

BCB academy take the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) National Cricket Academy took a slender lead of six runs over Pakistan Cricket Academy on the third day of the first four-day match at the TMC ground in Karachi yesterday.

At stumps, the BCB side openers Nazmus Sadat (33) and skipper Mehrab Hossain (9) were unbeaten as they took the second innings total to 49 for no loss in 16 overs in their second innings to gain an overall lead of 55 runs. The hosts finished their first essay at 383 in 118.3 overs.

Earlier, spinner Marshall Ayub sparked a late-order collapse to restrict the rampant hosts after they started well from their overnight score of 246 for two.

The young right-arm-er took three for 41 to sink the Pakistanis from the relative ease of 350 for five to 383 all out while fast bowler Nazmul and left-arm spinner Mehrab supported him with two victims each. Opening bowler Shafaq Al Jabir took his only wicket on the second day while another left-armer Mosharraf Rubel took one wicket as well.

For the hosts, Nasir knocked 124 but Fawwad missed his ton when he fell to Mehrab on 96, ending a massive 208-run third wicket stand with Nasir. Shahid also stroked a quickfire 80.

First ODI washed out

AFP, Colombo

Heavy rain washed out the first limited-overs international between India and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Saturday.

A sharp thundershower around 10.30am local time (0500 GMT) waterlogged the outfield and forced the game to be called off an hour later.

The remaining two matches will be played on Sunday and Tuesday at the same venue, weather permitting.

India were due to resume at Friday's score of 11-0 in 3.4 overs with captain Rahul Dravid on nine and Sachin Tendulkar, returning to international cricket after five

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



Did U Know?

The United States' Major League Soccer made its debut in 1996, shortly after the wildly successful 1994 World Cup was hosted by the United States.



Mohammad Asif
(Pakistan fast bowler)
"(Glenn) McGrath is a big name. I want to be a big name."



ESPN
England v Pakistan
Fourth Test, Day 4
Live at 4:00 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Chelsea v Man City
Live at 8:55 pm

TEN Sports
Sri Lanka v India
Second ODI
Live at 10:30 am



PHOTO: AFP

TOO HEAVY FOR GOLD: Bangladeshi weightlifter Hamid Islam lifts on his way to winning the bronze medal in the 62kg men's category during the 10th South Asian Games in Colombo on Saturday.

Pakistan stay on top



AFP, London

England's bowlers belatedly found their form as Mohammad Yousuf's third hundred of the series came to an end but Pakistan remained in control on the third day of the fourth and final Test at The Oval here Saturday.

At tea Pakistan were 444 for seven, a lead of 271, after Yousuf had scored 128 in a match the tourists are playing for pride with England having already wrapped up the series.

Faisal Iqbal was 30 not out after Shahid Nazir (17) was caught off the last ball before tea by Matthew Hoggard off fellow quick Sajid Mahmood.

On a pitch possibly freshened by rain which meant only 33.5 overs had so far been bowled in the day, England's pace bowlers looked a threat for the first time in this match.

Spearhead quick Stephen Harmison had been well below his best during more than 22 wicketless overs where he conceded 98 runs.

But the Durham fast bowler took two wickets for one run in 15 balls to dismiss Yousuf and wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal (15).

However, this effort did nothing to answer the criticism that Harmison was the bowling equivalent of a 'flat-track' bully, unable to take important wickets in less than helpful conditions.

And the renewed life in the pitch would have been welcome by Pakistan's quick bowlers, who'd dismissed England for a lowly first innings 173.

Pakistan started the day on 336 for three with Yousuf 115 not out, after twice being dropped in single figures, and captain Inzamam-ul-Haq two not out.

Yousuf's century followed his 202 in the drawn first Test at Lord's and 192 in England's series-clinching 167-run third Test triumph at Headingley. It was also his fourth hundred in five Tests against England.

During the course of his innings Yousuf became the leading run scorer in Test cricket this year, his tally now standing at 1,123 runs.

And the right-hander's current series aggregate of 631 runs was the most by a player for either side in an England-Pakistan Test campaign.

Harmison had gone wicketless for more than 22 largely lacklustre overs, conceding 98 runs in the process.

But after an hour-long rain break, Inzamam, on 31, nicked a lifting delivery from Harmison to England captain Andrew Strauss at second slip.

It was Harmison's first wicket in 281 balls since he dismissed Yousuf for 192 at Headingley.

Then, six balls later, 379 for four

became 381 for five when Yousuf edged Matthew Hoggard through to wicketkeeper Chris Read.

In all Yousuf batted for nearly five-and-three-quarter hours, facing 236 balls with 18 fours. But he was a becalmed figure Saturday with only six scoring shots in 45 balls.

After Akmal was well held by third slip Paul Collingwood, Nazir, on 14, was dropped by Hoggard off Monty Panesar.

