

Sport

A rather anticlimactic finish

By Mir Ashfaq Zaman

After Sunday's runs galore in the first match of the Gold Leaf one-day series, the batsmen found scoring quite difficult yesterday as the visiting Pakistan national team beat Bangladesh by seven wickets at the Dhaka Stadium.

It was some sort of a disappointment for the local cricket lovers, who, following Bangladesh's remarkable performance in the previous game, crowded the stadium, hoping to see the local boys do even better.

Set a modest task of scoring 185 for outright win, the visitors, who won the first encounter by 62 runs, journeyed past the victory target with two overs to spare of their 45-over quota, making 186 for the loss of three wickets.

The world champions of the instant version of the game owed much to Shoib Mohammad, the son of former Pakistan captain Hanif Mohammad, and Shakeel Ahmed. The two featured in a slow but steady stand of 110 runs for the second wicket. Aamir Sohail, Shoib's opening partner, was departed very early in the innings.

Pakistan, having restricted the hosts for a modest total after Bangladesh skipper Faruque Ahmed won the toss and decided to make the first use of the strip, didn't quite

have an ideal start.

Aamir Sohail, the flamboyant left-hander, was given out leg before to the last delivery of Jahangir Talukder's third over. With the score on 17, Sohail, who was dismissed in a similar fashion on Sunday, seemed annoyed at the decision and took a while before finally starting the long trudge to the pavilion.

The early departure of Sohail, who hit two exquisite fours off Dulu in the over he got out, revved the Bangladeshi players up and with Prince and Dulu going with their tails up, the World Cup holders found themselves under consistent pressure for the next six overs.

However, Shoib, not really the best of the one-day open-

ers, during his 22-ball knock and was finally dismissed when an Ataur Rahman over swinger brushed the outside edge of his bat on its way



to the grateful hands of Inzamamul Haq, who floored a regulation catch from the other opening bat, Athar Ali a little while ago.

Jahangir c Inzamam b

Ataur Rahman 03
Faruque rlb hurt 00
Shahed c Shakeel

Ahmed b Ashfaq Ahmed 08

Nannu lbw b Salim Malik 25

Akram Khan not out 45

Bulbul run out 38

Moni not out 10

Extras: (lb-9, wb-7, nb-4) 20

Total: (for five wkts. 45 overs) 184

Did not bat: Dulu, Prince, Saikat.

Fall of wickets: 1-24; 2-39,

3-84; 4-86; 5-154

Bowling: O M R W

Ataur Rahman 9 1 32 1

Ashfaq Ahmed 8 0 21 1

Mushtaq Ahmed 9 0 34 0

Aamir Sohail 9 1 27 1

Salim Malik 8 1 44 1

Shoib Mohammad 2 0 17 0

Border's plans

SYDNEY, Jan 24: Allan Border's long-term future has been settled even though the Australian cricket captain has yet to announce when he'll retire from the game, reports AP.

At a testimonial dinner on Monday, Australian Cricket Board chairman Alan Crompton said the 38-year-old Border had agreed to become a management officer for the ACB, covering all aspects of the board's development programmes.

"Whenever he retires, and the day after he does, Allan has a new career with the Australian Cricket Board to promote Australian cricket," Crompton told the gathering of over 500 guests.

Border said he would not make any decision on a possible retirement until after the South African tour.

"First and foremost, I'm looking forward to a strong performance by the team in Adelaide and of course to the tour of South Africa," he said in a statement giving details of his future with the ACB.

"Any further talk of retirement can wait until after that."

Steve Waugh recalled

ADELAIDE, Jan 24: Middle-order batsman Steve Waugh was recalled to the Australian team Monday for the third and final Test match with South Africa, reports AP.

Waugh returns to the Australian side in place of West Australian state player Damien Martyn for the Test that begins Friday at the Adelaide Oval. The first match in Melbourne was drawn, while South Africa won the second in Sydney earlier this month.

Waugh missed the first two tests with a hamstring injury but proved his fitness in two Sheffield Shield state games for New South Wales earlier this month.

Martyn contributed 59 in the first innings at Sydney but was ninth man out for six in the second innings as Australia tumbled out for 111, losing the match by five runs.

The 22-year-old Martyn said he had expected Waugh to return to the lineup once the allrounder had proved his fitness.

"It's always disappointing to miss out but Steve did well against New Zealand and in England last year," Martyn said.

Waugh topped the averages on the Ashes tour last year and did so again in the recent three-match series against New Zealand, scoring 216 runs.

There will be four officials

Clark new Kiwi soccer coach

WELLINGTON, Jan 24: Former Scottish international goalkeeper Bobby Clark has been named coach of New Zealand's national soccer team, reports AP.

Clark played more than 800 professional matches in Scottish league and cup football, including 697 games for Aberdeen FC. He had 17 starting appearances for Scotland, including the 1974 and 1978 World Cup campaigns.

"Bobby Clark brings to the position the varying attributes sought by the New Zealand Football Association to lead its international programme and to develop and oversee a wide range of player development programmes," association chairman Harry Dods said Monday.

