

KABADDI WORLD CUP Bangladesh drub Thailand

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh handed a thumping 55-25 defeat on Thailand in their opening match of the second Kabaddi World Cup at Panvel, near Mumbai yesterday, according to internet reports.

Bangladesh are drawn with Japan and Afghanistan in Pool C in the 16-team event hosted by defending champions India.

The Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, however, could not confirm the news as they have yet get in contact with the team officials since their departure on January 22.

The three-day event, organised by Karnala Sports Academy under the auspices of the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India, will offer the title winners a prize money of Rupees 2.5 lakh.

With Pakistan's presence in some doubt due to visa problems, only Iran and, to some extent, South Asian games and Asian games bronze medallist Bangladesh look capable of giving the home team a tough fight.

The Indian government has decided not to issue visa to the Pakistan team reportedly because some of the players are from the armed forces, according to PTI.

The President of the International Kabaddi Federation and the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India Janardan Singh Gehlot said that the Indian government did not issue the visa to the Pakistan team as some players were from the armed forces.

Gehlot described it as a 'great loss to the championship'.

"I don't understand why only

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Did U Know?

A total of 147 goals were scored in 64 games over 30 days (average of 2.29 goals per game) including two milestone goals in the FIFA 2006 World Cup.



STAR Sports
Australian Open
Women's Semifinals
Live at 8:30 am
Men's Semifinals
Live at 2:30 pm



Nicole Vaidisova

(Czech tennis star)

"I was definitely a big fan of hers, admired the way she played. I don't think I'll be going out there scared. But of course I have a lot of respect for what she's done."

On her semifinal clash against Serena Williams, her idol.



Premier Division Cricket League
Old DOHS v City Club
Venue: BKSP
Brothers Union v Abahani
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Biman v Kalabagan
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium



Indian batsman Dinesh Karthik hoists a boundary over the mid-wicket region as West Indies wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin looks on during the second ODI at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on Wednesday.

Powell restricts India



AFP, Cuttack

India recovered from a career-best 4-27 by Daren Powell to post 189 all out in the second one-day international against a depleted West Indies here on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old Jamaican seamer ripped through the top order with the wickets of Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and captain Rahul Dravid in his first four overs.

India, reduced to 69-6 at one stage, were revived by a battling 63 from 21-year-old Dinesh Karthik and his 62-run stand for the eighth wicket with Ajit Agarkar.

Agarkar was last man out for 40 after the final four wickets added a valuable 120 runs for the hosts.

The West Indies were without captain Brian Lara, who skipped the day-night game with a sore knee. Opener Chris Gayle stepped in to lead the tourists' bid to level the four-match series.

India's top order faltered on the slow, lifeless wicket at the Barabati Stadium after Dravid won the toss and elected to bat in front of 35,000 home fans.

Openers Gautam Gambhir and Ganguly, who put on 144 runs in Sunday's first match in Nagpur

which India won by 14 runs, lasted together for just 15 deliveries.

Gambhir had made two when he was caught down the leg-side by wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin off left-arm seamer Ian Bradshaw.

Ganguly, who hit 98 in Nagpur on his return to one-day cricket after 16 months, made 13 when he patted a catch to short midwicket in Powell's first over.

Tendulkar failed to get off the mark in his world record 376th one-day appearance, offering a tame catch to mid-on in Powell's next over.

Dravid had hit four boundaries in 22 when he was bowled by a slower ball from Powell to make India 46-4.

Powell had taken just eight wickets in his previous 12 one-dayers, including a best of 3-33 against Pakistan in Multan in December.

India made two changes in their team, bringing in all-rounder Joginder Sharma and off-spinner

Latest

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Shivnarine Chandepaul (56 batting) kept the West Indies' hopes alive in the second one-day international against India when he led the tourists to 145-6 after 39 overs. Denesh Ramdin was batting on three.

Ramesh Powar in place of Suresh Raina and Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

Devon Smith replaced the injured Lara for the West Indies.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the India innings in the second one-day international against the West Indies at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on Wednesday:

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| INDIA | | | | | |
| Gambhir c Ramdin b Bradshaw | 2 | | | | |
| Ganguly c Morton b Powell | 13 | | | | |
| Dravid b Powell | 22 | | | | |
| Tendulkar c Bradshaw b Powell | 0 | | | | |
| Karthick b Bradshaw | 63 | | | | |
| Dhoni c and b Smith | 6 | | | | |
| Sharma b Powell | 1 | | | | |
| Harbhajan b Bravo | 6 | | | | |
| Agarkar run out | 40 | | | | |
| Powar b Bravo | 5 | | | | |
| Zaheer Khan not out | 7 | | | | |
| Extras: (lb-3, nb-1, w-20) | 24 | | | | |
| Total: (All out in 48.2 overs) | 189 | | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-35, 3-35, 4-46, 5-66, 6-69, 7-90, 8-152, 9-163. | | | | | |
| Bowler | O | M | R | W | |
| Bradshaw | 10 | 1 | 38 | 2 | |
| Taylor | 10 | 1 | 38 | 0 | |
| Powell | 10 | 2 | 27 | 4 | |
| Smith | 9 | 1 | 34 | 1 | |
| Bravo | 8.2 | 1 | 36 | 2 | |
| Gayle | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0 | |

Toss: India
Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL) and Amiesh Saheba (IND)

Imran behind Shoaib



AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan bowling great Imran Khan on Wednesday backed fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, saying he should have been kept with the team despite his injury problems.

