

Andy's ton fails to stop SL

SHARJAH, Oct 22: Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu both hit half-centuries to guide Sri Lanka to a seven-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the Champions Trophy on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The two put on a match-winning 157 for the second wicket. Jayasuriya making 78 off 84 balls, including eight fours and one six, while Atapattu made 90 off 138 deliveries.

Earlier Andy Flower had marked his 150th one-day international with a career-best 120 not out from 141 deliveries to help his side to 225 for four in their 50 overs.

Sri Lanka, however, went on the offensive from the start and rattled up 121 for one in 25 overs, compared to Zimbabwe's 75 for four at their half-way stage.

When Jayasuriya, who was dropped by Mluleki Nkala on 40, eventually departed, Sri Lanka needed just 67 from 102 balls. Atapattu was run out by a throw from skipper Heath Streak.

Mahela Jayawardena and Kumar Sangakkara completed the formalities as Sri Lanka reached 229 for three with three overs to spare.

Zimbabwe's innings was built around an unbeaten fifth wicket stand of 153 in 155 balls between Flower and Dirk Viljoen.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Champions Trophy triangular series match between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka on Saturday:

ZIMBABWE: 225 for four wickets in 50 overs (Andy Flower 120 no.)

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Carlisle b P Strang 78
Gunawardene b Streak 0
Atapattu run out 90
Jayawardena not out 25
Sangakkara not out 15
Extras (lb-7, w-14) 21
Total: (For three wickets in 47 overs) 229

Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-159; 3-203

Did not bat: R Arnold, R Kaluwitharana, C Vaas, N Zoysa, K Weeraratne, M Muralitharan

Bowler O M R W
Streak 10 0 47 1
B Strang 10 1 37 0
Friend 8 0 50 0
Nkala 5 0 25 0
P Strang 4 0 26 1
Viljoen 10 0 37 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Andy Flower (Zimbabwe).

Wakeup call

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Taking advantage of NSC's 'couldn't care less' attitude, a multitude of commercial establishments have sprung up in every nook and corner.

The widespread expansion of large and small shops not only degraded the beauty of the BNS, but also created a suffocating atmosphere. Moreover, shop owners have captured the walkways. But what is disturbing is that spectators complain that the light can hardly pass through, let alone the flow of air.

Perhaps the BNS is the only internationally recognised venue, where business interest and sports live together, though not in perfect harmony.

Many feel that the renovation idea will only benefit a vested quarter rather than creating a healthy atmosphere. The NSC has already spent Taka 3.5 crore in the name of reconstruction for the last four years. But at the same time the sufferings of the spectators only mounted.

Now the question is whether the NSC will get their priorities straight - make it a proper stadium or continue to bow to the will of those profiteers?

Dravid props up

From page 13

Ganguly, who came in at number four, also fell for 18, caught down the leg-side by Andy Flower as he attempted to flick Friend.

The promising Yuvraj Singh hit 34 in a fourth-wicket stand of 54 with Dravid, including two massive sixes off left-arm spinner Grant Flower.

Robin Singh (22) was unlucky to be caught short of his ground at the non-striker's end as Dravid's straight drive was deflected on the wicket by bowler Viljoen.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the India innings in their Sharjah tri-series one-day international against Zimbabwe on Sunday:

INDIA

Dravid c G Flower b Viljoen 85
Tendulkar c A Flower b Streak 8
Kambli c Viljoen b Friend 18
Ganguly c A Flower b Friend 18
Yuvraj b Friend 34
R Singh run out 22
Dahiya c Marillier b Friend 32
Joshi b Streak 19
Agarkar not out 12
Zaheer not out 4
Extras: (lb-5, w-5, nb-3) 13
Total: (for 8 wkt) 265

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-51, 3-93, 4-147, 5-189, 6-206, 7-234, 8-252

Bowler O M R W
Streak 10 0 63 2
Strang 10 1 32 0
Friend 10 0 55 0
Mbaungwa 9 0 40 0
Viljoen 7 0 40 1
G Flower 2 0 19 0
Campbell 2 0 11 0

Fan pours water on Sino spirit



SAIDA, Lebanon, Oct 22: China star Fan Zhiyi has written off his team's chances of lifting the Asian Cup ahead of Monday's quarter-final clash with Qatar, reports AFP.

Crystal Palace defender Fan said although China should be good enough to reach the last four his team did not have the strength to earn the Asian crown.

"I think the semi-finals are as far as we will get ... it is our glass ceiling," the 31-year-old said.

"Our preparation was not good enough. I turned up here and didn't even know some of the players and did not have enough time before the tournament started to get used to their style of play."

It is difficult to get a regular gameplan together because the coach is not good at communicating," he said, in a thinly veiled criticism of China coach Bora Milutinovic.

Although the hiring of Milutinovic has so far been greeted with enthusiasm by China's football authorities and media, several senior players have queried the affable Serb's management style.

Many of the China set-up were saddened by the departure of Englishman Bobby Houghton, sacked in January this year after failing to take the Chinese to the Olympics.

Despite Fan's criticism, Milutinovic is slowly starting to talk up his team's chances after earlier stating they would be

knocked out in the quarter-finals.

The Chinese have already sampled gulf football in a 0-0 draw with Kuwait last Thursday.

"Qatar are the reverse of Kuwait as they are very good in defence but lack a cutting thrust up front," Milutinovic told AFP.

"I think though that if my forwards play like they did against Indonesia then we will have no problems," he added.

Certainly he will be bolstered by the return of playmaker Li Tie and Fan both of whom were rested for the Kuwait match.

However, mystery surrounds the participation of Fan's central defensive partner Zhang Enhua - who is set to join him in the English First Division at the exotic climes of Stockport County.

Zhang started the campaign as captain but has played just 45 minutes since the opening 2-2 draw with South Korea.

Milutinovic, a regular feature at the last four World Cup finals where he has coached Costa Rica, Nigeria, USA and Mexico, said defending against Qatar playmaker Abdulla Obaidullah's freekicks would be a priority.

The Qatari master blaster scored with a 35 yarder from way out on the left against Japan on Friday.

"We have to be prepared for this as he is their most likely source of goals," he said.

"I am consoled by the fact one of the Chinese side's strengths is their discipline and if we retain that then we won't give them any opportunities to

have a bash at our goal."

"However, I may start to become like Philippe Troussier (Japan's coach) as the game progresses and go weak at the knees if they are awarded one 60 yards out!" he added.

The Qatari have suffered a lot up front with their star striker Mohammed Salem Al Enazi sitting it out on the bench because he was not match fit. Al Enazi has made just three appearances as a substitute for his Turkish side this year.

"The Qatari have suffered a lot up front with their star striker Mohammed Salem Al Enazi sitting it out on the bench because he was not match fit because he was not match fit," Milutinovic said.

"However, I was pleased with the way we played against Japan as we managed to hide our greatest weakness which is pace at the back but that meant we couldn't man mark we had to double up sometimes and that obviously leaves gaps," he added.

Hadzibegic, who in his first spell in Qatar revived their ailing 1998 World Cup campaign to such an extent they missed out on qualifying only in the last match, believes that a similar workmanlike performance will do the trick against the Chinese.

"China are a good side but they are not on the same level as Japan," he said.

Not encouraging news for the Chinese as if they prevail over the Qatari they will probably face Japan in the semi-finals - and beat out Fan's glass ceiling theory.

Kasparov, 35, has been the undisputed world chess number one since 1985, but has not been able to catch up with his rival since game two.

The series at London's Riverside Studios has a prize fund of two million dollars (2.4 million euros), of which two-thirds goes to the winner.

Kasparov will play with the white pieces in the ninth game Sunday.

The Brain Games World

Championships is separate from that run by the rival International Chess Federation (FIDE).

Kasparov fell out with FIDE in 1993 and set up his own body.

Kramnik still leads

LONDON, Oct 22: World chess number one Garry Kasparov and his young challenger Vladimir Kramnik settled for a draw Saturday in the eighth game of their Brain Games World Chess Championship here, reports AFP.

The game ended after 38 moves and three hours of play, leaving Kramnik in an overall lead in the 16-match series by 4.5 to 3.5.

Kramnik won game two, inflicting Kasparov's first defeat in a classic game since January 1999, and the other seven have been drawn.

However, the challenger admitted after the latest match that he suffered. "Yes, that is the kind of game I want to forget about," he said.

"I felt disappointed after the opening, and then I made a couple of weak moves. But anyway, I never felt in a losing position."

"I didn't see how Kasparov could win."

A relaxed Kasparov agreed with his opponent.

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