

Bangladesh trounce UAE

SPORTS REPORTER



It was quite a spectacle at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. More than five thousand spectators turned up at the big bowl to watch Bangladesh take on United Arab Emirates in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers. The number is quite astonishing considering the fact that the marquee clashes of Bangladesh Premier League often fails to draw such crowd.

The hosts' win against Jordan on Wednesday perhaps played a big role in drawing such a big crowd to a football match played between the U-16 teams. Those who came, with tickets worth Tk 50 and Tk 100, had their money's worth as the hosts trounced UAE 6-0 with some eye-catching display.

The girls in green dominated proceedings right from the word go and took a deserved 4-0 lead by the end of the first half. Bipasha Mali started the goal-fest with a simple tap-in in the sixth minute after Kridhna Rani had dribbled past a host of UAE defenders before delivering a cut-back for the striker.

The lead was doubled three minutes later when Sanjida Akhter, arguably the best player on the pitch yesterday, found the top corner of the net with a powerful shot from inside the box. Razia Sultana thudded the crossbar with a sumptuous volley before Sanjida made it 3-0 in the 23rd minute with a clever dink from inside the box. Krishna made it 4-0 a minute before the end of the first half with a dink almost identical to Sanjida's.

Chances kept coming at the other side of the break, and despite spurning quite a number of those, the Bangladesh girls did increase the margin in the 67th minute when Bipasha scored with a simple nod from inside the six yards.

Lipi Akhter came off the bench to create more havoc in the UAE backline, but had to wait till the first minute of stoppage time to get herself on the scoresheet. The second half performance might not have been as emphatic as the first, but the skill and footballing sense of these young Bangladesh girls have come as a pleasant surprise in these qualifiers.

Even the Iranians, who had earlier defeated India 2-1 to go top of the table alongside Bangladesh—both teams have six points each-- were compelled to take notice.

"We did not think Bangladesh would play so well (against Jordan on Wednesday). Now among the remaining two matches, I think the match against Bangladesh would be a crucial one," said Iran coach Shadi Mahini in the post-match press conference.

Iran had to come from behind to beat the highest-ranked side in this group, India. The Iranians, who had trounced UAE 9-0 in their opening match, came out all guns blazing in the second half after Premi Chiru had given India the lead in the 13th minute. Substitute forward Fatemeh Hosseini struck in the 71st minute restored parity before Fatemeh Ghasemi's 88th minute strike ensured all three points for the Western Asian side.

The Iranians will have an extra day's rest as South Asian rivals Bangladesh will lock horns against India while Jordan will play against UAE in the two matches tomorrow.

BCB XI announced

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A 14-member BCB XI team was announced yesterday for the three-day match against visiting Zimbabwe to be held at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium from October 20.

The performance in the match will not have any impact on the team selection for the first Test, which starts on October 25 at Mirpur, as the national selectors will announce the team for the first Test of the three-match series before the start of the practice match.

There will still be some focus on players like Naeem Islam, Shamsur Rahman, Shuvagoto Hom and Marshal Ayub to see how they perform, and a good performance might see them come into the team for the second Test.

BCB XI SQUAD: Shamsur Rahman, Shadman Islam, Marshall Ayub, Shuvagoto Hom, Rony Talukder, Naeem Islam, Mohammad Josimuddin (wicketkeeper), Dewan Sabbir, Shuvashish Roy, Mehdi Hasan Rana, Robiul Islam, Muktar Ali, Taibur Parvez and Asif Ahmed.



PHOTOS: STAR

Bangladesh striker Sanjida Akhter (2nd from left) darts inside the UAE defence during their AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. (INSET) Football fans turned up in numbers at the big bowl to cheer on the hosts.



Zimbabwe in town

SPORTS REPORTER



The Zimbabwean national cricket team arrived in Bangladesh yesterday to play their first Test series here after nearly a decade. The teams will also take part in a five-match ODI series.

The last time Zimbabwe played a Test series in Bangladesh was back in January 2005 when the Tigers won the two-match series 1-0.

The 24-member contingent landed at the Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport at 5:20 pm yesterday. The members of the team had to go through a test for the Ebola virus. After the completion of the customary procedure, the visitors headed for the Pan Pacific Sonargaon which will be their base for the next few weeks in Dhaka.

Led by Brendan Taylor, Zimbabwe will begin their tour with a three-day practice match against a BCB XI on October 20 at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in

Fatullah. The teams will then lock horns in the first Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from October 25.

A number of players from the current Zimbabwean line-up had come to Bangladesh last month to play two four-day matches and three one day games representing Zimbabwe A. Uncapped players Brian Chari and Wellington Masakadza for instance, had a good outing in that tour. Top order batsman, Chari was the top-scorer for Zimbabwe A in the 4-day matches while Masakadza's slow-left armers troubled a number of Bangladeshi batsmen.

Wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva, Malcolm Waller and Vusi Sibanda are a few other players who were present in the Zimbabwe A team in that series. Bangladesh A won both the one day match and four-day match series' in September.

After the first Test in Dhaka, the teams will move to Khulna to play the second Test, which begins from November 3. The third Test will begin on November 12 in Chittagong.



Zimbabwe's Test captain Brendan Taylor leads his team out of the Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport yesterday evening. The side will begin its tour with a three-day match against BCB XI starting on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

Pistorius sentencing on Tuesday

REUTERS, Pretoria

South African track star Oscar Pistorius should serve at least 10 years in prison for killing his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, on Valentine's Day last year, the state prosecutor said at the close of the athlete's sentencing hearing on Friday.

