

SPORT

Tamim's top score in vain

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal top-scored for St Lucia Zouks with 33 in the team's third game of the Caribbean Premier League on Tuesday, but could not prevent his side from going down to a 33-run defeat to Antigua Hawksbills at the Beausejour Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a target of 166, Tamim and Andre Fletcher gave St Lucia a brisk start as the pair scored 29 runs off the first 16 balls. However, wickets at regular intervals slowed St Lucia's chase as they were restricted to 133 for 8. Tamim will face off against Shakib's Barbados Tridents in St Lucia's next game on Friday morning.

Zia leaves for World Cup tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman will leave Dhaka tomorrow for Norway to take part in the Chess World Cup which will be held in the city of Tromso from August 10 to September 3.

Zia will play two games in the first round against ninth-ranked player in the world, Boris Gelfand (rating 2764) of Israel, on August 11 and 12 respectively, said a press release from Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) yesterday.

Since this is a knock-out tournament with 128 competitors taking part, Zia will need 1.5 points from two games to advance to the second round. However, if both players win a game each, then a rapid play-off will take place to decide the winner.

Zia qualified for this meet after becoming champion in the Asian Zonal Chess Championship held in Sri Lanka in February this year.

The BCF provided Dhaka-Oslo-Tromso-Oslo-Dhaka air ticket for Zia, who also received a grant of 25,000 dollars from Bangladesh Cricket Board for other expenses.

Silicone trick?

AFP, Sydney

Cricket officials are investigating whether players in the Ashes series have been using silicone tape on their bats to avoid nicks being detected by "Hot Spot" technology, an Australian TV station reported Wednesday.

Australia skipper Michael Clarke and England batsman Kevin Pietersen both denied any knowledge of the use of silicone-based tape, saying such a practice would amount to cheating.

Australia's Channel Nine said the International Cricket Council (ICC) general manager of cricket, Geoff Allardice, would be investigating the matter in Durham, where the fourth Test begins on Friday.

An ICC spokesman confirmed that Allardice would be arriving in Durham on Thursday to meet the two teams to address their concerns on the controversial Decision Review System (DRS) but declined to comment on the alleged use of silicone-based tape.

Nine did not provide sources and gave no details of whether the Australian or England batsmen may have been using the tape to fool Hot Spot, which uses thermal cameras to see if a batsman has hit the ball, either with his bat or pad.

Papon to counter Forum

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon met with certain representatives of the Divisional and District Sports Associations (DSAs) yesterday in order to exchange views ahead of the BCB elections.

Many see this meeting as a strategy to counter the Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organizers Council -- popularly known as Forum and an association within the DSAs -- who have openly voiced their opinion against certain processes of the election.

The DSAs are a major force in the upcoming elections. 71 councillors will be chosen from the DSAs, out of whom 12 will be elected for directorship roles in the BCB's executive committee.

"There is a relation with the associations regarding the election but there is no relation with Forum

regarding the BCB elections. Forum is just a group within those associations, but it does not mean that every councillor will be selected by Forum. I never heard its name, so I don't want to recognise this association," Papon told reporters following the meeting. "Every time there is any election in any sports organisation Forum always raises their issues only for their benefit," he added.

The president, who had met 31 representatives yesterday, stated that he would be meeting 20 other members of DSAs in the coming days. He further stated that they would not interfere with the district associations in their selection of the councillors. The board could however support those who have been involved in the cricketing sphere for a while.

"For example we want Akram Khan on the board because he will help Bangladesh cricket to develop, but it does not mean that Akram is already selected. The districts and divisions will either select Akram or

not," he said.

The president of Forum, Yusuf Jamil Babu, in a phone conversation with The Daily Star said that Forum was not worried about the meeting.

"Forum will remain as strong and united as ever. We are paying this no heed. It doesn't mean anything to us if just five or six general secretaries out of the 71 attended this meeting," said Babu.

With regards to Chittagong Divisional Sport Association's general secretary AJM Nasir being present in the meeting he said, "He received a contract from the BCB (for the Cox's Bazar stadium), so there's no harm in him being there."

In reply to Babu's statement, ad-hoc committee member IH Mallick said, "General secretaries aren't the only ones who represent the association. There were 31 representatives who met the president today and the number will increase in the coming days. They have given us the assurance that they will stand up against the Forum."

U-19s on top after Mosaddek ton

SPORTS REPORTER

Mosaddek Hossain slammed an unbeaten hundred as Bangladesh Under-19s set a challenging target for their England counterparts in their second match in the tri-nation tournament at London Road, Sleaford last night.

Chasing a formidable 287 to win, England Under-19s were behind the required run rate at 172 for 3 in 36 overs when this report was filed.

Earlier, the tourists rode on a mammoth 162-run third wicket stand between Sadman Islam and Mosaddek after skipper Mehedy Hasan chose to bat first.

Sadman had given a strong foundation along with Shahriar Sumon as the pair added 57 runs in the opening stand before Sumon was bowled by pacer Josh Shaw for a 37-ball 35 that contained five boundaries.

