

Depression on the wane

Skippers promise strong show

Cricket

HASAN MASOOD, from Chittagong

The low in the Bay of Bengal dies down gradually to promise a perfect launching of West Indies' maiden series against Bangladesh.

The Caribbeans, who received a rainy reception when they arrived in the port city on Tuesday to play in the first of the three-match one-day series, were very happy at the prospect of uninterrupted action as sun finally sneaked out of the ominous clouds yesterday.

Considering the two Tests and three one-day internationals here as the last part for their build-up to the next year's World Cup in South Africa, stand-in West Indies captain Ridley Jacobs and coach Roger Harper were determined to make the most of the series.

Jacobs, leading West Indies in a series for the first time in absence of injured Carl Hooper, said to the media that his mission was to make sure West Indies perform consistently well.

"I am proud to be the West Indies captain. I want to carry on from where Carl had left off in India. But it will all depend on how much support you get from your teammates," said the soft-spoken wicketkeeper.

"This is our last complete series before the World Cup and we want to use this as much as possible. I don't consider Bangladesh as a weaker side. They have some talented players. So, we are going to take them as seriously as we took other teams in the world," said Jacobs, whose team face Bangladesh in the opening match at the MA Aziz Stadium on Friday.

Roger Harper said that they had been grooming a lot of youngsters over the last few years and finally they started to reap benefits during the tour of India.

"You can compare our success

with the bamboo plant theory in Malaysia. You keep giving water to bamboo plants for the first three years and they grow slowly. But all of a sudden you will find them much higher in the fourth year. That is exactly how we grew up this team," said the former West Indies off-spinner.

"There is no question of taking Bangladesh lightly because we have come here with a specific mission and that is to maintain our good form. So, we will do everything possible to keep up the present team spirit," he said.

"We know most of your players. Personally, I was keenly watching

their performance in South Africa. I must say they played good cricket there. Playing good innings against the quality bowling attack of South Africa is not an easy task," commented Harper on the Bangladesh team.

On the other hand, home team captain Khaled Mashud said his team has improved a lot over the past few months. Specially, the South Africa tour has helped his side raise their confidence.

Now it was time to show collectively what they have learnt so far.

"I don't want to say much. You will see on the field how far we have gone. What I can tell you is that there is a definite change in the attitude of the players," said Mashud.

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Al Shahrir (R) helps Naimur Rahman stretch during a practice session at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. Bangladesh take on West Indies in the first one-day international here tomorrow.

PHOTO: STAR

Rahman gives SAFF hopes

SPORTS REPORTER

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman said that he would extend his total support to make the forthcoming South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship a grand success.

The SAFF tournament is scheduled to begin in Dhaka from January 10.

Rahman, who is also the chairman of the organising committee, assured that the renovation work of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, the venue for the regional football carnival, would start soon.

The 50,000-capacity stadium in Mirpur is presently not in a good shape to hold international matches. The condition of the ground and the players' dressing room has left a lot to be desired.

Besides, some officials of the sponsors Asian Marketing Limited, who visited the venue a few months ago, complained about poor floodlights.

"The sports minister has promised to install new bulbs in all six floodlight pools before the tournament starts," said president of Bangladesh Football Federation SA Sultan after a meeting at the Sports Ministry on Wednesday.

Lal Bahadur hockey BD take on CRP today

UNB, Dhaka

Touring Bangladesh national hockey team take on Central Reserve Police of India in their first match of Lal Bahadur Shastri tournament at the Shibajee Stadium in New Delhi today.

The tourists will play their second match against Oil and Natural Gas Company on Friday (Nov 29) at 3 pm and the third match against Air India on Sunday (December 1).

Bangladesh, the lone foreign side, have been placed in Group B.

Mithu goes unbeaten

SPORTS REPORTER

Giasuddin Mithu extended his all time record in the Metropolitan Chess Tournament to the eighth match at the Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.

Mithu defeated Masud in the penultimate round of the meet to raise his tally to eight points, one clear from second-placed Uten.

Kajal Mahmud, Kazi Taherul Islam and Zahid Chowdhury jointly shared the third position, both having collected six and a half point each.

The final round will start at the same venue today.

