



Vaughan's slow start

AFP, Amos Vale

England captain Michael Vaughan was given a clean bill of health after his first World Cup warm-up innings here Monday.

The Yorkshire batsman, who missed the bulk of England's recent successful tri-series in Australia with a hamstring problem, looked in good touch against minnows Bermuda before, on 18, pulling Ryan Hurdle to David Hemp at squareleg.

Afterwards Vaughan, who before the one-dayers in Australia had been sidelined from international cricket for the best part of a year with a knee problem, was seen having his hamstring strapped.

But an England spokesman told AFP that team physiotherapist Dean Conway was not worried by Vaughan's condition.

"Michael Vaughan is absolutely fine. Dean Conway is very happy with it (the hamstring)," the spokesman said.

Vaughan later fielded during a match where both sides used 13 players to give the bulk of their squads some meaningful practice.

Gul concern for PCB

REUTERS, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board want assurances young pacer Umar Gul will not be overworked before they make a decision on a contract offer from English county side Gloucestershire for this year.

The 24-year-old Gul is Pakistan's main bowler at the World Cup, which starts in the West Indies this month, after new ball

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Clive Lloyd, the legendary captain of the West Indies, was the first skipper to win 25 Test matches.



Sachin Tendulkar

(India's star batsman)

"I am looking forward to having a good World Cup. I am hoping that both my batting and bowling will come good."



Bangladesh A v England A
First ODI
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra
B.League
Arambagh v Mohammedan (5:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
National Cricket League
Day-4 (Four-Day)
Rajshahi v Barisal
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium
Dhaka v Sylhet (Day-3)
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium



First slip Abdur Razzaq is about to take New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming's catch off medium-pacer Syed Rasel (L) during their warm-up match at The 3Ws Oval in Barbados yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ctg's maiden win

SPORTS REPORTER



Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League as his five-wicket burst guided the home team to a four-wicket win against Khulna on the third day of their ninth round game at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The left-arm spinner captured five wickets for 58 runs, which gave him a match haul of nine wickets, to warp up Khulna's second innings for 196 runs leaving 132 runs to score to win the match. A run-a-ball 44 by Dhiman Ghosh helped Chittagong to reach the target in 28.3 overs with the loss of six wickets.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Mohammad Sharif captured five wickets but still Sylhet finished the second day's play on upper hand against hosts Dhaka.

On the other hand Imran Ahmed completed his deserved hundred as Barisal took a meagre but important first innings lead against table-toppers Rajshahi despite Sumon Saha's six-wicket success at the

Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

KHULNA-CHITTAGONG

Number six batsman Jamaluddin Babu scored unbeaten 80 but it was not enough for Khulna to put up a challenging target on the board as wickets kept falling at regular intervals at the other end after they resumed the day on 19-1.

Man-of-the-match Sajju, who picked up four wickets for 36 runs in the first innings, was the wrecker-in-chief as he claimed four scalps yesterday to finish with figures of 5-58 while Sabbir Khan and Elias Sunny took two wickets each to ensure a small target to chase.

Jamaluddin smashed 10 fours during his 103-ball essay.

Chittagong also lost wickets at regular intervals but Dhiman smote six fours and a six during his 44-run breezy innings to take his side safely to their first outright victory in nine games.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Resuming the day on 96, opener Imran Ahmed returned to the pavilion with 113 but it was number eight batsman Ariful Haque who enabled Barisal to take a 30-run first innings lead against the home side after starting the day on 173-2.

In the middle-order, most of the batsmen got start but failed to

convert it into a big one except Ariful who smashed eleven boundaries and a six to score 71 runs from 111 deliveries.

Sumon was the most successful bowler with 6-81.

Rajshahi however wiped out the deficit when they reached 36 without loss in their second innings at stumps with Rafiqul Islam (16) and Farhad Hossain (7) batting.

DHAKA-SYLHET

Right-arm pacer Mohammad Sharif picked up two more wickets conceding only one run as Sylhet added only 12 runs to their overnight score before being bundled out for 305.

