

ICC reaffirms BD as U-19 WC hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

The International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday officially confirmed Bangladesh as the hosts of next year's ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup, scheduled to take place from January 22 to February 14. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) however, will have to submit an appropriate security plan for the tournament which will require the nod of the ICC's security advisor.

"The board confirmed that the Bangladesh Cricket Board will host next year's ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup.

"As part of this decision, the BCB, working in conjunction with its government, will be developing an appropriate security plan that addresses all security risks to the satisfaction of the ICC's security advisor, working closely with security advisors of the other members," stated the ICC's press release, also describing other issues that were discussed in the ICC meeting in Dubai which ended yesterday.

Talks regarding the possibility of a shift in venue, following Cricket Australia's decision to postpone its tour on security grounds and

the move to delay the South African women's cricket team's arrival, dominated the media in the last few days. However, the announcement yesterday dispersed all those thoughts.

The BCB expressed its pleasure following the ICC's announcement.

"We are really happy that the ICC has reaffirmed that the tournament will take place here. We can assure the ICC that a tournament can successfully take place here," said BCB director Jalal Yunus.

"As far as security is concerned we had proved our capability back in 2014 during the World Cup. During that ICC event we had given teams foolproof security and hopefully this time will be the same. In addition, we believe that the current scenario in Bangladesh is peaceful and that there are no problems," he added.

The likely venues for the World Cup are Dhaka, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

The other issue that the BCB wanted to address on the sidelines of the meeting in Dubai was regarding the Zimbabwe series. While Zimbabwe were initially supposed to arrive in November to play two Tests, at the moment it seems as though the two teams will battle it out in three ODIs and three T20Is next month.

However, a final decision is yet to be made.



Khulna players are ecstatic after their gripping 13-run victory over Rangpur in a thrilling contest at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on the final day of the National Cricket League's third round yesterday. PHOTO: BCB

Bolt aims for sub-19

REUTERS, Kingston

Six-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt thinks he is capable of breaking 19 seconds in the 200 metres.

Bolt's record of 19.19 seconds for the 200 has stood since August 20, 2009. "I really want to run under 19 seconds," Bolt told Reuters.

"It's one of my major goals... It will not be an easy task, but I personally feel I can do it and my coach (Glen Mills) thinks I can do it so it is just about the work and finding the perfect time to do it, so it is one of the things (for 2016)."

Younis on top

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Younis Khan became Pakistan's all-time leading Test run-scorer, surpassing the great Javed Miandad's tally of 8832 runs on the opening day of the first Test against England on Tuesday.

Younis, 37, set the new mark when he reached 20 with a huge six off spinner Moeen Ali, crossing Miandad and Inzamamul Haq's tally in one stroke.

"It's a great honour to cross Miandad's record, which I had never thought I would be able to do," said Younis.

"It was like a wall for me," said Younis of Miandad's tally of runs.

Former Pakistan captains Javed Miandad and Inzamamul Haq praised hard-working and committed Younis Khan who became the country's leading Test run scorer on Tuesday.

"I am happy that my record is broken by a patriot who plays for the team and for the country," Miandad told AFP.

"He is a very hard working player who has made his name through his commitment and honesty."

Inzamam, who skippered Younis from 2003 to 2007, said Younis was someone who takes pride in his hard work.

"When he came into the team I found that he is not very talented but he overcame that through his hard work," said Inzamam.

"He has scored runs whenever the team needed them the most and that is the sign of a great team man."

All-round Mehedi steals the show

SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant all-round display from Bangladesh under-19 skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz led Khulna to a thrilling 13-run win over Rangpur at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on the fourth day of the National Cricket League's third round and took them to the top of the table.

The 17-year-old off-spinner took four wickets to complete a ten-wicket haul yesterday. In addition to his bowling effort, he scored 96 runs with the bat in the low-scoring encounter. It was an effort that earned him the player-of-the-match award.

