

BSPA's golden jubilee day celebrated

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA) marked its golden jubilee day with a gala festival at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Paltan yesterday.

Sportsmen, organisers and journalists attended the function where BSPA honoured 14 national award winning sports personalities.

Prominent singer Sabina Yasmin kept the audience enthralled with a solo performance on the night.

The vice president of BSPA's (the then Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association) first committee in 1962, renowned columnist A B M Musa was present as chief guest. BSPA's current president Hasan Ullah Khan Rana and general secretary Mostofa Mamun were also present.

New Zealand get batting practice

AFP, Paarl

New Zealand's top-order batsmen all spent valuable time at the crease on the first day of a three-day match against a South African Invitation XI at Boland Park on Friday.

The New Zealanders finished the day on 311 for six after winning the toss.

Only two batsmen, Kane Williamson (59) and captain Brendon McCullum (65) reached fifty but all seven of those in action honed their games in the only warm-up match ahead of the first Test against South Africa, starting in Cape Town on January 2.

Two Dutch FROM PAGE 16 Kazi Nabil Ahmed, chairman of the National Teams' Committee (NTC) of BFF, informed that the BFF boss Kazi Salahuddin had a fruitful discussion with the two coaches in London yesterday. "The two coaches will arrive in Dhaka on January 7, 2013 and they will watch two Bangladesh Premier League matches on January 9 and 11. The two coaches will sit for a meeting with BFF officials to decide on the terms and conditions of coaching and will present their strategy for Bangladesh football," informed Nabil when contacted over phone last night.

43-year old De Kruij played for FC OSS, a second division club of the Dutch League in the 1993-94 season. De Kruij's coaching profile includes leading Nigerian club Heartland to two domestic Federation Cup titles before his contact was terminated earlier this year.

Central

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the consecutive wickets. SCORES IN BRIEF PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE: First innings 343 all out in 73 overs and second innings 31 for 1 in 5.1 overs (Fazle 12 not out; Riyad 1-5). WALTON CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 433 for 9 dec in 115.4 overs (Marshall 125, Shamsur 84; Shohag 4-162).

BCB NORTH ZONE: First innings 499 for 6 in 131 overs (Nasir 93, Naeem 82; Taposh 3-63). ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE: First innings 134 for 4 in 46 overs (Mominul 54, Alok 40 not out; Shuvo 2-9, Shafiu 1-41).



Sublime Australian batsman Mike Hussey announced that next week's third and final clash against Sri Lanka in Sydney will be his final Test. PHOTO: AFP FILE

Watto will bat only?

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

All-rounder Shane Watson is considering playing only as a batsman and will talk over his plans with the Australian selectors after next week's third Test against Sri Lanka in Sydney.

Watson will miss the final dead-rubber Sydney Test starting on January 3 with a calf injury which resurfaced during this week's second Test in Melbourne.

The 31-year-old said he had felt some soreness before the match but was not rested despite Australia's contentious policy of sidelining players considered close to the burn-out stage.

Watson has admitted he felt a niggle in his calf following the first Test in Hobart earlier this month, where he bowled 47.4 overs after swing bowler Ben Hilfenhaus broke down during the game with a side strain.

"I am certainly doing some thinking about what my prospects are moving forward, with my bowling especially," Watson told the Nine Network after Australia's innings and 201-run victory over the Sri Lankans on Friday. "I have to sit down with the hierarchy and work out the best way to manage things so I can put some cricket together for a period of time."

He said he wanted to get some

continuity as a batsman.

Watson missed out on his third Test century and his first hundred since October 2010 when he was dismissed for 83 in Australia's first innings in Melbourne.

It was the 19th time Watson has failed to convert a Test half-century into three figures. He currently averages 37.03 with the bat in 38 Tests.

Cricket Australia's high-performance chief Pat Howard said the selectors were keen to have multi-skilled players in the Australian team.

"If Shane or anybody wants to be a batsman only, well somebody else has got to be able to take up the overs," Howard told reporters on Saturday.

"There was some consideration of it [resting Watson]. But it was looked at as a collective. He's multi-skilled and can bring more than a couple of attributes to the game."

Howard said when managing players' workloads it mainly involved the young fast bowlers in the squad.

"Looking after them is a pretty core principle of what we're trying to do," Howard said.

Australia rested left-arm quick Mitchell Starc from the Melbourne Test without any apparent injury concerns.

Uncapped Victoria all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has been named in Australia's 13-man squad for the Sydney Test in place of Watson.

Tony Greig no more

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(1.41) and Sir Richard Hadlee (4.87). His ratio of catches to matches is comfortably ahead of Imran Khan, as well as the other all-rounders mentioned.

