said New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor.

"We have to be brave and courageous and attack them and hopefully put pressure back on them."

Taylor said his team would try their best to test India.

"We are a young side and are learning both on and off the field. New Zealand are normally fighters and we'll be trying to fight as hard as we can," he said.

"Obviously, we're still in the series. We have not won many Tests in India and we need to be brave and courageous in the way we go in this Test."

New Zealand have won just two of their 30 Tests in India, lost 12 and drawn 16.

SA-heavy ICC Test team

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Australian captain Michael Clarke was on Thursday selected skipper of an International Cricket Council Test team of the year dominated by South Africans.

South African fast bowler Dale Steyn figures in the team for the fifth year in a row, with team-mates Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis and Vernon Philander also making the grade.

A fifth South African, AB de Villiers, was named 12th man. The team, picked by a five-member panel and taking into account performances in a 12-month period that ended on August 6, was announced by the world governing body in Colombo.

Amla, Kallis and Sri Lankan Kumar Sangakkara were picked for the third successive year, while the England duo of Alastair Cook and Stuart Broad appear for the second year in a row.

Former West Indies skipper Clive Lloyd, who chaired the panel, said it was a tough job picking the side.

"The team has a strong batting line-up, while the bowlers are a tough combination of pace and spin who could dismiss any line-up on any surface," Lloyd said in an ICC statement.

"The selectors did utilise a vast amount of statistics from the period under observation, but we also took into account all other factors like the opposition, pitch conditions, match situation etc.

ICC chief executive David Richardson, who announced the line-up, added: "Those selected can be justifiably proud of their achievements and are well deserving of the recognition they receive as great cricketers of their era."

ICCTEST-TEAM-OF-THE-YEAR

Alastair Cook (ENG), Hashim Amla (RSA), Kumar Sangakkara (SRI), Jacques Kallis (RSA), Michael Clarke (AUS - capt), Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WIS), Matt Prior (ENG - wicketkeeper), Stuart Broad (ENG), Saeed Ajmal (PAK), Vernon Philander (RSA), Dale Steyn (RSA). 12th man: AB de Villiers (RSA)

Federation

FROM PAGE 16

Championship League.

Out of a 21-member BFF Executive Committee consisting of representatives from six districts -- Khulna, Barisal, Gopalganj, Chapainawabganj, Cox's Bazar and Nilphamari DFAs, only Khulna's representatives have responded to BFF's invitation.

Tournament Committee chairman and BFF vice president Tabith M Awal defended the BFF citing that they were forced to defer the season-curtain raising tournament in a bid to ensure the participation of maximum teams but they finally got a poor response from the teams they had invited for the Federation Shield. The last date of sending the entries was August 10.

"Some of teams told us that they would take part in the tournament if it would begin after August 30 and we did it but they finally did not send entries," said Tabith after the Tournament Committee meeting yesterday.

"Before the BFF election, organisers of DFAs had cried out for not having tournaments at the district level, but now they are not interested to play the tournaments when they have been given opportunities," observed Tabith, who called time on his own football career last season.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wound to drive cover
5 Block of bread
9 Once around the track
12 Malaria symptom
13 Jason's ship
14 Savings plan acronym
15 Almost 6 trillion miles
17 Wildebeest
18 Approximately
19 Mrs. Fred Mertz
21 Abdomen
24 Leave out
25 Surround-ed by
26 Fall month
30 Big truck
31 Pie nut
32 Actress Hagen
33 Intangible
35 Czech or Bulgarian

DOWN

1 Bando of baseball lore
2 Holly-wood trickery (Abbr.)
3 Calendar abbr.
4 "Lo!"
5 Deposits
6 Dunkable treat
7 — Khan
8 Construction bosses
9 Symbol for an idea
10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
11 One of the Beatles
16 Attempt
20 Allen or Burton
21 Naked
22 Send forth
23 "Sun-down" singer
24 Elliptical
26 Requisite
27 Goose (Sp.)
28 And others (Abbr.)
29 Four-star review
31 "The King"
34 Shoe width
35 Dark and gloomy
37 "To be or — ..."
38 Logical
39 Many, many years
40 City of India
41 So
44 "Rocks"
45 Historic period
46 Early bird?
47 Wade opponent

SOLUTION TIME: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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S I I J V E Q S I Y J K W U . V I ' E
A S D O S E I T D N U Y S P I V T Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOVELTY SONG ABOUT FOLKS WHO NEVER FEEL LIKE BUYING OR WEARING LONG PANTS: "SHORT'S PEOPLE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T