



Tamim does it again

STAR SPORT DESK

For the second successive time, Tamim Iqbal's big score secured a win for his Pakistan Super League side, Peshawar Zalmi yesterday.

Chasing Lahore Qalandars' 117, Tamim hit an unbeaten 55 as Zalmi got home with four overs and 9 wickets to spare at the Dubai International Stadium.

After his 51 in the previous game, Tamim look imperious once again, smashing seven fours to set the tone for a comfortable chase.

Meanwhile, Shakib Al Hasan had a day to forget after a great start to the tournament.

The Quetta Gladiators defeat his side, Karachi Kings, by eight wickets earlier at the same venue. Batting first, Karachi had scored 147.

Shakib, batting at number four, scored a 13-ball 17 before being bowled by Mohammad Nabi. His bowling figures weren't stellar either, as he finished with one for 43 in his four overs.

Mustafizur makes an IPL splash

SPORTS REPORTER



"Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" an elated Mustafizur Rahman yelled at the other end of the line when he was being congratulated for receiving an Indian Premier League (IPL) contract yesterday.

Since the player could be reached only by phone as he was shooting a television commercial, it was not possible to witness the 20-year-old's reaction.

However, judging by his voice, Mustafizur was a very happy man yesterday.

Originally in the list with a base price of 50 lakh rupees, he was eventually signed up by the Sunrisers Hyderabad for 1.40 crore rupees (approximately Tk 1.64 crore) after outbidding another franchisee.

"It feels really good to be selected in the Indian Premier League. Honestly speaking I just want to go there, play and show my worth. I am not concerned about the money that I have received. The fact that I have gotten a chance to play in it itself is exciting," Mustafizur told The Daily Star.

"I did not watch much of the IPL games on television. But I am sure I can do well there if I work hard," he added.

The left-arm pacer became the sixth

Bangladeshi cricketer to receive an IPL contract yesterday. Abdur Razzak, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mohammad Ashraful, Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan are the other cricketers who previously received contracts. Of them, Shakib, who plays for the Kolkata Knight Riders, is the only player who has managed to continue playing in the lucrative

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T20 competition.

Mustafizur had also received a contract in the ongoing Pakistan Super League. He was drafted by the Lahore Qalandars for USD 50,000 in the ongoing Pakistan Super League.



However, the BCB decided against sending him there since he incurred a shoulder injury a few days before the start of the competition. Apart from the injury, it was also learnt that the team management were not keen on exposing Mustafizur before the World Cup.

However, a similar issue with regards to the IPL is not likely to occur. "We are serious about him in the sense that we won't risk him if he has an injury, otherwise there is no issue sending him. I don't think it's possible to hide players in cricket today. Besides, playing in the IPL is a matter of prestige," said BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon.

Also in the players' draft yesterday were Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar and Taskin Ahmed.

However, all of them remained unsold. Mushfiqur and Tamim may not have received IPL contracts but they are busy sweating it out in Dubai at the PSL currently.

'No major change in ICC constitution'

SPORTS REPORTER



Two days after the International Cricket Council (ICC) proposed to bring amendments to the changes brought to its constitution back in 2014, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon claimed that the proposed amendments would not bring a major difference in the way the ICC functioned.

In its last meeting in Dubai, the ICC proposed to elect a new Chairman in June. As opposed to the current system, the new chairman will not be able to represent a particular board.

There was also a proposal to remove the permanent positions for the nominees of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Cricket Australia (CA) and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) from the Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee and the Executive Committee in order to allow a fair access to membership for all the full and associate members.

Once the proposals were revealed to the public, articles regarding the supposed end of the 'Big three' regime were published worldwide.

However, the BCB president, who is a member of the ICC committee formed to review the 2014 constitution, expressed a rather different view yesterday.

"I think there was a misinterpretation in the media regarding these issues. There isn't much of a change actually. Do the changes mean that the Executive Committee will not exist? Does it mean that there will be no chairman? Are we going back to the ICC president-era? Nothing much has changed," Papon told reporters.

"There hasn't been a change in the earning mechanism either. As per the changes in the 2014 constitution, every country has a fixed percentage of income in the ICC. The more the value of a member, the more they earn. For instance, the amount of money that Australia and England will earn is the same.

"The only change that could happen is regarding the income earned by the BCCI. ICC chairman Shashank Manohar, who also represents India and is a very liberal man, has said that he wants to let go six percent of the income earned by Indian cricket board and provide it to the lesser ranked sides for their development. But that's a matter for the board [BCCI] and not the ICC," he added.

Apart from the changes in the constitution Papon also spoke on the possibility of an additional series for Bangladesh in 2016.

"At the moment we want the ICC Under-19 World Cup and the Asia Cup to finish successfully. Once that happens, we will go to the World Cup [World Twenty20] in India and have an open discussion with other boards for more series'. For now we have a proposal for a tri-series involving Sri Lanka and West Indies.

"We want to host that after the England series in October. But then again we also don't want to shift the Bangladesh Premier League which is scheduled to take place around that time because the BPL was organised very well in the last season. So we are looking for a slot. Let's see what happens," said Papon.



NAZMUL HASSAN PAPON

Ram-Pant India thru' to semis

SPORTS REPORTER



The in-form Rishabh Pant hit a stroke-filled hundred as India romped to the semifinal of the ICC Under-19 World Cup with

an emphatic 197-run victory against Namibia in the second quarterfinal at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.

India will meet today's quarterfinal (England vs Sri Lanka) winners in the semifinal, which will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on February 9. Hosts Bangladesh were the first team to reach the semifinal by beating Nepal.

Pant continued his run-spree in the tournament with an innings of 111 that helped his side to amass 349 for six in their share of 50 overs. The left-hander, who had blasted the fastest U-19 international half-century during the win against Nepal, smote 14 fours and two sixes during his 96-ball innings.



RISHABH PANT ... 111

India made a poor start after deciding to bat first as captain Ishan Kishan was dismissed for six in the third over but Pant and Anmolpreet Singh repaired the damage and put on 103 runs for the second wicket. Pant added a further 62 for the third wicket with Sarfaraz Khan, another

in-form Indian batsman who made run-a-ball 76. Armaan Jaffer (64) and Mahipal Lomror (41 not out) were the other notable scorers. Fritz Coetzee took three wickets but was expensive, giving away 78 runs.

In reply SJ Loftie-Eaton and Niko Davin made a promising start for Namibia by scoring 59 inside 10 overs but the dismissal of Davin opened the floodgates and Namibia were bundled out for 152 in 39 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF
INDIA U-19S: 349 for 6 (Pant 111, Anmolpreet 41, Khan 76, Jaffer 64, Lomror 41 not out; Coetzee 3-78)
NAMIBIA UNDER-19S: 152 all out in 39 overs (Lottie-Eaton 22, Davin 33, Green 27, Linde 25; Dagar 3-25, Sundar 2-27, Anmolpreet 3-27)
Result: India Under-19s won by 197 runs.

'Can expect some tough measures'

SPORTS REPORTER



The executive committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday forwarded the unanimously approved probe report of the national team's debacle in the SAFF Suzuki Cup to the National teams' Committee (NTC), hinting that some tough measures

might come about in the final decision. The report is believed to contain some damning allegations and suggestion of punitive measures against a number of players of the team due to indiscipline. It has been reported that the report suggested suspension of two players and measures against five others after its detailed investigation into the causes of the SAFF performance, where the team were knocked out of the group stages.

However BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy declined to disclose any recommendations made in the report.

"The report has been unanimously approved, without any alterations to its original form, and has been handed over to the NTC, which will hopefully come out with a decision within a week," Murshedy told reporters after the meeting.

"This is a very confidential issue. There are recommendations here which are not easy ones. So we can expect some tough decisions coming. I won't say any names, but I believe the recommendations that have been made and hope the decisions that will come through, are of a nature of extreme importance to our football," Murshedy added.

Meanwhile, the meeting also decided that an extraordinary general meeting of the game's governing body will be held in Chittagong on March 12 while the meeting also approved the by-laws for the National Football Championship, which is likely to kick off within a month.

Fahad runner-up in Mumbai

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman finished runner-up in the IIFL Wealth Mumbai Junior (Under-13) Chess Championship, which concluded in Mumbai, said a press release from the Bangladesh Chess Federation yesterday.

Fahad earned 7.5 points from nine rounds. Two other players -- Sadhwani Raunak and Aditya Mittal of India -- also finished with same number of points.

However, after a three-way tie-breaker, Sadhwani emerged champion while Fahad finished runner-up and Aditya became third. Fahad, who beat Dhanush Ragav of India in the last round, received close to one lakh Indian rupees for his feat.

A total of 171 under-13 chess players from six countries took part in the event.

Watson fetches top price

AFP, Bangalore

Australian all-rounder Shane Watson received the highest bid of USD 1.4 million while banished England star Kevin Pietersen was sold to a new franchise at a glitzy Indian Premier League auction Saturday.

Watson was sold to Royal Challengers Bangalore for 95 million rupees (1.4 million dollars), more than four times his reserve price in the first round of marquee bidding in the southern Indian city of Bangalore.

"Incredibly excited to join (RCB). Can't wait to meet up with my new team-mates in April," Watson tweeted.

Pietersen was bought for USD 515,000 by Rising Pune Supergiants, one of the two new teams in this year's tournament that will be played from April 9 to May 29 across various Indian cities.

The Gujarat Lions, based in the western city of Rajkot, is the other new entrant following the two-year suspension of the Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings over a corruption scandal.

Aussies exact revenge

Beat Kiwis by 4 wickets to send series into decider

AFP, Wellington



Australia, propped up by 98 from David Warner, held their nerve to beat New Zealand by four wickets to win the second ODI in Wellington on Saturday and send the series to a decider.

After Warner's dismissal, Australia were still 90 runs short of their target with an unbeaten 69 from Mitchell Marsh and John Hastings not out 48, getting them over the line.