Muralitharan out until New Year

AFP, Melbourne

Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan will miss the first half of this summer's triangular one-day cricket series, according to medical officials.

Muralitharan underwent a hernia operation here on Tuesday and will be out of action until the New Year, ruling him out of Sri Lankans' first four one-day matches of the series against Australia and England.

But the 30-year-old is expected to be available for the series' second leg, starting on January 7, and the finals should Sri Lanka progress.

Melbourne surgeon Peter Nottle, who operated on the bowler, said most hernia patients took between

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West Indies (L-R) Ridley Jacobs, Daren Ganga, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Chris Gayle warm up before practice at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Rampant Elahi, Youhana

Cricket

REUTERS, Harare

Yousuf Youhana and Salim Elahi both scored centuries as Pakistan racked up an imposing 323 for three in the third one day international against Zimbabwe in Harare on Wednesday.

Pakistan had also made 302 for four and 344 for five in the first two matches of the series in Bulawayo.

Youhana, with scores of 141 not

out and 76 not out from the previous two matches, ended on 100 not out, bringing up his century off the last ball of the innings. He has now scored 317 runs without being dismissed in the series.

He faced just 68 balls, smashing eight fours and two sixes. He also shared in an unbroken fourth wicket stand of 77 off 45 balls with Kamran Akmal who was 24 not out.

Earlier Elahi, who scored 53 and 107 in Bulawayo, improved his career best score to 108, his third limited overs century. He faced 119

balls and hit 10 fours.

Taufeeq Umar and Elahi provided Pakistan with a solid opening stand of 154 that endured until the 30th over, before Umar pulled a delivery from slow left arm bowler Grant Flower to deep square leg for Mark Vermeulen to take a spectacular diving catch. The left handed opener scored his 68 off 91 balls with five fours.

The stand should have been broken two overs earlier when Salim Elahi, on 56 with the total 132, drove

Series Pakistan's

REUTERS, Harare

Centuries by Salim Elahi and Yousuf Youhana steered Pakistan to a series win in the third one-day international against Zimbabwe here on Wednesday.

Pakistan scored 323 for three off their 50 overs before restricting Zimbabwe to 275 for seven to win by 48 runs and claim the five-match series after victories in the first two matches.



Saleem Elahi of Pakistan raises his bat after reaching the hundred against Zimbabwe in the third one-day international in Harare yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

upishly at a delivery from medium pacer Gary Brent.

But Muleki Nkala badly mis-judged the flight of the ball at mid off and then spilled what should have been a simple catch.

Elahi was eventually run out when Sean Ervine had a direct hit from the fine leg boundary in the 43rd over as he attempted to complete a second run.

Two balls later Shahid Afridi was caught at deep mid wicket by Nkala off the bowling of Brent for a duck.

Youhana scored his century when he pulled the last ball of the innings, a gentle full toss from Brent, high into the stands beyond the mid wicket-boundary.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings against Zimbabwe in the third one-day international at the Harare Sports Club on Wednesday:
PAKISTAN
Umar c Vermeulen b G Flower 6 8

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Rashid bids Test bye?

INTERNET, undated

Experienced wicketkeeper and former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket. He, however, hopes that he can still command a place in the one-day side.

When contacted, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) could not confirm Latif's retirement from the longer version of the game.



RASHID LATIF

However, Latif personally notified certain members of the media of his decision by email.

Suffering from a neck injury recently, Latif has been in Johannesburg receiving treatment and physiotherapy. Having recovered sufficiently, Latif was given a clean bill of health by the doctors at

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Did U Know?

Venue for the 1970 World Cup's opening match was the Azteca Stadium in Mexico. This match between Mexico and the Soviet Union marked the start of a new era, as substitutions, yellow and red cards were used for the first time in the competition's history.



What to WATCH

ESPN
South Africa vs Sri Lanka
First ODI, Highlights
Same Day Delay at 7:30 am
Cricket Programming
Super selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Southampton vs Arsenal
Taped Version at 12:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Live at 7:30 pm
Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
South Africa vs Sri Lanka
First ODI, Highlights
Same Day Delay at 8:30 pm
Football Mundial
Taped Version at 11:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 11:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Malcolm Speed
(ICC chief executive)
"Although the trial taught us a lot, too many questions remain unanswered for it to be used at other events this time."
About ICC's decision on not to use TV technology during the World Cup.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.
Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 13, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards.

