

Rains ruin both ODIs

Reuters, Kingston

Heavy rain forced the second one-day international of a five-match series between India and West Indies to be abandoned without a ball being bowled, a day after the first one was washed out.

Match referee Mike Proctor made a visit to Sabina Park early in the morning to look at the condition of the ground and decided to call off the game because of huge puddles on the outfield.

"There is just too much rain," Proctor told Reuters. "We have called off the match because there is no way we'll be able to play on that ground even if the rain stops now."

It rained all through Saturday night and Sunday morning in Kingston.

"It's really sad for all involved, for the fans and the players. We don't even have a chance to make up for this loss because of the tight schedule. It's effectively a three-match series now," Proctor said.

The next match is scheduled for Barbados on Wednesday with India looking to salvage some pride after going down 2-1 in the Test series, which finished last week.

India were expected to leave out Vangipurappu Laxman for the Jamaica one-dayers, despite his 474 runs in the Test series, and ask Rahul Dravid to keep wickets as they went for a young side packed with one-day specialists.

West Indies had shortlisted 12 players, leaving out all-rounder Gareth Breese.

The series will end with back-to-back matches in Port of Spain, Trinidad on June 1 and 2.

Foster to help Perera rectify

Internet, undated

Sri Lanka are looking to Daryl Foster to help paceman Ruchira Perera erase the flaws from his action.

Bowling 'guru' Foster arrives back in London on Monday to assist the Lankan after making a trip home to Australia for family reasons.

And his main priority will be to work with left-arm Perera, who was reported to the International Cricket Council by the umpires following the first Test against England at Lord's.

"Physically he needs to get the idea of being smooth and fluid."

"It's in the umpires' report that the problem occurs when he strives for extra pace," said Sri Lankan coach D. Whatmore.

"He has enough natural pace as it is, and we're already working on it indoors."

Perera took five wickets at Lord's but his action was questioned by both TV and radio commentators.

The Sri Lankan camp say he is unaffected by the controversy and it looks increasingly likely that he will play in the second Test at Edgbaston with Sri Lanka's support seamer short of match practice after two days of their game with Glamorgan were washed out.

"He's alright. He is still bubbly and bouncy. It must play a little bit on his mind, but he doesn't read too many papers," Whatmore added.

The ICC has a three-stage process for bowlers reported in international cricket.

Perera is now at stage one, which means that he can continue to play while working with a specialist advisor appointed his own national board.

He will only be banned from bowling if he is reported twice more within the next 12 months.

Perera is the fourth Sri Lankan to have his bowling action investigated in the last six years.

Muttiah Muralitharan was no-balled in Australia in 1996 and two years later left-arm Kumar Dharmasena was reported but both were cleared.

It was the international furor that surrounded Muralitharan, and Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar, that led the ICC to alter its rules governing the reporting process.

Daddy Hollioake

AFP, London

England cricketer Adam Hollioake's daughter Bennaya was born in Perth, Australia, on Saturday.

Surrey captain Hollioake has not played for his county this season following the death of his brother, teammate and England all-rounder Ben in a car accident in March.

Following the accident in Western Australia, where the Hollioake brothers were spending time with their family, it was announced Adam would not start the new English season and would instead stay in Perth.

Bennaya -- named in memory of Ben and his girlfriend Janaya who was seriously injured in the accident -- was born on Saturday morning, weighing 7lb 10oz.

Wife Sherryn and daughter are reportedly doing well, and the trio are expected to return to Britain in a week or so.

What to watch

FROM PAGE 13

Soccer World Cup Heroes

Pele

Repeat at 3:00 pm

Sportline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 10:30 pm



PHOTO: STAR
Goal-mouth action during the Bangladesh Railway-Usha Krira Chakra encounter of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Green Delta hockey MSC whack Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club whacked Wari Club by 4-0 in their return leg clash of the Green Delta Premier Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium on Sunday.

The winners led the first half 2-0. Ace forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal netted twice in the 9th and 39th minutes while Shamsuddin Tuhi and Pakistani Mohammad Shafqat added one each in the 17th and 69th minutes respectively to help the black and whites register their tenth win in eleven matches. Mohammedan are leading the ten-team league with highest 31 points. On the other hand, it was the sixth defeat for Wari in 11 matches that threw them glued to their previous collection of nine points.

In the day's other match,

Bangladesh Sporting Club blanked Ajax Sporting Club 5-0.

Meanwhile, Abahani returned to the second position yesterday with a 5-0 drubbing of Farashganj Sporting Club.

Indian Ronald Kiran, Shamim Reza, Russelluddin, Ramij and Shishu scored one goal each for the winners, who led the first session 3-0.