That was England's fifth drop of the innings, the previous four all off Hoggard with Yousuf missed on five and nine by first slip Marcus Trescothick and gully Alastair Cook respectively.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the fourth and final Test between England and Pakistan at The Oval on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 173 (Gul 4-47, Asif 4-56)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 336-3)

Hafeez c Strauss b Hoggard 95
Farhat c Trescothick b Hoggard 91
Younis c Read b Mahmood 9
Yousuf c Read b Hoggard 128
Inzamam c Strauss b Harmison 31
Faisal Iqbal not out 30
Akmal c Collingwood b Harmison 15
Nazir c Hoggard b Mahmood 17
Extras: (lb-9, w-11, nb-8) 28
Total: (For 7 wts in 115.5 overs) 444
Fall of wickets: 1-70, 2-148, 3-325, 4-379, 5-381, 6-398, 7-444
To bat: Asif, Gul, Kaneria.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	33	2	119	3
Harmison	30	6	119	2
Mahmood	21.5	3	84	2
Panesar	23	4	75	0
Collingwood	6	0	29	0
Pietersen	2	0	9	0



PHOTO: AFP

SUBLIME: Pakistan batsman Mohammad Yousuf drives on the off-side in the second day of the fourth and final Test against England at The Oval in London on Friday.

Shahjahan gets into pool today

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo

Shahjahan Ali Rony will warm up for his pet event, 50m breaststroke, when the BKSP swimmer takes to the pool today in the longer version event of the 10th SA Games at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium.

Rony, two-time national 50m breaststroke champion, may not expect the gold in the 100m event today, but his coach is hopeful that the 19-year-old will win a medal which can inspire him for the shorter distance competition three days later.

Bangladesh missed a breaststroke gold in the previous two meets in Kathmandu and Islamabad although they have a rich history in this event of the biennial Games, having won gold medals in 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1995. The other time they failed to win gold was at the inaugural SAF Games in Kathmandu in 1984.

The team coach is unsure about whether Rony would be able to reach the South Asian mark in the 100m although he has had good timing during preparation.

"We are expecting a medal from him but not gold in this event," said swimming coach Abdul Hamid yesterday.

"Our best hopes are in the short-distance events because our swimmers have less endurance," he said adding that the federation lacks facilities to cope with the demand of long-distance disciplines. Niaz Ali, who snatched a bronze in the 200m breaststroke yesterday, will also compete in the 100m.

BANGLADESH IN GAMES TODAY

SWIMMING (men's): Nazrul Islam in 50m freestyle; Niaz Ali and Shahjahan Ali Rony in 100m breaststroke; (women's): Sabura Khatun in 800m freestyle and in 4x100m freestyle relay

KABADDI: Bangladesh v Nepal (women's) and Bangladesh v Pakistan (men's)

WEIGHTLIFTING: Monoranjan Roy (69kg), Mizanur Rahman (77kg)

OTHERS: Squash, table tennis and boxing

Bad day for TT, badminton too

SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo

Pakistani shuttlers smashed their way into the semifinals of the men's badminton team event with a 3-1 come-from-behind win against Bangladesh at the 10th SA Games here today.

Bangladesh got off to a bright start with Ahsan Habib Parash defeating Wajid Ali 14-21, 21-16, 21-19 in the first singles of the first-round clash at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium.

But Bangladesh lost their way as the Pakistanis, strong in smash, especially from the baseline, exploited the weak returns from the opposition to take a 2-1 lead winning the remaining singles as Umer Zishan beat Mostafa Javed 21-14, 21-10 and Zafar Tasneem defeated Rasel Kabir Sumon 21-15, 15-21, 21-18.

Mostafa Javed and Mokhtar Hossain put on another fightback when the Bangladeshi pair won the first game of the doubles match 23-21 but Pakistani duo Waqas and the southpaw Wajid got on top to win 21-15 and 21-16.

This was the end of the road for the Bangladesh badminton team who have never won a medal in the past.

The men and women's table tennis teams also lost their games, at the St. Thomas College Sports Complex.

India blanked Bangladesh 3-0 in the men's event while the women's team lost 3-2 to Bhutan.

PFL on time: BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has assured that the first-ever professional football league will begin on schedule.

As per earlier announcement the first-ever professional league will start on the first week of November this year.

In a statement, the BFF said that they have planned to give the country's first-ever professional league a ceremonial start on November 7 in presence of AFC President Mohammad Bin Hammam and French football legend Zinedine Zidane.

"There is no scope to be confused with the schedule. The registration of the players and inter-club player transfer formalities will also held on September 1," said the press release.

The BFF has also decided to consider any financial loss of the participating teams if it fails to start the league in time.

Booters crash out



AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Bangladesh footballers failed to cross the first round of the 10th SA Games when they crashed to archrivals India 2-1 at the Sugathadasa Stadium here yesterday.

This is the second successive time that Bangladesh, five-time finalists and champions in 1999 in Kathmandu, could not make the last four after their failure in Islamabad two years ago. The other time they were eliminated from the group stage was in 1993 when the Games were held in Dhaka.

Friday's opening ceremony and yesterday afternoon's heavy showers left the ground in unplayable condition, but Diego Cruciani's boys appeared to be the only side struggling.