With a dismal overnight score of 58 for 6, Rangpur needed 142 more runs to win the match. Many expected this game to be over

SCORES IN BRIEF			
Chittagong v Barisal Chittagong: 467 for 7 dec Barisal: 345 for 9 (Al-Amin 72, Salman 51; Saifuddin 3-59) Result: Match drawn	Dhaka v Dhaka Metro Dhaka: 327 and 115 all out in 69.5 overs (Rakibul 39; Sharifullah 4-21, Shohidul 2-19, Riyad 2-24) Dhaka Metro: 352 and 93 for 7 (Riyad 45 not out; Mosharraf 4-41) Result: Metro won by three wickets.	Khulna v Rangpur Khulna: 211 and 208 Rangpur: 220 and 186 all out in 88.4 overs (Dhiman 56, Naeem 38; Mehedi 4-53, Razzak 4-97) Result: Khulna won by 13 runs.	Sylhet v Rajshahi Sylhet: 328 and 267 for 7 (Kapali 93; Farhad 2-18) Rajshahi: 380 Result: Match drawn

Dhaka barely stood afloat at 35 for 5. Opener Shamsur Rahman, who had scored a century in the previous innings, was sent back with the fourth ball and the rest of the batsmen followed suit.

Luckily for them, Mahmudullah Riyad held his nerve. He scored a cautious 45 off 100 deliveries and took his side home. There was tension till the end of the game with the rains interrupting the game. At one point, towards the end of the tea session, Dhaka required just eight runs to win but were forced to stop the chase because of inclement weather.

However, as soon as they got back on the field in the evening, Riyad smacked a boundary to complete the victory.

The Tier Two matches between Chittagong and Barisal in Chittagong and Sylhet and Rajshahi in Bogra ended as draws.

SL, WI begin new era

AFP, Galle

Sri Lanka and the West Indies will look to offload past baggage and begin a new era with fresh young talent when a two-Test series starts in Galle on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka are rebuilding following the retirement of their batting greats, Mahela Jayawardena and Kumar Sangakkara, within the space of a year.

The West Indies, already hit by the reluctance of Chris Gayle and Dwayne Bravo to play Test cricket, faced further turmoil when coach Phil Simmons was stood down for the tour for speaking out against his board's selection policies.

Former fast bowler and selector Eldine Baptiste will serve as interim coach for the tour and try to ease in Jason Holder as captain.

TOP RUN-GETTERS FOR PAKISTAN

Players	Matches	Innings	Runs	Avg
Younis Khan	102*	181	8852	53.97
Javed Miandad	124	189	8832	52.57
Inzamamul Haq	120	200	8830	49.60
Mohammad Yousuf	90	156	7530	52.29
Salim Malik	103	154	5768	43.69



Younis Khan raises his bat seconds after smashing England's Moeen Ali for a six, which made him Pakistan's leading Test run-getter surpassing his idol Javed Miandad on the opening day of the first Test in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Consolation for Ireland

CRICINFO

The third ODI between Ireland and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club produced another exciting day's cricket, with Ireland scampering home by just two wickets on Tuesday.

Zimbabwe's 187 appeared well under par, but Ireland slipped and stumbled to 160 for 8 before Nos. 9 and 10, Andy McBrine and Tim Murtagh, had just enough gas in the tank to get their team over the line with just over three overs to spare.

All eyes on Dhoni

India take on South Africa in 2nd ODI today

PTI, Indore

Facing the toughest phase of his cricketing life, an underfire Mahendra Singh Dhoni will seek to change the fortunes of a dispirited Indian team when the hosts take on an unbeaten South Africa in the second one-dayer here on Wednesday.

India lost two Twenty20 Internationals before suffering a close five-run defeat in the first ODI.

With critics gunning for his head, Dhoni finds himself in very challenging situation. The year 2015 has not been a particularly happy one for Dhoni after the semi-final loss in the World Cup.

The humiliation in Bangladesh in the ODI series and the T20Is against Proteas proved to be yet another no-contest. His own form has been patchy and 'Dhoni the batsman' evidently does not strike fear in the hearts of bowlers anymore.

It seems Dhoni, the ultimate finisher, has been lost somewhere. In the first ODI in Kanpur the Indian skipper answer his critics as he faltered in the botched chase.

