SA seek consolidation Liza, Shirin in joint lead

First SA-NZ Test from today

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

South Africa will seek to consolidate their top place in the world Test rankings when they play New Zealand in a two-match series starting at Newlands on Wednesday.

The series shapes up as a mismatch, with eighth-ranked New Zealand hit by injuries and the withdrawal of former captain and star batsman Ross Taylor, but coach Gary Kirsten said the South Africans would not take victory for granted.

Kirsten said South Africa wanted to start a busy year of Test cricket on a strong note after capturing and then retaining the number one spot with successive away series wins against England and DanielVettori. Australia.

"We had a good meeting around the year ahead," said Kirsten. "We're likely to have ten Test matches in 2013, and what we do as a team is set our goals about what stepping stone to that.

"The success of our team in 2012 was the fact that we remained humble in our play, we never took any situation or any team for granted. We made sure that our preparation was spot on and that, when we got into Test match time, we set up solid foundations to give ourselves the best chance of success. We will treat this series no differently."

Nothing less than a 2-0 series win will be necessary for South Africa to improve their ranking points -- and even then they series 1-0 they will lose a point, while if they lose the series 1-0 they will shed Mitchell McClenaghan.

seven points and lose their top spot to England.

New Zealand are likely to rely on a handful of top players, with captain Brendon McCullum, Martin Guptill and Kane Williamson their key batsmen.

Guptill made a century in a Twenty20 international against South Africa, while all three made half-centuries in their side's three-day warm-up match against a South African Invitation XI in Paarl.

Williamson made New Zealand's only century when the teams met in three Tests in New Zealand earlier this year. South Africa won the series 1-0.

Left-arm opening bowler Trent Boult and the experienced Chris Martin will be New Zealand's bowling spearheads in the absence of the injured Tim Southee and

South Africa have an injury concern over new ball bowler Vernon Philander, who is recovering from a hamstring strain but can call on two of the world's leading fast bowlers in Dale Steyn and Morne we want to achieve for the year. The New Morkel, while their batting bulges with Zealand series will be an important proven world-class performers such as captain Graeme Smith, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis and AB de Villiers.

SQUADS

SOUTH AFRICA: Graeme Smith (capt) Alviro Petersen, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers (wkt), Faf du Plessis, Dean Elgar, Jacques Rudolph, Robin Peterson, Vernon Philander, Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel, Rory Kleinveldt.

NEW ZEALAND: Brendon McCullum (capt), Martin Guptill, Kane Williamson, Daniel Flynn, Dean Brownlie, BJ Watling (wkt), James Franklin, Colin Munro, Doug will only gain one point. If they win the Bracewell, Neil Wagner, Trent Boult, Jeetan Patel, Bruce Martin, Chris Martin,

BSJA announces

SPORTS REPORTER

four years'

awards

The Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) yesterday declared its four-year awards for athletes, organisers, coaches, sponsors, patronisers for their contribution to country's sports.

Bangladesh national cricket team captain Mushfiqur Rahim has been declared sports person of 2012, Sakib Al Hasan named sports person of the 2011, golfer Siddiqur Rahman the sports person of 2010 year and Sakib Al Hasan had been sport person of

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and Tanvir Mazharul Islam Tanna, manager of Swadhin Banga Football Team, will be given life-time achievement awards from the apex sports journalists organisation while former national cricket captains ASM Rokibul Hasan, Aminul Islam Bulbul and Kabaddi coach

Abdul Hafiz; organisers Yousif Ali, Selim Chowdhury, AK Sarker wil be given special awards for their contribution to respective sports. Bangladesh Cricket Board and Bangladesh Olympic Association will also be

given special awards for hosting the 2011 ICC World Cup and 2010 SA Games.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Sports Press Association also declare its two-year awards for athletes and organisers with Tamim Iqbal and Siddiqur Rahman being nominated for SA Mohsin Trophy for 2012

Tamim scores

and 2011 respectively.

FROM PAGE 16 in his last outing. Tamim began his stint for the Firebirds with a 14 against Otago and followed it up with a quickfire 35 against the Central Districts. The Bangladesh opener will play his next game against Canterbury on January 6.

Uncertainty lingers

FROM PAGE 16 on Zaka Ashraf's statement, he said, "I think at the heat of the moment people make a lot of statements, but this is a big opportunity for Pakistani players, they'll be receiving a lot of money and I am sure they'll think about the matter. But if at all they decide not to come we have a number of unsold players who can be brought."

The majority of the franchisee owners, some of whom are in touch with the players, exuded confidence regarding the arrival of the Pakistan players. "Some of the players might be busy in February because they have a Test series in that month. But apart from that I am positive that the players will play in the league," said Salim Chowdhury, owner of Dhaka Gladiators.

