

TCCB secy's tip-off for England A

Sports Reporter

Tim Lamb predicted a very tough time for England A time when the second string English squad, arrives in the capital at the end of this month to play a couple of exhibition matches.

Lamb, the cricket secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) who is in Dhaka for a brief visit, said, "Although England A are having a wonderful time in India, I don't think the Bangladeshi selections.

England A, who have sealed a three-match rubber against their Indian counterpart with an unassailable 2-0 lead, will play two limited-overs matches followed by a three-day match at the Dhaka Stadium, starting from February 22.

The TCCB cricket secretary, who is here to finalise the preparation of the England A tour, will leave today.



Tim Lamb (C), secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) who is in the capital on a brief visit, handing over the man-of-the-match award to MV Shridhar (R), the architect of Hyderabad's sensational four-wicket win over the BCCB Eleven at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Shridhar scored an unbeaten 103. — Star photo

Sridhar's ton sinks BCCB XI

Sports Reporter

A very well paced unbeaten ton by an in-form MV Sridhar guided the visiting Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) to a four-wicket victory over the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven in an exhibition one-day match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Coming at number three with the regional combination from Southern India chasing a victory target of 198 in 50 overs, the seasoned right-hander stayed there until the end on 103 as HCA picked up their second win in successive days, posting 198 for six wickets to the third ball off the last over.

The visitors, who outclassed Bangladesh youth team by eight wickets Wednesday, needed five runs off the last over bowled by slow left-arm Enamul Haq.

Shivaji Yadav, Sridhar's partner for the seventh wicket could not score off the first ball but managed one off the next mainly because of a clumsy piece of fielding by the BCCB captain Akram Khan and Sridhar, waiting impatiently on 99, danced down the wicket to the third ball to hit a glorious boundary through covers and all stilled legs on the terraces were in motion, despondently though.

HCA, who were off to a shaky start losing two batsmen for 26 only, were steadied by a 93-run partnership between skipper Abdul Azeem and Sridhar for third wicket with the former, quite a familiar figure having made two trips here earlier, contributing a sedate 37.

Although left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman and off-spinner Aminul Islam struck two quick blows, Sridhar, later adjusted

man-of-the-match for his 145-ball knock punctuated by seven shots to the fence, cleverly retained the strike to prevent the virtual national team of Bangladesh from making any further inroads.

Earlier put in to bat, BCCB Eleven overcame the early loss of Jahangir Alam to establish an ideal launching pad for a challenging score, mainly through the efforts of young Al-Shahriar and experienced opener Athar Ali.

The pair added 89 runs for the second wicket with Al-Shahriar making 57 off 102 balls including four hits to the fence.

Athar Ali had left for a grafting 33 but Aminul Islam, Minhazul Abedin and later Akram Khan chipped in substantially to help the local selection raise a fighting total of 197 for eight from 50 overs.

Amin made 37 from 58 balls, Minhaz 26 off 32 balls and Akram, who for reasons best known to him held himself back in the batting order, could make only 22 off 18 balls.

HCA off-spinner Kanwaljeet Singh, who has been doing well in the domestic circuit of India for quite some time now, returned lively figures of four for 39 from nine overs.

Opening bowler Vishnu Vardhan took two for 33 from ten overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the exhibition match between the Hyderabad Cricket Association and Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven at the Dhaka stadium yesterday:

BCCB XI:
Jahangir c Yubraj b Bishubardhan 0
Athar Ali Khan st Yubraj b Satish 31
Al-Shahriar b Kanwaljeet Singh 57
Aminul Islam c Shivaji Yadav

HYDERABAD CA:
Aravindha Sheela c Athar b Saiful Islam 17
Nanda Kishore lbw b Saiful Islam 4
MV Sridhar not out 103
Abdul Azim c and b Aminul Islam 37
D. Somvashi st Barua b Aminul Islam 9
Kiran Kumar c Enamul Haq b Anis 2
Yubraj Singh run out 10
Shivaji Yadav not out 1
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-6, nb-1) 15
Total: (For six wickets in 50 overs) 197

Fall of wickets: 1-1: 2-90; 3-110; 4-111; 5-165; 6-165; 7-166; 8-189.

