

Reasons behind WC debacle

ICC Cricket World Cup
SOUTH AFRICA 2003

SPORTS REPORTER

It has been five days since the two-member inquiry committee submitted its findings on Bangladesh's debacle in the 2003 World Cup.

While everybody was guessing at the contents of the much-talked about investigation done by commodore Mujibur Rahman (ret) and former secretary Syed Shamim Ahsan, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asgar was apparently in no hurry to disclose the 31-page document.

Asgar's attempt at buying time is contrary to his earlier decision to reveal all as soon as he gets hold of the report.

It was learnt that the probe committee in its strongly worded report blamed five characters for Bangladesh's disastrous campaign in South Africa, where the national team lost five of their six preliminary World Cup matches including defeats against minnows Canada and Kenya.

Even Asgar himself was found at fault for the way he handled the appointment of former Pakistan paceman Mohsin Kamal as national coach and his reported statement that the repair of a bowling machine and providing other facilities at the BKSP during the national team's training for the World Cup were secondary issues.

Asgar sacked Australian Trevor Chappell and hired Kamal in consultation with the players, who reportedly termed Trevor not good enough. Here the committee, it was learnt,

observed that it was a never heard-of situation that the Board would hire or fire on the recommendations of the players.

The committee reportedly came down very hard on the team management in South Africa. They found there was hardly any relationship between manager (ASM Faruque), coach (Mohsin) and captain (Khaled Mashud) during their time in South Africa.

The lack of dialogue among the three kings adversely affected the team spirit.

The committee found Faruque an amiable person who lacked man-management skills. Not only that to its utter surprise the manager failed to draw up a routine day-to-day schedule, also Faruque failed to take the initiative against the captain that they found as an arrogant person lacking self-discipline.

They observed Mohsin as a person devoid of communication skills in either English or his mother tongue Urdu. Mohsin was the only coach in the World Cup not to use any software technology and despite being given a video camera he did not employ it for a single day. Also he did not think it necessary ask his boys to watch the highlights of the day's game thus depriving them a chance to analyse their performance and where to improve.

The principal character in the eyes of the committee was the crest-fallen Bangladesh captain. Mashud was reportedly branded arrogant, rude in his dealings with the other members of the team and lacked total discipline.

The committee believed that Mashud took advantage of BCB's inaction in response to his threat of resignation, which he made public prior to the team's departure for South

Africa. It was unfortunate that first Mashud, who was leading the team to the World Cup, issued such a statement and the Board did not take any appropriate action to counter the threat. Any other Board would have under similar circumstances removed the captain. Due to the non-action by the Board, it gave Mashud the impression that he was indispensable.

The committee reportedly smelled something sinister about Mashud performance behind the wicket against Kenya. He dropped three catches in the crucial game. This match came under scrutiny for some other reasons. It was understood that the night before the match Mashud was seen outside the hotel well after midnight.

The committee reportedly questioned that his showing against Kenya was guided by any ill motive and even suggested the BCB to carry out a further investigation on the issue.

The probe body allegedly questioned the role of cricket committee chairman Mahabubul Anam on two grounds. Firstly, he failed to provide video clips of other teams to the Bangladesh team management and allowing Gordon Greenidge to work as a batting consultant in Namibia before the World Cup. He did it without consulting coach Mohsin.

Last but not least, the selection committee headed by Aliul Islam was found wanting regarding the knowledge of different players. But Aliul shifted the blame on outside influence.



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: West Indies' Wavell Hinds sweeps fine during his match-winning knock of 125 not out against Australia in the sixth one-day international at the Queen's Park Stadium in St. George's on May 30.

Hinds guides hosts home

Cricket

AFP, St. George's

Wavell Hinds clubbed six sixes in an unbeaten century to lift the West Indies to a pulsating three-wicket victory over Australia in the sixth one-day cricket international at Queen's Park here on Friday.

Hinds hit 125 off 140 balls to clinch victory with eight balls to spare at 254 for seven after the World Cup champions had been dismissed for 252 on the last ball of their 50 overs.

The victory was the West Indies' second straight over the powerful Australians, who had already clinched the seven-game series with victories in the opening four games. They lead 4-2 ahead of Sunday's final match of the series here.

Hinds was the difference, scoring the only hundred of the series by either side and batting right through the innings.

The series may be all over for the West Indies, but they are finishing it off the right way following their spirited 39-run victory in Port of Spain last Sunday to end Australia's golden 21-game unbeaten ODI run.