Warner was nudging his sixth ODI century when he was undone by New Zealand's match ace Mitchell Santner, but by then he had done enough to ensure the world champions were in a dominant position.

Australia lost six wickets as they chased down New Zealand's 281-9 with 21 balls to spare.

After New Zealand won the first match by 159 runs the series will now go to a decider in Hamilton on Monday.

Both sides suffered middle-order batting blues, but Australia had better padding with Warner and Usman Khawaja in a 122-run opening stand.

Warner's 98 came off 79 deliveries and included eight fours and four sixes, while Khawaja batted a run-a-ball for his 50.

They made it clear at the start of the innings they would attack New Zealand's strike bowlers Trent Boult and Matt Henry.

Khawaja hit the first and fourth balls he faced in Boult's opening over to the

boundary while at the other end, Warner also smacked Henry's first delivery for four.

By the end of the sixth over Australia had 50 on the board and Boult and Henry were pulled from the attack.

Brendon McCullum worked through a range of bowling options to upset the batsmen and was eventually rewarded when Santner had Khawaja



DAVID WARNER ... 98

caught and bowled.

The breakthrough signalled a return for Henry and Boult. Henry removed Steve Smith and George Bailey with successive deliveries and Boult claimed Glenn Maxwell as Australia lost four

wickets for 22 runs.

Mitchell Marsh joined Warner to stop the slide and they added 47 for the fifth wicket before McCullum turned once more to Santner and was again rewarded by the left-arm spinner who had Warner lbw.

It was originally given not out, but New Zealand's appeal proved successful when the ball-tracker technology showed the delivery would have hit the middle stump.

It continued Warner's bad run of luck with lbws after he was given out in the first ODI and did not appeal when subsequent reviews showed that dismissal would have been overturned.

New Zealand's 281 owed much to Santner and his tail-end partnership with Milne as well as Kane Williamson's 60.

McCullum produced his trademark onslaught to get a brisk start and New Zealand reached 35 in the fifth over when he was bowled by Scott Boland for 28.

Santner, known as "Flatline" for his unflappable nature, stepped up with an unbeaten 45 and a 61-run partnership with Milne who made 36 off 27.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 281 for nine in 50 overs (Williamson 60, Santer 45 not out; Hazlewood 3-61, Zampa 2-57)
AUSTRALIA: 283 for six in 46.3 overs (Warner 98, Khawaja 50, Marsh 69 not out, Hastings 48 not out; Santer 3-43)
Result: Australia won by 4 wickets and tied the series three-match series 1-1.
Player-of-the-match: Mitchell Marsh

BASHUNDHARA BANGLADESH OPEN Siddikur relishing second chance

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman is relishing another opportunity to play on home soil as he gears up for the second edition of the Bashundhara Bangladesh, scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

The two-time Asian Tour winner, who finished tied-38th last time around, said the conditions at the Kurmitola Golf Club would be more favourable for himself and his fellow countrymen this time around.

"I didn't enjoy a good outing last year but that's a course which holds a lot of good memories for me. I just want to enjoy my game, my home crowd and the course next week. It's always pressure playing in front of your home crowd as everybody expects the best from you but I feel more motivation than pressure," Siddikur told Asiantour.com.

The two-time Asian Tour winner, who is currently participating in the Leopold 21 Myanmar Open, moved to joint 54th position after the third round with an aggregate score of five-under-par (211). The 31-year-old golfer traded three birdies against three bogies yesterday, but he was already looking forward to returning to his home course.

"The weather is going to be much better this time around, compared to last year. It is winter in Bangladesh. There will be little chance of rain during the week and the course will be in good shape," said Siddikur.

A total of 31 Bangladeshi golfers, including five amateurs, will be part of an elite 138-man field which will feature defending champion Mardan Mamat of Singapore, reigning Asian Development Tour Order of Merit champion Casey O'Toole of the United States, as well as Thai veteran Thaworn Wiratchant and countryman Dantjai Boonma.



England go 2-0 up

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

England opener Alex Hales fell one short of a second ODI century as his team completed a comfortable five-wicket victory over South Africa on Saturday.

The hosts won the toss in the second game of the series and posted 262 for seven in their 50 overs on a slow wicket that produced nothing like the run-fest of Bloemfontein three days earlier.

Hales took England close to their target with a patient 99 from 124 balls as they reached 263 for five from 46.2 overs.

The touring side now lead the five-match series 2-0 with the third game in Pretoria on Tuesday.

AB de Villiers also returned to form as he top-scored for South Africa's with 73 from 91 balls, supported by Faf du Plessis (46) and JP Duminy (47).

SCORES IN BRIEF
SOUTH AFRICA: 262 for 7 (De Villiers 73, Duminy 47, Du Plessis 46; Topley 4-50, Stokes 2-54)

ENGLAND: 263 for 5 in 46.3 overs (Hales 99, Buttler 48 not out, Root 38; Abbott 3-58, Morkel 2-21)

Result: England won by five wickets