Bowling:
Vishnuvardhan 10 3 33 2
Nanda Kishore 5 1 17 0
Srinibash 6 0 25 0
Shivaji Yadav 10 0 33 0
Shahish Niluri 10 0 45 1
Kanwaljeet Singh 9 0 39 4

TODAY'S MATCHES
Bangladesh-A vs Kenya (DS)
Bangladesh Colts vs Hong Kong (BKSP).

Result: Hyderabad Cricket Association won by four wickets.
Man-of-the-Match: MV Sridhar (Hyderabad CA)

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Flower brothers step into record books

Pakistan in a quagmire

HARARE, Feb 2: Pakistan were 170-6 at tea on the third day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Earlier on Wednesday, Grant Flower scored his maiden double century to help Zimbabwe post their highest score in Test cricket against Pakistan.

The 22-year-old opener scored an unbeaten 201 as Zimbabwe reached 544 for four declared 80 minutes before the close on the second day.

That bettered Zimbabwe's 462 for nine declared against Sri Lanka in the second Test in Harare last October.

Pakistan, in reply, were 51-1 after 14 overs with debutant 18-year-old Henry Olonga, the first black cricketer to represent Zimbabwe, capturing his first Test wicket with his third ball.

Left-hander Saeed Anwar was caught behind by wicket-keeper Andy Flower down the leg side for 8, the batsman indicating the ball had hit his thigh pad as he departed.

Earlier Zimbabwe resumed on 289 for three with the Flower brothers Andy and Grant taking their partnership to 269 for the fourth wicket before Andy fell.

That was a record by brothers in a Test, eclipsing the 264 for the third wicket between Australia's Ian and Greg Chappell against New Zealand in Wellington in 1973-74.

Andy Flower finally went, caught in the gully by Wasim Akram off Kabir Khan for 156, a knock made off 245 balls and including 18 fours and one six.

His brother, however, remained unbeaten after an innings of just under 11 hours. He faced 522 balls and hit 10 fours and one six.

He found an able partner in Guy Whittall, who rode his luck

in the early stages to post his first Test century. Dropped on 24 and 98, Whittall finished on 113 not out.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the first cricket Test between Zimbabwe and Pakistan at the Harare Sports Club on Wednesday.

ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 289 for three)
M Dekker c Rashid Latif 2
b Aaqib Javed 201
G Flower not out 201
A Campbell lbw b Wasim Akram 1
D Houghton c Aamir Sohail b Aaqib Javed 23
A Flower c Wasim Akram 8
b Kabir Khan 156
G Whittall not out 113

Extras: (b-4, lb-19, w-3, nb-22) 48
TOTAL: (for four wickets) 544

Fall of wickets: 1-4: 2-9; 3-42; 4-311

Did not bat: S Carlisle, H Streak, P Strang, D Brain, H Olonga.

Bowling:
Wasim Akram 39.5 12 95 1
Aaqib Javed 34.1 8 73 2
Kabir Khan 25 5 142 1
Salim Malik 9 0 42 0
Akram Raza 34 6 112 0
Asif Mujtaba 7 0 30 0
Aamir Sohail 6 1 27 0

PAKISTAN: First innings
Aamir Sohail not out 28
Saeed Anwar c A Flower b Olonga 8
Akram Raza not out 8
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-4, nb-1) 7
Total: (for one wicket) 51

Martinez, Pierce advance to qtrs

TOKYO, Feb 2: Mary Pierce, playing her first match since winning last week's Australian Open, advanced Thursday along with Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez to the singles quarterfinals of the 806,250 Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Old guards slate Pakistan's WC preparation

LAHORE, Feb 2: Three cricket veterans Wednesday accused Pakistan's national cricket authorities of not launching serious preparations for the World Cup to be staged jointly with India and Sri Lanka in 1996, reports AFP.

