

Tigers' World T20 squad submitted

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national selection committee submitted to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) its 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC World Twenty20 on Monday.

While the squad is yet to be revealed, it was learnt that young pacer Abu Haider and exciting wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan, both of who made their debuts during the Zimbabwe series last month, have a good chance of making it to the team.

The pace department of the squad, which already seems packed with the likes of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mustafizur Rahman and Al-Amin Hossain apart from Haider, might also include Taskin Ahmed who bowled quite well in the last T20I against Zimbabwe.

The only other position that remains vacant is that of the bowling all-rounder. Nasir Hossain and Shuvagata Hom are key contenders for that spot. Based on the fact that Shuvagata was picked ahead of Nasir during the Zimbabwe series, the former could make the cut as well.

If he is picked, he could very well be the third full-time spinner in the squad behind Shakib Al Hasan and Arafat Sunny. The squad is expected to be revealed once BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon returns to Dhaka later this week.

With the World Cup squad submitted, the next assignment for the selectors will be to provide the squad for the Asia Cup which begins on February 24.



The Bangladesh players made such light work of Namibia to ensure a quarterfinal berth in the ICC Under-19 World Cup that they had time for an impromptu bath at the Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Lots to celebrate for Miraz

Bangladesh beat Namibia to set up quarterfinal against Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh brought high-flying Namibia crashing down to earth as the home side outclassed their Southwest African opponents by eight wickets to become Group A champions in the ICC Under-19 World Cup at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The home team confirmed their Super League berth earlier after beating South Africa and Scotland and the third win set their Super League clash against Group D runners-up Nepal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on February 5.

Namibia made headlines when they sent defending champions South Africa packing after beating

Scotland in the first game, but they were nowhere near the level of their impressive performances in the previous two matches once Young Tigers skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz invited them to bat first.

Pacer Mohammad Saifuddin, who already hogged the spotlight for his accuracy in a handful of yorkers, gave the breakthrough in the fourth over by removing Loftie-Eaton and then the Namibian batsmen were caught in a spin, as the trio of Saleh Ahmed Shawon (2 for 10), Miraz (2 for 12) and Ariful Islam (2 for 9) helped hosts dismiss Namibia for a paltry 65.

Bangladesh initially stumbled in their chase as they lost their both openers, Saif Hasan and Pinak Ghosh, with the scoreboard reading 13, but Joyraz Sheik (34 not out) and in-form Nazmul Hossain (14 not out) took the hosts home in 16 overs.

There was nothing exciting about the one-sided affair except the tension surrounding Miraz's bowling record. He required two wickets to become the highest wicket-taker in Youth ODIs and he took his first in the seventh over. However, when he returned to bowling in the 33rd over the tension mounted and Miraz was fortunate to take the last wicket by trapping Warren van Wyk in front to leapfrog Pakistan's Imad Wasim with 74 wickets. Two Bangladeshi youths now hold the highest-run getter and wicket-taker records as Nazmul Hossain earlier became the highest run-getter during his unbeaten 113-run innings against Scotland at the same venue.

Miraz, who was the toast of his teammates, was the most satisfied man yesterday but he was looking for more success in the tournament. "As a captain it's a wonder-

ful day for me as we won the match, became group champions and I achieved the feat of becoming the highest wicket-taker," said an excited Miraz after the match.

"But we cannot end everything here; instead we have to continue our smiles in the tournament. We have a long way to go. If we are already satisfied then we cannot achieve our goal," he continued, adding that a win against this kind of team always boosts confidence since there is always the chance of an upset.

Miraz also gave some credit to his best friend for achieving the feat. "I was confident about the record in this match. But you know if you are too eager about taking wickets then you may be unsuccessful. Shanto [Nazmul Hossain] reminded me that it would be unwise for me to think about the record which helped me lot."

Mankad mars a thriller

STAR SPORT DESK



The West Indies found themselves a place in the last eight of the ICC Under-19 World Cup yesterday when they edged past Zimbabwe by two runs. The win helped them finish second in Group C behind England. Despite the fact that it was a closely-fought contest, what garnered the majority of the attention after the match was the manner in which the boys from the Caribbean secured the victory.

Zimbabwe, chasing the West Indies' 226 for nine, began the last over needing just three runs to win with one wicket in hand amid mounting tension in Chittagong.

But West Indies seamer Keemo Paul whipped off the balls before sending down the first ball, catching non-striker Richard Ngarava slightly out of his crease. The decision was referred to the TV umpire who declared Ngarava run-out.

The last-wicket incident proved an anti-climax to what had been an absorbing do-or-die contest between two valiant teams attempting to nail a quarterfinal berth.

