

Joypurhat in final round

SPORTS REPORTER

Joypurhat managed a solitary goal victory over Rajshahi to advance into the final round of the Jubok Phone National Football Championship yesterday.

Wahidul Islam scored the all-important goal in the 19th minute at the Joypurhat Stadium as the hosts became Jamuna zone champions to enter the 12-team fray.

Earlier Dhaka, Magura, Khulna, Comilla, Tangail, Bangladesh Navy and Dhaka University reached the final round.

In the day's another match, Rangamati also earned a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Cox's Bazar to move into the zonal final.

Aryadip Dewan netted the match-winner in the 66th minute at the Bandarban Stadium.

Rangamati meet Noakhali in the zonal final tomorrow at the same venue.

Sonali Otit praises Salahuddin

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Otit Club, an organisation of ex-footballers, appreciated Kazi Salahuddin's decision to resign as the vice-president of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) saying his move held players' heads high.

In a statement the club said that BFF president SA Sultan devalued country's footballers making a U-turn from his commitment of giving full authority to the National Team Management Committee (NTMC) for selecting team officials.

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PHOTO: AFP

I CAN GET EVEN BETTER: Dashing Bangladesh batsman Aftab Ahmed salutes the Harare crowd after scoring a 31-ball 50 in the third one-day against hosts Zimbabwe on Wednesday.

Extreme headache

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Let alone the purists, even the less knowledgeable cricket watcher would have been shocked by the shots employed by the Bangladesh batsmen in the face of some inept bowling by the Zimbabweans in the crucial third one-day international at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday.

Wrong shots at the wrong time, silly dismissals and the constant habit to throw away a good start or partnership has now become a trait for the batsmen.

Facing a second-grade bowling attack, the likes of Ashraf, Aftab, Nafees and the rest of the top-order were rather expected to boost their fledgling averages. But after being bowled out for 236 (that too with an over to spare) when there could have been more, the Tigers have again displayed their infamous consistent inconsistency.

Having won a hat-trick of tosses, the hosts' captain Prosper Utseya --

having watched the carelessness of the visitors' opening pair in the previous matches -- decided to field first. And Shahriar Nafees made his decision worthy when the left-hander fell in the second over of the day. He was closely followed by his partner veteran Javed Omar, who looks completely lost out in the middle.

Omar has only managed 24 runs thus far, and the approach shown in this series so far by the once dogged batsman is nothing short of pathetic. Under seaming conditions, he would have been expected to show his usual grittiness but that has not transpired and maybe, given his contributions, never will.

The batting by the Tigers in this match has truly displayed that talent is not the major criteria to judge a cricketer.

A flash of brilliance is not an admirable contribution in a team game so being contented with 30s and 40s in quick time is not what Bangladesh requires from batsmen like Mohammad Ashraf and Aftab Ahmed.

Ashraf's potential could well be unmatchable, but he must use it since

the team, still at its infancy, needs him to. Similarly, Aftab's hard-hitting batting looks good till it lasts.

Rajin Saleh was the perfect foil for Aftab and Ashraf, but he too seems to be pleased once a landmark is reached.

Generally, the Tigers' batting has only two gears -- ultra defensive or an all-out attack.

On Wednesday, as the wickets fell to some sloppy shots, the impetus could have been well used by replacement skipper Khaled Mashud. The usual anchor failed to do so with some reckless running between the wickets and the aforementioned happened.

Sadly with a highly regarded coach at their disposal, the batsmen seem to be failing to take advantage of his knowledge. Dav Whatmore must be at his wit's end by now trying to explain to his batsmen because it is absurd to think the other way around the coach could never have understood where the problem lies.

BANGLADESH-ZIM SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club ground on Wednesday:

BANGLADESH				
Omar c sub (Chibhabha)				6
b Mupariwa				0
Nafees c Taylor b Mahwire				0
Saleh c Utseya b Masakadza				54
Aftab b Ireland				53
Ashraf c Taylor b Masakadza				46
Reza run out				15
Mashud run out				11
Rafique c Mupariwa b Ireland				0
Mortuza lbw b Ireland				2
Razzak not out				20
Shahadat st Taylor b Masakadza				1
Extras: (lb-1, w-26, nb-1)				28
Total: (All out in 49 overs)				236
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-13, 3-83, 4-174, 5-179, 6-195, 7-198, 8-201, 9-224, 10-236.				
ZIMBABWE				
Sibanda lbw b Razzak				14
Duffin st Mashud b Shahadat				48
Masakadza c Aftab b Reza				38
Taylor not out				79
Matsikenyeri c Ashraf b Saleh				7
Mufambisi c Mashud b Shahadat				8
Chigumbura lbw b Shahadat				0
Utseya c Mashud b Shahadat				0
Mupariwa run out				33
Mahwire not out				0
Extras: (lb-4, w-7)				11
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)				218
Did not bat: A Ireland				
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-84, 3-121, 4-131, 5-151, 6-151, 7-151, 8-232				
Bowler				
Mortuza	10	0	50	0
Shahadat	10	0	53	3
Razzak	10	1	34	1
Reza	7	1	31	1
Rafique	10	0	48	0
Saleh	3	0	18	2

Result Zimbabwe won by 2 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Brendan Taylor.

NZC receives government recompense

AFP, Wellington

The New Zealand government on Wednesday paid the national cricket body 406,000 New Zealand (250,000 US) dollars in compensation for the cancelled tour by Zimbabwe.

The planned tour, featuring two Tests and three one-day internationals in New Zealand last December was called off after the government decided to withhold visas for the Zimbabwe players.

The government's stance was in reaction to what it termed human rights abuses in Zimbabwe but left New Zealand Cricket (NZC) financially vulnerable and originally facing a gross loss of close to two million dollars.

That was later reduced to 406,000 dollars after NZC negotiated for the West Indies to play an extra Test when they toured New Zealand in February-March this year.

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Shahadat has it in him

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahadat Hossain etched his name in the cricket annals as the Bangladesh paceman became the first bowler from the country to claim a hat-trick in one-day internationals.

The 20-year-old right-hander did the treble during the third game of the five-match series against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday to become the 19th bowler to achieve the feat in the game's shorter-version history.

But the young bowler's party was marred by the Tigers' stunning two-wicket defeat in the match as his new-ball partner Mashrafe Bin Mortuza gave away 19 runs in the final over.

Incidentally, Shahadat became the first bowler to end up on the losing side even after accomplishing such a feat.

He, however, is the second Bangladeshi bowler to take a hat-trick in international cricket as Alok Kapali did it in Test cricket against Pakistan at Peshawar in August 2003 at the age of 19.

The promising fast bowler, who was discovered during a talent-hunt camp in Narayanganj, bowled his heart out in the 39th over of the game to get rid of Tafadzwa Mufambisi, Elton Chigumbura and Prosper Utseya in successive deliveries to complete the treble in his ninth one-day appearance.

In the third ball of that over debutant Mufambisi edged a short ball outside the off stump that was easily taken by wicketkeeper Khaled

Mashud. Then stepped in the dangerous Chigumbura, hero of the home team's victory in the first game, and within a blink of an eye Shahadat speared in the fourth delivery, a toe-crusher, to have the young batsman plumb in front.

With the lanky paceman on a hat-trick, it was up to skipper Utseya to spare the home team's blushes, but Shahadat took the edge through to Mashud and the stand-in skipper made no mistake to spark off jubilation all around.

Shahadat, nicknamed as Rajib, is naturally aggressive, and above everything, has raw pace and in this

series he has provided the evidence that he can also be a good bowler in the abridged version of the game.

His debut in Test cricket against England at Lord's in May 2005 and in one-dayers against Kenya in March this year might have not been impressive ones, but his rapid progress in the international level has made many to believe that he has it in him what it takes to become one of the leading bowlers of the country.

HATTRICK HEROES

Following is the list of the players who took a hat-trick in one-day international cricket since its inception in 1971:

Player	Match	Venue	Year
Jalaluddin	Pakistan v Australia	Hyderabad(P)	1982
Bruce Reid	Australia v New Zealand	Sydney	1986
Chetan Sharma	India v New Zealand	Nagpur	1987
Wasim Akram	Pakistan v West Indies	Sharjah	1989
Wasim Akram	Pakistan v Australia	Sharjah	1990
Kapil Dev	India v Sri Lanka	Calcutta	1991
Aaqib Javed	Pakistan v India	Sharjah	1991
Danny Morrison	New Zealand v India	Napier	1994
Waqar Younis	Pakistan v New Zealand	East London	1994
Saqain Mushtaq	Pakistan v Zimbabwe	Peshawar	1996
Eddo Brandes	Zimbabwe v England	Harare	1997
Andy Stuart	Australia v Pakistan	Melbourne	1997
Saqain Mushtaq	Pakistan v Zimbabwe	London	1999
Chaminda Vaas	Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe	Colombo	2001
Mohammad Sami	Pakistan v West Indies	Sharjah	2002
Chaminda Vaas	Sri Lanka v Bangladesh	Pietermaritzburg	2003
Brett Lee	Australia v Kenya	Durban	2003
James Anderson	England v Pakistan	London	2003
Steve Harmison	England v India	Nottingham	2004
Charl Langeveldt	South Africa v West Indies	Barbados	2005
Shahadat Hossain	Bangladesh v Zimbabwe	Harare	2006

Farhat to miss third Test

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Pakistan batsman Imran Farhat is set to miss the third Test after sustaining a finger injury during England's innings and 120-run win in the second match of the series at Old Trafford.

Opening batsman Farhat broke his right ring finger taking a catch to dismiss Kevin Pietersen and Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer played down his chances of appearing in the third Test, which starts at Headingley here Friday.

"Imran Farhat is struggling to field and he is unlikely to come into contention for selection," Woolmer told reporters on Wednesday.

At Old Trafford, wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal was promoted to open but managed just four in each innings as England went 1-0 up in the four-Test series with a crushing victory inside three days.

Pakistan could now recall Salman Butt, dropped at Old Trafford while fellow opener Taufeeq Umar, a late addition to the squad, is also in contention.

"We will consider the opening partnership. We've just got to play better than we did last time," Woolmer added.

And the former England all-rounder admitted he was also

looking at changing the composition of Pakistan's attack.

In Manchester the tourists went in with two leg-spinners in Shahid Afridi and Danish Kaneria.

But for a match at Headingley, where in the last 10 years only one frontline England spinner has taken a Test wicket (left-armers Ashley Giles dismissing India's Rahul Dravid in 2002), Woolmer said Pakistan were contemplating playing four quicks and just one spinner.

"Kamran's done it before (open the innings) and it allowed us to play both Afridi and Kaneria on that pitch. If we batted anything like they would have been very useful.

"We would probably go in here with four seamers I should think or close to that.

"It looks a much better surface than I've ever seen at Leeds," added Woolmer.

"It's quite dry now. I suspect there won't be the sort of bounce we saw at Old Trafford but we'll have to deal with any surface we get."

But asked if Pakistan were likely to drop Kaneria, who returned disappointing figures of one for 106 at Old Trafford, Woolmer said: "I wouldn't say that was a possibility, no.

"I suppose in modern cricket you are looking for seven batsmen and four top-line bowlers. Whether we can do that at the moment, it's not easy.

"But we might have to and tell the

players to take responsibility and get on with it.

"We've got to be upbeat. If we want to win this series we've got to win the next two games. We have to come out positive, forget Old Trafford and put it right behind us."

Pakistan, as they were in both the drawn first Test at Lord's and in Manchester, will be without their three leading quicks (Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Asif and Navedul Hasan) at Headingley because of injury.

Akhtar, who has been sidelined by an ankle problem is due to take part in a club match this weekend and Woolmer said: "He should be playing in the Birmingham League for Berkswell. He's just got to bowl eight overs at pretty much full speed, so good luck to the blokes playing against him."

Asif has returned to Pakistan for treatment on his elbow injury and Woolmer added: "He's started bowling again, just gently off a few paces, and he's pain free so he could come into contention for the fourth and last Test match (at The Oval starting August 17)."

Meanwhile Woolmer said recent history showed Pakistan could come back from 1-0 down in a Test series.

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Did U Know?

Gus Hiddink, as coach, qualified for the second stage of the World Cup for the third consecutive time, and with three different teams: the Netherlands in 1998, South Korea in 2002 and Australia in 2006.



Jagmohan Dalmiya

(President of Cricket Association of Bengal)
"He is a baccha (kid). It's not right to talk about bacchas."
On Sourav Ganguly.

SA GAMES Booters will depart first

UNB, Dhaka

The departure dates of the Colombo-bound Bangladesh contingent for the 10th SA Games have been finalised with the football team being the first to leave on August 11.

Bangladesh will take part in 17 out of 20 disciplines in the tenth version of the biggest regional meet to be held over August 18-27 in the Sri Lankan capital.

The disciplines are football, badminton, boxing, table tennis, weightlifting, cycling, hockey, wrestling, karate, judo, taekwondo, shooting, swimming, athletics, kabaddi, archery and volleyball.

Footballers' departure will be followed by badminton and shooting teams -- who will leave on August 13 while five teams -- boxing, table tennis, weightlifting, swimming and kabaddi -- will depart on August 16.

Other departure dates: cycling and hockey teams -- August 18, wrestling, karate, taekwondo, athletics, archery and volleyball -- August 20 and judo -- August 23.

Besides, a 21-member National Olympic Committee (NOC) delegation will leave here on August 13 while a 15-member cultural troop will fly to Colombo on August 25.

SLC wants ties in Dambulla

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's cricket chiefs are planning to shift some matches of the upcoming tri-series against India and South Africa to the central town of Dambulla, officials said on Wednesday.

The first four games of the August 14-29 series were originally scheduled to be held in Dambulla and the remaining three, including the final, at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) last month brought all matches to Colombo following a dispute over payments with the authorities of the Rangiri International Stadium in Dambulla.

The SLC now says it has resolved the dispute and has requested both India and South Africa to revert back to the original schedule.

"We have a meeting later on Wednesday to finalise the programme," SLC chief executive Duleep Mendis said.

"We are in touch with the Indian and South African boards and expect to hear from them soon."

South African team sources told AFP they were not in favour of a late change and would be putting their point across at the meeting.

The Indian board has not stated if it was ready for a change in venues.

The Indian team, led by Rahul Dravid, is scheduled to reach here on August 10 for the series, in which each team plays the other twice in the league before the final on August 29.

South Africa are currently engaged in a two-Test series in the Sri Lankan capital. The second Test starts at the Sara Oval on Friday.

AQ