The three — former captains Fazal Mahmood and Imtiaz Ahmed and former Test cricketer Nazir Mohammad also criticised the deterioration in Pakistan cricket during a joint news conference here.

They appealed to President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, who is also chief patron of cricket, to intervene in the matter.

The former cricketers cited the poor performance of the Pakistan team in the recent tour of South Africa and alleged that a plan to enlarge crowd capacity at Lahore's Qaddafi Stadium had run into difficulties.

The capacity of the stadium, the proposed venue for the 1996 World Cup final, is to be raised from 40,000 to 50,000, they said.

Maradona goes overboard

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 2: Diego Maradona, Eric Cantona's hero, has upstaged the fiery Frenchman in football indiscipline, joining his players in a street brawl against rival fans, reports AFP.

The Argentine Football Federation are expected to launch an inquiry into events surrounding Monday night's friendly match between Maradona's club Racing and Independente in Mendoza on Monday.

The fallen Argentina soccer idol, now manager of Racing, was ordered off the touchline after insulting referee Francisco Lamolina.

After the match Maradona and his players were involved in a brawl with Independente supporters, one of whom needed hospital treatment.

Salenko blasts Parreira

MOSCOW, Feb 2: Striker Oleg Salenko, out of favour with both Valencia and the Russian national team, on Wednesday denounced the Spanish side's coach as incompetent and said he would like to play in Japan, reports Reuters.

Salenko — who set a World Cup record last year by scoring five times against Cameroon — told Sport Express newspaper that Brazil's World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira was to blame for Valencia's woes.

Baggio sidelined

TURIN, Italy, Feb 2: Roberto Baggio will be sidelined at least another month because of a right knee injury, doctors said Wednesday after the star striker underwent an arthroscopic examination, reports AP.

The Juventus of Turin medical staff said Baggio's tendon is about 90 per cent healed and he can return to rehabilitation in a few days.

Baggio, captain of the Juve Club and the national team, has been out since a Nov. 27 Serie A match against Padova. Juve is presently in first place.



AC Milan's Dejan Savicevic (L) takes on Arsenal's Stefan Schwarz during the first leg of the Super Cup at Highbury in north London on Feb 1. The match ended goalless. — AFP photo

Walsh may join the squad

WI-NZ first Test today

CHRISTCHURCH, Feb 2: West Indies captain Courtney Walsh was Thursday named in a 12-man squad for the first cricket Test against New Zealand, which starts Friday at Lancaster Park, reports AP.

But a decision on whether he will take the field or be 12th man will be left until the morning.

Walsh has been undergoing treatment for an injured back for over a week but said Thursday he "felt a lot better" after a reasonably strenuous workout in the nets.

The West Indies left Anderson Cummins and Roland Holder out of their squad and Walsh said he would have to be confident of seeing out all five days if he was to play.

"I won't risk it if I can't survive five days but I would say I'm 75 per cent certain of playing," Walsh said.

"I was happy with the workout and there were no complications after yesterday, so I'm feeling pretty confident."

The tourists were forced to leave out Cummins, who also has been troubled by a bad back, while Holder lost out to Shivnarine Chanderpaul for the last middle-order batting spot.

The dilemma for the West

Indies will be whether to take in four seamers — Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Winston Benjamin and Kenneth Benjamin — or drop one in favour of Rajindra Dhanraj, who

Retd. "I would imagine the team batting first might have a slightly uncomfortable first session, but from that point on it should play pretty well and the team batting first would be looking to score 300 to 350."

All the top-order batsmen have been coached on the technique to use against Ambrose and the other West Indies pacemen but Reid is wary about getting bogged down in a defensive frame of mind.

