

Dhaka, BKSP in JFA Cup final

SPORTS REPORTER

An 83rd minute strike by Sakhawat Hossain gave hosts Dhaka a place in the final of the 3rd JFA Cup Under-15 Football Championship with a 1-0 win over Kishoreganj in the first semifinal at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka will play BKSP in Thursday's final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

In the other semifinal also yesterday, BKSP crushed Chittagong 4-0 with a brace from Mamanur Rashid and a goal apiece by Saddam and Galib.

No one is a favourite: Fleming

PTI, Montego Bay

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming says that there are no clear favourites in the World Cup and all the top teams will fancy themselves in the coveted trophy.

Fleming believes that the recent wins against Australia have been a big confidence booster for his side but the poor show in the warm-up games have also pointed out the flaws that they need to iron out.

"There are no clear favourites, I feel it's anyone's game," Fleming said.

"I feel we should have made the finals of the Commonwealth Bank series ahead of England; but we got a massive confidence from our wins against Australia. Now again, we have struggled in the practice games so a week could be a long time in international cricket," he said.

According to Fleming, good captaincy could be a vital component in a side's campaign in this tournament.

"It's important how you captain, the balance you achieve in your style, how early you are able to adapt and understand the conditions. A captain's input could be vital," he said.

Fleming believes the manner of loss or a win could give a side enough indications on how to prepare for the future games.

Crazy!

FROM PAGE 17

Sharma, a salesman earning 3,000 rupees (35 pounds) every month, hopes to earn more than 30 times that by selling his kidney.

He has even set up a donation box near his house in the industrial city of Jamshedpur in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand.

A fan of wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who also hails from Jharkhand, Sharma says he never misses an opportunity to watch cricket.

It's a mad

FROM PAGE 17

Possie. It was wonderful and it became an obsession, it became a cult.

"When government ministers come up to you and tell you how important the Trini Possie is to Trinidad it's so gratifying. It feels good, we've worked hard on it, it's a passion and it has turned into something very special, like a baby."

The Bharat Army, which made its mark at the 2003 World Cup, is a group of UK and US based business men of Indian origin. Those coming to the World Cup are likely to be mostly US citizens since many in India have found it too expensive to travel so far.

Unlike the raucous Barmy Army, the Bharats believe they have a more refined outlook.

Founder-member Shailesh Tank was once quoted as saying that the Indian team's camp-followers never swore no matter how much the performance of their side irritated them, had strict family values and travelled with their mothers, sisters and wives.

"I'm passionate about India and supporting cricket like an Indian," Shailesh said.

There is no fans army in Pakistan, but there is one man called "chacha" (uncle) who seems to pop up wherever the team plays. He has a long-beard and usually dresses in the Pakistani flag.

Sri Lanka has its most famous cheerleader named Percy Abeysekera (he's been around since Sri Lanka gained Test status in 1981) but he too is unlikely to be seen in the West Indies.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Winners of the 17th AB Bank CAS Trophy Golf Tournament pose with the chief guest Chittagong Area Commander of Bangladesh Army Major General Sina Ibne Jamil during the prize-giving ceremony at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club on March 2.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

A good game with his 43 and four-wicket haul.

In other matches, Mugalpara Kazi Zafar Ahmed High School defeated Nawabpur Government High School by 90 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground while Rayer Bazar High School squeaked past Kurmitola High School by two wickets in Kalindi.

Manikganj correspondent adds: Rabbi powered Manikganj Government High School to a thrilling one-wicket victory over Kussherchar Ismail Hossain High School in the final of the regional school cricket competition at their home ground yesterday.

Man-of-the-match Rabbi's five-wicket haul helped Manikganj Government High bowl out Kussherchar for only 133 runs in 32.2 overs. Then Sakhawat (40) and Atik (21) took matters into their hands to help Manikganj clinch the tournament as they reached their target with one wicket to spare in 34.1 overs.

DIVI CRICKET
BKKP continued their superb run in the Kai-Altech First Division League as they won their sixth consecutive match in the competition with a 71-run victory over Dhaka Mariners Youngs Club at the Dhaka

University ground yesterday.

Batting first, the sports institution piled 276-7 in 50 overs. Mariners only reached 205 before being bowled out in the 46th over.

Nasir (59) and Mahmud (54) gave the BKSP innings impetus with their contributions. Mariners' Rabbi (73) continued his good form but his knock was not enough as left-armers Farhan took four wickets.

Azad Sporting Club prevailed to win by three runs against Dhaka Wanderers Club at the BKSP ground.

Batting first, Azad fought hard to score 215-8 in 50 overs and had Mahfuz and Amit to thank as they held back Wanderers for 212-9 in 50 overs.

Mahfuz and Amit shared seven wickets between them.

In the other matches, Dhanmondi beat Eskaton by seven wickets while Agrani Bank rode on Joys 44 to beat Bangladesh Boys by 72 runs.

OPEN SQUASH

Dilu smashed Raju 3-0 in the 2nd Sharp Blade Open Squash tournament at the Gulshan Club.

In the other match, Masud Rana beat Omar 2-1.

Upsets always happen

AFP, Gros Islet



Although often criticised for its predictability, the World Cup has seen a fair number of upsets down the years.

In each case the same formula has held true: the minnow bats first before dismissing their supposedly superior opponents in dramatic fashion.

Sri Lanka, then still three years away from Test status, gave the World Cup its first shock when, in 1979, they beat India by 47 runs at Old Trafford.

