

Lucky Seven ride on Mandal treble

UNB, Dhaka

A hat-trick by Mandal helped Lucky Seven Jubo Sangha drub Mohamadpur Sonali Sangha 8-0 in yesterday's Pioneer Football Super League match at Birsreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Wahid struck twice while Babu, Ujjal and Sikander scored one goal each for the winners.

In the day's other match, Noakhali Football Academy crushed Maghbazar Kirra Chakra 4-0 with a brace from Saifulah and a goal apiece from Iqbal and Selim.

Vaughan eyes Ashes return

AFP, London

Injured England captain Michael Vaughan said Thursday he was hopeful of being fit to play a part in the Ashes series this winter.

The 31-year-old guided England to victory over Australia in 2005 but has not played Test cricket this year due to a knee injury.

He has begun running again and there has been talk he could play in the final two Tests as England look to retain the little urn.

"Everything would have to go perfectly between now and then but in my mind there is a small window of opportunity," Vaughan told the Daily Mail.

"I would have to make runs in Perth and, of course, I would have to stay fit.

"It would also depend on the state of the series and how the England management are thinking. But it is definitely what I'm aiming for and definitely a target."

Vaughan is currently taking part in golf's Dunhill Links Championship in Scotland as a "mental break" from his recovery programme.

SL discomfort

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It is unlikely that left-handed batsman Mehrab Hossain will make his international debut on Saturday as the team management is yet to make up their mind about the final eleven.

The conflict of opinion is between picking Mehrab, a useful left-arm spinner, ahead of the proven one-day bowler Abdur Razzak to prolong the batting line-up, it was learned. Some didn't want to drop the established Razzak.

"We will meet tonight and discuss on whether we will go for four seamers or three," said Faruque.

Meanwhile, right-arm paceman Shahadat Hossain and batsman Rajin Saleh were out of team in the Wednesday's practice match but Faruque hinted that even Shahadat's name will come in the discussion.

Maharroof makes

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The top two teams will advance to the main draw that features Australia, India, England, South Africa, New Zealand and Pakistan.

BRIEF SCORES

SRI LANKA: 267-8 in 50 overs (Farveez Maharroof 81 no, Chaminda Vaas 48, Tillakaratne Dilshan 25, Kumar Sangakkara 23, Upul Tharanga 21; Gagandeep Singh 2-23, Rajesh Sharma 2-64)

PCA PRESIDENT'S XI: 183-7 in 50 overs (Pankaj Dharamani 56, Ravneet Ricky 36; Ruchira Perera 2-31)

Khan resigns

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led to Pakistan's protest.

Woolmer said he was saddened by Younis's refusal to captain Pakistan.

"I am saddened by Younis's resignation and having known him for two years and having a good relationship with him I think he would have a number of personal reasons for his decision," the coach told AFP.

Sources said the apparent reason for Younis's refusal was disagreement over the selection of Faisal Iqbal as the 14th player for the Trophy. Iqbal was named Tuesday to replace Inzamam as a player.

But Woolmer refused to confirm this.

"Younis would be in a better position to tell everyone and the PCB is dealing with the affair and we hope to have the matter resolved soon," said Woolmer, who took over as coach in July 2004.

"I will continue to coach Pakistan and this matter is out of my domain."

The PCB also refused to reveal any reasons and sources close to the board said they were assessing Younis's chances of playing in the Trophy at all, whether as a captain or even as a player.

Younis has led Pakistan in two Tests and two one-day internationals, winning and losing one each in both forms of the game.

The latest row to engulf Pakistan's cricketers comes days after Woolmer said his young side would have to learn to live without master batsman Inzamam in future.



Bangladesh Cricket Board marketing committee chairman Aziz Al Kaiser Tito (C) addresses a press conference to announce GrameenPhone as the sponsor for the Corporate Cricket League at a hotel in the city yesterday.

TROPHY TREATS

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The Tigers have already lodged a complaint against the 70-year-old Professor Ashutosh Sharma to the ICC authorities and requested them to change the man.

Sharma is a true gentleman but the problem is that he couldn't do anything for the visiting side on time. This has created a lot of difficulties for the Tigers.

"We had to protest as we need a smart and active man to do everything," said a Bangladesh team official.

BIRTHDAY NO HEADACHE

Bangladesh's leading fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortuza turned twenty-four yesterday.

The team arranged a big cake to celebrate the birthday of the "Narail Express" at the Taj Hotel in Chandigarh.

"I have never formally celebrated my birthday. My wife wished me

over the telephone from home and then my teammates," said the newly married right-arm paceman who has recovered from injury to play the second biggest one-day cricket jamboree.

