

T20 series next week

Mushfiquir's nationals v Nasir's A

SPORTS REPORTER



National all-rounder Nasir Hossain will lead the A team in a three-match T20 Challenge Series against a Mushfiquir Rahim-led National team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur next week.

The matches have been scheduled for December 10, 12 and 14 as head coach Shane Jurgensen feels more attention should be attached to this format ahead of next year's ICC Twenty20 World Cup at home.

In the series special focus will also be on Nasir with the fact that the board is searching for a deputy of skipper Mushfiquir.

Mushfiquir's tenure as captain has recently been extended until the 2015 World Cup, but the Bangladesh Cricket Board failed to take any decision regarding the long-term appointment of the vice-captain as Mahmudullah Riyad's inconsistent performance gave the BCB a cause for concern.

"Yes, this is a kind of opportunity for him [Nasir]. We will give our suggestion regarding the vice-captain issue to the board, so we have given him the job with some plans," said selector Habibur Bashar. Cricket operations committee chairman Akram Khan also favoured Bashar's plans.

Jurgensen demanded a quality competition and that is why the board retreated from their initial plan of a four-team tournament. Opener Tamim Iqbal has not been drafted as the left-hander is yet to fully recover from his abdominal problem that kept him out of the third ODI and only T20I against New Zealand.

"Tamim is not yet match fit. We tried our best to make two strong teams. We have picked some players like Imrul Kayes, Forhad Reza and Arafat Sunny based on their performance in the just-concluded Dhaka Premier League. There was Rokibul Hasan also but we are not considering him for T20 version like pacer Robiul Islam," said Bashar.

"We are yet to attune ourselves with the T20 format. Also we don't have enough options so that we could think differently with the T20 squad," added the former national skipper.

NATIONAL TEAM

Mushfiquir Rahim (captain), Anamul Hoque, Shamsur Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan, Naem Islam, Soumya Sarkar, Mahmudullah Riyad, Abdur Razzak, Shohag Gazi, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Ziaur Rahman, Rubel Hossain and Al-Amin.

A TEAM

Nasir Hossain (captain), Jahurul Islam, Mohammad Mithun, Imrul Kayes, Mominul Hoque, Marshal Ayub, Shabbir Rahman, Nazmul Hossain, Farhad Reza, Arafat Sunny, Elias Sunny, Muktar Ali and Alauddin Babu.

BD win 7 gold

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh won seven gold medals on the second day of the Asia Pacific Games of Special Olympics in Newcastle, Australia yesterday.

Of seven gold medals, four came from badminton, two from track and field and the last one came from swimming, said a Grameenphone press release yesterday.

The gold winners are shuttlers Munni Akter, Ashikul Islam, Rabeya Khatun and Mizanur Rahman, swimmer Parul Akter, long-jumper Chaiti Akter and Humayun while one silver and one bronze medal came in athletics.

According to the official website of Special Olympics, shuttler Munni won gold in Division F-2 category, Rabeya won gold in Division F-9 category while male shuttlers Ashikur and Mizanur won gold in Division M-8 and M-13 category respectively.

Long-jumper Humayun won gold medal in Division M-2, clearing 4.81 metres while Ratan Mia finished second in the same category clearing 4.5 metres.

Parul Akter beat Ho Ying Chenung of Hong Kong to win gold medal in 50m breaststroke in Division F-3 with a 51.10 seconds, while Chenung clocked 54.93 seconds to win silver medal.

Chaiti Akter won the Long-jump gold in Division F-3 clearing three metres while Australia's Eleanor Boylen finished behind Chaiti clearing 2.98 metres. Misti Akter won silver medal in Division F-1 of long-jump clearing 2.77 metres, according to the website.

Apart from individual disciplines, Bangladesh football teams qualified for the final beating Australia and India at both 11-a-side and 5-a-side unified football. In cricket, Bangladesh reached the final outplaying Australia and the finals of both cricket and football will take place on Thursday.

Black Caps flay Windies

AFP, Dunedin



New Zealand's Brendon McCullum and Ross Taylor tamed the toothless West Indies attack on the opening day of the first Test on Tuesday, both scoring centuries as the home side reached an imposing 367 for three.

At close of play McCullum was 109 not out off just 122 balls, with Taylor unbeaten on 103. Hamish Rutherford (62) and Peter Fulton (61) earlier chipped in with half centuries on a dispiriting day for the tourists.

New Zealand lost the toss but quickly made the West Indies attack look ordinary despite a green-tinged wicket and cloud cover for much of the day.

The cloud cleared at tea, when New Zealand were 194-3, and in the bright sunshine of the final session Taylor and McCullum produced a ruthless display of power batting to press home their advantage.

New Zealand's senior batsmen added a further 173 runs in the final session, heaping more misery on the tired West Indies attack, ending the day with an unbeaten partnership worth 182.

Captain McCullum, who made no secret of his wish to bowl first, was at his aggressive best, bringing up the 300 with



Mohita Sachdev of India plays a backhand return against Nabila Akter of Bangladesh during their first round singles match of the International Open Badminton Challenge at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

BANGLADESH INT'L OPEN BADMINTON

Mixed bag for hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi shuttlers had mixed results on the inaugural day of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Open Badminton Challenge at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Raisuddin, top-ranked shuttler of Bangladesh, moved into the third round of men's singles while youngster Chand Lal was eliminated from the second round after producing a stunning result against a New Zealand shuttler in the first round.

But the other Bangladeshi shuttlers including national champion Enamul Haque, Bangladesh Games champion Ayman Ibn Zaman and the others – Shamol Ahmed, Arif Hossain, Mukter Hossain, Moajjam Hossain, Abdullah Al Masrafi, Tushar Krishna Roy faced early exit from the first round of men's singles.

