

SPORT

TIME FOR THE FUTURE STARS



Shakib moves to Tallawahs

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan was snapped up by the Jamaica Tallawahs in the 2016 Caribbean Premier League (CPL) draft in Barbados on Thursday. Bangladesh's ace all-rounder, who previously represented the St Lucia Zouks, was bought in the third round of the draft for 50,000 US dollars. Lendl Simmons and David Miller were respectively secured with the overall first and second picks. Tallawahs -- winners of the inaugural CPL in 2013 -- will be one of the favourites for the tournament, boasting the likes of Chris Gayle, Kumar Sangakkara, Lasith

Young Tigers eye third spot

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh players may not be in the best frame of mind. Having failed to defeat a team they had convincingly beaten thrice prior to the World Cup and losing that coveted spot in the final, their subdued state is to be expected. However, whether they like it or not, there is still a crucial fixture in Fatullah today. At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium Bangladesh will play Sri Lanka, with both teams bidding to claim the third place in the competition. These two teams are no strangers to each other. Most recently, they faced each other in Sri Lanka in January 2015. It was a five-match series which Bangladesh won 3-2. The junior Tigers are ahead in the head-to-head count as well with Bangladesh winning 19 times against Sri Lanka's 14. However, those statistics will not matter when the two Asian sides meet at Fatullah today. Considering that both teams have similar strengths -- the sides bank heavily on their spinners -- the match may go down to the wire. The one aspect that both sides will look to improve is their batting. After the game against the West Indies, Bangladesh captain Mehedi Hasan Miraz admitted that the side was disappointed to have lost out on an opportunity to play the final. He however expects his side to take the Sri Lanka game as seriously. "The match is very important for us. If we can win the game and finish third I believe it will be a big achievement for us. That will be a big deal," said Mehedi.



Bangladesh shooters Abdullah Hel Baki (L), Shuvon Chowdhury (C) and Mahendra Singh bagged silver in the 12th South Asian Games men's team event of the 10m Air Rifle at the Kahilipara Shooting Range in Guwahati yesterday. Shuvon had more to cheer about as he also won the silver medal in the individual event. PHOTO: DIGANTA RAJKHOWA, SAGOC

Afghanistan clinch Plate Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

A series of matches yesterday saw almost all the positions of the Under-19 World Cup decided except for the top four. Pakistan beat England by seven wickets to claim the fifth spot, Afghanistan beat Zimbabwe by five wickets to win the Plate Cup or in other words, claim the ninth spot and South Africa humbled New Zealand by 138 runs to finish 11th. The final four spots will be decided by tomorrow with Bangladesh taking on Sri Lanka for the third-place decider today, while India will take on West Indies in the final tomorrow. At Fatullah, England posted a healthy 264 batting first with Sam Curran scoring 83 off 107 balls and Tom Moores contributing 47. Seamer Sameen Gul took two wickets for 42 runs, while Saif Ali snapped up two for 37. It initially seemed as though the total would challenge Pakistan. However, opener Zeeshan Malik led Pakistan's reply with a 105-ball 93, studded with 15 fours. After he did the hard work, Saif Badar and Hasan Mohsin came to the crease and shared a 67-run stand for the fourth wicket to take them home.

Saif was unbeaten on 75 while Mohsin finished on 39 as Pakistan won in the 44th over. Afghanistan crossed another milestone in their growth in international cricket as they won the Plate Championship for the first time and claimed the ninth position by defeating Zimbabwe in Cox's Bazar. However, halfway through the chase, the Afghans seemed a bit nervous. Chasing Zimbabwe's 216

for nine, they slipped to 123 for five in the 31st over. But that's when Tariq Stanikzai and Rashid Khan stood up to turn the game around with an unbroken stand of 95 for the sixth wicket. The in-form Stanikzai scored a brilliant 106 off 142 balls (10x4, 2x6) whereas Rashid remained unbeaten on 55. Stanikzai hit ten fours and two sixes during his cautious knock. Defending champions South Africa piled up 288 runs in Cox's Bazar courtesy of a century from Dean Foxcroft. Foxcroft hit 13 fours and a six in his 137 ball innings. He was well supported by Rivaldo Moonsamy and Wandile Makwetu, both of whom scored half-centuries. New Zealand were shot out for 150 in reply with Finn Allen top-scoring with 40. Wiaan Mulder claimed four wickets for 14 runs and Ziyaad Abrahams took two for 37.