Greig however, was more than just numbers. Standing 6 feet 6 inches tall, the South Africa-born player naturally caught the eye. In both deed and word, Greig's colourful antics ensured that he held it.

Greig's controversial but fair run out of Alvin Kallicharan had to be reversed to avert the threat of violence from the crowd in the West Indies in 1973/74. Before the '76 home series against the men from the Caribbean, by-then captain Greig's spicy boast to make the West Indies "grovel" was an international incident. In between such jousts, Greig could be found appealing excessively under Sunil Gavaskar's nose at silly point in India or signalling his own boundaries to an irate Dennis Lillee in Australia.

Greig became one of the most reviled men in cricket when it was uncovered that he had acted as Kerry Packer's chief recruiting agent for World Series Cricket. While the establishment saw him as a pariah for his actions, today's well-paid cricketers owe

Greig a warm thank you for this action.

Beyond the colour still, there were some very credible performances on the field. Facing the wiles of Bedi and Chandrasekhar on the turning wickets of India in '72, Greig developed the "standing up stance", which players such as Graham Gooch have imitated. Greig finished that series with an average of 64. As English batsmen folded over in the face of Thomson and Lillee's pace assault down under in 1974-75, Greig stood tall and slashed his way to the top of the averages for the series.

With the ball, he could be a handful too, as 13 West Indians including Gary Sobers, Rohan Kanhai and Clive Lloyd would know from the Trinidad Test of '74. Greig the bowler used his height to get bounce and his big fingers to impart off spin/cut to the ball that in helpful conditions could do for any batting line up in the world.

Tony Greig was born in South Africa, played for England, had a Sri Lankan grandmother and retired and died in Australia. Wherever he went -- as a player or as a commentator -- he carried cricket's flag with him. With his passing, cricket has lost one of its genuine characters.

4-star Jamal go top

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over by Sunday, the other was hit against the post by the same striker.

The second half was a much more open game as Arambagh showed some purpose in their attack. However, the strategy backfired as the Motijheel outfit were caught on the counter a few times, which yielded the goals to come. First it was a brilliant left-foot shot from Shakil that made it 2-0 in the 63rd minute and three minutes later Shakil's assist was clinically finished by Sunday. Arambagh replaced their goalkeeper Mitul, who had a terrible day under the bar, with second-choice keeper Biplob Kumar with ten minutes remaining. But Biplob couldn't make much of a difference either when Sunday raced on to a loose ball inside the box and finished it with his second attempt. The goal, Sunday's second of the day and fourth overall, killed the game and took the Dhanmondi club to the top.

Amendment

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member of the Constitution Amendment Committee. The proposed amendment required general secretary candidates to have at least four years' involvement with the hockey federation while joint secretary candidates have to have three years of involvement to be eligible to contest in the next polls.

The rejection of the proposal means any organiser can contest in those positions, regardless of whether they had any prior involvement with the federation.

Sydney will be last Test

Hussey to quit after Aussie summer

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia veteran Mike Hussey announced Saturday he will retire from Test cricket after next week's third and final match against Sri Lanka in Sydney.

The evergreen Hussey, who continues to flourish at 37, just months younger than Ricky Ponting who called it quits earlier this month, said he wanted to spend more time with his four young children, who are all aged under eight.

"The Sydney Test against Sri Lanka will be my last Test match for Australia and I'm going to retire from international cricket at the end of the Australian summer," he told the Nine Network.

"I was quite excited to tell them [children] that I'm not going to go away and play for Australia anymore."

Hussey's retirement will leave a huge hole in Australia's lower batting order ahead of next year's back-to-back Ashes away and home series against England preceded by a tour to India in February-March.

Hussey said the final straw was the realisation that a long Test tour of India no longer excited him.

"The clincher for me was when I

started looking ahead to the Indian and Ashes series," Hussey told Australian Associated Press.

"I didn't have the excitement and buzz about facing the challenges of those two tours that I felt like I should have."

"So for me that meant that I was making the right decision. They're two tough tours where you're away from home a long time."

Hussey has scored 19 hundreds in 78 Tests and averages 51.52.

Hussey's recent form has been outstanding and he has been averaging 180.00 after two Tests in the current series against Sri Lanka.

He said any Test match is a stressful experience, but next week's third Sydney Test could be different.

"I feel like I can come into this last Test match with no pressure whatsoever," he said.

"I can just really go out there and enjoy it."

Australia have already clinched the three-match series against Sri Lanka with huge wins in Hobart and Melbourne.

Hussey, who made his Test debut at the late age of 30 in 2005, has become Australia's 12th-leading runscorer with 6183 runs at 51.52.

Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said Hussey would be a huge loss on and off the field for

Australia.