Abahani have now 27 points from 11 matches. Farashganj meanwhile tasted their eleventh defeat in as many matches.

Usha Krira Chakra registered a 5-2 win in the other match against Dhaka Railway.

Habul struck thrice while Indian Brojen Singh stabbed in the other two for the winners. Sudhir and Navbeer Singh of India reduced the margin for Railway.

Age-gr cricket Khulna lift U-17 title

UNB, Dhaka

Khulna Division became champions in the Under-17 Age Group development tournament beating Dhaka Metro Blues by four wickets in the final at Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka Metro Blues scored 139 runs all out in 43.5 overs after deciding to bat first.

Arafat Ali made 32, Alim 24 and highest 37 runs came from extras.

Raqibul Islam picked up three wickets for 22 and Faizul Islam three for 31 runs.

Khulna Division reached the target of 140 runs losing six wickets in 39 overs.

Rakib Ahmed scored highest 38 runs and Manikul Islam 36.

Sunny took two wickets conceding 27 runs and Maruf Ali one for 16 runs.

Malaysia cricket BD A emerge champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A emerged unbeaten champions in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge with a thumping seven-wicket victory over USA in the final held at the Royal Selangor Club ground in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

Alok Kapali hammered a timely half-century as Bangladesh A, chasing a paltry 127 in 38 overs, reached 131 for the loss of three wickets and with four overs to spare. The match was curtailed because of soggy ground caused by overnight rain.

USA, electing to bat first, were caught in the spin maze of Sabir Khan and Mohammad Rafique. Sabir took three wickets for 12 runs and Rafique two for 21 as the USA could muster only 127 losing eight wickets. Both the tweakers bowled eight overs each.

Kapali was adjudged player for his 70-ball 57. The right-handed Sylhet all-rounder hit five boundaries to help Bangladesh beat USA for the third successive meeting in the three-nation meet which also involved hosts Malaysia.

Kapali apart, opener Hannan Sarkar scored a run-a-ball 42 with nine fours.

The Aminul Islam-led Bangladesh side were scheduled to return home last night.

Viv chief WI selector

REUTERS/INTERNET, Kingston

Former captain Vivian Richards has been appointed as the new chairman of the West Indies selection committee.

The 50-year-old from Antigua replaced former Test wicketkeeper Mike Findlay and was given the post for a two-year period, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) announced.

Former West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge also joined the three-member panel, in place of former fast bowler Joel Garner. The third member of the committee, Joey Carew, was given another term.

Richards, who scored a West Indian record of 8,540 runs in 121 Tests, was named as one of the five cricketers of the last century after an exhaustive review, he said.

"The ICC has a rigid and comprehensive process in place to continually assess the legality of bowling actions and the ACB supports this process."

Muralitharan, 30, has come under the watchful eye of the ICC several times but is clear to play international cricket.

Sidelined recently with a dislocation and torn ligaments in his left shoulder, he is hoping to play in the second Test against England starting at Edgbaston on Thursday.

He had been having treatment in Australia before flying to England a week ago.

Muralitharan has taken 412 wickets in 73 Tests at an average of 23.38. He has taken five wickets in an innings 33 times and has had 10-wicket hauls in a match ten times.

Muralitharan said during his recent Australian visit he was aiming for 600 Test wickets, but did not believe his career would last long enough to take 1,000 scalps.

He recently became the youngest player ever to reach 400 Test wickets.

Key factors contributing to decreased revenues were commitments to the ICC's ten year tour plan and unfavourable fee structure, losses from home tournaments, television production cost of the South Africa series that could not be offset by the sale of rights and losses on investments in the stock markets.

He said the board had obtained a bank loan in order to finance the medium-term cash flow and that strengthening the finances of the board was a priority matter.

Both tours have been thrown into doubt by the mounting fear of war between the nuclear-capable rivals, as well as a suicide bomb blast in Karachi on May 8 that killed 14 people including 11 French nationals.

The blast was detonated outside a hotel where the Pakistan and New Zealand teams were staying, forcing the New Zealanders to cut short their tour and return home.

The United States and Britain have recalled all non-essential diplomatic staff in Pakistan and cautioned their citizens living and working there to observe stringent safety measures.

The Australian Cricket Board has raised concern over the two tours to Pakistan and laid a proposal to play at neutral venues like Sharjah or Morocco.

Meanwhile, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) is to renew pressure on India to restore cricketing links with Pakistan.

The issue will be the main topic for discussion when the Asian Cricket Federation (ACF), the Council's financial wing, meets in London on 25 June and again at the main ACC meeting five days later.

"Top of the agenda in all these meetings will be the revival of cricket between Pakistan and India," said ACC secretary Zakir Hussain Syed.

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