

FRIENDLY AGAINST JAPAN U-21s

BD on the defensive

SPORTS REPORTER



While Japan U-21 team are considering their tour of Bangladesh as a preparation for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games Qualification round, hosts Bangladesh are looking to eke out a respectable result in the December 18 Friendly.

The Japan U-21 team landed in Thailand on Thursday to play a friendly match against Thai counterparts on Sunday before heading to Bangladesh on December 16.

Japan U-21 coach Tegurumori Makoto, according to Japan Football Association (JFA) website, believes that this tour (Thailand and Bangladesh) is important for the players to acclimatise to different environments as their ultimate goal is to 'change Japan's football by winning a medal in the Olympics.

"The players, who are already good in this environment, can improve themselves even more, and those, who are not good, can use this opportunity to become better. I hope they will do their best in this tour with pride and responsibility like the national team," Makoto was quoted as saying by the official website of JFA.

Expecting the U-21 team of the World Cup regular participants as a formidable opposition, Bangladesh coach Saiful Bari Titu is of taking a defensive approach, and look for opportunities to catch the visitors on the break.

Even though Titu had earlier said that a draw against the visiting team would be a big success, he yesterday told the reporters that he is preparing his charges so as not to concede too many goals.

"For the last five days in training, I have been trying to formations with the team – the 5-4-1 formation and the 4-5-1 formation," said the former Bangladesh international.

Promising midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas echoed the sentiment of his coach, "Our main goal is not to concede goals. The coach instructed us to slow down the pace of Japan and avail the chances from counter attack," said Hemanta, who missed out on the two FIFA friendly matches against Sri Lanka in October due to a hamstring injury, from which he has already recovered.

NOIDA MASTERS

Jamal loses in play-off

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's professional golfer Jamal Hossain Mollah had to be content with a second-place finish in the PGTI Noida Masters in India after losing a play-off against India's Amardip Singh Malik yesterday. The two-time PGTI winner was tied at three-under (285) with overnight leader Amardip, who had thrown away a seven-shot advantage earlier in the day.

Jamal, who started the day at two-under (214), traded three birdies for two bogeys on the fourth day of the 40-lakh rupee Super Series event.

However, Amardip's erratic performance had handed Jamal with an excellent opportunity to end his two-year drought on the Indian Tour. But the 29-year-old golfer failed to grab that opportunity as he went for a bogey on the first hole of the play-off while Amardip played a par to grab his maiden title in the Indian Tour.

Jamal is currently 20th in the Indian Tour Order of Merit, with three top-ten finishes in 12 events. The second-place finish earned him a paycheck of 4,46,600 rupees, taking his season's earnings to 11,47,800 rupees.



India batsman Shikhar Dhawan (L) exchanges a few heated words with Australia opener David Warner during the fourth day's play of the first Test in Adelaide. There were a couple of such tensed moments yesterday and at one point the umpires had to intervene.

PHOTO: AFP

Aussies dictate terms

AFP, Adelaide



David Warner's second century put Australia in control of the first Test against India but umpires twice had to intervene as tempers flared in Adelaide yesterday.

Warner's batting again caused trouble for India, scoring 102 to go with his emotional first-day 145 as Australia built a healthy lead in the first of the four-Test series.

At the close, the Australians had extended their overall lead to 363 runs at 290 for five, with an overnight declaration expected. First-innings centurion Steve Smith was 52 not out and Brad Haddin was on 14.

The home side went after runs late in the day and Mitchell Marsh clubbed leg-spinner Karn Sharma

for three sixes and a four in one over, before he was caught on the ropes for 40 off 26 balls while going after another six.

The highest successful run chase at the Adelaide Oval remains 315 for six by Australia against England in 1902.

But it was a day marked by confrontations, and English umpire Ian Gould had to step in as players exchanged terse words and pointed fingers at each other.

The first spat came after Warner was bowled by express paceman Varun Aaron for 66 in the 34th over, only to be recalled when replays showed Aaron had sent down a no-ball.

Tensions again rose when Smith and Virat Kohli came together, prompting Warner to run down from the other end of the pitch and come face-to-face with the Indian captain before Gould again restored peace.