But Dhaka failed to take the advantage as they were reduced to 268-7 before stumps were drawn for the second day.

Uttam Sarker and Rashedul Haque made a bold start associating 73 runs for the opening stand before the latter was bowled by Alok Kapali for an 80-ball 48.

Uttam made 87 off 168 balls with the help of 14 boundaries.

Sharifullah kept Dhaka's hopes alive as he remained not out on 57

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India come on May 7

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Tuesday revealed the itinerary for India's tour of Bangladesh on May this year.

The Indian team will arrive in Dhaka on May 7 to play three one-day internationals and two Tests against the Tigers during their 24-day tour.

It would be India's third trip since they played the one-off historic inaugural Test match in November 2000 but only the second full series after their visit in December 2004. On the other hand, India is the only full ICC member country that has not hosted the Tigers for a full series yet.

After playing two one-day matches on May 10 and 12 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur the Indian team will travel to Chittagong on May 13 to play the third one-dayer on May 15 at the Divisional Stadium before involving in the first Test at the same venue over May 18-22.

They will return to Dhaka on May 23 to play the second and final Test at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium from May 25 before leaving on May 30.

ITINERARY

May 10: First ODI at Mirpur
May 12: Second ODI at Mirpur
May 15: Third ODI at Chittagong
May 18-22: First Test at Chittagong
May 25-29: Second Test at Mirpur

BD A v ENG A

First one-dayer at Bogra today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A go into a three-match one-day series against England A today with a hope to console their Test series defeat against the visitors. The first game will take place at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Local skipper Tushar Imran promised to play much better cricket in the limited-overs competition.

"We intend to play much better in the one-dayers. If we can play to

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Bangladesh A go to Sri Lanka on March 16

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A team will leave for Colombo on March 16 to play two four-day Tests and three one-day matches against their Sri Lankan counterparts.

The second string Bangladesh side will get only three days rest after their ongoing home series against England A.

They will start their campaign on March 19 with the first four-dayer to be held at the Colts CC grounds in Colombo where they

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Woolmer glad at variety

AFP, Port of Spain



his team had the resources to do well in the World Cup.

Pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif were ruled out of the one-day mega event in the Caribbean due to injuries after being originally included in the squad.

This was not the first time the pair were unavailable for a big tournament as both had to return home after testing positive for a banned substance before their team's first match in the Champions Trophy in India last October.

"This time we were prepared for it," Woolmer told AFP.

"We were told by the Pakistan Cricket Board they were unlikely (to take part in the World Cup). The injuries were very severe. They are important members of our team, but unfortunately they didn't make it.

"Asif's elbow is sore and Akhtar's knee is not ready, but we were ready for it. If you look at the teams playing for Pakistan in the last two or three years, Shoaib and Asif have not featured in many one-day internationals."

Woolmer did not believe that the duo's absence would affect the team's chances in the World Cup, which opens in Jamaica on March 13 with a match between his team and the West Indies.

Pakistan are in Group D with the hosts, Ireland and Zimbabwe, with the top two sides advancing to the Super Eight stage.

"The players who have been doing the hard work for the last three years have earned their places in the side. I am pleased and I am sure they will deliver the goods here," he said.

The Pakistani coach said his team still had variations in attack, with Navedul Hasan, Umar Gul and Shoaib Malik capable of testing the best on all surfaces.

"Naved was the man of the match in India (in 2005). But there has been a slump in his form lately and I think that happens in cricket. It's time for him to come back in top gear," said Woolmer.

"I think the pitches here will be different and he can be a force again. I am absolutely sure he will be a force here along with (pace-man) Rao Iftikhar and Gul. We have variety in our attack.

"We have (spinners) Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik and Danish Kaneria. It's a balanced attack for all surfaces. If we play to our potential we have as good a chance as anyone in this tournament."

Pakistan have been struggling to find an effective pair of openers in one-dayers in recent times, but Woolmer said it was only a misconception.

