

Cricketers do indoors

SPORTS REPORTER

The limited-overs practice match of the national team against A selection was rained out at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh, who are scheduled to fly off to Colombo on July 10 for their maiden Test tour of Sri Lanka, had to go all the way from Dhaka to BKSP at Savar for indoor training under their new Pakistani coach Mohsin Kamal. The cricketers, who have been staying at the Sheraton Hotel since June 29 for reasons best known to the Board, later had gym work at the hotel.

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud hoped to play at least another practice match before catching the Colombo flight.

"Rain mostly prevented us from having outdoor practice. Most of our practices were restricted to indoors," said the skipper to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

He however felt that it would not pose any big problem. "We all had been in the game since the first week of May. So I think, everybody is now fit enough for the tour."

"What I really expected was to play as many practice matches as possible and that did not happen," said Mashud, adding that they would check out from the hotel on July 6.

The plan to keep the players at the Sheraton Hotel for more than a week surprised many players, organisers and observers.

Everyone is searching for reasons as to why the players have been kept in the capital when all the cricketing facilities are at the BKSP in Savar.

"I don't find any good reason why they are here. And what good a training in the Sheraton Hotel would do to their performance in Sri Lanka," said a senior cricket organiser preferring anonymity.

One former national cricketer

meanwhile said that it never happened in his playing days. "This is only waste of money. Because they are otherwise going back to BKSP whenever there is any rain. The best possible training facilities that one can get in the country are only available at BKSP. I don't know what we are trying to achieve by staying at a posh hotel."

A few players also privately termed the programme worthless.

Bangladesh would play two three-day practice matches against Sri Lanka A and NCC before the first Test at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on July 21.

The second Test would commence at the Sinhalese Sports Club on July 28.

The first and second ODIs are also scheduled to be held at the same venue on August 4 and 5. The last limited-overs match would be played at the Premadassa Stadium on August 7.

FIFA rankings Brazil atop the world again

INTERNET, undated

Five-time World Champions Brazil reclaim their place at the head of the table, making them the top achievers in the latest edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking. As usual in the wake of the World Cup, not a stone is left unturned as teams that caused a stir in Korea and Japan reap the rewards in terms of points and ranking.

After surrendering their first-place position to France earlier in the year, the Seleção are once again number one in world football. Seven consecutive wins, and early exits by France and Argentina, whittled away the favourite three to leave one dazzling leader who can settle back on football's throne for another while.

Finalists Germany (5, up 6), second in the World Cup, conceded their chances of promotion to number two in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Rankings when they were defeated in the final, but they are nonetheless back in the Top Ten. Compared with the last edition, England (8, up 4) gain considerable ground, while Colombia (9, down 5) and Italy (10, down 4) both slide down several places.

Turkey's unexpected run of victory catapults them to new heady heights (12, up 10) from which they can set their sights on the Top Ten. Meanwhile the compelling national squad from Korea Republic are this month's Best Mover (22, up 18) as well as Asia's top team for the second time since the end of 1998. Senegal's surprise performances have given them an astounding 11-place boost up the table, making them currently the third best African team in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking, behind the well-established powers of Cameroon and Nigeria.

The next FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking will be published on 14 August 2002.

Latest FIFA top 20 world rankings on Wednesday (May's position in brackets):

Country	Pts
1. (2-) Brazil	852
2. (2-) Argentina	784
2. (1) France	784
4. (8) Spain	774
5. (11) Germany	765
6. (7) Mexico	739
7. (5) Portugal	731
8. (12) England	728
9. (4) Colombia	725
10. (6) Italy	720
11. (13) United States	712
12. (22) Turkey	707
13. (20) Denmark	704
14. (15-) Ireland	699
15. (9) Netherlands	697
16. (10) Yugoslavia	689
17. (17) Cameroon	680
18. (18) Paraguay	679
19. (23) Belgium	678
20. (19) Sweden	674



Did U Know?

Brothers have been part of the same World Cup squad several times. But Victor and Vyacheslav Chanchov are unique. They were in the 1982 Soviet Union squad, both as goalkeepers! None of them played a match though, as the great Rinat Dassaev was first choice.



Oliver Kahn

(Germany football captain) "It's really frustrating when you make your one mistake of the whole tournament and you get punished like that."

After spilling Rivaldo's shot for Ronaldo to score.



What to WATCH

ESPN
Sportscenter Hindi
Sports News
Live at 6:00 pm
England vs India
Fifth ODI, NatWest Series
Live at 7:30 pm

STAR Sports
Wimbledon Championships
Men's Singles Qtrs
Repeat at 9:30 am
Asia Sports Show
International Sports News
Repeat at 5:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
Wimbledon Championships
Women's Singles Semis
Same day delayed at 8:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 174

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm July 5, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who scored the first goal of the World Cup 2002?
Bouba Diop | Zidane | Klose
- Who is Brazil captain?
Cafu | Rivaldo
- Pakistan won the last ODI against Australia by
91 runs
- 9 wks 17 runs
- Who will lead Bangladesh in the two-Test series against Sri Lanka?
K Mashud | A Khan | Al Islam
- Who won the French Open title?
Name:
Class: Roll No.
School Address:
Phone: (If any)

Toldo lets out steam

INTERNET, Milan

Two weeks after the return of the Italian squad after their disappointing performance at the World Cup, Inter goalkeeper Francesco Toldo decided to speak his mind.

Toldo spoke about a tournament lost against a "team of gnomes" (South Korea) and that he wasn't happy at all, due to the fact that coach Trapattoni didn't maintain his promises about Toldo's presence in the starting line-ups.

Sanath ton goes awry

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya's dashing hundred could not prevent his side going down to a third triangular series defeat in three games, against England, here at Headingley on Tuesday. Opener Jayasuriya's 112, the left-hander's 12th one-day century, was the cornerstone of Sri Lanka's 240 for seven in a match reduced to 32 overs per side by rain.

But a Lankan bowling attack, without injured off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan and minus seamer Buddhika Fernando after the decision to call-up batsman Avishka Gunawardene, did not have enough firepower to contain England.

Marcus Trescothick top-scored with 82 before Paul Collingwood (38) and Alec Stewart 38 not out saw their side to within four runs of victory.

That left Darren Gough (three not out), playing his first senior match after sustaining a knee injury in the final match of England's one-day series against New Zealand, to hit the winning runs with four balls to spare.

A dejected Jayasuriya said: "I think we got a good start but it is disappointing, and we had the best opportunities to win this match."

"We didn't bowl well at all. We've put in a lot of hard work coming to this competition and we mustn't let it go."

Meanwhile England skipper Nasser Hussain admitted: "It's getting hard work captaining these one-dayers and it's nice having Goughy back out there with his experience - even just talking to me and some of the bowlers - it was very helpful having him out there."

"I think if we are honest we were poor this afternoon and he (Jayasuriya) played brilliantly. And obviously Trescothick is going to his own levels."

"Today was one of the weaker batting line-ups, but with Alec Stewart coming in at eight you always have a chance."

Earlier England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff defied Jayasuriya's onslaught to finish with impressive figures of two for 18 from his seven overs.

England's second victory left them level on points with India but they have played three games to the Indians' two.

England looked comfortably on course for victory while left-handed

POINTS TABLE

Triangular series table after Tuesday's match between England and Sri Lanka (played, won, lost, tied, no result, points):

India	2	2	0	0	8
England	3	2	1	0	8
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	0	0

opener Trescothick was at the crease.

But on 82 he chipped left-arm

spinner Jayasuriya to Chaminda

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PHOTO: AFP
Sri Lanka's Avishka Gunawardene (on the ground) makes an abortive attempt to gain his ground during the fourth NatWest tri-series one-day international at Headingley on July 2.

Ehsan next ICC boss

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

A Pakistani financial czar, whose business acumen helped fill the coffers of the International Cricket Council (ICC), was on Wednesday picked to head the sport's world governing body.

Ehsan Mani, a London-based chartered accountant, will take over as ICC president from Malcolm Gray of Australia next June for a two-year term, an ICC release said.

In the run-up to the presidency, Mani will serve as ICC's vice president for a year during which the limited-overs World Cup will be held in South Africa in February-March, 2003.

