

Tallyman solves Ashraful puzzle

THE GUARDIAN

When Craig Davidson, an Australian playing club cricket in Cambridge-shire, was asked to help out with the Fenner's scoreboard on Wednesday, he immediately accepted the chance to earn some beer money.

Little did he know he would have to come to the rescue of a Bangladesh side about to be robbed of their first hundred of the tour.

In the morning session Mohammad Ashraful struck two successive fours against the left-arm seamer Glen Read. Davidson rose from his chair to change his score to 102 and the batsman acknowledged the applause. To get out next ball, hooking Read to fine-leg, might have smacked of carelessness but his grin told of his delight at another first-class century.

Then the embarrassed whispers began. The scorers, Charles Fellows-Smith and Bill Rodwell, made him only 99. Craig on the scoreboard must have got carried away. The official scorers would normally be in contact with the scoreboard via walkie-talkies but someone had forgotten to charge them up overnight.

"I don't like to see the lad get out immediately after getting his hundred but he doesn't deserve to be punished like that," said the tourists' coach Day Whatmore. "For Bangladesh players the chance of a first-class hundred means a lot."

Ashraful, told he had made 99, was confused. He is a "counter". "I went to the scorers to check I was 87 overnight," he said, "because, if I was, I knew that I had got a century."

So Davidson, of Burwell CC in

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Tigers' strong first impression



SPORTS REPORTER

Two uncapped youngsters made strong statements and staked claim to be included in the first Test team as Bangladesh enjoyed yet another fruitful day in their tour opener against the British Universities at Fenner's in Cambridge yesterday.

On the last day of the three-day



SHAHADAT... 4 for 33

that ended in a draw, 18-year-old rookie fast bowler Shahadat Hossain Rajib completed a four wicket haul as the Universities were all out for 238 in their first innings after resuming on 190 for five.

When Bangladesh batted again, openers Javed Omar (39) and Nafis

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Iqbal again provided the Tigers with a solid foundation putting on 66 before Iqbal was out for 46 (83 balls, 9x4). But most pleasing for the tourists would be the performance of 19-year-old new-comer Shahriar Nafees Ahmed who arrived at number three and hit a fluent 50 (68balls, 4x4). The left-hander had made a five-ball duck in the first innings. He was run out immediately after reaching the half-century but not before sharing 80 with a rampant skipper Habibul Bashar.

Bangladesh opted for batting practice before declaring on 246 for four about half-an-hour ahead of the scheduled close and the two captains shook hands immediately. Bashar got over his first innings disappointment, when he made just eight, and stroked to a typically belligerent 75 from just 86 balls faced (10x4). Rajin Saleh, who had added 56 with his captain, was batting on 30 (47 balls, 5x4) while Mohammad Ashraful had just come in when the game ended.

Earlier, Shahadat picked up three wickets in the morning as the students lost their last five batsmen for 22. Pace ace Mashrafe bin Mortuza had made the first breakthrough ending a stand of 134 between Luke Parker (65) and Josh Knappett (73). The collapse gave Bangladesh a first innings lead of 143.

The home side had only added 26 when Parker tried to drive Mortuza and edged a simple catch to keeper Khaled Mashud.



PHOTO: AFP

A TERRIBLE DEFEAT: South African fielders rush to congratulate bowler Charl Langeveldt (L) while Correy Collymore, the last West Indies batsman attempts to run only to find out that he had been given lbw at Bridgetown in Barbados on Wednesday.

Brothers draw in Asghabat

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union shared points with Nisa FC of Turkmenistan in their AFC Cup Group C away match yesterday. The third-round match ended in a goalless draw in Asghabat.

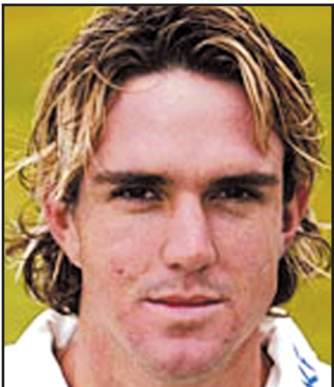
National League and Dhaka Premier League champions Brothers also drew their home match against the same opponents 1-1.

