

SPORT



4-day tourney for under-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

With an aim of strengthening the country's Test circuit, the Bangladesh Cricket Board's tournament committee has decided to organise a four-day tournament for under-19 cricketers. The first edition of the competition is expected to begin in October and BCB officials are planning to make this competition a regular occurrence.

"We had discussed this plan with the BCB president and we already have a verbal agreement. If everything goes according to plan then the league will begin from October 15. There will be four teams based on the zones of the players.

"It is likely to take place at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium and the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong. We are considering Cox's Bazar as well," tournament committee chairman Akram Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

It's a competition that, according to Akram, will help instil the interest of longer version cricket amongst the youngsters and by doing so will help the country's Test scenario.

"You never know. The future of Bangladesh's Test cricket might just rise from this tournament, if it takes place in an organised manner," said Akram.

BCB selector Habibul Bashar echoed Akram's sentiments.

"Personally I think this is a competition that should have begun long back. It is definitely going to help us. Some countries shield their younger players from the shorter format. They are forced to play the longer version of cricket. By doing so, players tend to learn the game well and improve their skills," said Bashar.

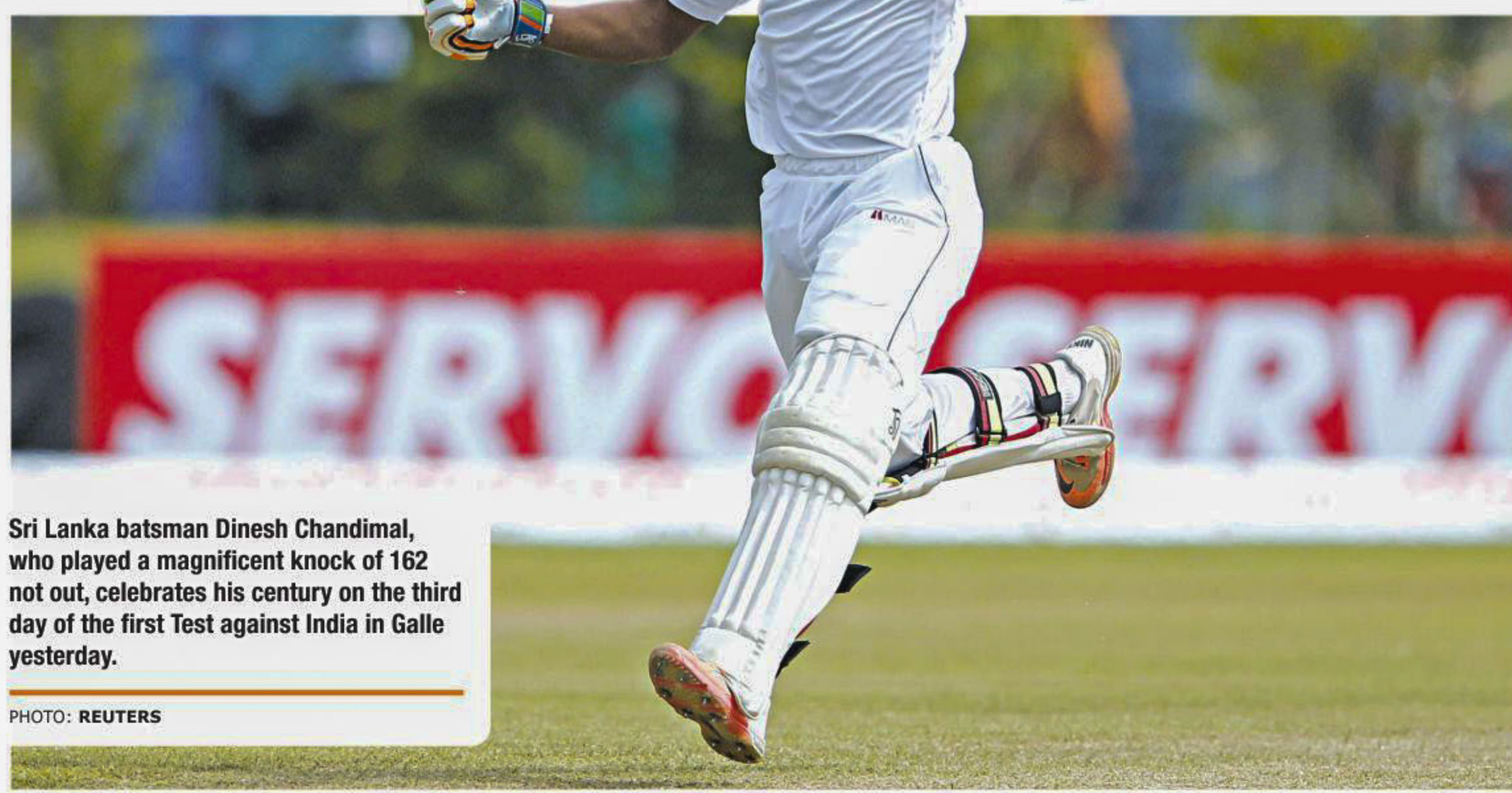
Nazmul Abedin Fahim, national manager of the BCB's development committee, believes that the competition will expose the players to a first-class environment.