"Michael Hussey has been a vital contributor to many Australian team wins over his very successful Test cricket career," Sutherland said.

"Affectionately known as 'Mr Cricket', he has always been thoroughly committed to meticulous preparation and the highest levels of physical fitness, which have in turn delivered consistent performances in all forms of the game."

"An incredibly reliable player and leader within the Australian cricket team, Michael will retire from Test cricket with a record that puts him amongst the very best Australian batsmen of all time."

Western Australia Cricket Association (WACA) president and former Australian fast bowling great Dennis Lillee said Hussey was an ornament to the game.

"He is the ultimate professional, one who left no stone unturned in being the best in all of the areas that he could possibly be," Lillee said.

"He is a great exponent of all forms of the game, but it is his Test cricket skills that excited me as he could play with his back to the wall and be aggressive -- or a combination of both -- at the flick of a switch."

"He will go down as one of the all-time greats for WA and Australia."

Li defeats Azarenka

AFP, Hua Hin

China's Li Na beat World Number 1 Victoria Azarenka Saturday 10-6 in a play-off after the pair shared a set each in a see-sawing invitation match in the Thai resort of Hua Hin.

Li, who became China's first superstar tennis player after winning the 2011 French Open, took the first set 3-6, dominating the World Number One Azarenka on the hard court with her serving and groundstrokes.

Azarenka sprung to life as the hot Thai sun faded and the flood lights came on, belting a series of winners as she claimed the second set at a canter 6-2.

Badda close

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with a match in hand if the match between Jatrabari KS and Youngmen's Fakirerpul ends in a draw on Monday. However, any other result in that match will mean Badda will have to win their last match against Dhaka Wanderers Club on Wednesday to claim the title.

Spain off the mark

Tennis

AFP, Perth

The Spanish pairing of Anabel Medina Garrigues and Fernando Verdasco won their opening tie at the 1-million-dollar mixed teams Hopman Cup with a 2-1 win over South Africa in sweltering heat in Perth on Saturday.

The singles rubbers were split in the Group B tie, with Medina Garrigues beating Chanelle Scheepers and Kevin Anderson upsetting Verdasco before the Spaniards proved too strong in the deciding mixed doubles.

The fourth seeds for the eight-nation tournament, Verdasco and Medina Garrigues won the doubles in a match tiebreak, 6-4, 6-7 (3/7), 10-8 on a day where the mercury reached 40 degrees Celsius.

The South Africans were just two points from an upset win when they led 8-5 in the match tiebreak before the Spaniards reeled off the last five points of the match.

Anderson notched his first win over Verdasco in three attempts in the opening men's singles match, despite being ranked 13 places below the Spaniard at 37.

The South African had chances to break the remodelled Verdasco serve in the first set, but made amends in the tiebreak and then went on win in straight sets, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, in one hour and 43 minutes.

"It is always a little tricky in the first match of the year [new season]," said Anderson, who has been training with his coach in New Zealand.

"Both of us were trying to find our rhythm a little bit, but fortunately I was able to keep holding serve and play a couple of good points in the breaker."

Medina Garrigues, ranked 50th, had too many shots for the 60th-ranked Scheepers, the two players trading blows from the back of the court in some lengthy rallies.

Scheepers had won their only previous encounter and held 11 break points to the Spaniard's eight during the match, but Medina Garrigues came from a break down in the first set to win 6-4, 6-2.

"Always when I play against Chanelle it is a tough match," Medina Garrigues said. "We have a similar game, no mistakes and a lot of rallies."

Medina Garrigues said it was an extremely testing hit-out in the heat, after coming from the European winter.

Div I Cricket

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(Salahuddin Pappu 100, Aslam Hossain 64, Robiul Islam 27; Razib Proshad 4-49, Rajib Hassan 1-19, Uttam Sarkar 1-20)

RESULT: Partex Sporting Club won by four wickets.

YOUNG PEGASUS CLUB: 167 all out in 29 overs (Shadat Hossain 35, Shakil Moazzem 29; Abdur Rahman 2-19, Nuruzzaman 2-18, Hadiur Rahman 2-33)

BANGLADESH BOYS CLUB: 153-8 in 29 overs (Saiful Islam 50, Mahfuzur Rahman 27; Abdul Gaffar 3-21, Shahidul Islam 1-18)

RESULT: Young Pegasus Club won by 14 runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

DMT CJMTIL XAGAO TCA
EOALSNEROLCAKEACCSGAID,
RCNJRNEMTILFA
AKNOZAIDLAFN-OSZAXNRI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ADORE READING POET KILMER'S WORK SO MUCH THAT I WILL OFTEN FIND MYSELF JUMPING FOR JOYCE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals U