



Mahbubur Rahman of the Rajshahi Education Board making a victory sign after winning the 1500-metre free-style of the 18-20 years age group on the second day of the four-day 14th national age group championship yesterday.

—Star photo

Rutherford's birthday plans turn sour as

Rain rescues West Indies

GOA, India, Oct 26: New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford's birthday celebrations turned sour on Wednesday as rain deprived his underdog team of almost certain victory over the West Indies in a one-day match here, reports AFP.

The jovial 30-year-old was in high spirits when his left-arm spinner Matthew Hart took a career-best five for 22 to send the West Indians packing for 123 on a low wicket.

Chasing a moderate target of 2.4 runs an over, the Kiwis had reached 25 for one in nine overs by lunch when a heavy, unseasonal downpour in this popular beach resort ruined the game.

The match, New Zealand's first in the triangular series also involving hosts India, was abandoned as a draw since a minimum of 25 overs a side had to be bowled to achieve a result.

While Rutherford, who scored a duck against Australia on his last birthday, rued his luck, the West Indians were fortunate to have escaped after the loss in Sunday's opening match against India.

Another defeat here would have left the West Indians needing to win both their return matches against New Zealand and India to entertain hopes of playing the final on November 5.

They now have three days

to recoup before next Sunday's crucial game against India in Kanpur. The luckless Kiwis fly to the western city of Baroda to take on the home team in their second match on Friday.

The New Zealanders, who landed in India just 48 hours earlier, appeared to have adjusted well to the unfamiliar hot and humid climate here when they took the field after the West Indies had won the toss and elected to bat.

The 22-year-old Hart, playing only his seventh one-day international, bowled a tidy line from the start to fox the spin-wary West Indian batsmen.

Hart's dream spell saw West Indies loss seven wickets for 31 runs after Brian Lara's strokeful 32 off 42 balls had taken them to a comfortable 71 for one in the 14th over.

The record-breaking Lara slammed five boundaries before he became Hart's first victim, stumped by wicket-keeper Adam Parore, who also assisted in four other dismissals.

Hart then removed Carl Hooper (22), Phil Simmons (0), Jummy Adams (5) and captain Courtney Walsh (0) to improve upon his previous best three for 43 against Australia in Sharjah earlier this year.

Off-spinner Shane Thomson, slammed for two sixes by Hopper in his first over, conceded just seven runs in his remaining nine overs to provide valuable support to Hart.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the triangular series one-day match between West Indies and New Zealand here today:

WEST INDIES:

	O	M	R	W
Williams run out	24	0	0	0
Campbell c Parore b Pringle	0	0	0	0
Lara st Parore b Hart	32	0	0	0
Hooper b Hart	22	0	0	0
Simmons c Young b Hart	0	0	0	0
Arthurton run out	1	0	0	0
Adams st Parore b Hart	5	0	0	0
Cummins c Parore b Harris	11	0	0	0
Walsh c Parore b Hart	0	0	0	0
Dhanraj b Pringle	8	0	0	0
Cuffy not out	0	0	0	0
Extras: (b-2), lb-9, w-8, nb-1	20	0	0	0
Total:	123	0	0	0
Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-71; 3-92; 4-94; 5-95; 6-97; 7-102; 8-102; 9-122.				

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Pringle	4.1	0	19	2
Nash	8	1	25	0
De Groot	4	0	19	0
Hart	10	2	22	6
Thomson	10	5	19	0
Harris	3	0	8	1
Overs:	39.1			

NEW ZEALAND:

	O	M	R	W
Young not out	13	0	0	0
Hartland hit Wkt b Walsh	6	0	0	0
Parore not out	3	0	0	0
Extras: (w-2, nb-1)	3	0	0	0
Total: (one wkt)	25	0	0	0

Overs:

1 Total: 39.1

Fall of wicket: 1-14.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Walsh	5	0	17	1
Cuffy	4	0	8	1
Overs: 9				

Result: Match abandoned due to rain.

China to do it a la ASDA

CANBERRA, Oct 26: China will move to dampen concerns that its sports stars use performance-enhancing drugs and set up an independent drug testing agency that can check on athletes randomly, Australia's sports minister said today, reports Reuter.

Chinese authorities indicated they would create the body along the lines of Australia's own drug testing agency, which tests athletes randomly and often outside of competitions. Sports Minister John Faulkner said.

He was announcing an agreement between Australia and China on drug testing in sport.

"Using the ASDA (Australian Sports Drugs Agency) model, they said that their agency should be focused heavily on out-of-competition testing," Faulkner told Reuters in an interview.

"There's been a lack of out-of-competition testing... it's a very significant step forward in that regard," Faulkner said.

A spate of world record-breaking performances by Chinese swimmers and track athletes has fuelled speculation by some western coaches that Chinese athletes use performance enhancing drugs.

Until now Chinese sports authorities have not been able to carry out widespread random testing of athletes and have had to rely on tests by international bodies.

In September, the International Amateur Athletics Federation surprised the "Ma family army" of women distance runners with spot doping tests in Beijing. The federation reported two weeks ago that "Ma's army" tested negative.

Coach Ma Junren feeds turtle blood to his runners' and

which was dominated by Chinese athletes.

Faulkner said the agreement between Australian and Chinese authorities would strengthen the ability of each country to test each other's athletes whether they are in that country for competition or for training.

The creation of an independent agency would help them do that, he said.

This is the first time that the Chinese have acknowledged that out-of-competition testing is necessary for the credibility of any programme," Faulkner said.

Faulkner said in April that 33 top athletes, including world and Olympic champions had tested positive for anabolic steroids since testing began in 1988.

Since then women discus thrower Qu Jiaoping has failed a doping test in the lead up to the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

Officials from Chinese sport medicine bodies visited the ASDA's centre in Canberra in mid-July and said then they were interested in using Australia's techniques for keeping drugs out of sport.

China's doping centre said in April that 33 top athletes, including world and Olympic champions had tested positive for anabolic steroids since testing began in 1988.

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