"I rate this as the best innings I've played because I stuck to the game

plan and batted through the innings and did the job for the team," said Hinds, who was not even in the squad at the start of the series.

"Rannaresh Sarwan and I played an important partnership, Sarwan played very responsibly and young David Bernard came in and did a bit towards the end... but it was a great team effort."

The West Indies looked up against it when skipper Brian Lara was caught and bowled by Andrew Symonds for 15 leaving his side at 67 for two in the 16th over, but Hinds and Sarwan put them back on track with a 114-run partnership for the third wicket.

Sarwan was out for 50 off 69 balls when he became the first of two wickets to fall in Brett Lee's 40th over of the innings.

"The guys stuck to the plan pretty well, although we lost wickets around the 40 overs mark, but all credit must go to Wavell, he kept the innings together," said skipper Lara.

"Sarwan stuck with him for a 100 partnership and got us through." Lara, looking ahead to Sunday's final match at Queen's Park, said it loomed as the biggest match of the series for the West Indies.

"We have lost the series, but it's very important to leave the right impression in the West Indian cricket public's mind that we are

playing good cricket and it will be great to go out there on Sunday and win again."

The Australians, who have now lost two consecutive ODI games for the first time since June last year, will rue squandering a blazing start to finish with 252 off 50 overs after winning the toss.

The World Cup champions began with an imperious 90-run stand between Gilchrist and Hayden off 14.2 overs before they threw away wickets with sloppy batting.

The Australians lost nine wickets for 147 and only reached 252 and five runs an over through prodigious hitting by number eight Andrew Bichel with 41 off 40 balls, which included two sixes and three fours.

Gilchrist looked in ominous touch with a thunderous 64 off 66 deliveries. His clean hitting netted him eight boundaries and two sixes before he tried to thrash spinner Marlon Samuels through point and was snapped up chest-high by Lara.

Skipper Ricky Ponting looked scratchy before he attempted a suicide single and was run out by Lara for two and Andrew Symonds, Australia's leading scorer in the series, was guilty of a casual attempted flick through mid-wicket

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Did U Know?

Sri Lanka great Aravinda de Silva played 75 innings before getting his first duck in Test cricket.



TEN Sports

French Open
Live at 4:00 pm
ESPN

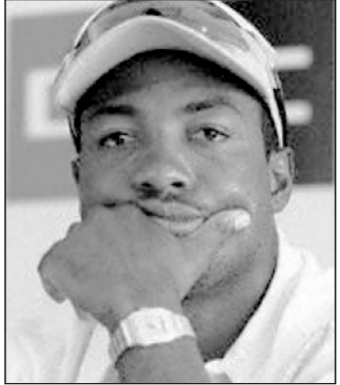
UEFA Champions League
Juventus vs AC Milan (Final)
Repeat at 10:30 am
Primera Liga

Real Madrid vs Celta De Vigo
Repeat at 1:00 pm
West Indies vs Australia
Seventh ODI

Live at 7:30 pm
STAR Sports

Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 9:00 am
Primera Liga

Real Sociedad vs Valencia
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)



Brian Lara

(West Indies cricket captain)
"Bichel is definitely a top class performer in a top class team and I have gained a lot of respect for him."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post **The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm June 13, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the national youth hockey title?
Dhaka BKSP Dinajpur
- How many Test matches has Wasim Akram played?
112 104 205
- Who became UEFA Cup champions?
Celtic Porto Dortmund
- How many Grand Slam titles does Pete Sampras have?
13 1 4

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Lankans' pay cut

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's cricketers, under fire for a string of below par performances, are facing a 30 per cent pay cut as the authorities attempt to raise the dipping standards by introducing Saturday performance incentives.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said Saturday it was slashing the fixed contract fees as part of the shake-up.

Sri Lanka did not impress despite making the semifinals of this year's World Cup and later failed to make the finals of a four-nation tournament in Sharjah and a tri-series at home.

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Div I b'ball Dhumketu on a roll

UNB, Dhaka

Dhumketu Club registered their seventh consecutive victory in the Metropolitan First Division Basketball League beating Gregorious 104-49 at the Dhanmondi basketball gymnasium yesterday.

They dominated the first session by 53-11.

Osman caged 27, Munna 17, Abdullah 13 for the winners while Firoj, Tanmoy and Shaheen scored eight points each for the losers.

In the day's other matches, Europa Youth Club, Wraith Club and Hornets Club won their respective matches at the same venue.

