

BCB plans matches for World Cuppers

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is planning to hold a practice tournament to prepare the national cricketers ahead of the tri-nation one-day international series to be held in Dhaka next month.

The national cricketers, fresh from their humiliating World Cup campaign, have remained inactive since returning home from South Africa on May 5.

But with the tri-series, that involves world powers South Africa and India, starting on April 11 and a two-Test series against South Africa immediately following, the Board felt that the dejected players needed some cricket under their belts.

"We have sent a proposal asking the Cricket Committee for Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) to hold a tournament involving the teams who have qualified for the Super Six phase of the Premier League.

"We plan to distribute the play-

ers who were in the World Cup squad in those six teams so that they can have some match-practice. This is the only way they can have some competitive cricket as they are not allowed to take part in the club competitions," said Mahabubul Anam, an advisor of the Board.

"The six teams split into two groups will play in the round robin first phase. Top two finishers from each group will play in the two semifinals followed by a final," he explained.

But the chairman of the BCB's cricket committee said that it would be possible only if the six clubs agreed to play such a tournament in the middle of the ongoing Premier League. Provided the clubs agree, then the tournament under the banner of 'President's Cup' could start on March 22 at the end of the first phase of the Premier League.

Anam however said that the tournament would not be treated from a selection point of view only.

"It would give our mentally-shattered national cricketers some much needed opportunity for action ahead of another grueling

series of matches."

Anam also revealed that the national team's training camp would be a short one this time and would not start before March 31.

Responding to a question about the future of under-fire coach Mohsin Kamal, Anam said that the fate of the former Pakistan pacer would be decided in the next Board meeting to be held after the March 23 final of the World Cup.

The influential BCB official, who returned from England recently, said that England have confirmed their tour of Bangladesh in October this year.

It was also agreed between the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and BCB that there will be two Tests and three one-day internationals in the series. Apart from those, England will play two three-day matches and a limited-overs practice match during their visit.



Scene from the Second Under 16 Asia Cup Boys Hockey Championship final between Bangladesh and India at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Indira on Super Six road

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Indira Road Kriya Chakra kept their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League Super Six hopes alive with a comprehensive five-wicket win over Kalabagan Kriya Chakra at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

Given a revised target of 165 in 42 overs after two rain interruptions, Indira Road reached home in 39.1 overs with five wickets still in hand.

Middle-order Mohammad Kalim led the winners with an unbeaten 58 off 95 balls that featured half a dozen boundaries while wicket-keeper batsman Papon added a valuable 43 off 72 balls.

Earlier, the match started half an hour later than the scheduled time because of rain and the match was initially reduced to a 45-overs-a-side one.

Kalabagan scored 170 in their 45 overs for the loss of nine wickets.

It was Indira Road's sixth win in 10 matches that placed them fifth on the table with 32 points.

On the other hand, it was Kalabagan's sixth defeat against three wins.

In the other match of the day, Orient Sporting Club defeated Young Pegasus by four wickets at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Put into bat in a rain reduced 41-overs-a-side match, Pegasus collected 158 for the loss of six wickets.

In reply, Orient reached the target of 156 in 34.3 overs with four wickets in hand after the required score was also revised. Orient were given 40 overs to do that.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboards of the two

GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches yesterday: Indira Road KC v Kalabagan KC				
Venue: BKSP KALABAGAN KC				
Imtiazz Papon b Arafat	5			
Nahid lbw b Arafat	2			
Nahidul run out	67			
Nasirul c Papon b Arafat	8			
Sadik c Jahangir b Imran	11			
Majeed b Sadat	15			
Imran st Papon b Sadat	9			
Lovlu lbw b Raihan	19			
Sharfudowlar run out	7			
Mahbub not out	12			
Zakir not out	3			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-9)	12			
Total: (For 9 wks in 45 overs)	170			
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-16, 3-30, 4-72, 5-97, 6-111, 7-137, 8-151, 9-163				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jahangir	6	0	29	0
Arafat	8	0	29	3
Raihan	9	1	32	1
Imran	9	0	25	1
Humayun	6	0	25	0
Sadat	7	1	29	2

