

Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2006, E-MAIL: sports@theluckystar.net



Bangladesh players enjoying their time in the swimming pool of Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Aussies clinch DLF Cup

Cricket

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Australia crushed the West Indies by 127 runs to win the DLF Cup final Sunday and send a chilling warning to their rivals ahead of the Champions Trophy next month.

Set 241 to win, the West Indies were skittled out for 113 from 34.2 overs, unable to deal with the power and accuracy of Australia's top-notch bowling attack.

Brett Lee took 4-24 while his partner Glenn McGrath bowled six overs for just six runs, two of which were extras.

"It's a very good result for us but I still don't think we have played our best cricket," said Australian captain Ricky Ponting.

"I don't think the West Indies surrendered, I don't think any team ever does. It was just that we bowled very well."

His West Indies counterpart Brian Lara said that despite the loss, he was encouraged that his team made the final at all.

"We lost two many wickets too soon. We crumbled and didn't get our act together," he said.

"But I am encouraged and very pleased that my side got to the final. We still have work to do but we are getting there."

The Windies got off to the worst possible start when Chris Gayle was sensationally out lbw to a Lee yorker on the first ball of the innings.

When Lee was given a breather the peroxide blonde Nathan Bracken was brought into the action with dramatic consequences.

Shinarine Chanderpaul, who has struggled this series, smacked him for four on his first ball but that's

where it ended as he mistimed a flick off the legs the very next ball to be caught by Simon Katich at midwicket.

Ranako Morton spent 31 balls at the crease without scoring when Bracken trapped him leg before, leaving the West Indies at 20 for three.

It brought Lara to the crease and along with Ramnaresh Sarwan he was able to steady the ship before a dubious decision cost him his wicket.

The 37-year-old played and missed at a Bracken delivery and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin appealed for a catch. Television replays appeared to show he got no bat on it, but he was gone for five.

The pressure was unrelenting and Dwayne Bravo (8) lamely pulled a Shane Watson ball to Ponting at short midwicket and Wavell Hinds followed him soon after without scoring, clean bowled by Watson's rocket.

Ramnaresh offered resistance before he was out for 36. Dwayne Smith whacked 30 off 30 balls before he went out, to an easy catch by Ponting off Lee, and the tail failed to wag.

Ponting had won the toss and elected to bat on a slow outfield and the runs proved hard to come by before a late flurry.

Damien Martyn and Andrew Symonds both scored 52 as the world champions reached 240 for 6.

Ian Bradshaw was the pick of the bowlers with a tidy 2-30 off his 10 overs.

Australia struggled to get going with opener Katich batting at a snail's pace, facing 52 balls before hitting his first four.

Watson (18) fared better before Bradshaw enticed an edge that Gayle collected at slip. Ponting

bounced to the wicket but was back in the pavilion for six, out lbw to Jerome Taylor.

Katich finally broke free with a six off Bravo in the 20th over before being topped for 25 from 66 balls.

Martyn did his best to get things going but eventually went after getting under a ball from Bradshaw, holing out to Runako Morton.

Andrew Symonds then began doing what he does best -- hitting out -- before Sarwan had the wild-haired all-rounder caught by Morton in the deep.

Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke and Haddin added valuable late runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of one-day DLF Cup final between Australia and the West Indies at Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA

	Watson c Gayle b Bradshaw	18		
Katich c sub (Samuels) b Gayle	2	2		
Ponting lbw b Taylor	6			
Martyn c Morton b Bradshaw	52			
Symonds c Morton b Sarwan	52			
Hussey not out	30			
Clarke c Lara b Sarwan	23			
Haddin not out	17			
Extras: (lb-7, w-9, nb-1)	17			
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 240				
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-37, 3-80, 4-153, 5-173, 6-200				
Did not bat: Lee, Bracken, McGrath				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bradshaw	10	2	30	2
Taylor	10	1	36	1
Smith	8	1	35	0
Bravo	9	1	65	0
Gayle	9	0	46	1
Sarwan	4	0	21	2

WEST INDIES

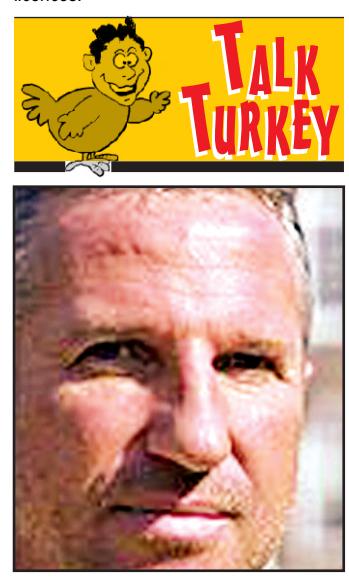
	Chanderpaul c Katich b Bracken	12
Gayle lbw b Lee	0	
Morton lbw b Bracken	0	
Sarwan run out (Ponting)	36	

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Did U Know?

More than 100 million people hold hunting licences.



Ian Botham

(England cricket legend)
"I am colour-blind, which makes me worry about what clothes I put on in the morning. My wife matches my shirts and ties in advance."



ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premiership
Portsmouth v Bolton
Live at 12:54am (Tuesday)
STAR Sports
Mumbai Open Tennis
Live at 5:30pm

ICC HEARING Inzy off to London

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket captain Inzamamul Haq Sunday left for London to appear before an International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct hearing at which he faces a possible ban.

Inzamam led his team's protest after umpires Darrell Hair of Australia and Billy Doctrove of the West Indies changed the ball over suspicions of ball-tampering on the fourth day of the Test match at The Oval last month.

Umpires penalised five runs and after Pakistan's protest awarded the match to England.

The hearing, to be conducted by ICC chief match referee Ranjan Madugalle, is due to take place on Wednesday and Thursday with a verdict expected on Friday.

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Hockey, football Doha-bound?

All SA Games silver medalists to go to Asiad

SPORTS REPORTER



The uncertainty over Bangladeshi football and hockey teams' participation in the coming Asian Games seemed to be over after the government's decision to send both the teams to the meet in Doha this December.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman yesterday gave his nod for sending both the teams to Qatar as well as giving a directive to the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) that all 15 silver medalists at the recently concluded 10th South Asian Games in Colombo should be sent.

The football and hockey high-ups met the minister yesterday at the National Sports Council to settle the issue after the BOA had ignored the two teams for the trip on account of poor performance later.

"Often we cannot get results according to expectation. Our overall performance at the South Asian Games was not satisfactory, so why should (popular sports like) football and hockey only be ignored? Sportsmen need exposure to international events and I feel they should go to the Doha meet," he said.

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