



The West Indies bound Bangladesh cricket team pose for a photograph with Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury before a reception at a local hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Huge win for Kalatia

SPORTS REPORTER

Fleming hails 'amazing day'

Cricket

CRICKINFO, undated

Kalatia High School buried Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf School and College under tons of runs to secure a massive 232-run victory in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket Tournament at the Uttara Friends Club ground yesterday.

Sanu smashed 68 and Minaz remained not out on 59 as Kalatia amassed 338-9 in the stipulated 50 overs. Sharif Abdullah was the most successful bowler with four wickets for 62.

Sabbir and Sujit then equally shared eight wickets to wrap up the innings of Abdur Rouf School for 108 in 37.2 overs.

At Kalindi Club ground, Dhaka Ideal College defeated Rajbari High School by 79 runs.

Dhaka Ideal scored 185 in 43.2 overs while Rajbari High School were bundled out for 106 in 26 overs.

Target Round

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for the players to uplift their stature then it is a rather different mission for Whatmore, who coached Sri Lanka to the title in 1996, to prove a point before completion of his contract with BCB.

Under his tutelage Bangladesh have won their most number of one-day matches, though mostly against a depleted Zimbabwe, but he has to prove that his boys are also competitive enough against the big guns to showcase real improvement.

"I feel it's becoming more of a realistic chance to win as long as Bangladesh play. It was not if you go backwards but it's more realistic now. It would be more realistic as time goes on."

"It is a very difficult group, both are good sides from the sub-continent. Conditions (in West Indies) will not favour Bangladesh but it won't be easy for them too," said a confident Whatmore when queried about Bangladesh's chances of progress from a group involving past champions India and Sri Lanka.

"It's becoming more a reality for Bangladesh getting through to second round. That's the way we are looking at it," he added.

"Personally I think if we do the things we have been doing for the last four years, perhaps we will not enjoy success. We need to think a little bit more out of the box, more laterally and trying come up with a particular plan that might catch somebody unawares," he said emphasising the need for change.

Captain Bashar, Ashraful, Aftab Ahmed, Sakib Al Hasan, Shahadat Hossain, Tapash and Abdur Razzaq also revealed their dream with the cricket's biggest event that starts from March 13.

Div I cricket

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49.2 overs and then shot out Dhaka Wanderers for 205 in 46.3 overs.

Orient Sporting Club registered an emphatic seven-wicket win over Prantik Krira Chakra in the other match at the Dhaka University playground.

In reply to Prantik's 133 in 41.3 overs, Orient reached 135-3 in 29 overs.

SCOREBOARD

ODIs against their Trans-Tasman rivals, a run stretching out over five years. In less than a week, they have doubled that tally.

"We've fallen short numerous times against Australia. A lot of work has been done behind the scenes, we've been smart off the field, but the performances have let us down on it."

"We've tried to maintain a positive feel but we didn't expect the results to be as spectacular as the last two," Fleming added, referring also to his side's ten-wicket win in the first game, Australia's first such loss ever.

New Zealand's chase was the second-highest ever in ODIs, five runs more than their previous best chase, also against Australia. "Scores of around 300 and over are now gettable and teams believe they have a chance if the conditions are right," Fleming explained.

Not that that revelation will be of any consolation to Mike Hussey, Australia's captain in this series. Australia own many records in modern-day cricket though that of now being on the receiving end of the three largest ODI chases ever is one none they will be proud of.

Worryingly, the three chases have come in the last 14 months. But Hussey insisted the personnel weren't at fault. "I know big totals being chased down is an area of concern and we're going to have to get better at it," said Hussey, who himself made an accomplished 105 in the game.

"But I still think we've got the right people in the team and in the squad. I actually don't think we did too badly with the ball and in the field. A few things didn't go our way, we had a few very close shaves, and on another day they might go our way."

"It was an amazing day, great for the game and great for us to get across the line in a big-scoring match," Fleming said, after his side had chased down 337 to clinch the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy with a game to spare.

Before this series, New Zealand had only won two of their last 22



PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor celebrates his century against Australia during the second one-day international of the Chappell Hadlee Trophy at Eden Park in Auckland on Sunday.

Double blow for Aussies

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Taylor and Scott Styris brought up the century but Styris never looked comfortable and when he went in the 20th over for 17 New Zealand appeared to be in trouble at 113 for three.

However, the arrival of Fulton was the start of New Zealand's fightback.

The tall right-hander, known as "two-metre Peter" admitted to being hurt after he was dropped from the New Zealand squad for the series and only regained his place when all-rounder Jacob Oram was injured in the first match.

With a point to prove, Fulton set about backing up Taylor and they put on 15 for the fourth wicket before Taylor top-edged Watson to Hussey at midwicket.

Fulton brought up his half-century with a towering six that was caught by Cameron White inside the field of play, but the Australian stepped back over the boundary rope with the ball in hand.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Chappell-Hadlee series second one-day international between Australia and New Zealand at Eden Park, Auckland on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA

Hayden c Vettori b Gillespie 24
Jaques c Fleming b Bond 3
Haddin c and b Vettori 49
Hussey c Taylor b McMillan 105
Hodge not out 97
White not out 42

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-8, nb-2) 16

Total: (For 4 wkts in 50 overs) 336

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-52, 3-122, 4-252.

Did not bat: Watson, Hogg, Bracken, McGrath, Tait.

Bowler O M R W

Tuffey 10 0 80 0

Bond 9 4 39 1

Gillespie 10 2 57 1

Vettori 10 0 52 1

Styris 4 0 35 0

McMillan 5 0 45 1

Vincent 2 0 22 0

NEW ZEALAND

Vincent c Jaques b Bracken 26

Fleming c Haddin b Bracken 6

Taylor c Hussey b Watson 117
Styris c Hussey b Watson 17

Fulton not out 76

McMillan c Hussey b Watson 52

McCullum not out 19

Extras: (b-1, lb-11, w-10, nb-2) 24

Total: (For 5 wkts in 48.4 overs) 337

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-47, 3-113, 4-228, 5-313.

Did not bat: Vettori, Gillespie, Bond, Tuffey.

Bowler O M R W

Bracken 10 1 66 2

McGrath 9.4 0 50 0

Tait 9 0 64 0

Watson 10 0 58 3

Hogg 7 0 58 0

White 3 0 29 0

Scoreboard

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17
in the final only take the game into tiebreaker.

CLUB CUP RUGBY

Azad Sporting Club lifted the title of Club Cup Rugby, the first ever rugby tournament held in the country. On the final day, Azad defeated Victoria Sporting Club 7-5 at the Paltan Maidan to finish atop the table.

Arambagh Krira Sangha finished

runners-up when they blanked Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club 26-0 in the day's other match.

JUNIOR CHESS

Shamima Akhter Liza retained solo lead in the 28th BASIC Bank National Junior (Under-20) Boys and Girls Chess Championship with seven points after seven rounds.

Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and Abdullah Al Saif were sharing the second spot with six points.

In the seventh round, Liza beat Saimon, Sagar beat Masum, Saif beat Ikrumul, Shirin beat Sharif, Mahin beat Delwar and Pavel got walkover against Shibli.

SHAHEED SMIRITI HOCKEY

Bangladesh Air Force and BKSP won their respective matches in the Shaheed Smriti Hockey tournament on the opening day of the six-team meet at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Air Force beat Mukta Bihanga 3-2 while BKSP blanked Crystal Cooperative Alliance 2-0.

Inter continue

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by the Italian government following the death of a policeman in Sicily earlier this month when Catania fans rioted.

Pozzi gave Empoli the perfect start against Roma, his thunderous effort giving Alex Doni no chance.

Roma were twice denied by the woodwork, with David Pizarro and Simone Perrotta both hitting the post.

Ronaldo put Milan ahead at Siena with a looping header before Simeon Vergassola capitalised on a defensive mix-up to equalise.

Milan restored their lead when Ronaldo set up Oliveira only for Massimo Maccarone, a January signing from English Premiership side Middlesbrough, to level with an angled shot.

After Milan had Christian Brocchi sent off, Ronaldo grabbed his second goal, tapping home Kaka's cross in the 81st minute.

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Maccarone's rasping shot made it 3-3 in the last minute of normal time before Molinaro put through his own net to hand Milan a precious victory.

Akhtar, Asif's dope tests delayed

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan completed dope tests on all but three of their World Cup 15-man squad and five reserves, but tests on Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif were deferred, an official said Sunday.

Asif is in England for a reassessment of his elbow injury and on his return will give a test in the next few days. I have no official information on Akhtar's return home, but hopefully he will appear soon," Pakistan Cricket Board anti-doping official Sohail Ahmed told AFP.

Akhtar was also in England having a reassessment of a knee injury which threatens his chances of featuring in the World Cup, starting in the Caribbean from March 13.

Eto'o asks not

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Eto'o criticised Rijkaard and his own team mate Ronaldinho on Monday in the wake of the pair of them making seemingly adverse comments about him refusing to come on as a late substitute in last Sunday's 2-0 victory over Racing Santander.

The matter was then apparently smoothed over on Wednesday with Eto'o making a public display of reconciliation with Ronaldinho, hugging him during training although some Spanish commentators suggested the show was stage managed.

In the wake of Eto'o becoming friends again with his Brazilian colleague, Rijkaard and the club then decided against taking any action over the incident.

Rijkaard also poured cold water on the rumours that have been circulating in the Spanish media that he intends to leave at the end of the season.

"I've never said to anyone that I'm leaving," said the Dutch coach on Saturday.

Solid reply

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with the innings halved for 142, batted for three and a half hours to frustrate the English second strings with strong support from the tail. The right-hander's 70 off 159 deliveries was laced with nine hits to the fence and he took the total to 273 from 177-6.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND A FIRST INNINGS: 327-4 declared (Compton 152 n.o.).

NATIONAL ACADEMY FIRST INNINGS: 326 all out in 86.4 overs (Jahurul 4, Junaid 38, Faruque 58, Marshall 0, Nadir 74, Riyad 16, Sahagir 70, Shuvo 17, Mosharraf 4, Dollar 10 n.o., Shahzada 12, extras 23, Broad 3-99, Onions 2-54, Smith 1-24, Bresnan 2-23, Yardy 2-46).

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD **DOWN** **ACROSS**

1 Stuart of the Civil War 41 "A Chorus Line" 2 Historic time 3 Bunch of 42 Puncturing device 4 Not so happy 5 Past 6 Two-somes 7 Auto 8 Bought stuff 9 He got the point across to his son 10 One of HOMES