



The boundary-filled World T20 semifinal victory over India may have been a West Indian classic, but the celebrations were what brought out the true Caribbean flavour in Mumbai yesterday. Chris Gayle (2nd from L) led the festivities, while the others were quick to join in. PHOTO: AFP

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DPL player draft on April 10

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Premier League's (DPL) lottery-based players' transfer, called 'player-by-choice', will be held on April 10 at a local hotel. And the coveted 50-over domestic competition is likely to get underway from April 20. Regarding the competition, the working committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) finalised some issues in yesterday's meeting at a local hotel in Gulshan.

"Mainly, we have discussed the Dhaka Premier League and took some decisions as the board referred the issue to the working committee. And as per the decision, the lottery for the player-by-choice will be held on April 10," said working committee chairman and BCB director Enayet Hossain Siraj.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus, who was also present at the meeting, disclosed the detailed outcome of the meeting.

The 12 Premier League clubs will pick their choice of players from the players divided into eight categories -- Icon (fixed salary of Tk 30 lakh), A+ (fixed salary of Tk 25 lakh), A (Tk 20 lakh), B+ (Tk 15 lakh), B (Tk 12 lakh), C (Tk 8 lakh), D (Tk 5 lakh) and E (Tk 3.5 lakh).

"A club will be able to retain two old players, so those selected players will not be included in the lottery. The CCDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan) will prepare the players' list for the eight categories. We are yet to finalise the start of the league but most likely it will kick off from April 20. There will be a reserve day for each match as rain may interrupt the league. A club will be able to register an unlimited number of foreign players but can field only one each match," said Yunus.

Except Shakib Al Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman who are likely to be engaged in the Indian Premier League (IPL), all the national players will be unavailable due to national commitments, it will also be in place for the 2015-2016 season.

"Yes, the national players will be available except Shakib and Mustafizur but the decision was approved by the board much earlier," explained Yunus.

The working committee has also decided that the franchise-based T20 competition, the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), will take place in November this year. "We cannot fix a date as the number of participating teams will be increased this season," informed Yunus. Last season Barisal Bulls, Chittagong Vikings, Comilla Victorians, Dhaka Dynamites, Rangpur Riders and Sylhet Superstars took part.

The working committee has also recommended a 25 per cent increase in the grant for the DPL clubs and BPL franchises from last season.

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Windies women too in final

PTI, Mumbai

West Indies women held their nerve in the death overs as they entered the final by beating New Zealand by 6 runs in an exciting second semifinal of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 on Thursday evening.

Chasing 144, New Zealand appeared to be cruising along till they lost a clutch of wickets and were stopped at 137 for 8 by West Indies, who made their maiden entry into the summit clash against three-time defending champions Australia at Kolkata on April 3.

The Kiwis got off to a poor start losing opener Rachel Priest on 11 and then Sophie Devene then hit four boundaries in her quick knock of 22 off 14 deliveries before being brilliantly run out by Diandra Dottin in the seventh over.

Skipper Suzie Bates (12 off 17 balls) was out in the same over. Sara McGlashan (38 off 30 balls) and Amy Satterthwaite (24 runs off 29 balls) then rallied the innings and tried to take the Kiwi side home but both these players departed in successive balls in the 17th over, paving the way for West Indies win.

Throughout their innings. The West Indies bowlers were disciplined and did not give anything away, as Taylor took 3 wickets.

Earlier put in to bat, a half-century by Britney Cooper, who cracked 61 off 48, powered the West Indies women to a decent 143 for six. Opener Hayley Matthews scored a quick 16 off 14 balls and provided the momentum before she was caught leg before to Morna Nielsen.

Then skipper Taylor (25 off 26 balls) and Cooper stitched a 60 run stand for the second wicket.

Both players rotated the strike well and put away the bad deliveries. They targeted the spinners as well as pacer Lea Tahuu, who went for 21 in 2 overs.

Taylor, in an attempt to score quickly, was caught by Katie Perkins off Sophie Devene in the 11th over when the score had reached 78. West Indies reached their team 50 in 8.1 overs and team 100 in 15 overs but they however managed to score just 43 runs in the last five overs as they lost quick wickets on a wicket that favoured batting.



Britney Cooper... 61 off 48

West Indies skipper Stafanie Taylor got these two scalps as both of them under pressure tried to hit and were caught out. In the very next over, Kate Perkins fell for 2 as the Kiwi team kept on losing wickets

IND-WI SCOREBOARD

INDIA	R/B	4/6		
Sharma lbw b Badree	43/31	3/3		
Rahane c Bravo				
b Russel	40/35	2/0		
Kohli not out	89/47	11/1		
Dhoni not out	15/9	1/0		
Extras: (lb 1, w 2, nb 2)		5		
Total: (For 2 wickets in 20 overs)		192		
Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-128.				
BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Russell	4	0	47	1
Badree	4	0	26	1
Brathwaite	4	0	38	0
Benn	4	0	36	0
Bravo	4	0	44	0

Media hail 'best in 25 years' England

AGENCIES, London

The media in the United Kingdom was in raptures after England convincingly defeated the formidable New Zealand side in the World Twenty20 semifinal on Wednesday, while the latter's media could not believe their luck, likening the English side to Frankenstein's monster, saying they turned the Black Caps' own game plan against them.

