

India and Bangladesh get ready for pink ball battle at the Eden

Pujara, Pant, Gill, Vihari and spin twins Ashwin and Jadeja turn up for training session while the biggies, including skipper Kohli, Rohit and Rahane, give it a miss



Let's have a look: It will be a guessing game for Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri on how the pink ball will behave. • FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

AMOL KARHADKAR
INDORE

It may not have been a 'Super Sunday' for the local sport lovers with India annihilating Bangladesh in less than three days to finish the game off on Saturday itself, but for the few dozen passengers on an early morning flight to Mumbai, it turned out to be a 'Selfie Sunday'.

With captain Virat Kohli and senior batsman Ajinkya Rahane seated together, the flight attendants had a tough time with a constant spree of passengers entering the front of the aircraft.

Back in Indore, though, the Holkar Stadium was all lit up as India and Bangladesh had an optional net session under lights in the evening. With the seniors either heading back or preferring to recover at the hotel, only six members of the Indian team turned up for the session along with the support staff.

While the spin duo of R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja along with No. 3 Cheteshwar Pujara were the only mem-

bers of India's first-choice XI who turned up for the gig, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Hanuma Vihari also had a long vigil at the nets.

Despite the absence of the biggies, Sunday evening indicated that both the teams have taken the next step while preparing for the maiden pink-ball Test in India. Both India and Bangladesh practised for a while before and during the first Test, but Sunday gave the first serious hint of training under floodlights in white flannels.

Entering the unknown Incidentally, it's not just India which will have its first taste of a floodlit Test. Even Bangladesh will feature in its first day-night Test. Perhaps entering into the unknown will bridge the quality gap between the two sides, which was evident during the mauling in the first Test.

While the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) is leaving no stone unturned in terms of adding razzmatazz off the field during the Test,

one is not sure whether the cricket will live up to the billing due to a variety of factors.

First and foremost, it will be the first time the pink ball manufactured by SG, the BCCI's ball partner for home games, will be used in a First Class match.

While the consensus among the India camp is that the ball will swing more than usual, how it will behave once it softens, that too under lights, is anybody's guess.

Impact of dew Besides, the impact of dew also remains to be seen. To minimise it, the match is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.; still the dew factor will come into play once the floodlights are at full blast, at least for the final session.

Sighting the ball under lights is also going to be a huge factor. Catching and fielding in the deep could well turn to be tricky in Kolkata.

Over to Eden!

Pink ball Tests

How the day-night version of the longest format has panned out: Men

Date	Match	Venue	Result
Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, 2015	AUS vs NZ	Adelaide	Australia won by four wickets
Oct. 13-17, 2016	PAK vs WI	Dubai	Pakistan, by 56 runs
Nov. 24-28, 2016	AUS vs SA	Adelaide	Australia, by seven wickets
Dec. 15-19, 2016	AUS vs PAK	Brisbane	Australia, by 39 runs
Aug. 17-21, 2017	ENG vs WI	Birmingham	England, by an innings and 209 runs
Oct. 6-10, 2017	PAK vs SL	Dubai	Sri Lanka, by 68 runs
Dec. 2-6, 2017	AUS vs ENG	Adelaide	Australia, by 120 runs
Dec. 26-29, 2017	SA vs ZIM	Port Elizabeth	South Africa, by an innings and 120 runs
March 22-26, 2018	NZ vs ENG	Auckland	New Zealand, by an innings and 49 runs
June 23-27, 2018	WI vs SL	Bridgetown	Sri Lanka, by four wickets
Jan. 24-28, 2019	AUS vs SL	Brisbane	Australia, by an innings and 40 runs
Nov. 22-26, 2019	IND vs BAN	Kolkata	?

Women

Date	Match	Venue	Result
Nov. 9-12, 2017	AUS vs ENG	Sydney	Match drawn

Compiled by Ra. Anantaajith

City of Joy gears up

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

The City of Joy is gearing up to host the first-ever pink ball day-night Test match at the Eden Gardens here.

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has joined hands with Creocraft to give life to the Eden's walls, which will tell the story of a cricketer and his journey from the *maidan* to the national side.

Over 20 artists studying at the Indian Art College are working day and night to paint this idea on the walls of the iconic stadium.