"We need to strike a balance between tightness in terms of our technique and also keeping the scoreboard ticking over," he said.

New Zealand are almost certain to leave Gavin Larsen out of their squad.

TEAMS
WEST INDIES: Courtney Walsh (captain), Brian Lara, Stuart Williams, Sherwin Campbell, Keith Arthurton, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Jimmy Adams, Junior Murray, Winston Benjamin, Curtly Ambrose, Kenneth Benjamin, Rajindra Dhanraj.

NEW ZEALAND: Ken Rutherford (captain), Danny Morrison, Bryan Young, Darrin Murray, Andrew Jones, Stephen Fleming, Shane Thomson, Adam Parore, Matthew Hart, Dion Nash, Simon Doull, Gavin Larsen.

New Zealand's problems centre around the technique of their top-order batsmen.

"The history of this pitch is that the assistance for the bowlers doesn't last that long," said New Zealand coach John

Fifth Ashes Test starts at Perth today

Warne fit, claims Taylor

PERTH, Feb 2: Star Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne will bowl in the fifth Ashes cricket Test against England despite being troubled by a nagging shoulder injury, reports AP.

Australian captain Mark Taylor said Thursday that it was ridiculous to suggest that Warne should be rested to allow him to recover his spark in time for the tour of the West Indies in March.

Warne has admitted privately that his right shoulder is troubling him — and he has not bowled well in the last two Tests against England after dominating the first two matches.

Taylor, however, said Warne is fully fit and the victim of unrealistic expectations.

"It's been interesting hearing and reading things about 'Warne,'" Taylor said. "Shane hasn't got an injury."

"People talk about giving him a rest. We try and give him a rest as much as we can, but I know he doesn't want to rest because he doesn't need to rest."

"I think everyone expects Shane to take eight (wickets) whenever he walks out to

bowl, but that's not going to happen."

Warne declined to speak to the media but is certain to be in Australia's starting XI when the match starts on Friday.

England's 106-run victory in the fourth Test in Adelaide has breathed fresh life into the series with the tourists having the chance to go home with a 2-2 series result.

Taylor said Australia's performance will need to reflect its superiority.

"We don't want to finish with a squared series," he said. "This Test match means a lot to us. The Adelaide game showed that if we don't switch on all the time, we'll get beaten."

Australia's choice of 12th man is not yet settled with either Brendon Julian or Jo Angel likely to be omitted.

left-arm Julian is more likely to play because of the variety he offers the Australian attack, while Angel will probably be forced to wait for a game, despite his consistent performances in the Sheffield Shield.

England captain Mike Atherton is deciding whether to play spinner Phil Tufnell or to leave out the left-arm slow

bowler and go with an all-pace attack.

Tufnell's absence would further stifle an already slow England over-rate but England have played some of their best cricket of the last two years on fast surfaces.

"We played four seamers in the state game (against Western Australia) and probably lacked a little variety," Atherton said.

"Equally, we have to go with the people who will get us 20 wickets in the match."

The two countries have met seven times in Perth with Australia holding a 3-1 advantage, winning in 1974-75, 1979-80 and 1990-91, against a loss in 1978-79.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Greg Blewett, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Brendon Julian, Craig McDermott, Jo Angel, Glenn McGrath.

ENGLAND (from): Mike Atherton (captain), Graham Gooch, Mike Gatting, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Mark Ramprakash, Steve Rhodes, Chris Lewis, Phil Tufnell, Angus Fraser, Devon Malcolm, Phil Tufnell.

Indira Gandhi Gold Cup begins today

Hosts have point to prove

NEW DELHI, Feb 2: Indian hockey, on the comeback trail after years in the wilderness, is looking for a morale-boosting win in its own backyard when the eight-nation Indira Gandhi Gold Cup hockey tournament opens here Saturday, reports AFP.

The eight-time Olympic champions, who have lost out to European power play and the supreme artistry of arch-rivals Pakistan in the last two decades, appear to have finally got their act together over the past few months.

