

A bitter pill for Victoria

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club is all set to learn the hard way that you either go by the book or pay a hefty price.

The runaway leaders of the GrameenPhone Premier Division cricket league had let their influential all-rounder Manjarul Islam leave for England following a request from the development committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

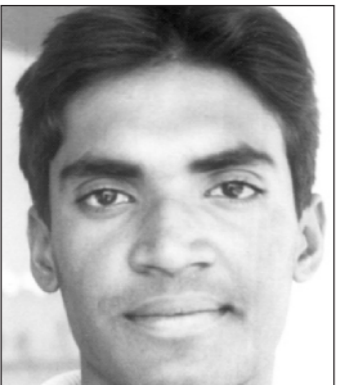
Victoria received verbal assurance from the development committee that in return for their goodwill gesture they would get a good replacement before their crucial match against Mohammedan Sporting Club tomorrow.

While Manjarul, a left-arm spinner and handy batsman down the order, flew to England to play in the 'minor leagues' as part of a development plan, Victoria were still waiting for his replacement.

They sent a letter to the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) chairman Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen three days ago expecting that the ruling body of Dhaka cricket would follow the standard procedure of giving a national player as a replacement, which they practised during South

Africa's tour of Bangladesh. But little did they know what shock laid in store for them.

To their utter surprise the CCDM chairman forwarded the matter to the development committee asking them to provide a



MANJARUL ISLAM

player who has not even featured for the Development Squad, which had made a guest appearance in the first round of the Premier League.

"We have received a request from Victoria for a replacement and accordingly we have sent it to the development committee," said

Shaheen adding that the Development Committee was now responsible for Manjarul.

While Shaheen was keen to pass the buck to the development committee, the secretary of that committee Najmus Ahmed said that they were not authorised to provide any replacement.

"We cannot make any replacements. Our job is to plan for the exposure and development of a cricketer," said Ahmed while talking to the Daily Star Sport last night.

Ahmed was also unaware whether any member of his committee had assured Victoria of providing the club with a 'good replacement'.

Victoria now finds itself in a messy situation after their last resort, the chairman cricket committee, Mahabubul Anam refused to act against the CCDM's resolution that made a provision for an exchange of national cricketers only during South Africa's tour of Bangladesh.

"I received a letter from Victoria through the CCDM on Monday night. I think the letter in the first place should not have been forwarded to me. Rather the matter should have been dealt with in the CCDM's emergency meeting," he said.

He further pointed out he was not aware of events surrounding

Manjarul. But when asked if the Manjarul case would create a feeling of distrust between the clubs and the Board in future, Mahabub thought that it was high time to do a way with the ambiguities.

"There should be only one law so that the club versus country conflict involving players can be avoided."

While Mahabub was trying to shy away from controversy, Victoria felt that they were the victims.

"Had the situation involved big clubs like Mohammedan or Abahani then there would have been a different complexion to the whole story," said a top official of Victoria Sporting Club requesting anonymity.

"Small clubs like us are always on the receiving end. We sent a letter to the CCDM chairman expressing our reluctance to play our next League match against Mohammedan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. But nobody cared to send us a reply even."

"Frankly, we do not care whether we will get a replacement or where we play. We are prepared to dance to the tune of the CCDM. We want to play because we love the game."



TRAINING FOR NOTHING: Khaled Mashud (R) takes part in Victoria Sporting Club's training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Ironically, the former Bangladesh captain will have to sit out the club's two remaining Premier League matches as Mohammad Selim, who replaced him on the national squad, has again stepped into his way. Selim has rejoined the side after his national duties.

Nat'l School Cricket C'ship BKSP romp home

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protithan (BKSP) got off to a flying start in the Standard Chartered Bank 21st National School Championship final round with a nine-wicket victory over Belayet Hossain High School of Manikganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

On the opening day of the 16-team knockout round, BKSP, chasing Belayet Hossain's 105 in 50 overs, reached home (107) in 20.5 overs. Opener Shamsur Rahman hammered an unbeaten 55 off 65 balls with eight boundaries.