Europa defeated Shawons Club 146-38 after dominating the first session by 69-20 points.

Wraith beat Eagles Club 64-57 after leading the first half by 38-23 points.

Hornets defeated the Greys 70-56 after dominating the first session by 39-23 points.

Rajshahi in semis

Cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

An unbeaten half-century by opener Jahurul Islam propelled Rajshahi to a five-wicket win against Sylhet in the 26th National Cricket Championship at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

The win also confirmed Rajshahi a place in the last four. They will meet Comilla in the second semi-final to be played at this second Test venue of the country on June 2. The final will also be played here on June 4.

Jahurul scored a disciplined 75 as Rajshahi raced to 146 for 5 in 43 overs in reply to Sylhet's 145 all out in 48.2 overs.

The right-hander stayed at the crease two hours and 49 minutes and faced 125 balls that included four hits to the rope.

Earlier, sent into bat, the Sylhetis

were bundled out for a meagre total despite an enterprising knock of 51 by Ijaz.

Ijaz took the Rajshahi attack to the sword hammering three massive sixes and a four in his 67-ball innings. But the rest failed to show any real resistance against a joint-attack of Mustakim and Mushfiqur Rahman, who evenly shared six wickets giving away 12 and 24 runs respectively.

Tushar with 37 off 86 balls was the other notable scorer for Sylhet who haplessly watched eight of their batsmen fail to even reach double figures.

On the other hand, Rajshahi never looked to be in any sort of problem while chasing the modest target, with Jahurul leading the way.

He got good support from Nuruzzaman Nayan (27 off 66 balls) and Rafiqul Islam (16 off 37). His 54-run fourth wicket partnership with Nayan took the game firmly in

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BCB names 23 for U-17 camp

SPORTS REPORTER

The Development Committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) picked 23 players as part of selection trail to form an under-17 squad.

The committee chose the players through a series of training programmes at different parts of the country.

Among the selected players, ten have been picked from Dhaka Metro Green while seven from Barisal Division and six from Chittagong.

The players have been asked to report to age-group coach Sri Lankan Malcolm Perera at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on June 9.

Perera will conduct a five-day coaching at the Dhanmondi Indoor Nets from June 10.

The selected cricketers are: Mostafa Helal, Mazzar Uddin, Robiul Karim, Mridul Chowdhury, Raisul Islam, Shiran Sharif, Monzur Morshed, MR Rasel, Saif Mahmood, Shahed (Dhaka Metro Green)

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Seeds sail into last 16

French Open

AFP, Paris

The cream began to rise to the top at the French Open on Saturday as second seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium, US seventh seed Jennifer Capriati and US third seed Venus Williams all raced into the fourth round with routine successes against outclassed opponents.

Capriati became the third American woman into the last 16 after blasting Ukraine's Julia Vakulenko 6-1, 6-2 in just 57 minutes on the Suzanne Lenglen Court to book a meeting with Nadia Petrova of Russia, who demolished Marissa Irvin of the United States 6-1, 6-1.

Capriati beat Clijsters here in a thrilling 2001 final which went to a women's record 12-10 in the final set.

This year both women are heading the opposition to defending champion Serena Williams and last year's beaten finalist Venus Williams, who hammered Silvia Farina Elia of Italy 6-1, 6-2 in just 52min, sending down six aces in the

process.

Venus now meets Russian 22nd seed Vera Zvonareva, who moved past Spain's Maria Sanchez Lorenzo 6-3, 6-4.

Clijsters walloped Paola Suarez of Argentina 6-2, 6-1 win in 64min on the Philippe Chatrier Centre Court.

Capriati, who like Clijsters has dropped only nine games so far, played her best match of the tournament against Grand Slam debutant Vakulenko, just 19, to join Serena, bidding here for a fifth straight Grand Slam title, and eighth seed Chanda Rubin in the next round.

The 27-year-old New Yorker sealed qualification on her third match point when her opponent hit long and then said her secret this year is to stay relaxed, a strategy which is paying a handsome dividend.

"It was kind of easy most of the way. I can still feel I'm playing well, moving well - I'm pretty much doing what I want with the ball."

"We'll see when I get really tested."

Of next opponent Petrova, Capriati noted: "She's got a big serve, she hits big shots off the ground. I think it's up to how I play."

Capriati is in line to face third-

seeded Venus in the quarters.

Clijsters, armed with a win on outdoor clay in Rome already this season, next goes up against either Bulgarian 15th seed Magdalena Maleeva or Rita Grande of Italy for a place in the last eight before a potential meeting with US sixth seed Lindsay Davenport.

"I felt like I had to play a lot better than I did in the first few rounds. And I did," said Clijsters.

"I kept her under pressure - today I really kept it up."

The 19-year-old Belgian, seeking a fourth title of the season and 13th in all, stormed into a 4-0 lead in barely 12min on a sweltering centre court before Suarez, whose only two Tour titles came at Bogota, finally began to find her range, pulling back two games.

But Clijsters shattered any hopes doubles specialist Suarez had of taking revenge for two earlier defeats - including the third round earlier this year at Miami - by rattling off her net service game to love and wrapping up the set when the South American drove wide from the backcourt on set point.

Suarez dropped her serve for the fourth time when she drove long to give Clijsters a 2-0 advantage in the second set.

Clijsters, who banged down three aces, then squandered a trio of break points in the sixth game but still moved to 5-1 when Suarez fired hopelessly wide.

And the blonde from Bilzen, girlfriend of men's world number one Lleyton Hewitt, duly completed the job on her second match point to leave an admiring Suarez standing.

"It was difficult to keep up with her. You have to close out the games and be more aggressive. She's a really complete player," said the 26-year-old from Pergamino.

"She fights a lot and put me under loads of pressure. I think she can win the tournament - she's pretty close to the level of the Williams."

Australians in fools paradise

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia's total domination of world cricket is endangering the sport both at home and abroad, the retiring head of the International Cricket

Council said.

"On many occasions I have put it to the Australian Cricket Board that they are living in a fool's paradise," said Malcolm Gray, the former board chairman and outgoing ICC chief.

"Their team is the best team in the world undoubtedly, they're financially secure, their administration is at least equal to the best in the world."

"It is very easy in Australia to have a rosy view of cricket and not realise the problems internationally. It's a very serious problem," he told The Australian newspaper.

Gray said the one-sided nature of many cricket matches was undermining public interest in the game.

Australia won the cricket World Cup in South Africa earlier this year and has dominated one-time powerhouses England and the West Indies in its last two Test series.

When they return from their current West Indies tour, the Australians' remaining Tests for the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

India blank Pakistan

Hockey

AFP, Perth

India secured a decisive 2-0 win over traditional rivals Pakistan at Perth Hockey Stadium here Saturday in their first field hockey clash of the year.

The Indians produced a fast, free-flowing brand of hockey to qualify to meet host nation Australia in Sunday's final of a trinations tournament.

Considering political tensions between the countries, the match was played in a good spirit before a small but vocal band of supporters

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South Korea striker Ahn Jung-hwan (R) celebrates with captain Yoo Sang-chul (No 6) and teammate Lee Eul-yong after scoring the only goal against Japan during the international friendly at Tokyo's National Stadium yesterday.

Ahn sinks Japan

Football

AFP, Tokyo

South Korea's World Cup hero Ahn Jung-hwan struck home a decider to beat arch-rivals Japan 1-0 on Saturday to celebrate an anniversary of co-hosting the 2002 World Cup finals.

The J-league club Shimizu S-Pulse striker, who scored a game-deciding goal to beat powerhouses Italy in the World Cup last year, did it again with only four minutes left on the clock to avenge their loss to Japan in Seoul last month.

The two Asian rivals played squarely in the first half, but neither had a clear scoring chance on the windy and rainy pitch before a sell-out 53,405 crowd at the National Stadium.

After the home side missed a right corner chance in the second minute, the visitors also failed to cash in on one less than two minutes later.

In the 26th minute, Brazilian-

born Alessandro Santos and Mitsuo Ogasawara almost broke through to the Korean area, only to see the ball go too long and giving goalkeeper Lee Woon-Jae an easy gather.

Japanese keeper Seigo Narazaki was forced to pull out some super-human skills when Korean skipper Yoo Sang-Chul and Choi Yong-Soo chased the ball into the area on a straight pass in the 31st minute.

Less than a minute later, however, he clashed with Kim Tae-Young when the striker tried to connect a header from a left corner kick by Cha Du-Ri. The collision sent the two crashing to the ground, albeit uninjured.

The second half started with the Koreans putting pressure on the Japanese.

Ahn Jung-hwan came on strong in the 55th minute sending a lob over Narazaki -- who had already been forced to make two saves just a few minutes into the second half -- towards the Japanese goal-mouth,

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