"I am very confident that they'll play. In fact, I am expecting Abdul Razzaq to be at my office this Thursday," said Mushfiqur Rehman Mohan, owner of Rajshahi Royals.

The president of the BCB in a press conference on Monday postponed Bangladesh's two-day tour of Pakistan, which was scheduled to take place on January 12 and 13 on security grounds. Papon had said that the board would continue observing the security situation in Pakistan and would go ahead with the tour if the scenario in the country

'improves'. The boards had earlier agreed upon a tour in April last year, when the two teams were scheduled to meet on the 29th and 30th. That series, though, was postponed on April 19 after the Dhaka High Court ruled in favour of a fourweek ban on the tour.

BFF plans

FROM PAGE 16

Under the supervision of FIFA's technical consultant Jean Michel, a total of 37 booters for U-14 group and 27 footballers for U-18 group were selected in early December, but are sitting idle since.

BCB boss mending

FROM PAGE 16

we have decided to meet with the different stakeholders. We talked about various issues. I think there were various misunderstandings regarding the new constitution. They talked about some points which they believe clash with their interests," said Papon.

"We have solved some of the problems. I told them that the BCB will do whatever it can to support them. We will have more meetings in the future and solve the misunderstandings," he added.

"I don't want to say they are misunderstandings but the president heard our demands very patiently and the discussion has been carried out in a good environment. We will need a few more meetings," said Babu.

Regarding the writ, he said; "We made some progress. Nobody can say anything if I want to withdraw my case but right at the moment I can't say the case will be withdrawn but once again what I can say is that we made some prog-

ress in our discussion." On December 22 last year, BDDSOC demanded the staging of the BCB elections within a month and threatened that strong action will be taken if the demand is not met.

BCLsecond

FROM PAGE 16

Qamrul Islam and Abul Hasan, who is yet to recover from an injury sustained during West Indies' tour of Bangladesh.

The first round matches ended in draws with play, especially in Bogra, hampered by fog.

Prime Bank

FROM PAGE 16

Enayetur Rahman informed that Game On had signed deals with ESPN and Geo TV so far.

BCB President Nazmul Hassan Papon, managing director and CEO of Prime Bank Ltd Mohammad Ehsan Khasru and other BCB directors were present at the ceremony.

SPORTS REPORTER

WIM Shamima Akter Liza and WFM Sharmin Sultana Shirin shared the lead in the Sultana Kamal

33rd National Women Chess Championship at the close of the fourth round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room yesterday.

Both Liza and Shirin earned 3.5 points from four matches after beating Arifa Khatun Moni and Tanzina Akter Tani respectively in their fourth-round matches.

WFM Nazrana Khan Eva was in 2nd position with three points as she beat Protiva Talukdar.

WIM Rani Hamid beat Hamida Khan and Shamiha Sharmin Simmi beat Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury

Moly while the match between WFM Zakia Sultana and Farjana Hossain Anne continued when this report was filed

Martin-Jenkins no more

AFP, London

Respected English cricket journalist and commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins has died of cancer at the age of 67, his former colleagues announced on Tuesday.

Popularly known as 'CMJ' in Great Britain, Martin-Jenkins was one of the voices of Test Match Special on BBC Radio and previously worked for the Daily Telegraph and the Times.

"Desperately sad to tell you that CMJ died peacefully this morning," his friend and colleague Jonathan Agnew said on Twitter.

Martin-Jenkins also served as the president of Marylebone Cricket Club in 2010 and 2011.

The official Twitter account of Lord's, the home of English cricket, wrote: "Former MCC President Christopher Martin-Jenkins has died. Sad, sad news to start the new year."

Martin-Jenkins' son, Robin, played professional cricket for Sussex and made 162 firstclass appearances for the country before retiring in 2010.

Martin-Jenkins was diagnosed with terminal cancer in January 2012 and released his memoir, entitled 'CMJ: A Cricketing Life', the following April.

ATN News in qtrs

SPORTS REPORTER

ATN News became the first team to advance to the quarterfinals in the Pepsi Media Six-a-Side Cricket Tournament with a massive 69-run win over NTV at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

ATN bowled NTV out for 32 after amassing a massive 101 for 2 in their stipulated six overs.

In the day's other matches, Maasranga TV (23/0) thrashed Daily Sangram (21/5) by five wickets, Daily Janakantha (112/2) routed The Financial Express (48/4) by 64 runs, the independent (59/1) beat Banglavision (54/5) by four wickets and New Age (94/2) beat Independent TV (93/2) by three wickets.

The result of the match between Channel 71 and Inquilab has been upheld after the losing side, Inquilad lodged complaint against the winning side Channel 71.



US tennis star Serena Williams smashes a backhand return during her 6-2, 6-2 victory over Alize Cornet of France in the second round of the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane yesterday.

