

Chanderpaul calms Guyana



GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Apr 13: A century by captain Chanderpaul frustrated the Indian bowlers after they had made a mess of Guyana's top order batsman during the second day of their four-day match on Saturday, report agencies.

Guyana had been reduced to 95 for five when the West Indies Test batsman came in.

An unbeaten 103 by Chanderpaul allowed Guyana to reach 214 for six at the close in reply to India's first innings total of 341 all out.

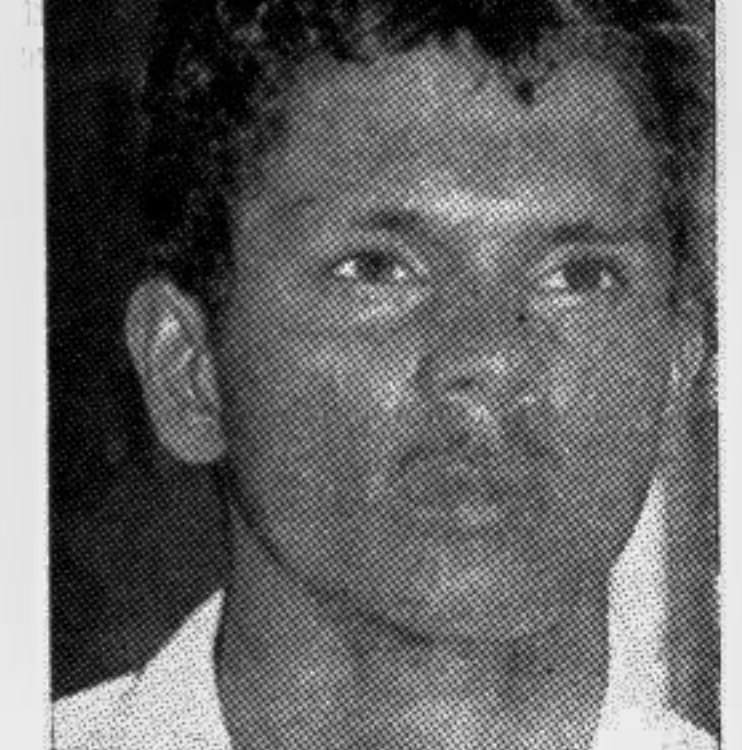
Chanderpaul and Vishal Nagamootoo, who was not out 20, added 83 runs in an unbeaten seventh wicket partnership. Doda Ganesh was the pick of the Indian bowlers with three for 46 off 15 overs.

Earlier, paceman Reon King ripped through the Indians with an impressive haul of seven for 82.

The strapping 22-year-old, King, playing only his second first-class game, claimed four wickets for 25 runs in the morning. India could add just 40 runs to their overnight 293

for five with Robin Singh, re-summing on 26, duly completing his half-century.

King, who impressed with his bowling on Friday, continued in the same vein. He underlined his potential by sustain-



CHANDERPAUL...103 n.o. ing his pace for 35 overs on a wicket which is offering virtually no support to the fast bowlers.

The rookie bowler struck in his very first over when he had Syed Saba Karim squaring up

and edging to the slips before he could add to his overnight one. After a brief flourish from Robin Singh, in which he reached his half-century from 103 balls with seven fours, King was again in the picture when he induced a false cut from Singh (54) and later polished off the visitors tall.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the second day of the four-day cricket match between India and Guyana on Saturday:

GUYANA: First innings				
Degroot lbw Kuruvilla	10			
Sarjoo b Ganesh	21			
Haniff c Joshi b Ganesh	7			
Sarwan lbw Ganesh	0			
Percival c Laxman b Joshi	25			
Chanderpaul not out	103			
McGarrell c Laxman b Joshi	8			
Nagamootoo not out	20			
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb-7)	20			
Total (for six wickets)	214			
Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-44; 3-57; 4-57; 5-95; 6-131				
Bowling: O M R W				
Kuruvilla	14	1	49	1
Ganesh	15	4	46	3
David	15	1	42	0
Joshi	19	3	58	2
Singh	3	1	8	0
Jadeja	1	1	0	0



A section of Bangladesh crowd, who gathered at the Kilat Kelab ground in Kuala Lumpur to watch the ICC Trophy final yesterday.

Bangladesh in the Big League

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versity paved the way for greater glory for Bangladesh as they won the ICC crown in a photo finish.

The Bangladeshi cricketers, for whom yesterday's victory was an icing on the cake since they had already achieved their prime target of securing a place in the next World Cup to be played in England in 1999, were to return home early this morning. A grand civic reception at the Manik Mia Avenue awaits the victorious contingent.

The sea-saw affair, which witnessed fortune fluctuating minute by minute, reached its climax when Bangladesh needed 11 runs from the last six balls.

But the pendulum decisively swung in Bangladesh's favour when wicket-keeper Khaled Masood Pilot smashed the first ball from Kenya's new-ball bowler Martin Suji for a massive sixer amidst wild applause from several thousand of Bangladeshi supporters present at the ground as well as the millions of sports lovers glued to their radio sets at home.

Masood missed the second delivery while the third one was a wide ball. He then took a single off that extra ball, leaving Hasibul Hossain to score three runs from as many deliveries.

But much to the horror of the whole nation, Hasib swung and missed the fourth ball. However, agony soon turned into ecstasy as the lanky pacer pulled the next ball and collected a couple, leaving the scores even.

One ball left and Bangladesh just a run away from an outright victory. Hasib's bat

missed Kenyan speedster Suji's delivery which rattled him on the pads and the lanky pacer known for his lusty hitting ran as if his shirt was on fire and Bangladesh were home and dry with two wickets to spare.

Khaled Masood returned unbeaten on a seven-ball 15 which included two towering sixes while Hasibul was not out on five. Although the two tailenders completed the job, it was rather a collective effort with every one contributing to the grand success.

After a horrible start with opener Naimur Rahman returning for a first-ball duck, an experienced Minhazul Abedin Nannu and hard-hitting batsman Mohammed Rafique gave Bangladesh a desired start putting on 50 runs in only 6.5 overs.

Rafique, who was strategically promoted in the batting order to exploit the first seven-over fielding restriction, whacked two huge sixes and as many boundaries in his whirlwind 26 off only 15 balls. Nannu hammered a six and a four in his 27-ball 22 before both departed in quick succession.

But undaunted by the fall of two quick wickets with the addition of only 13 runs to the total, skipper Akram Khan and his deputy Aminul Islam Bulbul kept pace with the mounting asking run-rate putting on 53 runs for the fourth wicket. Aminul, later adjudged the best fielder, scored a run-a-ball 37 to emerge as the highest run getter of his side. His polished knob included a sixer off his Kenyan counterpart and left-arm spinner Asif Karim while a portly Akram Khan chipped in with

an invaluable 22 off 27 balls inclusive of a six also against the Kenyan vice-captain.

Although the left-arm spinner finished with three wickets, he gave away 31 runs in his four expensive overs.

Saiful Islam contributed an invaluable 14 off 13 balls which included a timely sixer against Asif Karim over mid-wicket in the 23rd over. This particular over was perhaps the turning point of the match as it yielded 14 runs for Bangladesh which also included another sixer from Khaled Masood.

The collective effort, however, overshadowed another brilliant performance by Steve Tikolo, who had scored a magnificent 147 on Saturday to help top seeded Kenya to a commanding total of 241. The sturdy right-hander won the Man of the Match award, but the final glory went to Bangladesh, the deserving winner in the battle of the two top teams of the meet.

Besides, the victory also completed a revenge cycle for Bangladesh who beat all three teams — Holland, U.A.E and Kenya — that had defeated them in their previous ICC Trophy in Kenya in 1994.

This time around in Malaysia where frequent rain and public protest against Israel's participation hogged the limelight periodically, Bangladesh, in a unique display of indomitable spirit eliminated UAE, the champions of the fifth ICC Trophy, in the first round before delivering the parting shot to Holland in their last second round match with a sensational three-wicket win.

BD—KENYA scoreboard

Scoreboard of the sixth ICC Trophy final between Bangladesh and Kenya in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday:

KENYA: A Karim b Saiful	0
SK Gupta c & b K Mahmud	16
K Otieno lbw b Saiful	2
S Tikolo c Saiful b K Mahmud	147
M Oduumbe st K Masood	43
b Rafique	1
T Oduvo b Rafique	1
H Modi not out	12
A Suji st K Masood b Rafique	1
Extras: (b-1; lb-9; w-9)	19
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	241
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-15; 3-58; 4-196; 5-212; 6-230; 7-241.	
Did not bat: L Tikolo, MA Suji and Patel.	

Bowling: O M R W				
Saiful Islam	9	0	39	2
Hasibul Hossain	6	0	15	0
Athar Ali	5	0	22	0
Khaled Mahmud	7	1	31	2
Enamul Haq	10	0	41	0
Naimur Rahman	4	0	21	0
Md Rafique	6	1	40	3
Akram Khan	3	0	22	0

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-50; 3-63; 4-116; 5-118; 6-123; 7-139; 8-151.

Did not bat: Athar Ali Khan.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Martin Suji	4	0	28	1
Steve Tikolo	4	0	29	0
Thomas Oduoyo	5	0	27	1
Tony Suji	5	0	26	1
Asif Karim	4	0	31	2

Bowling: O M R W				
Martin Suji	4	0	28	1
Steve Tikolo	4	0	29	0
Thomas Oduvo	5	0	27	1
Tony Suji	5	0	26	1
Asif Karim	4	0	31	3
Maurice Oduumbe	3	0	18	2

Bangladesh were set to score a revised target of 166 runs in 25 overs.

Result: Bangladesh won the match by two wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Steve Tikolo (Kenya)

Man-of-the-series: Maurice Oduumbe (Kenya)

Batsman-of-the-series: Stephen Tikolo (Kenya)

Best fielder: Aminul Islam Bulbul (Bangladesh)

Best wicketkeeper: Khaled Masood Pilot (Bangladesh)

Match Umpires: DE Nair (Australia) and Venkataraghavan (India)

Third Umpire: NT Plews (England)

Unsporting!

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 13: A goalkeeper was taken to a police station and charged with assault after punching a referee who sent him off during a match at the Maracana Stadium, reports Reuters.

Valtenir, who plays for Rio Branco, left the Maracana in a police car surrounded by four officers after referee Kleber Goncalves made a formal complaint during Thursday night's match against Flamengo in a Copa Brasil match.

Valtenir was shown the yellow card for time-wasting after half an hour of the game, reacted by throwing the ball at the referee, and was immediately sent off.

On being shown the red card, Valtenir rushed at the match official and grabbed him by the neck. He then punched him twice and kicked him before police stopped the attack.

He left the pitch shouting "the referee's been bought by Flamengo" into the microphones of radio and television reporters.

Valtenir was released by police after being charged and refused to make any comment. His actions soured what should have been a night of glory for the part-timers who came from the small city of Rio Branco, in the heart of the Amazon rain forest near the border with Peru.

Most of the players had never visited Rio de Janeiro before and had only dreamt of playing in the Maracana.

Rio Branco won the first leg of the second-round tie 1-0 at home last week when Flamengo sent a reserve team to spare their star players the exhausting plane journey.

On Thursday, they held on until the last minute of the first half when Romario scored for Flamengo. Romario scored again after the interval.

The Copa Brasil involves the winners of the 27 state championships played throughout the country and is designed to give teams from remote areas the chance to play against the big clubs.

Flamengo joined Atletico Paranaense, Vitoria, Gremio, Corinthians, Internacional, Ceara and Palmeiras in the last eight.

M United may go to court

LONDON, Apr 13: Manchester United may consider legal action to force an extension of the Premier league season after officials rejected their plea on Thursday for help in easing a fixture backlog, reports Reuters.

Championship leaders United still have six league games and at least one European Cup match to squeeze in before the May 11 deadline.

But their request fell on deaf ears as the Premier league's two-man board saw no reason to lengthen the season.

United chairman Martin Edwards was furious at the decision, branded the officials "amateurs" and vowed that United would appeal and consider legal action.

The Premier league is supposed to be the best league in the world, and I thought the best team was supposed to win it but with these obstacles in the way it won't happen," he said.

Asian junior badminton

MANILA, Apr 13: Third seed Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia and China's Gong Ruina won the boys' and girls' singles competition Sunday in impressive final round victories in the Asian junior badminton championship, reports AP.

China dominated three of five games in the final round of the seven-day competitions but suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Malaysia when two top Chinese players lost in the boys' doubles at the Ninoy Aquino stadium.

The 15-year-old Hidayat from Bandung, Java, recovered from a slow start on the first set to beat China's Chen Hong, 15-11, 15-2, in the boys' singles match.

Gong Ruina of China won over compatriot Zhou Mi, 11-5, 11-5, to take the girls' singles. "I'm very happy," said the slim Hidayat, who played with powerful forehand drives. He advanced to the finals with a stunning upset victory over top seed Xia Xuanze of China in Saturday's games.

In the mixed doubles competition, top seed Cheng Rui and Gao Ling of China played with awesome teamwork to beat Malaysians Chan Chong Ming and Lim Pek Siah, 15-7, 15-9. The Chinese duo capitalised on the Malaysians' poor defense to win the match in 45 minutes.

In the girls' doubles, China's Gao Ling and Yang Wei dominated Malaysians Chor Hooi Yee and Lim Pek Siah, winning by 15-10, 15-8.

Malaysia retaliated by scoring an upset in the boys' doubles competition.

Malaysian Chang Chong Ming and Jeremy Gan beat top favorite Zhang Yi and Cai Yun of China, 15-5, 15-3.

The competition, which opened Monday, included teams from Singapore, Iran, Macau, India, the Philippines, Vietnam, Pakistan, Cambodia, Nepal, Burma, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Syria.

Bausch and Lomb marks history

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida, Apr 13: Upsets continued to haunt top-seeded players at the Bausch and Lomb Championships, with only one of the first seven making the semifinals, reports AP.

Mary Pierce, the eleventh seed, handily defeated No 2 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain 6-2, 6-1, Friday night. Pierce said experience was the key.

"I've played Arantxa quite a few times, and the last three, maybe four times I've beaten her," Pierce said. "I think I know her game and feel I know the right way to play her."

Sanchez-Vicario said her head wasn't in the game. "Against Mary, you have to hit deep shots, and my shots were coming up short," she said. "She was returning them for winners and took control of the match. She was the better player tonight."

Two more top seeds went down to defeat in quarterfinal play Friday afternoon, when Iva Majoli surprised fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez 1-6, 6-3, 6-3. Amanda Coetzer also continued her hot play with a 6-2, 6-4 triumph over sixth-seeded Mary Jo Fernandez.

This is the first time in the history of the tournament that at least one of the top five seeded players failed to advance to the semifinals. Top-seeded Jana Novotna was defeated Thursday night.

Majoli, the eighth seed in the tournament despite her No 9 standing in the world, appeared overmatched in the opening set against Martinez. Majoli lost the first five games, winning just five points.

Majoli went on to lose the first set 1-6, then lost her serve in the first game of the second set when she had consecutive double faults. But she won a marathon game on Martinez's serve in the second and managed to stage off a comeback.

In the deciding third set, Majoli broke Martinez' four of five times en route. That put Majoli not the semifinals against Pierce.

Coetzer was in total control in her match against Fernandez. The 12th-seeded Coetzer needed just 35 minutes to sweep the first set. She battled Fernandez on even terms through eight games of the second, before holding her serve and breaking Fernandez at love in the final game.

No 6 Lindsay Davenport was even more dominating in her 58-minute 6-2, 6-2 win over unseeded German Jana Kandarr. She held service in her first two attempts of both sets, but Davenport won the last five games in each to earn the right to meet Coetzer in Saturday's semifinal.

The tournament, which runs for a week, drew 13 countries and regions, including entries from China, Japan, South Korea, DPR Korea, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, India and the host Iran.

Wrestlers of South Korea, Kazakhstan and Iran had competed in the 26th Olympic Games in Atlanta last summer.

Jubilations all over

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eral Ershad's regime seven years ago.

Fluttering the green and red national colour, small or big, riding in all kinds of vehicles in the city streets and banging anything that makes some noise, cheering crowds rejoiced shouting Viva Bangladesh.

That was the same scene all around the city and elsewhere in the country as soon as the radio commentator almost snapped his vocal cord while announcing the victory at the top of his voice. From the distant stadium of Kuala Lumpur to the slums of Dhaka, or in the remote village where a tiny transistor could relay the progress of the nail-biting finish, all supporters of the team leaped in joy.

Even a middle-aged bearded man with a long punjabi forgot his bearings as he danced and jumped at the Science Laboratory Road intersection. He was among hundreds who had been drawn like bees to a blaring loudspeaker which an enterprising shopowner had installed, relaying the Radio commentary.

This was the scene everywhere in the city yesterday. Every street corner by magic had the loudspeakers to update the people on the great battle raging in Kuala Lumpur.

Up above a high rise in central Dhaka near the National Stadium, a civil servant too lost his bearings for a few ecstatic

moments. It was the last over and the team needed eleven runs off five balls. A thunderous sound of cheers down the 18th floor of the glass-walled office signalled that there had been a mighty six. The louder cheer confirmed it. He was in the midst of an interview with two journalists. One of them stopped writing and ran to his assistants office where he was glued to the radio and confirmed the result.

Again there was another cheer, and another. But it needed no confirmation that the Tigers had floored their prey.

Out on the street few minutes later, no one had to tell anyone. As if by magic drums beat and the national colours flew, lap of honour had just begun in and around the Stadium.

Further down at Abdul Ghani Road, the policemen were keeping a weary eye on the street parties, but their heart remained hooked to the radio still detailing the great victory.

However, a few words from Captain Akram Khan, urging fans not to repeat last week's celebrations that a few ruffians had marred with imprints of their dastardly acts, lessened the policemen's burden.

Lashing words in the newspaper editorials and watchful precautionary measures by the custodians of law had its sedative effects on the city.

Viva Bangladesh. The street parties, having everything in their menu of the day, from masks to processions with horsemen and bullock carts to fairs, leaving massive traffic jams in their wake, continued noisily till late evening, heralding a new dawn for the cricketers of Bangladesh on the eve of the Bangla new year.

Sweetmeats virtually disappeared from shops and flowers and garlands were being snapped up by the evening.

Meanwhile, a number of people fainted and some others were injured during the celebration in different parts of the city yesterday.

About 10 people who fainted were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

In an incident, Anwar Hossain, 20, sustained serious cut injuries in his hand when he protested against colour spraying in Jurain area during the jubilation.

Besides, at least five people were injured when they fell from speeding trucks and motorcycles during the victory celebration at DU campus, Mirpur and Paltan areas, DMCH sources said.

Grand reception

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cricket team members today at her official residence Ganobhaban.

A special aircraft of Bangladesh Biman left Dhaka at 8:30 pm last night to bring home the golden boys of the country. The aircraft will return to the Zia International Airport at 5:30 this morning.

A 101-member 'national committee' for the reception has been formed with Awami League acting general secretary Abdul Jalil and Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya, MP as its chairman and member-secretary respectively. Besides, a 30-member committee of 'patrons' was also formed.

Arrangements have been made for an open-air concert at the civic reception where celebrated TV and Betar artists will perform.

The reception synchronises 'Pahela Baishakh', the first day of Bengalee new year today.

Meanwhile BNP has decided to accord a reception to the Bangladesh cricket team on a suitable day after their return.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will bring out a victory procession marking the glorious victory of the Bangladesh team, according to UNB.

The rally, beginning from the National Stadium at 1:30 pm, will parade the areas of Tikatuli, Sayedabad, Khilgaon, Bijoy Swarni, Mirpur Section 1, Bangla College, Asad Gate, Dhanmondi, BDR Gate, New Market, Azimur, Central Shaheed Minar, TSC, Sahbag, Kakrail, DIT Road and Shapla Chhatar and return to the National Stadium.

Now for stadium

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and embracing everyone in a spontaneous show of unity that we seem to have missed since the days of our Liberation. Finally, we had a moment of joy that transcended all divisive-ness, prejudice and acrimony.

Our victory in the ICC Trophy is actually three victories in one. The first, of course, is becoming the champion, the second is to do so without losing a single match, and the third, is to have qualified for the World Cup.

What makes all three victories so extraordinarily glorious is that we had to fight every inch of the way to gain them. With successive matches the task got more challenging and our boys got more determined. Winning yesterday's final was a feat in a class of its own. Through it, we not only became the champion but also matured into a world class team with the necessary skills, nerve, courage, determination and vision.

Above everything else, what we have won yesterday is self confidence, a belief in ourselves that we can do it. All these years we knew it but never had an irrefutable proof of it. Yesterday we got it.

In this moment of euphoria we want to point-out that our exceptional success in cricket came without the necessary logistical support that is needed to produce world champions. The first thing we need is a stadium dedicated to cricket and we call for an urgent decision of the government in this regard.

Either the main National Stadium or the one at Mirpur could serve the purpose for the moment. If the existing ones are not suitable, then we must construct one immediately. This paper — and we are sure others will join us — offers its space to participate in a nationwide fund-raising campaign for this purpose. Let us turn this winning into a permanent victory by working to raise the standard of our cricket to new heights, and thereby give a boost to all other sporting events in the country.

Flash Gordon

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fault for the miscarriage of our dream in Kenya about three years ago. Set a daunting, if not impossible, target of scoring 6.64 runs per over to win the rain-affected match against Kenya, fought with the aggression befitting the cornered Royal Bengal Tiger to beat the simba, the African lions.

Three years back in Nairobi, Bangladesh were in a similar situation against the same opponents and almost pulled off an improbable victory before being all out for 282 while chasing a mountainous total of 295 runs. That second round defeat had thrown favourites Bangladesh out of the tournament, a fact that shattered our dream of carving a place among the Test-playing nations in the 1996 World Cup.

After that debacle, Amarnath, known for his courage in handling fastest bowlers of his time, refused to return Bangladesh in a shameful gesture of cowardice. Instead, he ended his responsibility by sending a report to his appointor Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), heaping all the blame on the cricketers for the failure. Not only that, he branded the Bangl