"It would be actually nice if I could do something in the tournament. I am looking forward to play the first game rather thinking on my birthday," said Mashrafe who was struggling to find the line and length in the practice game on Wednesday against PCAXI.

DENGUE FEAR

Everything is fine for the Tigers in the beautiful city of Chandigarh, the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana, except two things - aedis mosquito and obtaining a mobile SIM card.

The city was stirred to learn that a few people have tested positive for dengue. The local media have covered the issue prominently as Delhi is the most affected by the

serious dengue fever.

The problem is not big news for the Bangladesh team and the visiting reporters but that didn't prevent them from taking all types of precautionary measures.

"There is no relieve from Dengue even away from home. I asked the hotel authority to spray the players' and officials' rooms everyday," said team manager Khaled Mahmud.

"Oh its dangerous. I had the experience in Sri Lanka," said a concerned coach Dav Whatmore.

Meanwhile, not only the Bangladesh journalists but also the players had to try hard for a SIM card here, as there are a lot of formalities to complete.

The passport with the valid visa was not good enough for managing the card as they even asked for a driving card or something which is close to that.

ESPN-STAR's

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tractual terms," said ESPN-STAR Sports executive vice-president Manu Sawhney in a statement.

Rahman also said that they have already completed the groundwork for an open tender, which is likely to be circulated in the second week of this month.

"Other TV broadcasters from around the world have shown enormous interest in us and I think we will be able to strike a deal by the first week of November," said Rahman during an iftar party hosted by GrameenPhone at a posh city hotel yesterday.

BCB's marketing committee chairman Aziz Al Kaiser Tito, who was also present at the iftar, said that they were expecting much higher offers than they had received from ESPN-STAR.

"We are expecting to strike a TV deal not less than 100 million dollars," said Kaiser.

The board earned 11.5 million dollars from the first five-year deal that they first struck with WorldTel before ESPN-STAR took over for the same amount.

GP stays CCL

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a condition in our next media marketing rights deal."

"We want to set our footprints in all activities relating to cricket," said Rubaba Dowla Matin.

For the last three years, GrameenPhone has been the official sponsors of the national cricket team and also sponsored the CCL, she added.

Mahmudur Rahman said discussions are going on between GrameenPhone and BCB to take a long-term plan for the development of Bangladesh cricket.

Replying to a query, he admitted that the CCL has not been fully successful in creating job opportunities for the players in corporate houses.

England seeks

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tampering.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) later cleared Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq of ball-tampering charges but banned him for four matches for bringing the game into disrepute. Inzamam will miss the Champions Trophy in India this month.

The PCB spokesman declined to give the amount the ECB had requested.

The Ad-Hoc committee also confirmed Inzamam as captain for the home series against West Indies from November 7.

Anelka back

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pitch and he concentrates on the quality of his play when he's on the pitch.

"If we play together we have to do everything to make it work quickly and well, so that he doesn't need time to adapt. But then again he began his national career before me, he knows what it's about."

"We have successfully sold our own rights and I am confident we can do well with the ICC's global rights also," Shah had told AFP on Monday.

Delhi cops to quiz Gibbs



AFP, New Delhi

South African batsman Herschelle Gibbs is likely to be questioned by Indian police over a 2000 match-fixing scandal during the Champion's Trophy which starts Saturday, officials said.

The 32-year-old, who has played 79 Tests, had admitted accepting money from disgraced former captain Hansie Cronje to score fewer than 20 runs against India in a one-dayer during their 2000 March-April tour.

He subsequently scored 74 runs and said he had "forgotten" about his deal, but was suspended and fined.

"The case of cheating the public at large is open as none of those named (in the scam) have appeared before us," a senior Delhi police officer handling the case told AFP.

"As Gibbs is a co-accused his questioning by us is logical." Gibbs is scheduled to arrive in Mumbai accompanied by a South African lawyer on October 10, four days after the rest of the South African squad.

Police said if necessary he could be asked to travel to the

Indian capital for questioning.

The Delhi city police prosecution department also confirmed the case remains on file against Gibbs, who has previously refused to tour India after failing to obtain assurances he will not be detained.

"We will re-open the case and if some kind of interrogation is required then it will be done," YS Yadav, Director of Prosecution, told AFP.

Implicated in the same scandal was Cronje, who admitted involvement on his part and was served with a life ban before dying in a plane crash in 2002.

South Africa, winners of the maiden Champions Trophy in 1998 in Bangladesh, are scheduled to play their first match against New Zealand in Mumbai on October 16.

