



Bangladesh amateur golfers' team pose with the trophies along with golf federation officials and sponsors at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. The golfers won the team and individual titles in the tournament which concluded in Bhutan on Sunday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Golfers felicitated

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's triumphant amateur golf team returned home yesterday after winning the Bhutan Amateur Golf Championship which concluded on Sunday. The team members Mohammad Dulal Hossain, Mohammad Sobhan and Mohammad Sagar, were accorded a reception at the Bangladesh Golf Federation yesterday.

A total of seven teams from four South Asian countries participated in the event which was held at the Royal Thimpu Golf Club in Bhutan from September 20-23. Bangladesh emerged team champions in the team event while Dulal emerged individual champion.

This achievement of the golfers can be attributed to two training programmes organised with the assistance of Gemcon Group and Building Technology and Ideas Ltd (bti). Gemcon has been running a Young Tigers Programme for the last five years for the underprivileged children. BTI too runs a training programme for a specific number of golfers. Dulal himself was part of the BTI training programme and has been sponsored by the Gemcon Group.

Windies thru' as match washed out

AFP, Colombo

The West Indies qualified for the Super Eights stage of the World Twenty20 after their Group B match against Ireland was abandoned due to rain on Monday.

Ireland made 129-6 in their 19 overs before heavy rain at the Premadasa stadium prevented the West Indies from starting their innings.

Both teams gained one point each, but the West Indies joined Group B winners Australia in the next round due to a superior net run-rate over the Irish.

The West Indies will be placed alongside defending champions England, New Zealand and hosts Sri Lanka in group one of the Super Eights which starts on Thursday.

The other half has Australia, South Africa, India and either Pakistan or Bangladesh, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the semifinals.

The match, watched by barely 1,000 fans, was reduced to 19 overs per side after an hour's interruption midway through Ireland's innings due to rain.

More

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Salahuddin also said that there was a possibility of bringing a Belarusian Club -- Dinamo Minsk -- for an exhibition match against the national team as they were communicating with the Belarus Football Federation through the foreign ministry.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPOTER

Combined SC and Bachelors SC posted victories in their respective matches of the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Combined SC defeated Victoria SC 2-0 with Shahed scoring both the goals.

Bachelors SC routed Farashganj SC 3-1 as Shahid struck two goals while Taleb Reza scored another. Sony pulled one goal back for Farashganj.

DC Gold Cup

Netrokona moved to the final of the Walton Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament with a 3-2 win over Gazipur in tiebreaker at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into shootout after the regulation and extra time failed to produce any goals.

Netrokona will face today's winners between Gopalganj and Narayanganj in the final to be held on September 30.

School Handball

Summerfield thrashed Sunny Dale 6-3 in the girls' section of Igloo U-12 Boys' and Girls' School Handball Tournament at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali National Stadium yesterday.

DPS STS defeated Green Herald 4-3 in the day's other match.

In boys' section, Scholastica, St Gregory's High School, Dhaka International College, Rajarbagh Police Lines School and College, Narinda Govt High School, Residential Model High School and Dhanmondi Tutorial won their respective matches.

Table Tennis Training

With a bid to spreading the game across the country, the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation is going to hold a training programme with the financial assistance of AB Bank. The training programme will begin through the Bandarban district where some 50 school students aged between eight and ten will take part. The training programme is scheduled to start from

7-star Enamul revives

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the national team, ran through the batting order as the West Indian batsmen found it difficult to read the spinner. Enamul, who finished the day with figures of 7 for 45 in 19 overs, bowled with a lot of flight and kept the close-in catchers on their feet throughout the innings.

"I just bowled in the right areas and waited for them to commit mistakes. The pitch is a little different compared to the one in Khulna. This one has a little more turn in it and they failed to adjust to it," said Enamul. "This West Indies side is very young and will need time to adjust to the pitches here," he added.

Earlier, the visiting side, resuming on their overnight score of 14 without loss, lost opener Trevon Griffith in the eighth over, caught off Enamul. Andre Fletcher scored a quick 50 for the visitors before being trapped in front by spinner Saqlain Sajib. The fall of the second wicket led to a collapse for the West Indian batsmen as they lost their next eight wickets for 60-odd runs. The home side took a first-innings lead of 52 runs.

The visitors, however, fought back almost immediately as both Bangladesh openers were sent back cheaply in the second innings. The home side was staring at a similar collapse before skipper Rokibul Hasan and youngster Mominul Haque steadied

the ship. Mominul, however, paid the price for playing one shot too many as he was caught behind after scoring a 26-ball 27. Naeem Islam and the skipper ensured that there were no further hiccups and played out the rest of the day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: First innings 199 all out in 87.1 overs (Mominul 50, Rokibul 32; Cotterrell 4-15, Warrican 2-32). Second innings 88 for 3 in 46 overs (Mominul 27, Rokibul 21; Brathwaite 1-14, Permaul 1-13).