Brothers will host the Lebanese club in their last group match on May 25.



Did U Know?

In 1975 Junko Tabei from Japan became the first woman to reach the top of Everest.



Kevin Pietersen

(England cricketer)

"Warney has done everything. He's earned his millions, had a ban, been caught doing this or that, and got 583 Test wickets. He's nicknamed me 600 because he wants me as his 600th."

After Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne expressed his desire.



ESPN

Sportscenter
Live at 8:30 pm
ICC Cricket World
10:00 pm

STAR Sports

Hamburg Tennis Masters Series
Live from 5:00 pm
Sportslive

AKC end trophy drought



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Foreign recruits Ibrahim Audu and Ndem Kiyek scored either side of the break in extra time to end Abahani's trophy drought when the Dhaka giants lifted the Independence Day football tournament title with a 2-0 win over Sheikh Russel Kirira Chakra here yesterday.

The 38,000-capacity Rajshahi Stadium overflowed to accommodate the North-Bengal headquarters fans who witnessed the exciting final of the eight-team meet under floodlights.

Many of the enthusiastic 40,000-plus crowd had to sit on the ground but they were fully entertained, watching enthralling football by the proven giant and the new leviathans although the regulation 90 minutes

failed to produce a goal.

The incident packed match also marked two sending-offs just before the end of the regulation time after Abahani's substitute forward Tipu and Russel's Moroccan striker Rachid engaged in a brawl following a foul.

It was Abahani who got the first real chance but Ujjal denied the Sky-Blues when he hit woodwork after 14 minutes.

Russel looked brighter in the remaining of the first half with their Moroccan trio taking control but Adil and Rachid both failed to score from a goalmouth melee in the 20th minute after hard work by local boy Tanveer. Egrir Mohammed, the inspiration Russel captain, had only Nizam to beat six minutes later but the Moroccan fired the ball over the lone Abahani keeper.

Abahani could have taken the lead against run of play but Farhad's effort ten minutes before the break was foiled by goalkeeper Biplab.

Both the goalkeepers were working overtime and Nizam pulled off the save of the day when he spectacularly stopped Adil's shot on one-to-one in the 53rd minute.

The Sky-Blues reassured soon and created ample scoring chances but Parvez twice failed to hit the mark from close range while Farhad's powerful volley in the 65th minute came off the bar and Joy headed the rebound straight to the goalkeeper.

Rachid and Ibrahim's failure to convert easy chances afterwards forced the final into 30 minutes of extra time with both sides down to ten men.

Experience finally prevailed over youthful exuberance when Abahani's Ghanaian striker Ibrahim broke the deadlock six minutes into extra-time. He dribbled past three defenders before drilling in a right-footer past Biplab. Cameroonian midfielder Ndem sealed the victory

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MSC president changes his mind?

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammed Sporting Club was yet to accept the resignation of its president Mosaddek Ali but the issue will be discussed in a joint emergency meeting of the club's governing body and executive committee tomorrow.

Mosaddek tendered his resignation on Tuesday but it was rejected by the club's governing body chairman Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda. Instead he called the meeting in a bid to solve the crisis.

A number of officials tried to convince the Mohammedan president to reconsider his decision on Wednesday but to no avail. Ex-players and fans of the club also gathered at the club yesterday and visited Mosaddek at his residence.

It was learned that pursued by the club's well-wishers, Mosaddek has finally decided to reconsider his decision. However, he did not give his final words and wanted to settle the issue at the emergency meeting tomorrow.

Mosaddek, who has been at the helm of the club for a decade, decided to step down following the club's recent poor results, especially for the wretched start to the new football season.

Mohammed sacked Korean coach Man Young Kang after the club failed to reach the final of the Independence Day Gold Cup but they had to change the entire football management and the coaching staff after a humiliating 5-1 defeat to archrivals Abahani in the Federation Cup.

