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ICRC INT'L T20 Bangladesh's team named

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced a 15-member Physically Challenged Cricket Team for the ICRC International T20 cricket tournament. The first of such tournament will get underway at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on September 2 with a match between Bangladesh and England.

Afghanistan, India and Pakistan are the other teams in the meet which aims at the social inclusion of people with physical disabilities through sports participation. Only the opening ceremony and opening match will take place at the home of cricket while the remaining matches from September 3 to September 10 and the prize distribution ceremony will take place at BKSP in Savar. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the tournament. The opening match will start at 11am while the remaining matches including final match will start from 9:30am.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with the help of other esteemed organising partners -- Ministry of Youth and Sports, BCB and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan (BKSP) -- is arranging the international tournament.

SQUAD

SM Shaharia Shamim, Mohammad Monirujjaman, Mohammad Amin Uddin, Mohammad Alam Khan, Apurbo Kumar Paul, Drupam Patranabish Tirtho, Mohammad Suzal Islam, Rifat Hossain Bappy, Mohammad Rasel Sikder, Mohammad Mamunur Rashid, Mohammad Sana Ullah, Mohammad Nasim, Mohammad Jahid Hasan, Shariful Islam and Faisal Khan Shumit.

RESERVE BENCH
Mohammad Shaon Mahmud, Sujjan Debnath and Md. Saiful Islam Khan.



While USA's Mike Rodgers (2nd from L) and Tyson Gay hassle during the changeover of baton, Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt (C) gallops his way to win the men's 4x100 metres relay at the World Championships at the Bird's Nest in Beijing yesterday.

BOLT'S terrific treble

AGENCIES, Beijing

What made this World Athletics Championships different was that Usain Bolt was not expected to win. But then, of course, he did and the world felt a little foolish for doubting him.

What made this World Championships like the Olympics and the other world championships was that Bolt walked away unbeaten.

The Jamaican sprint legend on Saturday capped a memorable world championships by winning a third gold as anchor of his team's 4x100m relay team, while the United States were disqualified to hand China a shock silver.

Bolt ran a blistering final leg at a packed Bird's Nest stadium, hurtling through the line in 37.36 seconds after team-mates Nesta Carter, Asafa Powell and Nickel Ashmeade had successfully got the baton around.

The victory gave Bolt his 11th world gold medal -- his only blemish being the 100m at the 2011 Daegu worlds, when he was disqualified after a false start.

The US quartet of 100m bronze and silver medallists Trayvon Bromell and Justin Gatlin, and fellow finalists Tyson Gay and Mike Rodgers, were initially awarded silver before being disqualified over a botched final handover which strayed beyond the passover limit.

China, headed by individual 100m finalist Su Bingtian, delighted the home crowd when they were upgraded to silver in 38.01sec, while Canada moved up to bronze (38.13).

There was a distinctly gladiatorial atmosphere in the Bird's Nest as all teams entered the arena through a traditional Chinese facade, passing cheerleaders and flagbearers to be introduced to a raucous capacity crowd.

Racing in lane four, Carter's opening leg for Jamaica saw him slip slightly down on Bromell. Powell ran his second leg in full chase of Gatlin, silver medallist to Bolt in both the 100 and 200m, in lane six.

Ashmeade took up the chase for Jamaica around the back bend, but Gay had his beating and it looked as if Bolt would not have a genuine chance of catching the Americans.

But there was a disaster as Gay's handover to Rodgers misfired and went outside the baton-passing area, leading to the US team being disqualified.

Ashmeade had no such problem with his own baton pass to Bolt, and suddenly the towering Jamaican had a clear run at the line.

Straight into the lead with Rodgers searching in thin air for the baton behind him, Bolt opened up all cylinders to race through for victory at what could be his last world championships.

Not only has Bolt won 11 individual world or Olympic sprint titles from a possible 12 since he took track and field by storm at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, but the 29-year-old has also been a key part of the relay team.

Despite losing to the US team at this year's World Relays, much to Bolt's visible annoyance, the Jamaicans have won all world and Olympic sprint titles since the 2008 Beijing Games, and also set a world record of 36.84sec while winning gold at the London Games.

Booters stave off Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

The Shah Alam Stadium in Kuala Lumpur must be one of the luckiest venues for the Bangladesh national football team. The men in red and green, who had lost twice against Malaysia's under-22 team in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup at home earlier this year, have now held the senior Malaysia side to consecutive draws in friendlies at this venue in four years.

The first stalemate came in 2011 when Zahid Hossain Emily's 82nd minute penalty had cancelled out an early goal by the Malaysians, before last night's bizarre goalless draw where, despite chasing their

own shadows most of the time, the men in red and green managed to come out with a favourable result.

Despite sitting only two places above Bangladesh in the latest FIFA rankings, Malaysia are believed to be a much stronger side and that was evident from their youth team's performance in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup. The pattern of play in yesterday's match, with the hosts enjoying two-thirds of possession and having more than a dozen shots on target against a single one from the visitors, spoke volumes about the hosts' superiority.

But buoyed by the raucous support of a few hundred expatriate Bangladeshis at the venue, who easily outnumbered those cheering for the hosts, Bangladesh showed how determined they were not to concede a

defeat, even if it meant keeping their shop shut the whole time.

Lodewijk de Kruij's charges, playing in 4-5-1 formation with a very low line of defence, showed a bit of attacking intent in the first half and made a couple of forays into opposition half. Jamal Bhuiyan played a wonderful through-ball which was gathered by the Malaysia keeper just in time, ahead of winger Jewel Rana in the 25th minute. Hemanta Vincent Biswas then made a couple of galloping runs down the right wing, only to find lack of support in the attacking third. At the

BANGLADESH

Shahidul, Yeasin, Topu, Nasirul, Yeamin (Meshu), Mamunul (Emon), Jamal (Raju), Sohel (Enamul), Hemanta, Jewel (Toklis), Emily

other end, Bangladesh conceded two free-kicks from just outside the box, with goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel making a fine save, while the other one was blasted over the bar.

The second half was one-way traffic throughout, but Bangladesh's defence stood firm while Sohel proved to be a wall too impregnable for the hosts, who were less than average with their finishing. Like his counterpart, de Kruij made a number of substitutions in the second half, who completed the job quite efficiently in the end.

The draw will definitely provide some encouragement to the Bangladesh team as they fly for Perth today to face the Socceroos in a World Cup qualifier on September 3, but the Aussies will undoubtedly be a challenge of a different level altogether.

IN A NUTSHELL

Adjourned meeting costs BCCI lakhs

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has ended up wasting lakhs of rupees after their decision to adjourn the Working Committee meeting in Kolkata on Friday due to the presence of N Srinivasan.

According to a report in the Times of India, the BCCI wasted close to 70-80 lacs as no business was done after calling all its officials. A typical meeting of the working committee, which includes 24 members plus invites and half-a-dozen BCCI staff, costs the BCCI approximately Rs 50 lakh.

And when you include the finance committee and IPL governing council meetings held over two days, the BCCI would have spent around Rs 70-80 lakh on air tickets, five-star hotel accommodation (two nights) and added features.

£55,000 bet against own team

A pessimistic Kiwi has placed a large bet against New Zealand at this year's Rugby World Cup.

The Auckland, known only as 'Dave', has bet 55,000 pounds on New Zealand to fail to retain the William Webb Ellis trophy.

It is the biggest bet the Totalisator Agency Board has ever received against the All Blacks and one of the biggest in the country's history.

Dave's bet stands to earn him 30,000 pounds if the All Blacks bomb out at the Cup.

Bazz's cancer drive

Black Caps captain Brendon McCullum spent yesterday morning on the streets, collecting donations from Aucklanders for the Cancer Society's Daffodil Day.

He was taking photos with fans while the buckets were rattling with the sound of lots of coins going to the Cancer Society.

"Everyone has their own stories, but I wear it for all of New Zealand," said McCullum.



Compiled by Star Sport Desk

Nepal lift SAFF U-19 C'ship title

SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal won the inaugural SAFF U-19 Championship after beating India in 5-4 in tiebreaker in the final at the ANFA Complex Ground yesterday. The regulation time had ended in a 1-1 draw, with Tej Tamang providing the hosts the lead in the 31st minute before Shahbaaz Khan equalising for India from the spot in the 88th minute.

This is the first SAFF title for Nepal at any level since their senior team won South Asian Games gold in 1993.

