

Final one-day washed out

SPORTS REPORTER

The third and final one-day match between Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) National Academy and hosts Pakistan Cricket Academy was postponed due to heavy rain at the Bagh-e-Jinnah Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

The visitors are already down 2-0 and although the match is rescheduled for today, it is unlikely that it will take place.

BCB Academy lost the first one-day by seven wickets while they went down by 52 runs in the second match.

Dav join the camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team resumed training for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy in India after a day's break with a gym session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The session also saw the return of coach Dav Whatmore who visited the team in Mirpur after his

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Did U Know?

The most US Open singles titles won by a man is seven. The record is shared by Bill Tilden (USA) who won in 1920-25 and 1929, Richard Sears (USA) who won in 1881-1887, and William Larned (USA) who took the title in 1901, 1902, and 1907-11.



Talk Turkey



Sourav Ganguly
(Former India cricket captain)
"I still feel I am good enough and that's the way it is. There must be something wrong which has kept me out."

Reacting to his continued exclusion from the national team.



TEN Sports
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Live at 9:00 pm

DC CUP FOOTBALL Hosts clinch title

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Subol became the toast of Khagrachhari as he scored the winning penalty against Dighinala in the final of the DC Cup football tournament at the Khagrachhari Stadium yesterday.

The hosts won 5-4 on penalties after the match was level at 0-0 after ninety minutes and a further 10 minutes of extra-time.

The hosts had the lion's share of the possession and they missed several easy opportunities to score during normal time.

In the first five shots of the penalty shootout, each team scored their first four but then, Monir missed the first sudden-death shot for Dighinala. Subol stepped up and struck the winning goal to send the 10,000 strong crowd into elation.

Later, Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari Md Golam Mowla handed over the prizes to the finalists and other individual winners.



TOUR DE MIRPUR! (From L-R) Bangladesh cricketers Rajin Saleh, Tushar Imran, Manzarul Islam, captain Habibur Bashar and Aftab Ahmed are on stationary bikes during a gym session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Moody the man'

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody has the credentials and runs on the board to become the next coach of the Australian cricket team, according to former Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga.

Ranatunga, who was an influential captain of the Sri Lankan team for 11 years up to 1999, fears Moody will return to Australia after next year's World Cup and take over from outgoing coach John Buchanan.

Former Australian all-rounder Moody and Australian Centre of Excellence coach Tim Nielsen are considered the leading candidates to replace Buchanan, who confirmed this week that he will quit following next year's World Cup after seven years in the position.

Ranatunga, a former minister in

the Sri Lankan government, said Moody had shown great diplomacy and savvy when dealing with a complex Sri Lankan cricket board.

"With all the controversial things happening in Sri Lanka, it's very, very important with the cricket board changing that you can deal with this as all these things can affect the team," Ranatunga told Melbourne's Herald-Sun newspaper from Colombo Saturday.

"I thought he has handled everything very well. He has done a good job so far."

Moody also fits the criteria that Test cricket's leading wicket-taker Shane Warne wants in the next Australian coach.

"I don't have a preference but I would like to see someone in the job who has international playing experience and understands actually what the guys are going through," Warne said at the Australian team camp this week.

Moody played eight Tests for Australia between 1989 and 1992, scoring 456 runs at 32.57, and 76 one-day internationals between 1987-99.

Moody has presided over some excellent Sri Lankan performances since taking the job last year, including guiding the team into the finals of the tri-series in Australia last summer, a recent drawn Test series in England and the subsequent 5-0 one-day series whitewash.

Ranatunga said he expected Cricket Australia to pursue Moody.

"Normally after the World Cup there are a few changes. I am sure he will get an offer from Australia," he said.

"That's normal procedure -- we train people, we get people in, then some other country will take them. I think he has been wonderful so far."

Booters boycott practice

SPORTS REPORTER

The national footballers stayed away from practice yesterday to protest Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) failure to fulfill their demand of starting the players' transfer for the first-ever Professional Football League (PFL) on schedule.

The Bangladesh team is preparing for the away match of the Asia Cup qualifier against Qatar to be held in Doha on September 6 and they are scheduled to fly out tomorrow.

"We boycotted today's training because the players are really worried about their future following the BFF's continued failure to run the show properly. Now the ball is in BFF's court and we will set our next course of action after seeing what they do. They have to clear everything by tomorrow (Sunday)," said captain Arif Khan Joy.

Joy along with some senior members like Hasan Al Mamun, Aminul Haque, Arman Mia and Alfaz Ahmed talked with newsmen at the BFF Bhaban.

"BFF had assured us that they would start the transfers from September 1 when we went to submit the memorandum last month. What happened though was that they failed to do so. The country's football future is gloomy," Joy added.

When asked whether they would also avoid touring Qatar if BFF failed to fulfill their demand, the midfielder said that they would not tarnish the country's image.

