

Sport

BCCB XI triumph in tour opener

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) XI began their Indian tour on a winning note with an eight-wicket win over the Hyderabad Cricket Association juniors in Hyderabad, according to a sketchy message received by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday.

On a matting wicket, in a rain-curtailed match, Bangladesh won owed much to the fine batting by Akram Khan and Jahangir and superb bowling from vice-captain Enamul Hoq Moni and Golam Nawsher Prince.

It's no go for Abahani also

Sports Reporter
Defending Star First Division football league champions Abahani Krira Chakra will not take part in the 13th Asian Club Championships second round matches.

Abahani, who were scheduled to play their home match against Victory Club of Maldives in Dhaka on September 24 and away tie in Male, the capital of Maldives, on October 1, yesterday officially announced their inability to play in the meet owing to Premier League engagements.

Hockey camp from tomorrow

A residential coaching camp for hockey players begins Friday at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) to form a national squad for the 4th Asian Cup men's hockey championship, reports UNB.

The 12-team championship will be held from November 5 to 14 in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, the host city of the 12th Asian Games '94.

National coach Ehtesham Sultan will groom the initially selected 27 players from whom the 16-member national squad is to be named some time in October.

The selected players have started their physical fitness training from last week.

TT coaching for students from Saturday

A primary training programme on table tennis for the metropolis school students begins Saturday at the National Sports Coaching Centre, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) has arranged the programme for the third time in co-operation with the Japanese Overseas Co-operation Volunteers.

Japanese coach Tetsuya Hirose, who is now in the city, will conduct the course.

Interested students have been asked to report at the National Sports Coaching Centre at 3 pm on Saturday (September 4), a BTTF press release said yesterday.

Flower, Campbell carve Zimbabwe win over World XI

LONDON, Sept 1: Captain Andy Flower and Alistair Campbell hit centuries to help Zimbabwe beat a World XI at the Scarborough Cricket Festival in northern England on Monday, reports Reuter.

Both teams reached 25 for six in their allotted 50 overs but Zimbabwe won on a faster scoring rate over the first 15 overs.

Flower and Campbell shared a second-wicket partnership of 202 in just 144 minutes. Flower made 101, including 13 fours, of 125 balls while Campbell's 102 came off 133 balls and included 10 boundaries.

Earlier, World XI captain Dean Jones of Australia scored 101 and West Indian Keith Arthurton made 52.

Eddo Brandes was Zimbabwe's best bowler with four for 32 from his 10 overs.

Inquest into Folley's death

LONDON, Sept 1: Authorities opened an inquest Wednesday into the death of a former county cricketer who died after being hit in the eye by a ball, reports AP.

Ian Folley, 30, was struck in the right eye while batting for Whitehaven against Workington in a North Lancashire League game on Monday. Folley, the team captain, was not wearing a helmet at the time.

He was taken to West Cumberland Hospital, where he died while surgeons operated on his eye.

"They were operating to save his sight when apparently he vomited and died," said Folley's brother, Nigel.

Folley was a former Lancashire and Derbyshire all-rounder. He was once considered a candidate for the England team, but had injuries hampered his career.

Mendis blames the spinners

COLOMBO, Sept 1: Former captain Duleep Mendis on Tuesday blamed Sri Lanka's three special list spin bowlers for the home side's failure to achieve its first Test win over South Africa, reports AFP.

South Africa escaped with a draw in the first Test in coastal Moratuwa on Monday after the Sri Lankan bowling attack struggled to dislodge a battling unfinished 52-run eighth wicket stand between Jonty Rhodes and Clive Eksteen.

"Our bowling lacked variation. The batsmen found it easy to handle the spinners because almost the same thing was coming up and down," said a greatly disappointed Mendis who is also manager of the Sri Lanka team.

Rhodes hit a magnificent 101 not out and left-arm spinner Eksteen scored an unbeaten four off 89 balls to save South Africa from certain defeat after they were set a victory target of 365 on the fourth day.

Mendis said there would be changes in the spin department

for the second Test on September 6. The decision could affect left-arm spinner Piyal Wijetunge and off-spinner Ruwan Kalpage who failed to make an impact in the first Test.

Mendis, however, said that apart from a batting collapse in



DULEEP MENDIS

the first innings, Sri Lanka performed creditably against the South Africans who defeated India, 1-0 in the 1992-93 four-Test home series.

The South Africans played well but looking back at the five days we have to give the credit

to our boys for doing well against a good side. One must remember that this same side beat India in the Test series," Mendis said.

"Really, other than that batting collapse in the first innings we dominated all five days. They were never in command," he said, adding that unfortunately "Everyone expects us to win all the time."

The frustration in the Sri Lanka camp was so great that they tried seven bowlers and kept on changing spinners between short spells in a bid to break-up the partnership but Rhodes and Eksteen played superbly to hold on for a draw.

Even off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan, Sri Lanka's chief spin weapon with five first innings wickets, failed to deliver a second time as South Africa ended the fifth day on 252 for 7.

Rhodes himself said that it was easier to play Sri Lanka's established spinners than partner off-spinner Aravinda de Silva who kept the batsmen guessing. De Silva in fact took two wickets to step up the pressure.

Pocock, new face in NZ squad

WELLINGTON, Sept 1: Opening batsman Blair Pocock was the only newcomer named Tuesday in the New Zealand cricket team to tour Australia from mid-October, reports AP.

The 14-man squad for the Test and one-day tour, starting on Oct 15, includes five fast or fast-medium bowlers, one wicket-keeper and two spinners.

The only surprise was the inclusion in the squad of inexperienced left-arm spinner Mark Haslam, who will provide support to veteran spinner Dipak Patel.

Pocock, a 22-year-old from Northern Districts who scored a century against England two years ago in Nelson, said he was delighted.

"I'm ecstatic to be selected," he said. "My aim now is to settle into the team, score a few runs in the warmup games and try to get a Test place."

Northern Districts fast medium bowler Simon Doull, whose tour of Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka was cut short by a back injury after he played in the first Test, has been recalled.

Doull, who has a proven ability to swing the ball both ways, is the least experienced of the pace quintet that also comprises Danny Morrison, Murphy Su'a, Willie Watson and Chris Cairns.

Tony Blain is the only specialist wicketkeeper chosen, with Bryan Young his likely backup.

The New Zealand batting will rely heavily on captain Martin Crowe, opener Mark Greatbatch, vice-captain Ken Rutherford and Andrew Jones—who provide the team's core of experience.

Players to miss out on selection included Canterbury quartet Rod Latham, Blair Hartland, Chris Harris and Michael Owens, Wellington allrounder Gavin Larsen, Auckland medi-

um-pace Chris Pringle, Otago allrounder Jeff Wilson and wicket-keeper Adam Parore.

The tour will begin with a one-day game against the Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill, near Perth, and will include three Test—at Perth, Hobart and Brisbane.

The New Zealand team also will contest the World Series one-day tournament against Australia and South Africa.

The New Zealand team is:

Martin Crowe (captain, Wellington), Ken Rutherford (vice-captain, Otago), Mark Greatbatch (Central Districts), Blair Pocock (Northern Districts), Andrew Jones (Wellington), Bryan Young (Northern Districts), Dipak Patel (Auckland), Tony Blain (Central Districts), Chris Cairns (Canterbury), Danny Morrison (Auckland), Willie Watson (Auckland), Simon Doull (Northern Districts), Murphy Su'a (Auckland), Mark Haslam (Auckland).

Lankans opt for Dassanayake

COLOMBO, Sept 1: Sri Lanka has opted for Test wicket-keeper Pubudu Dassanayake instead of Romesh Kaluwithana for Thursday's second one-day international against South Africa, reports AFP.

Dassanayake, who made his debut in the drawn first Test, was the only specialist stumper in a 14-man squad announced here Wednesday for the day-night encounter at Colombo's Khetarama Stadium.