The Black and Whites, who bowed out from the Fed Cup in semis, suffered another jolt when they were ousted from the first round of the Independence Day football tournament in Rajshahi, losing 3-1 to Arambagh last week.

Not only Kang but also many organisers associated with the popular club have blamed that the current management lacks dedication.

For Mostafa life begins at 30



SPORTS REPORTER

Mostafa Billah of Narail clinched his first ever trophy at national level when he defeated Abu Taher Mohammad Salahuddin Edison 4-1 in the men's singles final of the Meril 27th National Table Tennis Championships yesterday.

Mostafa, who eliminated Biman's Hamlet in the semifinal, won the one-sided final 11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9 and 12-10 at the Shaheed Suhrawardi National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur to keep the prestigious Masud Ahmed Rumi Trophy -- donated by Navana Limited in

memory of the eminent sports journalist -- in the family.

It was surprising to see his younger brother, national number one and last year's champion Mahbub Billah not even reaching the last four. But Mostafa, at the age of 30, found the best of his form in a carrier spanning nearly two decades.

Mostafa, who has been concentrating on coaching, won his first ever trophy at any level also this year when he lifted the Masud Ahmed Rumi Open TT singles title a few months ago.

Meanwhile, Saleha Parveen of Bangladesh Ansar retained her women's singles title with a hard-fought 14-12, 7-11, 11-4, 7-11, 11-7.

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PHOTO: STAR

The winners of the Meril 27th National Table Tennis Championships pose with the trophies on the concluding day at the Shaheed Suhrawardi National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Langeveldt roasts WI meat Last over hatrick sees Proteas win series



AFP, Bridgetown

An incredible last over hatrick from Charl Langeveldt brought South Africa from the brink of defeat and handed them a stunning one-run victory with one ball to spare over West Indies in the third one-day international on Wednesday.

Chasing 285 from 50 overs to keep the series alive, West Indies appeared to have sewn it up when they needed four runs to win from the last over.

In the gloom of Kensington Oval, hosting its final international fixture before it undergoes a major transformation ahead of the 2007 ICC World Cup, West Indies got singles from the first two balls of the last over, but Langeveldt responded with three unplayable inswinging deliveries that removed Ian Bradshaw, Daren Powell and Corey Collymore.

Langeveldt bowled Bradshaw and Powell for one and a duck respectively with the third and fourth balls, and gained an lbw verdict over Collymore from the penultimate ball of the match that sparked South African celebrations and left West Indian supporters stunned.

Langeveldt was the pick of the South African bowlers with a career-best five wickets for 62 runs from 9.5 overs. Andre Nel supported with three for 42 from his allotment of 10 overs, and Makhaya Ntini took two for 45 from his 10 overs.

The victory gave South Africa a 3-0 winning lead in the five-match

series that concludes on Saturday and Sunday with back-to-back matches at Port of Spain.

The visitors won the first two matches by the same margin of eight wickets at Kingston.

West Indies, who enjoyed something of a reputation last year for chasing sizeable targets, had Chris Gayle put them on their way with his 10th ODI hundred, a purposeful 132 from 152 balls that contained seven fours and two sixes.

He drove Nel through cover for a single in the 36th over to reach his milestone and West Indies looked to be cruising at 213 for four in the 40th over.

The home team, however, failed to keep their composure, and wicket after wicket tumbled until Courtney Browne was caught at mid-on for nine off Ntini off the last ball of the penultimate over leaving Dwayne Bravo and the bowlers to bring home the bacon.

Instead, Langeveldt roasted the meat, and West Indies came away empty-handed for the seventh straight ODI at the ground.

Earlier, Boeta Dippenaar rode the gravy train to his second one-day international hundred to lead South Africa to 284 for six from their allocation of 50 overs.

Dippenaar hit a dozen boundaries in the top score of 123 from 129 balls, after South Africa were sent in to bat on a hard, true Kensington Oval pitch under sunny to overcast skies.

Dippenaar, playing his 80th ODI for South Africa, enjoyed a great measure of fortune on the way to his highest ODI score. He was missed no less than three times during his

innings.

On 43, the opener miscued a hook at a short, rising ball from Powell and Collymore muffed a chance at long leg.

After reaching his milestone he top-edged a sweep off Bradshaw on 112 and Collymore again failed to hold a chance with his left-hand.

On 120, long-on fielder Powell put down a skier off the last ball of the same over from Bradshaw.

He added 194 for the second wicket with Jacques Kallis, who made 87, but South Africa lost five wickets for 47 runs inside the last 10 overs to slow their progress.

Kallis seemed too have a bit of fortune, when he edged Bradshaw to keeper Browne and umpire Darrell Hair said not out. Television replays suggested differently.

Bradshaw and Dwayne Bravo ended with the identical figures of two wickets for 51 runs from 10 and nine overs respectively, to be the most successful bowlers for West Indies.

BRIEF SCORES

SOUTH AFRICA: 284 for 6 in 50 overs (Dippenaar 123, Kallis 87, Smith 28; Bradshaw 2-51, Bravo 2-51)

WEST INDIES: 283 all out in 49.5 overs (Gayle 132, Lara 32, Chanderpaul 23, Smith 21, Bravo 21; Langeveldt 5-62, Nel 3-42, Ntini 2-45)

Result: South Africa win by one run and take winning 3-0 lead. Man-of-the-match: Charl Langeveldt.

Triple concern for England



BBC ONLINE, undated

England are waiting to hear about the fitness of three players ahead of announcing the squad on Sunday for the first Test against Bangladesh.

Spinner Ashley Giles has given selectors an injury scare with a strained right hip and Graham Thorpe and Simon Jones have back injuries.

Giles is awaiting scan results but was able to bat on Thursday.

"It's a twisting injury in the hip and groin area and I've been for a scan as a precaution," he said.

Thorpe and Jones both missed Surrey's match against Glamorgan with back trouble.

The selectors are expected to meet on Friday, and will name their squad on Sunday for the first Test, which begins at Lord's on May 26.

Should Giles fail to recover it would be the first Test he has

missed since the final Test against West Indies last year, when he had a stomach virus.

"I'm not in pain as such, but I felt it come on quite quickly and that's why I've stayed off the field," said the 32-year-old, who is taking anti-inflammatory tablets.

"It's too early to say if this will have any bearing on me being able to play in the Test match, but I will need it to settle down."

There was better news from the Andrew Flintoff camp as the all-rounder bowled in a match for the first time since having ankle surgery in January.

He bowled five overs for Lancashire against Durham at Old Trafford and took 1-11.

The form of several of England's leading batsmen must also be a concern, with only Robert Key and Ian Bell having scored centuries so far this summer.

And Surrey's Mark Butcher is all but ruled out of the first Test as he has yet to play this summer because an operation on his wrist is taking longer to heal than expected.

Indian coach's job battle is now 2-way

CRICINFO/PTI, undated

Australian great Steve Waugh has said that Tom Moody is his choice to take over as Indian coach. Moody is one of the four shortlisted candidates, along with Greg Chappell, Mohinder Amarnath and Sandeep Patil.

Waugh, who is in India on a charity-cum-business trip, said that it was he who had encouraged Moody to send his resume to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Speaking to reporters in Kolkata, Waugh said, "Chappell has a very sharp cricketing brain. But Moody is young, talented and will gel with the Indian team better. He has a very good work ethic and vision. He is ambitious and very keen to get the job. If I were to choose, I would have preferred him."

Meanwhile, the appointment of a new coach has become a two-horse race, with the BCCI's six-member committee narrowing down its choice to the two foreigners -- Chappell and Moody.

"Finally it will be a toss up between Chappell and Moody," a BCCI source said in New Delhi yesterday.

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