



Andy Roberts
(Former West Indies fast bowler)
"Don't ask me too much about West Indies cricket. When it comes to West Indies cricket and the way the directors have destroyed everything, I don't know. To be honest, I really don't know..."
While giving his opinion on the current West Indies Cricket Board.



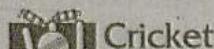
ESPN
Australia vs Sri Lanka
VB Series Second Final
Live at 8:15 am
English Premier Football League
Sunderland vs Tottenham Hotspur
Live at 7:25 pm
Man City vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 8:55 pm
STAR Sports
Football Extra
Live at 9:00 am



7th Nat'l Cricket League
Four-Day Match (Day Four)
Dhaka vs Khulna
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Kapali called back

BCB names side for Lanka ODIs



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) recalled Alok Kapali on Friday when it announced a 15-member squad for the three-match one-day series against Sri Lanka later this month.

The 22-year-old Sylhet right-hander, who played his last limited-overs game against Zimbabwe at Dhaka in 2005, was the lone inclusion in an otherwise unchanged side that played away against the Lankans last August-September.

Dashing batsman Tushar Imran, opener Nafees Iqbal, right-arm paceman Tapash Baisya, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque and paceman Shahadat Hossain were dropped from the list of 20 probable announced on January 28.

Habibul Bashar's men will play

their first two one-day games under lights at the newly approved Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on February 19 and 20 while the third and final match will take place at Chittagong on February 24.

"We have considered him (Kapali) as an all-rounder and we are thinking to use him in a different way. We have a problem in our top order so if Alok bats down the order then both the team and the batsman will be benefitted. Recently he has also improved his

leg-spin," selector Athar Ali Khan told reporters yesterday.

The former national opener informed that one of the reasons behind Kapali's inclusion was to give Tushar Imran, who was considered by the same selection panel as a one-day specialist, a break.

"No doubt Tushar is a very good batsman for the shorter-version game but we thought that a break could be helpful for him," he added.

He also elaborated the exclusion of hard-working paceman Tapash, who had also been ignored for the one-day series against Sri Lanka last year but was later recalled due to last minute injury to leading fast bowler Mashrafe Bin-Mortuza.

"We believe that Tapash is a better bowler in the longer-version that's why we dropped him and we also considered his injury," said Athar adding that they would also

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SQUAD

Habibul Bashar (captain), Khaled Mashud (vice-captain), Khaled Mahmud, Mohammad Ashraful, Javed Omar, Rajin Saleh, Aftab Ahmed, Shahriar Nafees, Alok Kapali, Mohammed Rafique, Manjural Islam Rana, Mashrafe-Bin-Mortuza, Nazmul Hossain, Abdur Razzak and Syed Rassel.

Happy time for Barisal

Rajshahi also win; Khulna stare at defeat



SPORTS REPORTER

The fourth round turned out to be a successful one for Barisal as the hosts pulled off a nine-wicket victory against Sylhet on the third day of their four-day match in the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League yesterday.

Barisal tasted their first victory both in one-day and four-day matches in this round as they handed a massive 109-run defeat on the same opponents at the Barisal Divisional Stadium in the shorter-version game on Wednesday.

It was also a double delight for Rajshahi after their innings and 28 runs success against Chittagong following their 15-run victory against the port city side in the limited-overs game at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Anwar Hossain smashed 145 and Uttam Kumar added 93 in the second innings as leaders

Dhaka were on course to score a straight win against Khulna.

BARISAL-SYLHET
An unbeaten 150-run second wicket partnership between Hannan Sarker and Nasiruddin Faruque powered Barisal to record their first win in the longer-version game.

Sylhet, who were all out for 193 in the first innings in reply to Barisal's 201, set a paltry winning



ANWAR... 145

target of 154 after being bundled out for 160 in their second essay.

New ball bowler Sajid Hasan wreaked havoc picking up four wickets for 47 runs.

Hannan hit 128-ball 72 and Faruque contributed 107-ball 64 as Barisal raced to 156-1 in 41.2 overs.

With the outcome they increased their tally to eight points.

RAJSHAHI-CHITTAGONG
Out-of-favour medium-paceman Mushfiqur Rahman returned a match haul of eight wickets as Rajshahi registered their second outright victory in four matches.

The right-arm pacer claimed five wickets for 56 runs to wrap up the Chittagong second innings for 141.

Ehsanul Haque continued his good form making 55 off 74 balls after hitting 94 in the first innings.

Earlier Rajshahi amassed 385 runs in their first essay in reply to Chittagong's 216.

DHAKA-KHULNA

Wicketkeeper Anwar Hossain and Uttam Kumar shared a 205-run

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2ND FINAL TODAY

Aussies in an unfamiliar situation

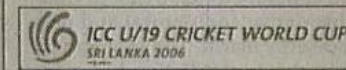
AFP, Sydney

Australia have crashed from unbeatable favourites to facing a must-win match here Sunday against rejuvenated Sri Lanka to prevent losing a home triangular one-day cricket series for the first time in 13 years.

Australia's suicidal batting performance to hand Sri Lanka a stunning 22-run victory in the opening final in Adelaide on Friday puts skipper Ricky Ponting in a perilous situation in the second final at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Ponting, the skipper of the first Australian team to lose the Ashes last year to England in 18 years, could also become the first home captain to lose a tri-series finals since Allan Border lost out to Richie Richardson's West Indians in 1993.

Jr Tigers crash out



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's maiden venture in the Cup phase of the ICC Under-19 World Cup turned into a nightmare when the junior Tigers suffered a five-wicket defeat against England at the P. Saravanamuttu Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

The defeat in the quarterfinals was a bolt from the blue for Bangladesh after a dream group league campaign that saw Mushfiqur Rahim's boys winning all their three games including a four-wicket defeat on holders Pakistan.

But on Saturday Bangladesh youths did not recover from yet another top-order batting collapse against an English side that was a favourite punch-bag when it toured Bangladesh three months back. Bangladesh youth team defeated almost the same side thrice at home on their way to win the triangular tournament that also involved Sri

Lanka.

While the England side learned from demoralising defeats, there was however no improvement in the 'so-called' vaunted Bangladesh top-order that wilted in two crucial previous games against New Zealand and Pakistan.

Although captain cool Mushfiqur bailed Bangladesh out from the gutters on both occasions, the middle-order batsman however failed to deliver for a third time after Bangladesh were reduced to 69-5.

Still, the right-hander scored highest 27 in Bangladesh's modest total of 155 in 48.2 overs after being sent in.

England overtook the target in 43.3 overs to take a sweet revenge of their nine straight defeats against different Bangladeshi selections during their tour in November-December.

England apart, Asian giants India recorded a thumping 126-run victory against West Indies while Pakistan registered a five-wicket victory against Zimbabwe and Australia outclassed hosts Sri Lanka by nine

wickets to reach the Super-League semifinals.

Bangladesh, who entered the Super-League stage for the first time beating New Zealand, Pakistan and Uganda, made a disastrous start losing dashing opener Tamim Iqbal (2) with the scoreboard reading only seven runs from where they never recovered.

Mushfiqur was the top scorer with 50-ball 27 while Shamsur Rahman added 22 off 68 deliveries.

Steven Mullaney was the leading English wicket-taker with 3-26 while Graeme White was most economical conceding 11 runs in his ten overs.

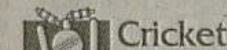
Bangladesh tried something different to defend the small total with spinners operating with the new-ball but Varun Chopra led from the front to dash their hopes as England rode on his 116-ball 40 to reach the target of 156-5 in 43.3 overs.

One down Mark Nelson was the other notable scorer with 32 off just 24 balls.

Mehrab Hossain claimed two wickets for 33 while Sohrawardi

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Yuvraj puts India level with hosts



AFP, Rawalpindi

Dashing left-hander Yuvraj Singh smashed an impressive unbeaten 82 to help India beat Pakistan by seven wickets in the second one-day international here on Saturday.

