



Muktijoddha players erupt with joy after winning 5-3 on penalties against Team BJMC in the second semifinal of the Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Yogendran, Ma clinch singles titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Yogendran Khirshnan of Malaysia and Pai Hsiao Ma of Chinese Taipei clinched the singles titles in the men's and women's group respectively in the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh Open International Badminton Challenge which concluded at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Yogendran beat Hsu Jen Hao of Chinese Taipei in straight sets (23-21, 21-14) in the final while Pai Hsiao Ma defeated Saili Rane of India in straight sets (21-10, 21-13) in their respective finals.

Chinese Taipei pair of Liang Jui Wei and Liao Kuan Hao won the men's doubles title beating their compatriot Hung Ying Yuan and Cheng Heng Su pair (21-13, 21-14).

Indian pair of Prajakta Sawant and Arathi Sara Sunil clinched the women's doubles crown beating compatriot pair Dhanya Nair and Mohita Sahdev (22-20, 15-4).

In the mixed doubles, M Nurizwan and S Saniru of Malaysia won the title beating India's Abhishek Ahlawat and Sanskriti Chhabra (21-10, 21-11).

SECOND ODI TODAY

Duminy won't write off India

YAHOO, Durban

South Africa humiliated India by 141 runs in the first one-day international at Johannesburg on Thursday, but Proteas' middle-order batsman JP Duminy is aware of the threat posed by the visitors and said it would be a mistake to write off the world champions in the remainder of the three-match series.

Duminy said India are the top ranked ODI team for a reason and added that South Africa are prepared and will fight hard as India look to bounce back in the series.

"It will be naive of us to write them off. There were some bumps and bruises, but like I said, it will be stupid of us to write them off," Duminy said ahead of Sunday's second ODI at Kingsmead.

There were doubts over the second ODI following anti-apartheid icon and former president Nelson Mandela's death on Thursday; but Cricket South Africa said on Friday the match will go ahead as scheduled and will be marked by a tribute to Mandela.

BCB sitting on chief selector

SPORTS REPORTER



The Tigers return to business tomorrow and, to start with, will have some fitness training before engaging into the three-match T20 Challenge series.

The camp was scheduled to start today but the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has deferred it by a day due to hartal called by the opposition in the capital. The date of the first T20 match between the national team and the A team has also been changed.

The first match now will be held on December 11 instead of 10 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while the second match is on December 12 and the third on December 14 at the same venue.

A busy schedule lies ahead of

the Tigers in the next year at home. Their campaign starts with the series against Sri Lanka, who arrive in the capital on January 24 to play two Tests, three ODIs and two T20 Internationals.

And within a short break the Tigers will play the Asia Cup, also at home, starting from February 26. The regional event will be followed by the ICC World Twenty20, starting with the Bangladesh-Afghanistan match on March 16.

The board has already given captain Mushfiqur Rahim and head coach Shane Jurgensen long-term contracts keeping in mind the big challenges ahead including the World Cup in 2015, but still the team's think-tank remains incomplete following BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon's unnecessary dilly-dallying regarding the appointment of the chief selector, a post that has remained vacant since Akram

Khan resigned in September.

After the November 27 board meeting, the BCB boss hinted at a possible return for former chief selector Faruque Ahmed as he said: "Many names have been suggested and amongst them Faruque Ahmed has massive support. Minhazul Abedin and Khaled Mashud's names have also come up. I will take a final decision soon."

Many believe that Papon could have given his ruling in that meeting to confirm this vital appointment as most of the members were in favour of former national skipper Faruque.

But unfortunately ten days have gone by but the decision has not been taken yet. Many board insiders have pointed out that Papon's own political business is behind the delay although he has been seen attending a number of corpo-

Ayub ties the knot

SPORTS REPORTER

The Year 2013 seems to be a good time for Bangladesh's cricketers to get hitched. Opener Tamim Iqbal married in June, pacer Shafiul Islam tied the knot in August, Mushfiqur Rahim got engaged during the New Zealand series in October and Shakib Al Hasan will be organising his official wedding reception this month.

25-year-old Marshall Ayub, who made his international debut in the Test series against New Zealand, became the latest national player to tie the knot. Ayub got married to Sharmin Ahmed Tithy, an honours student, in a ceremony that took place in Sutrapur in old Dhaka on Friday. Everybody wishes that Ayub's new beginning on the personal front will further enhance his budding cricket career.