This of course isn't the first case where a batsman was seen mankaded in the Under-19 World Cup. Back in 2012, Soumya Sarkar, who now plays for the Bangladesh national team, had mankaded Australia's Jimmy Peirson in the quarterfinal of the competition in Townsville.

Paul's move elicited plenty of reactions, most which were against the act. England national player Eoin Morgan described it as disgraceful and embarrassing on Twitter. Australian coach Darren Lehman tweeted: "Unbelievable, not out."

Sharing a similar sentiment, South Africa's Alviro Peterson tweeted saying: "I can't support what just happened in the U-19 World Cup. Perhaps a decision taken without thought."

On the other hand, West Indian pacer Tino Best and Indian commentator Harsha Bhogle supported the move.

"Amazed that the spirit of the game never comes up when batsmen hit the ball and stay on but does when a bowler mankads a batsman," Bhogle wrote on Twitter.

The West Indies will take on the winner of Wednesday's last league match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the fourth quarterfinal in Fatullah on 8 February.

Meanwhile, South Africa finished third in the group after a 10-wicket rout of Scotland in Cox's Bazar, the first win in the tournament for skipper Tony de Zorzi's men.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NAMIBIA: 65 all out in 32.5 overs (Davin 19; Ariful 2-9, Saleh 2-10, Mehidy 2-12)	overs (Verreynne 64 not out, Smith 64 not out)
BANGLADESH: 66 for 2 in 16 overs (Sheik 34 not out, Coetzee 2-20)	Result: South Africa won by ten wickets.
Result: Bangladesh won by eight wickets.	WEST INDIES: 226 for 9 in 50 overs (Springer 61, Magarira 3-28, Madhevere 2-48)
SCOTLAND: 127 all out in 45.4 overs (McCreath 29 not out; Galim 2-16, Mulder 2-16, Whitehead 2-16, de Zorzi 2-20)	ZIMBABWE: 224 all out in 49 overs (Snyder 52, Keefe 43, Ives 37, Madhevere 21; Joseph 4-30)
SOUTH AFRICA: 129 for no loss in 29	Result: West Indies won by two runs.

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES 2016 Taekwondo shows promise

SPORTS REPORTER

Taekwondo was the third discipline of martial arts to be included in the South Asian (SA) Games in the 1999 Kathmandu SA Games and Bangladesh never returned from the games with empty hands. Bangladesh won four bronze medals in this discipline in the Kathmandu Games followed by one bronze in the 2004 Islamabad edition before grabbing three gold medals in the last two editions. This time, too, taekwondo is expected to keep its promise.

In the last edition held in Dhaka in 2010, Sharmin Farzana Rumi and Shammi Akter won two out of the 18 gold medals that Bangladesh won, but Rumi and Shammi have not been involved with the game since. However, hopes lie with 2006 SA Games gold winner Mizanur Rahman and two youngsters -- Zahidul Islam

and Sumana Munni -- as Korean coach Lee Ju Sang.

"We have a weaker squad this time compared to the one from the previous edition, but Mizan is in the twilight of his career while eighty percent of the players are newcomers. So we can't assure you that we will win gold medals, but we will be fighting for it," said long-serving Korean coach Lee.

Lee, however, believes Bangladesh have good chance in two to three events. "Mizan, Zahidul and Munna have the ability to win gold medals, but I can't say anything as such about the youngsters," said Lee.

Mizan, despite being one of three gold winners for Bangladesh in the 2006 Colombo Games, has failed to even win a bronze medal in the last edition, yet he is again in focus.

"Taekwondo is a game of fighting and no one can give certainty about winning gold medal. If two or three

strong competitors are pitted in the same group, then one or two must quit the scene, which is what happened to me last time, but this time I have taken good preparation and I will have hope to do well," said Mizan, who will compete in -80kg weight category.

Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation's general secretary Mahmudul Hasan Rana believes that they have picked up the best available players in their respective categories.

"Even though they have not won any international medals, Zahid and Munni have been doing well in their respective -56kg and -46kg categories and they have good experience to fight at international level," said Rana.

"We have been preparing since August and we all are hopeful about winning medals," said Munni. "As two gold medals came from taekwondo in the last edition, we will be trying to do the same."

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES 1st contingent leaves today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first segment of the Bangladesh contingent will leave here today to take part in the 12th South Asian Games to be held jointly by Guwahati and Shillong from February 5 to 16.

Some 160 athletes and officials from disciplines such as archery, cycling, volleyball, wushu, squash, swimming, table tennis, badminton, and women's football will fly out to Guwahati in the morning by a chartered flight of Bangladesh Airlines.

However, another 25-member wrestling squad will reach Guwahati via Kolkata.

After landing in Guwahati, the athletes from archery, wushu, table tennis, badminton and women's football will travel by road to Shillong, where six disciplines plus women's football will be held.