WEST INDIES HP: First innings 147 all out in 43.5 overs (Fletcher 51, M Barclay 22; Enamul 7-45, Saqlain 2-43).

Nothing

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in T20 cricket. We have some plans against him. Now we have to execute them properly in the middle. We could apply ourselves only sixty percent against New Zealand. We must ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes we made against New Zealand in the first game," said Mushfiqur.

Mushfiqur must also know that for the Tigers to pull off something special today, his two best players Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan must perform their best. He will certainly be hoping for that if the Tigers are to bring a smile to their cricket-crazy supporters back home.

Back to drawing board

AFP, Colombo



A chastened England will resume their faltering defence of the World Twenty20 later this week desperate to find a way to tackle spin after crashing to their biggest loss in T20 cricket.

India's spinners sent Stuart Broad's men packing for just 80 in Sunday's Group A match in Colombo, a defeat of 90 runs. It was England's lowest total in the shortest format and their heaviest defeat.

Luckily for England, the capitulation came in a match of no consequence in terms of the tournament since both teams had qualified for the Super Eights stage after knocking minnows Afghanistan out.

But the holders' failure to deal with spin will be of great concern to Broad, who attempted to play down the embarrassing loss.

"Any international defeat is really frustrating, especially when you put in a performance like that," Broad said.

"But it does not change our destiny a huge amount. Knowing that it does not change anything really -- apart from us having to maybe face a few more spinners in the nets -- is nice."

Broad also brushed aside suggestions that the team missed their best player of spin bowling -- axed batsman Kevin Pietersen,

who is in Colombo but only as a studio expert for the host broadcaster.

"We've got these 15 guys here, and we've known that all along," the England captain said. "We did not perform well with the bat, but we did in the last three or four games."

"It's important we focus on what we did well in those games and learn from what we did wrong against India."

England will travel toallekele for the Super Eights round starting on Thursday, where they are grouped with hosts Sri Lanka, New Zealand and either Ireland or the West Indies.

The collapse against spin also does not bode well for England beyond Sri Lanka -- they begin a four-Test series in India next month.

For India, veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh marked his return to the team after a year with 4-12 and leg-spinner Piyush Chawla took 2-13.

At 60-9, England were in danger of falling below the smallest total ever in T20 internationals -- 67 by Kenya against Ireland in 2008 -- but the last-wicket pair of Steven Finn and Jade Dernbach prevented that humiliation.

Broad admitted his team was "a little bit sloppy" in allowing India to pile up 170-4 on the back of a half-century from Rohit Sharma and useful contributions from Gautam Gambhir and Virat Kohli.

Bowling key for Pak

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New Zealand -- his confidence is growing. We are looking forward to him putting in more performances with his bowling and batting," he added.

Regarding the combination against Bangladesh in today's match, Hafeez said: "It will depend on what surface the match will be played on. The combination will be decided according to that. I am confident as a captain, as there are three bowlers sitting out -- Sami, Razzaq and Hasan. Our bowling is our strength."

He also expressed his satisfaction over the way his batsmen showed character in the first game against New Zealand at the same venue.

Hafeez was also confident that his pace bowling department will come to the party in the coming matches.

"We have always relied on our fast bowlers. Over the past couple of years, the spinners have been controlling the performances. Ajmal and Afridi have been excellent. My bowling benefits the team always as I look to bowl economically. I am not a wicket-taker. That is why there is a bit less pressure on the fast bowlers. But they need to improve. Umar Gul and Tanvir have been matchwinners for us. I hope they will execute their skills better in the coming games," hoped Hafeez.

Archery training in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A ten-day archery training camp started at the Bagerhat Stadium yesterday. Some 25 students of under-16 level from different schools of the district are participating in the training. Bangladesh Archery Federation president Lt. Gen. Mohammad Moinul Islam inaugurated the training camp where the federation's general secretary Rakib Uddin Ahmed was also present along with district sports officials. District coach Khan Habibur Rahman will train the budding archers during the camp.

New water

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officials so far in the tournament had been replaced.

"Although there is no evidence to suggest that water was the cause of any illness, the product supplied for use in the tournament has been replaced," the spokesman told AFP.

Boon is a bane for India

AFP, Colombo



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni heads into the Super Eights stage of the World Twenty20 this week delighted to have the enviable problem of which player to leave out.

A revamped India condemned England to their heaviest T20 defeat -- by 90 runs -- in Colombo on Sunday after bowling the defending champions out for their lowest T20 total of 80.

India rested three regulars -- seamer Zaheer Khan, spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and opener Virender Sehwag -- for the Group A match because both teams had already qualified for the Super Eights.

Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh marked his return to the Indian team after a year with 4-12, including a wicket maiden in his first over, and leg-spinner Piyush Chawla took 2-13.

With Ashwin, Harbhajan and Chawla fighting for the spinners' spots in the Super Eights and a settled batting

order to choose from, Dhoni said his team was well prepared for the next battle.

"We do have a problem of plenty," Dhoni said. "But I can assure you, a problem of plenty is better than not having that one extra guy."

"But bigger teams await us and we need to be consistent. In every match, we have to be at our best. Hopefully, we will do that in the next three matches."

India face Australia, South Africa and either Pakistan or Bangladesh in what is being touted as the "group of death", from which the top two will advance to the semifinals.

India, who recorded successive wins against Afghanistan and England in the first round, will remain in Colombo for the next stage and play in the familiar surroundings of the Premadasa Stadium.

Dhoni praised the 32-year-old Harbhajan, who was recalled for the World Twenty20 after being sidelined due to injury and poor form since August last year.

"Harbhajan bowled well," Dhoni said after the off-spinner recorded the

best T20 figures by an Indian bowler and was named the man of the match.

"He did not bowl short. He invited the batsmen to drive by pitching the ball up. He made good use of variations, plus his mindset was very aggressive."

"He was very focused and he really wanted to do well. It's a very big positive for us because if we are playing one batsman short, he is someone who can slog down the order. He is a very good option for us."

The Indian skipper refused to speculate which spinners he will pick in future.

"Frankly, I don't know who will play," Dhoni said. "But I am quite happy with the problem of plenty. The selection will depend on the wicket. If it's a fresh and hard-rolled wicket, spinners may not be that effective."

"And it will be a difficult decision which bowler to drop to play the seventh batsman. The middle order has done well and the two openers we have [Gautam Gambhir and Sehwag] can win matches on their own."

KFC Super League kicks off tomorrow



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of KFC National Women's Super League gets underway tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, with eight teams participating.

Holders Bangladesh Ansar & VDP will take on Thakurgaon District in the opening match. Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan is expected to inaugurate the meet which is being sponsored by FIFA and KFC.

The preliminary round of the league had started in July 10 where 34 districts, one service team and one university team participated. Seven teams qualified for the final round where defending champions Bangladesh Ansar & VDP were allowed direct entry.

But the league was suspended for nearly two months for the national team's preparation for the 2nd SAFF Women's Football Championship.

The eight finalists, split into two groups, will play in round-robin format and top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals, which will be held on October 1.

"We aware of the strength of all the participating teams. The groupings have been done on the basis of teams' strength in order to make the league competitive," BFF Women's Committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu said at a press conference yesterday.

Women's Committee deputy chairman Mahfuza Akhter and KFC area managers Tanvir Kaiser and Mizanur Rahman were among others present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

BFF Women's Committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu (2nd from R) speaks at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday to announce the details of the KFC National Women's Super League which gets underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 CNBC's Cramer
- 4 Oxen's burden
- 8 Links warning
- 12 Oklahomacity
- 13 State with certainty
- 14 Egyptian wading bird
- 15 Observing
- 17 Goes up and down
- 18 LummoX
- 19 Not just plump
- 20 "Yippee!"
- 22 Classic Welles role
- 24 Settled down
- 25 Strong
- 29 Director Howard
- 30 Customs dir.
- 32 Brought into disrepute
- 34 Elevator name

35 "Born Free" lioness

- 36 Treaties
- 37 Boston Marathon month
- 40 Eve's third son
- 41 Reddish mount
- 42 Nolan Ryan's job
- 46 Capri, e.g.
- 47 Neighborhood
- 48 TV's "Science Guy" Bill
- 49 Landlord's paper
- 50 Rhett's last word
- 51 Wrigley product

DOWN

- 1 Mandible
- 2 Mrs. McKinley
- 3 In harmony
- 4 "Gulliver's Travels" locale
- 5 "Meta-morphoses" writer
- 6 Barbie's companion
- 7 Work unit
- 8 Untruthful one
- 9 Reed instrument
- 10 Cage components
- 11 Being, to Brutus
- 16 Coagulate

19 Individuals

- 20 Hospital section
- 21 Lotion additive
- 22 "M*A*S*H"
- 23 Dumb-struck
- 25 Spacecraft compartments
- 26 Attractive
- 27 Monad
- 28 Not so much
- 30 Shopping center
- 33 — in (restricted)
- 34 Inauguration recitation
- 36 Pie nut
- 37 Sahara-like
- 38 Sit for a photo
- 39 Bronchial sound
- 40 Goblet feature
- 42 Tablet
- 43 Glass of NPR
- 44 Big Apple sch.
- 45 Jewel

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD WESTERN FRONTIER LAWMAN WHO WAS FOUND GUILTY OF COMMITTING A CRIME HIMSELF: WYATT PERP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P