

SPORT

Another stroll for BD women

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's cricket team took another step towards qualifying for the ICC World T20 finals when they thrashed their Scottish counterparts by eight wickets in Bangkok yesterday.

Batting first, Scotland were bundled out for just 53 in 19.1 overs. Rumana Ahmed finished with figures of 3 for 9 while Khadija Tul Kubra took 2 for 13.

After the exchange Bangladesh raced home in 12.4 overs. There was a chance for Bangladesh to win the match by ten wickets as the opening stand between Ayasha Rahman and Sharmin Akter had put on 53 runs on board. However, both the batters were dismissed just when they required one run to win.

Ayasha scored 24, while Sharmin posted 26.

Placed in Group A, Bangladesh will play PNG in their final group game today. They will need to reach the final of the tournament to confirm a spot in the World Cup in India next year.

Narine banned

SPORTS REPORTER

West Indies off-spinner Sunil Narine has been suspended from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect following an independent assessment that found his bowling action to be illegal.

It also means that Narine, who is currently



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Mushfiquur Rahim and his team Sylhet Superstars had a forgettable first leg of BPL in Dhaka, where they lost all four games. He will however pray for a sporting wicket and a turnaround of fortune when the second leg starts at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong today.

All eyes on wicket

BPL's Chittagong leg starts today

SPORTS REPORTER



As the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) enters its second leg in Chittagong today, the teams and spectators will hope that the batsmen can get a fair wicket to express themselves.

The Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong has traditionally been a batsman's paradise and almost all the players of the tournament, even some of the bowlers, hope that the wickets at the ZACS stay true to its billing.

The reason behind that of course has been the dull pitches on which the tournament was played on in Dhaka. While the first few games did witness a few high-scoring encounters, towards the end, scores of 120 and lower were chased with immense difficulty.

This is the one aspect that a number of players spoke about during their respective training sessions in Chittagong yesterday.

"I am hopeful that the wickets in Chittagong will have more runs in them. A team should ideally be able to score around 160 to 170 here even if not 180 or 190. We can know a lot better

after the first match," Chittagong Vikings skipper Tamim Iqbal told reporters yesterday.

The skipper also expects his team to do a lot better at their home venue.

"The first phase did not go too well for us. We lost close matches, which we ideally should have won. However, what has happened has happened. We have to focus on these four games here. We hope to get the kind of support that Dhaka got in the capital," said Tamim. He also hoped that bowlers like Shafiqul Islam and Taskin Ahmed get encouraged from the likes of Mohammad Amir to do well in the new phase.

Umar Akmal, who wasn't present in Dhaka, will be available in their squad for the Chittagong-leg.

Chittagong's opponents today, the Barisal Bulls have a similar focus. Their keeper Brendon Taylor hopes for a better batting performance and also hinted in the inclusion of West Indian hard-hitter Evin Lewis in the side for today's game.

"I know the wicket will be very good. The wickets in Dhaka weren't up to scratch. A year ago, we played some Test matches and ODIs here. I think it will be an excellent wicket," said Taylor.

While Barisal play Chittagong, Comilla Victorians will face the Sylhet Superstars in the

evening. The latter battle is expected to be a lot more exciting. Comilla are sitting at the top with six points while Sylhet are winless at the bottom. However, today could well be Sylhet's chance to pull off a win.

And the reason behind that is that Comilla will be without Marlon Samuels and Sunil Narine. Both the players, especially Samuels contributed quite a bit for the Victorians in Dhaka. They will hope Ahmed Shahzad and Shoaib Malik, who are expected to come on December 1, can fill that gap.

Sylhet on the other hand have roped in Shehan Jayasuriya and will be waiting for Shahid Afridi and Sohail Tanvir, who are expected to join them during the Chittagong-leg of the tournament if not today.

Mushfiquur Rahim's Sylhet might receive a further boost if Rubel Hossain, who told reporters yesterday that he was fit to play, is included in the team today.

Rangpur Riders and Dhaka Dynamites will not feature today, but when they do they will be able to include two crucial players in their respective sides.

Wahab Riaz will be reaching Chittagong tomorrow and will boost Rangpur's pace department which at the moment is being run by

Bangladesh Open excites shuttlers

SPORTS REPORTER



Country's shuttlers preparing for the South Asian Games will get an opportunity to rub their shoulders against some top players when they take part in the Bangladesh Open International Badminton Challenge, starting tomorrow at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed

Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

Some 130 players including 50 women from 12 countries -- India, Malaysia, Thailand, Russia, Nepal, Vietnam, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, United States, Sri Lanka and hosts Bangladesh -- will be vying in five events -- men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles -- of the Bangladesh Open, which is also a world ranking tournament.

The Bangladeshi players have been in the SA Games training camp for nearly three months and top shuttlers like Enamul Haque, Ahsan Habib Parash and Rais Uddin will get the opportunity to evaluate their strength against world's 33rd ranked Sai Praneeth of India and others in the men's singles while national champion Elina Sultana and runner-up Shapla Akter will have opponents like Irish Wang of the United States, a 30th world ranking shuttler, in the women's singles.

The event will also unfold a real competition for the local players, who have been starved of any domestic tournaments for the last one year. Besides, the excited players feel that the Bangladesh Open would be a perfect launching pad in their ambitions to do something good in next year's SA Games.

"This will be a very good tournament for us who get hardly any opportunity to play in domestic circuit. We have been in training for the SA Games for a couple of months and we are hoping to do something better in this meet," former national champion Ahsan Habib Parash told reporters after the official press conference at the Bangladesh Olympic Association Auditorium.

Former women's champion Shapla Akter also echoed Parash's sentiment and vowed to put her best.

"There was no domestic competition for last one year and we also don't get the chances to play outside the country, so this is an opportunity to evaluate our performance in the tournament," said runner-up Shapla.