With India needing 11 runs off the last over, the stage was set for Dhoni to finish off, but 'Captain Cool' seemed to have lost his big-hitting skills and turned more into an accumulator.

With the World T20 not too far away, time seems to be running out for Dhoni, the man once considered indispensable in limited overs formats.

Come tomorrow, the spotlight solely would be on Dhoni and his leadership skills and the remaining four matches of the ODI series will definitely be a test of character for the Indian captain.

Ton-up Malik guides Pakistan

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Shoaib Malik hit a fighting hundred to cap an impressive return to Test cricket after five years as he led Pakistan's charge in the first Test against England in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Malik was unbeaten on 124 for his third Test hundred -- his first against England -- to guide Pakistan to 286-4 at close on the opening day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Malik added an invaluable 168 for the second wicket with opener Mohammad Hafeez who missed his century by two runs after Pakistan won the toss and opted to bat on a flat pitch which is expected to take turn on the last two days.

Malik, who has been averaging 100 in one-day cricket this year -- form which earned him a recall in the longer format -- has so far hit 14 boundaries in his 230-ball patient knock.

England's pace-cum-spin attack struggled for wickets under hot conditions, bowling some loose deliveries coupled with two dropped catches by Ian Bell both off James Anderson.

It was Anderson who gave England an early breakthrough when he dismissed Shan Masood (two) in a bizarre manner, with the left-handed opener taking his eyes off a bouncer. The ball hit the grill of his helmet before crashing onto the stumps.

Hafeez and Malik steadied the innings and batted with resolve.

Hafeez hit 13 boundaries during his 170-ball knock before he tried to play on the leg-side in an attempt to reach his ninth Test hundred. He challenged Australian umpire Paul Rieffel's decision but to no avail.

Anderson, who took 2-29, was unlucky not to account for Hafeez as Bell dropped a regulation catch off the bat in the second slip. Hafeez was then batting on seven.

Hafeez took advantage of the lapse

and at 26 hit leg-spinner Adil Rasheed to point boundary to reach 3,000 runs in his 45th Test. He is the 17th Pakistani batsmen to score 3,000 or more runs in Tests.

Malik also had a reprieve when on 40 he was caught in the gully off pace-man Stuart Broad only to see the umpire signalling a no-ball.

Paceman Stuart Broad dismissed Younis with a miscued drive which was well taken by Alastair Cook at an unusual position, close to the non-striker end's umpire.

Skipper Misbah-ul-Haq became Anderson's 415th Test wicket when he was adjudged caught behind after England players reviewed the umpires' decision of not out.

BCB U-17s win big

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Under-17s posted a massive innings and 65-run victory over visiting Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Under-17s in their second three-day match at BKSP yesterday.

Shahadat Ridoy was adjudged player-of-the-match as he took five wickets for 19 runs to wrap up CAB's second innings for 75 runs.

The third three-dayer will begin on Friday at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar.

BANGABANDHU, BANGAMATA GOLD CUPS BFF wants to scout

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has showed interest to get involved with the Bangabandhu and Bangamata Gold Cup football tournaments, which involve thousands of primary schools from across the country.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and the federation's vice president Badal Roy yesterday met with the Primary and Mass Education minister Mostafizur Rahman Fizar where they talked about providing technical assistance and actively involve its coaches in both the tournaments.

"Bangabandhu and Bangamata Gold Cup tournaments are being held each year. Such a tournament involving so many schools is quite rare in the world and we want to take this opportunity to make sure these kids continue playing football," said Roy, who is also the chairman the development committee.

Roy informed that they have made some proposals -- removing bar on players' height, allowing players to wear boots, strictly maintaining age-bar and scouting talented players from these competitions for further training.

"We will be clear about the pattern of the tournaments at the next meeting on October 19 and then we will decide what assistance we might offer and at which level," said Roy.

Roy also requested the ministry for providing a list of 400 players from the last edition so that further training could be given to those players in a bid to sending the under-12 team to Super Mokh Cup in Malaysia in December.