It's Johnson again

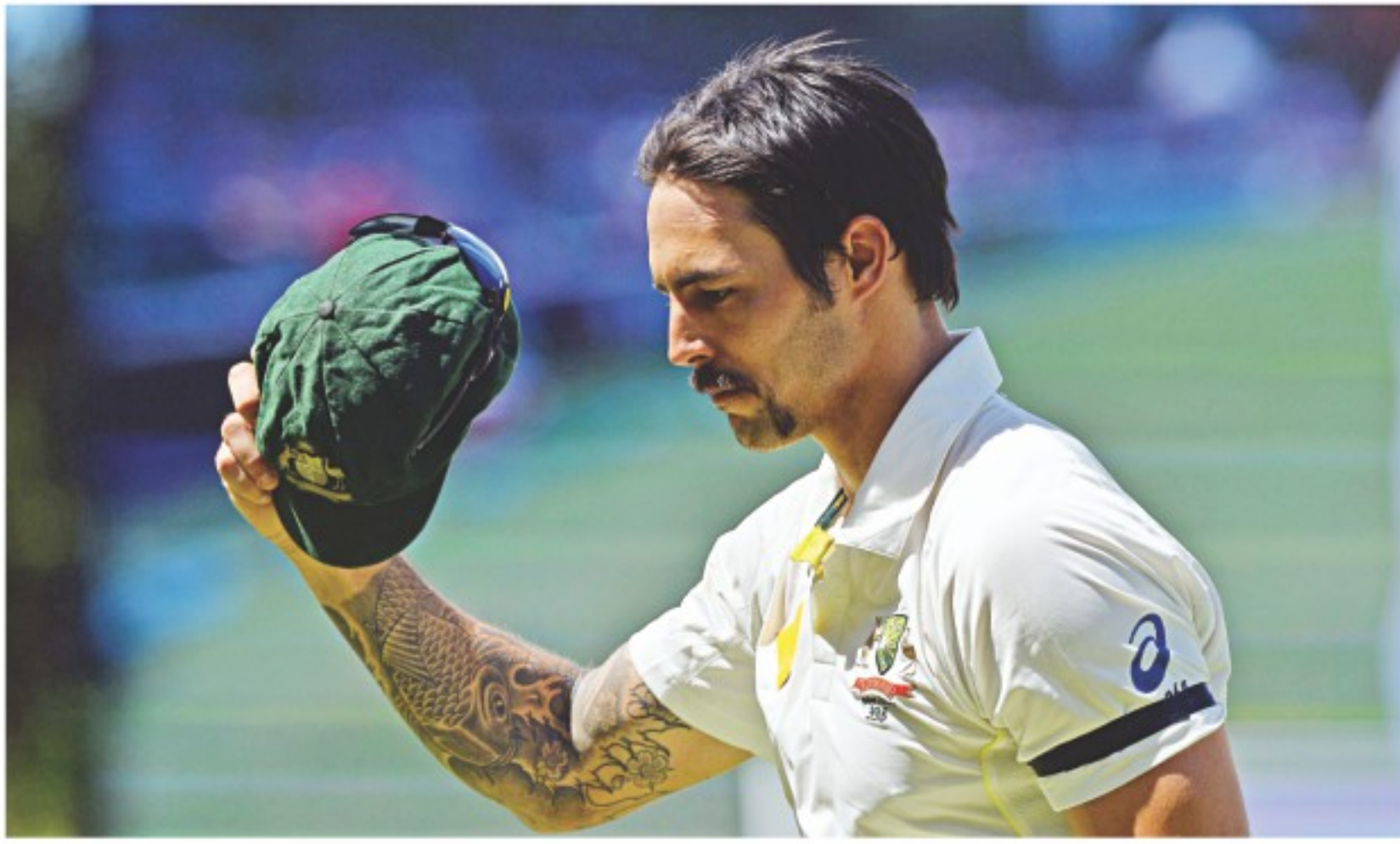
REUTERS, Adelaide



Wrecking ball Mitchell Johnson laid further scars on England's battered psyche with a stunning seven-wicket haul that skittled tourists for 172 and put Australia in complete control of the second Ashes Test after the third day on Saturday.

The red-hot Queenslander unleashed a withering spell of pace bowling at Adelaide Oval to take three wickets in his second over after lunch, then cleaned up the tail before tea to leave England 199 runs short of avoiding the follow-on.

With the luxury of a further two days' play, Australia captain Michael Clarke sent his batsmen in to give his bowlers a



Australian wrecker-in-chief Mitchell Johnson salutes the Adelaide crowd as he walks back to pavilion with seven wickets on the third day of the second Ashes Test against England yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

rest and fired by an unbeaten 83 from opener David Warner, they pushed the lead to a mammoth 530 runs.

Australia will make England sweat in the field until close to lunch on Day Four, which is forecast to be a sweltering 32 degrees Celsius, before their bowlers push for the win on a pitch showing ample turn and reverse swing.

"We want to get them back out there in the field and keep cooking them a bit," Johnson said.

No team has ever made more than 418 in a fourth innings chase, and England, improbably, are staring at a 2-0 deficit in the five-Test series ahead of a trip to Johnson's favourite hunting ground in Perth where England have not won since 1978.

Only months after returning home from England in ignominy after a third straight Ashes defeat, Australia's turnaround has been little short of astonishing, and the principal architect has been the man selectors snubbed for the northern series.

Following nine wickets and a player-of-the-match performance to rout England in the series-opener in Brisbane, Johnson's 7-40 was the best Ashes haul in over 100 years at Adelaide Oval and featured two hat-trick chances that ultimately

went begging.

Needing 371 to avoid the follow-on, England staggered to 116-4 at lunch, then walked into a fire storm after the break as Johnson kicked off one of the great spells of Ashes bowling by removing debutant Ben Stokes leg before wicket for one, confirmed on review after initially given not out.