Bangladesh soon lost another wicket when Mehedi Hasan fell to William Rhodes. That brought Mosaddek to the crease and he seized the initiative.

The English bowlers toiled against Mosaddek and Sadman before finally left-arm pacer Tom Barber got rid of Sadman, who smashed eleven boundaries during his 126-ball 86.

Mosaddek remained not out on 110 and hit nine fours and two sixes during his well-composed knock.

Bangladesh Under-19s first match against Pakistan Under-19s was washed out.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH UNDER-19S: 286-4 in 50 overs (Shahriar 35, Sadman 86, Mehedi 5, Musaddek 110 not out, Mehedy 16, Nazmul 13 not out, extras 21; Barber 2-57, Shaw 1-48, Rhodes 1-42).

ENGLAND UNDER-19S: 172 for 3 in 36 overs (Higgins 45, Hameed 67, Duckett 41 not out, Rifat 1-34, Mehedy 2-41)



Two performers, who will take part in the opening ceremony of the World Athletics Championships in Moscow on Saturday, take a break during rehearsal at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow yesterday. This will be the last tournament at the famous venue before it will be rebuilt for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

U-16s trial on Aug 13, 14

Rene to choose players

SPORTS REPORTER



After some hesitation about taking part in the qualifying round of the AFC U-16 Championship, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has finally decided to send a strong team to Kyrgyzstan, and has given coach Rene Koster the responsibility to select the squad through a two-day open trial on August 13-14.

The football's governing body was in hesitation to send the team, especially after the dismal performance in the SAFF U-16 Championship where they suffered a humiliating 5-1 defeat against Nepal to be eliminated from the semifinals. Rene Koster had blamed poor quality of players, among other things, for that debacle and now he has been given the sole responsibility to choose players.

"Rene (Koster) will choose the players from the trial as he was not happy with the players picked for the U-16 SAFF squad," said BFF's technical director BA Jubair Nipu yesterday.

However, the trial coincides with the two-day nation-wide strike and question has been raised whether they could get enough players for the camp to select the team.

"We had to fix the date on August 13 and 14 as Rene is scheduled to leave Dhaka for the Netherlands on August 14. Besides, we will have to send the list of players to the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) by August 21. That's why we are going to hold the trial on August 13 and 14, but we are hoping that a good number of players from the districts near to the capital will turn up and we have been informing the District Football Associations in this regard," explained Nipu.

Bangladesh have been placed alongside Oman, Qatar and hosts Kyrgyzstan and the top finisher will advance to the final round. The qualifying round is scheduled to be held in Kyrgyzstan from September 25-29.

Mo bears British hope

IAAF World C'ships start on Saturday

AFP, London



Mo Farah will lead Britain's bid for World Championships glory as the star of one of the strongest teams ever to represent the United Kingdom, according to UK Athletics performance director Neil Black.

Farah will start his World Championship campaign in Moscow

on Saturday by trying to win the 10,000 metres title that eluded him in Daegu two years ago when he was beaten by Ethiopia's Ibrahim Jeilan in a tense sprint finish.

Farah will then return to the Luzhniki Stadium, scene of the 1980 Olympic triumphs of legendary Britons Allan Wells, Sebastian Coe, Steve Ovett and Daley Thompson, to defend his world 5,000m title.

If he were to win both, repeating his epic 5,000m and 10,000m double at

last year's Olympics, it would etch Farah's name in the pantheon of long-distance running legends.

Farah's status as Britain's greatest distance runner was cemented when he claimed his two titles in the Olympic Stadium last year, but another double in Moscow would make him only the second man in history, after Kenenisa Bekele, to hold Olympic and world crowns in the 5,000m and 10,000m at the same time.

Walton rowing on August 11

SPORTS REPORTER

Like the previous years, a boat race (rowing) competition is set to be held at the Singna Kumri Lake under Kalihati Upazila of Tangail on August 11 where some 150 rowers will take part.

The Singna Social Welfare Jubo Sangha, with the assistance of Walton and Cute, is organising the sixth edition of the competition which will feature five events - 100 rowers, 50 rowers, 25 rowers, seven rowers and seven women rowers.

Mir Kaiser Sadik Sajib, convenor of the competition, disclosed the information at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium's conference room where Walton's additional director FM Iqbal Bin Anwar was also present, among others.

Champions in each of the five events will receive Walton LED colour TV while runners-up and third-place finishers will get 21-inch colour TV and 14-inch colour TV respectively.

Novak back with big win

AFP, Montreal

Novak Djokovic returned to competition after a post Wimbledon pause on Tuesday and coasted into the third round at the ATP Montreal Masters.

The Serb world number one easily defeated Florian Mayer 6-2, 6-1, then proceeded to dance with a tennis ball mascot with choreography he said he and friends worked out last month on holiday in Croatia.

Mayer double-faulted to lose the 29-minute opening set and never made an impression on the top seed.

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