BFF has suspended the much-talked players' transfers as participating clubs kept firm on their stance not to take part in it until they got a written assurance from the game's governing body.

Holding quits WICB post

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Holding has resigned from the cricket committee of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) following differences with the WICB.

Holding, the former West Indies fast bowler, charged that the cricket committee -- formed by the WICB to take responsibility for cricketing-related matters -- was not consulted over decisions regarding the West Indies team selection for the tour of Pakistan in November.

Disappointed that the committee was sidestepped by the board, Holding decided to resign.

The move came after Ken Gordon, the WICB president, revealed that Brian Lara's input had led to the rejection of Allen Stanford's request for an early selection of the West Indies team to tour Pakistan in November. The Stanford 20/20 Super Stars match -- originally scheduled for November 10 between a combined West Indies XI and South Africa -- was cancelled due to scheduling problems, with West Indies expected to arrive in Pakistan on November 7.

Prior to the cancellation, Stanford had advised Ken Gordon that he would go ahead with the 20/20 match without those players

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Javed yes, Javed no?

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY

When the national selectors sit in a day or two to pick the final squad for next month's International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy, the fate of veteran opener Javed Omar would be the main agenda in an otherwise customary discussion.

There were strong opinions among the members of the team think-tank that the time had come to take a courageous decision about the opener who has been in and out of the one-day side for a long time.

It was learnt that the Faruque Ahmed-led selection panel including coach Dav Whatmore and captain Habibur Bashar are seriously considering to give Javed a message about his one-day fate and try a new opening pair in the ICC's second biggest one-day tournament in India.

In the five-day game, Javed's atypical ability to occupy the crease still might be considered as a quality but many believe that it is now very costly for the one-day side when Bangladesh loves to peer the slogan in the shorter-version that 'we go for win in the one-day game'.

Left-hander Shahriar Nafees, who was recently appointed vice-

captain of the team for the October-November competition, apparently seemed to have settled in the opening slot through his impressive batting in the last one year but needs a real partner to not only solve the opening problem but also avoid the repeated top-order failure.

It was time and again proved that Javed's, who so far has played 53

his position. After some poor performances in the first three matches in Zimbabwe Javed, where he scored 8, 10 and 6 respectively, was dropped for the remaining games and was finally excluded from the Kenya leg of the African tour.

Now the inclusion of young Mehrab Hossain in the 18-member preliminary squad for the Champions Trophy made many believed that the selectors were ready to go one step forward to inject new blood in this position.

The chief selector admitted they are in for quite an intense discussion on the topic when they meet within two days to decide the final 14 before the ICC deadline.

"When we included a young guy in the preliminary squad as an opener then understandably it would be an issue that we must discuss intensively. We can't write off anybody but what I want to say is that the next World Cup is very much on our mind," said Faruque without elaborating.

When asked whether they still needed a dour start that Javed had usually provided for the team, the

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JAVED OMAR

ODIs over eleven years, uncharacteristic 'cut and chop' shot is not good enough to build up or carry an innings in the abridged version and the selectors' cut-throat approach towards him also gave the indication that they were also undecided about

Both sides confident of win Dhaka-N'ganj final today

Football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Defending champions Narayanganj take on Dhaka in the final of the Jubok Phone National Football Championship at the Sylhet Stadium today.

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast the final match live from 3:45 pm.

Narayanganj won the tournament last year at Natore when they defeated Bangladesh Army 2-1 in the final. They were also the runners-up in 1996 while their oppo-

nents Dhaka are looking to break a 27-year jinx. The last time Dhaka played in the final was way back in 1978 where they had to be contented with the runners-up trophy.

Narayanganj coach Khurshid Alam Nasir and captain Mujibur Rahman Ritu are only eyeing a victory and nothing less.

"Our team does not lack good quality players. In fact we had to let go of some very skillful players, a luxury that other teams did not have in this year's tournament," said Ritu, the only player to score a hat-trick during the final round in Sylhet.

"We will try our best to maintain our great footballing tradition and

are not prepared to let go of this chance to win the title," added the Narayanganj striker.

Coach Nasir also sounded confident: "We have better prospects of a win. Our strength lies in the middle of the park where the likes of Hanif and Parvez will operate."

He, however, assured that his team will perform better than in the semifinal against Sylhet where they merely scrapped home with a solitary goal.

His opposite number Kamal Babu has worked as an inspiration

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Akhtar restricts England

Cricket

AFP, London

Shoaib Akhtar took four for 28 as England were bowled out for 166 in the second one-day international at Lord's here Saturday.

The 'Rawalpindi Express' kept England in check after new-ball partner Mohammad Asif had two for 10 in eight overs at the start of the innings.