Earlier, Belayet Hossain were shot out for 105 in 33.5 overs with lower-order Shakil scoring highest 34.

Hasan took three wickets for 32 runs for BKSP.

BKSP will next face Willes Little Flower School who beat Mymensingh Zela School by 68 runs at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Batting first, Willes Little Flower School rode on a superb century (110) from Mehrab Hossain to pile up a huge 248 before being all out in 48.5 overs. Ashfaq (37) and Tanvir (28) were the other notable rungetters.

In reply, Mymensingh Zela School were all out for 180 on 40.1

overs.

In the other matches of the day, Razzak High School of Comilla and Narail Zela School beat New Model High School of Dhaka and The Aided School of Sylhet respectively.

Razzak High School registered an eight-wicket win over New Model High School at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium while Narail Zela School handed The Aided School a huge 112-run defeat at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BKSP v Belayet Hossain School
Venue: BNS.

BELAYET HOSSAIN HIGH SCHOOL: 105 all out in 33.5 overs (Shakil 34, Nadim 14, Extras 26, Hasan 3-32)

BKSP: 107 for 1 in 20.5 overs (Shamsur 55 n.o.)

Result: BKSP won by 9 wickets.
Willes Little Flower School v Mymensingh Zela School
Venue: Jagannath Hall ground.

WILLES LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL: 248 all out in 48.5 overs (Mehrab 110, Ashfaq 37, Tanvir 28, Hasan 3-49)

MYMENSINGH ZELA SCHOOL: 180 all out in 40.1 overs

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Did U Know?

Sachin Tendulkar was the youngest player to represent India in Test cricket. He was 16 years and 205 days old when he made his Test debut against Pakistan at Karachi in 1989-90.



Sir Alex Ferguson
(Man United manager)
"It is the greatest achievement as we were up against it."
After winning the eighth English Premiership title.



TEN Sports

- Sri Lanka vs New Zealand**
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 10:30 am
- ESPN**
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
- UEFA Champions League**
AC Milan vs Inter Milan
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)
- STAR Sports**
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
- English Premier Football League**
Arsenal vs Southampton
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

New BFF body meets May 18

The first meeting of the newly elected executive committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will be held in the city on May 18.

The BFF election was held on April 26.

The new body, headed by SA Sultan, is to form new standing committees of the federation in the meeting.

Living Australian Test players to be honored

AFP, Sydney

Australia's 199 living Test cricketers will be honoured at a dinner and presentation night here in July, the Australian Cricket Board said on Tuesday.

Each player will receive a commemorative baggy green cap and the older players will be issued with an official Test number.

Players began wearing their official numbers on shirts and caps in the 1990s.

The function, to be held on July 11, is a joint initiative of the ACB and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) to reunite Australia's Test players.

"The 385 players who have worn the baggy green cap have collectively contributed to a sporting tradition that in turn has helped develop our distinctive Australian national culture," ACB chief executive James Sutherland said.

When selected to represent Australia for the first time, players receive a baggy green cap and an allocated Test cap.

Australia's oldest living Test cricketer, 90-year-old Bill Brown, was the 150th player selected to represent Australia when he made his debut against England at Nottingham in 1934.

The most-recently capped player was Queensland batsman Martin Love against England in last summer's home Ashes series.

Vaughan given Eng ODI reins

AFP, London

Michael Vaughan was named as England's new one-day captain by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) at Lord's here on Tuesday.

Vaughan got the job after Nasser Hussain, who remains England's Test captain, retired from international one-day cricket following the team's first round exit at the World Cup in South Africa in



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

March.

"Nasser is an inspirational leader and he will be a tough act to follow as one-day captain," Vaughan told reporters. "But I'll do it my way," he insisted.

Opening batsman Vaughan, 28, was widely tipped to succeed 35-year-old Hussain as England build towards the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

Although Vaughan has yet to captain his county, Yorkshire, he did skipper England A, the now disbanded national reserve team, on their tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1998-99.