Rais came from one set behind to beat Malaysia's Jinn Yee Tin 14-21, 21-15, 21-19 to move into the third round while Chand Lal stunned New Zealand's Shane Thomas Masinipeni 21-12, 17-21, 22-20 but the young-

ster, who does not have a world ranking, could not keep his tempo in the second round against tournament's fifth seed Nathaniel Ernest Sulistyo of Indonesia and lost 21-13, 21-9.

"I was confident from the first set but could not give my best. Then I won the second set which helped me become more confident in the third set and finally won the game," said Raisuddin, who is 20th seed with a 1227-ranking at the Asian level.

Rais will face tough competition from Shubhankar Dey of India, who is ranked 105th in Asia but the Bangladeshi shuttler is hopeful that he would carry his form into the third round.

Bangladesh had one month's preparation for the tournament under Malaysian coach but the results were frustrating except for Rais and Lal Chand's. Promising shuttler Ayman meanwhile had little chance against tournament's fourth seed Sri Lankan Olympian Dinuka Karunaratne and he lost 21-9, 21-18.

"Before the start of training, we weren't active and it is not possible to produce the best with only one month's training," said Rais. "Besides, the opponents are technically better

than Bangladeshi shuttlers, who do not often get chance to play international matches."

Rais believes the Bangladeshi young players are better than the players who were given bye in the first round but they had to lose the game against better players due to not having any international ranking.

"Our players are not familiar with the stepping and strokes of the opponents because of inexperience. So we can't do well against them," said Rais. "I believe we can also do better if we are given training and tournaments round the year."

In the women's singles, Rehana Parvin and Nabila Akter were knocked out by India's Juhi Dewangan and Mohita Sachdev respectively from the first round.

However, Enamul Haque and Ahsan Habib Parash pair moved into the second round of the men's doubles beating Sri Lanka's Bodhimaluwa and Samarasinghe in 21-8, 21-9 sets.

A total of 92 shuttlers including 22 women from ten countries are taking part in the five-day tournament which consists of five events – men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Shakib leads FMC to final

SPORTS REPORTER

A dominant performance by ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan led FMC Fighters to the final of the CJKS Corporate T20 Cricket Tournament, after they beat Prime Super Kings by 77 runs in the first semifinal at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Batting first, FMC rode on Shakib's 34-ball 39—an innings which included three fours and a six—to post 123 in 20 overs. Prime's Sohrawardi Shuvo finished with figures of 4 for 22.

In reply, Prime—who had the likes of Anamul Haque (0), Mahmudullah Riyad (0) and Aftab Ahmed (1) – were bundled out for just 46 runs. They were caught in FMC's spin web, as Sabbir Rahman (3-8) and Shakib (3-2) shared six wickets between them. Shakib took the key wickets of Mahmudullah and Aftab. Shuvo, who was the highest wickettaker, also scored the highest, a 31-ball 28, for Prime.

Hemanta in Holland

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-19 football captain Hemanta Biswas has reached the Netherlands and started training with FC Twente U-19 side.

Bangladesh national team's Dutch assistant coach Rene Koster, in a message sent from Enschede, said that Hemanta, along with Nepal's national footballer Bimal Gharti Magar, reached the country last Thursday and trained on Friday and Monday.

He was scheduled to train yesterday morning and play a match in front of the club officials in the afternoon.

STAR SPORT DESK



Bangladesh all-rounder Forhad Reza has been nominated for the ICC 'Spirit of Cricket Award', making him the only Bangladeshi nominee to feature in the upcoming ICC Awards for 2013.

According to a press release from the ICC, the 27-year-old has been bracketed with Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene for his act of sportsmanship during Bangladesh's group stage match of ICC World Twenty20 against Pakistan in Pallekele on September 25, 2012.

While attempting to catch Pakistan opener Nasir Jamshed, Farhad had touched the boundary. Even before the on-field umpired could refer the catch to the third



umpire, Forhad singled a six, confirming that his foot had touched the boundary. Bangladesh eventually lost that match by eight wickets and were knocked out of the tournament.

Jayawardene, the other nominee, was chosen for not waiting for the

umpire's decision after edging a catch to the wicketkeeper when he was batting on 91 against New Zealand in a Test match in Galle in November 2012.

The individual awards will be decided by a 32-member panel headed by Anil Kumble as the ICC Cricket Committee chairman. The time frame of performances considered for the awards was from August 2, 2012 to August 25, 2013. Cricketers receiving the highest number of votes will be declared winners on December 14.

Following are the nominations of some of the other awards:

ICC Cricketer of the year award: Hashim Amla, James Anderson, Michael Clarke, Alastair Cook, MS Dhoni and Kumar Sangakkara.

Test cricketer of the year: Hashim

Amla, James Anderson, Ravichandran Ashwin, Michael Clarke, Cheteshwar Pujara, Dale Steyn.

One-day cricketer of the year: Saeed Ajmal, Shikhar Dhawan, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Misbah ul Haq, Ravindra Jadeja, Kumar Sangakkara.

ICC's Test team of the year: Alastair Cook (capt), Cheteshwar Pujara, Hashim Amla, Michael Clarke, Michael Hussey, AB de Villiers, MS Dhoni, Graeme Swann, Dale Steyn, James Anderson, Vernon Philander. **ICC's one-day team of the year:** Tillakaratne Dilshan, Shikhar Dhawan, Hashim Amla, Kumar Sangakkara, AB de Villiers, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Saeed Ajmal, Mitchell Starc, James Anderson, Lasith Malinga.

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Winners of Quiz 01

1. Mohammad Saeed Islam, Dhaka University
2. Saiful Islam, Dhaka
3. Tanveer Rashid, Gulshan
4. Mahia Sunnah Mahim, Dhaka Cantonment
5. Ahmad Abdur Rahman, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

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