

SPORT

V-Day hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Star-studded Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) avoided a semifinal showdown in the Victory Day Hockey tournament when they emerged group champions at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Navy comprising national players scored a hard-fought 2-1 win against Bangladesh Army in last Group A match with defender Mamunur Rahman Chayan and midfielder Roman Sarker putting their manes in the scoresheet. National striker Puskhar Khisha Mimo reduced the margin for Army.

In the day's other match, BKSP notched up a massive 8-0 win over Bangladesh Air Force, thanks to a rampant Ashraf Islam who struck four goals. Sohanur Rahman, Arshad Hossain, Mohsin and Fazle Hossain shared the other goals for the country's lone sports institute in a one-sided affair.

Navy will face Air Force while BKSP will play Army in the criss-cross semifinals, billed for Wednesday.

Baridhara blank Agrani Bank

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttar Baridhara Club climbed up to the crowded top of the Minister Fridge Bangladesh Championship League with a 2-0 win over Agrani Bank at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After the barren first half, Ariful put Baridhara ahead in the 76th minute before Monir sealed the match in the stoppage time. It was Agrani's third defeat in seven matches.

With their second win in seven matches, Baridhara now share the lead of the eight-team table along with Bangladesh Police, Arambagh KS, T&T Club and Agrani Bank - all with 10 points.

However, Baridhara and Agrani Bank have played one match more than the three other joint leaders.

Mustafiz looks forward to PSL

Younis unsold

SPORTS REPORTER



A new front opens for young pace blower Mustafizur Rahman as he was taken by Lahore Qualandars for the first edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). Two other Bangladeshi cricketers were also roped in as Karachi Kings included all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal was drafted into Peshwar Zalmi. Shakib was placed in the Platinum group which is the topmost category for the draft, whereas Tamim and Mustafizur both were placed in the Gold category. A fee of USD \$140,000 has been determined for each Platinum player barring the five Icons, each of whom will be paid USD \$200,000 while the fees for players in the Gold and Silver category were fixed at \$50,000 and \$25,000 respectively. Playing on a foreign scale is nothing new for Shakib who has become a much loved cricketer the world over or for Tamim as the left handed opener played in various tournaments such as in CPL, SLPL and domestic T20



SHAKIB AL HASAN



TAMIM IQBAL



MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN

competitions in England and New Zealand but in Mustafizur's case, this will be his debut. "I am excited, I want to play cricket all over the world so that I can gain more experience and exposure. But I will only play my first T20 league abroad if the board (Bangladesh Cricket Board) allow me to play in PSL," said Mustafizur, who was recently included in the ICC's ODI team of the year, in his reaction over the telephone last night.

If Mustafizur, who bamboozled the dashing West Indies left-hander with his canny cutter during the

recent BPL, attends the tournament, it will mean sharing the dressing room with West Indies big-hitter Chris Gayle

"It would be fantastic. I had a dream of taking his wicket and it was fulfilled and it's now in the past and I am now looking forward to gain more experience playing against the world's big batsmen," he stated.

The draft on Monday saw Shahid Afridi (Peshawar Zalmi), Shoaib Malik (Karachi), Shane Watson (Islamabad United), Kevin Pietersen (Quetta Gladiators) and Chris Gayle (Lahore Qalandars) all

bagged by their respective teams in the first round as Platinum players.

Mushfiqur Rahim, Soumya Sarkar and Shahriar Nafees, who were also in the Gold category, remained unsold on the first day while Mahmudullah Riyad, Anamul Haque, Mominul Haque and Imrul Kayes who are placed in the Silver category, will know their fate today.

After years of planning the Pakistan Cricket Board is finally ready to launch their domestic Twenty20 competition which is scheduled to run from February 4 to 25 in the United Arab Emirates.

AGENCIES, Karachi



Pakistan's Test stalwart Younis Khan, who led the national team to their only World T20 title in 2009, remained unsold on the first day of players' draft for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) on Monday.

38-year-old Younis, who was kept in the top platinum category carrying a price tag of between USD 80,000 to 145,000, was overlooked in the draft held in Lahore even as he scored a big hundred in the domestic first class tournament.