"I was honoured on behalf of Pakistan cricket to be nominated for this prestigious position and delighted to be formally installed as Malcolm Gray's successor at last week's annual conference," Mani said in a statement.

"I already enjoy a close working relationship with Malcolm, fellow directors and Chief Executive Officer Malcolm Speed and look forward to the next 12 months and the build-up to my own term in office."



EHSAN MANI

Mani, who has represented Pakistan in the ICC since 1989, was also a member of the organising

committee for the 1996 World Cup in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka and has served on the Asian Cricket Council.

His financial expertise was used to good effect when playing a major role in the sale of ICC media rights in 2000 - negotiations which achieved a guaranteed income of 550 million dollars for international cricket till 2007.

Mani's appointment comes at a time when Pakistani cricket is facing a crisis over a succession of cancelled tours due to security reasons.

While India and the West Indies have declined to tour Pakistan in the last one year, Australia's tour later this year hangs in the balance.

With the Australians almost certain to cancel the tour, the Pakistan Cricket Board is negotiating with neutral venues like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to host the three-Test series in October.

Mani will be the second person from Asia after Jagmohan Dalmiya of India to head cricket's governing body. Dalmiya's three-year term ended last year.



PHOTO: AFP
New Zealand wicketkeeper Robbie Hart (C) and West Indies players leave the field after it started to rain on the fifth and final day of the second Test at Grenada on July 2.

Styris stars Kiwi success

Cricket

AFP, St George's

New Zealand recorded an historic away series victory over the West Indies here Tuesday after drawing the second Test at Queen's Park.

The Kiwis held out for a draw in the second and final Test to win the two-match series 1-0, thanks to rain showers and a match-saving 99 run partnership between Test debutant Scott Styris and wicket-keeper Robbie Hart.

New Zealand were 256 for five in their second innings when rain brought play to a close on the fifth and final day to seal the series win on the back of their equally historic 204 run triumph in the first Test in Barbados last week.

Styris followed up his first innings century with a crucial

innings of 69 not out, coming in when New Zealand had thrown away three wickets in the first hour of play on Tuesday.

The players were on and off the field several times as the West Indies tried desperately to get the last five New Zealand wickets and have a go at winning the match and levelling the series.

The final day was frustrating for host captain Carl Hooper, whose spinners snatched New Zealand's top five wickets on Monday evening and Tuesday morning, when all hope seemed lost.

West Indies replied to New Zealand's first innings total of 373 - mainly thanks to Styris's 107 - with 470, opener Chris Gayle scoring a mammoth 204.

Hooper, under fire for electing to field on what has turned out to be a low and slow wicket even by Caribbean standards, had been

hoping for a first innings lead of at least 150 but had to settle for 97.

On Monday, New Zealand opens Lou Vincent and Mark Richardson put on 117 for the first wicket before the West Indies spinners prised their way back into the match with two late wickets, those of Vincent for 54 and captain Stephen Fleming for just five.

Resuming on 139 for two, a lead of just 42, panic set in for the first hour as three wickets fell quickly, leaving New Zealand effectively on 60 for five.

Ironically, the most comfortable-looking batsman, Richardson, was the first to depart, caught behind by Ridley Jacobs off the bowling of leg spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo for 71 to follow up on his first innings 95.

Nathan Astle followed without adding to the score, playing a limp

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Double drama at Wimbledon

Tennis

AFP, London

Double women's champion Venus Williams took another step towards a third successive Wimbledon crown on Tuesday while miracle man Mark Philippoussis and Richard Krajicek slugged out an epic fourth round match which was left uncompleted when torrential rain washed out play.

Venus, world number one and top seed, needed just 47 minutes to devour Elena Likhovtseva of Russia 6-2, 6-0, the latest helpless sacrifice served up on the Williams altar, to reach the semifinals.

There she will face sixth seeded Justine Henin who she beat in the final last year.

But it was the two men's fourth round matches which created the drama and tension on a day where play on the show courts was delayed by an hour because of rain and then lost almost an hour-and-a-half through more showers during the rest of the afternoon.