INDIRAROAD KC				
Humayun c and b Majeed	31			
Shafayet b Zakir	0			
Mowla lbw b Zakir	7			
Sadat c Majeed b Zakir	0			
Papon run out	43			
Kalim not out	58			
Hadi not out	8			
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-4, w-7)	18			
Total: (For 5 wks in 39.1 overs)	165			
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-26, 3-26, 4-55, 5-148				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zakir	9	1	24	3

Mahbub	6	0	31	0
Majeed	9	0	40	1
Sharfudowlar	8	0	34	0
Imran	7	1	0	29

Result: Indira Road KC won by five wickets.

Orient SC v Young Pegasus				
Venue: FCS YOUNG PEGASUS				
Hasan c Sumon b Kamal	12			
Imroz c & b R Hanif	72			
Niralal lbw Aminul	1			
Murad c Sabib b Sajid	3			
Fahad c Nadim b Sajid	16			
Rezanul not out	40			
Tanvir c R Hanif b Sajid	2			
Khokon not out	4			
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, nb-2, w-2)	8			
Total: (For 6 wks in 41 overs)	158			
Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-42, 3-55, 4-88, 5-134, 6-137				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kamal	8	0	47	1
Aminul	8	1	19	1
Sajid	10	0	31	2
Saju	9	0	22	1
Jewel	3	0	28	0
Rhanif	3	0	7	1

ORIENT SC				
Masum c Fahad b Shahzada	11			
Sajid c sub b Kamal	70			
Mujib c Russell b Shahzada	4			
Jewel c Rezanul b Kamal	8			
R Hanif st Niralal b Kamal	23			
Nadim c Rezanul b Kamal	15			
Firoz not out	7			
Sabir not out	6			
Extras: (lb-6, nb-2, w-6)	14			
Total: (For 6 wks in 34.3 overs)	158			
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-48, 3-59, 4-96, 5-143, 6-143				

India lift boys hockey title

SPORTS REPORTER

India lifted the second Under-16 Boys Asia Cup Hockey title when they came from behind to beat hosts Bangladesh 4-1 in the final held at BKSP in Savar yesterday afternoon.

The winners led the first half 2-1.

Trailing 0-1 in the first 30 minutes after Bangladesh forward Russell scored a field goal in the 16th minute, India came back into the match with two goals in the last minutes of the first session.

Defender Raghunath struck both goals through short corners in the 30th and 35th minute.

Inspired by the late first half lead, India added two more in the second period.

Raghunath completed his hat-trick from yet another short corner in the 41st minute while Balvinder Singh sealed Bangladesh's fate from another short corner after six minutes.

GM chess Marat stays on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Uzbek GM Marat Dzhumaev led the table with 4.5 points after the fifth round games of the sixth United Insurance and United Leasing Grand Masters Chess tournament at the NCSC yesterday.

GM Sergey Tiviakov of Netherlands and GM Alexi Barsov of Uzbekistan were jointly in the second position with 3.5 points each. GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Goloscha-pov and IM Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan grabbed the third position with 3 points each.

Following is fifth round games results: Dzhumaev beat GM Jordi Magem Badals of Spain. Tiviakov drew with Alexander Goloschchepov of Ukraine and Barsov drew with IM Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan. Zia drew with Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib drew with GM Niaz Mureshed, IM Reshad Bin Sattar beat IM Abdullah Al-Rakib and IM Neelotpal Das of India beat FM Taibur Rahman Sumon.

Saurav

FROM PAGE 13

"History does not interest me, that's over, it's behind us," he said. "This is the World Cup stage. It can't get bigger than this."

"New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, however, would not let the Indians forget that tour.

"They'll be confident but sometimes that can be a weakness. Hopefully we can open up some of the wounds we opened in New Zealand," said Fleming whose team need a win to make the semifinals after losing to Australia at Port Elizabeth on Tuesday.

"I will be India's third World Cup match at the SuperSport Park in Centurion, having lost to Australia by nine wickets before defeating arch-rivals Pakistan by six wickets.