He previously captained an England Under-19 team featuring future Test opening partner Marcus Trescothick in 1994.

Vaughan's first taste of senior international captaincy is set to come in June during the three-match one-day series at home to Pakistan.

Later that month England face Test tourists Zimbabwe and South Africa in a limited-overs triangular tournament.

Vaughan saw off competition for the leadership from former England one-day skipper Adam Hoolioake, the 31-year-old captain of county champions Surrey, and Trescothick.

England's chairman of selectors

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Most successful Test skippers

AFP, Bridgetown

Steve Waugh joined West Indian Clive Lloyd as the most successful captain in Test cricket after Australia's nine-wicket victory over the West Indies in the third Test here on Monday.

Tests, won, win percentage:	player.
48 36 75	S Waugh
48 36 75	A Border
50 27 54.00	V Richards
53 27 50.94	H Cronje
50 26 52.00	M Taylor
48 21 43.75	G Chappell
41 20 48.78	P May
51 19 37.25	S Fleming
31 18 58.06	M Brearley
38 18 47.37	S Jayasuriya

WI treble stars

AFP, Bridgetown

Fast bowler Jermaine Lawson claimed the fourth West Indian hat-trick in Test cricket against Australia in the third Test at Kensington Oval here on Monday.

Test hat-tricks by West Indian players:

- Jermaine Lawson v Australia, Bridgetown, 2003
- Courtney Walsh v Australia, Brisbane, 1988
- Lance Gibbs v Australia, Adelaide, 1961
- Wes Hall v Pakistan, Lahore, 1959

Record Aussie win

AFP, Bridgetown

Stuart MacGill spun Australia to a nine-wicket victory over the West Indies in the third Test at Kensington Oval here on Monday to claim the series and the official top nation status.

The relentless Australians surged to victory just before tea on the final day, dismissing the West Indians for 284 in their second innings on a back-breaking pitch and leaving them with just eight runs to polish off their third comprehensive victory over the home side in the Frank Worrell Trophy series.

Justin Langer succumbed first ball leg before wicket to a devilish low delivery that gave fast bowler Jermaine Lawson a hat-trick, spread over the two Australian innings.

Matthew Hayden and Darren Lehmann hit the remaining runs for Australia to claim their ninth consecutive Test victory over the West Indies, their 15th win in their last 17 Tests overall and hand Steve Waugh a record 36th success in 48 Tests as Australian skipper.

It was the first time a visiting team had won three consecutive Tests in a Caribbean series and opened the way for the Aussies to shoot for an unprecedented 73-year series whitewash in the fourth and final match, beginning in Antigua on Friday.

MacGill relished the flat, lifeless pitch to claim 5-75 in the second innings to finish with nine wickets for the match.

MacGill, playing in place of disgraced Shane Warne, who is serving a 12-month drug ban, was named man-of-the-match and has now captured 112 wickets in 22 Test matches.

Australia had already retained the Frank Worrell Trophy after huge wins in the opening two Tests and Monday's victory ensured they supplanted South Africa at the top of the ICC Test Championship.

possible start on Monday to avoid defeat when Ramesh Sarwan was out on the first ball of the day and skipper Brian Lara followed 22 balls later.

MacGill trapped Sarwan leg before wicket, but it looked a harsh decision by Indian umpire Srinivas Venkataraman with the ball hitting the batsman on the toe of his leading boot and just outside the line of off-stump spinning away.

The Australians grabbed the key psychological wicket of Lara in the fourth over when medium-pace Andy Bichel dismissed him lbw for 42.

Bichel's delivery pitched on leg-stump and hit Lara low on the leading pad.

It was the third time in the series Bichel had claimed Lara lbw and the dismissal virtually ensured the Windies were done.

Australia were stalled for a time by a stubborn 61-run sixth-wicket partnership between Shivnarine Chanderpaul (21) and Omari Banks (32) before MacGill and

The Windies got off to the worst

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Hashan bats to 'safety'

AFP, Kandy

Sri Lanka's captain Hashan Tillakaratne missed a second successive century by seven runs as New Zealand gained a slender first innings lead in the second Test here on Tuesday.

The left-hander, who hit 144 in the drawn first Test at Colombo last week, scored 93 as Sri Lanka made 298 in reply to New Zealand's 305 before being all out after tea on the fourth day.

The Kiwis extended the seven-run lead to 99, closing the day at 92-1 in their second knock as the rain-hit final Test of the short series headed towards a draw.

Mark Richardson followed his 55 in the first innings with 51 not out, while skipper Stephen Fleming was unbeaten on 10.

Securing the first innings lead was the only point of interest left in the game after the entire first day's play and two sessions of the second day were cancelled due to the slushy outfield at the rain-ravaged Asgiriya stadium.

Tillakaratne, who took over the captaincy before this series after Sanath Jayasuriya resigned to concentrate on his game, anchored his team's innings for five-and-a-half hours.

He looked set for a 12th Test ton when he was last out, bowled by off-spinner Paul Wiseman who finished with four wickets at a cost of 104 runs on the run-laden track.

New Zealand's attack was weakened by the absence of left-

arm spinner Daniel Vettori, who was injured on Monday during an on-field collision with Sri Lanka's Marvan Atapattu.

Atapattu made a brief appearance at the crease just before tea, batted for 10 minutes to make two,

but did not return after the break as he found himself unfit to bat.

The duo, who both hurt their ankles, escaped serious injury and are expected to be fully fit for the one-day tri-series starting on May 10.

Pakistan, the third team in the one-dayers, arrived in Colombo on Monday evening.

With Atapattu injured, Sri Lanka relied heavily on their experienced

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Sri Lanka skipper Hashan Tillakaratne is ready as New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond delivers a ball on the fourth day of the second Test at Kandy yesterday.

Biman fly out of relegation zone

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman saved themselves from being demoted to the First Division with a 20-run win over Orient Sporting Club in a GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League relegation play-off at the BKSP ground in Savary yesterday.

Former national skipper Aminul Islam smashed 70 off 87 balls as the national airlines outfit scored 197-9 in the allotted 50 overs after electing to bat. The right hander who is also Biman captain hit six boundaries.

Hasanuzzaman (43) was the other notable Biman scorer.

In reply, Orient were restricted to 177 for eight in 50 overs.

Orient will now face Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the last play-off at the same venue today. The losers will join Surjo Tarun in the First Division next season.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BIMAN: 197 for 9 in 50 overs (Aminul 70, Hasanuzzaman 43, Ather Ali 36, Lucky 2-18)

ORIENT SC: 177 for 8 in 50 overs (Sumon 36, Masum 31, Naved 3-25).
Result: Biman won by 20 runs.

Lara awaits better days

REUTERS/AFP, Bridgetown

West Indies captain Brian Lara, whose team went 3-0 down to Australia after losing the third Test on Monday, said he wanted to stick with his young side and was not concerned about an impending whitewash.

West Indies, with an average age of around 25, suffered three consecutive home defeats for the first time on Monday and could also suffer their first home whitewash if they lose the fourth and final Test in Antigua, starting Friday.

The West Indies Cricket Board on Tuesday announced an unchanged, 14-man squad for the Test at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

"The records are not really my main worry. That's of little importance," said Lara, adding that better days lay ahead.

"We have got some very good players here and they are on the verge of making the breakthrough in Test cricket."

"I'm quite happy with the look of the team. I want us to play cricket the way we are playing. We are not going to play Australia every day of the week. It's all about character building and that is what is happening."

He added: "The experienced players have been tried and tested, a lot of them have come up short and I don't see any need to go back to them."

"In the batting department, we have done pretty well. The batting is going to take care of itself."

Lara, who raised eyebrows when he won the toss and asked Australia to bat first on a docile pitch, admitted he had miscalculated after the tourists made a match-winning 605 for nine declared.

"The pitch came up short," he

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