Judge Thokozile Masipa adjourned the session until Tuesday, when she is expected to sentence Pistorius and end a six-month, on-off trial that has captivated millions worldwide.

The 27-year-old Paralympic and Olympic athlete, whose lower legs were amputated as a baby, was convicted of culpable homicide last month for the shooting of 29-year-old law graduate and model Steenkamp.

"The minimum term that society will be happy with will be 10 years imprisonment," chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel told the hearing. "This is a serious matter. The negligence borders on intent. Ten years is the minimum."

The defence and prosecution teams have spent much of the five-day sentencing hearing arguing over whether Pistorius should go to jail or be punished with house arrest and community service.

India thump WI

PTI, Dharamsala



Marlon Samuels's second century of the series went in vain as India beat a disinterested West Indies by 59 runs in Dharamsala yesterday. Chasing India's target of 330, the visitors were bundled out for 271. Samuels scored a 106-ball 112 and received support from Andre Russel who hammered a 23-ball 46.

However, the off-field issues troubling the West Indies seemed to have had gotten the better of them as they crashed to a defeat.

Notching up a sublime century, Virat Kohli on Friday reassured that he is back in form to help India post 330 for six.

Kohli (127) along with Suresh Raina (71) and opener Ajinkya Rahane (68) made batting look easy on a pitch that was expected to favour fast bowlers. It was Kohli's first hundred across formats since February, following which he experienced the first lean patch of his career.

The West Indies pace attack was decent but overall the unit put up a lacklustre effort on the field after captain Dwayne Bravo decided to field.

It would anyway have been too much to expect from the team, which knew before the match that it won't be playing the remainder of the series including the next ODI in Kolkata, a T20 International and three Test matches.

The unwanted news of a pullout however had not reached the crowd, who cheered vociferously for every run scored by the Indians.

Openers Shikhar Dhawan (38) and Rahane laid the foundation for a big score with a 70-run stand. The West Indies players expectedly found it tough to give their 100 percent to the game and the hosts took full advantage of that.

The fielding team dropped catches with regularity, giving a life each to Kohli, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (6) and Ravindra Jadeja (2). Taylor proved to be their most expensive bowler, leaking 77 runs in nine overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 330 for 6 (Kohli 127, Raina 71, Rahane 68; Benn 1-30)

WEST INDIES: 271 (Samuels 112, Bhuvneshwar 2-25, Akshar 2-26)

Result: India won by 59 runs

WI pull out of India tour

CRICINFO, New Delhi



The West Indies tour to India has been thrown into uncertainty with the BCCI saying it had been called off by the WICB and announcing a replacement tour, while the West Indies board said in a later statement that it had not taken any such decision.

The BCCI in a separate press release later stated that they had decided to cancel the tour despite denials from the WICB.

The developments followed a protracted payment structure dispute between the players, the WICB and West Indies Players' Association.

The BCCI said it was "shocked and disappointed" that the decision to abandon the tour had been "taken by the WICB", and that India would now

play five ODIs against Sri Lanka between November 1 and 15, after Sri Lanka Cricket accepted the invitation to fill the void.

"They have withdrawn their team and this [development] has come abruptly. We received an email from Richie Richardson, the West Indies team manager, only this [Friday] morning," BCCI secretary Sanjay Patel told ESPNcricinfo. Patel also told PTI that the BCCI was contemplating legal action against the WICB. "The reason given by WICB is that there were internal issues among their boys. The BCCI will be going to ICC and is planning to sue the WICB and claim for damages. We will not take this lying down as we have cooperated with them in every aspect."

Shortly after the development, however, the WICB put out a statement saying it had not taken a decision to

end the tour. "The West Indies Cricket Board advises, that, contrary to media reports, it has taken no decision to discontinue the ongoing tour to India," it said. "The WICB will make a further statement following the conclusion of the fourth one-day International which is in progress."

The BCCI's release had said, "The WICB's inability to resolve internal issues with its players and allowing the same to affect an ongoing bilateral series does not reflect well on any of those involved."

"This is a unilateral decision taken by the WICB and its players, in spite of several appeals to the WICB to honour its commitment and complete the series." The BCCI would "pursue all options available" and seek "appropriate action" from the ICC, referring to the abrupt end to the tour as an act of indiscretion.



Coats Bangladesh celebrating Silver Jubilee

COATS Bangladesh is a subsidiary of UK based multinational COATS Plc and has been operating in Bangladesh since 1989 as the leading manufacturer of industrial Sewing Threads. In their celebration of silver jubilee in Bangladesh, Coats organized a Golf Tournament at Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka on Friday 17th of October. Renowned golfers, leading businessmen, diplomats and stakeholders of Coats Bangladesh participated in the tournament. Prominent golfer of Bangladesh Mr. Siddikur Rahman inaugurated the tournament. Mrs. T Butler won the champion trophy defeating all participants. The Managing Director, Coats Bangladesh Limited Mr. Ranjan Chakhaiyar and the Management committee members Mr. Raquibul Alam, Mr. Zulfikar Hyder, Mr. Elias Ahmed, Mr. Stephen Cox and Mr. Kunal Kapur of Coats Bangladesh were present there.

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