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Tobacco

Company

Ltd

(BTC),

the

sponsors

of

the

series.

— Star photo

Man-of-the-match Pakistani opener Shoib Mohammad, who top scored with a patient 80 not out in the second match of the Gold Leaf one-day series between Bangladesh and Pakistan, receiving the crest from Raymond Acorda, managing director of Bangladesh Tobacco Company Ltd (BTC), the sponsors of the series.

— Star photo

Ambrose weary of playing cricket

PORT OF SPAIN, Jan 24: Curtly Ambrose, the leading West Indies strike bowler, has said he is considering quitting international cricket, reports Reuter.

In a newspaper interview published on Sunday, Ambrose was asked how long he planned to stay in the game.

"It won't be for much longer, I can tell you," Ambrose replied.

"I am getting tired of playing cricket, cricket and cricket all the time. I have lost some interest in playing because we are playing so much."

Mohinder Amarnath, the indifferent, tough and buttoned-up former Indian Test batsman who has been looking after the Bangladesh team for the last three months would go as the coach.

The 16 players chosen for the Kenyan tour are Faruque Ahmed, Akram Khan, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Enamul Huq Moni, Athar Ali Khan, Jahangir Alam, G M Nawshir Prince, Saiful Islam Khan, Jahangir Alam Talukdar Dulu, Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Sharifuddowla Ibne Shahid, Shahidul Haque, Selim Shahed, Shah Nawaz Shahed Shani, Mizanur Rahman Babul and Sajid Hassan.

"You are as good as your last game," he said. "One minute you are playing. The next you're injured and your career is over."

"How many old players have been able to get jobs? One has to think about the future."

Bangladesh leave for Kenya today

Sports Reporter

The twenty-member Bangladesh Cricket Control Board president and Nirman supremo K Z Islam is in the forefront as the chief de mission.

BCCB treasurer Reza-e-Karim is the team manager, with Golam Faruque, one of the two joint secretaries of the BCCB getting the job of assistant manager of the Bangladesh team.

Three top teams of the meet starting in the Kenyan capital Nairobi from February 12 will qualify for the next world championship of limited over cricket scheduled to be held in the subcontinent in 1996.

Faruque Ahmed, the right handed middle order batsman, who got a sickening blow on the head yesterday while facing up to Pakistani fast bowler Ataur Rahman will lead the team.

His Abahani teammate Akram Khan will be his deputy in the championship which concludes on March 6.

The team comprises four pacers, two spinners, two wicketkeepers and eight batsmen including three openers.

There will be four officials

for 42 on Sunday, and off-spinner Tim May.

South African captain Hansie Cronje has told his team they have to improve in all facets if they are to win. "I think Australia were the urgent side in the second final and a little hungry," he said.

The teams, with one game each in the World Series Cup finals, meet for the decider at Sydney Cricket Ground, where teams batting second under floodlights in 50-over matches rarely win.

"Here in Sydney, and in Melbourne, it probably is an advantage to bat first," said Australian captain Allan Border.

In the first final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday, South Africa won the toss and made 247, to which South Africa replied with 202.

At the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday Australia won the toss and made 247, to which South Africa replied with 178.

The hard, dry and grassless Sydney wicket is ideally suited to spin. Australia's trump cards are leg-spinner Shane Warne, Shahnawaz Shahed, Shahidul Haque, Selim Shahed, Shah Nawaz Shahed Shani, Mizanur Rahman Babul and Sajid Hassan.

— Star photo

WSC final showdown today

SYDNEY, Jan 24: The toss of a coin could decide whether Australia or South Africa will take the winning

prize of 31,000 dollars in a limited-overs final showdown on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The teams, with one game each in the World Series Cup finals, meet for the decider at Sydney Cricket Ground, where teams batting second under floodlights in 50-over matches rarely win.

"Maybe we will have to look at our line-up again," said Cronje. "You're never sure what's going to happen."

In the Test series South Africa held a 1-0 lead before the third match in Adelaide on Friday.

The playing of the third fi-

nal is just as important as any training we'd do leading up to a Test match so I'm just happy we're there," said Border.

Australia are unlikely to make any changes despite niggling injuries to fast bowler Craig McDermott (knee), May (hamstring) and Warne (shoulder).

"I'd be loath to change a combination that has just won," Border said.

"May and Warne did a tremendous job — they took wickets even though they might have conceded a few runs — and that's what it's about in the middle order."

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (likely): Matthew Hayden, David Boon, Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Allan Border (captain), Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Mark Taylor (12th man).

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Peter Kirsten, Gary Kirsten, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Daryl Cullinan, Brian McMillan, David Richardson, Pat Symcox, Richard Snell, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald, Craig Matthews, Dave Rundle.

AC return to winning ways

ROME, Jan 24: Daniele Massaro and Jean-Pierre Papin struck second half goals to help AC Milan

defeat Piacenza 2-0 on Sunday and open a four-point lead at the top of the Italian First Division, reports Reuter.

The victory ended the champion's run of these successive games without scoring and capitalised on a 1-1 draw between the two teams sharing second place