

A bad day's business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Black-marketers who managed to get hold of a large number of tickets for the first ODI between Bangladesh and Australia, had a bitter experience yesterday during the match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

A total of 12,000 tickets for pavilion and gallery and complimentary tickets were released for the match. Of those, seven thousand were sold through different branches of the City Bank and these tickets became out of market on Saturday.

A heavy demand for tickets was seen days before the match and naturally, it was presumed to be a full-house. But the reality was quite different. Crowd presence at the Club House, where each ticket cost Tk 800, was very poor. Some portion of the galleries too was found deserted till end of the match, in total contrast of the so-called 'crisis for tickets' before the game.

Having a look at the deserted Club House and some of the galleries, some cricket fans expressed their disbelief and raised their eyebrows.

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Did U Know?

New Zealand have never won a Test series against South Africa since the two teams started playing against each other way back in 1932.



ESPN
English Premier Football League
Fulham vs Wigan
Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)



Jason Gillespie

(Australia fast bowler)
"Hansel and Gretel and Dizzy's double hundred, it's one and the same. Absolute fairy tale."

Hayden speaks highly of his skipper

PTI, Kochi

Australian opener Matthew Hayden, who had famously hailed Sachin Tendulkar as God five years ago, has said the Indian's record of scoring highest number of Test centuries would soon be overtaken by his skipper Ricky Ponting.

"Ponting will overtake Sachin Tendulkar in Test cricket record in (the) near future," Hayden, who is here on a private visit, told reporters last night.

Tendulkar, who celebrates his 32nd birthday tomorrow, has 35 Test hundreds so far while the Australian skipper is fast closing in with 31 tons.

Hailing Ponting as a phenomenal player, Hayden said he was also "an amazing and exceptional" captain.

The prolific left-hander did not see too much in England's 5-1 one-day series defeat to India and counted his Ashes rivals as the other major contender for next year's World Cup behind Australia.

Hayden attributed the poor performance of the English team to a hectic schedule and trying conditions in the seven-match series.



Australia opener Adam Gilchrist launches one of his five sixes during his 46-ball 76 against Bangladesh in the first ODI at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Sunday.

Spinners spare blushes

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



Adam Gilchrist at his belligerent best threatened to inflict a humiliating defeat on Bangladesh in the first one-day international at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday. But thankfully, left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak's three-wicket haul not only caused an unusual Aussie hiccup but also stretched the world champions to salvage the home team from discomfiture.

In the end, Australia's four-wicket victory only reminded that had the Tigers put some more runs on the board, the match could have been finished in a different way.

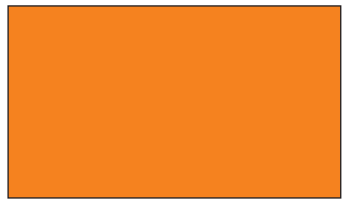
"Against the new ball we lost too many wickets when we batted and gave away too many runs when bowled. Losing four wickets in 10 overs creates pressure and one could never guess what a good total is on this track. In the morning, we thought 260-270 would be a good total on this wicket but we found later that even 230 might have been interesting," said Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar.

"We came back strongly because of the two spinners' brilliant

efforts. Razzak was successful but Rafique also did an excellent job, proving that a few more runs would have been defensible," said Bashar, who topped scored with 52 in an otherwise ordinary batting display.

Coach Dav Whatmore, who

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Bangladesh and Australia on Sunday:

BANGLADESH	
Nafees c Gilchrist b Lee	16
Saleh c Lee b Bracken	7
Aftab c Clarke b Lee	30
Ashraf c Cullen b Bracken	5
Bashar st Gilchrist b Hogg	52
Imran c Gilchrist b Hogg	20
Mashud b Johnson	27
Rafique c Hogg b Symonds	8
Mortuza c Gilchrist b Hogg	1
Razzak not out	2
Rasel c Gilchrist b Symonds	0
Extras: (lb-5, w-13, nb-9)	27
Total: (All out in 47 overs)	195

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-33, 3-52, 4-79, 5-117, 6-171, 7-182, 8-185, 9-194.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	8	0	34	2
Bracken	8	2	30	2
Johnson	7	0	34	1
Hussey	3	0	13	0
Cullen	10	2	36	0
Hogg	10	1	37	3
Symonds	1	0	6	2

AUSTRALIA	
Gilchrist lbw b Razzak	76
Katich c Bashar b Mortuza	18
Clarke run out	16
Symonds lbw b Razzak	0
Ponting lbw b Razzak	14
Hussey not out	36
Hogg c Rasel b Imran	7
Lee not out	12

Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-6, nb-3) 17
Total: (For six wks in 44 overs) 196
Fall of wickets: 1-96, 2-101, 3-109, 4-133, 5-155, 6-174.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rasel	4	0	35	0
Mortuza	7	0	58	1
Razzak	10	1	36	3
Rafique	10	1	14	0
Imran	8	0	24	1
Saleh	5	0	21	0

Result: Australia won by four wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Adam Gilchrist.
Toss: Bangladesh.
Umpires: Ian Howell (RSA) and Mahbubur Rahman (BAN)

NAT'L SCHOOL SOCCER 3 walkovers on Day 3

SPORTS REPORTER

Kaews and Ehsnaul each scored a brace to give Matherganj MB High School of Thakurgaon a 4-0 victory over Bangla Hill Pilot High School of Dinajpur in an incident-packed match of the bangalink tiger trophy National School Football Championship yesterday.

Both sides were reduced to ten men at the Thakurgaon Stadium with the local side taking a 2-0 lead at the break.

Another Dinajpur side suffered a massive defeat at the same venue when Teghar High School went down 5-0 to Barister Jamrudin Sircar High School. Rokonzaman slotted twice while Arif, Akhter and Khoibor added the rest for the Panchagarh outfit.

At Meherpur, Atiqur netted two goals while Shahinur, Amir, Kamal and Mizanur one each as Parulia High School of Sakhira brushed aside Chuadanga's BD High School 6-0. In the other match, first half strikes by Arif and Delwar saw Jessore's Hashimpur High School beat home side Bout Solaimania High School 2-1.

Abu and David scored late as local boys Ram Khijari Adarsha High School blanked Rangamati Government High School 2-0 at the Cox's Bazar Stadium. Murong Residential High School received walkover against Abdul Hamid High School.

At Patuakhali, Gachani High School and Kakorda High School got walkover after their respective opponents failed to show up.

The four matches at Sylhet and Mymensingh have been rescheduled for today.

Bhaji sure of WI triumph

BBC ONLINE, undated

Harbhajan Singh has backed India to claim their first Test series triumph in the Caribbean for 34 years in June.

Rahul Dravid's men depart next month for five one-dayers and four Tests and the off-spinner told BBC Asian Network he was confident about their chances.

"We've been building a team, which will play in the World Cup, and we've been playing some good cricket," he said.

"If we stick to our plans and what we've been doing for the last 10 months or so we will do very well."

He added: "It's a big tour for us, hopefully we'll play hard and positive cricket, keep up the good work and win the series over there."

India, who won their first Test on their last trip in 2002 before losing 2-1, might have to end their long drought in the Caribbean without Sachin Tendulkar.

The 32-year-old underwent shoulder surgery in March and Harbhajan believes the fact that the one-dayers will be played first could give him a chance to recover in time.

He added: "We would love to have Sachin back in the team as soon as we can."

"We know he can win matches on his own. It puts pressure on the other team when we have a guy with 11,000 runs in our team."

"We hope he'll be back soon -- he might be there for the Tests."

HOSTING OF 2011 WC It will not be easy for Asia

CRICINFO, undated

The battle to win the right to host the 2011 World Cup is likely to go down to the wire with Shaharyar Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman, confirming that Australia and New Zealand have refused to stand down in favour of Asia's bid.

"Yes it's true that Australia and New Zealand are insistent that they should get the hosting rights of the tournament as they say they last hosted it in 1992," Shaharyar told the Daily News. "The ICC has acknowledged our bid but we face stiff competition from Australia and New Zealand who are also very keen to host the 2011 World Cup."

Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh submitted their joint bid to the ICC on Thursday following a series of meetings between top officials over the past two weeks. A fair amount of time had been spent preparing a compliance document, a mandatory submission for the bid itself. The ICC had earlier given the Asian bloc an extension in the deadline for the submission of their bid from February.

Shaharyar said that the four South Asian countries had a very strong case as three tournaments have been held since the prestigious competition was last held in the subcontinent.

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inside cricket with wasim



It was a good toss to win by the Bangladeshi captain as they were given a flying start by the two opening batsmen on a slow track with no grass or moisture. But once again, the Bangladeshi batsmen let themselves down by playing stupid shots. Rajin Saleh had no business to play a shot like the way he did and get himself out. He should have thought of staying at

AKRAM INSWINGER

the wicket, rotate strike and let Shahriar Nafees, Aftab Ahmed and the rest play their natural strokes.

Habibur Bashar and Khaled Mashud played good knocks but just when the two senior players looked set and needed to play the full 50 overs, they played poor shots to get out. What the Bangladeshi team need is to play 50 over whenever they bat first, this can only happen if the top order batsmen build a few good partnerships, do not play rash strokes or throw away their wickets.

Mohammad Ashraf looked out of form having played 23 balls for his five runs and then getting dismissed by playing a predetermined stroke. That goes to show he has very poor technique as he cannot judge the speed of the ball. With this kind of technique he can only get runs for his team a few times at this level.

As for the Australian bowlers, they bowled pretty well on a slow track adapting to the condition well and taking wickets on regular intervals. The two new ball bowlers and the spinners, in particular Brad Hogg, bowled well to restrict Bangladesh to 195 all out.

Adam Gilchrist once again showed that he is the best ODI opening batsman in the world as he

played a great knock to put Australia on victory path. I remember during my playing days he was one player I was wary of bowling as he would just destroy and dominate any bowler. The two Bangladeshi opening bowlers bowled very ordinary, not utilising the condition well. I don't know why on earth Shahadat Hossain was left out of the side after having such a good Test match performance unless he is injured or not available for some personal reason.

But I must say Bangladesh fought back well once Abdur Razzak removed Gilchrist for 76 and got the hosts back in to the game. Mohammad Rafique at the age of 37 bowled very tight giving away only 14 runs in 10 overs. Was dependable Mike Hussey and once again Brett Lee who took the Australians home.

Only Bangladesh had another 20 to 30 runs on the board then we might have seen a different result. But as Sunil Gavaskar said, enough of 'ifs' and 'buts' and it is now time to do it and I hope Bangladesh have taken enough lesson from the two Tests and the first ODI to show that they can do it in the remaining two ODIs.

Sachin 33 today

Cricket

PTI, Mumbai

Sachin Tendulkar celebrates his 33rd birthday on Monday, battling injuries and an indifferent form but having lost none of the hunger to resurrect a phenomenal career.

The past one-year has been particularly harsh on Tendulkar who has had to contend with injuries and a string of low scores, leading to speculation on whether his best was behind him.

A record-breaking 35th century at the Ferozeshah Kotla in New Delhi has been the only bright moment since his last birthday but there have been other times on the cricket field where he has shown glimpses of his vintage form.

However, those moments of class and artistry have been few and far between and being booed by his home crowd during the third and final Test England in March this year will no doubt be one of the lowest points of his career, spanning close to 17 years.

At 33, he is clearly on the crossroads of his career, the resurrection of which will be determined by his tenacity to overcome all odds.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

Recuperating from yet another surgery, the master batsman will remain away from the game for some time, which could turn out to be a blessing in disguise, allowing him the space to ponder and work out his game.

Tendulkar is set to miss the one-dayers in West Indies, venue of the World Cup next year, but expected to be fit in time for the four-Test series beginning on June 2.

