

Bashar unhappy about Bogra facilities

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket captain Habibul Bashar came down heavily on the practice pitches in Bogra after their first net session at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium yesterday.

"We had our first nets in Bogra today but I must say it was frustrating for us. Out nets for three days in Dhaka were very poor and it was same in Bogra. The central pitches where we had our session today was not perfect for practice," said Bashar whose men are preparing for the first two one-dayers against Sri Lanka who are due in Bogra on February 17.

The venue for the February 19 and 20 ODIs and the second Test has received the ICC approval recently.

Bashar, the most successful Bangladesh batsman said that the concerned authority should concentrate more on the issue.

"It is not good for us the way we are making important net sessions on unfriendly surfaces. Everybody should understand that it is a very important part of a team's preparation. I am really frustrated and I must say we have wasted four days," said Bashar after their training session under floodlights.

Bashar and his men, meanwhile, had their first session with psychologist Dr Salahuddin Kausar, an assistant professor of the BSMMU, yesterday.

"We just focused on the concentration issue in our first meeting. Basically it was an introductory meeting and we need more sessions to discuss some specific issues and sort out the problems," Kausar told the Daily Star Sport over telephone yesterday.

Captain Bashar found some positive things from the first meeting although he thinks that it is a long-term process to get benefits from an expert.

"We are taking it very positively. He has told us in the first meeting that we have to put aside the negative things much earlier. We actually start concentrating on the game a day ahead. He told us that to fully concentrate on the game is a major factor. I believe that we lack mental strength sometimes, that's why we have failed to perform up to our potential," he explained.



Did U Know?

Legendary English footballer Sir Stanley Matthews was the first European soccer player of the year award winner. He won the award way back in 1956.