First Xavier Malisse of Belgium crushed the Wimbledon dream of Britain's Greg Rusedski with a 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 win in a match held over from Monday.

The two men returned on Tuesday for what was effectively a one set shoot-out and it was the pony-tailed 21-year-old who held his nerve to win the only break of serve in the seventh game of that final set and book his place in his first ever quarterfinal - the first Belgian man to do so here since Jean Washer in 1924.

"I played really well in the fourth set. It was getting colder so I could handle his serve a lot better," said Malisse who had never got beyond the second round in previous visits.

"I wasn't expecting to reach the quarterfinals but I feel comfortable on grass and every match is getting better and better."

The 28-year-old Rusedski, with a serve-and-volley game which should be ideally suited to the grass, vowed to return next year and improve on a record which shows just one quarterfinal slot, in 1997, in ten appearances here.

"It's very disappointing because this was a great opportunity. I thought I played the better tennis, but I just didn't win the important points."

Malisse is still waiting to learn the identity of his next opponent.

Philippoussis and Krajicek were locked in a titanic duel on Court One which stood at 7-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-7 when the rain washed out any hope of a result after the players had been on court for three hours and 33 minutes.

The match, which had originally been scheduled to start on Monday, will now be completed on Wednesday with both men trying to defy the odds by reaching the last eight.

Philippoussis, three-times a quarterfinalist here, has seen his career ravaged by three knee operations and needed a wild-card to play this year while Krajicek, the champion in 1996, only returned to the tour two weeks ago after 18 months out of action because of a right elbow injury.

He got into the main draw court

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WC hope for Waughs

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Sydney

Australia's Test captain Steve Waugh and his twin brother Mark could force their way into the coun-

try's one-day team for next year's World Cup in South Africa, selector Allan Border has said.

The Waughs were dropped from the limited-overs side at the end of last season but have vowed to fight their way back.

"If they're playing for New South Wales next year they're in our thoughts, that's all I can say on it," Border told reporters.

"Whoever's playing first-class cricket, they're in the hunt. They're very determined blokes aren't they, so anything can happen".

Border said he was not overly worried about the Waugh twins, who recently turned 37, ending their Test careers together and leaving a hole in the Australian team.

"If you just keep putting yourself up for selection, as long as your form holds, there won't be a problem. But the time will come, won't it, that happens to all of us."

"To me, if you keep yourself in good nick, age is not the problem. Stephen keeps saying that, as does Mark."

Border also said he was confident about Australia's prospects for the World Cup, which starts in South Africa next February.

He was particularly pleased with Ricky Ponting's one-day captaincy. "We've got world-class players all over the place and we've got a host of younger guys coming through the ranks," he said.

"I suppose we might live or die about how those young players

come through this next season ... it will be interesting to see who comes out of the pack."

He challenged the aspirants to help end the search for a world-class all-rounder.

Border said the start of the new season in October was a crucial time for Australia to unearth a genuine all-rounder ahead of the 2003 World Cup.

"We've been trying to get that role filled," Border said. "We've got good candidates in there but they haven't quite grabbed the position and said, 'look, this is mine'."

"Whoever sticks their hand up over the next 12 months or leading into the World Cup, that will be a key position for us."

New South Wales all-rounder Shane Lee has not played a one-day international since April, 2001, during Australia's tour of India.

Meanwhile, young Tasmanian Shane Watson is Australia's latest experiment in the position after selectors overlooked Andrew Symonds and Ian Harvey for the recent one-day series against Pakistan.

But 21-year-old Watson, who has a mediocre economy rate of 5.49 runs per over from his first seven one-day internationals, has yet to make the successful transition.

"It's what we really need and if we get that position filled well, we're going to be very hard to beat in that World Cup."

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PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN
LET'S GET IN SHAPE: With a grueling international and domestic season ahead, the cricketers called up for the training camp of Bangladesh national squad's coming tour of Sri Lanka have decided to make the best use of gymnasium facilities at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. (L-R) Captain Khaled Mashud, leading batsman Habibul Bashar, opener Ehsanul Haque, spinner Alok Kapali and paceman Tarek Aziz Khan are seen working at their fitness yesterday.