PAR FOR THE COURSE: In what has become a common sight in the ICC Under-19 World Cup, the winning team -- the youths from Afghanistan -- gathered for a selfie to celebrate after their win over Zimbabwe gave them the Plate Cup in Cox's Bazar yesterday. PHOTO: ICC

SCORES IN BRIEF	
ENGLAND: 264 for 7 (Curran 83, Tom Moores 47; Gul 2-42)	PAKISTAN: 265 for 3 in 43.1 overs (Malik 93, Badar 75 not out, Hasan Mohsin 39 not out; Crane 1-50)
Result: Pakistan won by seven wickets.	ZIMBABWE: 216 for 9 (Murray 53, Mashinge 66; Rehman 3-33, Musa 3-38)
AFGHANISTAN: 218 for 5 in 46.5 overs (Stanikzai 106 not out, Rashid 55 not out; Jeremy Ives 2-36)	Result: Afghanistan won by five wickets.
SOUTH AFRICA: 288 for 6 (Foxcroft 117, Moonsamy 51, Makwetu 50 not out; Aniket Parikh 2-33)	NEW ZEALAND: 150 all out in 38.4 overs (Allen 40; Mulder 4-14, Ziyaad 2-37)
Result: South Africa won by 138 runs	

Shuvon's silver lining

SPORTS REPORTER from Guwahati



Shuvon Chowdhury outshone his much-vaunted teammate Abdullah Hel Baki to win silver medal in individual 10m Air Rifle event at the Kahilipara Shooting Range, Guwahati yesterday. Shuvon, who was ahead of eventual gold-medal winner Chain Singh till the 16th shot in the final round, could not keep the momentum in the last four shots, but did enough to defend the silver medal that Asif Hossain Khan bagged in the Dhaka SA Games in 2010. Bangladesh however failed to retain the gold medal in the team event of men's 10m Air Rifle after the women shooters failed to defend gold medals in both 10m Air Rifle individual and team events. Bangladesh had to be content with the silver medal (1845.8 points) in the men's team event -- which was contested by Shuvon, Baki and Mahendra Singh for Bangladesh --after finishing behind gold-winner India (1863.4 points). The Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation (BSSF) had promised to do something better in the men's 10m air rifle event and all the focus was on Commonwealth Games silver medallist Baki, who entered the finals as the third shooter after Olympics bronze medallist Gagang Narang and Asian Games bronze medallist Chain, leaving Shuvon at number five in the eight-shooter final. Baki failed to keep up the momentum despite initially raising hopes

and had to be content with a fifth-place finish. Chain was leading at the half-way stage of the 20-shot competition before Shuvon got on top after the 12th shot and held the lead till the 16th shot, but the 23-year-old shooter from Sirajganj fired three successive shots below 10 to surrender his lead. Shuvo's final score of 203.6 -- one point less than Chain's 204.6 -- to win his first international silver medal after winning his first medal (bronze) in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. "I could not hold firm against the Olympian shooters and I was beaten due to lack of experience because I lost my concentration at the last moment and shot badly," said Shuvon, who was happy to win a silver medal from the regional multi-sport extravaganza, which Shuvon believes is not of a lower standard than other international competitions. "I was confident that I would win a medal. I talked with my mother after arriving at the range and she encouraged me, terming me as the best shooter of Bangladesh. Though I had scored 208.5 during my last practice session, today [Friday], I scored 203.6 and I am happy to win the silver," said the former BKSP student. In hockey, Bangladesh retained their bronze medal after handing a 4-1 defeat to Sri Lanka, thanks to one goal piece from Ashraf Islam, Pushkor Khisha Mimo, Krishna Kumar and Khorsheer Rahman. Bangladesh men's handball team suffered a 17-40 defeat to hosts India in the group match while Bangladesh men's kabaddi team suffered their second consecutive defeat when they lost 16-23 to Pakistan.

Rauf protests BCCI ban

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf on Friday hit out at the BCCI for imposing a five-year ban on him for corruption, saying that the Indian Board did not have any evidence to pronounce him guilty. Rauf, 59, who was part of the ICC's elite panel and officiated in Test matches, was accused of accepting expensive gifts from bookies besides placing bets on Indian Premier League matches in the 2013 edition. "What authority does the BCCI or IPL have to ban me when the court in Mumbai told the police they had no evidence against me?" Rauf asked. The ban means that Rauf, who served for 13 years as a top international umpire, is barred from umpiring or being associated with any BCCI-related activity. "The BCCI and IPL appointed an investigation commissioner and they claimed I fled from India without completing my IPL assignment which is not true. I completed all my assignments and left India. In fact, one day after my assignments ended," Rauf claimed.

