

From Kenya with no revelation

Sports Reporter

The officials as well as the captain of the Bangladesh national team appeared as ignorant as any layman in their bid to come up with any plausible explanation for the side's mind-boggling, abject failure in the recently concluded fifth ICC Trophy cricket tournament at a press conference at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office yesterday.

In what seemed to a 'programmed', muddled and confusing account of a tragic tale of miscarriage of a nation's ambition, the people at the helm culling batting as the factor that made all the difference during the Kenyan safari.

Although Faruque Ahmed, the skipper, and Reza-e-Karim, the manager, tried to give a run around about the mysterious role and presence of Indian Mohinder Amarnath, it was clear that the buttoned-up former Test cricketer, who took over as the coach of the Kenya-bound squad last August, could not, or as many felt, didn't bring into play his vast experience for the cause of Bangladesh cricket.

According to Aminul Huq Moni, the general secretary of BCCB, Amarnath, who flew straight back to Bombay to take care of some personal business, would send a report on the Bangladeshi performance in two week's time and, if need be, would come to Daka for some sort of a review.

Brushing aside the suggestion that the dismal performance in the world championships for the ICC associate members would act as a negative catalyst in the over all progress of the game in this country, the BCCB general secretary said that the board would look into the matter after Eid-ul-Fitr.

Abahani-MSC semifinal today

Sports Reporter

Calcutta Mohammmedan Sporting Club reached the final of the Charms Cup invitational football tournament when they beat reigning Calcutta league champions East Bengal by the odd goal in three at the East Bengal ground yesterday.

According to a telephonic message, Mohammedans come back from behind after being down by a 34th minute goal from Saravan of East Bengal.

Ashfaq restored parity in the second half and Tausif Jamal, the player-of-the-year, scored the match winner for the black and whites with a powerful shot.

Dhaka Mohammedans play their arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra, another top Dhaka team, in the second semifinal today.

Doordarshan Calcutta and Akashvani will cover the match live from 3 pm (BST).

Biman Cup final round from Apr 2

Sports Reporter

The final round of the Biman Cup under-14 football tournament will begin from April 2 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Nine teams — eight zonal champions and the last year's winners Tangail — split into three groups will participate in the round robin tournament.

Hughes exonerated

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 10: Australian team manager Cameron Battersby has decided to take no action against paceman Merv Hughes following a bat-swinging incident on the final day of the first Test against South Africa, reports Reuter.

Hughes was shown on Australian Television swinging his bat at the fence separating the players from the crowd on his way back to the pavilion on Tuesday.

Battersby told reporters he was aware of the incident, but had not seen it on television. He added that Hughes was provoked and acted accordingly.

Battersby said Hughes had been abused and sworn at and as far as the team management was concerned the incident was closed but added if the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) decided to take further action that was their decision.

Hughes and leg-spinner Shane Warne had already been fined during the match over previous incidents.

They were each fined 1,000 rand (285 dollars) by match referee Donald Carr and then had a further fine of A4,000 dollars (2,840 dollars) slapped by the ACB for verbal abuse against South African batsmen.

The Australian team are currently having a break at the Leisure Resort of Sun City, 150 kilometres north of Johannesburg, before flying to Cape Town on Friday.

Their next match is a three-day game against a Bowl XI in Stellenbosch, starting on Saturday.



Faruque Ahmed skipper of the Bangladesh national cricket team (second from left) answering the queries (if they can be called answering) on Bangladesh's abject failure in the recently concluded ICC Trophy cricket tournament yesterday.

Sport

Bad day for Indian bowlers

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Mar 10: New Zealand Test opener Blair Hartland missed out on an elusive fifth first-class century Thursday on the first day of a three-day match against India, reports AP.

Hartland made 98 for the New Zealand Emerging Players XI as they finished at 233 for four at stumps on the first day of their three-day match at Carisbrook Oval.

"It has been good to spend time in the middle and get a good look at them," Hartland said. "But it is really disappointing not getting the three-figure mark. I haven't scored a ton at first class level for nearly three years now."

Hartland said his 4 1/2-hour stay at the crease allowed him a good look at the Indian attack.

The leg-spinner (Anil Kumble) moves the ball very quickly through the air. But definitely Raju (left arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju) is the most difficult to play."

The placid nature of the Carisbrook pitch offered little to the seam bowlers on Thursday.

