



DOUBLE DISASTER: Bangladeshi fielders have little time to give vent to their ecstatic feelings following a thrilling two-run victory over Kenya in an exhibition match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday as a wallowing Lamec Onyango who remained unbeaten writhes in pain at the fall of the last wicket.

No luck for Odumbe's men

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh A too completed a series victory over the visiting Kenyans as the shadow national eleven registered an exciting two-run victory in an exhibition one-dayer at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The theoretically second best set of cricketers of the country prevailed by the odd match in three when new-ball bowler Iqbal Hossain had his appeal for leg before against Kenyan last man Rajab Ali upheld to the second ball off the last over.

Kenya, who had earlier won the first match between the two teams by one run only to go down in the next by three wickets, were set a victory target of 160 in 50 overs yesterday after the hosts fought their way out of a sticky situation to post 159 for nine from their stipulated quota, mainly through the efforts of young Ziauddin Ahmed.

The right-handed middle-order batsman remained unbeaten on 70 off 86 balls with the help of five boundaries to dead-lift the home side, at one stage placed precariously on 34 for four.

On a wicket that provided encouragement to the seamers in the early overs, Bangladeshi upper order batting caved in alarmingly with only opener Ziaur Rashid showing any temperament to fight it out there in the middle.

He left for 21 and the tottering innings had to wait for the arrival of the other Zia in the form of a saviour, who with some help from Khaled Mahmood brought a semblance of respectability to the total.

Khaled, who later had mixed fortunes picking the crucial wicket of the Kenyan captain Maurice Odumbe and giving 13 runs as well in one over at the fag end, put 38 runs for the six wicket along with a focused Zia with his individual share being 15.

Extras contributed another 21 and Bangladesh with a tailor-made pitch for the kind of attack at their command had had a fighting total in their kitty.

Steve Tikolo was the most successful Kenyan bowler with a haul of three for 35.

But Edward Tito and Rajab Ali bowled extremely tightly to have figures of two for 22 and one for 26, both from the individual ceiling of ten overs.

The Kenyans began their quest for the target slowly but surely with both Deepak Chudasama and Tariq Iqbal, the burly wicketkeeper-cum-opener, handling the rather straightforward Bangladesh A pace attack comfortably.

Chudasama left amid controversy and confusion when the balls went off after the batsman, who was batting on 24, played a delivery from off-spinner Ziaur Rashid. While the batsman, who hung around for an embarrassingly long time as the Bangladeshi players huddled together in a little celebration over the fall of a wicket, felt he was anything but legitimately dismissed, the fielding side seemed equally confident about the end of the batsman's tenure at the wicket, a fact that had to be confirmed by the umpire's finger.

Baggio expects to return soon

TURIN, Feb 3: Italy's Roberto Baggio breathed a sigh of relief on Thursday following exploratory "keyhole" surgery on his knee and said he expected to return to action by the end of the month, reports Reuter.

Two quick wickets went down much to the delight of the sparse holiday crowd and when a dour Tariq became Sharfuddin Ibn Shaheed's first of the victims, it looked like the hosts could make light of even a low-scoring match.

But Hitesh Modi, the lightly built left-handed batsman whose fair complexion creates quite a bit of visual contrast for the onlookers in a predominantly black Kenyan team, wrested back the initiative in tandem with his able skipper Maurice Odumbe.

Modi left playing all over an incoming ball of fuller length from Khaled for 20, but Odumbe, the most accomplished bat of the visitors, stepped on the gas through an aggressive knock of 33 that came to an end when his counterpart Faruque smartly scooped him up at covers also off Khaled.

Edward Tito hoisted Khaled for a massive sixer over long-on but Sharfuddin's left-arm spin took care of him and the visitors, needing nine off the last two overs for a victory, fell short of the target by three runs with Onyango, who had to be carried off with a cramp in his leg muscle, unbeaten on 12.

Sharfuddin, who had taken four in the previous match against Kenya, again had a similar bag at a cost of 33 runs this time.

But Ziauddin Ahmad quite deservedly won the man-of-the-match award for his excellent innings when chips were really down.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the

exhibition match between Bangladesh A and Kenya at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

BANGLADESH A:

Ziaur Rashid b Steve Tikolo 21
Khaled Masud c Tariq Iqbal b Rajab Ali 5
Habibul Bashar c Maurice Odumbe



Z Ahmed ... m-o-m

b Edward Tito 0
Faruque Ahmed c Alpesh Bhandar b Edward Tito 4
Mahbubur Rahman c Asif Karim b Steve Tikolo 8
Ziauddin Ahmad not out 70
Khaled Mahmood c Alpesh Bhandar b Steve Tikolo 15
Iqbal Hossain c sub b Maurice Odumbe 1
Sharfuddin c Tariq Iqbal b Asif Karim 4
Zakir Hossain run out 9
Saidul Islam not out 1
Extras: (b-2, lb-13, nb-6) 21
Total: (for nine wicket in 50 overs) 159
Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-13; 3-23; 4-34; 5-70; 6-108; 7-114; 8-129; 9-147.

Pakistan need 74 more to avoid follow-on



HARARE, Feb 3: Zimbabwe teenager Henry Olonga became the first bowler for more than 30 years to be called for throwing in a Test match on the third day of the first Test against Pakistan, reports Reuter.

Olonga, the first black cricketer to play for his country, is only the sixth specialist bowler to be called for "chucking" and they first since Australian left-arm pacer Ian Meckiff against South Africa in 1963.

The 18-year-old, who was called four times while playing for a President's XI against the touring team last weekend, was no-balled once in his fifth over during Thursday's morning session.

Square leg umpire Ian Robinson called the no-ball after a particularly quick bouncer.

The umpire's action was one of the few low points for Zimbabwe as their bowlers, even without Olonga who spent a lengthy period off the field with a side strain, reduced Pakistan to 151 for six at one stage.

A seventh-wicket stand of 120 between Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq saw them recover to 271 for seven at the close. But they still need 74 to avoid the follow-on.

Ijaz was caught in the gully by Grant Flower off the last ball of the day for 65, scored off 186 balls with five fours and two sixes.

Inzamam, who batted at seven because of a shoulder injury reached a gritty unbeaten 53 off 134 balls after playing many of his shots one-handed. Much will depend on him if

Pakistan are to avoid the follow-on.

Heath Streak, who finished the day with three for 66, made the early breakthrough after Pakistan had resumed at 51 for one. He removed night-watcherman Akram Raza, caught at slip by Guy Whittall for 19, and Asif Mujtaba, snapped up at short-leg by Stuart Carlisle for two.

After lunch Aamir Sohail and Salim Malik strove to rebuild the innings. They added 43 for the fourth-wicket before both fell to loose shots in the space of five balls.

Sohail, who had struck seven fours in his 61, flashed at a wide ball from David Brain and David Houghton took a stunning one-handed catch above his head at first slip.

Then in the next over from Whittall, Salim, who made 32, played a similar shot and Carlisle took his second catch — this time in the gully.

Rashid Latif came in ahead of Inzamam but soon provided the medium-paced Whittall with his second wicket when he holed out to Alistair Campbell at mid-off for six.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and Pakistan at the Harare Sports Club on Thursday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings 544-4 declared (G. Flower 201 not out, A. Flower 156, Whittall 113 not out).

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 51-1)

Aamir Sohail c Houghton b Brain 61
Saeed Anwar c A. Flower b Olonga

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Rajab Ali	10	2	26	1
Edward Tito	10	0	22	2
Lamec Onyango	5	0	11	0
Steve Tikolo	10	0	35	3
Asif Karim	10	0	33	1
Maurice Odumbe	5	0	17	1

KENYA:
Deepak Chudasama b Ziaur Rashid 24

Tariq Iqbal b Sharfuddin 21
Kennedy Otieno c Ziaur b Said Steve Tikolo c and b Sharfuddin 2

Hitesh Modi b Khaled Mahmood 20

Maurice Odumbe c Faruque b Khaled Mahmood 33

Alpesh Bhandar b Sharfuddin 8

Edward Tito b Sharfuddin 11

Asif Karim run out 3

Lamec Onyango not out 12

Rajab Ali lbw b Iqbal Hossain 0

Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-9, nb-1) 19

Total: (all out in 49.2 overs) 157

Fall of wickets: 1-42; 2-59; 3-61; 4-66; 5-105; 6-127; 7-133; 8-137; 9-156.

Bowling: O M R W

Zakir Hossain 2 0 16 0
Iqbal Hossain 7 2 1 18 1
Ziaur Rashid 10 4 16 1
Saidul Islam 10 1 26 1
Sharfuddin 10 1 33 4
Khaled Mahmood 10 0 39 2

COLTS CANTER

Bangladesh under-19 team beat Hong Kong by 54 runs in the day's other engagement at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan ground at Savar.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 182 for eight in 50 overs (Shahriar 21, Sajid 39, Mirhab 31, Naimur Rahman 24, Mustadir 25; Ashman 2-6, Sharma 3-10).

Hong Kong: 128 all out in 41.3 overs (MacLay 38, Foster 23, Sajal 3-25, Naim 2-23).

Man-of-the-match: Naimur Rahman.

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Swell time for natants

Bangladesh earned one gold, two silver and three bronze medals in the eighth Fajr International aquatic competition in Tehran recently, according to a message received in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

Bangladesh's Din Amin secured the gold in 100m butterfly clocking one min 2.93 seconds and Mahbubur Rahman took the silver with one min 5.44 seconds.

The other silver was captured by Shamsul Huda in the 50m freestyle when he covered the distance with a time of 26.19 seconds.

The three bronze medals came in 100m backstroke by Najmul Kabir (one min 8.58 seconds), in 100m breaststroke by Rezaul Islam (one min 19.08 seconds) and in 400m freestyle by Selim Ahmed (five mins 8.98 seconds).

In water-polo, Bangladesh finished sixth out of seven teams.

A 21-member Bangladesh Navy team represented Bangladesh in the six-day competition, which began on January 26.

The other participating countries were: Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia and host Iran.

Gazza on a comeback

ROME, Feb 3: England's Paul Gascoigne finished his second training session after injury on Thursday, and hopes to return to Lazio league action in late April, reports AFP.

Gascoigne, whose right leg was broken on April 7 last year during a training accident with teammate Alessandro Nesta, scored twice in a training match of first team players against juniors. Gascoigne's team won 12-1.

The 27-year-old is aiming to play on April 23 in the derby against AS Roma.

Andy Flower defends Olonga

HARARE, Feb 3: Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower has strongly defended 18-year-old fast bowler Henry Olonga, the first genuine bowler for over 30 years to be called for throwing in a Test match, reports Reuter.

Olonga, the first black cricketer to play for Zimbabwe, was no-balled by Ian Robinson during the third day's play of the first Test against Pakistan on Thursday.

"From a wicket-keeping point of view, and I have also faced him as a batsman before, I don't believe that he throws. It's as simple as that," Flower said.

"Some people seem to think that the delivery he was called for was a lot quicker than anything else he bowled in which case they have got better eyes than me."

"He has got a quick arm and a big wrist action which may deceive people that he is chucking. But he bowls at a couple of different paces and that's something that a lot of top bowlers do. It certainly doesn't mean that he is chucking when he slips in a quicker ball."

"There is a theory that it is only his short ball which he throws but I find that worrying because then you might find an umpire assuming that every bouncer is a chuck."

Pakistan captain Salim Malik, who was on strike when Olonga was called, said: "I don't want to say anything but the umpire called it. It was obvious."

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) remained tight-lipped about their next step. "All I can say is that we are going to look at it," ZCU chief executive Don Arnott said.

Sources close to the ZCU said that officials had already examined slow motion film of Olonga bowling on the first day of the Test and had declared themselves happy with his action.

Slater makes England rue



PERTH, Feb 3: Michael Slater scored a century and some woe for England fielding Friday helped Australia to 283 for four at stumps on the opening day of the fifth and final Ashes cricket Test at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

England, in search of a series-leveling victory to salvage their battered pride after heavy defeats in the first two Tests, let Australia off the hook by dropping four catches after the home team won the toss and batted.

Australia, who are still smarting from an unexpected 108-run defeat in the fourth Test in Adelaide, were lifted by Slater (124) and Mark Waugh (88), who hit the team out of another potential batting shambles.

Slater led a charmed life and was dropped three times before he reached his third century of the series. He con-

tinually changed his arm against the pacer, hitting them over the infield for the major share of his 13 fours.

After a breezy afternoon session that saw the addition of 112 runs, England kept a tight check on Australia's progress and were rewarded with Slater's wicket.

A frustrated Slater tried to cut loose against Phil DeFreitas and hit a straightforward catch to Chris Lewis at point, who captured the ball on the second attempt. Slater batted four minutes under five hours and faced 231 balls.

Three overs later, Mark Waugh flicked a low catch to DeFreitas at square leg off the bowling of Lewis.

Malcolm, England's match-winner in Adelaide, was the villain in this time around when he dropped Slater twice — on 59 and 87.

This was after Slater, who then had yet to score, was let off by Graham Gooch off the fourth ball of the morning, at third slip off Malcolm.

Australia, despite losing skipper Mark Taylor (9) and David Boon (1) in successive Lewis-overs, had made steady progress in the pre-lunch session, scoring 95 runs.

Taylor edged Lewis' third delivery to wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes and a couple of overs later Boon's drive was brilliantly caught by Ramprakash at cover point.

England could have had the home team in trouble just before lunch, but John Crawley grassed a sharp catch offered by Mark Waugh (18) off the bowling of Lewis.

Lewis continued from where he left off in Adelaide and finished the day with the best figures among the England bowlers — three for 44.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first day of the fifth cricket Test between Australia and England on Friday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings

M. Slater c Lewis b DeFreitas 124

M. Taylor c Rhodes b Lewis 9

D. Boon c Ramprakash b Lewis 1

M. Waugh c DeFreitas b Lewis 88

S. Waugh not out 23

G. Blewett not out 17

Extras: (b-6, lb-4, w-4, nb-7) 21

Total: (for four wickets) 283

Fall of wickets: 1-47; 2-55; 3-238; 4-247.

To bat: I. Healy, S. Warne, C. McDermott, J. Angel, G. McGrath.

Bowling (to date): O M R W

Malcolm 19 1 76 0

DeFreitas 19 5 57 1

Fraser 23 7 65 0

Lewis 19 5 44 3

Gooch 1 1 0 0

Ramprakash 9 0 31 0

Elements defy Windies

CHRISTCHURCH, Feb 3: New Zealand's opening batsmen survived two short but tricky spells of West Indian pace today in a rain affected start to the first Test match in Christchurch, reports Reuter.

Just 47 minutes of play were possible in two brief sessions at the end of the afternoon after West Indies won the toss and put the Kiwis in to bat in dull, overcast conditions on a greenish wicket.

Bryan Young scored 16 not out, including two fours, and partner Darrin Murray was unbeaten on four as the New Zealanders struggled to 24 for no wicket from 11.4 overs.

Curtly Ambrose made both batsmen play and miss several times outside the off-stump, and Young survived an appeal for a catch behind the wicket off the last ball of his first over.

West Indies captain Courtney Walsh, recovering slightly from a back injury, struggled to find his rhythm and delivered four no-balls.

"It's difficult when you're on and off the field," Walsh told reporters.

"Obviously we were looking to get out there and have a

good session and have a bowl at them on the wicket on the first day. But that didn't happen. We didn't really get into a rhythm."

West Indies left out leg-spinner Rajindra Dhanraj and opted for an all-pace attack on Ambrose, Walsh, Kenny Benjamin and Winston Benjamin for the first of the two-Test series.

On a pitch with pace and bounce, that line-up could sorely test a New Zealand side in which only four players — Stephen Fleming, Shane Thomson, Andrew Jones and Young — have Test batting averages above 30.

West Indies go into the series with the momentum of an easy 3-0 win in the one-day curtain-raiser, in which Brian Lara was in unobtainably impressive form.

For New Zealand, the Test is the first showpiece of a century season in which cricket has been making the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Captain Geoff Howarth quit after a disappointing tour of South Africa that highlighted problems of discipline and morale in the side.

Three players — batsman Stephen Fleming and bowlers

Dion Nash and Mathew Hart — were suspended for the one-day games against West Indies after a marijuana smoking controversy in South Africa.

All three were looking to put the episode firmly behind them as they returned to the Test side. New Zealand will also be replying heavily on a pace and seam attack which brings together Danny Morrison, Simon Doull and Nash for the first time in Tests.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the first day of the first Test match between West Indies and New Zealand today, with play curtailed by bad light:

NEW ZEALAND:

B. Young not out 16

D. Murray not out 4

Extras: (nb-4) 4

Total: (No wicket, 11.4 overs) 24

To bat: A. Jones, K. Rutherford, S. Thomson, S. Fleming, A. Parore, M. Hart, D. Nash, S. Doull, D. Morrison

Bowling O M R W

Ambrose 6 3 10 0

Walsh 5.4 2 14 0

Maradona may be sued