Serena dominates

Tennis

AFP, Brisbane

Serena Williams stamped her authority on the Brisbane International on Tuesday when she crushed Frenchwoman Alize Cornet 6-2, 6-2.

On a day that saw second seed Maria Sharapova withdraw with an injured collarbone and fifth and sixth seeds Sara Errani and Petra Kvitova bundled out, Williams was all business as she disposed of Cornet in exactly one hour.

The 15-times Grand Slam winner broke Cornet in the first game of the match and was never troubled after that, as she broke the Frenchwoman once more in the first set and twice in the second for a comprehensive victory.

Williams had far too much firepower for Cornet, hitting 25 winners to four including six aces. One in the second set was clocked at 200 kmh (125 mph). The third-seeded American stepped up

a gear from her opening-round win over fellow countrywoman Varvara Lepchenko.

Sharapova was earlier forced to withdraw with a right collarbone injury. The Russian world number two sent

scans of her injury to her doctor in New York, who advised her not to do any overhead training for at least a week.

It is the second year in a row that Sharapova has withdrawn from the tournament without playing a shot. In 2012 she skipped Brisbane because

of an ankle injury and went straight to Melbourne to prepare for the Australian Open, where she finished runner-up to Victoria Azarenka.

Sharapova said she would do the same this year, passing up the opportunity of playing in Sydney next week to make sure she is fit for Melbourne.

Former Wimbledon champion Kvitova, who won in Brisbane in 2011, went down 6-4, 7-5 to Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, while Italy's Errani lost in three sets to 2012 runner-up Daniela Hantuchova 4-6, 6-1, 7-5.

Top seed and world number one

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KNEE SARA

round match against German Sabine Lisicki on Wednesday. In the men's draw, Uzbekistan's Denis

Victoria Azarenka plays her second-

Istomin downed eighth seed Slovakian Martin Klizan 6-1 6-2, while Austria's Jurgen Melzer, the seventh seed, beat US qualifier Denis Kudla 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Div I cricket

University ground and Young Cricketers beat Indira Road Krira Chakra by four wickets at the Dhaka University ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DHANMONDI PROGOTI SANGHA: 198 all out in 50 overs (Rawshon Mahmud 60, Isaq 25; Humayon 3-25, Omar Faruk 2-28). PARTEX SPORTING CLUB: 204-5 in 27.5 overs (Salahuddin Pappu 136, Aslam Hossain 26; Rawshon Mahmud 3-51) Result: Partex Sporting Club won by five

wickets. CITY CLUB: 183 all out in 48 overs

(Tonumoy Ghosh 65, Saddam Hossain 34, Sajjadur Hoque 27, Hasibur Rahman 27; Shah Arfan 3-38, Noor Alam 2-6, Moyen Uddin 2-24). BKSP: 187-6 in 48.3 overs (Rafsan Al

Mahmud 70, Joyraj Shaikh 36, Sazid Akhtar 29, Moyen Uddin 25; Shipon 4-24, Rasid 2-24)

Result: BKSP won by four wickets.

BANGLADESH BOYS CLUB: 263-6 in 50 overs (Saiful Islam 90, Mokhlesur Rahman 63, Azad Khan 34, Sakhawat Hossain 34; Habib 3-59, Manik Das1-26).

UTTARA SPORTING CLUB: 238 all out in | The Bangladesh Hockey 48.5 overs (Habib 55, Rakin Ahmed 54, Ahmed Kabir 54, Rajib Prosad 40; Rezwanul Islam 3-50, Mahfuzur Rahman 2-43).

Result: Bangladesh Boys Club won by 25

INDIRA ROAD KRIRA CHAKRA: 188 al out in 41 overs (Sadman Islam 45, Aijal Ahmed 38, Imran Hossain 30; Hafiz Al Hassan 4-29, Nasir Uddin 2-35, Shajahan 2-33).

YOUNG CRICKETERS: 189-6 in 39.4 overs (Mithu 69 not out, Rubel 61; Sohag Reza 2-33, Akash 2-38)

Result: Young Cricketers won by four

wickets.

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SPORTS REPORTER

keeper Al Amin has been suspended for two matches while the club's equipment manager Mohiuddin Liton has been served with a stadiumban for the entire season following their unruly behaviour in during the 2-1 loss against Muktijoddha Sangsad on December 29 at the Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni.

Al Amin and Mohiuddin have also been fined Tk 10,000 and Tk 25,000 respectively, during a meeting of the disciplinary committee of BFF at its headquarters on Monday. Al Amin had used abusive words against the referee in that match while Mohiuddin hit the referee after the match.

Hockey camp from Jan 5

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation yesterday announced a 26-member preliminary squad for training ahead of the Hockey World League (Round-2) which will be held in New Delhi from February 18.

The players have been asked to report to head coach Mahbub Harun and assistant coach Jahirul Islam Mitul on January 5 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

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