"At the moment the under-18 cricketers, divided into ten teams, are playing a three-day competition. The cream of this group will get to play in the four-day tournament. We will also have players from the national under-19 team here to further encourage the players," said Nazmul.

A number of steps have been taken considering the under-19 team this year. Former Bangladesh coach Stuart Law has been appointed the national under-19 team's technical advisor.

The junior Tigers have already beaten their South African counterparts, reigning world champions, both home and away this year and they have a number of series coming ahead. The plan of course is to have them well-prepared ahead of the under-19 World Cup next year, which will be taking place in Bangladesh.

BCB officials further informed that they are planning to host the National Cricket League in September this year and begin the cricket season. They might host a couple of rounds prior to the Australia series.



Sri Lanka batsman Dinesh Chandimal, who played a magnificent knock of 162 not out, celebrates his century on the third day of the first Test against India in Galle yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Chandimal gives SL hope

AFP, Galle

Dinesh Chandimal smashed an unbeaten 162 off 169 balls to lead a brilliant revival by Sri Lanka on the third day of the first Test against India at Galle on Friday.

The hosts, who trailed India by 192 runs in the first innings, were reduced to 95-5 in their second knock before Chandimal launched an audacious counter-attack to steer his team away from imminent disaster.

Sri Lanka went on to make 367, setting India a tricky target of 176 runs to take the lead in the three-match series.

India ended the day at a shaky 23 for one after Lokesh Rahul was trapped leg-before by Rangana Herath for five. First-innings century-maker Shikhar Dhawan was unbeaten on 13 and nightwatchman Ishant Sharma was on five.

The 25-year-old Chandimal hit four sixes -- one of them a spectacular reverse sweep off Harbhajan Singh over the mid-wicket boundary -- and 19 boundaries in his fourth Test century.

Chandimal put on 125 for the sixth wicket with Lahiru Thirimanne (44) and 82 for the seventh with Jehan Mubarak (49) to frustrate India's bid to force an early win.

Chandimal and Thirimanne, who joined hands before lunch with their team still 98 runs away from wiping the deficit, battled through a major part of the post-lunch session.

As the pair settled down, the Indians were left to rue the refusal by their powerful cricket board to use the Decision Review System for their bilateral matches.

Both batsmen were fortunate to get into double figures after surviving three appeals for catches close to the wicket -- two against Chandimal and one against Thirimanne -- in a 10-minute period before lunch.

Replays showed all three catches were clean, but the absence of DRS meant India could not ask for reviews from the television umpire.

Ashwin finished with 10 wickets in the match, having taken six in the first innings and four in the second.

Earlier, Kumar Sangakkara scored 40 in his penultimate Test and captain Angelo Mathews made 39, the

pair adding 87 for the fourth wicket after Sri Lanka were reduced to 5-3.

Sri Lanka, who resumed at 5-2, lost nightwatchman Dhammika Prasad off the first ball of the day to give India a flying start.

Mathews and Sangakkara took charge with a series of attacking shots.

Sangakkara, who looked in good form during his 70-ball innings in which he hit five boundaries, was dismissed 20 minutes before lunch.

The left-hander edged Ashwin to the slip region where Rahane picked up a stunning one-handed catch.