"You keep your match winners with the team and Akhtar's only two bursts put Pakistan in the match winning position in the Port Elizabeth Test," Imran told reporters, referring to the series in South Africa.

Akhtar capped his return to Test cricket with a magnificent 4-36 in the second Test against South Africa last week before tearing his hamstring muscle.

The 31-year-old maverick fast bowler did not bowl in the second innings of the Test, which Pakistan won by five wickets on Monday.

He was due to miss the third Test starting at Cape Town from Friday and was returning home on Thursday.

Imran said injury has been part and parcel of a fast bowler's career.

"Every fast bowler gets unfit and because of his action and speed Akhtar has more fitness problems but that doesn't mean you don't play him at all. He won Pakistan's most important series against England in 2005," said Imran.

Imran was referring to Akhtar's 17 wickets which guided Pakistan to a 2-0 Test series win over England, who had come to

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Abahani eye 6 out of 6

Umpiring irks CCDM boss too

SPORTS REPORTER



Leaders Abahani will get back their regular skipper Khaled Mashud when they take on

pointless Brothers Union in the sixth round game of the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium today.

The former national skipper missed the last three games due to an injury on his left hand and will return only as a batsman, according to Abahani officials.

The Dhanmondi-based club, the only unbeaten side in the league so far, will also introduce Sri Lankan import Sujith Fernando in the game. The left-handed top-order batsman cum right-arm slow bowler has played for Sri Lanka A.

Abahani will rest Pakistani batsman Imran Abbas in a bid to have a look at the Lankan player ahead of their mega clash against second-placed Mohammedan.

While Abahani, fresh from a 34-run victory against DOHS, look forward to maintain their all-win record, defending champions

DOHS will desperately try to get back to the winning track after two

consecutive defeats when they meet City Club at BKSP.

The day's other match between Biman and Kalabagan will take place at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Even after completion of thirty matches (five rounds) in the coveted domestic competition, questions are still raised about the quality of umpiring. Many, however, are confused whether it was 'biased' or 'below standard' umpiring.

"I am confused whether the umpires are biased or incapable but no doubt the board should seriously look into the matter when we are playing at the highest level of the game," observed a national cricketer.

Khondokar Jamiluddin, chairman of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM), also admitted that they have already got verbal objections about poor umpiring in number of games.

"We already got verbal protests from some clubs and also learned that poor umpiring has been evident. We will watch one or two more rounds before thinking about foreign umpires," said Jamil.

He also blasted the umpires' committee for their non-cooperation.

"I am really helpless about the issue as the umpires' committee has so far been non-cooperative with us. I don't understand why they considered country's two best umpires for a less important match in the previous round instead appointing them for the crucial match between DOHS and Abahani," he questioned.

Star cricketers Khaled Mahmud and Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza have already been fined for over reaction in that match but the umpires have escaped punishment despite poor shows.

"I can assure you that we will not compromise about the issue," Jamil said.

POINTS TABLE

| Teams | M | W | L | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Abahani | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 |
| Sonargaon | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Mohammedan | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Old DOHS | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Victoria | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Biman | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Pegasus | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Kalabagan | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| City Club | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Parlex | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Indira Road | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Brothers | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

SHARAPOVA GRINDS OUT ANOTHER WIN

Clijsters outlasts Hingis



AFP, Melbourne

Kim Clijsters ended the Australian Open dreams of Martina Hingis Wednesday to set up a semifinal showdown with Maria Sharapova while.

Clijsters, the fourth seed, scraped through 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 against the triple champion and sixth seed, surviving a mid-match wobble in her final appearance at Melbourne Park before retiring at the end of the year.

It was an uncharacteristic display by Clijsters, who made a

whopping 62 unforced errors to Hingis's 20, and she knows she must restrict them against the Russian pin-up on Thursday.

"I wasn't really seeing the ball too well but all you can do is fight and work for every point and that's what I did," said the Belgian, who is getting married and settling down at the end of the season.

"I will have to be sharper tomorrow. Maria fights a lot and is an incredible athlete. Hopefully, I won't make 62 unforced errors again."

Clijsters was once known as "Aussie Kim" when she dated local hero Lleyton Hewitt while Hingis has made the final here six times and the Melbourne Park crowd retains a soft spot for both players.

They were both warmly received

Wednesday and Clijsters paid tribute to Hingis, who returned to tennis at the Open last year after a three-year injury layoff.

"It's great to see her out here again. She's a good friend and she has a lot of tennis left in her yet."

Sharapova came through a tough clash with 12th seed Anna Chakvetadze 7-6 (7/5), 7-5, but it was an unconvincing performance against a dogged opponent who refused to be dominated in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

The 19-year-old top seed, who has just reclaimed the world number one ranking, admitted it was scratchy but said she was smarter than Chakvetadze.

"I thought I was a little bit up and

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PHOTO: AFP

Russian top seed Maria Sharapova follows through on a serve during her quarterfinal clash against fellow countrywoman Anna Chakvetadze at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday.