



'It's time to look ahead'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 skipper Mehedi Hasan has described Bangladesh's third-place finish as a 'big achievement' for the team. Speaking to reporters after the match, he said that his side had done well to come back in yesterday's game following their demoralising defeat at the hands of the West Indies in the semifinals.

"We were morally down because we failed to reach the final. Our coach helped us a lot to recover. We had a bad day during the semis. We worked really hard in the last one-and-a-half years and that was probably our first bad day.

"I think finishing third is a big achievement as well. We have battled various Test nations like Pakistan, Sri Lanka and South Africa and that's big. We need to forget about the semifinal and look ahead now," said Mehedi.

The all-rounder hoped that the BCB would have a special eye on this batch and not allow this group of players to get lost in the next few years.

"From now on, everyone's going to target the national team. Personally, I am going to try and rectify my mistakes because I want to ensure that whenever I get a chance to play in the national team, I hope to be able to play for at least 10 years on the trot," said Mehedi.

At the end of their campaign, Mehedi thanked Bangladesh's supporters. "They didn't look down on us or consider us an age-level team. They supported us like they support Bangladesh and I am thankful for that," he concluded.



The junior Tigers roar proudly at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday after defeating their Sri Lankan counterparts by three wickets and claiming the third position in the ICC Under-19 World Cup.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Youths tough it out to third

SPORTS REPORTER



When it comes to Bangladesh's encounters in the Under-19 World Cup, there hasn't been any shortage of excitement and yesterday was no different. Mehedi Hasan's boys had to survive a topsy-turvy affair against Sri Lanka in the third-place game at Fatullah yesterday.

Chasing 215, at the halfway mark Bangladesh seemed to be cruising. Despite two early wickets, the team's two best batsmen, Mehedi and Nazmul Hossain joined hands to bail the hosts out. They shared an 88-run stand for the third wicket to stabilise the scenario, which was a bit more tensed initially since Bangladesh

were effectively three down—Jakir Ali, who had come into bat at three, had suffered from cramps and was sent back to the dressing room.

With 15 overs to go, the hosts required 68 runs and had eight wickets in hand and everything seemed in control. However, at that precise moment, Mehedi was run-out 53. Two overs later, a similar setback took place and this time the victim was Nazmul, who was run-out for 40.

So all of a sudden, the pressure was on the hosts. The run-rate eventually dropped and in the last ten overs they needed 56 runs. The situation went from bad to worse for the hosts as the required run-rate went over six in the final stages. Shafiqul Hayat couldn't take the pressure and was caught in the

46th over. That brought the equation down to 27 off 18 balls and the game was slowly slipping away.

But that's when Mosabbek Hossain and Mohammad Saifuddin slammed two boundaries and got 12 runs of that over. As a result of the aggression though, Mosabbek lost his wicket in that over.

With 15 required of 12, Jaker shuffled across the stumps and scooped one for a four over fine-leg to calm the nerves. The end of that over saw another run-out, this time it was Saifuddin who had to depart.

After all the drama, the host required four runs of the last over. They managed to take three of the first two balls and then Jaker smacked a four to reach home with three balls and three wickets

remaining.

The tensed finish gave Bangladesh its best ever finish—surpassing the fifth place in 2006—in the World Cup.

Earlier, the Lankans, courtesy of a three-wicket haul from Mehedi, were bowled out for 214 in just 48.5 overs. Apart from Mehedi, Saifuddin and Abdul Halim took two each to enter the wickets column.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 214 all out in 48.5 overs (Asalanka 76, Ushan 34, Hasaranga 30; Mehedi 3-28, Saifuddin 2-48, Haleem 2-26)

BANGLADESH: 218 for 7 in 49.3 overs (Mehedi 53, Nazmul 40, Jaker 31 not out; Shammu Ashan 2-39)

Result: Bangladesh won by three wickets.

Battle between pace and spin

India-West Indies final today

SPORTS REPORTER



Very few would have expected the West Indies to make it to the final of the ongoing ICC Under-19 World Cup. Here's a side that was convincingly beaten by the hosts prior to the start of the competition and who edged past Zimbabwe in the group stage to make it through to the second round.

However, once they entered the knock-out stages, that was when they began to display their best. Their pacers gave both the Pakistan and Bangladesh batsmen nightmares and when they take on India at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, they will most definitely attempt to do the same.

However, it is a task that is going to be twice as hard because this Indian team has been a class apart throughout the competition. Not once did they seem in trouble at any point in the tournament and it is not a surprise that they breezed through to the final.

When the two young teams take on each other today, it is going to be battle between pace and spin. The Mirpur wicket has favoured the pacers, as witnessed in the last few games, and that will be what the boys from the Caribbean are hoping to bank on. India will be seeking their fourth U-19 title, whereas the West Indies will be seeking their first.

"We are set for tomorrow," said India captain Ishan Kishan at the pre-match press conference in Mirpur yesterday. "There is obviously tension before every match and this is the World Cup final. We have reached our goal, now we need to achieve that goal," he added.

Kishan said the team's strategy against the West Indies pace attack was for him and his opening partner Rishabh Pant to see off the first 10-12 overs and set the stage for the later batsmen.

Shimron Hetmyer said the West Indies were not overawed by India's unbeaten run in the tournament.

"In the semifinals we played Bangladesh, who had also not lost a match, and we won that game. So I don't think it matters what happened in the past. India is obviously a good team and we are excited about playing the final," he said.



West Indies captain Shimron Hetmyer (L) and his Indian counterpart Ishan Kishan share the coveted ICC Under-19 World Cup trophy only to fight for it in the grand final at Mirpur today.

PHOTO: STAR

Thitiphun strolls to maiden title

SPORTS REPORTER



In the end, the race for the title of the second Bashundhara Bangladesh Open had turned into a battle between two unheralded Thai golfers. Thitiphun Chuayprakong and Sutijet Kooratanapisan -- both out of media attention prior to the event and having never won an Asian Tour event, produced some high-quality golf and took the game right down the wire to richly entertain the holiday crowd at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Eventually Thitiphun, who led the 300,000-dollar event from the second round onwards, held his nerve under the challenge from his compatriot and came out on top with a course record of 21-under-par (263).

Having enjoyed a three-shot overnight lead, the 23-year-old Bangkok native traded five birdies for a single bogey to always keep his nose in front of the chasing pack. And once he calmly putted the last hole from about eight feet, the young Thai was visibly elated for having broken his duck at the Asian Tour circuit.

"I am really very happy with this victory. I thank my parents, my team and my friends back in Thailand," Thitiphun said at the post-tournament press conference.

"I know Sutijet is a really good golfer and he was playing well. So I did feel a bit of pressure, but I was concentrating on my own game and I think I did really well," Thitiphun added.

Sutijet, who twice moved to within one shot of his compatriot, buckled on the last hole and had to be content with a second-placed finish at 19-under-par (265), which happens to be his best ever score and finish. The 28-year-old Thai managed eight birdies in the day, but three bogeys including the last one, extinguished his chances of a maiden victory.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Thitiphun Chuayprakong of Thailand celebrates with the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open trophy at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Meanwhile, Shakhawat Hossain Sohel finished as the best local performer, like in the previous edition, in sixth position and with an aggregate score of 11-under-par (273), while Jamal Hossain Mollah finished seventh, one stroke behind Sohel.

Sohel was pretty satisfied with the fact that he retained his position as the

because we are used to facing these sorts of situations. I think the more these international events will take place in our country and the more golf courses will stage these events, we will gradually see our local golfers doing better," Sohel said at the end of his day's play.

Jamal, who started the round with a bogey and ended it with another one, having carded four birdies in between, felt he could have gotten a much better score had his putting not gone cold since the end of the first round.

"I was hitting the ball really well all through the week, but I missed quite a number of close opportunities as my putting was not even close to perfect. With a bit of luck, I might have got even closer to 20-under," said the one-time PGTI champion.

Abdul Matin, despite dropping a shot on the 15th and two shots on the 17th, finished 14th, thanks to five birdies in the day, the last of which was a 20-foot putter on the final hole. Bangladesh's to-time Asian Tour winner Siddikur Rahman finished at joint 35th position while Mohammad Sayum ended at 49th position.

SELECTED SCORES			
Pos	Name	Final Score	Earnings (US\$)
1	Thitiphun Chuayprakong (THA)	-21 (263)	54,000 (Champ)
2	Sutijet Kooratanapisan (THA)	-19 (265)	33,000
3	Shubhankar Sharma (IND)	-14 (270)	18,900
4	Phachara Khongwatmai (THA)	-12 (272)	13,650
4	Chikkarangappa (IND)	-12 (272)	13,650
6	Shakhawat Sohel (BAN)	-11 (273)	9,990
7	Zamal Hossain (BAN)	-10 (274)	7,950
14	Abdul Matin (BAN)	-8 (276)	4,065
35	Siddikur Rahman (BAN)	-2 (282)	2,010
49	Sayum (BAN)	+2 (286)	1,380

best local performer with a neat performance. The 31-year-old golfer returned a card of three-under-par for the day to complete two bogey-free rounds in the event.

"I would say I am happy with my performance. Being the best performer from the last edition didn't add any extra pressure on me,

Gladiators slay Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh players Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim, both representing the Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League, had horrible outings yesterday as their side suffered a 5-wicket defeat against the Quetta Gladiators at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Mushfiqur scored just 6 runs off 5 balls, hitting one four, while Shakib took 19 balls to score 10.

On the back of Shoaib Malik's 45, Karachi scored 126. Grant Elliot took four wickets for Quetta.

After the exchange, Shakib was smashed for 34 runs in his four overs, picking up a solitary wicket. Ahmed Shehzad's 41, Kevin Pietersen's 26 and Sarfraz Ahmed's 29 took Quetta home with seven balls to spare.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KARACHI KINGS: 126 for 9 in 20 overs (Malik 45, Shakib 10, Mushfiqur 6; Elliot 4-14)

QUETTA GLADIATORS: 127 for 5 in 18.5 overs (Shehzad 41, Sarfraz 29 not out; Shakib 1-34)

Result: Quetta Gladiators won by 5 wickets.

India-Sri Lanka decider today

AGENCIES, Vishakapatnam

Sri Lanka will face India in the final and deciding game of their three-match T20I series in Vishakapatnam today.

India lost the first game, but they came back in the second and both teams are expected to go all out today.

Arise Sir Voges

AFP, Wellington



Adam Voges was dubbed the new "Don" as the impeccable Australian batsman scored another century against New Zealand on Saturday to lift his average to more than 100, with Australia at 463-6, leading New Zealand by 280 on the first

innings at stumps on the second day.

The legendary Don Bradman retired in 1948 with a Test average of 99.94 from an 80-innings career -- a mark that has now been overtaken by Voges in his 19th Test innings.

The 36-year-old Voges will resume his innings on Sunday building on a 100.33 average and the Australians were quick to dub him the new "Don".

"I already have," said Usman Khawaja, Australia's other batting hero who scored 140 and featured in a 168-run stand with Voges for the fourth wicket.

"He's got an average higher than Don at the moment so I might just have to call him 'Sir Voges'."

Voges has scored centuries in his last three innings, posting 269 not out and an unbeaten 106 against the West Indies in December. And with his current innings of 176 he has now scored 551 since he was last dismissed, overtaking the previous record of 497 runs between dismissals held by India great Sachin Tendulkar.

Voges had an unexpected life in the last over of the first day on Friday when, on seven, he was bowled by Doug Bracewell. The umpire called it a no ball but television replays showed it was a legitimate delivery.

Usman described Voges performance since then as "almost faultless" in 397 minutes at the crease.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 183 all out

AUSTRALIA: First innings 463 for 6 (Khawaja 140, Voges 176 not out, Smith 71; Southee 2-76, Boult 2-80)



BRADMAN 2.0: With an unbeaten 176 against New Zealand yesterday, Australia batsman Adam Voges did the unthinkable as he went past Sir Donald Bradman's average of 99.94.

PHOTO: AFP

BCB discusses cricketers' commercial activities

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) working committee in a meeting in Mirpur yesterday discussed the need to address the impact that commercial activities have had on national players.

Speaking to The Daily Star about the issue, BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus said: "We feel that it's an issue that the board needs to talk about. We will also be sitting with certain players to discuss it. The performance levels of some players have dropped following their involvement in commercial activities and that's something which has caught our attention."

"So we just want to figure out if these activities are hurting them, since some of them haven't been able to perform as per their reputation," he added.

Yunus however, wasn't ready to reveal the names of the players he had in mind.

Another issue that was discussed in the meeting was that of the cricket calendar. The working committee has proposed a few steps to ensure that the cricket calendar of the BCB does not change like it usually does.

"In the future the cricket calendar may just be made by the working committee. That's one thing that we are proposing to do because the chairpersons of all the committees of the board are required to be present