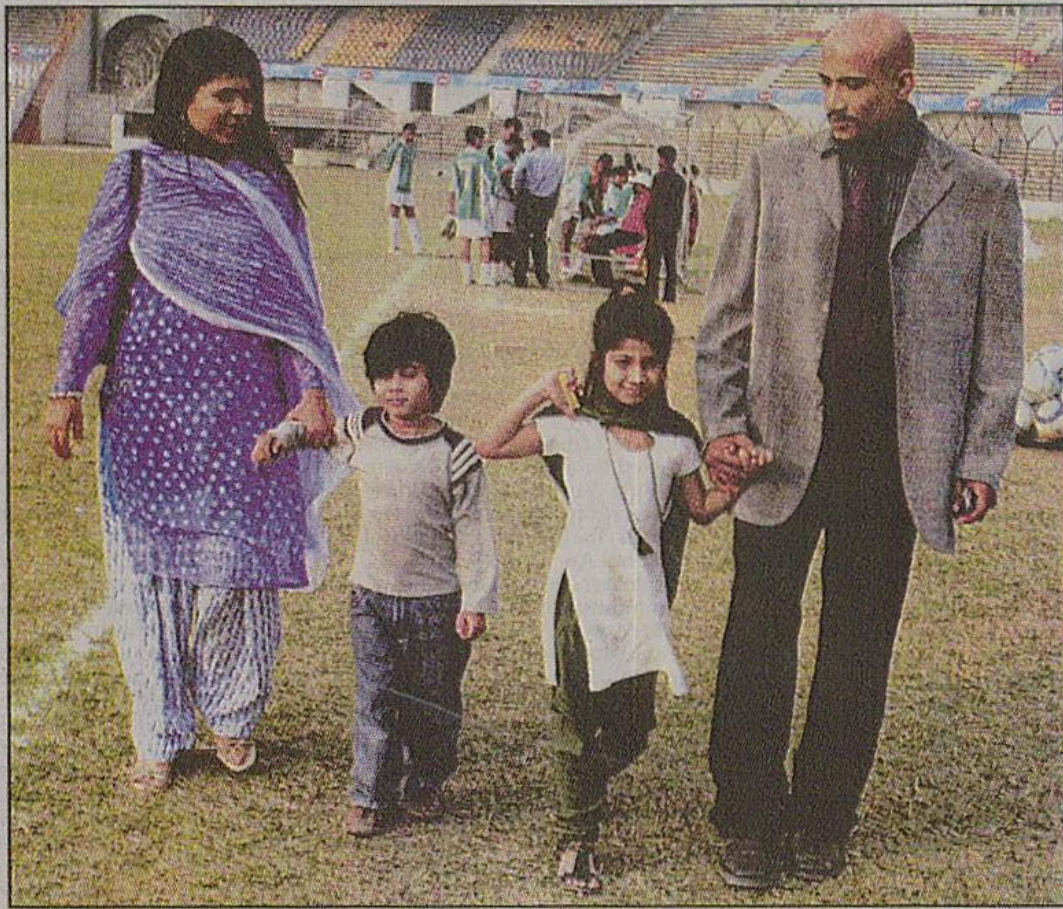


Pervez Musharraf

(Pakistan President)
"A lot of placards in the crowd have suggested that you should get a haircut, but if you take my advice, you look good in this hairstyle." While admiring the hairstyle of Mahendra Singh Dhoni.



7th Nat'l Cricket League One-Day Matches
Dhaka vs Rajshahi
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium
Khulna vs Sylhet
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium
Barisal vs Chittagong
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium



NO VALENTINE'S DAY! As the national footballers are busy preparing for their Group F AFC Asian Cup 2007 qualifiers against Uzbekistan, Bangladesh captain Arif Khan Joy brought his wife Sonia, son Zidane and daughter Jayati to the Bangabandhu National Stadium before a training session yesterday, just to stay close to his family on the special day.

Diego's Valentine's Day

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football coach Diego Cruciani was very cheerful on the Valentine's Day. It was not that the Argentine, single now, had any female company far away from home rather he had some good news.

"It turned out to be a happy St Valentine's Day for me," said Cruciani, for whom the day began merrily, to reporters after the national team's practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yesterday.

Having checked his e-mails after a long gap, the 41-year-old found messages from his friends back in Argentina about reports on the FIFA website praising Bangladesh's recent performance.

"I am very happy because they wrote good things. This is encouraging for me and when FIFA says something everyone takes note of that," he said.

Bangladesh took a big leap -- 17

places -- on the FIFA rankings after finishing runners-up in the SAFF Championship and beating Pakistan in the Asian Cup pre-qualifiers.

Cruciani's charges will play a preparation match against Bangladesh Navy at the BNS at 4pm on Friday, the day before they leave for Uzbekistan.

When asked why they had to play a relatively weak team, the coach said, "We can play only one

match and no local clubs seemed to be prepared at this moment.

"Playing against a stronger team bears injury risk for players. So I prefer an easy game and a big win will definitely boost them ahead of the game against the powerful Uzbeks.

"I think the fitness level of the boys is better but we have lost many things, like football skills, since our last international against Pakistan. We have to recover a lot," added Cruciani who ruled out chances of rookie defender Sony and newcomer Rintu, a midfielder, making the trip to Uzbekistan. The 22-member squad has yet to be short-listed to 18.

Meanwhile, an AFP report last night claimed that Cruciani had been slapped with a two-match ban by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on recommendation by FIFA for attempting to assault the referee during his team's Asian Cup pre-qualifying match against Pakistan in Dhaka in December.

Cruciani was a relieved man

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Pace before spin for England: Blackwell

never likely to be a "greyhound" in the outfield.

Blackwell, 27, an orthodox slow left armer made his one-day international debut in 2002 and has taken 19 scalps in 28 one-dayers for England.

The Somerset all-rounder has scored 344 one-day international runs in 23 innings at an average of only 15.63 but his highest score was 82 off 68 balls against India.

"I think if they want to go along the lines of a spinner who can bat... it must give me sort of an edge. It's a decision they will have to make. If I fit the bill that would be great."

He said it would have been "great" if England could have played two spinners with 200 matches between them.

But he said it was an opportunity for him to show that Giles was "not the only left hand spinner in the country".

Blackwell, who had been due to tour the West Indies with England A before his call-up because of Giles's injury, said: "I think it's just a bonus to be involved in the full England team.

