

Baro Nazir no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazir Ahmed, the famous footballer of 60s and 70s popularly known as Baro (senior) Najir, died of cancer in the early hours of yesterday at his residence in Duri Aunguli Lane, Nawabganj. He was 68.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn the death.

The centre-forward, who was well known for his bicycle kicks and headwork, was laid to rest at the Azimpur graveyard in the morning.

Nazir made his first division debut in 1959 for PWD but made his name at BJMC (also EPIDC, BIDC). Also called Lucky Nazir for giving breakthroughs against odds, he played for Rahmatganj, Sadharan Bima and Farashganj before coaching Dhaka DSA, Dhaka Wanderers, BKSP, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Navy, BDR and Dhaka Wasa.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence tomorrow.

Bangladesh Football Federation and Dhaka Metropolis Football League Committee condoled the death and expressed their deep sympathy over the bereaved family.

President asks Ashraf to stay

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has declined to accept the resignation of Dr Naseem Ashraf following the team's World Cup debacle and asked him to continue as the chairman of the cricket board.

Ashraf had resigned owing moral responsibility of Pakistan's disastrous campaign in the World Cup. Pakistan lost to Ireland and was knocked out in the first round before crisis compounded with the murder of coach Bob Woolmer in Kingston.

Geo TV quoted officials here saying that President Musharraf did not accept his resignation and instructed him to continue as head of the board.

Ashraf had said that though he had decided to quit the job, he might continue if President Musharraf, also the chief patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board, asked him to continue.

A senate committee had also advised Ashraf to withdraw resignation for the sake on continuity in the board.

ICC goes easy

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hearing the following day after play concluded in Georgetown on Wednesday," said ICC.

"Peterson admitted to have breached 1.2 of the ICC Code which relates to actions outside the course of normal cricket such as hitting or kicking the wickets.

"Peterson's attitude in response to the breach was appreciated realising his momentary mistake in the heat of the moment after a dramatic finish. He apologized to the umpires on the field after the incident," said match referee Jeff Crowe.

"It was reiterated by the umpires there was no malice in his actions but there is a responsibility to maintain standards of behaviour as well as potentially damaging the costly stump cameras," said Crowe, former New Zealand captain.

"Also, I accepted that it was a momentary mistake in the heat of the moment, an out-pouring of relief after a tense and dramatic finish to the match."

PCB wants

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were either visiting or staying at the Pegasus Hotel in the days leading up to Woolmer's death.

Jamaica deputy police commissioner Mark Shields on Tuesday warned that the murder investigation was not going to be solved "in 45 minutes," describing the inquiry as a slow, arduous process.

"We are going to do it properly, thoroughly and professionally and at the end of it, it may be that we might identify a suspect," said Shields.

"It really is down to the painstaking work of trying to sift through as much information as we can to try and track down the killer or killers."

Ashraf said the Pakistan Cricket Board, through the Pakistani foreign office, had requested Jamaican authorities "to allow a senior official to join the investigative team" in Jamaica.

A Washington-based senior Pakistani diplomat will remain in Jamaica "to closely monitor the situation and provide the update to the board on (a) daily basis," he said in a statement.

And a PCB official, Asad Mustafa, would stay in Jamaica until the ongoing investigation ended, the statement added.

The PCB is also in contact with Woolmer's wife and "all possible support is being provided to Woolmer's family," it said.



PHOTO: AFP

TIRED OF BATTING? Australia captain Ricky Ponting on his delivery stride during a practice session ahead of their World Cup Super Eights match against Bangladesh at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in St John's on Friday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Orient Sporting Club squeezed past Azad Sporting Club by two wickets in the super league of Kai-Altech First Division League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 236 to win, relegation-aspirants Orient won with three balls to spare. Surprise package Azad earlier batted first after winning the toss and scored 235 for 8 in 50 overs.

Shamol scored 61 for Azad but two wickets each from Ariful and Mintu pegged them back. Nishan then struck 56 and Ariful contributed with the bat, scoring a vital 28 lower down the order.

In the relegation league, Cricket Coaching School and Dhaka Mariners Youngs Club won their respective matches.

CCS (205-7 in 47.2 overs) beat Prantik Krira Chakra (200 all out in 48 overs) by three wickets at the Fatullah Stadium while Mariners (203 all out in 48.4 overs) edged past Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (191 all out in 48.4 overs) by 12 runs.

DIV 2 CRICKET

Kalabagan Cricket Academy beat Udaychal Club by 25 runs in the Kai-Altech Second Division League at the Dhaka University ground.

The academy side rode on Biraj who made 49 and also a good bowling performance from Rakibul (3-40). Batting first, Kalabagan scored 219 in 47.2 overs and then bowled out Udaychal for only 194 runs in 48.1 overs.

In the other match, Khelaghar trounced Farashganj Sporting Club at the Jagannath Hall ground.

NSU INTRA-BATCH CRICKET

MBA were knocked out of the North South University Intra-Batch cricket tournament at the Banani WAPDA ground after they lost to Batch 02 by 62 runs.

Opting to bowl first, MBA restricted Batch 02 to 225 runs in 32 overs in the small ground. But they were bowled out for 163 runs in 29.4 overs.

Guddu top-scored for Batch 02 with 44 while Raihan and Vicky took two wickets each.

Elliott moving to Wales

BBC ONLINE, updated

Former Australian opening batsman Matthew Elliott has accepted an offer to play for Glamorgan for the first four weeks of the forthcoming season.

Elliott had been originally due to play for Yorkshire until mid-May but Pakistan's World Cup elimination means Younis Khan is there from the start.

Elliott was prevented from playing a third season at Glamorgan in 2006 because of a knee injury.

He will be the fill-in for fellow Australian left-hander Jimmy Maher.

Elliott said: "People know of my affections for Glamorgan and for Wales, and I'm really looking forward to linking up with the players and getting the season off to a positive start for when Jimmy arrives."

Elliott, Australia's one-day player of the season in 2006-07, is expected to be available for the first three County Championship matches and three one-day matches too.

Styris, Oram turn it on

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Collymore for six over square leg, received solid support from Styris.

Fleming was though run out by yards for a 66-ball 45 after Lara's direct hit from mid-wicket on the striker's end stumps.

New Zealand were now 77 for three but McMillan stopped any West Indian momentum that may have been building with three aggressive boundaries off seamer Dwayne Smith.

Styris subsequently completed a 72-ball fifty with three fours.

Earlier Chris Gayle (44) and Lara (37) were the only West Indies batsmen to make headway follow-

ing Fleming's decision to field first.

The new ball duo of Michael Mason and Bond ensured runs were hard to come by early on with some accurate swing bowling and it was only the introduction of left-armers James Franklin, whose three-overs cost 29 runs, that released the pressure.

Oram, however, maintained New Zealand's grip when Ramnareesh Sarwan (19), was superbly caught left-handed by a diving McCullum after the batsman inside-edged an intended cover-drive.

The giant all-rounder struck again when Marlon Samuels (nine) was caught behind off the glove

before he had Gayle, chopping onto his stumps for 44 made in 56 balls with eight boundaries.

West Indies were now 81 for four with, as happened against Australia, none of the top four making a big score.

Lara, nearly run out on eight by McCullum's throw to the bowler's end, and Dwayne Bravo rebuilt steadily while adding 47 for the fourth wicket.

But their partnership was broken when Bond's first ball back saw Bravo caught behind for 18.

Canny medium-pacer Styris then deceived Lara with a slower ball and an edged drive was well-held by McCullum before the tail came and went.

West Indies, playing for a third straight day after their match against Australia spanned Tuesday and Wednesday because of rain, face Sri Lanka in Guyana on Sunday and 24 hours later New Zealand take on Bangladesh in Antigua.

WEST INDIES V NEW ZEALAND SCOREBOARD

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Bowler	O	M	R	W	Econ
Mason	6	2	14	0	2.33
Bond	8.4	0	31	3	3.57
Franklin	3	0	29	0	9.66
Oram	8	2	23	3	2.87
Styris	10	1	35	1	3.50
Vettori	9	1	39	3	4.33
NEW ZEALAND	R	M	B	4s	6s
Fulton b Powell	0	2	2	0	0
Fleming run out (Lara)	45	96	66	6	1
Marshall c Lara b Powell	15	31	23	2	0
Styris not out	80	139	90	7	0
McMillan not out	33	77	57	3	0
Extras: (lb-1, w-3, nb-2)	6				
Total (3 wickets; 39.2 overs)	179				
Did not bat: Oram, McCullum, Vettori, Franklin, Bond, Mason.					
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-36, 3-77.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Econ
Powell	10	2	39	2	3.90
Smith	5	0	24	0	4.80
Collymore	9	0	43	0	4.77
Bravo	8	0	32	0	4.00
Gayle	6.2	0	35	0	5.52
Sarwan	1	0	5	0	5.00
Result: New Zealand won by seven wickets.					
Man-of-the-match: Jacob Oram.					
Toss: New Zealand.					
Umpires: Asad Rauf (Pakistan) and RE Koertzen (South Africa)					
Match referee: Mike Procter (South Africa)					

Charl learning everyday

AFP, Georgetown



Former prison guard Charl Langeveldt may not have the pace of South Africa's Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini, but he's second to none when it comes to delivering in crunch situations.

South Africa were fortunate to find Langeveldt in superb form in their opening World Cup Super Eights match against Sri Lanka, just when they needed it most.

Sri Lanka were poised to launch a closing-overs onslaught when they ran into Langeveldt, who grabbed three wickets in his second spell to restrict the opposition to a modest total of 209.

He finished with a career-best haul 5-39 off 10 disciplined overs, only the second time he had grabbed five wickets in an innings in 42 one-day internationals since making his debut in 2001.

He shared the man-of-the-match award with Sri Lanka paceman Lasith Malinga, who became the

first bowler in the one-day history to take four wickets off successive balls.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith was all praise for Langeveldt, saying he played a crucial role with both ball and bat in a tense match.

"Charl has been bowling well for a while. He is a superbly skilled bowler and he showed that," said Smith, whose team completed a thrilling one-wicket victory in the maiden one-day international at the Providence Stadium.

"He got the ball to swing and he bowled very well at the death for us and he blocked out ten balls with the bat in the last few overs."

Langeveldt came in to bat in pressure situation after Malinga had rocked South Africa with four wickets in his second spell. He faced nine balls in scoring just one run before teammate Robin Peterson hit the winning four.

"When I was batting there at the end, my heart was in my ... I don't know where it was. I was just thinking to get bat on ball but I never expected that I would have to bat," said Langeveldt, 32.

"I had been saying to the other guys that I would not have to bat. But

that's cricket. You learn every day," Langeveldt, who combined his first-class cricket with his job as a prison warder early in his career, caught the selectors' eye with his ability to swing the ball. It was his movement that caught the Sri Lankans on the wrong-foot.

When asked whether he would like to open the bowling, Langeveldt said: "No, I prefer first change. I like it when the ball's swinging and it was moving around against Sri Lanka in overcast conditions but I prefer first change."

The Caribbean seems to be a happy hunting ground for Langeveldt, who took a hat-trick to script his team's sensational one-run victory over the West Indies at Bridgetown in Barbados in 2005.

The West Indies were strongly placed at 281-6 chasing South Africa's total of 284 before Langeveldt changed the course of the match with his maiden five-wicket haul.

Langeveldt has given his skipper more options with his variations as he has the ability to strike at crucial moments. He has so far bagged 56 wickets in 42 one-dayers.

Ranjan reaches

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of the incident in August last year.

The then Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq refused to take the field after tea on fourth day against England after umpires Darrell Hair of Australia and West Indian Billy Doctrove charged Pakistan with ball tampering.

The Test ended in a forfeit -- the first in Test cricket's 129-year history.

The ICC conducted an inquiry through Madugalle who cleared Inzamam of all tampering charges but banned him for four one-day matches for bringing the game into disrepute.

Watch

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The 41-year-old Moody, who played eight Tests and 76 one-day internationals for Australia, said his team fell short by 20-30 runs which in the end were decisive factor.

