



SYDNEY: Tammy Beaumont plays a scoop during Women T20 match.

Pak women team for T20I series against Bangladesh announced

LAHORE: The women selection committee led by Urooj Mumtaz on Wednesday announced the Pakistan team that will compete in the three-match T20I series against Bangladesh here from 26 October.

Bangladesh will play three T20I matches and two ODIs in their tour of Lahore, the series starts with the opening T20I at Gaddafi Stadium. The team was finalised keeping in view the performance of the players in the training camp that concluded in Muridke on Tuesday, while the core of the squad that has represented Pakistan recently was also retained. Former Pakistan players Asmavia Iqbal and Marina Iqbal are the other two members of the selection panel along with Urooj. Chief Selector Urooj Mumtaz said: "We are delighted to host the Bangladesh team and look forward to an exciting series. It is the first international assignment for the team since the tour to South Africa in June. The team is a good blend of experience and young exciting players."

"With the women's game developing at a rapid pace, we aim to play a positive and aggressive brand of cricket and produce solid performances. The primary focus will remain on winning as it will build confidence within the group, this is pivotal for us as we head into a busy international schedule over the next six months. During the series we would also like to give an opportunity to some emerging players, so that they can ex-

Bangladesh Women Cricket Team reached in Lahore



ISLAMABAD: Bangladesh Women Cricket Team reached in Lahore on Wednesday to play two ODIs and three T20 matches against Pakistan. Officials of Pakistan Cricket Board received the visiting team at Allama Iqbal International Airport. The tour is a part of Pakistan Cricket Board's continued efforts for the restoration of international cricket in the country. All the matches will be played at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Radio Pakistan reported.

perience the aura around international cricket and its pressures."

Pakistan T20I team for series against

Bangladesh: Bismah Maroof (captain), Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Ayesha Zafar, Diana Baig, Iram Javed, Javeria Khan, Kainat Imtiaz, Nahida Khan, Omaira Sohail, Saba Nazir, Sadia Iqbal, Sana Mir, Sidra Amin and Sidra Nawaz.

Sterling, Mbappe light up Champions League with hat-tricks

PARIS: Raheem Sterling and Kylian Mbappe both scored second-half hat-tricks in UEFA Champions League action on Tuesday as Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham Hotspur all recorded big victories. Juventus, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich laboured to wins on a night which brought 30 goals in eight games, a third of which were scored by Premier League clubs. Sterling's three goals came 11 minutes apart in the second half as Pep Guardiola's City thumped Atalanta 5-1 at the Etihad Stadium to maintain their perfect record in Group C. The Italians had earlier taken the lead from Ruslan Malinovskyi's 28th-minute penalty, but they were soon overrun and remain without a point in their debut Champions League campaign. Sergio Agüero equalised from a Sterling assist and the Argentine scored a penalty to put City ahead before the break. Sterling then took over, although City finished with 10 men as Phil Foden was sent off late on. —AFP

Urooj Mumtaz hints at PSL's women edition in the near future

KARACHI: Pakistan women cricket team chief selector Urooj Mumtaz has hinted towards a women edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in the near future.

Speaking to private tv in Karachi, Mumtaz said that before heading towards women PSL, Pakistan is working on improving cricket structure and quality of cricket at home to make it attractive for other players. "We are planning towards a women edition of PSL. We are improving our structure and quality of cricket and hopefully in near future there will be something happening on the PSL women side," she said. The Pakistan Cricket Board introduced PSL in 2016 and since then the league has produced and highlighted and brought forward the best talent from Pakistan cricket. Mumtaz, also a former captain of Pakistan women team, expressed her delight at Nida Dar's stint with Sydney Thunders in Women Big Bash League.

