

Rising Star off to a flier

CU CORRESPONDENT

Holders Rising Star Club got off to a flying start in the CJKS Ispahani Premier Division Cricket League defeating Chittagong Port Authority Sports Association by 56 runs at the MAAziz Stadium yesterday.

Chittagong Port Authority won the toss and decided to put their opponents into bat in a match reduced to 33 overs-per-side. A damp outfield forced the game to start after lunch.

Rising Star scored 193-9 with Sanwar Hossain hitting highest 54 while his teammate Ahsanullah made 34. Mahmudul Islam of Port Authority captured two wickets.

The stiff total proved too much for Chittagong Port Authority who ended their chase at 137-8 in 33 overs. Halim Shah was top-scorer 30 while Sajjad Ahmed added 25. Nesarul Haq, Kashif Naveed and Ahsanullah each bagged two wickets for the winners.

On Sunday heavy showers forced the opening match to be abandoned.

Chittagong City Corporation Junior play Satadal Club Junior at the same venue today.

PCB's cause

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"We want the ICC to put in place a code for former players and officials who tend to cause a lot of damage by making match-fixing allegations against a team without evidence," he said.

The PCB has asked its disciplinary committee to look into possible action against former captain Rashid Latif, who hinted that Pakistan had intentionally lost the fourth one-day international against India last month.

"Even a common man could observe that the players were acting on a script because the body language of the players was not as it should have been," Latif said on the local Indus television channel.

Latif, who had first made match-fixing charges against some of his teammates in 1995 during a tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa, has denied making any direct allegations this time.

"I have only expressed my suspicions," he told this news agency.

Raja said making serious allegations without proof was upsetting for the players.

"That's why we want to involve the ICC in this matter. This is a serious issue and needs to be tackled because it's causing damage to the image of cricketers and the sport," he said.

What has Elliot seen?

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

Muralitharan's bowling was assessed after the off-spinner was reported to the International Cricket Council (ICC) by match referee



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

Chris Broad during the recent Sri Lanka and Australia Test series.

The legality of his "doosra" delivery, which spins in the opposite direction to his stock ball, has been called into question.

Elliot said he would complete a written report later this week and send it to the board.

"They know what the numbers are," Elliott told this news agency in a telephone interview from Perth.

"Just the pure numbers at the elbow. That's the key to the issue I suppose but that's where we are with that.

"I don't know what the Sri Lankan board will be doing. I would hope they would tell me that they would let us make it public or they would make it public.

"Now really it's up to the Sri Lankan cricket board and the ICC."

during which the slow bowler wore only reflective markers on his upper body.

Muralitharan has taken 513 wickets in 88 Tests and is six wickets shy of West Indian Courtney Walsh's world record.

The 31-year-old took 28 wickets in the home series against Australia last month, while Australia leg spinner Shane Warne grabbed 26 to move to 517 in total.

Sri Lanka's cricket board is responsible for reviewing and, if necessary, remedying Muralitharan's bowling action with the assistance of an ICC-appointed expert before submitting a report to the ICC within six weeks of Broad's March 28 announcement.

Muralitharan's action has been the source of controversy since he was no balled for throwing by umpire Darrell Hair in a Test match at Melbourne in December 1995.

He was later cleared by the ICC after a University of Western Australia biomechanical analysis, which concluded that the bent-arm action created the "optical illusion" of chucking.

Singer chess Nasir holds Niaz

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman maintained his solo lead with eight points after the end of the ninth round games of the Singer 30th National Chess Championship at the NSC conference-room yesterday.

Grand Master Niaz Mursheed and International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib jointly hold the second position with seven points each. International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib was in the third position with 6.5 points.

NINTH ROUND RESULTS

Zia beat Saifuddin Lavlu, Rakib beat Debaraj Chatterjee, Niaz drew with FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Rajib drew with IM Reefat bin Sattar, Mehdi Hasan Parag beat Md Monjur Alam, Mohammad Javed beat Shawkat Hossain Pallab and Aminul Islam Polash beat Abdul Maleq.



PHOTO: AFP

Roddick wins at Coria's cost

Tennis

AFP, Key Biscayne

American second seed Andy Roddick won the ATP Masters Series best-of-five hardcourt final here 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 when Argentina's third-seeded Guillermo Coria retired with a back injury.

The 22-year-old hometown hero captured the \$33,350-dollar top prize at the 3.45 million-dollar tournament with his tour-best 26th victory of the year against five defeats. Coria fell to 17-3.

Coria, winless in three matches against Roddick, received medical treatment after the 11th game of the

Ranatunga this time a govt MP

AFP, Colombo

Former Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga has been re-elected to parliament, but this time he will be on the government's side.

Ranatunga, 40, was elected to parliament from the district of Colombo after contesting under President Chandrika Kumaratunga's leftist Freedom Alliance which won 105 seats in a hung parliament.

He first entered parliament in December 2001, a year after retiring from international cricket, saying he felt he owed "something to the nation" and wanted to improve not only cricket and athletics, but other sports as well.

Do not blame Lara: Sobers

AFP, London

West Indies legend Gary Sobers has lent his support to Brian Lara saying that the under-fire captain should not be made a scapegoat for the Caribbean team's first home series defeat by England for 36 years.

"Brian's contribution has been tremendous. His record in South Africa and Zimbabwe was very good and he came back as the world's number one batsman," said Sobers.

"The captaincy didn't affect his form in South Africa. He shouldn't be replaced - who is there to replace him anyway? We haven't reached the standard yet where we can afford to replace him."

Another cheerless

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while Fouzia Huda, who made headlines with a silver in the long jump a few days ago, was sixth with 12.57.

Taekwondo finally came into the reckoning when Mizanur Rahman lost in the semifinals to Pakistan's Muhammad Akhtar to secure a bronze. Earlier, Mizan overcame Nepal's Ghanshyam in the middle-weight division at the Rawalpindi Army Gymnasium.

In kabadi Bangladesh secured another victory when they downed Sri Lanka 30-11 at the Army Stadium.

Lara vows to battle on

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

they are too inadequate in technique or anything like that. It's just a lot of pressure mentally and you have to be a big man to play Test cricket.

"We have a lot of young guys playing and they are going to learn. Hopefully, the psychological effect is not going to last too long.

"It could, if they get into the habit of losing a lot, and if they get into that cycle it could affect them for a long time.

"They have to understand though, that they are playing for the West Indies and are following in the footsteps of great players and we need to try and emulate them."

Lara also believes the lack of mental strength, when the team is under pressure, is the reason for the inexplicable batting collapses particularly in the second innings of Tests.

"By the time the second and third day arrives, a Test has already taken shape and a lot of pressure is created because of whichever team has the advantage," he said.

"If you are going into your second innings with a sizeable lead, that disadvantage will not be there. But, clearly, going into the second innings 'behind the eight ball' is going to put pressure on our batters."

Vivian Richards, the former West Indies captain and now chairman of the selection panel, acknowledged that the team is packed with players of immense ability.

"But they just have not turned up to the party," Richards said.

"It's plain and simple. We can go

into a lot of discussions about technique and all that stuff, but I think it is a serious warning for us, particularly those of us connected with the system.

"There are many things I believe need to be addressed. We are looking for winners and with some of the attitudes that we have seen, I do not know where it has been created, but individuals with a wonderful amount of ability have been unable to have the package to perform at their very best."

Richards revealed there were some players that were behaving like "prima donnas" and they needed to get their acts together.

"You have some guys who think because they have played a few matches, they have a rightful place in the team," he said.

"There's no such thing. We are at a stage now where the players are not learning as quickly as they should in order for them to go forward. There are some individuals performing just to keep their heads above water.

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Zim A come

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Ehsanul Haque (27), skipper Alok Kapali (9) and Mohammad Ashraful (13) didn't hang around for long but Faisal led a one-man fight back.

Coming in at number six, the Chittagong left-hander blasted his way to an unbroken 74 in 62 balls inclusive of seven fours and formed a nice ninth wicket partnership with second last batsman Alamgir Kabir (27 off 22 balls) but he was always appeared likely to run out of partners. Faisal's valiant effort however earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Spinner Gavon Ewing returned the best figures for Zimbabwe A with three for 39.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE A: 275 for 9 in 50 overs (Taylor 72, Chigumbura 53, Simms 49, Rinke 39, extras 14; Razzak Raj 4/54, Alamgir Kabir 2/57 and Manjari Islam 1/29).

BANGLADESH A: 259 all out in 49.4 overs (Faisal Hossain 74 not out, Al-Shahri 52, Ehsanul Haque 27, Alamgir Kabir 27, Jamaluddin 17, Mohammad Ashraful 13, Razzak Raj 11, Manjari Islam 10, extras 10; Ewing 3/39 and Nicole 2/41).

PAKISTAN: First innings

Farhat not out 25

Umar b Balaji 24

Hameed not out 4

Extras: (lb-6, w-1, nb-1) 8

Total: (For 1 wkt in 23 overs) 61

Fall of wicket: 1-47

To bat: Inzamam, Youhana, Kamal, Akmal, Sami, Akhtar, Gul, Kaneria

Bowler O M R W

Pathan 8 5 4 0

Balaji 7 2 21 1

Agarkar 5 0 26 0

Kumble 3 0 4 0

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Simon Taufel (Australia)

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