

Gazi Tank give CCL a kick-start

SPORTS REPORTER

The domestic cricket season got un-der-way with Gazi Tank, Bangladesh Biman and Epyllion Group recording comfortable victories on the opening day of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League at different venues in the city on Monday.

However, as often happens at the very beginning of a new season, the cricketers' body language confirmed they did not get enough time to prepare. And it was written all over their performances that a handful of days' indoor practice is inadequate to be very competitive on the field.

It was shocking to see thick grass on the outfield restricting boundaries as well as batsmen struggling on an under-prepared wicket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium -- the only venue inside the city to be used during the competition.

In contrast, it was a batting paradise at BKSP where more than 300 runs were produced in an innings.

GAZITANK-BANGLACAT

Buoyed by national stars Manzarul Islam's 82 and Aftab Ahmed's 77, Gazi Tank handed a thumping 125-run defeat on newcomers Bangla Cat at the BKSP.

The two added 87 runs for the third wicket as Gazi Tank amassed 315 for nine in 50 overs after skipper Khaled Mahmud had elected to bat.

One-down Aftab smacked seven fours and four sixes in his 69-ball rampage while left-handed Manzarul cracked nine boundaries inclusive of

four sixes in his 75-ball stay as they batted Bangla Cat out of the game.

In reply, Bangla Cat were bundled out for 190 with wicketkeeper-batsman Shamimul Haque scoring match highest 90 not out off 96 deliveries.

Monirul Islam was the pick of the

winners' attack with 4-33 from 6.5 overs.

EPYLLION-ARAF

A five-wicket haul by Araf Apparels spinner Kamrul Hasan failed to prevent Epyllion from cruising to a five-wicket victory at the Dhanmondi Cricket

Stadium.

At one stage, it looked like a cakewalk victory for Epyllion, who raced to 71 without loss in 12 overs after restricting their rivals to a

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Araf Apparels' Khaled Mashud cuts the ball during their Corporate Cricket League match against Epyllion at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Monday.



Did U Know?
Russia won the Fed Cup tennis title for the first time beating France in 2004.



Sven-Goran Eriksson

(England football coach)
"I'm delighted that we now know we will be taking part in the World Cup in Germany next year. It has been a difficult start to the season for us but, together with our victory against Austria, this is the reward for all the hard work that has been



'World will come good in Super Test'



AFP, Sydney

Ashes foes Andrew Flintoff and Adam Gilchrist agreed Monday that the tarnished World XI's quality will come through in Friday's Super Test cricket match against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The world all-stars were an embarrassment in going down by a massive 156 runs to the fired-up Aussies in Sunday's final one-dayer to lose the Melbourne series 3-0 raising fears that the six-day Test will be another flop.

But Flintoff, the scourge of the Australians with bat and ball as England regained the Ashes last month, believes the longer form of the game will allow the World XI more scope to realise their talents than in the scramble of the 50-overs format.

"It is a fine group of players coming together and in some ways probably playing Test cricket might be slightly easier than the one-day game," Flintoff told reporters here Monday.

"The one-day game is so structured and you have your own roles back in your country, and a few players had to play outside those roles.

"Whereas in Test cricket you just go out there and play, so there is no real structures to the game so hopefully we will be a better Test side."

Australian vice-captain Adam Gilchrist, judged the man of last week's one-day series highlighted by his pulsating 103 off 79 balls in the second game, agreed with Flintoff and rated the world superstars as the favourites for the SCG Test.

"He is probably right (about the) longer format, one-day cricket or like Twenty20 cricket the shorter the game the more of a bit of a lottery it can become," Gilchrist said.

"But in Test matches generally the quality wins out over time and they have great depth in quality and we feel like we have got it (as well), they will definitely put up a fight I am sure."

World one-day skipper Shaun Pollock said his all-star team was "underdone" and needed more preparation time.

The world team were criticised for showing little commitment in their three one-day games, but Pollock defended the International Cricket Council's (ICC) concept of the world's top players playing the best team.

"There are some guys who have come in here with no cricket under their belts, and there are some guys who have played cricket," he said.

"And from that perspective we were underdone, but you also have to understand the schedules these days is very difficult to fit more cricket in.

Flintoff, who was cleared by scans Sunday of a fractured wrist after taking a blow while bowling to Ricky Ponting, believes he will be fit to play in the Test despite deep bruising to his wrist.

Flintoff said the world team had to improve dramatically to trouble Australia and dismissed the varied make-up of the team as an excuse.

"Playing for England and playing with a bunch of blokes you have played with for a long time with and come into a

dressng room with people you don't necessarily know is going to be harder," he said.

"But we are professional cricketers, we have to get out there and play and to be picked for a World XI -- two or three years ago I would never have thought I would have been playing, so there is a lot of prestige involved.

"We are not just representing our country but representing the rest of the world and we have to take pride and pleasure in doing that albeit we are not playing for actual countries."

Flintoff said his world teammates didn't want to be embarrassed and expected them to bounce back.

South African skipper Graeme Smith has promised to lift the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP

India's batting ace Sachin Tendulkar plays a defensive shot against India A during the Challenger Series in Mohali on Monday.

Dudhia departs honourably



SPORTS REPORTER

Macky Dudhia parted ways with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday after serving the most demanding sports federation as its chief executive officer for two years.

The giant Zimbabwean however can feel extremely lucky with the manner in which he bowed out of Bangladesh cricket after unceremonious exit of all the foreign recruits starting from Indian coach Mohindar Amarnath to Pakistani Mohsin Kamal.

Dudhia took over the post ahead of the 2003 World Cup in South Africa following a prescription from the International Cricket Council (ICC). The world cricket governing body strongly recommended for the appointment of an administrative chief while awarding Bangladesh Test status in June 2000.

Although Dudhia tried his best to keep a definite distance from the press during his two-year that he described

as a 'wonderful association' with Bangladesh cricket, the soft-spoken cricket organiser broke down at least twice during his farewell speech at a briefing at a local hotel on Monday.

Parting is always painful for anybody and Dudhia was no exception.

"It was a wonderful experience for me to work with Bangladesh cricket. I'm not a fool to say I have done everything that was needed to give the board a professional outlook. But I'm leaving with the satisfaction that I have put things in order from where one can only look forward," said the middle-aged Dudhia, whose last wish to The Daily Star was not to disclose his age.

"Will you please do me a favour. Don't disclose my age," said Dudhia who along with his wife will take a long flight back to Harare on Thursday.

But like many Zimbabweans Dudhia, who has his two children studying in Cape Town, was not in a mood to settle in Robert Mugabe's land.

Although Dudhia was diplomatic when asked whether he was interested

to continue after his contract expired on September 30, the Zimbabwean however strongly vouched for the existence of a CEO for a smooth functioning of the board.



MACKY DUDHIA

"I can only say that there should an administrative post even if a general secretary holds the executive power," he said.

Brazil hold on to draw Argentina muscle past Peru



REUTERS, La Paz

Brazil defied high altitude and rough play from Bolivia to earn a 1-1 draw in their World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

Juninho Pernambucano put Brazil ahead with a trademark free kick before substitute Jose Castillo replied for Bolivia after 50 minutes of a match played at 3,600 metres above sea level.

The hosts were allowed to get away with several nasty challenges in the second half thanks to lenient refereeing by Uruguayan Jorge Larrionda.

Bolivia peppered the Brazil goal with long-range shots while the visitors tried to slow the game down.

Brazil went ahead in the 25th minute when Juninho's dipping 30-metre shot hit the underside of the bar and bounced into the net off goalkeeper Carlos Arias.

Roque Junior nearly added a second when he headed wide following a corner.

At the other end Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar made two outstanding saves in less than a minute, blocking a header from Miguel Hoyos and parrying a powerful Julio Baldvieso drive.

Joaquin Botero wasted another chance when he broke down the right and fired across the face of the goal.

Bolivia equalised five minutes after the break when Daner Pachi's long ball forward was headed down by Botero into the path of Castillo, who rifled home from 12 metres.

Bolivia then appeared to be given a licence to kick by referee Larrionda.

Midfielder Gonzalo Galindo was



PHOTO: REUTERS

Argentina's Carlos Tevez points to the fans after scoring the second goal against Peru in their 2006 World Cup qualifier at the Monumental stadium in Buenos Aires on October 9.

Ad