"The wicket was impressive and so was the outfield, and we were 20 to 30 runs light and considering it was a big match for both teams, South Africa were in a desperate situation and from our point of view we played good cricket up to Wednesday."

Moody praised Malinga for his late burst.

"It turned out to be a heart stopping match and to be fair I didn't think we should have been near the contest but cricket is a funny game and the way Malinga bowled at the end it turned the game on its head and we had a good chance to win," said the coach.

"Malinga has been doing this for the last six to eight months, he has been devastating with the old ball and it's no surprise to us that he is going to bowl the guys with ones in the blockhole, he has honed this skill," said Moody of Malinga who finished with 5-54.

Fleming hints

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The modest Oram said of his haul: "There was movement in the air and off the pitch. If you got it in the right areas and hit the right locations you were going to be in business."

"It just rounds off what I do in the team. I feel in the recent past I've been playing with half my skills and since coming back into the team against Australia I couldn't be happier with my batting. Bowling has been the issue and I've been working hard on that."

Other players who had fine displays against the West Indies were wicket-keeper Brendon McCullum, who grabbed four catches, and Scott Styris, who saw New Zealand home with 80 not out.

"His keeping was pretty special," said Fleming of McCullum.

"It's the little things he's doing not just the catches, the catches and work up at the stumps has been very good, the work he's doing off the ball and the energy he's generating is very important to the side."

As for Styris, Fleming said: "He's playing very well. We're delighted with our all-round players at the moment and the qualities they bring to the side."

McGrath issues

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Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Michael Hussey, Shane Watson, Brad Hogg, Nathan Bracken, Shaun Tait, Glenn McGrath

BANGLADESH (from): Habibul Bashar (capt), Mohammad Ashraful, Aftab Ahmed, Tapash Baisya, Shakib Al Hasan, Shahadat Hossain, Tamim Iqbal, Mashrafe Mortaza, Javed Omar, Shahriar Nafees, Mohammad Rafique, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Syed Rasel, Abdur Razzak, Rajin Saleh.

Umpires: Aleem Dar (PAK), Billy Bowden (NZL).

Time up

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and mental strength, as the ageing process generally makes a player more progressively conservative.

"Tendulkar hasn't worn as well; his last three or four years have been a shadow of his former self."

Chappell said a string of tennis elbow, back and shoulder injuries in recent years had taken a toll on Tendulkar's batting.

"The Indian has suffered a lot of injuries where his play has deteriorated and there is nothing that melts your mental approach quicker than physical handicaps," he wrote.

"For whatever reason, Tendulkar hasn't been able to maintain his extremely high standards for the last few years and unless he can find a way to recapture this mental approach he's not doing his team or himself any favours."

"If Tendulkar had found an honest mirror three years ago and asked the question: 'Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the best batsman of all?'"

"It would've answered: 'Brian Charles Lara.'"

"If he asked that same mirror right now: 'Mirror, mirror on the wall, should I retire?'"

"The answer would be: 'Yes.'"

ECB agrees on Rudolph



AFP, London

Yorkshire's signing of South African batsman Jacques Rudolph under the Kolpak ruling was on Friday approved "reluctantly" by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

Rudolph, 25, renounced his intention to play for his country in January so he could sign a three-year contract at Headingley without counting as an overseas player.

ECB regulations however state that to qualify for Kolpak status players must not have played international cricket within the previous 12 months.

Rudolph last played for South Africa in August but the ECB have now been forced to admit they cannot enforce this rule under European law.

The ECB said in a statement: "The England and Wales Cricket Board have reluctantly agreed to the registration as a qualified player of Test batsman Jacques Rudolph by Yorkshire County Cricket Club, having considered all relevant factors and taken account of the legal implications of the Kolpak decision."

"The board in unanimously condemning this type of application are concerned that the registration of players under the Kolpak ruling may not be in the best interests of cricket in England and Wales generally."

Yorkshire chief executive Stewart Regan said: "We are very pleased that the ECB have accepted Jacques' registration

and we now have a very strong squad for the 2007 season.

"We understand the ECB's concern about the signing of Jacques on a Kolpak agreement and have confirmed to them that the decision to sign him was not taken lightly."

"We found ourselves in a position at Christmas where we were potentially going to be without our top three batsmen from 2006, who between them scored 52% of our runs."

"Unfortunately, circumstances in December meant we had to look overseas for a Kolpak player. We have reminded the ECB that we are not the first club to sign a Kolpak player and we will certainly not be the last."

"Jacques has committed himself to Yorkshire for three years at the prime of his career and is bringing his wife here who is a doctor. They intend to start a new life and are very excited at the prospect."

"In signing a sworn affidavit, Jacques has given his word that he is serious about his commitment."

Rudolph has played 35 Tests, with a top score of 222 not out, and 45 one-day internationals.

"I am just glad that the long wait is over and I can now make plans to come to Yorkshire," said Rudolph.

"I cannot wait to join my new teammates and start my Yorkshire career. I have been keeping up to date with developments at the club and it is certainly looking good for 2007."

Nazrul rescues

FROM PAGE 17 Xte while fellow Nigerian striker and captain Paul wasted another good chance one minute from time.

Chittagong Mohammedan skipper told after the match that they are progressing gradually and success against the big names of Bangladesh football will make them more confident.

"All of our players have taken this league seriously and are trying to continue it," the veteran midfielder said.

Dhaka Mohammedan coach Shaifiqul Islam Manik admitted that they have lost valuable points but hoped to come back to winning ways soon.

In Dhaka, it was frustrating for Diego Cruciani's boys who dominated the show from the start against bottom-table Rahmatganj but the pressure did not materialise.

Abahani gave Abdullah Parvez and Argentine recruit Mariano Sanchez their first starts in the league in the midfield and it was the local boy who showed good form with two good releases inside the first 15 minutes.

However, Argentine striker Hector Parodi saw his powerful drive from 20 yards another good save when Emily nodded a Parvez corner from close.

The sky-blues won as many as 11 corners and two freekicks in the danger zone before the break but Rahmatganj captain and longhaired central defender Sony stood graceful under pressure.

The title aspirants' best chances came early in the second half with Parodi setting up Emily with a nice through but the off-colour national striker's low shot was parried by Apel's legworks in the 54th minute. A minute later, Parodi miskicked skipper Joy's square pass from the edge of the six-yard box.

Sanchez, who had a mixed day, caught Apel napping with a long-range shot but Emily failed to put the rebound into an open net as his weak lob from 25 yards was easily cleared by Babu from the goalmouth.

Abahani showed the urge to score making three chances but

earlier, packed their defence with nine men to handcuuff the series of rival attacks including another nine flagkicks.

Substitute Tipu found the net with seven minutes remaining but the goal was ruled out for offside, a decision that seemed to be a bad omen.

However, a freekick ten yards out of the penalty area in the second minute of injury time gave Abahani the lifeline. Ujjal chipped the ball over the wall to find three Abahani players inside near the penalty spot but it was Nazrul who won the race and toe-poked the ball over Apel's head for the match winner.

Yellow cards: Parodi (Abahani) and Babu, Emrul, Apu (Rahmatganj)

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplab, Siraji, Nazrul, Caporale, Waly, Ujjal, Joy, Sanchez (Abul), Abdullah Parvez (Zahid), Emily and Parodi (Tipu).

RAHMATGANJ: Apel, Mahiuddin, Sony, Shipon, Hanif, Babu (Jahangir), Reza (Kochi), Mehedi (Apu), Emrul, Emon and Rizvi.

Referee: Abdul Hannan.

A much-needed

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in his Jamaican hotel room on March 18, one day after Pakistan were dramatically ousted from the cricket World Cup following a shock defeat to minnows Ireland.

The killing has sparked one of the most complex murder investigations in Jamaican history and has triggered speculation about possible links to match-fixing and illegal betting in cricket.

Around 50 officers are attempting to track down hundreds of potential witnesses who were either visiting or staying at Kingston's Pegasus Hotel in the days leading up to Woolmer's death.

ultimate heavyweight.