Four balls later, Johnson had Matt Prior caught behind by fellow wicketkeeper Brad Haddin for a duck to continue his miserable series and then sent the crowd of 36,000 into delirium when he bowled Stuart Broad with the next ball.

Graeme Swann fended away the hat-trick ball, but the fired-up Johnson later took the spinner's wicket when he slashed an edge to the slips where Clarke clinched a brilliant catch.

Johnson then bowled paceman James Anderson for another first-ball duck, pegging back his middle-stump for a second attempt at a hat-trick.

Playing a lone hand for England, Ian Bell survived the hat-trick ball and a review for lbw to raise his half-century with an elegant cut through point for four, and number 11 batsman Monty Panesar showed courage under fire to help his partner add 37 for the 10th wicket.

Reds' first in nine years

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktijoddha Sangsad KC ensured their berth in the final of the Walton Federation Cup after overcoming some questionable decisions and a dogged Team BJMC 5-3 (1-1) in penalty shoot-out in a rocky semifinal encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into the tie-breaker after Elita Kingsley's headed lead in the 76th minute was cancelled eleven minutes later by BJMC's Guinean forward Ismael Bangoura, from a controversially earned penalty. The thirty added minutes failed to produce a decider, forcing the match to a tie-breaker where Muktijoddha's substitute goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton saved a shot before Kingsley converted the fifth spot kick to take the All Reds to their first final in nine years.

The All Reds will take on favourites Sheikh Jamal DC in the final which will be played at the same venue on Friday.

The match was an even and gruelling affair, which changed its course from one side to the other throughout the 120 minutes. Muktijoddha perhaps had better ball possession and were more enterprising as they adopted an attacking strategy with Kingsley and his compatriot Nkowcha leading the line. The first attack almost ended up in a goal as Kingsley thudded the woodwork with a header before another attempt from the Nigerian was palmed away by Team BJMC keeper Ariful Islam. BJMC had a close shave when Abdullah Parvez backheeled a minus from Ismael Bangoura from six yards out, but that was easily gripped by Muktijoddha's veteran 'keeper Aminul Islam.

There were numerous dangerous plays in the game as neither side managed to establish a stranglehold and such dangerous play saw both the keepers' go out injured in space of six minutes. Upfront, it was Muktijoddha who dominated the attacks slightly with direct incision while BJMC forwards tried their luck from a distance. The deadlock broke on the 76th minute when Kingsley powerfully headed in a curling free-kick from Abdullah Parvez.

Team BJMC put an extra man forward and were caught on the counter in the 85th minute when Mohammad Biplob played a through ball, which Kingsley took possession off coming from an inside position while Nkowcha, who was on an offside position, allowed came in inside. The goalie was off the line and it would have been a goal, but for the offside flag from the linesman.

If that was not controversial enough, the referee Jalaluddin made sure there would be one as he blew his whistle for a penalty as Muktijoddha's substitute keeper Liton tried to win the ball against an onrushing Bangoura. There was a challenge from the Guinean rather than the other way round, but the referee decided it was a foul.

The equaliser forced the match into extra time where both sides came close to scoring but failed to come up with one before Liton's save and Kingsley's conversion won it for Muktijoddha.

Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who was livid for the dubious decisions during the game, said the penalty was 'perhaps a pre-decided decision'.

Rain robs Black Caps

AFP, Dunedin



New Zealand were stranded an agonising 33 runs short of their first Test victory in more than a year Saturday when rain washed out the final session of the first Test against the West Indies in Dunedin.

After four days of bright sunshine, the heavy downpour began at tea on the final day when New Zealand were 79-4 chasing 112 for victory.

After wrapping up the West Indies second innings for 507 before lunch, the modest target appeared a formality despite the forecast rain.

However, the New Zealand batsmen faltered from the start and were rapidly reduced to 44-4 before Ross Taylor and Corey Anderson arrested the slide.

Anderson finished not out 20 with Taylor on 16, and a Test that at one stage looked as if it would be over in four days instead petered out to a draw on the fifth.

"We would have won that, I believe, if it hadn't rained," said a dejected Brendon

McCullum who is yet to taste success in 10 Tests since replacing Taylor as captain after their last win in Sri Lanka in November last year.

"It was disappointing to set ourselves up and be 33 short."

West Indies skipper Darren Sammy described it as a "moral victory" for his side coming off two innings defeats in India.

"We're quite happy from the position we were in at the end of our first innings," he said.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 609-9 declared (Taylor 217 not out, McCullum 113, Rutherford 62, Fulton 61; Best 3-148)

WEST INDIES: First innings 213 (Chanderpaul 76; Southee 4-52, Boult 3-40)

WEST INDIES: Second innings 507 (Edwards 59, Bravo 218, Deonarine 5 2, Sammy 80; Southee 2-101, Boult 2-81, Wagner 3-112, Sodhi 2-155)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 79-4 in 30 overs (Rutherford 20, Taylor 16 not out Anderson 20 not out; Shillingford 4-26)

Result: Match drawn.

Player-of-the-match: Ross Taylor.

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