

BSFNA cricket

RU CORRESPONDENT

Jubo Cricket School advanced to final of the Bangladesh Sports Foundation of North America (BSFNA) Cricket tournament beating Padma Ambagan Chati Palace Dot Com (ACPD) by 64 runs at the Rajshahi Collage playground yesterday.

Winning the toss ACPDC invited Jubo Cricket to bat first.

They collected 189 runs in 49 overs after being all out.

In reply, ACPDC were all out for 125 in 41 overs.

Nayon was declared man-of-the-match.

SCORES IN BRIEF

JUBO CRICKET SCHOOL: 189 all out in 49 overs (Nayon 53, Mashum 28, Apu 20; Mashum 3/36, Shohag 3/19).

ACPD: 125 all out in 41 overs (Farhad 41, Tutol 13; Raja 3/21, Hasu 2/17).

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Paikpara Cricket Club and Kazipara Cricket Club won their respective matches in the Dana Mia Cup cricket tournament at the Eidgah playground yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Paikpara defeated Victory Sporting Club by 10 runs.

Winning the toss, Paikpara batted first and collected 140 runs after being all out.

Kamal topscored with 60.

In reply, Victory Sporting were all out for 130 in stipulated 50 overs.

In the other match of the day, Kazipara recorded a 30-run victory over Sarkarpa Cricket Club.

Batting first Kazipara collected 160 runs in stipulated 50 overs.

Safayat scored highest 58 runs.

In reply, Sarkarpa managed 130 in 39 overs after being all out.

Navy athletics

ISPR, Chittagong

Hosts BNS Issa Khan finished champions and BNS Titumir runners-up respectively when the annual athletic championship of the Bangladesh Navy ended on Friday.

Almost 100 athletes representing took part in the meet.

MA Islam of Issa Khan was adjudged the best athlete.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba distributed the prizes among the winners.

Javed shares 2nd spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Javed shared second position with 5 points after the end of the sixth round games of the second Parsvnath International Rating Chess tournament in New Delhi on Saturday.

International Masters Abdullah Al-Rakib, Enamul Hossain Rajib and International Women Master Rani Hamid, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Khandkar Aminul Islam, Shawkat Hosain Pallab, Mehdi Hasan Parag, Abdul Maleq and Monjur Alam earned 4 points each.

In this round Javed beat Deepan, Shakil beat Dilip, Nasir beat Shirish, Pallab beat Pegu, Parag beat Hariharan, Rani beat Ravishankar, Monjur beat Jaswant, Rajib drew with Khandkar Amin, Rakib drew with Phobalan and Maleq drew with IM Konguvel.



PHOTO: REUTERS

THE BEST WAY: West Indies paceman Tino Best (C) dances with teammate Corey Collymore (L) after he took the wicket of Nasser Hussain of England on the second day of the first Test at Kingston on March 13.

England into the lead

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

England edged ahead by just 28 runs on first innings on a rain-affected third day of the first Test against the West Indies at Sabina Park here on Saturday.

In between dodging the rain-drops, and some fireballs from Tino Best, England were bowled out for 339, replying to West Indies first innings of 311, before bad light stopped play 9.4 overs early with the home team eight without loss in their second innings.

Fortunes shifted regularly during a day in which one and a half hours were lost to the rain and Best, thrust into the role of spearhead after Fidel Edwards broke down with a lower back strain, captured three wickets for 57 runs from 19 overs to keep West Indies in the hunt.

England continued from their overnight position of 154 for three, but rain badly disrupted the first hour of cricket.

After the showers, Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe looked to be in control, but the departure of Edwards and the introduction of Best completely changed the complexion of the match.

Best responded to the awesome responsibility of leading the attack by bowling with pace and hostility during the morning period to snuff out Thorpe and Hussain as England reached 228 for five at lunch.

With the big George Headley Stand roaring behind him, Best claimed his first Test wicket when he had Thorpe caught inside the deep fine leg boundary by Adam Sanford for 19 playing an ill-advised hook, and Hussain was caught at extra cover for 58 fending a short ball off the leading edge.

The two had battled through the rain interruptions to add 42 for the fourth wicket before both were psychod out by the livewire Best.

"It feels real terrific to get among the wickets and especially to get someone like Graham Thorpe as my first wicket," said Best.

"I think once I put the ball in the right areas and be patient things will happen. On Friday, I think I was a little impatient, but I went to sleep

last night and woke up on Saturday morning and telephoned my grandmother and she told me relax and everything will be cool."