- Who clinched the DC Gold Cup soccer title?
Tangail M'singh N'ganj
- Who lifted the Shanghai Tennis Masters Cup?
Agassi Ferrero Hewitt
- Who was the man-of-the-match in the 6th ODI between India and West Indies?
Dravid Gayle Agarkar
- Pakistan won the Test series against Zimbabwe by?
1-0 2-1 2-0
- Brazil won the friendly match against South Korea by?

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Shaheed Murad Smriti Sangsad defeated Shafigue Smriti Sangsad 4-2 in the Econo First-Division Football League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Karal netted twice, Alamgir and Sabur scored one goal each for the winners while Tayeb and Muktar reduced the margin for the losers.

Islampurpara Sporting Club take on New Star Club today at the same venue.

Proteas too pacy

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Sri Lanka struggled to a total of 128 after their top order batting was wrecked by South African opening bowlers Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini in the first one-day international at the Wanderers Stadium Wednesday.

Pollock and Ntini reduced Sri Lanka to 30 for five on a lively pitch before Mahela Jayawardene (31) and Russel Arnold (28) put on 65 for the sixth wicket.

Pollock took four for 18 and Ntini had figures of three for 22.

Sri Lanka made a disastrous start, losing their first three wickets for 10 runs inside six overs, after Pollock sent them in on a pitch which offered both bounce and movement off the seam.

Marvan Atapattu was caught behind off the inside edge when a ball from Ntini cut back sharply and Jehan Mubarak, making his one-day international debut, was beaten for pace and trapped leg before by Pollock as he went back on his stumps.

Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya tried to break the strangehold, hammering Ntini through the covers for four, but in the same over he top-edged a square cut and was caught on the third man boundary by Boeta Dippenaar.

Kumar Sangakkara and Aravinda de Silva staged a brief recovery before both fell to Pollock. Sangakkara pushed an easy catch to Justin Ontong at cover, while the veteran De Silva, probably Sri Lanka's best player of fast bowling, was caught off behind off an inside edge for 12. He was the only batsman in the top five to reach double figures.

Jayawardene and Arnold shared a Sri Lankan sixth wicket record against South Africa, as the pitch became easier to bat on and Pollock rested himself and Ntini.

The return of Ntini in the 32nd over brought immediate success as Arnold was caught off a leading edge at mid-off from the fast bowler's first delivery of the new spell.

Jonty Rhodes, South Africa's star middle order batsman and fielder, failed a fitness test on an injured hamstring and did not play. Lance Klusener, man of the tournament in the 1999 World Cup, was not included in the starting line-up despite being in the squad.

Sri Lanka opted for a pace-based attack. They were without off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who opted to miss the series in order to have a groin hernia operation.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the first one-day international between South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Wanderers Stadium Wednesday.
SRI LANKA

Atapattu c Boucher b Ntini	1	Nissanka run out (Boje)	5
Jayasuriya c Dippenaar b Ntini	7	Gunaratne lbw b Pollock	2
Mubarak lbw b Pollock	2	Extras: (b-2, lb-5, w-7)	14
Sangakkara c Ontong b Pollock	7	Total: (All out 46.4 in overs)	128
De Silva c Boucher b Pollock	12	Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-6, 3-10, 4-25, 5-30, 6-95, 7-104, 8-105, 9-125	
Jayawardene c Gibbs b Donald	31	Bowler	O M R W
Arnold c Hall b Ntini	28	Pollock	8.4 2 18 4
Vaas not out	19	Ntini	10 1 22 3
Fernando c Boucher b Donald	0	Kallis	6 0 21 0
		Donald	10 0 32 2
		Hall	5 0 15 0
		Boje	7 0 13 0

SA easy winners

AFP, Johannesburg

Opening bowlers Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini set up a six-wicket win for South Africa in the first one-day international against Sri Lanka at the Wanderers Stadium on Wednesday.

The hosts easily overhauled a poor Sri Lanka total of 128 in only 29.3 overs.



South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald, who took two wickets, in his final delivery stride against Sri Lanka in the opening one-day international in Johannesburg yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP