



AFTER A SHORT BREAK: Indian batsman Virender Sehwag shadows a shot during a training session at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Tuesday.

UNO win by five wickets

GAIBANDHA CORRESPONDENT

Club UNO recorded a comfortable 5-wicket win over Adhunik Sporting Club in the Second Division Cricket league here yesterday.

Adhunik elected to bat first after winning the toss at the Gaibandha Stadium and were all out for 160 in 19.4 overs. In reply, UNO took 20 overs to reach 161-5.

Jhankar will meet DCP Club today.

Umps to use stump mikes in World Cup

REUTERS, Karachi

Umpires will be wired to stump microphones in the World Cup to help them make decisions, a Pakistan Cricket Board official said on Tuesday.

The issue was discussed in detail at last month's meeting of the chief executives of the International Cricket Council (ICC) member boards, Saleem Altaf, the director of cricket operations for the PCB told Reuters.

"It has been decided to use a new technology for this purpose and a British company would be providing the software," Altaf said.

"Umpires during the World Cup will be able to use the stump microphones to pick up snicks and inside edges to help them improve their decision making," he added.

The World Cup will run from March 13 to April 28 in the West Indies.

The ICC experimented with the idea in 2004 in the Champions Trophy and countries have also tested it in their domestic cricket.

"In the past inferior equipment has been used and it didn't really help the umpires. This time the umpires will be able to use state of the art technology," Altaf said.

Scots set up

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Championship in South Africa.

Omair Hussain received a reprimand for showing dissent at being given out lbw during the Scotland Innings.

Hussain "appeared to gesture with both hands, indicating his unhappiness with the decision," according to a statement from the International Cricket Council.

Tournament referee Roshan Mahanama said: "Hussain is a young player with potentially a long time in the game at a high level."

"But he will find that if he acts in this way in future then some of that time will be spent in disciplinary hearings."

Vaughan very

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performances we have in the last two games because we have a World Cup coming up.

"We haven't played the cricket we wanted to early in this series but we're starting to get it right now."

"Everybody goes through drops in form and it's been hard to get it back but I'm just thankful it came good."

'C'Ron better

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the more attractive option.

"Cristiano needs to move somewhere where the team is an integral part of the club -- not somewhere where the system is based on individual 'heroes' or 'stars'."

"Moving to a club where there are four or five 'stars' who do their own thing is unworkable," said the Brazilian.

Ronaldo sacred his 15th goal of the campaign in the Premiership leaders 4-0 win over Tottenham on Sunday.

Bangladesh host HK today

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coach Yusuf got the team to train but the former national centre-back said that his boys are now 'fit enough to match an international opposition'.

"The players have recovered well after two practice matches and now look ready to fight any team for full 90 minutes in international standard," said Yusuf, whose side drew 2-2 with Dhaka Mohammedan and lost 2-3 to touring South Korean amateurs Ulsan Hyundai Mipo Dockyard FC last week.

"We showed lacking in midfield and attack but have to improve if we want to beat Hong Kong."

"We've used the recovery period after those games and my preparation is satisfactory. I don't know much about the opponents but the

level of Hong Kong's football is higher than us."

"Still, I think they would not be better than Ulsan, whose temperament and experience put pressure on us to win after conceding a 200-lead."

"We showed lacking in midfield and attack but have to improve if we want to beat Hong Kong."

"We are not in a position to set a strategy beforehand. We have different plans and will go according to situation," he said replying to a question.

"We will play positive football and certainly to win in this leg," added Yusuf, who also trimmed the 25-member squad to 18 yesterday.

Abahani fullback Waly Faisal has been chosen to lead the side to play in a 4-4-2 formation.

Meanwhile, the Global Beverage Company who bought the commercial rights of the match from the Bangladesh Football Federation for Tk 2 lakh, will distribute 20,000 eastern gallery tickets for students.

The makers of Virgin soft drinks, who has earned the rights of setting 30 billboards inside the ground, will also organise gallery parties.

"We are hoping at least 10,000 students would turn out. This is our first involvement in football and we hope to continue it," told Nasir Rizvi, director of Global Beverage.

Tickets will cost Tk 50 and Tk 20 respectively for VIP and the west gallery.

BANGLADESH SQUAD: Tariq, Himesh, Aurup, Arif, Jahirul, Sony, Waly, Saikat, Aminur, Mamun, Nasir, Sharif, Zahid Parvez, Zahid Hossain, Maruf, Robin, Ujjal and Emry.

Kanpur burns for Kaif

PTI, Kanpur

Local cricket fans burnt an effigy of chairman of selectors Dilip Vengsarkar to protest the dropping of Uttar Pradesh skipper Mohammad Kaif from the Indian team.

Protests assembled at the Green Park Stadium and burnt the effigy and raised slogans alleging bias in selection matters.

They said the performance of Kaif was much better than many of the players in the team and his non-inclusion, along with that of Suresh Raina, Rudra Pratap Singh and Piyush Chawla, betrayed a prejudice against Uttar Pradesh cricketers.

Victoria crush DOHS

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taking four wickets as DOHS lost their top-order for just 68 runs.

Only Mohammad Shaheen, the dapper wicketkeeper-batsman stuck around to score 69.

Only on Saturday the club management fined his players Tk 10,000 each for underperforming but the measure did not motivate Akram Khan's side.

With only 147 to win, Victoria romped home with nine wickets to spare. Imrul Kayes struck 57 while Nasiruddin Faruq was unbeaten on 63.

The defeat now puts all the onus on DOHS's last match in the first-leg against Shergaon.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MOHAMMEDAN: 175-5 in 23 overs (Rashedul 76, Zuned 12, Sandeep 33, Sahagir 25, Faisal 20, Hasibul 1 n.o., Imtiaz 0 n.o., extras 8, Mahbubul 3-27, Elias 1-30, Fahim 1-23).

SONARGAON: 175-7 in 23 overs (Shahnar 50, Elias 20, Alok 27, Jayantha 40, Dhaman 3, Marshall 11, Ejaz 1, Fahim 3 n.o., Mahbubul 5*, extras 15, Hasibul 1-39, Imtiaz 2-2).

DOHS: 146 all out in 39 overs (Khaled 0, Shahin 69, Farrukh 1, Shamsur 8, Mazhar 5, Akram 3, Nadir 0, Dollar 15, Nazmul 26, Enamul 3, Nabil 2 n.o., extras 14, Kabir 2-4, Islam 1-30, Jaffer 4-21, Sabir 2-20, Mustaqim 1-21).

VICTORIA: 150-1 in 37.4 overs (Imrul 57 n.o., Nasiruddin 63, Mustaqim 20 n.o., extras 10, Enamul 1-30).

Result: Victoria won by nine wickets.

England into finals!

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29-5 as the match slipped away and their recent run of narrow and frustrating losses continued.

Captain Fleming notched his seventh one-day century and first in almost three years in making 106, but it wasn't enough and he also wore the blame for the run-out of Ross Taylor.

Astute captaincy by returning skipper Vaughan and tight bowling by Andrew Flintoff, Monty Panesar, Collingwood and Plunkett slowed the Kiwis' progress before they started losing vital wickets.

While Plunkett claimed the wickets, Collingwood bowled some brilliantly defensive medium pacers at the other end to back up his good work with the bat.

After taking the wicket of Scott Styris, Collingwood all but sealed the win when he had Daniel Vettori caught by Vaughan from the last ball of his 10 overs, which yielded 2-46.

Flintoff was also outstanding and bowled better than figures of 1-37 suggested, while it was the introduction of Panesar that put the brakes on a flying start by the Black Caps.

England had looked in trouble early in their innings at 52-3 before Collingwood and Andrew Strauss made timely returns to form.

Collingwood (106) and Strauss (55) bolstered the innings with a 123-run fourth-wicket stand, both players making their first substantial scores of the series.

Collingwood had been horribly out of form, but returned after missing last Friday's win over Australia due to illness to score a superb and much-needed hundred.

He made the most of an early life, with Black Caps all-rounder Jacob

Bond grassing a costly caught and bowled opportunity when Collingwood was 18.

Collingwood, who also teamed with James Dalrymple for a handy partnership of 59 in the latter overs, brought up a well-deserved century -- his third in one-day internationals -- when he pushed Shand Bond down to long-on for two.

He was eventually bowled around his legs by Bond in the 48th over as he looked for quick runs, having faced 121 balls for eight fours.

Having missed the last five games of his comeback series after knee surgery with a hamstring strain, Vaughan watched as Bond's first delivery sailed through innocuously for a wide.

The next delivery was a perfect in-swinger yorker that crashed through his defences and hit middle stump to have the England captain for a duck.

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Sehwag in the spotlight

Extra cover for Chappell in Kolkata

Cricket

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's Virender Sehwag will aim to regain his form ahead of next month's World Cup when the hosts take on Sri Lanka in a one-day series beginning later this week.

The 28-year-old batsman was dropped for the recent one-day series against the West Indies due to a form slump and is on trial for the first two matches as India seek to achieve a settled combination ahead of March's showpiece event.

The four-match series will be the last for both teams before the World Cup in the Caribbean where they have been drawn together in the preliminary phase along with Bangladesh and Bermuda.

The matches against Sri Lanka will be played in Kolkata on Thursday, Rajkot (February 11), Goa (February 14) and Visakhapatnam (February 17).

India's World Cup squad will be

announced on February 12.

Chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar said Sehwag will be tried in the middle-order.

A fierce striker of the ball, the experienced Sehwag made his mark as an opener and scored all his seven centuries and 21 of his 24 fifties batting at that position.

But young Robin Uthappa appears to have sealed his place as Sourav Ganguly's partner with his aggressive knocks during the 3-1 win over West Indies last month after Sachin Tendulkar was pushed down to bolster the brittle middle-order.

Sri Lanka lost a one-day series 6-1 on their last tour in 2005 and failed to qualify for the semifinals of the Champions Trophy here last year.

"We want to do well in all three departments of the game, that's the confidence we want to gain before the World Cup," experienced all-rounder Sanath Jayasuriya told reporters on Monday.

Strike bowler Chaminda Vaas

and experienced off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran have been rested for this tour.

Meanwhile AFP adds from Kolkata, India's coach Greg Chappell will be provided special security when he arrives here for Thursday's one-day match against Sri Lanka at the Eden Gardens, police said.

Officials in the cricket-crazy eastern metropolis are clearly not taking a chance on Chappell, who was assaulted by an unruly fan during the recent home series against the West Indies.

The former Australian captain, 58, was pushed and hit on the back when the Indian team arrived at Bhubaneswar airport in the eastern state of Orissa on January 22.