Of the 521-member mega Bangladesh contingent, the athletes and officials will leave here phase by phase and the second segment will fly out tomorrow while the rest of the members will leave on February 8.

No Kohli for SL series

AGENCIES, New Delhi

India have rested batting star Virat Kohli for their three Twenty20 matches against Sri Lanka this month with an eye on the World T20 on home soil.

With MS Dhoni's men kicking off their bid for a second Twenty20 world title in six weeks, the team have decided to rest Kohli, who was top-scorer in the series in Australia.



West Indies pacer Keemo Paul (L) 'mankading' Zimbabwe's Richard Ngarava to steal a two-run win and a place in the quarterfinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Baz farewell begins

AFP, Auckland

New Zealand and Australia were poles apart on their reading of the Eden Park wicket ahead of Wednesday's opening one-day international in Auckland with Australia backing pace and New Zealand spin.

New Zealand rushed leg-spinner Ish Shodhi into their squad Tuesday, while Australia's lineup showed a preference for firing an aggressive barrage at Brendon McCullum.

A four-pronged pace armory comprising Josh Hazlewood, John Hastings, Kane Richardson and James Faulkner will be deployed, Australia skipper Steve Smith said.

McCullum is retiring from cricket at the end of the Australia series and Smith is determined to give him a fiery send off.

"Brendon has been a terrific player and leader for a long time. No doubt they'll want to send him off in the best way possible. It's up to us to make that not happen," Smith said.

"For us it's about making sure we're playing the same way we have been -- good, hard aggressive cricket."

McCullum, however, said Sodhi was added to the New Zealand squad as the match is being played on the same wicket where Kane Williamson was beaten by the

spin of Pakistan's Azhar Ali last Sunday.

"The wicket the other day was a little bit slow and we're going to play on the same pitch," McCullum said.

"Not many get past Kane so the wicket obviously had a little more turn than we expected."

The Australians do not have pleasant memories of the last time they faced McCullum at Eden Park when the New Zealand skipper belted a 24-ball half century to lead his side to a one-wicket win in a World Cup pool game.

Both sides go into the series on a winning run in one-dayers, with New Zealand having completed series victories over Pakistan and Sri Lanka while Australia dominated India (4-1).

Australia have opted for Shaun Marsh to open with David Warner ahead of the in-form Usman Khawaja.

Promising leg-spinner Adam Zampa has also been left out of the side.

NEW ZEALAND
McCullum, Anderson, Boult, Bracewell, Elliott, Guptill, Henry, Milne, Munro, Nicholls, Ronchi, Santner, Sodhi, Williamson.

AUSTRALIA
Smith, Warner, Marsh, Bailey, Maxwell, Marsh, Wade, Faulkner, Hastings, Richardson, Hazlewood.

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES Pakistan govt gives all-clear

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's 456-strong contingent for the upcoming South Asian Games in India has been cleared by its government to participate in the event starting February 5.

"The government has given clearance for the contingent to go to India and take part in nearly 22 disciplines," Akhtar Ganjara, the director-general of Pakistan Sports Board, told PTI.

Ganjara said there would be no compromise on the security for the Pakistani contingent during the Games and the Indian Olympic Association had assured them of top notch arrangements for the athletes.

7 Tigers drafted for CPL

SPORTS REPORTER



Seven Bangladeshi national cricketers have been officially registered for the HERO Caribbean Premier League (CPL) Player Draft which is scheduled to take place on February 11 in Barbados.

They are: Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mustafizur Rahman and Soumya Sarkar. The T20 competition is expected to take place in July this year.

So far Shakib and Tamim are the players who have taken part in the earlier editions of the competition. For the rest of the above-mentioned players it will be a new experience, provided they get selected by the franchises next week.

The CPL this year is expected to be an extremely competitive tournament with a huge number of foreign players expected to take part. Apart from the seven Bangladesh

players, 23 Australians, 11 players from New Zealand, 37 from Pakistan, 34 from South Africa and 20 players from Sri Lanka have also been registered in the players' draft. The list of course, is aside from the hard-hitting West Indian players.

Of the current ICC World T20 player rankings, nine of the top 20 batsmen could be set to feature in this summer's CPL: du Plessis (fourth place), Guptill (fifth), Gayle (seventh), Zimbabwe's Hamilton Masakadza (eighth), Afghanistan's Mohammad Shahzad (ninth), Dilshan (13th), Brendon McCullum (15th), Watson (17th) and Umar Akmal (18th).

Four of the top five bowlers in the T20 rankings are also in the frame with the list headed by West Indian leg-spinner Badree, Afridi (third), Sachithra Senanayake (fourth) and Graeme Cremer (fifth), with Malinga (seventh) and Tahir (ninth) also amongst the leading lights in contention.