"England, the laughing stock of the international game as recently as a year ago, are in the final of the World Twenty20 after pulverising New Zealand on a heady night in Delhi," wrote Lawrence Booth in the Mail Online.

"New Zealand, don't forget, had come through their group unbeaten, playing the kind of canny Twenty20 cricket that, in these parts, can lead to a lifetime of idolatry and riches.

"This was an English statement made loud and resoundingly for the benefit of whichever of India or West Indies join

them in Sunday's final at Kolkata.

Writing in the UK's Telegraph, Former England captain Michael Vaughan was lavish in his praise, the headline highlighting his delight: "England's defeat of New Zealand was the best one-day performance I have seen from us in the last 25 years".

"To reach a World Cup final in India with a bunch of kids and only one player who has played in the Indian Premier League, and that is Eoin Morgan who has barely scored a run, is a remarkable achievement," Vaughan wrote.

"They have every ingredient in the batting line-up, they put in their best fielding performance of the competition in the semi-final, which shows they revel in the pressure of a big occasion, and the bowlers' confidence must have rocketed after a brilliant display at the death. It is a joy to watch England play with skill and bully the opposition."

While acknowledging England were the better team in New Delhi, Kiwi pundits said the seeds of the result were sown when the sides met in Wellington last year at the Cricket World Cup.

In that match, New Zealand trounced England by eight wickets, prompting Morgan's men to review their style and emulate the Black Caps' aggression.

"There was an element of Frankenstein to New Zealand's departure from the Twenty20 World Cup," Fairfax New Zealand's Duncan Johnstone wrote.

"This was an England team that the Black Caps turned into a monster. And the monster came back to destroy them."

The New Zealand Herald's Andrew Alderson said England also mimicked the Black Caps by taking the emotion out of their cricket, delivering "a clinical dissection which wouldn't have looked amiss in an operating theatre".

"If the Black Caps could be deemed 'the masters', their apprentices trumped them," he wrote.

He added that "England have morphed into a side with swagger", since their Wellington humiliation.

Former Black caps paceman Simon Doull said Kane Williamson's men exceeded expectations, finally showing they could play in Indian conditions, and should not be judged too harshly.



West Indies' hard-hitting all-rounder Andre Russell put on an exhibition of power hitting of rare purity, as even some apparent mishits sailed over the ropes in the WT20 semifinal against India in Mumbai yesterday. He hit four of them in his 20-ball 43, the last of which sealed a seven-wicket win and took West Indies to the final. PHOTO: AFP

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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

LUCKY LENDL

He flew in as a last-minute replacement for the hamstrung Andre Fletcher, and if he thought that was a lucky break, Lendl Simmons had another think coming. He was caught twice off a no-ball. Then a boundary catch turned out to be a six. Between all that fortune, however, was a lot of skill. Simmons's 51-ball 82 -- studded with seven fours and five sixes -- formed the backbone of the innings after he came in at 19 for two, and he was still there when West Indies made their second WT20 final against India.

Warne blasts selectors

AFP, Sydney

Cricket great Shane Warne Thursday criticised Australia's line-ups at the World Twenty20, saying the "wrong" choices were responsible for the team crashing out in the group stages.

Steve Smith's team were knocked out by India in a do-or-die showdown in Mohali on Sunday, leaving their hopes of winning their first World T20 trophy once again in tatters.

"First of all, our selection was wrong in my opinion," Warne told cricket.com.au.

"I don't think we got that right, we messed around with it too much rather than sticking with what's been a proven formula and we probably didn't play well enough, which is the brutal truth."

Warne said Usman Khawaja should have batted at number three and opening pair Aaron Finch and David Warner should not have been broken up.

"I don't think they should have broken up

Finch and Warner and I think it upset the balance of the team," Warne said, adding that their partnership would have been an "intimidatory factor before a ball was bowled".

"Those two guys had been batting together for a long time, they have done well in Twenty20, they've done well in one-day cricket, and suddenly they got spilt up."

"And I just would never, ever have left Aaron Finch out... It's not to say they didn't worry about Khawaja, but I just think the other two are more destructive."

The spin legend also queried Josh Hazlewood's selection over all-rounder John Hastings for Australia's final two matches.

"I just think because we had so much talent in our team and so much skill, they (Australia's selectors) thought 'it doesn't matter what the combinations are we're still going to do OK', but it wasn't to be," he added.

India face the West Indies in the second semi-final on Thursday for the chance to play Eoin Morgan's England team in the final on Sunday.