Yuvraj built on Virender Sehwag's rapid 68-ball 67 and captain Rahul Dravid's 56 as the tourists chased a target of 266 with ease in just 43 overs at the Pindi cricket stadium.

With the crushing win the tourists levelled the five-match series 1-1 after losing the first match at Peshawar by seven runs after special bad light rules came into play.

India's run-chase on a slow paced pitch was never in doubt after Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar (42) gave the visitors a stunning start, scoring 105 runs by the 16th over.

Pakistan, missing their leading quick bowler Shoaib Akhtar for a second match in a row due to an ankle injury, failed to get the early

breakthrough as Sehwag hit 10 fours and one six to put India firmly in control.

Tendulkar, who initially played second fiddle to Sehwag, hit eight boundaries before edging paceman Abdul Razzaq to wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal.

Sehwag was eventually run out after a direct hit on the stumps as he attempted a third run.

Dravid and Yuvraj batted solidly, and took their team to within 25 runs of the target with a stand of 118 for the third wicket, before the captain gave a return catch to Shoaib Malik after hitting five boundaries.

Yuvraj hit eight fours and two sixes during his 89-ball knock.

Dravid said Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq's decision to bat first on a slow pitch was significant.

"We put up a team effort and everyone gave a good account of himself as we bowled well and batted well," he said.

"We were stumped at Inzamam's decision to bat first. We would have fielded first here because we are good at chasing and

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Pharaos rule Africa

REUTERS, Cairo



Hosts Egypt won the African Nations Cup for a record fifth time when they beat Ivory Coast 4-2 on penalties in the final on Friday.

Ivorian captain Didier Drogba missed the Elephants' first spot kick when his effort was saved by Essam El Hadari as Egypt won the shootout follow-

ing a goalless draw after extra time. El Hadari was the hero of the night for the Egyptians when he also saved Ivory Coast's third spot kick by Bakary Kone.

Drogba ended the match in tears, having missed a golden chance to win the game in the 79th minute when he fired over from close range before having his shootout penalty saved.

Egypt triumphed after having a 'goal' disallowed for offside and missing a penalty -- the award of

which was described as scandalous by Ivory Coast coach Henri Michel - when Ahmed Hassan hit the post in the eighth minute of extra time.

Egypt had won the Nations Cup on penalties before when they beat Cameroon in the final as hosts of the 1986 tournament.

Their win on Friday set off wild celebrations at the stadium, where President Hosni Mubarak was among a crowd of about 80,000.

Mubarak watched from a bullet-proof box, where he also handed out the medals after the game.

"We won the championship after a lot of effort and sweat and with support from the president (Mubarak), technical staff and players," said Egypt coach Hassan Shehata.

"The final match was a marathon. We exerted a lot of sweat and effort to please this great nation."

The hosts were without disgraced striker Mido, who looked on from the press box after being kicked out of the squad for his tempestuous reaction towards his coach after being substituted in the 2-1 semifinal win over Senegal on Tuesday.

The Tottenham Hotspur striker, one of only four foreign-based players in Egypt's squad, had scored the tournament's opening goal in the 3-0 win over Libya but failed to hit the target after that.

Despite his modest contribution, Mido, who also missed one game with a groin strain, joined the team's celebrations, picked up a medal from Mubarak and grabbed the trophy on the pitch.

"I'm very happy, I'm proud," he told reporters.

Michel said he was pleased with his Ivory Coast side, who dominated large parts of the match.

"I'm very proud of the team and everything we've done. In the second half we had good chances and, at that time, the Egyptians were dead physically," said the Frenchman.

"When you've got chances, you have to take them."

Ivory Coast, who unlike Egypt

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PHOTO: AFP

THIS IS WHERE I BELONG: Egypt goalkeeper Essam El Hadari, who made the crucial saves in shootout that earned them the African Nations Cup, sits on top of the goalpost after their triumph on Friday.

... make love sparkle !!!

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