Nepal had beaten Afghanistan by 3-2 goals in the first semifinal while India had overcome Bangladesh in tiebreaker in the second semifinal on Thursday.

SAILOR-BFF U-15 FOOTBALL

First semi today

SPORTS REPORTER

Narayanganj will take on Sylhet in the first semifinal of the Sailor BFF National U-15 Football Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The match will kick off at 5:00pm and will be telecast live on Bangladesh Television (BTV).

The second semifinal between Dhaka and Feni will be held at the same venue and same time tomorrow. The final will be held on September 2. The entry to the galleries will be free for all school students from Dhaka and across the country.



Bangladesh goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel (L) hares out of the box to thwart a Malaysia attempt during the goalless draw in the friendly at the Shah Alam Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Pujara holds India together

AFP, Colombo

Cheteshwar Pujara marked his recall with an unbeaten century after Sri Lanka's Dhammika Prasad ripped through India's batting in the decisive third and final Test in Colombo on Saturday.

The tourists, who resumed at 50 for 2 after a rain-curtailed opening day, moved to 292 for 8 by stumps on the second day at the Sinhalese Sports Club with Pujara holding fort on a watchful 135 not out.

Pujara, who had been dropped for India's last four Tests across Australia, Bangladesh and the ongoing series, may not have played this match too if both regular openers Murali Vijay and Shikhar Dhawan had been fit.

The 27-year-old grabbed the chance to notch up his seventh Test century that has so far included 13 boundaries. Fast bowler Prasad bowled superbly to take four wickets in the innings,

including two off successive balls on either side of the lunch break that reduced India to 119 for 5.

Number nine batsman Amit Mishra came to India's rescue with a defiant 59 during an eighth wicket stand of 104 with Pujara which boosted the total.

Just 15 overs had been bowled in the 75 minutes of play possible due to rain on the opening day after India had been sent in to bat on a greenish pitch under overcast conditions.

When play resumed under bright skies on the second day, the tourists were restricted to 22 runs in the first 15 overs by some accurate bowling by the Sri Lankans.

India skipper Virat Kohli survived a torrid opening over from Prasad in which he was lucky to escape a loud shout for leg-before off the second ball and was beaten by the final ball of the over.

Kohli added four runs to his overnight score of 14 when Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews, who replaced Prasad at the bowling crease, had his counterpart caught behind by Kusal Perera.

Rohit Sharma added 55 runs for the fourth wicket with Pujara, scoring 26 with three fours and a six before he edged a catch to first slip off Prasad in what became the final delivery of the morning session.

Prasad, who still had one ball to bowl in the over on resumption, trapped Stuart Binny leg-before with the first delivery to open up India's lower order.

Debutant wicketkeeper Naman Ojha helped Pujara add 54 for the sixth wicket, himself making 21 before he holed out in the deep attempting to smash off-spinner Tharindu Kaushal out of the ground.

Prasad removed Ravichandran Ashwin with the first ball of a new spell, caught behind by Perera for five, but Mishra joined Pujara to frustrate Sri Lanka.

SCORES IN BRIEF
INDIA: First innings 292 for 8 (Pujara 135 not out, Kohli 18, R Sharma 26, Ojha 21, Mishra 59; Prasad 4-83, Pradeep 1-52, Mathews 1-24, Kaushal 1-45)

'Pakistan can go on sans India'

DAWN, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan believes the chances of the bilateral series against India are very less, looking at the current political turmoil situation between two nations.

"Given the present circumstances, the chances of a Pakistan-India series look bleak and we have to live with the fact that India are not going to play us," a website quoted Shaharyar as saying.

"At the same time, the BCCI [Board of Control for Cricket in India] hasn't formally refused us, but we can't wait long amid this uncertainty and have got to have an alternative plan. We will wait for another couple of months before forcing our plan 'B'."

While hoping for some improvement in the relationship between the two neighbours in the near future, Shaharyar stressed on the point that cricket should not suffer between politics.

"I hope the climate will improve but at the moment it's more a political tension... the relationship between the countries is complex but cricket shouldn't be suffering, it is after all something that can be a tool to lower the tension," he stated.

Shaharyar, while acknowledging that he understood how big the BCCI was and the perks of playing India, firmly made a point that Pakistan's cricket was not dependent on their neighbours and could survive without playing them.