Kaluwithana kept wickets in the first one-day international that ended without a decision due to rain in central Kandy.

The selectors also dropped left-arm spinner Piyal Wijetunge from the squad but retained off-spinners Muttiah Muralidharan and Ruwan Kalpage who are expected to play Thursday.

Meanwhile, a question mark hangs over the availability of South Africa's vice-captain Hansie Cronje for the remaining two one-day internationals due to recurring back injury.

Skipper Kepler Wessels said that South Africa preferred to rest all-rounder Cronje in the last two limited over matches so that he would be fit for the second Test beginning here on September 6.

In the event Cronje plays it would be only as a batsman with Wessels taking on the role of a fifth seam bowler. If Cronje decides to sit out the one-dayer he is likely to be replaced by veteran Jimmy Cook who missed the first one-day.

The rest of the South African side which is to be announced later Wednesday, is expected to be the same team that participated in the Kandy game.

The third one-dayer is also a day-night clash at the same venue on Saturday.

SQUAD

SOUTH AFRICA: K C Wessels (capt), AC Hudson, D J Cullinan, S J Cook, N J Rhodes, BM McMillan, PL Symcox, D Richardson, RP Snell, F de Villiers, AA Donald, H Cronje, BN Schultz, S Palframan, CE Eksteen.

SRI LANKA: A Ranatunga (capt), RS Mahanama, UC Hathurusinghe, AP Gurusinha, PA de Silva, ST Jayasuriya, HP Tillekeratne, RS Kalpage, GP Wickremasinghe, M Muralidharan, PB Dassanayake, U Chandana, CP Ramanyake, K Dharmasena.

SA cricketers warned for poor behaviour

COLOMBO, Sept 1: South Africa's cricketers have been warned by match referee John Reid for poor behaviour during their first Test against Sri Lanka which ended in a draw on Monday, reports Reuter.

Reid, the former New Zealand captain, summoned the South African team management at the end of the fourth day's play and told them that their players' behaviour during the Test was in his opinion "excessive in certain areas."

"Reid was not specific what those certain areas were, but he said a couple of throws into the wicket has hit the batsmen," South African coach Mike Procter said.

"We accepted and apologised although we still feel it was a little harsh," said Procter, who added the warning was an unofficial one. "It was nothing officials."

Procter said the umpires, in their report submitted to the match referee, noted that the game had gone on very smoothly and the captains had handled it well.

One of the incidents Reid may have been referring to was when off-spinner Pat Symcox tried to break Sri Lanka batsman Aravinda de Silva's wicket and run him out and De Silva appeared to get in the way. The bowler appealed to the umpire for obstruction.

Reid was unavailable for comment.

Duisburg destroy Werder Bremen

BONN, Sept 1: Newly promoted Duisburg proved they were serious title contenders with an astonishing 5-1 away rout of German soccer champions Werder Bremen in their First Division match on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

After an indecisive and goalless first half, the match sparked to life with a double strike by Duisburg's Ferenc Schmidt within the space of 10 minutes.

In the 66th minute Oliver Westerbeek made it 3-0 and although Bernd Hobsch pulled one back two minutes later last year's champions never looked capable of staging a recovery.

Goals by Uwe Weidemann and Stefan Boeger in the 72nd and 73rd minutes completed the demolition job to hand Bremen their first home defeat since last May.

The result moved Duisburg into third place in the Bundesliga, one above Bremen on goal difference and two points behind leaders Eintracht Frankfurt who notched up a 3-1 home victory over Karlsruhe.



Unseeded Leila Meskhi of Georgian Republic punches in the air after posting an upset victory over seventh-seed Jennifer Capriati of America in the first round of the US Open on Tuesday. Meskhi won 1-6, 6-4, 6-4. —AFP photo

Parreira's raspy ride over

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 1: For the last seven weeks, Brazilians have found no better way of amusing themselves than with making jokes at the expense of their national soccer coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, reports Reuter.

The jokes have reverberated around shops and offices all over the country. The forlorn expression of the trainer, with his distinctive raised eyebrows, has been depicted in dozens of newspaper cartoons. Pundits have vied with one another to see who can find the wittiest way of denigrating him.

The ridicule has been the price he has paid for Brazil's pallid performances in successive World Cup qualifiers plus a friendly against Mexico—allied to controversial team selections.

The Parreira-bashers have had plenty of ammunition with

which to hit their target. But this week the joking stopped.

Brazil's 6-0 massacre of Bolivia in Sunday's World Cup qualifier put Brazil right back on track to qualify for the finals in the United States next year.

Through it all Parreira has maintained his dignity and on Sunday the faith he has shown in his team paid off.

Brazil, with strikers Muller and Bebeto running rings around a demoralised Bolivian defence, gave a superb performance worthy of their great tradition and left no justification for ridiculing the coach.

Even their captain Rai, who has played poorly for the last two months, was back to something approaching his best.

Parreira insisted that Brazil had done nothing different from their previous two games.

"This could have happened before. The only difference this

time was that our chances went in," he said of the scoreline.

Parreira refused to follow the example of his players, who mocked the Bolivians. "Bolivia are a good team, they had five or six shots on goal."

"But we had a tremendous desire to win the two points. We didn't give them space."

Parreira, who has been accused of stubbornness for persisting with the out-of-form Rai and much-criticised midfielder Zinho, added: "I have gambled with certain players and (on Sunday) this paid off."

Brazil's big loser on Sunday was midfield spoiler Dunga. He was sent off in the second half for a second bookable offence and will miss next Sunday's match at home to Venezuela.

Critics added that his quiet performance suggested that, when Brazil play well, they can comfortably do without his swashbuckling style.

Minnows in the giant pool

LONDON, Sept 1: People have trouble spelling it, pronouncing it, and finding it on the map.

It's Cwmbran, and — as any Welsh soccer fanatic knows — it's the team that not only is champion of Wales, but also stands on the verge of success in its first ever outing in the European Champions Cup, reports AP.

After beating Cork City of Ireland 3-2 at home in the first leg of the preliminary round two weeks ago, the team whose squad includes a bricklayer, a carpenter, a mailman and a nightclub bouncer will travel across the Irish Sea to try to complete its victory, in the second leg Wednesday.

Cwmbran, pronounced

"Kum-brahn," is a small minnow swimming with the big fish in a draw that includes such powerhouses as AC Milan and Manchester United.

But with a record 148 teams taking part in the three European Cup competitions, UEFA has introduced a preliminary round in both the Champions Cup and the Cup Winners Cup, giving smaller teams such as Cwmbran and Crok their night in the spotlight.

The game is one of 10 Champions Cup and nine Cup Winners Cup second-leg matches Wednesday. The winners advance to the first round, where teams such as AC Milan lay waiting.

The Italian champions, runners-up in last year's Champions Cup, will again have their scouts on the prowl at the game

between FC Aarau of Switzerland and Omnia Nicosia of Cyprus. Omnia won the first leg 2-1, but the return match is in Switzerland.

Elsewhere in the Champions Cup, teams from new nations that sprouted from the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia will be making some interesting road trips that would have seemed impossible a few years ago.

Zimbru Kishiney, the Moldovan champions, travel south to Israel for their return match against Baitar Jerusalem. The teams drew 1-1 in the first leg.

Dinamo Tbilisi of Georgia, who drew 55,000 for their 2-1 first-leg win over Linfield FC, will play in front of a much smaller audience at the return match some 2,000 miles (3,200 kms) away in Northern Ireland.



British five-year-old football wunderkind Kane Jackson from Manchester practises on August 31. Jackson has been chased by 20 British clubs, one side has already offered his father 10,000 pounds to sign the boy when he is 16. —AFP photo



Brazilian captain Rai (wearing number 10) pushes the ball past Bolivian defender Luis Cristaldo (L) after avoiding a tackle from the goalkeeper Carlos Trucco to score the first of his side's six goals in the World Cup qualifier in Recife, Brazil on August 29. —AFP photo