She said that it is a wonderful opportunity, not only for Dar but also for Pakistan women cricket. "It is very important for Pakistan cricket to have a girl from Pakistan



to play in WBBL. Australia's style of cricket is way ahead of everyone else, their mindset, their game approach, their thinking, all of that is very important for us to learn and adopt in our system," she said. "Nida's performance and attitude in Big Bash League will be a path way for other girls as well," Mumtaz added. The chief selector of women team high-

lighted that Dar's presence in Australia ahead of the Women's World Cup will also help her prepare for the next tournament which will be played in Australia as well. "We can't mimic Australian conditions here, so it is very important for Nida to be in Australia ahead of the World T20Is there, it will be a very good preparation, to know how the conditions are there and how the wickets are there," she said.

Read also: Urooj hails Qalandars for initiating women's player development program

Earlier, while announcing the women's squad for the home series against Bangladesh, Mumtaz said the PCB was trying to make central contract something players should work hard to earn. "There were hardly 30 players and of them 21 were contracted that means more than 60 per cent were contracted, now we have 10 players so that it becomes something very special and to be earned, simultaneously we have also introduced match fees for the players in domestic cricket to provide them equal incentives," she added. —APP

SBP to observe black day to express solidarity with Kashmiris

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab (SBP) officers and employees as per the directions of Punjab Government, will observe October 27, as Black Day to express solidarity with the Kashmiris. The national flag, in this regard, will be flown at half-mast at Sports Board Punjab offices to show harmony with Kashmiri people who are subjected to worst atrocities at the hands of Indian forces. It may be noted here that Indian forces have been committing massive human rights abuses in the Jammu and Kashmir state since long. Director General Sports Punjab Adnan Arshad Aulakh said here on Wednesday. "We have close and emotional relation with the Kashmiri people. We will continue to support them at every forum". He said that the oppressed Kashmiris were striving hard to break the Indian stranglehold for the last 72 years and in this long period thousands of Kashmiris have been martyred and injured.



Rotary end polio South Punjab karate championship

LAHORE: Pakistan karate Federation is holding End polio South Punjab championship tomorrow, Thursday at Multan. PKF in collaboration with Rotary Club Multan Modal Town would be organizing the event to mark the world polio day. Teams from Multan, DG Khan, Bahawalpur, Ahmed Pur Sharqia, Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, Sahiwal and Vehari would participate in the competition. The championship would be held in the following events/weight categories, (individual Kunitz) in below 40kgs, below 45 kgs, below 50 kgs, below 55kg, below 60 kgs, below 67 kgs, below 75 kgs and above 75 kgs and individual kata. —APP



Liverpool must improve European away form: Klopp

GENK: Jurgen Klopp has urged Liverpool to improve their away form in the Champions League or risk paying the price as they prepare to face Genk in Belgium on Wednesday. The Anfield club went on to win the trophy last season for the sixth time despite losing all three away games in the group phase, and they began this season's European campaign with a 2-0 loss to Napoli in Italy. "Last year we were lucky with how tight the group was and so we could lose three times away and still have a chance to make it through. That will not happen this year," warned the Liverpool manager, whose side beat Salzburg 4-3 at Anfield earlier this month to claim their first points in Group E. "We like to say European nights at Anfield are really special but other teams can make a special atmosphere as well." Liverpool have won just once — at Slovenian side Maribor — in seven away group-stage games since the start of the 2017-18 season. "We could have won away games to be honest, performance-wise, but we know that it's not historically good, what we did in the last two years. We know we have to improve." It remains to be seen if Mohamed Salah will be fit for the game at the Luminus Arena after the Egyptian sat out Sunday's 1-1 draw with Manchester United in the Premier League due to an ankle injury. However, Salah trained on Tuesday, while Trent Alexander-Arnold, who is ill, and Joel Matip have both been ruled out of the game. —AFP



Mertens, Yastrenska move closer to WTA Elite Trophy semis

ZHUHAI: Belgian sixth seed Elise Mertens beat Maria Sakkari 6-2 3-6 6-1 in their round-robin match on Wednesday to end the Greek's hopes of making the WTA Elite Trophy semi-finals in Zuhai, China. Although Mertens was let down by her serve on several occasions with eight double faults, she converted seven break points. Her final round-robin clash with Aryna Sabalenka is now a virtual quarter-final after the Belarusian beat Sakkari in straight sets on Tuesday. "To win this match is actually a relief to play Aryna next, because you know if you lost the match in two sets or three sets it's another situation," Mertens told reporters, referring to the rules that decide who advances to the semis. "So it's kind of a good thing that I won this match, even if it was in three sets. It actually doesn't really matter any more because Aryna won... in two sets." One player from each of the four groups of three advances to the semi-finals. In the other group, Ukraine's 10th seed Dayana Yastrenska beat Donna Vekic 7-6(6) 6-2 without dropping serve to end the Croatian's run in Zuhai. Yastrenska next faces top seed Kiki Bertens, who beat eighth seed Vekic on Tuesday, for a place in the semis. In an all-American battle, second seed Sofia Kenin came away with a 6-4 6-4 win over seventh seed Alison Riske, who plays the Czech Republic's Karolina Muchova on Thursday in a must-win match to stay alive in the tournament. —Reuters



Ex-captain Sourav Ganguly appointed BCCI president

Ganguly vows 'corruption-free' BCCI after becoming president

MUMBAI: Former captain Sourav Ganguly was unanimously elected on Wednesday as president of India's troubled cricket board, the sport's most powerful body.

Cricket's massive popularity in India has helped the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) become by far the wealthiest of all of the sport's national boards, netting massive money from sponsorship and TV deals.

But it has also been embroiled in a series of scandals, including accusations of corruption and match-fixing that tarnished the Indian Premier League (IPL) — the country's lucrative T20 competition. Ganguly, 47, the only nominee to the post, was appointed as the 39th chief of the BCCI at a meeting in Mumbai.

"It's official - @SGanguly99 formally elected as the President of BCCI," the board posted on Twitter.

His appointment ends more than two years of a Supreme Court appointed committee overseeing the board's affairs.

Ex-chief Anurag Thakur and his number two Ajay Shirke were axed by the top court in January 2017 over their failure to enact a series of recommended reforms. One of the most successful national captains in the sport, Ganguly has promised to clean up the mess after he filed his nomination to the post last week. The left-handed opener retired from Test cricket in 2008 having accumulated 7,212 runs including 16 centuries — his first made at Lord's on debut.

Meanwhile, Former captain Sourav Ganguly Wednesday vowed to clean up Indian cricket as he was elected president of the sport's rich and powerful but troubled national board. Cricket's massive popularity in India



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League (IPL) — the country's lucrative Twenty20 extravaganza. The appointment of the 47-year-old Ganguly — for an initial 10 months only — at a meeting in Mumbai on Wednesday ends more than two years of a committee appointed by India's top court overseeing the board's affairs. "It's an honour that I have been asked to take this role by

the members when it's a new start for the BCCI," Ganguly, wearing his India captain's blazer, said in his first address as BCCI chief. "Things need to be brought back in place, reforms need to be done, huge amounts of money to be paid to state associations. "It's a challenge and I'll do it the way I know. The way which I feel is best for BCCI with no compromise on credibility, corruption-free and same-for-all BCCI. That's the way I led India and that's the way I will take forward this organisation with whatever time I have."

A corruption and match-fixing scandal in the sixth edition of the IPL in 2013 brought about the downfall of the board's then-president Narayanaswami Srinivasan after his son-in-law was accused of betting on matches. The appointment of his successor Anurag Thakur and his number two Ajay Shirke was seen as representing a break

with the past. But in January 2017 Thakur and Shirke were axed by the Supreme Court over their inability to enact a series of recommended reforms. The order came after judges slapped restrictions on the BCCI's accounts in 2016 over its failure to implement changes put forward by a panel headed by a former top judge, Rajendra Mal Lodha. The court then appointed a top anti-corruption troubleshooter, Vinod Rai, as head of a team to oversee the running of board. But the board's reluctance to implement Lodha's recommendations, which included age limits and term limits on office-bearers, had triggered a number of legal battles.

Ganguly promised to listen to national skipper Virat Kohli, the "most important man in Indian cricket", and said he would speak to the star player on Thursday. "Virat Kohli is the most