The International Cricket Council in May said it would do everything possible to ensure Gibbs could tour India without fear of arrest in the match-fixing case.

The Champions Trophy will be held from October 7 to November 5 in Mumbai, Mohali, Ahmedabad and Jaipur.

Styris cleared for Trophy

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand cricket all-rounder Scott Styris has been cleared to play in the Champions Trophy tournament after coming through a training camp unscathed over the last week.

Styris injured his back playing for Middlesex in the English county championship last month and was the most in doubt among a bowling line-up which has had to overcome a raft of injuries this year.

Styris pulled out of his last English county game on September 10, a week after the back pain first flared.

"I wasn't too sure when I came down to this camp how it would go but I've been bowling for five to six days at 100 percent intensity and haven't felt it at all," Styris told reporters Wednesday.

Team manager said Styris had been given the all-clear along with several other bowlers returning from injury.

Speedster Shane Bond, left arm spinner Daniel Vettori, all rounder Jacob Oram and pace bowler Kyle Mills are all returning from injuries which disrupted their careers during the past season.

Potential match winner Bond is coming back from a knee injury which forced him home from New Zealand's three-Test tour of South Africa in April and said he was back to full speed but lacked match fitness.

Don't take 'em lightly

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and 2003, remain the team to beat.

"It's obviously one we want to win," said captain Ricky Ponting. "It is the second biggest one-day tournament in the world and it is one that has eluded Australia."

"We've played some good cricket in Indian conditions before so we can go there now with confidence."

Australia have been drawn with England, hosts India and the second qualifier in group A where two teams will advance to the semi-finals.

The other group features South Africa, Pakistan, New Zealand and the first qualifier.

The tournament will be a chance for the contenders to pit their might ahead of the World Cup to be played in the Caribbean in March-April.

England, who defend the Ashes in Australia less than three weeks after the Champions Trophy, will use the month-long event to test the fitness of key players, including captain Andrew Flintoff.

All-rounder Flintoff, who missed most of the English summer after a surgery on his left ankle, stressed he was fit and raring to go again.

"The 12-week rehab programme finishes in mid-October to coincide with the India trip," he said. "It's going well at the moment. Everything I've done has responded well to the operation."

South Africa, ranked second

behind Australia, hope to use coach Mickey Arthur's pledge of playing "brave cricket" to win the tournament.

It was the "brave cricket" mantra that helped the Proteas score a then world record 438-9 to chase down a seemingly insurmountable Australian total at the Wanderers in Johannesburg in March.

Pakistan, a brilliantly talented but unpredictable side, are banking on pace spearhead Shoaib Akhtar and in-form batsman Mohammad Yousuf to win despite the absence of their banned captain Inzamamul Haq.

India are not to be discounted on home turf despite winning just one of their nine matches, while Stephen Fleming's New Zealand are always a force to reckon with.

SCHEDULE

Schedule of the 10-nation Champions Trophy limited-overs tournament which starts in India on Saturday (all matches begin at 2.30pm local time):

QUALIFYING ROUND

- Oct 7: Sri Lanka v Bangladesh, Mohali
Oct 8: West Indies v Zimbabwe, Ahmedabad
Oct 10: Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe, Ahmedabad
Oct 11: West Indies v Bangladesh, Jaipur

Oct 13: Bangladesh v Zimbabwe, Jaipur

Oct 14: Sri Lanka v West Indies, Mumbai

Top two teams in round-robin league advance to the main tournament.

MAIN TOURNAMENT

GROUP A: Australia, India, England and Qualifier 2

GROUP B: South Africa, Pakistan, New Zealand and Qualifier 1

Oct 15: India v England, Jaipur

Oct 16: New Zealand v South Africa, Mumbai

Oct 17: Pakistan v Q1, Jaipur

Oct 18: Australia v Q2, Mumbai

Oct 20: New Zealand v Q1, Mumbai

Oct 21: Australia v England, Jaipur

Oct 24: South Africa v Q1, Ahmedabad

Oct 25: New Zealand v Pakistan, Mohali

Oct 26: India v Q2, Ahmedabad

Oct 27: Pakistan v South Africa, Mohali

Oct 28: England v Q2, Ahmedabad

Oct 29: India v Australia, Mohali

Nov 1: Semifinal A1 v B2, Mohali

Nov 2: Semifinal B1 v A2, Jaipur

Nov 5: Final, Mumbai

India won't sign MPA

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affects BCCI's commercial interests, gives ICC the right to change agreements unilaterally and affects the players' interests.

"The MPA would affect the BCCI and the players' interests for a period ranging from six to nine months. We are very unhappy with the way the MPA has been drafted."

India helps to drive cricket's economics, as five of the ICC's six main sponsors are Indian firms or the Indian branches of international businesses.

If the country refuses to play ball, the ICC's proposed one-billion-dollar deal to sell broadcasting and sponsorship rights could be affected.

The ICC's current 550-million-dollar, seven-year deal with Global Cricket Corporation, a venture owned by Rupert Murdoch's News

International, expires after the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean.

The ICC hopes to double that amount in a new eight-year deal that covers 18 tournaments, including two World Cups, three Champions Trophies and the first two Twenty20 world championships.

Other events include the ICC Trophy for associate members and the under-19 World Cup.

The BCCI caused a major row ahead of the last World Cup in South Africa in 2003 when it declined to sign the MPA.

The BCCI objected to a clause which prevented its players from advertising products from rivals of the ICC's official sponsors for three months on either side of the World Cup.

After prolonged negotiations, India relented and sent a team for

the tournament but the Global Cricket Corporation withheld almost 47 million dollars in payment to the ICC.

Modi said the BCCI will not "fall into the trap" like it did before the 2003 World Cup.

Significantly, the BCCI announced earlier this week that it would also make a bid for the ICC's global media and marketing rights for the next eight years.

The BCCI secured a whopping 612 million dollars for its own rights for the next four years from the Mumbai-based Nimbus Corporation.

"We have successfully sold our own rights and I am confident we can do well with the ICC's global rights also," Shah had told AFP on Monday.

The Black Monday horror through their eyes

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immediately with most of us, from the federation, all inside. I thought that was all.

The police, out of nowhere, started scaling the walls and the locked gate and went after us. I ran inside but they caught up with me and started lashing at me with sticks. I fell down when everyone else, around 30 of my junior students (some of whom are new in Dhaka as well), were running in all directions.

"You will never forget us and this beating," someone told me. Indeed, I shall never stop thinking about this indiscriminate pounding. My head completely stopped working by then. I saw Asif's neck bleeding and checked to see if I was losing blood too. I don't even remember when I got hit on my forehead but I found a lot of blood as I raised my heavy hand. By then I was sure that I have a broken hand, a smacked forehead and unbelievable pain on my sole and back. The damage was done by that time.

My clothes were torn into pieces. They tied it up near the shoulder and took me outside, and to the CMM Court.

I couldn't open my eyes when I was taken there and don't remember seeing any photojournalists or any other people.

In my life, I have never seen what a police station looks like. I felt as if this the lowest I could go. The humiliation was unbearable.

ALI HOSSAIN SHIPU (shooter)

We were just briefed by Shoeb bhai when the range boy Sabu ran in. Shoeb bhai followed him out and we were also going after but then within a minute, I saw Shoeb bhai running back at us.

We saw several policemen following him and by the time we could escape, the sticks were all over us. Everybody was trying to run away, but we couldn't go anywhere. I saw one team running towards the women's camp and banging at the

doors, trying to break it apart. It was absolutely humiliating, I thought.

By then we were being dragged to the van and I think the beating stopped at that point, at least on me!

We were taken into the remand room as they were saying to each other and writhing 5-10 minutes I was half-awake, half-senseless. I was fading away everytime my back was smacked with a hockey-stick. The hardest part was just listening to them.

"We landed in the station and our identity was asked. They asked, 'Are you a shooter or a criminal?'"

One of the inspectors inside asked the one that brought us in, "Why are they here?"

"They laid hands on us."

"Is that even a reason? You should have just shot them in a crossfire."

A fat man from the adjacent residential quarters screamed out, "I have hockey-sticks. Give them a few from me."

I was ashamed of myself, thinking that I couldn't get any lower.

We were all forced to lie down on the floor. As I had just finished training, I was wearing shoes. The force of their sticks on my foot made the shoe tear up.

I was going senseless with their pitiless beating of my arms and legs. My right hand started to give away by the first ten minutes.

Soon, I found myself inside the Central Jail, sharing the cell with five other people.

I think the shame of this was just awful. Several things were said to us just because we were shooters. I can never forget the fact that I spent 45 hours in jail.

JAHANGIR (Cook's Helper)

I was returning after shopping for groceries from Gulshan market and had no idea of what was going on. I had just gotten to the gate and I knew nothing of what had happened. Suddenly a few policemen grabbed me by the neck. Someone shouted "Catch him and beat him up." The next thing I knew was that I

8x3