National women's champion Elina Sultana is also excited.

"There are many strong competitors in the tournament but I want to put my level best and at least make it to the women's singles semifinals," said Elina.

Aussies seal series 2-0

Claim 3-wicket win in historic D/N Test

AFP, Adelaide



Australia claimed a thrilling three-wicket victory inside three days over New Zealand at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday in the first-ever day-night Test.

Shaun Marsh took Australia to the cusp of victory before losing his wicket on 49 and the fighting Kiwis set up a tense finish under the floodlights by also dismissing Peter Nevill to leave the home side seven wickets down.

Peter Siddle hit the winning runs, much to the relief of the crowd, to clinch a 2-0 series win over the gallant Black Caps.

Australia won the first Brisbane Test by 208 runs and the second Perth Test was drawn.

The match was redemption for Marsh, who has struggled to hold down a place in the Australian team with inconsistent batting performances over his four years at Test level.

The pink ball developed for day-night Tests triumphed over the bat in a fast-paced Test which attracted a total attendance of 123,736. The aim of the experiment is to bring the

crowds back to the long form of the game.

"The bowlers have dominated this game and it's great for cricket," said Australian skipper Steve Smith.

"It has certainly brought the bowlers into the game, particularly under the lights."

It was the first three-day Test match at the Adelaide Oval in 64 years -- since the West Indies beat Australia by six wickets.

"It was an outstanding game of cricket. Obviously completely contrasting to what we have seen in the series," said Kiwi captain Brendon McCullum.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 202

AUSTRALIA: First innings 224

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 208 (Taylor 32, McCullum 20, Santner 45, Bracewell 27 not out; Hazlewood 6-70, M Marsh 3-59)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 187 for 7 (Warner 35, Voges 28, S Marsh 49, M Marsh 28; Boult 5-60)

Result: Australia won by 3 wickets and clinched 3-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Josh Hazlewood.



PHOTO: AFP

The Aussies have won many series and trophies before. But this particular series win against New Zealand will mark yet another landmark success for them because of the historic day-night Test that they clinched inside three days in Adelaide yesterday. The Aussies are the proud winners of the first-ever Test, the first ODI and also the first T20I.

Maruful's strict rules

SPORTS REPORTER



The national football team's residential camp for next month's SAFF Championship has begun at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Prothistan yesterday without striker Zahid Hasan Emily and defender Yeasin Khan.

The players, who are expected to join the camp soon, have taken personal leaves.

On the first day, 26 booters had a light training session before coach Maruful Haque had a closed-door meeting with the players in the evening.

The coach reportedly provided the players with certain rules-and-regulations that they needed to follow in order to avoid getting axed from the preparatory camp.

The players have been asked to go to bed by 11:00pm and attend training punctually. The players also promised to abide by the rules.

"We want to cash in on the 21 days we will get before the SAFF Championship. I have also promised to be the first person to arrive at training every day," said captain Mamunul Islam. Mamunul added that while the training timetable at the club was a lot more flexible the sessions with the national team would be different.

"We want everything out of our mind except for football. We want to train as hard as we can for the SAFF Championship," he said.

Fire Service promoted

SPORTS REPORTER

Fire Service and Civil Defense Sports Club were crowned champions of the Marcel 1st Division Chess League yesterday after they beat Farashganj SC 3-1 in the ninth and final round of the competition at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Fire Service and Civil Defense earned 15 points from nine matches and have earned themselves a promotion to the Premier Division. Mir Chess Club, Basir Memorial Chess Club of Jessore and Access Chess Club ended with 13 points each from nine matches. Mir Chess Club however sealed the runners-up spot in a tie-breaker.

Bangladesh youths thrashed in final

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Under-19s finished their tour of India on a disappointing note as they went down to their Indian counterparts by seven wickets in the final of the tri-nation tournament in Kolkata yesterday.

Both teams beat Afghanistan to set up the final. While Bangladesh did lose to India in tournament before, many expected a much better contest this time around. However, that wasn't to be as the visitors were bundled out for just 116 runs after batting first. Young Nazmul Hossain Shanto was the only player to provide some resistance with a 66-ball 45. The rest of the batting order crumbled

against the home attack with slow left-armer Mayank Dagar claiming three wickets.

After the exchange, India lost a few early wickets but an unbeaten half-century from Sarfaraz Khan (59) ensured that there were no further worries and the hosts reached home in just 13.3 overs. Sarfaraz hammered three sixes and nine fours in his 27-ball 59.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH U-19s: 116 all out in 36.5 overs (Joyraj 28, Nazmul 45, Jaker 24; Dagar 3-32, Mavi 2-21, Lomror 2-11, Avesh 1-18)

INDIA U-19s: 117 for 3 in 13.3 overs (Pant 26, Sundar 12, Bhui 20 not out, Sarfaraz 59 not out; Saeed 1-23, Mehedi 1-27, Saleh 1-35)

Result: India U-19s won by 7 wickets.

Last eight confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER

The quarterfinal line-up of the Kool-BSJA Media Cup Football Tournament was completed yesterday as ATN News, ATN Bangla, Boishakhi TV, Channel I, GTV and Jamuna TV emerged champions of their respective groups at the BFF artificial turf yesterday.

Jamuna TV beat NTV 5-1, Channel I beat Daily Star 5-1, ATN Bangla beat bdnews24.com 1-0. On the other hand, ATN News played out a 1-1 draw against Maasranga, GTV drew 1-1 against RTV and Boishakhi and Banglavisión played out a goalless draw.

In the day's other matches, Nayadiganta beat Dhaka Tribune 3-2 and Somoy TV beat SATV 2-1.

All four quarterfinals will be held at the same venue today.