The Mumbai-born master batsman would be a vital cog in the wheel for India's World Cup plans with skipper Rahul Dravid and

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STANCHART SCHOOL CRICKET

Rakib hits hundred

SPORTS REPORTER

Rakib slammed 139 runs to propel Rayer Bazar High School to an overwhelming 281 run victory over Dhaka Government Muslim High School in the Standard Chartered National School Cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

The young batsman struck fifteen boundaries and nine sixes in a quickfire 84-ball knock, as Rayer Bazar scored 424 runs in the stipulated 50 overs. Dhaka Government Muslim High were bowled out for 143 runs, with Samad picking up five wickets.

Away at the City Club ground, Dr. Shahidullah Adarsha Bidyapith won a low-scoring match by one wicket against Kalatiya High School. Parvez took four wickets to bowl out Kalatiya for only 134 runs.

Shourav Smriti High School beat Motijheel Government Boys High School by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Tipu took four for 47 for Shourav Smriti.

BSMAR Rifles College, National Bangla High School and Iqra Model also won their respective matches at different grounds in Dhaka.

Ump's decision sparks violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 23 people were injured in a clash between two groups, in connection with a cricket match at Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur on Saturday afternoon.

According to local and police sources, the two teams playing a final match locked into an altercation over an umpiring decision.

The dispute later sparked the supporters at the ground and at least 23 supporters were injured critically as they swooped upon each other with weapons. The injured were rushed to the Phulbari Health Complex. The local police also rushed to the spot.

A case has been lodged with Phulbari police station, but none have been arrested in connection to the incident so far.

Clark unhappy at being dropped

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Stuart Clark has revealed his disappointment at being dropped from the Australian Test side, after he played a vital role in their emphatic white-wash in South Africa.

Clark, who it is believed had asked for a break from the one-day series to spend time with his pregnant wife, stated clearly that he was available for the selection for the second Test at Chittagong.

But Australia decided to play three spinners in the game and go with Jason Gillespie ahead of Clark, who had been their best bowler

against South Africa with 20 wickets in the three Tests.

"I am disappointed to have missed out," Clark was quoted as saying in Sydney Morning Herald.

"I said I was available for the whole match, no matter what the circumstances. They chose the team, I wasn't in it, and I only came home once I knew I wasn't picked. I had a bit of a chat with the selectors over there, but I didn't really get into why I wasn't picked. I'll find out more later on."

Merv Hughes, the travelling selector, reasoned that Gillespie was chosen because of his good performance in the first Test and his experience in subcontinental

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A section of the colourful crowd at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium enjoy their time on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR



Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak is ecstatic after he trapped Andrew Symonds leg before in the first Bangladesh-Australia one-day international on Sunday.

Laxman rubbishes retirement talks

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

VVS Laxman has brushed aside suggestions that, at the age of 31, he is too old to play the game at the highest level and asserted that he remained a match-winner.

"I don't see why people are making a big issue of me being thirty plus," he told the local newspaper Times of India.

"I am not too old to retire or give up the game. There have been players who have represented the country beyond the 30s. As long as I contribute to the team with my batting and fielding, I don't see any reason why I should give up. I am a batsman and not a bowler and having crossed the 30s does not bother me."

Laxman cited Greg Chappell's

Yasin shines for Lt Blue

SPORTS REPORTER

Light Blue off-spinner Yasin Arafat picked up three wickets as Maroon team were reeling at 160 for 6 at stumps on the first day of the BCB BRAC Bank Academy Cup at BKSP yesterday.

Maroon captain Mehrab Hossain won the toss and opted to bat first after the start of the match was delayed by overnight rain. Tamim Iqbal scored 47, while skipper Mehrab was not out on 31 with Rezaul Islam. Arafat picked up 3 for 39, while Sunny took 2 for 29.

The tournament is being held to determine the first batch of scholarship holders of the newly formed BCB BRAC Bank Academy.

BRIEF SCORES

MAROON TEAM: First innings 160 for 6 in 60 overs (Iqbal 47, Shamsur 25, Mehrab 31 batting; Arafat 3-39, Sunny 2-29)

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