In a match split over two days by bad weather, Sri Lanka made 238 for five thanks to fifties from Siddarth Wettimunayake, Duleep Mendis and Roy Dias.

They then dismissed India for 191, Stanley de Silva and fellow pace bowler Tony Opatha taking three wickets apiece, and Sri Lanka were on their way.

Four years later Zimbabwe, in their first World Cup match, beat Australia by 13 runs at Trent Bridge after a fairytale display from captain Duncan Fletcher, now England's coach.

Fletcher made 69 not out in Zimbabwe's 239 for six before taking four wickets for 42 runs.

West Indies were firm favourites to make it three straight World Cup

final wins in the 1983 climax against India, the 66-1 pre-tournament outsiders, and were in charge at 50 for one after bowling out their opponents for 183.

But medium-pace bowling, exemplified by Madan Lal's three for 12, saw India to a 43 run-win, igniting the country's passion for one-day cricket which now powers the financial motor of the world game.

Zimbabwe, losers by just three runs to New Zealand in 1987 during the first Asian World Cup, stunned England five years later when the tournament made its only visit so far to Australia and New Zealand.

Chicken farmer, turned pace bowler, Eddy Brandes 'stuffed' England with four for 21 as Zimbabwe, themselves dismissed for just 134, won by nine runs in Albury to the delight of locals at the New South Wales venue.

In a match split over two days by bad weather, Sri Lanka made 238 for five thanks to fifties from Siddarth Wettimunayake, Duleep Mendis and Roy Dias.

Africa provided the World Cup's next giant-killer four years later when Kenya thrashed West Indies by 73 runs in PUNE -- having made a seemingly meagre 166.

Off-spinner Maurice Odumbe, later banned for contacts with bookmakers, and seamer Rajab Ali both took three wickets as Kenya notched up its first win in a full one-day international.

The leg-spinner's five for 24 included the prize wickets of Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara and Aravinda de Silva.

Kenya's 210 for nine featured 60 from opener Kennedy Otieno but it was his brother, Collins Obuya, who made headlines.

The leg-spinner's five for 24 included the prize wickets of Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara and Aravinda de Silva.

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

"We have been working hard for the past two months. We played Bangladesh in a five-match series and did well in some games," said the captain of a series which was lost 3-1 but at least saw the African side put an end to a 13-match losing streak.

"That has been for a while," said Utseyea reflecting on the crisis which has seen the likes of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who orchestrated the "death of democracy" protest at the last World Cup, exiled.

Former skipper Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu have also served their terms.

"It has been two years since (the

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

"We have been working hard for the past two months. We played Bangladesh in a five-match series and did well in some games," said the captain of a series which was lost 3-1 but at least saw the African side put an end to a 13-match losing streak.

"That has been for a while," said Utseyea reflecting on the crisis which has seen the likes of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who orchestrated the "death of democracy" protest at the last World Cup, exiled.

Former skipper Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu have also served their terms.

"It has been two years since (the

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

"We have been working hard for the past two months. We played Bangladesh in a five-match series and did well in some games," said the captain of a series which was lost 3-1 but at least saw the African side put an end to a 13-match losing streak.

"That has been for a while," said Utseyea reflecting on the crisis which has seen the likes of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who orchestrated the "death of democracy" protest at the last World Cup, exiled.

Former skipper Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu have also served their terms.

"It has been two years since (the

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

"We have been working hard for the past two months. We played Bangladesh in a five-match series and did well in some games," said the captain of a series which was lost 3-1 but at least saw the African side put an end to a 13-match losing streak.

"That has been for a while," said Utseyea reflecting on the crisis which has seen the likes of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who orchestrated the "death of democracy" protest at the last World Cup, exiled.

Former skipper Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu have also served their terms.

"It has been two years since (the

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

"We have been working hard for the past two months. We played Bangladesh in a five-match series and did well in some games," said the captain of a series which was lost 3-1 but at least saw the African side put an end to a 13-match losing streak.

"That has been for a while," said Utseyea reflecting on the crisis which has seen the likes of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who orchestrated the "death of democracy" protest at the last World Cup, exiled.

Former skipper Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu have also served their terms.

"It has been two years since (the

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

"We have been working hard for the past two months. We played Bangladesh in a five-match series and did well in some games," said the captain of a series which was lost 3-1 but at least saw the African side put an end to a 13-match losing streak.

"That has been for a while," said Utseyea reflecting on the crisis which has seen the likes of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who orchestrated the "death of democracy" protest at the last World Cup, exiled.

Former skipper Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu have also served their terms.

"It has been two years since (the

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

"We have been working hard for the past two months. We played Bangladesh in a five-match series and did well in some games," said the captain of a series which was lost 3-1 but at least saw the African side put an end to a 13-match losing streak.

"That has been for a while," said Utseyea reflecting on the crisis which has seen the likes of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who orchestrated the "death of democracy" protest at the last World Cup, exiled.

Former skipper Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu have also served their terms.

"It has been two years since (the

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

"We have been working hard for the past two months. We played Bangladesh in a five-match series and did well in some games," said the captain of a series which was lost 3-1 but at least saw the African side put an end to a 13-match losing streak.

"That has been for a while," said Utseyea reflecting on the crisis which has seen the likes of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who orchestrated the "death of democracy" protest at the last World Cup, exiled.

Former skipper Heath Streak and Tatenda Taibu have also served their terms.

"It has been two years since (the

last upheaval) and we have been trying to build this young side, so I don't think it will play a role (in how we perform)," Utseyea told reporters here.

"We are now used to the situation, so we will have to face the challenge.

</