Sangakkara received a standing ovation from some 1,500 home fans as he walked back after playing his final innings at the Galle International Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 183

INDIA: First innings 375

SRI LANKA: Second innings 367

(Sangakkara 40, Chandimal 162 not out, Thirimanne 44, Mubarak 49; Ashwin 4-114, Mishra 3-61)

INDIA: Second innings 23 for 1

(Dhawan 13 not out, Sharma 5 not out; Herath 1-13)

Rahane sets new catches record



AFP, Galle

Ajinkya Rahane of India set a new world fielding record when he took eight catches in the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle on Friday.

Rahane grabbed three catches in the first innings and five more in the second to surpass five fielders, excluding wicketkeepers, who had all taken seven catches in a Test.

Most catches in a Test match (excluding wicketkeepers):

8 - Ajinkya Rahane (IND) v Sri Lanka, Galle, 2015

7 - Greg Chappell (AUS) v England, Perth 1974

7 - Yajurvindra Singh (IND) v England, Bangalore, 1977

7 - Hashan Tillakaratne (SRI) v New Zealand, Colombo, 1992

7 - Stephen Fleming (NZL) v Zimbabwe, Harare, 1997

7 - Matthew Hayden (AUS) v Sri Lanka, Galle, 2004.

Proteas cruise against Kiwis

REUTERS, Durban

Opener Hashim Amla fell two runs shy of a half-century as South Africa cruised to a six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first Twenty20 at Kingsmead on Friday.

Set 152 to win, the hosts were always up with the run rate and reached their target with 13 balls to spare.

Having won the toss and elected to bowl, South Africa restricted New Zealand to 151 for eight by taking the final seven wickets for 40 runs.

All the home batsmen then got starts but it was the steady hand of Amla that guided them to victory.

Captain AB de Villiers and Rilee Rossouw also gave impetus to the innings.

Earlier, opener Kane Williamson smashed 42 from 21 balls as New Zealand made a swash-buckling start before he was stumped off left-arm spinner Aaron Phangiso.

Martin Gupthill was more measured in his 42 from 37 deliveries while George Worker added 28 in 26.

David Wiese was the pick of the South Africa attack with two for 24 and young firebrand fast bowler Kagiso Rabada claimed two for 29.

The second and final Twenty20 is in Pretoria on Sunday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 151 for 8 in 20 overs (M. Gupthill 42, Williamson 42; Wiese 2-24, Phangiso 2-29)

SOUTH AFRICA: 152 for 4 in 17.5 overs (Amla 48, Rossouw 38; Milne 1-23, Worker 1-19)

Result: South Africa won by six wickets

Man of the match: Aaron Phangiso (RSA)

Sheikh Jamal eye new high

Draw against FC Alga will be enough for AFC Cup play-off spot

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will look to reach a new landmark in their chequered history when they square off against hosts FC Alga Bishkek in the final Group B match of the AFC Cup

Play-Off Qualifiers at the Dolenia Omurzakova Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan today.

The three-time professional league champions of Bangladesh, who have already established themselves as a 'yellow fear' in the subcontinent, having clinched two titles along with a runners-up trophy outside home, need only a draw against the five-time Kyrgyzstan league champions today to secure a play-off spot in the second-tier club competition of Asia.

Either a draw or a win will see them emerge group champions and set up a play-off against champions of Group A for a place in the AFC Cup proper.

The 4-1 win against Casa Benfica has put Sheikh Jamal in this advantageous position as their opponents of today's match only managed a 2-0 win against the Macau outfit in their opening



(From L) Sohel Rana, Mamunul Islam and Yeamin Munna take a selfie in a recess during practice in Bishkek yesterday. PHOTO: FACEBOOK

fixture. But a draw is now what the Sheikh Jamal coach Joseph Afusi is contemplating.

"Hopefully we are not stopping here. We are here to represent millions of Bangladeshis and we will do just that. It is true that a draw is enough for us but we are not going to play for a draw. We have to win," the Nigerian said during a conversation on social networking site facebook.

The Dhanmondi giants, starring 13 national players, came from one goal down to beat Casa Benfica 4-1, thanks to some brilliant possession-based attacking display, with skipper Mamunul Islam playing a pivotal role.

The ace midfielder believes that all the local players played with responsibility and provided necessary support to the two foreign players, which culminated in the sparkling performance.