When play after lunch resumed an hour late because of the weather, Andrew Flintoff completed a 59-run, sixth wicket stand with Chris Read, but was outfoxed in the first over of Ramnaresh Sarwan's part-time leg-spin when he was caught at mid-wicket by Ryan Hinds for 46 looking to clear long-on.

Sarwan and Hinds were brought into the attack by West Indies captain Brian Lara, who made his first appearance for the day after nursing his dislocated little finger on the right hand, to hasten the arrival of the second newball.

When it came, the home team had immediate success.

Read, looking to pull the first delivery from Best, got himself into a tangle, and was caught at square leg by Hinds for 20 top-edging the shot.

England's tail-enders were left with the unenviable task of taking their team through to the lead and Ashley Giles ensured they reached their target with a valuable 27 as the visitors lost their last three wickets for 61 runs.

"To get past the West Indies' total was a great achievement," said Giles.

"I think the difference between the two teams was the partnership between Nasser and Mark to get through one of the most ferocious pieces of cricket I have ever seen and they played beautifully to get us out of that problem we were in.

England are looking to end a 36-year wait for a Test series victory over West Indies in the Caribbean.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between England and the West Indies at Sabina Park on Saturday:

WEST INDIES: First Innings 311 (D Smith 108; M Hoggard 3-68)

ENGLAND: First Innings (overnight 154-3)

Trescothick b Edwards	7
Vaughan c Lara b Edwards	15
Butcher c Jacobs b Edwards	58
Hussain c (sub) Bernard b Best	58
Thorpe c Sanford b Best	19
Flintoff c Hinds b Sarwan	46
Read c Hinds b Best	20

Giles b Sanford	27			
Hoggard not out	9			
Jones c Sanford b Hinds	7			
Harmison run out (sub Powell)	13			
Extras: (b-7, lb-28, w-7, nb-18)	60			
Total: (All out in 103.2 overs)	339			
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-33, 3-152, 4-194, 5-209, 6-268, 7-278, 8-313, 9-325				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Collymore	26	7	55	0
Edwards	19.3	3	72	3
Best	19	1	57	3
Sanford	22	1	90	1
Hinds	11.5	2	18	1
Gayle	1	0	6	0
Sarwan	4	1	6	1

WEST INDIES: Second Innings

Gayle not out				8
Smith not out				0
Total: (For no loss in 3.2 overs)				8
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	2	0	8	0
Harmison	1.2	1	0	0

Butler back to Kiwi squad

REUTERS, Hamilton

Fast bowler Ian Butler has won his way back into the New Zealand squad for the second Test against South Africa starting in Auckland on Thursday.

Butler will replace medium fast bowler Michael Mason. Both bowlers have been playing for New Zealand A against Sri Lanka A in Queenstown during the duration of the first Test, with some success along with fellow Test squad fast bowler Chris Martin.

Martin and Mason both got five wickets, Martin in the first innings and Mason in the second, while Butler picked up four in the first.

"Ian put in an impressive performance for New Zealand A against Sri Lanka A and proved that he has recovered from his heel injury and that his fitness and form are up to standard," coach John Bracewell said.

SQUAD

Stephen Fleming (captain), Ian Butler, Chris Cairns, Chris Martin, Brendon McCullum, Craig McMillan, Jacob Oram, Michael Pappas, Mark Richardson, Scott Styris, Daryl Tuffey, Daniel Vettori, Paul Wiseman.

WI 47 all out

REUTERS, Kingston

West Indies were all out for 47 in their second innings on the fourth day of the first Test against England at Sabina Park on Sunday.

England require 20 to win.

Tension takes its toll on India fan

AFP, New Delhi

The last-over suspense in the first one-day match between India and Pakistan in Karachi on Saturday cost an Indian fan his life after he suffered a heart attack.

Suresh Gutgutia, 57, complained of chest pain when Indian seamer Ashish Nehra came on to bowl the last over with Pakistan needing nine runs to win, the Press Trust of India reported on Sunday.

Gutgutia, an industrialist based in the eastern Indian city of Dhanbad, was rushed to hospital where he was pronounced dead by doctors.

Nehra kept his nerve and conceded just three runs in his over to seal a five-run victory, but Gutgutia could not take the suspense and failed to see India's sensational win, his relatives said.

India get it Wright

AFP, Rawalpindi

Indian coach John Wright said Sunday he was delighted by his team's exciting five-run win against Pakistan in the first one-day match in Karachi but wanted his bowlers to improve.

"It was an exciting show of batting and it provided us the right mixture of delight and relief," Wright told reporters ahead of the second match at Pindi Stadium on Tuesday.

"Despite the win our bowling performance need to be looked at. The first 15 overs were good but our bowlers need to do better in the middle and in the end," said Wright, referring to the two outings in the warm-up match and the first one-day international.

India failed to defend a target of 336 against Pakistan's second string team in a warm-up match at Lahore on Thursday while in Karachi on Saturday Ashish Nehra's last over saved their blushes when Pakistan appeared set to chase a mammoth 350.

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Shafik Smriti Sangsad outplayed Satyapur Jubo Sangha 5-0 in the Econo First-Division Football League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

First half ended 1-0.

Ripon scored hatrick while Liton and Afridi netted one goal each for the winners.

Hewitt starts with a win

AFP, Indian Wells

Lleyton Hewitt launched his defence of his Indian Wells title on Saturday, winning his opening round match over Thomas Johansson and extending his California desert win streak to 13 straight.

The two-time defending champion Hewitt fired off a 6-2, 6-3 win over Sweden's Johansson at the 4.9 million dollar ATP/WTA Master Series event.

"I am happy where my game is," said the 23-year-old Australian eighth seed. "That's one down and five to go."

Hewitt, who is trying to become the first to win the event three consecutive years, hit more winners (14-6) and aces (4-2) than the 2002 Australian Open champ Johansson.

Sporting Karachi crowd

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However security was tough for the match both inside and outside the ground.

"We were on duty for three days. We came here at dawn on Saturday. Our job was to keep an eye on the fans," police constable Mohammad Ramzan said.

"I am happy and relaxed everything was perfect. I can now go back to my home and take some rest."

The provincial government declared Saturday a holiday and most roads were deserted throughout the day. Private clubs and restaurants made special arrangements to show the match on huge screens.

"Cricket fans are mad about the game. They are not so stupid that they would attack the team and its players," a woman fan said.

"We consider them our guests whether they are Indians or Australians."

Shopkeeper Mohammad Usman said: "Peace and not merely cricket won in Karachi on Saturday."

"Yes, there have been some

incidents of terrorism by a few militants, but the majority of people of this city are peaceful and it should not be portrayed as a 'city of followers of Al-Qaeda'."

Karachi was hit by two suicide car bombings in 2002, which killed several foreigners as well as Pakistanis. Eleven French engineers died in an attack outside the Sheraton hotel on May 8, 2002.

The New Zealand and South African cricket teams have refused to play matches in Karachi.

"You cannot judge the city because of a few bomb blasts and sectarian-related killings," said social worker Abdus Sattar Edhi.

"There is another side of the city as well and the way thousands of people cheered for Indians and Pakistan players could be an eye-opener for those who refused to play here."

He added: "The peace-loving people have welcomed the cricketers as well as politicians like Priyanka Gandhi."

Priyanka, daughter of slain Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi, watched the match and signed autographs for dozens of fans.

Now it's Murali's turn

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan is set to join history-making Australian spinner Shane Warne in the elite 500-wicket club in the second Test starting here on Tuesday.

The Sri Lankan off-spinner, just four wickets short of 500, is expected to achieve the feat in his home town considering his recent form.

Muralitharan has already bagged 37 wickets in his last four Tests, including 11 in the opening match of the ongoing three-Test series at Galle.

However, he still lost the race with Warne, who became the first spinner in Test history to take 500 wickets during Australia's victory in the opening match on Friday.

Only retired West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh is ahead of the duo with 519 Test wickets.

The Asgiriya Stadium here has often proved favourable for Muralitharan, who returned his career-best figures of 9-51 against Zimbabwe three years ago. It is not as lucky for Sri Lanka, who have won just four of their 16 Tests.

The current series is fast developing into a duel between Muralitharan and Warne for the world record as neither seems short of motivation.

Warne made a fairytale 10-wicket return to international cricket at Galle after serving a 12-month suspension for drugs.

"Everything he (Warne) does is big news," Australian vice-captain

Adam Gilchrist said on Sunday.

"It's pretty exciting to see him bowl. He has come back, settled and brought results which is a huge bonus. He looks energetic and brings a lot of focus to the team. He has brought excitement. He has come back in great form."

The leg-spin genius played a key role in his team's 197-run win, making Sri Lanka pay dearly for preparing a turning track in the process.



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

The Warne show promises to go on, with the spinner claiming he is getting better and better with each spell. It is not encouraging news for Sri Lanka who have already failed to cope with the Australian's clever variations.

The pitch here looks different from the one at Galle, where Warne ran through Sri Lanka's second innings along with fellow-spinner Stuart MacGill, who finished with four wickets.

"There is more grass on this pitch and it looks pretty good,"

Gilchrist said, adding his team was capable of succeeding as it had players to rise to the occasion.

"We have not won (a Test series) in the subcontinent for a long time, but you have got to take on the challenging conditions. We have won a one-day series here and are now one-nil up," he said.

Sri Lanka are under pressure as a defeat here will end their impressive home record of not losing a Test series since 2001.

The hosts looked a quality spinner short in the previous match as there was none to support Muralitharan.

Skipper Hashan Tillakaratne conceded that back-up spinners failed to stop the Australian batting juggernaut in the second innings when Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn and Darren Lehmann all made centuries.

"We need someone to support Muralitharan. The support bowlers gave away too many runs," he said.

Australia's awesome batting performance helped them bounce back into the match after they had conceded a lead of 161. They posted 512-8 declared before bundling out the hosts for a meagre 154 to win the match.

"We should not get rattled and make many changes in the team," the Sri Lankan captain said.

Sri Lanka are expected to make one change, bringing in spinner Rangana Herath in place of Kumar Dharmasena.

Their main worry, however, is the fitness of veteran opener Sanath Jayasuriya, who suffered a hand injury while bowling in the second innings. The batsman has one more day to prove his fitness.

ICC warns England

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has warned England that they could lose the right to host the Champions Trophy.

Cricket's mini-World Cup could be staged elsewhere if England pull out of their tour to Zimbabwe.

ICC president Ehsan Mani told BBC Radio Five Live: "If the tour takes place there is no threat to the Trophy."

"But I have a sense that if it does not take place quite a number of our members have concerns about holding the Champions Trophy in England."

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have moral concerns about travelling to Zimbabwe.

But ICC rules state safety and security concerns are the only justification for pulling out of tours.

Opinion is against England's stance in the rest of the cricketing world and it is thought some countries could push for a relocation of the Champions Trophy in retaliation.

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Mani recently said the Zimbabwe and Champions Trophy issues should be kept separate.

But following this week's ICC meeting in New Zealand, he is aware feelings are running high.

The ECB intend to make a firm decision on whether to go ahead with the tour in April after meeting the players in the West Indies.

In January, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw wrote a letter to the ECB outlining details of the political



EHSAN MANI

repression in Zimbabwe.

And he said the ECB may wish to consider whether it should agree to a "high-profile" cricket tour.

He did not, however, order England not to tour Zimbabwe.

And in the absence of a clear government directive, the ECB are stuck in the difficult position of having to weigh political and public opinion against their commitments to the ICC.

West Indies and Bangladesh have recently visited Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka and Australia will do so in the near future.

But ECB chief executive Tim Lamb argues, however, England's position is unique.

He said: "It is not an issue for the other members of the ICC. We would argue this is a unique and exceptional issue for England bearing in mind the historical links between England and Zimbabwe."

Former Sports Minister Kate Hoey called on the government to take a stronger line on the matter.

She said: "We really do need the government to say something. The ECB and the government could do a joint letter to the ICC to get them off the hook."

Kallis mark before draw

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consecutive balls, but he overstepped and was no-balled on his opening delivery.

The second Test in the three Test series starts in Auckland next Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the final day of the first cricket Test between New Zealand and South Africa here Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 459 (J Kirsten 137, J Kallis 92; D Vettori 4-158)

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 509 (J Oram 119 not out, S Styris 74, M Pappas 59, B McCallum 57; S Pollock 4-98, J Kallis 3-71)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second Innings

Smith c McCullum b Tuffey	5
Gibbs c McCullum b Wiseman	47
Rudolph c Cairns	0
Kallis not out	150

McKenzie c Richardson b Wiseman 52 || Kirsten not out | 34 |
Extras: (b-12, lb-5, nb-8)	25			
Total: (For 4 wks decl in 116.1 overs)	313			
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-16, 3-108, 4-215				
Bowler	**O**	**M**	**R**	**W**
Tuffey	15	3	28	1
Oram	15	4	29	0
Cairns	15	3	48	1
Vettori	34	11	79	0
Wiseman	19	4	68	2
Styris	13	4	29	0
McMillan	5.1	0	15	0

NEW ZEALAND: Second Innings

Pappas c Boucher b Nel	12
McCullum not out	19
Styris not out	3
Extras: (lb-1, w-1, nb-3)	5
Total: (For 1 wktn in 16 overs)	39

Fall of wicket: 1-34

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	4	2	5	0
Ntini	4	0	15	0
Nel	4	0	15	1
Adams	3	1	2	0
McKenzie	1	0	1	0

Result: match drawn.
Man-of-the-match: Jacques Kallis.
Second