England, in a match reduced to 40 overs per side, were indebted to a career-best 39 from all-rounder Rikki Clarke.

Together with wicketkeeper Chris Read (30) he put on 53 in 57 balls for the seventh wicket after England had slumped to 113 for six. All-rounder Abdul Razzaq bowled Read middle stump to end a run-a-ball knock, which featured a hooked six off Akhtar before the 'Rawalpindi Express' himself cleaned up Clarke, who faced 47 balls with three fours.

Akhtar then bowled opposing paceman Darren Gough with a thunderbolt yorker.

England, as was the case in the series opening washout at Cardiff on Wednesday, were unable to bat out their overs.

Their innings ended with five balls to spare when recalled seamer Jon Lewis was run out by Younis Khan's direct hit.

It all left England needing to produce something special in the field if they were to win their first limited overs match this season after home Twenty20 defeats against both Sri Lanka and Pakistan and a 5-0 one-day series thrashing by the Lankans. But with grey skies overhead it looked as if the weather might again have the final say.

After captain Inzamamul Haq won the toss, Pakistan did not have long to wait for their first wicket.

England captain Andrew Strauss fell for nought off his first ball, the sixth of the innings when he edged a full-length delivery from Akhtar outside his off-stump through to wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal.

Ian Bell, who scored a career-best 88 at Cardiff, then got off the mark with a stylish off-driven four against Akhtar.

After rain halted play for an hour, England lost opener Marcus Trescothick for six when the left-hander edged Asif to second slip where Younis took a sharp catch.

And three balls later 18 for two became 18 for three when Bell, on nine, saw an edged cut off Akhtar safely held by first slip Inzamam as England experienced another top-order collapse in a one-day international.

Kevin Pietersen then top-edged a pull off Asif and Naved, running in from third man, took a well-judged, low catch.

Pakistan had dismissed the dangerous man for just 17 as England slumped to 44 for four in the 16th over.

Once more in his brief international career Jamie Dalrymple came in to bat with England in dire

straits. He repaired some of the damage with a stand of 34 in 42 balls with Paul Collingwood before he was lbw for 13 to Razzaq.

Pakistan then saw off Collingwood for 35 off 57 balls with three fours when he failed to pick a delivery from leg-spinner Shahid Afridi that drifted back into him and was lbw.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the England innings in the second one-day international against Pakistan at Lord's on Saturday:

ENGLAND
Trescothick c Younis b Asif 6

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Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar reacts after another close call for an England batsman during the second one-day international at Lord's in London on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP



Bangladesh football captain Arif Khan Joy (C) speaks to journalists at the BFF Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Older Rikki is wiser

Cricket

AFP, London

Rikki Clarke is ready to take any chance he's given in England's one-day series against Pakistan after two years in the international wilderness.

The Surrey all-rounder has long been seen as a potential support and back-up to Andrew Flintoff but although possessed of a fine record at first-class level -- he averages 40.62 and has scored 10 centuries as well as bowling at a lively pace -- he has yet to reproduce his county form in an England shirt.

But Clarke, who hopes to be in England's team for the second match of five against Pakistan at Lord's here Saturday, after appearing in Wednesday's rain-affected opener at Cardiff, insisted he was a smarter cricketer now than when he made his international debut.

"It's been a couple of years on I'm a bit older and wiser and a bit more mature," Clarke told reporters at Lord's on Friday. "I've

started to know my own game a lot better now," he added with the World Cup just six months away.

"Things have gone well this season for Surrey and fingers crossed I will put in some good performances for England during this one-day series.

"As you get older you do grow up. There were times previously when if things didn't go my way I was a little bit eager to chase an England place and show people what I could do.

"I was very eager to get back into that England side. I was chasing runs before facing a ball and chasing wickets before trying to hit the right line and length -- it's every schoolboy's dream to play for their country and that's what I was chasing."

Called up into England's 2002 Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka at the tender age of 20, and with only nine first-class matches behind him, Clarke made 17 one-day international appearances over the next two years without convincing.

"It probably came a bit too soon," he admitted. "Cricket is all about ups and downs, but it's how

you deal with them and I probably didn't deal with it that well to start with."

Not the most economical of bowlers -- he has so far gone for 5.21 runs per over in his one-day international career -- Clarke believes he is capable of becoming a more disciplined performer with the ball.

"Hopefully if I can stay disciplined and bang it in on a line and length consistently then the wickets will come," he said.

Clarke, who faces competition for a place Saturday from off-spinning all-rounder Michael Yardy, received a boost Friday when England decided not to call up a replacement for fast bowler Stephen Harmison, out of the series with a back problem.

"If something does happen we can call in someone," explained England coach Duncan Fletcher.

"If someone came in there's a very good chance they'd just be a reserve and he can just play county cricket -- we want to look at those players who are playing for us at the moment."