India, who have brought here the under-20 side for their preparation

for the AFC Youth Championship to be held in October-November in their own backyard, were the superior side in the first-half and rushed blood in the fourth minute. However, Bangladesh captain Titu made a clearance inside the box after the centre-backs missed a low cross by Indian leftback Vashum, who put constant threat on the Bangladesh backline with his speedy runs.

Two minutes later, Ujjal made a breakthrough down the right but both the strikers, Emily and Topu, failed to meet a superb cross from the midfielder.

It was a one-way traffic afterwards as India went ahead in the 11th minute when striker Soshil Kumar -- chasing a through from the midfield -- slid the ball past goalkeeper Shakil from seven yards for his second goal in the tournament.

Halfway through the first-half, towering striker Branco Vincentcodo gave Shakil no chance when he put an inch-perfect right-side centre by Soshil Kumar into the back of the net with a bulletheader.

Topu's long-range shot that evaded the Indian goal by inches in

the injury time, was Bangladesh's only attempt on rival goal before halftime.

A desperate Bangladesh went at full throttle after the break but spoiled three great chances inside 10 minutes. Faisal Mahmud, who scored against Nepal, pushed the ball wide of an open net after Topu set him up in the 56th minute while Topu himself failed to beat the lone keeper after fullback Siraji cut the ball from right. Ujjal then sped into the box from right but his low drive was once again saved by Shilton Paul, who was outstanding under the Indian bar.

The pressure told in the 68th minute when Indian defender Hirohito handled the ball inside the area while trying to stop a cross by Topu. Titu kept his cool and sent Shilton the wrong way to reduce the margin.

Bangladesh mounted more pressure and Rintu had two chances to settle the issue from rebounds, but the midfielder's scorcher from 40 yards skimmed upright while his drive from 18

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Ritu rattles Joypurhat



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Striker Majibur Rahman Ritu slammed a hattrick as defending champions Narayanganj made a flying start in the final round of the Jubok Phone National Football Championship with a 7-1 thrashing of Joypurhat at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first-half 2-0 when Mohammad Hanif opened the floodgate in the 13th minute and Abul Hossain doubled

the margin in the 34th minute.

Then it was the story of Ritu after the breather as he found the net in the very first minute of the second-half and netted two more goals in the 63rd and 88th minutes to complete his treble.

Mithun Chowdhury and Zakir Hossain made the gap even wider for the holders with strikes in the 66th and 73rd minutes respectively.

Substitute Pashban Hossain scored the consolation goal for the losers in the injury time.

But the scoreline could have been much bigger for the winners if man-of-the-match Mithu had not

missed the first scoring opportunity as early as in the fourth minute with only goalkeeper alone in front him.

Interestingly though the winning team's coach was not satisfied with his team's comfortable win in the one-sided match.

"The scoreline could have been much bigger if my boys could play up to their potential. I am also not happy with my defence lapse in the match," said Narayanganj coach BAZobayer Nipu.

On the other hand, Joypurhat coach Mostaqim Wazed claimed that his side could not even play one fourth of their strength.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

MAN UNDER ATTACK: Joypurhat goalkeeper Nahid Alam (C) thwarts an attack from the rampant Narayanganj side during their final round match of the Jubok Phone National Football Championship at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

Greg oblivious to offer Dav mentioned for Aussie job



CRICINFO, undated

Greg Chappell has brushed aside suggestions that he could be the man to coach Australia's national team once John Buchanan's successful tenure ends after the World Cup in May 2007.

Chappell's current contract with the Indian team also expires around the same time, but he insisted that there had been no approach from Cricket Australia, or any word from the Indian board that his deal would not be extended.

"I haven't really followed the story," he told Cricinfo. "If Allan Border did say that, then I

assume that they might be in the process of identifying candidates to succeed Buchanan. If the media want to pick up a quote and run with it, then that's their prerogative."

The Herald Sun had quoted Border, now a Cricket Australia director, as saying: "Tom Moody, Tim Nielsen, Greg Chappell is in the mix, Dav Whatmore is now coaching Bangladesh and he was a long-term coach at Sri Lanka. We've got a lot of good candidates for a tough job."

The story also suggested that Chappell's contract with the BCCI "will not be renewed by mutual arrangement".

If that's the case, it's certainly news to Chappell, who said: "I'm just halfway through the job I have

to do here. There have been no discussions yet with the BCCI about extending my contract, nor have they told me that there is no interest in an extension. As of now, I'm coach of the Indian team. That's my job, and my entire focus is on that. I'm really not interested in fanning the flames of mere speculation."

India have been in Sri Lanka over a week now, and have just one practice match and 22 balls of international cricket to show for their time here.

Chappell admitted that it was a difficult situation for the players to wait around not knowing when they would get to play. With more rain predicted, this ill-fated tour could literally turn out to be a damp squib.

Another batch off to Lanka

SPORTS REPORTER

Three more teams -- karate, taekwondo and athletics -- left Dhaka yesterday for Colombo to take part in the ongoing 10th South Asian Games that began Friday in the Sri Lankan capital.

The last four teams of the Bangladesh contingent -- wrestling, judo, archery and volleyball -- leave today.

Ad