Going all-out Mascots of the Test – Pinku and Tinku – were unveiled in the presence of BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Sunday, in the hope that it would attract kids to the Test.



Decking the walls: Artists painting the Eden Gardens to tell the story of a cricketer's journey from the *maidan* to the national side. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IPL 2020 Teams & Shopping List

With the dust settling on the trade window, a look at the dugouts after the shake-up



Team	Squad	Slots left	Purse remaining
Chennai Super Kings	Squad: Ambati Rayudu, K.M. Asif, Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Harbhajan Singh, Imran Tahir, N. Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Kedar Jadhav, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Monu Singh, M.S. Dhoni, M. Vijay, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shane Watson, Shardul Thakur, and Suresh Raina	11 (seven domestic, four overseas)	₹14.60 Cr.
Rajasthan Royals	Squad: Ankit Rajpoot, Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Jos Buttler, Mahipal Lomror, Manan Vohra, Mayank Markande, Rahul Tewatia, Riyan Parag, Sanju Samson, Shashank Singh, Shreyas Gopal, Steve Smith, and Varun Aaron	11 (seven domestic, four overseas)	28.90 Cr.
Sunrisers Hyderabad	Squad: Abhishek Sharma, Basil Thampi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Billy Stanlake, David Warner, Jonny Bairstow, Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Sandeep Sharma, Shabbaz Nadeem, Shreevats Goswami, Siddarth Kaul, Khaleel Ahmed, T Natarajan, Vijay Shankar, and Wriddhiman Saha	Seven (five domestic, two overseas)	₹17 Cr.
Mumbai Indians	Squad: Aditya Tare, Anmolpreet Singh, Anukul Roy, Dhawal Kulkarni, Hardik Pandya, Ishan Kishan, Jasprit Bumrah, Jayant Yadav, Kieron Pollard, Krunal Pandya, Lasith Malinga, Mitchell McCleneghan, Quinton de Kock, Rahul Chahar, Rohit Sharma, Sherfane Rutherford, Suryakumar Yadav, and Trent Boult	Seven (five domestic, two overseas)	₹13.05 Cr.
Kolkata Knight Riders	Squad: Andre Russell, Dinesh Karthik, Harry Gurney, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Prasad Krishna, Rinku Singh, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Siddhesh Lad, and Sunil Narine	11 (seven domestic, four overseas)	₹35.65 Cr.
Royal Challengers Bangalore	Squad: AB de Villiers, Devdutt Padikkal, Gurkeerat Singh, Moeen Ali, Mohammed Siraj, Navdeep Saini, Parthiv Patel, Pawan Negi, Shivam Dube, Umesh Yadav, Virat Kohli, Washington Sundar, and Yuzvendra Chahal	12 (six domestic, six overseas)	₹27.90 Cr.
Kings XI Punjab	Squad: Arshdeep Singh, Chris Gayle, Darshan Nalkande, K Gowtham, Hardus Viljoen, Harpreet Brar, Jagadeesan Suchith, Karun Nair, K.L. Rahul, Mandeep Singh, Mayank Agarwal, Mohammed Shami, Mujeeb ur Rahman, M. Ashwin, Nicholas Pooran, and Sarfaraz Khan	Nine (five domestic, four overseas)	₹42.70 Cr.
Delhi Capitals	Squad: Ajinkya Rahane, Amit Mishra, Avesh Khan, Axar Patel, Harshal Patel, Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada, Keemo Paul, Prithvi Shaw, R. Ashwin, Rishabh Pant, Sandeep Lamichhane, Shikhar Dhawan, and Shreyas Iyer	11 (six domestic, five overseas)	₹27.85 Cr.

The IPL auction will be held in Kolkata on December 19

Berdych calls it a day



Tomas Berdych. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Tomas Berdych confirmed on Saturday at the ATP Finals here that he was retiring 17 years after turning professional. The Czech World No. 103 won 13 titles, reaching a career-high of fourth in the rankings in 2015.

Berdych, 34, was a top-10 player from July 2010 until October 2016 but has struggled with a back injury over the past two seasons.

Thiem meets Tsitsipas in final

The Austrian gets past Zverev in straight sets

ATP FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Dominic Thiem defeated defending champion Alexander Zverev to join Roger Federer's conqueror Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of the ATP Finals here.

The Austrian fifth seed saw off the big-serving German 7-5, 6-3 on Saturday after Greece's Tsitsipas had beaten Federer 6-3, 6-4.

Fourth time lucky

Thiem is playing in his fourth ATP Finals but during his first three trips to the season finale, he won only three matches and never advanced out of the group stage at the O2 Arena.

Zverev landed 75% of his first serves but Thiem was tougher in the big moments,

breaking in the 12th game of the opening set and in the sixth game of the second set.

Crucial double fault

Germany's Zverev, who beat Novak Djokovic in last year's final, went toe to toe with Thiem in a relatively uneventful first set but served a double fault to lose the opener 7-5.

He regrouped and settled back into his serving rhythm at the beginning of the second set but was broken again to trail 4-2.

Thiem fended off a couple of break points in the following game and served out to take the match, winning with a forehand down the line.

Other result: **Doubles (final):** Pierre-Hugues Herbert & Nicolas Mahut bt Raven Klaasen & Michael Venus 6-3, 6-4.



Power packed: Dominic Thiem was tougher in the big moments against Alexander Zverev.

• GETTY IMAGES

Verstappen wins thriller in Brazil

REUTERS
SAO PAULO

Max Verstappen won a thrilling Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix for Red Bull on Sunday with Pierre Gasly a surprise second for Toro Rosso.

Six times world champion Lewis Hamilton finished a close third for Mercedes but under investigation by the stewards after a late collision with Red Bull's Alex Albon that denied the Thai a first podium appearance.

The safety car was kept busy, with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc colliding to put each other out of the race, while Hamilton's team mate Valtteri Bottas retired with an engine problem.



Super Sunday: Max Verstappen celebrates his Brazilian GP win. • REUTERS



Special day: Champion Duckworth, second from right, with runner-up Clarke, left, and the dignitaries. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Duckworth the last man standing

Overcomes Clarke's challenge; Ramkumar-Purav duo triumphs

CHALLENGER

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
PUNE

Crowd favourite James Duckworth gave himself the best chance of making a mark at the Australian Open 2020 by winning the KPIT MSLTA Challenger Series title, beating Jay Clarke over three-action packed sets 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a final spanning two hours and 18 minutes at the MSLTA School of Tennis hard courts on Sunday.

The triumph will push the Australian to 82nd when the

rankings are released on Monday, granting him a direct entry into the main draw of his home Grand Slam in January.

Duckworth weathered a storm in the first set as Clarke proved quite competent in his serve-and-volley game. The second seed pulled himself up in the second set while the third set saw the players go into auto mode and produce winners. Both varied their shots, ventured to the net frequently, and tested each other with drop shots.

When match point was clinched with a backhand sliced passing shot to leave Clarke standing, Duckworth collapsed on the court facing the sky, kicking his legs in delight and relief as the fans rose to cheer a new champion in the sixth edition of the tournament.

Valuable money

Duckworth was richer by \$7,200, valuable money for a Grand Slammer funding the Tour expenses from his own pocket. The runner-up earned \$4,240.

In doubles, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Purav Raja, the top seeds, won as expected.

Ramkumar put behind his singles semifinal loss as he and Purav won an exciting final against compatriots Saketh Myneni and Arjun Kadhe. The winning combination earned \$3,100 and the runner-up \$1,800.

The results (finals): **Singles:** James Duckworth (Aus) bt Jay Clarke (GBR) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles: Ramkumar Ramanathan & Purav Raja bt Saketh Myneni & Arjun Kadhe 7-6(3), 6-3.

Gurbaz stars for Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LUCKNOW

Teenage opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 79 (52 balls) set up Afghanistan's 29-run series-clinching win over the West Indies in the third T20I on Sunday.

Afghanistan posted 156 for eight and restricted West Indies to 127 for seven.

The scores: Afghanistan 156/8 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 79) bt West Indies 127/7 in 20 overs (Shai Hope 52, Naveen-ul-Haq 3/24); **Toss:** Afghanistan; **Man-of-the-Match:** Gurbaz; Afghanistan won the series 2-1.