India batsman Ajinkya Rahane

said the feistiness was not a problem.

"It was competitive and between India and Australia it's always competitive cricket and it's good for cricket," Rahane said.

Warner, dropped on 89, was finally out in the 60th over when he was bowled around his legs by Karn Sharma.

The Indians also claimed the wickets of Chris Rogers (21), Watson (33) and skipper Michael Clarke (7), but with each run Australia were making the task even more difficult for the tourists on a wearing pitch heading into Saturday's final day.

The Australians took charge after dismissing the tourists for 444 before lunch to open a 73-run lead.

Off-spinner Nathan Lyon claimed his sixth five-wicket Test haul to bowl Australia into a handy lead over India in the extended morning session.

Lyon captured five for 134 off 36

overs as India unravelled after resuming at 369 for five.

The tourists lost five wickets for 75 on the fourth morning, with Lyon leading the way with his unpredictable turn out of the bowlers' footmarks.

It was an outstanding piece of cricket by Lyon that triggered the breakthrough 47 minutes into the morning session when he brilliantly caught Rohit Sharma for 43 off his own bowling.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 517 for 7 declared (Smith 162 not out, Warner 145, Clarke 128; Shami 2-120)

INDIA: First innings 444 (Kohli 115, Pujara 73, Rahane 62, Vijay 53, R Sharma 43; Lyon 5-134, Siddle 2-88)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 290 for 5 (Warner 102, Smith 52 not out, Marsh 40; K Sharma 2-95)



Captain Kane Williamson led the Black Caps to victory against Pakistan in the second ODI with an unbeaten knock of 70 off 91 balls at Sharjah yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Williamson levels series for NZ

AFP, Sharjah



New Zealand beat Pakistan by four wickets in the second day-night international in Sharjah on Friday, levelling the five-match series at 1-1.

New Zealand were helped by an unbeaten 70 by skipper Kane Williamson and 58 by opener Anton Devcich as they chased a 253-run target in 46 overs.

Hafeez hit a 92-ball 76 with nine boundaries and a six while skipper Misbahul Haq chipped in with a 65-

ball 47 to rescue Pakistan from a shaky 20-3 after they won the toss and elected to bat at Sharjah Stadium.

Paceman Matt Henry took 4-45 while Mitchell McClenaghan grabbed 3-56.

When it looked as if Pakistan would post a 300-plus total Henry took Hafeez and Misbah, caught behind in the space of nine runs.

After an opening stand of 103, New Zealand looked to be in danger as they slipped to 167-5, but Luke Ronchi settled them back with his 36 run contribution before being dismissed leaving New Zealand at 225-6.

However, Daniel Vettori came in

and forged a partnership with Williamson, scoring 13 runs and ushering New Zealand to victory with four overs to spare.

The third match will also be played in Sharjah on Sunday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 252 all out in 48.3 overs (Hafeez 76, Sohail 33, Misbah-ul Haq 47; Henry 4-45, McClenaghan 3-56)

NEW ZEALAND: 255-6 in 46 overs (Brownlie 47, Devcich 58, Williamson 70 not out; Afridi 2-47, Sohail 9-0-48-3)

RESULT: New Zealand won by four wickets.

7 teams win in Metro TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Seven teams registered wins in the Agrani Bank Dhaka Metropolis Table Tennis League at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Combined SC beat Promising Juniors by 3-0 sets; Brothers Union defeated Jahangir Builders 3-1 sets; Armenian TT outclassed Dhaka South East TT Club 3-0 sets; Boys Club beat Lalbag TT Academy 3-0 sets; Bijoy TT Academy beat Mohammadpur Club 3-0 sets; Bunty Sporting beat Taj TT Academy 3-1 sets; and TT Academy beat Ekota Stripur Samity 3-0 sets.



Nifty of Combined SC plays a forehand shot against Monirul Islam of Promising Juniors during their singles rubber of the the Agrani Bank Dhaka Metropolis Table Tennis League at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

V-Day sports

SPORTS REPORTER

A day-long archery competition will be held at the Outer Stadium in Paltan today, to mark the victory day. Some 63 archers from 21 teams, including 24 women, will be fighting it out in 25-metre bamboo bow event, said a press release from Bangladesh Archery Federation.

ARMY IN KABADDI FINAL Bangladesh Army confirmed their final berth as the first team of the Victory Day Kabaddi Tournament securing five points after playing to a 28-28 draw with Air Force at Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

In the days' other match, Bangladesh Police beat Fire Service and Civil Defence by 22-19 points with a creditable Iona.

ARMY, AIR FORCE IN VOLLEYBALL FINAL Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force advanced to the final of the Walton Smart TV Victory Day Volleyball Tournament beating their rivals in the semifinals at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Army beat Power Development Board by 3-2 sets while Air Force defeated Navy, also by 3-2 sets, to confirm their final berths. The final will be held at 3:30pm at the same venue today.

'I try to take it to 'em'

AFP, Adelaide



David Warner says he relishes taking his cricket to the opposition and was at his irresistible best again when he completed back-to-back hundreds against India in the first Adelaide Test on Friday.

The belligerent Australian opener rode his luck in scoring 102 after his 145 in the first innings and has now scored 11 centuries in 33 Test matches.

Warner did not shy away from the blow-ups he was involved in with the Indian players during his fighting knock which helped put Australia into a strong position with a 363-run lead heading into Saturday's final day.

One of the confrontations was triggered when Warner was bowled by express paceman Varun Aaron for 66 in the 34th over, only to be recalled when replays showed Aaron had sent down a no-ball.

Aaron had given Warner a triumphant send-off, but the pugnacious opener responded in kind when he was recalled to the crease. Shane Watson, Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan all joined in, exchanging sharp words before umpire Ian Gould eventually calmed down the warring parties.

"That's what happens in cricket. Things happen in the past, things happen in the IPL [Indian Premier League]," Warner said.

"There are a few send-offs here and there but he [Aaron] bowled pretty well, he bowled tight and probably thought he deserved that reward and it's unlucky in cricket that you bowl no-balls.

"It is how cricket's played. When things don't go your way and you get that adrenaline.

"For him to bowl that no-ball and for me to come back in and sort of have a go at him, I shouldn't have, but it got me into another contest."

Warner has a reputation in cricket for being a straight-shooter and he admits he does "cross the line."

"The world knows how I like to get involved, and how I play my cricket and that's how it is," he said.

Abbott back in his groove

AFP, Sydney

Sean Abbott, who delivered the ball that killed Australian batsman Phillip Hughes, proved he was back in the groove Friday with a stunning 6-14 as New South Wales demolished Queensland.

There had been fears the 22-year-old fast bowler may have been too traumatised to play again after Hughes died from being hit by one of his rising balls at the Sydney Cricket Ground last month.

But he opted to play in the Sheffield Shield clash at the same venue, and showed mental resolve as he turned it into a one-man show.

Abbott tore through the Queensland batting order to claim 6-14 in a seven-over spell to help dismiss the Bulls for 99 in pursuit of 179 in their second innings.

He was on a hat-trick at one point, but narrowly missed out as he produced lively pace and reverse swing, finishing with eight wickets for the match.

Abbott received a standing ovation as he left the ground and New South Wales coach Trevor Bayliss said the entire team was delighted for him.

"To do what he did today really showed the character that he has got," he told ABC radio.

Negre coming tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Leandro Negre, president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), is set to inaugurate the National School Hockey Championship for the second successive time on Wednesday.

Negre is scheduled to arrive on Sunday night before declaring the 120-school meet open on December 17. He will also inaugurate the sand turf at the BAF Shaheen School & College premises and start the installation work of a blue turf at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

Billings to cover for Kieswetter

REUTERS, London

England have added wicketkeeper Sam Billings to their provisional squad for next year's World Cup in place of the injured Craig Kieswetter.

Billings, 23, is a tidy keeper and innovative middle-order batsman who was in sparkling form for his county Kent last season.

Kieswetter is suffering from problems with his vision after being hit by a ball while batting in a match in July.