"Javagal Srinath is pretty quick but you really can't tell how good he is because of the track," Hartland said.

Veteran Kapil Dev did not bowl Thursday. Captain Mohammad Azharuddin said the 35-year-old had a stiff neck and he wasn't prepared to risk him in the cold weather.

India will play two three-day matches leading up to a one-off Test, which starts in Hamilton on March 19. India will also play four limited-overs internationals.

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the three-day cricket match between India and the New Zealand Emerging Players today:

NZ EMERGING PLAYERS:

	First innings	
B Hartland c Prabhakar	98	
b Ankola	62	
R Lawson c and b Ankola	42	
S Wilson not out		
M Douglas c Azharuddin		
b Srinath	6	
M Bailey c Mongia b Srinath	1	
G Bradburn not out	12	
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, nb-4)	12	
Total: (for four wickets)	233	
Fall of wickets: 1-167; 2-170; 3-180; 4-186		
To bat: L German, N Astle, P Wiseman, M Owens, M Sharpe		
Bowling:	O	M
Prabhakar	6	1
Srinath	23	6
Ankola	15	3
Raju	31	10
Kumble	33	11
	0	6

To bat: L German, N Astle, P Wiseman, M Owens, M Sharpe

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Prabhakar	6	1	0
Srinath	23	6	2
Ankola	15	3	4
Raju	31	10	0
Kumble	33	11	52
	0	6	0

To bat: L German, N Astle, P Wiseman, M Owens, M Sharpe

Bowling:

O Prabhakar

S Srinath

M Ankola

R Raju

A Kumble

Wadekar's call for red balls

DUNEDIN, Mar 10: Indian cricket coach Ajit Wadekar called today for red balls instead of white ones to be used for daytime limited-overs internationals, reports AFP.

Earlier this month Pakistan unsuccessfully called for red balls here. Their coach, Intikhab Alam, said it made sense to use a red ball when an international was contested during daylight hours.

He pointed out that white balls became dirty and soft very quickly but accepted that they had to be used for day/night games.

Wadekar agreed.

"In India when we played the Hero Cup we had coloured clothing and the white ball," he said.

But if we are to play an international match during the day then I'd like to see it played with a red cherry.

The Indians played with coloured clothing and white balls right through the Hero tournament as both semifinals and finals were played under lights at Eden Gardens in Calcutta.

And white balls were used for day/night games when New Zealand were in Sri Lanka last year.

But the second international of the series was played during the day with traditional clothing and red balls.

China to look into it

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 10: The Chinese Football Association has been asked to investigate charges of match-fixing levelled at its national team and top club, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said today, reports Reuter.

The Chinese team and club champions Liaoning may have been paid off by a syndicate of Thai bookmakers, AFC secretary general Peter Vellapan said.

"All this time we thought this cancerous disease was confirmed to this region, and now I've been informed it has spread to the Chinese team," Vellapan said from the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

Babu made a quick-fire 20 off 19 balls in his team's modest 172 runs for all in 39.4 over and then captured six wickets to bundle out Amarjot for 123 in 32.5 overs.

However, Dola with 31 was the top scorer for Ajax while Rafiqul and Murtoza contributed 29 and 24 runs respectively to the Ajax total.

Sezan, the most successful Amarjot bowler claimed four for 36. He was followed by Palash and Raju who took two wickets each.

Ajax who thrashed Orient SC by seven wickets in their first play off match now ride on to the First Division by an excellent piece of bowling from Babu who reeled off the Amarjot innings for 123.

Babu's six wicket haul cost him only 28 runs in his eight over spell. He was well supported by Rafiqul who took two for 10.

Sezan who shone with the ball also scored highest 24 runs for Amarjot. Imtiaz (19) and Ahmed (15) were the other notable scorers for the loosers.

BJKF VP resigns

Sports Reporter

Hasanuzzaman Moni, vice-president of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation (BJKF), resigned recently as a sequel to his difference in opinion with the federation president.

Earlier, Moni failed to convince the president of BJKF in retaining the job of a national coach of North Korea.

Babu played as anchor role as his team Ajax Sports and Cultural Club earned promotion to the Milans First Division cricket league defeating Amarjot club by 49 runs as a Second Division play-off match at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Second seed Brett Martin of Australia also had a shaky opening against French

Div II cricket

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