The annual tournament will give the national side a chance to show home fans that the silver medal at the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October and the fifth place at the World Cup in Sydney in November were not flashes in the pan.

When India won the Indira Gandhi title in Lucknow last year, inexperienced South Africa and a university team from South Korea were its only

major opponents.

This year Australia, England, South Africa, South Korea and Kazakhstan have entered India's only major hockey event, although organisers are still uncertain whether they will field their full national sides.

The eight teams for the league-cum-knockout tournament have been divided into two groups with the top two in each half qualifying for the semifinals. The final is billed for February 12.

India's opponents in Group A are England, Kazakhstan and Malaysia. Group B consists of Australia, Poland, South Korea and South Africa.

Indian coach Cedric D'Souza, who led India's campaign in the World Cup after taking over from Zafar Iqbal after the Hiroshima Games, said it was important to maintain the recent upward trend.

There are only three newcomers in the Indian team, which is virtually the same as the one which took part in the

World Cup. Fullback Dilip Tiwari, midfielder Baljit Singh and forward Sarabjit Singh have been drafted in to replace the injured trio of Rajnish Mishra, Harpreet Singh and Sabu Verkey.

Like the Indians, the other teams are also expected to use the tournament to build for the future.

Australia failed to win the World Cup on their home ground in Sydney, while England have not done anything of note since winning the gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

The Koreans disappointed in the World Cup after their dual success over Pakistan in the Asia Cup in 1993 and the Asian Games last year. South Africa are still to find their bearings in the international arena.

Malaysia have been unimpressive since they were relieved of the services of Australian coach Terry Walsh two years ago.



GM meet from today

Sports Reporter

Ziaur Rahman and Reefat-bin-Sattar will be looking forward for Grand Master's (GM) norm when the second United Insurance Grand Masters' chess tournament formally opens in a local hotel today.

The tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, will feature seven GMs from nine different countries including Niaz Murshed, country's lone GM.

The six other GMs in the 13-round Swiss league meet are — Mikhail Karasenkov (Russia), the world junior chess champion, Gregory Serper (Uzbekistan), Gabriel Christian (Germany), Mark Hebden and Stuart Conquest (England) and Edhi Handoko (Indonesia).

Apart from the seven GMs, an equal number of International Masters (IM) including three from the hosts and one each from India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Tajikistan, will be after at least nine and a half points required for a GM norm.

For the first time in the BCF's history, the federation gets so many Grand Masters for a meet. In the first edition of the meet, only four joined.

The tournament which offers a cash awards of four thousand US dollars will be held at the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani.

A budget of Taka 10.66 lakh has been earmarked for the meet which will come from the sponsors — United Insurance Company Limited.

For the chess lovers, the price of tickets has been fixed at Taka five each.

Div II football

Sports Reporter

Police Athletic Club almost confirmed a berth in the Star First Division football league when they beat Adamjee SCC 2-0 in one of the two Second Division football league encounters at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The services team who needed two more points from their remaining two engagements to clinched the title, now topped the table with 30 points from 13 matches, five points clear of nearest rivals Badda Jagorani.

In the day's match, Mustafa Kamal and striker Masud Rana scored one goal apiece in the first half to earn Police their ninth win in the 16-team league.

However, in the other fixture, BRTC SC and Jurain Janata split points in a one-all draw.

After a barren first half, Mujibur gave Jurain Janata a 54th minute lead before Shawkat Ali restored parity for BRTC six minutes away from the long whistle.

Div III football

Sports Reporter

Kawranbazar Pragati Sangha earned lone goal win over Gandaria Famous in one of the two Pragati Insurance Third Division football league matches at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Ahsan Habib scored the match decider for Kawranbazar in the 61st minute of the proceedings.

In the other lacklustre match of the day, Moghbazar Krira Chakra and Dipali Sangha shared points in a goalless draw.