Aussies seize the initiative

AFP, Wellington

It was supposed to be Brendon McCullum's day but it was opposing captain Steve Smith who made the right moves as Australia ended day one of the first Test against New Zealand comfortably in control in Wellington on Friday. Smith called correctly at the toss, made New Zealand bat on a green wicket and within two sessions the innings was over for 183. Australia at stumps were 147-3, 36 behind New Zealand, with Smith making 71. Usman Khawaja was not out 57 with Adam Voges on seven. Voges was bowled by Doug Bracewell in the final over of the day only for umpire Richard Illingworth to call it a no-ball. Replays indicated it was a legitimate delivery. When New Zealand batted, Josh Hazlewood and Peter Siddle did the damage for Smith as they ripped through the top order in conditions ripe for seam and swing. Their cause was helped by some injudicious shot selection, including by McCullum, who saw his 100th Test celebrations fall flat when he was out for a duck. He did not get forward far enough to a Hazlewood special that came back, took an inside edge and deflected off the pads to David Warner at third slip. After McCullum had received a rousing ovation when he walked to the middle, there was silence when he walked off after facing seven deliveries. All seven dismissals came from edges to the cordon behind the wicket with wicketkeeper Peter Nevill snaring four catches including a superb one-handed diving effort to remove Kane Williamson down the leg-side. **SCORES IN BRIEF** **NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 183 all out (Guptill 18, Anderson 38, Craig 41 not out, Boulton 24; Hazlewood 4-42, Siddle 3-37, Lyon 3-32) **AUSTRALIA:** First innings 147 for 3 (Khawaja 57 not out, Smith 71; Southey 2-22)

'Slow one' takes a giant stride

SPORTS REPORTER



Thitiphun Chuayprakong is known among his close friends and associates as 'tote'. The Thai term roughly translates into English as 'the slow one' -- understandably attributed to him for his short stature and gentle gait. But contrary to his nickname and his reputation, the young Thai golfer took a giant stride at the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) on Friday as the 23-year-old racked up a mindboggling 17-under-par (196) at the end of the third round of the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open, and stands on the verge of breaking the course record as well as ending his title-drought. The reported course record here is 19-under (For 72-par events), and by the look of things, Thitiphun -- who racked up 65, 66, and 65 in the first three rounds -- should be ambling past that score unless he buckles under the expectation of winning his first-ever Asian Tour today. But given the ease with which Thitiphun has bagged birdies over the first three days -- he has already racked up 18 birdies and two eagles against only three bogeys and a double bogey -- he will have written his name in KGC's history and find himself approximately 54,000-dollars richer. That would be quite a

big deal for the young Thai golfer, whose earnings from the entire 2015 Asian Tour season were less than 50,000 dollars. Thitiphun was understandably very excited to find himself in this position, but was keeping his feet firmly on the ground. "I'm feeling very good and very excited. My long game and putting, both were very good today. I tried to make lot of birdies, but was unlucky with the back nine. However, six-under is a good score and I'm looking forward to tomorrow," said Thitiphun, whose best result on the tour so far was a second-place finish at the 2012 Thai Golf Championship, where he scored his career best 14-under-par. The Bangkok resident, who enjoyed a magnificent birdie spree on the front nine, carding five birdies and an eagle on the trot, said that despite feeling some pressure of being so close to winning the title, he was determined to remain consistent till the last day. "I know there are good players here and there is a bit of pressure on me, but I think I can control it. Hopefully, I will play a little bit of a safe game tomorrow and then decide my strategy over the last three holes," Thitiphun added. Thitiphun will need to be on guard though as there are quite a few golfers, more experienced ones, who



Thitiphun Chuayprakong of Thailand leads the pack at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

are making a charge for the title. His compatriot Sutijet Kooratanapisan and India's rising star Chikkarangappa matched him with 65s and are three strokes behind, while India's five-time Asian Tour champion Gaganjeet Bhullar was a further shot off the pace. **SELECTED SCORES**

Pos	Name	Score
1	Thitiphun Chuayprakong (THA)	-17 (196)
2	Sutijet Kooratanapisan (THA)	-14 (199)
3	Chikkarangappa (IND)	-14 (199)
4	Gaganjeet Bhullar (IND)	-13 (200)
5	Shunya Takeyasu (JPN)	-10 (203)
7	Zamal Hossain (BAN)	-8 (205)
7	Shakhawat Sohel (BAN)	-8 (205)
10	Abdul Matin (BAN)	-7 (206)
47	Siddikur Rahman (BAN)	-1 (212)
57	Sayum (BAN)	+1 (214)

Meanwhile, the local hopes rested with Shkhawat Hossain Sohel, Jamal Hossain Mollah and Abdul Matin, all three of whom ended the day with under-par third round scores. Jamal returned a card of three-under-par (68); Sohel settled for two-under-par (69) and Matin managed a one-under-par (70) on the day. Jamal, who carded four birdies against one bogey yesterday, felt his putting let him down slightly while Sohel, who had an eventful day with seven birdies and five bogeys, said he was looking forward to a more consistent round on Saturday. Matin, meanwhile, overcame a torrid start to finish the day strongly with five birdies against two bogeys and a double bogey.