



Did U Know?

Mario De Lasi the Peruvian defender was the first player to have a red card in the World cup history and that was in 1930.

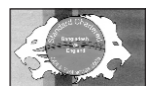


Saurav Ganguly

(India cricket captain)
"We have met Pakistan at neutral venues before, but playing a Test match in Pakistan will be a great experience."

One last try

SPORTS REPORTER



When Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud trudged back to the dressing room as the last man after attending the training yesterday afternoon it gave someone the feeling that he was trying to disguise himself.

He was carrying two bats in both hands and wearing all the protective armour nowadays batsmen use to avoid injury. But he knows that no amount of protection can shield him from the growing discontent of the home crowd, who have been constantly on his back ever since the defeat in the second Test against England in Chittagong.

Life has become unbearable for the diminutive all-rounder as the hate campaign followed him all the way to the capital in the second limited-overs match on Monday.

But a day before the third and final match and away from the maddening

crowd Mahmud was very relaxed and his body language showed it. Removing his helmet the 32-year-old smiled as if nothing was wrong before baring his soul.

"The last few days have been hell for me. I agree I have had some bitter experiences with the crowd but nothing like this. Right from the toss to the end of the game they did not leave me alone. It's really painful," said Mahmud while talking to reporters at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Known as a fighter he admitted that neither his bat nor ball was talking since coming back from Pakistan. But he felt that he alone should not be made the scapegoat for the team's poor showing in the home series against Michael Vaughan's men.

"It is amazing that I've won the toss every time in the series. But the toss luck had done little good for the team and me. I have no grudge against the cricket fans since I know how they feel. But the weight of expectation is putting a lot of pressure on me," said Mahmud

ahead of what will probably be his last series as captain.

Like Mahmud coach Dav Whatmore was also finding it hard to conceal his emotions after two heavy defeats.

"I understand what the crowd is feeling like because I too am bleeding inside my heart. Look these supporters are full of expectations after what we have done in Pakistan. Maybe the same cricketers are not able to deliver at the moment but it's not for lack of trying," Whatmore told reporters.

The 49-year-old admitted that the crowd pressure was telling on his boys' minds.

"Playing in front of home crowd means pressure. But when you are not playing good cricket it effects you even more," he said adding that he was not making any excuses.

Whatmore also hinted at a chance in the team for today's day-night match, but he did not elaborate.

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WHAT'S NEW? Bangladesh batsmen yesterday spent all their time practising pull-shots at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Jessore progress Chittagong abase AIUB

SPORTS REPORTER

A terrible American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) batting collapse saw Chittagong book their group semifinal berth in the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship by virtue of better run rate.

On the other hand, Jessore moved into the group semis beating Sylhet by 23 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Jessore will take on holders Biman in semifinal tomorrow.

At the Mymensingh Stadium, Murshed Ali Khan and Masum evenly shared eight wickets between them as Chittagong defeated the private university by eight wickets in the last group match.

Coin-favoured AIUB decided to bat first and were shot out for a poor 77 runs in 45.1 overs with only Rajib being able to reach double figures 21 off 74 balls.

Murshed claimed his wickets by

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Logo, trophy unveiled



SPORTS REPORTER

The trophy and logo of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup was launched yesterday at a colourful ceremony.

The world youth championship will be held in Bangladesh from February 15 to March 5 next year.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman graced the ceremony at the local hotel. It was also attended by ICC president Ehsan Mani, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar and ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed.

Former Bangladesh captain ASM Rouqibul Hassan, who is the tournament director, was also present.

The trophy, a 17.25 inch silver cup, and the logo, that represents the values of the event, denoting pace and energy, were unveiled in an hour long ceremony.

Noted singers Bappa Majumder, Shafin Ahmed and Mehryn presented the theme song of the 16-nation meet. The event of the future stars involves an expenditure of 1.6 million dollars that has been borne by the world body.

A multimedia presentation depicting the sixteen teams from across the cricket world and highlighting the five venues where the month-long competition will take place was shown before the guests had their first glimpse of the Cup. The glittering trophy will be presented to the winners of the March 5 final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Ten Test playing nations have direct entries into the tournament while the other six countries -- Nepal, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Papua New Guinea and Uganda -- will represent the associate member nations spread across five continents.

Speaking on the occasion, the ICC president said that it was a

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Srinath calls it quits

AFP, Bangalore

India's pace spearhead Javagal Srinath retired from cricket on Tuesday after failing to recover from a troublesome right knee.