"If you look at all teams, opening is a problem. Why pick Pakistan? I

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Samuels slams ton

AFP, Daniel Town



World Cup warm-up match on Monday at the Trelawny Multi-Purpose Stadium here.

Samuels shrugged off recent allegations of passing vital team information to an Indian bookie on his side's last tour of the sub-continent to hit seven fours and two sixes before he retired on 100, as West Indies set Kenya 269 to win.

A handful of the Kenyan batsmen got starts, but no one was able to carry on, as the visitors were restricted to 247 for seven from their allocation of 50 overs.

Collins Obuya struck two fours in an unbeaten 54 to top score for Kenya, Ravindu Shah supported with 41, skipper Steve Tikolo made 34, and Tanmay Mishra got 22.

Kenya suffered a setback in the third over, when David Obuya was caught at first slip for seven off Daren Powell, who also had Maurice Ouma caught in the same

position for nine in the 11th over to leave Kenya 40 for two.

Corey Collymore then bowled Malhar Patel for 12 in the 15th over before he deceived Shah with a slower ball and had him caught at mid-on.

Obuya put on 55 for the seventh wicket with Thomas Odoayo, who got 24, to beef up the Kenyan total.

Earlier, the Kenyans were unable to keep a cork on the West Indies'



MARLON SAMUELS ...100

scoring, as Samuels exploded in the latter stages to boost West Indies to 268 for six from their 50 overs.

After Shivnarine Chanderparat was caught at second slip off Thomas Odoayo for a duck in the third over, left-handers Chris Gayle and Devon Smith added 58 for the second wicket to give momentum to the West Indies' innings.

Smith was caught at mid-on for 14 off Rajesh Bhudiya in the 16th over to bring Samuels to the crease and the hometown boy scratched around during the initial period.

By this time, Gayle was in full cry and reached his half-century before gifting his wicket, when he tried to reverse sweep and was bowled for 75 off 90 balls which included nine fours and one six.

Samuels emerged from his uncertain start, and reached his 100, when he guided Lameck Onyango to third man for a single, and continued to retreat to the dressing room to allow teenager West Indies newcomer Kieron Pollard to come to the wicket.

India will feature in the second warm-up match at Trelawny on Tuesday, when they face lightweight the Netherlands.

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Lanka do it easy

AFP, Bridgetown



opening World Cup warm-up match. Sri Lanka chose to bat first and posted a daunting total of 294-7 off their 50 overs with veteran opener Sanath Jayasuriya hitting 77.

He shared a first wicket stand of 117 with Upul Tharanga who made 70 which laid the foundation for the total. Top scorer was Kumar Sangakkara who made 81.

The Scots never recovered from losing three quick wickets and were all out for 122 while never looking like they would threaten the Sri Lankans.

Left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas, who claimed a rare hat-trick at the last World Cup in South Africa in 2003, did the damage removing openers Fraser Watts, who was lbw, while partner Majid Haq was bowled.

Fellow opening bowler Lasith Malinga removed Navdeep Poonia lbw for a second ball duck to leave the Scots 35-3.

Gavin Hamilton, one of two former England players in the Scotland line-up, top-scored with a painstaking 25 off 51 balls.

Earlier, Jayasuriya, a survivor of Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup winning

team, hit his 77 off 62 balls while Tharanga's 70 was relatively more sedate coming of 112 deliveries.

Sangakkara was impressive smashing his 81 off 87 balls as the Scots toiled to contain the stylish Sri Lankan stroke-makers.

Tillakaratne Dilshan then hammered home Sri Lanka's advantage with an attractive 14-ball cameo which brought him 28 runs with two giant sixes.

They also targeted the Scotland skipper Craig Wright whose one over of medium pace cost 20 runs.

Dougie Brown, who played nine internationals for England before switching his allegiance back to his

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PHOTO: INTERNET

19 STONE TURNER: Bermuda's big man Dwayne Leverock celebrates one of his two wickets in the warm-up match against England at Arnos Vale on Monday.

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