Key Super 6 moments

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Notable statistics from the Super Six phase of the 2003 Cricket World Cup:

* Aravinda de Silva became the fifth player (behind Sachin Tendulkar, Javed Miandad, Vivian Richards and Mark Waugh) to score 1,000 World Cup runs in hitting 92 off 94 balls against Australia at Centurion (March 7). That innings, however, was a footnote in another crushing Aussie win as they trounced Sri Lanka by 96 runs. Adam Gilchrist became the first man in World Cup history to be dismissed for 99.

* Saurav Ganguly's match-winning back-to-the-wall 107 not out against Kenya in Cape Town (March 7) gave him a 21st one-day international century. Only Sachin Tendulkar, with 34, has more.

* Tendulkar continued to hoard records with his 97 in the 183-run Wanderers win over Sri Lanka (March 10). He may miss out on a 35th one-day century, but after the innings he had recorded the most runs ever scored in a single World Cup, 571 to beat his

No threat

FROM PAGE 13

and need to continue that to go into the semifinals with confidence.

Tendulkar's opening partner Virender Sehwag, the only Indian batsman to emerge with credit from the New Zealand tour with two centuries, said he was looking forward to taking on Bond and company again.

"Those were different wickets, these are different wickets and different conditions," Sehwag said.

"The wickets here are similar to the ones we get in India, except there is more bounce and some movement.

"I did not have a great start to the World Cup, but with a batsman like Sachin at the other end, I have no worries.

"It is fantastic to watch him bat. He keeps telling me to hang in there and the runs will come and that's what I did against Sri Lanka when I made a half-century."

Pycroft quits!

FROM PAGE 13

international cricket for Zimbabwe."

Pycroft could only watch as Zimbabwe slumped to 133 all out in a match they must win to keep their World Cup campaign alive but insisted his own resignation had not contributed to the team's alarming slump against Kenya - a side they have never lost to in 14 previous one-day internationals.

"The question is have I unsettled the side?" said Pycroft.

"But I suggest to you that the players are unsettled because of the very issues I have resigned about."

Turning to Zimbabwe's dire batting performance, Pycroft said: "It was a slow pitch but you should still get 200 on it. The players were slow to realise that. It looked like they were aiming at 280."



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Victoria SC v Biman
Venue: BKSP
Surjo Tarun v City Club

own 1996 record of 523. He already held the record for the most career runs in the tournament and the equal highest number of World Cup centuries.

Only Viv Richards, with 63.31 to the Indian's 62.69, has a higher average. Only four men have a better strike rate (Kapil Dev, Wasim Akram, Sanath Jayasuriya and Jonty Rhodes) but none of them has scored even half the number of runs recorded by Tendulkar.

* Shane Bond's six for 23 against Australia (March 11) at Port Elizabeth was the best by a New Zealander in one-day history and the equal fifth best in World Cups. He also dismissed Ricky Ponting for the sixth time in his six games against the Australians. And he also ended up on the losing side by 96 runs after Brett Lee retorted with 5-42 and four wickets for three runs in nine deliveries.

Hewitt, Clijsters survive scares

AFP, Indian Wells

Lleyton Hewitt and Kim Clijsters, the tennis world's top couple, advanced at the ATP and WTA Masters Series event here on Tuesday, surviving scares to avenge earlier losses.

Men's top seed Hewitt of Australia rallied to reach the second round with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory over Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui while his girlfriend, Belgian women's top seed Clijsters, beat France's Nathalie Dechy 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

World number one Hewitt saved three match points in the second set to subdue his 31-year-old Moroccan rival at the 4.5 million-dollar hard-court event.

"I went for my shots on match point and it paid off," said Hewitt. "You sort of live and die on the edge, I guess."

The victory comes just two months after the 22-year-old Aussie lost to El Aynaoui in the fourth round at the Australian Open.

Hewitt next plays Russian veteran Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who also had to rally in beating Czech Radek Stepanek 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 in a first round match Monday.

"He's a tough player, especially on this type of court," said Hewitt. "I have to play better than I did today."

Serving in the eighth game, two-time Grand Slam champion Hewitt saved his first match point with a superb backhand down the line. Hewitt then saved two more match points in the ninth game of the second set.

Quips & Quotes

FROM PAGE 13

have done at this tournament."

Zimbabwe's Andy Flower, who has been at the centre of controversy over his anti-Mugabe protest, confirming his retirement from international cricket.

"I hadn't been bowling that well but I knew that soon it would be my

Arrested by a policeman

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Australia's smooth cruise through the World Cup came to a shuddering halt on Tuesday at the hands of a Canterbury policeman.

Shane Bond took 6-23 as the world champions were restricted to 208-9 off their 50 overs in the Super Six clash at Port Elizabeth to register the best ever one-day bowling figures against the Australians.

However, Michael Bevan and Andy Bichel, who shared a match-winning unbeaten ninth wicket stand of 73 in a pool match against England on the same ground last week, were again Australia's saviours, putting on 97 for the eighth wicket.

Bond, 27, who has put his police career on hold as he makes a relatively late bid for cricket fame, repaid the faith shown in him by skipper Stephen Fleming who won the toss and put the defending champions in on a slow St George's Park pitch.

"I hadn't been bowling that well but I knew that soon it would be my

day. I seem to do alright against the Australians so it was good to do well again," said Bond.

"There was a bit in the pitch for me. I just mixed up my pace, put the ball in the standard area and threw in the odd yorker."

The pacer enjoys the challenge of facing the Aussies - when he made his debut in 2001-02, he captured 21 wickets and was named player of the one-day series.

On Tuesday, he had Matthew Hayden caught behind for one, trapped Adam Gilchrist leg before for 18 and Ricky Ponting caught at slip for six in an opening spell of three for 20 in six overs.

He returned later to blast out Damien Martyn, Brad Hogg and Ian Harvey in a second spell of three for three in four overs as Australia crashed to 84 for seven.

But Fleming took another chance by letting his strike bowler complete his maximum number of overs with 21 overs still to be bowled in the Australian innings.

As they had against England, when they came together with Australia in trouble at 135 for eight, Bevan and Bichel set about repairing the damage with sensible batting.

Aussies won't allow any rebellion

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Johannesburg

Mighty Australia crushed the latest uprising by a pretender to their throne on Tuesday and left no one in any doubt that they'll not be denied a second successive World Cup crown.

Ricky Ponting's team recovered from a battering by New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond to register a 96-run win at Port Elizabeth to maintain their unbeaten run and record their 14th successive one-day international win.

Bond ripped through the Australian top order batting to take six for 23, the best figures in New Zealand one-day international history, as Australia crashed to 84 for seven in the Super Six clash.

But the reigning champions

recovered to 208 for nine before their bowlers launched an assault of their own to send New Zealand tumbling to 112 all out.

"We had a pretty good start, but then ran out of juice," said New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming who won the toss and elected to field.

"We needed a partnership because you can knock off the total with some good partnerships but it didn't happen for us.

"We made 80 per cent of the match when we got them early but the other 20 per cent did not go our way."

The defeat left New Zealand uncertain of qualifying for the semifinals and looking for a victory in their last match against India at Centurion on Friday.

Australia, who have already qualified for the last four, play Kenya in their last match at Durban on Saturday before returning to the St George's Park for the first semifinal on

March 18.

Michael Bevan and Andy Bichel, who shared a match-winning unbeaten ninth wicket stand of 73 in a pool match against England on the same ground, were again their team's saviours, putting on 97 for the eighth wicket.

The left-handed Bevan played the anchor role, making 56 off 94 balls, while the right-handed Bichel hit a career-best 64 off 83 deliveries, which included seven fours and a six off an attempted slower ball from Andre Adams which bounced twice before Bichel powered it over midwicket.

A win for New Zealand in the match will guarantee them a semi-final spot along with Australia and India leaving Kenya, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe to fight over the remaining place.

While the trans-Tasman tussle is being fought out, India can relax and look ahead to their semi-final, almost certain to be in Durban on March 20.