JAVAGAL SRINATH

"It is time to go," the 34-year-old told reporters after it became evident the knee injury will sideline him for the Test series in Australia starting next month.

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Abahani sail, Muktis sweat



SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani made an impressive start to their season with a 2-0 victory over Arambagh Krira Sangha in the Tibet Federation Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

However, national league champions Muktiyodha Sangsad Krira Chakra were made to sweat by a spirited Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in their opening match at the Bir Sheshthra Shaheed Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur but managed to scraped past the old towners 2-1.

ABAHANI 2; ARAMBAGH 0

One of the title favourites Abahani had little trouble dealing with Arambagh who have a reputation of being the bogey team of big clubs.

Brazilian playmaker Sandro Pedrosa put the Dhanmondi giants ahead in the first half from a penalty while young striker Mehedi Hasan Ujjal doubled the margin in the fag end of the match.

After dominating the proceedings from the start, Abahani had to wait till the 39th minute to break the deadlock as their forwards were found wanting in front of the opponents goal. Nigerian defender Dominic brought down

Pedrosa in the danger zone with a reckless tackle from behind and referee Abdur Rakib had no hesitation to point to the spot.

Although play was held up for five minutes as Arambagh secretary Mobinul Islam Mobin and coach Faruque entered the field to confront the referee over the decision, they ultimately accepted it. Pedrosa himself took the penalty and sent Arambagh custodian Tareq the wrong way (1-0).

The second goal arrived following a mistake by Tareq who handled the ball just outside the D box while unnecessarily going for it.

Second half substitute Abdullah Parvez chipped in a left-footed free-kick that was punched by Tareq but only as far as Ujjal made no mistake from a hand-shaking distance (2-0).

Arambagh hardly created any chance throughout the match except for a Dominic miss in the 78th minute when he couldn't beat goalie Nizam one to one.

Yellow cards: Sila Fode (Abahani), Tareq, Dominick and Arman Aziz (Arambagh).

MUKTIYODHA 2; RAHMATGANJ 1

Midfielder Tushar set up two chances which were capitalised by prolific striker Saiful Islam Moni and

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Chartered for cricket

Standard Chartered is one of the leading international banks operating in Bangladesh. Apart from earning a good reputation in the banking sector, the financial institution is also contributing a lot to society through their community initiative scheme. As part of that the bank is sponsoring cricket and chess at school-level in the country.

Recently it has come forward to sponsor England's first-ever Test series against Bangladesh. Besides, Standard Chartered has attracted the eyes of cricket buffs by launching a special credit card.

The man trying to promote closer ties between Bangladesh cricket and Standard Chartered is chief executive officer David Fletcher.

Educated at Durham University, the 40-year-old from Nottinghamshire, England, joined Standard Chartered from Citibank in 1995. He has already served in London, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore in different capacities before joining as CEO in Bangladesh last year.

The Daily Star Sport's HASAN MASOOD met Fletcher at his Dilkusha office on Monday. Here are the excerpts:

The Daily Star Sport (DSS): You have been sponsoring the national school cricket championship for the last seven years. Obviously you don't have any commercial interest. So, what prompted you to sponsor such a tournament?

David Fletcher (DF): We are sponsoring school cricket as part of our community initiatives. And our community initiatives are around health, education and youth and so this fits into the youth. Cricket is clearly the national sport here in Bangladesh and it is a way for us to put something back into the community that we are a part of.

It is great to see so many schools taking part. Also it is great to encourage youngsters to play sport, take up sport, get good in sport and develop their skills. So, that is what we want



DAVID FLETCHER

to encourage. There is nothing commercial about it.

DSS: These days from small scale

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PHOTO: AFP

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (3rd from R), International Cricket Council president Ehsan Mani (2nd from R), BCB president Ali Asghar (L) and CEO of ICC Malcolm Speed (R) stand next to the logo and trophy of the Under-19 World Cup during the unveiling ceremony at Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

What to WATCH

BTV

Bangladesh vs England

Third ODI

Live at 1:30 pm

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Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 200

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Nov 14, 2003 and draw

1. What was Nafis Iqbal's score against England in the first innings of the second practice match?

120 118 122

2. What was Matthew Hayden's world record score in Test cricket?

379 380 381

3. Who won the Women's World Cup football title?

USA Germany Sweden

4. Who became nat'l kabadi champions?

Army BDR Navy

Name

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

School Address

Phone: (If any)