"I think the match against FC Alga Bishkek is not going to be easy. We have to play our best in this match, which is 50-50 because they are the home side and they also prefer to play attacking football with the same 4-3-3 formation as we do," said Mamunul over facebook.

Mamunul also earmarked FC Alga Bishkek skipper Sidorenko Pavel, who is also a member of the Kyrgyzstan national team, as a key player who plays a key role in building the attacks.

Sheikh Jamal may make a change to the starting eleven including Shakhwat Hossain Rony, who scored twice coming on as a second half substitute against Casa Benfica, even though that will depend on the team meeting today, informed Mamunul.

Smith era starts in Bangladesh

AFP, Sydney



Batsman Steve Smith was Friday named Australia's new Test captain to replace Michael Clarke, who announced his retirement after his side's drubbing in the current Ashes series, Cricket Australia said.

David Warner, 28, will be the Test team's vice-captain.

Smith, who skippered Australia in Tests against India during the last home season when Clarke was sidelined with a hamstring injury, was the natural choice for the position, Cricket Australia said.

"When Michael made his decision to retire last week it was a very straightforward decision for us to nominate Steve as his successor," national selector Rod Marsh said in a statement.

"He has big shoes to fill but every-

thing about him suggests he is the right man for the job. At 26, he is a fine young man with extraordinary talent, excellent leadership qualities and a terrific temperament.

"He is highly regarded by the selec-



tors and we congratulate him on being appointed to the role on an ongoing basis. He should be incredibly proud."

Smith, who was widely expected to replace Clarke and whose appointment was endorsed at Cricket Australia's August board meeting on Friday, will also be Australia's T20 captain during their tour of the British Isles, due to Aaron Finch's injury.

The meeting also endorsed a recommendation that opening batsman Warner serve as Smith's deputy in Test matches and become vice-captain in the upcoming one-day international series in Ireland and Britain.

Australia's next Test series is against Bangladesh in September and October.

Clarke, 34, announced he was retiring after England completed a crushing innings and 78-run victory at Trent Bridge in the fourth Test to take an unbeatable 3-1 lead in the five-match Ashes series. He will play his final Test at The Oval later this month. Cricket Australia chairman Wally Edwards endorsed the side's new leadership.

Brothers end with a defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union completed their Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League campaign on a losing note as they went down to a 1-0 defeat away to Chittagong Abahani at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Choumrin Rakhain scored the decisive goal in the 26th minute to help Chittagong Abahani end their campaign in ninth position with 16, featuring three wins, seven draws and 10 defeats.

Brothers, on the other hand, are currently in fourth position with 35 points from 20 matches (10 wins, 5 draws and 5 defeats), they can be overtaken by Abahani, are with 34 points, having two games in hand.

INA NUTSHELL

'Kohli is like Maradona'

Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly is bowled over by Virat Kohli's exuberance and passion to cricket and compared the Test captain to legendary footballer Diego Maradona.

"One of my favourite sportsmen was Diego Maradona and every time I saw him play football you could see the passion in the heart. You see the same thing with Virat Kohli. I love his body language. I am a big fan of Kohli," Ganguly told reporters.

"I love him off the field as well. It's about passion. I have got lot of faith in Virat Kohli. Whatever I've seen of him from the ground or TV, it gives me a lot of confidence."

No talks with CA: Ponting

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting has refuted Cricket Australia (CA) performance manager Pat Howard's claims that CA have had talks with him to bring him to a batting consultant role.

"I've had no formal discussions with Cricket Australia about a role," Ponting told ESPNcricinfo.

"I have always said that one day I would like to get more involved with the young batters around the country but at the moment I'm fully committed to my family, my coaching job at Mumbai, commentary and sponsor commitments and the Ponting Foundation."

Ronaldo's new ride

Cristiano Ronaldo has been showing his paternal side a lot lately on his social networks, often posing with his son hanging out at home. And his latest Instagram post combines that paternal side with his flashy taste.

Ronaldo is the highest earning footballer in the world, and he has no qualms about spending his earnings on luxury items. The Portuguese has a stable of cars, and he's now added another one to the collection.

The Ballon D'Or holder has treated himself to a new toy, a stunning Lamborghini.

His son looked particularly impressed with the car, which will certainly catch the eye at Real Madrid's training base this season.



Compiled by Star Sport Desk