"It's an honour and a privilege.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

NCL's 5th round begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

It would be a battle of the table-toppers when Dhaka face off with hosts Rajshahi in the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League's (NCL) fifth round that begins at different venues across the country today.

Dhaka and Rajshahi are sharing the lead in the one-day table with maximum eight points each, but the former enjoy a six-point advantage in the four-day table with 20 points.

The remaining four teams follow the joint leaders with two points each in the shorter-version while Sylhet, Khulna and Chittagong crowd the third spot in the longer-version with ten points each.

Khulna will host Sylhet at the Khulna Divisional Stadium while Barisal, fresh from their first wins of the meet against Sylhet in the previous round, play against Chittagong at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. The Chittagong-Barisal match was originally scheduled to be held at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

U-19s meet WI today

SPORTS REPORTER

The dejected boys of Mushfiqur Rahim will take on West Indies in a play-off match of the ICC Under-19 World Cup at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground today.

Pre-tournament favourites Bangladesh made a heartbreaking exit from the title race after suffering a five-wicket defeat against England on Saturday in the quarterfinals and they will now play only for pride.

The victors will take on the winners of the game between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, who play the second play-off match tomorrow at the same venue, on Saturday for the fifth position.

Meanwhile, India face England in the first semifinal today at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

It's one of the best

AFP, Brisbane

It may have been overshadowed by Adam Gilchrist's dashing century but the catch made by skipper Ricky Ponting in Australia's tri-series final win over Sri Lanka here Tuesday will rank as one of cricket's best.

Ponting secured the dismissal of Russel Arnold for 76 with a blinding one-handed take while falling backwards in the outfield.

Running backwards with the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Eva atop again

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazrana Khan Eva regained the solo lead in the Camellia 27th National Chess Championship after one round when she won her sixth round board against International Woman Master Rani Hamid at the federation hall room yesterday.

Eva raised her tally to five points while Rani Hamid, holder Shamima Akhter Liza and WFM Tanima Parveen followed the leader with four points each.

In the sixth round, Liza lost her board to Sharmin Sultana to slip from the top slot while Tanima drew with Zakia Sultana.

Gilchrist blows SL away to give Aussies series

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Adam Gilchrist hammered the fastest one-day hundred by an Australian in a Valentine's Day massacre of Sri Lanka's bowlers at the Gabba here Tuesday to clinch the triangular limited-overs series.

Gilchrist thrashed a spectacular 122 off 91 balls and shared in a 196-run opening stand with Simon Katich to set up the Australians for an overwhelming nine-wicket victory in the third match of the finals series.

The Australian vice-captain raised his 14th ODI century off just 67 balls, the fastest by an Australian in terms of balls faced, as the home side easily chased down Sri Lanka's 266 for nine off 50 overs.

It was the largest successful chase by Australia in Brisbane surpassing their 235 in defeating the West Indies in 2000-01.

"Tonight was brilliant, I just loved it," said man-of-the-match Gilchrist.

"It was a very special partnership with Kato (Katich) after the scrutiny that he's been under.

"We just tried to stay positive and that's what the team did. I felt the team's been dealt some pretty (heavy) criticism in the series.

"Half way through the series we had people and certain journalists say neither he nor I should be in the team going forward so to get a night like tonight should free you up a bit. It's very satisfying result to prove them wrong."

Gilchrist profited from a 'life' on 20 when he was fumbled by Sanath Jayasuriya in a two-handed skied chance to smack 13 fours and four sixes and completed an emotional hundred by wildly waving his bat to the crowd.

Gilchrist, who emerged from a troubled home summer and an under-achieving Ashes series in England, was finally out when he was bowled by Muttiah Muralitharan with his team well in

command, needing only 71 runs for victory.

He finished the tri-series with 432 runs from nine innings at an average of 48.

Katich was sedate by comparison, but he provided the perfect foil to Gilchrist's explosive hitting and has probably done enough to clinch a berth in the Australian

team to be named Wednesday for the one-day series in South Africa this month.

Katich scored his maiden ODI century off 136 balls and remained not out 107 including nine fours, with skipper Ricky Ponting on 28 when the target was reached at 267 for one.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



ON A RAMPAGE: Australian batsman Adam Gilchrist is ecstatic on reaching his century off just 67 balls during the third and last triangular one-day series final against Sri Lanka in Brisbane on Tuesday.

Kambli writes England off

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Vinod Kambli, a scourge of England bowlers in the past, believes Michael Vaughan's men will suffer heavy losses during their current two-month tour of India.

Kambli, better known as Sachin Tendulkar's childhood friend, averaged 105.66 in three Tests against Graham Gooch's England in 1993, including a double century in the final Test in Mumbai which triggered a 3-0 sweep for the hosts.

The left-hander, now 34, told the Mumbai-based Mid-Day newspaper on Tuesday he could still take a century off the current England attack -- provided they agreed to allow someone to run for him between the wickets.

"Like there is a super-sub facility, there should have been a super-runner role because I could get a hundred off this attack on one leg," said Kambli, who last played for India in 2000.

"I don't think England stand a chance out here.

"They have a good set of quick bowlers in Andrew Flintoff, Steve Harmison, Matthew Hoggard and Simon Jones, but I don't think they

will have an impact on the series. Our batting power and wickets will ensure frustration.

"As for their spin attack, they have to be careful not to play the new boy Monty Panesar. I fear for him."

England, who play three Tests and seven one-dayers during the two-month tour, are without seasoned

will have an impact on the series.

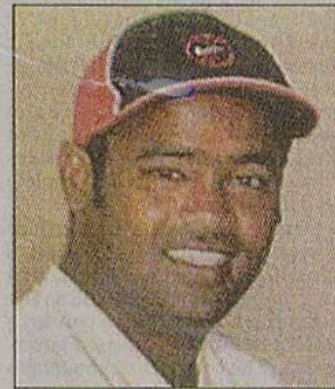
"They went to Pakistan after winning the Ashes and it did not make a difference to the Pakistanis," he said. "I don't see it making a difference to India as well."

Pakistan beat England 2-0 in a three-match Test series late last year and defeated India 1-0 in the recent series at home.

"As I see it, the pressure is on England," said Kambli. "And considering their phobia when it comes to facing leg-spin, the main threat will be Anil Kumble."

England, who have not won a Test series on Indian soil since David Gower's tourists triumphed 2-1 in 1985, play three back-to-back Tests starting in Nagpur on March 1. They arrived in the country on Monday.

India have lost just three of the last 25 home Test series played on traditionally spinner-friendly tracks.



VINOD KAMBLI

left-arm spinner Ashley Giles who is recovering from a hip surgery.

The three spinners in the touring squad -- Shaun Udal, Panesar and Ian Blackwell -- have played just three Tests between them.

Best Answer for your CAREER

QA Konsortium, an emerging new enterprise engaged in deriving, developing and delivering products and services with other related solutions and consultancies in the fields of modern telecom technology, human resource development, research, communication & activation, marketing & sales, public relation, logistic & customer retention is looking for some smart, energetic and self motivated personnel for the following positions:

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

The deserving candidate must have a B. Sc. Degree in Computer Science or related discipline with solid knowledge in Windows Server plus Linux Server, and

WHO CAN

- install & configure Windows/Linux Server, Workstations and other computer hardware
- set up LAN/WAN, Mail/HTTP/FTP/DNS Server & Firewall
- manage Server and Network troubleshooting
- ensure Network security and all technical supports
- be quick learner and interested in new technology

BUSINESS COORDINATOR

The right candidate must be a graduate (minimum) in a business related discipline, and

WHO WILL

- ensure liaison with external & internal clients
- manage day to day relationship
- create matrix to analyze & track performance
- develop & recommend pricing strategy
- make customer presentations, business case & margin analysis

Interested candidate may send their resumes to the QA address via ensured postal system or E-mail on or before

25th February 2006.

The post applied for must be written on the envelope. Hand delivery will not be accepted.

QA Konsortium

House #12 (Ground Floor)
Road # 126 Gulshan-1
Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh
E-mail: aim@qabd.com