The draft will continue on Tuesday, when each team will choose five players from the Silver category, and two from the Emerging category.

The teams as they stand at the end of the Platinum, Diamond and Gold rounds:

ISLAMABAD UNITED: Shane Watson, Andre Russell, Misbahul Haq, Samuel Badree, Mohammad Irfan, Brad Haddin, Sharjeel Khan, Mohammad Sami, Khalid Latif.

KARACHI KINGS: Shoaib Malik, Shakib Al Hasan, Sohail Tanvir, Imad Wasim, Ravi Bopara, Lendl Simmons, Mohammad Amir, Bilawal Bhatti, James Vince.

PESHAWAR ZALMI: Shahid Afridi, Wahab Riaz, Darren Sammy, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Hafeez, Chris Jordan, Tamim Iqbal, Junaid Khan, Jim Allenby.

QUETTA GLADIATORS: Kevin Pietersen, Sarfraz Ahmed, Ahmed Shehzad, Anwar Ali, Jason Holder, Luke Wright, Zulfiqar Babar, Umar Gul, Elton Chigumbura.

LAHORE QALANDARS: Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo, Umar Akmal, Mohammad Rizwan, Yasir Shah, Shoaib Maqsood, Mustafizur Rahman, Keven Cooper, Cameron Delport.

Yuvi unhappy with ODI omission

ANI, New Delhi



Indian batsman Yuvraj Singh, who was recalled to the Twenty20 squad for the series against Australia, has expressed his disappointment for not being included for the ODIs.

"To be honest, I'm a bit disappointed that I am back only in the T20 squad, not for the ODIs. However, there's happiness that I'm back after quite a while. The disappointment is personal and I hope I'm not misunderstood and that nothing at all is taken out of context," the 34-year-old was quoted as saying by 'The Telegraph'.

Describing the condition in Australia as 'challenging', Yuvraj said that he would try to give his best in the upcoming tour. Yuvraj, who made his last appearance in the 2014 World T20 final, further admitted that the shortest-format of the game was quite demanding due to its compressed nature.

"The 20-over game isn't easy. That said, I'm positive, for that's the way I am. I have the confidence to try and do my best in the opportunities I get. The dressing room needs to have the belief in me. I'm sure I'll get the support I need," the big-hitting batsman added.

India will play a five-match ODI series (from January 12) followed by three-match T20 series against Australia, starting from January 26.



The Bangladesh footballers enjoyed their first training session at the Trivandrum Outers Stadium in Kerala yesterday as part of their final preparation for the Suzuki SAFF Cup which commences from tomorrow.

PHOTO: BFF

IN A NUTSHELL

'D/N Test in Gabba is risky'

Ryan Harris warns it would be a mistake to host a day-night Test at the Gabba, especially against South Africa's star-studded pace attack.

Cricket Australia is in negotiations with its Pakistan and South Africa counterparts about the 2016-17 season, after the historic day-night Test in Adelaide Oval.

The Gabba is considered the frontrunner if there is a second day-night Test that summer.

However Harris said: "I don't think Brisbane is a logical place to play it just yet."

Murray honoured

Davis Cup hero Andy Murray won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award for 2015 at a star-studded reception in Belfast on Sunday.

The world number two led Great Britain to their first Davis Cup title since 1936 last month.

Accepting the award the Scot said: "This has been a five-year journey - we were right down at the bottom level or tennis and now we're ranked number one in the world and I never thought that would be possible."

Inglis spoils Rodionova's party



Teenager Maddison Inglis has crashed Arina Rodionova's party to score a maiden main-draw berth at next month's Australian Open.

Inglis produced a masterful performance to win the women's wildcard playoff with a 6-4 6-2 defeat of Rodionova, who was backing up the final day after getting married to Richmond Tigers AFL player Ty Vickery.

Inglis' triumph came a week after narrowly missing out on the final of the under-18 Australian championship.

"I was exhausted after the 18s, just mentally and physically," she said.

"I don't know how I got through it. I'm so happy right now. I actually can't believe it still."

Compiled by Star Sport Desk

Kane numero uno

AFP, Hamilton



New Zealand phenomenon Kane Williamson shot to the top of the Test batting rankings Monday following his match-winning century against Sri Lanka.

He also ended the year with an astounding 90.15 Test average, well clear of the next best 76.83 by Australian Adam Voges.

He started the Hamilton Test as the third-ranked Test batsman behind England's Joe Root and South African AB de Villiers, but passed both with his unbeaten 108.

But following a Test in which he reached a number of milestones, Williamson was uncomfortable being the focus of attention.

"From my perspective the most pleasing thing is each game you set out you want to contribute as best you

can to a team performance," he said.

"That's all I want to do really. You talk about (record) years and things. It's very difficult to look at it like that."

New Zealand took just under an hour on the fourth day to wrap up the second Test.

The previous morning Sri Lanka were in command before the initiative swung on a day when Williamson stood alone as the one batsman who could handle the short-pitched bowling strategy orchestrated by both sides.

Sixteen wickets fell on the third day, most caught when attempting to pull bouncing deliveries.

Williamson said the wicket held no demons and shot selection was the key.

"All the guys like to play (the pull shot) but like any shot, on some surfaces it's important you try to select the right one," he said.

"I was a victim of that in the first innings as well (and) I wanted to make sure I was more sound in my decision-making."



Kiwi Kane Williamson takes a bow after scoring a terrific century against Sri Lanka in Hamilton yesterday and in the process became numero uno in ICC batting ranking.

PHOTO: AFP

Kiwis sweep series

AFP, Hamilton



Kane Williamson added to an already glittering resume as he led New Zealand to a five-wicket victory in Hamilton Monday to wrap up the two-Test series against Sri Lanka.

The New Zealand batting maestro completed his 13th Test century, and fifth of the year, as the Black Caps knocked off the 47 runs required for victory on day four of the second Test.

The honour of completing the formalities went to BJ Watling with a single to get New Zealand to their 189 target but the result belonged to the 25-year-old Williamson.

Williamson, now number one in the ICC batting rankings, reached a number of milestones in his 108 not out as New Zealand followed up their 122-run triumph in the first Test in Dunedin.

After resuming the day on 78, he took a four off the second delivery from Dushmantha Chameera, Sri Lanka's most effective bowler.

His century came from a similar shot with a boundary through square off Chameera which also took him past Brendon McCullum's New Zealand record of 1,164 Test runs in a calendar year.

Williamson ended the year with easily the best average of established Test players in 2015 at an incredible 90.15 with the next best, Australian Adam Voges, averaging 76.83.

He set a New Zealand record of 1,172 for Test runs in a calendar year and has now scored 2,633 in all internationals this year.

His 13 Test centuries takes him to second equal on the New Zealand list with Ross Taylor and four behind the record of 17 set by Martin Crowe.

In a Test where both sides struggled with short-pitched bowling, including Williamson in his four-ball first innings, his second turn with the bat was a masterclass of technique in keeping the ball on the deck.

He faced 164 balls and produced 12 fours and only one six.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 292

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 237

SRI LANKA: Second innings 133

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 189 for 5 (Williamson 108 not out, Taylor 35, McCullum 18; Chameera 4-68)

Result: New Zealand won by 5 wickets and clinched 2-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Kane Williamson.

Bishoo set for a recall

AFP, Melbourne

The West Indies will consider recalling leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo for the second Test against Australia starting on Boxing Day, coach Phil Simmons said Monday.

Bishoo claimed two wickets as the tourists again struggled against a Victorian XI with the home side 169 for three in reply to the West Indies 303 for eight declared when rain finished their two-day clash early in Geelong on Sunday.

Simmons confirmed the wrist-spinner would be in the mix for the second Test in the three-Test series after an innings and 212-run thrashing in the first match in Hobart.

"He bowled better," Simmons told reporters. "There was a lot more drive in his deliveries and everything like that."

"We'll see what happens over the next three days and we'll see what the Melbourne Cricket Ground wicket is like, then we can make a decision about the combination we're going with."

Simmons said Bishoo was fully fit despite speculation over a finger spinning problem.

"He hasn't bowled enough on this tour to have that issue. The last time he had that issue he bowled quite a few overs in the Test match at Dominica," he said.

"Nothing like that has come up."